

Letter  
Mrs J. B. Baines  
24 Sep 1860

CH 380

Pictou Sept 24<sup>th</sup>/60

My friend Dawson  
Montreal C. C.

My Dear Sir

I take the first opportunity  
of dropping you a short note informing  
you of my safe arrival at the scene of State  
labour. On Friday about 2 1/2 P.M. the good  
Ship, Lady Head, anchored in Pictou Harbour.  
We had a most pleasant trip, until we  
left Miramichi and then it was not any  
storm, but dense darkness that led our  
Captain to anchor for 5 hours. Had we not  
met with this accident we should have  
been here about 7 A.M. The Captain said  
we had the most pleasant time, with this  
one exception of course, that he had seen on  
the route. The night after our arrival,  
however, we had an equinoctial gale of  
extreme violence. It had begun before we  
landed

landed and increased until it blew a  
perfect hurricane shaking every building  
and alarming the Landmen. I could not  
help feeling the blissful sensation of devout  
gratitude to God who had so held the winds  
in his fists as to suffer my voyage to terminate  
before any exposure to such violence on the  
drowning deep. May the Life thus preserved  
be more than ever devoted to his service  
Now that I look back on my entire route  
many Secondary Spots pass before <sup>my</sup> but none  
more attractive than the time spent at  
McGill College, and in the Secery around  
Montreal. The time passed so rapidly that  
I can scarcely realize my lengthened stay  
under the hospitable roof of Dr. Dawson.  
All feeling of a strange place was banished  
and Pictou Society was still around me.  
I am quite conscious that to your Society  
and personal kindness I owe very much  
and should we ever again meet, I hope  
our mutual prayers will secure that

Union which will be as eternal as it  
will be blissful. Earthly intercourse is  
not only desirable when it prepares for the heav-  
enly, and we may hope that to some extent  
the recent intercourse we have enjoyed will  
forward this happy consummation.

A dark shadow has been thrown over my  
spirit by the unwaried mortality which has  
been experienced by France St. Church during  
the few weeks of my absence - I thought of  
three <sup>deaths</sup> but on my way home I heard of a  
fourth and on my landing of three more  
Old Donald McQuary being full of days  
& I hope also of Grace - George Hamilton  
James Scotch Hill, a well disposed man  
& the father of a large family, three of whom  
are deaf & dumb - James Copeland, a very  
promising young man, who was Clerk to the  
Church in your day store. I had the highest op-  
inion of this young disciple. He had only joined  
the Church at our last communion on the 3<sup>d</sup>  
Sept. July last. Lastly a young child of Mr. Walker

daughter, Mr. Rogers - This Service House has  
 removed six from our Communion roll.  
 Only one of the number was such as I could  
 have anticipated. Several persons have  
 been sick & recovered, disease being very general  
 Dr. Johnson had as many as 40 patients at  
 one time - Dysentery & numerous Complaints  
 being prevalent. I took occasion to improve  
 the benefit by a discourse yesterday  
 afternoon in St. John's - Tr. The Lord is good & we  
 The people seemed very solemn and the Lord  
 helped me to speak with seeming efficacy  
 May the impressions be lasting & voluntary.  
 Great preparations are making for the Union  
 In a field next my house the two Govt.  
 seats are being erected so as to accommodate  
 from 2500 to 3000 persons & should the  
 weather prove propitious the sides of the  
 tent can be elevated and twice the number  
 be admitted within leaving distance.  
 The Gale on Friday night blew down a part  
 of the erection but did no serious harm

I am sorry to learn that the Kirk feeling  
is very bitter. Their Presbytery have refused to  
co-operate in the tricentenary celebration  
as our former matter had invited them to do.

Some too, of the <sup>Free</sup> Church have given very  
cool, such as Adam D. Gordon Esq., but  
such was never friendly to it in heart.

In spite of all drawbacks however the  
tide is sufficiently high to carry all before  
it. Since I left, the young minister that  
had then just arrived from Scotland for the  
F. C. congregation here has been called and  
ordained so that the vacancy here has been  
removed. The <sup>Free</sup> Church too is sup-  
-plied by the Methodists, so that our clerical  
staff is now complete. I enclose the  
Catechisms you wrote for. Please say to Mrs  
Damon that I attended to all her instructions  
to the young folks here, although I have not yet  
found time to call on any one. Please also  
to give my best regards to the whole family  
for their great kindness, and accept the same  
for yourself and believe me  
Mrs Bayne sends her compliments  
to all Yours very sincerely  
James Bayne