

Montreal; Thursday, May 5,  
1870

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
ACC. NO. 2211/27
REF. 106

Dear George,

I have not much time to write, as we ~~are~~ have now stopped revising & are doing fresh ~~transl~~ translation in Homer, Horace, & Cicero.

The Garden is getting on very well under Mr. Hamilton's care. It is now all dug, & the potatoes are planted, & corn sown. I gave him the seed (peas, beans, spinach, & corn) which papa left & he is going to sow them.

The Fenian scare has gone down considerably, but there are still rumours that they are drilling, &c. The volunteers for Red River, left

here for Toronto, ~~on their~~ the other  
day, on their way to the scene of  
action. They have also got a steel  
battery (the one used in Abasinia),  
which is going to be used against  
the insurgents.

The weather  
is fine & clear at present. Rain  
would be acceptable. I make

observations of the sun on fine  
Saturdays, I have found a way  
for calculating (by spherical trigon-  
ometry, & for which there are rules  
in that book of tables that I got)

the time from one observation of  
the sun. This might be usefull in  
cloudy weather; but by the same  
method I can calculate the time of  
rising & setting of any planet, or star,  
or the sun or moon. Given the apparent  
altitude of the sun &c., (if rising, this is  
~~0~~  $0^{\circ}$  of course), & the latitude of the  
place of observation, & the declination of sun,  
to find the time of  
observation.

I remain your affectionate brother, William.