

Rome, Dec 20/83.

My dear Mr Ferrièr,

Your letter of Dec 3d. reaches me, at this City, where we have been since Monday last, and which we propose to leave for Naples on Monday next.

I rejoice greatly to hear from you and other friends of the continued prosperity of the College and the Normal School, and am not without hope that the present may prove the most prosperous season up to this time. I note also with pleasure what you say of the opening of the Werlzian College.

In Italy we are not learning much as to education, though Popular Education & Scientific Education are both making great progress; in the museums and elsewhere there is however much to be learned in science, and I have had opportunities to study many interesting collections which I have long wished to see.

We devoted a day to the catacombs, studying their geology and mode of excavation, as well as the inscriptions, of which there are many in the less visited places that have not so far as I know been published. We have seen also some interesting

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Being near, took as Prochet the president
of the Malhermie church, and others
working in the village of Rochy-Beaucourt
and find them very helpful and
cabinet, We have been here at the
time of the visit. For the common
France, though we have been visiting
some of the military authorities ~~now~~
in his name; but what we have
seen brings very strong surprise
mind the steamed character of the
relations between the papacy and the

Italian Kingdom, ⁴ and produces the
conviction that in some way or
other there must soon be a great
change. Rome is indeed a city of the
strangest possible contrasts; and while it
preaches everywhere the mutability of all
things human, it has in it more than
any other city I have seen, ministers of
the great changes now imminent in
Europe. I am endeavoring while here
to obtain if possible some fac-
similes of the Catacomb inscriptions for

which are college ~~university~~ collections; but do not know if I shall succeed, as they seem somewhat jealous in regard to the monopoly of such things.

The weather has been cold but dry, and if we are equally favored at Naples, I hope to cultivate the acquaintance of Mr. Bemis, though I hear that at this moment he is capped with snow.

If, as I learn from the letters I have received, Penhallow is giving a sermon in the Astor chair, I think it would be a

very useful thing to continue
 his services. I fear the time
 is not very opportune for a
 permanent endowment; but
 if this cannot be effected I
 shall be very glad if the
 Governors will continue him
 for another year on the
 present terms or even a
 little advance. I think
 I can guarantee that it
 can be done without drawing
 from the general funds, and
 it may give time to
 make permanent arrange-
 ments. Still it would be
 a better thing if possible to
 secure him now, while he
 is new and popular.

Before I left, Prof. Snow represented
to me very strongly the importance of securing
for the Faculty of Applied Science a Testing
Machine, for which I think we had secured
promises of subscriptions to the amount of
about \$1500. The total cost was to be
over \$5000. Though the Faculty has so greatly
increased in number of students this year,
I do not suppose the College can afford
this outlay. The machine however would be
a desirable thing with reference to the
Anti-Spa. Unit, and the announcement of

perhaps be expected to attract a few students,
If therefore any arrangement could be
made whereby the price fit could be
spread over a term of years, it is clear
that the few of a very few others
students would pay the interest in the
mean time, the matter is of much
concern of course on the part of the
Board.

I shall hope to write again soon
Majors; when we expect to learn more
precisely the state of affairs in S.P.C.

You have no doubt heard the somewhat sinister reports from that quarter; but so far I do not see that there is any special danger in our going to Cairo, though there may possibly be difficulty in ascending the Nile. If however, a British force is to be advanced to Assuan, I fancy our chances will be somewhat improved, more especially as I have good introductions from influential people.

I was so importunate as to miss the Marquis of Lorne, though I called twice, and he was kind enough to call on me. I hope however

be more fortunate on my return.

With all kind regards and
best wishes of the Season, to you
and all our mutual friends,

I remain

Yours sincerely

J. Dawson.

P.S. I am told that the Directors
of the Grand Trunk Railway hesitate
as to giving the same number
of free passages ~~of~~ to members
of the British Association awarded
by the C. P. R. The occasion is one
so very exceptional and its im-
portance to Canada so great
that it would well be well to
stretch a point in the matter, more
especially as no similar occasion is
likely to occur in our time.

J.D.