



Here but  
at the moment  
I have  
papers  
which  
so  
I  
found  
here

La Return. Dear S,  
B.C.

17 June 1889

My dear Father,

You will observe

that I still date from Dear S,  
but we hope to leave tomorrow  
noon from this outpost of Civilization  
if such it may be called. Since  
I wrote last we have built three  
boats, having first had to saw  
out the lumber from which to make  
them. The boats were built about  
five miles from here, & only  
yesterday, a few hours after they  
were completed did the ice finally  
break up on the lake. Today there  
is not a vestige of ice to be seen,  
except here & there where piles of  
rotten spruce & other pieces lie on the

George

2

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stores where stores have occurred,  
This year is the latest so far  
recorded for clearing out of ice -  
It proved by the CK last winter  
& the river is not large enough to  
carry it away so it has to remain  
& melt slowly in places. McCornell,  
who was making a survey up  
the Stikkeen has caught up, with  
his two men, & will use one of the  
boats. I have McEwen, two white  
men & a crew of 5 Coast Indians  
The Indians I propose sending  
back after making the portage  
from Francis L. to Pelly R., &  
have calculated supplies etc  
accordingly. We have of course  
already done something, but  
I count tomorrow the beginning of  
our trip proper, & the season is

Now so far on that we  
 cannot afford to let the grass  
 grow under our feet. This place  
 is quite dead now, though once  
 lively enough when the placer  
 mines were paying well. It consists  
 of a collection of a dozen or twenty  
 very ruinous wooden shanties  
 & log houses, including two stores.  
 Nearby the houses & huts are now  
 uninhabited, or tenanted by Chinamen,  
 or Indians. Some mining is  
 or course still going on, a last  
 season about \$15,000 was taken  
 from this creek, but not enough  
 to support the place. This  
 spring to whole interior Cassia  
 County was run out of almost  
 everything in the way of provisions,  
 a state of affairs relieved today by

the arrival of the little steamer  
 which runs on this lake, bringing  
 stuff from head of lake, where pack  
 trail runs, down the lake. The steamer,  
 a very small one, is of course also a  
 relic of the old busy times & would  
 never have been built to meet present  
 requirements, though her cargo ton is  
 still a convenience. Nothing was  
 known about Indian troubles surrounding  
 on the Yukon & I hope the report  
 was unfounded, as its source  
 as given first is not a reliable  
 one. I may be able to write again  
 from the little trading post at mouth  
 of Dease R, but if so the letter may  
 be a week behind this one.

With love to all  
 yours truly

Geoff. M. Dawson

P.S. I signed this automatically in a rather formal  
 manner, which please excuse.