

Title of fonds: Hon. Thomas Bain fonds
Date of creation (inclusive): 1837-1915
Date of creation (predominant): 1876-1896
Physical description: 39 cm of textual records
14 photographic prints
1 photograph album (34 photographs)

Biographical sketch:

Hon. Thomas Bain was born in Denny, Stirlingshire, Scotland in 1834, the son of Walter and Jane (Reid) Bain. He was three years old when his family emigrated to Canada and settled on Brock Road, on the outskirts of Dundas, Ontario.

His first foray into politics came with his election to the Township Council of West Flamborough district. In 1870 he was elected Reeve of Wentworth County.

Mr Bain was a staunch Liberal and in 1872 was nominated as the Liberal candidate for Wentworth. He was elected, and sat continuously in the House of Commons until he retired in 1901.

In 1899 he succeeded Sir J.D. Edgar as Speaker of the House of Commons, and held that office until 1901.

Mr Bain was a speaker of exceptional ability, eloquent and logical. He was fair and kind and earned the respect and admiration of his political opponents as well as those of his own party.

In 1872 he married Helen Weir and built "Bonnington" in a picturesque part of the Dundas Valley, where he resided for the remainder of his life. The Bains had two daughters: Mary (who would marry James B. Bertram) and Helen.

Mr Bain was a founder of the Landed Banking and Loan Company of Hamilton and was for a number of years its President. He was also the first President of the William R. Souter Company of Hamilton and remained in that capacity until his death.

He died on January 18, 1915 at his home, "Bonnington" in Dundas, Ontario.

Scope and content note:

Fonds consists of correspondence, notebooks, clippings, cards, financial and property documents, and photographs, which relate to Bain's personal and political activities.

Thomas Bain fonds Box Listings

Series 1. Personal and business material

Box 1

- 1-1 Early correspondence from the Bain family, 1837-1859.
- 1-2 "Inventory of real and personal property of the late Colin Logie as [produced] by James Logie, his residuary legatee and heir [at law]. 13 Dec 1856. James Hamilton, Executor". *It is unclear how Bain came to have this document in his possession, but James Hamilton was Bain's brother-in-law.*
- 1-3 Receipt for payment received from Thomas Bain issued by architectural firm for plans and specifications for a house as ordered by C. Reid, April 9, 1859. Indenture between Thomas Bain and James Bennet and John Thompson to build a dwelling at Bain's farm, 1859.
- 1-4 Agreement between Thomas Bain and James Freed, 1859. Bain hired Freed to build a house for him.
- 1-5 Loan agreement between Colin D. Reid, his sisters Isabella and Jean, and Peter Filman for the loan of £1250.00. Bain's mother was Jane Reid.
- 1-6 Stock dividend warrants issued to Mrs Jean Bain by the Gore Bank, 1864 and 1865.
- 1-7 Correspondence, 1869-[1870].
- 1-8 Voter's List for the Electoral District of North Wentworth, 1872. Handwritten notebook.
- 1-9 Letters to Mrs Bain from her sister Jessie [Janet] Weir (1885-1886) and from Hannah [Gillmore], the wife of a Member of Parliament with whom Mrs Bain was acquainted (1886).
- 1-10 Blank Forms: Power of Attorney, 1880. From the Landed Banking and Loan Company.
- 1-11 Correspondence from extended family, 1881.
- 1-12 Letters from Thomas Bain to his mother, Mrs W. Bain, dated January 28, 1884 and February 7, 1884.
- 1-13 Correspondence from Jessie Weir to Thomas and Helen Bain, 1885.

1-14 Copies of *The Grip*, "an independent political and satirical journal", published in Toronto. December 26, 1885, January 2, 1886, January 30, 1886, February 13, 1886.

1-15 Helen Bain's (Mrs Thomas Bain) cheque book with stubs, 1889-1892.

1-16 Correspondence from J.C. Donaldson, Barrister and Solicitor, Fergus to Janet Weir/Janet Hamilton regarding Charles Allan mortgages, 1888, 1891.

