

Birkenhead

Little. Mtro June 22.

185

Dearest George

The first busy days
of settling here ought to have been
over, but as I have found greater
difficulty than was in getting help
to do much work - the real heavy
work of clearing & hard digging -
which two years of absence make
necessary have lingered long & brought
some more worry than one expects,
but I need not now recal these

The worst is now over because
 there is much pleasure in the
 barnishing & decorating part espe-
 cially when I have the pleasure
 of making progress to do apprentice
 an architect as Eva to admire my
 efforts. I have not heard of his having
 left Toronto yet although I know papa
 half expected to see him in Montreal
 at the end of last week. The Wilsons
 intend to go to England, but are
 keeping this secret to prevent the gov-
 ernment delaying their decision about
 the Amherst question & carrying it
 against him in his absence. Gov-

know Florence is with me & Will,
 like gawwies, staving away outside
 of civilisation. I am glad however
 in the hope that out. of doors life is
 better for his health than the steady
 office work. Still I shd be very thankful
 if he were so fortunate as to get a
 more hopeful & a more permanent
 position. Anna has had two long
 letters from Bernard, the last written
 from Grassmore where he was visiting
 the Armstrongs. He travelled there in
 the company of Mrs Crow & daughters who
 are touring round the Lakes.

Samples of your photos reached me
 some days ago. We are perfectly charmed
 with them - they could not have been

a greater success. Anna & I looked
 at them by lamp-light & by daylight
 to help us to decide which we preferred
 to have the greater number of & failing
 to get light arches & tines of each,
 I added a private order for three
 of a sitting where the face is excellent
 but not the figure. I send you the
 two samples although quite sorry to
 part with them before the others ar-
 rive, but in the hope that they may
 reach you before you leave Victoria.
 I sometimes wish I was not near
 the sea this summer its dash & moan
 so often makes my heart ache thinking
 of you in some frail vessel taking