

McGill College.

Montreal.

March 10th /96.

My dearest Geary—

I have been very
fully occupied this last week
or two, we have had several
of what you used to call—"a
crisis". Two of our dinner parties
& also a luncheon on Wednesday
having gathered together
some of the most aristocratic
folk of our City, such as
the Bishop, several Judges

Sr. Alexander Galt & Co
 Can as you see it is a load
 lifted from my mind now
 that this entertainment is well
 over. I had two dinner parties
 on two successive days thus
 economizing labour & expense.
 My flowers also, which were
 very beautiful, abundant &
 I think very tastefully arranged,
 were as fresh looking the second
 as the first evening. We ought
 to have one more dinner this
 winter to Corpus all those

whom it wd be useful
 to show a little politeness,
 but I cannot get up enough
 courage. While writing of
 parties I have been proposing
 to have a very quiet wedding
 & a large reception party at the
 new house to receive the going
 folks on their return from their
 trip. but it is rather far ahead
 to plan such details. In the
 meantime we are steadily
 progressing with preparations
 both for Anna's arrival at

the house. The wood work
 of which may be said to be fin-
 ished & most of it stained & varnished.
 Two book cases of deal have been
 made for the library & stained
 uniform with the woodwork &
 they look beautiful, altogether
 the house is very nice but
 large for two people to occupy.

We had a charming letter from
 William this week he had passed
 his last exam: with Calignone
 for this session, not quite so
 successfully as before, which was
 rather provoking as it was an
 easy question but one he had given

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no attention to, so unlikely he
thought to be asked. Don't you
think one question a most
unfair test of standing? Paper
also had by last English mail
one of dear old Dr. Bigsby's delightful
letters. He speaks of the pleasure
the reading of your Report has given
him. & of the highly favourable
opinion he has heard of it from
prominent scientific men. When
Paper was in Ottawa he was
glatified to find how fully it had

been read & appreciated by many of the official people ^{there} but Grape is likely to tell you of this & the acceptance of your paper on the grasshopper's part. We were glad to see Mr Harris as he had so lately seen you, he tells us you look strong & well. His wife has been very ill in his absence indeed if he had not returned she wd have been dead as she had not the attention she needed until he came.

Mrs P. Peapack, Mrs Vanneck, Mrs Carpenter & many others never forget to ask you & send friendly messages

Mrs C. has had a severe attack
of bronchitis. I have been more
with Mrs P. R. this winter than
ever before & altho' she is rather
stiff & reticent she is a genuine
kind friend that takes any trouble
to do you a kindness. Her husband
also is truly kind. I think the
changes he has effected in the
College do make things a little
easier for papa tho' he won't ad-
mit they do & is often sadly discou-
ted with his position, certainly
he is terribly overworked but
again the session draws to a close
in 3 weeks exams begin. I am
hoping much from Antis. He is languid

to get them to be quiet. I hope to
make him more comfortable
than we ever could in furnished
cottages. Mr. Leggat, the Contractor,
promises to have the Cottages ready
by 1st July & I hope to have William's
engineering skills tested in arrang-
ing for water & drainage &c. Oh
how delightful if we could only
have once all gathered in said
Cottages - it wd. thus to me have been
sanctified for ever more.... This
is an excuse for a letter it has been
written in fragments between receiving
visitors on this Friday afternoon.
With much love believe me ever
Yours affectionately
Mathew