Fort Simpson B. C.
July 18th 1873.

My dear Mother,

I was delighted yesterday when we received our mail & found two letters from you - the last dated Castleton June 16th. I had been wondering very much what you & my father were going to do about your place of residence - and indeed, yet, I have no decided idea - Annie says in a letter of June 21st that Guy is going into an office in Barrie - in which case you will scarcely leave, will you? But I shall likely know all about it by next Ch.

I was sorry to hear that you were feeling uneasy about my letter not coming when you expected. If they usually come early in the month it must be by accident - for there is no certainty as to the time of their reaching Victoria and from there the letters are usually sent to Portland, Oregon, and overland to San Francisco - instead of waiting for the fortnightly steamer. Indeed a delay of that kind should not be thought of anxiously, at all - there are so many possible ways of its occurring. I was very glad to get the photo. you enclosed. Thank the girls very much for it. I want to write to Sally as soon as I can. The parcels you sent came all right - many thanks. The little socks I was especially glad to get.

Wherever you are I hope
you will make yourselves
thoroughly comfortable—
just make up your mind
to have things easy— have
the house always warm
& cosy with nice carpets
& comfortable easy chairs &c.
so as to really enjoy it.
I don't see any reason why
you should not— and
do not undertake to do
much work yourself— you
ought to have a good girl
that could do everything.
How do you on this plan—
no one will be any the
worse off for it— and
your children & friends
will all be the happier for
knowing that you are comfortable.
I hope Georgie will do well
wherever you are.

They will be just the thing for Baby very soon as yet she wears little woolen booties — I made her short clothes to cover her feet well — so they are warm enough at present. Indeed we are having quite warm weather just now — and very fine — we find it warmer where we are now — a little away from the water — both Summer & winter than it is in the fork which is built close to the beach. Still you would not call this warm weather at home — I still wear my flannels the same as in winter — only in outer clothing have I made much change. Baby — our little Josie — does grow so fast and is such a fine healthy little girl

I would give so much if you could see her. She has such a lot of very curly brown hair and such a bright little face. She is full of fun and mischief as can be. She wakes in the morning with a laugh & a coo and is merry as the day is long. She is just the sunshine of the house, and such a comfort to us. Her father, of course, is very proud of her. They have fine frolics together. We feel very thankful indeed that she is so well and good. She is a blessing indeed to us. I began a few days ago to feed her a little once a day more, to get her accustomed to a spoon in case it might be necessary to feed her in

that may than for any other reason— but it is only a little she takes. I find corn starch once— but sago seems to agree with her better. We are going to send to Victoria by this boat for some baccine.

The church building is going on very well indeed— but it is a great undertaking. However much of the difficult work is over now, but it is only by the most persistent, plodding energy that it is carried on. Then there are worse difficulties than the building to contend with. I sometimes think surely this Pacific coast is the wickedest place on earth. White men living unmarried with Indian women is perhaps the chief evil. There are

none in the village – but
some not many miles
away who come to the
village & decoy away the
young girls. It is dreadful.
Of course my husband
gives no uncertain sound
on this subject and
that is bringing him and
I suppose will continue
to bring him in contact
with these men under
not the pleasantest circumstances
However duty is plain
here – they are a craven
lot of fellows too when
there is an opportunity
really to face them –
but they can find ways
to annoy and to hinder
our work.

Our household arrangements
have undergone no change

since I wrote last — but I find there is so little for three girls to do that I fear their getting into bad habits on that account. We think of sending one away — though I do not like to do it. If we had a house arranged properly we might have things more on the plan of a school and let them take turns in the kitchen — but as things are now that is impossible. Then the expense of keeping up such a family is not a little — perhaps more than we ought to undertake. One thing I must not forget to record — I have actually seen some white ladies! Two or three weeks ago weeks ago on Sunday morning we saw a str

anchored in the bay and were surprised by a visit from Gen. Howard of the U. S. army & staff who had been on a tour of inspection up the Alaska coast. The Gen. and another officer came up very soon & the house. They had come in for the purpose of attending church and on reaching there we found quite an array of uniforms & children and two ladies. The Gen. and a Capt. had their families with them. Then after service there were all the colonels & Captains & everybody & shake hands with and talk to. They had to

re-embark immediately after the service, & we accompanied them to their boat on the beach, and with some "gushing" and, I believe, not a little really kindly interest we had a mutual farewell. The Gen. is a very philanthropic and religious man, and Your Son-in-law is "hale fellow well met" with every one — I believe he would ask the Prince of Wales to the house if he visited the village — and with equal cordiality would he offer the hospitalities of our home to the poorest miner. Another stray ship visited us a few weeks ago — a U. S. revenue cutter

having on board a U.S. Indian agent looking up Indian curiosities for the approaching Centennial Exhibition. He took dinner with us & I should say was a fair specimen of the U.S. Indian agent as reputed to be — not inconveniently high-minded. But on this same str. there was a Lieutenant who visited us & whose visit was a real pleasure. He is a Methodist and after taking tea with us joined us in the class-meeting that meets in our house. He grew so fond of baby too! I liked him for that, of course — but indeed, everyone notices her. The Capt. of the Otter brought his wife up with him this

trip - she took tea with us - On their return they are to call here again & then I shall likely have another longer visit from her. She brought us some cherries which were a treat indeed. We had green peas for dinner today too - some man brought who came on the str. We miss fresh vegetables a good deal. We have had some radishes from the fork - but nothing else from the garden.

Did you get the box I sent by last mail. I found out a lot of shells lately, far better than any I had to send to Auntie before but I am afraid to send them.

I will enclose five dollars which will perhaps cover what I may be owing you and Susie.