

ask Ira to  
write & tell me  
y<sup>e</sup> to going  
to Nuy's stays  
or not.  
your long for  
frags

Blackwater Depot. B.C.  
Oct-8. 1875.

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
ACC. NO. 909C/4
REF. 22

My Dear Mother,

You will see by the  
date that I am still here, waiting for  
the arrival of the pack-train for Ft.  
George. It will probably now be here  
early next week. There is nothing  
particular to add to what I wrote a  
few days ago, but as a pack train  
returning to Quesselle leaves tomorrow  
I cannot resist the temptation of  
penning a few lines. The last-mentioned  
'train' left Ft. George on Monday, Oct-4,  
or at that time Mr Selwyn had not  
arrived, so that my chances of meeting

Then there are good. The season is  
now so far advanced that I  
hardly think it likely he will  
attempt going out by François Lake,  
but will come down by the Prayers  
Wagon road to New Westminster.

After the Snow reported in my last, &  
some days grain, the weather has  
now taken a turn for the better, &  
is mild & even balmy with a  
constantly clearing sky.

I have been riding out today from  
ten to half past five, & feel now  
rather inclined to turn in for the  
night, especially as from contact  
with Snaps my winter garments  
have suffered considerable injury

which must be repaired before  
tomorrow. The result - of the ride was  
nothing in particular. I had hoped that  
an indian trail of which I had heard  
would follow down the Blackwater R.  
toward the Traylor, & let me see any  
roads that may be repaired. However, as  
it turned out, the trail soon left the  
valley & took to the high land above it,  
altogether away from the river, & through  
thick woods & windfall. So after getting  
on about ten miles we turned & came  
back.

I have pretty well exhausted the places  
of interest in this vicinity now, & so  
shall not be sorry to see that pack  
train as soon as it may appear.

I have found a few fossil plants  
in beds belonging to the Lytle-series, &  
think tomorrow of making search for  
some more, though I am not very  
hopeful of success.

I had intended to write to William but  
think I must put it off till next time.  
When he settles where he will be for the  
winter please let me have his address.  
I have just bought a mink skin from a  
wretched looking old Indian who came prowling  
about, & now I have got it - I don't know  
what to do with it. They do not trap many  
minks here, but a good many beavers,  
which animals, with fish, seem to  
constitute their staple food. At an Indian  
camp the other day I saw the flesh of several  
beavers, stripped off the carcass in a shell, &  
hung up in the smoke of the fire (tail attached)  
to dry. It looked only a raw unliving. Please