

San Francisco to Vancouver by
boat.

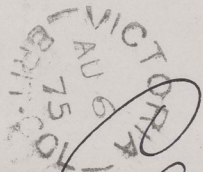


75
Mr Dawson

Astley's Hotel

Petit Metis

P.Q.

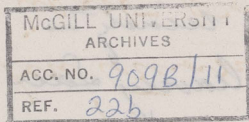


Canada

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METTIS
AU 23
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OUE

WINDS MONTREAL
SEP 15 1895



Victoria B.C.
Aug 6. 75.

My Dear Anna,

Your letter from

Victoria dated July 21 arrived today, & as a mail goes out from here tomorrow I sit down to report progress. I arrived here on Wednesday evening (day before yesterday) & have seen a little of the place, & hope to get off next week. The voyage from San Francisco was rather tedious, the distance being about 720 miles, & the steamer a very slow one. We had quite a number of passengers, making

Cabin & stowage about ninety -
but little freight. On leaving San
Francisco we pass through the
'Golden Gate' at once out on the
Pacific ocean - which though
moderately pacific yet favoured us
with a long unpleasant swell.
This continued increasing & for the
first two days we had quite a
little tossing with some rather cold
wind & overcast dull weather.
All hands were at once prostrated
with sea sickness. At least I
mean all the ladies, some gentlemen
remaining ~~out~~ on deck. Personally
I managed to keep pretty well
though with occasional unpleasant
feelings. Our trip was quite a
voyage of discovery, as neither the
ship nor any of the officers had ever

been to Vancouver before. The Pacific
Mail Coy. to whose line the Salvador
belong have only just commenced running
Steamers here, having renewed the
contract for carrying the Mails. Most of
their vessels are on the Japan &
Australian Trade & ^{Saw} also run S.
& ~~Panama~~ Panama. The Captain a big
burly ~~very~~ rough old fellow, thinking
discretion &c — bore quite away
from the coast, & after losing sight of
the country near Frisco. we never
sightly saw it again till the day we
reached Victoria. Times on board were
not particularly lively as the passenger
list was not a remarkably select one.
The food was very good, however, & what
with reading a little, walking about the
deck a great deal, & sleeping when
these resources failed the time passed
away. One morning I passed a great-
part of the fruitless endeavour to

fish up from the Surface yet being
Some peculiar Animals with which
it was covered. The Animals were of
the Jelly-fish nature, & looked like
little 'portuguese men o' war', having
Some sort of floating body & a
sort of hemispherical Crest rising up
out of the water. In size they seemed
to be from about $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inches long
& downwards, & as I never could
see them very plainly they may have
been Udella instead of Porpita as for
all I can tell. We sailed through
them for about two & a half
days. That is to say for that time
you could seldom look overboard
without seeing some of them. Often
the water was quite dotted with
them, & sometimes we would come
across large patches of them nearly in

Contact. The Captain expressed his belief that there must be 'juristic million' of them. We set to work to catch them in a pail tied to a rope - I say we for several of the passengers enlisted in the attempt - At one end of the rope was an ordinary wooden pail, at the other end a small canvas bucket used for taking the temperature of the water. The experimenter used whichever of these he thought most hopeful, but we were going too fast, & I had now two - net - at hand, & even if I had had I do not think I could have used it. When we had quite satisfied ourselves we could not do it we left the apparatus which was then seized on by a hopeful foreigner - German I think - who within a

few moments succeeded in losing
the whole affair overboard; & soon
afterward the boy who washed up
the deck cabins &c was to be
seen anxiously enquiring in all
directions for his bucket.

The crew of the Steamer, I should
tell you were chiefly Chinese, even
to the 'Booz', & so also were
the waiters. They appeared

Remarkably handy & neat, & extremely
bidable, not fumbling, & seeming
to find a pleasure in their work.

At the same time, they do not
look strong, & I think there was
a sort of Chinese flavour
reminding in a distant way of
opium, about the dishes.

I shall not be able to write to
William this time, & fact I
suppose it will hardly be worth
while writing again to any English
or Scotch address. If you write
please let him know I am
'all right'. Also let me hear from
him when you can. I think it
likely that when I am going on
the Frigor River, I will be in
contact with Surveying parties, &
they have some sort of Mail
communication weekly or
fortnightly. However it takes
a long time to get letters brought
round even this far, as you

May judge from the date of
receipt of your own.

Your loving Brother

George

I am writing to Mother also
by this mail & addressing to
Montreal, supposing that she
will have got back there from
Detroit - before this arrives.