

S. M. D.

Toulouse. July 23. 82

quarry, just
to see that there
was nothing there
worth looking at.

George

My dear Father

You will observe that
I date this letter from Toulouse,
having arrived here day before
yesterday. Tomorrow I hope to leave
for a short trip in the direction
of the Pyrenees. There is nothing of
remarkable interest about
Toulouse that I have been able
to discover, & its history
appears to consist largely in
massacres & anti-defees of
protestants, or heretics of various
kinds by Catholics, & vice versa.

There is a Jardin des Plantes
 & natural history museum. The
 latter particularly very creditable
 especially ~~particularly~~ in prehistoric collections
 from this part of France. These
 are arranged according to locality,
 & in each case a little square of
 the map has been cut out &
 mounted on board with a brass
 tack indicating the exact situation
 of the discovery. There seems to be
 a museum & picture gallery
 (generally combined) in almost
 every chief town of a department
 in France, sometimes one branch
 & sometimes another being present.
 There is also almost always a

public library with from 10,000
 to 50,000 books which may be
 consulted by anyone. The thing
 most interesting to strangers in
 the museum line is of course the
 collections of the locality, & I
 am sure a very interesting
 addition to the Montreal Museum
 would be a small typical
 local collection, well wrapped
 to accompany it - so that anyone
 could go to the precise spot
 at which points of importance
~~are~~ exist. It is very difficult
 to find these out in a limited

time by the inspection of large
 general Collections. There are
 in several Museums in this
 part of France numerous specimens
 of Tertiary (Miocene) plants,
 but in general with very few
 named species. One of the
 richest quarries is near Narbonne
 but I did not know about it
 when there. When you take your
 promised holiday I hope to be able
 to indicate numerous points
 of interest from a geological platform.
 I generally discover there when they
 are behind. Sometimes without a
 feeling of gratification as otherwise
 I might have felt it - my duty to
 go & winter in the heat in some