

P.S. Its the
Inter-colonial
mine that
the accident
happened to.

Bridge of
medical
Bonsaint rock
winning
Central
Announcements
about
meas

Mc Gill College
May 14, 1893

Dear George,

I have ordered

the "Weekly Gazette" for you
for which I paid \$1.15
and the also "the Engineer".
For it I got out a P.O. order
for £1..6..0 in the name of
the publisher, for which cost
\$6.66 I have therefore have
\$2.19 left which you may
count on if you want any
thing else. I will remember
about those papers, but
of course the postage is
charged to our account. It
only amounts to 6 cts. any way
and I am glad to have any
addresses to which to send
them, for I have 50 copies
to dispose of on my own account
if I can't

Herbert & Charlie & I
went through the bridge the
other day. There wasn't so
very much to be seen that you
can't see from the back of a
train. The spans are built
uniformly, & I mean that
they are the same ~~to~~ throughout
their whole length, ^{have no extra} & ~~no~~ strengthen-
ing at the parts where the
greatest strains occur. There
is but one exception; over the
piers, there the sides and floor
are considerably strengthened.
While we went through &
returned, 6 trains passed.
We stood at different parts
of the spans to try how
much motion there was. At
the centre of a span when
a heavy freight train was
passing on the down grade,
there was quite a considerable
lateral motion & very little

vertical, so as to give altogether a rocking motion. I suppose the bridge would describe somewhat the kind of curve that an oar does in sculling. The spans are built in pairs, that is a length of the bridge is equal to two spans. Starting from a break which is over a pier you would go on to the next pier where there would be no break, & on coming to the third pier there would be a break, & another length would begin. This of course gives a great deal more strength than if each span was separate, as it reverses the strains at the centre of the length & thus has the effect of shortening the span; and it also ~~allows~~^{makes} the temperature to ~~be more easily~~ more easy to allow for. The bridge is made

of half-inch iron, & its main strength seems to lie in its corners which are very much strengthened both inside and out. The bridge is quite light inside, except in the centre span, which is very dark. There is a magnificent view of the river from the centre of the bridge. The rails are very good, but not as good as they might be. A man goes through with a lantern after every second train. The roof of the bridge is made of wood, I mean the outside roof. It slopes off steeply to the river like the roof of a house & along the middle there is a plank-walk 3 planks wide. We climbed up an iron ladder at the end, to see this,

but we didn't think of going
along, I can assure you!

We have got a house
at R. de Loup. It is about
4 miles up from the R. de
Loup church, & is nearly
opposite the lowest or Great
Pilgrim.

Papa leaves for N. S. to-
night. He thinks I had
better stay at home &
wait for Mr Fleming. He
is going to the Pistigouche,
to superintend the construction
of a bridge there.

The other day one of
the St. Lawrence navigation
Co.'s boats struck coming
down the Lachine rapids.
it bumped along a piece &
then stuck among some rocks
the bow stove in and the hull
filled almost immediately;
but it settled down & remained
with the upper part above water.

the Captain went off in one of the boats to see if he could get assistance at Isle Heron, & some of the passengers went off in another boat. But they found the current too rapid to be able to get the boats back. Some enterprising people of the vicinity came out in canoes & charged \$ 2.00 to ferry the people ashore. As it was moonlight they went on all night, & although the boat had struck in the afternoon it was not till morning that they all got off.

There was an eclipse of the moon on the Monday morning, which h & I went up the mountain to see. Only the penumbra was seen & the moon set into a low bank of clouds just as the umbra was coming on. There is a solar eclipse this month.

I remain your affectionate
brother
William.