

Saint James,
Assiniboia
April 21st 1857.

Rev. & dear Br.

Your letter of Decr. 16th reached me on Feb. 20th. It was more than welcome for I had often thought you had forgotten us altogether. But under such a press of engagements, I am not surprised that you shd. be late in answering a letter claiming no immediate attention from you. You have however paid me with interest_ & laid me under a great obligation to your kindness. I wd. not have suffered a Mail to leave your by - for I cd. have had time for writing to you, but when I read your interesting letter to Chapman, he said he wd. write by the next Post. I find he did not_ so I write in good time that I may make sure of a communication to you. By the last Mail in 05. on the 14th inst. I heard from dear Father Gear. He tells me that he had not

Written in the MARGIN:

I had a note from Jacobs not long ago. I hope he may be a useful & successful laborer in the Vineyard the Ch. Pray write before any very long time. Adieu!

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very long ago, received a letter from you, & gave me several items in addition to your own full & gratifying communication. I doubt if this may find you at Elora but if not there surely it will reach you at Minto. Couldn't you feel for poor Mr. Gear in having broken his leg? Poor old man. I trust he may soon get round again. He tells me he hopes soon to go without the crutches. He gives me flourishing accounts of that country_ & tells me of the way they are getting on in Ch. Matters. But I will not repeat what he has doubtless said to you. Your own account of Ch. progress in Canada is truly interesting. - What a growing country both politically & ecclesiastically. I shall look out for the first intimation of your new Bishops. I see the Fiend is in one or two instances nearly, if not quite, ready - & now for the men. May God direct you aright! and as it is a fit-time, so may He find fit-Men! And of this there can be no doubt - if the matter be treated as the importance it deserves. In your own case, how much have you to be thankful for. How has He who orders all our goings, & prospers the work of our hands disposed things for your good, & blessed you in the work you have undertaken. Multiplying yr. mercies both temporal & spiritual. To Him, as you say,

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be all the glory! We shall often think of you in yr. new place & quiet country life & employment. I try to fancy it now. but draw mentally no doubt a strange unreal picture. What if I shd. at some future time visit you there? that would be a great pleasure & gratification to me - I have no doubt yr. property will increase in value_ & yr. example of endowing the Ch. there with the patrimony you mention is as noble as disinterested. May many who have it in their power follow it. If I had a Minto to which one might look, as a harbor, into wh. when the brunt of life's gale is oer_ one might eater(?) & ride out the storm in

peace & agreeable usefulness how happy I shd think myself. I would not envy the richest dignitary in Ch. or State. But again, God knows what is best for us, our peculiar fitness for this or that - and we must be happy in His all-wise disposal. May He grant you yet a long season of active labor in His Ch. but if otherwise, you have the comforting prospect of "Otium cum dignitate." This is not the lot of all men – yet I think it is what most would desire. –I have read & reread yr. last letter. Many have heard its contents. & have appeared as much interested in the facts & statements as myself.

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Mr. Logan & I had a long chat over its contents. He is a nice moderate sober minded old man, & well able to give an opinion. He & Mrs. Logan desired to be kindly remembered to you. She is full of the "milk of human kindness" ever ready to do any good turn. They now have the most convenient & comfortable house I know of, near to the spot where the Flax Mill, is what it was, stood. Poor Mr. Pritchard as you will have learnt perhaps, departed to his heavenly rest last year. His wife died some months previously. His family are still at the old place & are a fine set of young men. Sam^l keeps the School at St. Paul's – has had it for some time, & gives both Chapman & the people satisfaction. His br. Arelui, has married _ the others are yet single. Mr. Smith the Collector is much as usual. & so is Mr. Pruden. I know so little of any one below, that I can give you no information regarding them- Cowley wd. better supply that. By the bye he & Mrs. C. were with us soon after your letter came, & we talked a good deal about you. I have seen Hunter but once since - & then I hadn't the letter with me. He has perhaps written to you ere this. Hunter has an organ at the Rapids a Barrel one – quite enough, I am told, for the Ch. Cowley has a Seraphine wh. he has carried in every S. Morning. Mrs. C. manipulates & they say it does better than an organ for this country.

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Friday May 8th

I had no idea when I wrote my first sheet that the second &c. would be so far behind. But so it is. I have been busy one way or other, and as the Mail did not go out at once I had time before me. I will now try to take up the thread & carry on, if I can, my letter to the end. I find I touched on the Churches, &c. Let me tell you that the Ch. at the Indian Village is not yet finished. The Interior is just the same as it was before Cowley went Home. The seats or slips are there_ the Cothⁿ(?) is not made. The Desk (?) Pulpit have both to be provided. Cowley bought out a quantity of goods the gifts of several individuals the worth of which was to be applied in finishing the Ch. He lamented to me when I saw (him) the want of workmen. He had designs for the Interior given him by a member of the Canadian Society - & hoped to get Nails – Desk – Lectern - & Pulpit made according to pattern. How he will succeed remains to be seen. He speaks of

Written in the MARGIN:

I intend to try experiments in painting of Glass soon. I have just the brush you say it requires. Thank you for yr. instructions.

