

JAMES JACKSON
60 STATE STREET
BOSTON

Telephone
HUBbard 5427

January 16, 1939.

Mr. Lewis W. Douglas,
President, McGill University,
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Lew:

May I take the liberty of trespassing on your time to see if you can help me solve a family problem.

My younger son, having graduated from College - is desirous of teaching French as his life's undertaking. Although he does not speak French to any great extent, he does seem to have the ability to teach French grammar to the younger boys. After one year at Brooks School, Frank Ashburn, the Head Master, feels that Frank has the ability to teach - and the boy has the desire to - consequently, it is incumbent on me to try to help him get the best type of education in order that he may do well in his chosen profession.

He is to be married in March and it was planned that next year he and his wife would go to Paris - live with a French family and he attend the Sorbonne to complete his studies. However, with conditions what they are on the Continent today - it seems a grave likelihood that this may not be possible. In consequence, we have been trying to think out a satisfactory alternative and it seemed to us that perhaps he could find a French family in or near Montreal where he and his wife could live - a family that does not speak the local patois but the pure French - in other words, a family of culture. Two friends of mine in Ottawa who have a broad acquaintance in Montreal - feel that it would be comparatively easy to find such a family where Frank and his wife could live as paying guests.

Then, I thought, perhaps Frank could attend McGill University if he could get the necessary type of French courses there, and in this way he would acquire a thorough grasp of the whole language - the grammar as well as the conversation. It seems to me that it might be desirable for him to take some Spanish as well, as a side line, provided it were possible.

I have not in any way made up my mind what the proper thing to do is - but I hope you will not mind my inquiring (in case his going to France is impossible) as to whether you think by his going to Montreal he could acquire the necessary knowledge and background to thoroughly equip him for his life work. I feel it would be a great pity for him to start any profession unless he were thoroughly versed in it.