

Charlottetown Wednesday
July 19, 1871.

Very amusing and
interesting letter - all
about P. E. I.

Acc. 976

Dear Anna,

this place is the most curious place I have ever been in. The whole island is low, & at the shore there is, in most places, a cliff about 30 feet high, of bright red rock. It is just the shade & exactly the intensity of the colour of the pipe of Allen's steamships. Our steamship had a red pipe so that I had the opportunity of comparing it accurately. All the roads & streets are red also, & they contrast so curiously with the green

grass & trees. But the ~~most~~
natural peculiarities are nothing
when compared with the eccentricities
of the inhabitants. A dollar bill goes for six shillings
& a quarter for 1^l & 6^d. They take
any ~~long~~ kind of coin you choose
to offer them. The coppers are
of endless variety, & Yankee
half-dollars go for three shillings.
They also take Canadian money
& British silver. One's confusion
is inextricable when paying for
anything. ~~for~~ They are equally
eccentric in other matters. For
instance, they have two mails to
England one week and no mail
at all ~~on~~ the next week, & then
two again on the week following.
again in town here they have hardly
any side walks & no water-supply
except a few pumps here & there,
and yet they have all their streets
lit with gas. Although there

is so much stone on the island,
it is ~~too~~ too crumbling to be used
for building purposes. On this
account, the town consists of
rows of wooden houses, mostly
in a ~~so~~ tumble-down condition,
and then a splendid stone ~~church~~
church or the Parliament buildings
or something of that sort.
All the stone has to be imported
from the Magdalen Islands or
Nova Scotia, so that a stone
house here, is as expensive as
a marble palace at Montreal.
The whole revenue of the Island
during the last ten years (as seen
in the Almanac) has never exceeded
£100,000 in any year.

The ~~scenery~~ scenery here is rather
pretty, but of a different kind
from most. The absence of
mountains gives a rather monotonous
appearance to the landscape,
which generally consists of a
view across a narrow arm of the

sea, to a steep red cliff & red beach, crowned by ~~a~~ belts of woods, ~~then some~~ smiling cottages, & fertile farms; & perhaps a glimpse of the open sea, with or the Nova Scotia coast across the Straits of Northumberland.

There are three mails a week to Canada, on Monday Wednesday & Friday evening; & I suppose as many from you to us.

We are staying at a large 3 storey wooden house, called the Rankin house. It is sufficiently comfortable.

I met Mr. & Mrs. McDonald the other day. They seemed very glad to see me, & told me that they boarded opposite to us.

Hoping that you will not die of the blouse, I remain your loving brother

William.