

June 25th, 1923.

Dr. J. W. A. Hickson,  
20 Ontario Avenue,  
Montreal.

My dear Dr. Hickson:-

I am sorry that your letter of June 14th has not been acknowledged before this, but I have been away from Montreal most of the past fortnight.

I am very sorry that you persist in your resignation being considered by the Board. I was in hopes that you would consent to continue on the staff of McGill, to whose efficiency and prestige you have made a notable contribution. However, I shall comply with your wishes and present your resignation at the next meeting of the Board of Governors. While regretting your decision, they will, no doubt, accede to your wishes.

Yours faithfully,

McGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL.

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

June 14. 1923

Sir Arthur W. Curie K.C. M. G.  
F.L.D.

Principal of McGill University,  
Montreal.

Dear Mr. Principal:

I knew that you were so occupied on Monday and Tuesday that I did not make any attempt to see you until yesterday, when on communicating with your office in the afternoon, I was informed that you were leaving last night for Kingston. I trust that you will not regard it as discourteous of me to leave town, as I expect to do tomorrow morning, and answer your letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. in writing, instead of by a personal visit. There is only one point in it which I should like to have discussed with you, namely, what suggestions it was proposed should be made to Professor Caldwell in order to promote a smoother working of the Department. Short of his not remaining <sup>Head</sup> of the

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Department, which I do not regard as a probability, I cannot conceive what they could be.

I appreciate very much the recommendation that you are prepared to make to the Board of Governors in order to make me feel more comfortable. ~~Very~~ It would be a satisfactory recognition of many years work at McGill. But it is not anything of this nature which I have sought or asked for, and its ~~absence~~ <sup>lack</sup> has not been, in the least, a factor in causing the decision which I have already communicated to you. Were I now to accept it as a satisfactory solution of the situation, I should place myself in a wrong light, making it appear that I had taken up a certain attitude in order to advance my own interests. I cannot, ~~of course~~ <sup>therefore</sup>, do anything of the kind; and, after prolonged consideration of all you have said, feel forced to ask you to accept my resignation as final.

You have mentioned one point which I might

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regard as a strong argument against this course of action, were I inclined to interpret it as you do: the loss to the University caused by and the possible misunderstanding of the reasons of my resigning. But I think it a good thing for every educational institution to have changes in its staff, especially after twenty years; and should my retirement lead later to a shaking up in the Department of Philosophy, it will be of distinct benefit to the University and Faculty of Arts. And it is not necessary that the reasons for my action should be misunderstood by all. Some of my colleagues will understand. And it can be said, that I have become tired of teaching; since I do not intend to pursue this line of activity, unless something unusually attractive should present itself in a very congenial atmosphere.

With my respects and kindest regards,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

J. W. A. Hickson

McGILL UNIVERSITY

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DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

June 8. 1923.

Sir Arthur Currie K.C.M.G.  
L.L.D.

Principal of  
McGill University,  
Montreal

Dear Mr. Principal:

I have your letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> inst.,  
and appreciate highly its content and purport.  
Of course, I shall weigh very carefully what you say,  
and to this end, must ask you to allow me a  
few days for further reflection.

I expect to go away for some ten days  
on the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> of this month, and shall give you  
an answer before leaving town.

Sincerely yours,  
J. W. A. Hickson

June 6th, 1923.

My dear Professor Hickson,-

Only yesterday did I learn that on May 10th last you handed to the Secretary of the University your formal resignation as Frothingham Associate Professor of Logic and Metaphysics.

I can sympathize with the reasons vouchsafed by you for taking this step, yet I most earnestly hope you will give further consideration to the matter and consent to withdraw your resignation.

I cannot ask Professor Caldwell to retire and I know you have not suggested that I should. You and he have been associated in the Department of Philosophy for the past twenty years and I would ask you to make an especial effort, for the sake of McGill, to continue the association. Your retirement now would be a distinct loss to the University and, furthermore, it would most likely not be rightly understood by the Alumni and general public.

If you consent to remain I shall have much pleasure in recommending to the Board of Governors that you be promoted to the rank of Professor. I shall also make certain suggestions to Professor Caldwell, which I think will result in the smoother working of the Department.

Believe me,

Ever yours faithfully,

Professor J.W.A.Hickson,  
20 Ontario Avenue,  
Montreal.

McGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL.

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

May 10. 1923.

A. P. S. Glasco Esq.,  
Secretary of  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

Dear Mr. Glasco: Acting along the lines of several  
conversations which I had with the Principal some time  
ago, and in which I explained to him the reason  
for taking this step, I now send through you to  
the Seniors of the University, my resignation as  
Frothingham Associate Professor of Logic and Metaphysics,  
to take effect at the close of the present Session.

During the absence of Professor Caldwell, however,  
if I can be of any use to the Department of Philosophy,  
I shall be happy to place my services at its  
disposal; and it is, perhaps, needless for me to say  
that I shall at all times follow with a lively  
interest the welfare of the University.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. W. A. Hickson.

MONTREAL, January 22 1924

Sir Arthur W. Currie C.E. M.C.

Principal of  
McGill University  
Montreal

Dear Sir Arthur Currie:

While I did not consider it necessary to bother you with a formal visit on the occasion of severing my official relations with McGill; yet I think that it might be regarded as discourteous on my part if the event passed without my saying an official good-by: which I do by this note.

Let me add to it my best wishes for your health, and for every satisfaction from your work for the University.

Sincerely yours,  
J. W. A. Hickson



MONTREAL,

January 31

1924.

Dear Sir Arthur Currie:

I thank you for your very kind letter and for the good wishes which it contains. I have invariably felt that you were appreciative of what I tried to do at Mc Gill, but I have not always felt similarly about the Forenoon. However, your assurance to the contrary suggests that I have probably been mistaken.

I spent some pleasant years at Mc Gill, and would have looked forward to remaining there longer, had my immediate environment been different.

With kind regards and esteem,

Sincerely yours,

J. W. A. Hickson

MONTREAL,

July 2

1923

Sir Arthur Currie K.C.

Principal  
McGill University,  
Montreal

Dear Sir Arthur Currie:

I thank you for your kind note of June 25<sup>th</sup> which I received on my return home on 1<sup>st</sup> inst.

In reviewing the situation in the Department of Philosophy, it has occurred to me that, inasmuch as it is now over two months since I first spoke of resigning, and the year is somewhat advanced and Dr. Caldwell is away, it might cause less inconvenience here if I to suppress my own inclinations temporarily, and offer to remain at McGill until next Christmas or the end of the first term. This would

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give you more time to look around and make the necessary arrangements. In the meantime I shall work as formerly with Professor Caldwell, and there would be no friction from my side.

In making this suggestion, I am actuated by the desire that you should be enabled to act according to the best interests of the Faculty of Arts. It is not an indication that I wish to withdraw my resignation.

Yours sincerely,  
J. W. A. Hickson