

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
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Rideau Club

Ottawa

16 March '84

My dear Anna,

Shortly after my
last visit to Montreal
I got Gordon's biography,
I'm since gone through it,
& will send it to you
tomorrow with this note.
The book is not at all well
written, in fact I might
say badly, but parts of
it are interesting. Gordon
appears to be a Harum Scaram
sort of man much better

suited to governing savages
 than anything systematic
 or organized, & quite blissfully
 ignorant of many things. I am
 quite sympathetic with him,
 however, in his ideas of the
 pleasure of being alone. In
 fact I think people who have
 had to live all their lives amid
 the bustle of society - & there
 are most people - really
 don't take reasonable views
 of life at all & get into
 a fatalistic belief that
 there is something of appreciable
 value in it, also that
 money & position are in

themselves worth working for. However
 you may be able to get me your views
 on the book when you can find time for it.
 Sorry to hear of Clara's illness, but hope to hear
 good accounts & will gladly hear confirmation
 of your belief that it is not any thing serious.
 Had a sederunt about three hours before
 the Genl. Sessy. Committed yesterday, & gave them
 a mass of information you know or

another, though I must say some of their
 questions were most irrelevant. If printed
 eventually I must endeavour to get a copy as
 it would prove amusing. Bell is to have a
 chance to have his say on Sunday. They asked
 me away other things whether I thought the
 Survey ~~and~~ was properly administered by the
 present head. To which I replied guardedly
 that while I supposed for two administrators
 could be found who would perfectly agree in
 all details of management I believed the
 Survey as a whole was at present well,

Conducted. Some things
 one says look most
 absurd when reported exactly.
 Last winter when speaking of
 British Columbia before
 another Committee. I remarked
 that in form of a dry
 climate it might be said
 that while the Eastern farmer
 might be praying for rain to
 prevent the destruction of his
 crops, the western had simply
 to cut a gap in his irrigating
 ditch to solve the difficulty.
 All which duly appears as

5-

a part of the evidence

Yours
George

P.S. I have written here
since writing here
I received your note but without
enclosed letter from Fletcher which you
refer to in it. I do not suppose that
any of these things matters any more
at all have got through my part
the programme I have
further concern in it