

Toronto.
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My dearest George,

I dare say you will be somewhat surprised at receiving another letter from me here, but it really is too nice to leave in a hurry. This letter will be a Niagara letter, for every thought & idea of my mind is surrounded up here that one word "Niagara".

We left (that is Mrs W. James & I) left Toronto on Monday morning at 7^{1/2} by boat down over the Lake to Niagara town & then up the river to Louis- town on the American side. There was an excursion on board & dancing went on vigorously notwithstanding the early hour. It was such fun to watch them. At Louis town we disembarked. I waited some little time for the stage, then

Very
good & amusing
letter
Trip to Niagara
1870 (?)

said softly to me "Parley Francis"
This was the end of his ideas.
We took the train to Manchester
which is the town on the Amer-
ican side of the falls, &
then lunch basket in hand
proceeded to Goat Island &
the 3 sister islands. Goat is
the first & largest connected
with the main land by a
small suspension bridge, which
brings one the rushing surging
rapids. This Island & indeed
all of them are covered with
thick woods, & some of the
trees are magnificent. One
beech & one Elm particularly
so. If it were not for the
paths cut through the woods
one might suppose themselves
in the forest primordial, how
it retains all the luxuriant
wildness of nature, when such
crowds of people resort there it
is difficult to imagine, from
Goat Island a small sus-
pension bridge leads to the
first of the sister islands, &

when it appeared there was
a rush, we scrambled in
but notwithstanding our hurry
we were the last, Mrs W &
I tumbled into seats & Jamie
stood looking doubtfully at
about six inches of seat which
was all that remained for her,
however a sunny faced young
man sitting at the other side
of the space just put his
arm half round her drew her
down beside him, I said cheerily
just you sit down along
side of me & I'll take care of you
as far as I go - you should
have seen poor Jamie's face
as she sat still trying to make
herself as small as possible.

Kingston

Montreal

Rue de Laoye July 2nd

Here I at last get a moment
again, to go on with my long
interrupted letter. I will again
take up the thread of my nar-
rative where I left off --

This cheerful young man next

fixed his eyes on me & after a long look said - "Are you from Scotland?" - "No - Ireland?" - "No - Canada?" - "Yes - Born there?" - "Yes - What part?" - These questions followed each other with inconceivable rapidity, at this last my sense of the ludicrous quite overcame me & instead of replying, I just turned my head away & laughed. I really c'd not help it. This behaviour a little disconcerted my friend, but he proceeded to explain - "You must not be offended" said he, at my asking you these questions, but when I'm with a person I always like to know their mind." I laughed on silently he went on "I'm from Montreal" "Indeed?" I replied I should have thought you came from the States." He did not seem to see the sarcasm. & I declined to answer any more keeping my head resolutely turned away, even when he

& every where up & down the
Canadian shore the impression
deepened & strengthened. I assure
you I blush for you every time
I think of how contemptuously
you spoke of "the falls". We
stayed all night at the Victoria
Hotel such a beautifully clean
comfortable place, & only \$2.00 a
day. In morning went to
Streets Islands which are on the
Canadian rapids & are connected
by bridges, full of walks & view
places, & some are more like a
realization of an Arabian nights
^{pleasure ground} garden than anything else, they
are private property but any one
can obtain the key by giving
their card to Mr Street's steward
& promising not to touch any
thing, such generosity shines with
peculiar lustre at the falls,
where paying is the order of the
day at most sights.

few minutes, he brought me
I looks from him, select a
dear girl to get them for me
& all marked, so that I can
know just which parts I
liked. It makes me long for
her so, my dearest friend -
Her eye will be quite like the other
not in the least disfigured, but
in the sunshine she can scarcely
see at all with it, so that
the sight is quite good - The
crystalline lens has been injured
in some way.

Our house down here is
unusually good I hope, but
so far the place does not seem
anything very wonderful, the
view from the windows is
but, the only bathing place is
long long way off. On that
that the drives are quite
expect - Mamma says I
I have seen so many things
to say, but the sea is so

We arrived at Toronto late
Tuesday evening, & I had a
few more days there. One of
which I spent at the McTearns
on Saturday I left for Kingston
& stayed with the Allens till
the next Tuesday. They have
a lovely place on the Lake,
& beautiful old fashioned
house, 5 daughters & one grown
up son at home, Mr A's hobby
is his garden & he has just
loads (I use the word advis-
ably) of fruit. I was taken
to see the Arsenal & the Pen-
itentiary & for a row on the
Lake. These being the sights of
Kingston. I made the acquaintance
of Miss D. Allen a sister of Mr Allen
which was the principal object
of my visit, she certainly is in
the highest acceptation of the term
a "diamond" you cannot fail to
perceive that she really lives in

the conscious presence of Christ
I saw him joyfully in every-
thing. She & I had some long
talks, & she helped me a great
deal with some things that
puzzled me. I left early on
Tuesday morning all by my lones
but made friends with a
small child of 14, who was
also alone, & who was the most
wonderfully independent & am-
y woman, & she seemed to know
so well about everything, that
I did exactly as she told me &
found it all right. The 1000
isles are most lovely, I man-
aged to snatch a few hasty
sketches as we passed. Shoot-
ing the rapids I found rather
lame. - I was only at home
a few days & they were busy
over, full of packing & shopping
& the weather was very warm.
I saw Agred just far a

second & third bridge leads ² to
the two other islands between
each are the most wonder-
ful rapids worth going
hundreds of miles to see even
if there were no falls. & from
the last & smallest sister
the whole rapids are seen
the gazer being stationed in
their very midst, there we
found the typical American
party, with their backs to
the falls, playing cards.
There are no words to convey
to your mind the idea of
the sublime beauty of these
immense rapids the pre-
tentious islands firmly
anchored in their midst &
the trees growing in the
most grotesque & fantastic
shapes, here bending back
scornfully from the rushing
water & there trailing their
boughs, in the hurrying ^{waves}

We lunched there & then

retraced our steps to the Am-
erican shore, by the lower
side of Goat Island (we had
come by the higher) & caught
glimpses here & there of the
falls, & finally the full view
of the American fall which
is a straight even fall, like
a huge mill fall - then
down the shore ever seeing
new beauties to the crew sus-
pension bridge, it took us
about an hour to cross it, for
so enchanting was the sight
that we had to stop & gaze &
gaze, the light-bridge too, over
the vast chasm swaying sen-
sibly when carriages passed
over, was delightful - I can
assure you that my vastest
dream was far far from
even the dawning of the reality
it seemed to take mine soul
right out of I away from mine
self - I lost the very idea
of my being, & seemed just
part of the glory of beauty before me.