

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
ACC. NO. 1010
REF. 115

Cannmore  
17 miles E. of Banff  
July 17<sup>th</sup> 1888

Dear Anna

I came over to this place by freight train this afternoon and am now quartered in an establishment which certainly offers a striking contrast to the Banff Hotel. It is called the "Mountain House" and a wretched hole it is - filled with fellows who gamble morning, noon and night - no such things as clean sheets and a towel which appears to have served the miscellaneous occupants of the room for the last six months at least. The mosquitoes too are frightful, so that altogether I expect to put in

a lively night. There is a little shop here and I tried to get some netting to put up in my window, but no such luxury was to be had. Possibly the much vaunted air will make me sleep. I have heard nothing further of Scatch as yet, but am hoping that he will turn up to-morrow or next day.

Col. Thara arrived at the Banff Hotel this morning and after breakfast we went for a charming trip up the Bow River in a little steam launch. We were the only passengers and feeling under no restraint made the Rockies ring with our occasional song. The boat goes up about ten miles and back. Having to leave Banff in the afternoon I had not time to try or even to visit the baths; but possibly

I may return with Dearth.

The Banff hotel is far finer than I expected and I was told to-day that it had cost \$300,000 whether it will ever pay remains to be seen. It is intended to accommodate 175-200 people and at present ~~there~~ there are not more than 60 or 70 there.

One, however, meets travellers from all sorts of places. at the table at which I sat to-day there was a very lordly Englishman and his wife who had just come from Japan. I had a little conversation with him and he seemed surprised to find that I had so much knowledge of Japan without ever having been there.

If one had plenty of shekils to spend and no beastly coal properties to interfere with his he might spend a few weeks

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at Banff very pleasantly. They have a very fine livery stable in connection with the hotel and plenty of good saddle horses, but charge \$5.00 a day for them, which is prohibitory for most people.

I thought that possibly I might find a letter from you here to-day; but there was nothing. Possibly something will come by the morning post. I wish it would tell me how you all are now instead of more than a week ago. Fathers of families should stay at home and look after their flocks instead of wandering as I am doing. I am too fond of my wife and little ones to be absent from them so long. Thus far I have written nearly every day, but after I can't come I fear I shall not be able to write so often. Love to all the little ones B \_\_\_\_\_