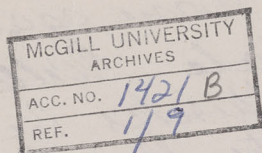


Little Metis,
Aug. 9th 75



Be Mother
Engagement

My dear dear George,

I was so
delighted to get that delightfully
long letter that you sent to
me from San Fran. It was
so good to know that you
were so far in safety, & I sh'd
think from the tone of your
letter that you had rather
enjoyed your long journey, I
wish I had thought of your
getting a "chester" which is the
name for the unbleached
coats you speak of, you are
right about the talapoca, but
linen ones are preferable I think.
Mormons & chisca-men, have
strange it seems, in these fast
morning days all things new &
strange come near to us, Valer
it seems almost a matter of
course for our dear ones to go

to the far off ends of the earth.
I quite dread going home again
it will be so desolate. William
has written that he thinks he
had better stay at the Vauxtré
Chaussée, & has cabled for the
necessary certificates & letters,
the course is a three years one
& I don't quite see what he in-
tends to do, surely he cannot be
certain the idea of studying for
that length of time. I feel then
he is making a mistake in staying
at all, but of course do not know
enough about the subject to be
positive. I fancy however wd be
much more practically useful
to him. — Thus our house is
left desolate, & to complete the
dismal prospect, Mr Baynes is
strongly urging Nina to return
to England for the winter, I
hope she will not go, she does not
wish to, but may have to, in
which case, I shall be more
forlorn than I care to think
of beforehand.

And now for another piece
of news — just imagine what our
pa-ri-ents have been & gone & done

Caught the building fever with
reverity, I have actually
bought an acre of land here &
intend to build a cottage on
it - The whole idea seems strange
to me, & I opposed it to the best
of course now that it is done, it
is of no use saying anything
more. But it certainly is laying
up endless worries for themselves
& I very much dislike the idea
of being bound to come here
year after year. It is very
nice & I enjoy it much, but the
hotel is much more pleasant
than a cottage, & now we are
all grown up, or nearly so we
we prefer being something new
if we must leave home at all.

Mamma & papa left us last
Thursday, for their long tour,
the very next day we had a great
picnic Mrs Murray being the
one who began it, we went over
to the light-house, where one of our
fellow boarders was waiting
for the steamer & had climbed on
the rocks then took boat again &
rowed to Mt. Misery, a pretty
point - which got its name from
the fact of some ship having been

last there, & after all who felt
so inclined had bathed, we
partook of a heavy tea & returned
by moon-light - being very tired
as you may suppose - We have
not camp here, such a nice man
rather old-bachelor-like, but
amusing, & in his own queer
little ways very attentive to the
ladies. He sits next me at table
& we have quite fun up at our
end, the only draw-back is that
the hotel being all eyes except the
part that is tongue! I get chaffed
unmercifully, which is rather
hard when there is nothing real
to be chaffed about.

Today a thick fog wrapped
us up in cold damp drapery, &
when it lifted a little a ship was
descried about a mile from shore
anchor down I evidently not
knowing where it was, so Rankin
Herbert Darcy, Miss Kiley & myself
in the Darcy's light boat raised
out to have a look at it - once
outside the reef we found our-
selves going up & down the
great shifting, sliding, sea walls,
the heavy plain all about us
looked so solemn & grand.

I think only once before have I
been out - on the real sea in a
small boat - it is wonderful
& dreadful, & lovely, all in one -
We had a chest - written the Captain
& found the ship was from Dundee
& 21 days out, & did not know
exactly where it was in the fog, &
as ascending showed shallowing
water they anchored -

It really is impossible to do
anything here, but help each other
to the best, I have not even fin-
ished the first vol. of Carlyle -

Jack Mc Lennan has sent me
dame novel about Angelica
Kaufmann, who drew that lovely
picture that Anna Gale gave
me, I have been debating whether
I shall answer his note or not -
but on the whole I think I might
as well, be briefly polite.

We have found a poor crippled
girl in a cottage near, French,
but very pleased to see us,
her mother gave me a lesson in
spinning the other day, it is such
pretty work, though both wheel
& yarn here are rather clumsy

This ink you gave me is rather nice, but comes off when wet as I found to my sorrow when a leak through my roof printed the stains on the blotting paper into the note paper beneath - Eve has gone with Mrs Major to take tea at "the manse" which is one of the great events down here. Poor Mr Fenwick, he preached such a really delightful sermon yesterday - Dr Leach & his wife also a pretty sister in law are here now, all the college seems to have been irresistibly drawn down here.

Mr Craze talks of arranging another picnic to the falls, I shall much enjoy sketching them again. Seila Major says that you will mean that you must come in the rick of time & pick up whatever you can get - I suppose you have sniffed the call - oh of the Pacific will does it feel after your two years inland? Dear, you will read your Bible sometimes will you not? you know dearest - I feel half-pier about you when you do -
Ever most fondly -
your ever
Anne