

MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
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Kennedy

Wolfville, N.S.

Nov 17<sup>th</sup>/80

Dear Sir

I am very much obliged to you for the pamphlets, & also for the advance sheets of the "Lecture notes on Geology". I have long thought that a more suitable text-book on Geology, than any at present published, was a desideratum - While I have used Dana's & Lyell's textbooks, I have had to add so many extracts from your own Acadian Geology, & the various Reports of the Geological Survey, that my classes have, in a measure, felt disinclined to take notes, as such a course was in direct opposition to the schoolboy system so much preferred in Acadia College. I have read over the Notes, & am very much pleased, both <sup>with</sup> the general arrange-

ment, & also the method of illustrating the various terms &c by sections in known localities - I feel sure that the "Notes" will be welcomed by Canadian Students, as they hitherto have had to study works in which the Geology of the larger part of America has been virtually ignored -

I shall have much pleasure in calling the attention of the students here, to the Notes. I am at present going on with my usual work in the College in Geology, Mineralogy & Chemistry - My classwork I have reason to believe ~~remain~~ is if anything, more successful this year than ever, notwithstanding, that a good many bigots have done their best to prejudice the students against me -

Owing to the action of the Board of Governors of this College, my connection with this Institution will close in Spring -

I feel that I have to submit <sup>to</sup> a gross act of injustice - My knowledge of the subjects



which I have been teaching is admitted by all, but they pretend to say that my method of teaching is not such as they approve of.

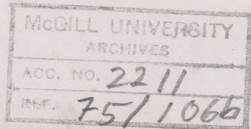
Last Spring I met a subcommittee of the Governors (consisting of the Hon Dr Parker of Halifax, the Rev Mr. Saunders of Halifax, & Dr Rand, Superintendent of Education in New Brunswick), to ~~take~~ talk over various matters. After these gentlemen were quite satisfied with the explanations I made, & assured me that <sup>all would be well & that</sup> I need not trouble myself about any remarks which my opponents might make.

In the face of these assurances, the Board, at the Baptist convention last August, stirred up by the friends of the Junior Class, who had been asked to apologize for their going on the class expedition without leave, considered it the wisest course to allow the young men to return almost on their own terms, & at the same time passed a resolution that my connection should cease

the following spring - M<sup>r</sup>. Saunders has since called on me, & stated there was no doubt that a great deal of injustice had been done me, but that Dr Parker, Dr Rand & himself had stood by me, though they could not prevent the action of some who were determined to oppose me -

The President of the college also called on me & stated that an act of injustice had been done. It will be seen from the foregoing that I have the most intelligent members of the Board on my side, but these were outvoted by a set of ignorant bigots, who look more to a man's religious opinions than to his mental fitness for a position - Although some deny that religious prejudice has had anything to do with the question, still that it has had a great deal to do with it, may be inferred from what the President of the college told me - namely that this junior class had been making capital <sup>out</sup> of a remark which these young men said I had made in class to the effect "that I had no religion when





I came here; found none here; & did not intend to have - of course to give utterance to such remarks ~~not~~ would render oneself <sup>liable</sup> to the charge of being an irreligious man, & therefore unfit for the position of an instructor in an Institution where the religious element is claimed to predominate, but where, in the opinion of not a few outsiders, the Evil-one has a well-built altar -

To judge of the untruthfulness, & maliciousness of the above statement of these students, I may state that what I did say <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ in answer to one of the students, ~~was~~ "that in an arts college, where students of different denominations attend, no professor ~~had~~ should express his religious views in his class, & that so far as I was concerned it was not <sup>my</sup> intention to meddle with the religious question at all in my classes". There can be no doubt whatever that these young men have been influenced by two or three individuals, who have never been friendly to me (particular

two of my colleagues, who have no reason to act as they have done, but who seem determined to weaken the position of the others, in order to advance themselves - I refer to Prof.<sup>s</sup> Lufts, & Welton - the later had a brother in the before mentioned Junior class - said brother has been in attendance at the college ever since I came here, & although he is an ordained Baptist minister, still he is known to be a man of very loose views & ways - in fact when I came here first, he was hissed, one day in my classroom, for a blackguard <sup>in</sup> insinuation he was trying to make out of an experiment - I have had to pluck him three times in the examinations, & now that he has failed in the other departments - he is ~~hanging~~ loafing around the Institution endeavoring to stir up rebellion -

Several individuals are trying to get the President out of his position -

So far as I am concerned, I feel ~~the~~ very much annoyed at the action of the Board - for I state,



distinctly to the committee in June last, that if the Board would give me a hearing, & if I could not prove that the charges which had been made against me were malicious falsehoods, & also if I could not demonstrate my ability to teach all that I agreed to when I came to Wolfville, then I would resign my position at once -

I was assured by the Committee that there was no necessity for my coming before the Board, as they were quite satisfied with my explanations.

I may further state, that at the close of my first year here & finding the work heavy, & the salary far too low, I informed the Board of Governors, that I would resign the position unless the college year was shortened by one month, & also that I wished ~~an~~ increase in my salary, both of which requests were granted - Since that time I heard no complaint, until the time my child was christened, & that proved to be an offense too great to pardon - In consequence of all this, my connection ceases in Spring, & I shall then be open to an engagement

I shall esteem it a very great favor, if you hear of any position, if you would let me know - I do not know whether your faith in my ability will be diminished or not - I hope not, for I have worked faithfully, & feel better posted in Science matters than I ever was - & what is perhaps also essential to a teacher - I have learned lessons of patience -

I hope you will pardon my scoring out of some words, & I would have written this over again, but ~~and~~ I accidentally burned my hands with Phosphorus several days ago, & they are rather painful -  
remaining

respectfully Yours  
Geo. S. Kennedy.

J. W. Dawson, L.L.D., F.R.S.  
McGill University -