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removing the Tower, & getting one built on a different plan. I have told you how incongruous a thing it is. & the sooner it is down the better I shd. say. I do think Cowley might with means & handy men, make a nice job of it - - Hunter has had some alterations at the Rapids & contemplates more this summer. I have not seen them, so can say nothing of the effect. He hopes to get up a Vestry & a Screen- Chapman is talking of his want of a new Ch. & hopes if he be spared, to accomplish it in due time. He would not build entirely afresh, but retain the frame & roof of the existing Ch. They are now finishing one of the best School. rooms in the Settlement. It is near the old one - 40ft. x 22. with a bell Gable. This Room wd. do admirably as a temporary Ch. while their new one was in building. This idea seems to have been kept in view. Could you now visit us you would perceive a better style of houses &

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of Schools. there is plenty of room yet for improvement_ & another generation may effect it. The Bp's old ch. St. John's is just as it was. How it can be made usable till a new one be ready I don't at present see. It has been as you must well know, miserably cold this last winter. I do pity the poor Bp. and feel that most of us are better off than he. Shd. he return next Fall I have no doubt he will minister at that Ch. as he did formerly. & it certainly is not fit for occupation. Many persons seem to reckon it rather unwise to build a new Ch. just there. But I presume the proposed Cathedral will be but a small Church. I think his Lordship will wait now for a time to see how the present tide may set. He is trying to get Funds to carry on this & other projects & I trust he will be successful. We are not yet in a state to help ourselves as yr. rich Provinces. But the time may come when even that can be done.-

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There has been nothing occurring with the Ch. V Clergy particularly remarkable. Before the Bp. left several of us met him & presented an Address. We asked permission to get it printed_ & when he said he wd. send us a Reply from York & when Cowley's & Mason's names would be added to our Paper-) we asked to print that also. He readily consented. & wd. you think it? the old Archd. would not consent to it - when the Reply had been received. He said as his reason, "we must keep quiet there is no need for our letters our enemies know our hopes & prospects - & at best the world will say we have been complimenting each other-" So it fell thro'- & the subject has not again been revived. Tho^s. Cook you know is (Catechist) at the Nepowewin. From a letter from Mr. Budd in Dec^r. I shd. gather that their work there has been much impeded. Hunt is still at English River. building it is said. a costly Ch. the first in this country for architectural design & beauty. Budd is yet with George (a very young man) at the "Pas", but he spoke of going to the Nepowewin for good this Spring. Stagg is at Manitoba &

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is laboring on under peculiar discouragements. He seems active - very sanguine & anxious - travels a good deal. and deserves success. But I doubt much if there be that solidity of judgment wh. is highly necessary in such a Station. Kirkby is still assistant at St. Andrew's. The (?) (?) poor Mr James's hobby quite failed here. The few gathered are now at Fairford. & the house is Kirkby's dwelling. He has a service at Mapleton. I hear that some friend have promised £100. towards a small chapel if he can get another hundred. I suppose he will try it. M^cDonald is still at Islington (White Dog). He was in about

Jun. & I hear will again visit the Settlement in June. He don't appear over strong in health. & not much encouraged by the success of his labors. Only a small band have been ingathered but it may be the first fruits of a more plentiful harvest in that quarter. Watkins I am told leaves Fort George E. M.

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this Summer. I think he is intended for Cumberland. I had a letter from Mason in Dec^r. He had been very much blessed in his labor he said. had, while the Bp. was there received (into the Ch.) many by Baptism. & pretty large confirmations. A nice Ch. was begun while the Bp. stayed there. & Mr. Hargrave was helping with great zeal. Later some disease appeared among the Indians & carried off many. dying in faith & hope. It is reported that in the West ie BeaverCreek & Touchwood Hills, many Plain Indians have been carried off by Small Pox. It has not, to our great comfort, reached the Colony. As to ourselves, we are going on much after the old fashion. I find that several of our families are intending to remove to the Upper Assiniboine, between Sturgeon Creek & the White Horse Plains. where

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Mr. Corbett of the Col. Ch. formerly was_ & to wh. he is now returning after an absence of 2 years. I hope to get up a new School before long – have had some material ready a good while, but can get no workmen. and till one see whether the people would permanently reside or not, I feel an unwillingness to expend for their means & labor. Our Ch. is very satisfactory – Congregations pretty good and considering all things perhaps I have as much or more reason to be gratified & hopeful as most men. Several new houses are now in the course of erection. but you know what idea of permanency is to be attached to a house in this country: i.e. Sandy.-

