

April 10. 76.  
Yours of March  
just received.

William's enclosed  
now returned

Jaloo send a  
flower of the

Address longue

now out, which

found in my

numbers before.

The flower is

Appendix 7 a

white species

here.

Son.

Victoria B.C.

April 9. 1876

My dear Mother

I fear I have allowed

rather a long period to slip past  
without writing home, but I  
must plead the lack of landmarks  
or anything of particular interest.

I have just been writing to Ella Kemp  
to thank her for the beautiful illuminated  
Card she sent me in her letter received  
some weeks since. I think I described it  
to Anna.

I suppose I told you some time ago of the  
departure of the Steamer "Sir J. Douglas"  
with a party of explorers & on board for  
Gardiner's Gulch, some miles north of here.  
They were to make the steamer a base for an



Expedition on snow shoes & otherwise,  
 across the Cascade Mountains, & were  
 supposed to return in six weeks, having only  
 a little more than two months' provisions.  
 Ten weeks have now elapsed & they have  
 not got back, & people are naturally  
 a little anxious about them. The steamer  
 "Otter" has been sent off today to find  
 out the cause of the delay & aid them if  
 necessary, & I hope we may soon hear  
 good news. I felt half inclined to go  
 up on the Otter myself, but did not know  
 she was going till a few hours before  
 she sailed this (Sunday) morning, &  
 besides felt that at the best I could do  
 little geological work, while here I can  
 put in the time steadily for some  
 time to come at regular work.  
 A great event took place yesterday. At four  
 in the afternoon the ~~the~~ Beaver Rock, in the



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Middle gate Harbour was blown up. Work has been going on on it for about a year. It lay below the water level, but by means of a Copper dam a shaft was sunk on it, & tunnels were then excavated in three directions. The whole being ~~filled~~ charged ~~up~~ with 250 pounds of dynamite, & about the same weight of black powder, was successfully exploded by electricity at the time stated. The water side was lined with people anxious to see the blast, which raised a considerable column of water sticks, smoke, spray &c to a height of about sixty feet, making no more than a dull thud, & was then over. It is not yet known how thoroughly the work has been disposed of.

You ask for a sample of my routine here, which it is hard to give, as I have no invariable routine. While working at my Report &c I spent most of the day over at an office with which I have been supplied in the local government buildings, varying the monotony of writing by calling & recalling on people about things for the exhibition. However now practically disposed of exhibition & such work I am devoting most of my time to a careful examination of the rocks within walking distance of this place, with the idea of eventually wrapping them. Every now & then I find it necessary to take a day indoors to write out notes &c. The weather is now pretty fine, & I have in view a



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visit to Seach River, not far from  
here, & once producing considerable  
quantities of gold; & another to Burrard  
Inlet. Not yet having received any  
definite instructions for by summer's  
work I cannot of course know  
what by mode of procedure will be.  
Latter writes that at Ottawa he heard  
from Mr Fleming that he wanted to get me  
to examine country where his parties were  
to be working between St. George & the sea.  
This region is for the most part densely  
wooded & much like that I travelled in  
last summer. Unless something of  
more than usual value should be found,  
one might do almost as much in  
such a country by a few weeks run  
as a whole season's work. The southern  
part of the mainland area about  
Kanagan, Nicola, Kamloops &c being  
open is a much more promising region.



(3-)

for working up a good Geological Section  
in a short time.

Many people here have asked me to  
"Come & see them anytime" &c &c but  
I have not availed myself much of  
these kind offers, finding it much  
more pleasant to stay at home & read  
in the evenings. The truth is there are  
very few people here whom I care to  
know well, or about whom I  
would put myself to the slightest trouble  
to be more than acquainted with.

With much love

Your affectionate son

George

