

Redgrave
& Messrs

Florence, March 28, 1889

Dear Sir William,

Your letter of 6th instant
finds me in Italy. We prepared for a
long absence from our house in
Chislehurst and left it on the 18th of
February. After six days in Paris we
came by Turin and Genoa to Rome.
Three weeks there and last Monday
25th we came here. The weather has
not been favourable. My wife had a
very uncomfortable time from Paris to
Turin - made a previous cold worse and
has suffered from coughing fits and extreme
weakness

weakness ever since. Today shows some
improvement which we hope may be the
beginning of better things - She has been
out frequently - Indeed every afternoon
last week in Rome, but is very soon
exhausted. I have had a bad cold

myself - coughing a good deal - though
I have never been kept in the house.

Our idea when we shut up the house
and left it in charge of the head
gardener was to spend three months
on the continent and then go back to
England for a week or so before sailing
for New York - hence no thought of
going to California and British Columbia
and finding our way to Montreal
in September or October. "L'homme
propose

propose" It seems doubtful if we shall be able to carry out that programme. We may have to submit to disappointment.

The Reports you sent await my return to England. I have heard of their receipt there. Unless Finlay ~~is~~ in London during the last half of May I am not likely to see him. I am glad to learn that he has made his services valuable to the University.

The difficulties arising from our political position in Quebec are serious enough, but they do not seem to be free from trouble in Ontario. "Many men many minds" - Many men - many prejudices, many unfair biases - much trying to get unfair advantages.

I was not aware that Rankine was in London when we left. When we saw him last
be

he was about leaving again for the East.
Perhaps I may see him in May - We shall
have to beat a hotel in London.

I notice in a paper today the death of
Professor Young of Toronto - I used to know
him pretty well at one time and
liked him much. -

Did I tell you that I saw principal
Fairbairn in Oxford - in October last.
He had been cordially received by
most, if not all of the leading men
there - The Congregationalists have
built a fine college there, but there
are jealousies on the part of institutions
in other places - Congregationalism
is too radical for me but perhaps when
the establishment comes a little conservatism
may begin to creep in - My wife joins me
in cordial love to yourself and Lady Darwin
& Eva and the Harrogate. Yours ever faithfully
Sir William Darwin Mordaunt Peter Redpath