

MY DEAREST MOTHER - 1901

Letters from Canada 1901

Ella Brewin

My Dearest Mother, Canada, 1901

My Dearest Mother – 1901 Copyright © 2018 by James Holme. All Rights Reserved.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means including information storage and retrieval systems, without permission in writing from the author. The only exception is by a reviewer, who may quote short excerpts in a review.

Cover designed by Cover Designer

Printed in the United States of America

First Printing: Feb 2018
Name of Company

ISBN-13 978-1-9768316-4-5

My Dearest Mother, Canada, 1901

Many thanks to my wife, Edith, who put up with me chained to my computer all day and for her invaluable help deciphering some of my grandmother's very unreadable hand writing.

My Dearest Mother, Canada, 1901

Contents

My Dearest Mother - 1901	1
My grandmother, Ella Brewin	5
Ella's family.....	7
Andrew George Blair's Family.....	8
Julius Jottings Jan 1902 No 6.....	9
Lecture notes from "Impressions of Canada"	11
29 th April 1901, S.S. Corinthian.....	14
2nd May 1901, S.S. Corinthian	16
May 8 th 1901, Ottawa.....	19
May 12 th 1901, Ottawa.....	21
May 15 th 1901, Ottawa.....	25
May 19 th 1901, Ottawa	27
May 22 nd 1901, Ottawa.....	29
May 29 th 1901, Ottawa.....	33
June 2 nd 1901, Ottawa	35
June 5 th 1901, Boston, U.S.A.	37
June 6 th 1901, Boston, U.S.A.	40
June 9 th 1901, Ottawa.....	42
June 12 th 1901, Fredericton.....	46
June 16 th 1901, Fredericton.....	48
June 19 th 1901, Fredericton.....	50
June 23 rd 1901, Fredericton	52
June 27 th 1901, Rothesay, N.B.	54
June 30 th 1901, Rothesay, N.B.	56
July 4 th 1901, Rothesay, N.B.	58
July 7 th 1901, Chamard's Hotel, Lorne House, Murray Bay.....	61
July 8 th 1901, Murray Bay	63
July 12 th 1901, Murray Bay.....	66
July 18 th 1901, Rothesay, N.B.....	68
July 21 st 1901, Rothesay, N.B.	71
July 24 th 1901, Rothesay, N.B.	72
August 2 nd , S.S. Tunisian	73
Footnotes	74

My Dearest Mother, Canada, 1901

My grandmother, Ella Brewin

When my **grandmother, Ella Brewin**, was born on March 24, 1871, in Isleworth, Middlesex, her father, Arthur, was 35 and her mother, Maria, was 26.

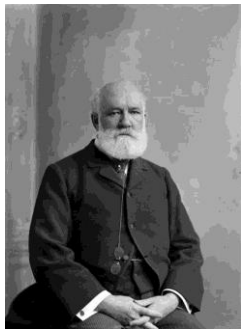
Between 1901 and 1906, before she married, she travelled twice to Canada (1901 and 1902) and to several times to Jamaica to visit relatives. Her brother Francis (Frank) married, Amea, the daughter of Hon. Andrew George Blair¹ (Canadian Minister of Railroads & Canals) and his wife Annie Elisabeth (nee Thompson).

Most of her letters to her mother during her journeys have survived and I have transcribed them, deciphering the often difficult handwriting. I have kept to her spelling, punctuation and formatting. The letters are a fascinating insight into the life in Canada at the start of the 20th century. She was very privileged in staying with the family of A. G. Blair and meeting the Governor General, Lord Minto, and the Prime Minister, Wilfrid Laurier. She also reveals the prejudices of that time of a typical upper class young English woman abroad: very Anglican, avoiding discussions of the South African war, disapproving “Yankee” twang and using non-PC descriptions of coloured people.

In 1903, back in England, she gave some lectures of her impressions and I have transcribed her notes. These fill in some of the background to her visit. Some events described in the letters are repeated in these notes.

I have included many end notes. All have been taken from public domain sources using Google searches. Many are copies from Wikipedia. It is remarkable the amount of fascinating information that is available for these years of the beginning of the 20th century: biographies, political events, passenger lists, geographical descriptions etc.

Ella married my grandfather, **Rev. Maurice Ingram Holme**, on July 27, 1909. They had one child (Hugh Francis, my father). She died on February 27, 1952, in Wrecclesham, Surrey, at the age of 80.



¹ **Andrew George Blair**, PC KC (March 7, 1844 – January 25, 1907) was a Canadian politician in New Brunswick, Canada.

He was first elected to the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick in 1878. He joined the parliamentary opposition in the legislature and, in 1879, became leader of the opposition to the Conservative government of Premier John James Fraser. He took the Liberal Party to power in 1883, winning enough support in the newly elected legislature to form a government. Blair became premier and Attorney-General.

After leading his party to a major electoral victory in 1895, Blair left provincial politics in 1896 when he was appointed Minister of Railways and Canals in the federal Cabinet of Liberal Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier. He was sworn in as Minister of Railways and Canals on 13 July 1896, entered the Canadian House of Commons in an August 1896 by-election for Sunbury and Queens riding, and was re-elected in the 1900 election.

In December 1901, Blair's daughter Elizabeth (Bessie) drowned while skating on the ill-frozen Ottawa River at a party put on by the Governor-General (Lord Minto); his intimate friend, Henry Albert Harper dove in to try to rescue her, but drowned as well. His actions are remembered by the statue on Parliament Hill to Sir Galahad.

He died on January 25, 1907 of a heart attack and was buried in the Beechwood Cemetery in Ottawa, Ontario.

My Dearest Mother, Canada, 1901

I have a very vague early memory of visiting her in a nursing home with my parents. I have very fond memories of her sister, Agnes², my great-aunt, whom we often visited until her death in 1967. My father's cousin, another Arthur, the son of Julius Brewin and who took over the family Stock Broking firm (now Brewin Dolphin <https://www.brewin.co.uk/>) was my god-father.

This volume covers Ella's first visit in 1901 with a tour of Eastern Canada and a visit to Boston.

The second volume covers her visit the next year, when her brother arrives for his marriage. She sailed down the East coast to Rhode Island and Maine before setting off with a group accompanying Mr Blair, in his private Pullman car, to the west coast and as far as San Francisco – her description of the Chinese quarter a visit to an opium den is fascinating.

The third volume covers her visits to Jamaica.

² Agnes Elizabeth Brewin received a 2nd at Somerville College, Oxford. It is one of the constituent colleges of the University of Oxford in England. Founded in 1879 as Somerville Hall, it was one of the first women's colleges in Oxford. Somerville alumnae have achieved an impressive number of "firsts" – the most distinguishable being that of the first woman Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Margaret Thatcher. Also the first, and only, British woman to win a Nobel prize in science Dorothy Hodgkin; the highest ranking female officer of her time in the British intelligence services (the Queen of Spies) Daphne Park; and also the first woman to lead the world's largest democracy Indira Gandhi, who was Prime Minister of India for much of the 1970s.

My Dearest Mother, Canada, 1901

Ella's family

Father: Arthur Brewin

1835–1919

Birth 17 AUG 1835 – Bermondsey, London, England

Death 30 MAR 1919 – Middlesex, England

My great-grandfather

Arthur was a solicitor before founding the London stock broking firm of Christie³ & Brewin in 1865.

He was on the Managing Committee of the London Stock Exchange.

The family address was: The Jungle, 53 Popes-grove, Twickenham, Middlesex

1st Marriage

18 June 1863 – Totteridge, Herts, England

Emily Ray Wilkinson (1836–1864)

Died 11 April 1864 – St Leonard's, Mortlake, Surrey

2nd Marriage

07 JUL 1868 – Wrecclesham, Surrey, England

Maria Louisa Julius (1844–1933)

Six children by second marriage:

1. Birth of Daughter Emily Louise Brewin
 - a. 24 SEP 1869
 - b. Died 16 MAR 1875
2. Birth of Daughter **Ella Brewin** (1871–1952)
 - a. 24 MAR 1871 – Isleworth, Middlesex, England
3. Birth of Son Francis Henry Brewin (1873–1961)
 - a. 26 NOV 1873 – Richmond, Surrey, England
 - b. Emigrated to Coburg, Ontario, Canada where he was an Anglican minister
 - c. Married Amea Fenerty Blair who was the daughter of Andrew George Blair & Annie Elisabeth (nee Thompson)
4. Birth of Son Julius Arthur Brewin (1875–1937)
 - a. 08 MAR 1875 – Isleworth, Middlesex, England
 - b. Stock broker J. A. Brewin & Co
5. Birth of Daughter Agnes Elisabeth Brewin (1880–1967)
 - a. 29 JUL 1880 – Richmond, Surrey, England
6. Birth of Son George Merriman Brewin (1883–1952)
 - a. 21 Nov 1883 – Richmond, Surrey, England
 - b. Rector of St Andrews, Akron, Ohio

³ 1820 Jonathan Christie takes part in a duel on behalf of John Lockhart, biographer of Sir Walter Scott. His opponent is killed despite his attempts to save the man's life. His son, Alexander, will later found Christie & Brewin in 1865.

My Dearest Mother, Canada, 1901

Andrew George Blair's Family

Marriage: Annie E. Thompson 1866

Children

1. Nellie Thompson 1869 – 1946
2. Andrew George 1870 – 1948
3. Marion Ethel 1872 – 1947
4. Amea Fenerty 1874 – 1944
 - a. Married Ella's brother Rev. Francis Henry Brewin 1902
5. Lewis Slason 1876 – 1900
6. Annie Elizabeth 1879 – 1901
 - a. Accidental Drowning, Ottawa River, near Kettle Island; (with a 28 year-old journalist named Henry Albert Harper.)
7. Kathleen Audrey 1881 – 1948
8. Margorie Louise 1884 – 1968
9. Donald 1887 – 1946

Julius Jottings Jan 1902 No 6⁴

Ella Brewin writes at great length about her trip to Canada, she crossed on the Corinthian arriving in Quebec 5 May 1901. Continuing on to Montreal she was met by her sister-in-law Amea Blair where they took a train to Ottawa, "I had my first experience of a Canadian train, which is most luxurious after our English carriages. In the Parlour Car you have a comfortable armchair, a pillow, and footstool; also you could buy papers, books, fruit, sweets, and even chewing gum, to while away the time". She was met by her hosts, the Hon A G and Mrs Blair with a hearty welcome "which is ever accorded to, and so much appreciated by all English people visiting Canadians, whose kindness and hospitality are proverbial". With her hosts she travelled extensively in eastern Canada and the USA, sometimes in Mr Blair's private car, "The Ottawa" which was attached to the end of an ordinary train. She commented on the USA, "From a tourists point of view, I cannot say I liked Boston at all, or ever wish to go to an American town again. The paths are very crowded with a pushing, rushing, twangy set of people, who all seem to be shopping in their enormous stores, which have all the things piled on the counters like an inferior Whiteleys at sale times. Servers who do not trouble to do anything, or care whether you buy or not, and awful lifts, which dropped from one story to another at a rate which makes you feel as if you had been for a week at sea in a fearful storm!"

Ella enjoyed a stay at and the grandeur of the Niagara Falls "We dined at a charming hotel (though the waiters were all nigger's), and had frogs saddles for one of our many courses."

She travelled with Amea to St John New Brunswick, which delighted her, staying at Fredericton on the banks of the St John River. She mentions the enormous 25ft. tides of the Bay of Fundy, and the picturesque scenery. Then up to Quebec, finding French cooking "too greasy" to her taste, a trip on the Saguenay River. Other highlights included "a grand display of the Northern Lights, one evening", and being driven from the garden by a skunk.

Finally "I stayed with Mr and Mrs Thompson, in their country house, just on the banks of the Kennebecasis, with a most lovely view down this beautiful river. There, I spent a most delightful 10 days in perfect weather, yachting, sailing, canoeing, bathing, picnicking, and driving, and I must frankly own that I was very sorry when at Rimouski, on July 28th, I went on board the "Tunisian" with the mail's for England. I had a fair passage home, fog for 48 hours, but no icebergs, to my sorrow and the Captain's joy"

I remain,
Your affectionate cousin,
Ella Brewin
The Den

⁴ <http://www.thekingscandlesticks.com/webs/pedigrees/1072.html> copyright

Julius was the editor of "Julius Jottings" from Jan 1900 to June 1901 when Mr Tevor Hull of Earlswood Mount Redhill Surrey took over.

JULIUS JOTTINGS. Vol 1 JANUARY. 1900 No. 1.

I HOPE all our readers have seen the circular foretelling the arrival of Julius Jottings, but, as possibly some have not seen it, I think it as well to repeat it here :-

Every year our friends and relations seem to get more scattered and every year it seems more difficult to keep in touch with them A meagre correspondence, and often not that, is all that time allows us.

This seems rather a pity, and it has been suggested that much interesting news of our relatives and friends in New Zealand, Australia Japan, Ceylon Germany, Lancashire, Cornwall, London, Oxford, etc, might be collected, issued in the form of a magazine, and copies circulated quarterly.

With a view to carrying out this suggestion, I propose:

- (1) To edit and print a paper, sending out the first number at the commencement of New Year, 1900;
- (2) To call the paper: Julius Jottings ; and
- (3) To charge not less than 1/- per copy.

Suggestions and contributions of news, etc., will be very welcome to--

Yours sincerely,
Julius A, Brewin.

Julius Jottings Jan 1902 No 6.

Strawberry Hill
Twickenham
August 1901

Lecture notes from "Impressions of Canada"

(written in November 1903 after Ella's two trips)

Columbus discovered the islands of America 1492

Cabot the mainland 1497

Cartier entered Baie de Chaleurs 1534

At a time when so much is being discussed & thought about our Colonies some of your friends thought it might be of some interest to you to hear a little about Canada from one who has been there twice in the last 2 years. It is a little difficult to know what will interest you, especially as I am not used to lecturing, I can only give you a few of my experiences in that wonderful country, & I hope that you ask me any questions you like afterwards; (only please not upon the Fiscal Question which is too large a subject to discuss. I will only say that if Mr. Chamberlain's policy is not adopted we shall be encouraging Canada to combine with other Nations, which is the last thing we would wish our loyal fellow countrymen to do.)

It takes about 9 days from Liverpool to Quebec, & from my point of view the less said about the voyage the better. The boats are very comfortable - the food in classes very good, & a fully qualified Surgeon is attached to each steamer. Fog is nearly always experienced near Newfound owing to the meeting of the cold Arctic current & icebergs, with the Gulf stream. On my last passage we had fog for 48 hours which means that the hooter sounds every 1 to 10 minutes (according to its density) continuously night & day to warn other ships, on deck you cannot hear yourself speak, & at night it vibrates all through you as you lie sleepless in your berth, the only consolation is that it is usually not very rough during the fog. On May 29th, 1902, when the fog had cleared we found ourselves in the fine St. Laurence river, snow covered the banks on each side & we had what they call a snow flurry on deck. The Northern lights were fine that night as we watched the pilot come aboard, & saw the mails put off at Rimouski also any passengers of the Maritime Provinces.

The St. Laurence at this point is 30 miles wide, & you begin to vaguely realise the huge size of everything in Canada, which is quite incomprehensible to English minds until it is clearly put before them, for 2 days you can go up this river in an ocean steamer, just able to see the banks on each side in its widest parts. Canada is about 3,617,000 sq. miles, which is slightly less, than that of Europe, so few people realise this. A lady said to me the other day "I know Canada very well", "Really" I remarked "Which part do you know best"? "Oh, I have been to Montreal & Quebec"! You might just as well say that you know Europe because you happen to have spent a few weeks at Lands' End & Penzance. A (Strawberry Hill) gentleman meeting me on my return & hearing I had been to British Columbia (383,300 sq. miles), which is equal to the combined area of France, Russia, Bavaria & Belgium & more than 3 times the size of the British Isles, said "if you went there you must have met my friend Mr!"

Along the Banks of the St. Laurence you see a narrow fringe of houses, & in the centre of each little village a small Church ^{R.C.} with its spire of either silver or gold tin glistening in the sun, near each church is the Presbytery & often a convent school, as this part is inhabited almost entirely by French Canadians nearly all R.C.

What most strikes the English eye are the curious narrow strips of land divided by wooden fences & running back from the river as far as you can see. It is explained by the fact that when a man dies & his land is divided each son wants a piece of river frontage, so that in time this frontage becomes very narrow indeed. As each hour goes on it becomes warmer & warmer, we find Spring has begun & after 3 or 4 days the trees are in almost full leaf & you begin summer heat with no interval, as I mentioned on the 29th we had snow, & on June 1st the thermometer was nearly 80° in my room all day. In Canada you have hot summers & cold winters. My sister experienced last year 72° of frost 40° below zero, but so dry & bracing that you do not feel the cold as in England. As it grows warmer going up the river you get the scent of Canada, a scent which once inhaled is never forgotten, a delicious invigorating scent of wood & timber of all kinds, chiefly fir & pine, which tells the Canadian he is home, & gives the traveller a fresh longing to see the great forests from which the huge logs come. A great many white whales are seen in this part of the St. Laurence from 15-20ft long, & now where it is only 25 miles wide you can see the mouth of the Saguenay river, one of the most remarkable on the Continent. It appears as if at one time there had been a great cleft in the rocks, the Saguenay river flows in this chasm, in nearly a straight line for 60 miles. At its confluence with the St. Laurence its depth is 600 ft. lower! No animal life is visible, the water is absolutely black from its great depth, the breadth varies from to ½ to 2½ miles wide, & it is most weird & grand. When I went up it, there was a magnificent sunset facing us, which showed up the imposing cliffs, we were watching it in the bows of the vessel awed to silence, when I heard an awful voice in my ear "Waal, Miss, & what do you think of the American cooking", the inevitable

Impressions of Canada 1901

Yankee tourist who recognised only too readily that I was English & was quite irrepressible, it was useless to point out that I was in Canada amongst Canadians, & had nothing to do with Americans, his thirst for acquiring knowledge by means of question & answer, had to be endured. None of us went to bed that night, for one thing it was too hot, & for another we felt we could not miss the grandeur of these cliffs by night as well as on the return passage in the early dawn. Two of the rocks Cape Eternity & Cape Trinity are 1700 & 1500 ft. high the latter rising sheer out of the dark water a naked wall of granite.

The next point of especial interest are the Montmorency Falls, just below Quebec, which are formed by the Montmorency river just before its confluence with the St Laurence (265ft high, 150ft wide). A few miles more & we reach Quebec, 1st permanent settlement of Canada founded in 1608 on the 2nd visit of Champlain. Quebec is splendidly situated, the Gibraltar of America, she is the third City of Canada, & very fascinating to the traveller, with the romance of history, its boldness of site, & the clustering tall irregular houses. It is marvellous when you see the apparently inaccessible cliffs to think that on the memorable 12th Sept. 1759, the English troops under General Wolfe scaled the heights, surprised & overpowered the French Sentinels & formed their line of battle on the plains of Abraham, where after hot struggle the British were victorious, though both leaders Wolfe & Montcalm lost their lives.

From the Dufferin Terrace, which was reopened after its enlargement in 1879 by the Marquis of Lorne & Princess Louise⁵, you have a magnificent view. Behind you stands the splendid Chateau Frontenac Hotel, on your right the Citadel, below you the winding irregular streets of the Lower Town on the banks of the St. Laurence, here a mile wide, with its fleets of trading vessels & steamers, its wharves, docks & timber rafts. On the opposite side rise the heights of Lévis with 3 huge forts, conspicuous Churches & Convents, & on our left in the distance a cloud of mist marks the spot of the Montmorency Falls & behind them the Laurentian Mts.

In Quebec you notice the curious high, two wheeled vehicle for 2 persons called a Celèche, (peculiar to French Canada), the driver is perched on a narrow ledge in front to balance the vehicle round the corners. Here as elsewhere alone the St Laurence French is spoken, & "Marche donc", "Marche donc" is the driver's cry to their horses, with much cracking of whips & jerking of knotted up reins.

The next city we reach is Montreal, the largest city & chief port of Canada so called from the Mont Royal, a hill of 900 ft. which makes a fine backdrop to the city, & from which you can see the confluence of the rushing Ottawa river with the St Laurence. A series of canals have just been completed joining the St Laurence with the great lakes, so ships of over 2,000 tons can bring corn from Port Arthur (Lake Superior) straight to Montreal without breaking bulk. This place is also the headquarters of the Grand Trunk & C.P.R. railway.

The McGill University is the wealthiest & most important in Canada (1100 Students). The Montreal Hunt Club is one of the finest in America (the wife of the head Whip is a Twickenham girl & a sister joined her there last year). The Windsor Hotel is one of the finest on the N. American Continent. I have stayed there several times just for a night, each bedroom has a bathroom attached & is

⁵ **Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll**, VA, CI, GCVO, GBE, RRC, GCStJ (Louise Caroline Alberta; 18 March 1848 – 3 December 1939), was the sixth child and fourth daughter of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Her early life was spent moving among the various royal residences in the company of her family. When her father, the Prince Consort, died on 14 December 1861, the court went into a period of intense mourning, to which Louise was unsympathetic. Louise was an able sculptor and artist, and several of her sculptures remain today. She was also a supporter of the feminist movement, corresponded with Josephine Butler, and visited Elizabeth Garrett. She held that "the subject of Domestic Economy lies at the root of the – highest life of every true woman." Before her marriage, Louise served as an unofficial secretary to her mother, the Queen (1866–1871). The question of Louise's marriage was discussed in the late 1860s. Suitors from the royal houses of Prussia and Denmark were suggested, but Victoria wanted new blood in the family and therefore suggested a high-ranking member of the aristocracy. Despite opposition from members of the royal family, Louise fell in love with John, Marquess of Lorne, the heir to the Duke of Argyll, and Victoria consented to the marriage, which took place on 21 March 1871. Despite a happy beginning, the two drifted apart, possibly because of their childlessness and the Queen's constraints on their activities. In 1878, Lorne was appointed Governor General of Canada. Louise became viceregal consort, but her stay was unhappy as a result of homesickness and dislike of Ottawa. Following Victoria's death in 1901, Louise entered the social circle established by her brother, the new king, Edward VII. Louise's marriage survived thanks to long periods of separation, but the couple reconciled in 1911, and she was devastated by her husband's death in 1914. After the end of the First World War in 1918, at the age of 70, she began to retire from public life, undertaking few public duties outside Kensington Palace, where she died at age 91.

Impressions of Canada 1901

fitted with electric light & a telephone. I dined there once with Sir Wilfred & Lady Laurier (the Canadian Premier). Our late Queen was so taken with Lady Laurier at the time of the Jubilee, her pretty manners & broken English. I was amused at seeing them walk together arm in arm from the Station whilst the Secretary took a carriage, & the maid took another though there was no luggage visible.

On we go by train from Montreal to Ottawa. The trains are very comfortable & very long, the parlour cars have armchairs near the large windows, & the first-class carriages are turned into sleeping cars at night, each car having from 24 - 30 berths, & coloured attendants. A Restaurant car is always attached, iced water is in every carriage, a stove for cooking in the emigrant car & a boy walks along at intervals with books & papers, then perhaps fruit & then sweets etc. Even by day you are provided with a most comfortable cushion with a clean cover, & a footstool. Your luggage has a check fastened to it & you are given a duplicate & you neither see after it or trouble again until you reach your destination. Ottawa is the Capital of the Dominion, & the residence of the Governor General. It has always been my headquarters as there my host Hon. A. G. Blair Minister of Railroads & Canals, & Privy Councillor, has his town house. During the winter there seems to be a ceaseless round of gaiety in Ottawa, which I have not experienced but at all times Canadians are only too anxious to entertain & show hospitality to anyone from "home".

The landing of an English visitor is put in the papers, on your arrival you probably find many invitation cards, & the next day callers begin, my sister having no less than 250 callers in a week last Xmas. Nothing they can do for an Englishman is too much trouble, & more loyal people do not exist even in England. I have no time to tell you anything of my stay there. I went to hear Debates in the evenings at the Parliament buildings beautifully situated above river & was not shut in a wire cage, & I also went to the Proroguing of Parliament which is precisely the same in miniature as it is here. To my great confusion I had to sit in the Speaker's Chair at Lord Minto's right hand. The Speech from the throne is repeated in French after the English. We went on to receptions held by the Speaker of the Senate, & then to that of the Speaker of the Commons.

From the Tower of the Parliament Buildings you get a fine view of the Chaudière Falls, descending 50^{ft} over ragged edges of rock. The enormous water power is used for working a large number of saw mills, among them on the other side is Eddys Large Wood Pulp & Paper Mills at Hull, where the great fire took place. You may see huge rafts on the Ottawa river, sometimes small trees are put on them for shelter, on one I once counted huts & yet 3 of these rafts could have floated along abreast. You can go on from Ottawa to the 1,000 Isles in the St. Laurence & then to Kingston where there is a military Colony.

