

Portobello ^{William} St ~~one~~

Monday Oct. 17, 1881.

My dear Father,

I have received your letter of the 9th inst. and also the "Sunday Magazine" & "Records" for which I am much obliged. With respect to my prospects, I may say that I am very well satisfied with my present position in the mean time. Topographical Engineering is by no means to be despised; there is considerable ingenuity required in devising the best methods of conducting the work and of meeting the various difficulties that present themselves. The amount of my salary I consider also as very fair, and I will no doubt be able to save something of it. What I most dislike about it, is its apparent connection with the Geological Survey, as this is sufficiently out of my line to be of some disadvantage to my prospects as a Civil Engineer. I have no objection to do any work of a Strategic or Mining character that may

left Montreal; ~~and~~ but I may take it for granted that it requires the first year after making a change, before one is really "even" with his surroundings and can make a fair start. I forwarded a draft for \$69⁰⁰ to my landlord the last time I was in N' York. The amounts for succeeding quarters will not likely be so heavy but I have to keep them in view. My finances however are in a satisfactory position, as I have some \$550 to my credit in the Savings Bank, and I will be able, I think, to add to this in the autumn; I only mean that I am not likely to be able to save much this first year, although I fully recognise ~~to~~ the importance of doing so, and intend to be economical, as far as is reasonable. As to my not having an employment worthy of me, there are few people perhaps, who have the opportunity ~~of~~ in this world of exercising all the capacities they possess. It is equally true that very many are

come in any way, or be of use in connection with the work; but I would wish it to be distinctly understood that this Survey is independent of the Geological Survey although collateral with it. I am thinking of having some writing paper headed "Topographical Survey of the Nova Scotia Gold Field" with my own name also appearing on it. I think this would be to my advantage as defining my position, and I do not think Dr. Selwyn could have any objection to it, as I mentioned to him to begin with, that I did not wish to be considered as belonging to the Geological Survey Staff. It is not likely, I suppose, that the Government would consent to my putting several parties in the field, on the ground of expense. If I am to carry on this work single-handed it will take 15 or 20 years to finish it, so that I may fairly consider it to be a permanent, as I am not likely to wish to continue it for that length of time. The interest of

the work increases, however, as it goes on. I have already divided the gold field of the Province into 52 sheets on a small scale map, the sheets being 16 miles by 12 miles, a convenient size for the scale I intend to use. There will also be plans of the Mining Districts, on the same size of sheet, but to a larger scale. If three sheets of the General Map are published annually it will be a very fair rate of progress. Many of them, of course, include a large area of beam which is unworkable.

What has been most against me these last few years has been the number of changes that I have found it necessary to make. A rolling stone gathers no moss. I feel therefore that it will be most to my advantage to keep to my present work for a few years, unless I can exchange it for something really permanent. I am still at a disadvantage financially from having

in positions in which they are expected to do a great deal more than they are capable of; but these people are usually misplaced, and have a talent for something else; so that after all they are prevented from making use of the faculties they do possess. The intellect no doubt suffers to some extent, unless it can find occupations for itself independent of those which are forced upon it, ~~But~~ and which may be to a large extent beneath its capacity. But there remains the moral and spiritual part of our nature, which is whose cultivation and training is of infinitely more importance than that of our intellect. The whole of God's providential dealings seems to have this end in view. There is probably not a passing cloud or a shower of rain which has not in it the immediate design of turning men from evil to good; and with those who are specially his own children, God's dealings are much more direct and clear.

opportunity. We do not say that the ruler sh^d.
never make a great supper, or that wed-
ding garments should not be worn at wed-
ding feasts, or that the fruits of the earth
sh^d. not be enjoyed in due season. But
what of rivalry in costly entertainments; &c &c.
--- "Is there no danger of our forgetting that
these are not of the Father but of the
world? — of our ceasing practically to de-
clare that we are strangers on the earth,
and that we seek a better country, even
a heavenly?"

