Plaster Cove Aug 21.

Dear Margaret

I left Antigonish on Friday morning. It rained heavily about daybreak, but about 7. when we set off it promised a fair day. It soon however rained again, and the day was showery, some of the showers being very heavy. My Mackintosh Lawrence & umbrella kept me pretty dry. The country entirely of Antigonish is rather tame and monotonous, with a good deal of low woods, until we came into the settlement of Racade, inhabited chiefly by French Catholics, who retain their language and many of their habits. I dined at a little French inn, which was pretty comfortable, though foreign like in many of its appointments and in the babble of French kept up by the family. We passed near the Convent here, in which I was told there are about 40 nuns beside a smaller number of monks in another

building which we did not see. The buildings are neat and well painted, but it is mournful to think of so many poor creatures kept in bondage, more especially in a country like this, where there is plenty of room for them in active life. In the middle of the French settlements, there is a colony of Negroes, who came from Jamaica a long time since, Most of them are Baptists though I could not learn anything of the state of religion among them. Many of them are very poor; I gave some tracts to some that we saw in passing.

About Harbour Bouché the scenery is somewhat better but it was too rainy to enjoy it; and there is a fine view where the road comes near the Strait of Canso; the land on the N S side of the strait is however rocky and the road very bad. We arrived at the ferry about 4 o'clock, and after waiting till a shower passed, crossed the strait. The ferry is close to the promontory of Cape Porcupine which

from one point of view looks very like Arthur's Seat, though it is wooded except a few rocky precipices.

I was very kindly received by Mr McKeen of Plaster Cove, who has a comfortable house, and who promises to provide me with all the means of conveyance I shall require. He offered to go with me to Ship Harbour or Caribacou on Saturday; but it rained furiously with lightning and a high wind, and I was very thankful to have met good quarters for the day. Mr McK has a wife & three girls, one of them an infant of six weeks old. I shall try to make his house my home when I can, and he says that he can inform me of several places where I can spend a night comfortably when necessary.

It rained and blew hard all Sunday, and as there is no meeting of any kind here, I spent most of the day in reading. I had some conversation with a ship master from Canso Harbour, a congregationalist, and at least a serious man. He says there is a small congregationalist church with 25 members at Canso. They have also occasional Methodists

dist and Baptist preachers and good Sabbath Schools & libraries. There is he says a great "stir in religion" there. He has his wife with him going to Quebec, but they were caught by the gale in the Gulf and had to put back here, and the poor woman was so terribly sick that she has made up her mind to abandon the voyage and return to Cairo.

On this side of the strait there is a great want of Gospel ministry. I heard of a school-master and a mechanic a few miles farther down who sometimes preach, and of some Sabbath schools. They very much want a Free church Minister, a great number being of that denomination.

The weather has become so cool that I can comfortably wear my chamois & thick coat. I do not know what to say of your coming — I fear they have not sufficient accomodation here and I have not seen ship hardly. The time is getting short too. By the time you receive this, I shall have been nearly a week here and in three weeks or after will likely be on my way home. It is possible I may have to return by land, and spend a day at Point Levis again. I am quite well but have been again detained to day by the continued wet weather. I expect however to set off to morrow morning.

I may not return to this place till Satur=
day, and in that case I may not be able
to write to you again by the next mail,
which leaves this place on Friday morn=
ing. I trust that the weather may now im=
prove, as we have had five days of wet wea=
ther. I have taken my letter to the office
open in hopes of the arrival of the mail
in time to answer those expected from
you. I have just received it, and
am most happy to hear of your welfare
Be assured I will take good care
and hope with God's blessing to be re=
stored to you. Call the letter for my
journey

Your affectionate

William

Sir J. W. Dawson
To Lady "

Wm J. W. Dawson
Pictou