

P.E.I.

Charlottetown
Aug 7, /71-

Acc. 976

Dear George,

we returned to
Summerside from Shediac on
Wednesday night, & the next
morning we got two carriages
and Papa and Mr Pope (the brother
of the Mr Pope I mentioned in
a previous letter) went in
one, and Mr Harrington and I
in the other. We started westward
Papa for Miminegash and we
for ~~down~~ Cape Kildare. We all
went together for about twenty
miles, as far as Casumpeque
Bay, and then Papa turned ^{westward} ~~eastward~~
and, we, northward. ~~But~~ The reason
of our journeys was, that Papa wanted
to see some ferns which Mr.

Harrington had discovered in the red Sandstone ~~at~~ at Miminegash, and we wanted to see Cape Kildare, and for us there was the additional inducement that on the Kildare R. there had been an Indian settlement in which several arrow-heads and ~~the~~ axes had been found. When we arrived at Alberton on Cascumpeque Harbour, we went to see Mr. Bell who is a leading man ~~in~~ in that part of the country, and also the oldest settler there. He told us of a place near there where coal had been found, and as we were afterwards told by several people, ~~he~~ had that he had been talking about it for several years we thought we would go & see the place. From his own description of the mode of its occurrence Mr. Harrington had already concluded it must be bog manganese with perhaps a little coal mixed with it.

When we arrived at the place, we

went to the house of the man on
whose farm it occurred, and
asked him to show us where he
had found it. He showed us
a swampy place, where he had
been digging through black
mould to get water, & said
he had found it there; he &
told us it was about the size
of a hen's egg, ~~and~~ and also stated
that when the wind blew from
the south-west he could "smell
coal" as plainly as if he had
his nose over a blacksmith's
forge. ~~Of course~~

When we got to the Kildare
river we went to the house of
a man there ~~who~~ to whom
we had a letter of introduction
from Mr. Bell, and asked about
the Indian implements, He told
the old story of their having
been found in some quantity &
of Mr. Pope's having got them
from him to send to England.
He said he thought there were
some lying about his house,

and that he would look for them, & if we called again in the morning he ~~not~~ would let us have what he had found. When we did call the next morning he had not succeeded in finding anything. We saw, however, ~~the~~ the place where the old settlement had been. It was on the edge of a bank which the sea had been cutting away, & was indicated by a layer of oyster shells about a foot deep on the surface of the ground, & grown over with grass.

There is one thing which I think goes a good way to show the prosperity of the people here, and that is the almost universal use of mowing machines for cutting hay. We have seen 8 or 10 fields being mown, & only one was being mowed with scythes. The use of wooden fences of the zig-zag style is very prevalent in the parts of the Island more removed from the towns.

On ~~Wednesday~~ Friday morning we left Cape Kildare & got to Summerside in the evening, &

on Saturday morning we left
for Charlottetown where we arrived
Saturday at four. Today we stay
here to settle up all our business
& pack our boxes, & then tomorrow
morning we leave for Pictou at
five. We get there at ^{ten}~~noon~~ & then
stay there till Wednesday at noon,
~~and~~ at which time we leave by
boat for here, & then go direct
on to Shediac, where we will take
the railway for St. John, & thence
on to Montreal where we expect to
arrive Saturday night. We then
take the railway for Cacouna Mon-
day night or Tuesday morning.

The people here are very kind
and hospitable, as I suppose you
have already concluded from their
willingness to quarter us wherever
we go. Another instance may be
given. Papa knows Mr. Hales
the steamboat agent, and he
~~had~~ asked him if it would be
possible to dredge from his steam-
boat in going over to Pictou
tomorrow. At first he said

it would not, for he thought Papa wanted to lower a boat and go dredging while the steam-boat waited for him & then return to it, & as these boats carry the mails they are not allowed to stop unnecessarily. But on learning the way in which we wanted ~~to~~ to do it, he said he thought it could be managed, for so long as the boat only slackened speed & did not actually stop, no one could bring an accusation against them ~~but~~ before the Government of unnecessary delay. So I am hoping that we will get some dredging done after all. The water between here & Pictou is in no place more than 10 or 15 fathoms & in some places 19, and the current is only one knot an hour so that it is a nice quiet place for things to live. I found that the letter I wrote at Bristol would have been too late for the Quebec Steamship so it will not leave till today.

I remain your affectionate brother
William.