



Queer
Oct/80

Acacia College Colbyville
Oct-11th 80

Dr. J. C. Dawson

Dear sir; I
trust- you will pardon the
liberty I have taken in thus ad-
dressing you; and as the matter
that I wish to lay before you
for your approval or criticism,
is one not of personal but of general
interest- a scheme designed to
overcome the educational interests
of ~~our~~ the several Provinces,
especially of your native Province.

I feel assured that though
you may not consider the
object as one worthy of your
continued attention; you will,
at least, give it a little present

consideration. I feel emboldened
to consult you in the matter
from knowing that you were
once identified with the edu-
cational interests of our Province,
and that you have on many
occasions expressed yourself
as interested in her welfare.

I may premise my statement
of the project in mind by saying
that I am particularly interested
in study of Natural Science (especially
in the departments of Geology and
Zoology), and being an honorable
member of the teaching profession
naturally wish to see a greater
popular interest manifested in
Science. I am anxious to see the
subject become a recognized and im-
portant part of our educational
system; and it is to meet this
want and to awaken an interest,

and aid in the study among
the people in general, and the
members of my profession in
particular, that I have, in
connection with a number of others,
conceived that it might be
well to form an amateur
science society. The object,
as I have intimated, would
be to give direction to, and
aid in, private study; and
this could be done by presenting
courses of study in the natural
sciences; the publication of series
of papers on the subjects; cor-
respondence etc.; the building
up of a museum; and in
whatever other ways might
be thought advisable, and
fixed upon. It has been
proposed that at least ^{two} grades
of study be established - one

to embrace, or be adopted to meet
the wants of those who shall
not have made much pro-
gress in the study, the other
to be arranged for those who
^{shall} have attained to some pro-
ficiency, for instance, those
having pursued the studies
of a college curriculum. The
rules of those who have ex-
pressed themselves in regard to
it are that the "society" be a
local and corresponding one,
having its headquarters at some
place in N.S., and that there
be regular meetings. Also that
two editors be elected annually,
with other officers of course, to
see to the publication of papers
a contribution from members, with
scientific news etc. The periodical
could be the property of the society,
or space could be obtained

themselves as favorable. Among
them were members of the faculty
of Acadia College, Dr Allison
Superintendent of Education for N.S.
Normal School Teachers, G. H.
Hay the first Librarian in N.B.
Mr Best - a civil engineer of St-
Johns, and a number of other
influential men, and ~~the~~
several teachers.

This is my last year at Acadia,
after which I expect to go up to
McGill to take a course in Science.

Hoping that you will
reply, I remain yours
respectfully -

A. J. Pines

P.S. Will you please inform me
how I can obtain a copy of the
Constitution of the Montreal
Hist. Society of Montreal?

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in some established educational
papers. But that is a matter of
detail.

I have stated the matter to you
very imperfectly as our ideas
in regard to it are yet rather
vague; and I am conscious
that, as I have stated it, it
is more theoretical than other-
wise, but I think that can
be remedied, and I merely
wished to give you a correct
idea of the object for which
it is intended. We should
be pleased to hear from you
your opinion as to whether you
think it feasible or not; and
if so, any suggestions or criti-
cisms that you feel disposed
to make. I may say
that all who have been spoken
to in regard to it, have expressed