

McGill College,  
Montreal.

Oct. 5, 1875.

Dear George,

We are all extremely glad to receive a letter from you again. It seems a very long time since we heard from you last, but then, I suppose, we must expect that, until you get settled in Victoria for the winter.

My garden has done very well this summer. My melons especially were a wonderful success, considering their aspect when ~~at~~ I went to Melis. I think we have had altogether about a dozen melons. They were not large, but some of them were very well flavoured. Unfortunately those we had, soon after our return, were quite rotten on one side, as they had not been properly raised from the ground. There were also several which were not ripe when the cold weather first came, & which consequently never got ripe.

Your seedlings are doing very well I think. The sedum has not grown very much, but it has branched out considerably.

Everything about here is going on as usual. The college has now been started for about a fortnight. There is a large number of students in the first year, both of Arts & of Medicine.

Father's house in the upper lot has progressed very satisfactorily, although he has been obliged to keep a very sharp watch over ~~these~~ workmen. It is now roofed in, & they are proceeding to put up the partitions.

I have improved my stock of pigeons this autumn, having inserted in three pair of fan-tails, for which I paid 4 dollars. They are very pretty ones, & will, I hope, prove a success in other ways.

Of course before this reaches you, if it ever does, you will have heard that William has decided to remain in Paris for the next three years; always supposing that he successfully passes the entrance examination, which he said included about all he had ever learnt. He wrote about 10 days ago, telling us of his difficulty in finding suitable lodgings or board, & describing several places at which he had enquired. Upon receiving the letter, Father telegraphed, telling him which to take, & also asking him to telegraph his address. Next day he answered, that he had



already suited himself, & telling us where his apart-  
ments were. Fortunately the rate of cabal telegraphing  
has been reduced to 25 cts. a word, so that we were  
not reduced to beggary by this whimsical correspondence.

He wrote to us shortly afterwards describing his room.  
It is in the 5<sup>th</sup> story, which he said was an advantage,  
as it was above the noise. It faces on the Gardens of

Luxembourg. Oh but you ought to hear his des-  
cription. He seems to be perfectly rolling in luxury.

All his furniture is mahogany, & he has enough of it  
to crowd a large room. He has a curtained bed,  
an escritoire, a marble topped table, a writing table,  
a washstand, a marble mantle piece, a gilt clock, &  
a number of other things which I forget. For this earthly  
paradise of a room he pays 40 francs a month; then

he has to supply his own food, fire & candles. Service  
is included with the room. His habits are these. He

has a bowl of chocolate & a roll at 8 o'clock. At eleven  
he goes out & has some breakfast. I think when his

studies begin he will attend lectures before this. Then  
on his way home from classes he has his dinner at  
4 or 5 o'clock. And then at 6 o'clock he has a cup of

3  
Nia & a roll. His address is  
58 Rue Vaugirard  
Paris.

Frothingham arrived at New York about a week ago, but only reached home the day before yesterday. Last night he came up here & payed us a visit. He brought up a parcel which William had entrusted to him, & in which was your thermometer, besides a number of other things.

You will also have heard of Anna's engagement to Mr. Harrington before this reaches you. I have no time to enlarge upon so important a thing just now.

Perhaps you may not have heard that Alfred Baynes is engaged to Miss Cochrane, & that they intend to be married at Christmas, or about then.

Goldwin Smith has ~~also~~ been married about a fortnight ago. He sent some wedding cake to Father.

Prof. Campbell has also been married about 10 days ago.

I must now close, however painful an operation it may be.

Your affectionate brother.

Rankine.