



Fellow

The Honourable
Métis May 3/80.

Dear Doctor

Of course I cannot reasonably wish you many returns of what I may call the semi-jubilee of your connection with McGill College. I can however wish that you may see many more anniversaries of that event in your history and this I do most cordially.

I hope that you are all well. I am sorry to say that my mother is much worse than when I last wrote. She is all but a complete cripple. Her joints are very stiff and she suffers from rheumatic pains. You would be sorry if you saw her walking or writing. She likes to stir about a little both because she is of an active disposition and because she thinks

she would do herself harm if she
did not. She usually wears the same
clothes day and night as she finds
it so painful to change even with
help. I have been kept very much
at home since she took ill. She
has not been once out of doors
since then. I fear that her trouble
will be permanent but the Lord's
will be done. We have reason to
be thankful that her reason, her
health and the free use of her
hands have been preserved to her.

Please accept a photo of
my last imitation statue.

Our Sabbath School is as
usual. There are Mr. Blue and
myself as teachers. That is all.
Sometimes - but not very often -
neither of us can attend. In that
case there is no Sabbath School.
None in my class seems to be quali-
fied to be a Sabb. School teacher.

They do not seem to have the heart
for such work. It is not a good sign
when a flimsy excuse suffices to keep
me away from church or Sabb. School
when visiting is preferred to the Sabb.
School and when the Sabb. Sch. lessons
are learned in patch-patch style.

There is a young woman teaching
in the day school from Chateaugay.
She professes to be a Presb. I have asked
her to join us her help in the S. Sch.
but she excuses herself on the plea
of being tired. She often joins visiting
on Sabb. afternoons. She lies with
prayer, praise and the reading of
the Scriptures in her school. I spoke
to Mr. Baker one of the Commissioners
on the subject. He spoke to her. She
said that she had not time for
one or other of these exercises, that
there were religious pieces in the read-
ing books and that the children
got religious instruction on Sabbath.

Thus though the settlement is a
Protestant one the Bible is virtually
excluded from the school. I am
not a Commissioner so I cannot
speak in the matter. I expect how-
ever that when the next engage-
ment is made the reading of the
Scriptures will be insisted on by
the Commissioners. The teacher's
landlady one of our communicants
when she was starting for church
last Communion Sabbath asked her
if she were not going to commun-
icate. She said "No" and staid
at home. She is I believe a very
good teacher in the day school but
I fear she wants the very first
qualifications of a Sabb. Sch. teacher.
I have strong reason to suspect that
she is a word-reader.

Our Methodist friends here
have service only once a fortnight
On their vacant days several come

"the old stand." A Presb. station
is to be started at Riviere du Loup
the place connected ^{Methodistically} with Mitis. This
will of course greatly weaken per-
haps break down the Methodist
station there. It is whispered that
this place is to be a Methodist sta-
tion only during summer. Should
this take place I know that some
would be quite willing to fall in
with us. In that case a Presb.
Ch. at S. Mitis would "not be
a bad idea". However it is of no
use cooking fish till they be
caught. I know that some would
like very well to have a minister
just two or three weeks in summer
in the Method. church. They would
get their children baptized without
any trouble. They would be under
our pastoral oversight. They would
get off cheaply. The visitors would
do the most of the contributing.

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I have been long here now and
I know the people of the place
pre-tt-y well.

Will the Marriage Bill has
been defeated in the Senate through
only by me. I am not at all sorry
at it especially on account of the
second part. On the principle
of that part marriage with a step-
mother, an aunt by marriage or
a daughter-in-law would be quite
proper. If the whole of the Ten
Commandments might be pitched
onboard. If Leviticus 18 be rejected
we have no divine law to guide
us in regard to impediments to
marriage on the ground of too near
relationship. I speak now with
special reference to the second part
I am sorry that even some mini-
sters think that Leviticus 18 is not
binding on us. But enough on that
subject. My mother and I write in
kindest regards to yourself, Mrs Dawson
and family. Yours T. Fenwick.