

Wth. 16 July 87.

Dear Father,

It was very kind of you to be so generous with regard to your fresh air contribution, but I cannot yet answer for Florence or her decision in the matter. I think myself it wd do her much good to have a few weeks at Metz.

I am much obliged to you for the trouble you have taken in writing to Mr Peterson & Sir D. Smith. Ships are still in their chronic state of chaos

with perhaps a little additional
uncertainty just at present.
I do not see that there is
much in the way of permanent
advantage here, & so far as
I can judge the C. P. R. are
likely to lose our good men
as they are fortunate enough
to have at present. It does
not do to treat professional
men as mere clerks year after
year. If I had gone into
a bank at 16 I wd be better
off now than I am, & have
better prospects; so far as the
C. P. R. goes.

I have been talking with
one of our Bridge Inspectors
who has been travelling thro' the

States, & he tells me that recent ^{the} laws in N. Y., Pa., Ohio & another state require for inspection of existing and prospective bridges. Bridge Inspectors are therefore much in demand; so much so that they do their work mostly by the job instead of ~~making~~ engagements; and can earn \$500⁰⁰ a month or more. This involves some amount of travelling of course, reports being sent to the Eng^r of the Railway or with any strengthening the bridge may require. The repairs are usually made at once and the bridge as strengthened reported to the State Inspector for approval. These State Inspectors get ^{salaries of} about \$500 a month, & the whole

system brings up the general design of bridges to a satisfactory standard. I suppose it will be a century before we have anything of the kind here, as the Govt is under the patronage of the R^B Co² at present!

I mean to ~~write~~ begin now to write to different Bridge & R'y Companies to obtain information, & will prepare for a months trip in the autumn if I hear of nothing definite in the mean time. This will give me a general knowledge of the present position of bridge work even if I return here.

I wd like your advice & opinion on these points when you have time to consider them.
Yours affec^{ly} son
William.