

1

No. 858 Palace Street

Montreal

29<sup>th</sup> March 1898

To

Sir William Dawson  
Dear Sir.

I take this opportunity to thank you for the supply you sent me of your "Present Day Tracts"

Though I asked Dr. Harrington to convey my thanks to you I felt I should make a more formal acknowledgement of your kindness.

I would be glad to see you and thank you personally. But as I learned that you were confined to your room I feared it would be too great an intrusion.

Yet I remember that you said

to me when I came out of the hospital, if you had known when I was in the hospital you would have gone to see me. Your will was accepted, though you had not the opportunity for the outward performance, — both by me and by the Master, who declared his approval of such service.

When in Manitoba, I was very sorry when I read that you were laid aside by sickness and felt much touched when I read your letter to the students. I felt that all the Students and graduates of M. G. I. should be called on to pray publicly and unitedly for <sup>your</sup> recovery. But though that was not done



more publicly it is <sup>3.</sup> trusted  
that all praying ones of them did  
so in spirit and reciprocated  
your prayers on their behalf.

I heard of your New Year salutation to the  
congregation of Stanley Street Church!  
When you were not able to reach them  
and I began to fear that the swiftness of  
passing opportunities might make it  
impossible for me to ever acknowledge  
your kindness in sending me the gift  
of your "Present Day Tracts" in this  
life.

The more I think of these Tracts now  
the more timely I think they are for  
present need in relation to some current  
thoughts or opinions. I thank you for them  
I thank you also for putting your sig-  
nature on them. It was in my mind to  
ask you to put your signature on

4

but you did it without being -  
asked which made it more appreci-  
ated. I felt at the time as if the con-  
ferring of a degree from your hand  
would not be more agreeable nor  
acceptable, and that especially consider-  
ing the truths that <sup>these Tracts</sup> ~~these truths~~ uphold,  
and ~~strengthened~~ <sup>strengthened</sup> by being  
endorsed by your testimony.

Some of ~~these~~ Tracts you gave me  
before got scattered away from me  
by loaning. But to make sure  
of keeping these together I got  
Mr. Frysdale to get them bound  
in half calf. I left the covers on with  
your signature as you sent them  
and put them in in the same order <sup>even</sup>  
as you sent them in the package,  
and they formed quite a book.  
Dr. Murray also gave <sup>me</sup> a copy of his  
address to his student in Poetry and  
I put it also in the book with your  
"Present Day Tracts"



Dear Sir when I began to attend your lectures in Natural Science it was not long before I noticed you and was impressed with your reverence and loyalty to the word of God's revealed truth and your lucid and faithful exposition and exhibition of the harmony existing between the scientific facts of the laws of Nature and the revelation of the Word of God. Ever since I felt grateful that in providence I was privileged to be one of your students.

Since my student days I was in the habit of thinking and saying that of all the teachers I had to do with from home, in my life there were three

6  
that I placed above all  
others and I esteemed that I  
had been highly benefited and  
privileged by the benefit of their  
teaching and example. These three  
were Dr. Dawson and Dr. W.  
Vicar and Bishop Williams; who was  
my first teacher in Classics when  
he was rector of the High school  
at Lennoxville, and whom I  
found a good teacher, a friend  
and a gentleman, in my stert  
for college, though I came as a stranger  
to his school, But who has now  
passed away. I hope to a higher  
reward, and beyond any expression  
of gratitude from me.

But I feel pressed to make this  
acknowledgement as a duty  
I owe you while I have the oppor-  
tunity in this life. I would cherish  
the hope that it might add, if  
but even a little, to the comfort  
of your ground of assurance



7

that your labours have not  
been in vain on earth. <sup>And</sup> I hope  
that now being laid by from your  
arduous public labours in the "vine-  
yard of the Lord" you will be or are  
cheered by the prospect of hearing the  
personal "Well done" "Enter thou in" and  
that having made diligence  
you shall have an "abundant en-  
trance into the everlasting  
Kingdom of our Lord and Sa-  
viour Jesus Christ," (See 1<sup>st</sup> Peter I) and  
2<sup>nd</sup> Peter I)

I hope that it gives you much  
pleasure and comfort to see the  
Crowning of your efforts and  
labour, in behalf of the righteous-  
enlightenment of true education in  
the world by the great progress  
McGill has made and the great  
measure of development that it now  
enjoys.

When I went to Manitoba I  
sometimes indulged in imagin-  
ing an ideal University established  
there, and you at the head of it,  
independent of sects and parties,

8 It is evidently too late for that now! And I fear the attempt at University that Manitoba made, by the simple union of sectional and denominational colleges is not likely to attain to a high standard of an University.

