

Acc. 376

Lorway

Cape Breton

July 27

1874.

My dear George

I have not written to you for some time, and I have neither heard of you nor from you for a considerable interval. The only news to be had is the occasional mention of the whereabouts of the mounted police in the papers. I suppose I must take for granted that you do your best in the way of correspondence and not expect too much. I hope you find the weather agreeable, and

are not troubled either by drought or wet. We have had a great deal of wet weather during the first part of the summer, & now it is about as dry as it was wet before, if one may make such a comparison.

I think we are going to have some rain now however, and it will be very acceptable as the wells round here are beginning to get dry.

I am writing in the hope that this may reach you before your birthday; but whether it does or not, I wish you many happy returns of the day.

The Railway here is progressing rapidly. About a mile of the track is already laid at this

the end and about half the whole length is graded. I am occupied in field & office work & never find a want of something to do. I think I am going to have a regular salary, if I may call it such. I spoke to Mr. Gisborne & he consented to it.

I am getting a great many capital ideas from Mr. Rumble indeed I think it would have been worth my while to come down here if for nothing else. He has shown me a method of ascertaining the exact position of the piston, at any point of the stroke measured on the circle described by the crank and from this, to find the corresponding position of the eccentric

rod to get the point of cut-off, &c and eventually to construct an indicator diagram.

The Comet has at length dis-appeared. I have had a good opportunity of watching its movements. I saw an article on its spectrum in an American paper. It was vague, but from it I gathered that the nucleus was a self-luminous solid or liquid giving a continuous spectrum, and the tail gaseous "giving three bands, found in the yellow, the green & the blue", so that it must be an incandescent gas, & not composed of solid particles.

I remain your affectionate  
brother  
William