

209

September
Nineteenth
1921.

C. J. Stuart, Esq.,
2129 St. Urbain Street,
Montreal.

Dear Mr. Stuart:-

On my return to Montreal after spending the summer on the other side I found awaiting me your letter of the first of August, enclosing demonstration of the problem of the trisection of an angle.

McGill is always very proud when any of her graduates are able to accomplish the solution of a problem which has appeared insoluble to all others. As far as my incomplete knowledge of mathematics goes I would say that it is necessary to distinguish between a practical and a theoretical solution of this problem. For practical purposes you know that any submultiple of an angle can be determined quite readily to a very high degree of accuracy by using properties of the straight line and circle alone, but in theoretical mathematics we know that such problems as the duplication of the cube and the trisection of an angle cannot, in general, be effected by line and circle. Angles of certain degree can be trisected by rule and compass, but mathematicians hold that you cannot trisect an angle of any magnitude by using properties of the line and circle alone.

I frankly admit that I am not an expert enough mathematician to offer an opinion of any value as to whether your deductions are scientifically correct or not, but I would suggest that you have a chat with Professor Murray or