

48A

Victoria B.C.

Aug 6. 75.

My dear Mother,

Here I am at last  
at my first destination, staying  
at the St George's Hotel, a small  
house but a remarkably comfortable  
one, quiet & clean, & with a very  
good table. There are larger hotels  
here, but I do not think quite  
equal to this one. Here I chanced  
to alight & I am very well pleased  
to remain for the few days before  
'moving on'. I find Mr Richardson  
here with full information about  
the best ways of doing things &  
getting about; which will save  
much trouble. I have also seen Mr

Marcus Smith of the Pacific Ry  
Surveys, & he seems willing to do  
all he can, & thanks the time of  
my arrival fortunate with regard  
to the position of his parties. Their  
pack trains are not at present  
very busy, & I think I may  
arrange to start from here with  
one man who has been look for  
Mr Richardson, & is highly recommended,  
& go right up the Trazor without  
other men, or trouble of carrying  
supplies, nearly to Ft George. There  
I hope to get a small organized  
pack-train from the C.P.Ry, &  
also to draw supplies from their  
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All this will simplify things  
very much. I am only sorry  
that the delay arising from our  
slow passage here from San Francisco  
prevented me from starting this  
morning. Not being able to get  
ready in time involves the loss  
of a week, as the boat to New-  
Westminster, & Stages up the  
Fraser only connect on Fridays.  
The week will not be altogether  
lost, as I can see all the views &c  
here, & also something of the  
surroundings of this place, but it  
is a bother to be staying at a hotel  
with nothing particular or definite  
to do.

Mr Smith received a letter lately from Mrs

with moderately wide streets  
 generally well laid out & nearly at  
 right angles. The buildings are chiefly  
 of wood though with some of brick,  
 & a few very neat residences &  
 & some respectable churches &  
 other public buildings. Most of the  
 streets have good plank-walks, & the  
 shops & houses are not high & of a  
 rather unassuming style of  
 architecture. The former have very often  
 a way of throwing out a projecting  
 roof or veranda which is supported  
 by light pillars or posts & stretches  
 across the side walk. Business here  
 appears to take its time, getting up  
 not too early in the morning, &  
 not absolutely rushing, or hurrying

itself, but still going on. I am  
assured however that this is the  
dullest season yete year. The  
harbour is small but well inclined,  
& the outskirts yete town are very  
pretty & spread across several arms  
or narrow inlets running up in  
various directions. The country is all  
very dry at present, the roads dusty,  
& the grass generally brown or  
brownish, & the people do not expect  
much rain till September. There  
is little farming land in this <sup>immediate</sup> vicinity,  
but what there is is good, & there  
are some very pretty gardens. The rock  
has a way of cropping up here there  
& everywhere, breaking up the surface  
generally. The woods seem to be very

beautiful, & there are extensive  
areas in the vicinity of the town not  
thickly wooded but dotted with  
oaks & pines & other trees, singly  
or in small groves. The trees have  
an English way of growing, I hardly  
know how else to explain it, but they  
seem to go in more for horizontal  
& gnarly branches.

The scenery visible from various points  
about town is simply magnificent.

Southward the broken Olympian  
Mts. are in full view across  
the straits, with streaks & patches of  
snow on their summits. Westward  
at a great distance Mt. Baker  
rises like a great snowy dome

All around are islands,  
with pine clad or otherwise  
wooded hills, & the sea.

I will perhaps be able to pick  
up some more points about  
the place before writing again, &  
just this time I suppose I will  
have abundant opportunity to  
make myself acquainted with it  
furtherwards.

I am writing to Anna also by  
this mail & addressing to  
Ontonagon

Your loving son

George

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