

Rae

4 Addison Gardens

Kensington 15<sup>th</sup> March 1888

My Dear Sir William

I have sent a paper to the Linnæan Society, which has been accepted, and I now intend to port along with this, a part copy of the same. yet not quite the same to your address, - to use if it is of any use - as you may think best - If not thought worthy of being read or published anywhere it will not in the slightest degree disturb me in any way, as I do not by any means hold my own work in much estimation -

You will observe that I touch upon a few of the most obvious mistakes made by my friend Dr. Bell in his paper on the

birds of Hudson's Bay, read before the  
Royal Society of Canada some years ago -  
because such errors cause confusion  
if spread abroad, of which I see some  
instances, not infrequently, even among  
our scientific men here.

We are about shaking ourselves clear  
of a long and unpleasant winter; it is at  
least hoped so, as March being "come in  
like a lion," may it is expected, go out like  
a less ferocious beast.

We had a most pleasant chat with  
your son the other day, when on his short  
visit home, and had some very interesting  
descriptions, of the many parts of the  
Country would he had been to -

In a few days after he was to sail for



India, "fields and pastures" I think near  
to Uice -

There has been a paper by Commodore  
Mackham, on the Hudson's Bay route,  
sent to the Royal Geographical Society, which  
I suppose will be read at an early meeting.

When I hope to have a few words to say on the  
subject - Mackham was exactly three weeks  
in the <sup>(Hudson's)</sup> Straits in the month of July, and on the  
strength of this brief experience, - 9 days of which  
were occupied in going 250 miles (less than 30 miles  
a day) owing to ice obstruction, this gallant  
officer asserted that the the Strait was  
safely navigable for large Ships heavily laden  
during a period of at least 5 months!!

He says further, that a vessel of greater  
Steam Power than the "Albatross", could have  
easily pushed her way through the ice met  
with; a mistake, for this very ice that  
obstructed the "Albatross" to an advance of <sup>only</sup>  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile

an hour. the vessel being capable of making  
8 knots in smooth, <sup>open</sup> clear water, also obstructed  
to about an equal extent the very same  
season (1886,) the "Arctic" of Dundee. under one  
of the most able ice Captains, probably  
the finest and most powerful vessel in  
the world for ice navigation -

All here join in kindest  
regards to yourself, Lady Dawson, and  
your family with you, including Dr.  
Dawson. Believe me

most sincerely yours

John Rae

Sir J. William Dawson & Co. M.S. J.R.S.

McGill College Montreal

P.S. We are to have a paper at the Royal  
Institution tomorrow evening by J. Murray Challenger  
Esq<sup>r</sup> on the structure origin &c of Coral Reefs & Islands  
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