86 Boul^d de Port Royal

Thursday, March 1, 1877.

P.S. I will not be able to acknowledge your letter of this week, as I leave early tomorrow morning. But I intend now to change definitely to Tuesday as my day for writing as my Monday evenings are now free. I am longing to hear the news that you may have for me.

My dear Mother,

I am still hoping that your letter may arrive this evening, but in the mean time I commence mine.

This is the day that Dyke is to be married to a Glasgow young lady. They are going to Sterling for their trip, & will still be able to spend a few days in Glasgow ~~to~~ before leaving for the Cape. They leave Southampton on the fifteenth so that they have not a great deal of time. Dyke favoured us with a sight of her photograph when he was here. She certainly must be of a courageous nature; or the deficiency

must be supplied by her devotion to him. Not that it surprises me. It is only another instance of the true-hearted nobleness of her side of humanity. I should think they would need rather a varied outfit, when they have to look forward to crossing the equator; & on arriving they will find themselves at the commencement of a second winter. Isn't it wonderful to think of being able to get so far in about 25 days?

We went to the Gare du Nord on Saturday morning to see Dyke off. The train left at 7:35, so that it formed quite an early expedition. The "we" includes the standard set of a dozen or fourteen of whom I speak so often. I had better give you a list of them sometime.

Cochet leaves tomorrow at the same hour so that we look forward to another morning walk. It will probably be cold in the morning, but I am all the more pleased. Dorian seems to think it almost an arctic severity for the temperature to be below "zero", which only means the freezing point. We leave here at half-past six as it is a long walk. It must be something

over two miles at a low estimate; but more probably approaching three. I found on Saturday that I had ~~just~~ plenty time to ~~return~~ get to the School before quarter to nine, counting the time for taking a cup of chocolate at a crémerie. By the way, I have been having my chocolate in my room in the mornings ~~at~~ for some weeks, as I used to last winter I find it preferable on the whole to do so.

On Monday afternoon I went to call upon one of our Professors who has been unwell for some time. As I happen to stand at the head of the list for this session on account of our classing last year, ~~the~~ such duties are incumbent upon me, and I went as a representative of the class. It was a long way as it turned out. The only direction I had was the name of the Boulevard, & that it was "near the Bois de Boulogne". It was off the edge of my map in Baedeker's guide. I started at half-past four, taking an omnibus to the fortifications in that direction, & after numerous inquiries & a trip on the "chemin de ceinture" I found the place. His name is Hirsch, & his subject steam-engines. I expressed our regret that his

lectures should have been so unfortunately interrupted, and the hope that he might soon find himself restored to health. He ~~asked me~~ said that he was deeply touched at the manifestation of our sympathy, & asked me to thank my class-mates for their thoughtfulness. We never get to know our Professors, as we do not see them except ~~at~~ while we are seated in the class-room, and ~~even~~ there we do not even have the opportunity of asking them questions. Prof: Hirsch is of a more friendly turn of mind, as he remains in the class-room after the lecture to explain anything we do not happen to have understood. But he is young, & does not feel himself weighed down by such a load of dignity as the others. His ~~course~~ lectures are among the best delivered, and we all like him very much; so that he is decidedly the gainer by being less formal.

I met the Mrs Gordon you mention, when I was in Ottawa; in fact I dined at her house. Father gave me a letter to Mr G. & I found them both very pleasant.

I enclose Dorian's photo: which he has just had taken. I told him I was going to send it home; so let me have your opinion on it. With love to all, believe me

Your affectionate son

William.

Results of our Concours.

Order of relative standing

Concours de Mécanique.

(Two projects: – An iron crane, and a system of water-pipes.)

Dawson	18	out of 20
Mironesco	18	
Kramer	17 ½	
Swithowski	17	
Lemaire	16 ½	
Margossoff	16	
Abro	15 ½	

Concours d' Architecture

(A light house)

Swithowski	17	out of 20.
Dawson	15	
Mironesco	15	
Kramer	15	
Margossoff	14	
Abro	14	
Lemaire	11	

W B Dawes
Nov 1/99