

Montreal July 5, 1872.

Acc. 976

Dear George,

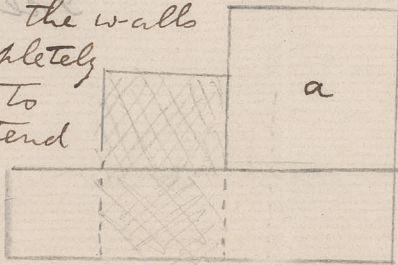
Mamma, R. & E., left
this morning with Papa for
Cacouna, & ~~we~~ intend to stay
there for a few weeks. Papa
however is to return on Monday.
They went by train because
the "Magnet" has been removed
from the line to supply the
place of the "Kingston" which
was burnt, and a small boat
has taken its place.

The Cornishes have gone
to Metis and the Johnsons
to Murray Bay, so that Anna
& I have the place pretty
much at our own disposal.

The weather is very warm.

which I mentioned to you ⁽²⁾
some time ago, & which goes
under the name of the New
Cathedral Block, is beginning
to show signs of ~~degradation~~
decrepitude. The building I mean
is the one I sent you a sketch
of a good while ago. Several
of its shops are occupied and
prove a considerable convenience
as they are well stocked, and
no difficulty ~~is~~ ~~to~~ would have
been found in getting occupants
for the others if the building
had not begun to give way.

The high wall at the back is
bulging out about 3 or 4 inches
in the middle & is supported by
wooden props, & the end on Victoria
street is in a very dangerous
condition. The shaded part is meant
for the original houses the walls
of which have been completely
removed below in order to
allow the shops to extend
from back to front
under the whole building
a is a large hall
used for giving dancing lessons in.



now, the maximum for each day varying from 86° to 95° which latter is about the highest I have seen, although higher temperatures are reported from the streets. We have had two or three thunderstorms lately, which have moderated the temperature for the time. The evenings are still cool, which is a great relief.

A great improvement has been made on Great St. James St. by its being repaved paved from the Post Office to Mc Gill St. with a new pavement called the Nicolson. It was tried on Jacques Cartier Square for some years & is still in good condition there. It is made of blocks of wood placed on end, and smeared with tar in the cracks & on the ends, & then covered over with very fine gravel.

~~I remain~~ The wonderful erection

You see by the diagram of a cross section of the structure, that the whole ~~remains~~ remnant of the original terraces is supported on pillars in the partitions ~~separating~~ separating the shops, & as since the shops extend from back to front, they have also to support the one wall of the dancing hall, ~~which~~ ~~at~~ which strain on brick partitions is rather great & is beginning to show itself in several cracks ~~two~~ toward the back of the shops in the partitions.

I have not done much in to my steam engine except making a model in wood for the fly-wheel. The truth is I havnt had much time to attend to it, but when you come out we can talk matters over & see if it is worth while prosecuting the matter any further.

I remain your affectionate
brother William