

Wabrouse College  
Halifax Dec 5 1876

My dear Sir

I am afraid you have ere this concluded that I have either forgotten or am neglecting thro' carelessness the business about which you wrote me some 6 weeks ago. When you read my explanation which I will make somewhat menute not so much for my own vindication as that you may fully understand the state of matters and advise me further what to do, I am quite sure you will acquit of neglect or unnecessary delay. At all events I have done just what I would have wished you to do for me if our circumstances were interchanged.

Our Senate have never yet granted any Hon. degrees. We have two or three times incidentally talked over the subject and the impression left on my mind was that as soon as suitable material occurred we were disposed to operate. Either my impression was unfounded or members have since changed their opinion. On receipt of your letter I determined to introduce the subject at our first meeting, but at the commencement of the session you can easily understand that all our available time is taken up with routine business, and as we confer degrees only at the close in April, I thought no evil or loss would occur from a little delay. In the

mean time I introduced the subject to the Professors separately when I met them incidentally and asked them opinion. Most of our classes meet in the forenoon. This year however mine has been transferred to the afternoon consequently I now meet my colleagues comparatively seldom. At the first introduction of the business the reply was I will think about and give you my opinion when we next meet. I had accordingly to see them a second time. This will account for my delay in writing you. I am now I think in a position to communicate to you the results. Two out of six would with much pleasure accede to your wishes. One is rather disinclined but has not made up his mind to oppose. Three are very decidedly averse to granting any Honorary degree in the present conjuncture of affairs. Two principal reasons are assigned. First: Our College is yet young and has not established its reputation sufficiently to render our degrees of much real value. 2<sup>dly</sup> We are in an unsettled, kind of transition state. It may be that we may surrender our degree conferring power into the hands of the New University even before the close of the current session. Our own Students may at the end of the present Academic year go up to that University for their ordinary degree. In this state of matters it is thought unwise to entertain any application for Collegiate honors. Some also object to this special case on the ground of your sons youth. Now I think you fully comprehend the situation

If in these circumstances you wish me to urge my application in your son's behalf I will willingly exert myself to the utmost to secure success but am not sanguine of the results

The New University is still in Embryo. It is difficult to forecast what it will or will not do My opinion is that it will confer degrees only on examinations I have however very few data on which to form even a surmise

You will have heard that our Governors have secured the services of Mr. McGregor junior as Lecturer in Experimental Physics I have no doubt that this addition to the teaching staff will add also to the efficiency and reputation of Dalhousie College

You will be pleased to hear that the health of your old friends Mr. McGregor Senior and Mr. Bayne is improving They have both been sick "nigh unto death" Mr. McG has resumed work and can come to town when occasion requires Mr. Bayne is still in a more precarious condition but it is hoped will soon be convalescent.

Be assured that if at any time or in any way I can render any service to you or yours it will afford me great pleasure to do it

Apologizing again for my delay in writing you and with kind regards to Mrs Dawson and family (I do not know exactly how numerous it is)

believe me to be

truly Yours

Pompeal Dawson

James Ross

Dr. J. W. B. P.  
Dec 1/46