



Dr. M. M.

Stamps

Toronto

11th June 1881.

My Dear Sir William

Your kind letter pains me; and yet I am sure nothing was further from your thoughts. This knight-hood altogether has been a great trouble to me. Had your justly merited imperial honours been delayed till the partance of your life was gone; and life itself at an end; save for the duties that still claim faithful fulfilment, you

would perhaps have done
precisely as I did,

Unfortunately, I got no
hint of the purpose of offering
me such honors. My
first knowledge of it was
from the public papers;
followed by a very concise
telegram from Sir John A.
Macdonald; to whom I
wrote at once, in all
respectful and courteous
terms, declining the
honors. As I have adhered
to that, in reply to a
subsequent letter from
him, it is no longer
in my power to change

my mind, even if I
desired it. You speak
of my leaving you
out in the cold. On
the contrary, my dear
Sir William, you
bask in the well-
-merited sunshin^e of
Imperial honors,
My sun has gone down.

I offered my resignation
of President of the University
to the Government; but
they refused to accept it;
and so I work on, bent
on doing my duty faithfully
to the best of my ability;

Knowing that soon
the night cometh when
no man can work.

So please, do not judge
harshly of me. Give my
very kindest greetings to
Lady Dawson. Her
congratulations were
not the less appreciated,
that they were addressed
to an unknighthooded
squire!

Faithfully Yours

Daniel Webster

Lieut. Wm. Dawson, C. M. G.,

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