

McGill College.  
Montreal.

Dec 18/90

Dear Rankine,

I have your letter  
of the 6th, and have care-  
fully studied its contents, but feel I  
cannot at present do  
much to take advantage  
of your plans; which hinder  
I do not understand in  
their details, and I have  
always made it a rule  
in matters of investment to  
regard myself merely as a  
custodian for those who  
may survive me, and so  
to invest only in what  
I know, & feel reasonably  
sure of. I have had examples  
to warn me in the cases of  
Guy, Dunkin, Leach & Baynes,  
who have left unpeccious widows,  
owing to want of attention to this.





or so, as I always wish  
to have a little beyond my  
monthly salary for emergencies.  
If however you will inform  
me what you propose to invest  
in, either by letter or when  
you come out here, I shall  
be glad to consider it.

I can assure you that  
scarcely a week passes without  
the arrival of a splendid  
prospectus drawn up in great  
detail and with all contingen-  
cies calculated out, the  
show tempting dividends  
which are absolutely certain,  
they all go into the  
waste-basket, either because  
I know them to be visionary  
or because I know nothing  
about them. But I shall  
not ~~trust~~ trust you in that way  
when you give me details.

I fear dear Rowland  
you have chosen a hard  
road to travel, and one  
not so noble as that  
of professional life; but  
I shall pray for your  
success and help if  
I can, though I can  
scarcely do the latter without  
some particulars.

We are well, but the  
difficulties of college manage-  
ment are accumulating as  
our growth goes on. Poverty has  
its troubles; but great endow-  
ments entail other far  
more onerous and trying.

With all love and  
good wishes yours ever

Wm. Dawkins