

# A/B/20/Si22

## Front cover section

This section consists of material  
created from the front cover onward

**BC Archives PR-1678**  
**A/B/20/Si22**

**FORT SIMPSON (Columbia Department) FONDS**  
**Letter book : correspondence outward,**  
**20 Nov 1851 - 02 Nov 1855; 1875**

McClellan, Capt. "M."  
Letters to James Douglas,  
20th Novemb[er] 1861. 2nd Regt. Mass.

MS. A. 9. 2. 22

McNeill, Capt. Wm. Letters to James Douglas from Fort Simpson,  
20th November 1851 to 2nd Nov. 1855.



A  
B  
20  
Si22

Fort Simpson -

Correspondence outward  
Nov. 20, 1851 - Nov. 2, 1855.

Original letter book copies.

Letters signed by W. H. McNeill.



Wesleyland Aug 1842.

# A/B/20/Si22

## Unused Pages

Three pages are blank  
and were not scanned

**BC Archives PR-1678**  
**A/B/20/Si22**

**FORT SIMPSON (Columbia Department) FONDS**  
**Letter book : correspondence outward,**  
**20 Nov 1851 - 02 Nov 1855; 1875**

Fort Simpson 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 1851.

James Douglas Esquire.

Sir. After leaving Victoria I proceeded, with the "Ma" to fulfil your instructions of 4<sup>th</sup> October 1851. We had a fine run of four days to B. C. I. after which, a gale of wind came on, and detained us off Cape Henry, eight days, consequently we did not anchor in Mitchell's Harbour until the 20<sup>th</sup> Oct. On the second day after we arrived, we commenced blasting the Rock at the "Red" place. We commenced in a vein of Quartz, and were very successful, ~~the~~ the rock proved to be rich with gold, as you will see by the specimens now forwarded for Doctor Kennedy. We followed the seam or vein, and found it completely impregnated with gold. The seam seems to take a direction up the Mountain. In fact our men went about half way to the top, say 300 feet above the water and found Quartz rock, a specimen of which I now send you. In my opinion gold will be found in many places hereafter on the West side of the Island, as Quartz rock is to be found in every direction. We found it, in four different places in Mitchell's Harbour, but had no time to examine it. I am sorry to inform you that we were obliged to leave off blasting, and quit the place for Fort Simpson on account of the annoyance we experienced from the Natives. They arrived in large numbers, say 30 bands and were much pleased to see us on our first arrival. When they saw us blasting, and turning out so much gold they became excited and commenced depredations on us, stealing the tools, and taking at least one half of the gold that was thrown out by a blast. They would conceal until the report of a blast was heard, and then make a rush for the ore, a regular scramble.

scramble between them and our men would take place they would take our men by the legs and haul them away from the gold, some blows were struck on those occasions. The Indians saw their knives on our men, often.

The men who were at work at the vein became completely tired and disgusted at these proceedings, and came to me ~~in~~ three several times and told me that they would not stay or remain any longer to work the gold, that their time was lost to them, as the natives took our half the amount by a blast, and those would be shed if they continue to work at the "veins". That our force was not strong enough to work, and fight at the same time. They were aware that they could not work on those ~~after~~ hostility had commenced.

Therefore I made up my mind to leave the place and proceed to this Establishment.

The natives were very jealous of us when they saw that we could obtain gold by blasting, they had no idea that so much could be found below the surface. They said that it was not good that we should take all the gold away, if we did so that they would not have anything to trade with other tribes, should any arrive. In fact they told us to be off.

The British have no power or control over the lower orders, and of course cannot prevent them from plundering or committing any act of violence on strangers. I will refer you to the "Coyote" for information regarding the "Veins", at the "veins" as he seems to have a good idea of the rock, and how the work should be carried on, he has behaved well and was very zealous at his work.

The men said they would go again in the Spring if an expedition properly fitted should start for working the gold on C.B.I. In my opinion should another expedition go to C.B.I. before of at the least

Eighty men would be required, with two officers to attend the land party. The Ship also should have three officers besides the Captain, which I can prove by experience during our late visits to the Gold district.

The Ship, Land as well as the land party should go on shares of the Gold that may be collected, as it would <sup>prevent</sup> any one from trading the Ore. We had considerable trouble during our late visits at the diggings in E. C. I. to prevent the people from trading Gold.

The Natives brought a quantity of Gold to me which I traded, and now prepare for the "Wai", together with that which we obtained by blasting ourselves. Very little if any Gold will be obtained in E. C. I. except by blasting.

It appeared to me that the Gold I traded, was obtained in some other place than that which we were at.

The Natives however said that they had not discovered Gold in no other place than in Mitchell's Harbour. This report I much doubt as the Lumps, are solid, and different from any that we procured at the place we were at work on.

We have discovered, and proved, on this voyage that Gold Ore is to be had in quantity in Mitchell's Harbour alone, to pay an Expedition to go there and work it. I had no opportunity of examining the country much, as we remained but 15 days, during which time I was occupied with the Indians, as no one on board except myself could speak to them, we had some bad and boisterous weather during our stay at the place.

I saw no place where we could build a fort or make a station. The shores near the Sea are barren, and the soil is very poor. The shores near the Sea are barren, and the soil is very poor.

Provisions will be found scarce at Mitchell's Harbour no where in the Island, and fish seem to be very scarce.

scarce, as the natives cannot catch them on the outside of the Island except during a calm or a N.E. wind.

Potatoes can be had in large quantities from the Lix-  
-states people, who reside on the East side of the Island  
but can reach the diggings in two days travel in the Sum-  
-mer season.

Should a fort be built or a ship  
remain at the diggings "for a length of time", a large  
number of Lix states would collect, and reside near at  
hand and give annoyance. Therefore a large force  
of men would be required for protection, and to work  
the gold. A person acquainted with Indians should  
head the Expedition, and have an Interpreter.

The Nations on the West or outside of the Island are great  
Marauders and prey on on distant tribes, taking  
many prisoners, and make Slaves of them.

I hope you will be satisfied with the reasons I have  
given for leaving the diggings and not remaining there  
as long as you wished.

The voyage has however done some good, we have  
ascertained that gold is to be found by Hastings to pay  
well for working it.

The best or purest gold is to  
be found deep down in the rock, we however  
had no time or chance to get at, "as we were obliged  
to leave as stated before.

I remain Sir  
your Most Obedt Servt  
N. H. McNeill.

Copy  
Report Expedition  
to Queen Charlotte Land  
Brigantine "Ona"

Fort Simpson 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 1851.

James Douglas Esquire  
Sir

I have to inform you of my arrival here with the *Uma*, on the 12<sup>th</sup> Inst from *Eschscholtz*. I found C. J. Henney in charge; the inmates were not very well, I am sorry to say.

The Steamer with C. J. Henney on board had left some eight days before our arrival for Fort Victoria. C. J. Henney gave up charge of the *Eschscholtz* to me with the papers in his charge respecting relating to the affairs of the post.

The goods remaining on hand from *Eschscholtz* Expedition have been landed, and will be in depot here, until further orders from you. They may answer for the Expedition to *Eschscholtz* in the Spring, an account of them I now forward. Captain Mitchell, has landed Twelve Barley Flour, and Six Bags Salt Pork which we have given a receipt for. They will also remain in depot for orders from you. The flour will be engaged for backing into *British* for the Steamer.

A large quantity of Potatoes being on hand here C. J. Henney recommended that 1200 bushels should be sent to Victoria, as a part of them would be spent by me on hand here. We have more now than can be consumed for our own use.

The fur on hand, and traded since the Steamer left here on our departure to the *Uma*.

The gold ore obtained by us at *Eschscholtz* by blasting, has been weighed, in presence of the men. It weighed by the Scales 58 lbs including the Bags. By the Scales 59.10. The men wished it to be valued at Victoria, by you, as they were appraisers. If you decide here that some of them would get more than his own share of "Rock" - One half of

of the 50 lbs only of course belongs to the men, say nine of  
of them. Louis Fulkerson. Maxim Koor. Louis Pelletier.  
Louis Dubau. Francis Satakarata. George Richardson.  
John Brittle. William Pike. and Michael de Fleur.  
Poor Edward Stone, uncle and was interred at Mitchell's  
Heartor, he had been sick about 14 days, every attention  
was paid to him to no effect. William Pike has charge of  
the deceased effects.

As C. F. Mott is with you, and  
C. J. Kennedy is to take passage on the Uca, I will refer you  
to them for any information relating to this place.  
I will however remark that some ~~of the~~ <sup>of the</sup> good men is  
required here to put up the new buildings. One "head"  
man that understands building, should be sent, in fact  
we require a carpenter, otherwise the terra only knows when  
all will be finished as we have a most miserable set here  
at present called men. Some of these men belonging to  
the land party C. G. S. Expedition, have taken a few  
articles on their account from this place. The amount  
of which will be drawn from the store of gold and  
them at Fort Victoria. They had a few articles also from  
Victoria Lake Shop before leaving, on account of them I  
now also send you in case the amount should be required  
I could not settle the account here as you desired. As the  
men wished the decision of gold to be made at  
Victoria. I have employed "McGoyor," and Brittle,  
blasting the Rock when the gold Mr Mott took from  
here, was said to have come from, to no effect we  
have looked at other places near this establish. to no purpose  
I am sorry to say the returns are not so good as usual at this  
place up to this date. de Fleur wishes to enjoy for  
one year or more for this place, and be allowed to go to  
La G. S. in the Spring. I have referred him to you, he would  
have remained here now if his wife had been with him  
he will be a capital hand for the Spring Expedition.

I shall pity any small craft, or party that may venture  
to 26. to work the gold ore, as they will to a certainty be  
cut off. "Bovaland" had better not make the trial, but  
he knows best. If I could not get on with the natives at  
Mitchell's Harbour with a small force, as not know who can  
I have strongly to recommend, that the house on the  
"Oma's" deck should be taken off, and a cabin made  
below decks, as it is not safe at sea, or in a Skirmish  
with the Indians, Thuskat baks would go through and  
through it. It is always wet in rainy weather  
the sea goes into it, makes the ship strew, and rots the  
deck. It is in my opinion unhealthy.

The Carpenter says that it must come off ere long  
to lay new decks where the house now stands.

The Carpenter tells me he can finish it in i.e. the cabin, <sup>and</sup>  
in six weeks with one man to assist him.

The "Oma" has been detained here longer than was expected  
by a continuation of bad weather and lack of wind from  
the S.E. with heavy <sup>rain</sup> also. Her sails have to be taken on  
shore and be repaired.

"Copy"

I am Sir

Your obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
W<sup>m</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Neill

Fort Simpson 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 1851

James Douglas Esq<sup>r</sup>

Dear Sir

I find the flour in "Bags"  
at this place, will not keep so long, therefore  
will take it into Biscuit, and keep the 13 Bbls landed  
from the "Oma" for use of the establish<sup>t</sup>.

Therefore you must not depend on it for the Expedi-  
tion in the Spring to Charlotte's Island.

"Copy"

I am Dear Sir your obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
W<sup>m</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Neill

Fort Simpson 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 1851.

Captain Mitchell.

Sir

The "Uta", under your command being now ready for sea. You will please proceed with her first favorable opportunity, direct to Fort Victoria, and report the arrival of the Uta to James Douglas Esquire, or the gentleman in charge of that Establishment.

Wishing you a safe and speedy voyage -

I remain Sir

Your Obedt Servt

W.H.M. Mill.

Copy

Fort Simpson 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 1851.

James Douglas Esq.

Dear Sir

There being a large quantity of Whale blubber on hand at this place. I have thought proper to ship say 200 gallons on board the Uta for your place. We are short of baskets, or more would be sent.

I am Dear Sir

Your Obedt Servt

W.H.M. Mill.

Copy

Fort Simpson 8<sup>th</sup> January 1852.

James Douglas Esq.

Dear Sir

I have to inform you of the arrival at this place of the Schooner Palmaris - comd Captain Batch the day before yesterday, direct from Fort Victoria. She came for information concerning the crew of the brig "Janina" lately wrecked on B. I. She leaves this day for the wrecked people

at "Cumshewa". Four of the Hopedown's company arrived here on the 11<sup>th</sup> December last, in a canoe. I have victualled, and clothed them, to this date. They have now gone on board the Schooner and will proceed to Iniqually by her. They stood a watch part of the time they were here, and I thought proper not to charge them with the few articles of supplies they received from us at this place. Lieut<sup>l</sup> Dementt offered to return them I have given Captain Batch two Bbls Salt fish for his crew. A man on board the Steamer, "Lackow" was formerly on board the Steamer. tried all in his power to make the Indians here believe that none of the company's Vipsels would come here again for three years and told our men the same.

I went on board the Schooner and complained to Captain Batch of Lackow's conduct.

I also told Lackow that he had better take care of himself or I would give him some trouble.

The crew of the Schooner are in a most miserable state, they had a fight on board yesterday and the Captain several times, I was eye witness to it. The Lieut<sup>l</sup> wishes to see an end.

I was grieved to hear of the loss of the Otma, and the "Suzanne of the Beaver and Harry Dore.

This will cause much derangement in our affairs the coming Spring. Indeed, I do not see how you are to replace the Vipsels in time for business.

I fear that the Steamer may possibly be released if not, the loss of her services the coming season will be immense. I hope to have the pleasure of seeing her cast up here, <sup>honor</sup> on the coast of six weeks.

Matters and things go on here as usual, our and Indian all quiet. The trade however is not nearly so good as former years. We have a supply of Biscuit on hand for the Steamer and hope soon to put it on board her. We are now putting

putting up a new fence around the garden, and new  
crown houses in the fort.

The Big house will not be  
finished in a hurry, without a reinforcement of men  
and a leading man, most of our mung timber is expiring,  
or rather they will leave in the fall.

I have no particular news to write about, since the Uka  
left us on the 29<sup>th</sup> Nov last.

The Americans seem determined to give us all the  
trouble they can possibly get into, what a mean set  
get into office there. I have no late news either from  
Sitka or Peaport.

Yours truly  
Your obedt Servt  
W. H. M. Smith

Fort Simpson 8<sup>th</sup> Jan'y 1852.

Lieut<sup>t</sup> Demont and Captain Balch  
"Schroener, Danvers Cove.

Sirs

I learn that your  
Volunteers are in the habit of buying Christian's bag-  
inoss on shore and dealing it out among the Indians  
a thing not allowed in any of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Co. B. boys or  
or Pacific American companies Posts, this place in  
particular Spirit was seized out last night and  
I saw some in a bottle in an Indian lodge this day.  
I have to request that a stop will be put to it or  
otherwise evil consequences may ensue.

I am Sirs

Your very obedt Servt  
W. H. M. Smith

Fort Simpson 26<sup>th</sup> Augt 1852.

To

The Board of Management  
No. 76. B Coy. Fort Victoria  
Gentlemen

I beg to inform you of the arrival at this place of the "Mary Jane", with our supplies for the present butch. on the 20<sup>th</sup> inst, your valued favor of 6<sup>th</sup> inst, together with the invoice and other documents <sup>accompanying it</sup> your laborers also joined as a reinforcement. Your favor of 30<sup>th</sup> March came to hand, with a few supplies, per steamer on the 24<sup>th</sup> April.

