

Montreal February 17<sup>th</sup> 1871.

My dear George

We have had  
your very welcome budget quite early,  
as early as Wednesday this week. so that we  
have two sets to answer. The previous  
letters came Saturday & from that day until  
Sunday afternoon I was kept most  
uncomfortably anxious about Ella's picture.  
I had kept the expectation of getting it  
secret, for a pleasant surprise, ever since  
my return but found it particularly difficult  
to do so these few days but at last it came  
safe & sound. & every one admires it very  
much indeed. The likenesses are good & much  
improved by the colouring. The whole thing  
is quite unique & not likely to be imitated.

by Mary. I have not had time to give  
careful thoughts about your suggestion  
rather to frame it. It is almost two  
minutes for the small; perhaps some light  
portable frame, in which it could be  
passed round when wanted to be  
shown, could be thought of. Anna  
is so charmed with it that already she  
hopes it to be left as a legacy to her. It  
adds very much to my enjoyment of it thus  
you have seen it.

I think I mentioned  
to you that we had the offer of a good  
house at Runney Bay. I was likely to go there  
next summer - we lost that opportunity -  
waiting to consult Anna's pleasure. I we  
are now treating for one at Cacouna as  
Papre greatly prefers we should go there.  
It is the one that used to be occupied  
by the Mr. Pherson's of Quebec. A little nearer

nearer the valley, on the opposite side  
of the road from the Cottage we had  
from Marquis. It is quite a chance to get  
a house at Cacouna now so many go there  
& upon the whole I think this situation  
very good. It is not usual for us to  
make arrangements for summer so early.  
It has been thrown upon us by the offer  
of certain desirable houses, & already both  
Willson & Rankine look as if they require  
change to accept them. We have been  
considering about sending W. to some French  
family during the months of May & June,  
but it is not yet decided. I hope papa  
will help you to come to the best conclusion  
in regard to your plans both in reference  
to education & how to spend the summer.  
I have a great idea of your going on  
the Continent to learn German & we cd  
now through Mrs Innes, late from Warmstade,

get you good introductions to people  
there. At same time your going on the  
Survey might be more favourable for your  
after life prospects. however both papa &  
yok know better than I do. altho' I am  
sorry to say he has to write about it to  
yok in his usual very hurried manner.

Lately we have had Sophia Browne,  
Pina, Mrs Bond (late Miss Scott) Quebe  
& Miss Bennett Quebe at lunch. I Anne  
is now entertaining them in the drawing  
room. I do not know whether she has written  
to if not I fear it will be but a scrap she will  
send. I have not made up my mind about  
the shawl. every one seems to busy in our  
house I cannot get a talk about things. It  
was so kind of yok to think of me I hope it  
will be in time by next mail. My blue I think  
hyacinths are now at their best. the odor is  
delicious. Excuse of my best love. I believe me  
Yours affectionate. Mother