

~~W.D.~~
Papineauville

Wednesday evening

Aug 2, 1876.

My dear Father,

I find that the Division that Harris has, extends about 6 miles above Thurso (where he resides) & 23 miles below it. Under him there are two assistant Engineers Symms (spelling) for the upper end & Clarke for the lower end. Each of these has a rod-man & a chain-man to work with him, forming a party of three, who have to go together in doing field-work. Harris has also an office-boy who helps him in such ways as he can.

A short time ago one of the
men, the Chain-man on the upper
sub-division, had to leave on account
of his eyes being sore. This has left
a vacancy, & Harris has offered me
the place. I decided to take it
as I have reasons which I need
not now repeat for wishing to
have a definite appointment, and
also because, the staff being small,
I will ~~be~~ always be with the Engineer
in whatever he does and will thus
see all that is going on. Harris
has also arranged to have me
work with Clarke as it seems
he is of a more amiable dispo-
sition than Syzasson; & ~~it~~ also be-
cause there is more going on at
this end than at the upper one.
I accordingly came down here

on the boat this evening. I believe I am to get a dollar a day for my services, and will hope to get, on leaving, a statement of my capabilities from Harris or perhaps from Mr Peterson. (By the way his initials are P. A. Pat)

I came up on Tuesday from Montreal arriving at Thurso at four in the afternoon. Today I drove over with Harris to the bridge over the Petite Nation River. ~~One of~~ Two of the piers were built under the Abbott-McDonald dynasty, one on rock & the other on clay. They ~~are~~ are very badly built although the external appearance is not bad. The one on rock has been pulled down more than half way, & the other is to be entirely taken up

as the foundation is suspected. I walked back to Thurso & Harris went on to the end of the Division & did not return till after I left on the boat.

I find that Mr Clarke is going down to Montebello tomorrow. It is about four miles below this. He intends walking and sending the stuff on a cart. Lebel, who was at McFill, is the road-man on this subdivision. Sanson the present chairman, is going to be put on the other subdivision to supply the vacancy there, & leave room for me here. If I do not find my time well fully employed here I will go up to Grant's Division & see the piers of the Gatineau put in. They are still waiting for the water to fall lower before commencing them.

Your affectionate son
William