

Saturday, March 25
1876.

W B Q

My dear Father,

I have received yours of the 6th inst. on Wednesday, & have written a note to Mr. Menault. I was glad you asked me to do so, as I had omitted previously to acknowledge the receipt of the pamphlets.

If there is anything I could get for you ^{here} & bring with me when I come I should be only too glad to do so. In regard to models, I have no further information, & have not succeeded in ascertaining who makes those at the School here. What I have seen that strikes me as being particularly well got up here, is anything in the way of electrical apparatus, as for example registering meteorological instruments.

the improvement of river ~~and~~ navigation,
canals harbours, etc. & at the same
time, by devoting myself more particu-
larly to this branch, I would gain a know-
ledge of such questions as reservoir water-
supply, drainage, etc. But then as
regards this summer, ^{as} I have not yet
studied any of these subjects here. I
would hardly be in a position to do
much at them at present, & it re-
mains to be seen whether I will still
prefer them. It seems to me that in
regard to Canada one has to be equally
well prepared with everything, & ones
becoming a specialist depends rather
on the subsequent force of circumstances
arising from the work in which one
finds himself employed.

If one was willing to be patriotic
at his own expense, there is nothing more
wifeful that one could do than devote
himself to the improvement of the
common roads of the country. Any
fool, so to speak, could do this if he
had all the money he wanted, but

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for I have not made much inquiry about these; but I have no doubt it would be quite possible to get them. There is a place I know of where they make an indicator which is placed in the observatory to show the direction of the wind at a distant point with which it is connected. This is on the principle of the "dial alphabet" system of telegraphing.

Also if any cheap sets of drawing instruments were wanted I could bring some out. They are not so good as English instruments, but are neatly made & also very serviceable. A set such as Rankine has could be got here for 16 or 20 -

Field instruments, ^{got} here, although not required for use, would be very serviceable in illustrating principles of construction not ^{so well} shown at all, & in some cases not even made use of in English & American patterns. If this were the object in getting them, they could be obtained very cheaply, & in any case are not expensive. There is a kind of level made here which is considered perfect; # but it would be considered too cumbersome and tedious in its manipulation # on our side of the world, except in cases where extreme accuracy is required. It would be invaluable as a specimen, however, & does not cost so much as a very ordinary English level.

I have been enquiring about the certificate we get at the end of the course, & find that it merely certifies that we have attended the classes & gives the marks on the back which we have taken. By it as it stands, we are only authorized to call ourselves Ancien Élève de l'École des P. et C.; but there is now a proposition before the Minister of Public Instruction to embody the title "Engineer" in it which it is hoped will meet with his approval. As to any specialties which I would like to do in for, the only thing perhaps for which I have a more particular inclination is hydraulic engineering, which would include

the problem of making the best use of the available means is by no means an easy one; and further the task of ascertaining and making public the amount which it would pay the country to spend in this way, & ^{which would} really prove a remunerative investment to the people as a whole is one which no one has as yet undertaken.

I am watching with interest the developments which surround the Albert Bridge scheme is undergoing. This would be a fine project to be employed in executing. I only wish they would talk about it for a couple of years longer so that I might have a chance of seeing it in all the stages of its progress, especially in the first beginnings which are always the most instructive. But it is to be feared that Bernadrians are too forward & hot-headed in pushing their ideas into execution to give it all the consideration it deserves, & look calmly at all the alternative propositions. A project of that kind should be thought

over for at least 3 ~~or~~ years, even if from
the first it meets with general approval.
They would probably succeed in this
way ~~or~~ in arriving at important mod-
ifications, at least.

For next summer I think railway
work will be probably the best, & or at
least the best to be met with. I
would like best if I were to get
on a preliminary survey so that
is the most instructive, & also much
the most useful, sensible to commence
with the beginning of a thing. Still so
I have said before as it is only for a
few months I must not be too particular
or I will only waste my time.

Our last examination is on Monday
the 22nd of May; It would be just possi-
ble to leave Liverpool the following Thurs-
day & perhaps I might manage it, although
the Thursday following would be more con-
venient. Still I think on the whole it I
may say that count on leaving on Thursday
the 25th. I could leave here Monday evening
if I wanted to have a day in London.

Please excuse corrections as the fellows
have been talking while I have been writing.

Yours affectionate son

William

P.S. I have decided to leave on
Thursday the 25th from Liverpool.
Each of our examinations extends
over three days, the last being on
Friday Saturday & Monday. The
Engineers have the first turn, but
I might arrange to pass, say on Sat-
urday in which case I would have
more time. I am also thinking of
going by Havre & Southampton for
a change, in which case I would
have to leave at one on Monday
afternoon getting to Havre about 6 &
to London the next morning. It is
independant of the tide, & first class
by it is only £1-8 whereas by
Boulogne & Newham Folkestone the second
class is £2-2. The time is a little lon-
ger but I think it would be more
comfortable on the whole.

D.E. Campbell mentioned to me
that the Inman & White Star

lines have been competing with each other lately, & have lowered their rates very much, & he said that it would be just as well to take advantage of it. They give a cabin passage for \$60 & a free ticket from N. Y. to Montreal. I will write to Mr. Crow about this. I am afraid I will hardly be able to wait for your answer on this subject, as it will be necessary to secure a place very early this spring on account of the Phil^a exhibition; but I suppose I can rely on Mr. Crow's advice.

We have only two courses of lectures going on at present, making five a-week.

Believe me

Yours affectionately

William.