

Apr^l 26. 88

J. B. M. M. M. M. M.
at sea

My dear Father,

At Aden, a week ago, I received a package of mail, in which, containing amongst others, two notes from you, for which many thanks. My weekly paper forwarded from Corkopun Street, Aden, is regularly and always read with interest. Many thanks for it. Every change and advance received always

2 / affords me sincere
pleasure, where Canada
is concerned, and I shall
to be none the less a true
citizen & patriot, although
preparing, at present at
least, to look on from a
distance. Indeed there
is no place like home, - when
one is away - Distance
softens the harsh outlines
of the picture, and casts
a pleasing kindly shade
of our faults and
failings, which have
pained & troubled much

I when one ^{has} responded to their full
force - I have read with much
pleasure several of Chamberlain's recent
speeches, which are calculated I fancy
to do much good in Canada, as being
a very cordial expression of good
fellowship and intelligent sympathy,
from an influential quarter - His
utterances at the Canadian Club
dinner at New York I thought especially
good, and later, one or two speeches
made since his return have gone
far to prove his broad and statesman-
like views of this and similar Imperial
questions - I hope to send with this
a paper which you may not have
seen, with an exceptionally intelligent
leader on Canadian current affairs.

I regret much that your winter work
has proved so exceptionally severe, &

4/ harassing, but sincerely

trust that, now at least,

you will have some

respite and rest. What-

ever happens pray do not

allow yourself to feel in

concern or compunction

about me or my welfare.

Of course it takes time to

piece from nothing, but

meanwhile I am living

like a fighting cock, and

in a position to save a

hundred or two a year if

I choose, and have excellent

chances of settling down

to advantage, when the
time comes. I fancy I
am too careless and indolent
ever to become wealthy in
this world's goods, - but
have no sort of fear of always
being able to light on my
feet in one way or another.

Ever and so a welcome
letter, for which please
express my thanks &
appreciation - Anna too
wrote long & lovingly -
I think I have already
sent my congratulations
to Florence and will join
their new acquisition -

I was pleased to hear
of Howard's wedding, which
will I hope quite relieve him
from the pressure of material
want and anxiety, & give
him a free hand. Whatever
his present intentions, he is
much too ambitious and
much too deeply inoculated
with professional virus,
not to return to his surgical
work, and I have no doubt
will make his mark in
one way or another -

By the way, have you
read Matthew Arnold's
article in the 19th Century, on
America. It shows much
observation & keen insight;

It is well worth reading -

I have said nothing as yet of my trip into the interior of India, & have run on so long already that I must merely mention it, now. It proved most interesting, instructive & not pay-able - I got away for ten days, and travelled nearly 900 miles from Bombay to Delhi & Agra, the headquarters at one time, of the old Mogul rulers. They certainly were wonderful old fellows, and the buildings they have left behind them, mosques, forts and palaces, are some of the most notable that exist, as you know -

astounding the amount
of labour, time & expense
involved. The "Taj" near
Agra, the tomb of Akbar's
favourite wife is a
marvel of beauty, &
I suppose quite the finest
piece of Saracenic work
extant. I had too a
good chance of learning
something more of the
mechanism of Indian life
and institutions, always
interesting. At Jeyhore, a
native city and the head-
quarters of a small native
state of the same name,
I stopped over for a day,

visiting the Rajah's Palace
stables, Menagerie &c.
The slow and steady
transformation being wrought
in India, under British
rule is wonderful & unique.
It strikes on at every turn, the
who runs may read, - & yet
nothing more singular or on
a grander scale, can well
be conceived.

My best love to Mother & boy
with all kind remembrances
& sincere good wishes,

Your affectionate Son

J. G. K. M.