McGill College.

June 23rd.1893.

Principal Sir William Dawson,C.M.G.,LL.D.,F.R.S.

Dear Sir

I am directed by the Corporation of McGill University to forward to you the following resolution passed at the regular meeting held on the 21st. instant.

It was resolved

"That the life of Sir William Dawson has been so intimately united with the history of the University that this Corporation , in receiving the official report of this resignation of the position of Principal,feels the impossibility of compressing into a few brief sentences, its appreciation of the labours,struggles and successes of his thirty-eight years of office,its recognition of the great personal qualities to which the successes are due,its gratitude for his services,and its regret at the fact together with sorrow for the cause of his resignation.

Nevertheless it deems it fitting that a few leading points should be referred to.

All know of the marvellous increase of the University under his guidance,in the number of Professors and Students,of Faculties and Affiliated Colleges,buildings and equipments,wealth,educational power,reputation and influence in the Province and in Canada. But it is not merely such increase,however extraordinary,being for example,in the number of graduates 1200 per cent,that redounds most to his credit.

Even more remarkable,perhaps,is the fact that the germ of an institu-

tion which seemed to many to be dead should have been quickened under his ceaseless care and vigilance into active life, should have grown and expanded, and in the process should have spread its quickening influence to the whole of the Province.

The Corporation, in support of this statement, can point to his labours in the organization and superintendence of the Normal School which provides teachers for the Schools that send students to the University - to the establishment and management of the School examinations by which teachers and pupils alike are reminded of the Higher Education - to the encouragement he has given to Teachers' Associations, and the active part he has taken as a member of the Council of Public Instruction in strengthening the school system of the Province.

That in effecting such achievements great difficulties had to be overcome was inevitable. The courage and perseverance in facing disheartening obstacles, and the fertility and readiness of resource in overcoming them despite of momentary defeat, as in the case of the Department of Engineering, this Corporation deems not least among the personal qualities to which the success of the University is due.

But not less is due to that administrative ability by which an institution consisting of so many separate bodies and so many individuals, has been kept steadily working without friction among its component parts.

That while doing so much for the University and for education in Quebec he should by his indomitable energy have raised himself to so high distinction both by scientific and by literary works, may be cause of reasonable pride to the University.

The honours awarded by Scientific Societies, their medal, fellowships and presidencies, cast a reflected glory on the University of which the Corporation is fully sensible; and it cannot but express its joy and

thankfulness that although Sir William Dawson's recent illness will prevent him from encountering the bodily fatigues inseparable from the active superintendence of the affairs of the University, it will not interfere with his scientific investigations, but tend rather to promote them by allowing more time for their pursuit.

The Corporation earnestly hopes too that the University will still be able to rely upon the services of Sir William Dawson as an able, prudent and warm-hearted Councellor in all emergencies."

I have the honour to be
Your obedient servant

J. W. Bakeridge
Acting Secy

Resolution
Confirmation
June 1/83

Extract from Minutes of an Adjourned Meeting of the Royal Institution Governors of McGill University held the 31st May 1893.

"Principal Sir William Dawson at the Session of the Board on Friday the 26th instant, of which this Meeting is an adjournment read and handed in a letter as follows:—

To the Board of Royal Institution Governors of McGill College.

Gentlemen

It has become my painful duty to-day to tender to you my Resignation of the Offices of Principal and Professor of Geology and Natural History, which I have held for thirty six years; this resignation to take effect at the end of the present educational year in July, or at any earlier date that may be convenient to the Board.

Referring to my letter of March last to the Chancellor, I have since that time used every means in my power toward the restoration of health, and have consulted my medical advisers, to whom, and especially to Drs. Craik, Stewart, and Blackader, I am under the deepest obligation for their unremitting care and kindness.

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The result is, and this coincides with my own impressions that at my advanced age and in consideration of the symptoms still remaining as consequences of my recent illness, I cannot hope for such restoration to health as would render it safe to myself or expedient in the interest of the University that I should resume my official work.

I beg to assure the Board that I have arrived at this conclusion with extreme regret, and am resigned to it only by the belief that it is the will of God, and that we may hope that it will tend to the best interests of the University in the future. Even in the most favorable circumstances, I could hold the reins of government only for a short time and but feebly, while the present enlarged and advancing condition of our affairs requires a strong and firm hand and watchful guidance.

