

to Montreal in
spring, I have an
arrangement to visit
some of your first-
class stations. I
I have written about
myself, only, but
believe me, I often
think of sympathy
with you.
I should have
acknowledged and thanked
you for your two latest
letters, enclosing notes of intro-
duction, before now. I received
both safely, the first at
Bainbridge and the second on
arrival in London. Since
getting back I have been making
additional enquiries in reference
to Cairo, with results not altogether
favourable. It is never safe in
professional matters to place much
confidence in the opinions of the
outside public, who as a rule speak
freely in proportion to the scantiness

Friday, Feb. 12th
Yours affectionately
J. G. Thompson

and investigating the grounds for
myself (or was it I who made
this suggestion?) but personally I
am not in a position to try experiments
of this kind, where there is any chance
of failure. It is very good of you
to offer financial help. I know you
mean it, and shall not be prevented,
by any false pride, from applying to
you, should the necessity arise. At
the same time, as you know, I
have not applied for any money
aid since taking my degree in
82, and would much rather continue
on the same lines, even though it
may necessitate my taking more
time. What little stock of assets I
have ^{at present} is I think sufficient to cover
all my liabilities, but to risk any-
thing at the present time is to risk being

thrown penniless, on the charity
of friends. This you may attribute to
lack of faith or to Scotch cautionness,
whichever you like -
- Meanwhile you must rely a little
upon my judgment. I have an occasional
growl of course, - who doesn't, - but
shall not allow judgment to be influ-
enced by feelings - I have, then, decided
against Cairns, & am at present applying
for a hospital position here. If I get it,
(which is quite uncertain) I shall to a certain
extent be able to repair my past folly
in not taking my fourth and most
useful year at Mc Gill, and in despising
the hosp: appointments there. My weak
point is the art as distinguished from the
science of medicine. Of course this is
strictly confidential. Don't think either
that I am forming a pessimistic
estimate of my attainments. I know
myself, professionally, well - In
any case I shall probably come out