



Alert Bay. B.C.
6 Sept. 1885-

My dear Anna,

Somehow I always forget
to whom I write last, but I think
it must now be some time since I wrote
to you. We got back here yesterday,
having crept round the north end of
the Island from Quatsnoo through a
series of Calms & fog's quite ~~prolonged~~
continuous. For Quatsnoo I went round
the Coast in a Canoe with two Nootka
Indians & one of the men while the
Schooner followed. The Canoe voyage
was an interesting one with a spice
of adventure in it. The weather was
very fine on the whole so that we had
nothing to contend with except the
wonderful long swell from the Pacific. This
however made it possible to land only

in sheltered spots in lee of points,
 behind islands or among reefs
 which broke up the sea. The Sudeans
 were very expert & I went round the whole
 Coast just under the surf, shooting
 through between rocks sometimes on the top
 of a wave & dodging in & out among the
 breaking water of reefs or shoals. There
 are two Sudean bellies in Suva
 land with a very unpolished set of
 articles, the women have the singular &
 unique custom of elongating the head, so
 that they present a most remarkable
 appearance. something like this. The



women keep the head as
 nature makes it. One white
 man, named Bowen, is
 living in the land of Suva
 in charge of houses &
 machinery used in long for coal.

He was very glad to see us as he
 had not seen any whiter for three
 months & found his part of guardians
 rather a lonely one. From here I propose
 making a tour round the north side of
 Queen Charlotte Sound as far as a
 first approach the end of Vancouver Island,
 & shall then be working gradually Southward
 & hope to pull up at Victoria before
 or about the end of next month. Should
 the weather hold fine into November I
 may be tempted to keep the field, or
 rather the sea, a little longer, but I
 think this hardly likely. This sojourn
 is quite a weight of responsibility &
 I must say I shall be glad when I
 get her safely back to Victoria. I
 feel I should be on board when she
 is under way & have often to stay

up waty the night on deck to see
 that all goes right & lay off Comms etc
 by the Charts. When I got her safely moored
 in some harbour & got off in the boat
 leaving the shores it is quite a holiday.
 Here, at Alert Bay, is one of the Centres
 of Civilization & I hope to return a
 correct writ mail in two or three
 weeks. There is here a Salmon Cannery
 with little work, however, going on at present,
 two or three wharfs & a few Chinamen
 only by employed putting up Cases. — An
 Indian village consisting of the usual
 long row of low houses facing the
 beach, & a Church of English Mission
 with a small Church & the Mission
 House at the opposite end of the
 village from the Cannery. The Missionary,
 (A. Mr Hall) & his wife have rather
 a hard time yet — I think as the

Indean is discouragely obstinate
 & refuses to see the error of his ways.
 This winter wey have to lie here for the
 regular steamer - perhaps three weeks,
 but I am hoping some chance may
 possibly occur before of getting letters
 down to Victoria.

I wish while the winter continues fine
 & after your return from the sea you
 would take a little trip somewhere
 for sketching & a general good time.
 If you can arrange to do so &
 find pleasant company I wish to
 hear the report of the Expedition. I
 have not any way of sending money from
 here & my Savings bank balance is
 nearly out, but I asked the people
 at Ottawa to forward my cheques for

Salary to father or William - I think
 to father - As father has no power
 of attorney he can draw the needed
 amt. Please therefore ask him for
 say \$50⁰⁰ & let me know about
 your expedition when I return.

Love to all. My excuses to
 Florence for being so far unable to
 write to her. I suffer however she
 sets the receipt of your letters to others.

Yours
 George