Respecting transactions at this place in general, I will refer you to C. F. Work, as he has been here since 24<sup>th</sup> April, and will no doubt report on matters connected with the coast fully -

I have been in charge of this establishment since 20<sup>th</sup> November 1851, since that time we have been at work as usual on the building of the "Big" House has been taken down and the frame of a new one is now up, and we shall progress so fast as possible to complete it. The "Mary Jane" brought most of the supplies here, intended for the "Recovery" expedition to La. S. not being required for her as she was to return to Victoria. They will be taken on account at this place. The cargo of the "Mary Jane" was landed in two days, being fine weather. Since then we have had stormy weather with heavy rain, which has prevented us from shipping our exports so expeditiously as we wished, she has not been detained one moment longer than was required. The "Sun" and "Via Landia" from Ula last winter, are now sent. The other articles sent "dry" over board, were sent to La. S. for the "Recovery," per order Doctor Kennedy.

Yours

Gold was reported by Indians to have been discovered up  
the Ghonor River on the 8<sup>th</sup> April last, by F. W. Mott after his  
arrival here on the 24<sup>th</sup> April visited the place  
but saw no gold or ore. In his report. Copper has been  
discovered on the North end of Q. C. I. or rather a little to the  
South of North Island, a Specimen was brought here  
by Indians lately. Our returns this year are not so  
good as might be expected. The Indians has so far done  
well in obtaining Fur, therefore including her share the  
returns of the coast will be about the same as last year  
The reasons for the returns not being better are these,  
Ten or more American Vessels have visited Q. C. I. which  
threw a large quantity of goods into the market, and  
kept the natives from hunting or exerting themselves to  
obtain Fur. These Vessels had from 50 to 100 men on board  
they expended a large quantity of property on rum, &  
besides what was paid for gold by them. The Recovery,  
and the Alma. The latter Vessel alone expended over 100 \$ Wt  
being expended. Then the Danes on the Thetis  
and Pandora have all added a share.  
The Fur from Q. C. I. formerly came to this place, this  
year we have not seen one skin. The Kryonies and  
Chatsena. have done little or nothing for us, they also  
have been most of the summer admittably discontent with  
their women. The Napp Indians are and have been at War  
with the interior people for the last Ten months, this has  
caused a decrease of returns from that quarter also, as  
the Napp people usually bring a large portion of the returns  
from this place. I am grieved to inform you that  
Poor old Wnashkanu died here on the 8<sup>th</sup> July after an  
illness of about 3 or 4 days. An English gentleman  
who came here on the Pandora as passenger, also died  
here on the 20<sup>th</sup> not he had been sick for a long time &  
came with Captain Mott for the benefit of his health.  
His effects will be sent to Genl Miller English Consul at

The Sandwich Islands to be sold for the benefit of his  
mother in England.

I have now shipped on board the  
Mary Don our own, and the steamer returns up to this  
date, with horses and other documents ~~concerning~~  
A quantity of oil is also shipped, part of which is  
excellent clear oil, some however is a mixture of  
Whale and Man Fish oil, it will answer for many  
useful purposes at Victoria.

A few of our men are  
returning for the Mary Don as her list forwarded.  
Others will leave for Victoria for the steamer in the  
fall. On the 19<sup>th</sup> inst. Six men came here from the  
-society in Canoes. Five American and one Canadian  
They report that their Ship, the Mary and Martha of New  
Beaford ran down at sea 200 miles from land. They  
left her in three Boats 10. 9. 6 Yabs in each Boat, they  
ported with the two other Boats in the night, and do not  
know what became of them, "this is their story."  
Five Americans go in Mary Don. The Canadian has  
suffered for one year at this place.

The inmates of the establishment must be, and have been,  
generally, in good health, referring you to C. F.  
Wells report, for more correct information of matters  
relating to the coast.

I remain Gentlemen  
Your Obedt Servt  
W. H. M. C. W.

The insularities and other accounts connected with the  
present Outfit will be forwarded per Steamer in the fall.  
P. A. Car Gordon looks well, and I think we shall have  
an abundant crop of potatoes.

W. H. M. C. W.

P. 4. I am sorry to inform you that a fire took place here on the  
3<sup>d</sup> Jan. it commenced in the Smoke House, when we had a  
large quantity of Smoked Fish in smoke at the time.  
I presume that some of the rotten wood that was used to smoke  
the fish was seen in the heat and too much being used caused  
a blaze some of the oil from the Fish, we could see on the floor  
which assisted the blaze. The house was close to the Pickets  
which soon took fire also and all was in a blaze in a few  
moments. The Pickets was burnt about 50 feet on one side from  
the corner <sup>of the Fort</sup> and about 20 feet ~~from~~ <sup>from</sup> the other side -  
The workhouse, gallery and shed was all consumed, and we  
expected that Fort Simpson would be a heap of Ruins. We left  
thru 500 Armed Indians were inside the Fort. They passed  
water and assisted very much to extinguish the fire, in fact  
had it not been for them passing such large quantities of  
water the place in my opinion would have been a heap of  
ruins. I had been laid up five days before the fire took  
place with the Rheumatism in the back and could not  
walk without crutches, I managed however to get out and  
give orders. Mr. M. Lewis, and Junis, were very active in  
their exertions to stop the fire. The Run, and Powder, was  
got out from the Fort, on two traps, we got under, when we  
stopped it again. The Indians took several articles from my  
trousers, and the Company lost about £20. which was not  
much considering the number of Indians we had with  
the Fort. It was lucky for us that we were on good terms with  
the Indians, or they might have given us trouble. We have  
not had one row or any disturbance with them since  
I took charge here. The Fire raged about two hours.  
Many strange Indians were in the Fort. Sebago, Mitit, and  
and Napcoo. It was a miracle that the Fort was saved  
and I have to thank God for his mercies -  
The Pickets are now up, and everything as it was before  
the Fire took place.

W. H. Allen

Fort Simpson 7<sup>th</sup> November 1852

To  
The Board of Management. }  
Hon<sup>ble</sup> W. B. Coy. Fort Victoria }

Gentlemen

Chief Factor work leaves this on board  
the Steamer for Victoria tomorrow. By him you will  
receive the Accounts and other papers relating to butchery  
'52. and '53. Outfit '52 was closed 16<sup>th</sup> September  
An additional Requisition for the current butchery is now  
forwarded.

We have now shipped on board the Steamer,  
all the Fur we have collected since the Mary Dove left us  
on account of '52 & '53.

I have but little information to com-  
municate, relating to affairs at this place, since I had  
the honor of a visit by you on the 26<sup>th</sup> August last.  
It is quiet here among the natives and we are on the most  
friendly terms with them - although they have been much  
excited, with seeing the large amount of property we have  
been buying to supply the Indians for the relief of the crews  
of distressed Ships.

I have the pleasure to inform  
you that our Fur Trade has improved since the departure  
of the Mary Dove, and our returns <sup>in outfit '52</sup> now will be about the  
same as last year.

The Fur Trade for the present butchery '53 has commenced  
well, as you will see by the Account now forwarded, and I  
have hopes that ~~the trade~~ <sup>it will</sup> may be good to the end, if no  
more interlopers or Gild seekers pay us a visit.

In my opinion Vepich from California and ~~James~~ <sup>James</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~Henry~~ <sup>Henry</sup>  
will pay the coast a visit next Spring to procure Dry Fish  
It would appear <sup>by what we have seen</sup> that the Chinese, and in that country prefer it to

it to any sale, promises. Other Vepels or a Vepel may go to  
Koy to Salt Melakus. I have heard that some on on board the  
Damerescore said that he would put up a voyage and go  
Nun for that purpose. Others are certain to come for Ice &  
and in fact anything that will pay them for their work.  
A Vepel of War is now absolutely required to protect our  
trade, in other words British "domest" in the coast.  
The Americans and as I hear the British Consul at  
St Francisco say that any Vepel has a right to come on the  
coast and traffic for any thing with the exception of Furs.  
If this is true, and Vepels should come here with the ana or  
stamessy, you may judge of the annoy and trouble  
they will give us. The Indians here are already much  
excited, to see strange Indians in every such large quantities  
of goods for bringing the crew of the late Susan Starpe and  
other men.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> last month Captain Roney and  
his mate were brought here by a "Chassina" canoe from  
Duan Charlotte Island. Their Vepel the "Susan Starpe"  
under American colors, but owned by British Subjects  
had been taken on the 26<sup>th</sup> by the natives of "Mappit" or said  
Island. She was plundered and burnt, no lives were lost  
on the occasion. She had \$1500 on board <sup>in furs and skins</sup> and a complete  
boarding outfit of which fell into the hands of the natives.  
Her crew number but seven all told.

A few days since three men of the crew were brought here by  
a canoe despatched by us expressly for them.  
In the Captive and his men we have <sup>now</sup> <sup>native</sup> things to pay. It will be  
as per Account now forwarded. They were all completely  
naked when they came here and of course had to clothe them  
from head to foot, and returned them the same as our own men.  
The Captain, Mate, and three men of the late Susan Starpe  
will go on board the Steamer as passengers to Fort Victoria.  
The number of distrepa boats and interlopers who have come  
upon us this year for Supplies of every kind will be a

a considerable item in our expenditure. I hope no fault will be found with our doing on these occasions.

Chief Factor Work has been here since the month of September, and will inform you not only on this subject, but all other matters connected with affairs at this post. During that time in my opinion the Goods paid by us this year for distressed events should be charged to General Expenses, for we are sure to have these interests here every year after this, as it will become known that they can, and well be relieved by us at this place at no expense to them.

This year, we have received i.e. blocked, "paid in money, for bringing captives and just the following Ships crew.

Two men from wreck of George and a clock and a few for one month - Supplies and gave a papage's five men who ran away from an American Whaler - Supplies and protected Brig Pandora. "She had been fairly in possession of the Indians at this place". This vessel had been lying here in front of the Fort four months, and eight days. We baked Besant for her at no charge from us. A Gentleman by name of Gaskill came on shore sick from the Pandora and we did him we did every thing in our power to relieve him to no purpose. Then came the Crew of the Susan Sturges. Our new Bighouse is a rare and mighty, the work being completed. I am in hopes to have one and finished, and occupied, by the time the Steamer arrives here in the Spring. The expenditure of Leaf Tobacco has been large this year, on account of a new piece being erected round the Garden, making Smokey by Indians.

I would be more explicit in my communication, had not C. F. Work been in possession been acquainted with all matters concerning the trade, and state of things in general on this part of the coast.

The inmates of this Establishment are in tolerable good health, and so far have conducted themselves well.

I am ever Gentleman Your Most Obedt Servt  
W. M. G. S.

Fort Simpson 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1853.

To

The Board of Management A. H. B. Co.

Fort Victoria

Gentlemen

On the 15<sup>th</sup> inst I had the pleasure of receiving Genl. Dredder's communication of 1<sup>st</sup> August not having had time to do so myself. We were gratified to learn that he was pleased with our arrangements in the least during the present trip. We inform you that the Brigantine Vancouver would be despatched with our supplies &c.

The Vancouver is now no more, she was seen inshore in Point Barrow Bay early on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> inst going down the coast. Mr Swanson and Griffing arrived here on the 15<sup>th</sup> with the above sailing news, about 11<sup>th</sup> AM. The Steamer was fasten'd to by being hove out 25 cords wood on deck, awaiting the arrival of a ship with supplies. Captain Dredder <sup>ordered</sup> the Steamer to be got up immediately, and started at 2 P.M. for the purpose to take Vancouver, and arrived at the mouth of the <sup>river</sup> at 10 P.M.

The Steamer arrived back here on the 18<sup>th</sup> inst in the evening having on board Captain Reid, his Officers, and crew, all the Powder, six boxes Guns, a few Bales and Cases of Ammunition and some of the Stores an account of which is now sent.

I will not enter into details as Captains Dredder and Reid will be well able to inform you of all I estimate.

The Bales and Cases <sup>stores</sup> were not broken open, and we have no time as yet to look at them, and do not know their contents as we have received no Invoice or Packing Lists. No List of the Stores is sent back, and other papers have not come to hand. They are doubtless lost. We had the marks and number of the Bales, Cases &c. sent you will be able to ascertain the contents with the exception of what the boxes and Bales contain. We require of course, the whole Requisition for us as formerly when for us we require <sup>rough</sup> the quantity of Rice, and Peas & Beans. Captain Dredder will hand you a list of articles we both require for trade to be sent



I shall be obliged, may be that should also require my presence  
for various reasons, I shall be willing to return here to take  
charge of any other post you please.

I have to say that a Ship with supplies may be sent as  
soon as possible or the trade may suffer.

The Indians are about to start for the Interior to trade  
I've and are much disappointed in not having Pearl  
Buttons, Vermilion, Turkey & Keffie to take with them.

We are always short of Vermilion at this place.

C. F. Douglas wishes Mr. F. Dodd in a very warm opinion as  
regards increasing the number of Land Otter. We have in our  
power to encourage the Indians to hunt them more than usual in  
during the last two winters they have increased. We will do  
all we can power to obtain more by making presents to

I do not think it advisable to increase the Price of Capt  
Dodd gives a 3rd Buff Blanket for them at North to  
keep them from the Russians, possibly we may do the same  
hereafter. Isaac H. Taylor is at the point of North  
to cannot receive any.

I know of no way of purchasing the  
Chitcats without a Man War does it we cannot must  
for profit. C. F. Dodd will advise you on this subject  
I have mentioned before that the Bill Lading, Service &  
Packing have come to hand, no doubt they were lost in  
the Vancouver. No one man have not received all their  
orders, they have not for a few more orders, as far as I know  
I have forgotten to mention that all the Baby Goods orders  
were sent, and luckily have the names of each individual  
on them so we should not have known who they belonged to.  
I do not think it necessary to send an account of the trade as it has  
been said but wish you I best wrote you.

Mr. Griffin appears to be a copy of the young man and I think  
the more so in a hour.

I remain Your Obedt Servt

Wm. M. Smith

Wm. M. Smith



The Pigs were also received safe by Anna. It will be some  
time before we will be able to salt much Pork as most of our  
Pigs are young. We have had very unfavorable weather  
both for drying and Shipping. The first day being  
George the Wind was SW which caused a heavy rain on the boat  
and a canvas could not well lay at my side, to day it has blown  
a Gale from SE with a shower of rain. We however in the morning  
shipped a part of the Pork all the Salt. Plank and other effects  
The Cooper will be set to work on the Barrelly as soon as the  
men leave this place.

We will have our complement of men  
for this post for the ensuing year as the men I hear wish to  
come on shore from the Steamer. Comptroler will <sup>be for</sup> make a  
watchman. I hope you will be able to procure more  
Rice, Peas, Butter, Back Meat, Vermicelli & Beans to  
be sent on in the Spring for the team, as we are now suffering  
for the want of them, all the Rice you have sent for the latter  
will be brought by Casco's ship alone.  
It will be as well to examine the Packs of Furs shipped  
from this place by the latter, as the weather was wet and  
they may be damp. I think however they are all right.  
The latter leaves us tomorrow morning for Victoria via Rupert.  
~~It will be as well to have a look at the packs of Furs shipped~~  
~~by the latter as the weather was damp when they were taken~~  
~~on board.~~

I remain Dear Sir  
Your Heat Servt  
W. W. Spence

Fort Simpson 3<sup>d</sup> Sept 1854

Wm F Kennedy Esquire

My Dear Sir

I received your favor of 25<sup>th</sup> August  
but for Captain Doad and was pleased to learn that you arrived  
safe at the Glacier. Regarding your request for supplying  
to assist you in carrying on the Fur trade I have only to say we are  
short of many articles you require, as no supplies has reached  
us as yet. I have however sent ~~sent~~<sup>sent</sup> as good an assortment as our  
means admit, as per enclosed account. The Tobacco, <sup>1/2</sup> lbs, betton  
we cannot send, Captain Doad will leave you all he has on board  
after he goes his Northern trip, he thinks he may have a number  
of articles of trade to supply you with. He will do all in his  
power to assist you.

