

Rideau Club,
Ottawa.

27 April 90.

My dear Father

Since returning
here I have thought more or
less several times of your
proposition that William should
become a Candidate for the
New Engineering Chair. We
did not mention the matter to
me & I do not know what
his views may be, but it
appears to me that it would
be unwise to advise him to
apply for the position unless
he is strongly in favour of
it himself. It seems to

be somewhat out of the lines
 of work which he has speci'ally
 pursued & would certainly
 involve a very hard winter's
 work for him the first
 session. I also think that
 if there should be any choice
 of candidates you would find
 an English Mechanical Engineer
 more useful than one from U.S.
 for though in the U.S. the teaching
 of Engineering has lately progressed
 very much, the practice of
 Mechanical Engineering is
 fully or even more advanced
 in England. This is particularly
 the case in regard to Marine,
 Locomotive, traction & other
 steam engines, which would

doubtless constitute some
 of the main features of the
 Courses. The Custom in
 the U.S. is to adopt & modify
 when necessary new principles.
 Another thing is that a man
 from England, of the right
 kind would generally be found
 to be ready & willing to
 ascertain & admit what
 differences of practice occur in
 this continent, whereas U.S.
 authorities on most subjects
 are extremely provincial with
 too great a basis of 'patriotism'
 to allow that any methods
 not employed in U.S. can be good,

except for the fact that a wrinkle
 can be borrowed from Germany.
 Thus too such a man having all
 his connections & knowledge of
 people & things in the U.S. leads
 his pupils like himself to look
 there for any appliances or machinery
 which they may afterwards require
 & as the subject is more directly
 connected with commercial interests
 this is deserving of consideration
 or appears so to men. It may
 do well enough in Japan to have
 aliens as university professors
 but it does not seem quite the thing
 in Canada to have men who
 have no lot nor part in the
 country holding prominent positions,
 while if a man is ready to

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Change his allegiance
for the sake of a position
it generally shows that
something is fundamentally
wrong in his constitution

Yours
Gerrit

GMD
Apr/90
The Millers
Constitution

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Run