Toronto is called the Intellectual Capital of Canada. The City extends along the front of Lake Ontario for 8 miles. I stayed for a week with an English schoolfellow at University College, and one of many brothers is now at Trinity College. (& also visited Mrs Boyd (Mother of the Vicar of Teddington) at Trinity College). Used to shop there 16 cheese & butter factories, nearly 2 thirds of the cheese imports of the United Kingdom come from Canada. Hamilton, one of the finest fruit growing districts in the world, also on Lake Ontario which is 197 miles long, & 30 to 70 wide, its lower waters are discharged into the St Laurence & it receives the waters of the upper Lakes through the Niagara river on which are situated those wonderful Falls, perhaps the greatest & most impressive of the natural wonders of America. It is quite impossible to describe the Falls of Niagara, a panorama of them held in London some years ago was excellent, only the roar of the waters was wanting. You realise best their great volume by going on the little steam boat the Maid of the Mist. We were dressed entirely in oil skins, and then could hardly see for the spray which streamed down the very small portion of our faces still exposed, we were given camp stools in the bows of the boat, we seemed to get almost beneath the Falls when the current whizzed the vessel round with such force that we all fell off our seats with the unexpected shock. The Drive round the Gorge is simply magnificent, first high up on the Canadian side, then back on the American on a level with the Whirlpool Rapids, more like ocean waves with foam on their crests. It was in an attempt to swim the Rapids in 1893 that Capt. Webb lost his life, since then several people have passed safely through them in barrels. The trains most considerably stop for a few minutes on the bridge over the Rapids for travellers who have not time to stop, to have a good look at them. We dined at the International Hotel on the American side, black waiters served us, & amongst many courses had frogs saddles.

April 29th 1901, S S Corinthian

29th April 1901, S.S. Corinthian

SS Corinthian⁶

Apr 29TH 1901

My dearest Mother

The stewardess tells me that probably this letter can go from Ireland tonight, so I am writing on the chance. The French lady (about 35-40) is Dutch, & shares my cabin & a Miss Seathe, a very nice Canadian lady who has been spending a year in England. Rather like Mrs (Scolch) Smith & Miss Walter. The horrid Dutch person has been using my comb, & I spent 20 minutes cleaning it last night & now it is worse than it has ever been, as you may imagine Miss Seathe & I have now locked up everything. The Dutch is very pleasant, rather pretty & very disgusted at having two people in her cabin, but it is too full to change (the Purser thinks he may tomorrow). I have begun rather the wrong end of my journey, but I hope you will have my p.c. from Liverpool. Beyond the Station precincts what a horrible place it is. Much worse than Whitechapel. All the children nearly bare footed, the women with shawls on their heads, drunken men, pawn shops innumerable & the washing hung out in front instead

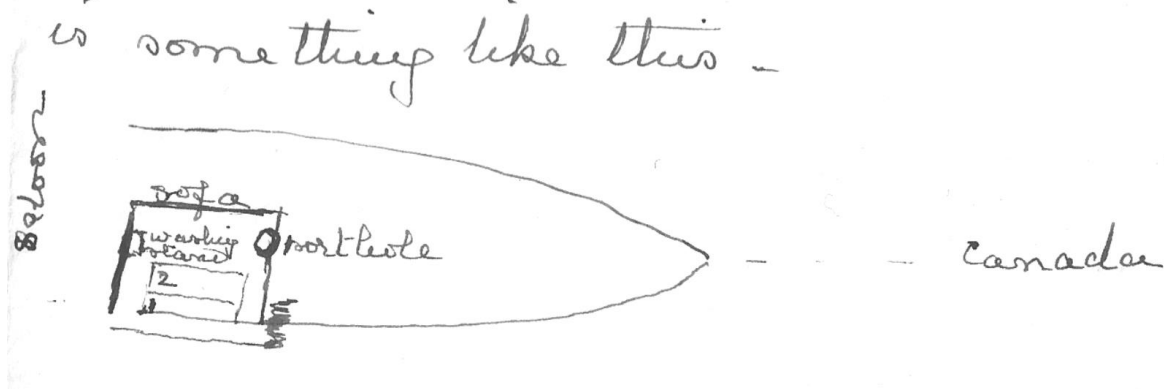
NAMES AND DESCRIPTION OF PASSENGERS.

N.B.—Cabin Passengers must also be included in this Schedule, after the other Passengers. Sec. 4 of 34 and 35. Fish, Cap. 15, and "The Immigration Act of 1884 and 1885" (Canada).

Port of Destination	Name of Passenger	Age		Sex	Rank or Profession	Religion	Status in Family	Date of Birth	Date of Arrival	Place of Birth
		Ann.	Jan.							
Passengers (Continued)										
Liverpool	170. Adolf Schubert		6		Chie		Domest			Altona, Minn.
	171. Catharine "									
	172. G. H. "									
	173. G. H. "	36			Passer					
	174. G. H. "				Wife					
	175. G. H. "	17			Child					
	176. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
	177. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
	178. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
	179. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
	180. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
	181. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
	182. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
	183. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
	184. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
	185. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
	186. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
	187. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
	188. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
	189. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
	190. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
	191. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
	192. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
	193. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
	194. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
	195. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
	196. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
	197. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
	198. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
	199. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
	200. G. H. "	17			Lab.					
Saloon Passengers										
Liverpool	1. Mrs. P. J. Smith	35			Wife		England			London
	2. Mrs. J. Smith	30			Wife		Canada			London
	3. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		England			London
	4. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	5. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	6. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	7. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	8. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	9. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	10. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	11. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	12. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	13. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	14. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	15. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	16. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	17. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	18. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	19. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	20. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	21. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	22. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	23. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	24. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	25. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	26. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	27. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	28. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	29. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London
	30. Mr. J. Smith	30			Lab.		Canada			London

April 29th 1901, S S Corinthian

of behind the houses. It is a long drive, we had crowds of luggage, & on the bus one horse & nearly upset in the tram lines every few hundred yards, however we arrived safely. Our cabin is something like this⁷



You see you go up these stairs from the lower deck, turn into the first door on the right & exactly behind the door are 2 berths. Miss Seathe below & me above. We began to move about 2 & did not get out of the docks until 4 o'clock. I was thankful for lunch at 2.30. I have a seat next to the Captain (who was too engaged to be there) 2 American men opposite (elderly) & a nice old man next to me. Including myself there are only 7 ladies on board, & I think 23 gentlemen but none of them at all interesting looking. An elderly clergyman taking out a boy about 16 who was very unhappy at parting with his Father(?) who I spied again about an hour later, having followed the boat along the docks, so I went & told them & they shouted remarks & were very grateful. We have a dear little stewardess, but I shall tell you all about the people in my next letter, which I suppose will be from Quebec. There are 2 hooks only in my cabin for me, on which I must hang towel & everything. I shall know another time that I must bring a smaller cabin box with about 6 things in it that can all be turned over anyhow. It is a glorious afternoon, warm wind, white horses & clear sky. I have a comfortable deckchair like the Nursery one, only with a wooden seat which I prefer to the wire seated ones, which I am sure would make ones dress rusty. I do not a bit feel as if I had really started but I suppose I shall when it is rough. There is very little space to walk about in here but the old gentleman sitting next to me at table (who is going from Sidcup to see his son in the Rockies) walked up and down with me for a mile & a half. The man opposite me (from Toronto) is a friend of George Blair's, for which reason he says he is at my service. The moon is lovely & I have been sitting on deck with Miss Seathe till now, 10 p.m., & must go to bed to which I do not look forward as the boat is rolling very much below, & you don't feel it on deck. I hope you were not all very tired & cross tonight.

With very much love to you all

I am ever

Yr loving d^{ght}

Ella

I hear a phonograph in the distance & long to go & hear it. A gentleman has just remarked that it is someone singing in the 2nd saloon so I w^{ld} rather not hear, if it is as nasal as it sounds. We had a button hole for dinner & as he wasn't here I had the captain's as well as my own (azalea)

⁷ Saloon, Sofa, Washing stand, Porthole, Canada

2nd May 1901, S.S. Corinthian

S S Corinthian⁸

2nd May 1901

My dearest Mother,

I am lying on deck with my chair firmly roped all around as we are rolling in the most awful manner & I expect every moment to be jerked into the sea, the sun is shining, but every now and then we have snow & hail storms & my cold hand is the reason of this bad writing. First of all – G. Blair's friend is Mr. M. Peterson – please alter it on my p.c. if you have kept it. On Friday soon after leaving Lough Foyle it began to get rough & I was ill after dinner – on Saturday afternoon I managed to get on deck for a short time returning to bed, & on Sunday Miss Seathe⁹ (who has been in bed all the time), Miss Saarloos¹⁰ & I were in bed the whole day & I felt very bad tho' I was not ill until the evening. Since then I have spent my whole days on deck where I have my meals brought me & do not go in until 8:30 when I go straight to bed feeling very uncomfortable until I am asleep or out again the next morning. People are most exceedingly kind. Father Powell¹¹ is a very bright amusing young Cowley Father, his only cousin is John Powell a



S S Corinthian

Length:	430.0 ft.
Breadth:	54.2 ft.
Draft (or Depth):	26.2 ft.
Tonnage:	6,227 (gross); 5,655 (net)
Engines:	Triple-expansion, 3 cyl. 27" 46" 78" x 54" stroke. 501 NHP
Launched:	March 19, 1900
Maiden Voyage:	May 24, 1900
Disposition:	Accommodation: First class 50; Second class 150; Third class 400.
Port of Registry:	Glasgow, Scotland
Flag of Registry:	British
Funnel color:	Red; white band below black top
Company flag:	Blue-white-red vertical stripes, blue at hoist, red at fly; long red pennant above flag.

⁹ Miss Mary Seathe

¹⁰ Miss Pareline Saarloos

¹¹ Boston Evening Transcript Jan 16, 1902: ANOTHER COWLEY FATHER HERE – Rev. Fr. Frederick Cecil Powell, from South Africa, has been added to the local branch of the Society of St. John the Evangelist on Bowdoin Street. The staff of priests constituting the local branch in charge of the Society of St. John the Evangelist on Bowdoin Street and St. Augustine's on Phillips street, has recently been added another member of order, Rev. Fr. Frederick Cecil Powell, who for the past two years has been stationed at

May 2nd 1901, S S Corinthian

fellow of St Johns & a great friend of Albert's & the Wynne Willsons with whom I have been to tea with him at St Johns. He & Mr. Gardner (a genial Somersetshire clergyman full of anecdotes & stories) held a Service on Sunday morning, but it was too rough in the evening. Father Powell has not been very well & does not go in for the whole of the meals & when we were both on deck feeling very bad Mr. Gardner came out from the Saloon & said in his pompous little manner "The gentlemen wish me to tell you Miss Brewin that they are sure you will change your mind & come in to dinner when you hear there is tripe & onions". "Horrible" I ejaculate feeling quite ill – "Beast" says Father Powell! At which poor Mr Gardner fled crestfallen. There are 2 Gloucestershire gentlemen both of whom know the Money-Kyrles very well. Harold Bilbrough's friend, one a Mr. Thackwell, who has many mutual friends with Eva Parker & the other a Mr. S. M. Dighton a great friend of the Images! He is evidently a widower with a little boy who might go and live with the Images after Christmas but he only began to talk to me this morning, as he looks such a misery I always called him "the reptile", but he is evidently a perfect gentleman. Miss Seathe & Miss Saarloos fight amicably. Miss Saarloos cannot see the difference between Americans & Canadians & is furious because Miss Seathe says she speaks English just as a German does. They discuss & argue about the great merits of their respective countrymen etc. while I lie in bed & smile & think (as they acknowledge also) how superior England & the English are to them all. The most popular gentleman except Father Powell is a young Canadian, Mr. Rex Stovell¹², who is studying painting & also writes. He has been in Paris for some time, then London & has now been invalided home after a year at the front. He looks after everyone & is always carrying cushions for the ladies & reefer smoking & amusing the men in any of the different classes. The Captain comes to have a little talk with me every day, a great honour, and is very sorry I cannot appear at meals, 4 ladies are not many for 3 tables. There is only one woman under 35 or 40, a lively Canadian who has been spending some months in England & got engaged there, but doesn't much like the prospect of having to settle in England, so far from her home. She was a hospital nurse for 2 years at Montreal.

Friday May 3rd

The pilot will come here from Rimouski when our letters will be sent off, possibly early tomorrow morning, so I must finish this trilogy in case I am not up. It has been bitterly cold since I last wrote, 29°, yesterday morning & a keen North wind. I am disappointed not to have seen any icebergs, but everyone else is glad, they have not come down yet from Newfoundland. We saw some whales spouting yesterday & a fishing boat in the far distance. I cannot think of what you are doing as we are so different in time now, half an hour makes an extraordinary difference in the length of the day I wish I had it at home. There is a concert in the 2nd Saloon this evening, it is much larger than this one & they have far more musical talent. Imagine me accompanying (? Spelling) last night & singing. I got up to breakfast this morning & was very glad I did so as Miss Seathe & Miss Saarloos were having a grand fight about the S. African War, & especially against our side of it & I could not attempt to argue their points. There are a certain number of young men (whom we do not know) on board, who spend all night playing cards in the smoking room but we are told there is very little gambling going on, which is most unusual. We are longing to see the papers tomorrow. I hope Father & Julius had a nice 1st of May. I never so appreciated my powers of sleeping about 20 hours the first few days, tho' my dreams are not always pleasant. I shall have more to say the next time I write. With very much love to you all,

I am y^r loving d^{ght}

Ella Brewin

May 4th

Cape Town, South Africa, where the Cowley fathers have a large and flourishing mission. Fr. Powell is the son of an English clergyman and came to Canada when quite young, and much of his early life was devoted to farming and working in the forests. Entering upon a course of study for the priesthood, Fr. Powell was graduated from Trinity College, Toronto, in 1886, and ordained four years later. He joined the Society of St. John the Evangelist in 1898 and for a time was located at Belleville and later Kingston, Canada. Thence he went to South Africa, where unfortunately the climate did not agree with him, which is the prime reason for his coming to Boston. During his stay at Cape town he devoted himself to the study of the Kaffir language that he might come into more intimate touch with the blacks of that country in his priestly ministrations, and one of his cherished possessions which he has brought with him is a Kaffir prayer book. At present Fr. Powell is in Montreal on a retreat.

¹² **13074 Trooper Rex Stovell**, 51st Coy, 19th Imperial Yeomanry

The Yeomanry was a British volunteer cavalry regiment that saw action during the 2nd Boer War. The Royal Warrant asked standing Yeomanry regiments to provide service companies of approximately 115 men each. Trooper Rex Stovell served with the 51st (Paget's Horse) Company, 19th battalion.

Canadian-born play write, actor and butler whose writings Stieglitz published in "Camera Work".

May 2nd 1901, S S Corinthian

It has been foggy since yesterday (Friday) afternoon, but it is clearing now, & we can see snow covered Gaspé all along our left side, it is nice to see Canada at last, tho' such a cold and snowy Canada. I will send a p.c. when I arrive in case it catches the mail. The motion of the boat has been very unpleasant today & made us all feel uncomfortable. You ought to see our arrival at this coast in the Monday papers as we signalled a few hours ago.

May 8th 1901, 274 O'Connor Street, Ottawa

May 8th 1901, Ottawa

274 O'Connor Street

Ottawa

May 8th 1901

My dearest Mother,

At last I have arrived. We reached Rimouski on Sunday morning "the Parisian" arriving at the same time & as the tender called on her first, our letters could not go by her after all, but I suppose you will have got my first letter before this. We had a nice little Service, when father Powell gave an address, & also again in the evening in the steerage. A great many there are Scandinavians & could speak no English, but they seemed to enjoy trying to sing. Just before 9 pm we saw Quebec standing up on our right, like Gibraltar, high cliffs straight out of the water with a fortress on the top, how Wolfe ever scaled the cliffs I cannot imagine.

Mr Rex Stovel most nobly conducted us 5 ladies to the top of the hill to the magnificent hotel the Chateau Frontenac, where we had coffee, & watched the moon rise across the river from the Dufferin Terrace. We then took two different electric trams round the town & got a general idea of the place. Of course it is very French, the notices and advertisements are all in French & the tall quaint houses are just like Rouen & those places. We got back to the boat about 11:30 but had very little rest as they were unloading all night & outside my window it happened to be a cargo of railway or tram lines, which made the most awful noise you can imagine. We got up at 6, when the steerage passengers had all gone off & watched the boat leaving Quebec. 3 people got left behind & came on by train. Two men (1st class Passengers) spent such a lively night at Quebec that at 6 in the morning they were sitting side by side in the road wondering whereabouts the Corinthian could possibly be, I believe Father Powell went and looked after them & they got onto the boat just as the gangway was being drawn up. The Captain was very disgusted with them during the voyage, but as they were always perfectly polite to everyone, & quiet, he had no ground for complaint. Monday 6th was a most beautiful day, & we all enjoyed our trip up the St Laurence immensely. The river was very full & it is very wide in parts, one lake (St Peter) being 25 miles long & 9 miles wide. There are little houses & cottages nearly the whole way along, especially on our left hand side, just a fringe of them, & then at intervals villages with a Church standing on the highest point & a monastery or Convent or both at each side of it. The minarets & towers on the Churches are very striking in the sunlight as they are generally gilt or silver, and sometimes the roof also. We all got very brown that day from the reflection of the sun on the water. We saw large schools (?) of white porpoises on Sunday & did I tell you we saw whales spouting a previous day? About 7 o'clock on Monday evening (6th) we arrived at Montreal & I soon spied Amea¹³ & her sister-in-law, Peggy, waiting for me. Amea looks so much better in coloured clothes. She had a pretty red hat which suited her splendidly. We were all sorry to say Goodbye to one another on the boat, though I was getting very tired of the prolonged and heated arguments of the two ProBoers in my cabin. Of course I never said a word about it, but I told them finally that I should not come into the room again if they continued it, and both being really nice women & extremely good to me, they tried to desist. There is scarcely any one on board I would care to meet again though I should very much like to hear how they all get on in their different careers. Mr Dighton I shall hear of from the Images, to whom he is going to write. He is like Bertie in his remarks, but very callous as to dress & appearance. He was very kind & lent me his splendid field glasses nearly the whole time. A friend of Mr Blaire's & 5 of the chief officials were ready to seize & forward my luggage so I had no trouble at all & though I sent my keys to the Custom House at Ottawa I don't believe they unlocked anything at all. Mrs George Blair is very like Mildred Stevens only taller & slight & just a little older. She is staying here for a fortnight and under her chaperonage Amea & I went to the Windsor Hotel, Montreal for the night. Our rooms opened into each other with a bathroom attached. Amea & I looked into St James' Cathedral on the way to the station at 9 o'clock the next morning, it is a second St Peters, which by the way it is usually called. We came by a new line of the C.P.R.¹⁴ railway all along the banks of the Ottawa river, a very picturesque & typical route, having many miles of half chopped down woods & wide stretches of water & plains right away to the hills or horizon. I forgot to say that the most striking thing on the St Laurence is the way in which the whole country is divided up by hurdles, or what they call fences, I hear now, that when a father died his field was divided amongst all his family, hurdles separating the divisions, so the whole country looks like rows and rows of sheep folds. When Amea left here the previous morning the trees were only in bud, the next day they were all in leaf! & are now what it would take 3 weeks to accomplish at home. They had a cold wave 10 days ago which I hear you have got, &

¹³ Amea Fernety Blair, daughter of Andrea Georg Blair, engaged to Ella's brother Francis Henry Brewin.

¹⁴ C.P.R. railway

May 8th 1901, 274 O'Connor Street, Ottawa

now it is real summer, too hot to go out until after tea. We arrived just before lunch. This house is very much in our own style only larger, red, & differently shaped from one another with a kind of front, just grass straight onto the foot path the other side of which is planted closely with trees of all kinds – except chestnuts. It looks very like Boulevards and all the houses have the green French Shutters outside & instead of blinds small shutters inside which slide up & down – 4 little ones to each window & all ventilated like the green ones. Coming here in the train in the Parlour cars they have double windows to keep out the awful black smoke & dust, & if you want them open they put perforated zinc shutters in their places. There are 6 big armchairs in each car for which you pay 2 dollars (irrespective of your railway ticket & I don't see how you could stand), then the attendant brings you a footstool or if he sees you sitting sideways he will come and tuck a pillow in your back & sell papers, magazines, fruit, drinks, sweets & chewgum!

Only Mr & Mrs Blair are at home. Mrs Blair is very much like Mrs Toulmin's sister at Woking, Miss Bullock, & rather like Mrs Domer & Miss Huson. She is most kind and homelike. I have Mary's room which is beautifully furnished – all pink and a large vase of those pink waxy looking roses. The wash-hand stands are all built into the wall with hot & cold water laid on & a curtain or door in front of it. The pillows are all put outside the beds standing bolt upright & during the day are covered with a grandly embroidered piece of drawn thread work.

I was very pleased to find Agnes' letter which arrived before I did. Please tell Annie Chip when you see her that I found an invitation awaiting me from Sir Louis & Lady Davies¹⁵ to dine there on Saturday. Also another from the visitors at the Russell Hotel to a dance tomorrow night. I believe we go in very late & stop for 3 or 4 dances, it would certainly be too hot for more. I went yesterday evening for a walk with Peggy along the canal & this morning we drove in the town & around the Parliament houses which stand up very well above the river rather like Durham Cathedral. I have just received a message from her Excellency Lady Minto¹⁶ asking me to go and see her tulips & have tea with her if she is home, an invitation which Amea says half the women in Ottawa would give their eyes to receive. I shall look forward to hearing from you soon.

With much love & hoping you are all well,

I am ever y^r loving d^{ght} Ella Brewin



¹⁵ **Sir Louis Henry Davies** KCMG PC QC (May 4, 1845 – May 1, 1924) was a Canadian lawyer, businessman and politician, and judge from the province of Prince Edward Island. In a public career spanning six decades, he served as the third Premier of Prince Edward Island, a federal Member of Parliament and Cabinet minister, and as both a Puisne Justice and the sixth Chief Justice of Canada.



¹⁶ **Gilbert John Elliot-Murray-Kynynmound, 4th Earl of Minto** KG GCSI GCMG GCIE PC (9 July 1845 – 1 March 1914) was a British nobleman and politician who served as Governor General of Canada, the eighth since Canadian Confederation, and as Viceroy and Governor-General of India, the country's 17th.

May 12th 1901, 274 O'Connor Street, Ottawa

May 12th 1901, Ottawa

c/o Hon. A. G. Blair
274 O'Connor St.
Ottawa
May 12th 1901

My dearest Mother,

Thank you very much for your two letters which both arrived on the 9th by the same post. Will you please always put "via New York" on the envelope, it is a much shorter sea passage & as they have mail trains straight here it saves a great deal of time as a rule, besides being a safer route for letters. They could tell you at the Post Office the 2 days the mail leaves – it has been altered I believe. I have received a notice saying my gloves have arrived. It will be nice for Julius if he goes to the Black Forest. I like your sketch of Frank best on the whole but Amea's is in a very small narrow blue frame which does not show it off, she is going to alter it to one like yours. She will take a snapshot of this house for you. I was so sorry to hear about Dr Loremer, & very glad that Tom Goode is better. I have had 2 letters from Agnes, one from Mabel & one from Mrs Abrahams.

I wrote to you last on Wed 8th. In the morning we (that means Amea, Mrs George Blair & I) drove about the town shopping, it was a glorious day, quite hot. In the afternoon Amea and I drove on the electric cars to Rockcliffe, near the Government House where you get a magnificent view over the Ottawa river to the plains and hills.

In the evening & Mr & Mrs Ritchie (he is Magistrate at St John) & Mr Pugsley¹⁷, Attorney General of New Brunswick, came to dinner. About 9 o'clock Amea & I went with Mr Ritchie to the Houses of Parliament to hear what was going on in the Commons. We sat in the front row of the Ladies Gallery which slants like the dress circle & is not like a horrible cage, but quite a short distance above the members, which I think must sometimes rather disturb the Speakers. In fact one witty Speaker once said "Really gentlemen I must implore you not to raise your voices so loudly. I cannot possibly hear what the ladies are talking about in the



17

Hon William Pugsley, PC, QC (September 27, 1850 – March 3, 1925) was a politician and lawyer in New Brunswick, Canada. He was born in Sussex, New Brunswick, the son of William Pugsley, of United Empire Loyalist descent, and Frances Jane Hayward. He was educated at the University of New Brunswick. He studied mathematics, classics, and English and was awarded many scholarships. In his junior year he was the gold medalist of his class. He went on to study law, was admitted to the bar in 1872 and set up practice in Saint John. The University of New Brunswick awarded him a BCL in 1879 and would confer honorary degrees of DCL in 1884 and LL.D in 1918. Pugsley was created a QC on 4 February 1891.

Pugsley, a Liberal, served as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, Solicitor-General and Attorney-General in various Liberal governments before becoming premier in 1907.

He resigned in September of that year to become minister of public works in the federal Liberal government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. He served in that position until the government's defeat in the 1911 federal election, but remained as an Member of Parliament (MP) until 1917 when he was appointed the 15th Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick. When his term ended in 1923, he was appointed to a federal position in charge of settling war claims, and held that position until his death in Toronto in 1925. He was buried in the Fernhill Cemetery in Saint John, New Brunswick.

May 12th 1901, 274 O'Connor Street, Ottawa

Gallery". We intended to be very attentive, but one of the Members who is very deaf, a Col. Tucker¹⁸, a most amusing, gay & wealthy old bachelor, spied us in the Gallery and came up to talk, & gave us a long and loud description of the best way to take castor oil without tasting it, which he was told of by a friend who went for some to a chemist & took it quite unwittingly in some whisky, which the chemist gave him, not knowing that his customer wanted it for his Mother-in-law not himself! Col Tucker then took us to have tea etc. & told us some of his experiences in China & Japan so we heard remarkably little of the debate which however was not interesting.

