

MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
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REF. 22

George  
Archerd B.L. 31 Aug. 89

My dear Mother,

Got here yesterday evening & we have been devoting the day to emptying & general overhaul preparatory to another tour. I had mail sent down from Kamboko & found amongst other letters one from Father in which he spoke of shortly going to Toronto (date Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>) I trust he may have a pleasant time there. My work seems near to come to an end & rather grows as I go on with it, but I hope to have the greater part of the task returned in the Spring, previous to leaving the field. Much success of course depends on the weather, but under ordinary favorable circumstances we may hope to see weeks of good working time yet, & it is probable that I shall be back in the East not long after November first. We have here one of our not very enjoyable Settlement Camps,

on the opposite side of the Thompson from  
Ashcroft station, with the railway runs in  
front & steep high clay banks behind. Fortunately  
there is a good bridge not far off by which  
we reach the 'town'. Both the East & west  
mail trains pass here in the night, so  
that it is a place no one ever sees, but  
has some importance as being now the  
point for which traffic starts by road for  
the 'Upper Country' - Cariboo etc. The very  
hot weather seems now to have come to an  
end, & now here in the low Thompson  
valley the nights are cool. During the past  
week we have had much cool windy &  
broken weather & as we were part of the  
time in high mountains - Camped a  
couple of nights at 6800 feet - above sea -  
we came in for a full benefit. Squalls  
of snow all the day at frequent intervals,  
Solums are very plentiful in the Fraser  
& its tributaries this summer. The Cariboo  
at mouth of river has wide layers  
poorer, & irregular along the Fraser &



Thompson the Indians here gathered  
a dried great quantity of fish.

Just at our camp is a storage of  
fish with hundreds of dried salmon.  
The Indians here in fact have given  
up catching the fish & appear to be  
satisfied that they have an ample supply  
for the winter. I wrote this sitting at  
the fire to the accompaniment of the sucking  
sound of the river & the chirping of  
immature Crickets on the hill behind.  
The men are all off to the town on  
various errands. It is getting so dark  
that I find difficulty in following the  
line any longer, as I desired to see  
how far we entered before this, & so  
will conclude by saying less to all  
at home.

Yours

George

J. J. J. J.  
Sept 1899

B. J. J. J.  
Sept 1899