



Dr. Macdougall

Charlottetown P.E.I.  
Sept 8<sup>th</sup> / 1878

J. W. Dawson Esq  
McGill University  
Montreal Canada

My Dear Sir

An unavoidable  
absence from home has  
delayed my answering your  
kind letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> day.

I feel confident that we  
will not make an appointment  
on the 12<sup>th</sup> of this month, the  
time has been too short for  
us to give as thorough an  
investigation of the qualifications  
of the numerous candidates  
as will enable us ~~to~~ to be sure  
of our man. The appointment

is one of the very greatest  
importance to us; ~~the~~ study  
being a comparatively new  
one among us, we will  
find it difficult to get the  
information from specialists  
that will enable us to  
make a first class selection;  
I think it therefore almost  
certain that my colleagues  
will agree with me in  
postponing action until  
possibly the next February.

I hope therefore that we  
may have your son's  
name before us, whose  
claims I can assure would  
warrant from his own merits  
have much consideration  
from us as the loss of one  
so distinguished as yourself  
in the scientific world. We  
must have a man who shall



by his Enthusiasm, tact in  
teaching and facility in  
lecturing command a class and  
to such a one we can offer  
in addition to his salary an  
almost new field from which  
reputation is to be made and  
a people fast becoming ready  
to give him the highest  
appreciation. The salary,  
I am not certain that last  
year he mentioned it, will  
be three thousand dollars  
the interest upon a  
recent endowment of fifty  
thousand dollars for this  
special purpose, and a  
house which we are in  
the habit when we cannot  
supply it <sup>of course</sup> at three hundred  
dollars, a sum ample in  
this country to secure a  
comfortable home. At

present the necessities of the  
institution have required us  
to give a fixed salary and then  
to vary the place of the founders  
of our University who place  
was a fixed salary and an  
amount dependent somewhat  
on the professor in the shape  
of fees from his pupils. I  
thank you much for your  
letter of the 31<sup>st</sup> of Aug and  
for your kind limited  
permission to use it if necessary  
which I shall take care to do  
in the most confidential  
manner. With the hope that in the event of our  
postponing the appointment of which I will  
write you soon, we will hear from your  
son and that in any event you will kindly  
give us your advice and aid I am with  
much respect Your obed<sup>ent</sup> Serv<sup>ant</sup> W. C. Randolph