

Athabasca Landing, 18<sup>th</sup> Sept '79.

My Dear Mr. Dawson,

I arrived here yesterday evening after a most enjoyable run down the Athabasca. The day was beautifully fine: we knew we had plenty of time to reach this before sunset, so we did little more than drift with the current.

From barometric observations & general estimate of strength of current & fall of water in Slave & Athabasca Rivers, I think this place is about 350 feet lower than Slave Lake & the latter, which is on much the same level as the plateau north & south of Peace River, is about 800 feet above the level of Fort McMurray. This w<sup>d</sup> give Athabasca Landing an elevation of about 450 feet above Ft. McMurray. How does this very rough approximate compare with your figures? This morning I walked out a little over a mile on the Edmonton road: my barometer showed an elevation of 350 feet above the river when I was on what appeared to be the level of the higher parts of the surrounding country. I was struck by the general correspondence of this elevation to that of the plateau near Peace River, as well as by the very different elevations of the Peace & Athabasca, & am led to hope that Mr. Wheeler may not find great difficulty in hitting upon a good crossing of the Athabasca.

This afternoon I am in hourly expectation of the arrival of carts from Edmonton, as Mr. Hardisty is coming on his way to Slave Lake I hope I may not be delayed here beyond tomorrow morning.

I am leaving in the storehouse for you the freight forwarded  
by Mr. W. Cornell, consisting of 3 Sacks provisions  
1 box "mixed"  
1 sack clothing of Mr. C's.  
1 waterproof sheet.  
1 apparatus.

Should there be accommodation for any of them in the carts which  
go back with me I will take such articles as I think you are  
least likely to require for your explorations on the Athabasca, and  
so lighten your load to Edmonton.

I had been receiving Grant's "Bear to Bear" for re-reading on my  
way to & from Edmonton. During the unwelcome & unexcused delay  
of today I thought I wd. refresh myself with it. "Phancy my  
feelings" (as Artemus Ward says) when on looking for it I found  
that I had left it at Dunrihan! After all, I need not have been  
in such an intense hurry leaving the old rendezvous.

I hope you received the note I "posted" for you at the junction  
of the Slave & Athabasca. Had you ever a mail-bag all to  
yourself before, such a mailbag? As I mentioned in it, I shall  
ask the agent at Edmonton to send carts for you at the end of the month, to  
meet you here on the 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. - in the event of Mr. Cornell not having ar-  
rived at Edm<sup>t</sup> by the 28<sup>th</sup> inst. Should he arrive in time he wd. no  
doubt wish to meet you here himself.

How delightful these delays are when, even at the most rapid possible  
rate, one travels slowly, & when the time has already arrived that I expected  
on leaving home, to have returned. As old George Herbert says of a poor  
Sermon, such delays may be turned to use as preachers of patience, but



neither George Stuber nor Job are travelled in the North West.  
However I hope on way how many a chat & many a laugh  
got over our summer's trip which, with all its unexpected delays,  
has really been to me most enjoyable. There's to our next  
meeting, may it be amid the comforts of Ottawa  
or Montreal.

Be yours most faithfully  
Daniel W. Gordon

Wm. Dawson Esq. B.S.S. Co.  
Athabasca Landing

P.S. Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. The carts did not arrive till  
today. I expect to leave early tomorrow in a com-  
fortable buckboard. I am forwarding by the returning  
carts McCConnell's clothes bag & the apparatus. I  
leave the rest, not knowing how much you may  
require of them. Probably there may be other carts  
here soon after those which I shall ask the Agent  
to send for you, so that if there is too much freight  
here for you to take it may be sent by them to  
Edmonton. I trust you may have no delay or  
difficulty here or elsewhere. Yours or S. G.