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Toronto 17th July 1867

My dear Duncan,

I wrote you last about a fortnight ago. That letter would have prepared you in some manner for the news which I have to give in this one. I said in a P.S., that I had received from Mr. Hapkins a letter offering me £192 Stg per ann: in the Hudson's Bay Corp. On the day I posted my letter to you I received word by telegram from Mr. H. to meet him at the Station here on his way to the interior. I accordingly did so, driving down to a station about a mile and a half to the east of the City, and going on board the cars there conversed with him until the train reached the City Station, where, (as I supposed, ^{he would be}) he was fully engaged with other parties until the train departed for the West. Our conversation was

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thinks of leaving the Service, and there
would only be one Officer above me
in Montreal. I believe there is little
doubt of his leaving; if not immediately,
at least within the next few years.

The Officer who is now in acct to
him in Montreal is in poor health,
and can only stand the work for
some years more; so that in the
course of ~~the~~ some few years I
would fall into his place, ~~and~~
which would be the place now
occupied by Mr. Hopkins and
the most influential of any under
the Governor. Unless I find that
this will fall to my share in a
few years, I would enter business,
but I have Mr. W's own opinion
the Montreal Office would

fact to me after some time. When
 there is an increment, the change
 of employment, which cannot but
 exercise a beneficial effect upon
 me. Again, I do not care for my
 Superior in the bank here. He is a
 peculiar man to deal with and I
 have a dislike for him which it is im-
 possible to get over, and in consequence
 I will be glad to get rid of him, and
 the institution. There are not surer
 either in the W. B. Coy and now,
 seeing that Mr Cameron is gone,
 I cannot but think that I might have
 some difficulty in regard to them
 by and bye, as they are not resident
 in the Province. The W. B. Coy are
 to carry on a different system now
 to what was previously in force, and
 Mr Hopkins assures me that merit
 and zeal, combined with perseverance

It is too late now to think of going to the States, but if I find time, and a suitable travelling Companion, I may take a trip down to New-York in August. The cost, there and back, is only about £2. 10s. If I go I will take some letters of introduction to Merchants there of Bankers here, and learn their views upon matters in the States, and the probability of your obtaining a situation when you come out in March next. My visit would, I think, prove of some service to you, and this would be my principal object in going there, as I would only have about a week there altogether.

RMH

Mr. Hopkins goes home next month with his family and Mr. Cameron accompanies them.

I will not likely leave the Bank for two months yet as some notice will be required by them.

RMH

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over by the time the train stopped.
The result of my interview with him was
that I agreed to enter the service of
the Hudson's Bay Coy, as second
officer and Accountant in the Montreal
Office, at a salary of £242 Sterling
per annum. This will be equal at
least to what I will get here for the
next twelve months, and I look upon
the prospects as much better there than
here. The appointment has the sanction
of the President Governor, A. G. Dallas
Esq^r, and only requires to be confirmed
by the Board and Governor in London,
whose sanction I expect will be sent
here in about a month hence. There
is little or no doubt as to their sanction,
but yet it may be refused and as the
Copies correspondence on the subject was
dropped by Mr. Hopkins, at the
instigation of my superiors in the Bank,
I have to be careful this time in not letting
them know any thing about the present

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offer I have. You will please look
upon the matter in the same light
until I can give you news of the
confirmation from England. Mr.
Hopkins particularly desired me
to consider the matter as confidential,
and I am breaking that trust consent
which I gave to its being treated so on
my part in letting any person what-
ever know about it. But I have little
fear of its coming over here from you.
My acceptance of his offer would
bind me to service in any part
of the Coy's dominions but I will not
likely ever be sent, against my desire, from
Montreal. The prospects you will
naturally be anxious to know some-
thing of. Well then in the first place,
the salary is as good as I will get
here for next twelve months, and
Mr. Hopkins, who since Sir Geo.
Simpson's death has been in
Charge of the Montreal Office

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and diligences will in future be well
and quickly rewarded. Mr. Hopkin
had the option of increasing his first
offer, and it was on my refusal of
that offer that I stated I would accept
the sum I have stated to which he
agreed, so that I have received my
own terms. My knowledge of business
and accounts will give me an immense
advantage over the other officers of the
Co., and I think I will not be slow
in improving upon that ~~advantage~~.

I cannot too much praise Mr.
Hopkin for the kind and disinterested
manner in which ^{he} has, ever since my
entering the Province, thought of me, and
the renewal of this correspondence after
Mr. Cameron's death is particularly
striking, as it shows that he does not
easily forget. Notwithstanding that
I have not received my just reward
in the Bank I will leave it
on good terms with all.

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In the meantime I say nothing
about it in the Bank, as in case of
an adverse decision from London it
might do me harm. My salary
here will likely be paid this day
week or fortnight. When it is I
will write mother and she must
excuse me at present as our
half yearly and yearly accounts
and interest &c. take up all my
time. You will ~~soon~~ be good
enough to give her the particulars
of this letter as I dare say in
strict ~~parent~~ filial duty it they
should first have been addressed to
her. Peter is quite well and got
your "Seaman". Tell Maggie to
write me.

Your very affectionately
Alexander