The question of clothes has its place in
connection with the question of influence over
others. It seems to be the opinion of the
best men that there is nothing to be gained
by being eccentric or peculiar; and that
what is saved by carrying economy in dress
to an extreme is more than lost in other
and more important directions. The best
economy is secured by being careful of things,

He does seem to expect them to recognise this, and to understand that all he sends them is intended to fit them for that inheritance which he is preparing for them. I am sure you understand this much better than I do; I merely mention it now by way of excuse for my not being more anxious about my outward prospects and advancement; for I find so much evil in my nature, and that, too, so deeply rooted, that I am only too thankful for whatever means my heavenly Father sees fit to employ to free me from it. There are many plants which his grace has planted in my heart, and which I am every now and then so careless as to trample upon, and throw back in their development; and I am beginning to realize that the importance of their growing up and bearing fruit to his glory, as compared with anything else that can possibly happen to me in this

this, world. Material prosperity is perhaps more of
is a trial and a temptation than one would be
which apt to suppose if he were to judge by the
eagerness with which many persons pursue it,
and the risks, physical, mental and moral, which
they run to attain to it. On the other hand
one should not shrink from responsibility or
advancement if it ~~comes~~ seems right to enter
upon it. I have been much impressed by
an address by Dr. Mc Kay of Belfast, delivered
before the Methodist Ecumenical Conference,
which is reported in the "Christian". It is en-
titled "Modern Perils to Christian Life". "Our
and dangers", Dr. Mc Kay says, "are those incident
to external prosperity, material wealth, advan-
ed social position and influence, and the
respectability that attaches to these things in
our own eyes and in the eyes of the world
around us." And again, "Is there not so
dangers from conforming to the ^{fashion of the} world in another
way? We do not plead for eccentric sin =

and not destroying them prematurely by exposing them to conditions ~~for~~ which they are not suited to withstand. What I dislike most about dress, is the conventional-
ity that attaches to it, and which puts so much distance between different people, accord-
ing to the texture of their coat and not on the basis of their real worth. I suppose, however, that a gentleman should be able to associate with everyone from his own rank downward, and upward too perhaps. This is the advantage of being a gentleman, and a great advantage it is so far as influence is concerned, although it seems to entail the condition of being well-dressed. The best antidote to the restraints of dress is probably a thorough knowledge of the conventionalities of life combined with a frank open manner. A person thus armed would be able to move in any society without embarrassment and to associate with those beneath him

without any appearance of condescension. It is by aiming at these attainments and not by discarding the usual description of dress, that ones influence would probably be the most usefully extended. These are the preliminaries, the negative requirements. There must also be a true love, and an honest respect, for those around us; and a self-forgetful desire to be of service to them; before one can be truly prepared to commence the use of those methods which earthly, or heavenly wisdom may suggest. There are many points in the relation of dress to influence that I do not yet clearly understand, but I think these views are sound so far as they go. You will excuse my going into these details: these questions were all opened up in your letter, and I am endeavouring to see how far I understand them that I may know in which direction my deficiencies chiefly lie.

The weather continues variable; somewhat broken; at times cold. I hope to complete the Waverley District this autumn, and have now probably the work brought up to the edge of it. It will be more convenient to stay here for a few days longer, however, before moving to Waverley Village.

I would like to have a copy of Isaac Watts Complete Works (poetical). The evenings are now long, and I have more time for reading. I am specially anxious to have a reliable edition, with critical readings if possible. People take such liberties with his hymns especially, that I would like to be able to know what his own words were. The "Globe" edition is very trustworthy, if Watts is in its series. Perhaps you would be kind enough to see if she could find what I want, and let me know the cost. She is the "literatense" of the family.

I will endeavour to give you a list of

persons to whom I would like the Paper on
the Parry Reservoir sent. I am not certain
that I can do much in that way without
referring to some papers I have left in H' care.

I have found an odd volume of Mac-
aulay here, and have been reading his account
of the events succeeding the Reformation down to
the Restoration. It is amusing to see his
estimate of the character of particular parties,
and of national character, and to compare
it with the opinion which these people have
of themselves. He is remarkably fair to
all parties, I think; although he hardly
does justice to the Puritans, perhaps.

Your affectionate son,

William.