But I am glad to find that McGill is already about as near the Ideal as most Universities are and cannot not fail to be a very great blessing to the Dominion of Canada

It came to be my lot to take a passing trip to Montreal last fall and I took the opportunity to visit the Alma Mater. I enjoyed a few draughts of the refreshment of the lectures so much that I decided to remain and enjoy the opportunity longer, and got so fascinated that I remained till now.



4

I enjoyed all the lectures I could attend  
in W. Gill and in the Presbyterian College.

But in W. Gill I was drawn to attend  
Dr. Murray's lectures in <sup>Moral</sup> Philosophy, especially

I used to call Philosophy - including the  
so called "Schools of Philosophy" - the great  
field of error. But I rejoice to find that  
through Dr. Murray's illuminated mind Philo-

sophy becomes a sphere of the brightness of  
truth! It is evident that Dr. Murray has

been made a partaker of, not only of the science  
of the theory but also <sup>of much</sup> of the facts of the

life and immortality that Christ brought to  
light through the gospel." And it is evi-

dent <sup>also</sup> that he, through his reason being enlight-  
ed by that revealed light - apprehended the adaptation

of the physical and spiritual faculties of man to  
partake of and become active agents in the

perfect enjoyment of that life and immortality.

- and that <sup>they are so adapted</sup> in accord with the harmonious working  
of all the laws of the Creator. So that, by the fac

ethics of man being thus revived  
 — brought to newness of life — regenera-  
 ted, by the power of that life, the  
 Oneness of all the Redeemed who are  
 thus regenerated, is made possible. And  
~~was~~ because Christ knew that it was  
 possible and practicable, He prayed "That  
 they be One as We are One,"

When philosophy thus discovers and de-  
 velops truth by the process of scientific  
 reasoning and in accord with the harmonious  
 laws that govern all creation, (yea, that  
 govern the Universe, including the Creator  
 too), then philosophy becomes the ex-  
 ponent and therefore the servant of  
 revealed truth, by showing forth its  
 harmonious beauty as Truth and so,  
<sup>the</sup> "beauty of the 'All together lovely'" "Who  
 is the Truth and the Life," "By Whom  
 all things were made that ~~were~~ <sup>are</sup> made"



But this is a long digression <sup>in</sup>  
a letter, however I will not alter it, I  
would be glad to get your criticism on it,  
But I do not expect or desire you to take that  
trouble.

It is to be hoped that Mr. Gill  
will continue on the foundation laid  
down by you in Natural Science  
and ~~by~~ by Dr. Marray in Moral  
Philosophy, or all True Philosophy.  
And it is to be hoped that all de-  
partments of Mr. Gill will follow in  
the same line. — Developing and giving  
evidence of ~~the~~ and, testimony to  
the truthful and beautiful harmony  
of the inexorable and therefore  
trustworthy laws of the Only true  
and living God in creation and  
salvation.  
And as this suggests it, and I know

you are interested in the  
 Cause of Christ as a whole (even  
 independent of Mr. Gill) - though  
 the case I refer to is also affiliated  
 with Mr. Gill - I also take the liberty  
 to testify my belief that if the visible  
 Church on earth as a whole followed in  
 line with Dr. McVicar's course in  
 Systematic Theology I feel assured  
 that the Kingdom of Christ would  
 soon so develop in the world  
 that the darkness of error would soon  
 be dispersed by the splendour of the  
 spiritual appearance of Christ on  
 earth. I do not speak thus of  
 Dr. McVicar by way of comparing his  
 course with that of any other Systematic  
 Theology Professor but as <sup>the one</sup> I heard  
 the most and had the most oppor-  
 tunity to hear, not only now but  
 over 25 years ago. - So that I cannot  
 be accused of a hasty conclusion.

Thus in midst of so much error and scepticism in the world it is a great cause of thankfulness that so much light still shines.

It is good and a great cause of thankfulness that so much is already accomplished by Mr. Gill in scientific teaching, and that so much equipment is secured for scientific education in the future. And I hope you shall be spared yet to see more, even in this life, of the fruit of your labours; but I hope that you will more especially meet with greater results in the world to come, - through the merits of Jesus Christ and His blessings on your labours.

It is hard for one person



to get even a glimpse of all that is taught in Mr. Gill now. Yet each department of scientific study but reveals the beautiful harmony ~~and~~ order of the laws that govern the designs designed and carried out by the Creator - even down to the minutiae of crystal formation as governed by the exact and wonderful laws of chemistry alone, and and all the causes and laws that cooperate in the composition of the Universe. The operation of all these laws manifest the Creator and prove His existence and beneficent nature and character.

