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H'fax. 6-3-'82.

My dear Father,

Another change in the kaleidoscope of events. At a caucus held last week the majority of the House decided against the continuance of this Topographical Survey; and as a consequence the ~~govt~~ at a recent council meeting have concluded not to put in an item ~~for~~ to meet its expense next ~~year~~ season, although it is intended to complete this seasons work. Mr Holmes regrets this step, I think sincerely; he wishes to persuade

the Don: got to assume the whole  
expense; but it is more than doubt-  
ful whether he will succeed in this.  
This decision takes me somewhat by  
surprise, as I had thought from the  
tone of the editorial which I forwarded  
to you that the question was  
practically settled. The members  
appear to take a very local view  
of the matter from what I could  
learn; as of course I do not con-  
descend to any lobbying in the  
matter. Mr. Gilpin has been trying  
to impress some of the members  
with the importance of this work;  
but he now looks upon it as a  
"bone case" as he himself said.



The budget is to come up to-day; & if the Govt are not defeated on it, Mr Holmes assures me of enough money to carry on the work to the 15<sup>th</sup> of June, making up the full year, ~~if I wish to~~ I am not sure that I will need so much time; but I would like to finish <sup>the</sup> ~~a~~ sheet of the sketch at which I have been working as a sample of the work. I completed one of the plans before the New Year which was laid before the House.

I will see Mr Blunkett when he returns on the 15<sup>th</sup>, & if he does not make me a definite offer, I will begin to look round for something else to do. It seems pretty

certain that the N.S. R'y Co intend  
to set to work at once, as they had  
already paid in a sum of £52,000  
as guarantee before the bill passed;  
and in every way they appear to  
be in earnest. They are also anxious  
to develop the mineral resources  
of the Province. I will try to remember  
to speak of this to Mr Primrose, as  
he thinks the new move a very good  
one; & I do not know whether he  
has thought of its relation to the  
iron interest. Mr Primrose is now  
in town, having come over to attend  
Mr Stirling's funeral to-day. Mr  
<sup>Smith</sup> Dawson from Victoria has arrived, &  
will stay in this house for a few  
days.

Your affectionate wife

Willina