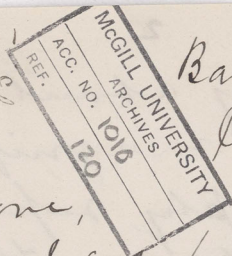


I shall probably
not be able to
write a line to
you till I am
from the woods
but shall bid
the man in
to letters in
the course of
a few days



Banff Springs
July 31st 1888

Dearst Love,

I got back to Banff late last evening and found Mr Beath here to my great satisfaction. He brought me no less than six letters from you all of which by someones stupidity had been detained at Winnipeg. My telegram too reached me this morning and I am delighted to learn of you all being well

My trip to the coast was on the whole a very enjoyable one though rather short considering how much there is to be seen. On the way back I stopp'd over a day at "glacier" and had an excellent opportunity of seeing the glacier and surrounding hills

The scenery about glaciers is simply magnificent and I was amply repaid for remaining there. There is a charming little hotel there which I had almost to myself. There were only three other guests and they very congenial ones - one a Rev Mr Green whom I had previously met on the train and who is a cousin of Sir Robert Ball and a noted mounted climber. He and his cousin Rev Mr Sparrow have been commissioned by the Geographical Society to make a survey of some of the mountains and glaciers here. They are delighted with the scenery and think that in some respects it is finer than anything in the Alps. There was also at

glacim a Mr Jennings who had just come from Japan and who was for some time on the geological survey of Australia. It is astonishing how many nice people one meets out here and if I were only a bachelor and had not such strong attractions at home I should be perfectly happy here. I have "nobnobbed" with all sorts of swells including several Colonels and generally succeed in making the acquaintance and even having the friendships of the people who are best worth knowing.

I need not say that I was glad to find Mr Leath here. We have spent a good deal of time talking over coal business today, and now that I have

a definite idea with regard to what he wants I feel quite like attacking the work with a will; but I feel that it may take longer than I anticipated. I am going off up the valley day after to-morrow and am going to take Mr. Beath's two sons with me. They are nice boys (18 & 16) and very eager to accompany me. We are going on horseback & have engaged a droll little Dutchman as our guide, cook & general servant. The same little villain (for that I believe he is) was out in the mountains here with Hector & Palliser more than 30 years ago. We are going to take camping outfits and may

be away only 3 or 4 days, but possibly as long as two weeks. Everything will depend upon what we see when we get out and upon whether we can stand the flies and mosquitos which are said to be worse than they have been for years. Mr. Scarth will not go with us, but may join us in the course of a few days.

I think I told you in my last letter that the C. P. R. people wanted me to examine some rocks for them in British Columbia. I should rather like to do so, but it remains to be seen whether I shall get through with the present work in time.

I have been busy ^{Wednesday afternoon} to-day making

preparations for the woods &
 hope to get off to-morrow.
 Mr. Search has bought three
 horses and is looking for two
 more as it is really cheaper
 to buy horses here and sell
 them at a sacrifice than
 to hire. One has to pay 5 dollars
 a day for a pony that can
 be bought for \$35 or \$40.00.
 The delays here are simply
 maddening when one is really
 anxious to get work done.
 Of course it is very lovely
 and very pleasant here, but
 nothing can repay me for
 the loss of a summer with my
 wife and little ones. But I
 must not complain. How
 many would be thankful for

7
such a trip as I am having!
No doubt too it will do me good
physically and render me
a less irritable husband and
father when I return.

Poor dear! You seem to
have your hands more
than full and it is a pity
that other people cannot
look after their own babies
without troubling you. I hope
our own little ones have been
good and have not given
you unnecessary worry.

What Laura writes with
regard to Mr Coll is not
encouraging and I fear I
shall be driven to selling the
farm. Meantime however I do
not distress myself about the

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matter as I feel that I have done
everything in my power to have things
go smoothly

I am going in Sunday here every
day and really think that he
is better than when I first came
He certainly looks better and seems
to have a very good appetite
He intends to remain here as
long as he continues to improve
and it would be hard for him
to find a more salubrious place.
The air is generally dry and loaded
with the most delicious of pine
perfumes.

As my stay here is likely to be
prolonged I send a cheque for \$50
payable to Hamilton. If you need
the money send the cheque to Hamilton
and he will cash it for you and
send you the notes by registered
letter. From Victoria I sent you a cheque
for \$100 for your father, his part due
August 1st. Kindly let me know if it reached you.
With all love Tom and B.

Tell Conrad that I liked his sweet
little message very much and thank
Edith and Ruth for their letters which I shall
try to answer soon.