

Anna's last letter to her
father & mother before they
returned from their European
trip - Papa precedes
Mamma -

Little Mito's
July 19th

1883 ?

Acc. 143

Dearest Mother,

Cy acci I have

let the mail day slip past
the time of yr. return seems
now so near that I lose the
hurry desire to write that
precisely possessed me -
We have Papa with us now
he came on Saturday & in-
tends going off again this
Tuesday - scarcely worth
the long journey - I fear too
he intends backing out
from coming far yet, for
he has made various prom-
ises to Borneo - I think he
must be in town when
he arrives, I had not ex-
pected him to come out
so soon - It is a pity for
a week's holiday in August
we have been of real service
to him - he looks very well

best. I w^d rather have
waited to see him than
altered the later file, but
of course I c^d not dictate.
He seems quite pleased
about Rankine's appoint-
ment, & all things consid-
ered I do not think he c^d
have done better, & he was
evidently quite pleased him-
self & indeed impressed
with his good fortune.
The children have been made
very happy by various pres-
ents wh. papa brought on
his own account, & from
Rankine - indeed Edith
said she thought it must
be N. mas. It is charming
to hear all the talk of the
Eastern travels though most
of it leans to geology rather
than the personal part of
it.... Papa talked of bringing
Florence down with him
but she & W. have arranged
to go away for their two
weeks the beginning of

August, & it scarcely seemed
worth her while to come
here before - & she has plenty
of little affairs to attend to in
town -

July 18th

I have quite lost the ^{outline}
of last week - & this is the
final letter I shall send
with hope of catching you
before you sail - It received
your letter from Beaufort
Island & am glad that
you forwarded my letter
to Keenline, for I was feel-
ing sorry I had not written
to catch him before his
departure for foreign
parts - Also either you
must be grateful for small
mercies in the way of letter
writing - or the sea voyage
must greatly improve my
epistles, you seem so im-
pressed by the excellence
of them, while only the stale
nature of the apology prevents
my continually increasing such

hurried scrawls as I usually
am obliged to send.

Wife has gone back to town
& seems in good spirits as
to progress of affairs there.
I had an array of painters etc
in the house putting things
in order according to your
directions. F. seems much
delighted with the curtains
you sent & also with other
things - I fancy she does not
admire yr - new carpet at
least - she says "the quality is
excellent" as if the pattern
were not to her taste.

Mrs. Lewis begins to fill up
things slowly, there are some
30 at the hotel, the boys are
down with their baby, & Mrs
Frank's two. Mrs Redpath
seems undecided about
coming at all. The Kaurys
Wrights from Toronto are
living in Castle's old cottage.
& the Van Hornes are in treaty
for your house, the Hagues &
Newarts are also in their
respective cottages - We have

had the traditional easterly
storm raging with little
intermission since Tuesday
& though at present there is
a lull, there is no clear
promise of a better morrow.
The waves & wind were
tremendous last night, our
boat was carried away &
hopelessly wrecked & Mrs
Savage says the contour of
her beach is entirely changed
by great banks of pebbles
obscuring the rocks.

Miss Linn pops in to see
us now & then - There will
be a great dole when August
comes, I hope you won't in-
dulge any vain hope of my
going up - It wd be quite
impossible for me to arrange
about the children - Instead
by that time, I shall not
be arnamented for such an
occasion - My present in-
tention is to remain where
I am till late in September

though that may partly de-
pend on Bernard's movements.

If we go - repacking your
lay hands on the material
for the little girl's dresses
I wd be glad to have it for
as I might get them made
before returning home. My
summer stockings are the
only other thing I really need
I thought - papa might have
had them, but - he did not
know about them. B. is to
go up to Kinnawski to meet
you. & I hope wind & weather
will be favourable & the
landing comfortable & early.

It will be very pleasant
to see Bella Greenshield in
her own home - pray inquire
if her baby is like the
Snadel ones Eva describes.
& if it is the universal habit
you might just pocket an
excellent - English nurse &
bring her out to me that
she may try her hand on the
Canadian species - I have

engaged Anne Mc Dougall
for herself, I I hope it - may
be a good arrangement, I
think she is to give too much
wages - it will be well enough
as long as one servant - suff
fices, but too much if she
needed a second - I no
margin for increase, if sat
isfield, however she had
to go by her own light in
the matter.

I must write to
Rankine at his furthest
part, by the time he gets
there, he will be quite ready
for any scraps of home
news -..... The children are
all looking very well, &
are happy as the day is long
The strawberries are just
beginning to be plentiful
& they derive great pleasure
from gathering them -
With all love to
Eve & yourself -
Affectionately Anna