

47 Metcalpe Street  
Montreal 23 Feb -98

Duncan

Sir J. W. Dawson  
McGill College  
Montreal

Sir

You will perhaps remember having kindly forwarded to me one or two of your publications in reply to a critical letter of mine written from the Hyde Park & Bayswater School of Art in London England.

At the time I wrote you I had no thought of coming to live in Canada. But as professions of my nature were having a bad time in the old

country from several causes  
I took it into my head  
that one of the British  
Colonies would probably  
be a good field.

As the British Association  
for the Advancement of Science  
(of which I have been a  
member for years) was  
to visit Toronto in August  
I thought it would be  
a favourable opportunity  
for me to come there,  
believing that I might  
get valuable introductions  
that would at once give  
me a footing. I decided  
and came over but  
I found most of the  
Members far too busy

to even get hold of  
in order to obtain what  
I desired. I brought  
with me a note of  
introduction from  
Lord Cecil (the brother  
of Lord Salisbury) to  
Lord Kelvin and for  
a brief moment just  
explained my object  
and I could do no  
more than ask him  
to introduce me to  
the Hon. G. M. Ross the  
Minister of Education  
for Ontario. This his  
Lordship readily did  
and doubtless would  
have done more had  
I asked him but seeing

that all was bustle & hurry sewing from sectional meetings to entertainments and excursions I did not care to trouble his lordship.

Mr. Ross was good enough to do his very best by writing in my papers to many quarters in hope of finding me a post but all his kind efforts turned out unfruitful.

After remaining practically idle in Toronto for six months I have come to Montreal with the same hope or at least with the hope

of getting some kind  
of employment.

As there is already a  
School of Art here which  
is doubtless sufficient  
for the wants of this  
city I do not intend  
to start another but  
would be glad if I  
could be of use in  
some other way in  
this progressive city.

I have devoted  
a good deal of my  
leisure to scientific  
study for many years.

I had the privilege  
of studying Zoology  
under the late Prof. Huxley

Botany under Prof. Threlton  
Dyer and Geology under  
Professor Iudd at the  
Royal College of Science  
then styled the Royal School  
of Mines, S. Kensington, London.

Since coming out I offered  
my services to your  
namesake Dr. Dawson  
on the Geological Survey  
in the hope of assisting  
in Petrographical work  
or any map-drawing.  
Dr. Dawson received  
my application in a  
very kind & appreciative  
manner and placed  
it in a pigeon-hole for  
future reference but

regretted his inability at that time to find a post for me as several of the staff had recently been removed for the time being.

I am now addressing you in the hope that you might find something for me to do in connection with McGill University or elsewhere, say as an assistant demonstrator in some department Biological or Geological or as a Diagram maker or in fact in any way in which I can be useful & in order to obtain a livelihood

Should you have time  
& feel disposed to grant  
me an interview with  
such an object I will  
be only too pleased to  
call on you at such  
time & place as you  
might appoint.

I have the honour  
to be

Dear

Your obed<sup>t</sup> Servant  
W. S. Duncan

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