"The Parsonage"
Weston Feb. 5. 1873

My dear Osler,

Many thanks for the pleasing letter I have just received. I wish I had time to write you fully in answer but I have not often putting it off but I forget it or delay too long. I think you were quite right in refusing a chair of Botany. I do not see how it could amount to anything worth naming. It would never lead to anything of importance. Your friends of course would have been well pleased to have you in Montreal, well paid, & comfortably free, but it would never

have been beyon permanent
benefit. Something better than
this will open out for you I feel
sure. I would have liked to have
been beside you while examining
what remains of old Sir Thos Brown's
How markedly England does dif-
fer in that particular from this
Country. Though we could put
the whole Island into one of our
Lakes yet there is more local
interest in any one parish, than
there is in the whole of our Dominion
Say what people will about pic-
tures, emblems, relics, & the like,
they ever have been & ever will
be the most delightful & I think

reasonable means of raising the thoughts to higher & holier hopes. The more I use them the more I delight in them. Word painting according to some eminent men in England is all that is needed but I think they must mean "needed" for wiser heads than mine. These things do help meditation so much, even if they do not actually create it. For instance, how difficult it is to recall the warmth of feeling we experience when actually in sight of relics connected with great names or events. Such I suppose is the legitimate use of the crucifix. It certainly is a lively

incentive to meditation & a wonderful help to it. We protestants do not know half enough of these things, or how to use them.

Be sure you let me know when you are likely to return perhaps there may be something you could bring: & we must use our friends. With many & my best wishes for your success

Believe me
very affectionately yours
W. C. Johnson