

McGill College
July 1, 1876.

My dear George

I had almost forgotten that this was Dominion day, but the event is not a very marked one, & does not intrude itself much on one's observation. I am going to see how I like this size of paper for writing on, as I notice Frankine sometimes uses it.

I suppose you have heard from others all the details of the great events or rather event which has lately transpired. I will confine myself to what I have myself been occupied with. I arrived as you might have inferred from my last letter, just the day before the wedding. I telegraphed from Richmond, but it was mistaken for a Quebec telegram, so that I arrived rather sooner than they had expected - about four on the Tuesday. They left on Wednesday afternoon, & immediately after the final preparations for the new house were commenced in order to have it ready for their return. All sorts of little things had to be done; pictures to be hung, & the new presents to be installed in suitable places. Of course my time was largely encroached upon by such work; but it was ^a very pleasant & agreeable occupation. Before they returned, the house had a very home-like look. This was no

doubt largely owing to the taste with which all the upholstery had been chosen, so that everything matched & corresponded very pleasingly, quite obviating the unpleasant look a number of incongruous new things have when put together. The splendid piano which you gave Anna plays no small part in giving the home the comfortable home look which it has, apart from its own handsomeness. Then the pictures help very much to improve the appearance of the house.

I applied soon after arriving here for permission to pass the final examination as Provincial Land Surveyor at Quebec. I passed the Preliminary in January 1875, or 18 months ago. By rights I should wait three years, but I am trying to have my years at the Science Department which I spent here, counted as part of the time, even although it came before the first examination. I think I will be allowed to go up this month, but I cannot learn finally till the Board of Examiners meets. They meet on Monday, & I expect to receive a Telegram stating their decision.

Rankine has already gone to Metis, & Dr. and Mrs. Murray are also there. I am afraid there will be a great crowd there this year as all sorts of people are reported to be going. The Majors and Darby are going again this year; Mrs. Selwyn is also coming about the middle of the month with Cecil (who will then have a fortnight's holiday). Freddy & Mabel, she by the way, is now at Philadelphia with her father.

I am expecting to go down with the rest as far as
Quebec, if I hear in time. If the answer is unfavorable
of course I will go on. I am also negotiating at present
for a place on the "Northern Colonization" otherwise the
Montreal Ottawa & Occidental Ry which sounds
much more distinguished. Carr Harris whom you
may have seen while he was on the Pacific Survey
has one of the divisions near Ottawa, and as most
of the work is now going on at that end, I am trying
to get upon his division. A M^r Peterson is the chief
Engineer, & I have been applying to him. Of course I
meet the usual difficulties on account of my remaining
so short a time on the work. He says that he thinks
he can get me the position of Chairman at \$1.50
a day; not bad considering; especially as he assures
me that I would not be confined to that kind of
work but would have anything to do that I was
able for. I think it very necessary to have some
practise with instruments; and being on work gives
one a practical basis, & furnishes data of comparison
which are useful in connection with lectures on the
subjects. There is also the advantage of getting acquaint-
ed with Engineers and being on Gov^t work which I hope
will prove useful when I get through at Paris. The
foundations of a bridge over the Gatineau, a consider-
able stream which flows into the Ottawa from the E,
are to be commenced whenever the water is low enough
it ~~to~~ continuing high remarkably long this season.

I expect to be returning to go up the Ottawa, providing I get the position, about the end of this month. & I hope to remain till the end of September.

I received your post-card dated May 28, on the 24th of last month. I think your suggestion an admirable one. It reminds me of the clock you once proposed to construct for registering 'ascertaining the mean annual temperature. It would give the total bearing between any two points at which observations were taken, in terms of the time it took to go from one to the other. Mine would have the advantage, if it ^{could be} ~~was~~ connected with a pedometer of registering all the deviations of the path followed; but it certainly is much more cumbersome.

I suppose we cannot expect to hear from you for some time, and letters we send may be a long time on the way. Still, if you are near the C.P.R. parties we may be exceedingly disappointed in hearing of them than we now expect. You has just come into my room, & asks me to say that she hopes the sea air will give her sufficient vigour to write, as it has been very warm here.

We have had numbers of thunderstorms, almost every day. Sophie Browne had been staying with us since I arrived; but has been at the Baynes' the last week, & the other day returned to Kingsley.

Believe me, your affectionate brother
William.