

Near Bella Bella. B.C.
June 8. 1878.

Dear Mother,

Bella Bella is near the
Entrance to Mullet Sound, & if we
get there this afternoon, as we hope to
do, we shall have been nearly twelve
days en route from Victoria. I do
not know what chance there may be of
sending letters South from here, but as
the Otter has probably not yet got so far
on her return trip from Wrangel,
there may be a pretty early opportunity.
We have had a most provoking series
of head winds & calms ever since
embarking, & the delay occasioned
has been most annoying. This especially
as I have been unable to see much
of the coast which we have ~~traversed~~
passed so slowly, as we have been
comparatively seldom at anchor, & then

only overnight. We have been drifting about in the passages healdred, carried by the tides now one way now another.

I do not know that I shall make any stay at Bella Bella, at any rate it will not be for long. A Certain Mr McKay of the Hudson Bay Co. has some Gold here which he is prospecting & which I may try to take time to visit. On leaving Bella Bella we shall I think strike across from the mouth of Millbank Sound to the Queen Charlotte Islands & it will not I hope be many days more before we are actually at work. Had I known so much time was to be wasted on the passage I think I should have contented myself with coming to the North End of Vancouver Id. where there appears to be an interesting

field. How long we may stay at the Queen Charlottes must depend on the interest of the country there. I think it will be best not to devote much time to the examination of the Crystalline rocks, except in such cases as something peculiar interest occurs. So make the main object the definition of the area of Coal measures, & if this proves not very great to leave some time in the Autumn for the North end of Vancouver.

The Schooner which I have is called the *S. Claring* you have been informed before both by myself & Rankine, the "Wanderer". She appears well suited for the work, though much time might be saved by having steam power. The "Captain" is a young ~~man~~ man called Sabiston, the son of a pilot at Nanaimo. He is efficient enough though perhaps a little opinionative. I have besides a man called Williams, who has sailed often about this part of the Coast, & also about the Queen Charlotte Islands. He is a good worker & will I think do well. Lastly there is the Cook & general utility man — though also a Sailor — a German or something of that sort who goes by the name of "Dutch Charley". As a Cook he does well & is obliging & civil enough. We have had an abominably lazy time yet so far with seemingly nothing to do but wait for next meal time to come round. The little cabin is littered with books &c. & if only on a pleasure cruise one would be able to get on well

enough. The annoyance of losing
time however constantly presses on
one, & renders it even difficult to
apply oneself to reading.

When off Alert Bay, N. for South
of the north end of Vancouver, a man
came off in a boat with a letter for
me, which had arrived the day before
by the Otter, which left Victoria for
the north a couple of days after us.

This proved to be a note from Mr Hemmilton
of Stuart Lake — in the interior —
It had been to Montreal & was
directed back to Victoria & so up
here. We had a few letters & papers
from Lewis Victoria, but it is
now ^{hardly} ~~scarcely~~ likely that we shall
hear again for a long time, perhaps
a couple of months. The same
applies to letters written here, which

This may be the last for some time.
 I hope you will not allow yourself
 to feel anxious as it may be
 quite impassible to let you hear
 till we return from the Islands.
 I fear also that there may be some
 difficulty in getting Rankine back
 in good time, but I will of course
 do the best I can in the matter.
 The northern Coast is so much further
 off in reality, when one comes to
 travel to it by the slow means which
 we use, than it appears on the Map.
 We are drifting down Lama passage
 as I write, with the tide but without
 a breath of wind & when the flood
 comes in if still Calm there is
 nothing for it but to anchor somewhere
 & wait till wind or tide favours us

again.

I believe I sent a little memorandum about clothes to be ordered from Edinburgh. These may of course come out any time, with Father's if he orders any.

I cannot think of anything else worth writing about, but if occasion offers will add a postscript at Bella Bella. William will now be with you I suppose. Please give twenty lire, as also to Anna & all at home. I forgot to take any of William's printed Certificates with me but so far have had no use for them. You might mail me a two to Victoria in case anything should turn up when I get back.

Please tell Father I got a copy of Nature before leaving Victoria, also an Illustrated News

Your loving son
George