

Matthewson
Dec / 88

Montreal 6th Decr 1888

Sir J. W. Dawson. C.M.G. L.D. &c &c
McGill University

Dear Sir.

I much appreciate your special kindness in the presentation of a copy of your very valuable, instructing & interesting work on the Geological History of Plants. Also a copy of your comprehensive address on the University, its History & some of its requirements. being the Annual University Lecture for this Session of 1888-9. The latter I had read through to at least one listener in our household on the occasion of its publication in the Gazette last month. The information it contains is of very general interest & importance, & I trust its good effects will equal the most sanguine expectations. I ought to have known better

than to suppose there can be much about
the coal formations of the Lower
Provinces that has escaped your
special attention. The wonderful
manifestations of an Almighty hand
have often struck me in the merely
casual observations I have made
in this connexion as well as in the
other departments of nature as
presented even to the dullest observers.
Truly "the earth is full of His
riches"

In connexion with the late founder
of the University James McGill, I
 lately in talking about him to a lady who
is a native of this city, was asked if
I knew how he had died! The lady
over 80 years of age has a very clear
memory about events here almost throughout
her life time, is Mrs. Minion now living
at 58 Victoria Street, is a widow, Her
family were at one time in possession

of a good deal of property. I believe
she owned personally, some excellent
houses in New Street, but unhappily
from neglect of renewing Insurance
was lost to her, and she is now in reduced
circumstances and alone, but very
cheerful & pleasant. — About Mr McGill
she said that he had incurred the enmity
of a woman, whose husband or son
he had for some offence, pursued with
severity at law & caused to be
imprisoned. She uttered a malediction
on him — that he might rot in
his bed, or something of that sort
& Mr Munn has remembrance of this
woman expressing a kind of gratification
that her prediction or malediction had
been fulfilled, when Mr McGill suddenly
died through being choked while
eating. I mention the matter for
what it is worth for your private
information, as possibly the

information may not have reached you,

I was interested in a statement
she made to me that Mr. McGill owned
of he did not actually occupy at the
time of his decease, the building
opposite Wilsons Monument ^{West of the Gamefoot} & was
in this building our family first recorded
in 1833 & that I had my first
introduction to City business, & had
a good share of what the wise man
says. "It is good for a man
to bear the yoke in his youth"

Please excuse my troubling
you with these matters, and with
best wishes I thank

I am Dear Sir, Respy & faithfully yours
J. M. Mathewson

May mention that Mrs. Muwins late
husband was a connexion of the
Hartwood family at Vandeventer.