Of course you will send the amount of  
this, and your former supplies from this place to Mr Payer's relief  
for payment for supplies. We had letters from Victoria  
a few days since, they contained no news, the other was to be  
despatched for this place as soon as the "Albert" arrived. I do not  
expect her <sup>in the year</sup> before the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. but trade for this outfit <sup>has</sup> been  
good. Your family are well at present Mrs Kennedy was  
sick for a few days, now quite recovered. I  
you will be obliged to learn from Mr Payer how many Nipdy  
he intends to send yearly for tea, and make out an indent for goods  
accordingly, making an allowance for the <sup>what</sup> crews require which  
by the way is no small item, and forward it to Victoria and  
one of your Nipdy can go there and get the goods you may require  
or they can be sent here, at all events a proper Requisition  
must be made out for the goods you require as you know we have  
but few to spare from this place, in fact we are always short of  
many articles necessary, referring you to Captain Doad for more  
particular information on all that I now write.

I remain My Dear Sir

Truly Yours W. H. M. M. M.

Fort Simpson 10<sup>th</sup> October 1854.

To

The Governor Deputy Governor  
and Comd<sup>te</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> R. Coy.  
London

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sir

I have been connected with the Hon<sup>ble</sup> R. Coy.  
Twenty Two Years, and filled responsible situations during  
that period, and I believe to the satisfaction of my Superiors,  
I have been in charge of this post for the past three years,  
during that time the returns have been as good as ever they  
were at this place, and exceed in many former years so.  
I wish to say Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sir, that I think I am entitled to be  
raised another Step, in the service. I am willing to  
remain some years longer if I am promoted on half pay  
1856. If you do not think proper to do so I beg leave  
to inform you that it is my intention to Retire at the  
end of half pay 1855. An early answer will be gratifying,  
as I wish to leave by our Steamer next fall.

I remain Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sir  
Yr<sup>ts</sup> M<sup>ost</sup> Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
W<sup>m</sup> Macmillan

San Francisco 29<sup>th</sup> December 1854.

Captain W. H. McNeill.

Dear Sir

We have been in our crew to send a  
Wepel to your place thro the hope that there will be no dif-  
ficulty of obtaining a cargo of Ice from the Lake or in pac-  
king enough to supply our trade for the next season.

We make this attempt because we experienced much diff-  
culty during the past season at Prince Frederick's Sound  
when the water is unreliable, the navigation dangerous and  
the Ice of indifferent quality.

Captain Cornier goes up in the *Powhatan* to give his particular  
attention and superintendance to the Work of cutting and  
preserving the Ice, carrying with him all the implements nec-  
essary for the purpose. After filling the Ship he will give the in-  
formation requisite for the building of Ice Houses and the  
Storage of Ice for future export.

We have not had time to communicate to Gov<sup>r</sup> Douglas our  
intention to Work in future at Fort Simpson tho we are sure the  
step will meet with his approbation as he suggested the trial  
when the *Tammy* Major made her Northern voyage. In mean  
time we will be glad if you will assist Captain Cornier in his  
work in the same manner that Doctor Kennedy has done  
in the Sound. On the return of the *Powhatan* we will determine  
whether or not Prince Frederick's Sound shall be altogether  
abandoned or not. There are many reasons for shifting  
the scene of our operations to Fort Simpson if it is found  
practicable to obtain there as much Ice as our trade require  
and we by you give us your utmost assistance.

Gov<sup>r</sup> Douglas has given us permission to export Game  
& Fish from the possessions of the Hudson Bay Company

We are Dear Sir your Obedt<sup>y</sup> Respetful  
Servants  
Fornauy & Peyton

Copy

Fort Simpson 3<sup>d</sup> April 1855.

To

The Board of Management  
Hort H. B. by Fort Victoria

Gentlemen

I have the pleasure of informing you of the arrival at this place of the other Propellers on the 25<sup>th</sup> ultimo with our supplies. I am not <sup>sure</sup> of the contents of the packages an correct with the <sup>my</sup> supplies as, not, as we have had no time to examine them <sup>by her I also saw many good communications</sup>. I was much pleased

to see her cast up as we required the Salt for the small fish the Rice also was much required for the trade.

The Rice you mention as being sent to St Johns on the Delatada for this place, never reached here. The Steamer Beaver having left St Johns before the arrival of the Ship at that place, the Rice could not be sent here. I got Mr Kennedy with me from St Johns a few days before he sailed for California that he had paid away the Rice for Ice except a small quantity which he intended to take with him to San Francisco and that the Rice could be sent up in the Spring. I have the pleasure to inform you that our trade on this outfit has been good so far. We now have on this outfit near 1000 Bears and other Furs ahead of last year. I certainly expect 1000 Bears this year.

Mr George Blundin and family arrived here on the 10<sup>th</sup>, he will proceed to examine the Seals near this place after the other leaves and report proper to you by 6 weeks which will leave here for Victoria in about 30 days.

Mr Connor who came up here on the unfortunate Probation told me that he thought the Ice business would be abandoned as the Coy had already sunk \$65,000

I wish you by Haussre concerning the Probation and her drunken Captain. That the Ship was taken

was taken possession of by the natives of this place and that myself in conjunction with Put was the cause of getting her out of the hands of the Indians &c. Such Ships are a temptation to the Indians, and she would have been taken on any part of the coast, and I wrote Mr Peyton to that effect.

I also forwarded Mr Peyton's letter to me, by the Population to you by Haussa by it you will learn his plans concerning the Sea business this season. As we now have a full supply of goods on hand for the Sea trade, I can supply liberally all demands from the Agent.

The Chatsman's inform me that there is a large lake near their lands with level as thick ice in it during winter. They wish us to visit the same.

I also forwarded account of supplies to the Population by Haussa it was not paid as I had no Taxiff and I presumed the Government to charge higher to the Sea Company than last year, and requested you to have it paid and sent to California for payment &c, I also forwarded a Copy to Mr Peyton.

I own Ship by the Hles Fass. and Mr Barrels as per accompanying Invoice and Bill lading.

I am happy to say that all the inmates of this Establishment are in good health. In our premises and quiet, they are nearly all away at Day at present lading the manifest for sail. No news from Sitka lately, and no reports of Russians. We had just finished squaring wood for a new Store when the Hles arrived it will be put away. I did not expect a Ship with our Supplies until July. The Hles has been laid on the beach five days repairing damages sustained at Nanaimo by striking on a Rock. She is all right now.

From your Gentleman  
Yours most Obedt  
W. W. McMill

James Douglas Esq<sup>r</sup>

Fort Simpson  
15<sup>th</sup> May '55

Dear Sir

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> April per Blaine Capt. Dodd what vessel arrived here on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. all well.

Captain Dodd made about his usual trade on his way here.

Regarding the furs sent from this place in April last they were not packed a properly cleaned because we did not expect the vessel here with our supplies until the month of July or August as usual; some of them were traded whilst the ship was lying here; however they had all been aired and that one and would have been called in good order at any place but Fort Simpson for we generally have our furs extra clean.

It gives me satisfaction to inform you that our Returns states continues good. We saw down about 1160 lbs on the outfit, other furs ahead of last year except marten. I am certain however we will have 4500 at end of outfit as martens are said to be plentiful in interior.

We commenced laying the sole of a new store to morrow 110ft long and hope to have it finished 1<sup>st</sup> Sept.

The servants orders were delivered in good order and found to be correct when delivered to the men. Captain Dodd took box Blankets on to Stittens with him to pay Dr Kennedy's fee orders. Mr Stittens of has paid over 1000 Blts already to the Stittens. The furs will be at Dr Report this 20<sup>th</sup> June according to your order. I do not think we shall have so much

Whale oil as lost outfit still we may as it is coming  
in every now and then -

If the Sea business is to be carried on more or  
rather some light outfit BB will be required here.

Cassey intended to put a cutter he could return this  
fall and we would require a Blacksmith in his place  
I see no other except the Dominion at St Rupert  
by all accounts he will answer as well as Cassey for  
as his name is Ole Engeström.

Mr Blenkinsop is still here waiting  
orders. I offered Cap Dodd two good cutters he  
said he could do without them.

I should have pursued the Goods for  
the South Sea had we a Tariff to go by - I expected  
that the Sea Co would be charged higher for Goods than  
the price you have advised -

Enclosed I have asked for a few more  
Articles of Trade as per Requisition

I remain

Dear Sir

Your obedt Serv<sup>t</sup>

J<sup>r</sup>, W<sup>m</sup> McNeill

Fort Simpson  
15<sup>th</sup> May 55

John Mack Esq<sup>r</sup>

Dear Sir

By the Steam which  
vessel arrived here on the 5<sup>th</sup> Inst. I have to acknow-  
ledge your letter of 9<sup>th</sup> March, it had been detained  
by C. J. Kennedy when the other Capt J. Keppel  
in March last together with other letters by the  
same conveyance I received a letter from C. J. Douglas  
referring to the affairs of the Post. Since I had had  
the pleasure of addressing you nothing of importance

has occurred here.

Our Returns still continue good and now have on this outfit 1160 Peas all other Furs asked of last year except Mantles. I am confident of having 4500 at end of outfit as close valuable Furs are said to be numerous in the Interior.

We commenced laying the Sides of a new Stow to measure 110 ft long and hope to have it finished 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. Capt. Good left this on his first northern cruise on 5<sup>th</sup> Inst he had a capital outfit. I think by reports he will have a good trade: we have had two or three returns since he left in October last.

If the Ice trade is to be carried on and supplies to be furnished for it at this place we will require more light Paper Blankets &c.

Whale oil is not so plentiful as last year still we are getting small quantities every now and then.

The Cooper is still getting on with his Panels we are now putting wooden Hoops on them as we were nearly out of Iron one before the other came in March last. I went to trap and got some wood for making Hoops.

As Casey is to return in the fall we will require a Smith in his place. I have mentioned to C. F. Douglas that Mr. Bouvigne at Repulse will answer us as a Blacksmith. He is a good Gunsmith by trade so Mr. Plekino informs me. His name is Ole Engstrom.

A number of our Servants times are expired in the fall when they may return or may not. The Cooper and Casey will go for a certainty.

It is to replace Messrs. Ogilvie and McNeill they seem determined to go. It will be a difficult matter to replace Mr. McNeill in the Indian Shop in my opinion.

The Servants adms by the Prize came safe to  
land in good order and correct as for accompanying  
age.

Captain Dodd landed by Barrel Powder but  
does not know whether it was changed to the steamer  
or this place - he says but ten barrels of fire for the  
place -

Our men are all in good health and work well -  
the Indians also are on friendly terms with us -

A party of four canoes left this about 15 days  
since to hunt Sea Otter near Ceylon where they are in  
large numbers - 'Kiswagmit' went in one of the  
Canoes he attempted to take by force some women only  
of a load - the women defended themselves assisted by  
some Indians - Kiswagmit and his brother were  
wounded together with some other Chintheams -  
one nearly dead - This affair broke up the Sea Otter  
hunt and they came back with one Otter only yesterday

I remain

Dear Sir

Your Obedt Servt  
J. H. M. Hill

P.S.

Prophet Bottemann and his party arrived here  
all safe - Cap Dodd took them in two fur Otters.  
Bottemann told me that you said that I was to  
give him supplies &c. of course I did not believe  
him but they appeared to be in distress: therefore  
I supplied them to the amount of \$20 - he is to pay  
as for this when he comes from Sitka or sells  
for them at Sitka

J. H. M. Hill

Fort Simpson 16<sup>th</sup> June 1855

To

The Board of Management  
Hon<sup>ble</sup> to Bay by. Fort Victoria.

My dear Sir

As the Beaver is to recite Fort Rupert  
on her Southern Cruise I take the opportunity of writing  
to inform you that since I had the pleasure of  
communicating with you all has gone on well here  
The Trade is tolerable good except Mutton & Beaver  
which have fallen off <sup>the best mutton</sup> I am we hope however that our  
return of Mutton will <sup>be</sup> nearly equal to last year, as  
a large party of our Indians are now away to the Interior  
to trade. If made full we will have about the same as  
last year. Bear Skin are still coming in, we now have on  
this outfit about 1350.

The New Store we put long will be  
finished by 5<sup>th</sup> August. It was on arrival here on the  
2<sup>nd</sup> inst. by him I received your favor of 24<sup>th</sup> April informing me  
that the Utter was to proceed to Rupert with a supply of goods <sup>for the purpose</sup>  
Captain Dodd will on account to transport them going to <sup>the place</sup>  
on his return from the South. and to be at home about the 15<sup>th</sup> July  
I hope you will order at least 20 Tom Coats <sup>from Yanaime</sup> for this place  
when the Utter comes for the Trip in the fall.

I have your order on Mr McNeill to remain here until  
1<sup>st</sup> June 1856 on the salary you mentioned say £40. per Annum  
It will be a hard matter to replace him in the Shop, and  
when he is replaced it must be by a health man, as the  
Society will be displeas'd. <sup>a common large size suit</sup> Mr Ogilby is rather  
unwell at present, he tells me that he will remain  
"until the Spring," if his health permits. No fact is  
any more second is required for this plan and  
should be sent by the Utter as it is impossible for me

me to see to every thing. Mr Ogilby wishes to go and may  
be well be returned in the fall or next Spring.  
Gorsey the Blacksmith also wishes to return in the fall,  
therefore the Norwegian at Repost should be sent to replace  
him by the Aug. Old Eugene be soon.

Be pleased to send the Sergeant Bal-  
ancy first opportunity as many of the men has asked  
me concerning their account.

Mr Blankenship has been out of health ever since he  
arrived on the 11th, he now proceeds to Repost to see if  
S. J. Kennedy can do anything for him. No Ice Ship  
has as yet made his appearance, nor do I think any will  
be here before the fall of the year.

Captain Dodd made a  
trip to the Trade up North, and although thin I think not  
in the least Returns will be about the same as last year.  
We are on good terms with the Eskimoes, and our men  
are as cheerful and in tolerable good health, and do  
their duty as well as can be expected now a days.  
Captain <sup>Dodd</sup> will write you from Repost, giving all infor-  
-mation as regards his men, and the coast affairs in  
general.

I remain gentlemen  
Your Mo. Obedt Servt  
W. H. M. C. M. C.

P.S.

Captain Dodd paid about 700 Blankets to the Eskimoes  
Indians for Ice and Charley T. Kennedy and this  
is now 300 more stated dues which must be paid the  
next time he goes north. This will amount to nearly  
300 more and above the number handed in to  
Mr Blankenship. This is to pay for the extra 300.

An ap of these supplies will be forwarded in  
the fall.

