

MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
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Rideau Club,
Ottawa.

April 13. 99

My dear Mother,

I heard by telephone
from Florence that you had
got back to Montreal safely &
I trust that you find yourself
no worse for the trip there.

I got over my little address on
'Lecture' at the 'May Court Club'
this P.M. with considerable relief
— a small & select audience, nearly
all ^{young} ladies but including Mrs. Dobbell.
William, it seems, has been
suffering somewhat from insomnia
& is going to take tomorrow &

Saturday as holidays.

There is to be a deputation to the
 Govt. I see from Montreal Board
 of Trade about Hydrographic
 Surveys of the St Lawrence, all
 this may end in the Govt. making
 a virtue of necessity & taking
 some active measures. It would
 be unfortunate, if so, if W. should
 be off duty at the time, as he
 might be supposed or expected to
 take an active part in organizing
 the new work. Another trouble
 which strikes me in this connection
 is the possibility of the prolonged
 leave being taken as a retiring
 leave. Generally speaking if a
 man voluntarily leaves the Civil
 Service he can usually obtain a

few months of leave on full pay, such as
to recoup him for payments into the Superannuation
fund. Of course some of these things would be of any
importance if the Minister was in favour of W. &
his work, & also of course, some of them must
count if it is quite necessary for W. to have the leave
& rest, & I suppose it is.

I hope that you will let us know when you hear
in Montreal of Clares arrival & also what you

luck is in regard to the servant you asked
Sara to look for.

My kind regards & best wishes to Foster. I
met a N.S. Scotian M.P. the other day who said
he hoped Foster had accumulated materials for a
biography as he knew it would be of so
much interest to Nova Scotians.

Yours
George