

WM. BELL DAWSON,
Civil Engineer,
Land Surveyor and Architect,
260 ST. JAMES STREET,
MONTREAL.

Preston, Aug. 15, '81.

My dear Father,

I have received your two letters of the 12th inst. referring to Mr. Kennedy's visit. I did not understand from Mr. Kennedy's letter to me that the position he spoke of was a permanent one. He merely said that Sproule was leaving, & that he had been receiving \$3⁵⁰ a day, which did not give me the impression of a position of much importance. ~~As I was~~ I answered his letter at once, but it was some few days, if I remember, before I had the opportunity of mailing it. I was

then at Lunenburg, where there is no Post-office except out on the sea-coast about five miles off by the road. The people prefer to have their letters addressed to Dartmouth and bring them out when they go to town, as they much more frequently have occasion to go there than to the Post-office. You may have noticed that some of my letters written from Lunenburg were several days in date behind the Dartmouth post-mark. I am not sure whether I had an immediate opportunity of posting ~~out~~ my answer to Mr Kennedy, but I know I took the first opportunity. Here, there is a regular mail three times a week, in and out on the alternate days. I will send a telegram in to Dartmouth by the stage-driver to-morrow in the hope of its reaching you before this.

I have been thinking over the offer

Mr. Kennedy makes me; I should like the
place very well, as I prefer Harbour works to
most kinds of Engineering, and I would be
glad to have a settled position. I would also
have the advantage of living at home which
is no small desideratum. I am sorry Mr.
Kennedy was not able to speak of this to
me before I came down here, but I suppose
he did not then know that the vacancy
would occur. As the question now comes
before me, it appears to me to be clearly
my duty to continue my present work for
this season. The survey would certainly suf-
fer by a change in the middle of the work-
ing season such as my leaving it would oc-
cur; and no one but myself could put
my notes into shape, as I have the advant-
age of having been over the ground, and under-
standing its character. A sudden change now
at the outset of this work, might even

prevent its being continued at all; and I feel satisfied would be compromising the interests of those who have engaged me. I have often wondered that Mr. Kennedy did not raise the character of his Office by making appointments of a more definite & permanent kind, and having more organization in his staff. If he is now endeavoring to make improvements in this respect, he must work towards it gradually; as hitherto he has had as Assistants young men without any experience as Engineers who have remained only a short time with him. I would be glad to be in his office for the reasons I have mentioned, and would be likely to remain in it for some time were I to enter it; and I could arrange to commence next spring if he would be willing to provide himself with temporary assistance for this summer. It seems to me he would ~~do so~~ thus be advancing the interests of his Office, as it is by no means easy to find a competent As-

sistant at any given moment; and in making a permanent appointment there is no reason for being in a hurry about filling a vacancy. With regard to salary, I do not make this a primary consideration. I think it of more importance to have work of the kind I like best, and to have a settled position, and to be near my family and friends. I would probably be able to save more money in my present place; and in any case I shall be satisfied to continue this work, which is practically permanent, should there be any difficulty in carrying out the arrangement with Mr. Kennedy that I now propose. I do not see that I can act otherwise under the circumstances. I will write by this mail to Mr. Kennedy, mentioning to him what I am willing to do, as I have stated to you. I think he will be glad of my offer, as he is sufficiently acquainted

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with me to know that he could count upon
my promise, and would be satisfied with me
were I in his Office.

We expect to move on from here, ^{in a day or two,} to a
place on the Little Salmon River which forms
the eastern boundary of the Township of Dartmouth.
It is on the outskirts of the Montagu district.

Your affectionate son,

William.