W. H. M. C. M. C.

Fort Simpson  
18<sup>th</sup> Oct 1855.

To  
The Board of Management  
H. H. B. Co  
St. Victoria

Gentlemen,

I have much  
pleasure to inform you that the other articles here are right  
on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst had a portion of our Supplies Outfit etc.  
The Bills Landing, Packing etc and Invoices are also  
received.

I have also to acknowledge receipt of Letters from  
you of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Sept per letter also one of 30 Sept  
per canoe. The 3 men as per Statement  
also came. Three others of ad from sea engaged for  
the plow out of the St. Andrew Beavers. These with others  
that have been engaged at this place will make an complement  
full say 22 all told besides Officers.

The retiring Servants are 2 in number as per  
Statement are forwarded.

The California Rice now sent will be dead stock here  
the Indians will not look at it, and it must be sent back  
to Victoria. The English Rice was expended on the second  
day it will therefore be necessary that the Rice now  
on hand be together with the best Indian Blankets  
and Woollens be forwarded on as early in the Spring as  
possible.

Early Blankets are quite useful for the trade here and  
long great trouble in working them off - Coats are the best  
the Blue Bar even in them should be at the least  
7 inches from the edge of the Blanket. The Bars of  
the Scarlet Blanket should be a clear Blue or Red  
not mixed in it as at present.

The Green Blankets are too coarse, the wool

Should be fine and soft and of a lighter color similar to the Russian Blanket.

There is a Blue cut glass Band at Victoria larger than Dolls which would answer well for the Trade here.

We have been obliged to pay the two I. K. Indians some two Blankets one and above that that C. J. Kennedy gave an op of. I hope Mr. Pyles will be sensible enough to pay us for them.

The Cows brought by the Albatross last voyage were so bad that at least one fourth of them were thrown away.

The Blacksmith sent from Rupert is not the man he will never do to work for the Steamers Machinery. Ole Engelstrom is the man required and as he is a good Blacksmith he would turn in at least 200 marks to the Shop by repairing Tools &

Fifteen Panels sent last Fall sent here for the Beaver was condemned and being on our Inventory the Fort pays the price.

For the future all the Supplies that come here for the Beaver I shall charge immediately to her. In my opinion the best way would be for them to be charged direct to her at Victoria. Many Supplies sent here for her remain for years on our Inventory and the Fort pays 5 per cent for them.

I hope you will be pleased to send for the Percussion Muskets for our Posterns so soon as possible the old ones are not safe besides we can sell them at a great advantage for Fur.

Mr. Henry McNeill will not remain in the Service without more pay and even then he does not care about it if he does not rank as Clerk.

A Gentleman must be sent to supervise him as there is too large an amount of property in the Shop for a common man to have charge of and besides the Indians will be displeas'd if a Gentleman is not there to regulate their employ will never do, in fact he is of no manner of use at Fort Simpson.

The Captains of our vessels company here with Supplies a doing business must be under the orders of the Gentleman in charge and not as it is now. The Gentleman in charge is under the orders of the Captain. You directed me to ship Furs only, the Captains will take what they choose if you do not plan them under the orders of the Gentleman in charge. Gov. Miller used to tell me what he intended taking on when he intended to start and would not take in Furs on Saturday afternoon.

As Mr. Johnston is to remain here for a time I would be greatly oblig'd to be allowed to visit Victoria in course of next Summer or in the fall as I have business of importance to transact. Will you be pleas'd to let me know if I can be allowed by first opportunity.

All our Furs and other exports as per list are now shipped. Bells Lading and all the gaily of our outfit is now also sent.

Our Garden turned out 1100 Bush. Potatoes and in low water as many more from the Indians I am happy to say that the Indians are friendly and quiet and seem well dispos'd.

If Rice had been here sooner or had our two Sows or hogs we could have sent a large number of Furs that cannot be shipped, in fact we are brooding now but the California Rice will be a sad

disappointments to the Indians.

We will require early in the Spring Rice  
Indigo and 2½ lb Soap. Blackstks as well as all the  
other goods now indicated for.

We much want a large Boat all cloth to  
cover Tins when being shipped as they often get damp  
whilst being transported from the Store to the Ship.

It has been blowing hard from the S.E. & several  
of the Men arrived with a pain of rain.

The names of the Servants now returning are  
Peter Sebesten, Carpenter - John Smith and J<sup>r</sup> Gallop  
thus others sent W<sup>m</sup> Casey, Smith, Charles Merriam  
Cooper, and W<sup>m</sup> Rudland and Lewis for Pease.

I am happy to inform you that the inmates  
of the Establishment enjoy good health.

Remain, Gentlemen,  
Your Obedt Servt  
P<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> B. Pease

Fort Simpson 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 1855

To

The Board of Management  
at St. John's  
Fort Victoria

Gentlemen,

The Board will  
leave this for Victoria to morrow weather permitting.  
Captain Ooda arrived here from St. John's on the  
27<sup>th</sup> of Sept when we had had very strong  
weather. By the Pease Snow Ship all the  
Tins are here on hand & outfit 50 and as well as  
traded by Capt Ooda on his last trip to St. John's  
Inuit. Parting of Bill Laker & accompanying

them.

Our Fur Trade up to this date has been good in the way of Beaver and Deer Skins -  
Marten's however appear to be coming in but only a few.  
New, Skin, Red is the cry. The Californians  
sent here for Otter does not suit the Indians  
and must be sent back the first opportunity.

All the Englishmen was traded in  
one day and Captain Doid turned over to us all  
the Deer he had and that is also gone.

A large number of Skins are now in the  
camp as well as at Mass what the Indians  
will not part with only for Beer and Molasses

I should to request that all asked for in our  
Requisition, viz. Beer Molasses and Gift of  
Belts may be sent as early in the Spring as possible  
the Beer and Molasses should be sent as soon  
as possible as the Indians leave here by the 1<sup>st</sup>  
March for Mass and other places to hunt and  
procure provisions.

With two Norwegians and two Injouis  
that have engaged for this place for one year respectively  
we have the same complement as formerly say  
22 all told besides Officers.

I wish you by the Otter that the man sent  
here by the Otter from Fort Rupert was the wrong one  
and would not be able to do the work required  
for the Station. Captain Doid will explain  
the reason why.

In my opinion a large stock of Beer  
and Molasses should always be in Store at  
this place. We are now well supplied with  
Trading Goods with the exception of Beer and  
Molasses the Indians seem to be impatient for other  
two articles of late.

at larger bodies or number of Indians than ever  
left here before could land on the Spring for Iniquity  
and Victoria.

I have also to request you will be pleased  
to send us the 6 Steel or Brass mounted Guns  
asked for in our Requisition as soon as possible.

Yours truly  
J. M. Keble

P.S. The American Blankets sent per letter are  
quite unsalable - Green Blkts we have now  
a stock on hand for five years the quality being  
poor. I made remarks concerning them in my  
Letter to you per letter. We have also a large stock  
of Pullcocks Handkfs on hand sufficient for 3 years.  
There is no Discount here at present, for the  
Steamer and should be sent early in Spring.

As I have mentioned before the letter should  
be despatched, in my opinion, to this place  
so soon as possible with King, Molasses and Spirit.

The Indians will land early  
in Spring and if they do not get Red before they  
land the Saw will go to Iniquity to the Americans.

I am sorry to say the Goshen letter sent by the  
letter is very bad in my opinion it is one half Sand.

Mr Hanson one of the Chiefs at this place died  
this morning from wounds received by the fall of  
a tree in the night - four of his men were killed  
at the same time and three more are expected to  
die from same cause.

John Sabiston who serves in our Indian Shop as a worker  
Koder expects £25 per ann as others in the same situation at  
this place have always been - shall I allow it to him at present  
he has but £20 per ann. -

Sd W. H. Keble

# A/B/20/Si22

## Unused Pages

Blank pages  
were not scanned

**BC Archives PR-1678**  
**A/B/20/Si22**

**FORT SIMPSON (Columbia Department) FONDS**  
**Letter book : correspondence outward,**  
**20 Nov 1851 - 02 Nov 1855; 1875**

59  
16  

---

354  
19  

---

2

59  
16  

---

354  
594  

---

94182  
7554  

---

16992

# A/B/20/Si22

## Back cover section

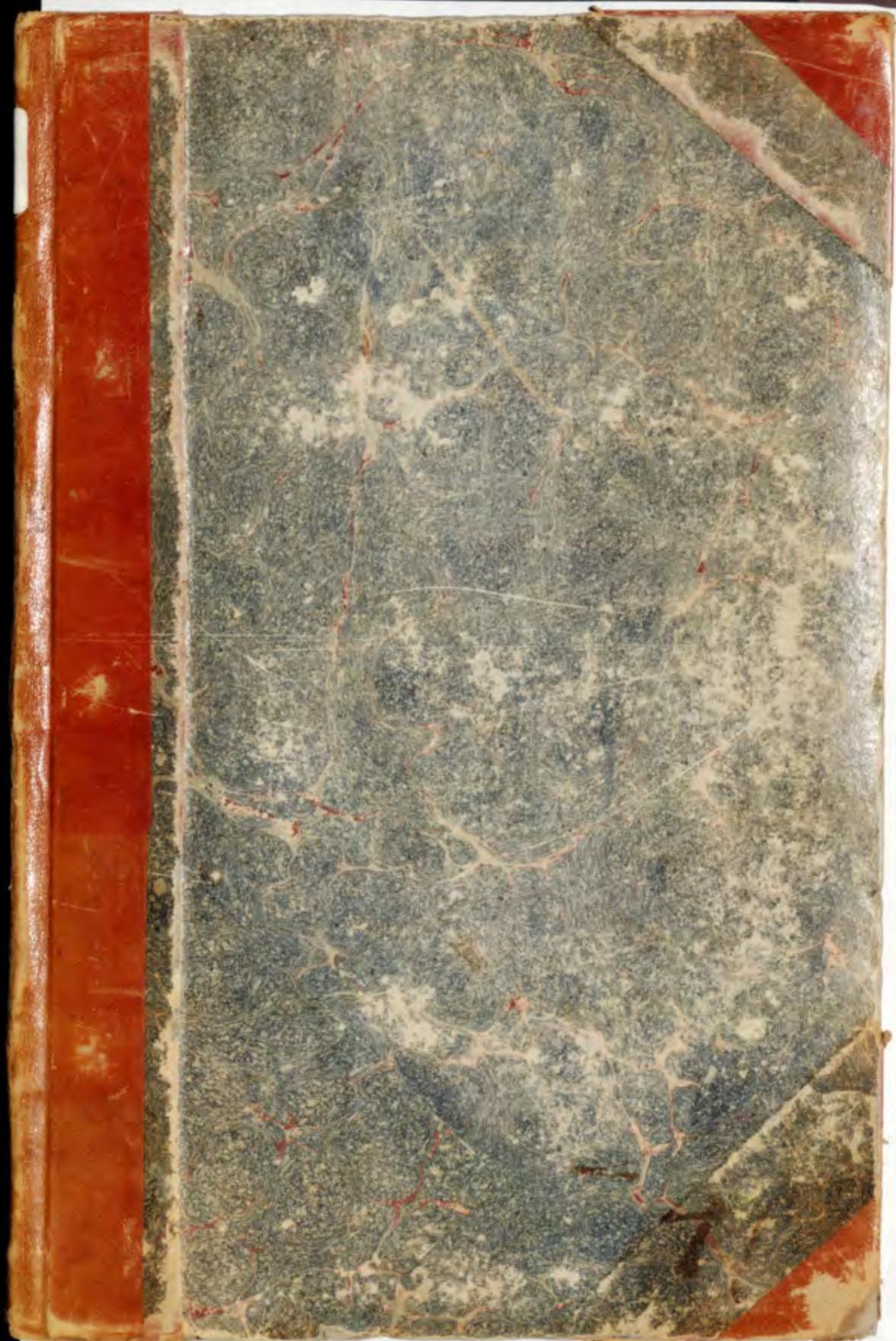
This section consists of material created from the back cover onward

**BC Archives PR-1678**  
**A/B/20/Si22**

**FORT SIMPSON (Columbia Department) FONDS**  
**Letter book : correspondence outward,**  
**20 Nov 1851 - 02 Nov 1855; 1875**

McNeill, Capt. Wm. Letters to James Douglas  
from Fort Simpson,  
20th November 1851 to 2nd Nov. 1855.

MS. A. 9. 2. 10  
P. 10



BC Archives PR-1678 FORT SIMPSON (Columbia Department) FONDS  
A/B/20/Si22 Letter book : correspondence outward,  
20 Nov 1851 - 02 Nov 1855; 1875

BC Archives PR-1678 FORT SIMPSON (Columbia Department) FONDS  
A/B/20/SI22 Letter book : correspondence outward,  
20 Nov 1851 - 02 Nov 1855; 1875

292

*[Faint, illegible handwriting]*

*[Faint, illegible handwriting]*



Saturday August 21<sup>st</sup> ...  
Sunday August 22<sup>nd</sup> 1875. ...  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> ...  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> ...  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> ...  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> ...  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> ...  
Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> ...  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> ...  
Monday

130

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> A dull morning & some of the Indians came up today evening & stayed in the  
back two rooms. I have been busy all the morning. It has been raining  
all day. Mr. Simpson, Brenda, Eliza, and Rippon went up in the "Plover"  
on Friday to stay a while at Langley. Sarah & Washington will stay at  
Langley before she goes home. Sam has been repairing the top of our  
sack. Father did not go to town today, he was taken ill before  
breakfast. We had a box of Olga Walker's that started at our house.  
Sunny got to the boys' free school top of Fort Street. She has been going  
about two weeks & is not nearly so old, cost day Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September.  
Sam went to town yesterday afternoon to get bread. Not a very bright morning.  
The cross that came on Monday evening went away last night. Martha  
went to Sam's to take her blankets back. She took a few purple plumes  
and a bottle of Smith. Old Mary & other Indian came to take their things.  
Old Peter went down to the Company's store to visit Martha. Father had  
another of his giddy fits just before he went to town. "I think" shall  
make my bed finished today that I have been turning about a week.  
Father bought the new magazine for this month and other newspapers.  
Two Indians died from the small pox and two more have caught it.  
Martha had lunch at Lewis & Young's as usual. Sis goes to school  
today also. Kate & Mary. Father has had to wear a tin hat.  
The Joneses & their family leave in the mail steamer City of  
Panama. The performance tonight Mr. Kessner's Circus, George, Phelps

# A/B/20/Si22

## End of File

57 images

**BC Archives PR-1678**  
**A/B/20/Si22**

**FORT SIMPSON (Columbia Department) FONDS**  
**Letter book : correspondence outward,**  
**20 Nov 1851 - 02 Nov 1855; 1875**

Fort Simpson -  
Correspondence outward - Nov. 20/51 - Nov. 2/55.

W. H. McNeill Fort Simpson, 20<sup>th</sup> Novr., 1851.  
to James Douglas Esquire.

Fort Simpson 20<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1851.

James Douglas Esquire.

