

Victoria B.C. 28 Dec. 1878.

Acc 976

My dear Sir  
Your letter of the 21<sup>st</sup> duly reached  
and the Chilcotin and Blackwater vocabu-  
laries therewith posted ~~were~~<sup>were</sup> not delivered  
I had inquired about, until several mails  
after - Your l<sup>r</sup> was by card at once acknowledged.  
With this will be posted a small  
packet the chief result of three days occu-  
pation at comparison of the vocabu-  
laries we jointly got together, of the  
Tinnit, you lately sent me, and every  
thing in Vol. 1. with American Ethno-  
logy, relating to the investigation  
in hand - a few clear resemblances  
are shown in the tabulated compari-  
son sent; others given are dim, but  
it would need a more experienced lin-  
guistic man than myself, or even  
Mr. Gatschet to decide, when resem-  
blances cease to be - Have not Max-  
müller and others in tracing to Sans-  
crit most ancient and modern  
European languages pursued resem-  
blance seeking to an extreme?  
G. M. Dawson Esq.



It will take vast research to find one  
root for the Indian tongues of North  
America. Much however has been  
done within the last half century  
Do you think that proper collections  
of Indian Folklore should be  
made? - wonder what Professor Da-  
niel Wilson, of Toronto? thinks of it.  
Now or never it has to be done <sup>in the Northwest</sup> - for Indian  
mythology has been getting so mixed  
up with the teachings of the Whites  
that many of the contes of the present  
day are a melange of old and  
new - Have had a suspicion of this  
in that way - Did he tell you of the  
whale swallowing Nekilstas, dis-  
guised as a dead raven floating on  
the sea, the whale, by gipes, being then  
induced to strand himself and become  
a prey to the Haidas, invisible Nekilstas  
meanwhile walking out of the "whale's  
belly" at the proper moment -  
After a further look over the Tshim  
stan, I begin to apprehend that we did  
not often get the infinitive of verbs. <sup>being</sup> it is <sup>more</sup> much

abstract  
than the 1<sup>st</sup> per. sing. pres. tense, or than  
the imperative - The real men to "get out"  
Indian vocabularies in these days, should  
be the teachers on Indian reservations  
who in teaching English to the natives  
could find in Indian, correlatives  
to English moods ~~and~~ tenses &c. &c.  
The very successful Agent and Missionary  
amongst the Yakima, Father Wilbur,  
when applied to, by a brother mission-  
ary, who had got hold of a flood  
story on his reservation at Skoko-  
mish, Puget's Sound, answered  
that Indian tales of the far past  
were now so jumbled up with modern  
teachings as to be not worth collecting.

You will find the substance  
of the foregoing re myths in No.  
2 of the American Antiquarian,  
copy of which has been sent me by  
Gatshet - <sup>Wilbur probably regards Indian myths as</sup>  
<sup>"the heathen" - "gosh, it puts a</sup>  
The Standard of Victoria <sup>night</sup>  
has been writing against an alleged  
project of Shroats to get the interior  
Indians



the Seilish of British Columbia  
congregated and confederated  
at some choice transcascade spot  
or tract of country; but every such  
place <sup>south of Soda Creek, where Seilish chief</sup> I know of, or have heard of, is  
in the occupation <sup>of whites</sup> - Mackay & W.  
whom you know, <sup>has spoken to me</sup> and Mackinlay  
ex Indian Commissioner, a most  
<sup>and for fifteen years past living amongst the Indians B.C.</sup> experienced man with Indians, has  
<sup>written to</sup> me, in earnest condemnation of  
such a proceeding -

Having here oppor-  
tunity by glancing at U. S. papers to  
observe the ongoings over the border  
where the settlers have formed them-  
selves into volunteer companies  
- it may be said to provoke Indian  
war - action which has been proclai-  
med against from Washington D.C.  
I am certain that in B.C. every thing  
should be done to quiet the Indian  
mind for some years to come.  
The great fuss now is with a chief known  
to the whites as Moses, but who formerly bore  
the name of Queitalahan (I have not yet  
<sup>Indian</sup> learnt to give up the g.) who with his elder

brother Kwiltineinak afterwards  
in 1858. killed in a scrimmage with  
white miners bound for B.C. was an  
active "hostile" in the Indian war of 1855-  
6. A self-organized company of volunteers,  
has seized Moses with several of his  
companions, and, on the face of this,  
comes a proclamation from Washington,  
D.C. dated Dec. 17. and signed by Atty  
General Stevens, desiring it to be ad-  
dressed to Atty General Allen of Wash. D.C.  
desiring it to be "fully understood" that  
those persons who take part in unlawful  
proceedings will be dealt with ac-  
cording to law"

What will it all amount  
to in the neighboring territory where  
as I was told thirty one years ago, in  
reference to <sup>slaughter, in despoil</sup> cattle-stealing "the  
people are the law" This was  
recently repeated at Sitka, where  
a Cassiar miner, Boyd, a Southern  
States man, taken red handed, was  
by <sup>for murder</sup> hung by Lynch law process



Recently in Klikitat (Clitit) County  
some fifty or sixty miles distant  
from Ft. Vancouver, Military Headquar-  
ters north of California one mile  
Day was sung by direction of a vigilance  
<sup>for exonerated? called on pending</sup>  
committee, and several bad characters  
notified to clear out of the country  
in so many hours. Such action  
was almost needed here twenty  
five years ago, but the law <sup>of the country</sup> prevailed  
in the end, altho at times evaded  
in some of the westernmost bands  
of British on the Columbia river. His  
tribe the Sin Kooosi, called by the Yakima  
Winatshapan, as well as the Pistwa  
oosi their neighbors up stream have  
much connection by relationship traf-  
fic, and gambling or horse racing interchange  
of visits, with the Shimil Kameen and  
and Okanagan Indians of B. C.  
Mackinlay writes that, even as far as La-  
hache, the Indians are perturbed by reports  
of Groat's intentions. How does Rankine like  
his medical studies?

Wishing you all of the Dawson  
family many happy returns of the season I am Yours as heretofore  
Thank for your pamphlet. Wrote you 26 Nov. W. F. Tolmie