

Feb

1876



My Dear Sir  
McGill College  
Montreal  
Canada

VICTORIA  
FEB 22  
BRIT. COL.

CARRIED  
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MR 7  
SOUTH DIST.

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Victoria B.C.

Feb. 21. 1876

Mrs. M. S. S.

My dear Anna,

When I last wrote to  
I feared our condition here as to  
mails was deplorable. It is even  
worse now than I could have  
believed. The last Canadian letters  
are now a month old by their  
dates, & we cannot expect any  
newspapers for at least a week,  
as they only come by the direct steamers  
once a fortnight, & the last steamer  
brought none. As for the letters I  
do not know whether they are  
shipped up on the Union Pacific Ry,  
or somewhere north of California.

Here the weather is much the same  
as ever. Hardly a day without  
rain, but occasionally quite warm  
& summer like, with birds singing &  
the willow Catkins beginning to come  
out. Then probably in a short time  
it will be blowing a gale with rain  
& perhaps sleet, & quite uncomfortably  
cold.

The town today is in a great state  
of excitement over the election, the  
new Premier Elliot having declared  
himself the victor after a pretty hard  
contest. All the Elliotites are even  
now rushing about & congratulating  
each other, while the Keelin party are  
doing the reverse whatever that may be,  
& both sides are indulging to the benefit  
of the Canadian Revenue, in various

Revisable articles.

I have almost finished my Survey report, though unable to put it today. Tomorrow I hope to see it through, which will be a blessing, as I will then be able to get about again a little & do out-door work in connection with the geology of this place. I hope soon too to get the last of the Exhibition things away which will be another cause of rejoicing. About the first of April from all I hear it may be possible to get out in the field in the Island or along the Mainland coast without fear of being deluged or snowed up, & when this occurs it will be a third cause of delight, & infinitely preferable to winter in Victoria. If you can begin in April & so on till October it should

allow a pretty good summer's work  
to be done, & that fairly over. I shall  
be ready to return to Montreal  
for a space.

This is a very unsatisfactory letter  
I feel, especially as it was intended as an  
answer to the long one you wrote. We  
say an account of your visit to the  
Harrington Family. State there seems to  
be no proper head of steam or.  
So having netted wearily through  
the mental waters for some time without  
so much as capturing a prawn, I  
think I must even give up for the  
present & go & port this, taking  
a walk at the same time among the  
free & independent electors of Zetanswill.  
Enclosed is a bag of Japanese Punch  
for you instead of a letter. If she can  
make out what it all means I shall  
be glad to know <sup>Brother</sup> your loving ~~friend~~