



No 5
 I think we were obliged to drink to her Majesty
 long life & Prosperity in a glass of cold water that being
 the only (beverage) (liquid) on board - however our feelings were
 the same and we felt as happy (and perhaps better in the
 morning) as those who were able to get the best sparkling
 wine (champagne) and did not see should. I think we
 did and astonished the natives just as well as at
 10 am we gave a royal salute from our good
 fire arms & then being the National Anthem
 One American Cousins onboard were asked if
 did kindly participate with us on the occasion - we also
 had the pleasure of meeting amongst the guests invited
 on the occasion was also Mrs Dallas - the Wife of
 Governor Dallas & daughter of the Excellency the Governor
 of V.I. she was very kind to us and entered fully
 into the harmony of the day - she was ever pleased
 to converse upon our expedition the success of our expedition
 & the difficulties of our journey and our
 determination to overcome all obstacles - and a wish that
 she should at some future day she should see us in her native
 country having met with every success & prosperity

The Hudson Bay Company's fort is upon the Red
 River & Assiniboine River meets & empties into the Red River.
 I was not up at the ^{lower} Fort which is some 20 or
 30 miles further down the river towards Lake Winnipeg
 & we stay all about 14 days here, when our time was
 fully occupied with purchasing our own East India
 goods altho we did find time once or twice to
 have a game of Cricket along with the W. Bay
 employees - & enjoyed ourselves very much.
 The Red River settlement is a nice place

No 6

in summer time and a few miles out some
beautiful pasturage for cattle. Farming & raising
cattle seem the only pursuits of the inhabitants
& they seem to be contented and happy, altho' shut
out without any road or railway & almost all
other communication from the rest of the
world - I were it not for the enterprise of the
Americans in putting on a boat down on the
Red River, which runs with merchandise for
the company there would be no way of
getting into Canada or St Pauls in Minnesota
and yet no place could be better placed
for communication with Canada than Fort
Cary with a very little outlay - the
Canadian government did put on a boat
or two for carrying mails - in the year 1861 -
but soon abandoned the same from what cause
it is not easy to understand - the representation
by population is carried by Mr George Brown
& not till there will a direct communication
be extended to one of the finest settlements
which Canada ought to be proud of or any
other country can boast of the facility by
water carriage now especially is abundant -

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from Lake Winnipeg up to the Edmonton for
a distance of ~~at least~~ some three or thousand
miles is navigable for good sized steamers.
There is only one rapid or canon - only require
a small portage - - this River passes through
some of the finest country in the world - and
thousands upon thousands would find it happy
home - along its banks or in the Valley of the
Great Saskatchewan - the health of the country
cannot be disputed for out of our number there
was no illness during our travel - I have
traveled in Australia: a superb fairy country - also
in Africa & Canada and it is in my opinion
that the beautiful plains across this country
are able to compare with any part I have
ever seen -

