

I do not wish to feel under  
obligation to reply to these notes  
if you would be any words  
I am in at any time.  
I am sure you extend it to me  
I should like to see the  
I do not think of any part of  
the benefit of it. I do not think  
moment come when it would  
last than will be well to us  
shall get new impulses from such  
My address is empty  
Dr. R. J. Van Lennep  
Amherst  
Turkey  
I am on your college  
I have not yet made a  
Change of name & have  
I shall write to you  
I trust of your health.  
I am  
Most respectfully  
C. H. Brooks

Dec. 16-75

Recd Dec 16

The desire has come to me of late to  
write to you & has been strengthening itself until now  
it would be a genuine disappointment to forego this  
pleasure. If I need excuses for so indulging myself I  
would mention the help you rendered me in going through  
the forms necessary to my becoming a missionary & the  
consequent fitness that I should from the life then  
adopt & now reached give some report of myself; also  
what has perhaps been in truth the occasion of this writing  
the intelligence through a good friend of the engagement  
of Miss Dawson & my strong desire to express to myself  
& Mrs. Dawson - to both those so most directly affected  
the spontaneous & deep sense of satisfaction that came  
into my mind at once on the receipt of these tidings. I know  
Mr. Harrington to respect him as a man, to honour him  
as a student & to love him as though a brother; I think  
all the Gill men have esteemed Miss Dawson not alone

for her father's sake; to offer congratulations upon  
the union of such a life with such a life can be no  
form of words; it is so natural a thing to do that to  
leave it undone would be wholly unnatural. May the  
rich blessing of our common God rest upon this marriage,  
causing it to become increasingly manifest day by day  
that it was of Heaven's wise choice. Our kindest regards  
to both Miss Dawson & Mr. Harrington; I am a debtor  
to each & would gladly acknowledge my sense of the  
obligation.

Of things about us in this to us new land you may  
wish to hear something; I cannot be here much of a  
scientist, yet can be & am a lover & enjoyer of Nature.  
Last winter & Spring it was a great source of pleasure  
to watch for new finds of the plant kind & to recognize  
in their natural surroundings old friends known hitherto  
only under less favourable circumstances. It was with real  
enthusiasm that I searched for the great Pine as I was  
one day riding over the plain beyond us the lovely scarlet  
aspen. I thought at first it was a Tulip, so like one  
was it in shape & colour. They afterwards became very  
abundant; another variety too - blue & white - we often  
saw in the fencer of men coming in to the city from one  
part of the adjoining country. In Spring the vineyards were all

abaze with their myriads of scarlet Poppies; banks of bright  
violet flowers made a very pleasing contrast. In February  
the Plain became like an orchard with its many almond-  
trees in bloom. Last week, I think it was, I wrote something  
about it to our Canadian Independent; the trees & plants of  
the Bible have had of course special interest in our eyes:  
we want to become so familiar with them that the  
allusion to them may become wholly natural to us. This  
is not a land of small flowers by any means - the climate  
is too extreme for that; summer is hot & dry & everything  
that hasn't deep root withers away & dies. Flowering trees  
& shrubs are numerous, very showy many of them & flourishing.  
The gardens of Constantinople as we saw them in May last  
were very beautiful: the slopes of the Bosphorus suggested  
Paradise itself. What is called the Judas tree makes the  
spring landscape; before the leaves appear it is covered with  
clusters of magenta pea-shaped flowers. Nothing has been to us  
so beautiful as the Pomegranate tree when in bloom; it is rather  
a large shrub than a tree proper - has small very dark & glossy  
yellow-green leaves in charming contrast to the brilliant  
scarlet & clasp of the flowers; the calyx is vermilion itself  
& becomes the horny looking shell of the fruit - enclosing the closely  
packed sections of juicy, crimson seeds. We have fig-trees on our  
own premises & they are abundant in all this region; fruit



& leaves appeared together, the figs however so wholly detached  
from the leaves as to attract chief attention to themselves.  
The fresh figs, lasting from August till nearly November  
sell to both of us very delicious. It is wonderful to us how  
exceedingly - almost excessively sweet are some of the fruits  
of these lands. Grapes are drops of honey; figs all tops  
packed with stawberry jam. I thought our figs would be  
Lakota's provision in such a country against fevers & kindred  
ills. I pressed last winter a sprig of a spring shrub  
that if I can find I must send to you - it seemed to  
us so very odd, the petals of the flowers springing out  
from about the middle of the rib beneath the leaf; the  
scarlet berry was at the same time present on the branch.  
I have pressed but few specimens as time does not permit;  
Arques rather than plants have had to be our study. If  
you think however of anything I could get here for yourself  
at the college it would be a privilege to make the endeavour.  
Great Rocky Lighthouse at the back of us is a never failing  
source of interest to us; it ought to give strength of  
character to any people living beneath its shadow; its  
higher parts all now lightly powdered over with snow; this  
lower level may be white perhaps for a week or so during the  
course of the season. We feel the cold here very much & the  
people themselves seem to us to be all curled up by it:  
the last Canadian houses, Canadian fires & Canadian wraps: so do we also.