

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
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Little Metis

July 10/85

Dear Rankine,

I address you
at length from this house
of rest where I arrived
on Tuesday last, and
have now settled down
to my usual routine
of writing a little in
the mornings and doing
little bits of freeding in
in the afternoon. Thus
you an unusual amount
of trimming remains to be
done, owing to the inroads
of a great storm last

winter about cut away
 about 20 feet of our front
 removing the fence and
 leaving a chaos of fallen
 trees. Otherwise the place
 is greatly improved & adds
 plenty to the cottage and
 growth of the trees. The
 female members of the
 family are now all here.
 We had letters this week
 both from George and Wm.
 The former has embarked
 on a schooner ^(the "Carolina"), a somewhat
 better one he says than you
 had at L. Charlotte and
 is cruising on the outer coast
 of Vancouver. He writes
 cheerfully as to his prospects
 for the summer. George's last

Report printed last winter on the western
 regions is a masterly production; I think I
 never read a more able geological report.
 It is in a certain measure of course throwing
 pearls before swine, but some will appreciate
 it. William is toiling at railway measure-
 ments on the St. Paul of Lake Superior -
 uninteresting work and small pay; but he
 is looking about him at the country
 and writes of its physical features and
 resources in his letters to us.

From what we learn of Hae-
 nry's movements, I fear he will have
 left for Paris before you arrive. You
 can easily hear of him at the Geological
 Society or Colver's office, if he has not
 left a time to wait for you.

The north-west troubles are now
 quite over their acute stage - the capture
 of Big Bear and his band closing any ap-
 pearance of Indian war. Utteran encampments
 and many good crops will remain; but
 Dryden, whom I saw in town before leaving,
 thinks there will be a rapid revival and
 that permanent frost will result. I have sent
 you newspapers regularly, and shall send with this
 a foretelle with Sir John's explanation.

We are all desirous to know your plans whether
 for further voyaging or some new departure. Please write fully. I had
 a letter some time ago from Lady Dufferin, who speaks very
 kindly of you. Much love and good wishes from all here
 Ever yours affectionally

Madison

In the storm last winter the boat here was upset and smashed and
 the boat was a big danger of being wholly all it and repairs of a better