Sir,

After leaving Victoria I proceeded, with the "Una" to fulfil your Instructions of 4<sup>th</sup> October 1851. We had a fine run of four days to Q. C. I. after which, a gale of wind came on, and detained us off Cape Henry, Eight days, consequently we did not Anchor in Mitchells Harbour untill the 20<sup>th</sup> Oct. On the second day after we arrived, we commenced Blasting the Rock at the "old" place. We commenced in a Vein of Quartz, and were very successful, ~~the rock~~ the rock proved to be rich with Gold, as you will see by the Specimens now forwarded per Doctor Kennedy. We followed the seam or vein, and found it deeply impregnated with Gold. The vein seems to take a direction up the Mountain. In fact our men went about half way to the top, say 300 feet above the water and found "Quartz" rock, a specimen of which I now send you. In my opinion Gold will be found in many places hereafter on the West side of the Island, as Quartz rock is to be found in every direction. We found it, in four different places in Mitchells Harbour, but had no time to examine it.

I am sorry to inform you that we were obliged to leave off blasting, and quit the place for Fort Simpson on account of the annoyance we experienced from the Natives. They arrived in large numbers say 30 Canoes and were much pleased to see us on our first arrival. When they saw us blasting, and turning out so much Gold they became excited and commenced depredations on us, stealing the tools, and taking at least one half of the Gold that was thrown out by a blast. They would be concealed untill the report of a blast was heard, and then make a rush for the Ore, a regular scramble [sic.] between them and our men would take place they would take our men by the legs and hawl them away from the Gold, some blows were struck on these occasions [occasions] The Indians drew their knives on our men, often. The men who were at work at the Vein became completely [completely] tired and disgusted at these proceedings, and came to me in three several times and told me that



B

20

Si 22A

copy 1

they would not stay or remain any longer to work the Gold, That their time was lost to them, as the Natives took one half thrown out by a blast, and blood would be shed if they continued to work at the "diggings" That our force was not strong enough to work, and fight at the same time, They were aware that they could not work on shore after hostilities had commenced &c. Therefore I made up my mind to leave the place and proceed to this Establishment.

The Natives were very jealous of us when they saw that we could obtain Gold by blasting, they had no idea that so much could be found below the surface, They said that it was not good that we should take all the Gold away, If we did so that they would not have anything to trade with other Vessels should any arrive, In fact they told us to be off.

The Chiefs have no power or controul[control] over the lower orders, and of course cannot prevent them from plundering or committing any act of violence on strangers. I will refer you to M<sup>c</sup>Gregor for information regarding the Vein &c. at the "diggings" as he seems to have a good idea of the rock, and how the work should be carried on, he has behaved well and was very zealous at his work.

The men said they would go again in the Spring if an expedition properly fitted should start for working the Gold on Q. C. I.- In my opinion should another expedition go to Q. C. I. a force of at the least Eighty men would be required, with two Officers to attend the land party. The Ship also should have three Officers besides the Captain, which I can prove by experience during our late visit to the Gold district, The Ships Crew as well as the land party should go on shares of the Gold that may be collected, as it would prevent any one from trading the Ore, We had considerable trouble during our late visit at the diggings on Q. C. I. to prevent the people from trading Gold. The Natives brought a quantity of Gold to me which I traded, and now forward per the "Una", together with that which we obtained by blasting ourselves - Very little if any Gold will be obtained on Q. C. I. except by blasting. It appeared to me that ef the Gold I "traded", was obtained in some other place than that which we were at -

The Natives however said that they had not discovered Gold in no other place than in Mitchells Harbour. This report I much doubt as the lumps, are solid, and different from any that we procured at the place, we were at work on,

We have discovered[discovered], and proved, on this voyage that Gold Ore is to be had in quantity in Mitchells Harbour alone, to pay an Expedition to go there and work it - I had no opportunity of examining the country much, as we remained but 15 days, during which time I was occupied with the Indians, as no one on board except myself could speak to them, we had some bad and boisterous weather during our stay at the place -

I saw no place where we could build a fort on near the diggings. The shores near the Sea and harbours are bold steep rocks down to the waters edge. Provisions will be found scarce at Mitchells Harbour no deer on the Island, and fish seems to be very scarce scarce[sic.], as the natives cannot catch them on the outside of the Island except during a calm or a N. E. wind. Potatoes can be had in large quantities from the Sidegates people, who reside on the East side of the Island but can reach the diggings in two days travel in the Summer season - Should a fort be built or a Ship remain at the diggings "for a length of time", a large number of Indians would collect, and reside near at hand and give annoyance, Therefore a large force of men would be required for protection, and to work the Gold. A person acquainted[acquainted] [with] Indians should head the Expedition, and have an Interpreter

The Natives on the West or outside of the Island are great Marauderers[Marauders] and prey on on[sic.] distant tribes, taking many prisoners, and make Slaves of them.

I hope you will be satisfied with the reasons I have given for leaving the diggings and not remaining there so long as you wished -

The voyage has however done some good, we have ascertained that Gold is to [be] found by blasting to pay well for working it -

The best or purest Gold is to be found deep down in the rock, we however had no time or chances to get at it as we were obliged to leave as stated before.

I remain Sir  
Your Mo. Obed<sup>t</sup> Sert  
W. H. McNeill.

Copy  
Report Expedition  
to Queen Charlotts Island  
Brigantine "Una" -

W. H. McNeill                      Fort Simpson, 20<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>. 1851.  
to James Douglas Esquire

---

Fort Simpson, 20<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>. 1851.

James Douglas Esquire

Sir

I have to inform you of my arrival here with the "Una", on the 12<sup>th</sup> Inst from Q. C. I. I found C. T. Kennedy in charge, the inmates were not very well, I am sorry to say -

The Steamer with C. F. Work on board had left some Eight days before our arrival for Fort Victoria. C. T. Kennedy gave up charge of the Establish<sup>t</sup> to me with the papers in his charge possession relating to the affairs of the post - The Goods remaining on hand from Q. C. I. Expedition have been landed, and will be in dept here, untill further orders from you. They may answer for the Expedition to Q. C. I. in the Spring. An account of them I now forward. Captain Mitchell, has landed twelve Barrels Flour, and Six Bbls Salt Pork which we have given a receipt for, They will also remain in depot for orders from you, The flour will be required for backing into Biscuits for the Steamer &c-

A large quantity of Potatoes being on hand here C. T. Kennedy recommended that 1300 bushels should be sent to Victoria, as a part of them would be spoilt lying on hand here. We have more now than can be consumed for our own use -

The fur on hand, and traded since the Steamer left here are now shipped on board the Una.

The Gold Ore obtained by us at Q. C. I. by blasting, has been weighed, in presence of the men, It weighed by the Stalyards 58 lbs "in checking the Bags". By the Scales 59 lbs. 10 oz. The men wished it to be valued at Victoria, by you, as they were afraid, If divided here that some of them would get more than his own share of "rock" - One half of of[sic.] the 58 lbs only of course belongs to the men, say "nine" of of[sic.] them. Louis Fallerdeau - Mazim Lavoir - Louis Peltier - Louis Dubeau - Francis Satakarata - George Richardson - John Crittle - William Pike - and Michael Le Fleur -

Poor Edward Stone died and was interred [interred] at Mitchells Harbour, he had been sick about 14 days, every attention was paid to him to no effect. William Pike has charge of the deceased's

effects -

As C. F. Work is with you, and C. T. Kennedy is to take passage on the Una, I will refer you to them for any information relating to this place. I will however remark that ~~that~~ some good man is required here to put up the new buildings. one "head" man that understands building, should be sent. In fact we require a Carpenter, otherwise the Lord only knows when all will be finished as we have a most miserable set here at present called men. Some of these men belonging to the land party Q. C. I. Expedition, have taken a few articles on their account from this place. The amount of which will be deducted from the share of Gold due them at Fort Victoria. They had a few articles also from Victoria Sale Shop before leaving, an account of them I now also send you in case the document should be required. I could not settle the account here as you desired. As the men wished the division of Gold to be made at Victoria. I have employed "McGregor", and Crittle, blasting the Rock when the Gold Mr Work took from hence, was said to have come from, to no effect we have looked at other places near this establish<sup>t</sup>, to no purpose. I am sorry to say the returns are not so good as usual at this place up to this date. "Le Fleur" wishes to engage for one year or more for this place, and be allowed to go to Q. C. I. in the Spring. I have refer'd him to you, he would have remained here now if his Wife had been with him he will be a capital hand for the Spring Expedition -

I shall pity any small craft, or party that may venture to Q. C. I. to work the gold ore, as they will to a certainty be cut off. "Rowland" had better not make the trial; but he knows best - If I could not get on with the natives at Mitchells Harbour with a small force I do not know who can. I have strongly to recommend, That the house on the "Una's" deck should be taken off, and a Cabin made below decks, as it is not safe at Sea, or in a Skirmish with the Indians, Musket balls would go through and through it. It is always wet in rainy weather the Sea goes into it, makes the Ship strain, and rots the deck. It is in my opinion unhealthy - The Carpenter says that it must come off ere long ~~to~~ to lay new decks where the house now stands. The Carpenter tells me he can finish it in i.e. the Cabin, ~~in~~ in six weeks with one man to assit[assist] him -

The "Una" has been detained here longer than was expected by a continuation[continuation] of bad weather and Gales of wind from the S. E. with heavy rains also - Her sails had to be taken on Shore and be repaired -

I am Sir

"Copy"

Your Obedt Sert

W. H. McNeill

---

W. H. McNeill                      Fort Simpson, 20<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1851.  
to James Douglas Esq<sup>r</sup>

---

Fort Simpson 20<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1851.

James Douglas Esq<sup>r</sup>

Dear Sir

I find the flour in "Bags"  
at this place, will not keep sweet much longer,  
therefore will bake it into Biscuit, and keep the  
13 Bbls landed from the "Una" for use of the  
establish<sup>t</sup>-

Therefore you must not depend on it for the Exped-  
ition in the Spring to Charlotts Island -

I am Dear Sir your Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

"Copy"

W. H. McNeill

---

W. H. McNeill                      Fort Simpson, 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1851.  
to Captain Mitchell.

---

Fort Simpson 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1851.

Captain Mitchell.

Sir

The "Una" under your command being now ready for Sea, You will please proceede with her, first favorable opportunity, "direct" to Fort Victoria, and report the arrival of the Vessel to James Douglas Esquire, or the Gentleman in charge of that Establishment -

Wishing you a safe and speedy voyage -                      I remain Sir

Your Obed<sup>t</sup> Sert

"Copy"

W. H. McNeill

---

W. H. McNeill

Fort Simpson 22<sup>nd</sup> Novr 1851.  
to James Douglas Esqre.

---

Fort Simpson 22<sup>nd</sup> Novr 1851.

James Douglas Esq<sup>re</sup>

Dear Sir

There being a large quantity of  
Whale Oil on hand at this place, I have thought proper  
to Ship say 200 Gallons on board the "Una" for your  
place. We are short of Casks, or more would be sent.

I am Dear Sir

Your Obed<sup>t</sup> Sert.

W. H. McNeill.

"Copy"

---

W. H. McNeill

Fort Simpson 8<sup>th</sup> January 1852.  
to James Douglas Esq<sup>r</sup>e

---

Fort Simpson 8<sup>th</sup> January 1852.

James Douglas Esq<sup>r</sup>e

Dear Sir

I have to inform you of the arrival at this place, of the Schooner Damariscove "Captain Balch" the day before yesterday, direct from Fort Victoria. She came for information & concerning [concerning] the Crew of the Georgianna lately wrecked on Q. C. I., she leaves this to day for the wrecked people at "Cumshewas". Four of the Georgiannas Company arrived here on the 11<sup>st</sup> December last, in a Canoe. I have victualled, and clothed them, to this date, they have now gone on board the Schooner and will proceed [sic.] to Nisqually by her. They stood a watch part of the time they were here, and I thought proper not to charge them with the few articles of supplies they received from us at this place. Lieut Dement offerd [offered] to return them. I have given Captain Balch two Bbls Salt fish for his crew. A man on board the Damariscove, "Jackson" who was formerly on board the Steamer, tried all in his power to make the Indians here believe that none of the Companys Vessels would come here again for three years and told our men the same.

I went on board the Schooner and complained to Captain Balch of Jacksons conduct.

I also told Jackson that he had better take care of himself or I would give him some trouble.

The Crew of the Schooner are in a most disorderly state, they had a fight on board yesterday and struck the Captain several times, I was eye witness to it. The Lieut wishes the voyage to an end.

I was grieved to hear of the loss of the "Una," and the "seizure" of the Beaver and Mary Dare.

This will cause much derangement in our affairs the coming Spring Indeed I do not see how you are to replace the Vessels in time for business.

I hear that the Steamer may possibly may [sic.] be released if not, the loss of her services the coming season will be immense. I hope to have the pleasure of seeing her cast up here however in the course of Six weeks.

Matters and things go on here as usual, men and Indians all quiet. The trade however is not near so good as former years. We have a supply of Biscuit on hand for Steamer and hope soon to put it on board her. We are now putting putting up a new fence around the Garden, and new corner houses in the fort.

The Big house will not be finished in a hurry, without a reinforcement of men and a "leading" man, most of our mens times expire, or rather they will leave in the fall -

I have no particular news to write about, since the "Una" left us on the 29<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> last.

The Americans seem determined to give us all the trouble they can possibly at Nisqually, what a mean set get into Office there. I have no late news either from Sitka- or Rupert.

"Copy"

I remain Sir  
Your Obed<sup>t</sup> Sert  
W. H. McNeill

---

W. H. McNeill Fort Simpson 8<sup>th</sup> Jan'y 1852.  
to Lieut Dement and Captain Balch  
"Schooner, Damariscove."

---

Fort Simpson 8<sup>th</sup> Jan'y 1852.

Lieut Dement and Captain Balch  
"Schooner, Damariscove."

Sirs

I learn that your Volunteers are in the habit of bringing Spiritous Liquors on shore and dealing it out among the Indians a thing not allowed in any of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> H. B. Coy's or or[sic.] Russian American Companys Ports, this place in particular Spirits was served out last night and I saw some in a bottle in an Indian lodge this day. I have to request that a stop will be put to it or otherwise evil consequences may ensue.

I am Sirs

Your very Obde<sup>t</sup> Sert

W. H. McNeill

---

W. H. McNeill

Fort Simpson 26<sup>th</sup> Augt 1852.

To The Board of Management

H. H. B. Coy. Fort Victoria

---

Fort Simpson 26<sup>th</sup> Augt 1852.

