

Birkenshaw,

Little Metis. Thursday July 24<sup>th</sup>  
1890.

My dear George

Should the proverbial saying be true that "good news in little bulk", it follows that your letters to me are most precious. I am sure they are most acceptable & I thank you sincerely, in the difficult circumstances in which you are, that you write to me at all. The latest news we have here from you we received through a letter you wrote to Anna, just when you were about to enter upon a walking expedition, amongst mountains inaccessible to

harder. It seemed like a 'most unsafe  
 venture, but you have so long been  
 presumed through known & unknown  
 dangers that you begins to presume  
 on the probabilities of your being  
 least safely through this summer's dangers  
 also: yet I ask you to be as cautious  
 as it is possible to be. Your father & I  
 are now very lonely old people & our  
 chief pleasure is to see as much as we  
 can of our family who are near enough  
 to visit us.

Hape & Eva after three weeks pleasant  
 wanderings amongst some of the prettiest  
 lakes & hills of the Adirondacs, made their  
 way here & spent two weeks with us.  
 Before they came I was somewhat apprehensive  
 how

We were going to entertain Hope, but  
 it proved quite easy as he took a keen  
 interest in the history of our trees, our  
 plans & all our little surroundings. I  
 seemed to enjoy our sights & the little  
 picking that the small lakes here afford.  
 So the time flew all too quickly - they left on  
 July 12<sup>th</sup>, via Montreal, to N. York. from  
 whence they sailed on the 16<sup>th</sup>. All being  
 well they will have arrived in Liverpool  
 today, & what my calculations be right, as  
 this time, they will be at dinner at the  
 Atkins's den: I admit that an hour or two  
 hence <sup>after the bride has departed to her own home</sup> nothing will gratify me more than  
 to hear the comments about her made by  
 the family. Back taste I had principle: - say good,  
 quite true & I am but a fool to lay myself open  
 to such a charge when it is so utterly impossible  
 that I should or could do it! We were very glad

to know that you have seen Will. We  
 have not heard from him for a long  
 time. I from Florence we have only had  
 a few lines or a picture card telling of his  
 arrival.

Your father came from Montreal this sum-  
 mer looking much worse & weaker than  
 I have ever seen him & altho' he is better,  
 & improving, he is far from being as strong  
 as at the same time last year. The weather is  
 warm & dry yet nothing will tempt him  
 to leave his writing from 9. to 1. Afternoons  
 he goes out or patters around the grounds  
 but: all, I think, looking very pretty. I hope  
 he will gain strength as time goes on.  
 Anna, Bernard & this family are quite well.  
 The children look like healthy gipsies. & B. is  
 improving, for he too looked miserable  
 when he first came here. With all earnest  
 loving good wishes. Believe me ever to be  
 your affectionate. Mother.