

Halifax,

Sat. Ev. 8. 1882

Dear Father,

I have now decided to leave here next Friday (the 14<sup>th</sup> inst.) if I hear no news in the mean time. I would like to stay over Sunday at Metis on the way, and go on to Montreal at the beginning of the week, as I am looking forward to being able to help you in your preparations for the meeting of the Assocn.

When Mr. Plunkett left, his idea was to call on me as soon

2) as he knew certainly thro' the  
Syndicate scheme, was sure not  
to fall through. The section of which  
I had was to have charge was kept  
separate from the rest of the work  
just in order that it might be  
pushed on at once. As there has  
been so much delay, I begin to  
suspect that there must be ~~some~~  
more cause for it than those who  
ought to know are willing to  
admit. There are several things  
which have gone against the  
Syndicate, but that would prove  
sufficient in my opinion to  
make capitalists on the other  
side hesitate a little; first,  
it is evident that the result  
of the elections is unfavourable,  
for although the a change of

Government could not affect arrangements already agreed to, yet indirectly it makes a considerable difference. The Dominion Gov<sup>t</sup> was willing to do many things as a favor to the Local Gov<sup>t</sup> which it will not now undertake in at all the same spirit. Already a charter has been granted to Blackman for the construction of the "North Shore line" from Oxford to New Glasgow, which the Synchroite might build if they wished. The present Local Gov<sup>t</sup> is virtually defeated; and one of their reasons for holding on doubtless is to give force to any action of Mr. Blackman's as Minister of Public Works. I do

not mean to infer that these things will prevent the contemplated works from being carried out, but simply that they are unfavorable as far as their influence extends, and are sufficient to account for delay.

The present Gov<sup>t</sup> will do nothing in the mean time about the continuance of the Topographical Survey; and although Dr. Schuchert seemed to advise my making use of \$1500 of which he was willing to grant in the hope that it might eventually be followed up by a similar amount when the Local Home meets, I have written to him to say that I would not feel myself justified in going into the field while there is no prospect that the information obtained will ever be put into an accessible shape. I recommend

however that the question be (5.  
brought up before the Local  
House next session as it is quite  
possible they may then do some-  
thing; and the Plans &c al-  
ready prepared will serve to bring  
the matter before them in a tangible  
form which they will be better able  
to appreciate. This however does  
not concern myself very directly.

If I leave next Friday  
and do not receive any news be-  
fore reaching Metz, I will send  
on ~~a list~~ my heavy baggage  
with the checks, and ask you  
to arrange for their being brot-  
up to the house. I will forward  
a list with them, or in advance.

Yours affect idemite son,

William.

I will telegraph if I hear any news.

William  
July/82

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