



GEOLOGICAL & NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY.

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MUSEUM & OFFICE, SUSSEX ST. OTTAWA.

July 1 1883  
Fort MacLeod N.W.T.

My dear Father,

Landed here safely as  
I was <sup>day before</sup> yesterday, & hope to leave again  
in the morning having procured a small  
packing outfit such as the place  
affords, for the mountains. It may be a  
month or more before I get a good  
chance of writing again. The Winnipeg  
mail via Medicine Hat came in  
yesterday, but I received no home  
letters. I hope however, you are all  
well. Several copies of "Gleaner" reached  
me, but as I subscribe to the paper it  
is not worth sending yours on in future.  
The weather has been exceedingly warm

a day for the last few days, showing  
 104° in the shade two days ago. However  
 it seems to be moderating now, &  
 anyway one does not feel it so much  
 as similar temperatures would be felt  
 east. My plan is to go from here  
 into the Crows' nest pass in the first  
 instance & then to try the other passes so  
 far as time permits. I am taking  
 out about two months supply & will  
 leave a month's at a ranch near the  
 base of the mountains. Robber Rudolf  
 left us at Regina to join some of the  
 people connected with the Collette ranch, &  
 was to travel straight through to Mackay  
 & then to the ranch in quick time. I  
 cannot learn however, that he has  
 yet reached there, though he might have  
 passed through without being known.  
 After leaving Maple Creek on the railway

I travelled along the northern slopes  
 of the Cypress Hills, & saw what  
 I could of them. I have been down  
 near the Buttes, Milk R & Milk  
 River ridge filling gaps for maps.  
 With regard to the Cypress Hills I scarcely  
 know what to say. The rocks are  
 not well shown in most places, &  
 all are somewhat distant from  
 Maple Creek, which is the nearest  
 point on the river. Generally they appear  
 to consist of Laramie resting on  
 Pierre, but the former has yielded  
 to fossils of the latter very few. Putting  
 the formations well to the west  
 about barometer work. There is  
 absolutely nothing geological with the  
 exception of drift sections to be seen  
 along the rail way to Maple Creek

At Swift Current, however, a short way E. of Maple Creek poor sections of Pierre resembling sand banks are seen on the Creek a little below the rail way crossing. Fort Walsh which was situated in the center of the hills, & where I thought you might see something of the geology, has now been entirely abandoned, & the Police are temporarily quartered at Maple Creek. The stage which runs from Walsh to St. Assumption on the Missouri has also been discontinued as the Contractor would not run any more on account of the danger of losing his horses. If however, you could get the Police to do something for you, you might make a little trip from Maple Creek into the hills.

At 20 mi. E. of Maple Creek between Maple Cr. & Medicine Hat, close to the line of the M<sup>o</sup> & C<sup>o</sup> reports good exposures of Pierre underlying the white "Beige R. beds" I don't know



5 *Judith*  
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Whether he found any fossils there  
or not. About 12 m. up the river  
from Medicine Hat are coal  
exposures in the river banks in  
rocks which I am now almost certain  
are Laramie, & probably equivalent  
to Judith River. I have seen a great  
deal of them on the way here, &  
though coaly matters & shales abound  
have been able to find no Mesozoic  
plant remains except a little  
dilicoid wood. I fear however that  
as a whole a trip out by the Ry. to  
Medicine Hat would be a very uninteresting  
one geologically considering the distance  
travelled. I hear that grading is  
already going on beyond Calgary & that

the Contractors promise to have the  
 rails there by the end of first week in  
 August. If you could get a pass from  
 the C.P. people & I am sure you  
 might it would perhaps be  
 desirable to leave out the Express &  
 go right out to Calgary, stopping  
 at a few places & returning direct.  
 I say if you could get a pass as  
 by notes charged the journey would  
 otherwise be a ~~very~~ <sup>rather</sup> expensive one, & in  
 regard to eating & sleeping accommodations  
 is bound to be an uncomfortable one.  
 Dr Selwyn spoke last Spring of going by  
 the Ry to Calgary this summer when  
 the road was complete. If you  
 happened to hit off his time he  
 would doubtless be able to assist  
 you with transport or what he would  
 be hiring for himself. I will ask  
 McConnell to write to your address

at Medicine Hat, in case you  
should go there, giving you notes  
on any flowers he may have found  
since I left, near the track.

There is a weekly stage (hackboard)  
from Medicine Hat to this place  
& back now. The trip takes 3 days  
each way & with good weather might  
be pleasant, <sup>though probably</sup> However it would  
be a chance if the driver would be  
able to take a passenger at any  
given date.

I think I have now told you  
about all I can on the matter  
of your proposed winter trip, & am  
sorry that it is not more encouraging.  
I had expected to find very fine  
specimens in the Cypress Hills, but  
when I was did not see them.

With love to all at home

Your Affectionate Son

George

