

McGill College.

Montreal.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup>

My dearest George

I have been almost wholly engrossed for more than a week with plans, arrangements & getting up connected with the visit of Miss Peckham to the College. The programme including taking afternoon tea at our house made it more of a personal matter than it otherwise wd have been; also making ready personal decorations previous to dining with them



last evening. I assure you I awoke  
 this morn'g greatly alarmed. When I  
 realized that my part was played  
 without my manifest breakdown  
 how I can give no direct attention  
 to things of greater importance &  
 especially to those <sup>connected</sup> with your interests.

My ignorance of the comparative  
 advantages of the two paths, seemingly  
 open to you, makes my opinions  
 of little value only for the long  
 experience I have of your father's  
 career in similar walks. He has  
 always been labouring at original  
 investigations & publishing results.  
 The reward he has is a certain



amount of fame in the world.  
 English people however have given  
 him scanty acknowledgements for the  
 amount of work he has done, & being  
only a Colonist have always given  
 him the cold shoulder when he  
 asked a place amongst them.  
 I can recal. many mortifications  
 he has had to bear. Amongst  
 others his being obliged to pay his  
 £90. fee his A.R.S. altho' he had contributed  
 many valuable original papers to this  
 society heretofore & since. which as  
 god knows is the alternative for money.  
 As I am not enamoured of unrequited  
 fame. A little less time given to science



& a little more time given to cultivate  
 the personal good-will of men as  
 influence, and I believe have brought  
 papa more of his heart's desire, & of  
 the fulfilment of that proverb. "Men will  
 praise thee when thou doest well  
 for thyself". — Now British Columbia  
 appears to me to offer hard, isolated,  
 work, of perhaps an interesting character  
 to yourself, for which you will get  
 small pay & likely little credit that  
 is worth having. The larger communication  
 of the Bannockburn affair affords a higher  
 starting point — intimate association  
 with men of science, both from  
 England & the States, who will see



\* Lally B. is worn out. Looks paged & bored.  
Now I must close with much love  
from your affectionate <sup>M. Gill College.</sup> Mother.  
<sup>Montreal.</sup>  
your former & the <sup>5</sup> reliability of your  
character & statements, which will  
lead to after advancement & surely  
this never come make your observations  
things now I would enough to have  
a good reputation upon for yourself.

In viewing your prospects thus  
I am sitting quite to one side  
my feelings. Either place appears to  
me so distant, & the intervals of  
separation so long, that it is little  
more of your society I can hope  
to enjoy in this life. We are all  
very much afraid of influencing  
you by our advice. Let in.



the development of your course  
 when disappointments & difficulties  
 arise, you should look back  
 & wish you had been more  
 decided in following your own dictates.

We unite with us in humbly  
 asking guidance from Him who  
 knows the end from the beginning.

Pardon Papa's mistakes that you  
 may avoid them & he saved the  
 bitter reflections he cannot at all  
 times subdue now.

I trust your present duty is not  
 irksome to you. We continue to  
 hear of your lectures as most successful



I am much gratified by the kindness shown to you by friends.

I believe you had a paper sent to you with a short account of our Ceremony at the College. The Governor certainly received a warm greeting. The Countess with, Mesdames, Baydys, Malson, Opender, Inuffatt, & Bay - Miss Brackham & Mrs Pasgrave, their husbands &c had tea in our dining room. I chatted for some time in a familiar pleasant way. I had two most magnificent bouquets sent from Mrs Russ for



the occasion. I in anticipation having  
honed from Lyonnais the jewels  
the handsome flower stems they  
placed in them the "tout ensemble"  
was lovely to behold. We afterwards  
sent one of the bouquets to Lady Gifford.  
Last ev. there were upwards of thirty  
at dinner. The Company were united  
by the Ails & when all had assembled  
the doors was thrown open & my Lord  
& my Lady announced. Shortly after  
we proceeded to the dining room. where  
all was arranged in Lordly style. Very  
brilliant & gay was the scene. Many  
people we knew were there. I do not  
think Sir L. H. a sincere man. He desires  
popularity but is at heart very proud. We  
are the small dust of the balance.\*