

Blackwater Depot/18  
Interesting letter

QUEBEC  
NOV 10 1878



Miss Dawson  
McGill College

Montreal. P.Q.

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holly special.  
pick up little bits

Blackwater Depot. Blackwater River

Sunday Oct 3, 1875

My Dear Anna,

'Snow, Snow beautiful snow' at last; after a term of the most splendid cloudless weather, Frost-nearly every night & oppressively hot-in the sun in the middle of the day. On Friday as we travelled along to this place the signs of bad weather began to appear. The barometer fell, light-clouds began to gather & thicken. Geese flying from the far north passed overhead, & towards evening the wind went round from W. to N. & became squally. All yesterday it drizzled & occasionally a half-melted snow flake came down, & last-night the snow came in earnest & was this morning about 2 inches deep, soft, & clammy. Today it is melting away as fast as it can & the weather shows signs of clearing up again, & I have no doubt that when this petulant outburst is fairly over, we shall have the Indian Summer for a week or two.

I am now here waiting the arrival of a pack train from Quersville per St-George, Mr Smith proposing that I should accompany it there & back



the three pack animals I have had, having got  
so sore under the mismanagement of the Indian  
packer, that they are for the present useless. The pack  
train may not get here for some days yet, but if  
the weather becomes settled I can occupy the time profitably  
in the neighbourhood.

I found quite a mail waiting my arrival here, the  
latest date being I think Aug. 23. Thanks for your  
letters & enclosures from William & I. I have not yet  
received a copy of your Report, but may yet get it  
before leaving here, & if not then on my return. The  
pack train goes to Ft George in 4 days & will not  
probably remain there more than a day or two. From

here to Quesselle is three days by pack train, though  
one can ride through light in a day, the distance  
being only about 45 miles. At Quesselle of course one  
is on the regular travelled line of the Trazer & within less  
than a week of Victoria.

Nothing yet from Mr Selwyn, though I expect daily to  
hear of or see him. It is just possible that he may go  
out to the Coast of Lake François, <sup>route</sup> of which Mr Smith has  
written particulars to send him at Ft George. In which  
Case I should not see him.



I think it is your turn for a letter, but for the life you cannot remember to whom I wrote last. As there is nothing particular to write about however it cannot make much odds.

Since leaving the Cascade Mts. there has been very little fine or remarkable scenery. The general surface of the country is a more or less regular plateau with hills & ranges of hills rising above it here & there, & river & stream valleys cutting down into it. Some of the river valleys are very large & deep, but generally not wide. There are occasional meadows, swamps, & hillsides with good grass, & in some places open woods of large Douglas pines with grass growing beneath them. As a rule however the country is pretty thickly wooded with scrub pine, sometimes of fair growth & standing, often prostrate, often burnt, often burnt & prostrate with young scrub pines coming up in dense thickets &  $\pm$   $\pm$ . Through & over & away all these varieties of country, the better paths they call trails here, wind & twist seeking for lines of best resistance, or following the path trade by which the first Indian originally scambled across the country. I think I once used the Simile before, but really the country much resembles a part of some of the republics, & I believe if one was to go to the



George & began stacking the pile, sticks would be  
seen coming down at New Westminster on the  
Fraser!

There is something very pleasant however in these  
autumn woods, now that the aspens are  
turning yellow among the Spruces & pines. There  
are no maples however or other trees which take  
really beautiful tints.

I am progressing pretty rapidly in my knowledge  
of Chinook, & can now understand pretty well &  
speak a little. It is very easy to learn of course  
there being no grammar at all & a few words going  
a long way, especially when the range of subjects  
usually forming topics of conversation is limited.

I am writing a few words to Father, & my home  
time for another letter before leaving here. If not

it will not now be long before I get back to more  
regular postal communications.

With love to yourself & all

Your affectionate Brother

George

