

Dr. Wilson

Private



Toronto
15th Dec. 1886

My Dear Dr. Williams

I hope to have ready for posting to you today, a copy of the Report we have adopted relative to the Gilchrist Scholarship Question. I think it will meet with your approval on the whole, please consider it confidential for the present.

I mark this letter private for another, and wholly different subject. In the arrangements proposed in connection with our Confederation scheme, one of the concessions which the Government have offered to the Victoria College people, is the transfer of one or more of their Professors to our staff. There were originally spoken of, I believe

only one is now pressed. The proposal has been made to establish a chair of Mineralogy, and to give this to Prof. Hannel of Victoria College. You know him no doubt, both personally, and from his R.S. of Canada papers.

The scarcely disguised idea, however is to appoint him thus to a part of the work now assigned to Prof. Chapman, with the idea of his succeeding ultimately to the conjoint Chair of Mineralogy & Geology.

Now, supposing the subjects so divided, I believe he has some qualifications for the Chair of Mineralogy, but none for the other, and really more important branch. On this you are a far better judge than I am. But if he is really disqualified for the Geology, it is an important factor in the whole question. If the government should insist on separating the

subject, professor Chapman as
the present incumbent, has a
right to say which he will
retain; and in that case he
will certainly prefer Mineralogy.
In that case, there may be an
effectual ground secured for
insisting on the Chair of Geology
being thrown open to all Candi-
dats; and in that case I should
be very glad to see Dr Geo. S. Dawson
selected.

Until our present elections are
over nothing can be done; but
early in January the government
will probably reveal their
plans. I am hoping to see Dr
George here this week. So at least
Mr William anticipates; and I
have given him instructions
that I want to see him at once.
The matter will have to be gone
about prudently; and allow me
to urge that my name must not
appear at this stage. Please
regard all this as strictly confidential.

At this stage it is assumed both by the Victoria people and the Government that Prof. Hannel is to undertake the Mineralogy. If, however, that is overruled on the grounds I have mentioned above, then the general question will arise. At this stage all that I would suggest to be done is that you should confer with Mr Howat, and Mr Ross, - whom you had with you lately, - simply putting it on this basis that as the Government are contemplating the enlargement of the University professoriate by the creation of new Chairs, you ask that Dr George's claims may receive consideration.

Put forward very strongly that Dr George is a native born Canadian; and one who has done a great amount

of Canadian Work, on the Survey
 &c. It will not be of any
 use moving in this till the
 elections are over. The polling
 day is the 28th inst; so that
 we must wait till after
 the June holidays before
 Mr Ross or Mr Howat can
 give a moment's thoughts
 to university matters.

All this then, you will
 please regard as strictly con-
 fidential. But if I do not
 see Dr George this week I have
 no objections to your letting
 him see this letter; and so I
 need not write to him, but
 shall be glad to hear from
 both him and you.

Give me your candid
 opinion about Hannel. He seems

be only too delighted to have
you with me, if you can stay
over till Monday, or later,
and perhaps see the Attorney
General & Minister of Education.
If once they can be got to
entertain the suggestion of
Dr. Jones's appointment, and
upon the question done, I
shall back it up most
heartily. At any previous
stage, the idea that I was
moving in it would be injurious
to his chances of success.

I shall be glad to hear
from you on all the above
points, including the
Gilchrist Scholarships, when
our Report reaches you.
Yours faithfully
Dau. Wilson

to me something of a charlatan,
but I may misjudge him. You
are thoroughly qualified to estimate
him at his true worth.

Now for another subject.
Could you visit us here some
time next term; to give one
of a series of Saturday
Afternoon lectures? It will
be a great favour if you
can; and will afford us
an opportunity of talking
over the above matter.

You could, of course, take
the night train on Friday at
Montreal, and the return
night train on Saturday; but
that is a merciless treatment
of a brain-worker, and I shall

