

George to Anna 171  
Interim letter snowshoring

~~Dec. 5. 1871.~~

Jan. 5. 1871

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Dear Anna

Christmas morning dawned clear & bright. The children were up before it was light, rushing about with all their might, & clapping their hands with great delight.

As papa was away I had to take his place & wrap up the presents. As soon as Rankine & Eva had put round their presents, I went down & placed the presents for them under their napkins in such a way that ~~they~~<sup>there</sup> appeared to be about twice as many as there really were. I got no present from Mama on Christmas morning as mine was given to me on Sunday. For I got a splendid

cabinet - organ, <sup>on which</sup> I have <sup>now</sup> learnt <sup>us</sup>  
to play the treble of one tune <sup>m</sup>  
& ~~to~~ all of another. <sup>m</sup>

On Thursday last I went <sup>we</sup>  
for a snow-shoe walk with <sup>cl</sup>  
Sam Greenshields & ~~We went~~ <sup>the</sup>  
~~out to his farm on the lower~~ <sup>\*</sup>  
~~Sachine road~~ We walked out <sup>ro</sup>  
to the end of St. Cathrine <sup>m</sup>  
street, & then put on our <sup>v</sup>  
snow-shoes & walked <sup>wa</sup>  
through the Tanneries & ~~from~~ <sup>th</sup>  
~~there~~ to his farm on the <sup>fo</sup>  
lower Sachine road. There <sup>t</sup>  
we had some lunch consisting <sup>s</sup>  
of bread cheese & milk (all <sup>ov</sup>  
off the farm), & then ~~rested~~ <sup>ov</sup>  
for an hour or so we read, <sup>a</sup>  
& after that we came home <sup>je</sup>  
the same way. As I had <sup>G</sup>  
Rankin's moccasins on <sup>es</sup>  
my feet were not as ~~com~~ <sup>it</sup>  
comfortable as they might <sup>F</sup>  
have been, but notwithstanding  
I had a very pleasant walk.

Yesterday we went for another <sup>or</sup>  
walk. We went up by the <sup>do</sup>

usual track to the top of the  
mountain, & as the track is  
not yet very well ~~to~~ beaten  
we found it rather a hard  
climb. We then walked along  
the top of the mountain,  
& crossed the Cote de Neige  
road & climbed the little  
mountain on the other side.

We found it rather hard  
walking in some places as  
there was a ~~rather~~ ~~hard~~  
firm drifted crust with  
loose snow underneath,  
so that when we stepped  
on it, it gave way & then  
on trying to raise our feet  
again they caught on the pro-  
jecting edge & ~~is~~ left in front.  
This kind of snow was  
especially troublesome when  
it was on the side of a hill.  
For then ~~you~~ one's snow-shoe  
was shure to slide away  
in under the crust, & then  
one went flying headforemost  
down the hill if he did not

take great care. It was also rather difficult to keep warm as it was 12 below zero at the time. When our feet got too cold we would sit on a ~~bench~~ fence or ~~on~~ climb up into a tree, & let our feet dangle in the air ~~what~~ which we found to be a very good way to restore the circulation. Well, ~~and~~ after we reached the top of the little mountain we descended to Greenshield's uncle's house & when we were warm enough we ~~to~~ went down to Sherbroke street & walked in home.

You see, my dear, that I have for ~~one~~ once succeeded in writing a letter without any diagrams & very few explanations.

Wishing you a happy new year, I remain your affectionate brother,

William,