

Komauaska August 1st
1774

Believe me My dear son
Your affectionate Mother
M. G. Saunders

Dear Pency

As I cannot Communicate
with you on this your birthday I am
going to give myself the pleasure of doing
my best towards enjoying Communion with
you I believe the Commemoration gives
your thoughts a heavenly-ward impulse.
May you see many happy returns of the
day, my dear boy, each year finding you
better & happier, & may the Lord bless you
& lead you to see Him as your Redeemer.
We have not heard a word from you
since the receipt of your letter June 5th
which I have already acknowledged.
In the newspapers there are many contradictory
statements about the Indians & the Manned
Natives; a recent article said that fifty of the latter
had deserted. So I suppose are all we have to deal
with

Papa is still with us & writes
the larger half of each day, in a pleasant
little room, opening off the parlor, with a
delightful window overlooking the River.
He is elaborating the history of Logans, & I hope
the pleasure & quiet with him. He returns to
Montreal on Monday per about a week. A letter
from Primrose, about how I state business,
^{over} due three days, was to have decided him whether
or not he should go there this month, but it
has miscarried & to left him still in doubt as
he does not wish to go unless it is important
per him to do so. He has had several dredging
expeditions & I may tell you of one in which
we all accompanied him - the all including
Lorne Campbell & Cecil Selwyn now visiting us.
We went in a large sail-boat, leaving at
seven o'c. a.m. accompanied by two boatmen
& taking with us a picnic dinner, the plan being
to go to Grass Island which is a light-house & there
to deposit the ladies & such of the boys as preferred
shooting to dredging. Papa landed with us to
see us all started at our various pleasures.
Anne & Eva were soon perched on the extreme
point of a rocky precipitous on three sides from

from which they proceeded to sketch the
 highest point of the island on which stands
 the lighthouse. Cecil & Rankine sallied
 forth with their guns, willing to bring us
 back any number of ducks, geese & sea-pigeons
 (also unsuccessfully!). I after sitting a while
 with the girls & finding the position too cir-
 cumscribed for my favorite pursuit of ferns &
 flower hunting & "Innocent's Abroad" which had
 been brought to read aloud, having been left
 in the lunch basket at the lighthouse, I went
 further & took up a position from which I could
 see the girls & look down over high cliffs to
 where paps & lams were dredging. It was 2°C.
 before we all assembled again & before dinner
 was over clouds which had been gathering began
 to let a few warning drops fall, so we paid
 a hasty visit to the interior of the lighthouse
 & then hurried to our boat, in which we had
 not been for over a quarter of an hour before
 it panned down in torrents - fortunately we
 had plenty of wraps & umbrellas - a favorable breeze
 & abundance of fun reading "Innocent's" until we
 reached Kamauaska at 5°C. somewhat wet

about the feet. which however has done us
 no harm. The days fatigue has left Anna a
 little less equal to exertion today but even
 with that ^{the} shows such a marked improve-
 ment in strength that we think nothing
 of it. Her sketch promises to be a very successful
 one & I hope before long you may pass judgment
 upon it in a finished state. Our, uncle Ad-
 butlage, is developing a fine talent for sketching.
 Your father got some rare starfishes. (Snake
 starfish) a new kind of shrimp & some interesting
 shells. At noon yesterday we had the pleasure
 of seeing a rare phenomenon in the heavens.
 a dusky halo around the sun with the
 outer edge of the circle showing bright rain-
 bow colors, & that intersected by a narrow
 large ring of pure bright light - thus - (O) Your
 father says it is produced by ice spicules or
 snow in upper air.

I had a letter from William the other day He is
 diligently pursuing the practical part of his profession
 & hopes to get a small salary to cover expenses. Anna
 with much love encloses you a tin-type of her
 present appearance. Taken by a travelling Artist
 now here. Longing & hoping to hear of you ever