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Montreal October 5th / 87

My dearest George

From a telegraphic notice
in the "Witness" - from Victoria dated Oct
2nd there is a short paragraph about certain
miners who had arrived from the Stewart
River, or rather Yukon, to which is added
"Prof. Sawson's party will likely come out
by next steamer", upon this we are basing
our hopes - have worked out your status
& encourage each other to believe that
you are so far safe & are now making
your way out again from those unknown
regions, which imagination fills with -
(perhaps) exaggerated dangers that repress
hope & make writing ^{to you} much like speaking
in front of a high stone wall. Now

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however, as I have said, I am en-
couraged to the extent of hoping that
by the time this reaches Victoria, or
shortly after, you will have reached
civilised society again & will want
to hear of home & friends. During the
summer I fear that your father has
been your only faithful friend, having
written several nice & letters which
I trust you have got, or will get, so
I shall only briefly allude to our doings
in the earlier part of the season & hurry
on to the present. Eva, Anna & Children
& myself went to Metis at the middle of
June, the illness, from the beginning of June,
& subsequent death of Mr Harrington, having
occupied a great deal of Bernard's time &
Anna seeing that she could not depend

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upon his help or his Company at Montic,
& thinking it unsafe to go ^{there} alone with so
many children, she induced us to accompany
her at this early date. About the same time
a letter received from Arthur Crow -
written from New York, quite decided us
to go, as he offered us a visit of two weeks -
towards the end of June, if we were at
Montic, but adding that he could not come
to Montreal. Unfortunately things turned out
so differently that we regretted this de-
cision. - Arthur's engagements multiplied
so that he could only stay a few days
with us & meantime Bankine wrote
that he had arranged for a substitute
to take his place for one trip of his steamer,
& that he intended to come out to Canada,
arriving in Montreal shortly after his

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letter. this at the time disappointed
us & gave papa some care in house-
matters we had not anticipated - how-
ever ten days past & papa has finished
his business in Montreal & with Rankin
joined us at Metis, & with the addition
of Florence & her boy throughout August,
we enjoyed a pleasant summer, the
weather being unusually warm & dry:
indeed the drought & warm weather
has continued throughout September
which has led to extensive forest fires, the
smoke from which has been so dense
that per once a week the navigation
on the St. Lawrence has been stopped.

To return to Metis I may mention
that the Baer's have built a wonderfully
athletic house directly opposite ours
It was completed about the 1st of July
& occupied by them for the remainder
of the season. Sir George Stephen also

Completed an extensive bungalow
 near Grand Metis. It is situated on
 the top of a rounder hill, about a
 quarter of a mile from the mouth
 of the P. Metis River & commands a
 most beautiful panoramic view of sea,
 river & forest. It was occupied for three
 weeks — indeed filled with distinguished
 strangers both English & Canadian, but
 with the exception of paying a formal
 visit & receiving a present of a splendid
 salmon we had no other intercourse.
 Rankine returned here with us but
 left again for London on the 7th Sept.,
 as probably he would have two weeks
 duty at the docks before sailing again
 on the "Massilia" early this month. He
 intends to make this winter the last of his
 wandering life & to keep a sharp outlook

for likely openings — doubtless he made mental notes of Montreal & its prospects & relative advantages, as they appeared to him after his varied experiences. Poor fellow he found it hard to leave us all again & begin anew a life amongst strangers! H. & B. did not return to Montreal till quite a month after we did, as they went directly on from Innes to St. Andrews where Bernard, having inherited his father's property, found numberless matters to be attended to.

Poor Will has not had one holiday & only three days of out door work this summer. He looks very pale & thin & notwithstanding that lately \$20 per month has been added to his salary he finds the C.P.R. a hard master, but there is no prospect of his getting a

letter are. Your father has twice on
with many interruptions, this Autumn,
from strangers who bring letters of intro-
duction as well as some old friends -
amongst others Mr. Reespath & Dr. Jenkins
for both of whom we had dinners. In
addition to ordinary work your father has
the self imposed labour of launching two
new books upon the publishers, which
although nearly finished I know well
will keep sailing back through the
winter in the form of Proofs. He
has often during the Summer lamented
that he could not get your help
with his illustrations & he now wants
Eva to give her attention to etching
which she would do willingly
could she find a competent teacher
she has again joined the Drawing

class at the Art Gallery & she also
 continues her membership at the
 Ladies Shakespeare Club - so we have
 fairly entered upon another winter
 Campaign. Now I must close & will
 do so by telling you of a comical mar-
 riage which took place three days before
 our return to Montreal - it is that
 of no less important a person than
 Ellen, who has been our Cook for
 the past seven years! She has married
 a widower who has a large well fur-
 nished house in University Street
 & they keep boarders. I daresay we
 may be among at the number ourselves
 one of these days, driven out by the
 difficulty of pinching a respectable woman
 & a good clean Cook in one & the same
 person - notwithstanding this threat

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I am living in the hope that ⁱⁿ a few weeks hence you will risk partaking of such meals as the Com. Compass & I earnestly trust that you have gained one important advantage in return for some of your much toil & danger, in what is called the best sauce — a good appetite.

Seriously we do look forward, dearest Peary, soon to have good news from you & a little later to having the pleasure of seeing you again. How often as I have sat down to abundant meals I have thought — what has poor Peary to eat? & oh if he is short of food!!
 Your father & Eva write with me

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in sending you our cher love
& believe me ever to be.

your affectionate

Mother.

