

Montreal Col 10. 1884

My dear Mr William,

I have been thinking of writing to you for sometime, and the only thing that has prevented me is the recollection of the "labours more abundant" that I know you to be burdened with. Should I never have the pleasure of meeting you in any of your kind family again I shall carry to my grave and beyond a very savory recollection of your kindness to <sup>visit</sup> <sup>me</sup> <sup>as</sup> a "stranger and a pilgrim" in Montreal last winter and Spring. I took the hint from <sup>you</sup> sometimes to ask the girls for a "cup of tea" between rushing from one job of work to another, and then I always see you there standing up, no time to sit, holding the cup and saucer in your hand, trying to get the scalding dose "hot cheeks but not inebriated" down, without being scalded, May the best of heaven's blessing rest on you, your excellent lady and all the rest.

Now to the point. I have ascertained what agglutinate and retic mean, and how they differ, and Dr Wilson of Toronto should have the credit of my enlightenment. Words

are said to be agglutinate but admit  
of syllables being united to them that  
have no significance by themselves, but  
essentially modify the meaning of  
the word to which they are joined.  
As the <sup>ouchays for</sup> base, person, & number signs  
in Latin and Greek and other languages.

am-o, as-at, ant, are not words  
by themselves, nor are in English the  
syllables un, im, mis, dis, but  
join - glue these syllables to words  
and they do mean something. And  
the words to which one of these  
syllables is united remains one

single word. I do believe. Unnecessary,  
unlike <sup>no bed rep. amaze new</sup> are each single word,

and all such are so inserted in  
" Webster un-bridged, as distinct words.

are compounded, and each still retains  
its separate signification. Wash-tub

heart-ache, millstream &c. &c. &c.  
millstone &c.

are agglutinate synthetic.

Now the Indian languages are both  
agglutinate and polysynthetic. and

This fact has a very important bearing  
on the work I have in hand, viz. pre-  
paring a dictionary of the Mesmae  
Language. If I am to insert all  
the words that are agglutinative, to say  
nothing of the polysynthetic, I look  
on and am appalled at the  
labour before me. As far as I have  
been satisfied to collect the principle  
words without troubling myself a-  
bout all the <sup>could get them at present</sup> derivatives. But now  
the case is different - now I seem called  
on to put down every word. Every  
noun in the language becomes an ad-  
jective by adding a syllable at the  
end - ā, or āwā. Thus Soon is a cran-  
berry. Soonā is a belonging to a cranberry.  
A different syllable agglutinated,  
like ā in soonā, having no mean-  
ing by itself, changes soonā into  
a verb. The substantive verb "to be" is  
not used in Mesmae, as a copula to  
connect a subject and predicate. This  
deficiency is supplied by a syllable  
joined to the ~~word~~ noun. Soon-ik,  
"it is a cranberry." And again, Soon-  
ek, "it is shaped like a cranberry." And  
again you have to say for It is

not a cranberry. ~~moos~~ ~~soon~~ soon-inook, and  
 not a cranberry. "moos ~~soon~~ ~~not~~  
 'It is not shaped like a cranberry,'  
 'moos soonenook'. The adjective  
 soonā is made up of the negative moos  
 (like un, in, il, dis, mis, etc), "moos  
 soonānook, It does not belong  
 to the cranberry. The adjective  
 soonā also becomes a verb  
 by adding a syllable, soonāik,  
 and "moos soonāinook". It does  
 not belong to a cranberry. ~~So these again~~  
 soon āāgā, <sup>ngāw</sup> I gather cranberries. But  
 āgā (compare ago Lat.)  
 means nothing by itself.  
 Soon-amook - It resembles a cran-  
 berry.  
 Soon-edādūm, I deem it - think it -  
 to be a cranberry  
 Soon-ōptūm, It looks to me  
 like a cranberry.  
 Lit. I see it as a cran-  
 berry. (comp. oonaar-see)  
 Soon-āākāde A cranberry region.  
 Soon-ākadiik, hca C. region.  
 Soon-ōkse, A cranberry plant.  
 Not one of these added syllables forms

2,

a word by itself but agglutinate it to  
the name of every tree, bush, and plant,  
fruit or berry - and <sup>it</sup> does mean some  
thing. - in all making between  
twenty and thirty words.

at present Now the way in which the matter  
comes to my mind, and I want advice  
on the point - is, that all this should  
be fully explained in the Grammar,  
but exhibited to the eye in the  
Lexicon, verily it looks like the  
more honorable title as it is so  
spread out to my mind's eye. Can  
I say that all the words are in-  
serted that I have discovered, if I don't  
know there are as many left as  
are put in? I think not. Since  
I returned from Ottawa I have been  
making it a special business to  
gather up words. In the last  
few weeks I have kept <sup>usually</sup> count how  
many I added every day, and I made  
my task to put one hundred per cent.  
I have not seen a cent yet of  
the "thousand dollars" voted me. But  
the "golden shower" is still <sup>shimmering</sup> in the distance  
but some "merry drops" have fallen, be-  
cause the groceries will readily sell

bread and beans, and to "banks" will  
lend me a few dollars, and I can go  
to the one and the other with a clear con-  
science from the "shimmering of patches"  
tant shows. Since I commenced this  
letter I have received a note from Mr  
Whiteaves, acting director of the Socy.  
very into absence of Dr Selwyn &  
He says Dr Selwyn will be home  
about the 20<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>, and that he will  
immediately bring my necessaries before  
him. When I hope to obtain a few dollars  
which I am indeed very much in need.  
I am informed that my pay  
is to come through Dr Selwyn. I take it  
for granted that it is in accordance  
with my proposal in the Petition, that  
I should be paid something for the  
manuscript as it then stood,  
be paid still farther in prepa-  
ring it for the press, and covering my  
expenses. But of all this I have  
received no notice. But I trust  
I shall know soon. I ought to apologise for this  
"omission". but you kindly take an interest  
in the work and in all good works, so we will  
the load upon your very kind  
Sd. S. Poind