When looked upon in this light every class room in Mr. Gill becomes

a School of Theology. It leads  
 one also to regret ~~the~~ <sup>so much</sup> havoc  
 that sin made by, <sup>perver-</sup>  
 sion of the Moral law. Even  
 the study of languages reveal and de-  
 velop  
 the wonderful laws that govern  
 the organs of speech, and the  
 mental faculties - The wonder-  
 ful adaptation of these organs and  
 faculties to perform what is re-  
 quired of them, shows the infinite  
 wisdom and power of the Designer.

And even the Greek and Latin  
 reading of heathen Mythology  
 and heathen government and cul-  
 ture, but shows and enhances, by  
 contrast, the blessings of the light  
 and benefits of the gospel of Jesus  
 Christ, and the glory of the Kingdom

Of course it requires knowledge  
of the gospel to see these  
of the King of righteousness.

I was led to consider more closely  
this aspect of these so called  
secular studies, by a man of the  
world who expressed some wonder  
last winter, that I attended <sup>other</sup> any  
lectures than those in so called  
Theology. But it all comes within this  
realm "Who is over all blessed forever"

It would take a long time for  
the highest talented individual to  
learn all that is taught in Mt. Gill  
now. I feel that it would take me  
another long life time before I could  
master it and before I needed to  
cross the ocean for higher education.  
Though I took pleasure in attending  
all the lectures I got time for, yet the  
preponderating subject I met



with on all sides was my own ignorance. Yes! I found myself face to face with a dark mass of my own ignorance in every class room. But even to obtain some of the light of the truths of facts is so much of a displacement of the mass of ignorance, and may it not be so much of an enlightenment and therefore so much of a preparation for the next world—that is if our knowledge be subservient to the knowledge we have of Christ.

But any way, even for one who has much to do with addressing and teaching the public, there is evidently much benefit to be derived from even hearing the language, forms

forms of expressions and technical terms and pronunciations even of the professors each, in his own particular subject, that each devotes his best attention to. To familiarize the exact forms of speech required to express the exactitude of science is helpful to express the truth required by the world. Then subjects discussed suggest other thoughts and enforce other lines of truth. And even some knowledge of the essence of a subject may prevent one from making a serious mistake in reference to that subject. And it is so much to know that there is such and such a subject at all,

And the sense that one gets of  
want of fuller knowledge should  
make one more humble before the  
Almighty and Omniscient Creator  
of all. And that sense should  
lead us to follow the direction given  
us to "walk humbly with God" till  
He shall lead us to the bright-  
knowledge of the light of heaven  
and His eternal glory - when  
our partial knowledge shall  
have passed away!

But the decently short letter of  
acknowledgement that I purposed  
when I started to write has per-  
passed its bounds.

I was hampered in writing to  
you at all by the thought that it  
was using too much liberty -



But I will no longer entertain that thought, I suspect now that the thought was not from the Spirit of Christ. But I will send it on its mission in hopes <sup>that God</sup> will accept and bless it as a discharge of a duty I owe to you, and therefore to God himself, as an acknowledgement of blessings received. I feel that there is no one to whom I should give account of these impressions I received by my visit to my Alma Mater rather than to yourself. And I must acknowledge God's Fatherly kindness in that He privileged me to make such a visit so unexpectedly after a long absence, and that after I had given up looking for seeing much more of the things of this world, - because of blindness.

It comes to me as an amusing  
 thought, just now, that while  
 the younger Students are giving  
 account of themselves to their pro-  
 fessor through their examination pa-  
 pers I am giving this account to  
 you in remembrance of the past and  
 passing away generation. But so  
 Providence permitted <sup>(But I fear it will</sup>  
<sup>be more trouble to</sup>  
<sup>you than pleasure</sup>  
 I may say that as Dr. Murray was  
 giving his closing lectures of this  
 course, which was crowned by  
 by his closing lecture to day, and  
 he discoursed on the duty and pleasure  
 of gratitude and grateful remem-  
 brances, I felt it my duty and,  
 felt encouraged, more and more  
 to write this to you as it  
 was on my mind <sup>in mind</sup> so long.

29

But I hope it may suit as well  
now, at the close of the season when the  
season <sup>may</sup> be reviewed as past.

Yes, Dr. Murray finished his lectures  
to day. The more I think of them, their  
light seems to make the world brighter  
than it seemed before. The course  
of his lectures appears before me to  
night, as I review it in thought, like the  
sun rising from beneath the horizon to  
noon day brightness and splendour! —

At first, mixed and covered with morning  
mists and clouds but coming out more and  
more clearly as it progresses, rising higher  
and higher in his course, till at last he bases  
out in noon day splendour and warmth.  
So he, as he began with the mytri-  
fication of and cruelty of savage mor-  
ality, coursed onward and upward



through the conquest of self-  
 ishness illustrated by Highland <sup>ship</sup> Clan,  
 unselfish loyalty, and Gordon Highlander  
 super abnegation of self danger, in the face  
 of duty, and, now and then taking high  
 flights into gospel spheres, even as  
 high as the faithfulness and self denial  
 exhibited in the sacrifice on the cross  
 of Calvary for the good of others. And  
 so on through the Socratic Ethical  
 improvements and the march of  
 civilization and the moral dis-  
 cipline and conquest of the will,  
~~until~~ at last, he landed us, by way  
 of regeneration, into the moral  
 brightness and splendour of  
 the Kingdom of Heaven!  
 May we all enjoy the restful  
 and happy habitation there.

