Little Metis
Aug 5th, 1902

Dearest Anna,

I have just received your letter of July 21st from Wales and am delighted to hear of your having such pleasant experiences as those which you describe. I thought, however, that ~~you~~ if you were going up to London you would have done so earlier; but perhaps you are waiting for Coronation No 2. After all the idea of being in London during "the season" is of more import to English people than it is to us. Mr. F but arrived here on Friday. He came out by the Parisian and had Muriel Cristine in his charge as far as Rimouski. Mrs. F. goes up to town to-morrow in order to relieve Mrs Bovey. R. went up to town this afternoon to meet a man who think of taking the Sherbrooke street house. He and Flo have been very "down" for some days owing to the necessity of making a final decision about the house. I feel very sorry for them both and wish I could think of some way of really helping them. R. evidently hates the idea of going back to England where he can see nothing more ahead of him than there is here, on your mother's account, however, I think it would probably be well if he made up his mind to go. He has been in our house a good deal during the past few weeks and has been very pleasant and nice. The children still keep well and the little girls are busy preparing for a

bazaar in aid of the fresh air fund. Yesterday and day before we had heavy rain but to-day it is again bright and fine. We have indeed enjoyed beautiful weather. The garden is doing well and soon will be a blaze of colour — altogether ahead of what it has ever been before. Of course it means a lot of work for me, but the heaviest part is over now. Since last I wrote there has been no further word of Mrs. Morton. If I were sure that she was not coming to Nutts I think I would write and ask Laura to come down for a week or two; but we may hear at any moment that Mrs. M. means to come. I am sure she is anxious to do so if the doctors will allow her. Clare too would like to have Muriel Christine here, but under the circumstances I fear we cannot gratify her.

You ask about your home coming, but that is something which I fear you will have to decide largely for yourself. Here everything is going on smoothly and there is no need of your hurrying. You will no doubt miss seeing Conrad before he goes to Kingston and I do not think we can come to any conclusion as to what is to be done with Bernard until after your return. But a little extra holiday may do him no harm. I am pleased to see how energetic he is this summer as compared with last. He never seems tired and has an excellent appetite. He is improving in many ways and is going to make a fine fellow. Just what would be the best education for him is very difficult to know.

Aug 4th 1902

The more I think of it the more it seems to me that under the circumstances it might be well to let Bernard go back to Birchiss until Christmas & meantime we could be thinking of other arrangements. Since the era of extra milk B. has I think done better

as Bruthin (i.e. physically) than before. If we arrange for him to go back for the time being there would be nothing to hurry you back, that is if Mrs Boney has settled the little girl business.

This is a lovely day, warm for here, but with a pleasant breeze. Everything is ~~fr~~ fresh after the rain. There has been much excitement in the colony this morning owing to the arrival of an American steam yacht – a large and beautiful one. It remained for a couple of hours and then steamed off to the North Shore. Bernard and Victor boarded her and returned filled with wonder accounts of her splendour. Poppy has been off with Durie McSerman fishing in Macintis stream. He came back highly delighted with himself – having caught one little trout and had "56 bites". He is bigger than Durie, though the latter is 3 years old.

The dinner bell rings and I must close this but will write soon again. This place seems very vacant without you, dear, but we are so glad to think of you as enjoying yourself in England and hope that the visit will do you a world of good.

Ever yours fondly

Bernard.

August 5/02