

Vancouver,
8 Aug. 1888.

Dearest Father,

I have received your kind letter of the 25th July, and I am much obliged for your thoughtful advice in the matter of this Vancouver position. It is still undecided, + I have the feeling now that it has been put off so long, that it may end in nothing. I am afraid however, in the advice you give me and the considerations you suggest, that you do not understand the feelings + motives that influence me the most. I find this absence from home and these separations from Florence more and more trying as time goes on;

up to our children the loss involved to them. But I do not see that this kind of thing can be put in that category. As a result of it all, the one earthly desire I still have is to obtain a settled position, and I think it will reasonably remain so, and will verge upon a duty, unless I am counted worthy at any time to take up work more directly for the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ.

I used to be accused of thinking of nothing but "Classified facts" in my younger days; and now you may think I have taken a turn in the sentimental direction. But notwithstanding, I do think that these considerations are as important and as real as any that can be met with in life.

It is hardly necessary to say how sorry both Florence & I would be to leave Montreal; but so far

and I feel besides that it is very
unfortunate for the children's sake
that I sh^d be so much away. A
child needs a father as well as a
mother; and if I am to gain and
keep the confidence of my children
I must begin when they are young.
Mr. Cambie ^{was} saying only yester-
day that ^{at one time} he had children of 7 +
8 years old that would have passed
him on the street without recognizing
him. This leads to the father of the
family being reduced to the position
of a mere bread-winner; and without
any knowledge of the inner life of
his children, how can that intimacy
and confidence grow up which is the
true basis and secret of successful
training and influence? It is not
fair to the mother either to leave
everything to her; and boys especially
need a father as well.

Ever since I first found in my

beloved Florence the fulfillment of
all the desires of my heart, it has
been very trying to me to leave her.
Perhaps the affectionate part of my
nature has been developing in the
sunshine of her love; but I feel
now as if I could hardly face
life at all if it is to consist
of these repeated and prolonged
separations. If it were for her
good or the childrens or my own I
could bear it; but instead of this
it is entirely against all our best
interests as a family. If it were
even done from some exalted motive
& with some noble object in view
in the way of benefitting our fellow
creatures, I am sure that neither
Florence nor I wd. shrink from it;
as we wd. look for something of
the spirit of the martyrs to help
us along, and we would also have
the special promises of God to make

as I can see this is now inevitable
in any case. If I remain in the
C. P. R. I may now have a good
chance for promotion; but this
would certainly be to field-work
and would take us away from
you. just as much.

Of course I cannot tell what
may be in store for me; and I
will consider carefully what you
say respecting this position. I can-
not say that I wd be particu-
larly disappointed in not getting
it, the advantages + uncertainties
seem so evenly balanced, but
I still wanted to explain to you
the point of view from which I
look at such things.

I see Van Horne has been elected
Presid^t of the C^o

Believe me to remain,

Your affectionate son,

William.

William
May 1888