Fort Simpson B. C.
May 9th 1877.

My dear Mother,

Another of your welcome letters came to hand yesterday, and I feel as though I had so much to say to you in reply. So many things occur that I should like to write about but when I am at a letter my time seems so short that I cannot write all I wish. I wrote you from Victoria acknowledging my father's letter. I am sorry to hear he has not been well. You must have work enough with your housekeeping - indeed it seems to me you must do quite too much. I think you should do just so much work as you find necessary to keep you interested and no more - there are plenty of poor people in Toronto, I am

one, to whom it would be a charity to give employment — and you ought to make your life just as comfortable as ever you can.

It gives me great comfort to learn from your letters that one and another of the good christian people at home are praying for us — more and more do I feel the need of sustaining grace and long to be upheld by the prayers of those strong in faith. There are difficulties at every turn while the work continually grows. We are very sorry to find that a change is to be made in the management of the H. B. Co's store here. Mr Morison is to be removed to an out of the way place down the coast — while a stranger comes to take charge here — this latter is very unpromising — I fear he will be no help to us — his wife is a Spanish half-breed

from the interior who cannot talk any English. Mr and Mrs Morrison have been a real help to us — and have had, I think, a very good influence on the Indians. Mrs M. has improved wonderfully — her house is kept as nicely as anyone's need to be, and they live like people of refinement and good taste. They have decided, I believe, that Mrs M. and the children — two little girls — are to remain here with her brother & mother, while Mr M. goes to this new post — only temporarily, I think, until he is prepared to return here to carry on business for himself. I should tell you about the latter part of our visit to Victoria. It was really a great pleasure to me, and the children improved very much while we were away. The people of Victoria were very

kind indeed — I was kept busy visiting — and the children met with universal favor. The Dist. Meeting was held while we were there. Thomas, of course, was full of schemes of extention and had set his heart upon having a missionary for Kaas, while word had been sent from the Mission rooms that no new work could be undertaken except by local effort, on account of that troublesome debt. When the appeal was made to the meeting this was how it was met — the sympathy of the ministers was roused and one promising young man was ready to go — but no money. Thomas came away, heavy in heart, even his own travelling expenses in visiting these people could not be allowed him — and feeling he could not say to these people that there

was no one to take them the Gospel, and they begging for it — still hoping that some way would be opened. That (Saturday) evening he went to a small praise meeting held in a private house, comprising perhaps twenty Christians people. There he told his feelings about this matter, and a marvellous sympathy was felt — then this young man, who was also there, declared his readiness to go — and the tide rose higher and another young minister who has hitherto been very successful declared he was willing to go — by and by a colored man got up and said he thought they ought to do something shortly. He thought fifty dollars might be raised that night

At once some one else said he would give half of that himself — and subscriptions of fifty, twenty five, ten dollars & a few less, were offered until in a few minutes between two & three hundred were promised without one being asked for anything. It was a wonderful time & those who were at the meeting seemed to think they had never felt anything like it. The next day other sums were promised one poor & very old colored woman giving one dollar — At the Sunday night prayer meeting Mr Crosby spoke again, left without asking for money. Again there was a strange and blessed tide of feeling over the meeting — it did

was good to know that the hearts of the people were so much with us — as one and another got up and expressed their sympathy with this work and their purpose to stand by the workers. After the meeting several entire strangers rough men came to Mr Crosby to add their subscriptions — and the amount was still further increased, solely by spontaneous offerings. Still the result was the people of Victoria pledged themselves to support the Mission themselves for one or, if necessary, for two years. Monday morning Mr Crosby went again, this fortified to the Dist. meeting and ~~obtain~~ succeeded in getting the recommendation of a young man for Mass, which we

think cannot, but be sanctioned by the Committee.

This is really a very promising place for a Mission — albeit there is fierce opposition to be encountered from the English church Mission some fifteen miles from the place selected for ours. This Mission is on the same plan as that near to us — but the village numbers only about a hundred — all the Indians are invited to leave their own homes and come to this new village to live — this the Indians decline to do — the Missionary is also a trader and cannot command their confidence, and they urge that a Missionary be settled with them. Some of the things done, by

the heads of these two missions, and by the Indians under their care with their sanction you would scarce be able to believe — Their bitterness towards us is most extreme. Mr Crosby has visited Haas since we returned and is more than ever encouraged. Yesterday he left again for Wrangle, where he felt he must go as soon as possible, to oversee the work there. He went by the steamer and will likely be back in two or three days from now. There he has kept up a school & services by having young men from here stay there for the purpose — This has been at his own expense chiefly though some money has also been subscribed in

the spot. We are hoping that soon some permanent provision may be made for this place. Mr Crosby has promised also to make a visit this summer to a place 150 miles south of us — I do not think I told you of this before — A young man of this village, which is called Skit-a-makt — having attended the Indian church in Victoria came home & began services among his own people — He is known as Charley. Not long before we went to Victoria he, his wife, and two other young men came all that distance by canoe, at a time of the year when it is difficult & dangerous to travel on this coast, to see Mr Crosby and beg him that their services & school were

creating much interest among the people and to hear that he would go to see them and "make their hearts strong". And of course he could not refuse. Thus the calls multiply and while it is a trial to me every time Thomas goes away, yet what can I say? And then I know you are all praying for us. But I must go back — I forget to tell you about the end of our visit to Victoria. We went to New Westminster for a few days, but had to hasten back to get ready for the "Otter" which we found was to sail much sooner than had been expected.

Mrs Ross urged that I remain behind with the children but I scarcely liked to take the responsibility of bringing them up alone. We had strong winds on the way up - and all of us but baby were quite sick but we got on very well, and were heartily glad to get home - We brought a lot of preserved fruit cakes &c - the gifts of friends and best of all an excellent cow - so now we have lots of milk and make about six pounds of butter a week. Our garden is looking much better this spring than last & I believe

in time we shall have quite a pretty place. The children are well — Jessie is learning fast to talk now — and baby has two teeth — She is such a fine baby — I am quite proud of her — I have just begun to feed her twice a day. We have got a nice baby's carriage for her which is a great convenience. I wish you could see them both — Grace will, I believe, soon be as large as Jessie — Jessie is so tall and yet so bright. I sent you their photographs from Victoria. I will enclose another of Jessie now, but it is

not good — I had one taken too, but by a poor artist — it is not worth sending, I think.
I received by this mail a parcel of stockings for which my most affectionate thanks are due you.
Tell Papa Thomas' Policy of Insurance is here, if he thinks best we will send it to him.
Mr Crosby's brother-in-law had it but sent it to him some time ago. We are really under a great obligation to you all for your kindness in many ways. The Lord keep you.
Miss Knott appears to have born her solitude very well, but was heartily glad to see us back. She took charge

of everything most faithfully
while we were away, and conducted the Sunday morning
service always herself.
At present I have a hired
woman to preside in the kitchen—
she is clean & very tidy—
but very slow. We have also
a young girl with us whom
we found at Manaimo— She
belongs to this part of the country
and it was for her good
that Mr Crosby brought her up.
Now, I have written a long
letter— I like to tell you all
I can about our life here—
but I write much more fully
to you than I can to any
one else.
Our sincerest love to both
yourself and my father,
and believe me, dear Mother
Your most affectionate daughter
Emma.