



Wilson  
My

Bradford, Yorkshire,

Aug. 16<sup>th</sup> 1880.

My Dear Dr Dawson

I received from yourself, as well as from various other Canadian friends, kind congratulations on my reported promotion to the presidency of McGill College. The report, however, was premature; and the best course I could pursue was to leave the future to develop itself while I turned the present to account for a much needed holiday. I was on the very eve of starting for the Continent when, at length, a cable message reached me announcing my actual appointment as president; and instructing me to look out for a Classical professor; and attend to other important college matters. So holidays came to an abrupt end; and I have ever since been telegraphing, writing, and musing



in business; with the some-  
-what uncomfortable sense of a  
Minister of Education behind me,  
doubting my responsibilities, and  
restraining my power to act  
with the freedom which is  
indispensable to true responsible  
action. However I have done my  
best; and hope it will prove to have  
been well done. Many thanks for  
your kind congratulations. I  
know them to be those of a  
sincere friend. My anxiety has  
been to secure in our Dean of  
Residence a man on whose  
principles and moral oversight  
I can rely, for the all-important  
charge of the resident students.  
I am still uncertain how far  
my wishes will be carried out;  
for, owing to the delay in my  
own appointment, correspondence  
has been impossible, except through  
the ocean cable; and that does  
~~not~~ admit of a detailed discussion



of principles.

I shall sail for Canada by the Sarmatian, on the 2<sup>d</sup> Sept., so that I shall be in Quebec about the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup>. My presence will thus be urgently required in Toronto; and once I get there I fear it will be impossible for me to get away.

I presume that is too early a date for the Ladies Inaugural Lectures which I promised to Mr. Dawson.

If you can send a note to catch the ~~Sarmatian~~ <sup>Sarmatian</sup> at Rimouski on her way up the River; or to care of James Stevenson, G. Manager, Quebec Bank <sup>Quebec</sup>, telling me what is expected of me I shall feel much obliged. I fear matters at Toronto are in a condition to leave me no time for anything else for a good while. The College has been practically without a head for a good while; and I am likely to find myself with a



new visitor, a new vice-chancellor,  
College Registrar, and Dean: just  
when any kind of old experience  
would be valuable.

I hope you have been enjoying  
such rest as busy time like you  
call vacation holiday. The  
ladies unite with us in kindest  
remembrances to Mrs Dawson  
and all your circle. They do  
not propose returning with us;  
but will follow a fortnight  
later in the Sardinian. There  
was a talk of Eva coming out  
with them; but you will know  
her plans before this reaches  
you.

Yours faithfully

Geo. Wilby

J. Dawson,

Principal,

McGill College

Montreal.