

Geo Hepburn
Pictou 9th Jan'y 1858

Dear Uncle 9 Jan'y 1858

Mr Primrose handed me in a note from you three days ago, which I had great pleasure in receiving; for just about the time it was handed I was revolving in my mind the changes that one year brings about. I was thinking on looking across the street at your old residence how different even that was from this time last year. I have not forgotten that about this time 1857 I and Mrs. H. in company with your other friends had a very pleasant evening with you and Agness but now what a change if you are both far from us here and in all probability will never reside in our little city again - but remarkable as these changes are there are others still greater among us; several have not only left us for a season but have bid a final farewell to earth and all it contains; about sixteen persons have died during last year in our congregation several of them country people of course I do not know them all but some day will get a list from Mr Bain. Among them are James Yoston - Old George Young Cape John
Rosed

Mrs. Blanchard died a few days ago and
I understand has left all her property
to Mrs Samuel McCulley (Nancy Blanchard)
A son of James Simpsons (Watch maker)
died lately of consumption - still McRay
Albion mines - old Mrs Graham Captⁿ
George McRuzie's mother - old Mrs Pottinger
all have died I believe since you left us -

Murdock McRuzie the Joiner is to leave
this place to morrow morning with his
family for California; some of their relatives
are there and advise them strongly to come
on. I fear he has a hard journey before him
but I have no doubt if they are spared to
get safe there it will better their worldly
circumstances. Every thing in the bussiness
line is flat here and Tradesmen are for the
most part idle or working for half wages -
By the way I have omitted to mention that
old McCretton is dead also his son David
who died within 4 days after his father.
The old mans complaint was a severe stroke
of Paralysis from which he never recovered
although he lingered more than 2 months

His son David died of consumption it had
reduced him so that he died in his own
shop one morning just as he was about
going to his breakfast. He took a bleeding -
fainted away - and died in a few minutes.
It is said that both their estates are insol-
vent. The old mans particularly is far
behind. Amid all these charges I have good
reason to be thankfull for the general good
health of my own family. We have severe colds
among us now, but with that exception we have
had no sickness of any consequence. The weather
at present is intensely cold but we have had
a fine open fall untill lately. It froze up our
Gass work last night so that all the lights
went out. I have had no letter from my
brother for several months but have once
or twice had newspapers from him so that
I feel confident all is right or I would
hear of it. I will write you if I hear from
him soon. Poor Mr. Jorston is well and to my
utter astonishment keeps the grog bussiness
going as usual. I thought he had seen
enough to make him abandon all connected
with it.

The Temperance people are reviving again from their ~~late~~ late inactivity. Seemingly with more than their former zeal. I hope the movement will prove more permanent than before.

The Sons particularly, as doing strong work. and many who had left the Division room for years are returning into it again taking with them their associates in that laudable vice. You will see by the paper that I sent you last week that I sold them my Bear Gorge and one are to ~~be~~ making another one of larger size. I get \$10.00 for it. The one we have now in hand when finished will be worth 90 or 100.00, probably. I may get it sold into some church.

I observe what you say about a steamer line to run between this and Canada. I fear that our railroad is backed in as far as coming to Pictou is concerned and that will be sorely a ~~gainst~~ against us in the event of such a scheme going into operation. Our Govt Government have given us no Legislative Councilor in room of Mr Crichton but have appointed Barry Dickey at Amherst in his room. This will give the railway all possible chance of going by.