I need not say that I shall have much pleasure in doing any thing in my power to strengthen the hands of my successor, and to promote the interests of the University in an unofficial way. I shall be glad to retain some connection with the University as Emeritus Principal and Professor, and if desired by the Board as a Governors Fellow. In these

relations

Relations, I shall at all times be at the service of the Board, for any aid which it may be in my power to render, without interference with the rights and duties of others.

I am however very desirous to devote as much as possible of my remaining time and strength to the preparation, arrangement and description of the collection which I have placed in the Peter Redpath Museum, with a view to increasing their scientific and educational value, and of completing my own life-work in Canadian Geology. I have been prevented hitherto from attaining these ends by the pressure of other duties. For this reason I desire to retain the position of an Honorary Curator, stipulated for when I presented the collection, and to have the temporary use of a room in the Museum for the prosecution of the work.

Since my return, I have, with the aid of the Vice-Principal and Acting-Secretary been endeavouring to finish what remains of the work of last Session and of preparation for the next. This I hope will be complete before the June meeting of the Board, and in the meantime I would ask the Board to authorize one of its

members

members to act in regard to what remains to be done in vacating my office, and College Residence,

Have further to tender to the Members of the Board my most sincere thanks for the interest they have evinced in my work, and for their kindness to myself and Lady Dawson more especially in our recent illness; and also to the Vice-Principal and the Deans and Professors of the Several Faculties for their readiness and efficiency with which they have discharged extra duties imposed on them by my absence.

In Conclusion, while profoundly grateful for the measure of success which has attended my administration of the affairs of the University, and especially for the absence of those disorders which have marred the success of so many Colleges, I would not wish that my educational views and aspirations should be measured by our present attainments. The ultimate objects to be secured by combining all the elements of success presented by our time and Country, have been steadily kept in view from the first, and have been presented

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in many forms to our friends and to the public! Much has been attained, but much still remains to be accomplished, more especially with reference to the purely educational or academical faculty, which in the present stage of Canadian Society demands more than any other generous support. Means for this have hitherto been deficient, and much precious time and energy have been wasted in the ~~inevitable~~ struggle to maintain the ground already gained. It has been my earnest prayer that I might be permitted to carry out, in the case of all, my ideal of a complete and symmetrical ~~systematical~~ University suited to this country, and particularly to the English population of this Province. It has pleased God to deny me this satisfaction; but I entertain the firm belief that good foundations have been laid, which will not be disturbed, but will be built on and carried to full completion by the energy, care and judgement of my immediate successors.

Remain, with sincere respect and good wishes,
Your obedient Servant
(Signed) Jno. Dawson

May 26th 1893.

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Having given their most careful consideration to this communication, the Board while contemplating with extreme regret the severance of the relations, which have subsisted for the long period of thirty-six years, between the Governing Body and the Honoured Principal of the University, are of opinion that the reasons given by Sir William Dawson for tendering his resignation viz: the impaired state of his health, and the injunction consequently laid on him by his Medical Advisers, that he must in Justice to himself relinquish the duties of his position of Principal and Professor, leave them no alternative, but to accept his resignation of those important Offices, as at the end of the current Educational year.

It is therefore Resolved

That the resignation of Sir John William Dawson, K.C.M.G., L.L.D., be, and is hereby accepted to take effect on the 31st July 1893

While deeming it wholly unnecessary to enlarge on the value of the eminent services rendered to McGill University by the Principal, services recognized and appreciated, not alone by every body connected with the University, but by the whole Body of Canadians, the Board desire to record their sense of the deep and lasting obligation,

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under which the University lies, to one, who, from very small beginnings, has done so much to raise it to its present satisfying standing among Schools of Learning.

The Board have very great pleasure in appointing, and do hereby appoint Sir William Dawson, Principal and Professor, and Governors Fellow, as well as Honorary Curator of the Peter Redpath Museum, and direct that a room in the Museum Building be set aside for his use, so long as he may desire to occupy it.

In further recognition of Sir William Dawson's long and exceptionally valuable services to the University, the Board hereby resolve, that he receive out of the funds of the University, an annual allowance of Two thousand five hundred dollars. ($2.500)

The Board trust that Sir William Dawson may be spared yet many years, to pursue those valuable researches in Natural Science, to which he has specially, and with so great success, devoted much of his life and it is their earnest hope, that he and Lady Dawson may have a long enjoyment of health and happiness.

It is ordered, that copy of these

these Resolutions be sent to Sir William Dawson.

A true copy

J. W. Bakerridge

Acting Secretary

McGill University.