

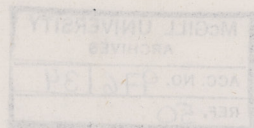
Montreal
Apr 22/86

Dear Rankine,

On this the
first visit I have made to
town since the "flood", I feel
prouded to write a few lines
to you respecting this great
Centre, which though it is
not London has in it
many of the elements
of greatness. We have had
this year the small-pox
epidemic, and three river
floods. Only day before
yesterday a quarter of the
City was under water,
and yet every one is
on foot again, and the
big rivers of the world are the

unknown replacing suddenly,
 that floated away, and
 the stores selling off damaged
 goods so fast that the
 supply is altogether below
 the demand, and I fancy
 none of them would be
 glad to drop more of their
 stock. Our French and
 Irish people, with all their
 faults, are wonderfully elastic
 and resilient, and the
 English element here has
 all the substantial qualities
 of the race. There has
 been a great growth in
 Montreal, even since you
 left it, and the
 great prospects connected

with the opening of the
 Canada Pacific are not
 beginning to be understood
 of course no one
 can get a here any
 more than anywhere
 else without toil and
 trouble, and many
 incompetents constantly
 go to the wall, yet
 there is great scope,
 and space for useful
 men. I write thus
 because I think you
 are disposed to under-
 rate Canada. You have
 numerous men seen a
 great deal of the
 world, and I fancy
 have learned that



The conditions of sheep
are much the same
everywhere. I wish
therefore you would,
in consultation with
Mamma and Eva,
think seriously of the
possibility of returning
to this country, if
possible while Mamma
and I are alive,
and before we have
gone the way of all
things, and are forgotten,
which will be in ten
days after.

I have just been
drawing up a statement
of the gifts given to
me since 1882, and

just we have received
 about \$450,000. We
 are now asking our
 friends for \$250,000
 more, to complete an
 establishment, and I
 have no doubt will
 get it in a few years.
 Of course our present
 need rises greatly from
 the fall of rates of
 interest from 7 to 5 per
 cent, which has cut
 of a great slice of our
 income, and has made
 even small capitalists
 like myself poorer;
 but we shall I
 have no doubt get
 means to make

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improvements a well,
I am sure you
will do all you can
& make Mamma's visit
& London agreeable. But
the and you need
rest and some getting
up in health, and
I hope may be
benefited by the
change.

Write this in
Daddy's ink before
my time, and wish
you all health hap-
piness & prosperity,

See your affectionate
letters w^{ch} the }
went to Mamma } Mrs. Jackson

~~Mamma's letter to Mrs. Jackson~~