

CITY ARCHIVES

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April 3, 1886.

My dear Lucilla

I got your letter all right yesterday, & thank you for it. I left New Westminster about the middle of December to take up my abode among the people of Granville, whom I have been working all along, but used to come over for the Sundays. Lately we have changed our name from the pleasing one of Granville, for the bombastic swaggering title of Vancouver - It is called this because it is to be the terminus of the great Canadian Pacific Railway & the C.P.R. are so fond of high sounding names, that Granville did not suit them & so they changed it to another which will create much confusion as there is besides Vancouver Island two other places in the States, one quite near, also called Vancouver. However all the swaggers in the world will

not build houses, and if they don't  
 mend soon they will have this place  
 a city of shanties, without water, roads  
 or drains - Drains there are none whatever  
 that does not matter as we are ever  
 getting ill here so the 4 poor old doctors  
 say - The roads are quite impassable  
 from the mud holes till this week when  
 a bit of clearer weather has improved  
 matters, though still leaving some awful  
 mudholes, so bad that even a short legged  
 man on horseback can hardly keep  
 his feet out of the mud. - Some new  
 roads they have been making are worse  
 as they cut boggly land and therefore  
 there is no bottom at all to the roads,  
 and if you are get fairly stuck you  
 might reckon on taking further a  
 journey to the centre of the earth. - The  
 water here that folk drink (when they  
 do drink water) is all surface water,  
 in other words drainage, but still the

doctors all four of them are in despair  
 & in bitter disappointment cry out in chorus  
 "no typhoid yet." There are however  
 2 good wells in the place & I know  
 where to find one of them: & make a  
 daily pilgrimage with a bucket &  
 rope. - I live in a little house all  
 to myself, & generally get my meals  
 out, though lately I have been boiling  
 my own coffee for breakfast and am  
 my own groom, boot & chambermaid.  
 I will make coffee & beds against  
 all comers - My horse is one which  
 was lent me for a short time last  
 December, but the owner has never  
 wanted it back yet; I look upon it  
 almost as a gift horse & therefore have  
 not looked into its mouth to see how  
 old the old beast is - From his pace  
 which is truly dignified I should write  
 him 'aged' - He gets along with me  
 however all I want - I have an out-

4. lying district from 5 to 10 miles  
away for which I need a boat -  
I have also another on the water  
3 miles away for which I need a  
boat. We had a concert over there  
to purchase a boat with a bit  
since I raised about £7. The boat  
with cost abt. £12 altogether. I have  
meanwhile got it & use it, and  
greatly enjoy a sail or a row when  
duty calls me to undertake that  
pleasure. I think as it is a glorious  
afternoon & I feel a bit tired duty  
is very likely call me today as  
duty does not seem to require my  
presence anywhere else especially.

We have got a nice little church here  
and don't we have it full now of  
a Sunday - It is the regular thing  
for some to have to go away - We  
shall have to move it soon as it is  
in the way of the railway track which  
will be down here very soon. All buildings

Can be moved here, as they are only  
 built of wood - hitch on 3 or 4  
 teams of oxen or horses and off  
 she goes on runners or rollers, except  
 face. You wd have laughed at me  
 they moved the other day - about 16  
 horses or - they got up steam & pushed  
 the thing along - ran against a telegraph  
 pole & knocked the building all  
 askew & then landed <sup>it</sup> fast in a  
 glorious large mudhole, where they left  
 it. It has since been got out however  
 & is all serene again.

I will gladly be Godfather to your little  
 Chap - you must let him come & see  
 me sometimes - I don't expect to spend  
 all my life out here & hope I shall  
 see you all before long. I am so glad  
 to hear you are so happy together.

I hope a letter will be well with you -  
 This will reach you about Easter time -  
 I have no Easter cards to send, but  
 send my best wishes for a holy and happy  
 Easter for you both, and the fulness of  
 all Easter blessings I pray that God may  
 grant you - now do I forget the babe  
 little boy to Clem & a kiss to the little  
 one believe me

Yr. ever affctd:  
 H. S. Fenner-Clinton

Written to  
 Mrs. Clement Fenner-Clinton  
 Waltham Cross, Herts. England  
 April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1886