



Victoria B.C.

May 13. 1878.

My dear Mother,

Here we are in Victoria
at least, after a remarkably
fast & pleasant passage from San
Francisco, & an uneventful railway
journey over the coast. The steamer
brought us in here early this morning,
so early that we had to content ourselves
with a cup of coffee on board & come
on to Victoria for breakfast. Frances
Lorraine is still here, leaves for the
interior next Friday to visit first—
I believe—Cherry Creek.

Today I have not been able to write
than go round making enquiries.

Capt. Douglas with his schooner is
not yet here, he has still a day to the

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date at which I appointed to meet
him, however, & if he does not turn
up in time I think I shall have
little difficulty in procuring a suitable
Craft here from someone else.
meanwhile it will take a day or
two to get other preparations made
& plans more definitely laid.

Capt. Lewis of the H B Co who has
sailed much on the Northern Coast
says the natives of the Pam Charlotte
Islands are not to be feared &
also advises me to go up there
at once as the weather in the
Spring & early Summer is best. He
says that when once the wet rough
weather begins in autumn it
generally lasts on through the winter.

Runkine seems already to look sunburnt & well
though still thin enough. He is a singularly reticent
travelling Companion & when anything particularly pleases
him only chuckles internally or utters this. I hope to
improve him during the summer.

When in San Francisco we went to the Chinese Theatre, where
I had not been before. It was well worth seeing for once, though
the music, composed of peculiarly wailing & squawky notes,
mingled with tones of horns & gongs, was anything but
enjoyable. The first part of the performance was a comedy,
which to those who did not understand what was being

said, seemed long drawn & stupid, especially as much of the
conversation was carried on in a sort of sing-song. After this
came the happy end and a whirlwind of tumbling began, which
was quite wonderful. The dresses throughout were
wonderfully gay with silver gold & silk. The audience
was almost altogether of Chinamen, who seemed to enjoy
the display heartily. The atmosphere was rather dense,
with tobacco smoke before we left, which was at about
11 P.M. & how much longer the performance lasted I do not
know. In a day or two I will be able to write
giving plans more in detail, but while there were
this little scrum & Belun ^{my} ^{son} ^{George}