

From  
Rankine  
amusing

M<sup>c</sup>Gill College.  
Montreal.

Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> / 75.

Dear George,

It is with great pleasure that I now sit down to write to you, as I have not had the opportunity for so long a time. The examinations have now fortunately finished, having lasted for a whole fortnight. Yesterday was the first day of the Christmas Holidays, & a miserable day it was, to inaugurate such a pleasant time. It was thawing, & as we had had a good deal of snow previously, the walking was something unheard of in most parts of the world; I won't say all, as I might then be understood to include Victoria, which I certainly don't intend to do.

I have posted the address book & the note-books, as you asked me. The whole came

to sixty cents, which Father said he would charge to your account, whatever that is. I don't know that the note-books are exactly what you were in need of, as your description was somewhat vague; but if not just write again, as I have no doubt, that, as you say, things are much cheaper here than where you are. I shall be very glad to get anything you are in need of, & the postage is very little, being only one cent for every four ounces.

Before this letter reaches you, if it ever does, it will be too late to wish you a Merry Christmas, as you will already have spent a merry one, or otherwise; but I do wish you a very, very Happy New Year, as it will not be too late for that.

We are going to get up a rink for students on the grounds this winter; when I say we, I ~~speak~~ mean that the students are going to get up one for themselves. It does not look very promis-



ing at present, as it is all water & slush,  
but I hope that there will be skating upon  
it before the week is over. The subscription  
is to be two dollars, & each student is allowed  
to buy two tickets for ladies at \$1 each, upon  
which he has to put his name, as intro-  
ducing them, or being responsible for them,  
or something of the sort. This rule was  
passed by the faculty, in order to keep it  
select.

They are doing a great deal on the  
park this winter, partly by way of giving  
work to some of those who are out of it, &  
partly because it has to be opened up, &  
laid out. Dear me, we won't know the  
mountain by spring. A very large broad  
avenue is being made along the face of the  
mountain, where the snow-shoe track  
used to be. This avenue is to turn on that  
bare lot next Sir Hugh's house, & run back  
again towards Cote des Neiges on a lower level.  
I think they intend to expropriate Red-  
paths Avenue, as an entrance to the park.  
They have finished the little reservoir, & are

working vigorously at the big one.

William writes regularly every week, & such long letters, O my! They take, well, I won't say how long, to be read. He tells all about everything he is doing. & very pleasant it is to hear it. He is to have his first examination on the 24<sup>th</sup> of Dec. All his exams. are oral, which I am afraid will not be an advantage to him.

Dr. Harrington was up last night, although that is nothing out of the way, as he is up every second night, & sometimes the ones between. Up at our house of course I mean.

I would be very much obliged if you would get any stamps for me, you think I have not got in my collection! It would be quite unnecessary to send more than one of each sort, as I have no means of trading them, i.e. of course unless you want specimens for your own collection.

I remain your affectionate brother  
Rankine.