1-17 Lawyer's notes, correspondence and accounts. Lawyer T.H.A. Begue in correspondence with Mrs. John B. Hamilton (Janet Weir, Thomas Bain's sister-in-law) concerning the foreclosure of the Jacob Markle farm (Weir v. Markle), the settlement with Wardell, and sale to DeLottinville. Bain paid cash toward the account. Weir family were in-laws to Thomas Bain. 1890.

1-18 Miscellaneous documents. Essay: *History and Construction of the Telescope* (handwritten); brochure about the Mount Lowe Railway; *Selection of Lenses*; *Constantinople* (handwritten); *Weaning the Baby* (handwritten); how a woman should treat her husband (handwritten) taken from Lady Isabel Burton's *The Inner Life of Syria, Palestine, and the Holy Land*, 1879.

1-19 Notice of a lecture given by Thomas Bain under the auspices of the Young Men's Guild of St. James Church, on the subject of the Yellowstone and Canadian National Parks, January 7, [1890].

1-20 Letter and memorial card, 1891 January 19. From John M. French to Thomas Bain announcing the death of French's sister Sarah M'Kinlay French on January 3, 1891. It is believed the French family may be related to the Weirs or Bains.

1-21 Invitation and menu to the Warden's Dinner, December 10, 1891. The dinner was hosted by the Warden of the County of Wentworth and was held at the American Hotel.

1-22 Copy of *The Catholic Register*. Printed in Toronto on Thursday, February 23, 1893.

1-23 Menus from the Speaker's Chambers, House of Commons, 1894, 1900.

1-24 Letter to Thomas Bain from John B.P. Robertson, January 29, 1896.

1-25 Clippings about Bain's election as Speaker of the House of Commons, 1899.

- 1-26 Poem: *Canada to the Empire* by Rev. P.M. McEachern of Waterdown. October 21, 1899.
- 1-27 The Boer Manifesto. *The Shame of Canada*. Essay against the Boer War. Montreal, March 1900.
- 1-28 Clipping: *Smith is the Man: the Popular Nurseryman Selected by the South Wentworth Conservatives to run against Hon. T. Bain*. From the *Hamilton Spectator*, April 9, 1900.
- 1-29 Clippings regarding Canada, Britain and the Empire. From *Toronto Globe*, April 21, 1900.
- 1-30 Clipping: Poem: *The Empire Fiend* by Stinson Jarvis. From *Toronto Sunday World*, April 22, 1900.
- 1-31 Clipping: *A Populist Platform: What the Middle of the Road Men Demand*. About American politics. From *Ottawa Free Press*, May 14, 1900.
- 1-32 Clipping: *Sir John Bourinot: Eloquent Address at Opening of Hamilton's New Park: Memories of Dundurn: the Late Sir Allan MacNabb - the Men and Women of Gore - Hamilton's History*. From *Montreal Gazette*, May 25, 1900.
- 1-33 Clipping: *The Bisley Team* from the *Free Press*, May 8, 1900.
- 1-34 Clipping: *Hon. Thomas Bain is Tired of Vexations of Politics: Strong Pressure was brought to bear on the Speaker to hold on, but Mr. Bain has definitely made up his mind to quit - elections in October*. From the *World*, June 4, 1900.
- 1-35 Clipping: *W.O. Sealy was Unanimous Choice: Will Lead the Liberals to Victory in South Wentworth*. From *Hamilton Evening Times*, June 18, 1900. This convention would have been held to elect the replacement for Thomas Bain.
- 1-36 Clipping: *Hasn't Been Fixed: "Bob" Birmingham says no settlement has been offered: Only wants \$6000 salary: Would be Glad to Secure that Amount and Trusts Conservative Party with be 'Honest Enough' to Pay Him*. From *Montreal Daily Herald*, June 9, 1900. Concerning the settlement of a dispute between the ex-organizer of the Ontario Conservatives and the Conservative Party.
- 1-37 Clipping: Editorial cartoon from *Montreal Herald*, June 9, 1900.
- 1-38 Clipping: *Australia to Oom Paul*, a poem. From *Ottawa Journal*, July 10, 1900.

