

Dr. Williams



Toronto
Feb. 9th 1858.

My Dear Sir William

I venture to trouble you with the enclosed for Dr. George. It includes a letter of some importance, relative to the British Association ethnological work in Brit. Columbia and I am anxious that it shall reach him as soon as possible, without risk of going astray. You will, no doubt know if he is still in Washington, and where to address him.

Sybil has returned to us equally benefited and delighted

with her pleasant sojourn
under Lady Dawson's kindly
care, The freaks of your
Montreal thermometer put
her out a little; but the
warmth of its hospitality
was more than sufficient
offset for any such Arctic
experiences; at a time
when our Toronto temper-
-ature was doing its best
or worst in the same
line. Please assure dear
Lady Dawson, with my
grateful thanks; that
she never wears in speaking
of her great kindness, and
the happy time that she
had during the whole of

to stay under your hospitable
roof. I should have liked
to have had a talk with you
over sundry matters of
common interest; but
really my actual holidays
did not embrace two clear
days. I have read Dr
Darwin's life with extreme
interest; but with a
painful sense of the mis-
chievous influence of its
religious aspect. Yet
this history of the evolution
of his own creed of negation
most aptly, though unconsi-
-derably illustrates the process
of a mind of rare capacity,
limited exclusively to one
method of truth-seeking till
he ceased to be capable of

accepting as truth anything
that he could not see with
his microscope, or dissect
with his scalpel. The
ultimate agnostic's creed;
and his passing into the
great darkness, as
though life were but a
lamp, extinguished and
going out, when its oil
failed; with no replac-
-ing - seemingly
no hope of a hereafter;
left on my own mind
a shuddering sense of
pain. The separation from
our loved ones would be
terrible indeed, if we could
think that death meant
such annihilation.

faithfully yours,
Sam. Wilson