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My Dear Mother,

In answer to my many letters from home I must write from time to time, even though I can find no particularly interesting topics. Mr Selwyn left here on Wednesday last, & you will no doubt see him before long & learn many little items which slip through my memory before they can be written. I went with him a few little articles which I picked up at a Chinese shop here, & which I thought might perchance be interesting. 1 Two small lead caddies, each containing  $\frac{1}{6}$  of a pound, of tea; supposed to be of very superior quality, or peculiar in some way, & costing at the rate of \$3<sup>00</sup> per pound. 2 A bundle each of two kinds of Joss papers. These are burned as sacrifices to the dead. The square papers represent silver money, the peculiar

question as to the immediate Cause of the disaster, & shows that the steamer did not fall to pieces from mere rottenness as was at first supposed. It also now seems certain that from the Pacific there are only two survivors. One of these is the Quartermaster of the ship, the other a man called Jelly, a Canadian from Sarnia, who was returning home after having worked all summer with Mr Jennings. Steamers are out along the coast picking up bodies, which have been blown back on the coast by strong South westerly winds. One came ashore yesterday within a mile of this place, & the shore is strewn with wreckage. Many of the passengers were miners on their way south from Cassiar to spend their summer's earnings. Five were from Mr Cambie's party, some returning to Canada others going on to New Zealand, were among the lost. Mr Selwyn though at first intending to go with the Pacific afterwards fortunately decided not to do so.

(4)

I am still living at the Friard Hotel  
not having been able to get other suitable  
quarters, though I have already made  
pretty extensive inquiry. Heat-Codging houses  
are full, but I think I will by & by  
be able to get rooms somewhere, & make  
arrangements for meals at some restaurant,  
which is the most comfortable way.

The climate here is very mild as compared  
with Montreal. We have seen a few flakes  
of snow today for the first-time, & many  
of the trees still hold a portion of their  
leaves, & autumn flowers are still  
blooming in the gardens. To wake up  
for all this it is horribly wet & windy,  
& almost-continually overcast & dull.  
I don't think I have ever seen really dry  
pavements since my arrival here, now  
two weeks ago. It has rained more  
or less every day, & generally more.  
The streets are fordable only at the crossings.  
I must be excused for longing for a little clear  
cold Canadian weather.

Your loving son  
George

(2)

Staped ones Clothes. 3. Three very  
common paper fans, only remarkable  
on account of the peculiarity of the figures  
painted on them. 4. Two bulbs imported  
direct from China, & supposed to be the  
roots of some amazingly beautiful flower.  
Warranted to grow in the house in pots.  
Please do whatever you see fit with  
all these things. I was much tempted  
to buy a Chinese & English dictionary  
printed in Canton by some learned  
Chinese scholar, but it was in six  
volumes at a dollar each, & no  
particular way that I could see of looking  
up the words. — So I abandoned it.  
I have some Venice sticks, & Chop-sticks  
which I will take a chance of sending  
over soon in a box of specimens.

The loss of the Pacific is still the  
universal topic here. The news has  
just arrived that the crew of the ship which  
came into collision with her, has been  
found at Barclay Sound, having landed  
there from their boats. This settles the