

MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
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My dear Anna,

I have just got back

here after eight days on the train -
From here to Winnipeg & Port Arthur,
back again & to the Summit of the
Mountains & down again this
way to Calgary. The journey was
on the whole a pleasant one, though
interfering considerably with my
work as you may imagine.

The train on which I travelled
down was delayed all last Sunday
at Port Arthur by a wash-out
on the line, which also kept the
assoc. party twenty-four hours
at Port Arthur. The C.P.R. people,



GEOLOGICAL & NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY.

Alfred R. C. Selwyn B.L.D., F.R.S., Director.

MUSEUM & OFFICE, SUSSEX ST. OTTAWA.

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however allowed them to remain on board the steamer so that they did not suffer much discomfort except from the very heavy rain which prevailed all day. I managed to get a bed on the steamer as it was uncertain at what hour the next morning they would start. We left at eight o'clock, got to Rat Portage for supper & passed through Winnipeg very early next morning without stopping over. Several of the party went on further west & they were left at the station in one of the Pullman's. We had fairly good weather all across the

prairie, but day before yesterday, in
 the afternoon got into rain, & on
 getting to the base of the mountains
 even snow. We ran all the way up
 the Bow Pass in the night & wet
 & anchored at Sappers the end of
 regular passenger traffic. After a stormy
 meeting among the members of the
 Assn. it was decided to stay all
 the next day (yesterday) at the Summit
 & start very early this morning on the
 return. yesterday morning we were
 accordingly wheeled up to the Kicking
 Horse Lake & most of the party then
 started to walk along the line down
 the west slope to the tunnel, while
 others went botanizing & mountain
 climbing. The morning was dark &

Cloudy, but soon began to clear, & before
 noon became quite limpid. The mountains
 were thickly covered with new snow &
 looked remarkably well & I think all
 enjoyed themselves & were very much
 pleased with the views of peaks lakes &
 glaciers. This morning it was misty
 as might have been expected & in
 consequence of the very early start little
 or nothing was seen of the pass on
 this side, but after we left the mountains
 it cleared off & now looks settled
 & fine. I got off here to return to
 Morley & thence again into the
 mountains for four weeks or so
 if the weather holds out so long,
 which is doubtful. It is much to
 be regretted that the rocky mountain
 excursion was well filled up to its

Compliment, but I find that we have
 had been spreading most alarming
 accounts of the hardships which
 would be suffered on the way, & too
 frightened off a number at the
 last moment. It is also a
 pity that arrangements could not
 have been made for stopping
 at ~~several places~~ several points of
 geological interest along the line,
 but some of the party wished to
 get back at specified dates, &
 Sir Richard Temple who had been
 made president of the Arrangement
 Committee excelled a mule in
 obstinacy & stupidity & insisted
 on running the thing exactly on his

our plan whether the others liked
 it or not. I should mention
 that a serious accident nearly
 occurred yesterday to Dr Selwyn &
 several others. A large piece of rock
 fell near the end of the tunnel carrying
 away a ~~bridge~~ bridge or rather scaffolding
 across a ravine over which the track
 runs. Fortunately no one was
 hurt, however.

Your affectionate brother

George