24

I find <sup>that</sup> a visit and sojourn at McGill and libraries here is a short cut to make up for the want of books and libraries and time to study while moving about in Mission work through Manitoba and the North West. That short cut is provided by obtaining from the <sup>various</sup> professors in a short compass the result of their extensive readings and study.

Dear Sir it must have felt strange for you to be laid aside from the active duties and responsibilities of McGill. But it is a great comfort to you I hope that McGill is still so well managed by such an able and efficient crew also that such a large number of bright young students attend.

Dr. Harrington efficiently  
fills your place in the old lec-  
ture room where your appearance  
and voice was so familiar in  
the years gone by and for so  
long. The room was very suggestive to  
me of past memories when I first looked  
in to it. It was both a symbol and a  
monitor of the fleetingness of passing time  
Many a one had memories of meetings and in-  
struction in that room who scattered  
far away and apart since and had  
reason to think of the use they made of  
their opportunities there. But to  
you it must be a comfort that you  
improved your time and opportunity  
there, <sup>so well</sup> while it was your "Day". You  
must have been busy when you alone  
lectured in Chemistry, Botany, Zoology



besides other duties  
and geology. There are many pro-  
fessors for these subjects in  
McGill now.

Dr Johnson also is still engaged  
with his usual efficiency, in straight-  
ening out the ideas and brains of youths  
and their conduct also, by the inexorable  
rules of mathematics. Under his clear-  
ship also the general conduct of  
the Arts Department at least is pretty  
safe in his hands; and even those  
notices prohibiting smoking will  
not be left without backing. Also  
the religious exercises and prayer for  
all who can and will attend at ten o'  
clock is sure to be attended to with unswear-  
ing regularity - where Mr. Gill and professors and  
students are remembered and commended  
daily before God at the throne of grace.  
To this I must still add my petition that God

Bless Mr. Gill more and more still, to  
uphold truth and righteousness in the  
land. Faithful Hamilton is still at his  
post; loving to remember the past re-  
miniscences of the history of Mr. Gill,  
— even when he gardened on the  
site of your lecture room, as proof  
of the progress Mr. Gill made since.  
Someday he enjoys looking for a blessed  
immortality through faith in the word  
and salvation of God — after the scenes  
of this life are all past. — a most desir-  
able condition! for the evening of  
life on earth!  
Along with these older standbys still  
left is an able staff of professors and  
librarians; — mostly very young men,  
who naturally have a long life of usefulness  
before them yet, and to advance to more and  
more perfect efficiency. It is to be hoped

that none of them will be led aside  
or to swerve from the line of scientific  
truths by any 'Poetic License' - or,  
the self bestowed license of the  
Poets; - whatever way one chooses to ex-  
press it.

Allow me again to express  
my grateful thanks for your kind-  
ness as my teacher.

Please accept my kindest  
and Christian regards.

And may I include also  
Lady Dawson, as this  
reminds me of her  
kindness <sup>also</sup> in entertaining  
the Students of McGill.

Please excuse the shortcomings  
of this address.

But though I fear the  
references I already made



to the laws of God  
in creation will ap-  
pear tedious yet, as I ~~mean~~  
meant, but overlooked,  
to refer to it, I wish  
to testify that I was <sup>much</sup>  
impressed by the apt  
text of scripture put  
beside the upper door  
of the Museum, acknow-  
ledging God's power  
and wisdom in crea-  
tion. I was glad to see  
it there. I know it ex-  
presses your <sup>belief and</sup> sentiments, and  
therefore I feel the more free

and encouraged  
to speak to you on  
the Subject. I believe  
that text was of your  
selection and it will  
bear testimony there  
for God after you have  
passed in to the higher  
and observe the perfect  
laws of God in the  
spiritual and higher  
spheres of eternal  
glory. <sup>I trust that a Pisgah</sup>  
<sup>view of the prospect chas</sup>  
<sup>you on the way,</sup>

I trust that the Holy  
Spirit; the Promised  
Teacher and Guide and  
Helper and Comforter

be with you all the way to the place prepared in the Father's house according to the gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Commending you to God Our Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ Our Saviour for time and eternity

I Remain  
Your student  
Friday O. J. M. Lead



Rec. Shirley MacLean  
1898.

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