On the 9th Mrs Blair, Mrs George & I went for a lovely drive past the fine Chaudiere Falls where the Ottawa river descends 50ft over ragged ledges of rocks. It is most exciting to see the water rushing and bubbling along & the clouds of spray make the air quite cold. All round are huge Saw Mills worked by the waterpower & thousands of logs are floated down to here. We had to drive through some of the wood yards to get to the Falls & then went on the Golf Links about 4 miles from here. The roads are quite too awful for words. I have never in Italy or Switzerland seen anything like them. I am told it is the severe frost. The crossings are made of wood which is generally about 6 inches higher than the rest of the road, often the wood is quite rotten & has large holes in which the horses catch their feet and fall down, the rest of the road is nothing but hills and valleys, & Amea has positively to hold me down when we are going quickly to prevent my being jolted out of the carriage. There is not the least pleasure in driving in fact it is painful but I am told the golf links is on the worst road so I must not judge altogether yet. They think nothing of driving over a huge stone or heap of flints which are left in the middle of the road. There is a carriage and English coachmen coming out for the Yorks, I expect the springs will break at once & the coachmen will not have the remotest idea how to manipulate the carriage & horses. Of course it is all you can expect of a place which was in the wilds not long ago. The whole town is intersected with electric cars, some running for 7 miles outside the city, so the innumerable lines are another source of danger & annoyance to the coachmen & cyclist, but the horses do not mind them (the cars) a bit. There are no motors of any kind. The trains go along the roads as in France. They have to ring a big bell on the engine all the while they are near habitation, but happily it is a good toned bell just like a Church.

On the evening of the 9th we went to the Ball given by members who are staying at the Russell Hotel for the Session. We went soon after 10 & did not stop long. Amea said they were a very mixed set & she had to just speak to as many as she could & try & avoid dancing with them. She looked extremely nice, she has such a lovely neck & wore a pale green satin & pearls with white feathers in her hair. I wore my yellow satin. I danced 4 dances & find their "Militaire" is very like our Pas de Quatre only more solemn & a different time. We got to bed just after 3 but are not called until nearly 9 when we are late.

On the 10th Amea & I went to the Golf Links where she had a lesson. A thunderstorm came on whilst we were having tea, but not a bad one, we waited till it was over & drove home in the streaming rain on an open wheeled cart with a parasol between us. In the evening Mrs Blair & Mrs George went to a progressive Euchre party, which is the rage now. It is a card game.

Yesterday (Sat 11th) it rained nearly the whole day which is unusual but worth hundreds of dollars I am told. To everyone's great horror Mrs George & I insisted on walking out, enveloped in cloaks, galoshes etc. though you would have thought nothing of the



18 **Joseph John Tucker** (1832 – November 23, 1914) was a Canadian politician. Born in Chatham, Kent, England, the son of John Tucker, Tucker emigrated to Canada with his father at an early age. He was for twenty years the chief surveyor for Lloyds in the East, and resided at Shanghai. Tucker commanded a transport vessel during the Crimean War. He was a Lieutenant-Colonel with the 62nd Battalion, Saint John Fusiliers. He was elected to the Canadian House of Commons for the New Brunswick electoral district of City and County of Saint John in the 1896 federal election. A Liberal, he was re-elected in 1900. Tucker was president and partner for the Morning Telegraph Publishing Company and a director of the Saint John Railway Company.

May 12th 1901, 274 O'Connor Street, Ottawa

drizzle. In the afternoon Mrs Blair, Amea & I went to a large At Home at Sir Sandford Fleming's¹⁹. He is an old widower whose married daughter is just returning to England so this was her farewell tea. Mrs Blair said it was very typical of their best society crushes. About 100 people, it was to have been a garden party & the rooms were not large so it was a real crush. I was introduced to a great many people & amongst them Lady Laurier²⁰, a dear stout old French Lady. Everyone shakes hands here when they are introduced & at every available moment. I think the ladies are very smart & the younger men are all clean shaven & mostly with their hair parted in the middle, some try to imitate Sir Wilfred Laurier²¹ if they can with long curly hair brushed straight back.



19

Sir Sandford Fleming, KCMG (January 7, 1827 – July 22, 1915) was a Scottish-born Canadian engineer and inventor. He proposed worldwide standard time zones, designed Canada's first postage stamp, left a huge body of surveying and map making, engineered much of the Intercolonial Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway, and was a founding member of the Royal Society of Canada and founder of the Royal Canadian Institute, a science organization in Toronto.



20

Wilfrid Laurier married Zoé Lafontaine in Montreal on May 13, 1868. She was the daughter of G.N.R. Lafontaine and his first wife, Zoé Tessier known as Zoé Lavigne. Laurier's wife Zoé was born in Montreal and educated there at the School of the Bon Pasteur, and at the Convent of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, St. Vincent de Paul. The couple lived at Arthabaskaville until they moved to Ottawa in 1896. She served as one of the vice presidents on the formation of the National Council of Women and was honorary vice president of the Victorian Order of Nurses. The couple had no children. Beginning in 1878 and for some twenty years while married to Zoé, Laurier had an "ambiguous relationship" with a married woman, Émilie Barthe, with whom he fell in love. Where Zoé loved plants, animals and home life, she was not an intellectual; Émilie was, and relished literature and politics like Wilfrid, whose heart she won. Rumour had it he fathered a son, Armand Lavergne, with her, yet Zoé remained with him until his death.



21

Sir Henri Charles Wilfrid Laurier GCMG PC KC (November 20, 1841 – February 17, 1919), known as **Wilfrid Laurier**, was the seventh Prime Minister of Canada, in office from July 11, 1896, to October 6, 1911. Canada's first francophone prime minister, Laurier is often considered one of the country's greatest statesmen. He is well known for his policies

May 12th 1901, 274 O'Connor Street, Ottawa

In the evening we put on our best frocks & went to dinner with Sir Louis & Lady Davies, who were both exceedingly pleasant. But then as I am English everyone is the same & so pleased to see me. (I believe dozens are coming to call on me tomorrow, Mrs Blair's At Home day) I am thankful however wanting I may be in good looks, I look as English as I am, as they all think such a tremendous lot of England & English people. We sat down to a very smart & dainty little dinner, though we were all 3 (Amea, Mrs George & I) rather hungry at the end. Tell Florence we had mint jelly with lamb, with little sprigs of mint to ornament it. A young Mr Burbridge took me in & spent nearly the whole time in a lecture on Canada, its history, people, products, customs etc. I think he thought I was a sort of heathen Chinee, & whenever I got a chance I talked to my other neighbour a Col Cartwright²² who was one of those Canadians sent to Aldershot for extra training last year (or the year before). About 11 they had some Choruses which I did not know except "Clementine" & I was made to play "God save the King" to finish up the evening. So far I think Ottawa is the most unmusical place I have ever been in. Ethel Davies is supposed to sing well but she talks her song, & a man sang last night in a disgraceful manner. No one scarcely can play accompaniments, & except at the R. C. Church I am told the Church music is terrible. I quite wish I had brought my songs. Ethel Davies is a very bright lively girl & remembers Annie Chip quite well. She is going to be married this year.

This morning (Sun 12th) Amea & I went to the Cathedral, the Bishop is away. Instead of a Sermon a paper was read in every Church of England in Canada from the Bishops etc saying that the S.P.G.²³ & C.M.S.²⁴ in England were gradually going to withdraw their help in Algoma & the West, in 14 more years they will give nothing but leave Canada to support it all themselves. Sir Louis with whom I walked home says they can quite well do so if they are properly worked up & he thinks it is quite right & reasonable of England.

Donald is a plain little boy with big eyes. I believe he receives nothing but chaff from all his sisters & is consequently a little awkward & unnatural, both his Parents are sorry for him having no companion or friend in their family. We had another slight storm today & it is much colder, we have fires in the drawing room. I hope the servants are well. With very much love to you all

I am y^r loving d^{ght} Ella Brewin

of conciliation, expanding Confederation, and compromise between French and English Canada. His vision for Canada was a land of individual liberty and decentralized federalism. He also argued for an English-French partnership in Canada. "I have had before me as a pillar of fire," he said, "a policy of true Canadianism, of moderation, of reconciliation." He passionately defended individual liberty, "Canada is free and freedom is its nationality," and "Nothing will prevent me from continuing my task of preserving at all cost our civil liberty." Laurier was also well-regarded for his efforts to establish Canada as an autonomous country within the British Empire, and he supported the continuation of the Empire if it was based on "absolute liberty political and commercial". A 2011 *Maclean's* historical ranking of the Prime Ministers placed Laurier first. Laurier holds a number of records: he holds the record for the most *consecutive* federal elections won (4), and his 15-year tenure remains the longest unbroken term of office among Prime Ministers. In addition, his nearly 45 years (1874–1919) of service in the House of Commons is a record for that house. At 31 years, 8 months, Laurier was the longest-serving leader of a major Canadian political party, surpassing William Lyon Mackenzie King by over two years. Finally, he is the fourth-longest serving Prime Minister of Canada, behind King, John A. Macdonald, and Pierre Trudeau. Laurier's portrait is displayed on the Canadian five-dollar bill.

²² Lieutenant Colonel Robert Cartwright, studied at the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, Ontario from 1878 to 1881, where he won several academic prizes. He was a railway engineer in Manitoba. He served in the 1885 campaign and in South Africa, where he was mentioned in dispatches four times. He served as assistant adjutant-general at militia headquarters and as a musketry officer during World War I.

²³ Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (high church)

²⁴ Church Missionary Society (low church)

May 15th 1901, 274 O'Connor Street, Ottawa

May 15th 1901, Ottawa

"via New York"
c/o Hon A.G. Blare
274 O'Connor Street
Ottawa
May 15th 1901

My Dearest Mother,

I shall have to write to you a day earlier this week as tonight we go off for a delightful little excursion. Ascension Day is one of Mr Blair's very few holidays so we start off tonight about 11 in his special car, attached to a Toronto train which will drop us off about 60 miles from here, near Smiths Falls, where a steamboat will be ready for us when we get up tomorrow morning to take us for a whole day through the Rideau Lake & Rideau Canal which if it is fine & a little warmer will be glorious. If you look in the map it is roughly speaking – from Ottawa to Lake Kingston on Lake Ontario – I will tell you all about it in my next letter.

We were to have gone for a drive on Sunday afternoon, Mr Blair's only day for fresh air but it was too threatening. In the evening Amea, Peggy & I went to Grace Church²⁵ near here, & imagine how horrible, there was a processional hymn & in came the clergy, 4 little boys first, then 8 girls (young women) in surplices & mortar boards!! Then the men. The girls giggled and smirked at their friends & one actually had a white made up button hole pinned outside her surplice. One was very much taller than any of the congregation & very good looking – which she knew – & another tried hard the whole time to sing one note in advance of the rest. It was not a good choir & very small congregation. The young Vicar took all the Service & after the Offertory sang "These are they" most splendidly. A church is usually good for a solo, but I don't think I have ever heard a finer amateur voice. He is Oxford I believe, a Mr Gorman. A Mr Ruel & a Mr Campbell came to supper. It has been quite cold the last two days & we have been very glad to have a fire.

On Monday, Mrs Blair's at Home day, a great many people called & came by invitation to tea, amongst them Mr Dixon. There is a decided likeness in him to Mr Young. He has not been home for 13 years! So he scarcely knows the youngest at all. He had the same paper as we had & a piece of Ernest's wedding cake. We had for tea strawberries & ice-cream mixed – a very good combination with plenty of sugar. Mr Blair did not get back until after 4 o'clock yesterday morning – they are anxious to get through Parliament as quickly as possible. Yesterday afternoon Amea & I went to play golf. My name has been entered for a fortnights play. I very much enjoyed it – tho' my arm is very stiff this morning from the force with which I struck the ground at intervals – it certainly looks much easier to play than it is.

Amea has just taken photographs of the house for you which I hope will turn out well. The drawing room is open almost the whole of one side into the hall – & the library the same – the openings are hung with heavy velvet curtains which are generally half drawn, but it seems to make all one's conversations rather public, & Mr Blair is now going to have the kitchens built out & the present pantry etc. made into a little smoking room for himself which will be absolutely private. There are chairs in the porches of every house & people spend all their leisure time reading & working or receiving callers in them, which seems very public. The telephone is a great convenience – you can talk to any house almost in the whole town, shops & post office etc. but it is rather a bother sometimes just when you have settled down to hear the bell ringing & the servant comes to tell you it is something she cannot answer, which may occur every half hour or more. There are a great many Chinese laundries here. Men come from China by a sort of emigration fund, set up a laundry (no women kind at all in the establishment) make money & go back to their own country – they usually wear their pigtales under their hats in the streets. Just off 10 p.m. have written half a letter to Mabel & cannot finish it.

Very much love to you all from

²⁵ In 1889, a furore erupted in St George's Church which was to have a dramatic effect upon the life of St John's. A small core of thirty people left St George's over a dispute centring on the liturgy, and this group bought a piece of land at the corner of Elgin and Somerset Streets from James McLaren of Buckingham, Quebec. Mr. J. Hames was hired as the architect and construction began on a new Anglican church. The total agreed cost of the new church was \$20,000 and the cornerstone was laid on October 21, 1890. Within three months, a small congregation was worshiping in the unfinished structure. The first baptism was held on May 15, 1890, when the **Rector, John Gorman**, christened his son, John. At the annual Vestry of 1891, Father Gorman agreed not to tamper with either the theology or the liturgy of the parish without a two-thirds agreement from the parish. In March, 1891, the church was completed and consecrated as Grace Church.

May 15th 1901, 274 O'Connor Street, Ottawa

Yr loving d^{ght} - Ella Brewin -

May 19th 1901, Hon. A. G. Blair, O'Connor Street, Ottawa

May 19th 1901, Ottawa

"via New York"
c/o Hon A.G. Blare
274 O'Connor Street
Ottawa
May 19th 1901

My Dearest Mother,

Amea sends you her love & thanks for your letter. I am very glad to hear you are all well. I shall be interested to hear what Julius is going to do. Please thank Agnes for her letter last week which I was very pleased to receive. It has rained without stopping at all for 48 hours – a most unusual thing out here. Mr Blair never remembers such an occurrence, it left off for about 5 hours this morning early & now it is raining again as hard as ever. On Wednesday morning when Amea & I were out shopping we went in to see St Joseph's – a large R.C. Church – there is a very high High Altar & at the elevation of the Host there is a perfect blaze of electric light from every imaginable corner of the Altar & Reredos. I wonder what Leo XI or one of those old Popes would think if he saw it. In the afternoon we took a Mrs MacIsaacs the wife of some official person staying in Ottawa for a drive all round the Government House etc. She was here about 2 years ago & told Amea's fortune & said she was engaged to Frank – when no one knew anything about it. This time she told Amea a great many more things quite correctly as far as we know. Mr Blair is coming to England on June 5th to bring Bessie (*who later drowned – see footnote 1*) & Audrey home, & he is going to buy a great deal of Amea's linen etc. She has some nice little pieces of furniture already.

On Wednesday evening at 11 we drove to Mr Blair's car – The Ottawa – which was already joined on to the Toronto Train, before we started Mr Blair took me to see one of the ordinary sleeping cars, it is just a long narrow passage with upper & lower berths on each side of it & curtains to draw round them, but several were not drawn & we saw visions of beautiful stripped & checked pyjamas & heard a perfect orchestra of melodious (?) sounds proceeding from all quarters. Mr Blair's car contains a smoking room (which can be turned into a bed-room) 3 bed rooms with two washrooms adjoining a kitchen, dining-room & store room. Amea & I shared a big double bed & were very comfortable tho' when the train jerked off down a siding about 1 a.m. it was all we could do to prevent being thrown on to the floor. A Mr Emerson came with us, an elderly man who has just lost his wife, so Mr Blair thought it would make a little change for him. Mr Blair's French car-man, valet, clerk, messenger, office-man, or whatever he is called had a nice breakfast for us at 7 o'clock, & then we all drove to Smith's Falls about a mile away where the Government Steamboat "Shandy" was waiting for us. We had a most glorious day, brilliant sun shine & cool wind, tho' at one time there was an extraordinary black halo round the sun which the Captain said betokened rough weather, & we have certainly got it now. We went through most beautiful scenery, sometimes through narrow places like bits of the river at Oxford, almost touching the banks covered with ferns, small maples & willow palms, then out into the big Rideau Lake, 21 miles long & 6 miles wide with its numerous islands & wild looking rocky shores covered with straggling firs & pines & occasionally passing little cultivated pieces of land with one or two cottages, but very seldom. It was about 43 miles to Jones' Falls where we stopped for half an hour before returning to see the magnificent waterfall. The drop here is so great that they have to have 4 locks one after the other & so you can imagine that if there were 4 locks at Teddington the wear would be very fine – especially if as at Jones' Falls – it came dashing over huge natural rocks & trees in every shade of Spring green nearby. We picked some lovely tall terracotta coloured Columbines²⁶ near the falls. The lakes & water looked even more beautiful coming home, especially with a very wild looking sunset. I sat on the bows most of the day & Mr Blair & I are both the colour of mahogany, Amea's nose & cheeks were pretty bad but my lanoline quite cured that during the night. She was so delighted with it that we went to try and get some yesterday & at last succeeded though it cost more than twice as much here (the same make as mine). We got back to the car at 9 & went straight to bed. I scarcely waked when the train took us on, we reached here about 7.30, leaving Mr Blair & Mr Emerson still sleeping in the car! When we were in bed the previous night Amea rang the bell & when the little Frenchman appeared she said she thought she was going to be rather hungry! He just asked if she thought she was going to be thirsty too & receiving a negative departed to reappear in a few minutes bringing us 4 huge slices of hot buttered toast which we much enjoyed. Mrs George Blair left on Friday & as I said before it has rained ever since Friday morning without stopping – so except shopping each day in the town we have not been out or done anything at all. It just stopped for us to

²⁶ Columbine – Plant, Aquilegia is a genus of about 60-70 species of perennial plants that are found in meadows, woodlands, and at higher altitudes throughout the Northern Hemisphere, known for the spurred petals of their flowers.

May 19th 1901, Hon. A. G. Blair, O'Connor Street, Ottawa

walk to the Cathedral this morning. They have Ancient & Modern Hymns everywhere & in the next house they are playing hymns now, which sound nice & homelike. Mr Loucks²⁷ the sort of Curate in charge during the Bishop's absence (he has a son & daughter ill with consumption out West) preached, he again referred to the S.P.G. & C.M.S. giving up their assistance to the mission work here & said "as we all know it is impossible to make an Englishman change his mind"! so Lady Davies & Amea both turn round & smile at me & Sir Louis says in a loud voice like the Salvation Army do "Quite right too", which as he is a real Canadian was very nice of him. Mr Ruet came to dinner to help Amea develop her photographs but she has a new Camera & unfortunately it did not work rightly so the photos of our trip & this house were spoiled.

You would be sorry for your poor daughter if you could see her awful mosquito bites. I have not worn stockings for 3 days & I have to get up at night every hours to put on ammoniac, however they are much better today & I am thankful not to have them on my face & hands. I shall wear boots on the river another time & gaiters. I am exceedingly well & I think a portion of my 1,000 pills is really having an effect on my sleepiness as I am very late here, & yet I am not a bit sleepy in Church or during the day which is a great comfort.

Of course I have met many more women than men at present, the girls strike me as being exceedingly bright, talkative, friendly & well dressed, but with the men I think that the accent though it is very slight in some cases always gives one an idea that he is not a gentleman, also they say your name often in speaking to you, & I always finish up with "Good afternoon, very pleased to have met you" all of which would grate at home.

Poor Donald had 5 stumps out yesterday, under chloroform, 2 were 2nd teeth.

We saw a great many cranes on the river. I don't know if they are the same as at home. They are about the size of a seagull, cream coloured, & with black tips to their wings. I also saw a robin today it is exactly like a thrush with a bright red breast & it walks as well as hops. I suppose Eva will be with you when you receive this, please give her my love, I hope George looks after you all, will he get a holiday this summer?

No English letters have arrived this morning (20th) so I suppose the boat was delayed. With very much love to you all. I am dearest Mother y^r very affectionate d^{ght}

Ella Brewin

I shall be very anxious to hear how Mary Cowe gets on when the lists are out – Where is Lucy Clark.

²⁷ Rev. Walter M. Loucks, curate St Christ Church, Cathedral

May 22nd 1901, Hon. A. G. Blair, O'Connor Street, Ottawa

May 22nd 1901, Ottawa

c/o Hon A.G. Blair,
274 O'Connor Street,
Ottawa.
May 22nd 1901.

My Dearest Mother,

Very many thanks for your letter written on May 10th. I suppose it is a good thing that Mrs. Knight is dead, but you will miss writing to her. I am glad to hear through Amea that Frank is likely to get a change this summer. I hope Agnes will be able to keep house for him if he gets a Vicarage for a few weeks.

I hope Mr. Stewart is quite well again now. Have they started more cats at Talvan, or why have the nightingales left? Have you ever heard of the mosquito hawks? They go about in couples, 2 come & circle round these houses about 9 o'clock, & then again in the middle of the night, they make an awful shriek, as indescribable as the cry of a bat. They are rather large birds with long wings. I hope the visits of your many relations will go off well.

It was very dull here again on Monday but not wet, yesterday (Tuesday) it was lovely, & now this afternoon it has begun again so I have not experienced much summer yet. On Monday several people called, most of them, I am told, on me. Yesterday morning Amea & I & a Miss Crombie, daughter of Aunt Ellen's friend, drove out quite early to the golf links. I do not do the long drives as I have to share Amea's clubs & it would take too long as I cannot play well, but I do the approaching & putting & am getting on quite satisfactorily in that. In the afternoon Mrs Blair, Amea & I went to a small garden party at the Government House to watch a cricket match between Government House, & the House of Commons, the latter won by 6 runs. Lady Minto was a god-daughter of the Queen's²⁸ so they are not entertaining at all this summer. She is really the Governor, & a splendid one she makes. He is an insignificant looking little man who tries to make jokes to any specially pretty girl he may take up. Their eldest girl, about 16, Lady Eileen, is very beautiful, the other 2 girls & 2 little boys are also very good looking. I had a long chat with Lady Ruby a fine big girl of 14 or 15. This morning we again went off to golf. This afternoon Mrs Blair & I drove to call on Mrs Airlie Young, we thought we should never get safely there & back. Their house is on a country road which has been flooded since the snow has melted & all the earth has washed away, leaving huge boulders, ponds, valleys, & banks of mud, instead of the former level road. However we did arrive. She is very pleasant & we liked her very much. We saw her shy little boy Eardley, who is 4. He is just like Airlie used to be, long brown golden hair, & the sweetest little mouth & chin, rather like Arthur Butterworth. Mrs Young used to live quite close to this house, she was born in Ottawa. When I got back I went to tea with a Mrs Tilton, President of the G.F.S.²⁹ in Ottawa, & met 3 other G.F.S. Associates from 3 different Parishes & Branches there, but it was not very satisfactory I am afraid, it is difficult to make suggestions under such different circumstances. We were engaged to go canoeing afterwards but the rain has prevented it. The

²⁸ Queen Victoria ascended to the British throne upon the death of her uncle in 1837. She was only a teenager of eighteen at a time when the Crown had become tarnished by the scandal of her predecessors. Her unwavering dedication to her role as Queen soon won the respect of her subjects. She reigned for the next sixty-three years, the longest royal reign in British history. During this time she and her subjects witnessed the global expansion of her empire and the elevation of Britain to super-power status among the nations of the world. She gave her name to an era and became the symbolic representation of the prestige and power of her kingdom. Her reign and her life came to an end at her estate, Osborne House, on the Isle of Wight on **January 22, 1901**. Victoria was eighty-one years old and had served as Britain's Queen for almost sixty-four years. At her passing she was surrounded by her children and grandchildren including her son, who would succeed her as King Edward VII, and her grandson German Kaiser Wilhelm II, who, thirteen years later, would lead German forces against Britain in World War I.

²⁹ The **Girls' Friendly Society** (also known by their program name **GFS Platform**, or just **GFS**) is a philanthropic society that empowers girls and young women, encouraging them to develop their full potential through programs that provide training, confidence building, and other educational opportunities. It was established by a group of Anglicans in England in 1875 to address, through Christian values, the problems of working-class out-of-wedlock pregnancies. As M. E. Townsend expressed it in a letter of 1879: "[We] are fighting one of the greatest battles the world has ever seen--the battle for the purity of womanhood, for the possibility of virtuous Christian maidenhood." As well as addressing the issue of out-of-wedlock pregnancy of working-class girls, GFS soon grew into a support organization for unmarried girls and young women who wished to better themselves.

May 22nd 1901, Hon. A. G. Blair, O'Connor Street, Ottawa

children here, rich & poor, all go to school together when they are under about 12 years old, those who can afford it pay for their books & the others pay nothing, but Mrs Blair says the teaching is not satisfactory as the quick children must wait for the slow ones, for every child in a class is bound to pass the standard. Victoria Day is always a great holiday. Mr. Blair is going off fishing, & Marjorie is coming home from school.

With very much love to you all.

I am ever,

Y^r loving daughter,

Ella Brewin

May 26th 1901, Hon. A. G. Blair, O'Connor Street, Ottawa

May 26th 1901, Ottawa

Via New York
c/o Hon A. G. Blair
274 O'Connor Street
Ottawa
May 26th 1901

My dearest Mother

I had two nice letters on Thursday from Lucy Clark & Agnes. I answered the former but as I think you will let Agnes see my letters I shall not write to her again, but will here thank her very much indeed for having written so often. The stamp she enclosed was quite too horrible. I have put it in my purse, but I shall not tell anyone it is supposed to be a relation. I hope she will give my love to Miss Hiley whom I hope has quite got over her bicycle accident.

