

Saturday June 24.
1876.

McGill College

Acc. 576

Dear George,

I hope, for your sake, it may not be so warm where you are as it here. But I must not begin by dilating upon the heat, but must tell something about what has been going on here during the last week, as I dare say this may be your latest intelligence for some time to come.

Bernard & Anna returned from Lake George last Thursday evening, and, besides innumerable glowing accounts of Lake G. & the surrounding scenery, brought back quite a number of unfinished sketches. At about 4 on Thursday afternoon Father got a telegram saying that they would be home about 7 that evening. Upon receiving this information Mother went up to their house & had the table set for tea, to which she asked Nina & Sophie Brown, who is at present staying at the Bayses. After they had looked around the house, which we had been engaged in arranging whilst they were away, we all had tea, with good appetites I can assure you. They brought back a number of stories from L. G. For example "One little girl on being asked to play said she would no while the gentleman (meaning Bernard) was present because he knocked spots out of her." A man they met said that if they stayed much longer there they would ruin that part of the country, meaning that they were such great walkers that every point of interest would be examined by them. They both look

better for their trip. By the way I must tell you that everybody remarks on the fine tone and other excellencies of your piano.

Yesterday Father got a letter from Dr Murray saying that our house at Metis was quite ready for the furniture. I am going down on Monday next, the 26th, in the boat, & will be there a week getting everything in order before the rest come down.

All our luggage went down some time ago in a schooner, which is the best way of getting it taken. There are 40 packages in all, so that I shall have something to do to get them all in order & unpacked. The Intercolonial R. R. is opened all the way through this year & they will be running night Expresses, which will be much more convenient for the rest of the family who are going in the train, than it was last year. The train leaves the station at 10 o'clock at night & arrives about 12 or 1 next morning. There are a large number of people going down to Metis this year. Besides a number of cottages which have been built since last summer they say that all the rooms in the Hotel are engaged, so that we have every prospect of a lively if not of pleasant time. Father bought a beautiful row-boat this morning which I am to take down with me & which will add very materially to our enjoyment of Metis, I am sure. I shall be able to give you more full particulars about the house &c when I get down. For the present this is enough about Metis.

Eva & Laura Harrington are now rejoicing in holidays, their last examination having come off last Wednesday. On Monday afternoon they are to have their prize-giving in the Hall of the Natural History Society's building. They are not to know the results of their examination until the morning of Monday. I am afraid that Eva will not take so high a place, as the wedding & all the other goings on have occupied a prominent position in her thoughts, if not in her time.

William has not altered at all during his year's absence, either in appearance or habits. I suppose he has altered considerably in mental culture. He intends to go down for his final examination for Provincial Land Surveyor on Monday week, & then onward with us, or a little after us perhaps, to Metis. I do not know how long he intends to stay there, I think about a month. He is then going up on some railway near Ottawa, i.e. if he can get.

The garden is looking beautiful at present: all the roses are out. White, Red, Blush, Yellow & Moss Roses. Some few apples on your seedling tree have taken & will in all probability ripen.

This morning Albert Lewis, Jack Lawford & two of the Selwyns & myself went down to the swimming bath at half past five o'clock. We had a very pleasant bath & got back again about 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Father returned from Quebec this morning, where he spent Friday at a Commissioners meeting.

Mr Selwyn went down to Philadelphia
again yesterday morning. This time he took Mabel
with him. He went by the 9 A. M. Train &
it was decided that Mabel should go at five
o'clock the same morning. Rather precipitate.

I must now bid you good by for the
present as Father wishes me to take some petition
about the Oka Indians round to all the college
officials for signature.

The college, by the by, is being all repainted this
summer, i.e. all the wooden parts, & its appear-
ance is immensely improved as you may well
believe.

I must not forget to tell you that I have been
taking singing lessons ever since college left
off, & am now quite a singer, in my own
estimation that is.

Believe me

Your affectionate brother
Rankine.