

Re back of
Clare in. H. H. H. H. H.

Acc. 1443

Montreal.

August 7th 1880

My dear Mrs Dawson,

I am sure you will be thankful to learn that Anna's confinement is safely over and that up to the present moment (4. p.m.) both she and the little one - perhaps I should say by one - are doing well.

Yesterday morning Anna began to have slight premonitory twinges which induced me to remain about the house all day in case of accidents. She spent most of the day reading & sleeping in the "hang-up" as Edith is pleased to call it, but picked the raspberries for tea and took a little walk down to the college. After tea we went to the garden again to

pick some flowers, and while sitting on the steps were joined by Dr. Hunt who had evidently come to spend the evening, but who was not wiled to remain for reasons which he will understand when he reads to-night's Witness. About half past nine I sent a carriage for Mrs Gordon, but the wretched woman was not to be found at the address which she had given us three days before and it was more than an hour before she was found, and then at Mrs Watson's opposite the college gate. As soon as she arrived I went for Dr Howard, who came up shortly afterwards and after ascertaining that everything was

going on well retired to the spare room, evidently expecting to sleep there until daylight. I remained with Anna until a quarter after one up to which time she had not lain down though quite overcome with sleep ~~but~~ in the short intervals between the pains. Shortly afterwards I called Dr. H. and not been in the room more than five or ten minutes when the baby was born. It was by far the shortest labour which Anna has had, but quite long enough I can assure you, not only for her but for me. She was very brave and patient - as she always is - and deserves every praise. Dr. Howard was here about 11 o'clock this morning and gave

me most favourable reports
about mother & child.

As for the latter she is simply
a bonneur, weighing nearly eleven
pounds and looking like a
young lady 5 or 6 weeks of
age. Her cry is stentorian &
Anna compares it to a brass
band. Her fingers and toes
are of the orthodox number;
her nose quite large enough
to be aristocratic; her mouth
of course scraphic. In the
further criticisms I shall
not give until I have examined
the young lady more carefully.

It is rather odd that she should
have arrived on the 7th. We
were engaged on the 7th of a
month; married on the 7th;
Edith was born on the 7th
there comes in a 7th again.

It is to be hoped that I may
 prove what it is supposed
 to be, a lucky number.
 At any rate it will be easy
 to remember our daughters'
 birthdays and the anniversary
 of our wedding day.

We have been enjoying
 delightfully cool weather lately,
 but ~~to~~ day it is hot and
 close. For Anna's sake I hope
 it may be cooler to-morrow.

Your postal card arrived
 this morning and we are glad
 to know that the little ones
 are so well & happy. I hope
 they will continue good and
 not give you unnecessary trouble.
 We miss them greatly, but are
 thankful they are away from

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the heat of the town and
with those who we know will
love and care for them

I regret that my letter is
so stupid and incoherent, but
after being up until 4 o'clock
this morning I am feeling
somewhat incoherent myself.

I shall write again by Monday's
post, and meantime hope
that with God's blessing all
may go well with my dear
wife and the little stranger.
With kindest regards to Dr
Dawson Believe me

Yours very sincerely
B. J. Harrington.

P.S. Anna sends love and says
to tell you that the baby has "such
pretty fingers & finger-nails."