

"Middleholm"

Charlottetown
Prince Edward Island

Sir W^m Dawson C.M.G. &c

Dear Sir William,

Will you pardon
the liberty which I, a stranger,
take in writing to you?

I am collecting material
for a biographical sketch
of our late esteemed friend
Francis Bain, which
I hope to publish in one
of the Canadian Magazine
or "Reports"

I am sure you will agree
with me that it w^d be nothing
short of criminal to
allow such a life to pass
into the forgotten, and that

I trust that you will not
deem it aught but a pleasure
to aid, - as you can so
valuably, - in placing
upon record the particulars
of Dr Bains' career.

I wish others, ~~and~~ more
worthy, would undertake
the task, but as our little
Natural History Society
is for the present in
obeyance (because its
active members are so
occupied with their own
affairs they cannot find
time to conduct regular
meetings) there is no one
else to assume the

responsibility. It will be a
work of love, and a satisfaction
to me if I can accomplish
the undertaking, for I knew
Mr. Bair well and held him
in affectionate regard.

The sources of information
are few, & I fear the results
will be inadequate. Still I
feel sure that those to whom
I apply for assistance
will gladly render it to the
utmost of their ability.

In this hope and expectation
I venture to address you.

Will you most kindly
give me all particulars
in your power?

What papers or articles do
you know him to have written?
What periodicals did he
contribute to?

What work did he do in
company with yourself?

What investigations or
discoveries did he make?

Will you also kindly tell
me all you know of him or
his people? I believe you
knew his father in Boston
many years ago.

Lastly, will you give me an
estimate of him as a
geologist?

I trust I am not asking
too much. I think the cause
justifies the liberty I take.

I am in no way a geologist

myself, but as a lover of
Natural Science, the Secretary of
our Natural History Society, a
close friend of Mr Bacon's and
apparently the only one who
will undertake this most
desirable work, I venture
upon it with full appreciation
of my unworthiness, & throw
myself upon your kind
toleration.

If you can find time
to help me as above requested
you will not only do me a
great personal kindness
but will render valuable
assistance to the cause of
Science in this ^(Scientifically) infant
Province of our Dominion.

It is not improbable that
a project to erect a monument
to Mr Bains memory in our
city gardens may be brought
a successful issue this year.

Wishing you a happy
new year and apologizing for
intruding myself upon you

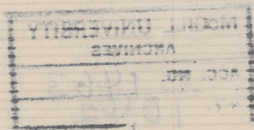
Believe me, dear Sir William,

Yrs very respectfully,

Laurence W. Watson

(M.A.)

Charlottetown, P.E. Island



Watson

Prince Edward Island

1898.

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