

children, this is doing pretty well.
The teachers are not notified in advance,
so it fairly represents what might occur.
"Bee" Brooks who was over here from
Cambridge to day was telling of
similar drill in one of their schools
with eight hundred scholars.

Your affectionate son
F. E. Prendergast.

Jan. 19th 1889.

Saturday 11. a.m.

(Mailed ^{via the Grand} ~~via the~~ ^{Drain} ~~at~~ Plymouth,
N. H.)

My dear Papa,

My stay at home has
been unexpectedly cut short by about a
week or two days, and I started west
this morning on account of a message
received yesterday.

Mr Cox, the engineer whom I left in charge,
and who considered himself "settled" at
the Soo, left at two days notice to accept
a position in Omaha, and as work is
in progress and us on to look after it, I
had to start at once.

I left home at 7.45 this morning
and ^{am} now in a Canadian Pacific car
travelling along the Merrimack River in
New Hampshire, a fine cold morning
but no snow here. Have seen none since
I left the Soo. My route is by
Montreal, Ottawa and main line of
Canadian Pacific to Sudbury Junction.

them by branch line to the Soo where I
am due tomorrow night, distance
972 miles, time 36 hours.

Your last was of Jan. 5. and I also had
a card of same date from J. S. P. but you
had not then heard of the birth of
"Arthur Curtis Prendergast". We call
him Arthur because we liked the name
and there is no one else here of same name
Curtis, after Marys second brother.

He has occasional spells of hard crying
and worrying but otherwise is very well
and bright. Mary has been gaining quite
steadily and takes care of him, but has
not been down stairs yet. I hope her
cares and responsibilities may not weigh
too heavily on her. The children are
all very well, and we have all had
a good time together for the six weeks
I have been at home. Jeffry is now
as tall as his mother. Luntia likes
to hold the baby when allowed to, but

probably will be less ready to do so when
it becomes a task.

It is just six months since I first
started for the Soo; three or four years
ago, when writing an article on the
Canadian Pacific Railway. I little
expected to be frequently travelling over
it, much less living on one of its
branches, but it is always the un-
expected that is happening in the
life of an engineer.

While in Boston I called on
Sol. Thornton who always inquires
after you and uncle Joe. He said
Mrs. Wingate Thornton was unusually
well, for her, this winter. The two
families are spending the winter in
Cambridge. I had intended calling
on them but this sudden start has
interfered with much I had laid out.
Mrs. Childs, by advice of Dr. Seane
has tried what is called a massage treatment.

a rubbing and kneading of the injured
limb. A person recommended by Linn,
a stout woman who makes a business
of this, comes every other day and
spends an hour or more doing it.
Mrs Childs certainly moves easier
and gets around with one crutch
now instead of two.

She helps Mary a great deal with
the sewing and can help a little with
the baby, but she apt to exceed
her strength and wants to do too
much. I expect to mail this at
Plymouth, New Hampshire - not Mass.

You had better address to me at
Newton Highlands, but J. S. P. can
write to me direct at Sault Ste. Marie
Mich. Your affectionate son
F. E. Prendergast.

Sault Ste. Marie. Mich.
Jan. 27th 1889.

My dear Papa,

I have yours of Jan.
11th and J. S. P.'s and aunt Henrietta's of
Jan. 8th, all forwarded from Newton Highlands.

I wrote to you on my arrival here.
My last news from home tells of all going
on well. Mary had been downstairs, but it
will be more convenient for her to live up-
stairs except for meals during the winter,
I think. She said the children seemed
rather sober after I left.

There is snow on the ground here and
the river is frozen at last and stages
replace the ferries. It looks still and
dismal round the locks and indeed
the streets seem very quiet. Many men
have gone to the "humber camps" and will
not return till the end of the winter.

There is not much doing on the canal
still there are two pile drivers at work