On Thursday morning Amea and I went to see The Basilica or Notre Dame Cathedral. It looks very well from outside as it has two very artistic twin towers about 200 ft high, but it is rather dreadful inside, all the green marble pillars are painted. There were a number of little vases put round the images waiting for flowers for Whitsuntide I suppose.

In the afternoon Mrs Blair took me to the Proroguing of Parliament. It is an exact (but diminutive) copy of ours & very ceremonial. It took place in the Senate House (House of Lords). There were two rows of ladies at the back then came the Senators. The throne of course at the end of the room. Mrs Blair & I arrived the last before the Governor General & had to walk right up to the end of the room near the throne, where to my great embarrassment I discovered there was only a big state chair left for me! I had to take it. The Speaker & I were the only two who occupied such high positions, even Her Excellency & Lady Laurier³⁰ sat below us in ordinary chairs & I was next Sir Wilfred in his grand uniform. His Excellency was conducted to the throne by his aides & military attendants and the House of Commons all crowded in behind the barrier at the opposite end of the room headed by their Speaker the Hon. L. P. Brodeur³¹ in black gown & 3 cornered hat. A long list of the bills passed was read, first in English then in French, & after a good deal of reading, bowings all round & passings of documents Lord Minto read his speech from the Throne, first in English then French which he did not find easy though he has a perfect accent. One of his aides had so much bowing to do to His Ex. going to & from the Clerks & Commons that he is going home to England this week for change of air. A great many of us including Lord & Lady Minto went into the Speaker's (of the Senate) Mr Power's³² for ices etc. & then into the Speaker of the Commons apartments to say Goodbye to them & some of the Members as they nearly all leave at once. There was a military detachment outside to receive their His Ex. & a band, the gun was fired & the flag hauled down, so that is the end of everything until the Autumn unless anything unexpected occurs in which case they have to meet on July 2nd. There was one other English girl there & 2 sets of Americans who were much impressed with the ceremony & with the mace etc. Mr Blair went straight off to fish for three days, he is always very done up, as besides the worries it is always so late before he can go to bed.

We drove off to the golf links to fetch Amea, taking a Mrs Sifton with us, & we all had tea together in the Club House. Victoria Day is a public holiday, it poured & streamed until after tea almost without stopping, which was a dreadful disappointment to hundreds, as they don't have Bank holidays here. Marjory came back from Toronto for the Sunday. She is rather a good looking girl, beautiful eyes, tall & a good figure. She & I went out in the rain, one of the linen drapers had in the window a high monument made of fancy handkerchiefs, hung with wreaths of artificial flowers & an appropriate "In Memoriam" verse, the tomb was guarded by two angels (on green marble stands) draped with the latest kind of Nun Veiling. Another linen draper had a kind of marble

³⁰ Zoé Lafontaine wife of Sir Henri Charles Wilfrid Laurier GCMG PC KC (November 20, 1841 – February 17, 1919), known as **Wilfrid Laurier** was the seventh Prime Minister of Canada, in office from July 11, 1896, to October 6, 1911. Canada's first francophone prime minister, Laurier is often considered one of the country's greatest statesmen. He is well known for his policies of conciliation, expanding Confederation, and compromise between French and English Canada.

³¹ **Louis-Philippe Brodeur**, PC QC baptised **Louis-Joseph-Alexandre Brodeur** (August 21, 1862 – January 1, 1924) was a Canadian journalist, lawyer, politician, federal Cabinet minister, Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons, and puisne justice of the Supreme Court of Canada.

³² **Lawrence Geoffrey Power**, PC (August 9, 1841 – September 12, 1921) was a Canadian lawyer and politician. Power was appointed to the Senate of Canada representing the senatorial division of Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1877. A Liberal, he was Speaker of the Senate from 1901 to 1905.

May 26th 1901, Hon. A. G. Blair, O'Connor Street, Ottawa

obelisk surrounded by a high railing, on one side leaned a lady in fashionable black, & on the other a lady in equally fashionable semi-mourning. Donald let off some fireworks in the evening. We watched well wrapped up until we were frozen & then returned to the fire which we have had almost every day. Yesterday afternoon we took Lady Ritchie, widow of the Chief Justice of Canada, for a lovely drive along the Hogs Back which is a road having the canal on the one side & the pretty Rideau River on the other side & a very fine waterfall on the top, over which the road goes by a bridge. Afterwards we went to a garden-party at a Mrs Charles Keefer's³³ where Amea & I ate 4 different ices (2 editions) & came away.

Mrs Blair will not hear of my going home yet, as Mrs Randolph (Nell) is expecting Amea & me to go to stay with her at St John, New Brunswick the 2nd or 3rd week in June, & then with Mrs George Blair for a few days, but I shall be able to tell you more about plans in my next letter, or after I have heard from you.

With very much love to you all,

I am ever y^r loving d^{ght} Ella Brewin

³³ **Charles Henry Keefer** (1852 — 12 April 1932) was one of Canada's pioneering engineers. Charles was the son of well-known Canadian civil engineer, Thomas Keefer. Charles was born in Rideau Hall in Ottawa when it was the property of his grandfather, Thomas McKay, before it became the official residence of the Governor General of Canada. Although not formally educated, Keefer spent his early years employed as a surveyor on some of Canada's most important railway works including the Canada Central Railway (Ottawa to Carleton Place), the Chaudière branch of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Railway, the Canadian Pacific Railway (Yellowhead Pass), and the Canada Atlantic Railway. Between 1872 and 1875, he worked on the construction of the Ottawa Water Works as assistant engineer. He worked on Montreal Harbour Works in 1878 and between 1881 and 1885 he was division engineer during the construction of the New York, Lake Erie and Western Railway extensions. In 1884-1885, he worked on the Kicking Horse Pass section of the C.P.R. and later became an engineer for the construction of the Tay Canal. He joined the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers (CSCE) in 1887 and was an active participant in discussing engineering matters through the journal of the Engineering Institute of Canada. He was elected as a "Member of Council" of (CSCE) in 1892, 1893, and 1903, and became vice-president of that society in 1904-1905. In 1914, he was elected to the board of directors of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). Keefer's official biographer is historian, Daniel Hambly.

May 29th 1901, 274 O'Connor Street, Ottawa

May 29th 1901, Ottawa

c/o Hon A. G. Blair
274 O'Connor Street
Ottawa
May 29th 1901

My dearest Mother,

I am writing to you a day earlier as tomorrow Mr Blair has to go & inspect the Soulange (?spelling) Canal³⁴, & Mrs Blair, Amea & I are going too, which will be very nice if it is fine, at present it is wet again & quite chilly, but it will probably be fine in consequence tomorrow. We start in the car at 6:30 tonight & I believe go to Lachine³⁵ near Montreal between which & here the canal lies, but Mrs. Blair is not sure. I will tell you when I next write, we shall be back to breakfast the day after. Mr Blair goes from Boston on the 5th to London, so we are going to Boston too, so that I may see it, isn't it kind of them, & Mrs Blair hopes to bring us home via Niagara & Toronto won't that be glorious. I am looking forward to it so much, as Mr Blair was coming to England, I did not think I should be able to go anywhere.

Amea & I went to the Cathedral on Sunday morning, a Mr Kitson who has just been appointed Rector there preached a very good sermon. His Father was a Canadian & his Mother an Indian squaw or princess, he shows it very decidedly in his colouring.

On Monday & Tuesday Amea & I went to golf³⁶. People talk of a bicycle stare – I am sure it is nothing in comparison to a golf eye, the fields are perfectly white with dandelion clocks, so after a drive or a far hit you have to keep your eye immovably fixed on the spot where the ball fell or you never see it again & it is an unforgivable sin to lose a ball. I was fortunate yesterday for I found 2 which did not belong to us. My fortnight is up now so I shall not be able to play again unless no one is there. Amea is getting on very well.

We went for a bicycle ride on Monday afternoon, but it is very bothering where the rule of the road is different as it means you ought to mount and dismount on the right side of your machine which I cannot do, but I am getting used to the tram lines.

We were to have gone on this Canal inspection on Monday, so Marjorie asked 3 girls to dinner with her & all our things were ready packed when a telephone came from Mr Blair saying that Sir Wilfred wanted him so he could not go. I think Marjorie's party was rather disgusted. Amea & I saw her off about 11 p.m. for Toronto back to school. They always have black men in charge of the sleeping cars, frightful, repulsive looking creatures.

I think I told you that Parliament opened in the Autumn, it does not open until Jan or Feb. Please tell Father I have got some splendid snuff to keep off a cold, if you take it once it stops the cold instantly, it is from a prescription. Amea & I each took some the other day & we both woke at 3 a.m. with dreadful attacks of sneezing, wasn't it funny it should take effect at the same moment.

I don't think I told you that at the G.F.S. Meeting I suggested that they should elect a young & lively President who might pick up the dwindling Society a little. Mrs Tilton³⁷ has been President for years & is so given up to good works to the neglect of her

³⁴ The Soulanges Canal is an abandoned shipping canal in Quebec, Canada. It follows the north shore of the Saint Lawrence River between Pointe-des-Cascades and Coteaux-Landing, bypassing the rapids between Lake Saint-Louis and Lake Saint-Francis. Between Lake St Louis and Lake St Francis the Soulanges Canal was constructed on the north bank of the St Lawrence to replace the 9-foot Beauharnois Canal on the south bank. Both canals provided a by-pass of the Cascades, Split Rock, Cedar and Coteau Rapids. Between Lake St Louis and Lake St Francis the Soulanges Canal was constructed on the north bank of the St Lawrence to replace the 9-foot Beauharnois Canal on the south bank. Both canals provided a by-pass of the Cascades, Split Rock, Cedar and Coteau Rapids. The new canal was started in 1891 and completed in 1899. The length was 15 miles, and the depth 15 feet. Five locks raised or lowered shipping a total of 84 feet.

³⁵ Lachine is a borough within the city of Montreal on the Island of Montreal in southwestern Quebec, Canada. It was formerly an autonomous city until 2002

³⁶ Hon A G Blair was president of the Ottawa golf club

³⁷ **ODELL, ROBERTA ELIZABETH (Tilton)**, social reformer; b. 20 Sept. 1837 in Whiting, Maine, daughter of Daniel Ingalls Odell and Hannah Elizabeth Peavey; m. 11 Nov. 1858, in Eastport, Maine, John Tilton of Saint John; d. 28 May 1925 in Ottawa and was buried 1 June in Beechwood Cemetery. Roberta E. Tilton was an imposing figure of high Victorian Ottawa society. Tall, attractive,

May 29th 1901, 274 O'Connor Street, Ottawa

husband & everything else that she has not enough time to devote to the working of the G.F.S. However I find that my suggestion has created much mirth everywhere & is repeated to everyone as an excellent joke, as Mrs Tilton is a great manager, & has a small clique of adorers, & several not adorers. I hope you are all very well & had a nice Whitsuntide – with very much love to you all

I am ever dearest Mother y^r loving d^{ght} Ella Brewin

Mr Campbell came in again last night & told me (amongst other things) from cards that you & Father were discussing money matters, as it would have been about 3 a.m. I thought it was not probable. Please tell Edith Attenborough if you meet her, that I am taking notes for her Canadian lecture.

and energetic, she was a convincing writer and impressive public speaker in championing women's public role in society, and she helped to forge an enduring female culture through her work in several women's organizations.

June 2nd 1901, Hon. A. G. Blair, O'Connor Street, Ottawa

June 2nd 1901, Ottawa

c/o Hon: A. G. Blair
274 O Connor Street
Ottawa

June 2nd 1901

My dearest Mother

Thank you very much for your letter of the 19th. I hope Mrs Cooke will send the fee to Annie Chips. You and Aunt Con were very gay. I was dreadfully sorry to hear of the death of Katie Bailey. Certainly as Mrs Bateman said – there is something at the root of hysteria that Doctors are not yet clever enough to find out. Even if it was from other causes I am sure Dr Tanner will be very upset about it. I am very glad you have seen & liked Mary Blair. I hear through Amea that you are going to Derbyshire so I am glad I did not hurry back. Can you go or return via Peterboro' so as to stay a day or two with Blanche – she would be so delighted. I hope you will tell me when you write whereabouts it is – also what Agnes is going to do & where the Parkers & Stevens are going this summer. Please thank Agnes very much for her interesting & amusing letter. I am glad she & Mabel Wolley did not tumble into the water. I saw a picture of "Eights week"³⁸ in Black & White³⁹ – I see that and the Illustrated every week which is very nice.

We went off for our canal inspection on Wednesday evening, Mr & Mrs Blair, Amea & myself, the Deputy Minister and his wife also came in their car, Mr & Mrs Schreiber. He is a man with grandchildren & she is Aunt Ellen's acquaintance (Miss Guyone) about 38, & very bright, they have been married 2 or 3 years. We had dinner on the car. Soup, turkey, salads, Chocolate, Strawberry & Vanilla ice creams, & fruit & coffee, all of which Mrs Blair's maid prepares & also waits on us. We were taken to Vaudreuil Station near Montreal, & left in a siding, but it was a dreadfully noisy place, so many goods trains passed, and they rang their big bells the whole time. We got up at 6 on Thursday morning & drove for 5 miles along most frightful roads to the Soulanges canal which begins where one of the mouths of the Ottawa river empties into the St. Laurence. This canal has just been made, the locks are to work by electricity, & there are electric lights the whole way along it, after a little while we came out onto the Lake St Francis which is 28 miles long and 5 – 7 wide. We saw more houses than on our previous excursion & passed a great many islands which are still held by Indians, some of whom are rather a trouble in insisting that they are the heads of the island & all other inhabitants, perhaps 5 or 6 must pay money to them. The canal bridges are made to swing round on a big pivot & are very easy to move. We went through some small rapids and passed several more, amongst them the large ones near Cornwall, through which the Prince of Wales was taken with an Indian in all his war paint and feathers at the prow. It was a very pretty day, cloudy but the water was like glass, reflecting the smallest twig, but at 5 o'clock the rain came down in deluges, which rather delayed us, & in order to catch the 9 o'clock train we had to land at Iroquois opposite Ogdensburg. I slept in the Schreiber's car as then Amea & I could each have a room to ourselves. We reached home about 10 on Friday morning & found the workmen want the dining-room, kitchen & pantry so as everything has to be moved into the drawing-room we only have the Library left which means we cannot stay here any longer. On Tuesday morning (4th) we go with Mrs Blair to Boston, where we stay for one or two nights, then on to Niagara & Toronto, then back here for 2 nights, & Amea & I go on a long arranged visit to Mrs Randolph (Nell) at Frederickton, New Brunswick, and then for a few days to Mrs George Blair (Peggy) at St John. Mrs Blair will go to her sisters at Frederickton. Of course my letters will be forwarded from here. I do hope it will be finer. Yesterday soon after 12 there was a slight thunder-storm & it streamed the whole of the rest of the day & night, & now it is thundering again & as black as ink. Mrs Blair has given me a little old American coin for Agnes, which used to belong to Luirs. I have had a letter from Miss Saarloos with 3 snapshots taken on board. Her writing on the envelope is exactly like Father's best. I puzzled for ever so long over the Anniversary stamps, & however he could have managed to get it posted. I do not know when I will be able to write again. I suppose Father is going off now, do you know when? The places I have been to are too small to get picture cards, but I hope to send Mrs Rogers one from The States. I went to see the Parliament

³⁸ Eights Week, also known as Summer Eights, is a four-day regatta of bumps races which constitutes the University of Oxford's main intercollegiate rowing event of the year. The regatta takes place in May of each year, from the Wednesday to the Saturday of the fifth week of Trinity Term.

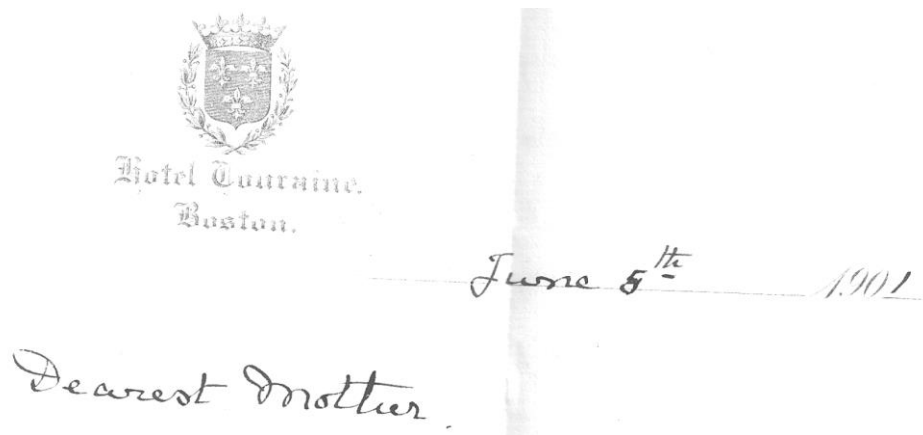
³⁹ Black and White: A Weekly Illustrated Record and Review was a British illustrated weekly periodical founded in 1891 by Charles Norris Williamson. In 1912 it was incorporated with The Sphere.

June 2nd 1901, Hon. A. G. Blair, O'Connor Street, Ottawa

Library the other day. It is the 2nd most beautiful one that there is, though it is not nearly large enough for all the books. With very much love to you all. I am as ever y^r loving d^{ght} Ella Brewin

June 5th 1901, Hotel Touraine, Boston, U.S.A.

June 5th 1901, Boston, U.S.A.



Hotel Touraine⁴⁰
Boston
June 5th 1901

Dearest Mother,

We arrived at this hotel this morning, & are just going to see Mr Blair, Sir Louis Davies & Mr Fielding (Minister of Finance)⁴¹



40

Hotel Touraine (1897-1966) in Boston, Massachusetts, was a residential hotel on the corner of Tremont Street and Boylston Street, near the Boston Common. The architecture firm of Winslow and Wetherell designed the 11-story building in the Jacobethan style, constructed of "brick and limestone;" its "baronial" appearance was "patterned inside and out after a 16th-century chateau of the dukes of Touraine." It had dining rooms and a circulating library. Owners included Joseph Reed Whipple and George A. Turain. Among the guests: boxer Max Baer, actor Stanley Bell, Diamond Jim Brady, George Gershwin, Ernest Wadsworth Longfellow, Pietro Mascagni, Mitch Miller, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. and Henry Bradford Endicott. Events included an exhibition in the 1960s of the Boston Negro Artists Association, and performances by the "Theater Company of Boston." The hotel closed in 1966 and became an apartment building.



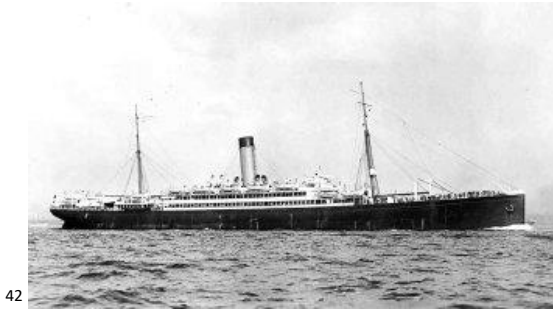
41

William Stevens Fielding, PC (November 24, 1848 – June 23, 1929) was a Canadian Liberal politician, the seventh Premier of Nova Scotia (1884–96), and the Minister of Finance 1896–1911 and 1921–25.

June 5th 1901, Hotel Touraine, Boston, U.S.A.

off on the "Commonwealth"⁴². Mr Fielding is going to post this if he thinks of it. I am coming home on July 13th by the Australasian⁴³. Mr Blair went over her yesterday & says she is a very nice boat & Mr Allan will give me the best (second rate (3 in a room)) berth on board. Mr Blair will return on her on Aug 1st. Amea unfortunately has not been very well with headache & sore throat, but it is better today & going to the theatre tonight. I will write a real letter tomorrow or Friday. I wonder if you will be surprised when you first see the stamp. Many thanks for yours, Eva's & George's letters.

Very much love to you all



SS Canopic was a passenger liner of the White Star Line. The ship was built by Harland & Wolff in Belfast for the Dominion Line, and launched on 31 May 1900 as the **Commonwealth**. The 12,268 GRT ship was 578 feet (176 m) long, and powered by a 988 nhp 6-cylinder triple expansion steam engine which gave her a service speed of 16 knots (30 km/h; 18 mph). She could carry up to 1,300 passengers. The ship initially operated between Liverpool and Boston, but in 1903 she was transferred to the White Star Line and renamed **Canopic**. Her first crossing for the White Star Line began on 14 January 1904, on which she sailed from Liverpool to Boston. Immediately after this first crossing, she joined the *Romanic* and *Republic* on the White Star Line's new Mediterranean service, on which she would remain for more than 13 years. She was requisitioned for war service between 1917 to 1919, then served on the Liverpool–Montreal route until 1925, when she was scrapped at Briton Ferry, Wales.

Tonnage:	12,268 GRT, 7,717 NRT
Length:	578 ft 3 in (176.25 m)
Beam:	59 ft 3 in (18.06 m)
Depth:	35 ft 10 in (10.92 m)
Propulsion:	Harland & Wolff 988 nhp 6-cylinder triple expansion steam engine 2 screws
Speed:	16 knots (30 km/h; 18 mph)
Capacity:	1,300 passengers: 250 × 1st class, 250 × 2nd class, 800 × 3rd class



The sail and steamship **Australasian**, was built in 1884 by Robert Napier & Co of Govan, Glasgow for George Thompson & Son (Aberdeen Line). She weighed 4,000 long tons (4,100 t). In 1906 the Ottoman Government bought her and renamed her *Scham*. In 1918 she was reduced to a hulk. She was scrapped at Savona in Italy in 1955.

June 5th 1901, Hotel Touraine, Boston, U.S.A.

Y^r loving d^{ght}
Ella

June 6th 1901, Hotel Touraine, Boston, U.S.A.

June 6th 1901, Boston, U.S.A.

Hotel Touraine
Boston U.S.A.
June 6th 1901

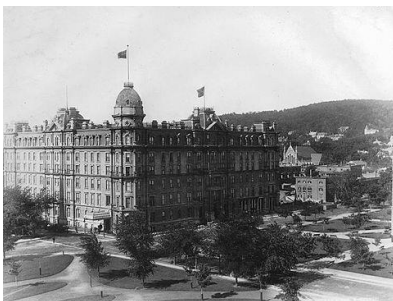
My dearest Mother,

I have to thank you, Eva & George very much for your letters. I hope George enjoyed his little holiday & had fine weather. Please give Mrs Leeson my very dear love if you see her.

We left Ottawa at 11.30 on Monday night, Mr Blair, his secretary Mr Currier, Amea & myself. Amea unfortunately had a bad sore throat, with large white spots which I removed with one of Dr Leeson's strongest paints⁴⁴ in about half an hour.

The train started about 4 with the usual awful jerk which nearly sent me flying & I know I screamed as I was dreaming. We went to the Hotel Windsor⁴⁵ where Amea retired to bed & I wandered round the town. I went to the top of the Notre Dame towers to get a splendid view. I then tried to find the G.F.S. quarters & heard at a Rectory that the Secretary was away, but the chief associate was at home. I went to call on her but she was engaged tho' I saw her daughter(?) for a few minutes. Soon after 12 Mr Blair fetched me & took me to lunch at some huge store (a superior Whiteleys⁴⁶), where we met the Proprietor an amusing man who had just been travelling in Spain for a time after the exertion of starting this refreshment department. Then Mr Blair took me for a lovely drive to the top of Mont Royale, a very high thickly wooded hill which stands at the back of the city. The city has taken it over & made a gradually winding road all the way up. You get a fine view right over the St Laurence & for miles on each side. In the morning Mr Blair had been over the new Allan Liner "Australasian" with Mr Allan, who will reserve me a berth on her for July 13th. Mr Blair will return home on her. In the evening Mrs Blair, Mr & Mrs Fielding (he is Minister of Finance), Miss Fielding & Sir Louis Davies joined us & we all left Montreal in the car at 8 o'clock. Miss Fielding & I slept in the smoking room which I much prefer as you can

⁴⁴ Iodine painting: treatment for sore and strep throats and loss of voice; painting iodine on the outside of the throat clears all within 24 hours. Iodine absorbs into the skin in about 6 hours. Also works for ear problems and swollen glands.



⁴⁵ The **Windsor Hotel** (opened 1878, closed 1981) in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, is often considered to be the first grand hotel in Canada, and for decades billed itself as "the best in all the Dominion".

⁴⁶ **Whiteleys** is a shopping centre in London, England. It was London's first department store, located in the Bayswater area. The store's main entrance was located on Queensway. The original Whiteleys department store was created by William Whiteley, who started a drapery shop at 31 Westbourne Grove in 1863. By 1867 it had expanded to a row of shops containing 17 separate departments. By 1890 over 6,000 staff were employed in the business, most of them living in company-owned male and female dormitories, having to obey 176 rules and working 7am to 11pm, six days a week. Whiteley also bought massive farmlands and erected food-processing factories to provide produce for the store and for staff catering. The first store – described as "an immense symposium of the arts and industries of the nation and of the world" – was devastated in an enormous fire in 1887, one of the largest fires in London's history. This was the last of four fires that had devastated the business from 1882. In 1907, William Whiteley was murdered by Cecil Whiteley, who claimed to be his illegitimate son. After his death, the board including two of Whiteley's sons allowed for the leases on the various Westbourne Grove properties to relapse and to move into a new purpose built store on Queens Road (now called Queensway).

