



THE MAPLES,
EGERTON PARK,
ROCK FERRY.

Jan. 20th 96.

My dear Rankine,

I was glad to receive yesterday
y^r letter from Paris & hear that so far you had
commenced with favourable weather. I envy you
visiting so many interesting places under such
comfortable circumstances - I also received a
second note from Miss Coats in which
she asks me to go to London, but I really
cannot do so at present as we have several
engagements before us. I would much
rather that she would come here & I have
urged her to do so but so far without success.
I suppose that she is busy about her own
affairs & wants to make the most of her
short period of freedom! Mother also

wrote to me just after ²having received your
letter telling her the news, & she seems very
pleased indeed about it, but longs to know
more particulars - of course she would be
very glad if you decide to go to Montreal but
I feel sure that she would like you to do
what is best for yourself - after all this will
really be best also for her - If you were happy
& doing well in London it would give her
more pleasure than if you made the sacrifice
of going to Montreal to please her - You could
at once become an important man in Montreal
but there is nothing to be derived from this
if you don't like the people & the place - of
course personally I think that Montreal has
exceptionable attractions but in London you are
much freer in every way. In Montreal unless
you adopt the standards there in
logic you find yourself criticised on all
hands & of course a D^r must first of all be
a social force, in order to succeed - I must

Certainly would advise you to settle in
 whatever place you personally prefer &
 think is the most likely place in which
 to succeed - Mother's great reason for
 wishing you to go to Montreal was that
 she might look after you & I believe she
 even feared that you might not have
 enough to eat when "left to yourself" - But
 now that you will have a capable lady
 to guide you perhaps such fears will
 be removed - It will depend largely
 upon the tastes, habits & ideas of Miss C - whether
 she & Mother would appreciate each other & draw
 you closer or separate you more from them
 (I mean from Papa & Mother) -

I have been writing before the fire,
 almost in the dark as the gas was
 not lit -

Do you see that - Sir Charles Tupper is to
 be premier of Canada after all? I suppose
 that he will then send his son to London in
 his place - there has been a small

(4) Ministry of Ottawa under Powell Mackenzie's
rule - (I have put the names in the wrong order)

Tuesday. I have been over in town
most of the day & now I must finish this
before dinner, which does not leave me
much time. The last two days have
been frosty which is a great change after
about 10 days of very mild weather which
has tempted various spring flowers to bloom.
With love & best wishes.

From E. A.