

Forks of Clear & Liard Rivers
24 June 1887

My Dear Father,

We have here completed one more stage of our journey, arriving yesterday morning at this little post, which belongs to a trader named Sylvester & is in charge of a man named Egnell. It has been raining heavily since yesterday & all day today & owing partly to this, which prevents getting observations, & partly to the slowness of arrangements with Indians who I hope to get to go up river from here to Francis R. & help on the portage, we are detained. I hope, however, to get away tomorrow morning. About thirty Indian hunters trade here & they are now nearly all in from their various hunting grounds, most of which are so remote that they come in to sell their skins etc but once in the year. The post consists of a few little log buildings on the edge of a high bank overlooking the river, & is the last we shall see before getting down near mouth of Stewart R. on the Yukon. I still hope to make the trip as planned all right, though so much delay has occurred, as mentioned before, however, it may prove impossible for us to get out again to Coast before winter, in which case I shall run no risks in endeavoring to navigate freezing rivers, but rather wait

till the ice takes & make a winter journey out.
We have had very little warm weather as yet, but
in compensation have been little troubled by Mosquitoes.
The latitude here is about 60° & even at the clearest are
at their longest there is scarcely any night at all. I have
not yet got habituated to turning in before the sun sets.
From Deane L. have passed through a wide range of
irregular mountains. Alls primitive & on flanks
palaeozoic rocks including probably from Carboniferous
to Cambrian. Have got Carb. fossils & some
graptolitic stalks which appear possibly about Trenton
or about the same age with those found by McConnell in
Ricking Horse pass last year. Patches of Tertiary as
the Deane but fossils not found to show whether Miocene
or older.

McConnell leaves here with two men to go down the
Liard. Self with Mr. Long, two white men, 3 Coast
Indians & possibly some local natives set out up
head toward Francis L. & putoff. It will take
at least ten days to reach the stream, as the
river is very swift & water pretty high. All well.

Yours, with love to
all at home
George

G. M. D.
June 18/97