

We are fast now  
suffering under  
another deluge of  
trouble. Henry had a  
little snow on the  
ground for three days;  
today even freezing  
in the shade at  
noon. Everybody  
says "Oh the  
to the last year"

G. McD.  
Victoria B.C.  
March 9. 76.

I have noted several  
querris as in letters, to be  
answered, & must write before  
they are forgotten.  
You ask if the Bulletin of the  
Hayden Surrey Cove. I got  
several of last steamer (B) but  
did not think of looking to see  
where they came from. It seems to  
me however that they had only US.  
Stamps. Dall has sent me  
copies of the Alaska Charts you  
mention. I wrote him asking for a

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copy of his Report on *Art St Elie's*, &  
with this he sent the charts & other  
Publications. The Indian Vase  
you say Mr Selwyn has given to the  
College, I remember, but we could  
not find out anything definite about  
its history, but that it was said to  
come from the northern coast. It is  
probably quite modern. The eagle or  
bird maybe copied from the Russian  
or his emblem, but may also just as  
well represent the Thunder bird of the  
Mythology of the coast Indians. I believe  
some of the Alaska tribes make pottery,  
but will find out about it if I can.  
The Californian Reports arrived safely  
with nothing to pay at this end. I am

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disappointed in the geology which gives few general facts, a mass of details extracted from field books, printed in sumptuous style as though results of great value. It will be of some use however. Before receiving your letter with note of our Whitens dictum on the fossils, I had come to the conclusion from the Palaeont. of Lal that they must be specimens of Planella Piochi a shell characteristic of the Stasta or lowest group of the Californian Cretaceous & had stated so in a special note to my Report - sent in to Mr Selwyn some time since.

The Whitens comes regularly, & I suppose you have subscribed for it for me. It contains on the whole more news than the Gazette.

With regard to Dr Carpenter & the new shells. If it is decided that I shall explore the coast of the Island or mainland, I may be able to do some good dredging also, & as the Gov. Survey has no special place for Nat. Hist. Collections I don't see why Dr. C. should not have a share. I might be able to take a few spare days myself, at my own expense when the weather becomes finer. At present it is seldom fair & fine for a whole day at once. I will see Mr Middleton you speak of & find out what he has in the way of collections. I have ~~the~~ Prof. Hinds's letters enclosed to you. They are

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Certainly very flattering, almost too much so. What is causing him to take such a surprising interest in the N.V.? In regard to the origin of the gold of the Saskatchewan &c. There is no doubt Prof. is right in attributing it to the Laurentian region. I think Mr. Selwyn makes a similar statement in his report. At the same time, I have had pointed out to me localities among the foot-hills of the Rocky Mountains, where the northern & eastern drift does not occur, but where "colours" of gold are said to be frequent, by old miners whom I have no reason to doubt. It is also said by these men that gold in small quantities occurs in all the brooks flowing from the Rocky Mountains, near the 49th parallel at least.

With regard to the extra copies of the Report. It seems to me rather ~~is~~ better not to ask for any more just now while the payment is still in question. Cameron

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would no doubt be the proper person  
to apply to. I think everyone who  
has any claim to Copies must have  
had now been supplied, & if others  
really want the book they can always  
buy it.

I have made arrangements with Dr  
Solmie of this place, to get samples of the  
various Indian tribes, which are to be  
found in Victoria from almost all parts of  
the Coast. We are going to try to get vocabularies  
of some of the best-known languages.

There is a very fine <sup>subscription</sup> ~~public~~ library here  
where some standard books are to be  
found, & also periodicals & Newspapers.

There is no parliamentary library, nor any  
chance of seeing scientific serials. There is  
no Museum, but there is a room in the  
Govt. Buildings which is supposed to be about  
to be devoted to that purpose, when anything turns  
up to put in it. As yet there are a few specimens  
of woods got while preparing those for the Centennial.

Your affectionate Son  
George