

Williamson

Fallowfield
near Manchester

Jan/80

England 29 Dec 1879

My dear Dr Dawson -

I can hardly believe that it is seven months since I bid good bye to You and Your Circle at Montreal - but I am assured by the Calendar that it is so

I often look back upon my short stay with You with great pleasure, and wonder whether I shall ever see You again

I had a most enjoyable passage home in the Baltic. I knew the Ships Surgeon - a Mr Roberts, from having met him at Niagara and he turned out to be an extremely nice fellow - and showed me a great treat to his at meal times - There was also a young fellow on board whom I had met in the Backwoods of Canada - ~~to~~ and I found I had something in common with several other passengers - So You see

I was very well off so far as food Company was concerned -

My Father would tell you that he received his fossils safely and that I fastened the box up again & forwarded it to Scotland -

Soon after coming home I was taken into partnership by the firm of Solicitors (Wood & Atkinson) in whose service I was - we call ourselves "Wood Atkinson & Williamson" now. I need hardly say that it has been a very important change for me both in position & financially -

I found that they had been having miserable weather in England during my absence - and there has practically been no summer since my return - The melancholy result of our harvests you will know from the newspapers -

We are having a very severe winter - It is just rate for skating purposes - though unfortunately I personally am not profiting much by it - The fact is I find some difficulty in keeping up with my work just now, and this makes me very busy - I have only had one days holiday (Christmas day)

Since my return -

You will be glad to hear that my Father and all of us are as well as we can be - To use an Irish expression "My Father seems to get Younger as he becomes older" - He is thinking of going to Germany this next Summer to be some of his Scientific friends - You will perhaps know that he has persuaded the College authorities to divide his chair - He retains the Botany and the Animal Physiology is in the hands of Professor Marshall - who forms a most agreeable addition to the College circle - My Father only has to lecture three months in the year now -

We are all in a great state of excitement at present about the fearful accident which happened the day before yesterday on the Tay Bridge in Scotland - It is a new Railway bridge about two miles long over the estuary of the Tay - and it was carried away by the Gale just as the Express train was passing

over it. But you will probably know
about it through the telegraph almost
as soon as I do.

I hope Mrs & Miss Dawson and your
sons and Dr. & Mrs Harrington are all
very well - Please give my kindest
remembrances to them all

I believe me to be

my dear Dr Dawson

Yours very sincerely

R. A. W. Williamson

My Father sends you his best
Christmas greetings & good wishes

