

86 Boul'd de Port Royal

(I enclose a plan for
Anna; this is the last)

Nov. 5, 1877.

I will draw £20 this week) (of course)

William

MCGILL UNIVERSITY	
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My dear Father

Our classes have now commenced, and I find by the time-table that we have only five lectures a-week, and that once a fortnight we go out to make a sketch of some machine at a manufactory. This is on the Saturday afternoon. Our most important courses are Railways & Harbours, on each of which we have two lectures a week at nine in the morning. This leaves two mornings free, on which I intend to study German (9-10½) and will try if possible not to allow anything to interfere with this. I began this morning, & am convinced that it is far more advantageous than taking the course at the school (optional for us) which is not very brilliant. (Here followeth a dissertation upon time spent on Latin & Greek)

Our remaining course is once a week & treats of chemistry as applied to mortars, cements & building materials. Our first project is a book with various accessories, to be finished Dec 3. It will be very interesting, especially as it is to be of much greater width than any in France to prevent our copying the ordinary type of pate.

I have finished my description of the Eastern Canal, on which I have written about 75 pages to be copied at my leisure in the evenings. I have also a nice set of drawings tracings & maps to send with it.

I intend to apply to the gov^t about the Exposition, & will write to the Members I have seen & to Messrs Page & Fleming, ^{asking their support} at the time I send the application. I wish to ask you the time I should send it; for as I also wish to apply to Mr Page for a situation on his works, I should like to know their intentions as soon as possible. As I am very unlikely to be offered anything, I think it might be perhaps as well to send both at once, &

in writing to Mr Page explain to
him how the case stands, & say that
I shall be prepared to commence work
^{under him}
in June if the Govt does not want my
services. However, I wish to hear your
opinion; & in any case I will try
to agitate the question as much as
possible as it is always an advertise-
ment for me.

It would hardly be worth while
I think to apply to Mr Fleming, as
I would not be likely to accept a
position ~~and~~ on his work unless he
had office work at Ottawa that would
be worth having.

I am always keeping Quebec in
view. ~~at~~ The work then if constructed
according to present plans, will be
as fine as anything yet constructed
in Canada.

I called on Prof. Bayle the
other day to present ^{to} him a
copy of your "Dawn of Life." We
spoke a little about Eozoon, and
I gave him one of the specimens
I had here as well as a small
piece for slicing. I am afraid he
will hardly appreciate it from
what he said. If he has sense and

ough to put the specimen in the col-
lection at the School of Mines, it may
there ~~meet~~ receive the attention its
merits. I asked him to let me know
if the slice proved satisfactory.

I intend to reserve Monday even-
ings for correspondance; but this week
there is a meeting of the teachers of the
Jard ~~de~~ 'Fombé-Issaire which could not
be arranged for another evening. It is
principally to hear from Dorian the
part that he ~~thinks~~ will be able
to take in the work. We want also
to organise a library from which books
can be lent to the children. Our
present idea is to get 20 books at
50 centimes each, and it is hoped that
the vastness of the enterprise will
not altogether crush the financial
resources of the School.

The weather is getting cool now
& is as usual extremely changeable.
It was quietly raining at twelve today
and in any other part of the world it
would have been a "settled rain", but
this afternoon there is not a cloud in
the sky. With love to all, I remain
your affectionate son
William

