

Rae 1

4 Addison Gardens  
Kensington W 5<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup> 1885

My Dear Sir William

On my return home this  
morning from a short visit to  
the Country - where I went for the  
first of the Pautridge shooting -  
I found your pretty little book  
"Egypt and Syria", forwarded by  
your publishers, waiting me,  
and I most heartily thank you  
for your kindness in ordering it to  
be sent to me. It shall be read  
with much pleasure and I am  
sure with very great profit, but  
that pleasure must be denied  
for

2

for a day or two, as we are on  
"wing" for Aberdeen for the meet-  
ing of the British Association, where  
I can scarcely hope to be so pleas-  
-ant as the American one at  
Montreal in 1882 -

The book is very well printed  
and the illustrations admirably  
executed -

We are likely to have a  
great gathering at Aberdeen,  
among them, several foreigners  
of distinction, who will lend  
additional interest to the meet-  
-ing - The Queen is to have some of  
the "gathering" at Balmoral, for  
what purpose I do not know,

probably to feed them — 3

Greely is to be over here for the opening meeting of the new Geographical Society of Edinburgh on the 9<sup>th</sup> November, to which I have been asked to be present but do not think I can attend.

Four Arctic Expeditions are mentioned, as to go to the north from as many different European Countries, and with various objects — and I have ventured on a small paper pointing out what may be considered the easiest and best way of reaching a high Northern Latitude —

The route ought to be along the west shore of Hitzberg, which is usually kept free of ice by the

influence of the Gulf Stream  
 as far as latitude  $81^{\circ}$  N. The  
 difficult bit will be at the north  
 west corner of Hatzbergren, which  
 the ice presses rather against  
 on its southern drift. I quote  
 Parry who says - That when in  
 Lat<sup>d</sup>  $82^{\circ} 45'$  N. there was not a  
 piece of ice to be seen in any  
 direction large enough to haul  
 their boats upon, except the one  
 floe they were on, and the dimen-  
 sions of that were not too great  
 for the purpose - At another  
 place he tells us, that where the  
 boats left the ice, even a sailing  
 ship could easily have got up to  
 Lat<sup>d</sup>  $89^{\circ}$ . This route has been  
 only once attempted, but in a  
 steamer weak in construction

5

and also in Steam power,  
— never in one of the fine  
powerful vessels such as are  
now used for the seal and whale  
fishing — After leaving Hutz-  
bergen, the course of the ship  
should be towards the North  
East in the direction of Francis  
Joseph Land, with the hope  
reaching the west coast of this  
great land — I wish our people  
to get at least a few miles  
beyond our great American  
Cousins —

My wife and sister in law  
join me in kindest regards  
to yourself. Lady and Miss Dawson  
and hope it may not be long

6.

before we may again have  
the pleasure of seeing you  
in England -

Believe me

very sincerely yours

John Rae

Sir J. W. Dawson F.R.S. &c

McGill College

Montreal -