- 1-39 Senate Restaurant invoices, 1900.
- 1-40 Clipping: *Property Exempt from Taxation in the City of Ogdensburg*. From *Exemplious Ogdensburg*, June 22, 1900.
- 1-41 Clipping: *The Whole Thing*, a poem in response to the statement made by Mr. Monk MP that the present prosperity was really due to the Conservatives. From *Montreal Herald*, July 28, 1900.
- 1-42 Clipping: regarding a speech by Nick Davis. From *The Times*, August 1, 1900.
- 1-43 Dividend cheque for Miss Mary Weir from the Landed Banking and Loan Co. of Hamilton, January 2, 1900.
- 1-44 Letter from Rev. Thomas Somerville, Blackfriars Parish Church, Glasgow. November 27, 1900. Rev. Somerville may have been a member of Bain's family.
- 1-45 Passport issued to Thomas and Helen Bain and their daughters Mary and Helen, 1901. Includes the signature of the Governor General, Lord Minto.
- 1-46 Letter from Robert William Scott, Secretary of State, regarding Bain's passport. May 14, 1901.
- 1-47 Invitation and voucher from Lord and Lady Strathcona to Bain to a Garden Party at Knebworth Park, 1901.
- 1-48 Letter from Lowe and Farrell Electric Supply Co. providing a quotation for the installation of concealed wiring and switches for incandescent electric light in his home. November 9, 1901. Invoice from Lowe and Farrell Electric Supply Co. for wiring Bain house. November 30, 1901.
- 1-49 Programmes: Theatricals, Government House, March 1879; Theatricals, Government House, February 28, 1881; Literary and Musical Entertainment in aid of St. John's Church Sunday School Building Fund, St. James' Hall, March 3, 1881; Musicale, Stadacona Hall, March 21, 1900.
- 1-50 Calling cards. Names include: Dr. Robert Bell, FRS (Geological Survey), Mr. R.R. Dobell, Mr. William Wyld, Mr. and Mrs. W.S. Fielding, Dr. P. Macdonald, Sir Louis and Lady Davies, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Bell, Lady Laurier, Lady Davies, Mrs. David Mills, Mrs. Mills, Mr. and Mrs. William Wyld, Mrs. Clifford Sifton, Mrs. R.R. Dobell and Miss Muriel Dobell, Mr. and Mrs. R.W. Scott, Mr. R.W. Scott, Mrs. George E. Foster, Mr. Mahlon Cowan, Mr. Firman McClure, Mr. James Robertson, Miss Hutchison, Mrs. W.B. McArthur, Mrs. James Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. Firman McClure, Mr. George E. Foster, Mrs. Mahlon

Cowan, Mrs. D.B. Meigs, Mr. George E. Foster, Thomas Bain (black border). Includes invitations to "at-homes".

1-51 Letter from James Fletcher, Entomologist and Botanist, Central Experimental Farm, regarding remedy for house ant infestations. October 10, 1904.

1-52 Letter from A.P. Cockburn, Secretary of Muskoka Lakes Navigation and Hotel Company to Bain about investments in the company. Also includes a list of shareholders. November 20, 1903.

1-53 Correspondence to Thomas Bain: from E.R. Peacock, Dominion Securities Corporation Ltd regarding Bain's order of City of Vancouver bonds, April 29, 1904; from Senator James McMullen regarding the question of a Canadian navy, January 27, 1913; from J.R. Marshall, Chairman of the Liberal Club Federation of Ontario regarding a banquet, November 14, 1913; from John S. Fry, Secretary of the newly formed Children's Aid Society of the County of Wentworth, requesting Bain attend a meeting to give the Society the "benefit of your advice", April 21, 1914.