Now Politically there is much to be said. I have before told you that energy & enterprise had been aroused. The Steam Mill has been in operation all the winter_ & never had Red River such Flour before. As good as any in any country as you wd. say from the

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quality of the grain grown here - This seems to have opened the eyes of some & to have expanded the ideas of others. & led them to think that this land is capable of great things. Certainly they are not yet developed. Before your last letter arrived, we heard that the attention of many was being called to this country – its peculiar state & condition.. the peculiar char. of its climate & Govert. & of the stagnant state of its inhabitants. We had no idea the question was so general in Canada, but we know it now. Soon after your letter arrived – Kennedy was in the Settlement.. He has been holding meetings_ & harranguing the people. A great many have signed a sort of Petition or Representation not to the Home Govern^t. but to the Canadian Legislature. I saw a copy of it & was told it was drawn up by Don^d Gunn at the Rapids. I met

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Mr. Kennedy once by accident, but we had no conversation together. There has been much excitement about the Matter (under debate) it has now cooled down a little & all are waiting the result from the Home Parliament. I saw by our last Advices that it was fairly before the House_ that a Com. was sitting. & by this no doubt much is known. Mr. Corbett who has had the curacy of Granboro in Bucks. & has been brought into contact with some great men, has had a good deal to do with it. I mean in bringing it

before their notice & so before the notice of the country. How it may be settled we don't know. It might make much difference to us. We shd. like to see the Country opened up, a greater & a different population on the soil_ & the anomaly which now exists done away with. The Country & People ardently must sink if a new element be not infused. How

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can this best be done? It is a question I cannot much interfere with – our work is to teach & preach – to do the business of our Lord & Master & leave political agitations & phases of Government to secular persons. Yet we cannot be quite indifferent to the matter, because much of our own good & good of the people is connected intimately therewith - I read Roebuck's Speech as reported in the Albion - & Gladstone's & they appeared to breathe a determination to have the thing well investigated at all events. Should the Co. lose their Charter, they wd. hold their present position I suppose till their full time had expired. Shd. they be obliged to retire more North, & relinquish all claim to the Southern parts- they wd. not of course do it immediately. It might make great changes- I suppose the judge wd. leave, & the persons to whom the Co. now pay Salaries would of course be disengaged. This would affect our Bp. & the French Bp. Chapman. & the Presbyterian at Frog Plain. In all other things I don't see how a change is to be dreaded. There are some who see in it nothing but evil- & others a Panacea for all evils. At best

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a transition still is an uncomfortable one; & the sooner we know the fate that hangs over us the better. We know there is one who lives & reigns & who has promised to take care of His Ch. & people in all places & countries. To Him our eyes shd. be directed. He alone can order the wills & affections of sinful men & bring good out of seeming evil. There is a report that a Steam Boat will be put in the River this year. It was spoken of in the Fall by many as tho' a Co. wd. be formed here for that object. but we now hear that Forbes & Kitson of St. Paul's have matured the Scheme & intend soon to set it going –

I forgot to say that by the last Mail it wd. appear that the Archd got intelligence from the Ch. M.S. that they consented to take up La Prairie. Do you know where it is? I fancy not – about 70 miles west on this River the pet place of M^r. Cockran. He has encouraged many from the Rapids & the Middle Settlement to go up. has been up & down himself - put M^r. Hillyer his (?) (?) late there, built a house & a ch. partly - and I fancy has been driving(?) at the C.M.S. to put it on their list of Stations. They have at last done it. & this has relieved Mr. C. very considerably. He has gone up thither for a month, to overlook the sowing & planting.

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He speaks of removing thither in the Fall. And now I think I have run to a pretty good length. I will only add that the winter here has been a long one. The longest & coldest we remember. In Oct^r we had snow & the cold came on at once_ there is still snow on the ground_ & the Cattle have been out but about a week. The tilling of the ground is backward - only a few places dry enough for ploughing. The usual quantity of hauling was not done in the winter. so much snow, & the work as a general thing is all behind. More or less one is compelled to know of all this. The health of the Colony is good- & with the exception of colds, common to all at this season, very few have been unwell. It is said we are to have a D^r. from York in the Fall. How any change in the Country may affect his decision I cannot tell. He comes

in under a guarantee of £200 from the people. The Bp. was instrumental in this arrangement. You will I dare say see him as he returns for I think he intends to visit Toronto. It will be nothing for you to run down thither. And now good bye! Mrs. Taylor joins in kind Xtian regards. & I beg you to believe me very faithfully yours

W. H. Taylor

Rev. Mr. Smithurst}