June 6th 1901, Hotel Touraine, Boston, U.S.A.

lie in bed and look out of the window. Most of the evening, in fact until midnight, I sat on the ledge outside our car, which was happily at the very end of the train. We passed through most lovely scenery. Directly you leave Ontario the country gets much more hilly. There was a full moon & we passed some beautiful lakes. We arrived at Boston at 7.30 a.m. & drove straight to the Touraine, which is supposed to be the finest hotel in the States. The rooms are certainly very magnificent. I am writing now in a large library with hundreds of books & the dining-room is in imitation of an English Baronial Hall & the Touraine arms about on everything, they pretend not to admire the English but they copy them in every possible way. The Service & arrangements are all disgraceful, nothing would ever induce me to come here again, you have about 5 waiters to attend to you & yet 20 minutes is the very quickest we have ever got even a cold meal. They gave us a bedroom whilst Mr Blair was out in the evening & when he returned never told him in spite of messages, but said they had seen us all go out driving, so we were waiting upstairs & he downstairs in a perfect fever thinking we had some accident & finally had to go off to his boat with Sir Louis & Mr Fielding as his cabin companions & Mrs Blair & I drove down to the docks just as the last gangway was being removed, but he had time to rush off just to say "Goodbye". He took a little note to you from me but I do not know if he will remember it, there was nothing in it.

In the afternoon Mrs Blair & I went to some different stores to look at things, sort of inferior Whiteleys at Christmas time, everyone pushing, jostling & rushing about. The paths are more crowded here than in Regent Street, the roads are narrow & there are electric cars everywhere, but not much other traffic. The accent here is awful, I never wish to come to the States again, it is just as I always imagined, just like St Nicholas. Pale, rushing, fashionable, twangy people, nothing but money, shopping & latest inventions talked about, everything new & no ancestors.

In the evening Amea, Mrs & Miss Fielding & I went to see "Diplomacy", it was splendidly acted, their Star being a Canadian girl Margaret Anglin, whose Father was once Speaker, she has only been acting for 4 years but keeps her Mother & sisters & has got on extremely well. The men have to cultivate an English accent for the stage.

This morning we, Amea, Mrs Blair & I went out about 9.30 shopping, it was frightfully hot after the cool weather we have been having – too cold to sit out even wrapped in cloaks. They call it cool here, 87° in the shade this morning, we feel to limp & exhausted to move an inch. Amea & I then took a car to see the fine Library, part of the way the tram went underground, it was simply glorious we almost froze with the great wind the speed creates underground & then coming up again was awful. This afternoon we drove to the Park, the chestnut, tulip & may trees looked lovely & they have some rhododendrons, azaleas, syringas⁴⁷ & a great many bushes of white blossom which I do not know like a double duezia⁴⁸ (?spelling) but it was too hot driving for pleasure, the wind was like a Sirocco, & we are thankful to think that in an hour we shall be back on the car & on our way to Niagara. Mrs Blair only slept for 2 hours last night with the heat & the noise of the cars. In the buildings opposite there are 3 different ladies who are manicurists & they have a constant stream of men!! coming to them. The carriages are here so goodbye with very much love from

Yr loving d^{ght} Ella Brewin

⁴⁷ Syringa - Cultivation Notes Lilac will flourish in any reasonable soil (even chalk) in full or part sun. It is very hardy, requiring little pruning. Cut back to 1m to rejuvenate old bushes. Plant in autumn / spring, remove flowers for 1st year.

⁴⁸ Deutzia gracilis Description Producing masses of white flowers in early summer, held in erect clusters. This compact deciduous shrub has an upright bushy habit. Good for mid border location in a sheltered spot. 1.2 x 1.2m

June 9th 1901, Hon. A. G. Blair, O'Connor Street, Ottawa

June 9th 1901, Ottawa

c/o Hon A. G. Blair
274 O'Connor Street
Ottawa
June 9th 1901

My dearest Mother,

It was a great pleasure to find your letter here on my return, many thanks for it. Will you please thank Mrs Rogers for hers, I do not think she will expect me to answer it, it was very kind of her to trouble to write. I also had a nice long one from Lucy Clark. I hope my Godson will not get spoilt with too much attention. I always have time to write to you on Sunday afternoons, & usually any time before the Thursday mail, I have plenty of time to myself which is very nice if I don't feel homesick, which is seldom. Of course the enclosed cutting was the very old Dowager Lady Gooch, not Mrs Strutt's sister. I am so glad Capt Tudor has such a good appointment, I wonder if poor Evelyn will have to stop on in that big house. Julius will be anxious to hear who is the new Head. I do hope he will be an influential man.

We left Boston at 7.30 on Thursday 6th for Niagara, which we reached after lunch the next day, tho' we were not travelling the whole of the 19 hours, as our car had to be transferred during the night to another train. I think I told you I slept in the sitting room which I much prefer, as it has 2 long sofa beds leaning against 4 windows, so I sleep on the sofa nearest the side with the best scenery, then I prop myself up very high, & wake every hour or whenever there is a bump or noise, to look out of the window. The brakesmen have to go through the car occasionally to attend to the brakes. So we have curtains hung up leaving him a path way, but on two nights he has been too lazy to go & come back again so he has put down his lantern just at my feet & taken a comfortable armchair at the end of beds where there are no curtains at all, which looks very odd, tho' I expect he thought we were two sleeping gentlemen, as they usually have that room. We passed thro' Buffalo & saw the Exhibition⁴⁹ buildings in the distance, bright blue-green domes, gilded towers & several statues, we had ten minutes' walk in the town. Directly we arrived at Niagara we went to the Falls. I think they are splendid, just like that panorama we saw years ago, as that gave the bright green of the Horse Shoe or Canadian Falls⁵⁰. I did not realise how much ground they occupied, the space is much greater than I imagined. We went by the little



49 The **Pan-American Exposition** was a World's Fair held in Buffalo, New York, United States, from May 1 through November 2, 1901. The fair occupied 350 acres (1.4 km²) of land on the western edge of what is now Delaware Park, extending from Delaware Avenue to Elmwood Avenue and northward to Great Arrow Avenue.



50 The **Horseshoe Falls**, also known as the **Canadian Falls**, as most of it lies in Canada, is part of Niagara Falls, on the Niagara River. Approximately 90% of the Niagara River, after diversions for hydropower generation, flows over Horseshoe Falls. The remaining 10% flows over the American Falls. It is located between Terrapin Point on Goat Island

railroad, or perhaps you might call it an elevator to the waters edge near the American Fall & got into the little Steam Boat, "The maid of the Mist", we had to put on seamen's mackintosh coats & helmets because of the spray which poured down us like rain as the boat took us as near the foot of the Falls as possible. It is very exciting as the rush of the water swings the boat right round almost on its side, but the spray is too blinding with the wind in that direction to see anything more. We went on to Goat Island which is between the 2 falls & drank at the wishing well. Then what I enjoyed most of all we went in an electric tram across to the Canadian side, then away from the Falls along the top of the cliffs 200 to 300ft high by the rushing river, passed the rapids which Captain Webb⁵¹ tried to swim, tossing their waves & spray quite high in the air & boiling & seething away passed the Queenstone heights⁵², which has a very very high monument to the English General Brock who was killed there, & across the river again to Lewiston, about 8 miles away, then back again on the American side, the tram going quite close to the waters edge on a road cut out of the rocks. This is called the Great Gorge Route, as the water reaching from the Falls tears through this ravine into a huge

in the US state of New York, and Table Rock on the Ontario side of the falls. According to official U.S. Geological Survey maps, approximately two-thirds of Horseshoe Falls is located in Ontario, Canada with the remaining one-third in New York, United States of America.



⁵¹

Captain **Matthew Webb** (19 January 1848 – 24 July 1883) was the first recorded person to swim the English Channel without the use of artificial aids for sport purpose. (Before him, Giovan Maria Salati crossed the Channel to escape: he was an Italian Napoleonic soldier, prisoner in England. So, in 1817, he escaped swimming to France.) On 25 August 1875, Webb swam from Dover to Calais in fewer than 22 hours. His final stunt was to be a dangerous swim through the Whirlpool Rapids on the Niagara River below Niagara Falls, a feat many observers considered suicidal. Although Webb failed in an attempt at raising interest in funding the event, on 24 July 1883, he jumped into the river from a small boat located near the Niagara Falls Suspension Bridge and began his swim. Accounts of the time indicate that in all likelihood Webb successfully survived the first part of the swim, but died in the section of the river located near the entrance to the whirlpool. Webb was interred in Oakwood Cemetery, Niagara Falls, New York.

⁵² The **Battle of Queenston Heights** was the first major battle in the War of 1812 and resulted in a British victory. It took place on 13 October 1812, near Queenston, in the present-day province of Ontario. It was fought between United States regulars and New York militia forces led by Major General Stephen Van Rensselaer, and British regulars, York and Lincoln militia and Mohawks led by Major General Isaac Brock, and Major General Roger Hale Sheaffe, who took command when Brock was killed. The battle was fought as the result of an American attempt to establish a foothold on the Canadian side of the Niagara River before campaigning ended with the onset of winter. This decisive battle was the culmination of a poorly managed American offensive and may be most historically significant for the loss of the British commander.

Despite their numerical advantage and the wide dispersal of British forces defending against their invasion attempt, the Americans, who were stationed in Lewiston, New York, were unable to get the bulk of their invasion force across the Niagara River due to the work of British artillery and reluctance on the part of the undertrained and inexperienced American militia. As a result, British reinforcements arrived and defeated the unsupported American forces, forcing them to surrender.

whirlpool which sucks down large logs of wood or anything which comes in its way, & the river suddenly starts off at a side opening in the cliffs & flows on to Lake Ontario. It was a glorious ride taking about 2 hours. We were very cold there in spite of jackets & cloaks, such a change from Boston, the glass has not been above 62° since we left there, with a cool wind, & not much sun.

Marjorie came from her school at Toronto to meet us at Niagara, & Mrs & Miss Fielding, & the Secretary, who was a great trial, as he forgot & made mistakes about every single thing. We dined at The International⁵³, an extremely pretty dining-room & nice dinner, I had "Frog's saddles" for the first time but I couldn't taste anything. I think they were fried too much & had too good sauce with them. They were all black waiters. The Boston people have black coachmen & men servants & you see numbers of black women about.

We slept on the car in the Station yard which was fairly quiet & started early on Saturday for Toronto. I like Toronto very much. We had a long drive in the afternoon in the chief parts of the town out into the country suburb Rosedale⁵⁴ through a lovely ravine



53 The Eagle tavern was built as a log structure on Main Street in 1814. At that time, the building had only one room, used as "bed room, bar room, kitchen, dining room, public hall and office." In 1819-20, came a two-story brick step gabled addition, with a wide porch and a large gilt eagle over the door, with parlors and bedrooms for guests. The older section contained the kitchen and dining room on the first floor, with bedrooms for the help upstairs. A wide verandah opened on the Main Street and Bridge Street sides. In 1835, it was sold to Benjamin Rathbun. Rathbun developed plans for a huge new building on the site of the Eagle Hotel, but his own bankruptcy and accusations of fraud and forgery led to a prison term. In 1852, B.F. Childs, for many years proprietor of the Eagle, and John T. Bush of Lockport hired James Shepard, formerly of Lockport, to build the new **International Hotel** at the southwest corner of Falls and Main Street. "The International is a new hotel of immense dimension—one of the largest out of New York city, and capable of sleeping over six hundred people," reported the Niagara Courier on June 22, 1853. "It is the Hotel of the Falls," touted the Lockport Democrat and Courier. John T. Bush expanded the International Hotel in 1856-57, when he took down the old Eagle Hotel on the south side of the International Hotel and replaced it with a new addition to the International. The International Hotel quickly earned a reputation as "a strictly first class hotel." The Souvenir of Niagara Falls, published in 1881, described the hotel as "a stately four story structure," "contiguous to the business center of the city, provided with every modern convenience and comfort for its guests." Lighted with electricity, the hotel provided electric call bells in every guest room. Its "office, lobby, reading rooms, and parlors are finely decorated," with billiard parlors and tennis courts for entertainment and lavish and selected fare in its dining room, with an "accomplished chef." Several people subsequently owned the International Hotel, including the Schoellkopf and Gluck families. Alva Gluck, who had previously managed the Spencer House, was proprietor of the International in the 1880s. John F. McDonald bought both the International Hotel and the Cataract House in the late nineteenth century. The International Hotel burned on January 3, 1918, and was never rebuilt.



54 **Rosedale** is an affluent neighbourhood in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, which was formerly the estate of William Botsford Jarvis, and so named by his wife, granddaughter of William Dummer Powell, for the wild roses that grew there in abundance. It is located north of Downtown Toronto and is one of its oldest suburbs. It is also one of the wealthiest and most highly priced neighbourhoods in Canada. Rosedale has been ranked the best neighbourhood in Toronto to live by *Toronto Life*. It is known as the area where the city's 'Old Money' lives, and is home to some of Canada's richest and most famous citizens, including Ken Thomson who was the richest man in Canada at the time of his death. Rosedale's boundaries consist of the CPR railway tracks to the north, Yonge Street to the west, Aylmer Avenue and Rosedale Valley Road to the south, and Bayview

June 9th 1901, Hon. A. G. Blair, O'Connor Street, Ottawa

& to the Zoo which they are starting. There were some dear little bear cubs there, rolling about & fighting & climbing, also an amusing monkey who had a little piece of looking glass, through which he would examine first one eye, then the other between each mouthful of nuts. Whilst the others went back to the car for a rest I went to call on Miss Seathe my cabin-companion. Her brother Professor Seathe had moved from his house, but after a time I found his new one, his son opened the door & he knew who I was as he had seen my photograph, the awful snapshot taken on board. I saw his sister but my Miss Seathe had gone to live in another part of the town for a while & I had not time to look her up. If I had had more time I should have gone to call on Mr John Boyd.

We had dinner at the Queen's Hotel & then Mrs Blair & I saw Marjorie back to school. We left Toronto at 9 & reached Ottawa at 9 this morning, as we had to stop 2 hours for another train on the way. The servants were told we should be home on Sunday morning, they were quite ready to receive us, & it was not until we had returned from Church at 1.30, that they said the meals had not been ordered so they didn't know we wanted any & there was nothing in the house but just pork chops for themselves! As a matter of fact Amea had told the secretary to telegraph early yesterday telling them to have plenty in the house, but either the telegram was not sent or was mis-directed, but anyhow the railway telephoned late in the evening that we should be back early, quite in time for them to get in things. Amea & I telephoned to ask Lady Davies if we might go there & Mrs Blair had bread & butter at home with poor Donald who had had a bad feverish attack & when he came home yesterday he telephoned for the Doctor who found it was very necessary for him to come, & as it is only about 10 days before the holidays says he is not to return to school. All the schools have 3 months in the summer, & scarcely any holidays at Christmas & Easter, as the children cannot work in the heat, & nearly everyone goes to a little summer house or camp out in the country.

The parlour maid & house maid had a grand row over some missing money in the evening & poor little Donald, who is about the size of Sheila Stewart, was asked to come & turn the parlour maid out of the house! This he refused to do though they also said he had taken some money of theirs! However the parlour maid was ejected & had to go & sleep at her sisters & has not appeared yet. These are two quiet looking women of about 35, I should say.

Please tell Father I find the Guide book most useful. After all I shall be home before Mr Blair leaves (Aug 1st) so the girls can come to lunch then if you prefer. Are you going to do anything about the Orphanage children these holidays? Opposite our hotel in Boston there were 3 different sets of manicure ladies, & they had customers just as fast as they could take them – chiefly gentlemen – who are very particular about the shininess of their nails. It was very kind of Mrs Howlett to ask me for a day or two when I get home. Shall I stop at Derbyshire on the way back? There will be no S.S.⁵⁵ or Bible Class till September so I am not bound to be back at once. Please tell Mrs Rogers that I saw a greater number of pretty girls at Toronto than I have at all, I think the young girls about 16 are far prettier & much more stylish than English girls of their age, but they go off in looks & then almost universal gold stoppings quite spoils them. Amea & I leave for Fredericton, New Brunswick tomorrow. My letters will be forwarded & a cable w^{ld} just be c/o Robert F. Randolph E^{sq} for a fortnight.

Very much love to you all from

Y^r loving d^{ght}

Ella Brewin

Avenue to the east. The neighbourhood is within the City of Toronto's Rosedale-Moore Park neighbourhood. The neighbourhood is divided into a north and south portion by the Park Drive Ravine.

⁵⁵ Sabbath School

June 12th 1901, Fredericton

June 12th 1901, Fredericton

c/o R. F. Randolph⁵⁶ Esq
Fredericton
June 12th 1901

My dearest Mother,

I was very pleased to get Agnes' letter. There is to be a drawing room at Ottawa I believe when the Yorks come. My private presentation to their Excellences I am afraid would not answer the same purpose. I am glad they are pleased about Dean Paget's appointment. I hope Constance held out to the end of her exam, also that the garden party and Bach Concert went off well.

We spent most of Monday packing. Mrs Blair saw Amea and me off at 4 o'clock, unfortunately she & Donald could not get away for a day or two because of the work people. I felt quite unhappy at leaving her – she is so kind and motherly to me – & always backs one up whatever happens. She is one of the few Canadians I have met with no accent, which is very odd as she has never lived or stayed in England. But her home (Fredericton) being a military station she has always had a great many English friends, now they have of course Canadians stationed here. We had 2 hours to wait at Montreal so we went to The Windsor to dinner. Mr Blair has a bill there which is very nice as it saves one's expenses which mount up tremendously travelling, for as I told you, after buying your ticket (we have a free pass) you have to pay for your chairs, also your sleeping berth, about 10s/-d each, the car porter & several little things. When we had got through our soup & fish a waiter brought a message saying "Sir Wilfred & Lady Laurier would be pleased if you would go & dine at their table", so we moved over to them & found them exceedingly cordial. They were much interested to hear I was Frank's⁵⁷ sister, & said if only they could have been married before the Coronation, they would have come to see them in England. They went over for the Jubilee, Lady Laurier's first visit & for the whole 5 weeks (Amea tells me) stayed privately with the Queen! I asked Lady Laurier if she travelled about & was surprised when she said only to London and Windsor, not knowing whose guest she was. She has not long learnt English, but she speaks very well. She is very stout and every time she meets Amea she says "my dear how very stout you are getting" which, until Monday, seems to have been the extent of her remarks to Amea. She was quite shocked at our being alone, she had her secretary-maid & Sir Wilfred his Secretary, they each had a fly⁵⁸ from the station (I suppose it would not have been proper to go together) whilst Sir Wilfred & Lady Laurier walked!

Our Pullman car was frightfully hot, the ventilators were all open, but in spite of the gauze shutters you cannot open the windows at all because of the horribly black soft coal they use here & there is such a draught in the engines that a continuous cloud of small coal dust comes flying out of the funnel, sometimes it gets through some tiny crack & you find a little heap on your pillow in the morning to say nothing of your face. We took our upper and lower berth but both slept on the lower so as not to have the upper one down which leaves much more air. I slept on 3 pillows & could see out of window nicely. There was a girl travelling alone for the first time with her delicate but sharp looking baby girl of 5 months old going to be exhibited to her parents in St John. She was a model baby and never made a sound the whole night. Before I was up I heard a gentleman go up to her and say "I have 3 babies of my own so I quite understand them, do let me take care of yours whilst you go & have breakfast", which she did, wasn't it good of him because the baby would not lie down, & very few grown men, though they may do so in private, care to be seen in

⁵⁶ Son of FITZ RANDOLPH, ARCHIBALD DRUMMOND, (it was common among some Fitz Randolphs to shorten their name; thus he signed A. F. Randolph), businessman, politician, and philanthropist; b. 24 July 1833 in Digby, N.S., son of James Horton Fitz Randolph and Susan Byles Menzies; m. 9 Sept. 1858 Amira Donaldson Turnbull, sister of William Wallace Turnbull*, in Saint John, N.B., and they had eight children, five of whom survived him; d. 14 May 1902 in Fredericton.

⁵⁷ Francis Henry Brewin: 1873–1961 Birth 26 NOV 1873, Richmond, Surrey, England: Death 09 Nov 1961. Engaged to Amea Fenerty Blair. Her death: Amea Fenerty, wife of the Rev F H Brewin, formerly incumbent of Christ Church, Brighton and daughter of the late Honorable A G Blair, Minister of Railways and Canals, Canada. Aged 69 19/07/1944

⁵⁸ A **fly** was a horse-drawn public coach or delivery wagon, especially one let out for hire. In Britain, the term also referred to a light covered vehicle, such as a single-horse pleasure carriage or a hansom cab.

June 12th 1901, Fredericton

public looking after a baby. She did not at all hurry herself but took a good half hour over her meal. I am sure his arms must have ached.

We had a very facetious car man, they are usually blacks, but he was not, we were the last to get up, as there was only one ladies' wash room, & he came & sang "Awake awake" outside our curtains. But he was very attentive, cleaned our shoes, brushed our coats, & gave us a general dust down before we left the car. We had to change at Fredericton Junction & come by train to Fredericton 22 miles north of it.

Mr & Mrs Randolph & the little boy Robbin met us at 12 o'clock (10 hours since we left Ottawa). Nell⁵⁹ is very much like Mrs Biskett, only not so handsome. I am sure I shall like her very much & also Mr Randolph who is very stout & quiet, just like Frank's photograph of him. Robbin who is 6, & Constance 2, are just like him, very fat and with big round eyes. This is a small house, wooden like all the others & on the main road where the Cathedral stands on the banks of the lovely St John River which flows along at the back of this house, only you cannot see it. The Cathedral I believe is a very beautiful little Gothic building, I have not been in it yet tho' I hear the chimes at the half hours. Looking onto the road it is on our left & the street goes on for a long way on the right passed the Parliament Building, Court House, Schools, and also all the shops, something like Farnham, & a newly made park at the end. The street runs parallel with the river of which you get glimpses now and then. There are about 7,000 inhabitants.

It was Nell's at home day & a great many people called. At 7 Mr Randolph hired a small carriage & drove us for about 3 hours, first across the river which is about 3 times as wide as the Thames to see the glorious sunset, then back & all-round the town & Park & along a long country road by the river side. Coming home we stopped to see Mrs Blair's 2 sisters Miss Helen and Miss Mary Thompson who were very pleasant, they live across the river just the other side of the Cathedral. They now have to economise a good deal I think. Miss Mary is a clerk at The Educational department, they are both very devoted to Amea and Frank.

June 13th Thursday – Yesterday afternoon Mr Randolph drove us 3 & Robbin, & in another carriage, the 2 Miss Thompsons & 2 elderly ladies who are staying with them joined us for a picnic. We crossed the river & drove for 16 miles along the bank towards the source through most lovely country, not at all unlike Surrey on a much larger scale, the hills are no higher but much longer and larger. We stopped on a beautifully wooded place for our high tea, just like the places you read about in Indian stories, masses of ferns a great deal of undergrowth, & many fallen trees over which you have to scramble. I went with Miss Thompson to get a special fern, & we were so long gone that they all got in a dreadful fright & thought we were lost, as they shouted themselves hoarse & we never heard a sound, even a few yards away it is difficult to hear thro' the undergrowth. The carriages & horses crossed the river back again on a ferry & we drove home on this side just stopping to see the Randolph's summer cottage which Frank has seen, on the river. There was a glorious sunset & the colouring of the enormous extent of hills, water and woods make a never-to-be-forgotten view. My eye is getting quite trained to the vastness of everything & I find it quite difficult to realise how tiny our country is in comparison.

One of the servants here has come from Twickenham! Jessie Hunt, on the Whitton rd. they have been here 7 years, her Father was (& is here) a market gardener. She knew Mr Tahoudin very well & was for 2 years at the Chiswick under Mr Proser.

I saw Capt Dunlop of the Corinthian dining at the Windsor & had a few words with him, we were quite pleased to meet again.

Amea has throat pain etc. but seems quite well again now. Mr Randolph takes in Punch so I am reading up all I have missed.

With ever much love & hoping you are well

I am ever y^r loving d^{ght} Ella Brewin

⁵⁹ Mrs Nellie Randolph

June 16th 1901, Fredericton, N.B.

June 16th 1901, Fredericton

c/o R. F. Randolph Esq
Fredericton
June 16th 1901

My dearest Mother,

I have had no letters yet from Ottawa, if you have written probably Mrs Blair will bring it tomorrow when she comes to stay with her sisters, bringing Donald too. Mary ought to have reached Montreal yesterday & will be coming here with her Mother when I shall hear about her night at Strawberry Hill.

On Thursday morning Nell (I call her Mrs Randolph of course here) took me to see the children having lessons in the Church schools, they are small at present in the way of numbers but have very good teachers. They are children from all classes, rich & poor, black & white, & very figetty & troublesome the little negresses appeared to be. We went on to Robbin's Kindergarten, where the 8 or 9 babies sang to us & I much disgraced myself by my uncontrollable laughter at their singing which was interspersed with loud remarks & reproofs to each other & entoned throughout by Robbin & one other child neither of whom have a note of music in them.

In the afternoon we went up to Frogmore, the pretty house where Mr & Mrs Randolph (senior) live, they are on the side of a steep hill & have very fine trees leading up to the house & on their grounds, the best I have seen over here. Mr Randolph is a great invalid & has two rooms on the ground floor. I went in & had a chat with him, & he told me all about a day's visit to Hampton Court & Richmond Park. His wife is charming & very handsome, two of her sisters were there, also very good looking, all the Canadian ladies of over 40 seem to have masses of perfectly white hair, but they still preserve their colour & fine dark eyebrows. The visitors played tennis whilst I looked on. Nell's husband has one brother Allan, 9 years older than himself who is married & lives here, & another Charlie, who is 9 years younger & still lives at home, he came in here in the evening. At 4 on Friday morning there was a distant thunder storm & it thundered and rained the whole of the rest of the day. On Saturday afternoon I called with Nell on 2 tiny babies & we all went to a big At Home.

