

CHATEAU FRONTENAC.

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QUEBEC, CANADA.

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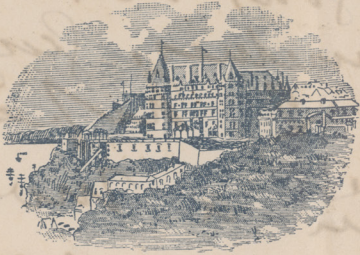
Dear Rankine,

When one is alone and  
bored, so to speak, from home and  
friends, one is apt to think of the  
<sup>absent</sup> about, and I am in that case  
at present, being here for a day  
or two to attend a meeting of  
the Protestant Committee of the  
Council of Public Instruction, so  
I fit down to write a letter  
to you. I am the more prompted  
thereto in consequence of the strange  
misstatement about George, which I  
have no doubt caused you some  
trouble as it did to ~~Allen~~ at

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Sweepool, who spent the best part  
of a day in putting it right. To me  
it is at once a striking reminder  
of the uncertainty of life, and of  
the mercy whereby we have been  
spared for terrible calamity,  
I believe when you last wrote  
to mother you were still among  
the unemployed of London, though  
I hope in the fine way of finding  
something profitable to do. This  
however I fancy you are not looking  
for in Canada, though I sincerely wish  
you could, while I still remain  
in the flesh, and your mother  
as well. My journey to Boston  
and work there probably impeded  
me in the fact that neither I  
nor your mother are as strong as we  
were two years ago, and it seems

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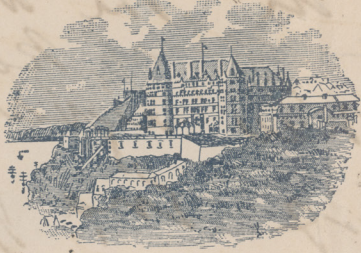
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to me that the downhill path to the  
 game is becoming more rapid in its  
 descent day by day. I am thus  
 led to think of what farther I  
 can do for others, and especially for  
 my own people, and most especially for  
 you dear Rose Kine, while I live.  
 My great aim has been, in the  
 case of you all, to strain all  
 my efforts to give you good edu-  
 cation and professional training;  
 and thus I can assure you has  
 involved no little sacrifice both  
 to my mother and myself, when  
 might have taken life more easily but  
 for the expenditure it involved at  
 a time when our income was but  
 small. After this manner, we have  
 had no fortune to come any of

and had to hope that, with God's blessing,  
you might shift for yourselves. George  
and William are now I hope  
permanently provided for in a modest  
way, and you have been supporting  
yourself, but always seem to think  
that, with more means, you could do  
better; though so far as I know  
you have not stated in what way.  
You are now, in my judgment, at  
an age when it would be well to settle  
in some way, and I would say, as I  
have often said, before that of any  
thing my small means can afford  
can procure this, either in this country  
a chamber, I shall do what I can. I  
have not wished to urge a even ad-  
vise you; but I believe that it would  
be a great joy to your mother and to  
all of us if you were settled near us,  
at the same time I think of Eva  
and of the nearness of England to us  
and its special advantages in many  
ways, and do not wish to be selfish,

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nor do any of us, nor would we  
 hesitate to curtail our own means  
 and comforts to give any aid to  
 you. Allow me to add that I  
 feel sure that with your social  
 instincts and family affections, life  
 would be more enjoyable to you among  
 your own people, and that you  
 could find scope for usefulness as well  
 as for happiness where your own family  
 are as well as elsewhere. In my own  
 care, I feel that my true is short,  
 and with my death the greater part  
 of my little income will cease, so that  
 if I am to do any thing it must be  
 done soon. I feel in fact that any  
 day either your mother or I may drop off,  
 though we old fools we are planning  
 of spared to cross the ocean one more,  
 and see you and Eva, which may God grant  
 if it please him and if it will be for good.

Our visit to Boston was on the whole  
very pleasant, and we met many kind  
friends and made some new acquaintances.  
I have sent to care of Eva for  
you, as a little Christmas gift, an India-  
rubber button which I picked up and  
which you may not have seen. I shall  
also hope before the end of the year  
to send you a little Christmas  
book which I am giving. The publisher  
will send two copies to you, one  
of which I wish you to present  
with my good wishes to Mr  
David Kemp, whose address I have  
inquired. I wish you would send it when  
you write.

And now I wish to give you  
all kind love and blessing, and to express  
my hope that when father and mother  
reunite you, as they shall meet, the Lord  
who has sustained us in all our pilgrimages  
will take you up, and I am sure the will.  
Ever yours  
J. M. Dawson