

McGILL UNIVERSITY  
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Saturday Sept 2

Saint Margot

Having a little time this afternoon, I shall continue the chronicle of my "weary" wanderings. On Monday morning we halted at a place named Little River, and walked with a curious old Englishman named Phelps to see a coal bed about 2 miles from the road. The old man had dug into it before, and had a scoop with which he baled the water out of the hole, after examining the bed carefully, we dug out some of the coal and carried as much as we could to the road. We then drove on to Inhab. Stant R., and put up for the night at a house on the banks of the R. It is only a narrow stream, but the bridge had been carried away by the freshet, and my man and the man with whom we lodged had to ferry over the horse and fly. I may mention that I had with me one of the same men who went with me to Carbor; a wild young highlander, but active and ready at any thing. On Tuesday we went by a rather bad road up to the head of the river and

examined a small bed of coal there  
The afternoon was rainy, but having my  
waterproof coat I was not much wet,  
and got myself comfortably dried at the  
house at the Bridge, to which we returned  
in the evening. The Inhabitants is a fine river  
winding down a wide flat valley from some hills  
running across its head. The Settlers on it are  
North Highlanders, many of them Roman Catholics.  
On Wednesday we drove to St Peter through  
County for the most part cheery and pleasant.  
St Peter is a narrow isthmus connecting the  
western & eastern halves of Cape Breton, and separating  
a branch of the great Bras d'Or lake from St Peter  
bay. The undulating and broken ground near  
the isthmus and the numerous promontories  
jutting out into the water on either side, give  
the place a very picturesque appearance. The view  
from a steep grassy hill on which the French  
at an old time had a fort or battery is really  
fine. On Thursday, after examining some  
parts of the banks of R Inhabitants and Little  
R, which I had not seen before, we returned  
as you know to Plaster Cove. Yesterday fore-  
noon I was occupied with writing out my

Notes and conversing with Mr Patterson who  
arrived in a <sup>2</sup>Argentine, and gave me some of  
the Petar news. In the afternoon I looked  
at some rocks near Ship Harbor. I had some  
intention of going today to Port Hood and Maton  
with Mr McKee, who went on business; but  
Patterson having arrived and wishing to go  
on there, I thought it better to give let him  
go in my place. Besides, my going there  
would be a mere pleasure excursion and  
might interfere with the timely completion of  
my work. I therefore spent the greater part  
of this day in exploring the banks of a pretty  
branch of the Inhabitant R, which take its  
rise not far from Purple Point Cove.

With respect to future movements, I intend  
on Monday to take a walk along the shore  
to the westward, and meet Mr McKee on  
his return. On Tuesday I intend to visit  
Cape Precipice, and view from its summit  
the country which I have explored. In  
the remainder of the week, if fine, I  
shall examine the sections in this neigh-  
borhood which I have left to the last;  
and shall then cross the Strait on

My way homeward on Monday evening  
or Tuesday morning. I shall be in Antwerp  
on Tuesday afternoon, and on Wednesday  
of five mile ride over to Polms Lake. I shall  
endeavour to leave that place in time to  
return to Peter by the Saturday mail. I wish  
truly the time were come, for I long to see  
you again.

Monday— The morning is misty with a cold wind and  
unless it improves I will not go out as I intended  
yesterday I attended the preaching of a travelling  
Baptist minister who preached in a school house  
between this place and Ship Harbour. There were  
two sermons but the day being wet and disagreeable  
I went only to one, and spent the remainder of the  
day chiefly in reading & conversation.

I had intended to wait till the mail brought  
me yours but it is so late that lest I should  
neglect the forwarding of this I shall post it at  
once. I am in excellent health and strength  
and so far the better of my journey. May God  
bless you dear Margaret in all things, and  
grant us a happy meeting Saturday after  
next.

Your loving husband  
William