To

The Board of Management

H. H. B. Coy. Fort Victoria

Gentlemen

I beg to inform you of the arrival at this place of the "Mary Dare", with our Supplies &c for the present Outfit, on the 20<sup>th</sup> inst. Your valued favor of of[sic.] 6<sup>th</sup> inst, together with the Invoice and other documents accompanying it Four labourers also joined us as a reinforcement. Your favor of 30<sup>th</sup> March came to hand, with a few Supplies, per Steamer on the 24<sup>th</sup> April  
Respecting transactions at this place in general, I will refer you to C. F. Work, as he has been here since 24<sup>th</sup> April, and will no doubt report on matters conected[sic.] with the coast fully -

I have been in charge of this establishment since 20<sup>th</sup> November 1851. since that time we have been at work as usual on the build-ings & fences, the Old "Big" House has been taken down and the frame of a new one is now up, and we shall progress so fast as possible to complete it - The Mary Dare brought most of the Supplies here, intended for the "Recovery" expedition to Q. C. I. not being Required for her as she was to return to Victoria. They will be taken on account at this place. The Cargo of Mary Dare was landed in two days, being fine weather. since then we have had stormy weather with heavy rain, which has prevented us from Shipping our Exports so expeditiously as we wished, she has not been detained one moment longer than was required - The Anvil and Vice landed from "Una" last Winter, are now sent. The other articles such as drills, crow bars, &c were sent to Q. C. I. for the "Recovery," per Order Doctor Kennedy -

Gold was reported "by Indians" to have been discovered up the Skenar River on the 8<sup>th</sup> April last, C. F. Work after his arrival her[here] on the Steamer 24<sup>th</sup> April visited the place but saw no Gold or Ore. "see his report." Copper has been discovered on the North end of Q. C. I. or rather a little to the South<sup>d</sup> of North Island, a Specimen was brought here by Indians lately. Our returns this year are not so good as might be expected. The Steamer has so far done well in obtaining Fur, Therefore including her trade the returns of the coast will be about the same as last year. The reasons for the returns not being better are these, Ten or more American Vessels have visited Q. C. I. which threw a large quantity of Goods into the Market, and kept the natives from hunting or exerting themselves to obtain Fur. These Vessels had from 50 to 100 men on board they expended large quantities of property on women, besides what was paid for Gold by them. the Recovery, and the Una. the latter Vessel alone expended over 100 Blkts besides Cotton &c. Then the Damariscove and the Theity and Pandora have all added a shore - The Fur from Q. C. I. formerly came to this place, this year we have not seen one Skin. The Kyarnies and Chatsena. have done little or nothing for us, they also have been most of the Summer at Mitchells Harbour with their women. The Nass Indians are and have been at War with the Interior people for the past Ten months, this has caused a decrease of returns from that quarter also, as the Nass people usually bring a large portion of the returns from this place. I am grieved to inform you that poor Old Knackanui died here on the 8<sup>th</sup> July after an illness of about Seven days. An English Gentleman who came here on the Pandora as passenger. also died here on the 20<sup>th</sup> inst he had been sick for along time & came with Captain Mott for the benefit of his health. his effects will be sent to Gen<sup>l</sup> Millar English Consul at the Sandwich Islands to be sold for the benefit of his Mother in England.

I have now Shipped on board the Mary Dare our own, and the Steamers returns up to this date, with Invoices and

other documents connected A quantity of Oil is also Shipped, part of which is excellent clear oil, some however is a mixture of Whale and Small Fish Oil, it will answer for many useful purposes at Victoria.

A few of our men are retiring per the Mary Dare as per list forwarded. Others will leave for Victoria per the Steamer in the Fall. On the 19<sup>th</sup> inst Six men came here from Kigarney in Canoes, "Five Americans and one Canadian" They report that their Ship, the Mary and Martha of New Bedford foundered [foundered] at Sea 200 miles from land, they left her in three Boats 10.9.6 Souls in each Boat, they parted with the two other Boats in the night, and do not know what became of them, "this is their story." Five Americans go in Mary Dare. The Canadian has engaged for one year at this place.

The inventories and other accounts connected with the present Outfit will be forwarded per Steamer in the fall. The inmates of the establishment are, and have been, generally, in good health, referring you to C. F. Works report, for more correct information of matter relating to the coast -

I remain Gentlemen  
Your Obed<sup>t</sup> Ser't  
W. H. McNeill

P.S. Our Garden looks well, and I think we shall have an abundant Crop of potatoes.

W. H. McN

P.S. I am sorry to inform you that a fire took place here on the 3<sup>d</sup> June, it commenced in the Smooke house, where we had a large quantity of Small Fish in smooke at the time,

I presume that some of the rotten wood that was used to smooke the fish was sound in the heart and too much being used caused a blaze some of the Oil from the Fish no doubt fell on the frie [fire] which assisted the blaze. The house was close to the Pickets which some took fire also and all was in a blaze in a few moments. The Pickets was burnt about 50 feet on one side from the S. W. Corner of the Fort and about 20 feet ~~from~~<sup>on</sup> the other side - Corner house, Gallery, and Sheds was all consumed, and

we expected that Fort Simpson would be a heap of Ruins, No less than 500 Armed Indians were inside the Fort, they passed water, and assisted very much to extinguish the fire, in fact had it not been for them passing such large quantities of water the place in my opinion would have been a heap of ruins, I had been laid up five days before the fire took place with the Rheumatism in the back and could not walk without Crutches, I managed however to get out and give orders, M<sup>r</sup> Work Senior, and Junior, were very active in their extions[exertions] to stop the fire. The Rum, and Powder, was got outside the fort, untill the fire was got under, when we stored it again. The Indians took several articles from mens houses, and The Company lost about £20 - which was not much considering the number of Indians we had in the Fort, It was lucky for us that we were on good terms with the Natives, or they might have given us trouble. We have not had one row or any disturbance with them since I took charge here, The Fire raged about two hours. Many stange[ strange] Indians were in the Fort, Schapas, Millbank, and Nasscars, "It was a miracle that the Fort was saved" and I have to thank God for his goodness -  
New Pickets are now up, and every thing as it was before the Fire took place.

W. H. M<sup>c</sup>N

---

W. H. McNeill Fort Simpson 7<sup>th</sup> November 1852.  
To The Board of Management  
Hon<sup>ble</sup> H. B. Co'y. Fort Victoria

---

Fort Simpson 7<sup>th</sup> November 1852

To  
The Board of Management.  
Hon<sup>ble</sup> H. B. Co'y. Fort Victoria

Gentlemen

Chief Factor work[Work] leaves this on board the Steamer for Victoria tomorrow. By him you will receive the Accounts and other papers relating to Outfits "52." and "53" Outfit "52" was closed 16<sup>th</sup> September - An additional Requisition for the Current Outfit is now forwarded.

We have now Shipped on board the Steamer, all the Furs we have collected since the Mary Dare left us on account of "52" @ "53"

I have but little information to communicate relating to affairs at this place, since I had the Honor of addressing you on the on the[sic.] 26<sup>th</sup> August last. All is quiet here among the Natives and we are on the most friendly terms with them although they have been much excited, with seeing the large amount of property we have been paying to strange Indians for the release of the Crews of distressed Ships -

I have the pleasure to inform you that our Fur Trade has improved since the departure of the Mary Dare, and our returns now i e Outfit "52" will be about the same as last year. The Fur Trade for the present Outfit say "53" has commenced well, as you will see by the Account now forwarded, and I have hopes that the <sup>trade</sup> ~~trade~~ may be good to the end, If no more interlopers or Gold seekers pay us a visit.

In my opinion [opinion] Vessels from California and Sand<sup>h</sup> Islands may will pay the coast a visit "next Spring" to procure Dry Fish It would appear by what we learn that the Chinese, most in that country prefer it to it to[sic.] any Salt provisions. Other Vessels or a Vessel may go to Nass to Salt "Ulahins, I have heard that some one on board the Damariscove said that he would get up a voyage and go there for that

purpose. Others are certain to come for Ice.& and in fact anything that will pay them for their trouble - A Vessel of War is now absolutely [absolutely] required to protect our trade, or in other words "British Interest" on the coast. The Americans and as I hear the British Consulat at [sic.] St Francisco say that any Vessel has a right to come on the coast and Traffic for anything with the exception of Furs. If this is true, and Vessels should come here with this understanding, you may judge of the annoyance and trouble they will give us. The Indians here are already much excited, to see strange Indians receiving such large quantities of Goods for bringing the Crew of the late Susan Sturges, and other ways,

On the 29<sup>th</sup> last Month Captain Rooney and his Mate were brought here by a "Chatsina" Canoe from Queen Charlotts Island. Their Vessel the "Susan Sturges" under American Colours, but owned by British Subjects had been taken on the 26<sup>th</sup> by the natives of "Massete" on said Island, she was plundered and burnt, no lives were lost on the occation [occasion], she had \$1500 on board, his Gold and Silver and a complete trading Outfit all of which fell into the hands of the natives, Her crew number but Seven all told.

A few days since three more of the crew were brought here by a Canoe despatched by us expressly for them, For the Captain and his men we have been obliged to pay Indians Goods &c as per Account now forwarded. They were all complet[e]ly naked when they came here we of course had to clothe them from head to foot, and rationed them the same as our own men. The Captain, Mate, and three men, of the late Susan Sturges will go on board the Steamer as passengers to Fort Victoria, The number of distressed Crews and Interlopers who have come upon us this year for Supplies of every kind will be a considerable item in our expedition.. I hope no fault will be found with our doings on these occations [occasions].

Chief Factor Work has been here since the month of April, and will inform you not only on this subject, but all other matters connected with affairs at this post, during that time.. In my opinion the Goods paid

by us this year for distressed crews &c should be charged to "General Expenses", for we are sure to have these interlopers here every year after this, as it will become known that they can, and will, be relieved by us at this place "at no expense to them."

This year, we have relieved i.e. Clothed, "paid Indians, for bringing captiv[e]s." and feed the following Ships crews. Four men from wreck of Georgiana clothed and fed for one Month - Supplied and gave a passage to five men who ran away from an American Whaler - Supplied and protected Brig Pandora, "she had been fairly in possession of the Indians at this place". This Vessel had been laying here in front of the Fort Four months and Eight days, We baked Biscuit for her &c at no charge from us. A Gentleman by name of Gaskill came on Shore sick from the Pandora and died here we did every thing in our power to relieve him to no purpose. Then came the Crew of the Susan Sturges. Our New Big house is advancing slowly, towards being completed. I am in hopes to have one end finished, and occupied, by the time the Steamer arrives here in the Spring, The expenditure of Leaf Tobacco has been large this year, on account of a new fence being erected[erected] round the Garden, making Shingles &c by Indians.

I would be more explicit in my communication, had not C. F. Work been in possession been acquainted with all matters concerning the trade, and state of things in general on this part of the coast,

The inmates of this Establishment are in tolerable good health, and so far have conducted themselves well.

I remain Gentl[e]men  
Your Mo Obed<sup>t</sup> Sert<sup>t</sup>  
W. H. McNeill.

---

W. H. McNeill

Fort Simpson 23<sup>d</sup> August 1853.

To The Board of Management H H B Coy.  
Fort Victoria

---

Fort Simpson 23<sup>d</sup> August 1853.

To

The Board of Management H H B Coy.  
Fort Victoria

Gentlemen

On the 15<sup>th</sup> inst I had the pleasure of receiving C. F. Douglas's communication of 1<sup>st</sup> August inst address'd to C. T. Dodd and myself We were gratified to learn that he was pleased with our doings on the Coast during the present outfit He informed us that the Brigantine Vancouver would be despatch[ed] with our Supplies. &c,

The Vancouver is now no more, she was run on shore on Point Rose Spit early on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> inst going Seven knots, Mr Swanson and Griffin arrived here on the 15<sup>th</sup> with the astounding news, about <sup>10 AM</sup> ~~noon~~. The Steamer was fortunately lying here with 25 cords wood on deck, "waiting the arrival of a Vessel with supplies," Captain Dodd order[e]d the Steamer to be got up immediat[e]ly, and started at 2 P.M. for the unfortunate Vancouver, and arrived at the scene of trouble at about 10 P.M. The Steamer arrived back here on the 18<sup>th</sup> late in the evening having on board Captain Reid, his Officers, and crew,

All the Powder, Six Cases Guns, a few Bales and Cases of Sundries and some of the stores an account of which is now sent. I will not enter into details as Captains Dodd and Reid will be with you to inform of all particulars.

The Bales and Cases saved have not been opened, and we have no time as yet to look at them, and do not know their contents as we have received no Invoice or Packing a/c, No Tariff the Servants orders book, and other papers have not come to hand, they no doubt are lost, We send the marks and numbers of the Bales, Cases &c saved thus you will be able to a[s]certain the contents, with the exception of what these Cases and Bales contain, We require of course, the whole

Requisition for "44" as formerly asked for in fact we require double the quantity of Rice, and Pearl Buttons. Captain Dodd will hand you a list of articles we both require for trade to be sent per return of Steamer if possible, Captain Dodd will also inform you of our joint opinions on matters of business &c, our plans of operations as regards trade &c as we had arranged had not this unfortunate wreck taken place.

I must mention that after all had been done possible to save the Vancouver, Captain Reid set fire to her, as he says she was breaking up and the Sea making a complete breach over her. The Indians had begun to celle[sic.] it else, plunder & break up the Vessel Those [sic.] Massetts again," as it was they gave some annoyance, It is now time that This Edenso and his gang were punished.

I hope you will be pleased to despatch the Steamer so soon as possible as Captain Dodd cannot be up North to secure the trade the Sea Otter in particular at cross Sound we hear the Indians are holding them for him. I hope the remainder of our Supplies will be forwarded per Ship so soon as may be possible as we are completely out of many articles of trade.

I have Shipped a part of our own, and the Steamers Returns as per Accounts now forwarded. Captain Dodd bought in the three Boats and a few other things belon[g]ing to the Vancouver for the Company, at an Auction here, We thought it best to have them sold immediately for benefit of Underwriters &c, A few articles of Ships Stores, "Vancouver's" are valued and remain here for orders."see list now sent."

I shall be obliged to keep Mr McNeill here for a while as Pierre Lagace retires in the fall [to] his Steamer, and if so, no one can take his place in the Shop as Interpreter but him. If M<sup>r</sup> McNeill remain[s] for one year he will [get] an advance of pay, All is goin[g] will[well] with us at present, the Indians all quiet and friendly We had a fracas at the Gate a short time since, when an Indian fired a shot which slightly wounded Rob<sup>t</sup> Reid, and an Indian Chief with a

Beaver Shot, neither of them of importance. If I could be permitted to visit Victoria for a short time, to get my affairs arranged I shall be obliged, my Children also require my presence for various reasons, I shall be willing to return here or take charge of any other post you please.

I have to beg that a Ship with supplies may be sent so soon as possible or the trade may suffer. The Indians are about to start for the Interior to trade Fur and are much disappointed in not having Pearl Buttons. Vermilion Turkey Hkf &c to take with them. We are always short of Vermilion at this place. C. F. Douglas wishes C. T. Dodd' and my own opinion as regards increasing the number of Land Otters. We have endeavour[e]d to encourage the Indians to hunt them more than usual in during the past two outfits they have increased, We will do all in our power to obtain more by making presents &c I do not think it advisable to increase the Price as Capt<sup>n</sup> Dodd gives a 3 pt Infr Blanket for them up North to keep them from the Russians, possibly we may do the same hereafter. Irachim Teyhorate is at the point of death he cannot survi[v]e long.

I know of no way of punishing the Chilcasts without a Man O War does it we cannot muster force for it. C. T. Dodd will advise you on this subject I have mentioned before that no Bill Lading, Invoice or Packing have come to hand, no doubt they were lost in the Vancouver. As our men have not received all their orders, they have sent for a few more articles, as per presamt[sic.] I had forgotton to mention that all the Bales Servants orders were saved, and luckily hād the names of each individual on them or we should not have know[n] who they belonged to. I do not think it necessary to send account of our trade as it has varied but little since I last wrote you

Mr Griffin appears to be a capable young man and I think he will do well here.

I remain Gentlemen  
Your Obd<sup>t</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>  
W. H. McNeill

---

W. H. McNeill

Fort Simpson 8<sup>th</sup> Octr 1853.  
to John Work Esquire.

