

Kamarraska August 27<sup>th</sup>  
/74

My dearest George

Last Tuesday eve  
we received your bundle of most  
interesting letters, dated July 31<sup>st</sup> & August 1<sup>st</sup>  
justifying my "presentiments" that we  
were in communion on that day. Your  
father had, after dinner, driven you  
& me over to Point St. Denis - a point  
about two or three miles farther up the  
St. Lawrence, where he wished to ascertain  
if the Lime Conglomerate re-appeared.  
It was a lovely day I ended in a beautiful  
sunset which we watched till it faded  
into general mellowness as we drove back

to a late tea. As we expected some  
friends to join us, while we dined,  
Papa went over to the Post office  
returning, to our delight, with your  
packet. I have also to acknowledge &  
thank you for a short letter dated July  
25<sup>th</sup> written immediately after your arrival  
at the "Butts". After tea your buffalo hunt  
& some other incidents were read aloud.  
The auditors being Nina, at present our  
guest, Mrs. Beale — a visitor of Mrs. Stearns —  
Charlie Selwyn, Frank Herries & O'Hara.  
Papa Rankine who had just returned  
with two day's trauts, the result of a  
day's river fishing, & feeling <sup>as if he has been sported with some</sup> something <sup>amusing</sup>  
of a hero, sunk into insignificance, exclaiming  
"Oh wouldn't it be glorious to have a 'honey'  
at the buffaloes!" "Well I must try for  
ducks anyhow!" — Hitherto one day: at

a time, of yellow shunks - a species of  
glow. I think, has been the height of his  
triumph. So this morn. he was off again  
by five o'clock to the marshes returning  
with one duckling, but I am sure  
he will not rest until he can say  
ducks. We have all boated & gypsed  
this summer more than ever before &  
have just touch'd the experience of being  
thirsty when out of reach of water, as  
only one of the four little islands to  
which we have made excursions has  
water on it; altho' each time we thought  
water was to <sup>be</sup> got on the next to be visited  
& to take only a little milk for tea. The last  
excursion by boat was made to Ile au Pâté  
on which is a house, so we were confident  
of meeting no disappointments on that occasion.

— Anna may probably tell you how we  
got stranded a full mile from the shore &  
were ignominiously carted in on a cart  
used for the fisheries — I had taken  
Coffee & our party dispersed — Five remain  
with me to help in preparing the dinner.  
We chose our spot built a fire & there  
I traced my steps to the house where  
we landed. I searched all around it  
& there in it — It is only used for a  
shelter on accidents — for water, but not  
a drop was to be seen. I then went off  
to the men busy at the fishery & asked, as  
best I could, where I could get l'eau. Oh there  
was none! — all was used at dinner!  
I insisted I must have some, so the  
parle resulted in a boy<sup>being</sup> dispatched to the  
other end of the Island to try to get a  
dipper full. Hannars! I hope that none that  
you have ever had to use has been half

so lively as full of - what do you call  
them? as that brought to us. It was  
as brown as if the coffee had already  
been soaked in it & so living. Anna  
& I looked at each other, but there  
was no help. I had a piece of white  
muslin tied over my hat to protect from  
wind & sun, we doubleed. This  
filled every cup to the brim, wiped  
the dippers & strained the water back  
into it, made good strong coffee  
adding a hattle of milk & boiling again.  
All praised it as chicuous & the two  
who knew all partook of it! so we  
at least can intelligently sympathize  
with you. Soon after that Anna, R.  
& I went down to Bic for a few days  
your father returned from there so pleased

with the scenery that he wished Anna  
to have the opportunity of sketching some  
of its salient points. On account of breaks  
in the connection of the trains we had  
to spend a night & day at Lewis Pictou.  
Here we took <sup>two</sup> days at Bic & A. Spent  
every available hour in perseveringly  
sketching. The usual St. Lawrence  
ridges there break off abruptly & viewing  
them endways they look like high isolated  
peaks rising suddenly from soft grassy  
lawns. A beautiful peninsula, with  
putty white birches, stretches out from Bic  
village & forms the harbor from this  
with the water for middle distance  
the hills look most imposing. But it is  
useless my describing them they are  
neither new nor distinct when compared.

with your Buttes & as you now  
have given us the joyful hope  
that you will return again  
this winter I will please myself  
by anticipating the time when  
you will be comparing the sketches  
you have made of the "Three Buttes"  
with Anna's "Seven Bies".

I am quite sorry to think of a  
mail reaching you without your  
having the pleasure of receiving letters.  
Personally I have to blame myself for  
omissions, but Papa & Anna, whose  
time is more at their disposal, seemed  
to be writing to you frequently, altho I  
doubt rather fitfully, our habits here  
are so irregular. We have heard  
frequently from William & now we

begin to look forward with longing  
to the reunion of our scattered flock.  
Your father in consequence of some B. S.  
business intends to return to Montreal on  
Sat. The remainder here on Tuesday the  
15<sup>th</sup> & William is on the outbreak for  
the best made of getting back before the  
15<sup>th</sup> & how soon my dear son can we  
hope to welcome you? I try to repress the  
pictures of the many real difficulties &  
dangers that encompass your path. God  
has been so good to you hitherto that with  
growing faith I daily commit you to His  
keeping. I had letters from Scotland lately  
telling of the death of Mrs. Mason. My half  
brother's last child. She had two babies. Maria  
Bele is to be married in Sep: to a brother of Mr. Leitch.  
Mrs. Pimrose has gone to reside in Edin: Her son  
Charles is also engaged & intends to marry soon  
with your love to your dearest George. Believe me  
ever your affectionate Mother.