

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
ACC. NO. 909A/12
REF. 3

295 University St
Montreal.

Oct. 19/95

Dear Mr Bethune,

I was sorry to see in a newspaper this morning a scrap of old Mc Gill history in which scant justice was done to the memory of your late father in his connection with the University, and which may grieve some who regard his memory with affection and respect. In my own part as your

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Library of the
Institute

though when I became
connected with McGill
in 1855 I took pains
to read up its past
history not only in
parliamentary papers
such as that referred
to ^{in the article in question, and which has long been in} but in the ^{in the} ~~in the~~ ^{selection}
pamphlet literature of the
period and in the
minutes of the Royal
Institution, the Governors
and the Caput, I have
carefully abstained from
attaching any blame
to the action of the men

who were then struggling
in the face of almost
insuperable difficulties to
organize a teaching ^{Union} ^{in May} ~~and that~~
center in Montreal. In
reference to the position
taken by Dr. Bethune in
~~regard to~~ the controversies
of the time, ^{that I} ^{ever}
sympathize with him in
many respects as right
in principle, though his
opponents also had
much in the circumstances
of that period to justify
their ~~position~~ ^{action}; and the

Copy to Bethune
~~1895~~ 1895

Differences of opinion were
not altogether religious but
involved important educational
differences ^{questions} which could not
be ^{settled} reconciled until the
new charter was obtained
and changes had taken
place in regard to the
preparatory schools. We
do not enhance our own
achievements by detracting
from those of the dead, and
when the time comes for
writing the history of old we
fill under the first charter, I
hope it will be done in a
fair and candid spirit
and in view of the perils
of the acts as stated & themselves
in records and publications
which still exist. Sincerely yours

J. M. Dawson