

Monmouth 3 Dec 1888.

For A. Dawson R. C. M. G. & Co
Dear Sir

The accompanying specimens of Slaty Coal I picked up in some Cape Breton Coal we have. The whole form part of the original piece, one part unhappily had been thrown in the fire & has passed through a good deal of heat. The two smaller portions now loose were at first connected & the whole was on top - a top layer - of the larger piece referred to. Some of the other parts connected with this burned piece have been thrown out. The feature of attraction in the unburned part that struck me are five distinct marks like the figure 8 looking ^{rooted} one way & like a divided animal footmark. Possibly it might be nothing of any special interest.

but it appeared as if something
might be hamed from it. I did not
know but it might be a mark made
by some of the coal miners but then
it would have looked more broken
up unless in some way heat to
soften had been applied.

A. brook Mels I have just learned
that Capt. H. / Sandy / Mc Laren
has got to rest. He passed away
quietly on Sunday I think & I trust
safely to everlasting rest. In
Rev. W. Macalister's time he was
brought I think under very serious
influences & I trust was converted.

Another of the Mels people a young
man Gwent Colby passed also away,
and at this time there is a young
girl Dugalina Smith, a niece
of Mrs (widow) Boyd in the General
Hospital. She I think has found
the Saviour. Her illness is serious.
She was this summer past

assisting Axtles on the Hotel,

Probably you may not be aware
that Mrs Macalister (widow of the
late Rev Mr Macalister) is now in
St Margarets Home, one of the upper
rooms. Her loss of eyesight &
what was really a loss, made it
apparently necessary for friends
to take this asylum for her, so that
the necessary attendance could be
given her.

It is gratifying to
know that she is improving in general
health & that her sight is improving

Please excuse my troubling
you with these details

I am truly & faithfully yours
J. M. Thomson

Alu therr
Dec 18

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