

H'fax. 21-4-'82.

William

My dear Father,

I am very glad indeed to hear of Rankine's success in obtaining the appointment you mention, as I feel sure he is better likely to succeed in his profession than in almost any other line; & he will now have the opportunity of testing this practically for himself; and if he has plenty to do, will perhaps find that he likes it better than he thought he would.

Mr. Plunkett returned the other day from Ottawa, & leaves next

does not return to the same place  
twice, all the lying in wait for it  
has been in vain. The legs being  
torn about the neck & the bodies left  
uneaten seems to coincide with the  
habits of the wild-cat in sucking the  
blood. I enclose a sketch of one  
of the foot-prints, with its size.  
The tracks were in both directions,  
and mostly indistinct, so that I  
could not get the normal length  
of step. I should judge it to be  
nearly the weight of a Newfoundland  
dog, from the depth of the impression  
in the mud.

Fraser Torrance was in town  
the other day, & intends leaving soon  
for British Columbia. He thinks the  
construction of the Pacific R'y will  
make it possible to work mines

week (Apr. 29.) by the "Parisian". He says that everything is now satisfactorily arranged; and that he intends leaving the organization of the Engineering staff in the hands of the Chief Engineer, who will be appointed before he leaves. There is a rumour that the Engineer of the Eastern Extension will get this position; as Mr. P. was out of town yesterday, it is possible that it may prove to be correct; his not having come to any decision before returning here seeming also to point in the same direction. I have been speaking with Mr. Gilpin as to the most interesting part of the proposed lines, in case I have any choice; he considers the Cape Breton end, immediately

west of Louisburg the best; & there  
might also be some harbour work  
along with it. The section between  
Dyby & Annapolis will also be in-  
teresting as there is some heavy bridging  
there; but most of the work is al-  
ready laid out. I now consider that  
my prospects of getting something to  
do in this work are over 50 per  
cent. in probability.

Mrs Supper's hen-house was vis-  
ited by some ravenous animal the  
other evening night, which killed seven  
of her hens out of nine, & left the  
other two so ~~so~~ much injured that  
they died afterwards. This is the third  
or fourth hen-house that has been  
devastated lately. It is supposed  
to be a wild-cat; but as it al-  
ways makes a clean sweep, and

there with advantage, the chief difficulty before being the heavy cost of transport. He seems to have been somewhat injudicious in his treatment of the men under him. It is a practice in this Province to make a Justice of the Peace of <sup>some</sup> ~~every~~ leading man in each of the country districts. With this power Torrance was invested, and he appears to have gone further than the public opinion around him supported him in doing, in the thoroughness of his ~~use~~ with which he investigated every offense. He has created a feeling of dislike to him, which appears to be very general in Frazier. He suggested my accompanying him to B. C.; but I told him

that in my present circumstances  
I could not entertain anything but  
a definite offer, & could not afford  
to ~~undertake~~ any make any  
such change for prospective advan-  
tages. I merely mention this in  
case you may come across him  
when he is in Montreal, as he  
might refer to it.

I am reading the New Testament  
in Greek now in the mornings. I un-  
derstand the gospels very readily;  
I have not yet tried the Epistles in  
this way. I like Mr. Simpson (whose  
church I attend) very much. He is plain  
natural & straight forward in his manner,  
and thoughtful in the way he takes up  
any passage.

Your affectionate son,

William.