

Interesting account Jacksons Hotel July 3-1868
 of ship running aground Thursday

Dearst William

We are comfortably settled at the hotel & all of us quite well. I begin with this announcement because it is probable that before you receive this you may have heard of the "Union" running on shore & I fear we may have suffered from the effects of fatigue & anxiety we had.

As we have not yet got our articles of our baggage & there are constant interruptions from reports of its coming, or not coming to the I conclude abruptly you will know the reason.

The primary cause of our accident was the delay detention at Cacoma

We were at the wharf there for
three hours so that it was dark
before we left; the evening was
hazy but not very dark. At eleven
when we thought ourselves even
nearer Tadoussac than afterwards we
found we were, I was sitting with
our little packages gathered together
ready to land. The hump, hump,
which I instantly associated with
such Halifax harbors occurred. George
& I went to the bow to ascertain, if possible,
what was best to do. We found the
Captⁿ had ordered the boats to be
hoisted & heavy articles & all the
passengers to the stern hoping that
only the bow had stuck & that
she wd be moved off. We got down
the life preservers & for a little while
there was much anxiety. As a whole
the passengers were quiet. Personally

stood a little to the right.
I was, one fifteen yards, & the other
sixteen or so, to the left. Her haul was
low was raised 2½ feet, but hardly
a scrape or strain on the boat.

We indulged a laugh at our
Cork jackets in which we had
sat half the night.

I trusted a good deal to George's
advice. During the first part of the
night he was evidently alarmed
but calm & wise in his suggestions.
We associated chiefly with the
Walkers of Gill Alley, Avenue. Mr.
Smith, of one of the Quebec Banks,
who was alone & always ready to help
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taken her off. She is leaking at the
rate of 5 inches an hour.

Since beginning to write I have
been at wharf about the luggage
which has been brought safely to shore
in the sloop which took out wood
to the "Union". P^d Chais is somewhat
scratched but unbroken. The aquarium
is cracked - The Cushion mat, all
the rest of our things without loss
or damage.

The gentlemen I saw at wharf
tell me that unfortunate trip in
the Union was so much the result
of carelessness that they ^{the owners} will do all in
their power to prevent its being known
that they fear it will interfere for
not much at least with the regularity
of her trips. I do not yet know the
days of the sailing of the "May out"
but I find the Union is to be later

than Wednesday I shall probably take
the "Magnets" first upward trip following
Sunday.

I fear I may have tired you with
my long account I thought it not be
the subject of talk for a while. On reviewing
our whole journey. I can thankfully
say goodness & mercy have followed us.
We have escaped a great known
dangers but everything that could
alleviate our hardships, & none of us
have suffered in the least
degree. George is quite well & rested
today. Since I returned from the
wharf a thunder storm has come on
which has interfered with a
plan Rankin & P. had to go out
with the gun. I am glad they are
hindered because I think George
homeless will be felt ought to be
extra careful for a day or two.
As the hotel he will have excellent

food - a nice room - He is to have
the end of one of the tables for his
Chair. At present there are only a
very few permanent boarders. Runkine &
I have the drawing room at this
moment all to ourselves. I believe S. will
feel quite at home before the crowded
Season arrives. The charge is \$2. per
day. so for my part I am going to eat
& drink & lounge round & as our purse
will be perceptibly lightened I shall endeavor
to become personally perceptibly heavier.

Mr. McKee's family are in the Cottage
Lord Russell had two years ago. They
invited us to go in last night as we
passed. I shall go as soon as the weather
is fine & see all the people I know & beg
of them to speak to George when they see him
about.

It was a great pleasure to me to
receive a letter from Anna. The anxiety

mus of service. At this time we were
much amused by seeing two carts
approaching bumping over the long
strips of boulders which stretched
inwards to the — beacon. Some
of the passengers trusted part of their
luggages to them & I understand have
received it. We did not. With
only our hand satchels, our shawls
& some of the blankets we descended
the giddy distance between us & the
ground, walked until feet &
seams presented — two men carried
^{us} one by one to a small boat. That
to a sail boat & that again to
the little steamer. Altho the waves
were very high we were hardly wet.
& landed about ten P. Dominion day
Rankine slept a good deal during
the night & was bright & full of fun
but George & I were tired & a good deal

disappointed when on meeting Mr. Warrant on the wharf he told us we could not get rooms at Harrington's the whole house having been engaged the day before to a family.

Cary remained at Mr. W's where they kindly gave him breakfast & good sofa to rest upon while Rankin & I unincumbered with any care of luggage set off to the hotel where I endeavoured to get a front upper room but was unsuccessful.

Mr. Blood declared they were all taken which I doubt: it was only by firm perseverance I got him to give me the best of the front lower rooms. It is near the end of the Saguenay side of the gallery & has a glass door opening upon the gallery. Now that he has occupied it I think it almost preferable to the upstairs room. The quiet exposed
access

for a few moments I suffered the
most intense fear I ever knew. but
during the rest of that anxious night
I was calm & hopeful with a blessed
assurance of our Father's presence.
An hour or two later the wind
rose & dashes of rain fell. I do
not know whether it was upon
good authority but the rumour
amongst the passengers was that the
dangers consisted in the supposition
that the hinder part of the boat
being in deep water she would be
strained & perhaps break. There was
not however much noise to
excite fear, & as the fires had
been put out it was very still.
At three the steward ordered
all the stateroom doors to be
opened because as the tide
fell there was danger of ^{being} casting

one on his side. The doors began
to jam a little, & a few panes of glass
were crushed, & again all was
still; day lights began to break
& we were able to dispense with
artificial lights which had been
an additional cause of anxiety if
the boat had parted. Soon after
we were told the fear of parting
was over. & by five we found ourselves
high & dry & the boat as beautifully
raised as if she had been carefully
floated into a dry dock. We being
run aground on Lark Point
composed of sand boulders & gravel.
The Captain told me he had never
before seen of such a wonderful
preservation. One large boulder

I fell on account of dear
Eve having had a return
of diarrhoea has been banished
from my mind. I can only
continue to commend them
to the care of Him who has
thus proved so good to us.
I shall not have time to
write Anne a duplicate account
of our unfortunate voyage but
will endeavour to write a short
letter to her if you please
enclose yours to her. I dare say
she will be interested in it

I trust William & you get on
comfortably & that God continues
to you the inestimable blessing
of health. We saw the "Instarion"
pass inward bound. I longed
to know what news she carried
to you. Let us not say only, but
realize that it is all well.

May our Father keep you in
perfect rest & trust.

With all the love & good
wishes of which I am capable
of giving.

Ever believe me

Yours affectionately

Margaret A. Dawson