

Willeam

Major

Halifax, 30 June 1882.

Dear Father

I have received no instructions yet from Mr. Plunkett, although I have heard some items of news indirectly. It seems that there was a meeting of the Syndicate on Monday, at which a business manager was appointed. There were still a few technicalities to dispose of, which will come up at an adjourned meeting to be held tomorrow. (Patent?) It is expected that work will be commenced immediately after this. I cabled to Mr. Plunkett last Sat

to ask when I might expect to receive instructions, but have had ~~no~~ no answer as yet. It will serve to remind him that I am writing and will also show him that I would like immediate intelligence as soon as matters take a definite shape. There seems to be a considerable diversity of opinion as to whether the result of the late Provincial Elections will affect the Synodate; but the most competent judges think that even if the Govt have to resign, it will not make any ~~off~~ difference to the agreement already made.

Dr Grant of Queen's College, Kingston, is here at present. I met him the other day, and talked over the aspect of affairs at the ~~University~~ College.

He recommended Harris at the time the appointment was made, & he tells me he did not then know that I was <sup>with</sup> applying. He appears to have considerable influence ~~in~~ the military college authorities, and he looks upon the engineering dept. as the most important in the college as it is the only one that leads to a practical source of livelihood as a profession. He has already been urging the extension of that dept, and the appointment of more men as Professors in it; and he promises to let me know if anything further in the way of an opening occurs. He remains for the summer vacation in this Province, mostly in Cape Breton.

Your affectionate son,

William J. Harris

P.S. I have now finished a short paper entitled "Revised Methods in Topographical Surveying," 19 pages of folio with sketches & tracings. It appears to me that it wd be more interesting in this country than in England, & I intend to write to the Sec<sup>y</sup> of the American Society of C. Engineers, to ask whether they will publish it and give me extra copies for private circulation. It wd also be in my favour toward entering the Society as they considered I had not had enough practical experience when I last applied.