---

Fort Simpson 8<sup>th</sup> Octr 1853.

John Work Esquire

My Dear Sir

The "Otter" arrived here on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst about 4 P.M. with our Supplies which were delivered all right according to the Invoice and Bill Lading we have not had time to examine the contents of the packages. as yet. We are two Bags Flour short of the number specified in account. The Jars of paint Oil leaked and damaged one Bale Blankets. By the Otter I had the pleasure of receiving your much esteemed favor of 24<sup>th</sup> Septr, your wishes as expressed in it will be carried into effect so far as possible. We now Ship all our returns per the Otter Outfit "53." Invoice. packing account. Bill Lading and of which are now sent. Also the accounts you asked for relating to Outfit "53." The usual accounts will be forwarded per the Beaver.

The Otter has been detained longer than she would have been had she proper Boats for landing and receiving Cargo, as it is we have taken most of the Cargo on shore in Canoes and on a Raft, and most of the Furs were shipped in Canoes, which is not safe. <sup>Two</sup> ~~Three~~ of the retiring Servants go by the Otter are Irachim Teyhorate. John Smith and Pierre Lagace. Doctor Kennedy and family came as passengers by the Otter and arrived safe. I shall avail myself of your kindness and visit Victoria per the Beaver leaving C. T. Kennedy in charge here according to your instructions The Beaver left here on the 30<sup>th</sup> last month on her last Northern cruise, Captain Dodd expects to be at Victoria 1<sup>st</sup> December I am certain she will make a profitable trip. Our Raft of Winters wood, or rather for twelve months is now on the beach and part of it in the yard. We shall take up our potatoes when the Otter leaves here The Pigs were also received safe say three. It will be some time before we will be able to Salt much Pork as most of our Pigs are young. \* We have had very

unfavorable weather both for discharging and Shipping  
Cargo, the first day landing Cargo the Wind was S W  
which caused a heavy roll on the beach and Canoes could  
not well lay along side, to day it has blown a Gale  
from S. E with a pour of rain, We however in the  
morn'g shipped apart of the Furs, all the Oil, Plank  
and other exports The Cooper will be set to work on  
the Barrells so soon as the Otter leaves this place.

We  
will have our compliment of men for this post for the  
ensuing year as two men I hear wishes to come on shore  
from the Steamer. Emptage will ~~make~~<sup>do for</sup> a watchman. .  
I hope you will be able to procure more Rice, Pearl  
Buttons, Buck Shot, Vermilion & Beads to be sent on  
in the Spring for the trade, as we are now suffering  
for the want of them, all the Rice you have sent per  
the Otter will be bought by "Cascas" people alone  
It will be as well to examine the Packs of Furs Shipped  
from this place by the Otter, as the weather was wet  
and they may be damp, I think however they are all  
right. The Otter leaves us tomorrow morning for  
Victoria Via Rupert. ~~it-will-be-as-well-to-have-a~~  
~~look-at-the-packs-of-Furs-shipped-by-the-Otter-as-the~~  
~~weather-was-damp-when-they-were-taken-on-board.~~

I remain Dear Sir  
Your Obed<sup>t</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>  
W. H. McNeill

---

W. H. McNeill

Fort Simpson 3<sup>d</sup> Sepr 1854.  
to John F. Kennedy Esquire.

---

Fort Simpson 3<sup>d</sup> Sepr 1854

John F Kennedy Esquire

My Dear Sir

I received your favor of 21<sup>st</sup> August Inst per Captain Dodd and was pleased to learn that you arrived safe at the Glacier, Regarding your requisition for supplies to assist you in carrying on the Ice trade I have only to say we are short of many articles you require, as no Supplies has reached us as yet. I have however sent <sup>you</sup> such as good an assortment as our means admit, as per inclosed account. The Tobacco, Pipes & Cotton we cannot send, Captain Dodd will leave you all he has on board after he goes his Northern trip, he thinks he may have a number of articles of trade to supply you with, he will do all in his power to assist you.

Of course you will send the amount of this, and your former supplies from this place to Messrs Peyton & Co'y for payment first opp<sup>ty</sup>. We had letters from Victoria a few days since, they contained no news, The Otter was to be despatched for this place so soon as the "Albert" arrived, I do not expect her i e the Otter before the 15<sup>th</sup> inst, fur trade for this Outfit, "54" has been good, Your family are well at present Mrs Kennedy was sick for afew days, now quite recover[e]d. You will be obliged to learn from Mr Peyton how many Vessels he Intends to send yearly for Ice, and make out an Indent for Goods accordingly, making an allowance for what the Crews require which by the way is no small item, and forward it to Victoria and one of your Vessels can go there and get the Goods you may require or they can be sent here, at all events a propper[sic.] Requisition must be made out for the Goods you require as you know we have but few to spare from this place, In fact we are always short of many articles ourselves, refering you to Captain Dodd for more particulars information on all that I now write.

I remain My Dear Sir

Truly Yours

W. H. McNeill

---

W. H. McNeill                      Fort Simpson 10<sup>th</sup> October 1854.  
To The Gover[n]or Deputy Governor  
and Committe[e] Hon<sup>ble</sup> H. Coy.  
London.

---

Fort Simpson 10<sup>th</sup> October 1854.

To  
The Gover[n]or Deputy Governor  
and Committe[e] Hon<sup>ble</sup> H. Coy.  
London

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sirs

I have been connected with the Hon<sup>ble</sup> H B. Coy. "Twenty Two Years." and filled responsible situations during that period, and I believe to the satisfaction of my Superiors I have been in charge of this post for the past Three Years, during that time the returns have been as good as ever they were at this place, and excede many former years &c - I wish to say Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sirs, that I think I am entitled to be raised another Step, in the service. I am willing to remain some years longer if I am promoted on Outfit 1856. If you do not think proper to do so I beg leave to inform you that it is my intention to Retire at the end of Outfit 1855. An early answer will be gratifying, as I wish to leave by our Steamer next fall.

I remain Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sirs  
Yr Mo: Obed<sup>t</sup>: Ser<sup>t</sup>  
W. H. McNeill

---

Fernandez & Peyton San Francisco 29<sup>th</sup> December 1854.  
to Captain W. H. McNeill.

---

San Francisco 29<sup>th</sup> December 1854.

Captain W. H. McNeill.

Dear Sir

We have been induced to send a Vessel to your place thro<sup>o</sup> the hope that there will be no difficulty of obtaining a Cargo of Ice from the Lake or in packing enough to supply our trade for the next Season.

We make this attempt because we experienced much difficulty during the past season at Prince Fredericks Sound where the labor is unreliable, The Navigation dangerous and the Ice of ind[i]fferent quality. Captain Conner goes up in the Powhattan to give his particular attention and superintendance to the Work of cutting and preserving the Ice, Carrying with him all the implements necessary for the purpose. After filling the Ship he will give the information requisite for the building of Ice Houses and the Stowage of Ice for future export.

We have not had time to communicate to Gov<sup>r</sup> Douglas our intention to Work in future at Fort Simpson tho we are sure the step will meet with his approbation as he suggested the trial when the Fanny Major made her Northward voyage, In mean time we will be glad if you will assist Captain Conner in his work in the same manner that Doctor Kennedy has done in the Sound - On the return of the Powhattan we will determine weither[sic.] or not Prince Fredericks Sound shall be altogether abandoned or not. There are many reasons for shifting the scene of our operations to Fort Simpson if it is found practitable[practicable] to obtain there as much Ice as our trade requires and we beg you give us your utmost assistance,

Govern<sup>r</sup> Douglas has given us permission to export Game & Fish from the possessions of the Hudsons Bay Company

We are dear Sir Yours Very Respetfully  
Fernandez & Peyton

"Copy"

---

W. H. McNeill

Fort Simpson 3<sup>d</sup> April 1855.

To The Board of Management

Hon<sup>bl</sup> H. B. Coy Fort Victoria.

---

Fort Simpson 3<sup>d</sup> April 1855.

To

The Board of Management

Hon<sup>bl</sup> H. B. Coy Fort Victoria

Gentlemen

I have the pleasure of informing you of the arrival at this place of the Otter Propellar on the 21<sup>st</sup> Ultimo with our supplies. I cannot say if the contents of the packages are correct with the Invoices or not, as we have had no time to examine them by her I also received your communication of 8<sup>th</sup> March - I was much pleased to see her cast up as we required the Salt for the small fish the Rice also was much required for the Trade.

The Rice you mention as being sent to Stikine on the Dalmatia for this place never reached here. The Steamer Beaver having left Stikine before the arrival of the Ship at that place, the Rice could not be sent here, Doctor Kennedy wrote me from Stikine a few days before he sailed for California that he had paid away the Rice for Ice except a small quantity which he intended to take with him to San Francisco and that the Rice could be sent up in the Spring I have the pleasure to inform you that our trade on this Outfit has been good so far, We now have on this Outfit near 1000 Bears and other Furs ahead of last year. I certainly expect "1400" Bears this year.

Mr George Blenkinsop and family arrived here on the Otter, he will proceed to examine the Lakes near this place after the Otter leaves and report progress to you by Canoes which will leave here for Victoria in about 30 days. Mr Conner who came up here on the unfortunate Powhattan told me that he thought the Ice business would be abandoned as the Coy had already sunk \$65,000

I wrote you by Hanson concerning Mr Powhattan and her drunken Captain, that the Ship was taken [sic.] possession of by the natives of this place and that myself in conjunction with Peel was the cause of getting her out of the hands of the Indians &c Such Ships are a temptation to the Indians, and she would have been taken on any part of the coast, and I wrote Mr Peyton to that effect.

I also forwarded Mr Peytons letter to me, by the Powhattan [sic.]

to you by Hanson by it you will learn his plans concerning the Ice buisness[sic.] this Season. As we now have a fair supply of Goods on hand for the Ice trade, I can supply liberally all demands from the Agent. The Chatsinas inform me that there is a large Lake near their lands with Capital thick Ice in it during Winter. they wish us to work Ice there. I also forwarded account of Supplys to the Powhatton [sic.] by Hanson it was not priced as I had no Tariff and I presum[e]d the Goods would be charged higher to the Ice Company than last year, and requested you to have it priced and sent to California for payment &c, I also forwarded a Copy to Mr Peyton. I now Ship by the Otter Furs. Oil and New Barrels as per accompanying Invoice and Bill Lading. I am happy to say that all the inmates of this Establish<sup>t</sup> are in Good he[a]lth Indians friendly and quiet, they are nearly all away at Nass at present taking the small fish for Oil. No news from Sitka lately, and no reports of Russians. We had just finished squaring wood for a new Store when the Otter arrived it will [be] 110 feet long. I did not expect a Ship with our Supplies untill July. The Otter has been laid on the beach five days repair[i]ng damages sustained at Nanaimo by striking on a Rock she is all right now

I remain Gentlemen  
Your Mo Obed<sup>t</sup> Sert  
W. H. McNeill

---

W. H. McNeill

Fort Simpson 15<sup>th</sup> May '55

to James Douglas Esq<sup>re</sup>

---

Fort Simpson 15<sup>th</sup> May '55

James Douglas Esq<sup>re</sup>

Dear Sir

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> April per Beaver Cap. Dodd which vessel arrived here on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. all well - Captain Dodd made about his usual trade on his way here -

Regarding the Furs sent from this per Otter in April last they were not packed or properly cleaned because we did not expect the vessel here with our Supplies until the month of July or August as usual; some of them were traded whilst the ship was lying here: however they had all been aired and beat once and would have been called in good order at any place but Fort Simpson for we generally have our Furs extra clean -

It gives me satisfaction to inform you that our Returns still continue good - We now have about 1160 Bears on the Outfit, other Furs ahead of last year except Martens - I am certain however we will have 4500 at end of Outfit as Martens are said to be plentiful in interior -

We commence laying the soles of a new Store to morrow 110 ft long and hope to have it finished 1<sup>st</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup>

The Servants orders were delivered in good order and found to be correct when delivered to the men - Captain Dodd took 600 Blankets on to Stikine with him to pay D<sup>r</sup> Kennedys Ice orders - Mr Blenkinsop has paid over 100 Blkts already to the Stikines - The Beaver will be at F Rupert the 20<sup>th</sup> June according to your order

I do not think we shall have so much Whale Oil as last outfit still we may as it is coming in every now and then -

If the Ice business is to be carried on more or rather some 2 1/2 pt inf Blkts B.B will be required here -

Corsey's time will be out or rather he will retire this fall and we will require a Blacksmith in his place I see no other except the Norwegian at Ft Rupert by all accounts he will answer as well as Corsey for us - his name is Ole Engebretson -

Mr Blenkinsop is still here waiting orders - I offered Cap Dodd two wood cutters he said he could do without them -

I should have priced the Goods for the Powhattan

had we a Tariff to go by - I expected that the Ice  
Co would be charged higher for Woolens than the price  
you have ordered -

Enclosed I have asked for a few more Articles of  
Trade as per Requisition -

I remain

Dear Sir

Your obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Sd, W. H. McNeill.

---

W. H. McNeill

Fort Simpson 15<sup>th</sup> May '55  
to John Work Esq<sup>re</sup>

---

Fort Simpson 15<sup>th</sup> May '55.

John Work Esq<sup>re</sup>

Dear Sir

By the 'Beaver' which vessel arrived here on the 5<sup>th</sup> Inst. I have to acknowledge your letter of 9<sup>th</sup> March. it had been detained by C. T. Kennedy when the Otter left F. Rupert in March last together with other letters by the same conveyance I received a letter from C. F. Douglas referring to the affairs of this Post - Since I last had the pleasure of addressing you nothing of importance has occurred here -

Our Returns still continue good we now have on this Outfit 1160 Bears all other Furs ahead of last year except Martens. I am confident of having 4500 at end of Outfit as those valuable Furs are said to be numerous in the Interior -

We commence laying the Soles of a New Store to morrow 110 ft long and hope to have it finished 1<sup>st</sup> Sept<sup>m</sup> Cap Dodd left this on his first northern cruise on 5<sup>th</sup> Inst he had a capital Outfit - I think by reports he will have a good trade: we have had but two Stikine canoes here since he left in October last

If the Ice trade is to be carried on and supplies to be furnished for it at this place we will require more 2 1/2 pt Infr Blankets B B -

Whale oil is not so plentiful as last year still we are getting small quantities every now and then -

The Cooper is still getting on with his Barrels we are now putting wooden Hoops on them as we were nearly out of Iron ones before the Otter came in March last - I sent to Nass and got some wood for making Hoops -

As Corsey is to retire in the fall we will require a 'Smith' in his place. I have mentioned to C. F. Douglas that the Norwegian at Rupert will answer us as a Blacksmith - He is a good Gunsmith by trade so Mr Blenkinsop informs me - his name is Ole Engebretson -

A number of our Servants times are expired in the fall when they may retire or may not-

The Cooper and Corsey will go for a certainty  
Who is to replace Mess<sup>rs</sup> Ogilvie and McNeill?  
they seem determined to go - It will be a difficult  
matter to replace Mr McNeill in the Indian Shop in  
my opinion --

The Servants orders by the Beaver came safe to  
hand in good order and correct as per accompanying  
a/c -

Captain Dodd landed 37 Barrels Powder but does  
not know whether it was charged to the Steamer or  
this place - he says but ten barrels of it is for  
this place -

Our men are all in good health and work  
well -- the Indians also are on friendly terms with  
us -

A party of four canoes left this about 15 days  
since to hunt Sea Otter near "Coyon" where they are  
in large numbers - 'Niswaymot' went in one of  
the Canoes he attempted to take by force some women  
out of a lodge - the women defended themselves  
assisted by some Indians - Nis-way-mot and his  
brother were wounded together with some other Chim-  
sheans - one nearly dead - this affair broke up the  
Sea Otter hunt and they came back with one Otter  
only - yesterday -

I remain

Dear Sir

Your obdt Serv<sup>t</sup>

sd W. H. McNeill

P.S.