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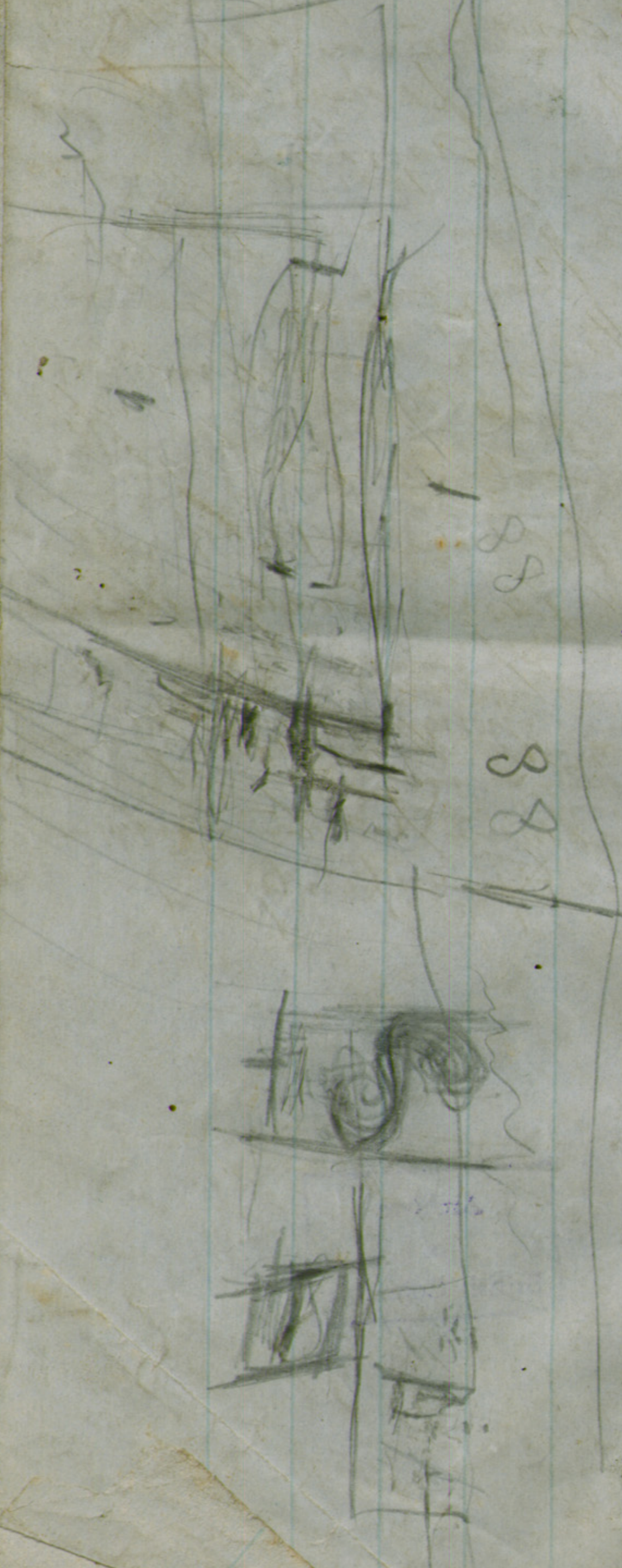
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Newheat 22nd April 1853

My dear Uncle

I returned here yesterday from Boston & New York
where I had been consulting some of the ablest Physicians, about
an accident which I met with last November, in rupturing
a blood vessel in the upper part of my left Arm, which has
caused me a great deal of anxiety & pain ever since, and also
materially interfered with my business. I am to morrow at
noon to submit to a surgical operation, under the treatment
of Dr Campbell & Dr McCulloch who are considered two of our
first Physicians - the operation is not only a dangerous one, but will
also be very painful, and will in all probability confine me to
my room for some time, I therefore write under the present
date so as not to miss the Canoes ~~at~~ Sachme about latter
end of the month - Your valued returned favor of 26th
March 52 reached me on 11th August last & I was truly glad
to learn by it, that you were in the enjoyment of good health.
You did me great injustice, in placing me with Humphreys here
who had forgotten you, or neglected in writing you, which I think
hard of, as at that time I had written you three letters via New
York & one that by the Canoes that left Sachme last Spring.
The latter was accompanied by your Watch &c which was thoroughly
repaired & I trust you have received it in good order - The aff
you enclosed me for (L20) Twenty pounds on the Hudson Bayhouse
Sachme was duly paid on presentation & the amt thereof
is at your Credit with me. Sir George Simpson cannot give
Yours

your Son Alexander a passage up his Spring & informed
me that he had written to you on the subject under
those circumstances. I shall ^{hold} amt of the d^d (\$20) subject to your
order - Martin Alexander has grown to be a smart
active lad & will be none the worse of remaining
another year under the charge of his good Old uncle.

I am sorry to say that the Colonel has not been
in very good health for the past six months, having been
much troubled with his Urinary Organs which I fear is either
gravel or stone in the Bladder, he is to be down about
first week in May, to consult some of our Medical
Faculty & I have no doubt he will be successfully cured
or at all events partially relieved from pain - he has
not been able to attend to his duties in the House this season
nor in fact has he attended any public business since last
Autumn - The other members of the family are in good
health - Archibald is here studying Medicine & Alexander
proceeds in Spring to Toronto to finish his studies for
the Bar & will I think make a smart Lawyer -

The Pringles. W Donalds. W Intyres & are all
enjoying their usual health. Dunbar Pringle is doing
very well in Hamilton - A. E. Fraser whom
I have not heard from, was on his way to Australia
I have no doubt he will get a chance of accumulating
some of the treasures of that rich country. The immense
quantities of gold found there, throws California quite in the shade.

