



Safford May 19. 1874.

My dear Anna

As you are an invalid I suppose you must have prudence so far as letters go. You also deserve a good letter in answer to your last long one. I am glad to hear that you are to have Nina back so soon, perhaps even before this gets to Montreal, & it will be very pleasant if you get Kawouraska together. With sufficiently good management I think you might manage to get Mrs B. to keep her altogether in Montreal. As to your idea that people always speak disparagingly of your friends &c. which you complain in your last. I am convinced that it is thoroughly bogus. You know well enough that everybody likes Nina. These stouped ideas grow on too much bottling up at home & not allowing yourself to rub round with the world enough. I read a cutting article the other day on the Edinburgh "Revival" which I meant to send you but have mislaid the paper. It gives quite an outside view of the show & corrects many false ideas which the Rel. Mag. &c. people try to saturate themselves with to the exclusion of all else. We will probably leave here tomorrow, or perhaps more probably the day after, & having so done will be really on our way out west again. Last night for the first time the mosquitoes have been somewhat troublesome. Stray Mosquitoes have been haunting about for a long time.

We are divided up into parties as follows this Summer.  
Astronomic No. 1. Capt Featherston assistant King, Dr. Mullan  
assistant Surgeon attached.

Astronomic No. 2. Lt. Galway. Assistants Burpee & Carter, Dr  
Burgess attached.

Surveying. Lt. Rowe assistant Ashe.

Astronomic Reserve &c. Capt Anderson.

Nat. History. Quid.

Head quarters Capt Ward & Capt Cameron when he does not take  
the field.

All these parties have separate camps at present, though Capt. A.  
& self being solitary have joined Mess &c. pro. tem.

My own party is now complete & is constituted as follows.

Self. 1. Servant Nilson an active civil sort of Lad. 1. Teamster  
Stuart an old hand on the plains who gives out to know  
all about indians or. 1. N.C. Duckworth. 1. Cook Macdonald

a man who says he never cooked in his life before but no  
doubt will learn. He has seen some rough life on the Dawson Rd.

For conveyance I have 1. Whitewater wagon. 1. Red River cart

1. Buckboard. Also 2 pack saddles for use if needed.

Of animals 3 horses & one pony.

We will be heartily glad to get away from this camp as nearly  
every day some order or another is fulminated forth by the  
Commissioner. One time to get up a list of all government  
property in charge. Next to weigh & make out a list of all  
stuff going into the field &c. &c. It is pretty difficult to  
write under present circumstances. The day being windy the tent is  
jumping & clapping round as if it meant to fly away altogether. So please  
excuse the style & believe me your loving writer George