

anxiety, fearful fires at the
back of us (or rather some
where at the back of the Cove)
were raising the awful force
of the wind of course spread
the flames with great rapidity
at was 1.30. I had come
I undress for the night for
with such a wind we knew
not when we might have to
decamp, ourselves in haste! The
Kull Rock was the only place that
suggested a refuge for, altho we
might have been drowned in the
attempt! It has been so dry
here that green trees were devoured
by the flames in no time. I fear
this will present a most fearful
picture to you - not till the next
morning did I know how really
serious it was - The smoke &
sparks came as far as Mr. Pinder's
hotel - & the bottles were in
danger - The wind fell at 2.15 in
the night, thus saving the bottles
I am, had that fire, all his

houses, & surrounding buildings
including the Savage houses
have been no more. In fact Maria
Astle said that if the wind had
continued, ~~that~~ the whole of
Inchic might have gone. The
wind must have been travelling
at 70 miles an hour, & the houses
rocked & swayed alarmingly - just
a drop of rain fell - but the
moon looked on peacefully
with her large round face, a per-
fect reminder of the watchful
eye of the Lord. For a few minutes
I was very frightened but after that
I had perfect rest & assurance
that the Lord wd protect us - & as
usual was not disappointed. I
think no lives were lost.

Mrs Astle said they had never had
such an anxious night before. We
were rejoiced to receive the rain yes-
terday, & refresh the poor earth,
quench the fires - not to speak of
our wells & penchions!

We are all well & as happy as can be
without our husbands - But now for the
news, wh. by the way is a secret for the
present, but you may tell Eva & hope, but
no one else for the present - Can you

Guess? I remember I spoke with you
of Andrew Taylor, well, Mary is engaged
to him!! In several weeks past I saw
a ~~growing~~ decided ~~increase~~ increase
of attention on his part, & on Mary's
part a greater leaning towards him.
He gave us a dinner party, at his house.
You know - & other attentions besides.
She has been really very fond in fixing
me her whole confidence in the matter
& I could see that he must mean some-
thing - so she & I had many conversa-
tions on the subject, so as to be prepared
if anything came of it. He paid her
a visit on the Sunday after I had
~~been~~ left for Metis, the day before
she left with the children, but nothing
of importance occurred, still from what
she said I could see that a crisis must
be expected. On Sat. morning last, just
4 or 5 days after she came here - I went
on to the beach to find her & the boys
& when I reached the beach, fate!
nearly turned into a marble statue
for I tho't I had seen an apparition
for behold, there was Andrew Taylor
by Mary's side - I could see at a glance
what it meant & why he had come,
altho' I wanted him to think that I did.
The Frank's home was his object. He took
swath (boys & all) to the Falls in the after-
noon, & stayed here till 10.30 at this ^{home}

On Sunday he went to church with us
& clung to her all the time - I was in
torments for I did not want him to
think I was giving him an opportunity
- or encouraging him, so at all costs
kept with them as much as possible.
In the afternoon there he was on the
beach again, & we had some nice
spiritual talk together, & read
Drummond's new book - "The changed
life" - Later on they slipped away
when it was impossible for me to
follow them - & when next we met
it was all over! - - - Altho' she de-
clined to give a decided answer
~~but~~ that proved to be cutting for
it was as good as yes - but until
Father's & Mother's consent has been
received we wish to keep it quiet -
Anna & Bernard know, & Dr. ^{Howe} ^{Frank}
she is going to tell Mr. Redpath, ^{Wm.}
& Mr. G. Drummond, his best friends -
Altho' somewhat looked for, it came
like a thunder bolt. His both had
a long talk with him afterwards, &
I was really most happy abt it for
I liked all to be said & did so much
over since I saw this attachment I
have done all I could & find out what
his inner life & feelings were, & ^{to}
often brought up the subject of higher
things, I found him so ready

I speak of them, & so hearty &
enthusiastic abt them - also
he is highly principled & con-
-sciencious, & he certainly has
conducted himself most credit-
-ably in this matter, both as a
Christian & as a gentleman, no
man could have done better. I ad-
-mire him more than I can tel-
-l you. He said he had never done
such a thing before, & he always
looked upon himself as a conferin-
-g bachelor. Both Mary & I were
-both very outspoken & him, so all
was said that we felt ought to be
said at such a crisis. He is very
fond of her, & in a sensible matter
-of fact way - & being as old as he is
we think that he certainly knows
his own mind - & certainly he tho-
-ught most carefully abt it. & did not rush
head long into this. He is one of
those well bred Scotch men of the
old school! & I think Mary is much
to be congratulated on getting such a
really solid, & good man. The only
draw-back (if it is a draw back) is the
difference in age - he is 46! she not yet
23. but when the first shock was over
I began to think this an advantage for she
is more likely to submiss to & respect a
man so much older than herself.

Most sincerely I can say that this
has been arranged by God, & not in
the least by human hands, for
no one urged him on, & no one urged
her. His being a ^{man} of course is
the main thing - but as to worldly
prospects, those are decidedly good,
& I may say he is a wealthy little man
will make her very comfortable.

And as to Mary herself she is ^{supremely}
happy, & the idea of hospital
nursing & any dislike to Canada
have flown - she feels now poor
girl that her future humanly
speaking is settled - & that with
a man she truly respects & loves.
He improves on acquaintance.

She still intends sailing for Lon-
don on Sept 9th per S. Ontario, he
will probably follow in 6 or 8
weeks & carry her off - How stran-
gely one's life can be all suddenly
changed. I am truly glad for
the poor dear girl for she has had
much sorrow in her young life.
I am glad to have her so near me
too. Anna has been so loving about
it too - but I have found it so funny to
see her act the part of Mother Blyer &
was often amazed at the things I
said to him afterwards! I quite
love to hear Will's sentiments on the subject.
But why do I write so much. I know you
will be interested for I have spoken

By on the subject before - & I like to write
as if I were speaking with you.

Had heard of Will of that Portage &
suppose he is in or near Montreal (both)
On his way back he has remained over
at several places to get information
with respect to his new work. Mr. Shaugh-
nessy has been elected vice president
of the B.P.R. & will we hope, be in a good
frame of mind when it meets him -
Mr. Abbott resigned his directorship
of the B.P.R. - & since he has been elected
Premier B.P.R. stock has gone up! -

Of course I do not yet know what
it will do first thing on arrival
but presume that he will begin his
new work - he has young Messers as his
assistants. The Arbitrators he left in
Vancouver - we wait for their decision
what will it be? - Did I tell you
that Mr. Gregory the Government Arbitrator
in connection with this affair, & above
all for his wonderful patience & forbear-
ance - has it not encouraged? I fear
there is no prospect of his coming down
here. It catches me heart sick & I think of his
board at his home. I enclose the enclosure
of Mr's suit - or the enclosed printed paper
I am dark grey color please for summer wear
he finds that many suits too warm for winter
so prefers a thinner cloth. If you can without
trouble get in a clinical thermometer I will be
pleased - but this is I fear asking too much - a great
suit each for the boys if you so wish - also 1/2 & 1/4
but please don't let them if you don't feel inclined.