

May 7th 1874

J. A. Porter

Kempville

Keungville, Ontario,
May 7 1884.

My dear Dr. Harrington =

Your letter with regard to the expedition to Lake Mistassini I received yesterday - I am sorry, indeed, that circumstances prevent my accepting the position even if I were certain of obtaining it.

I had to discontinue my studies in medicine this year, on account of my father's severe illness - When I came home at Xmas he was not expected to live - He has recovered since but very slowly - As he wishes me to remain

at home for a while, I
accepted the position of
Assistant Master, in the High
School here -

That, of course, would
prevent me from taking
part in the expedition &
I should like very much
to go, as that sort of work
suits me better than any
other, and it is with the
greatest reluctance that
I give up the idea of going,
especially since I am not
at all in love with the
system of pedagogy which
is in vogue here.

Believe me there is nothing
romantic about it -
although I dislike it I
do the best I can, & they
tell me I succeed very
well.

I intend to continue my
studies after June, when
I shall return to Montreal.

I can not thank you
too much for your kind-
ness in offering to recom-
mend me should I wish
to apply, and am only
too sorry that I cannot
take advantage of your offer.

Cameron has my congrat-
ulations on his success in
~~med.~~ natural science.
I was glad he obtained the
medal as it seemed to me
that his heart was more
in the work than was Rosen's.

With best wishes, I regard
Mrs Harrington, I remain
Yours most respectfully
H. Porter.