In consequence of my Confinement during Winter, I have seen
very little of St M. She is now in pretty good health, but
during the early part of last fall, her health was very
bad & feared at one time she was going into a decline
for fear she has her own troubles to contend with &
feels herself a little overlooked by you in not writing her
more regularly. as for going to the Columbia, she says
she cannot think of it & you promised when here, not to
urge her to go up against her own inclination. - Dr. Robertson
the Eldest daughter are in very delicate health. The other
members of the family are well. I have not seen
any of the Dease family for some time. I believe the old
man is in good health. his son the doctor died about
a month since & you will also have heard that Allan
McDonald of St. Andrews has also paid the debt of
nature. - My own people at Lachrimie are I am
happy to say enjoying good health. I know of no
change out there worth communicating to you. every thing
moves on there in usual quiet way. Old McQueen still
favours them with his company? - Very little doing in
politics. - Wm. S. McDonald is Speaker of the House
so you see his friends have not forgotten him, which
is all right & proper. - had the Tories rewarded their friends
in the same way, they might have been in power to the
present day. - there is however very little chance of their
getting the opportunity again. - Lord Elgin is likely
to

to remain with us for a while longer - good pay
with an easy birth is not ~~to~~ got every day. We are
a slow people here otherwise we would have changed
this state of affairs long ere this & will remain so
until we get an Elective Council & are allowed
to Elect our governor. - Sir George Simpson
has no doubt informed you of his affliction in the
death of his wife, he appears to feel his loss very much.

I do not know of any news about this City
that would prove interesting to you - Dr. Buxton &
Mr. Leckie & other friends I desired to be remembered
to you - My brother John is leaving Hamilton this
Spring, not having enjoyed good health for some time
he wishes to try what the change of air here will
do for him - Donald is getting on well with
me & desires to be remembered to you - With
my best wishes for you & yours - believe me
to remain

Your affectionate Stephen
Huytass

Paul Grassl Esquire
Hudson Bay Company Service
Columbia
Oregon

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Hudsonfield
25th April 1853

Archives
of
British Columbia

My dear Paul

I got your letter of 1st April & I
 was much pleased to learn
 that your health continued good with the
 exception of your eyes, which appeared to give
 you trouble, I however trust that they have
 got well since, you will see by the correspondence
 between Sir George & myself that your son
 Alexander could not be sent back to you this
 year, and altho. the disappointment to you
 his Mother and himself may be great
 still I think it will be for the ultimate advantage
 of the boy, that he remain another year in
 this Country, as he is making a fair progress
 in his Education and I got him reconciled to
 the disappointment by furnishing him with a
 new suit of clothing; from the tenor of Sir George's
 letter I should think he intends soon to receive
 you for promotion, I wrote Mr Finlayson
 last year on the subject, and I enclose you
 his reply, your son Alexander has grown
 quite a stout young man and I am happy
 I can so far say he is a good young man
 having no vice but such as young Dicks of
 his

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In age generally however he is quick in temper
of which his aunt & myself endeavour to beat
him off, he studders a good deal and I am
doing all I can to prevent it, and hope to
succeed, I shall get him to write to you tomorrow
and enclose it to you; I suppose you would
have heard of the death of Lady Simpson
in March she was a nice pleasant person
My own health is about the same as when I last
wrote you, my son Archibald came up yesterday
& he is for a few days, he appears in good
health, my son Alexander intend visiting me
about 1st May, after which he will go to Toronto
& remain until he finishes his Law studies
so that between them all I have my hands full
still I am sanguine both of them will do well
after they finish their studies which will take
yet two years, I intend going to Montreal early
next month, that my Complaint may be
ascertained by the Medical Faculty, Dr. McIntyre
will go down with me, he is of the opinion that
it is caused by a swelling of the Glands at
the mouth of the Bladder, others think it is Gravel
or Stone, my bodily health otherwise was
never better, the McEllerays are in the
way returning to Canada was to have sailed

