



S. M. D.
Skidegate, Queen Charlotte Ids.

July 24. 1878.

Dear Father,

Having arrived at a little trading post, or rather station for dog-fishing & the manufacture of oil, we find a small sloop on the point of sailing for Victoria, & take the opportunity of writing a few lines to let you know that we are well & where we are.

No news from home has reached us since leaving Victoria & there is no chance of our hearing anything till we reach Fort Simpson, which may be some time next month. We have now completed a running

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Survey along the Railroad from near
the South End of the Islands to this
place. The shore has proved very complicated
a maze of inlets & islands
occupying much time in examining
even imperfectly. The geology is
interesting enough, though no points of
special importance have occurred
yet. All the fossils hitherto obtained
are Mesozoic, but appear to be
of two horizons. The highest that of the
Coal bearing rocks, the lower perhaps
Triassic or somewhere in that
vicinity. I must not, however, occupy
all my time in giving geological
notes. — The weather has proved
not quite so bad as some accounts

(3)

would lead me to suppose, though quite wet enough at times, & seldom too warm or dry. Of late it has been considerably improved & I hope it may continue to us work goes on so much faster.

I will probably remain here a
^{July 1} week, & may be in the vicinity for a longer time should I decide to visit a few places on the west coast via the Skidegate Strait. If ten days or
^{July 7} a fortnight brings all this to a conclusion, ^{July 14} less than a week should see us round at Masset. Two weeks should see us through about the North End of the Island, & we may then probably make our way to Fort Simpson, & set out on

(4)

Our way Southward, with time to spend
on the N. end of Vancouver Island
whether admit. Our Commandy course,
however, must in keeping fixed dates,
we calculate the time necessary
for the Southward trip. Should this
reach safely it will be by a lucky
chance & no opportunity may occur
of sending a mail to us
are nearly back to Vancouver, at
least.

Penikese is well, & now occupied
in writing at some length to Mother, so
that you may here now read them
contained in this short note.

With love
your affectionate Son
George