

Anna's admirers
sketching lessons
(Mr. Wilkinson)

Murray Bay
July 1848/9

Acc. 1443

Dearest mamma,

I have no very particular news, nor has anything out of the way happened to cause me to write by the St. Leonard mail, only as I was not quite sure whether my last letter would reach Quebec in time for the mail, I thought I would write a little note in case you should be any way about us. There is to be English service in the church this morning & as I don't know who the clergyman is so have concluded to spend the morning quietly at home, if I find hear a good report of the sermon I will go in the evening. Last Sunday we had a very nice sermon on the subject of thankfulness.

We have been enjoying ourselves very much, I think I gave you an account of our

little excursion up the river.
Mr Hunter left the same evening
but perhaps he is coming down
again, I hope he will for he is
quite an acquisition, Mr Egan
has been tormenting me by con-
stant attentions, but I have quite
made up my mind to put a
stop to it, & as Mrs Carpenter can't
bear him, I don't suppose we
shall find much trouble, though
the said gentleman is a little
impertinent to his horse, is
quartered ~~above~~ behind our house
so that brings him about. Now
don't be anxious about me, like
a dear mamma, for I am trying
to be very prudent, & Mrs C
gives the best of good advice,
you see I tell you all that
happens, so you may feel sure
that you know the worst of
everything which certainly is not
very alarming. I refused to go out
boating with him yesterday though
by so doing I had also to refuse
to go out with the McLimonts
in their large boat, which
certainly was rather provoking.
William has been out rowing

several times, it seems to do him
a great deal of good, & anything
interesting in the open air is
quite a blessing, I am very
careful only to let him go in
safe boats & not over the dan-
gerous current, he is looking very
well indeed, seems to have got
over that extreme lassitude, &
has promised only to study two
hours a day, which certainly
cannot hurt him, Frank &
Eva are both, I am thankful
to say, very well indeed, the boys
sleep upstairs & have large airy
rooms or rather attics which I
am sure are more healthy than
the little boxes we had last year.

Mr Wilkinson, an artist
who gives lessons in Quebec has
come down to spend the summer
at Cap à l'Aigle, he has promised
to give sketching lessons to some
people there & we are trying to
get up a sufficient class to tempt
him to come down here, the Mc
Lemonts Ellen Holt Miss Mc donald
& one of the Miss Moffatts will I
think join, his charge is every
reasonable, \$3 or three dollars a

month for two lessons a week
old Miss Mc Liment says that
he is an excellent master, I even
if he is nothing wonderful, you
must learn a good deal &
should think, I have been quite
in despair over my attempts,
since I came down, I am trying
to learn, I copied my last picture
all over again because it was
not good, but unfortunately the
second was almost as bad as
the first, the prospect of lessons
has cheered me on, I thought
you would not object to the
expense, as it seemed to be an
unusual advantage.

Jessie Mc L. has come to
sleep here for one or two nights
as Mr Wm. Mc L. & a Mr Clapham
came down by yesterday's boat
& their house is crowded. I should
like to have Nina & Dara down
here a little while, as neither
of them seem very strong. I
have not the slightest idea
whether they would come or not
but when Mrs Carpenter goes
up in the middle of August, I
will be quite alone, which is

not very pleasant in a place
like this, however dearest names
that shall be exactly as you
like, I really do not care so much
it is only for their sakes I mind
for if Dora is married next year
she ought to improve her health
as much as possible -

Alice Wills is down here, with
Mrs Kenneth Moffatt, also Mary
Watson, Katie Parker, & lots of nice
people, I believe Capt. & Mrs Scott
are expected from Ottawa, the
Selwyns have gone to Coacoma.

We sit all doors nearly all
day, I am getting quite industrious
in the way of embroidery, I inserted
in several strips of it before I
left town.

It is a little warmer here
than last year of which I am
very glad, as that chilly weather
does not agree with me at all,
I have very strong thick boots
which I find the greatest comfort
with, keeps my feet warm & dry
I hardly ever wear gummets now
I go in for comfort instead of
elegance, I have cut the train
off your salmon coloured morning

dress, I find it a most useful
walking dress, it is a change
from the grey.

It is such a short time
since I wrote that there is really
not much to say, Mrs C. sends
her love, I hope she gave a good
account of me in the letter she
wrote to you.

William has gone to the
church, & as both the children
seem to dislike the English
service I thought that it was
no harm to let them write a
little to you, as they cannot
possibly read or be read to
at all day.

With very much love
to dear George, I must close

Your ever affectionate
Anna