

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
ACC. NO. 976/28
REF. 6

McGill College.
Montreal.

Nov 27, 1890

Dear Rankine,

Mamma having been laid up for a day with a bowel complaint and severe cold, contracted by exposure and fatigue last week, I have had some little time for conversation with her on family matters, and she mentioned to me your need for to invest for me in companies now forming in Sweden. I regret that I have little prospect of any investment this year! I was quite shaken out last spring by son's marriage, and have had

purchase of bank stocks
at very low prices.

In any case I have
felt it to be a moral
obligation not to invest
in any fancy stocks, mining
enterprises, &c., as the little
I have is the sole dependence
of Mamma & myself in case
of disability, which we
cannot be far off, and
of which we have frequent
warnings, besides being the
only means we have to
aid members of the family,
should any of them be in
difficulties.

All this however does
not prevent me from saying
that if you desire to settle as

a professional man, any time
within my possible power
of discharging my present
duties and retaining
my salary, Mamma and
I can, without much
pinching ourselves give
you substantial aid.
If you wait till I
am laid on the shelf
from my present work
the case might be
different, as in that
case we should have
a pretty bare subsistence.

I would further
say however, that nothing
would induce me to invest
in English companies based

or such things as Canadian
 Phosphates, iron, asbestos
 &c. They are all predominate
 to be failures, and the
 best result they can lead
 to is that after the small
 and weak investors have
 been eaten up with pay-
 ments of instalments on
 the stock, a few of the
 more wealthy may pickle
 up the thing for a trifle
 and perhaps get some-
 thing out of it, though
 even they often fail to
 realize anything. Canada
 is not fitted by resources,
 climate, population &
 growth, for such large schemes,

and the sooner this
is known in England
the better. Wealthy
men who can afford
to lose large sums without
feeling it may play with
such things if they think
fit, but it is cruel to
induce small capitalists
& people dependent on
small investments for a
living to risk their means
on such ways.

I may add that
College matters just now are
on an unusually bad financial
flight. The large gifts in some
directions necessitate great
expenditures in others, and
the Governors are at their
wit's end.

I began this note
with a

reference to Maria's health,
 she is I think much
 better to-day. Stop
 who has been our physician
 since Howard's death
 is unhappily again unwell
 and I have called in
 Shepherd who seems
 very prompt & efficient.

Dr Elder, one of
 our graduates ^{whom perhaps you knew} & late of
 Huntington, has just moved
 into town to take up
 the fine field offered by
 the Spring & Autumn
 Suburb, which has
 become very fashionable
 of late years & has
 extended greatly; but

what, strange to say, has
not been healthy, owing
I suppose to defective
drainage.

Will send all
love and good wishes

Yours

M. Dawson

P.S. I suppose you have
seen that our friend
Cromie has been elected
Mayor of Whitehead.

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McGILL UNIVERSITY
ARCHIVES

ACC. NO.

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St Rankine Dawson
St George's Club
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London,
England.



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