

~~J. M. Dawson~~
Camp Il-tas-you-cho R.
July 4. 1876.

Dear Father,

I date from the river as above, though you will not find the name on the maps. It is a north branch of the Salmon, or Skeene River, & brings to the latter a great part of its water. The mouth was seen last year on the Salmon R, Surrey, & from its appearance there, & other facts it was considered likely that a good alternative line could be found eastward by following it up. Mr Hunter is in consequence commissioned to run a trial line from here to Fort George, following a course about E.N.E. where we are at present Camped is about two miles above the mouth of the river, which joins the

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Salmon about 9 miles above the Salmon House, & some 20 odd miles from the tide water at the head of Deane Channel. This is the point near which I hoped to meet her Cambie about June 17th, but - owing to delays consequent on the non-arrival of Supplies at Quessnelle, & on the bad state of the trail, & flooded condition of the rivers, we did not reach this river till June 27th, & then found neither Cambie or Hunter here. C. Seymour & a man called Foster, had been sent ahead to let Cambie & Co know of our arrival, that they might come up the Salmon R, on the certainty of meeting the Supplies, but returned after a few days, to say that the Indian bridge across the Salmon R had been swept away, & that they could not get any further on the left bank, as a small glacier stream there was swollen to the dimensions

of the river, over which they could neither raft, nor make a bridge. The same evening Mr Hunter arrived with three Coast Indians, having come up by a circuitous way through the mountains to the north. Seymour was then again sent off to let Cambie, & Humler's party know of our arrival, & try to make his way down on the right bank, obviating the necessity of crossing Salmon R. We now almost hourly expect to see the whole party, & will all be very glad when they arrive, for Mr Hunter is fretting about losing time for his long survey, & I have no doubt Mr Cambie is doing the same, while I have about exhausted the locality-geologically, & shall be glad to move off again, & get some more of the area of country I am expected to examine, some over. When Mr C. arrives I fear his plan may be, in the first instance to strike back for Quinselle, in which case I shall probably have to separate from him at once, & try some line more north, &

leading eventually northward. Though I am tired of this place, my time here has not been altogether unrepentant, as I found a good locality for fossils, & have got with Bowman's aid quite a collection from it. The fossils are probably about the same horizon as those from Tallayoco & last year viz Shasta, or lowest-California Cretaceous. They are much more varied here however, in species, & the fossiliferous rocks are distinctly associated with a volcanic series of great thickness, proving the age of this peculiar series to be as I had suspected at Tallayoco & c. There are therefore two quite distinct volcanic formations over this part of the country, one, chiefly felspathic, & often porphyritic, attached to the base of the Cretaceous & perhaps going down towards Jurassic, the other, unconformable, & post-tertiary, represented chiefly by basaltic &

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deleterious flows. In some cases there is a little difficulty in distinguishing between the two classes of beds, but generally the distinction is easy. I hope before leaving this region to be able to ascertain the relation of the older volcanic series to the Crystalline rocks of the Cascade or Coast Range.

I have had no mail matter yet since leaving Victoria (May 19) & must take some credit to myself for writing this into a vacuum; however there will soon be a chance to mail this to Quinsell, either by Cambu, or a returning pack train, & I must not miss the opportunity. We have had one mail from Quinsell with Victoria dates to June 15, but my part of it owing to a stupid mistake, miscarries & went

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off to S. Derision (McMillan's) on the
Eu-kin-i-ah, or somewhere thereabouts.
When I may be able to connect with them
I do not yet know. Some letters may
probably come up from the boat when the party
arrives.

Yours affectionate Son
Frye.

July 5. Since writing, Mr. Cambie & party have
arrived, coming in yesterday evening. I have your
letter of May 8, also letters from Anna, & Mother, not
quite so recent dates.

The Indian vocabularies include all the words you note,
being uniformly based on the vocabulary given in the
Smithsonian Instructions for ethnological observation,
a copy of which you gave me. I will try & get them into
shape on my return to Victoria.

I leave here tomorrow, going probably a days journey west
Cambie, & then developing partnership with him, as he is
anxious to reach Summelle at once, & does not yet
know what his plans afterwards may be. We have a
provisional arrangement to meet about the middle of
August at Fraser Lake, near the E. end of Francois L. & on
the telegraph trail. Frye.