

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
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Island of Orleans
July 17th 1877

My own dear wife,

Now that
I am down here I feel
more lonely than ever &
I hope I shall be able
to leave for Montreal
to-morrow. I fear however
that that will be out
of the question as Mr.
Selwyn wants me to
remain longer. I arrived
here shortly after noon
to-day but Mr. Selwyn
was away and only returned
this evening. This afternoon
I went for a long walk.

in the house. Mr Selwyn,
Richardson & Weston
were not so fortunate,
for they caught the
storm out in a little
boat and it is a
wonder they did not
go to the bottom. I
am so very sleepy after
all my exercise to-day
that I really cannot write
any more, but will per-
haps get a chance to
write more to-morrow.

Thursday July 19th - Montreal.
Back again once more
to Walltree Place, alone and
well and lonesome. The
house and Joan still here.
I arrived at about 7 o'clock
and have just had a bath
and breakfast. Yesterday

round the upper end of the island where the rocks are well exposed, and would have enjoyed it had it not been so insufferably hot. I nestled for a while under some of your favorite cedar trees just opposite the Montmorenci falls, and oh my darling how I wished you were with me. On my way back to the hotel I was caught in a shower & got rather wet. Shortly after my return also we had a most terrific thunderstorm - the most violent one I think I ever saw. I can tell you I was glad I was

morning Mr Selwyn & I had a
long long tramp which I enjoyed
very much notwithstanding the
heat; and although I have had
very little field work for a long
time I found that I could stone
it quite as well, yes a good deal
better than Mr. S., for he was
quite worn out on our return
while I was not in the least
tired. I am now glad that I
went down for the geology of
the Island of Orleans is most
instructive and I feel that I
have learned a great deal in
a very short time. The island
is lovely and the hotel where
the Selwyns stay very comfort-
able; # but then there is no
salt water. At the hotel there
was a Miss Hamilton - a nice
little girl about 16 I should think -
and her three little brothers. They
are from New Jersey; but the
boys have been at school in Canada
and spent several summers here. This
year the parents left the daughter
and sons on the Island of Orleans

and have gone off to England.
They had not, however, been away
for two days when one of the
boys was poisoned with poison ivy
and has for several weeks been
very ill in bed. Mrs Selwyn
seems to have been very kind
to him, sitting up with him night
after night. Last night all the
four children came up in
my charge to Sorel from whence
they are going over to Berthier
to spend the rest of the summer,
the doctor having ordered
them to leave the Island of
Orleans on account of the abun-
dance of the poison ivy there.
I never before saw the vile
plant growing in such abundance
before. You see it everywhere,
along the roadsides and about
the rocks along the shore, and
have to be exceedingly careful
about what you lay hold
of. Some people appear to be
poisoned without even so much
as touching the plant.

I was delighted to find two letters from my darling on my return, especially when I found that they contained good news. If you can only get strong my dear it will far more than make up for all this long separation, and as for baby it is so satisfactory to feel that he is getting every possible chance. I should so like to see him in those short clothes, especially if he had on the socks made by his mother. Tell him that I have six cents belonging to him, picked up on the floor.

I have just had a hunt for the flannel which you ask me to send; but after a careful and prolonged search fail to find it. If you need any before I go down send me a sample so that I may get the right sort. It can go by post. The hair wash I sent by Miss Mary Hunt on Monday.

There is no use in my attempting

to describe all the events of Monday, in connection with the funeral of Hackett as you will no doubt have read about the matter in the papers before this. I can only say that certain of the R. C. S have learned a lesson which they will remember for some time. They now see that not only Orangemen, but Protestants in general are determined to be dictated to no longer.

I have arranged with Mr. Selwyn to go to Metis whenever I feel inclined, no matter whether he has returned to town or not.

Accordingly should some analyses which I am making at present behave themselves as they ought I shall endeavour to leave here either on the 3^d or the 6th of August. Meantime I must go down to the office.

With love unlimited for my darling
I am your husband
Bernard.

P.S. I saw Nina on Monday
afternoon and she seemed greatly
disgusted that you had not
acknowledged her photograph.

Your letter of Sunday has this
moment arrived and I am
pained to learn of your feeling
so very tired. You must not
be persuaded into going any-
where where you think it
will tire you.

I am really ashamed to
send this scrawled and blotted
letter, but have no time to
rewrite it. I could not
get an opportunity to finish
my letter while away.

B.

