

Explosion  
at Bonaventure  
Station

M. Gill College. Monday  
Montreal. Feb 24, /73.

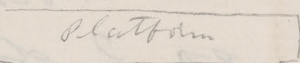
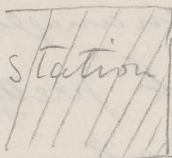
Dear George

It's a tremendously long time since I wrote to you, and I suppose I need not begin by making excuses. I've had a bad cold all last week, & have not been able to attend lectures, and I would have written then, only to tell the truth I felt too lazy. I've managed to keep up with the work pretty well however, so I don't think I will lose very much except in the drawing.

I am very much obliged for those stamps which you

sent. There fell to my lot  
a ~~A~~ Finland, a Naples  
and a Belgium. It is  
a pity you hadn't known  
that you had these, but  
I think I still have some  
that you have not got  
which I can give you in  
exchange. By the way  
have you got the 4 cts.  
P. G. I. new issue yet?

There was quite a ~~series~~  
serious accident at the  
Bonaventure station the  
other day. Perhaps you  
remember that in coming  
into the station ~~at the~~



St. Felix St.



after crossing Mountain street  
you pass the end of a brick  
house & then a long fence.  
Well, the end of the house is  
in ~~not~~ reality the end of  
a terrace facing onto St. Felix  
Street, which runs up across  
Bonaventure street and ends  
at St Antoine street. An  
engine was standing on the  
track where I have made the  
black mark. It was the  
shunting engine, and the  
fireman engineer ~~to~~ was standing  
at the side of it, oiling the  
machinery, and the fireman  
was just stooping down to  
put in some coal, when the  
boiler blew up. The whole  
end fence at the end of  
St. Felix street was blown  
away, and the engineer was  
blown against the second  
story window, where he left

a piece of his coat sticking  
in the shutter, and then  
fell down onto the pavement  
The fireman had his face  
very much scalded, & was  
sent to the hospital; and  
a woman who was just  
coming out of the door of  
the second house in ~~de~~  
Felix street was very  
much injured by the pieces  
of the boiler which struck  
her. All that was left  
of the engine was the boiler  
tubes the machinery & truck,  
with & also the funnel, and  
the engine-room. One piece  
of the boiler went through a  
roof on Bonaventure street  
and another smaller piece  
went through a roof on St.  
Antoine St. Some of the  
pieces of the boiler were found  
as far off as St. Joseph street.

No large fragments of it were found. It must have been a well made boiler, as it seemed to have burst everywhere at once; but it was very old (22 years.) The explosion was entirely sideways, and was not sharp but sounded more like a heavy thud. I learned most of these particulars from a Frenchman when I went down the next morning. He seemed to be an employee and rather intelligent and <sup>acquainted with</sup> ~~understood~~ the terms relating to ~~the~~ railways.

The engine had been at once taken to Point St. Charles, so that I did not see it, but, I saw all the damage that had been done including the hole in the roof of the house on Bonaventure street

which was then being repaired,  
and the piece of the coat.

Pieces were chipped out of  
the bricks in the terrace, not  
only at the corners but  
also out of the face, so that  
the pieces of the boiler though  
small must have been going  
with immense velocity.

A small brick shed on the  
other side of the street had  
all the bricks at the corner  
loosened, and the upper ones  
knocked out.

Prof. Armstrong has had  
a very bad cold, & has not  
been up all last week, so  
that that made it less of  
a loss for me to have to stay  
at home, and at the same  
time enabled & me to sympa-  
thize heartily with him.

I remain your loving brother  
William.