



July 21, 1881.

Camp nr. Fort Macleod

My dear Mother,

We arrived here safe & well yesterday after having completed the first section of the Surveyor's work, that lying West of this to the 111th Meridian. This is Sunday, & we are making a holiday of it. I don't suppose it is worth while describing all our perambulations over the prairie in detail but they should be as tedious as the journey itself. I went from here in the ~~Canon~~ canoe down to the Agency of the S. Saskatchewan below the mouth of the Bow R. Then South across the prairie to the vicinity of the Buttes. Visited the West Butte, & settled some points in doubt as to the rocks. Traveled up the Milk

River all the way (westward) & where
it crosses the line. Crossed to the
St. Mary's River, & came down that
stream by canoe to the Big Again.

McClellan put y^e this time was seeing
the wintering marine as a separate
track. The St. Mary's proved an exceedingly
rapid river, but we got down it all
right by keeping a careful look out.

We made a couple of portages at very bad
rapids, but ran all the rest, shipping
a little water now & then. The mosquitoes
are exceedingly bad this year, but one
gets gradually accustomed to them
like they seem a necessary element
of the atmosphere. About sundown,
after the heat of the day, they generally
are in myriads, & the horses come
running back to camp in search of a
shading. Between mosquitoes at night,
& horse flies by day the horses get scarcely

any rest, & are getting very thin. In
 a few weeks, however, the war by the
 fly museum will probably be over.
 From here I intend going South & west
 to cover the region to the base of the Rocky
 Mountains, & in about three weeks
 hope to be back again. Mr C. will
 go on a separate track west two
 weeks, to meet at Wolfington Lake
 & probably return here together.
 When crossing the travelled trails on
 the Southern section I left ^{two} these notes
 addressed to Foster, with a request
 that any one finding them would take
 them in to the Fort & put them. I shall
 be interested to know whether they
 ever reached. I also sent a
 scrawled note by Mr Cochrane the
 other day, so that you should have

Some brief news of all my movements.
 Mr Cochrane & party we met on the
 bank of the St Mary's R., when we
 were about 2 Cans it - met our teams
 on the way here. They were just packing
 up to go on toward Benton after lunch,
 when we bore down on them. Alfred
 Baynes is up North I believe, though
 I have not heard certainly yet. Capt.
 Crozier, a very pleasant obliging gentleman
 is in charge of the M.D. here. Col.
 McLeod, brother of H. McLeod with
 whom I travelled in 1879 has come
 here, & has kindly asked me to
 dinner this evening. He is the stipen-
 didary magistrate of this part of the
 North West Territory. I hear the Gov.
 Gen. is likely to come in for what is
 Calgary & go down the Bow River. It is
 not improbable that I may go down the same
 way, a week or two hence, as there is

Probably a good section to be
 got there, & it surrounds the entire
 run of my work. I really cannot
 number up resolutions to write to
 anyone at home, though all have
 been kind in sending letters. I
 can never remember when I
 sit down to write where turns it
 is. As yet, however I find quite a
 budget of letters, including an
 official enclosure from Fleet
 of a number of very amusing
 epistles from members of the
 literary, to all of whom I am
 very much indebted. If W.
 Les give to Nova Scotia please
 tell him I really intended writing
 to him this time, hope to do
 better next & soon to hear from

Lin. Fort made of timber
 of a barrack square surrounded
 of beam low scrambling buildings
 & thirty or forty low rooped log
 buildings, houses, houses & store
houses. One store, by J. S. Baker's
 branch. I don't think there can
 be more than two people to each
 house in its average, & most
 then seem to be help needed. Near
 by is a large camp of Blackfoot
Indians on their way north to their
 agency for the treaty payment.
 All very poor ill clad & dirty.
 They have been down for some time
 since by the river travelling & scripping
 up a living as best they could.
 These items to fill the page.

Love to all
 George