1-54 Booklet: *George Meredith* by J.M. Barrie. London: Constable and Co. Ltd., 1909.

1-55 Income return for Thomas Bain (not completed), 1912.

1-56 Business correspondence and documents: Annual Report of the Landed Banking and Loan Co., 1911; to Thomas Bain from D'Arcy Martin, Hamilton Gas Light Co, notifying him of a meeting of the Shareholders of the Company, October 25, 1912; to Thomas Bain from C.W. Cartwright, Manager, the Landed Banking and Loan Co., sending him a cheque in payment for his fees as director and allowance as president, January 16, 1913; Power of Attorney to Accept Stock certificate from Hamilton [?] and Loan Society, n.d.; from C.W. Cartwright, Manager, the Landed Banking and Loan Co. asking after Bain's health and informing him of Company business, November 27, 1914.

1-57 Clippings about the death of Thomas Bain, January 1915.

1-58 Letters of condolence to Mrs Bain upon her husband's death, 1915.

1-59 Notes for speeches, addresses, etc., n.d.

1-60 "Essay on the Sabbath". Writer unknown (possibly Thomas Bain), date unknown.

Box 2

2-1 Miscellaneous clippings.

2-2 Clippings. *Speaker Buried: Remains of Sir James D. Edgar Placed in the Tomb*, paper unknown, 1899; *Bain is now Boss*, [Hamilton Spectator], 1899; *Old Favourites*, Montreal Star, March 31, 1897; *Revive Glory of Old Hospitality: Members' Wives at Ottawa Prepare to Enjoy Social Spoils*, paper unknown, n.d.; editorial cartoon: *Will Have No Interference*, Toronto World, April 6, 1897; editorial cartoon: *A Fellow Feeling*, Toronto World, May 18, 1897; editorial cartoon: *Turned Down*, the Globe, May 28, 1897; editorial cartoon: *A Mistake*, Toronto World, April 3, 1897; envelope full of clippings marked "Clippings Christmas 1912"; *Late Hon. Thomas Bain*, 1915; *Hon. Thomas Bain: noted figure in Wentworth county and former speaker in the House of Commons, who has been removed by death*, 1915; *Left \$138,528: Robinson Pirie's Estate Goes to His Family*, n.d.; *Clergyman Leaves \$83,829 Estate: Widow and Sister Receive Residue of Rev. John Brownlie's Property*, n.d.; *Large Estate: Will be Shared Between Two Daughters and Mrs. E. Bain* (article contains inaccurate information); *Dr. Lauchland Dies*, n.d.; *Left \$83,829: Late Rev. John Brownlee Made Bequests to Church Funds*, n.d.

2-3 Miscellaneous: Advertising card for Hotel Cecil, Ottawa; baggage tag for Game sent to Thomas Bain from Lord Strathcona, Knebworth Park; notes on paper from True Banner Office, Dundas; memorial card for Helen McGregor Robertson of Strabane on June 12, 1900; envelope with paper cut out addressed to Mrs Thomas Bain from Thomas Bain, date undecipherable; memorial card for Jean Drummond Laclaren who died on November 27, 1914 (likely a cousin of the Bains); Memorial Card for Sir John S. Thompson, Prime Minister, who died in office on December 12, 1894; Card commemorating New Year's Day, 1908; letter from Mr James Thomson accepting the invitation to Mary Bain's wedding to James Bertram, 1907; resolution of the Shakespeare Society on the passing of Mrs McKechnie, 1905.

2-4 Photographs. One tintype of two unidentified women. Two cabinet cartes of political cartoons. One cabinet carte with an unidentified man and woman in a garden scene. One carte of Mary Bain, n.d. Seven photographic prints of unidentified farming scenes. Two photographic prints of Dundas.

