

The Manor House
Chislehurst. July 29th 1866

Re Portsmouth accident

MCGILL OR ARCHIVES
ACC. NO. 1584
REF. 16c

Dear George

It is a long time since
I have written to you, but really we
have moved about so much I have
been so fully occupied with friends
& new sights & scenes that it is fully
as difficult to find time for writing
as at home where one has definite
duties. Even I have had a delightful
holiday & will have much to relate
if spared & reunited to our dear
ones again in Canada. I dare say
amongst the many letters I have written
you have had some idea, at

I have written hastily
with many interruptions
but I hope the mail
is by cable inclosure

second hand, of how our time
has been spent. So I shall not go far
back only say, that we managed to be
with the Crow's when papa arrived
expecting that he wd remain to recite
a little, but he was in haste to reach
London to consult libraries & museums
about statements he wanted to make
in his Address. He remained there at
the Langham Hotel for nearly two weeks
but the noise & interruptions were most
unfavourable to good thoughts, so
I succeeded in persuading him to
accept an invitation from Mr & Mrs Peepers
to come here & it has been quite a boon
to him, as here is so peaceful & he has now
satisfactorily finished the important
Address. We propose to return to London
on Sat: but are going to apartments wh:

more nearly approaches a home. Papa
 has still business there & we also want
 to see what we can of Rankine before
 he leaves again in a R. V. O., wh: he does
 on the 13th August. He has been studying
 & attending the Hospitals during the summer
 preparing for examination & has now got
 the M.R.C.S. degree. This he tells us gives him
 a better chance for any Colonial Hospital
 appointments shd a vacancy occur. We
 were so sorry that the accident at Portsmouth
 got into the Canadian papers - we consulted
 together as to whether we shd cable to let
 you that only R. V. O. were there, & that we
 were only slightly injured, but found it
 diffidence (shd you not have heard anything
 of it) to explain the circumstances. We reached
 the docks a little after 11.0 P. & the party were then
 transported into high open trucks to run round
 the docks, in turning a sharp curve three of the
 trucks got off the rails, & the one R. V. O. was in

upset. Both of us fell upon our heads
 R. receiving a severe Scalp wound on
 the back of his head which had to be sewed up.
 I was only bruised but knew nothing of it as
 I was stunned on the spot. But I soon
 recovered & have not suffered any pain
 except from slight bruises & general stiffness.
 I was kept on low diet & quiet for a
 few days in case of inflammation but my
 greatest inconvenience is my right thumb
 which as I cannot use it freely yet. After the
 accident I was taken to the house of the Chief ^{main} Surgeon
 where I lay all day & felt quite able to leave by
 the return train at about 7 o' P.M. R. a few
 hours after, went off to see something of the Shan
 Naval engagements & misters has he suffered
 for his temerity. So altogether what at first
 looked very serious has passed over most
 miraculously.

Thank you sincerely & most gratefully for your
 kind inquiries by Cable. I am sorry you had
 any anxiety on our account - really it is worth
 hearing a slight shock to find how kind & good
 our friends are ^{especially I prize your love & wd like to express}
 my gratitude through. Lovingly. Mother.