

Riviere du Somp
Sat. June 20th 1905

Dear Sois

I am certainly at a disadvantage in writing to someone who does not write to me.

I am longing for a letter. But we are tied up here a third of the way along Lac St. Pierre.

There is such a strong wind that we are afraid to go out with our things - although we made a tour of inspection this morning with the canoe light.

I don't know what to say, so I will have to tell you what we've been doing.

I sent you a post-card from Sorel. Up to there we had the most beautiful weather.

We crossed the river at Sorel and had lunch on a sandy beach on the opposite side.

Then we started and picked our way between several islands at the upper end of the Lake. There was a beautiful wind and current.

Kugh had the covering for a mattress

which he had intended to fill with straw and sleep on. We took this and pinned up the side which was split and used it for a sail.

The day before we used a bath towel for the main sail and a dish-towel for the top-sail.

The best time that we are sure of having made was $9\frac{1}{4}$ miles in an hour.

The current was about $\frac{1}{2}$ miles an hour and so with the sail and paddles we made about $5\frac{1}{4}$ miles an hour. It felt more like running a rapid than anything else.

Well! as I started out to say we ran, after lunch, between islands which were sometimes only about thirty yards wide, and were very pretty indeed especially as we were going so quickly that we didn't see the bald-spots.

(Excuse the mess, but the butter was boiling in the sun and had to be attended to.)

In some way the country was quite wild. As we were passing Bear Island Hugh ~~at~~ thought he saw a bear but when

we got out the telescope we couldnt tell whether it was a bear or a moose and when it made a noise like a bull and as the current and wind were too strong, we got scared and didnt go back

It wasnt quite so nice when we got out on the Lake as the wind and waves became rather difficult. However the canoe acted very well and we didnt ship a cup-full.

Its a frightful place though.

You couldnt find a bit of land 10 feet above the water if you tried - and most of it is ~~rock~~ a fire.

We were tired and thought we'd never find a place to pitch a tent.

The shores of the river are of the worst kind of mud and there are many carcasses of animals which have come down to drink and been unable to crawl back again to safety.

We have been tied up here all day with too big a wind and sea to paddle

I'll be greatly pleased when we leave
See St Pierre.

It is raining now (after tea) in my hurry
to get things into the tent I stepped on your
letter. Please use a rubber on it before you
look at it. It is getting dark and probably
we will not wait long enough in Three
Rivers for me to be able to copy this out.

I suppose this means a change of weather
the wind is shifting to the North & it looks
as if we would be able to travel tomorrow.

Of course everyone here speaks French
and you should hear us.

We have about 4 set sentences which
we use on everyone.

If it were not for Hugh's mosquito
netting I think we would both have
died the last couple of nights. Luckily
there are no mosquitoes on the water.

The old lady here thought we were
thieves in disguise when we came but when
I went up and bought a quart of milk and
admired the children she thought we were all
right. Well piles of the best of everything
to you and love from ~~St Pierre~~ ^{St Pierre}

Rivière du Loup

June 20th 1908

Dear Mother

We are camped in a horrible place just now on a river called du Loup. Of course it is not the one you are familiar with as a summer place. It is about a quarter of the way along Lac St Pierre and the banks are very low.

We have to stay here on account of strong winds.

The camping places are few and some distance apart on Lac St Pierre as the banks are so very low.

We are camped on a farmer's land just beside a very small river.

Everyone speaks French and it is almost hard to write English with three generations of them sitting on a log and watching to see how long my fountain pen will run.

I showed them the inside of it at

Hugh's suggestion, and they were quite interested. They wanted to know if my pen cost 25 cts. I said \$1⁵⁰ so that they would believe me.

We had a couple of great days but are very anxious to get out of here.

There have been strong south-west winds on our backs all the time and we have been expecting rain.

We thought the wind would blow a tent over last night, but it didn't, and the thunder-storm passed to the south of us, only giving us enough to make us bring all our things into the tent.

If the wind will only drop a little we will leave here at about 5 or 6 o'clock this evening and paddle for two or 3 hours, going perhaps 4 mls an hour.

The best speed we made and probably will make was $9\frac{1}{4}$ miles in an hour.

That was yesterday when we had wind

and current behind us and ~~over~~^a mattress
case up for a sail. Is a mattress-case called
ticks? I don't know. Anyway it is about
3 feet wide by 5 ft long.

If we had a large boat it would be a
grand day to go down the lake but there
is too much wind for us.

It is nearly all shoal water near the land
and I am afraid of getting it so shallow that
the waves will follow one another so closely
that the canoe cannot rise and fall quickly
enough. The canoe acts very well.

It is at its best however when it has
as much load as we started with.

Otherwise it is pretty high out of the
water and is rather hard to manage
in a strong wind.

Yesterday we took the canoe and went
in for a swim. The canoe seemed very safe
as far as turning over ~~over~~ goes.

I could lean over and let it ship
water quite freely and then it was

easy to right it again

I suppose you got our telegram all right from Soel yesterday. I sent one to Mrs Beck and one to you.

Yesterday evening we got a quart of fresh milk for the first time on our trip.

I discovered (hence) however that Hugh does not drink milk except with coffee so I had to make away with it all myself.

Today I had to do the same with the aid of a dandelion stalk.

I don't suppose that we can spend more than 50^{cts} a day between us.

We have eaten one can of chicken and have opened the can of marmalade and half a dozen eggs and a little sausage. But of course we had the sandwiches the first day. I don't think we'll need much at

orebee

Hugh's mosquito netting is our salvation. You may pick out one of Norman Barber's expressions for adding a letter and put it here if you like from loving son Edwin.

Canoe Trip



June 20.



Miss Lois S. Harrington
Little Metis
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NEW METIS
JUL 1 1888
QUEBEC