

To his Excellency The Lieutenant Governor,

My Lord,

Trusting that the cause of my intrusion upon Your Excellency's notice will plead my excuse, I would respectfully solicit Your Excellency's attention to the subjoined particulars:

A number of years ago, my family made a collection of various objects in Natural History to be found in this Province, which Mr. Audubon pronounced to be the finest private collection in North America, and to which he has repeatedly referred in his work upon Ornithology. But our circumstances not enabling us to retain it in the Province, it was transferred to London. Since that time we have again, at much labour and expense, made considerable progress in another collection, which we wish to remain in Halifax; but to render it an object of interest to scientific visitors, and an ornament to the town, would subject us to greater expense than we are able to bear. I am the more anxious that our design should be carried into effect because, though the study of Natural History is an important branch of the education of youth, and, as Your Excellency is aware, patronised by every enlightened Government, it is a subject to which the attention of this Province has not yet been particularly directed. But, were the museum commenced and properly conducted, the correspondence which my family maintain with scientific Societies and individuals in various parts would enable us, by means of exchange, to enrich it with additional works both of nature and of art; and I trust that, ultimately, by means of its collections and additional library in the various departments of science, its beneficial effects would be diffused through every part of the Province. Should the Legislature patronise our exertions in an undertaking so useful, we will either give security for the continuance of our collection in Halifax, or allow it to become public property at a valuation by competent judges, deducting whatever sum may have been previously advanced. Though we are induced to hope that our design will be favourably regarded in the other branches of the Legislature, we would not, without Your Excellency's approbation, wish it to become a subject of discussion; but, should that be obtained, it will prove to us a stimulant, to render our collection such as will become Your Excellency's name and administration.

My Lord, I have the honour to be
your Lordship's most obedient
and most humble servant,
Thomas McCulloch

Halifax, March 1, 1841