

Province Building, Halifax.

14 - 2 - '82.

February

Acc. 976

Re
inaccuracy of
surveys around
Halifax -
Has job on Railway (B)

My dear George,

I have now three (!) of
your letters unanswered. My apology
must be that I have been a good
deal occupied by these various appli-
cations of which you have doubtless
heard, and also that my own work
has been ~~unusually~~ unusually trouble-
some. I have decided to refuse
Major Rogers offer as he does not
move at all toward meeting my
wishes. Transit man at \$100 a month
in the Rocky Mountains, is not a

very inviting offer, even as compared with my present work. This will make it unnecessary for me to aim at the D. L. S. for the present.

I am glad to hear you are thinking of going to Germany, as I am sure you will enjoy it more than going so regularly to the West. It will be a pleasant change, whatever you decide to do afterwards. As to the best way to learn German, there is of course no Royal Road. I have heard of a book which professes to teach the language by a new method which consists in repeating aloud

certain phrases which it contains
and which are so framed as to em-
body the grammar, and make it
familiar without more special study.
I could not ascertain its title; but
I doubt whether it is much better
than "Sprechen Sie deutsch". This has
the considerable advantage of being drawn
up for a traveller, & gives the words
and phrases which are most immedi-
ately required. German can be learnt
without assistance much better than
most languages, as its ^{spelling} pronunciation
is phonetic.

The difficulty in my work has
arisen from the inaccuracy of certain
surveys on which I was depending
to some extent. There was a plan

of Dartmouth, 250 ft to the inch, which I had at least hoped would prove correct when reduced to one - fortieth, but even then I find it quite appreciably out. They tell me that all the properties in Dartmouth are decided, overtop on the ground; that the general scale is correct, but the inaccuracy in detail, unlimited. Railway surveys proved to have the magnetic meridian erroneously laid down; & even Bayfield's chart is not exact. The head of a bay will have a double position upon it, (1) with reference to the detail in the immediate vicinity, and (2) with reference to the general run of the coast. I have also been obliged to admit an error of 600 feet

5.
up quite a practice, for besides
the men, there are so many business
settlers & travellers in need of his
advice. His address is.

Q's Longdon Shepard & Co

Flat Creek

Near Brandon

Manitoba

I have not heard from William
for some time. Please write
as regularly as you can. It is our
chief comfort to hear good news
from our absent ones.

God bless you, my own dear
Percy, & lead you into peace &
happiness.

Yours affectionately

Mother.

between Halifax Harbour & the next inlet to the eastward; as my own work checked exactly with itself on several independent lines of traverse. I have now determined the position of the more difficult and important points, and the remainder of the work will I trust be more straightforward. I am sorry to find that there is a residual uncertainty, within narrow limits, with respect to the position of some of my inland points, due to these railway surveys proving unreliable. They have proved entirely inadequate as a check upon my work; in fact the check has to be the other way. I had counted

upon finding good plans of the
Nova Scotia Railway (now the N. S. R.)
especially as I had written to Boston
during the summer & had been in-
formed that it was so. The only
ones were the old contract plans,
very incomplete & to different scales,
without any structures, station-buildings,
or anything of a definite character.

I intend to invest in a new
watch. I would like a Waltham, but
they are all stem-winders which I fear
are apt to go out of order. I have
decided in favour of an English lever
full jewelled, & compensated balance; silver,
hunting case. The price is about \$40⁰⁰
My present one does not keep time, and
would leave me in the lurch if I were
to break the glass when out of town.
Your affectionate brother, William.

up quite a practice for business
 the men, there are so many business
 letters & business in case of his
 office. His address is.
 Dr. James W. Wood & Co.

A. S. I've been a letter lately from
 Carrie Crow. She promises to be
 with us before the meeting of the
 American Association.

for some time. Please write
 as regularly as you can to our
 chief contact to have good news
 from our absent ones.
 God bless you, my own dear
 George, and you into peace &
 happiness.
 your affectionate
 Mother