Rec'd. in Cobourg, Nov. 7th. Remailed to L. same day.

first reading at Lefroy Nov 8
second do. Nov. 10
sent to Barrie Nov 11.

Fort Simpson B. C.
Sept. 26th 1876

My dear Mother,

It seems a long time since I wrote to you — and now I have a great deal to tell you. The steamer has been undergoing repairs in Victoria and we have had no mail since July. but she will likely be here again in the course of a week or so — so I must begin in time to unfold my budget. Well, event No. 1 is the recent arrival of another little daughter —

this occurred on the 10th of this month — another Dec mortal, weighing, with her clothes, five pounds. She has quite a lot of hair, dark blue eyes, well developed features for her size, and although so small seems to be doing very well indeed. Jessie is very fond of her, always wanting to kiss her — but she thinks it very funny that baby cannot shake hands — that being one of Jessie's strong points. You must know that my baby is dressed somewhat after the fashion of the place — that is her blanket is rolled round

her and pinned as
tight as is comfortable
so she cannot get her
hands out. I do not mean
to continue this long in
the day time but while
she is so very small it is
much easier and safer I
think to handle her rolled
up this way. She likes very
much though to get a chance
to stretch out her arms
and quite often I let her
have them free for a while.
If she only gets on as well
as Jessie has done we shall
be very thankful — a healthier
merrier little girl you
would scarcely find anywhere
than Jessie is. She has
been walking alone quite
a long time now — and her

little feet never seem to tire of pattering about.
She tries to talk too — she can say several Indian words plainly and about as many English.
Now that I have two little ones to care for I feel that my work must be almost wholly at home — this little baby will need great care all winter, if it is spared to us, and it is better for Jessie to be with me than with the girls. I was not expecting baby for a month or six weeks longer — perhaps that accounts for her being so small — or it may be I was wrong in my calculation. I do not know of anything I did that would be likely

to hasten her coming. My sickness began about nine in the morning (this was Sunday) but was not severe till afternoon and baby's voice was heard about nine at night. It seemed pretty bad while it lasted but now it is over I think more lightly about it. I had the same attendance as upon Jessie's arrival and have got on very well indeed. At the end of a week – that is on the Sunday morning following I was up and out in the sitting room – last Sunday that was when baby was two weeks old – I walked out a little – and now I feel

about as well as usual. My nurse only stayed ten days with me as her sister is lying very ill but she comes every morning to wash baby - and that is all I want - I would rather manage things myself in the house. I felt very much when I was lying in bed the need of some reliable person to take charge of the house. Mr Crosby was so busy with the church that he could not be in the house much and though we have four girls - we took Annie one lately - they had so little to do - that two might have

done far better than four.
I have constantly to study
to arrange work for them
and keep them all em-
ployed when I am well.
I have been teaching them
lately some kinds of fancy
knitting and crochet work
and they do very well at it.
Then Jessie had to be
left almost entirely to their
care and though I believe
they did all they could
for her still they cannot
manage her properly —
however I do not wish
to complain — we have so
very much to be thankful
for I must not do that.
Mr Crosby has been also
altering and enlarging the

house somewhat, so as to give us another bedroom downstairs - but this is not yet finished - I think I must send you a plan of our premises & house - they have been so improved lately. The church has been a great burden to Thomas - but I am glad to say that now the most difficult part of the work is very nearly completed - that is the ceiling - it is so lofty and the scaffolding required is so high I dreaded its being begun - however a few days now will likely see it finished including varnishing - and only the seats and the walls to be stained sometime will remain - so little will be but light work.

This church has really been such a labor and difficulty as but few men would have borne - several times Thomas has almost broken down under it - and now he is far from being well - every little detail of the work has to be under his direction - of course, the Indians know almost nothing of such work. However the Chairman in the first place made great promises to the people while he far under-estimated the cost of such a church as this - and though at the expence of his own strength and comfort - Thomas felt that to maintain our influence

over these ignorant people these promises must be made good - and so he has labored on using every means to keep down the expense possible. But now that it is so near completion I do not want to grumble, only I wish the chairman might have such an undertaking saddled to his back that he might know what it is. Thomas has been expending his own money on this too as well as time and strength. But enough of that. We have much to encourage us. Every summer numbers of the younger men go off to find work - this

summer ten of our Simpsheans went to a place called Fort Wrangle in Alaska — it is on the route to the Cassiar mines and the most northerly point the "Otter" calls at. A small garrison of American soldiers is stationed here and it is the home of a large number of Indians and frequently white men stop there some time. Well, these Simpsheans began religious services which were very largely attended by the Indians and also by white men and the soldiers, and evidently much good has been done.

