

86 Boul<sup>d</sup> de Port Royal

Paris

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Acc. 976

My dear George,

I received your letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> November on the 10<sup>th</sup> of last month, & was very much interested in the account you give of that end of the Canada Pacific R. Your letter was a long time in coming, but I suppose from Victoria you can hardly time your letters to catch any particular steamer for England. I see the letter was at Hamilton, Nov. 23, & Tuesday, & so would not have long to wait for the Friday's mail. I have the advantage of you in this respect, in writing from here. All the letters from here to Canada are sent by way of England, & by the Allan line. Both

Father & I have tried to send letters by the Havre & New York route but they have always been kept & sent the other way. The postage has now been reduced to 45 centimes for 15 grammes ( $\frac{1}{2}$  oz.), & I hope there will also be a reduction in the other direction.

We had an examination on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of last month, on Applied Mechanics, the subjects being the internal forces produced in loaded beams, & the distribution of the pressure over a section of a vertical column, in all kinds of cases. This is Collignon's subject. The examination was an oral one & I obtained 16 out of 20 which was as much as I could have expected to get. All our examinations are oral, & we have four during the session which are called partial examinations, & in the spring we have exams in all the subjects again. The session ends about the 20<sup>th</sup> May. I would be very glad to hear from you in regard to the "missions" or field-work on which we can

employ ourselves during the summer & if we wish. ~~##~~ They talk at home of my coming out in the spring, & if I do so, it might be better to get some work in Canada, & wait till the succeeding summer before going upon a "mission" here.

In regard to what you say about rough surveying, I wonder if anything has been published about the way in which Livingstone conducted his surveys in Africa? It would be interesting to know how he managed & perhaps useful hints might thus be obtained. I cannot think of any one else at present who would be likely to have paid much attention to this subject, unless it were in connection with military expeditions. I am afraid in such a case everyone has to look to his own readiness in inventing expedients; & I am sure in this, that no one would be more likely to succeed than you would.

As you see I have changed my address. My reason was that I found my other room too large to keep comfortably warm; also here I have the benefit of the company of two medical students who are very nice fellows.

We are having very mild, & cloudy weather. The sun seldom shines & everything is always damp. There is not much rain, however; & on the whole it is not unpleasant.

I am getting along very comfortably with my work, & do not find any difficulty with the French now, except in the way of technical terms, which I find very hard to remember. We are at present occupied with a profile & cross sections from which we are to calculate the earthwork required for a road of given grades.

We did not get many holidays at this season. Only Christmas day, & the last & first days of the two years, three days in all; but still it was a change from our work. The custom here is to send cards to all ones friends by post instead of paying visits. It makes a very busy time of it at the Post offices.

With much love, & wishing you a Happy New Year,

Believe me

Your affectionate brother

William.