Baptiste Battineau and his party arrived here all  
safe - Cap Dodd took him in tow for Stikine -  
Battineau told me that you said that I was to give  
him supplies &c - of course I did not believe him  
but they appeared to be in distress: therefore I  
supplied them to the amount of \$20 - he is to pay us  
for them when he comes from Stikine or settle for them  
at Victoria

W. H. McN.

---

W. H. McNeill                      Fort Simpson 16<sup>th</sup> June 1855  
To The Board of Management  
Hon<sup>bl</sup> H Bay Coy. "Fort Victoria."

---

Fort Simpson 16<sup>th</sup> June 1855

To  
The Board of Management  
Hon<sup>bl</sup> H Bay Coy. "Fort Victoria."

Gentleman

As the Beaver is to visit Fort Rupert on her Southern Cruise I take the opportunity of writing to inform you that, since I last had the pleasure of communicating with you all has gone on well here. The Trade is tolerable good except Martens & Beaver which have fallen off the past month. I am in hopes however that our returns of Martens will be nearly equal to last year, as a large party of our Indians are now away to the Interior to trade. Of Whale Oil we will have about the same as last year. Bear Skins are still coming in, we now have on this outfit about 1350.

The  
New Store 110 feet long will be finished by 1<sup>st</sup> August. Hanson arrived here on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. by him I received your favor of 24<sup>th</sup> April informing me that the "Otter" was to proceed to Rupert with a supply of goods &c for this place. Captain Dodd will endeavor to transport those goods to this place Establishment on his return from the South<sup>d</sup> and be back here about the 12<sup>th</sup> July. I hope you will order at least 20 Tons Coals from Nanaimo for this place when the Otter comes for the Furs in the fall. I have prevailed on Mr McNeill to remain here until 1<sup>st</sup> June 1856 on the Salary you mentioned say £40. per Ann. It will be a hard matter to replace him in the Ship, and when he is replaced it must be by a Gentleman, or the Indians will be displeased a common man will not answer. Mr Ogilvy is rather unwell at present, he tells me that he will remain "until the Spring," if his health permits. the fact is a Good

Second is required for this place and should be sent by the Otter, as it is impossible for me me[sic.] to see to every thing. Mr Ogilvy wishes to go and may as well be relieved in the fall as next Spring Corsey the Blacksmith also wishes to retire in the fall, therefore The Norwegian at Rupert should be sent to replace him by the Otter. Ole Engebretson -

Be pleased to send the Servants Balances first opportunity as many of the men hav[e] asked me conc[er]ning their account. Mr Blenkinsop has been out of health ever since he arrived on the Otter, he now proceeds to Rupert to see if C. T. Kennedy can do anything for him. No Ice Ship has as yet made her appearance, nor do I think any will be here before the fall if then.

Captain Dodd made a Capital Trade up North, and altogether I think our, ie, the Coast Returns will be about the same as last year We are on good terms with the Indians, and our own men are cheerful and in tolerable good health, and do their duty as well as can be expected "now a days." Captain Dodd will write you from Rupert, giving all information as regards his own, and the coast affairs in general.

I remain Gentlemen  
Your Mo. Obed<sup>t</sup> Sert  
W. H. McNeill

P.S.

Captain Dodd paid about 700 Blankets to the Stikine Indians for Ice due them by D<sup>r</sup> Kennedy and there is now 300 more still due which must be paid the next time he goes north. This will amount to nearly 300 over and above the number handed in to Mr Blenkinsop - Who is to pay for the extra 300?

An a/c of these supplies will be forwarded in the fall.

W. H. McN

---

W. H. McNeill                      Fort Simpson 18<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1855.  
To The Board of Management  
H H Bay Co  
F<sup>t</sup> Victoria

---

Fort Simpson 18<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1855.

To  
The Board of Management  
H H Bay Co  
F<sup>t</sup> Victoria

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure to inform you that the Otter arrived here all right, on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst with a portion of our Supplies Outfit 56. The Bills Lading, Packing a/cs and Invoices were also received.

I have also to acknowledge receipt of Letters from you of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> per Otter also one of 30<sup>th</sup> July per canoe. The 3 men as per statement also came. Three others if not four will engage for this place out of the Steamer Beaver. These with those that have reengaged at this place will make our complement full say 22 all told besides Officers.

The retiring Servants are six in number as per Statement now forwarded.

The California Rice now sent will be dead stock here the Indians will not look at it and it must be sent back to Victoria. The English Rice was expended on the second day it will therefore be necessary that the Rice now indented for together with the 2 1/2 pt Inferior Blankets and Molasses be forwarded on as early in the Spring as possible -

Earllys Blankets are quite unfit for the trade here, we have great trouble in working them off - Cook's are the best the Blue Bar even on them should be at least 7 inches from the edge of the Blanket. The Bars of the Scarlet Blanket should be a clear Blue or Black not mixed with the red as at present.

The Green Blankets are too coarse, the wool should be fine and soft and of a lighter color similar to the Russian Blankets -

There is a Blue cut glass Bead at Victoria larger than No 4 which would answer well for the Trade here -

We have been obliged to pay the 600 Stikine Indians some 600 Blankets over and above those that C. T. Kennedy gave an a/c of. I hope Mr Peyton will be honorable enough to pay us for them.

The Coals brought by the Otter last voyage were so bad that at least one fourth of them were thrown away -

The Blacksmith sent from Rupert is not the man he will never do to work for the Steamers Machinery - Ole Engebretson is the man required and as he is a good Gunsmith he would turn in at least 200 Martens to the Shop by repairing Locks & Fifteen Barrels Salt Beef sent here for the Beaver was condemned and being on our Inventory the Fort pays the piper -

For the future all the Supplies that come here for the Beaver I shall charge immediately to her. In my opinion the best way would be for them to be charged direct to her at Victoria - Many Supplies sent here for her remain for years on our Inventory and the Fort pays 5 per cent for them.

I hope you will be pleased to send for the Percussion Muskets for our Bastions so soon as possible the old ones are not safe besides we can sell them at a great advantage for Fur.

Mr Henry McNeill will not remain in the Service without more pay and even then he does not care about it if he does not rank as Clerk - A Gentleman must be sent to superseed him as there is too large an amount of property in the Shop for a common man to have charge of and besides the Indians will be displeased if a Gentleman is not there to trade with them -

Ogilvy will never do, in fact he is of no manner of use at Fort Simpson.

The Captains of our Vessels coming here with Supplies or doing business must be under the orders of the Gentleman in charge and not as it is now. The Gentleman in charge is under the orders of the Captain. You directed me to ship Furs only, the Captains will take what they choose if you do not place them under the orders of the Gentleman in charge. Even Millar used to tell me what he intended taking in when he intended to start and would not take in Furs on Saturday afternoon.

As Mr Blenkinsop is to remain here for a time I would be greatly obliged to be allowed to visit Victoria in course of next Summer or in the fall as I have business of importance to transact - Will you be

pleased to let me know if I can be allowed by first opportunity -

All our Furs and other exports as per a/cs are now Shipped - Bills Lading and all the yearly a/cs Outfit 55 are also sent -

Our Garden turned out 1600 Bus: Potatoes and we have traded as many more from the Indians I am happy to say that the Indians are friendly and quiet and seem well disposed.

If Rice had been here sooner or had we had some on hand we could have sent a large number of Furs that cannot be Shipped, in fact, we are trading now but the California Rice will be a sad disappointment to the Indians -

We will require early in the Spring Rice Molasses and 2 1/2 pt Infr Blankets as well as all the other Goods now indented for -

We much want a large Boat oil cloth to cover Furs when being shipped as they often get damp whilst being transported from the Store to the Ship -

It has been blowing hard from the S. E. ever since the Otter<sup>s</sup> arrived with a pour of rain.

The names of the Servants now retiring are Peter Sabiston - Carpenter - John Smith and Jn<sup>o</sup> Yallap three others viz<sup>t</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Corsey - Smith - Charles Mevins - Cooper - and W<sup>m</sup> Rudland will leave per 'Beaver' -

I am happy to inform you that the inmates of the Establishment enjoy good health.

I remain, Gentlemen,  
Your Obed<sup>t</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>  
S<sup>d</sup> W<sup>m</sup> H McNeill

---

W. H. McNeill                      Fort Simpson 2nd Nov<sup>r</sup> 1855  
To The Board of Management  
H H Bay Co  
Fort Victoria

---

Fort Simpson 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1855

To  
The Board of Management  
H H Bay Co  
Fort Victoria

Gentlemen,

The 'Beaver' will leave this for Victoria to morrow weather permitting - Captain Dodd arrived here from Stikine on the 27<sup>th</sup> Ult since when we have had very stormy weather, By the Beaver I now ship all the Furs we have on hand Outfit 56 and as well those traded by Capt Dodd on his last trip to Stikine Invoice, Packing a/c Bill Lading &c accompanying them -

Our Fur Trade up to this date has been good in the way of Beaver and Bear Skins - Martens however appear to be coming in but slowly - Rice, Rice, Rice is the cry. The California Rice sent here per Otter does not suit the Indians and must be sent back the first opportunity.

All the English rice was traded in one day and Captain Dodd turned over to us all the Rice he had and that is also gone.

A large number of skins are now in the camp as well as at Nass which the Indians will not part with only for Rice and Molasses

I have to request that all asked for in our Requisition viz Rice Molasses and 2 1/2 pt Infr Blkts may be sent as early in the Spring in fact the Rice and Molasses should be sent as soon as possible as the Indians leave here by the 1<sup>st</sup> March for Nass and other places to hunt and procure provisions -

With two Norwegians and two Iroquois that have engaged for this place for one year respectively we have the same complement as formerly say 22 all told besides Officers -

I wrote you by the Otter that the man sent here by the Otter from Fort Rupert was the wrong one and would not be able to do the work required for the Steamer - Captain Dodd will explain the reason why -

In my opinion a large stock of Rice and Molasses should always be in store at this place - We are now well supplied with Trading Goods with the exception of Rice and Molasses the Indians seem to be infatuated for those two Articles of late.

A larger body or number of Indians than ever left here before will leave in the Spring for Nisqually and Victoria -

I have also to request you will be pleased to send us the 6 Steel or Brass Mounted Guns asked for in our Requisition as soon as possible -

I remain, Gentlemen  
Your obdt Servt  
Sd Wm H<sup>y</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Neill -

P. S. The American Blankets sent per 'Otter' are quite unsaleable - Green Blkts we have now a stock on hand for five years the quality being poor. I made remarks concerning them in my Letter to you per Otter. We have also a large stock of Pullicat Handkfs on hand sufficient for 3 years.

There is no Biscuit here at present for the Steamer and should be sent early in Spring -

As I have mentioned before the Otter should be dispatched, in my opinion, to this place so soon as possible with Rice, Molasses and Biscuit -

The Indians will leave early in Spring and if they do not get Rice before they leave the Furs will go to Nisqually to the Americans -

I am sorry to say the 'Goshen' Butter sent by the Otter is very bad in my opinion it is one half Lard -

M<sup>r</sup> Hanson one of the Chiefs at this place died this morning from wounds received by the fall of a Tree in the night - four of his men were killed at the same time and three more are expected to die from same cause -

John Sabiston who serves in our Indian Shop as assistant Trader expects £25 per ann as others in the same situation at this place have always had - shall I allow it to him? at present he has but £20 per ann -

Sd W. H. M<sup>c</sup>N-

---

W. H. McNeill  
Fort Simpson 2nd Nov<sup>r</sup> 1855  
To The Board of Management  
H H Bay Co  
Fort Victoria

---

Fort Simpson 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1855

To  
The Board of Management  
H H Bay Co  
Fort Victoria

Gentlemen,

The 'Beaver' will leave this for Victoria to morrow weather permitting. - Captain Dodd arrived here from Stikine on the 27<sup>th</sup> Ult since when we have had very stormy weather. By the Beaver I now ship all the Furs we have on hand Outfit 56 and as well those traded by Capt Dodd on his last trip to Stikine Invoice, Packing a/c Bill Lading &c accompanying them -

Our Fur Trade up to this date has been good in the way of Beaver and Bear Skins - Martens however appear to be coming in but slowly - Rice, Rice, Rice is the cry. The California Rice sent here per Otter does not suit the Indians and must be sent back the first opportunity.

All the English rice was traded in one day and Captain Dodd turned over to us all the Rice he had and that is also gone.

A large number of skins are now in the camp as well as at Nass which the Indians will not part with only for Rice and Molasses

I have to request that all asked for in our Requisition viz Rice Molasses and 2 1/2 pt Infr Blkts may be sent as early in the Spring in fact the Rice and Molasses should be sent as soon as possible as the Indians leave here by the 1<sup>st</sup> March for Nass and other places to hunt and procure provisions -

With two Norwegians and two Iroquois that have engaged for this place for one year respectively we have the same complement as formerly say 22 all told besides Officers -

I wrote you by the Otter that the man sent here by the Otter from Fort Rupert was the wrong one and would not be able to do the work required for the Steamer - Captain Dodd will explain the reason why -

In my opinion a large stock of Rice and Molasses should always be in store at this place - We are now well supplied with Trading Goods with the exception of Rice and Molasses the Indians seem to be infatuated for those two Articles of late.

A larger body or number of Indians than ever left here before will leave in the Spring for Nisqually and Victoria -

I have also to request you will be pleased to send us the 6 Steel or Brass Mounted Guns asked for in our Requisition as soon as possible -

I remain, Gentlemen  
Your obdt Servt  
Sd Wm H<sup>y</sup> McNeill -

P. S. The American Blankets sent per 'Otter' are quite unsaleable - Green Blkts we have now a stock on hand for five years the quality being poor. I made remarks concerning them in my Letter to you per Otter. We have also a large stock of Pullicat Handkfs on hand sufficient for 3 years.

There is no Biscuit here at present for the Steamer and should be sent early in Spring -

As I have mentioned before the Otter should be dispatched, in my opinion, to this place so soon as possible with Rice, Molasses and Biscuit -

The Indians will leave early in Spring and if they do not get Rice before they leave the Furs will go to Nisqually to the Americans -

I am sorry to say the 'Goshen' Butter sent by the Otter is very bad in my opinion it is one half Lard -

M<sup>r</sup> Hanson one of the Chiefs at this place died this morning from wounds received by the fall of a Tree in the night - four of his men were killed at the same time and three more are expected to die from same cause -

John Sabiston who serves in our Indian Shop as assistant Trader expects £25 per ann as others in the same situation at this place have always had - shall I allow it to him? at present he has but £20 per ann -

Sd W. H. McN-

---