

Three Bales / 74



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Wm Dawson

¹¹⁸ Kamouraska

M^e J. L. G. G. G.
MONTREAL
APR 12 1874
G. E.

~~Montreal~~
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MONTEBELL
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TO K. MOURY
V. E. AULS
MONTREAL



Three Buttes. July 31.
1894.

My Dear Anna

After so long an interval during which so much has happened that one might talk about, it is difficult to know what to write.

Here we are at day rate camped at the western end of the West Butte of the Three, with the Rocky Mountains in sight whenever you choose to climb up one of the minor peaks to see them. The Rockies are about 115 miles distant but on a clear day are beautifully defined & show great white patches either of snow or some light-coloured rock. I move on again tomorrow, at least I intend to if the rats come up. They

are close at-hand now, having
come through from Helena in Montana
in charge of a certain contractor
called I think Conrad, who arrived
here last night.

Aske who is doing the survey work, now
that Leut. Rowe is out of court, came
in last night with the report that in
running a survey line he had come
across twenty one dead Indians

who had evidently been killed some time.

Conrad who is well up in Indian
news south of the line supplied the
information that they were probably a
party of Crows who had left the
country near Ft. Benton last autumn
on a horse stealing expedition, had
been surprised by an overwhelming
number of Peajars (a sub-tribe of
the Blackfoot) & had never returned.

It was decided to send the photographers
out to the scene & having in common with
some others a spare day, "along of the oats",
I thought I could not do better than go
too, & have now not long returned
from the trip. The spot was about
ten miles from here on the open
undulating prairie. The remains were
in fact a mummified state, the skin
being stretched tightly round the bones, &
the latter only protruding where the
wolves &c had been depredating, & where
the scalps had been removed from the
forehead to the back of the neck. The story
of the fight was pretty plain, the crows,
if such they were had evidently been on
foot & their adversaries mounted.

The crows on finding themselves surrounded
had chosen a sloping hill & probably choosing
badger holes already dug, had enlarged them
& piled stones round the edge so as to form
shallow rifle-pits. Their enemies had
no doubt ridden round & round, at full

Spud firing at them as they rode in
Indian style & finally succeeded in
killing the whole party. The Crows had
shot one of the horses, & probably some of
the men but these had no doubt been
removed. The skulls were all destroyed
by being broken in & the bodies had evidently
been cut & slashed in all directions
of the death. We picked up several
bullets & iron arrow points, & fragments
of shafts. The Chamber of a Revolver an
old knife & some beads.

These Bullets & the Line of the Creek R. bound a
sort of neutral ground between four of five
tribes & the Indians never pass except in
war parties. This accounts for their
absence at present & for the fact that
no recent camp fires or lately killed
buffalo are seen in this part of the
country.

I must distribute my favours
& so please excuse brevity & believe me your
lover George.