

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
ACC. NO. 1010
REF. 124

Calgary
Aug 12th 1888

Dearest Lona,

You see I have got a little further on my eastward journey. I got to Cochrane on Thursday at 2.30 a.m. and after a few hours sleep went to visit a newly opened coal mine some miles away. On Friday I was up at 4 a.m. to catch a freight train to Kananaskis; but the train was late and I had to shine on the platform for more than an hour. Then we had only got a few miles when the train stuck on an upgrade and continued sticking for nearly two hours. We (my man & self) did not get to Kananaskis & breakfast

until 11 o'clock. After breakfast we set out for a place in the woods which I wished to visit and got back to Kananaskis at 7 p.m. after walking 17 miles or more. The train for Cochrane was due at 1 a.m.; but not being on time we had the pleasure of sitting out on a platform waiting for it & only got back to Cochrane at 3.30 a.m. After a short sleep I spent Saturday in the saddle riding over the prairie for how many miles I know not. Again luck was against me. I intended to leave by train for Calgary at 2.15 a.m. this morning, but the train was 15 hours late! and I did not get off until after 5 o'clock in the afternoon. On arriving here I had tea and then went to church which made me realize the fact of its being

Sunday - a fact that is often hard to realize in this western world. I was at the Presbyterian Church which is a neat stone building with good organ and lighted by electric lights. The sermon I did not care for but still on the whole I enjoyed the service, it was so long since I had been to church.

At Cochrane I saw young Bottend who is out there ranching. The poor fellow was feeling very badly about the loss of his youngest brother who died recently and whom he spoke of as "the best of the lot." So far he has been rather unfortunate with his ranch he having lost most of his foals this spring.

This evening I have seen one of the young Lawfords who is here at a bank. He recognized me, but is so changed in appearance

that I did not know him.

The country that I have been in for the last few days is very beautiful - not grand like the mountains but lovely beyond the descriptive powers of one who has had such broken nights as I have had lately.

In fact I am so sleepy now that I cannot write more, but will try to add a few lines to-morrow Monday.

Here I am stuck fast again. Mr Scarth was to have some maps ready here which I need at Crowfoot; but a telegram informs me that they will not be here until to-morrow morning. To-morrow is the day on which there is no eastward train, so that unless I can get a freight-train I shall be here until Wednesday. It is very annoying, but cannot be helped.

Last evening we had a frightful

thunder-showers - such lightning as I had never seen - and to-day it is cold and cloudy with occasional heavy showers. I have had some business to attend to at the department of mines but have spent most of the day in my room. For dinner I had a guest whom you no doubt remember - from the Indian or Half-breed who was a student several years ago. He is a Dominion Land Surveyor and gets \$5.50 a day besides his keep which is not so bad considering that he has little opportunity of spending anything. He talks of going to the States in the autumn to study electrical engineering.

To-day I got a charming letter from

you, dearest, enclosing Butts
 picture and Conrad's letter,
 tell them that I was very much
 pleased to get them. I wish
 you were feeling brighter, dear,
 and daily regret my prolonged
 absence from you more and
 more. There seems no chance
 now of my reaching Metis before
 September, but I shall do my
 best to get there at the earliest
 possible date. Possibly I may
 be detained a day or two in
 Winnipeg but I hope not.

Conrad's idea about the
 hollowing of the bell was very
 funny. What a droll little
 chap he is. Baby will I am
 sure have changed wonderfully
 by the time I see him. I hope
 he is growing stronger and that
 Metis air will set him up for the
 winter. I often wonder what will

7
become of our boys if they are
spared to grow up. After what
I have seen of other peoples boys
who have come out here to
try their hands at ranching I
do not feel anxious for my
boys to ~~be~~ take to ranching.

One sees so many young fellows
who were gentlemen when they
came here, but seem in a
very short time to have lost
not only the appearance but
the instincts of gentlemen.

It is tea-time, so I must not
write more. Thank you all
for your congratulations and
with fondest love believe me
Your husband B.

I send you a copy of the
"Century" which I hope will
interest you.