Series 2. Political material

2-5 Parliamentary documents. Thomas Bain's parliamentary notebook, April 1873 to June 1887. Contains notes primarily on prohibition legislation. Speech delivered in the House of Commons by Thomas Bain. MP, on April 7, 1879 regarding the Tariff. Booklet: *The Policy of Unrestricted Reciprocity in Trade, Commerce and Shipping between Canada and the United States*, 1888.

2-6 Election returns. Certificates issued by the Returning Officer declaring Thomas Bain elected as member of parliament for the North Riding of the

County of Wentworth, 1878, 1882, 1887. Includes clippings related to the election of 1882 when Bain's election was contested by A.R. Wardell.

2-7 Notebook: contains Bain's notes on a variety of political issues, c. 1880s.

2-8 Letter from Henry Dolby, Managing Editor, Montreal Daily and Weekly Star, requesting Bain's opinion on the issue of the Jesuits Estates Act, June 13, 1889.

2-9 Election propoganda: *The Voter's Alphabet or the Issue Made Plain as ABC* in support of the Reform candidate to support Oliver Mowat, n.d.; an election pamphlet entitled "What Ed Collins Says", addressed to the Electors of Dundas, outlining reasons why they should vote for A.R. Wardell instead of Thomas Bain, 1891.

2-10 Booklet: *Platform of the Liberal Party of Canada*. 1895.

2-11 Correspondence: to Thomas Bain from [J]. O. McCorkhill, President of the Missisquoio Liberal Association, about Bain's participation at a political meeting with William Patterson and Francois Bechard, June 6, 1895; to Thomas Bain from Adam Cook regarding post office service, April 9, 1897.

2-12 Election documents. Election adversting card describing how to vote with the "x" next to Bain's name, n.d.; letter from Mr Forbes asking for help in electing Bain, June 10, 1896; letter from R.A. Thompson, Lynden Mills, congratulating Bain on his election, June 24, 1896; letter from E. Dickie, Ontario License Holders Protective Association, congratulating Bain on his election and assuring him that he is not "expecting any position under the new Government", June 24, 1896.

2-13 Account of *The Remedial Bill*. Propaganda article about the Remedial Bill concerning the Manitoba Schools Act (public funding of Catholic schools), [1896].

2-14 Clipping: *Gone to their Reward*. From *The Times*, April 30, 1896. List of Tories appointed to lucrative posts.

2-15 Letter from A.R. Wardell to Bain, August 30, 1896. Wardell asks Bain to influence the Department of Inland Revenue to deal favourably with his son, Stewart Wardell who was in charge of Inland Revenue at Norwich, and was under investigation after having "some little trouble". Mr. Begue is also mentioned as having contacted Bain about the issue.

2-16 Correspondence regarding the Burlington Swing Bridge. August and September 1896.

- 2-17 Letter from C.D. Potts to Bain regarding the behaviour of former MP Alexander McKay during the election campaign. September 3, 1896.
- 2-18 Letter from H.G. (Henri-Gustave) Joly de Lotbiniere to Bain saying he received Bain's letter requesting that George Spera of Elfrida be placed on a list of applicants for a position in the Weights and Measures Inspection Branch of the Controller of Inland Revenue. September 21, 1896.
- 2-19 Letter from J. [N]. Metcalfe, Warden of Kingston Penitentiary, acknowledging receipt of Bain's letter and that it would be directed to "Tisdale". September 29, 1896.
- 2-20 Letters regarding the Postmaster of the Bartonville Post Office. August to October 1896.
- 2-21 Correspondence regarding the construction of the Burlington Channel, including some requesting that Bain use his influence to obtain jobs for residents. October to December 1896.
- 2-22 Letter from J.D. Edgar, Speaker of the House of Commons, acknowledging receipt of a letter from Bain recommending E.A.L. Clarke for a staff position. October 5, 1896.
- 2-23 Correspondence concerning a lawsuit between Arthur and Samuel Pockett and the Government relating to a resurvey of their land. Ruling in favour of Pockett. November 1896 to January 1897.
- 2-24 Information about the staff of the Welland Railway, including salaries and stations. [December 1896]
- 2-25 Letter from Adam Cook to Bain regarding a post office for Barton. April 5, 1897.
- 2-26 Bain's notes and documents relating to the Bartonville Post Office and Postmaster issue. May 1897.
- 2-27 Letter from William Mulock, Postmaster General, regarding the establishment of a post office at Mount Hamilton, September 28, 1897.
- 2-28 Letter from William Mulock, Postmaster General, regarding the establishment of a post office at Barton. Mulock asks that application stand while he investigates localities with "stronger claims", October 11, 1897.
- 2-29 Admission card for entry to the Speaker's Gallery in the House of Commons, 1899. Signed by J.D. Edgar, Speaker.

