

New Glasgow, 8 P.M. Monday, July 20.

1868.

Pictou -
Primrose's -
Taxes - "quarrels"
dollar men -
etc

Acc 976

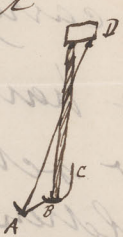
Dear George,

We arrived in Pictou at about half past four, & went to the Primrose's, who have a very nice house pretty high up, near the battery. (The battery has now, six guns)

The Primrose's have a stunning kind of swing; it has a seat like an arm chair, & a foot board in front which when you are ~~at~~ as far to the front as you can go, you press on with your feet, & it pulls the swing back, you will see the reason from

the following illustration: -

A is the foot-board, BC the chair, & D the top beam of the swing; the rod DA & the rod that supports the chair are jointed at the top.



On Saturday evening, after tea, we

went ~~A~~ out for a walk, & visited
a good many people that papa
knows; & we saw ~~a~~ Mrs. Crow, at one
of the places.

Old Mr. Primrose says that the schools
here, are free schools, & that the
people of Pictou are taxed for their
support, & that there are a whole
lot of "quarter dollar men" that
is those that only are taxed ^a quarter
of a dollar, & that these said
"quarter dollar men" vote for
a larger school tax, (of which
they don't pay any) & then when
they carry it by force of numbers,
they have ~~a~~ three cheers for the
new school tax; for then their
children ^{who} ~~can~~ go free to the school,
are better attended to I suppose,
from the larger amount that
goes ~~to~~ to the support of the said
schools.

We went twice to the J. P. Church
yesterday. It rained a little in the

night.

At about 6 this morning we went to a small coal bed that was found near the gas works, there is only about a foot of coal, but there are a great ~~many~~ many fossils ^{ferns} in the shale above the bed, & a lot of stigmara roots in the under-clay. After breakfast I went with James Pimrose, (he is about 9 years old, & is very intelligent, & nice) to the battery, & a carding mill, & a "ship". A "ship" is a sort of cradle, which can be let out into the water, & a ship sails over it, ~~and~~ & is fastened on it, & then it is pulled up ship & all, out of the water, & it acts instead of a dry-dock I suppose. I then returned to the house with James, & started with him again to Mr. Pimrose's office where papa was writing for me, & then we ~~all~~ ^(Papa, Mr. Pimrose, & I) started for the steamer "East Riding" which left for New Glasgow, on the East River, at 11.30

you never saw such a funny
channel as there is up the East
River; first they sail as about
10 yds. from one side & then as
close to the other. And any way
the East River is as crooked as any-
thing can be; & the steamer seems
to be one of those patent kind
that can sail anywhere it is
damp. There is a railway on
each side of the river here;
the one on this side is the Hal-
ifax & Pictou railway, & the
other is a railway from the
Albion mines to the loading place
where it is emptied into steamers.

We are staying at the "American
house" now & went out this
afternoon to see a good many
sort of trial mines some of which
have been worked to a considerable
extent & some of which have ^{almost}
failed ~~altogether~~.

Yours affectionately
William.