

Aug. 14. 1877.

Little Metis,

Dear George,

I have just returned from Nova Scotia 4 days ago, (last Saturday, this being Tuesday). & as the remembrance of our trip is still fresh in my memory, I think a short account of it might not be amiss, just by way of keeping you posted in affairs at Home. We left Metis on a Monday, & after a long wait for the train, succeeded in getting as far as Casapsual on the Metapedia River the same evening. We stayed there that night at Mr. Gov. Stephens' house. He has the right of fishing in the Metapedia R. I stay at Casapsual, when engaged in that noble sport. Next day we saw some quarries &c. & then proceeded by the 5 p.m. train. Next morning at 4 a.m. we arrived at Amhurst where we remained, father wishing to see Mr. Hill, till 3 P.M. Going on to Maccan, we drove out to the Joggins, arriving in the evening. Next day we were



employed, or more accurately no  
we employed two men, to dig for  
out an old fossil tree, which  
was suspected of having rep-er-  
tilian remains at its base.

Just as we reached the  
right part the tide reached  
the place & filled the hole with  
water. As we were to leave  
next morning, Father left  
instructions with one of the  
men, who was intelligent  
& knew something about the  
thing, to have the remaining  
pieces carefully taken out, &  
boxed up & sent to Montreal  
where they now are, await-  
ing examination. Having  
left the Fossgins at 2 A.M. & having  
spent most of the day at  
Wentworth, a mere station of  
the R.R. near which there  
were some interesting cutting,  
we at last arrived at Lon-  
donderry in the evening.  
The mines there, upon which  
the whole village is dependent,  
are very well worth seeing.  
The blast furnaces too, & every  
thing connected with them,  
are so complete & convenient.  
I enjoyed seeing them immen-  
sely. Leaving there on the after-



noon of the following day, we  
proceeded to Pictou & arrived  
there the same evening (Saturday  
evening). There we spent Sunday  
& Monday. Early Tuesday morning  
we left New Glasgow, where we  
had slept the previous night on  
purpose to make an early start,  
& drove all day. About 5:30 p.m.  
we reached Sherbrooke at the  
mouth of the St Mary's River.  
The next day we spent seeing  
the gold mines &c in the  
vicinity. On Thursday we  
started back for Pictou, which  
we reached Friday afternoon.  
The next day we left for  
Halifax. I think I wrote  
you a post-card from Hal-  
ifax, telling you how much  
I liked the place. You  
have so many beautiful  
views from almost every  
eminence. There besides  
numerous other objects of inter-  
est, I had the pleasure of  
seeing a skate factory, also  
Stair's Rope-walk, the larg-  
est in the Dominion. I  
also had my first view of  
a man-of-war, internal view  
I mean. The "Bellerophon"  
carries 600 men, 10 large guns



tc. tc. I assure you it afforded me no little satisfaction to see "her internal arrangements." I stayed with Mr James Thomson most of the time I was at Halifax, most of 3 days i.e., I had every opportunity afforded me for seeing the city. Tuesday afternoon saw us on our way back to Truro, where I parted from Father, who went straight back to Metis. I returned to Pictou, Mr. Primrose having kindly invited me to pay him a visit on my way home. I remained at Pictou 10 days, which brings us back to Saturday Aug 11., our starting point. A very pleasant time we had too. Plenty boating &c. plenty pleasant company &c.

On my return to Metis I was surprised to find that William had gone to Murray Bay to do some geology for Father, so that I have not seen him as yet.

But I must really break off, as it is getting late; indeed I think it is about time, unless I want to weary you out altogether with my little doings.

Your affectionate Brother Rankine