

Royal Society  
of  
Canada

Ottawa,  
3<sup>d</sup> Feb. 9 1887

Dear Sir Melvain,

I was in Montreal  
on Tuesday last, but found  
on inquiry there was no chance  
of my having a long conversation  
with you. I telephoned up from  
Dorrows but had for answer, you  
were engaged in a meeting  
of the Faculty.

You see the political  
situation has complicated  
matters for the Royal Society.  
As soon as the elections are over,  
if we know how things are, I  
propose having a Council  
meeting, & a delegation to  
the Government respecting the  
grant, hotel observations, etc.

The Houses cannot now  
meet until April & consequently  
they will have possession of  
the building & I do not see  
we can get the daily use of  
the Committee rooms. Even last  
year, we were turned out on  
two occasions, though the session  
was just over. This year business  
will be in full blast.

For two years there has  
been a poor attendance in  
May. Would it not be better  
to meet in September?  
Several are in favour of the  
idea. I spoke to Mr.  
Chauncy & others & they  
would prefer it.

As this now, when the  
May meeting is over, the  
printing is not facilitated  
entirely on account of the members  
"being absent on their  
holidays.

This year the grant will  
not be passed until June  
at least, in all probability.

I am anxious to know  
the opinion of leading  
members before the formal  
meeting at end of this month  
when he must decide. Could  
you consult Dr. Johnson,  
Prof. Havens, & others?

If we met later, we could  
assemble at Loren's. I shall consult  
Wilson & others on Saturday next.  
Excuse my handwriting, for  
you know the difficulties of  
writing.  
Yours sincerely,  
Jas. B. Dowd.

Brunn  
18/84