

Bristol, N. B.

PS. This is not mail week
from Charlottown so I will send
this letter from Sherbrooke via Portland & Quebec.

Tuesday, Aug 1,
1871.

Acc. 976

Dear George,

although I date from
Bristol I am not in England,
but in New-Brunswick. Papa &
I have come across to see Cape
Formentine, as it seems to be on
the line of the Governor's Island
anticlinal. Oh! by the by, I haven't
told you what we have been doing,
& I am afraid my last letter
was rather unsatisfactory. The
reason ^{was} ~~is~~ that Anna cautioned
me, ~~before~~ before I left, about my
letters, & told me that they con-
sisted of "Classified Facts," so
that I avoided telling anything
about what we had been doing,
unless it related to persons &
not to things. But I suppose
you will not object to a short
resumé of what we have ~~be~~ done

and seen. We are now at a place half-way between Cape Shediac and Cape Formentine. We left Charlottetown ~~at~~ yesterday morning, and drove all day, & arrived at ~~8~~ Summerside at half-past nine. On our way we stopped at several places, and among them at Cape Traverse. That is the nearest point on the Island to the main land, & from it a cable goes across to Cape Formentine. It is also the place where they cross over in winter with the mails; & we saw the boats they use. They are strong & as light as possible & are covered over with tin. They curve up a good deal at the ends & are rather broad compared to their length. They have runners on the bottom so as to be more easily dragged over the ice. It is $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles across from point to point; & with the straits ~~the~~ full of floating ice & slush it must be anything but agreeable to cross at that inclement season. Still we were shown a man whom we were told thought it great fun to cross. Well, we got to Summerside

last evening, having travelled over fifty miles since the morning.

Summerside is a row of houses along a road with a couple of hotels, & a few wharves. It is prettily situated on Bedegue Bay.

We laid down whenever we arrived there, for we were to start at half past twelve for Shediac, so that our rest was broken up a good deal last night. When the boat whistled to leave I ~~say~~ saw ~~some~~ two young ladies hurrying off the boat, & I overheard them say that they had only come down to see two of their friends off; & I thought that that was an ~~unparalleled~~ unparalleled example of affection.

We got to Shediac at 5 this morning, & got breakfast there, & started in a carriage, & for Cape Tormentine.

Heavy rain came on, however, with a south wind, & so Papa thought on account of our horse being a frightfully slow one (my tongue is nearly all worn away ~~at~~ with saying "click, click" to it) and as a gentleman offered to take him in his carriage, (which of course only

holds two) that it would be better to leave me here, while he went on. He will be back here ~~at~~ in the evening, & then we stay here all night, & return tomorrow ~~for~~ to Shediac in time, if possible, for the ~~the~~ boat that leaves there at noon for Summerside. We will there meet Mr. Harrington, and see what he has done, and if necessary will spend a few days in going to some places in the west end of the Island, & then return to Charlottetown on Saturday, or Friday. ~~A~~ Perhaps you think me rather presumptuous to include myself in all these matters, but it saves a great deal of time & thought to put we instead of Papa or I, or both.

But I had better begin at the beginning. We arrived at Ch'town on the Tuesday before last. We spent Wednesday in looking round the place, calling upon several people, and making arrangements about various matters. The rest of the week we spent in exploring Hillsborough Bay on which Ch'town is situated. On Thursday we got up at five,

intending to start in a boat for
some places ~~near~~ on the Bay, but
were disappointed by the boatmen. It
was especially disappointing, for we
intended to dredge as well as geol-
ogize; that is to say, while Papa
& Mr. Harrington were geologizing, I
was to have stayed in the boat
and dredged. Well, after waiting till
nine, we took a carriage and started
to drive we had to cross the Hillsborough
River, & for this purpose drove down
to the Steam-ferry. We drove on, after
crossing that river, to Gall's Point
where we arrived at dinner time, &
then in the ~~aff~~ afternoon we ~~and~~ explored
the adjacent shore. There is one
place on that shore, at the middle
of an anticlinal, where the red rocks
are entirely cut away and brown
& grey beds appear, which contain a
few carbonized trees. We stayed at
Mr. Tweedy's that night, and the
next morning we got an early break-
fast and walked ~~over~~ along the shore
& in the other direction and at nine
the boat met us (for we had left
word for the boat to be sent on)

and we crossed over to Point Prim,
& had our ^{lunch} ~~dinner~~ there & then returned
in the afternoon to Gallas Point. As
~~the~~ we were coming back we all
lamented that by an irretrievable
oversight the dredge ~~was~~ had not
been brought. The remainder of
the afternoon was spent in looking
for traces of fossil plants in the
rocks where we had been the day
before. The tide was in at a very
inconvenient hour, but as "time &
tide wait for no man," we had
to suit our plans to its convenience.
Accordingly we got up at 3 o'clock
on Saturday morning, & had breakfast
which was kindly provided by Mrs.
Tweedy, with whom we stayed while in
that vicinity. We then started in
the boat for Governor's Island,
and found that the ^{ridge of the} ~~anti~~ anti-
clinal sloped up, so that older beds
were found there than even at
Gallas point; & that is why Papa
wishes to explore this coast here.
After having satisfactorily examined
the island, we returned to Charlotte ^{town}
where we arrived at 11, but were it
not for our watches we would certainly

have said it was four or five in the afternoon. On Monday we stayed at Charlottetown to pack up our things specimens & arrange about our future movements. Then in the evening Mr. Harrington left by boat for Summerside, & Papa & I went to the Governor's for dinner. The party was very select, consisting of ~~the~~ the Governor & his wife, Mr. Pope the president of the Senate Council, & a Colonel, besides Papa & myself. I could ~~now~~ give ^{you} a long discourse on the material & intellectual excellencies of that party, but that would be quite unnecessary. On Tuesday morning we started, in a two-horse carriage, for ^{on} an exploratory tour of the eastern end of the Island. We got to the Wood islands on the South shore by Tuesday night. On Wednesday we drove from there to Cape Bear & from there round the end of Murray Harbour to Montague, where we stopped Wednesday night. On Thursday we drove to Georgetown, & thence to Souris ~~on~~ where we stayed over night, & on Friday we drove ~~for~~ to the north shore & west along it to St. Peter's, & on Saturday returned

to Charlottetown by the north side of
the Hillsborough. There is a great deal
I could say about this tour, but
the things that struck me most
were the uniform fertility of the soil
and the intelligence of the inhabitants,
compared to the French Canadians;
& also the great numbers of inlets
along the coast. The north shore
however is an entire exception, that
is the part of it between East Cape
& St Peter's. The inhabitants live
by their fishing, & their farms are
neglected & barren compared with
all other parts of the Island. Ship-
building is largely carried on in
the Island. At almost every bay there
are ships being built, which are
mostly for the ~~Coal Trade~~ trade of
Nova Scotia. At one place we counted
six ships being built at once. The
people on the island are mostly de-
ficient in good features but most
of them have good complexions.

Wishing you many happy
returns of your birth-day, I remain
your loving brother,

William.