Birkenshaw. Little Miles
August 23 1888.

My dear George

Your telegram of the 20th was most acceptable to me & to all of us, as putting us in immediate ~~touch~~ & recent touch with you. We were so glad to hear that you had returned in safety to semi-civilized life although only I suppose to return again to the wilds.

At the moment I received your telegram I was occupied dressing your father's mound & cd not give time enough to answer it wisely, but I have comforted myself with

the hope that you will probably get Anna's letter soon after you had sent off your messenger, which doubtless gave a clear account of how the accident happened, & that he was progressing very favourably. It was most fortunate that Dr Oliver, of Halifax, was here at the time & he most kindly, at sacrifice to his own interests, remained four days to see him through the most dangerous period, otherwise we should never have managed to keep Papa as quiet as Dr O. said was absolutely necessary for safety — The result not hence been far different for immediately after authorized prayer was removed he was up & writing letters in defiance of all the injunctions

he had received. The wound is on the middle of the crown of his head from back to front - about 1¼ inch in length, but the sharp rock upon wh: he struck passed to the right side under the scalp separating it from the skull for about 3/4 in: - a part of the skull itself was slightly flattened & Dr. C. was afraid of fracture at the base of the skull, wh: only after symptoms wd reveal, but not one had symptom developed. He scarcely suffered any pain - even the first dressing - most painful to witness did not make him wince. The wound at first healed close & clean in a perfectly wonderful way, but only the night morning after Dr C. left it began to fester giving me much anxiety but now

it is again clear & almost whole. His knee too was bruised but it is also better & his general health & appetite good only the fear of future bad consequences & having no medical man to reassure one keeps me doubtful as to how much work is good for him, so I keep close watch & persuade him to walk or saunter about the grounds as much as I can. The days of quiet from interruptions are now so few as the 4th of Sept. I believe is the latest date we shall be able to obtain him here. We have had several casualties this summer fortunately two of the worst whilst Dr C. was here. A twelve year old daughter of Mr M. H. Sauter who was visiting Mrs H. Sauter (living in Mrs Battersby's Cottage) fell from a tree & dislocated her shoulder. Mr Lamb (also in one of the Cottages) by sun-stroke

& imprudence in diet brought on a sharp attack of gastric fever — he is now better & his son Laurence is looking after him. Probably you noticed in the papers the death, by drowning, of Robert Stirling — only brother of Mrs Magee — he was a fine athletic young fellow & a great favourite amongst his young friends.

Anna & her flock have been very well — also Florence & her two boys. She says she has enjoyed her little Cottage here very much & certainly they all look blooming & beautiful. At last accts Bernard & William were still detained in the West — the former uncertain whether he wd do same work for the C.P.R. after he had completed what he had undertaken

per Mr Garrett & W. hoping that his term of absence was near a close. He has quite decided not to take office in Vancouver as there is now good likelihood of his being advanced in the C.P.R. Of course you know of the changes amongst the managers of the road. Sir George & Lady Stephen have left Canada having leased an estate in Buckinghamshire. This will leave Sir D. Smith very lonely as he depended greatly ~~upon~~ in social matters — upon the guidance & support of both Sir G. & Lady Stephen. We do earnestly wish he will make a speedy & wise decision as to what he is going to do in the matter of Women's Education.

Eva unites with me in all loving good wishes. & I am ever Your affectionate Mother.