from Glasgow. 23^d of April the Steamer Glasgow
for New York. They have only succeeded yet
to one of the Properties, but is sanguine, they were
ultimately to the rest of the Estate, I believe still
Mrs Gillivray will return to look after it next
fall, the only Family news I can give you is that
your Niece. Bella Fraser was married to a
son of Colonel Burk, living near Bytown
to the 3^d of this month, she left me about two
years ago to live with her Brother Alexander, after
he left for Australia, she remained some time
with my daughter Mrs Dunbar Pingle at Kamelle
from there she went to see her sister Mrs Dufton
and there met Mr Burk, her sister Jessy is
to be married at Bytown next month to a Mr
a young Irishman, a merchant, I believe doing
well, I think the remainder of the Family will
remove to Bytown next summer and take
up house keeping, Mr Dober M Intyre had
lately increased his Family by the addition of
a daughter, an Rail Road will pass
a little below Williamstown, it will be
commenced soon another will be made
up the Ottawa River to Bytown, your old friend
Archibald M Donald of the Hudson Bay Company
died after a short illness last winter, one
P. W. Dease has died lately at S. Anne, of the
name of Peter Warr Dease, old Mrs M Donnell
Coulachie

Made a trip to England & Scotland last Summer
his eyes quite blind, he is expected soon to return
he brought his son with him Mr Mc Gillivray
is very infirm, he must be helped to rise
from his seat, I suppose he cannot live much
longer, I intended sending you Canadian News paper
had Alexander gone up he had made
a collection of them, he will bring you a
supply when he does go up, Archibald called
upon you. your daughter Ann she will not
consent to leave her Mother and I am not
surprised at it, I hope she will visit us in
the course of the Summer her health is not
strong, I am glad to hear that John is well
and gives satisfaction, write him and say
I expected he would have written to me
before now, I hope he will not delay it much
longer, Hugh Miller wrote me he would give
you all the Montreal News, Mr F. desire to
be kindly remembered to you, your brother
Alexander except for five pounds I will enclose
you provided he calls before I send this off I
have advanced him £20. odd since you left
and I am going to furnish him with Peas and
Potatoes for seed he has none of either kind
and unless I was near him, he could not get from any
other person.

Believe me to remain
your affectionate Brother
Alexander Miller

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Muchsupuaton 10th May 1853

My dear Sir.

The Canoes being about arriving I must not omit replying to your valued favor of the 12th March received on 28th July last. - I arrived here in the month of June & about a fortnight afterwards our friend Swarston started for Scotland to join his Family in Aberdeen, I recd a Letter from him in February when his family were in good health, & I have no doubt he will be making his appearance amongst us again & probably to resume his old charge. - I prefer this place to Fort William, my health has been better at it than the former place & I could manage to spend a few years of my life at it well enough. - Your affairs in the Columbia seem to be going from bad to worse, last year I understood there was a loss of about £10,000 on it, so that it is lucky for you Gents of the Golden Regions, that you have an interest in our doings on this side of the Mountains. - I hope this gold mine on Queen Charlotte Island is ^{to} work out something to our advantage, for if not, our

Dunders will come down yet a bit. - You have
now I suppose to purchase your Flour & Pork since
you removed to Victoria. - I see or hear nothing
decisive about the sale to the Yankees of the Lanes
at Vancouver. Surgeon Simpson made 2 or 3 Trips to Wash-
ington last Winter, but with what success I have not
heard, nor shall we I suppose hear or know anything
of the matter till it is first published in the newspapers.

Our Returns in this District will be poor this
Season unless our Spring Hunts turn out better than I
expect as the Indians suffered dreadfully from want
the best part of the Winter owing to a scarcity of Rabbits
this has been quite common for the last 2 or 3 years
as the last Winter has been more severe upon the
Natives than has been known for years. -

We have got a fine Schooner built here
about 60 or 70 Tons a beautiful craft she would do great
credit to the Columbia even where you do things on a
great scale & has cost the Co. about £9000 - she
left this on the 6th for the Salet on her first Trip
to bring up Mr Behinger a Gentleman who was last
year at Inosse supervising a Whale or Porpoise
Fishery & who comes up this way to proceed to Inosse
with a Cargo for 2 Boats, Anets, Nets &c for this

fixing Speculation, - how it will turn out is more than I can say, altho I am very doubtful of its ever paying us. - If entered on extensively, Indians will have to be employed, that will wear them from hunting. -

