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May
1877

Kanulooops B.C.
May 27. 1877.

My dear Father,

I hope to leave here tomorrow morning on my way Southwards, with a few pack & riding animals & three men, a packer, an Indian, & a white man called Douglas. There are so many routes through this open & lightly timbered country that I am scarcely able to say exactly how I am going so. At present, however, my plan is to visit the Nicola Valley & make a somewhat careful examination of the rocks there, with those of the Douglas Valley which opens Eastward from it. Next to go Southward

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towards Similkameen & Hope,
making the latter place my turning
point, & returning to the Nicola
Valley by another trail. Thence I
may go down the Nicola Valley,
striking the Wagon Road at the
junction of the Nicola & Thompson
& from there possibly going north
as far as Marble Cañon & Clinton
before returning to Kamloops.

Much is of course provisional, &
I may change the route if by doing
so I can cover the ground better.

It will be at least a month before
I get back to Kamloops, which will
be my Centre during the summer.

There are then two other expeditions
to make, one towards Okanagan,
& the second, by Canoe, on the

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South Thompson & Shushwap Lake. There may probably occupy the remainder of the summer, as I do not intend to hurry along where there is anything of interest to examine. During my first trip I will be in the vicinity of Settlements or Scattered Settlers. There are now seven parties scattered along the proposed C.P.R. route from Burrard Inlet to Fort James Cache, by the Fraser & Thompson Rivers, & a complete location line will be surveyed before autumn, which there seems much probability will be the one ultimately selected. I met Mr Caubie going down to Victoria, when I was on the way up. He is going in a few weeks up the coast to the Mouth of the Skeena & Nass Rivers, & will so then inland by Canoe to Skeena Forks & then explore Southward to Francors Lake. The object is to exhaust the possible railway route by an examination of this, the only one now remaining unsurveyed. It is supposed that the result both as to harbour & route will be unfavourable, & that it will not be thought worth while ~~to~~ to make any instrumental survey of the route. When we met ~~Mr~~ Mr Caubie, we found him very anxious that Wallace, one of the Surveyors on the Stage, should get up at once to join his party, which was waiting at Kamloops

for him & the instruments he was conveying. Arrangements had been made for an "extra" from Cache Creek to the lower end of Kawloops Lake, & a remarkably diminutive little steamer familiarly known as "the Pup" was waiting there to take him up to Kawloops. Glad to escape the usual delay at Cache Creek I hailed myself also of the "extra" & on arriving at Kawloops at 1 A.M. we found the party (Mr. Party) all on board the larger steamer, & ready to start at any moment. Hearing that there was likely to be some difficulty in providing me with animals, I wrote a note to Ross, in charge of Gunnison's herd, & decided to go up the N. Thompson in the steamer & return. The steamer only makes

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occasional trips as business requires
so the chance was not likely to
occur again. I did not get a chance
of ~~long summer~~ examining the
rocks but saw the general character
of the River up as far as Clearwater
Mouth, which is practically the head
of navigation. There is a deposit of
Coal about forty miles up the river
which if I get time I must try to
visit before autumn.

The weather is very fine here now,
Summer-like but not excessively
warm.

With love to all,

Yours affectionately Son

George