

Dec 14/1848,

Dear Mr McDonald,

As the state of my health renders it impossible for me to avail myself of the kind invitation of the University to the opening of your magnificent chemistry and Mining building, permit me ~~to~~ as an old teacher in chemistry and in Mining exploration, to address to you a few words of congratulation on the occasion, and on the recognition of your great gifts which I trust is to come to you from ~~the~~ highest quarter, Her Majesty herself.

My first acquaintance with chemical laboratories was in the Practical course in Edinburgh University under ^{Prof} Gregory, ~~& Humph~~ in the Session of 1846-7; and ever since I have recognised the fact that chemical knowledge is the only sure foundation of ^{Success} ~~Success~~ in all the departments of Natural Science as well as in many of the most important arts and industries, and I have accordingly done all in my power to promote the study of chemical Science in this country, and ~~have~~ ^{to}

Keep myself in touch with ^{its} ~~the~~ ways
 great and brilliant developments in
 more recent times. I may say that
 ever that till I had the opportunity a
 few days ago of spending an hour in
 your new chemical building, I had
 neither seen nor even imagined anything
 so perfect in fittings and so beautiful
 in all its arrangements, or showing so great
 an amount of skilful planning for procedure
 in an immense ~~scale~~ ^{scale} with the
 excellent staff of workers you have collected
 and under the supervision of a chemist
 so experienced ~~and celebrated~~ ^{of so high reputation} as Dr. Bamforth
 cannot I think think fail to attract
 students and to send out graduates of
 a very high class, whose work must tell both
 in the ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~industrial~~ ^{industrial} papers and ~~scientific~~
~~literature~~ ^{literature} of ^{the} ~~Canada~~ ^{Canada}.
 I am glad also that you
 have been able to provide an ex-
 cellent ~~training~~ ^{plant} ~~plant~~ ^{plant} under the
 same roof, an arrangement which

shined economic time and labour, and tend to the greater usefulness of both departments. There will also I believe be space for some of the lithological and geological work which seems to connect ~~in~~ practical chemistry with mining.

My own earliest practical Report on the exploration of a Mining district was that prepared in 1846 for the Government of Nova Scotia on the coal-field of Southern Cape Breton, and through the direction of my time and labour into educational ~~work~~ ^{channels} after that date led me in other directions. I would gladly have devoted myself to Mining exploration; and have at intervals visited and studied important Mining districts, so as to qualify myself to speak with some authority on our Canadian deposits of gold, copper, iron, graphite, coal and other minerals and to aid the studies of my men entering on Mining engineering and Mineral Surveys.

The Mining ^{Engineering} course has always
 commended itself especially to me
 because it requires the students to
 give some attention to geological science
 and to engage their minds to comprehend
 the structure and history of the earth
 as a whole, and because of its
 bearing on the development of the great
 as yet imperfectly worked mineral
 resources of our country, which should
 furnish the material for all other
 engineering & manufacturing enterprises.

May I also express my pleasure
 in learning that you are ^{providing} founding a chair
 of history in memory of that able & de-
 serving man my late friend Dr Kingdon ^{F.R.S.C.}
 since though my own life-work has related
 mainly to the physical human development
 of the world in geological time, I fully
 appreciate the state of wisdom and of
 practical statesmanship ^{in the present time} derivable from
 the enlightened study of human history,
 and the laws, ^{of institutions} which have revealed its
 progress.

Yours sincerely,
 J. M. Dawson



