



I have not had
time to read this
one.

Amsterdam, Aug 30th 1903

MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
ACC. NO.	1010
REF.	262

Dear Anna,

Yesterday I received letters from you, Clara, Bernard & Lois all of which I was very glad to get as I had not heard anything from any one for a long time. The latest of these letters was dated Aug 9th. You complain of our not having told you much about our days in London, but you must remember that in the first place I was not well while there and in the second it would have been such an old story - the Tower, Westminster Abbey, the Zoo, Kew &c.

I am greatly grieved at what you tell me about O. S. and Cor. has certainly, to say the least, been unfortunate in his selection of friends. I had received only the first letter about O before Cor. left, but still spoke to him seriously about the matter. At first he was very indignant and said that the whole thing must be a story got up by busy bodies; also that F. S. might still have been in Montreal if it had not been for people talking about what was none of their business. Afterwards, however, he spoke more sensibly and seemed to regret that O. should have done anything ~~for~~ wrong.

I think the whole thing will be a lesson to him and do hope that he will try to select friends of a different character. I am glad too that he has been away from Metis this summer. He has, however, written frequently to O.

I suppose the reason that Bernard did not show you my letter was that I gave him a lecture on the subject of smoking. I am not surprised at his not doing much in the way of study as Metis and do not attribute his lack of energy in that direction specially to the smoking. When he gets to town, however, he will have to put in a little hard work if he is as all well. Clara tells me that she has been doing a little bathing and that it has not disagreed with her. I am glad to hear this, for if it does not disagree with her it ~~would~~ will probably do her good.

On the whole I thought it best to get Hope or Eva to forward my letters. When I tried the Canadian Office before they did not attend to the matter at all and after all there was not a great deal of trouble involved. I have not heard a word from Hope, Eva or Rankine since I left England but shall probably see them all during the present week. I see a letter of Rankine's in the "Times" in which he goes for Carnegie and am not sorry as Carnegie deserves it.

I am very glad to hear that Mrs. Robson has on the whole kept well during the summer and that the slight illness of which you speak soon passed off. It is too bad that your mother is not getting more rest and strength. When the work of printing is over she will perhaps benefit by the quiet.

I think I wrote to you from Copenhagen. I left there on Wednesday morning and came on to Hamburg partly by rail, partly by steamer from Korsär to Kiel. We were 5 or 6 hours on the water and got something of a tossing, but on the whole I stood it very well. Hamburg seemed to be very full of travellers and I had to drive to three hotels before I could get a room. You see a great many Americans come direct from New York to Hamburg by the German "liners", passing by England altogether, and at this season of the year they are rushing back to Hamburg to take the homeward bound steamers. Hamburg is a much finer city than I had supposed and numbers nearly 3/4 of a million people. Judging from the suburban residences there must be a great deal of wealth there. Many of these residences are very grand and I never saw better kept gardens and lawns. I was there only a day and a half and did not attempt to visit galleries, museums or churches, but spent a good deal of time in the beautiful zoological garden and in going round the harbour on a small steamer. At the Zoo there was on exhibition a whole colony of blacks from Ashanti, including a number of the youngest of little children - all bright as bright could be. They had been in London for some time and could all speak English. I expect the mammas will find their kiddies a pretty badly spoiled lot by the time they get back to Ashanti land.

I arrived in Amsterdam Friday evening and spent a good deal of yesterday at the Ryks Museum, the principal Art Gallery here.

4

There is of course a very fine collection of paintings by Dutch & Flemish artists, but the works of Rembrandt and F. Hals ~~are~~ as one might expect one the finest things there. Among them is Rembrandt's most celebrated picture the "Night Watch"; also a marvellous portrait of an old woman.

I knew that there were canals in Amsterdam, but had no idea that the whole town was penetrated by them. The effect is of course extremely picturesque. Constantly I regret that you are not with me, for I am sure you would enjoy everything here. How Clara & Ruth would enjoy it too.

The people are not as attractive as those of some other countries that I have been in, but are nevertheless interesting - for the most part short and broad, slow and often somnolent in appearance. Their heavy jaws, however, explain much as to what they have been and done in the past. To-morrow will be the Queen's birthday and there is to be a parade which I hope to see. Then in the evening, or early on Sunday morning I shall go on to the Hague, spend the day there and cross to Harwich during Sunday night, arriving in London at 8 A. M. on Wednesday (Sept. 2nd). I am thinking of taking my passage by the Ionian which sails on the 17th of September, but will write as soon as the matter is decided. I shall be very glad to get back to England. Love to all

Your fond Bernard

I am sorry to hear of Florence being ill but hope she is quite well again. Give her my love.