



Victoria B.C.
Jan 6, 1876.

My dear Anna,

I must thank you
very much for your very acceptable
present of a portable photo. album.
Your photo. is very good, I think,
fully as good as any you have had
taken before. I have not shown it
to the Creases, nor did I dare there on
Christmas day as you suppose in
your last letter. The C's are unfortunately
in trouble just now. The second daughter
while down at Esquimaux - paying a
visit - took Scarlet fever, & a day or
two afterwards all those at home
took measles, some gotten very
badly. I believe they have been unable to
get servants & have had quite a time

of it generally.

Now for all the other presents I have to thank the donors through you. Reuben for his Capital diary, & Eva for the peculiar C.C. pen. Harold. There is nothing new here to report & things seem to have settled down pretty much into winter train. I am not working hard as you fear but taking life remarkably easy, & rusting slowly. I too or three years in the dead & alive place would cause anyone to lose all idea of the value of time, & quite spoil one for life anywhere else. Messrs Jennings, Caubee, & Harris, three leaders of parties on the C.P.R.S. left for Ottawa a day or two ago. Mr Marcus Smith, & family have just boat, & then there will only be a few of the Sals. here. As for myself I don't think anything will induce me to spend another winter here, the most out-of-the-way Hudson's Bay port on the Continent would be preferable. The weather continues moist - winter & moistest, though I must say we have had two fine days lately, & they were really very fine, & quite warm. Rightly concluding on both occasions that the weather looked settled, I sallied forth to do a little geology in the neighbourhood, took some lunch with me & worked all day along the shore, finding it almost hot in some places. One day there was a tremendous surf rolling in & breaking against the rocks. I do not

Remember before to have seen
such great-waves coming across,
the spray flew high into the air, &
went-sounding across the grass.
There are some beautiful spots along
the sea shore here, at-least they must
be beautiful when the brush has leaves
on them & the ground is not in the
State yet grassy wide. Sloping lawns
naturally planted with scattered oaks
& bushes, & splendid views of the
Snow covered Olympian Mts. Mt-
Baker, the highest peak in sight from here.
I have only seen once, & that in August-
last. On one occasion the smoke from
burning woods cleared away enough to show it,
but never since my return here have
the clouds forsaken it.

Yours loving Brother
George