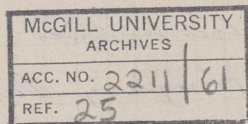


861 75^d de Port Royal,
Saturday, May 4. 1878.

William



My dear Father,

I went to the opening of the Exhibition on Wednesday, and afterwards took advantage of the opportunity to see what there was of special interest to myself, & which might form subject matter for a report such as I have been "agitating" for. The results of my visits on Wednesday & today are satisfactory. I find that Holland has a large space devoted to Public Works, in which harbour improvements take a leading place. France has a special building for this its exhibits of this description, & is very fairly represented. In regard to Drainage & Water Supply of towns, the City of Paris & Switzerland have the most to show, the latter being specially rich

Sir John Rose whom I have also seen, was most amiable, and seems to think that a report would really be of value. He is on both the British & Canadian Commission, & in order to meet the difficulty of expense, suggested that the British & Canadian governments might share it. He promised to speak to Dr Playfair about it, & said also that he would give me a note to him. Sir John Rose left this morning for London but returns in about ten days. I believe he will really do what he can in the matter.

I took his note to Dr Playfair today, but found myself treated rather summarily by him. His objections were again in regard to expense, and ~~as~~ as I had hardly the chance of explaining my views, & did not know the contents of Sir John's letter, I have just written to him mentioning the amount (£200) I would be willing to do the work for, and explaining that a report such as I speak of would not necessitate similar ones on other departments which he seemed afraid of. Almost all other things compete for prizes & will be reported on by the various Juries. I have enclosed

in hydraulic machinery. Switzerland
exhibits in addition a considerable number
of drawings of railway works and tunnels.
In these departments & more specially in
locomotives & rolling stock, Austria &
Hungary take the lead. Italy furnishes
models of tunnels, but its contribution is
not very large. The ~~States~~ Engineering
works in the States will be exhibited by
the Society of Civil Engineers, but the
things have not yet arrived.

I went to Mr. Keefer on Thursday
to tell him of the result of my application.
He is evidently afraid of being asked to
make a report himself if he ventured
to support me, & he has no wish to
do so. He gives as a reason that the
Gov^t have given him the strictest orders
against increasing the staff, & he therefore
feels reluctant to take the initiative
in the matter. He tells me, however,
that he would be glad to support
my offer if the Gov^t were to ask his
advice. He advised me to see Mr.
J. G. Brown (of the Globe) who is shortly

to leave for Canada. I did not see how
I could convince Mr. Keefer that it was to
his interest to help me. If I could only
induce Mr. McKenzie to ask him to report
he might be glad of my help to get him out
of the difficulty. As he has a son for
whom he is trying to obtain a position
in Canada, his opinions respecting the
chances of obtaining work there are nat-
urally biased by his own want of suc-
cess; so that I found it best not to
enter too much into detail upon that
subject. I called on Mr. Brown, but
did not receive the least encouragement.
He thinks that the various scientific
journals will ~~make~~ give complete accounts
of everything. He thus monopolises the
Exhibition for his own line of business.
However, as it turned out that he had
therefore not been over the buildings yet, I
had the advantage of knowing what they
was; and after presenting him with
copies of my certificates, I said I would
call again in a week or two after he
had had the opportunity of appreciating
the importance of the Exhibits of the
kind I spoke of.

copies of my testimonials which is
always a main object in my ne-
gociations.

I have very little hope of
succeeding as matters stand at pre-
sent, and continue to make my
arrangements for leaving about the
middle of June. I shall notwith-
standing be disappointed, as I will
probably collect all the information
necessary for a Report for my own
benefit, & I would just as soon
have something in return for my
trouble. I would besides be able to
take time to study the things care-
fully; whereas as it is, I am
more anxious to find myself at
home again than for anything else
so far as I am concerned personally.

With much love,

I remain your affectionate
son

William.

P.S. I find I will have to draw £10,000

either next week or the week after.
I am sorry to find it necessary so
soon again, but I cannot help
myself.