

Acc. 926 Victoria 12 Aug. 1877. (1)

My dear young friend

Excuse a well advanced septagenarian from thus addressing one, learned in various sciences, industrious as needs be, who is rendering good service to his country, ~~and~~ whom "Senex" esteems lightly, and hopes great things of, though he (Senex) may know of, still "seeing through a glass darkly" after he has entered on a new sphere of existence.

Your most welcome letter of 24 July reached me a few days ago, and before saying aught of myself I will go over its contents seriatim.

Charley Creek mines - Victoria papers must have something to write about. The mainland should have its fair turn - Indian Comm^{rs} - Mackinlay, who writes me often, is not without uneasiness, altho hopeful. He states that the poor but still formidable Indians have many friends amongst the settlers - Such was the case in Washington Territory twenty three

years ago, but bungling them about reservations on the part of
the Whites led to a serious outbreak. - In one of my latest con-
versations with the departed Douglas, he spoke very sensibly
on the propriety of making all reasonable concessions
to the Indians in regard to reservations - Use liberality
on the part of ^{whenever} you may come across them. Such
"blackenings" as the U.S. cit. you mention - I often came across
of old - ^{Whitemen are apt to think their own, the only side of a question}
between the intruding and the aboriginal race.

Ethnology - Often since your departure have I thought of you
in the work before me, which must be finished ere you
go east - Mackinlay is gathering up words for me for
further comparison - He has an ^{now} Indian interpreter from
the "low country" somewhere who serves on the Coast, whom
on their return I must get hold of - Once got at
the vocabularies, they will, I think, be worked at
con amore - Hayes, I have once seen, and
was favorably impressed with, as an honest, truth-
loving young man - He is not a well educated man.
Minister Smith thinks well of him.

Ever since in March last, seeing a cutting
from the London Times, signed "Old Settler"
and dated Ch. 34th B.C. 4 Dec. 176, I have increasingly
felt the necessity of publicly, over my own
signature, contradicting misrepresentations
unwittingly made by several main-
landers so as to have misled the Toronto Globe
on various matters connected with railway routes.
Even the cautious Mackenzie has been led to say on the

in the Commons at Ottawa
 that the bulk of B.C. population
 was in the Fraser and Thompson
 valleys - In 84, rode from Hope
 to Shepherd Columbia River via
 Shmilkameen, Sojos (the narrow)
 and on through a timbered country
 and seven mountain-divides
 to the Columbia just north of the
 49 parallel - From Shepherd to H.B.
 Fort Colvile was an easy two days
 ride - Thence my course was through
 the Kettle river valley to British
 soil again, and north up the Okana-
 gan and down the Thompson valley
 to Kamloops and Lytton - Having
 at various times seen the Nalamet
 valley, also the Wapqna one
 the Saskatchewan ^{at Edmonton and} from Carlton
 to Winnipeg, and ^{once flatter & unimproved} the prairies
 between Cowitz and Puget's Sound
 I felt grievously disappointed to
 observe the small extent, and
 isolated patchiness of the

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arable land on the M. C. Mainland
Mackinlay shivers in contemplating
the condition of the very isolated
settlers thereaway, in case of an Indian
outbreak. — To a casual observer
of Indians, ^{or one not in close daily contact with them} every thing seems quiet
and unalarmed until their first
blow has been struck. — They are
consummate dissemblers. —

From your report, and verbal infor-
mation from others, Mr. Fleming seems
to have rightly apprehended that Stock
farming, will on the mainland be a
far more important business always,
than game growing east of the Cascade
mountains. —

I have written extensively to London
on the route and terminus questions
and contemplate getting my Colonist
letters into pamphlet form
for wider circulation. —

To me, the central route
No. 6. seems the best on every
consideration. — better even for
the Lower Fraser Farmers

16th

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and for mainland farmers all over will it not be to have the San Francisco of the North, on British rather than on American soil? The large ocean going steamers in the future to be carrying passengers, mails, remittances &c. from distant Pacific ports to the western terminus of the C. P. R. cannot afford to be delayed waiting for favorable tides, or for the lifting of fogs. — They must end the trip at a port accessible by night, ordering fog and storm. — If they do not letters, remittances, passengers and the more valuable shipments of goods will be turned to ^{U.S.} American terminus on or near the Juan Strait. There maybe one just opposite Esquimaux at Los Angeles, in the U.S. Washington Territory Pilot Guide described as an excellent and extensive harbor. Another at Holmes harbor would come more directly from the Eastern States

and altho reached by a circuitous and expensive route from the Inoqualimi pass through the Cascades it would altho sixty miles further inland than Squimalt, and to be connected with Admiralty Inlet by canal, it would be much more approachable in foggy or stormy weather than B. I. or English bay could be made by any appliances now known to man - What would Mainlanders say to a willing terminus on the Gulf of Georgia, Victoria not much larger than it now is - and large cities at Anselm and Holmes H. imposing heavy duties on agricultural produce -

I have lately discovered resemblance in one word between Chinoyan and Chinook - Withlip and Thip - each signifying deep - Of course "one swallow does not make summer" - Shahaftani or Tanni is the name given to the Herpices by their neighbors the Pelos, Wallawalla, Yakama, and others of the Wallawalla or Shahaftan nation. I think Shahaftan is the American spelling adopted at Washington. In dialects of it tein pronounced as in vein - means people - You may remember remarking on this the similarity to the tinny or dinky of the Northern people Chitcotin curr multis alius - The Shahaftan dialect differs much from the Yakama, which I used to know in part - what rogues diplomats are - Bismarck is said to have said if the English statesmen were only reticent, how much I could have told them ^{more rascality perhaps of the Louis rap. and Menadette type.}

Try to get from Maria Senator Macpherson's late pamphlet on Canadian affairs - Its account seemingly moderate, is if true, appalling - I cannot help thinking that surveying north of Puget Inlet has been waste of money - You could have topographed the northern Canadian territory -
 Write soon to yours very truly W. F. Tolmie

W.F.T.