June 17th – On Sunday morning Nell, Amea & I all went to the Early Service at the Cathedral, it is such a beautiful little Church & looks quite old, it is a copy of the one at Snettisham⁶⁰, Norfolk, I dare say George could find you a photograph of it, but the position of this one is rather better as it is near the river, & a lovely avenue leads up to the western door. In the morning a new young curate preached his first sermon and was dreadfully nervous, but a lovely white robbed damsel made a diversion by fainting in the aisle, after which he got on better. Bishop Medley⁶¹ really built the Cathedral & got a great deal of help from English friends,



⁶⁰ **Snettisham** is a village and civil parish in the English county of Norfolk. It is located near the west coast of Norfolk, some 5 miles (8.0 km) south of the seaside resort of Hunstanton, 9 miles (14 km) north of the town of King's Lynn and 45 miles (72 km) north-west of the city of Norwich. St. Mary's Church in the village has a 14th-century, 172-foot (52 m) high spire. Nikolaus Pevsner called it "*perhaps the most exciting decorated church in Norfolk*".

⁶¹ **John Medley**, (19 December 1804 – 9 September 1892), was a Church of England clergyman who became the first bishop of Fredericton in 1845. In 1879 he succeeded Ashton Oxenden as Metropolitan of Canada.^[1] Medley arrived in Canada with plans drawn by the young Exeter architect Frank Wills for a cathedral to be based on St. Mary's Church in Snettisham, Norfolk. He had

June 16th 1901, Fredericton, N.B.

he is buried at the East End, & his widow who is strong enough to return to England is waiting here to be buried with him. We went for a beautiful walk in the afternoon right up the hill at the back of Frogmore. The colouring here is so lovely, the deep blue river with the little white houses, & then across it the little white washed wooden roofs & painted shutters, & behind them miles & miles of wooded hills. We had high tea at the Misses Thompson then I went with Miss Mary Thompson to the Cathedral & Dean Partridge preached a very good sermon about Gideon & brought in an account of the Canadians at Paardeburg⁶². Mr Charlie Randolph came to supper & they all had a heated argument about "Americans" until 12.30. I think it is partly from jealousy that the Canadians dislike them so much, at least that is what Nell's husband thinks.

I was much amused to receive the exceedingly dirty notice of your sale. I cannot get anything Indian or unEnglish anywhere I have been so far, except one or 2 at Niagara which was before I received your notice.

With very much love & hoping you are all well

I am yr loving d^{ght}

Ella Brewin

It is lovely & sunny but we are not comfortable without fires.

been granted £1,500 toward the cost of construction by the Exeter Diocesan Architecture Society, and the population of the new diocese pledged a further £4,500. A lot on the Saint John River was donated, as was the building stone, and the cornerstone of Christ Church Cathedral was laid on 10 October 1845. In 1848 and 1851 the Bishop visited England and raised more funds to allow the construction to continue. The design was completed by architect William Butterfield after Wills left New Brunswick in 1848 to set up a practice in New York City. The cathedral, which was consecrated on 31 August 1853, has been described as "the largest and most carefully ecclesiological church of the North American revival". To have a suitable church in which to preach during the construction of the cathedral, Medley built St. Anne's Chapel, which Frank Mills designed. It was begun in May 1846 and consecrated in March 1847.

⁶² The **Battle of Paardeberg** or Perdeberg ("Horse Mountain") was a major battle during the Second Anglo-Boer War. It was fought near Paardeberg Drift on the banks of the Modder River in the Orange Free State near Kimberley. The army of Boer General Piet Cronjé was retreating from its entrenched position at Magersfontein towards Bloemfontein after its lines of communication were cut by Major General John French, whose cavalry had recently outflanked the Boer position to relieve Kimberley. Cronjé's slow-moving column was intercepted by French at Paardeberg, where the Boer general eventually surrendered after a prolonged siege, having fought off an attempted direct assault by Lieutenant General Horatio Kitchener.

Cronjé's encampment was subjected to an increasingly heavy artillery bombardment, as more guns (including a battery of 5-inch medium howitzers and another of 1-pounder "pom-poms") joined the besieging British forces. Almost every horse, mule and ox was killed, and the stench and flies became unbearable. On the last night of the battle, 26th February, the **Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry**, having lost more than 70 soldiers in an earlier charge against sheltered Boer positions, were again called to take the lead in the routine daily battalion rotation. Instead of another charge the next morning as was expected, the Canadians, with the help of Royal Engineers, advanced at night towards the Boer camp, then set about digging trenches on high ground 65 yards from the Boer lines. On 27 February 1900, the Boers woke up staring into the muzzles of Canadian rifles and surrendered. Cronjé surrendered with some 4,019 men and 50 women; around 10% of the Boers' entire army were now prisoners. The Boer War marked the first overseas deployment of the **Canadian Army**. The Toronto company of the Royal Canadian Regiment had joined the Queensland Mounted Infantry in dispersing a Boer commando at Sunnyside and Belmont in the Western Cape in January. For two decades afterwards, Canadians would gather on February 27 (known in Canada as "**Paardeberg Day**") around memorials to the South African War to say prayers and honour veterans. This continued until the end of the First World War, when Armistice Day (later called Remembrance Day) began to be observed on November 11.

June 19th 1901, Fredericton, N.B.

June 19th 1901, Fredericton

c/o R F Randolph Esq
Fredericton
New Brunswick
June 19th 1901

My dearest Mother

Mary arrived with Mrs Blair & Donald on Monday evening. Please thank Father very much for the lanoline & thank you very much for Louise's nuts which are very like the hot pea nuts you get at Niagara. Mary had a very fairly good passage, though bitterly cold, & some very nice English tourists on board. They are all shocked at her thinness. Her grey hair makes her look like Mary Schulhof, she seems very nice. I was very glad to receive letters from you & Agnes, which Mrs Blair brought. Neither Amea or I can hear where you & Frank are going, but perhaps we may soon. I hope George will enjoy his visit to Cley, it will be a nice change for him. I hope I shall be home for Rhoda's wedding. Please give her anything you like, with me. Fancy Addie coming to Toronto. Amea can give her some introductions if necessary. It is a delightful place, rather perhaps the style of Clifton. What sort of book is Lucy to have? How delightful to have the plot of ground opposite us taken. I am very glad George is going to the oculist⁶³ & hope it is only a slight stigmatism. I do wish we could persuade a few of our serving women or small dressmakers to come to Canada. Amea says that many people would advance them money to get out. They get 4s/2d a day when they go to peoples' houses, & very soon make their fortunes by setting up a small establishment. It would be very nice to get a few hundred nursery governesses who can do plain sewing out of England, they would be so happy and & well off here. I am so sorry for the poor Oxford Miss Creeds, I hope their brother is better. Agnes will have to go to all the garden parties for you & me. I advise her to go with Kittie Leeson or someone.

On Monday afternoon we went to a tennis party near here & I added to the entertainment by telling fortunes by palmistry at which I am getting a great reputation. On Tuesday morning Amea & I went for a drive with a daughter of Mr & Mrs Fred Thompson, whom Frank knows, & a girl staying with her, in most carriages there are two seats both facing the horse for 2 people in each, & a straight mackintosh roof, & very quiet horses (except when they shy) who jog along & cannot go down hill at all. We spent an hour & a half going round & round the town just as if we started at the Green & went up and down each cross road & for a great diversion went down the Orphanage road before returning to the Green to retrace our steps along every other cross road then back again along those we missed out, that is what they all seem to do, & everyone knows you have been for a drive and also what you think of the city! We did not discover for at least half an hour that the horse's bit was hanging under his neck instead of being in his mouth! We passed a horse & cart that had been running away but had just been stopped by a telegraph post, which was most lucky as a bit is rather necessary in an emergency, a young man was very dangerously hurt, we were told dying, which I think was not the case, as I stopped to see if I could set a limb or stop any bleeding until the Doctor arrived & I think he was only stunned & managed to walk to a vehicle which took him to the hospital. There is a telephone in almost every little house & shop in this place. It is exceedingly convenient in an emergency such as sending for a doctor as you can track him all over the town or speak to your friends just across the road without the least trouble. We all 4 went to lunch at the Fred Thompson's afterwards.

It was Nell's At Home Day & we had a great many visitors right up till 6 o'clock. In Canada no one stays more than 15 minutes at the longest, & sometimes only 5. Directly they had gone we went off on a river picnic which was most delightful, the first I have been to here. Mary & I started on Charlie Randolph's canoe but it sprung 2 leaks, which the birch barks are apt to do after the winter & we had to get out it was so damp, tho' he stopped in, happily 2 other canoes only had 2 passengers so I got in with Amea & a Mr Erwind⁶⁴ Smith of Quebec who is a great friend of Eva Parkers, they used to have their country houses at the Saguenay River next door to each other, he is in a Bank here & a very pleasant man, we paddled some way up the river & then went up a little stream called Nashwaaksis just near an Indian settlement. There were about 30 of us & great fun we had. We lighted a huge fire for our coffee (which everyone takes for picnics) there is always plenty of wood about, & then had our dinner about 8 o'clock, everyone had brought some contribution by arrangement. Of course I get very much teased, they ask me if the Thames is nearly half as big as the

⁶³ Oculist is actually a rather out-dated and old-fashioned term. Now, the more popular names for these kinds of doctors are ophthalmologist and optometrist. Ophthalmologists deal with more serious problems and diseases. Optometrists address less serious issues, perform vision tests, and prescribe corrective lenses.

⁶⁴ Erwin Smith

June 19th 1901, Fredericton, N.B.

smallest river we go up, & if I don't think it is very untidy to see so many dead trees & branches left amongst those that are flourishing etc. & they did quite take me in about some fruit salad which was very much mashed up & brought in glass bottles, they told me it was a Canadian pickle & I think it will always be called "pickles" in future. We kept up an ox fire & had games round it, Tertius etc., then we sat round the fire in groups & I told more fortunes by palmistry. There was a Miss Robinson there who has studied it for some years, & as in every case almost we gave the same future they believe implicitly what we say. It made a very weird & picturesque scene, it was a splendid starlight night almost the clearest I have ever seen, do tell me what the very large star⁶⁵ is which is now rising about 9 p.m. it makes a line of light like the moon across the water. Some little Indian boys came & peeped at us through the bushes & I expect got some remains. We got home about 11.30 some time before the other canoes who all banded together & floated down the river singing some of their popular songs but only one man & one girl could really sing the tiniest bit, though they shouted choruses, they are so fond of music it seems such a pity they cannot sing. I am positively the only person for about 6 pews who can utter a note in Church, they all would if they could & are most hearty in their responses in the rest of the Service. Mrs Ewing came to Fredericton when she first married & lived here for 2 years. She was a great friend of Bishop & Mrs Medley's, who has helped with a book written about her sojourn here. I went to see Mrs Medley this afternoon she is such a dear old lady, very interested in the G.F.S. which she started here. Poor Mrs Blair is in bed with rheumatism in her knees. Mary & I went this afternoon to see all over the new buildings at the College, such splendid laboratories & machine rooms. We went right on top of the college which is high up & has a magnificent view for many miles down the river. Vacation has begun & it was like a deserted place, we explored into some of the professors' private rooms (they live here) & I never saw such horrible dirt & untidiness, their books were carefully covered with their soiled bedclothes, a pillow case over the lamps etc. & everything just exactly as they left it on the day of their departure.

I showed them at the picnic how to eat their pudding on the other side of their plates, like the Winchester boys⁶⁶. Mary has brought back "Ping Pong" (but string bats) so everyone is learning, I suppose you & Agnes play now. There is a strike amongst the track men on the C. P. Railway & they are getting quite nervous about the trains running which accounts for no English letters. I suppose they could have come yesterday & have not arrived yet. The more I see Nell the more I like her. I am sure you w^{ld} too, she is 32 very like Mrs Birkett in many ways. I think Amea is writing to you, she is quite well again now I think & the 3 sisters are in very good form.

Very much love to you all, y^r loving d^{ght}, Ella Brewin

⁶⁵ Probably Venus

⁶⁶ Winchester Puddings

4oz Flour, 4oz raisins, 4oz Suet, half teaspoon mixed spice, 4oz breadcrumbs, half teaspoons carbonate of soda, 2oz Currants, About 1 tea cupful of milk, A pinch of salt

Chop suet very finely, using a little of the flour. Clean currants and stone and chop the raisins.

Mix all dry ingredients in a basin, except the soda.

Warm the milk in a small pan, add the soda to it, and stir quickly.

Moisten the mixture with this, and half fill small greased cups or dariole moulds.

Steam steadily, covered with greased paper.

Turn out when ready, serve with orange or lemon sauce.

Time to steam 1 hour

Sufficient for 5 or 6 persons.

Probable cost 8d

June 23rd 1901, Fredericton, N.B.

June 23rd 1901, Fredericton

c/o R F Randolph Esq
Fredericton
New Brunswick
June 23rd 1901

My dearest Mother

We were very pleased to receive your letters last night, as there has been some delay with Frank's which is very agitating (not to me). So many thanks for yours of the 7th. I also heard from Louise, Agnes & Lucy Clark, & a lovely photograph of Percival George. Perhaps Agnes would send her a p.c. to "The Hall" Bushey, Herts, to thank her, as I wrote last week & am travelling too much to do so again at present. On Thursday Nell, Mary, Amea, Robbin, a Miss Powys (a friend of the Warwick's, & whose cousin was at Magdalen with Frank) & a Miss de Lancy Robinson (a cousin of old Mrs Boyd's & also Mr John Boyd's) & I started at 8 o'clock on the steamer which goes every day down the river to St John; we went about 34 miles, to a place called Gagetown, where we landed, asked at a cottage if they could give us boiling water & let us sit in their orchard, which they gladly did, & there we had a picnic lunch. It is very pretty down the river but not really interesting, however we all enjoyed it immensely, & caught the returning steamer after 2 hours on land & got back to tea. I had a conversation with an old man making a barge. The very lowest classes talk in such an exceedingly refined way & have none of the mistakes or accent that many of our "ladies" (?) have. He said his mother was English, & when I asked where she lived he said she shipped at Liverpool so he guessed she lived somewhere near there! He also wanted to know how I was getting on with the war, on which subject he was much better informed than I am, but evidently thought I was responsible for its progress.

On Friday it rained almost the whole day. We went to a little tea party at Miss Robinsons. Yesterday we took our lunch up to Randolph's camp which is about 4 miles from here higher up the river. Frank has been there. It is in a lovely spot, a large verandah all round in which hang 2 hammocks. The sitting room is very picturesque with a big cottage fireplace standing out into the room. It was really hot yesterday, & the houses all being wooden the bedrooms get baking. So I crept down & slept on the drawing room sofa last night, where it was nice & cool. I slipped upstairs at 7 when I heard the servants moving. Mrs Blair's rheumatism is better & she hopes to come down today. Yesterday afternoon Amea & I paid about 6 calls as we are leaving tomorrow, 2 days earlier than we expected. Mr Thompson⁶⁷ (who runs the Battle Line) came here on his yacht which is about 76 tons bringing his wife, the 2 girls who were in England with Mary & Mr & Mrs George Blair. He has very kindly offered to take us to St John on his yacht tomorrow which will be much nicer than the train. We shall take 2 days about it, as I believe we are going to cruise up the beautiful little Oromocto River⁶⁸ in their launch on the way. Mr & Mrs George Blair will take all our luggage by train. They have just moved to their summer camp at Rothesay⁶⁹ about 8 miles from St John on Kennebecasis. I am sorry not to stay in St John, but we shall of course

⁶⁷ Robert Thomson, Commodore of the Royal Kennebecasis Yacht Club (R.K.Y.C.) 1901 – 1912. Steam Yacht "Scionda".

⁶⁸ The **Oromocto River** is a tributary of the Saint John River in southwest New Brunswick, Canada. It is formed by the combination of the North and South Branches near Fredericton Junction, and flows north-northeast for 42 kilometres to its mouth at the Saint John River in the town of Oromocto. **North Oromocto River**, 45 kilometres in length, flows east-northeast from Oromocto Lake (near Harvey Station), passing through the villages of Tracy and follows sections of Route 645 and Route 101 to Fredericton Junction. **South Oromocto River**, 39 kilometres long, flows north-northeast from South Oromocto Lake, mostly through forest land to the head of the Oromocto River.

⁶⁹ Located along the lower Kennebecasis River valley, Rothesay borders the city of Saint John to the southwest, and the neighbouring town of Quispamsis to the northeast. It is served by a secondary mainline of the Canadian National Railway, though there is no longer any passenger service on the line. The town developed first as a shipbuilding centre and later as a summer home community for Saint John's wealthy elite with the arrival of the European and North American Railway in 1853. There is a commonly known story that the new town was named in honour of the visiting Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, in 1860 because the area was said to have reminded him of Rothesay, Bute, in Scotland, however, an entry made in the diary of William Franklin Bunting, of Saint John, during the visit refers to the Rothesay train station. It is unlikely that the name would have taken hold less than a day after the prince's passage through the settlement, and it therefore likely predates the visit. Rothesay contains many historical landmarks, such as The Rothesay Yacht Club; the former train station, one of the last remaining examples of early railway architecture in Canada; many homes that pre-date Confederation; public parks, and modern amenities.

June 23rd 1901, Fredericton, N.B.

see it. I shall be very sorry to leave Fredericton. Everyone is so friendly, & it is just the kind of country town life that I like, & the Randolph's could not have been more kind. I hope they will come over for the coronation. Fredericton does not boast of a picture post card. During the Offertory Sentences today in the Cathedral the organist played George's favourite arpeggios which you taught him from memory, I waited until everyone had gone & asked him the name, it is the Andante in F, a Hymn of the Nuns, by Lefébure-Wély⁷⁰. He played it again whilst the vergers kindly blew the organ. I suppose I shall be back on the 22nd or 23rd, I have got my berth ticket for the 13th. You may read the enclosed.

Very much love to you all,

Y^r loving d^{ght}, Ella Brewin

I am very glad Emily's fire was no worse.

⁷⁰ **Lefebure-Wely Andante F-dur (from "Meditaciones religiosas" for organ, op. 122)**. Louis James Alfred Lefébure-Wély (13 November 1817 – 31 December 1869) was a French organist and composer. He played a major role in the development of the French symphonic organ style and was closely associated with the organ builder Aristide Cavaillé-Coll, inaugurating many new Cavaillé-Coll organs. His playing was virtuosic, and as a performer he was rated above eminent contemporaries including César Franck. His compositions, less substantial than those of Franck and others, have not held such a prominent place in the repertory.

June 27rd 1901, Rothesay, N.B.

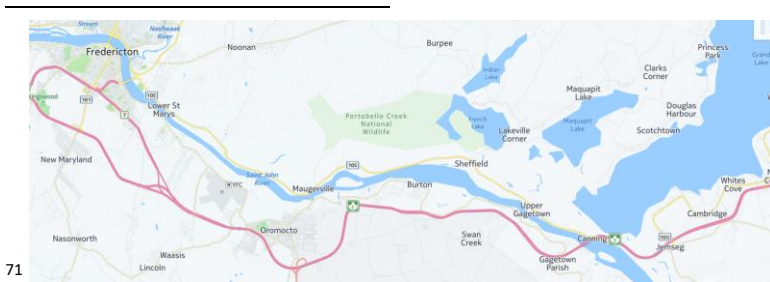
June 27th 1901, Rothesay, N.B.

c/o G. A. Blair Esq
Rothesay N.B.
June 27th 1901

My dearest Mother,

I must begin by wishing you & Father may happy returns of your wedding day, I wonder if you kept it before you went away. It is very curious that neither you or Frank ever mention whereabouts in Derbyshire you are. Amea has to send her letter to Brighton & I home, so I thought Agnes might read it first. It was an unexpected pleasure getting your letter on the 12th, very many thanks for it. I had just posted my letter to you on Monday when we heard that the trains were stopped because of the strike but I think that possibly having N. York on it, it may have gone by another route. I also had a letter from Aunt Florrie. I am so glad Miss Breach is going on well. I think Mr McHardy's fee was most exorbitant, you might just as well go to Tweedie or Crickett (? Spelling) who are acknowledged to be the greatest English oculists are they not? I am sorry you could not manage Peterboro' on your way home. I suppose the 22nd is the earliest I could reach home, & more probably the 24th. The Blairs leave on the same boat on Aug: 1st, & the boat is generally a week at rest.

I have had a lovely time since I last wrote to you. On Monday morning early (24th) I went with Mr Randolph over the Parliament buildings, & on the roof to see the view, then at 10 o'clock we went on the yacht which is a steam one, the Scionda. Mr Thomson is German Consul at St John, & Commodore of the Royal Kennebecasis Yacht Club, so all passing vessels salute which is very interesting. There were on board Mr & Mrs Thomson, she is charming & rather like Mrs Hill, Mabel & Mona Thomson who are rather Alice Clark's style, Mabel, lively & amusing & boy like, she is Mary's chum, & Mona much more gentle & quiet & Amea's friend. Also Nell, May, Amea & myself. There is a Chinese cook, who has £10 a month! Very deaf & can speak very little English, a Japanese man servant who can speak none, a Swedish sailor, a German & American Engineers, & a Canadian Captain, who is of course under the Commodore but takes his hours at the wheel. Mr Thomson's chief object is to make you eat too much & enjoy yourself generally, he is most kind at stopping at pretty places or exploring coves & streams, & in return likes you to laugh at his jokes, which is quite easy. We left Fredericton at 10 a.m. & fired a salute which deafened most of them, but I was prepared. We went down the St John river until we got to Oromocto⁷¹, where we landed & went up a hill to the Church to get a view. It was a very dull cloudy day, with a high wind which was most refreshing after the thundering heat of the two previous days in a wooden house. We landed without any hats, I have scarcely seen one since Sunday. Some women asked us into their gardens to pick flowers. Everyone treats you as an equal in Canada. I suppose it is being educated together & so many being self made men, you shake hands with people over the counter, if you know them or have been to school with them, we returned to the yacht for lunch & then had a cruise in the little launch (gasoline) up the Oromocto river for some miles. It is very pretty, very much like Marlow & Clevedon⁷², tho' there are many more fir trees of different kinds, & abervite⁷³ which grow to the water's edge, but they call so many by different names to us, the maple & silver birch are the most common. We visited an Indian camp near Oromocto, & I went into some of the huts. I bought a little basket a squaw had made. You call them Brother & Sister & they call you by your Christian name if they know it. In one hut we went into the chief room, rather smaller than my bedroom, the floor was just earth, & on it there was a large stove



⁷² **Clevedon** is an Italianate mansion and estate on the Berkshire/Buckinghamshire border. It crowns an outlying ridge of the Chiltern Hills by the hilltop village of Taplow, just 2 miles (3.2 km) from the riverside town of Maidenhead. Set on banks 40 metres (130 ft) above the River Thames, its grounds slope down to the river. The site has been home to an earl, three countesses, two dukes, a Prince of Wales and the Viscounts Astor.

⁷³ "Arborvitae", thuja or cedar

June 27th 1901, Rothesay, N.B.

(as they have in all houses for cooking & heating the whole house with a big pipe), & that was all, an old squaw sat in the middle making a big basket a younger one was swinging a year old baby in a tiny flat canvas hammock slung across the corner, another squaw with a baby crouching on the floor, & 3 other children huddled up close to her, the only other tiny room merely contained a bed covered with a gay but dirty patchwork quilt! They all have long straight black hair, & bright eyes always shown in pictures. It looked a little odd to see one man wearing spectacles. We anchored for the night at the mouth of a river called Washademoak Lake, then started up the St John again directly after breakfast on Tuesday. I forgot to say that we spent the evening singing popular songs, & plantation airs, which must have surprised the inhabitants of the few scattered farm huts away on the hills, as no one ever anchors there I expect. We anchored first at Kingston creek & landed for a walk up the hills, then cruised round the beautiful Belleisle Bay, in & out of the little coves, little in comparison to the size of the Bay (which means where the river flows into the St John, in fact its mouth), but huge in comparison with our own creeks & backwaters. When we got to Grand Bay, or towards the mouth of the St John river, we turned off to the left, Eastwards up the Kennebecasis bay which is 1 to 4 miles wide & 25 miles long, the mouth of the Kennebecasis river, facing right down the Bay toward St John, is the tiny village of Rothesay. The Thomson's house is on the edge of the water & looks straight down the lake, which has high hills at the back, behind which we have seen two lovely sunsets, Mrs Thomson says it is like a huge Lake Windermere. This little house is just divided by a field which is a mass of marguerites, buttercups & clover, from the Thomson's on whose verandah we can go & sit whenever we like. There is a Church here, a chapel, 2 grocers, a good sized Hotel, & several gentlemen's summer cottages. They go into St John every day to business. We all went in yesterday afternoon to do some shopping. I did not really see it, but am going again today, there was a lovely sea breeze & quite cool there. We saw Nell & May off to Fredericton. May will stop there until next week when she & Mrs Blair will fetch us on their way to Murray Bay. Poor Nell had a bad dream & fell out of her high berth on the yacht, onto the steps to climb into it, & bruised & cut herself quite badly. I was so sorry to say "Goodbye" to her. Yesterday evening George Blair took us to see some new tennis courts here, made of mud! & then he had to go to the Hotel where I sat on the verandah, & talked to Dr (Attorney General) & Mrs Pugsley whom I had met at Ottawa, they introduced me to 10 different people there, but as it was perfectly dark I fear I shall not recognise them again, & this is such a gossipy little place. Peggy & Amea say that every word I said will be repeated all round the Hotel so I trust I did not say anything appalling. The little ditches & valleys are perfectly blue with irises & the different ferns are very beautiful. I hope you & Frank will have nice weather & a good time. With much love & every good wish to both you & Father, who are certainly growing younger & more skittish each wedding day.

