

Steamer "Intrepid"

Near Victoria

Nov 11. 1876.

Dear Father,

McGILL UN ARCHI
ACC. NO. 909C14
REF. 32

I am now within a few hours of Victoria, on my way down, & learning that the regular mail steamer sails for San Francisco today, takes the opportunity of writing a short note in case I do not get time after landing to write at greater length.

I have not had any news now for some time, & may

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found letters from Selwyn in  
Victoria when I got there. If I do  
not, in the absence of other  
instructions, & following what  
I understood to be the plan  
when I came out here first,  
& the general method of procedure  
I shall make my preparations  
& leave for Montreal as soon as  
possible. It will of course be  
impossible to get off by today's  
steamer, & as it would be a  
waste of time to wait two  
weeks for the next, I may probably  
arrange to go overland to Sacramento

by rail & stage. This trip if I make it will also be an interesting one, giving me a chance to see another region of the West Coast.

Since writing from Pursell mouth I have been for a few days at Cariboo looking at some quartz veins they have begun to work on & when on the way down again on the Stage, I heard from Mr. Glossy of the C.P.R.S. that I could hire horses & a man to go through the

Kanloops & Nicola Valleys, & so took the opportunity to go & learn something about the Nicola Coals, which may be an important consideration in event of the Railway coming down the Fraser, which from the results of surveys just completed seems not impossible. The Coals seem to belong to the lignite formation, but have been altered by pressure, & perhaps heat from a vast mass of volcanic rocks

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which overlie them.

So far the Autumn here has been  
very pleasant & open, though  
about five inches of snow  
fell while I was at Cariboo  
& there was a slight covering <sup>(about 1/2 inch)</sup>  
on the ground in the Kamloops  
Nicola Country, a hard frost  
every night. About near  
Westminster they have hardly  
had any frost yet, & the  
leaves, though yellow, are still  
hanging on the poplars &  
willows.

(5)

There is so much motion  
on this steamer owing to  
a little chopping sea & rough  
working engines that I  
cannot make anything  
but a scrawl of this  
letter.

With love to all

Your affectionate son

George