

14 - 2 - '82 .

William

Ly 82

Dear Father,

I enclose a copy of my answer to Major Rogers. I could not make up my mind to accept his offer, and I think I have made this plain & given my reasons distinctly. These reasons are consistent, I think, with the better terms I asked for in my previous letter; and Major Rogers letter is merely a repetition of the terms of which he spoke to you when in Montreal. I received

your telegram yesterday; and mail  
my answer <sup>with this</sup> ~~to-day~~ as he asks me  
to reply as soon as possible.

I do not think it at all advisable to bury myself in the heart of a wilderness for an indefinite term of years, even though there were every prospect of promotion and a good salary in the near future. I am beginning to think less of worldly position, and more of opportunity for doing good, as I realize more distinctly how short life is. So far as I can judge, ~~the~~ it is individual people that one should endeavour to reach, and aim at benefiting. Societies and organizations



are only of use in so far as they bring their efforts to bear on individuals; the general, the aggregate, fails to accomplish much. You speak of your own work as discouraging from some points of view; but you should not forget the number of persons who have derived untold advantage from what you have done and are doing. To build up an institution is of course a more or less uncertain undertaking; and it must come to an end at the end of all things if not before; but the institution after all is ~~but~~ only the means; the real and permanent work is to

be found in the lives and hearts  
of those benefitted by it.

My time & thoughts have  
been a good deal occupied lately with  
all these various uncertainties. But  
I hope now to have my mind  
more free. I had a good many  
invitations immediately on returning  
here, and calls to make after them;  
but I have now got through with  
this round; and intend to confine  
myself to a few families of whom  
I would wish to make friends.

Your affectionate son,

William.



Boys

Major Rogers,  
Canada Pacific Railway.

Dear Sir,

I have received your letter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst: in which you renew your offer to me. I regret that the work for the coming season is entirely of a preliminary character, as I would be less unwilling to take a minor position for a time if it were upon work of construction. The work to which you refer does not appear to me

preferable to that on which I am now engaged, as regards either position, salary, or technical interest; and I have therefore decided not to accept the offer, although I ~~regret~~ am sorry to come to this conclusion.

Allow me to take this opportunity of thanking you for your kindness; and believe me,

Yours respect fully,

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