

if you would like to  
have it.

Thursday

Jan<sup>y</sup> 25, 1877.

In regard to degrees & titles, people soon find out what they are really worth. Even the same degree from the same Institution by no means implies the same degree of proficiency among those who hold it. Those who employ engineers have to find out what each man individually is worth; and if a person really wishes to qualify himself for a profession he will always appreciate a good Institution.

My dear Father, <sup>yours affectionately</sup>  
William

I received this morning your letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. together with others of the day before. I am sorry the first letter by New York was late, as it must have made a long gap. But I hope they will arrive regularly in future.

The "Corps d'Ingenieurs des Ponts et Chaussées," can only mean the Government Engineers who have been educated at the Ecole des Ponts et Chaussées. There is no reason why a foreigner should not belong to this body, if he only came here at a sufficient tender age.

to be put through the course from the commencement, and provided also he were able to pass with credit the series of tests to which he would be subjected. As a matter of fact, however, these Engineers are always Frenchmen, & it seems curious that the Quebec Gov<sup>t</sup> should legislate in their favour. I suppose, however, it is an open question whether the expression is used with any reference to its true meaning.

*yes ten days*  
I saw two days ago, the decision of the Minister of Public Works, respecting the certificates to be given to the Blevés externes of last year. Out of six, three receive the diploma, and three get simply a "certificat d'études." I have been told that the diploma *confers* gives the "title of Engineer" in so many words, although from the Minister's reply which I sent to you this is merely implied.

*yes*  
I send by this mail a copy of the conditions of entrance to the Ecole Polytechnique. I can see, that although ~~the~~ some of the more advanced branches are required, they are taken up in an elementary way; more so than would be inferred from merely glancing over the pages. Still, it implies a very good grounding in the different subjects; and the competition heightens the actual proficiency of the candidates. I can get you a copy of the course of study at the Polytechnic

William  
Les 177

Erasmus  
& Polytechnum

