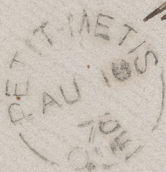


These letters written in the summer of 1876
the first summer of their marriage — during the
period when B. J. T. was in Philadelphia at the
Centennial Exhibition — many delightful little
pieces telling of life in Metis.

76.



Dr. B. J. Harrington
Canadian Court
Main Building
Centennial Exhibition
Philadelphia
U. S.



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Notes

Aug 8th / 76

My dearest Bernard,

This is quite a notable day, for we have had green beans from the garden. If you could see the unhappy little plantations striving to live on poor soil, & parched with drought, you would understand our delight - The reddishes all developed worms. (Pray do not consider, I am committing myself to any theory of development by this remark!) The lettuce was so tough that we had to cook most of it & pretend that it was spinach - & when I found the beans to be really fit to pick I was so charmed that I went out & gathered them myself - almost fancying that I must be back at Wallbrae place gathering fruit off our own bean & pea stalks - After dinner

Mamma wanted Eva to go & pick up chips & shavings round the gallery, wh. greatly offended mamma's particular ideas of neatness, & my young lady, did not think it suitable employment, so I had to go & help her while Rankine stood by, & said how badly mamma wd fare if she fell into the hands of "Mrs Be-dow-by-as-you-did" -

After dinner I painted a letter & then we went for a row, on very rough water, the waves this morning were tremendous quite a change from the usual calmness - We have capital fun bathing - Rankine & Herbert are mad on the diving question, Eva has been trying to learn, when I attempted it - I certainly went down head first, & I can make my feet appear above water in the approved style, but I don't like the sensation at all - You wd have laughed to see Mr Darcy & the 3 majors bathing the other day, he was trying to teach them to swim, & we were much entertained by watching

their efforts, through an opera glass.

I missed your always-ready sticking-plaster the other day for I cut both my feet while bathing, & sea-side scuts are apt to be troublesome, when sand is always rattling about in one's shoes & stockings - however I beg. get some plaster from Mrs Darcy wh served the purpose.

By the way - I don't at all succeed in impressing people with my being a "venerable" The washerwoman calls me "Maister" the men on the steam-yatch addressed me as "Miss" - & even Mr Laren whom I met the other day said sweetly - "How do you do Miss Dawson" - I enclose you, what she enclosed me in her last letter to show that she too forgot about new ways & titles - All wh. shows clearly that a visible husband is necessary, to impress the world at large with my new dignity.

Anna has gone to Portland with Anna Gale - they seem to be staying a few days at a time at all the watering places about there, she wished to try how she & A. G. got

on together before she consented
to the German trip, & she says
that she does not find her nearly
so troublesome as she expected.
There is no doubt - that mine is
a perfect witch at managing
people, without their feeling that
they are under her thumb -

Wednesday

I have just got your letter, dear
& really I shall never so much
send you pictures, if you talk
such - - such - - "stuff
& nonsense" about them - After
all to - dear it is far more amusing
to be foolish than wise - But
if you begin to abuse my Bernard,
I shall feel it my duty to be very
cross indeed, so beware! And I
don't think you ought to feel that
you have done nothing - it is pas-
sing a harder judgment upon your-
self than you wd upon another.
No doubt there is, in all our lives
much left undone - I fear that
most frequently our failures
come not from doing nothing, but
doing the less important, instead
of the most important work -
We cannot tell with our short
sight - what is great & what small.
But in God's sight all is clear & that

is why I want to see everything²
only as God sees it. God's will &
God's way, is always great & grand
& will bear fruit to remotest
ages. Our own way, is simply
failure & misery, whatever we
may think of it ourselves.

Mr Selwyn is really a brick
(you know I never talk slang, so
I must write a little once in a
while) to send some one down by
the middle of the month, I shall
strengthen his resolution by thanking
him for his decision, wh- I consider
a fine stroke of diplomacy -

Will you go back to Montreal
before coming here? If you do
please bring your rug, & you had
better bring your bathing attire,
also I wish you wd bring me a
small crochet needle, it has a black
twisted handle & steel point, & you
will find it either in the drawer
of Anne Galt's work table or in the
box with a lifting lid on my dressing
table - If you don't find it, you need
not try to get me one for I am quite
sure it wd not do. I have one I can
work with, but my little black one
is so much better.

Thanks many for the stamps
wh- are always welcome, the only
thing I have been reduced to hav.

running is letter paper - as to
money - it is impossible to spend
it down here - unless you go
driving, wh. is not my weakness
as you know. I don't think I
have spent 2 dollars since I fairly
got here - I have made several
attempts to buy things, but the two
stores never have what I wanted.

Do you remember pretty Mary
Robertson who was married last
September to Stuart Tupper -

Some one at the hotel had a tele-
gram to say that she died on
Monday at Halifax, where she
had gone to pay a visit to the
Tuppers - I believe her husband
got there a few hours before she
died, but her father & mother
were too late - I am so sorry
for Mr Tupper he is such a nice
young fellow, & he was engaged
5 years - wh. seems a long while -
There have been so many sad
deaths this year, or I have happened
to hear of so many -

Thursday

Mr Sleep was here last night
& the appointment is not yet made
he told papa however that he
had recommended Whiteaves -
Mr Laird asked him about George
& he said, "he had nothing to say"

against George - Mamma got
rather excited & she hoped he
w^d never dream of comparing
George's merits with W.'s - Papa
said that with his talents & ed-
ucation he certainly w^d not re-
main in a subordinate position
on the Survey to oblige anyone

Mr Selwyn talks of leaving here
tomorrow. He intends to send
Wiston to Philadelphia, wh. Papa says
is a disgrace to the Survey - after
he arrives you will take a day or
two to examine the things in the
exhibition that interest you most.
will you not? It w^d seem a
pity not to see it - when you are
there - of course you will let me
know by letter or telegram, the
day you expect to arrive. I
shall only send you one more
letter to Philadelphia -

And now another commission
Mamma expects Mr & Mrs Peter Red
path to be here about the 21st
for a few days - & if you are not
very hurried in Montreal, w^d
you get some fruit & vegetables
you might bring them in one of
the baskets that are at our house
or else in a small box - don't get
much for we have no means of

Keeping things well - you might
get 1 ear 3 day-pears, & a little of
any other fruit - that is in season
not-apples - for enemas detests,
little green summer apples -
& some tomatoes, & perhaps two
cauliflowers - I only suggest dear
but I don't want you to bring a
barrel full w^h - my experience
of men generally w^l lead me to
expect, if I did not warn you
Maxime say not to mind if you
are at all hurried - only if
it sh^d happen to be easy for you.

Eva is in great-haste to be off
to the post, so I must close long
before I have finished all I w^l
say - If you intend to work
down here please bring me
the 2 vol of the Netherlands, if you
are going to be good I say, you
need not mind for I w^l fear
rather talk to you.

I put some of yr. stamps on
this to show you what a good
use I make of them.

Fondly, dearest -

Your loving wife