Rawlins

Tuesday
Jan. 11th 87.

My dear Father,

Many thanks for your letter and cable-gram from Boston, both of which have been safely received. I think your visit to Boston & New York has proved a success in every way, as well as a pleasant & I am sure much needed change from the monotony and worry of your work in Montreal.

Thanks too for your kind offer which I shall certainly be pleased to accept, in the event of my being able to visit Canada again

of next summer, as I should like to do, although I confess to having a more or less unreasonable dread of finding myself persuaded or flayed to remain there. There is no doubt that in many ways Australia affords a much more desirable field for a medical man. The status of the profession is vastly higher, is in fact the highest standard, and the prizes in the race are undoubtedly better worth the running. From the merely financial point of view one would be justified in expecting to make pounds there for dollars in Canada, probably without quite as much of utterly thankless toil. However we shall see.

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Meanwhile I shall be pleased to hear anything you may learn as to possible openings, & more particularly as to the infant community at Vancouver, which may by this time I suppose be considered as well advanced in its teething. If there are not already three doctors to every inhabitant, I rather fancy that ~~that~~ such more or less general and varied knowledge of professional matters as I have managed to acquire, might be turned to better account there than further east.

We mustered yesterday on the Manitoba and sail on Friday (14th.)

She is a fine ship, beautifully fitted, the Capt. a pleasant fellow and a goodly list of passengers upon the present voyage so that as far as one can judge, we should have rather a pleasant time of it. She was one of those, by the way, which we went over the day you visited the docks, with white marble & gilt panneling in the Saloon, if you remember.

Last week I dined with Dr Thos. Rae, the occasion being the début of two brides, one of Prof Flower's daughters who is now a Mrs — (names are my bête noire), and a pretty little scotch girl whom Colmer has married.

J. d'Rae's Oranges are always good as you know, and his perpetual flow of good humour and travellers tales add not a little to the entertainment. In his usual kindly way he enquired after Mother and Eva, & desired to be remembered to you –

Tonight I attend a meeting of the Royal Col. Inst. when a paper on New Guinea is to be read.

I hear that Stephen & Smith are still pressing the Govt for a subsidy for Steamers on the Pacific, but have not learned of any definite result having been arrived at.

Last week I received a letter

6) from Eva, and also
a friendly note from Will
written in Toronto; Will you
kindly express my acknow-
ledgments & thanks, until
such time as I am able
to answer for myself –
During my stay here for
five weeks past, I have been
utilizing my opportunities
to a certain extent by visiting
hospitals &c. and have
not failed to acquire some
new ideas. I shall however
be far from sorry to get
away again, as the cold
dark and dreary weather
becomes decidedly monotonous
after a time and certainly
does not conduce to Amiability
of disposition or Cheerfulness
of Spirits.

Political matters here have
been somewhat unsettled
& interesting, as you will
of course have seen, but
the readjustment is now
completed for the time, & it
is to be hoped that comparative
tranquility will obtain now,
at least until Parliament
meets. Abroad, on the continent
everything seems to be tending
slowly but surely towards
perhaps the biggest thing in
the way of wars that
the world has yet seen.
Of course, as is always the
case, there are a hundred
thousand contingencies
which may and will no
doubt affect the time
of the first out break of

hostilities; but the tendency towards a crisis is as unmistakeable, as it is apparently uncontrolable, even by the Men who have been for years swaying the destinies of Europe. Should we say "Let it come"? or pray like the good old Emperor of Germany that it may not be in our time?

My love to Mother, and kind remembrance & good wishes to all.

Ever your affectionate Son

A Tennyson