

William H'fax. May 1, 1882.

May/82

My dear Father,

I have received your very kind letter of the 23rd, and also the P.O. order enclosed, of which I have sent \$10 to Dr. Macregor as you asked. Twenty-five dollars! I hardly know how to expend them, my wants seem so well supplied as it is. I have been wanting for some time a complete set of plotting scales; those that I now have are in a very unsatisfactory condition. Purchased in this country, they are very inferior, although I have taken

attainments to which the discipline of this world is intended to bring us, everything else seems of but little relative importance. There is such urgent need of my being different from what I am; so many opportunities slip past that might be taken advantage of, if I were only prepared to do so.

I went out on Saturday P.M. with a Mr. Wrapp from Toronto to examine the different lines between Dartmouth & Windsor Junction. We drove out, & struck in across the country at one or two points to see better the position of the various lines already run. Mr. Wrapp is appointed by the Syndicate to report on the proposed lines throughout the Province, & his report will have to come before the C. before the arrangement with Mr. Plunkets will

a good deal of trouble in selecting them, and spent more upon them than a good set would have cost; so I feel quite ready to make a clean sweep, and begin de novo. I must wait till I know what I am going to do next summer, and also what my address is going to be; but I do not think there is anything more useful that I could get.

There came to-day by express a whole consignment of preserved fruits and other delicacies. Really I feel overwhelmed. I might almost arrange for a Sunday school picnic or something of that kind on the strength of it. I have not received any letter of advice with these things,

but I shall still be glad of any suggestions. My own unaided dig-
gestion is quite inadequate to the occasion; and to announce my birthday to the whole household is entirely beyond the limits which my courage can compass.

I should of course like the settled position of which you speak; but the question of what one is, is of so much more importance than of what one has or does, that I hardly think of the future with regard to my prospects, beyond endeavouring to see what ~~the~~ steps I am intended to take at present. When I think of what it is possible to become, and of the ~~the~~ short time there is in which to reach those

be finally concluded. Mr. Shuckett is in a somewhat ~~unusual~~ unusual position; he is practically a member of the Syndicate, as he has so large an interest in the Western Counties R'y & also made most of the arrangements which brought the Syndicate into existence; he is ostensibly and actually manager for the Co.; and has besides offered to build the remaining roads in the capacity of Contractor. This contract will not pass finally till the report of which I speak is sent in, ~~but~~ according to Mr. Wraffe; but Mr. Shuckett either considers himself sure of the contract, or is authorized by the Co. to take certain steps in the mean time. He is negotiating with some one to become Chief Engineer; but with regard to the work

of which he has spoken to me, he says that he will arrange with me directly, making it outside the jurisdiction of the Chief Engineer, as it is an isolated piece. I am now looking after boring tools; and Mr. P. promises to make definite arrangements with me as soon as Mr. Holmes returns. He is expected this week, and has been trying to arrange the terms on which the present R'y Co's are to give up their rights in favour of the Syndicate. In this there has been considerable difficulty, ~~to~~ which has kept Mr. H. in town longer than he had anticipated.

Your affectionate son,

William.