

Plaster Cove Aug 28th

Dear Margaret
A few hours after my re-
turn to this place I had the great pleasure
of receiving your letter of Wednesday.
Your letters might cheer the heart of any
wanderer, though far worse off than I
am - they make me wish however to
be back beside the writer. I am delighted
to hear your good report of Miss Innes
course, I will surely find a marked defi-
ciency in time when I return.

On Tuesday morning I left this place
for Caribou or Caribacou cove (authorities
I find differ about the name). The
day was misty but not very wet.
I had a boat and two men and we
proceeded prosperously down the Strait
of Causse, touching at various places
as we proceeded. I may mention here
that there is literally no road whatever to
Caribou bay, though only about ten

Miles distant, and therefore travellers
must coast round the shore. The Strait
is about as wide as Pictou harbour,
and somewhat resembles parts of
the Clyde below Greenock. The N side
is high & sometimes rocky, the S side
lower and more mountainous.

On reaching Bear Island at the mouth
of the Strait, we found the sea and tide
so strong and boisterous that we could
not get our boat round some projecting
headlands which separate the Strait from
the Carbon Cove. We were therefore obliged
to haul up our boat in a cove where an
other boat was wintering in similar cir-
cumstances, and I left one man in
charge of it, our provisions &c, while I
went with the other on foot, by a most
wretched footpath about three miles to
Carbon. We arrived about 4 o'clock
and got lodgings in the best of half a
dozen houses in the settlement (indifferent
enough). After getting dinner, we had

time & expense about three miles of the
Coast before night. The people of the large
bay of which Canton Cove is a part are of
mixed origin, ~~and~~ all fishermen, raising little
else from the land except hay. They are
poor and generally comfortable in their mode
of life. The man with whom I lodged,
Proctor by name, is a sort of magistrate in
the settlement. His wife boasts of better days,
various members of her family being landed pro=
prietors & gentry in Britain, and her father having
been a Halifax merchant who failed and
removed her to be out of the world as she
says. Poor woman her family remembrance and
present circumstances do not well harmonise.

On Wednesday I went to a place called
Little River, about 3 miles, through swamps
and barrens, producing nothing useful ex=
cept the berries and Tujon berries. We went
to see a coal bed, but the river was too
much swollen to let us get a sight of it.
I found however that I could not do it.

again more early from Ship Harbour.
In the afternoon I visited the out-
croppings of coal in the Cove itself. I found
it much covered with mud, and as the
weather had become fine I sent off my
man to bring round the other man and
the boat so that we might begin digging
in the morning. Our boat carried ship biscuit
Beef, sugar, tea, a pot, kettle, dishes &c
as well as our digging tools, and the boat
itself was much better than any I could
hire at Caribon. They brought it over in the
evening.

By daybreak on Thursday we were at work
cooked our breakfast on the shore and by
1 o'clock had the coal uncovered, & specimens
taken out of ^{it} the other measures marked down
to us. It is a large bed ~~and~~ ^{but} the coal seems
insufficient. We dined on the shore, and
then set off for the head of the "Barren" dis-
tance 7 miles, where coal was also reported
to be found. After calling at Proctor's for

The remainder of our baggage, and coasting
along shore with the view opening the coast,
we arrived at our destination between 3
& 4. This is a much more miserable
and dreary looking place than Carillon
Cove, and an Irishman, seemingly the
most thriving man in the place, at first
refused to show us a place on his own
land where coal had been seen, unless
we would give him a "treat" and three
dollars. I however got him to show us
the place without these rewards, but it
proved valueless. Being determined not to
remain all night in such a place, I turned
our head homeward, and the weather being
calm, steered straight across the Bay to
Bear Island Point, where we entered the
same cove at which I had left the
boat on Tuesday, and after our hard
days work, slept very soundly in the sun,
Hay in the only barn in the place, the best
lodgings we could find. On Friday after

Now we get back to Plaster Cove, examining
some rocks and spearing some lobsters by the
way, I worked hard to get part of Carleton
and its descendants. The remains of my
work at River Inhabitants &c, which are
comparatively cultured places, will be
more agreeable, at least if the present good
weather continues. To day I shall amuse
myself with examining the Plaster & Limestone
about this place, and taking sketches of
the Strait. I shall not I think be de-
turned beyond the time I expected, ^{5 weeks,} & ^{perhaps}
I shall have to return by way of Antigonish
to visit my copper vein, and examine the
diggings which will be made in my absence
I shall take a horse and fly and a man
with me to River Inhabitants and shall probab-
ly be back to this place till Friday if I can re-
turn as early as Thursday evening I shall write
if not I shall try to send a letter from the river
but if I do not do not feel uneasy, but ex-
pect a letter on Wednesday week.

Your affectionate Husband
William

Monday morning — Yesterday I went
in the forenoon to a hear a preacher at
Ship Harbour. He is a painter who
came from England a few months ago
and has been working at his trade
and preaching and teaching school on Sab-
bath. He preached a good earnest, simple
discourse on ~~the~~ Rev 1, 18. His accent
showed him to be a Soudoner and from the
style of his preaching and what I had heard
of him I conjectured that he belonged
to the non-sectarian set of your friend
Miss Smith. I spoke to him after the service
and learned that it was so. He is a
young man, and seems very desirous to do
good among the people here. I shall likely
see more of him before I leave this place.

I leave this morning after breakfast.
The weather is fine and I am well. I shall
arrive to have any letter from home sent to me.
The scenery at some points here is very beautiful in this
fine weather. Yesterday I regretted that you were
not with me to enjoy it. Do not feel anxious, but trust to
our Father who does all things well — Your own
William

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1848
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PLAISTER
COVER
PAID

Mr J. W. Dawson
Pictou

PICTON
AU 30
1848
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PLAISTER
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PAID
AU 28
1848
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ANTIGO

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