

Victoria/75

Very interesting letter on handling of  
the Fraser River by canoe & then to  
Vancouver (?) by wagon



751

Miss Dawson

McGill College

Canada.

Montreal

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MONTREAL  
CARRIÉ

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I have not  
written to W.  
some time  
I will answer soon  
If this forwarding fee  
is much more scattered  
one will have time for  
writing.

Victoria B.C. Nov. 14/75

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My Dear Anna

Many thanks for your last  
long letter received a day or two  
ago, & just to answer your question  
as to the proper times for mailing letters—  
The mail steamers sail from San Fran.  
on the 10<sup>th</sup> 20 & 30 of each month, &  
the newspapers are kept back for  
them. Letters generally come overland  
arriving once or twice a week. The time  
of transit overland or by steamer is  
about the same.

I had stored up quite a lot of information  
about our journey down the Frazer &  
Wagon road to this place, but not  
having had opportunity to write it—  
on first arrival here, have almost—

(2)

forgot it all. From St George to  
Quemelle, a distance of about 80  
miles, we came down the river in  
a canoe & boat. The same which  
Mr Selwyn had with him on his long  
trip. The stream is very <sup>swift</sup> rapid, & full of little  
ripples or small rapids which generally  
require to be run with some care.  
There are also two 'Cañons' so called,  
with larger rapids in them, but these  
did not turn out so formidable as  
we had thought, the water being low.  
The voyage occupied 2 days & a half,  
& it blew in gale all one day dead  
ahead. It must have been a remarkable  
heavy gale, for during its height we  
could hear & see trees crashing down  
in the woods in all directions. On  
one occasion we tried to cross the  
stream but drifted down into the wrong  
channel of a rapid, where the current  
was very foisterous & the waves were  
all turned backward & their tops flowing

off with the wind. Just as we got the  
Canoe out of this into dead water at  
the foot of the cliff, a great pine almost  
directly above our heads flew over, but was  
fortunately prevented from coming down on us  
by some smaller trees which did not give  
way. We had to wait several days at  
Quesselle, which is a dismal place, for the  
steamer; when our afternoon steaming  
brought us to Soda Creek. Here we got the  
stage, & after four long days staging — from  
before dawn till long after dark, — arrived  
at Gall. The only noteworthy circumstance  
in this part of the journey was an upset  
which we were unlucky enough to meet  
with. This took place by the driver getting off  
the road & onto the sloping side of a  
bank. Mr S & I were sitting on the box, &  
as it was extremely dark I can't tell  
you exactly what attitudes we assumed  
in falling, though if I may be allowed  
to judge by the appearance of my hat, I

Should be of the opinion that I fell  
at least partly on my head. The other  
passengers were tightly buttoned up inside,  
& as soon as they could make an apifice,  
they emerged hurriedly, one by one. Last  
came Mr Walker the premier getting  
great Province, much crushed & speechless.  
He declares that all the rest fell on him,  
& then scrambled on top of him to get out.  
Fortunately the driver kept the reins, & the  
horses stood still till they were detached.  
Such are the pleasures of travel in  
this country. No bad accident has ever  
happened to the stage on the Fraser R. road  
which almost seems miraculous when  
one sees how the drivers come skimming  
down the long hills cut in the sides  
of the cliffs & mountains, & sometimes  
actually overhanging the river below.

Oct. 15.

Here I stopped last night, & now take a  
few moments to add a line or two

First as to the question on which you ask advice in your last, viz the house. Now I do not know how at this distance you can expect me to give a rational opinion on the subject, so much seems to depend on circumstances, & especially on your own opinion & wishes. I am afraid to give any opinion in case it <sup>may</sup> influence you where your own judgement must be so much better. At the same time it does seem to me that so large a house, & one especially with such large rooms, might prove rather a burden than otherwise, & would be uncomfotably large for two people to inhabit.

I don't know how it is but when I sit down to write my thoughts never flow freely enough, & I cannot think your quantity of nice things to say as you do. I don't think I am reserved as you say, but only

Unfortunate in not being  
able to catch the right idea at  
the right time.

Your Loving Brother

George

Please tell Father that I have  
answered Capt. Fotherstonehay's  
Question as to height of W. Batts.

Also that I hope to write soon.

Also congratulate O'Hara for we are

his success, & tell Rankine

that if Mr Selwyn gives him

a Cartridge, I hope he will keep

it - till I write & tell him

what I want done.

The proof photo received some time  
since was nearly black from action of  
light. It seems good however what can be  
seen yet, & I try to have a decent

Copy.