



418, ST ANTOINE STREET,  
MONTREAL.

18<sup>th</sup> Dec 1876

My dear Mr Dawson

I have no time  
to reply to you now of this day which I have  
just received. The subject of accommodation  
on the subject of the school system has not  
yet engaged much attention from the City  
Committee, but there is a good feeling  
adverse to the present mode of levying  
a specific rate of school tax. I  
think that the feeling is general that  
there should be a restriction on the borrowing  
powers of the Commission. I am myself  
opposed to the Corporation having any  
control over the Commission although  
I am doubtful how far public opinion  
will support Dawson & Co.

Will sustain the present system?

It is said that the Corporation intend  
trying to obtain control of the Schools  
later. I should very much regret the transfer  
of any substantial power over the school  
system to such a body as the Corporation  
but on the other hand I hardly see how  
the present system can be defended. There  
is no responsibility to the rate payers. I  
hardly see how it is possible to improve  
much on the system which is in force  
in the other towns in Ontario. I would  
be very glad indeed to confer with  
you personally & I am sure that  
the Committee would also be glad  
to be favoured with your views.  
If however there is a difference of

Opinion between the Protestants & the  
Catholics Committees it might be better  
policy that our Committee should not  
be charged with acting at the  
investigation of the Protestant Companies.  
Our Citizens Committee into meeting  
tomorrow afternoon. As I know what  
times of the day you are engaged,  
I could easily make our appointment when  
we could confer on the subject.

Believe me

Yours truly

J. B. Smith

MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
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*Hinks*  
*Oct 1/76*

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