I am ever

Y^r Loving d^{ght}

Ella Brewin

June 30th 1901, Rothesay, N.B.

June 30th 1901, Rothesay, N.B.

c/o G. A. Blair Esq
Rothesay
New Brunswick
July 30th 1901

My dearest Mother,

The C.P.R. strike gets worse & worse & you must only expect letters when you see them. One train was held up for 10 hours yesterday. I hope the poor travellers enjoyed it as it seems to have been dreadfully hot everywhere, over 100° in the shade at Montreal etc. It has been very hot here & then suddenly sea fog will blow up here from St John & we are shivering from cold! Which however is most refreshing. I hope you are all having a good time & that you are in a pretty comfortable place, or rather will be in a few days. The parishioners will be quite sorry when you both leave.

On Thursday it was very thundery, they had a big storm at Fredericton & other places in New Brunswick, & we could see tremendous flashes of lightening behind the hills. Three friends drove out from St John, to late dinner & it was too warm to move beyond the verandah. Friday was equally hot & oppressive, Peggy, Amea, the two Miss Thomsons & I rowed across the river (or as it is called here The Bay) to a large island which is over a mile across the water to a sandy beach at the foot of the high cliffs, about 200 feet high, then we bathed & most delicious it was in the warm brackish water, we put on remarkably few garments afterwards, as no one lives on this island, lit a fire to boil our coffee, & had a big lunch which was interrupted at intervals by the skirmishes between Peggy's & the Thomson's dogs. We went a little way up one of the cliffs which is composed of large rocks covered with masses of moss & ferns & trees of all kinds. It looked very beautiful & Amea took some snap shots which I hope will be good, they cannot be developed anywhere here. Two of the men came with the launch to fetch us half an hour earlier than they were expected, happily we heard the throbbing of the machinery before they got very near, but it must have been an amusing sight to see how quickly we did up our hair & got into our frocks. In the evening Amea took me out in the Thomson's canoe, which was very nice.

On Saturday morning Mr Thomson was going to take some friends from St John on a yachting trip with him over the 1st July, which is Dominion Day & a public holiday, so he offered to take us as far as St John on the yacht which of course we accepted joyfully & started off at 7.30 a.m. down the Kennebecasis Bay to St John. It was very beautiful, a big sea fog was rolling away & the sun struggling out, I wish I could give you an idea of the huge size of everything. The Bay is 1 to 4 miles wide & 200ft deep, & the Grand Bay where the St John & Kennebecasis rivers meet it is just like the sea. We met Peggy at St John & drove to the Reversible Falls⁷⁴. There is only one other in the world (in Norway). The St John river has to push its way thro' quite a narrow opening between the cliffs into the sea, & falls 15 feet, but when the tide is high in the Bay of Fundy the sea forces its way up to the river falls & reverses the fall, falling several feet into the river the other way. I am afraid I have not explained it very well but I expect you will understand. We drove round & got an idea of the very hilly town, which has sea on 3 sides of it practically. In the afternoon there was a tennis club tea here, on some new mud courts which have been made. On the 5th Sunday in the month there is only an evening Service at this little Church. So in the morning Amea & I who were very sleepy did not wake until 10 o'clock when we had breakfast in bed & finally got up just before 12! There was a very nice Service at 7 o'clock, after which Amea & I went to see the Thomsons. Peggy's Parents & Dr & Mrs Holden drove out from St John to high Tea, & so did 3 young men who are holiday making there over Dominion day, which is today, happily it is fine at present with a high wind so I hope it will last.

With much love

I am ever

Y^r Loving d^{ght}

Ella Brewin

⁷⁴ The **Reversing Falls** are a series of rapids on the Saint John River located in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada, where the river runs through a narrow gorge before emptying into the Bay of Fundy. The semidiurnal tides of the bay force the flow of water to reverse against the prevailing current at this location when the tide is high, although in the spring freshet, this is frequently surpassed by the downstream volume of water. The rapids, or "falls", are created by a series of underwater ledges which roil the water in either direction, causing a significant navigation hazard, despite the depth of water. As a result, vessels wishing to enter or exit from the river must wait for slack tide.

June 30th 1901, Rothesay, N.B.

Mrs Blair, May & Donald come f' Murray Bay. A night journey. I hope it will be fairly cool.

July 4th 1901, Rothesay, N.B.

July 4th 1901, Rothesay, N.B.

c/o A G Blair Esq
Rothesay N.B.
July 4th 1901

My dearest Mother

We received a telegram on Monday saying that Mrs Blair was not so well with her rheumatism & we must postpone going to Murray Bay⁷⁵ for a few days with which arrangement I was extremely pleased, as I am having such a good time here, tho' of course I want to see Murray Bay & the country en route before coming home next week. The C.P.R. strike is still pretty bad, & our letters come & go most irregularly.

I suppose you all started off yesterday & hope you will all enjoy it, & that Frank will get on well in his un-named village.

Dominion Day (1st) was a glorious hot day, real oven heat. Mrs Thompson drove me for about 5 miles farther up the river along a very pretty country road. She took her 14 months grandson too, & he went to sleep on my lap nearly all the way, such a very bright baby. In the afternoon we 4, Mabel Thompson, a Mr Jones & 2 Miss Maclarens, went for a picnic to the Blair's sea house where



⁷⁵ **La Malbaie** is a municipality in the Charlevoix-Est Regional County Municipality in the province of Quebec, Canada, situated on the north shore of the Saint Lawrence River, at the mouth of the Malbaie River. It was formerly known as **Murray Bay**.



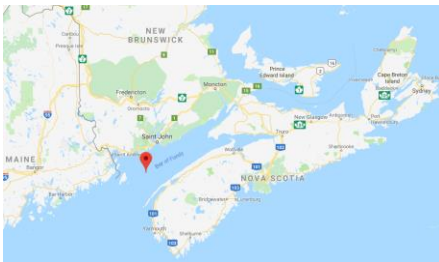
Murray Bay wharf, circa 1912

The development of tourism in this area is said to date back to 1760, when the Scottish feudal lords John Nairne and Malcolm Fraser began receiving visitors to the region at their estates. In 1608, Samuel de Champlain visited the area. He could not find suitable anchorage for his ship in the bay and therefore named it *Malle Baye* (archaic French for "bad/poor bay"), a name further justified when during low tide the bay dried up and his ships ran aground. In 1761, two Scottish officers of the British Army were attracted to the beauty of the place, and they each sought to obtain a concession. John Nairne (1731–1802) received the western shores of the Malbaie River, that he thereafter called the Seignory of Murray Bay that included the settlement of La Malbaie. Malcolm Fraser (1733–1815) was granted the eastern part that became the Seignory of Mount Murray. They also renamed the bay, the settlement, and river after James Murray (1721–1794), British General and successor of Wolfe. Although this name never received official approval, in the 18th and 19th centuries Murray Bay had become the internationally accepted toponym, but La Malbaie remained in local use.

July 4th 1901, Rothesay, N.B.

Frank stayed. We went by train to St John & then drove the 4 miles in a waggonette. It is a lovely Bay on the Bay of Fundy⁷⁶ & you can just see Nova Scotia in the distance. Amea & Mabel tried to bath but found it was too cold. I contented myself with paddling, the water was icy. We made a fire on the beach & had dinner there. After reaching home about 9 o'clock Mabel Thomson took Amea & me out on her canoe, Mona had gone to another picnic. We got very hungry & paddled about in search of friends with food & finally found one canoe full, who still had a little bread, & a sort of veal cake left, which we much enjoyed, & Mabel paid for it with a song. On Tuesday Amea & I had a long walk to some very pretty little waterfalls, rather like a natural Virginia Water. 3 dead trees had fallen right across it near the top & the banks were a mess of ferns & moss. At 7.30 p.m. Mr Thomson gave us a moonlight trip on the Scionda⁷⁷ which was simply beautiful, we went about 17 miles down the Kennebecasis Bay & into the St John river on the way to Fredericton. There were 35 of us, mostly elderly people, but we were all very lively. It was windy & rather cloudy, but the moon was full & looked lovely. We got home at 11.30 p.m.

Yesterday (Wednesday) we 3 went shopping to St John in the morning, & in the afternoon Mr Thomson gave another trip on the Scionda. Mr Thomson had unfortunately lost his voice & could not come, so we were all ladies, 20 of us, no one the same as the previous night. It was tremendously windy, but bright sunshine, we went farther than the previous day & went round one of the islands. As usual I had to tell several fortunes by palmistry & made one or two such marvellous divulgements that my reputation as a palmist is spreading far & wide. There was one old Canadian lady on board a Mrs Ormonde & her sister a Miss Robertson who lives in Kensington & has asked me to go & see her. Mrs Ormonde fell in love with me on the spot because I said her voice was so English, which is the greatest compliment you can pay a Canadian. She insisted on my going to her beautiful little house in the



76

The **Bay of Fundy** (French: *Baie de Fundy*) is a bay on the Atlantic coast of North America, on the northeast end of the Gulf of Maine between the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, with a small portion touching the U.S. state of Maine. Some sources believe the name "Fundy" is a corruption of the French word "Fendu", meaning "split", while others believe it comes from the Portuguese *funda*, meaning "deep". The bay was also named **Baie Française** (French Bay) by explorer/cartographer Samuel de Champlain during a 1604 expedition led by Pierre Dugua, Sieur de Monts which resulted in a failed settlement attempt on St. Croix Island. The Bay of Fundy is known for having the highest tidal range in the world. Rivalled by Ungava Bay in northern Quebec, King Sound in Western Australia, Gulf of Khambhat in India, and the Severn Estuary in the UK, it has one of the highest vertical tidal ranges in the world. The Guinness Book of World Records (1975) declared that Burntcoat Head, Nova Scotia has the highest tides in the world: *"The Natural World, Greatest Tides: The greatest tides in the world occur in the Bay of Fundy.... Burntcoat Head in the Minas Basin, Nova Scotia, has the greatest mean spring range with 14.5 metres (47.5 feet) and an extreme range of 16.3 metres (53.5 feet)."* Portions of the Bay of Fundy, Shepody Bay and Minas Basin, form one of six Canadian sites in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, and is classified as a *Hemispheric* site. It is administered by the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and the Canadian Wildlife Service, and is managed in conjunction with Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada.



77

Commodore Thomson's Steam Yacht "Scionda" on the Saint John River, New Brunswick, 16 September 1902.

July 4th 1901, Rothesay, N.B.

evening to see the sunset across the Kennebecasis. Her funny old husband took me up on the roof to see it better & there by accident we got locked out! However by much shouting & (as he said) tearing out all the hair the wind had left us, we were rescued. We spent the rest of the evening at the Thomson's. They are all so very kind, Mrs Thomson is charming. Mona is Amea's friend & Mabel, Mary's, so as Mary has not been here I have been more thrown with Mabel, I wish we had a few more girls like them at home. Str. Hill⁷⁸ lacks girls or perhaps I should say unmarried women. I shall be very very sorry to say "Goodbye" to them all. George Blair went off in a private Pullman car at 6 o'clock this morning to Fredericton to fetch Mrs Blair, she will spend the afternoon here & we all start off about 8 p.m. to Rivière du Loup⁷⁹ on the St Laurence & take a steamer to Murray Bay which is north of St Paul's Bay, which is marked on most maps, not very far from Quebec where I join "the Australasian" on 13th.

Very much love to you all from,

Y^r loving d^{ght}, Ella Brewin

⁷⁸ **Strawberry Hill** is an affluent area of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames in Twickenham. It is a suburban development situated 10.4 miles (16.7 km) west south-west of Charing Cross. It consists of a number of residential roads centred on a small development of shops and served by Strawberry Hill railway station. The nineteenth-century development is named after "Strawberry Hill", the fanciful Gothic Revival villa designed by author Horace Walpole between 1749 and 1776. It began as a small 17th century house "little more than a cottage", with only 5 acres (20,000 m²) of land and ended up as a "little Gothic castle" in 46 acres (190,000 m²). The original owner had named the house "Chopped Straw Hall", but Walpole wanted it to be called something more distinctive and after finding an old lease that described his land as "Strawberry Hill Shot", he adopted this name.

⁷⁹ **Rivière-du-Loup** (2011 population 19,447) is a small city on the south shore of the Saint Lawrence River in Quebec. The city is the seat for the Rivière-du-Loup Regional County Municipality and the judicial district of Kamouraska. The city was named after the nearby river, whose name means *Wolf's River* in French. This name may have come from a native tribe known as "Les Loups" or from the many seals, known in French as *loup-marin* (sea wolves), once found at the river's mouth. Rivière-du-Loup was originally established in 1673 as the seigneurie of Sieur Charles-Aubert de la Chesnaye. The community was incorporated as the village of **Fraserville**, in honour of early English settler Alexandre Fraser, in 1850, and became a city in 1910. The city reverted to its original name, Rivière-du-Loup, in 1919. Between 1850 and 1919, the city saw large increases in its anglophone population. Most of them left the region by the 1950s. 1% of the population still speaks English as its first language. The city is known for its spectacular sunsets.

July 7th 1901, Chamard's Hotel, Lorne House, Murray Bay

July 7th 1901, Chamard's Hotel, Lorne House, Murray Bay

c/o Charmard
Lorne House⁸⁰

P. 2.

July 7th 1901

My dearest Mother

Funny old Monsieur Charmard says this is the official address, so I put it, but the one I gave you previously, Chamard's Hotel, Murray Bay, does just as well. I have no letter from you since the one written on June 12th. It is all the C.P.R. strike I suppose, but it makes my plans very unsettled as Mrs Thomson is most anxious for me to spend a fortnight with them before I return home. I had to come with Mrs Blair to Murray Bay as I did not know if I could change my boat but I have been to the Allan offices & they say I can change to any time I like, & as I should enjoy nothing more than a visit to the Thomsons & it seems a pity not to see as much as possible whilst I have the chance, I am merely waiting to hear if you have made any plans or if there is any reason why I should return this week. So long ere this you may have had a cable from me, or else you will be seeing me a few days after you receive this letter.

I am glad to hear you saw Bessie & Audrey, the latter wrote that they liked you very much & she did not find Agnes at all difficult to talk to! On Thursday morning (4th) Mabel Thomson took Amea & me out in her canoe, & in the afternoon Mrs Blair, Mary, Marjorie & Donald came from Fredericton to pick us up. We left Rothesay at 8.30. I was dreadfully sorry to leave the Thomsons they have all been so kind. Mary said you reminded her of Mrs Thomson & Mrs Thomson had reminded me of you & when I tell you she is perfectly charming that does not half express what we think of her. She was a Scotch Minister's daughter who had an appointment in Canada when she was quite young, Mona is like her, very gentle & conscientious.

We had a private Pullman so we travelled very comfortably happily as when we got to Moncton about 80 miles away near the East coast we heard that the train which was to take us on had run off the line & in Moncton station we waited 6 hours!! It was the Intercolonial Railway (I.C.R.) Mr Blair's own special line, & owing to the strike on the C.P.R. they were particularly anxious that all should go well.

I think it probably enabled us all to sleep better, & then we had daylight for the very beautiful Metapedia valley⁸¹. Mary & I sat on a little platform at the end of the train. The Metapedia is a very clear, shallow, salmon river, & it flows for about 60 miles by the railway, on each side of it are lovely wooded hills & mountains, & the banks are covered with ferns. We were to have crossed from Rivière-du-Loup on the S. of the St Laurence to Murray Bay, but we received a telephone on the train saying no boat was going this week. We passed Rimouski (where we unshipped our mails from the Corinthian) & I was pleased to see the St Laurence from the banks. We decided to go on to Quebec, or rather Lévis which is opposite to it, & take the Quebec boat on the next (Saturday) morning. The Pullman was left in Lévis station yard & there we slept. We ferried across to Quebec & went up the steep town again, onto the big Dufferin Terrace on the top, where the band was playing & crowds of people were promenading. The next day we went on board the Murray Bay boat at 7.30 a.m., but she did not start until 11.30, as the Montreal boat was late. Then unfortunately it began to rain, there was a fog & it was really quite rough. Happily she was a big boat with any amount of accommodation. Mrs Blair



80

Chamard's Lorne House, Murray Bay, Quebec, C.B.

46.65

Chamard's Lorne House

⁸¹ The Matapedia Valley was formed by the Chic-Choc Mountains of eastern Québec. Its name is derived from the river that traverses the valley, as well as the lake that lies in its center.

July 7th 1901, Chamard's Hotel, Lorne House, Murray Bay

had a cabin into which Marjorie & Donald retired when they felt ill. We reached Point à Pie about 5 o'clock, which is actually on the St Laurence, then we drove about 2 miles to the bay or mouth of the Murray river. It is really Malle Baie⁸² on account of "the tide that runs there marvellously". So we were 48 hours travelling a distance which usually takes 12, & Mrs Blair of course had even more than Amea & I had. Her rheumatism is just in her knees & sometimes she can scarcely move, but she is better now, only I don't know how she will ever get about here. The hotel & all its surroundings were begun on April 1st of course all wooden & they are still building hard. One lady told us they began her hut yesterday morning, & she was supposed to move into it in the evening! The hotel holds about 70 I should think, & stands near the foot of a high hill looking N.E. across Murray Bay & the huge St Laurence (I have not seen land the other side yet), then the little wooden houses, about 10 of them, are scattered near, we are very high up the hill looking right over the roof of the hotel. There is a single road very steep, up to us & 2 other houses level with us, & also a long long flight of steps with seats at intervals. Mrs Blair has to have all her meals brought up here & our tea, hot water, oil lamps etc. are all brought up by the French servant girls at the hotel, who speak habitant French, which is very difficult to understand, my school French stands me in much better stead than Mary's Parisian & we have to do our best for the rest of the family, no one except the visitors can speak any English scarcely in this place. A lady had been asking for some days for pommes de terre & could not get them, & seeing a carter pass with some she asked what they were, & he said "Potate", which shows you the kind of French. The servant says Mache, Mache, when the dog comes into the room, turning the French à into the English "a". The little English Church is not open yet, as the clergyman who comes there has hurt his knee, but I went to another little Church where they have an English Service in the morning & Presbyterian in the evening. I am not surprised you liked Mary, I like her extremely, she is very happy just now as Mr Walter Clarke comes on Tuesday for a visit. I find Nell & Amea both told their fiancés they had made a mistake in not choosing Mary! It is quite cold here, we get plunged into sudden changes. We have a log fire burning all the time.

Hoping you are all having very nice holidays

I am ever dearest Mother

Your very loving d^{ght},

Ella Brewin

⁸² La Malbaie is a municipality in the Charlevoix-Est Regional County Municipality in the province of Quebec, Canada, situated on the north shore of the Saint Lawrence River, at the mouth of the Malbaie River. It was formerly known as Murray Bay.

July 8th 1901, Chamard's Hotel, Lorne House, Murray Bay

July 8th 1901, Murray Bay

Lorne House
Murray Bay
July 8th 1901

My dearest Mother

It was most delightful to receive 7 letters today, by steamer & overland. Two from you & one from Agnes, also one from dear Mrs Rogers, please thank her very much & say how much I appreciated it. You said the Isaacs were coming on the 6th so you will have received my cable saying I have postponed my return from the 13th to the 27th. I had to pay £4 extra on my return ticket on the Australasian so I can come with the same value ticket on the Tunisian, which is much their⁸³ largest boat. I am very sorry not to see Mr Blair & the girls, & also to be away for Agnes' 21st but they all said here that it was such a very great mistake whilst I was in Canada, not to stay as long as possible, as I may never come again, that I thought you & Father would probably agree, & I know of nothing at the present moment which would give me more pleasure than staying with the Thomsons. They want me to go immediately but there is some chance of our going up the Saguenay⁸⁴ river in Canada, so I am just waiting to make sure. My address after the 14th will be c/o Robert Thomson Esq, Rothesay, N.B. but of course that would only be for a cable. Eva Parker has sent me the address of her sisters in Quebec, & at Rivière du Loup at both of which places I may have to stay a night. Going home from Murray Bay would have meant 2 nights alone in Quebec, as the boats from here are so uncertain, now I hope I shall manage straight through. I was very interested to hear about Addie. I cannot see much likeness between Constance Randolph & Anea. Miss Con (as she calls herself) is just like what Kathleen Bovet was, only speechless.

July 10th

Many thanks for another letter yesterday, 3 from you in 2 days, & one still missing somewhere. I am so glad George & also Julius are having such good holidays & I hope the rest of the family will follow suit. Mrs Rogers thinks that the lakes & rivers must be too



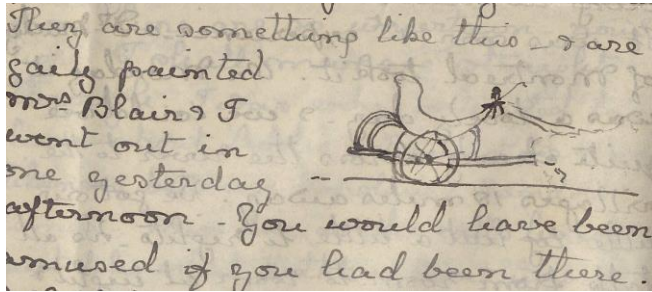
83

The Allan Line was founded in 1854 as the "Montreal Ocean Steamship Company". The company was later known as the Allan Line after one of its founders, Hugh Allan. In 1891 the company absorbed the State Line (founded 1872). After this the company was often referred to as the Allan & State Line.

⁸⁴ The **Saguenay River** (French: *Rivière Saguenay*) is a major river of Quebec, Canada. It drains Lac Saint-Jean in the Laurentian Highlands, leaving at Alma and running east; the city of Saguenay is located on the river. It drains into the Saint Lawrence River. Tadoussac, founded as a French colonial trading post in 1600, is located on the northwest bank at this site. The river has a very high flow-rate and is bordered by steep cliffs associated with the Saguenay Graben. Tide waters flow in its fjord upriver as far as Chicoutimi (about 100 kilometres). Many Beluga whales breed in the cold waters at its mouth, making Tadoussac a popular site for whale watching and sea kayaking; Greenland sharks also frequent the depths of the river. The area of the confluence of the Saguenay and Saint Lawrence is protected by the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park, one of Canada's national parks. The Saguenay River was used as an important trade route into the interior for the First Nations people of the area. During the French colonization of the Americas, the river became a major route for the fur trade. The French established Tadoussac, France's first trading post in Canada, in 1600. They named the river for the legendary Kingdom of Saguenay. It is the namesake of Saguenay Herald at the Canadian Heraldic Authority. Beginning in the 19th century, the river was exploited for transport and power by the logging and pulp and paper industries.

July 8th 1901, Chamard's Hotel, Lorne House, Murray Bay

large for beauty, but they are not really as everything around is large in comparison. The hills here which look quite low until you try to climb them are from 1 to 2,000 ft & they give the same wooded effects to these rivers, that Richmond Hill does to the Thames. On Sunday evening I went to the Presbyterian Service, there being no other, & I liked it very much. It was my 1st experience, a Dr. Mackey of Montreal took it. On Monday it was a lovely day, & we could see quite clearly across the river to the villages 18 miles away. We got our little log hut a little to rights. We all talk from room to room at night & when we wake in the mornings. The boards are so wide in some places that I can see into the rooms next to & below my own, & it is very odd at night to hear the different breathings & people talking in their sleep. Mrs Blair has one bedroom downstairs, & Mary's fiancé Walter Clarke (who arrived yesterday) the other. He is just like a good looking Janet Carlile, most absurdly like her. The people drive here in 2 wheeled carriages called "calèche"⁸⁵. They are swung like baby carriages on big springs, for 2 people, & very high, the driver sits on a bar in front & sways to keep the balance. The hills are awful but the horses climb up & down like goats, & going round corners you have to hang on like grim death.



They are something like this, & are gaily painted. Mrs Blair & I went out in one yesterday afternoon. You would have been amused if you had been there. Mrs Blair can speak no French at all but she speaks English to the shop people & drivers etc in a slow impressive manner, without stopping, they do not understand one single word. So while she runs on I do my best & generally get what I want after a time. Men loaf about in these little country stores, as they would in a public house, & tho' I am sure they must be screaming with laughter inwardly, they are much too polite to even smile unless I begin. This morning we all went down to the wharf to receive the entire Minto family who are en tour & were stopping here for a few hours. Their Excellences & the 5 children each had a companion provided for them & were sent for a drive in calèches round Murray bay & across the river, to call at 2 old manor houses. Amea had to go in the procession with one of the Aides (Mary refused as Walter Clarke was here), on their return Mary & I stopped them to ask if they would come up to this hotel to sign their names, as Princess Louise had done so some years ago in Charmards old hotel. They said it was quite worth coming up the hill to see Monsieur Charmard⁸⁶, an old French man, enormously stout with long curly black hair standing out all round. They both signed,



85

⁸⁶ Refer to "Charlevoix: Two Centuries at Murray Bay" Philippe Dubé, Jacques Blouin McGill-Queen's Press - MQUP, 1 Jul 1990
- History - 271 pages

July 8th 1901, Chamard's Hotel, Lorne House, Murray Bay

& Lord Melgund⁸⁷. When the baby boy about Percival George's size landed, Madame Leverne (?) whose calèche companion he was to be said "Esmond tell Miss Brewin how you love her", so he immediately dropped on one knee on the dirty wharf in front of me, & with his hand on his heart said a little French piece beginning "Je vous aime". This afternoon there was a reception at Point à Pie, Mrs Blair was happily able to help receive & entertain the many American guests who had been invited. It was exceedingly amusing to hear their remarks & their excitement beforehand. They came to ask us how to curtsy, how to address them etc etc. One girl said to his Ex. in her New York twang "I'm very pleased to meet you, but I don't know how to do the bob"! & she didn't try. I have never seen so many tall women before, it was extraordinary several over 6ft & one woman 6ft 1 1/2 in. We have one French maid to wait on us, & another to keep the house tidy, they are rather a trial on the whole as they know no English at all. The boat is just coming for the mail so I must stop, 80 steps & 3 slanting platforms to the Hotel to post it, then up & down again in an hour for dinner! Over 50 steps more to the road.

