



Dunkin

Knowlton

Dec<sup>r</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> /80.

My very dear W<sup>th</sup> Dawson

I was very much ashamed to send you the few hasty lines I wrote in reply to your most kind letter, & each day since I have tried to get time to write again; but our dear invalid needs our constant attention.

Yesterday morning I read him your letter, & he expressed the greatest desire to see D. Dawson - he thought a visit from him would do him much more good than harm - "it would give him intense satisfaction to see D. Dawson." So I determined to write & tell you so; but again the mail left before I could get time to do so! Later D. Dawson's letter of yesterday arrived, & Mr. Dunkin hoped to have answered it himself; but a few lines on business is all he has accomplished today; & he desires me to say with his warmest thanks

that Dr. Dawson's note just meets  
his wishes. And he earnestly hopes  
that nothing will prevent Dr. Dawson's  
coming out next Sunday P.M. &  
spending Tuesday with him. By  
driving to the Junction (8 1/2 miles)  
Dr. Dawson could return to town on  
Tuesday night, if he is anxious to do  
so; & thus avoid the early start on Wed-  
nesday morning. The train leaves  
Knowlton every morning at 5.40,  
which necessitates rising about 4.30 -  
rather an early hour. Unless we hear  
to the contrary we will send to the  
station in the village on Monday  
night for Dr. Dawson. The train is due  
about 9 P.M. So please do not trouble  
Dr. Dawson to write again. I trust he  
may find my dear husband well  
enough to enjoy his visit; but he is  
very weak. And I cannot say that  
we see any progress towards recovery.  
Thos. St. Dunbar is hopeful himself.  
And this hopefulness, he thinks, has  
often carried him through illness  
in times past.

Hoping, dear Mr. Dawson, that  
you will have all your dear children  
with you on Christmas-day, & that it  
will be a happy day to you all,  
ever believe me

Yours very affectionately  
Mary Perkins.

P.S. I did not mention to Mr. D. when  
your letter reached me. I was forgetting  
one thing that I feel most unwilling  
to trouble Mr. Dawson about. Mr. Wilks  
has a lift in his house to enable  
him to go up & down stairs - put in by  
a friend for him I believe - and my  
dear husband thinks it would be such  
a convenience to him if we had one, as  
he has now to be carried up stairs. He  
wishes Mr. Dawson would look at it if he  
can & ask Mr. Wilks what it cost if he  
knows. But I am so sorry to ask Mr. Daw-  
son about such a matter, as I really  
think the bother of having it done here  
would be more than Mr. Perkins  
could bear.