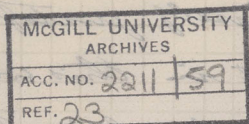


Saturday, Jan. 12, '78.



W. Dawson

My dear Father,

I enclose a cheque for \$ 50<sup>00</sup> which I drew through the credit which you have placed at my disposal. I needed the money, as I have been spending a good deal on my own account. It is destined to go for books, but in the mean time I can use it for my personal expenses as I keep strict accounts; so that there is no fear of any uncertainty. I brought \$ 50<sup>00</sup> over with me, and it is wonderful to notice how little appearance it makes in the book-line. I think however that this is an occasion not to be lost for obtaining a few really useful works; and when I hear of the

as in notes taken on the ground, and  
in summaries of reports which I made  
last summer.  
The copying comprises a few corrections and  
headings to the pages. The notice I speak  
of, if estimated at 2 hours a page, would  
require 860 hours to write, equal to  
86 days of ten hours, without counting  
at all the time required for collecting  
the information. A month for this  
purpose would make nearly four months  
altogether. ~~But this notice is very~~  
~~much summarised, and is really little~~  
~~more than a descriptive catalogue.~~ The  
information it contains could not be  
obtained from the examination of the  
models as the progress of the works is shown  
of, so that I doubt whether the above  
estimate would be large enough. Then  
in this notice, it is only the French models  
which are referred to.

To make anything like a readable  
report on the exhibits <sup>of</sup> next summer,  
I doubt if it would be possible without  
devoting the following winter to its pre-  
paration. There would be some satisfac-  
tion in work done in this way; but  
otherwise the field is too extensive, unless  
a special subject were taken up.

McG

ACC.

REF.

sums most young fellows have to spend  
on their education. I feel myself justified  
in expending a certain amount in this way.  
At first I thought myself rich, but I  
have come to find out quite the contrary  
and that I will have to be careful if  
I intend to extend my resources to the  
purchase of the most essential works.

I am ~~am~~ as judicious as possible in my  
choice, and have every opportunity for  
obtaining information in so large a library  
as we have at the School, and among  
so many nationalities.

My accounts for the last two  
& a half months stand as follows: -

October 13 - 31	F 129.55
November	189.25
December	223.90

The difference between Nov. & Dec. is mostly  
in appearance, & depends on the way  
~~are~~ M<sup>me</sup> de Pradel sent in her bills.

I have still about F 80 of your money  
left from my draught on Nov. 7, so  
that I will not need to draw upon  
you till toward the end of the month.

I am very much obliged to you for the present you say I must get for myself, although I hardly feel I deserve it as I have not succeeded in keeping below an average of £200 a month, which I aim at. I have not yet selected it, but I will tell you what I have chosen when I write again.

I have the Notice prepared by the Minister of Public Works which relates to the models exhibited in Vienna in '79. There are 48 models referred to, and the notice of each occupies 10 pages on an average and is strictly descriptive. The progress of the work represented by the model is referred to, and the methods employed are explained, and the structure described; but there are no comparisons or general conclusions.

I find for the time required to write a memoire as deduced from the paper I have just completed, to be

1 hour 48 minutes per page of foolscap. with an additional 30 minutes per page for copying. This includes references to books, &c. although the bulk of the information

The Brazillian Gov<sup>t</sup> had an Engineer at Philadelphia who was to examine the exhibits relating to Harbours. On a special branch of this kind, one might succeed in ~~to~~ drawing up a report in a few months which would be sufficiently thorough & comprehensive to be of practical use. The only way in which such a limited time could be made use of, would be by grouping the different models under general headings, and giving a comparative discussion of each group, confining oneself to the general principle they involved.

I hope to hear from you in reference to this, as I wish to understand distinctly what I intend to undertake before making any decision in the matter, or taking any definite steps which I might be unable to retrace. It would be very unfortunate, if I succeed in obtaining some good position before next autumn, to have a quantity of work still on hand, which would either have to be crowded into spare

hours during next winter, or have to be ignominiously abandoned. Two or three hundred hours work remaining over in the month of September would be sufficient to make the winter a very busy one; or might even prevent my accepting something much more desirable.

I will try to have the statement you speak of ready for next mail. I left a summary with you before I left; and also I think, copies of my testimonials.

I have no time at present to visit Mr. Keefer, so I must let it stand over.

Your loving son,

William