

McGill College.
Montreal.

William

Sat. Ev. 31, '80.

My dear Father,

I have received your letter of the 29th in which you enclose \$5⁰⁰. Rankine left me the servants wages, and also a few dollars for current expenses. I paid them to-day, as they wished to do some shopping. They intend to leave on Tuesday morning, but will have nothing to do after to-morrow, as the house is now in order. Hamilton is attending to the garden, and will also see to the box of which you forwarded Hill of Ladrig. He requires no money at present. You will see a letter of Rankine's in

he has arranged to have the expense of the survey paid to him in advance by the Company which is a very necessary precaution. The payment is to be made to-day or Monday. On the principle of "honour among thieves" I think I may trust him for my share in the enterprise, as those of the same profession generally stand by one another. However, I will not likely have to risk more than a month's work in any case, ^{before receiving something.} The surveys will probably extend over two months at least. The position is a more subordinate one than I might have wished, but I think I will have reason to be satisfied with it. One of the first operations is to ^{ascertain} measure the exact width of the River by triangulation from a base ~~at La~~ to be measured at Longueuil. Where every foot in the length of the tunnel involves an outlay of several hundred dollars, it is of course a

to-nights "Witness," describing the Canal and
he has passed there.

I gave in my plan of the Cote
St. Antoine Drainage Scheme, accompany-
ed by an Estimate, and a letter de-
scribing and explaining the main
points in the system I recommend.
As they would allow me nothing for
taking the levels, I have asked that
the Profiles be returned to me, which
the Secretary has consented to do.

The profiles are of course an essential
element in the scheme; and I have
taken care not to indicate on the
plan any of the information which
they contain. In this way I hope
to retain a hold of the matter, in
case it is decided to carry out my
scheme. The plan naturally has
much more of appearance about it
than they have. The only competitor
I know of, is the firm of Bulman &
Halbank. Our plans will be sub-

was submitted to the Council on Monday and probably referred to committee.

Mr. Shunly called at my office yesterday, with Mr. Plunkett who has been on work with him before. He explained the nature of the work to be done, which is of course only a preliminary survey in that the mean time; but as he said, if I have a hand in it, I would be more likely to hold a position on the actual work if carried out. He offered me \$150 ^{per} a month, and wished to have the use of my office, for which he is willing to allow me something in addition. I have accepted his offer as I think it will be of advantage to me in the long run; the work is of a very interesting kind from the outset; and I think also there is something to be gained from a connection with Mr. Shunly, as he seems admitted to be a capable and reliable man. I understand that

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matter of some nicety. The levels established at different points on this side will also have to be carried across to Longueuil.

This morning Mr Plunkett & I went down to the Harbour Office to obtain what information we could as to soundings & so on. We afterwards took lunch together at Alexander's. He seems a very agreeable person, and not wanting in energy although he has a somewhat easy-going manner, and spoke to Mr Peterson, whom we met there, of what we had been doing at the Harbour Office in the way of turning-over a few charts, as "hard work". He did seem to regret that there was nothing stronger than soda-water to be had; but it is fortunate at any rate that he does not indulge in the profanity which is so common amongst engineers. He has been in Montreal before, some

ten years ago; and recognized Mr Lewis who came in while we were there. He does not much like the idea of boring in winter, as he has done enough of it to know how unpleasant it is, & therefore would like to set about it at once. Mr Shandy on his part, is anxious that none of the holes are put through the roof of the tunnel, as they might afterwards prove awkward. On Monday, we are to examine the approach at the Hochelaga end which is the more difficult of the two.

I heard to-day that a tender, some ^{one} hundred dollars lower than mine, has been accepted for the Longueueve Reserve Survey. I am sorry for the Govt & the Indians, as it is easy to plant land-marks more or less at random. For myself, I am quite satisfied, as it would now be in my way. I would have been held liable to do the work had my tender

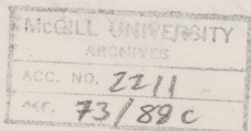
been accepted; and I would not have made more out of it for the time it took, than I can now offered by Mr Shively; unless by the use of expeditious methods I succeeded in finishing it in less time than I counted on; while on the other hand there was the risk of wasting much time in determining some of the points on account of the extremely imperfect nature of the information to be had as to the position of the true boundaries I allowed for this as well as possible in my estimate.

I give on the back a list of letters &c. which have arrived.

With love to Mother and the children, I remain,

Your affectionate son,

William.



N. Y. Academy of Sciences.

Request for back vol^s of the
"Canadian Naturalist," and "Annual
Reports. Nat. Hist. Soc."

Smithsonian Institution

Promise of plans to be sent shortly.

Parcel of books by express from Albany.

Mineral Specimens from Colorado.

From Dawson's.

"British Copepoda," Brady.

Vol. 34 "Palaeont. Soc. Society."

Pamphlet called "Between Field Naturalists
Club;" compliments of W. H. Haring-
ton, Assistant Secretary.

Mr. Sedgwick knows of the vacancy
at Windsor, having heard of it
from Spencer.

I enclose a letter to George which
was enclosed to Kunkin.