every one who comes down from there speaks so highly of this movement - and the officer in charge of the garrison wrote to Mr Crosby, saying he believed much good had been effected already and expressing his readiness to help in the continuance of these services. All but two of these men have returned now - they speak of the delight of the white men at their singing and how heartily they joined in it. Such a thing as a religious service was unknown in this place before these Indians started it. Mr Crosby feels that something must be done

to continue this - the Indians are wishing it as well as the whites - and likely he will send two of our most intelligent and reliable men to carry on services and perhaps to begin a school for the Indian children during the winter - and we hope that some American church may be induced to undertake the work of a mission here where ~~there~~ door is so manifestly open for it. Thomas intends going up there when the Steamer comes that he may know better what to do - this will take him from home three or four days.

There is a teacher in Victoria, we hear, waiting to come up by the

"Otter" - we got word of it by a little sloop that reached here last week - I hope she will be an agreeable person and fitted to do good. We had school - I went to it - up to the Friday before baby came - there has been none since. We are expecting Mr Ross from Victoria some time this fall, likely by the 2nd trip of the Sloand we hope he may open the church.

An event which caused quite a little excitement amongst us was an unexpected visit from the Governor General and suite. It happened - unfortunately as we could but think - on a day when the village was almost empty. During

the summer the people keep all the time going away after food &c - so that a fine day will leave sometimes a mere handful of people at home. If we had had but a few days' notice we might have sent for many of the Indians - but there was no chance of that - and what seemed as strange as the people's absence Mr Crosby and Mr Thomson were both away too - they had been called away to a place about 40 miles distant - and there was no white man to receive our distinguished visitors - there were two or three in the village but not such men as could do anything of that kind.

So there was no one but Mrs Thomson & myself to do the honors – Of course there was no time to arrange anything – the tide was out and a great raft of logs lay on the beach by the Fort gate which was the landing place of the vice-regal party and Lady Dufferin had to climb over these logs after walking across a rough pile of rocks. We met them on the beach & were duly presented to the the Gov. & Countess. It was very easy to receive them after all – and we accompanied them quite into Mrs Thomson's house – then as they wished to walk through the village and see the Church & school house I set out with them – We went into

two or three of the Indian houses also and the Gov. sat down on the church steps to take a sketch of the view which they admired very much. Then we went back to the beach — the Gov. addressed the Indians, those who were there, briefly — and we sat a while on some benches in the Fort yard and talked in a pleasant way — they were both very pleasant ~~and~~ genial and I really enjoyed their visit as I should meeting any agreeable people. I had Jessie with me — one of the girls carried her down and she sat on the Countess's lap and shook hands with the Gov. while one remarked what pretty hair she had and

the other, what pretty eyes — very gratifying to her Mother of course. After staying about two hours our visitors re-embarked. The flags were flying & guns fired but we could do very little. I was very sorry it happened thus — of course the Governor's object was to find out the condition of the Indians. Mr Crosby felt very much disappointed when he reached home — he could have represented the Indians and given all information desired. However it could not be helped and I suppose was all right.

Oct. ~~8th~~ 9th Our mail came day before yesterday (Saturday). There were two letters from you — one from Lefroy & one from Cobourg.

I wish you could come & stay a while with me as you do with the other girls. Thomas left with the Mr. for Wrangle - he means to return by canoe so will likely be away ten days or more. The teacher arrived - I am pleased with her so far - and think she may be a great help and comfort to us. The children are both well and I am doing finely - baby continues to improve - I have been washing her myself for about a week. I received the parcel of stockings and wool, for which my sincerest thanks dear Mother. I received also two letters from Annie, one from Eliza & one from Susie - I shall try to write the girls, but may not accomplish it - please send

this letter to them. A parcel from Elya also came with a linen duster and a sash for Jessie, one from Susie with stockings & ribbon, and one from Annie containing patterns. The gray flannel came also. Thanks to Mrs. Brenton. Dear Mother I must close now - I am so busy. The mail is to leave tomorrow A. M. Write again this fall - I think we shall have two more mails. Kindest love to my dear father, the girls and George, and much for yourself. Pray for us.

Yours affectionately

please send this to Lefroy Monroe
Emma
with two stamps on, then it must be sent to Barre and taken care of