



Canadian Literary Institute.

Woodstock, Nov 30 1878

Dear Sir

I have been thinking for some time about a Canadian Expedition to observe the transit of Venus. You are aware, that if we do not observe the transit in 1882, we shall have no opportunity for a Century to come. I have been thinking that several objects might be combined. The transit will be visible on this Continent, so that the northern section of observers need not go far, should it be thought necessary to go from home at all. Now, why could not an

an expedition be organized to
the Southern hemisphere that
should not only carry the
parties to observe the transit, but
others who should engage in
making collections for our
Museums; in deep sea soundings,
et-c. I wrote a short article
for the ^{Toronto} Globe a few days
ago, but as I am a young
man of no reputation, I thought
I had better not publish it until
I wrote to some older, and more
influential person. Should such
a thing be thought advisable, it
would be well to have a meeting
of our Scientific Men, or a Committee
appointed to make estimates of
expense, etc; and bring it to the
notice of the Government.

If anything is done, there should be no delay, as there is ~~no~~ time to spare. Instruments would have to be constructed, and the observers would have to be trained.

Should you be inclined to think the scheme practicable, would you suggest it in an article to the public, or, follow me should I publish a short article on the subject. I have not gone into detail as I have thought it unnecessary, but have very hastily endeavored to give you my idea. If you think the thing impracticable do not hesitate to say so. I am exceedingly anxious

Montgomery

to see the Dominion take a
more advanced place in
regard to science. I have
been agitating the matter, and
am about to succeed in
obtaining funds by subscription,
for an astronomical observatory
in connection with our school
here.

Hoping to hear from you soon

Very truly
yours

Yours Faithfully

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