

Wells
Apr 1872



20th April 1872

My Dear Dr. Dawson

I duly received your letter with its enclosures, and have placed the latter among those of other candidates for B. S. Honors.

I begin to look forward with some dread to the Ottawa May meeting. My illness was a severe attack of pleurisy, somewhat affecting my lungs. I am still scarcely able to speak above my breath; and utterly incapable of any attempt at public speaking. Indeed I have come so near to a thorough break down that it must alter all my summer plans. Last Sunday I ventured to Church for the first time, and there so narrowly escaped another fainting

that I forthwith made up my mind
to take the advice which my Medical
Man had urged on me, and take
a trip across the Atlantic. I
cannot afford to sacrifice health
at my time of life; and with
duties which tax my strength to
the utmost when I am quite
well. I shall sail for
Home by the Parisian, on the
10th of June, which will
allow me to see our University
Convocation over, and so to
leave with something of a
clear conscience. I have no
plans. My later movements
must depend on how I get
along. If I pull up as I
hope to do, with the breeze of
the Atlantic breezes, or possibly
Zulu; I may be able still
to be with you in August,
at present work is weary toil,

though I write you in the
Examination Hall, and so in
the midst of the worst of all
work, viz. examination papers.

I have yet to make an attempt
at something for Ottawa;
and then for the Ethnological
section at Montreal. But
my brains are addled just
now; and the Doctor says, sh^d!
be allowed to lie fallow!

I have had an unusual
succession of anxieties this
winter. Your own experience
tells you that the outsiders who
see every thing going along
smoothly, have little idea of the
how much care it has cost to
secure this. The chateaux alone
was matter of much care,
steering between the two extremes
of those who would not have it
tolerated; and a large number
bent on transferring it to the
Opera House or the Musée Hall

in the Horticultural Gardens,
However all's well that ends
well; and if I can get myself
set up again in my old vigour
I shall return with heart and
good will to the work.

I was very glad to see of
Dr Rankin's appointment; and
glad to learn from yourself
that Eva is well. Your
scattered household sends
your thoughts wandering
with pleasant anxieties in
diverse directions; and I
doubt not gives fresh life to
a father's prayers, as you
commend the wanderers to
the loving care of the Divine
Fatherhood.

Our little chick responds to
all your kind greetings
Faithfully Yours
Dan. Willig