

St Thomas Upper Canada

4th February 1838

My Dearest Mother,

I am aware that I have been rather long of sending you my monthly yarn but when I tell you that since my last I have traveled about 560 miles having only arrived here yesterday, where I think we may consider ourselves stationary till May or June next; the 32nd Regt with one company of ours, were sent up here to the Upper province last month they left Montreal on the 17th + the Company I am in got orders two days afterwards to proceed to Toronto the capital of the upper province as an escort to a large supply of arms + ammunition to arm the Militia in that quarter. For at that time the Rebels under McKenzie [William Lyon Mackenzie] with a drove of Yankies were expected to make an iruption into the province from the Niagara frontier. They however did not try it, but took up their quarters in a small island 2 miles above the falls of Niagara where the Yankies supplied them with arms ammunition Canon etc. The island is so situated that any boats going to it from our side, runs considerable risk of being carried over the falls the stream runs so rapidly. We however set the Artillery to work at them [] as Navy Island is only a mile from the main land. They made such havoc amongst them that during a dark stormy night they (the Rebels) took their departure + dispersed themselves over the States, so Mackenzie's Rebellion in Upper Canada may now be considered over, as they have not been left a leg to stand upon + can never have the smallest chance of succeeding. Kelsall + I had a great deal of bother escorting those before mentioned arms. The company as well as the baggage, were all conveyed on Sleighs + had to cross several Lakes + rivers frozen slick + the ice not being very good in some places, a Sleigh or two went through wh. delayed us very much. In some places the roads were wretched, nothing more than trees cut down, + laid across swamps or bogs. You may imagine our bones were pretty well shaken when crossing those bridges as the Canadians call them. After we got out of the lower province we left all the French behind us + into a country called Glengary entirely inhabited by Scotch settlers, a party of their Militia met us as we were coming into their Town with a Piper in front + afterwards I heard them talking Gaelic very quietly wh. put me a good deal in mind of home. [] The Inns along the road were in some places very miserable, some of them very much after the fashion of the [...] Hotel + some not so good. Our principal fare along the road was venison - the Deer being in great abundance in some of the districts we passed through, we got so tired of it at last that we used to beg for a Beef steake or mutton chop in preference. We traveled at the rate of about 40 miles a day + had to be very cautious at many of the places we halted at for the night, several of the Towns being well know to be disloyal + with such a quantity of arms under our charge we were forced to have a strong-guard on at night, + the remainder of the company ready to turn out at the shortest notice. The weather during part of the time was most intensely cold; one or two of the men got frost bitten but not badly. When we got to Kingston one of the principal towns in Canada we [] expected to be taken up the remainder of our journey in a Steamer but unfortunately they were all frozen in + we had to carry on again in the old way. At Toronto (or York) we thought our work was at an end but we had only been there two days we got orders to proceed to St. Thomas a small village in the London district, there to remain til the navigation opens. We have two companies here: the officers are [Robert] Colquhoun, Kelsall, [Thomas R.] Derinzy + my worthy self. We have taken up our quarters in the principal Inn in the village, wh. is not so bad as some I have been getting [...] of aboard. The place is situated about 100 miles to the Westward of Niagara 50 miles from Lake Huron, + 10 from Lake Erie. I think you may have some idea where we are by looking at the map.

You cannot imagine how delighted [] I was to find no less than two Letters waiting for me at Toronto, the one you sent by the states caught the other fellow up. The dates were Novr 28. + Dec. 10th. They were a great consolation to me as I had not heard from any of you for about 5 or 6 weeks. You may make yourself very easy about my health I never was better in my life + have not had a cold of any kind since I have been in this country. My own opinion is that although much colder than at home that it is the most healthy climate of the two + I would recommend consumptive people to try what a trip over the Atlantic would do for them. You need not frighten yourself about the state of the country for the rebellion is now effectually squashed, + we are only waiting to see the execution of a number of the principal hands that are at present [] in jail. I sincerely hope my dear Mother that you may continue as well + Frisky as you are at present. Poor Marion says she has had one of her old friends in the shape of a bad cold. Do not forget to remember me to my old friend Bill Maxwell + I am very happy he has got over his rheumatism. So Master Bauldy is on leave. James on Mary says in his old kind ways. If he has not started for the land of the Paddy's give him my love. We hear great accounts of the Deer shooting in this quarter + I intend to be at it very soon. There are also a good many wild Turkeys to be found not very far from the village. I will be able to tell you more about our sport in my next letter. In the mean time I must have [...] at the Past goes this [...]. Kindest love to John, Colin, Mary, Nell, Marion + [...]. Ever my Dearest Mother, your affect Son, D Campbell