

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
ACC. NO. 2211/63
REF. 107

Cambridge, Massachusetts,
18 Dec. 1877-

Dear Sir -

The Fraternity of Phi Beta Kappa is a literary association that has existed for about a century in several colleges of this country, and its oldest branch at present is the Harvard chapter, in behalf of which I now have the honor of addressing you. Originally a secret society of undergraduates with frequent meetings for literary exercises, the Phi Beta survives as an association of graduates, whose numbers are recruited by the accession of about two dozen of the highest scholars of each graduating class, and whose annual reunion is a pleasant feature of the commencement season. The

programme for the anniversary meeting includes, besides a dinner for the members and their guests, a public meeting, at which an oration and a poem are delivered by distinguished gentlemen whose services we are fortunate enough to secure.

The committee appointed to provide for these literary exercises has directed me to invite you to accept the position of orator for the next meeting, which is to be held on the 27 of June, 1878.

I hope this invitation will meet with your favorable consideration. I venture to think you would enjoy visiting Harvard and meeting Harvard men at the time and in the manner proposed. Our young men have brought back pleasant impressions of McGill from their visits there, and I trust the acquaintance of the two universities, and their interest in each other and feeling of fellowship may

be promoted by your kind acceptance of our invitation.

If there is any other information that you desire, I shall, of course, be glad to furnish it. I should be grateful for as early a reply as will allow due time for a proper consideration of the subject.

Respectfully,

Clement L. Smith

Cor. Secretary P.B.K.

Vice Chancellor Dawson

McGill University

Montreal.

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