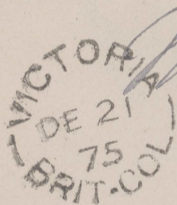


Victoria Dec 15



Miss Dawson
McGill College
Montreal
Canada

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Victoria B.C.

Dec 20. 1875

My Dear Anna,

I have been writing so many letters last night & today that I feel rather tired of it, but must not let the steamer sail without sending something home. Mails go twice a week by "the Sound" & thence overland to Sacramento, but the steamer saves several days in time.

Your letters acknowledging receipt of my first notes from Victoria since my return have only arrived a few days ago - So long does it take to question & answer from this desolate isle of the sea. I am sure I meant to say everything since with regard to your engagement, so I am glad that you

Kindly refrained from your first
idea of scolding me. Joking apart you
know I do not "fuss" on paper,
but I am really delighted, & if I
could only think of what to say & how
to say it - I should write to Harrington
Dunlop & tell him so, or rather congratulate
him on his good fortune.

I have sent off by express to the Genl.
Survey a number of boxes today, & in
one of them have included, addressed to
Father, a small thin parcel. It
contains two Photos. One of Victoria
the great western Metropolis, the Second of
Gale on the Fraser R., where that Stream
leaves the Cascade Mts. Also a sketch
my own, the only one I have made
this summer which I consider at
all possible, please take the photos on
the picture whichever you like best.
The sketch is of Tatlayoco Lake where

it runs up among the Cascade Mts.
The proposed Railway route passes along
the bank to the left - to the bottom of the Lake,
then crosses the head of the Horwath's R. which
runs out of it, & follows its valley (behind the
range of hills springing the lake on the right) to the
Sea. That is of the Ry. is ever built - it
will go ~~now~~ thus, & I hope those fools at
Ottawa are not going to throw away their
last chance of consolidating the Dominion
because there happens to be a commercial
depression in the year of grace 1875.

The boxes will probably not arrive till
about a week after this letter.

I fear this letter will be too late to wish you
a merry Christmas, but - if it does
as it should, it ought at least to
arrive Christmas week, & allow
me to wish you & all at home a
Merry New Year, which I hereby
do with much earnestness.

I can hardly believe that it is so near

Christmas as it is, the time seems
to have slipped away so fast, & left
nothing to show for it, & then to there
is no proper winter to mark the time,
only a prolonged & dismal autumn,
with the river still clinging to the wauldery
wall & the ^{Rain} rain & its wind are never
weary. The grass is green & fresh
looking, as if should be yewater will wake
it so, & hardy vegetables still stand
out in the fields; the thermometer only
occasionally reaches the freezing point
at night. The arbutus, an evergreen tree,
is green in the woods, where the ground is
also covered with *Rubonia* bushes &
Sal-lal plants - A species of *Gaultheria*
now too the moss which in summer
is dried to a crisp & choked with dust,
& looks altogether out of place; is
washed clean again & covers rocks
branches & shingle roofs like so much

wet-sponges. The woods are uncommonly
full of moss here, not only underfoot,
for it-crawls up the tree trunks & settles
in tufts & cushions even on the exposed
branches. The maple trees especially are
generally stoggy with moss of various
colours, & now & then you may see a
polypodium perched up aloft in it.

Now too stray seeds which in summer
have become entangled in the moss
begin to sprout & you may see fruits
of little pines in some places growing
up even on the trunks of the older ones.

When stalks of weeds have fallen, the
seeds are starting out even in the
waterfall pool, under the influence of
the damp.

I have an invitation to dine on
Christmas with Dr Helmslein (I hope
~~that~~ may chance to be the right spelling)
It is very kind of the good man, & I

Hope I may appreciate it properly.
He is a real- eccentric genius,
& goes about with a great clock
of which the aperture slews round in
all directions but is never exactly in
front. He has one grown up daughter,
who - shall I say it? - well she
appears to squint, & for your peace
of mind be it added, is supposed
to be engaged to a certain Mr N -
- After such a description names
must be under the seal of -
friendship.

With love to all

Your affectionate
George

just a few
from many

in

Letters received
congratulation on my
engagement

A. L. H.