

M. Gill College.

Montreal.

March 17, 1877

My dear Mr. Ferris,

With reference to my
communication to-day on the
removal of the Survey from
Montreal, I may say that
Mr. Wilham Laper's objections to
the removal were not carried
out by personal preference,
but by such reasons as the
following:

1. The number of Scientific Students
in Montreal always using the Museum.
2. The important Mining & other
Industrial interests represented here.
3. The number of persons
qualified in various ways to aid
the work of the Survey.
4. The great number of Strangers
visiting & passing through Montreal.
5. The less liability to interference
of unprincipled political speculators.

6. The fact that Ontario had similar forms, as for example the Magistrate observing at Frontenac.

7. The fact that the Nat. Hist. Society of Montreal had originated the idea of the Survey, and that much aid had been given by Montreal citizens.

8. That these contributions were important to the Survey as well as to Montreal.

With reference to the money claims of the estate, if the Museum is removed there will probably amount to about \$20,000, and this is I fully believe only a part of what Sir William

expended out of his own means in aid of the Survey. If the Survey is removed, the Executors will of course have to repay these claims, as Sir William's instructions were to waive it only so long as the Museum & staff remained here.

The only way in which a branch or duplicate Museum could be useful here would be the Government detaining and keeping up the building, and pictures, with a competent

Copies to
Linnæus
and scientific curators &
means to provide for
the arranging of duplicate
specimens.

I cannot say whether
any such undertaking as
the part of the Govt,
would induce the heirs
to forego their claims; but
if such proposals were
made, I would as
one of the executors be
willing to consider them.

I shall prepare a
more detailed memorandum
& perhaps have it printed,
and send you copies.

In the mean time
 you may use the above
 in any way you
 may think best.

I fear the whole
 affair is a mistake, which
~~is~~ damage both the
 Government and the
 Banks, and does
 no good to any one
 except perhaps to con-
 tractors. It will be
 a great relief if the
 Govt, after getting the
 money required, will

Copy of letter
sent to
Oct 1907

be content to let well
alone. The removal of
the money will be a
loss to scientific education
not only here but through-
out the Dominion; but
if it takes place, we
must be content, as
in other matters, here
to try to make
up for it by extra effort
of other kinds.

Yours truly
W. Dawson