

[1850]

St. Louis. Wednesday July 24

Dearest Margaret.

I left Sydney on Saturday and got on to a place called Fish Cove where I remained over Sabbath, and spent the day mostly in washing. Monday was a very wet day, but we nevertheless journeyed on, and reached McPherson at the Junction of the Sydney and Ararat roads. Thence we went on Tuesday by West Bay, visiting three schools, and reached Glasgow Harbour in the evening. Tuesday was a very fine day. The country about West Bay is remarkably pretty though the beauty of some parts of this island is injured by the poor sand and stony places of the interior. The abundance of strawberries in Cape Breton this summer is beyond everything I have ever seen. By the road side the ground is often literally red with them, and many an acre as large as your garden strawberries. At some places where I stopped to feed my horse, I picked large

quantities, but I have had few & eat  
in a civilized way. They were selling in  
Admiral at 2d per quart but were very  
much crusted and not nicely cleaned,  
and in other places I have seen  
them boiled up with treacle instead of  
being eaten fresh. The best I have had  
are those I picked myself.

Today I go on to Port Hood where I expect  
to arrive in the evening. I hold a meeting there  
on Thursday, go thence to Margaree on Friday  
and return on Monday to Port Hood. Your letter  
by Sunday mail may be directed to Port Hood,  
your next stop being where I hope to be  
on Friday or Saturday. I may possibly  
get home on Monday or even Saturday,  
but I think Tuesday fully as likely.

(Wednesday eve) I wrote the above hastily  
at ship harbor this morning; but finding that  
I could not do in time at Port Hood I  
carried it on with me and now add a  
few words from Port Hood. We had a  
pleasant journey to day along the West  
shore of Cape Minto through a better cultivated  
country than most that we have seen in  
Cape Minto, and arrived here about 11 1/2  
down. I have seen more gentlemen con-  
nected with the school, and taken tea, and  
now finish my letter before going to bed.

I have not yet acknowledged the receipt  
of your kind and most welcome letter  
which I found waiting at I lauder come.  
I might have directed you to ~~send~~ send  
it to St. Peter where I could have got  
it a day sooner, but that is now no matter,  
though I felt very when I thought of it  
on my way. Being longer than usual in  
hearing of you I felt very anxious to see  
your letter, and was most thankful  
I have good news.

The ferry of which you speak was  
unavoidable, the road over Cape Picapine  
to the ferry opposite Plaster ~~one~~ <sup>one</sup> being in a  
practically for a carriage. I try to be as  
regular as possible with meals. More times  
we have had a meal of cake or bread  
& your rations of the voyage, and at other  
times when travelling we have gone to  
a house and had bread and tea. All  
together we have fared pretty well, and I  
think I never was in better health.  
My last letter from Sydney, which I hope  
you have received, contains answers to  
other inquiries in your letter. Next week I hope  
I shall have my head fairly turned homeward, and  
May God grant us dear Margaret a happy  
meeting  
Yours ever loving  
William

U.S. I have left a box at P. Carter care to go  
home by water. It has in it some stockings  
& which father will give you. M.D.

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