I understand the Copper Mania on Lake Superior is again to be revived this Summer, there is a good deal of talk about it, probably our new vessel may find some employment from the Miners she is able to take all our Outfit up in one Trip, & this she might pay off a part of her heavy cost. -

Government has undertaken to cut a Canal at the Sault which I believe will be commenced this Summer & when that is done, we shall have plenty of visitors in our quarters here. - Railroads are quite the rage in Canada, the Country is to be intersected by them in its whole length & breadth, but how the means are to be procured for a great many Lines it is difficult to perceive, altho to hear them talk & speak, people would imagine that Canada was a richer Country in gold than either California or Australia. -

Your Travelling Companion Gorr. Colville

Went

went home last Season whether or not he comes out again
I have not heard, probably not for some years. -

Sir G Simpson is again coming up this
Season, I understand by accounts lately received from
Mr. Hargrave that Lady Simpsons life was despaired
of, should any thing happen to her, it would bring
him down more than 10 years service would. -

Expecting the pleasure of hearing from you
in the Fall I wish my own wife's best regards

I believe me always

Yours very faithfully

J. Macdonald

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of
British Columbia

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Cornwall 28th April 1854

My dear Uncle,

you will doubtless have heard of the sad changes in our family since you left us - Poor Father after a very painful and long but protracted illness died on the fifteenth of November last of dropsy in the chest - The remains were interred in the burying ground at Williamstown, Father having preferred it to that of St. Raphael's where the soil is so springy - Poor Mother finds her loneliness almost insupportable and long on visiting the house at once remarks the blank Father's death has occasioned.

We have lost a kind Father and the Company of a good friend - My sister Mary Pringle (Dumalain's wife) soon followed, having died in January of Consumption, leaving a little girl of two years of age

Alexander feels disappointed in
not going up this year, but
I think if he spends the year
with Mr. Kay of Cornwall & makes
good use of his time he will
have no reason to regret his stay
among us - He has very good
abilities & with application, which
I have no doubt he will acquire, he
will make a good business man.
I have examined him in grammar
& arithmetic & found ^{him} very proficient
in these branches; he has also a
fair knowledge of Geography.
I would like very much to hear
from John - Give ^{him} all the news
& tell how much I would be pleased
at hearing from him - I sent
a copy of the will to Archy in
order that he might forward it
to you - You will then in see
that you are entitled to a Lot in
Septentaria upon claiming it
within five years. I am

Surprised that Archy who has so
much property left him should
for a moment entertain the idea of
getting this lot from you - I am
sorry to make mention of the great
Claims I myself have at this
early date and yet from a number
of them I cannot forbear -
The land is adjoining the little that
is left to myself and therefore an
object to me were you disposed to
sell it - Knowing your past
generosity to Father & the family
I cannot however trespass upon
your kindness further than to solicit
the purchase of it at four dollars
an acre which if you accept I
will require a few years to pay for
I can assure you I have not much
beyond my profession to look to for
some time to come - In consequence of
the great expenditure Father made
upon Archy's property in the building
of a splendid house & so forth, many

valuable lands were sacrificed in
the disposal & made of them to Dumber
at 6/3 per acre - for 3600 acres
besides £ 750 in Mortgages were made
over to Dumber in order to free
Fraserfield of all in Combrance.

The Down Sound lands were consequently
by divided between eight of us as you
will see on reference to the will -

With respect to the three lots for
which father had a Conditional order
in Council I may say I have now
very little hope of getting; for our
very lightens radical government
are quite capable of doing a great
deal of jobbing in order to secure
patronage - I believe there is but
one hundred acres in your lot but
should there be more I should promise
to pay the four dollars per acre for
every acre it may contain; should
you think proper to execute the

Conveyance I have with enclose
together with my bond you will

Much obliged your aff^o Stephen

A. F. Fraser

ps. Arch has also 1500 acres added to his
for his own purposes

A. F.