

Murray Bay
July 7th 1870.

Acc. 1443

Dearest mamma, I received your most welcome letter yesterday, & also one from George. He seemed to be feeling the heat & hard work a good deal, but by the time this reaches you, I trust he will have emerged from the gloomy shadows of examinations, & be basking in the full sun-light of holidays. How queer it does seem that we should be scattered about - over the world as we are at present, on the whole I think that it is rather jolly & prevents our ideas becoming narrow & contracted. But I suppose you're waiting in breathless anxiety to hear how we actually reached this place with all our belongings safe & our lives still in our own possession. - Last Thursday evening we left Montreal, having previously packed our things, we had very little trouble except with that villainous Douglas, who though I ordered the boat nearly a fortnight beforehand, did not send them up

till half an hour before & we left
the consequence of which is that
a pair of slippers I ordered are
about 3 sizes too large, however
it might have been worse, Mrs
Baynes was most kind, giving us
our tea before we left to prevent the
trouble of washing up dishes & doing
various little handiwork for us
Alfred met us at the boat, & helped
William to arrange about our tickets
which was a great relief to my
mind - we got down here & landed
with no greater loss than that of
one trunk, which we got after it
had "done the Iguenay". I sent
the girls & Mrs C - directly to the
house & W. & I saw about the
luggage - the quickness of the latter
in discovering missing boxes etc, was
perfectly wonderful, & W. do did very
well, I quite forgot to mention that
when we left both Mary & Eliza
were ill with diarrhoea, & W. just
recovering from the same, Eliza nearly
fainted on the boat, & I was really
quite anxious about her for a day
or two, now she is all right & seems
to enjoy herself immensely I send
her out with W. - when he fishes
it seems to agree with her wonderfully

The house is extremely satisfactory. I like it better than our last one. The rooms are larger & the gallery higher & drier of course it is not so well finished but that is of no consequence. The sitting room is delightfully large & the dining-room not at all too small. The kitchen is by no means such a black-hole as it was represented, & the Warrens welcomed us with open arms & an amount of affectionate interest that was quite surprising. Mrs G. is much nicer than I expected. She declines house-keeping, & does not in the least interfere with me, but she does propriety to perfection always being on hand & welcoming my visitors most cordially. She reads & plays with the children, & is the very perfection of a chaperone, duenna, or whatever else you like to call it. The only danger is that I shall be totally spoiled.

How about our life here, we have been having such nice times. Bonnie & Jessie are here very often every day in fact they are staying at Mrs Wm M. & they generally look after some of the children a few mornings ago, Jessie Mrs G. & I with our invited children went down to the wharf ^{where} the children, (with the

most-exemplary patience) fished
for three whole hours, with no
better reward than a few sculpin
Jessie & I worked & Mrs C - read aloud
to us, quite an exemplary sea-side
morning, was it not? Mr Hunter
one of the 89th officers whom I met
in Quebec came down last Saturday
& staid till last-night, he is very
nice, thoroughly sensible, not a bit
of nonsense about him, ^{gentlemanly} &
well informed, he has been with
us almost every day, Tuesday he &
Hannie & Jessie took tea here, & in the
evening Mr Egan came up & we
all went for a walk & afterward
sat on the gallery, Mrs C - being just
inside yesterday Mr D - came up
after breakfast & wanted to know
what we were going to do, after a
little discussion we decided to go
to La Grande about 5 miles up the
Murray River, we got two hay-carts
put the children (the little boy &
sister) into one with Mrs C - & ~~William~~
while we went in the other with
William & Mr D - I had such a
charming excursion we set out about
11^o - & returned at 1¹/₂ - took our
lunch beside the river, made tea
& boiled eggs & generally amused our

return - we met Col. Reeves about
half way he was going to fish
at the chute, so he drove Hannie
there, while we were at dinner
he sent to know if we would
like to see a salmon, of course
we all ran down to the river
edge & there we saw a beautiful
fish at the end of his line, he
had had it in play some time
but it was still pretty lively, &
dashed wildly about, a stupid
old frenchman was trying to
gaff it as he brought it near
shore, but each time he frightened
it away, Mr. D - getting excited rolled
up his trousers, seized the gaff,
dashed into the water, & landed
the prize in a few moments, it
was a splendid fish weighing
about 25 lbs. Col. Reeves is a very
nice elderly gentleman & looks every
inch a fisherman - Was it not
kind of him to send for us, in the
middle of such exciting sport? I
suppose few ladies see such sport
everything is a little drier
this year than last, but it may
partly arise from its being still so
early in the season, we went down
to Brassard & arranged with him

for butter & eggs to take home
with us, I ordered the same number
of eggs & 100 lbs of butter. I
liked the last so much that
I thought it was well to lay in
good stock, his mother is dead
but his eldest daughter does
everything & the butter seems as
good as formerly.
I took a little sketch yesterday
which I think will be pretty
finished.

Thank you for your caution
not to interfere in people's business
it is not wholly unnecessary for
is rather a fascinating sort of
sin however I have no desire to
interfere in Alfred's beyond listening
to what they both have to say &
being generally amiable, he wishes me
to be with Jessie a good deal
here for he said she was so young
& had been brought up in such
a fast place, that she had little
ideas that she would be better
without, as I like her & know that
I have had unusual advantages
I willingly consented, of course I
not put myself out of my way to do
so, but simply treat her as a friend
& try as far as I gently can to get her
to look at things from a high point
of view, she is so pretty & such a darling