

Charlottetown

July 24, 1871.

P.S. Papa will write to you when he returns from the East end of the Island, to which we go this week.

PPS. ~~My~~ Mamma has just telegraphed to us to say that you have ~~just~~ "gained medical two prizes twenty-five sixty four pounds". We are glad to hear of your success but don't exactly know what to make of it. We wait anxiously for details.

Dear George

you must not be sur-

prized at not having heard from us since we left Montreal; for in this eccentric place they have two mails to England one week, & none at all the next week, & then two again on the week following.

The postage to England is fourpence halfpenny for which they have a special stamp. We will probably ~~probably~~ have left the Island before the 1th & 9th of next month,

when the next mails come round, but I will try to write to you as often as I can so that we may get as many of these stamps as possible.

We are going to dine at the Governor's tonight so that we will have ^{other} some news to tell you by the mail of this week, if I can

get an opportunity of writing to write. If you have the 4^½ you might send back all that come to you, so that Rankine might also get one, & if not you can take your pick, & send back the rest. As for the stamps of lower value, Rankine is going to keep all that are sent, & then we will send you as many as you want. The whole issue consists of 1^o, 2^o, 3^o, 4^o, 4^½, & one or two others for parcel post.

The currency here is in a most inextricable state of confusion. A dollar bill ~~now~~ goes for six shillings, & Yankee half dollars for 3 shillings. English shillings & Canadian quarters go for 1^o 6^o & the coppers are of endless variety. I took advantage of this latter circumstance to get you some coins, as the opportunity was so tempting. I was getting something at a shop & I happened asked the man if he would let me look over his coppers to see if there was anything curious among them. He had quite a gallon of them in his till. The result of my labours was the finding of the following:— ~~Two~~ Two different ~~5s~~ ^{5s} & two ~~too~~ tens Portugal of Maria II. Also a five of Johannes 5. — Guernsey, four doubles, 1830. — Mexico, $\frac{1}{4}$, 1831. — $\frac{1}{2}$ skilling, quite different from the whole sk. c.

- half stiver, Essequibo & Demerary, Geo III, -
by grace 5 ЛЕТТА, 1848, & 2 КОПЬИ with
a double eagle on the back. - Spain, a quarter
of a Real, Isabella 2., 1865 - 8 M., Is. 2, 1842
- 4, Ferdinand VII, 1833. - French Republic
un. Decime, L'an 8. - do. 5 centimes, L'an 8.
- Two coins of Louis XVI. - Colonies Français
5 & 10 Centimes 1825, & 1828. & a few
others.

We arrived here on Tuesday last,
& last week we went all along the
shore around here & to an island in
near here, studying the dip of the rocks
& collecting what few fossils were to
be found. This Island is a very
curious place in many respects. All
the soil is bright red, & so on a muddy
day one's boots get all covered with
red mud, & on a dusty day with red
dust. This Charlottetown may be called
either an overgrown village or a small
town. There are hardly any side-walks
no drains, nor water-supply, but yet
these streets are lit with gas.

The water is got from numerous pumps,
& is ~~no~~ very inferior. The streets consist
of rows of wooden houses with here and
there a church or a large hall. ~~There~~
They ~~is~~ There is no stone on the Island
that can be used for building, or at
least very little, so that all the build-
ing-stone has to be imported from
Nova Scotia, & the few streets that

are macadamized ~~and~~ have had
this done with Nova Scotia pebbles.
The farmers here display a great deal
more taste than the farmers of Lower
Canada. They, as a rule, do not
like wooden fences, & use hedges
instead. These hedges are ~~in~~ consist
generally of hawthorn (often of the
British species) but sometimes of
rows of spruce trees. This kind of
hedge is very pretty & very little
trouble. All that it is necessary to
do is to plant rows of spruces in
rows when they are about a foot
high, & the soil is so
favourable to them that they
soon grow into a hedge that is
quite as good as any fence & far
more ornamental. Sometimes these
hedges are allowed to grow very
high & then they afford quite a
shelter to an orchard for example
on their southern side.

The great talk now is the
railway that is going to be made
from end to end of the Island.
It is to be made at a cost not over
16,000 dollars a mile & is to be a
gauge of 3 ft. 6 in. The tenders for the
contract were opened on Saturday.

I remain your affectionate
brother
Willam