

Raukme
Potter's Hotel
Winnipeg
March 23rd

My dear Father,

The last two or three days have been prodigal of home letters, those from Chicago having been duly forwarded, and several others of more recent date having arrived from Montreal direct. I thus again, as in duty bound, break a silence which has already lasted too long longer than it would have done were it not for my my innate (I cannot well say hereditary) indolence, now rapidly becoming habitual.

2 / I do not profess that I
have not even yet some
yearning after a more active
or useful career, but must
at least take credit for at
once, and manfully, snuffing
them out.

Your letters, besides their many
expressions of kind
sympathy & proffered help,
for which I assure you I
felt deeply grateful (however
unassuming), contain much
good advice, which however,
even granting that I were
willing to take advice, I
might find difficult to follow
literally. The one recommends
the immediate adoption
of some laborious employment
it matters not what. Another
speaks of a journey to Europe.
A third looks forward to my

I return home, whilst yet
another commends an
immediate settlement in
Winnipeg. I do not refer
to this as of pure "cessidness";
on the contrary my own
ideas in the matter correspond
very closely (at different times)
to each and all of the above
courses of action. I'm
And the presence or absence
of the where-with-all necessary
to the accomplishment of any
end, will I doubt not settle
the matter in their own
glodding way.

In the mean time I am
and always shall be glad to
learn of the welfare & happiness
of all at home. I owe you
many thanks for the trouble
you have taken on my behalf in
having letters re-forwarded

40) to me in my peregrinations,
and also I believe
upwards of \$1⁰⁰ more or less,
for expenses in telegraphing
to me at Toronto. Both debts
shall be duly honoured. Let
me ask you to ask him to ask
Florence to accept my sincerest
thanks for her thoughtful letter
which however I shall myself
reply to "when I get time".
With all due deference to the
plan, of which Mother has told
me, for their proposed wedding
next summer, it would seem
to me much more like the
thing were Miss Elliott to be
married from a friends house
say the Martine's in Halifax,
William going to meet his bride
there. Since she cannot be
married in due form from her
Fathers house, this would at
least be the nearest approach to it
and would avoid the publicity &

I shall I say awkwardness
of the arrangement suggested.
Perhaps however I should
follow more closely the saying
attributed to the bell of Sevon
"That which concerns you
not meddle not with" -
but the information having
been pressed upon me
I cannot but have an opinion
on it.

They have been having rather
a hard pull, I understand,
in the financial work at Month
although little is said of it
by the press here, which appar-
ently considers it a duty
to suppress as far as may
be any statements prejudicial
to the country directly or
indirectly. Matters at
Winnipeg remain for the

most part unchanged.

Business is quiet, emigration however has commenced and the weather is somewhat more moderate and seems to promise that there will be a summer this year after all. Some speak of a mining "boom" as imminent - but for my own part I think we have had enough of "booms" in this country for some time to come. The land "boom" is now spoken of as an era in the past (as was the case with the year 49 in California) when any fool who happened to be here at the time could make his fortune without loss of time or energy. Those like myself

who were not here (although
most of them it is true had
not the felicity of being imprison-
ed elsewhere with the full
knowledge of what was trans-
piring here) can now only
look on in silent envy
at the wholesale warehouses,
handsome residences and
smiling wives of the "boomers".

I have seen a number
of old acquaintances here
since arrival, Galt, Bayne,
Drummonds, Stewart Jupper, &c
and made some new ones.
A few evenings ago I dined
with Aikins the lieutenant-Gov
who although a very plain
man - Ontario make - seems
alive to the interests of the country
and inclined to make himself
as agreeable & popular as
possible in spite of his anti-

drinking & dancing principles.

Mother speaks of James's death
(Chief engineer on C.P.R.). It
was a particularly sad and
unexpected calamity: and
has thrown us on our beam
ends in coal matters, as
he took a great interest in
the opening up of the mines
and had pledged himself
to put a good deal of money
into it, with me. I knew
him very well, and
esteemed him as an able
man as well as most pleasant
friend.

Remember me to all at home -
Also to Mrs Carpenter.

Love to Mother

Your affectionate Son
Zachariah