

Montreal June 25th 1877

My dear George—

I have sat with the paper before me for a minute or two trying to recall what I last wrote to you, & what has occupied me so much that I have been prevented from writing to you, but I cannot dissenting to the confused past beyond the beginning of a week's visit we have had from Annie & Jennie McLimont, you may remember that they were to have come to us on their way up to visit Jessie Gilman, about the time of Anna's illness, & I had to ask them to postpone their visit until their return. They remained at Ottawa so late that it proved again rather inconvenient for me; however I had just finished housecleaning & it was just as well for myself that I had ^{to take} a certain kind of

enforced rest. I had to be a good deal
 with them the first three days as Ed's eyes
 were going on - after that I relieved
 me in great measure & they seemed
 to spend a very pleasant time. They
 had a drive on the mountain, visited
 the Windsor Hotel & I had a party of young
 people, including some of Miss M. Peck
 friends such as the Lambes, Reddys &c.
 They left for home on Thursday eve & the
 intervening days have been diligently
 given to gathering & packing all sorts
 of things required for Melis. I have now
 just got Eva, Rankine & a mail
 sent off the boat (Gulf Port Thomas) which
 sails from Montreal this morning.
 Papa & I, & perhaps Anna & George Eric,
 follow on Friday by train.

I dare say some member of the family
 has already told you how high William
 stands finally - the highest amount at
 the "extremes" by 130. I have had a letter
 from him today. He has taken a
 "mission" in Kinsey. Or some Canal
 works going on there & is making "

I down the valley of the Rhine. He
 has decided to return for a short visit
 sailing on July 26th & we are going
 to take into consideration the question
 of Carol's returning with him in Sept.,
 to go to school in Paris. How glad I would
 be to have your opinion about this. Were W.
 in a favourable part of Germany I wd. have
 little hesitation in deciding that it wd. be
 the best thing to send her there to study German,
 music & drawing or painting, but Paris is more
 expensive & not likely to be so thorough. I have
 much ahead of French influence. Still I could
 not make up my mind to send her to any
 foreign country out of the immediate reach
 of help or advice from W. E. has taken a very
 good place in the High school. She is third in
 totals. Her last exam: was mathematics in which
 she is first. Should she remain at home next
 winter I know that it is impossible to avoid
 interruptions that greatly interfere with success
 in studying anything. Thus as yet three eldest
 ones have all had some advantages in the form
 of education or travel abroad. It seems only just

That we sh^d do something of the kind for
her. & as W. is to return, we hope for the last
time, it seems a good opportunity, & one which
wt. nat. occur^{again} soon enough to benefit Eva.

I pause for a reply!

I have just received a little present from
Mrs. Paddy - a note intimating that she has
returned. I have been interrupted by a
visit from Sophia Browne who wanted
to consult me about some little servant
difficulties - so nearly like what I experienced
a few weeks ago that I felt quite hypocritical
while dealing out philosophical quietude
of spirit when I myself had been chafed &
worried while passing through the fire. They
are not going to leave town this summer
but intend to take short excursions up & down
the river, which I sh^d quite like to do myself
as I know nothing of the various small towns
in the neighbourhood. We are at the height
of the roses. The Strawberries were a failure but
now we have peas enough to serve until we
have. The potatoes too are in blossom.

Accept of much love & kindest regards. I renewed
thanks for your kindness in writing which please continue
as I ever believe me to remain your loving Mother