

4 Addison Gardens  
Kensington W. 12-6<sup>th</sup> 89

My Dear Dr. Dawson

I was delighted to receive yesterday your most valuable gift of books, pamphlets, and maps, on the geology, mineral products, and natives of a portion of British Columbia in the neighborhood of the Youcan country, and I am happy to see by one of these maps, we are led to hope that the Great Mount St. Elias is in British Territory—  
I thank you very much  
indeed

will admit of our doing so, this has been so, for the last two years, in each of which we have paid off 3 years - leaving thus only 32 years to run, so if we continue our good fortune, the whole debt may be paid off in 10 or 12 years -

There was some desire on the part of the fourth Courage Imperial Institute to absorb us, but the Council rather objected to, <sup>this</sup> but we hope to remain on most friendly terms with our big brother,

We are going to have Naesen the Danish traverser of Greenland at the Geographical Socy on the 24<sup>th</sup> inst - and no doubt we shall have an interesting evening - I shall expect he <sup>will</sup> make an attempt

indeed and have already  
read a very considerable  
part of the works, in fact the  
whole about the natives, who  
seem to be a very strange  
people, not half so nice, I should  
think, as my friends the Eskimos  
of whom I have a very high opinion.

Notwithstanding the great rush  
to Paris, London is very full at  
present, and it being close upon  
the end of the session of the  
Scientific and other Societies,  
Conversations and Gardens parties  
are the order of the day -

The Royal, Royal Geographical,  
and the Royal Colonial, hold their  
great "chat" meetings within a  
week or two of each other. The latter

is such a "big lot" that we have  
to hire the Albert Hall to take us  
all in, and that would scarcely  
be large enough, if we had not  
managed to secure the Conservatory  
(which is about to be pulled down)  
for a consideration of an extra £40 or  
£50 - The Colonial is about one of  
the most thriving Institutions in  
London, we have about 3300 fellows  
and they are increasing rapidly, about  
40 to be put <sup>up</sup> for election on the 18<sup>th</sup>  
of this month - our annual  
income is over £6000 a year, and  
we have made a forty years purchase  
of our ground rent which was over  
£1100 a year - This was a plucky thing  
to do, for we had to borrow £35,000,  
but on very favorable terms -  
We have the right to pay off when  
ever our ~~total~~ (surplus) income

to cross that land <sup>of</sup> ice, farther to the north, where it is twice as broad, from east to west - Last season a great mistake was made, as he and his men left or were left in their boats by the ship, outside the great barrier of 6 to 10 miles of heavy and close packed ice. They is always forcing down south along the east coast of Greenland - The result was that they were driven southward 100 miles or more, close to Cape Farewell before they could get to land, and then had to work their way all that distance back again, between the ice pack and the shore. This made them very late, and was the cause of their not getting across in time to catch any of the ships before leaving for Denmark, and he

could

Get quite recovered - For a pretty  
old party, I hold out fairly well,  
and continue as ardent a volunteer  
as ever, doing all my required  
drills, and wearing now and  
again a wig at rifle shooting -  
We all join in most kind and  
warm remembrance to your whole  
fine side - the ladies sending love  
to the ladies - and with many  
thanks to yourself

believe me

very truly yours

John Rae

P.S. Ask Lady Dawson if she  
remembers the fearful scorch  
of the steam whistle close to her  
ear as she had just reached the  
upper deck of the steamer on Lake  
Michigan? which she bore so  
bravely. Mae

Could not get away until this  
thing - On Friday next we have  
our last evening's lecture at the  
Royal Institution on Quarty Fibres  
by Mr. Boys a recently elected  
F. R. S. - He is a clever man and  
a good lecturer, so we anticipate  
a pleasant <sup>time.</sup> - our Secretary Sir  
Jedekk Bramwell likes to have  
all his officials round his big  
body on the Fridays, and as I happen  
to be a Manager and Vice presi-  
dent, I shall try and be there -  
our friend Geikie, Director General  
of the Geolog. Survey had last Friday  
evening and gave us some new  
ideas about the Geology of some  
parts of Scotland. Completely  
knocking to pieces dear old Sir

Rocky Mountain's best ~~ideas~~ <sup>views</sup> -  
I don't feel quite competent to explain  
what the differences actually were -

At present there is an exhibition  
of pictures both oil and water - ~~at~~ by  
Canadian artists at the Egyptian  
Hall, Piccadilly - I paid a short visit  
to them today, and thought some  
of them very good - some excellent  
bits of scenery in "Rockies" at and  
near the Canada Pacific R.R. - The  
prices run from £5-5j to about  
£35 - Most of the pictures appear  
to be by artists named Roper  
and Wall, and a few by a family  
named All-chain -

My wife and her sister have  
been unwell lately, and altho'  
now better, they have not  
yet