

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

H' fare. 8-2-82.
William

Dear Father,

I enclose the answer received from Major Rogers. His offer I do not feel at all tempted to accept, as it does not meet my wishes in any one particular. This is my first impression, as I only received it this P.M. My present work is better both as regards position, salary, ^{and} surroundings, and ~~professional interest~~. is more interesting and less "killing". Promotion on Railway work is comparatively slow. Parties are usually of their

full strength at the outset, and as
a rule a position remains about the
same during the whole course of the
works. Location in the Rocky Mts
is about the last kind of engineering
work I would care to undertake.
It seems to me to have hardly a
redeeming feature about it. I would
be glad to hear from you what you
think of it. I have made out my
application to Mr. Plumbett, of which
I enclosed a copy to you this morn
I intended to give it him to-day,
but deferred doing so till I had
seen what Major Rogers had to
say; but I intend handing it to
him tomorrow.

The most remarkable feature here
is the weather. It changes about every
six hours, and a corresponding change
in one's costume twice a day is the
rule. This morning began with ~~so~~
soft snow driving before a strong
S.E. wind. This turned into a south-
erly rain by noon, followed by ~~at~~
a westerly gale with clearing weather.
Towards dusk the wind was howling
from the north, & now in the
evening it is calm & clear with a
falling temperature which may touch
zero before morning. As soon as
the air is clear enough to see
through, the storm drum is usually
found to be hoisted for the next
storm. Variety is the spice of

life I suppose. There has now
been steady sleeping for some weeks
notwithstanding the innumerable
changes; & the snow is accumulating
on the whole.

Alex. Primrose will be leaving
for Edinburgh this month where he
intends to study medicine.

Yours affectionate son,

William.

There is a word Mr. Filpin was
unable to make out, which you had
noted on the margin of his paper. It
was *Asteropolithon* or something of that
kind. I cannot find any Greek der-
ivation to suit it exactly, & so was
unable to help Mr. Filpin.