Very much love & I do hope you will be satisfied with my plans

Your very d^{ght},

Ella Brewin



75 Chamard's *Lorne House* (1878–98)

Though it wasn't smart looking, this hotel was the busiest one in *Murray Bay*. With a touch of humour, it was said the partitions between the rooms were so thin one could hear one's neighbours changing their minds! But William Chamard's legendary good nature made guests forget such shortcomings. Seen here posing proudly in the doorway is the corpulent proprietor, whom guests liked to address as Uncle Bill.

⁸⁷ Lord Minto's earlier title was Lord Melgund.

July 12th 1901, Chamard's Hotel, Lorne House, Murray Bay

July 12th 1901, Murray Bay

Lorne House

P.2.

July 12th 1901

My dearest Mother

I do not know where or how this letter will be posted even if it is ever written, as tomorrow (Saturday) about 2 o'clock, Mary, Amea, Mr Clarke & I start on the boat by which we came here from Quebec, for our expedition up the Saguenay of which I shall have to give you a full account later. They drop me at Rivière du Loup (3 hours by boat from here) & from there I go to Rothesay again. It will be very sad saying "Goodbye", especially as I don't know if we shall ever all meet again. Yesterday morning we climbed some of the hills at the back of the house in search of fern roots, but it was not a satisfactory hunt, the ground is too rocky. However we got several tiny spruces which look very nice in bark boxes on the verandah. In the afternoon Amea & I had a lovely drive with Mrs Blair thro' Murray Bay Village across the river & along its banks for several miles, recrossing it & returning this side. It was very beautiful, the farther in land you go the more mountain peaks you can see, & the higher you ascend the more you realise their height. In the evening there was a glorious display of the Northern Lights. They were simply wonderful, chasing each other in an arch right across the sky. On Thursday we saw an almost circular rainbow owing to its reflection on the sea, & it was all double. That evening I had also another fresh experience. We were playing Ping Pong with the doors open, when there was the most awful smell you can possibly imagine & we all fled from the room shutting the doors first, & Mrs Blair said it was a skunk! It was probably passing the house & hearing the noise from within got frightened & emitted the awful smell which is its only protection from enemies. I never wish to smell it again, tho' I am pleased to have had a distant experience of it.

I have received my Tunisian ticket, I hear Eva Parker is going back on her. By returning to Rothesay I shall probably save staying at Quebec. If I had gone from here I should have to have stayed there 2 nights as the boats only go when fine, so I should not have to run the risk of starting one day before. The only place I could have gone to, the Frontenac⁸⁸, is very expensive, so I rather score.

July 14th



88

An early postcard of the hotel, circa 1910, before later expansions and the construction of the central tower.

The **Château Frontenac** is a grand hotel in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada, which is operated as **Fairmont Le Château Frontenac**. Château Frontenac is situated at an elevation of 54 m (177 ft). It was designated a National Historic Site of Canada in 1980. Prior to the building of the hotel, the site was occupied by the Château Haldimand, residence of the British colonial governors of Lower Canada and Quebec. The hotel is generally recognized as the most photographed hotel in the world, largely for its prominence in the skyline of Quebec City. The Château Frontenac was designed by American architect Bruce Price, as one of a series of "château" style hotels built for the Canadian Pacific Railway company (CPR) during the late 19th and early 20th centuries; the newer portions of the hotel—including the central tower (1924)—were designed by Canadian architect William Sutherland Maxwell. CPR's policy was to promote luxury tourism by appealing to wealthy travellers. The Château Frontenac opened in 1893, six years after the Banff Springs Hotel, which was owned by the same company and is similar in style. Another reason for the construction of the Château Frontenac was to accommodate tourists for the 1893 Chicago World's Fair; however, the hotel was not finished in time. The Château Frontenac was named after Louis de Buade, Count of Frontenac, who was governor of the colony of New France from 1672 to 1682 and 1689 to 1698. The Château was built near the historic Citadelle, the construction of which Frontenac had begun at the end of the 17th century.

July 12th 1901, Chamard's Hotel, Lorne House, Murray Bay

Unfortunately Mrs Blair's rheumatism was worse yesterday, & as today has been exceedingly hot & oppressive Mary & Amea decided not to leave her. We therefore start tomorrow afternoon (Sunday) instead, to go up the Saguenay it takes until about 5 the following day at Rivière du Loup, where they will drop me & return here.

Very many thanks for yours & Agnes' notes & p.c. I hope you had a comfortable journey & that you are all enjoying yourselves. I am glad you kept such a festive wedding day. Tonight I shall look at the distant lights of the Australasian steaming down the river. For many reasons I shall not regret not being in her. The heat today is extraordinary for this place where they have fires all the year round. It is 110 in Chicago! I have not been beyond the hotel for 2 whole days! I am very sorry for Emily & I hope she will soon be better. Insects of all sorts & kinds are dropping on me.

Goodbye, very much love from

Your very d^{ght},

Ella Brewin

July 18th 1901, Rothesay, N.B.

July 18th 1901, Rothesay, N.B.

c/o R. Thomson Esq
Rothesay, N.B.
July 18th 1901

My dearest Mother,

Here I am back at Rothesay again, & very very nice it is to be here, so I hope you & Father do not object. The Allans tell me I can go by the mail train from here to Rimouski, which will mean a day longer here, & I save the journey on to Quebec (& the hotel bill there.) They are bound to wait for the mails & I suppose I shall have to swarm up the side with the whole population of the boat jeering at me, but n'importe!

On Sunday morning we went to hear the great Dr Rainsford⁸⁹ of New York preach at the Murray Bay Church, which was packed. He is an enormously big good looking man & preaches in the modern talkative style. It was chiefly about not judging how the world was improving simply by organisations, even if some Society fail entirely it does not show that people are growing indifferent. In fact tho' greatly condemning the Christian Scientists he thought we needed more of their principles. He was very amusing in his theory of Church going, he said "you hate your Church, you hate the style of Service, you hate your clergyman, but you know it is your duty to go". He is evidently not so clever as Mr Boyd, & rather disjointed. He has been having a warfare with the papers because in New York he would not retract the expression given from the pulpit that certain ideas were "damned rot"!

At 2 o'clock I said Goodbye to Mrs Blair & Mary, Amea, Mr Clarke & I started off in the Steamer for our trip up the Saguenay. Mr Blair could get us a free passage, so we only had meals etc to pay for which was very nice. The heat was simply terrible, the hottest Murray Bay or the Saguenay has ever known. So I have experienced the wettest Spring & the hottest summer Canada (or rather eastern Canada) has ever had. We had to call at 2 or 3 places on the way & right across the St Laurence to Rivière du Loup for one



⁸⁹ **William Stephen Rainsford** (October 30, 1850 – December 17, 1933) was the rector of St. George's Church in Stuyvesant Square in New York from 1882 to 1906. He was born in Dublin to Marcus Rainsford, who was a chaplain in a hospital for the blind. He attended Cambridge University. He spent time in the south of France, suspending his studies for health reasons. When he left France he led a group of 800 people emigrating from the London slums to western Canada. He became a curate at the Parish of St. Giles in Norwich in England, and after four years accepted an offer to preach in New York for four months. In 1878 he took a position at St. James's Cathedral in Toronto. In May 1882, the vestry of St. George's Church, which included J. Pierpont Morgan, offered the post of rector to Rainsford; several members of the vestry had heard Rainsford preach when he was in New York. The church was under some stress, because of changes in the local population and a substantial debt of \$35,000. After some negotiations he accepted. Rainsford is reported to have said that after a month of his sermons seven of the fourteen families still attending the church had left, but after that point the church's membership grew. He married Emily Alma Green in London in 1878, and they had three sons: Lawrence, Ralph Stewart, and Kerr. His wife died in 1923, and he remarried, to Harriette Rogers.

July 18th 1901, Rothesay, N.B.

where my baggage was deposited, then across again to Tadoussac⁹⁰ at the mouth of the Saguenay. I am sure the river must be very like one in Norway, it is not wide, only 1/2 to 2 1/2 miles all the way, it is nearly 1,000 ft deep, the water quite black, & huge cliffs straight down into the water. You cannot realise their height or size a bit, we went quite close to the highest cliff (1700 feet) & felt as if we could touch it, & yet Amea who is a splendid thrower could not reach it with a stone, that one was just a sheer rock, & on the top we heard there is a lovely lake, & good salmon fishing! The sun set behind these various cliffs & mountains just in front of us as we steamed up, you can imagine how lovely it was & how impressive. An American gentleman on board (quite elderly) took a fancy to me but I hoped he would leave me alone in the evening, but when Amea & I were lying enjoying it all in the bows when it was quite dark, I heard a twang in my ears “& How do you compare the English & Canadian cooking? I do not care myself for the Parisian”!!

The Saguenay is said to be the coldest river in S. Canada, so we had to put on our warmest things & had innumerable capes & rugs etc & we simply gasped for air. Mary & I did not go to bed until 1 o'clock & at 2.30 we had to be up again to catch a glimpse of Chicoutimi⁹¹ our farthest point, we steamed slowly back to Ha Ha Bay⁹² where at 3 o'clock we went for a walk, at least Mary & Mr Clarke did. Amea & I could hardly move with the heat so we struggled to an R.C. Church which was fairly cool. The pigs of people had spittoons in every pew! We got back to Tadoussac⁹³ about 12 & went to see the little Chapel of the Jesuit Mission one of the



Tadoussac, 1900. **Tadoussac** is a village in Quebec, Canada, at the confluence of the Saguenay and Saint Lawrence rivers. Established at an Innu settlement, it was France's first trading post on the mainland of New France. By the 17th century it became an important trading post and was the oldest continuously inhabited European settlement in Canada, and the oldest surviving French settlement in the Americas.

⁹¹ What was ultimately to become the centre of the borough of **Chicoutimi** was first settled in 1676 as a French trading post in the fur trade. At that time, the Saguenay and the Chicoutimi rivers had been used for centuries by the Montagnais tribes (Innu). The name *Chicoutimi* means *the end of the deep water* in the Montagnais language. Chicoutimi trading post was in operation until 1782. The city of Chicoutimi was officially incorporated as a municipality in 1845 by Peter McLeod, a Métis timber contractor, who had built a sawmill there in 1842. It was designated in 1855 as the seat of Chicoutimi County and in 1878 as the seat of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Chicoutimi. With the arrival of the Canadian National Railway in 1893, the local pulp and paper industries expanded, particularly in mechanical pulp production. The Chicoutimi Pulp Co. was founded in 1896 and backed by French-Canadian investors. By 1910 the Chicoutimi Pulp Mill became the biggest producer of mechanical pulp in Canada.

⁹² La Baie, Quebec is one of three boroughs in the city of Saguenay, Quebec, Canada. It was created during Quebec's municipal reorganization in 2002. From 1976 to 2001, it was known as the Town of La Baie, a municipality composed of the Grande-Baie, Bagotville, and Port-Alfred sectors. It is located on the bank of the **Ha! Ha! Bay** at the mouths of the Ha! Ha! River and the Mars River. La Baie was the first colony built in the Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean region. It was founded by the Société des Vingt et un who settled the area in 1838. The depth of the banks of the Ha! Ha! Bay's waterways facilitated the rapid development of the region's largest harbour facilities after the railways were built in 1910.

⁹³ Jean de Quen (May, c. 1603 at Amiens, France – 8 October 1659 in Quebec) was a French Jesuit missionary, priest and historian who discovered Lac Saint-Jean. As head of Jesuit missions of New France, he founded the missions to Saguenay. Jean de Quen was the first European to see Lake Piékouagami (Lake Saint-Jean). In the spring of 1642 Jean de Quen was entrusted with the Montagnais mission, with which he concerned himself for 11 years. This mission had been founded the preceding year at Tadoussac, where between spring and the end of August the fur trade brought Indians from all parts of the vast territory of the Saguenay. Father de Quen was highly esteemed by the Montagnais; with the aid of Fathers Jacques Buteux, Gabriel Druillettes, Martin de Lyonne, and Charles Albanel, he created a form of summer mission suited to the existence of these nomadic peoples,

July 18th 1901, Rothesay, N.B.

oldest Church sites in Canada. We had a nice little breeze crossing the St Laurence to Rivière du Loup where with much sorrow I said Goodbye to the others & was left forlorn on the wharf with 4 hours to spend before my train left. I found it was too far to go & see Eva's sister Mrs Meredith, tho' I saw her son who has a curious likeness to Eva. A Miss White from Ottawa very kindly took me back to her country cottage, gave me dinner with her younger brothers & sisters & then drove the 5 miles with me to the Station & saw me into my sleeping car. She is such a nice looking girl. For 2 years she has been the Ottawa May Queen, the Ruskin kind⁹⁴. She is given several of his works & is elected by other girls.

I was most fortunate in having a cool night & in just escaping the terrific thunder storms which seem to have been everywhere else & which I could see in the distance. It began to get hot again about 9 & was as bad as ever when I arrived at Rothesay, they have never had anything like it here, tho' it was only 97° in the shade. We spent the rest of the day (Mabel & I) in the canoe, & in the evening went some way down the Kennebecasis to fetch Mrs Thomson home from a dinner party, Mona & her friend Miss Warner in the boat. Lightening was playing in every direction except over our heads & I woke with mighty jumps at intervals during the night. I do not sleep more than about 5 hours here, I hope it will continue at home. It is partly want of exercise & heat I expect, but I am very flourishing & like mahogany, quite a nice rich sort, not red, so it is not too frightful.

Yesterday Mabel, Mona, Miss Warner & Miss Davidson (a young hospital Nurse) & I sailed across the Kennebecasis for a picnic on the sandy cove where I went before. One of the cords broke & Mona had to hold up the sail to get us across then one of the dogs jumped into the water too far from land & we had to tack & save him, then we found we had no milk for our coffee, so we had plenty of interests. Mabel is just as good as a man, she can manage any sort of craft, saves drowning people, is always sent for in accidents, can ride & drive anything & is splendid at golf, so one feels perfectly safe with her always, & Mona is really just as good but diffident. There was grand excitement yesterday over the arrival of two fine new horses which had belonged to old Mr Allan (Lines) who has just died. They were anxious to send them away from Montreal as the family could not bear to see them driven by people there.

I must stop now, my numerous interruptions will have rather spoilt the sense of my letter I fear.

With very much love & hoping you have all much enjoyed your holiday,

I am dearest Mother

Yr loving d^{ght},

Ella Brewin

Mr Thomson has gone in the Scionda for a week's cruise with the Yachting Club

and made a success of it. He formed a solid nucleus of Christians who helped him to reach the most distant groups. It was at **Tadoussac** that the first stone church in Canada was constructed, in 1646.

⁹⁴ The May Court Club of Ottawa has a proud history dating back to a sunny day on April 30, 1898, when Lady Aberdeen, wife of the Governor General, summoned 100 young ladies, daughters of the leading families of Ottawa, to a garden party at Rideau Hall. She appointed Ethel Hamilton, daughter of the Anglican Archbishop of Ottawa, as "**May Queen**" with seventeen councillors, and, in her speech, Lady Aberdeen told them that "... the solutions to all life's difficulties ... can be put in one word – SERVICE". Over the last many years the May Court Club of Ottawa has endeavoured to remain true to Lady Aberdeen's vision, giving service, willingly and liberally, and financial support whenever it was possible.

July 21st 1901, Rothesay, N.B.

July 21st 1901, Rothesay, N.B.

Rothesay
July 21st 1901

My dearest Mother,

I am having a simply lovely time here. But as Mabel comes in every few minutes to see if I have finished writing & stays for a little conversation I expect this letter will be short & disjointed. Mrs Thomson is a lady exactly after your own heart the more I see of her the more I like her. She has 3 meetings next week, District Nurse! Charity Organisation & a Parochial One. On Tuesday I went to lunch with Peggy, her house always has a soporific effect on me. I told I must go & have a snooze, & I slept 3 hours! Which was not very polite, especially as another girl was lunching there also. The chief interest the last few days has been in the two new horses, they go remarkably well & are not at all lively considering their long journey from Montreal. Every evening after High Tea Mabel takes me out in the canoe, & as the evenings have been very fine it is very nice, we intend to go right across one clear night, but there has always been a little wind or some distant clouds which might mean a sudden squall for which the Kennebecasis Bay is famous.

Yesterday morning we drove the 9 miles into St John, & on our return Mable, Mona & I went to lunch with a Mrs Turnbull in a delightful wooden house farther down the Bay. She is a sister of the Miss Davidson who came for the picnic with us, she, Miss Davidson, is a hospital nurse where Father Powell will have to visit regularly! I am going to show her his photograph which I have just received from the Dutch girl, Miss Saarloos. In the afternoon Mabel & I went for a sail. Mr Thomson returns on "the Scionda" tonight probably from Fredericton. The Yacht Squadron have had 2 storms & one calm when the Scionda had to tow 18 of them!

I have heard from Amea that Mrs Blair is better in spite of the dreadful heat at Murray Bay. It is much cooler here now. The coachman told me (with much pride as he knew I had received an English letter) that the heat had not been nearly so great with you. I am afraid you will find me dreadfully disagreeable when I return as I am being thoroughly spoilt all round, it will be very nice seeing you all again. Mabel is reading my diary by force so I must stop.

Very much love from

Y^r loving d^{ght},

Ella Brewin

July 24th 1901, Rothesay, N.B.

July 24th 1901, Rothesay, N.B.

Rothesay
July 24th 1901

My dearest Mother,

I suppose this is the last letter I shall send you from Canada though I think if I am able I ought to write you one during my voyage home to tell you about my fellow travellers. I shall be very very sorry to leave Canada as there seems to be so little chance of my ever returning. I must say (as in England) I like the country places much better than the towns, as it happens also I have met much nicer people in them. I suppose because the nicest ones have country houses. People have been most polite in coming to call on me. I think we ought to do so more at home in that way.

On Sunday evening Mr Thomson returned from his cruise with the yachts to Fredericton. On Monday morning we all went into St John, the girls to golf & Mrs Thomson took me to see the Institute of 'King's Daughters'⁹⁵ which I shall have to tell you about, then to see the G.F.S. President Mrs Walker with whom I had a long talk, & finally to the Thomson's own house. It is not very large, not much larger than the Bilbrough's but really perfect in every way, they have been in it (built it) about 12 years, & it is far the nicest house I have seen. Father would envy some of the pictures, & above the best ones they have a shaded electric reflector to show them off to their best advantage. We returned here to lunch, took the canoe & went for a bathe, it was very hot & the water was lovely, it is slightly brackish. In the evening Mabel paddled me right across to the opposite shore all along under the cliffs & round an island nearly 2 miles off, in one place we stuck on a sand bank near the island & Mabel had to get out & wade before we could get off, another time we struck a rock but did not spring a leak. The moon is lovely just now & the evenings are fairly cool. On Tuesday Mabel & I went by a steam boat up the river to Hampton, it is a very pretty trip, you have to wind in & out along the river which is not at all unlike the Thames at Windsor tho' the hills are very much higher around. The boat was dreadfully crowded & the heat was tremendous but the Captain let us sit in his Chartroom with a very funny old American, who was certain he had met me before! We took about 2 hours (15 miles) & just missed our train back, so we had to buy biscuits & bananas & travel home in a freight train. Mabel was so exhausted she retired to bed, but I recovered after a very short snooze & went to a tea party given in my honour.

Yesterday Mrs Thomson gave a luncheon party on the yacht, 17 of us (all girls & young married ladies), as usual I had to tell fortunes, I really have got a far famed reputation now & have been wonderfully correct, it interests them all immensely. We are just going off now to St John. I will send you a p.c. when I start which you may get before I arrive. I leave here on Saturday night at 8 & board the Tunisian on Sunday morning about 9 a.m. I hope the Bank Holiday won't interfere with my arrival. Mabel rode one of the new horses yesterday which has never carried a lady before. I have promised to stay if she breaks a limb before Saturday. I shall think of Agnes on the 29th.

Very much love from

Y^r loving d^{ght},

Ella Brewin

⁹⁵ The **King's Daughters** (French: *filles du roi*; *filles du roy*) is a term used to refer to the approximately 800 young French women who immigrated to New France between 1663 and 1673 as part of a program sponsored by Louis XIV. The program was designed to boost Canada's population both by encouraging male immigrants to settle there, and by promoting marriage, family formation and the birth of children. While women and girls certainly immigrated to New France both before and after this time period, they were not considered to be *filles du roi*, as the term refers to women and girls who were actively recruited by the government and whose travel to the colony was paid for by the king. They were also occasionally known as the **King's Wards**, where "wards" meant those under the guardianship of another.

August 2nd 1901, S.S. Tunisian

August 2nd, S.S. Tunisian

S.S. Tunisian

Aug: 2nd 1901

My dearest Mother,

I think I must write you a short letter finishing up my Canadian visit. I posted my last one to you on the 25th which day I spent in St John, lunching with Mrs Percy Thomson, spending some time in the Thomson house, & finally acting as Mabel's caddy round the golf links. In the evening Mabel & I went out in the canoe. On Friday 26th friends came for tennis in the morning, one a Mr Groghan invalided from S. Africa his brother wrote "from Cairo to Khartoum" & a younger one is Middie on the Duke of York's present cruise⁹⁶. In the afternoon Mabel paddled me right across to a sandy cove near the Minister's face⁹⁷ & there we bathed. It was a glorious day & in the evening a magnificent sunset, which turned a distant rain storm to the brightest crimson, which I saw to advantage from the Canuck, the gasoline launch in which I went with Mr & Mrs Thomson & Mabel to pay off a few calls.

Sat 27th Mabel & Mona went off riding on the late Mr Allan's 2 beautiful horses which had never carried ladies before. I packed. In the afternoon Mabel took me over to the same Cove in the Bonnie Kate, sailing, it was quite rough & we enjoyed it immensely, also our bathe when we got there. We had left instructions with Mrs Thomson not to send for us if we were becalmed, as we would have given anything if I had missed the train & therefore the boat home. They were most anxious for me to stop to go to St Andrews with them, & also for a yachting cruise to Bar Harbour much as I longed to stay I felt I must be back for the Isaac's visit & I had had no home letters for a fortnight. Unfortunately the wind kept up & I had to leave Rothesay at 8.30 p.m. with very much grief & sorrow all round. I had a good night in the train & on the tender from Rimouski reached "The Tunisian" at 10 a.m. on Sunday 28th. The Mayor of Rimouski & his wife Mr & Mrs Drapeau (French) were very kind to me & saw me on board, begging me to call on them when I return to Canada.

There are about 115 1st class passengers. I have a cabin with a very nice & pretty English girl, Miss Wrigley from Yorkshire. Her Father & brother have the opposite cabin, they have been travelling for 6 weeks. Sir Thomas Cleeve who crossed with May Blair & the Thomsons is on board (Irish) & is very devoted to his two friends the Miss Keries orphans from N. Wales.

Tuesday & Wednesday were foggy the whole day. On Thursday it began to roll a little, so we had the concert in case it should get worse. A very poor one. Only one indifferent lady singer, 2 sisters on the mandolin & violin & 6 men singers. Maj. Gen. Sir Edmund Barrow took the chair. He is just returning from China & is going to India. The collection was £17/10/0. On Friday the rolling was much worse than the Tunisian has ever known in the summer season, but it came on so gradually that scarcely any one even felt ill, tho' it was all we could do to keep our seats at meals or on deck. We reached Moville⁹⁸ about 10.30 or 11 on Sunday night & with difficulty landed the Pilot on board, then sent off the mails & some passengers on the tender. We did not go to bed until 12, & therefore slept peacefully through what we were told was a very choppy night. We landed at Liverpool at 1.30 a.m. after 8 days from Rimouski.

Y^r loving d^{ght},

Ella Brewin

⁹⁶ the cruise of HMS Ophir in 1901, when the Duke and Duchess of York (later King George V and Queen Mary) toured almost the whole of the British Empire with the exception of India. They travelled via Gibraltar and Malta down the Red Sea to Colombo and Singapore, going on to Australia and New Zealand, across the Indian Ocean to South Africa via Mauritius and finally to Canada via St Vincent before returning to England. The whole trip took nearly nine months and was enormously popular with the countries visited. It was a time when the British Empire was immensely strong, and the reception of the royal party at each port of call highlighted the success of the tour as a diplomatic exercise.

⁹⁷ Minister's Face Nature Preserve is a nature preserve on Long Island in New Brunswick's Kennebecasis River northwest of the town of Rothesay. Minister's Face is home to several endangered species of plants, as well as a nesting site for peregrine falcons.

⁹⁸ **Moville** (*Magh Bhile*, "the plain of the sacred tree" in the Irish language) is a picturesque coastal town located on the Inishowen Peninsula of County Donegal, Ireland, close to the northern tip of the island of Ireland. It is the first coastal town of the Wild Atlantic Way.

