

~~Edmund~~  
Nov 15 1883  
895 Sherbrooke St  
Montreal

Dear Sir  
I am glad  
to learn from time to  
time that you seem to be  
enjoying your visit  
to England and utilizing  
it at the same time.  
Everything here goes  
on as ~~the~~ usual.  
The only marked change  
(which is in accordance  
with the theory that  
a "depression" financial  
is the cause) is the  
sudden increase in  
the number of students -  
- 20 percent more than  
at the corresponding time  
last year. Our number  
at present is higher

than the total at end  
of session in April last  
It is 154, of whom  
95 are undergraduates  
and as about 10 more  
are trying the undergraduate  
exams being sufficient  
in slight matters, no  
doubt, at Christmas we  
shall reach and exceed  
the 100 - a point never  
hitherto attained. There  
is a large increase in  
the Fac. of Applied Science  
and in the Medical Faculty  
also -

There is a matter on which  
I have been talking with  
Dr Harrington, (who agrees  
with me) and on which  
I should like to have your  
opinion. The visit of the  
British Association next  
year will not be over until  
some time in the beginning of



October. No doubt some  
of the Professors would like  
to accompany the members  
as long as possible, and  
the question has occurred  
to me, whether in place of  
giving leave of absence to  
a few (which in my own  
Case, I had thought of  
applying for) <sup>of course making proper arrangements</sup> it would  
not be better to postpone  
the beginning of the session  
for a fortnight, say from  
the 14<sup>th</sup> (~~day~~ first day this  
year) to the 1<sup>st</sup> of Oct-  
and dispense with the  
Christmas examinations  
for the present year.

By this means, the amount  
of lectures would be the  
same as usual,  
as for the examinations  
there are precedents for  
that. When the Queen  
paid her first visit

to Ireland, the students  
at the time were dispensed  
from Examinations &  
by request, and the whole  
of the B. A. candidates for  
that year got the ordinary  
degree by this. Other  
instances could be quoted?  
Would you kindly send  
me your opinion on this  
point -

Mr Taylor tells me that you  
had arranged to procure  
copies of the last 3 reports  
(1881, 1882, 1883) of the British  
Assoc<sup>n</sup>. at a cheap rate  
and send them out -  
When are they likely to  
be here? I had informed  
Mr Taylor a few days before  
that I had purposed  
ordering them, as it is  
desirable to have the most  
recent reports at once -  
but of course, I have not  
given the order now -

With best wishes,  
Believe me,  
Yours sincerely,  
Principal <sup>Dunedin</sup> ~~Dunedin~~ Alexander Thomson  
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