

Province Building,
H'fax. 9-1-'82

Dear Father,

I arrived here on Sat^e evening after spending Friday & part of Sat^e at Moncton. It has now ~~at~~ a population of about 7000 I am told. There are two or three good streets; and some six churches, which give quite a finish to the appearance of the place. I met a Mr. Kitchie there, a young Engineer that was on the Louisburg R'y at the same time with myself. He is now Assistant Engineer ~~at~~ on the I.C.R. next to Mr. Archibald. His head quarters are at Moncton but he is away from there about 10 months in the year at various points on the line, & surveying new branches &

extensions. He does not seem to think himself extremely well off as to position, but hesitates to make a change. He has been offered work on the Newfoundland Railway, but has a wholesome distrust of companies, as he has found in almost every instance that they make some compromise as to the amount of salary they pay, if indeed they pay at all. I understood from him that he is owed money by almost every company he ever worked for, with very little prospect of ever seeing it; & this is the usual experience of Engineers.

The Syndicate in this Province appears to be taking shape. They propose to acquire all the present ~~the~~ lines except the I. C. R.

and to construct new ones in various directions. I shall try to keep myself informed as to the progress of negotiations. Mr. Plunkett, I understand, is one of the movers in the matter, as he has a considerable interest in the Western Counties R'y (Dipby to Garmouth). He is a versatile man & inclined to be speculative, I think; but has the faculty of keeping his eyes open to his own interests, and also to the interests of those who are with him when they co-incide with his own. If he were to become Chief Engineer ~~to~~ to this Syndicate, he would be a tolerably safe man to be with. If he goes in for contracting, it might not be so much so; he would be quite likely to leave his business

William
July 182

being staff in the lurch if he
found himself in difficulties fin-
ancially.

My cold is now quite better.
I sent a post-card from Houston
on Friday after I rec^d your telegram.

Your affectionate son,

William.