

~~THE CARLETON HOUSE~~

~~CORNER ARCYLE AND PRINCE STREETS,~~

~~HALIFAX, N. S.~~

1907



DEPT. OF POSTS  
HALIFAX N.S.  
NOV 20 1907  
MILL  
ONE

Very good & interesting  
letter - mostly Mrs. Harrington  
re French Catholics - Little Metis,

(Rimowski Co.)

Due.

OVER REC. QUEB. CAN. 1907  
SEP 24 8-AM

ETITTE METLE  
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St Jean des Chailions  
Sun. 22 Sept 07.

My dear Anna, This is a beautiful little place on the St Lawrence, half way between Quebec + Three Rivers. It is far prettier than metis; but I must say, in coming from the Lower Provinces to Father Point, there is something bracing about the air on the Lower St Lawrence which is quite different from anywhere else. Perhaps I noticed it more this time, when not quite up to the mark myself; but the air is invigorating & reviving to a remarkable degree. — Well, it is bright and really warm, which is pleasant, when I have so far met with almost no "summer" anywhere —

I feel like a hermit today; as there is no church to go to here; and I have also finished all the reading I have on hand. But I am quite accustomed to being on my own resources; often on a Sunday, I never speak to a human being, except to ask at the hotel table for what I want to eat. I do not mind this in the least, I have plenty of resource. But if those who have homes could see their mission to the young men in the city hotels — isolated, absolutely alone in the crowd — ready to fall in with anyone for company however questionable such society may be. The Y. M. C. A. does much in this.



But you would scarcely credit the effect it has upon one, even at my age, to see the inside of a home after months of wandering. I have been in two houses where there were "women & children" since the end of May. One in Yarmouth, and one in Charlottetown. From a young man's standpoint, what a revelation to see that there is such a thing as a home; something that he may even aspire to himself as an objective; something better than the company of the "girl on the street" which is the present limit of his horizon - There are now multitudes of young men who are constantly travelling; besides the large homeless student classes in our cities -

It is very sad to see these French so entirely dominated by their church. I have read recently an extract from one of their books on "The Priest". It says in plain words what they all really believe. "The sacrifice of Christ on the cross would be a dead letter, without effect, were it not for the Priest - The Priest communicates its efficacy to the world; through him the Divine grace reaches the people. The Priest is the dispenser of all; if the people realized this as they should, they would die - not of fear - but of love for the Priest." This



is certainly a clear acknowledgement of their position.

Yet finer people of the humbler class, it would be hard to find. They are thrifty, and cleanly; with some artistic taste + love of flowers; which raises them above the Anglo-saxon who is limited by the "practical," which in his vocabulary means simply money-making. The French have other interests in life besides this, and are consequently light hearted + enjoy life on its own account. But unfortunately the chief interest in their lives is this "Religion". It is sad that the Devil gets hold of the finest peoples. It shows his shrewdness! Yet how does he make such devotees of them; when those who have so much more light, treat their advantages so carelessly? Is the human heart so gross and earthy, that a religion of fear takes a greater hold upon it, than a religion of joy and light, which it can esteem so negligently? — One of the saddest sights here, is the expression on the face of an aged woman; devotedly pious all her life, yet with nothing better than purgatory to look forward to, for at least another lifetime, or possibly centuries.



But no doubt you have seen all this yourself, and realize it as fully as I do -

With regard to that question of investments, the chance is over now. If we had sold the Bank of Montreal stock in the spring, and put it into Bonds that do not fluctuate, we might have saved the depreciation. But during the last month or so, Bank stocks have been going down like the rest, Bank of Montreal is worth \$15 a share less than in the spring, making a decline of about \$500 on what we hold. To sell now would be to lose this. So the best we can now do, is to hold on to it in the hope that stocks will rise again. There is a fair prospect of this now; as money will be "easier" when the harvests of the world are turned to cash, as they soon will be now.

I have heard little news for a long time; but I hope you are well, and that Bernard continues to make progress. I have not heard yet of Mother's arrival in Montreal.

With all love,  
Your affectionate brother  
Will.