2-30 Invitations. From the Governor General to the Speaker of the House of Commons to a state dinner; from the Countess of Minto to Mrs Bain and Miss Bain to a reception; from the Speaker of the Senate to the Speaker of the Commons to dinner to meet His Excellency the Papal Delegate. Month and day are given, years are not, although Bain was Speaker from 1899 to 1901. Blank printed invitation cards from the Speaker of the House of Commons in English and French.

2-31 Letters of congratulation regarding Bain's appointment as Speaker. From [J.M.] Forbes, Ben Allen, John H. [Grant], August 1899.

2-32 Invitation responses. From Mr and Mrs Paterson accepting a dinner invitation, n.d.; from Mr. Legris, MP, accepting a dinner invitation, May 16, 1900 (in French).

2-33 Letter from D.C. Chamberlain, Accountant, House of Commons, requesting letter of credit, January 24, 1900.

2-34 Letter from the Houses of Parliament in Brisbane, Australia requesting a picture of the House of Commons, Ottawa. Includes shipping information. February 1900.

2-35 Clipping: *The Speakership* from *The Gazette*, February 5, 1900.

2-36 Clipping: *The Railways of the World: How Great Britain's Passenger and Freight Traffic Compares with that of Other Countries*. From *Toronto World*, February 11, 1900.

2-37 Clipping: Editorial cartoon from *Montreal Herald* on February 23, 1900.

2-38 Programme: No. 17 House of Commons (Press Gallery). Saturday 24 February 1900. Routine Proceedings. A satirical programme of Commons proceedings.

2-39 Invoices: House of Commons Restaurant, supplies from House of Commons, and Graham Bros., Seedsmen and Florists, 1900.

2-40 Invoice for extra supplies for the House of Commons, May 7, 1900.

2-41 Letter from Martin Joseph Griffin, the Parliamentary Librarian, upon the retirement of Thomas Bain. July 18, 1900.

2-42 Letter from Wong Soon King on behalf of the Chinese Boards of Trade of British Columbia enclosing a petition in response to a proposed bill imposing further restrictions on Chinese immigration into Canada. June 30, 1900.

2-43 Letter from R.P. King, Acting Secretary to the Clerk, regarding receipt of letter, August 28, 1900.

2-44 Letters from Sir John Bourinot, regarding staff involved in translation of parliamentary proceedings. August 22, 1900 and September 3, 1900. Sir John Bourinot's biography can be found in the Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online.

2-45 Letter from W.W. Edgar, Parliamentary Library, about Bain's request for books, and information about Martin Joseph Griffin and Sir John Bourinot, September 7, 1900.

2-46 Letter from Henry R. Smith. Original letter is in pieces. Below is a transcription.

*Ottawa
6th Nov 1900*

My dear Mr Speaker,

*If you have any orders for me I shall be very glad to carry them out.
The only suggested change I can remember is the giving of a room to the
French Translators of the Hansard in a Building and I know the location of the
room you thought of taking for this purpose.*

*I have issued a memo to my staff to the effect that while I saw no objection to
them voting in the coming election I did not think it desirable that any one of
them should take an active part on either side.*

*I have increased Huff's salary by \$20 a month during the time he acts as
Assistant Chief Messenger such temporary increase to date from the 1st of
August last.*

*I will see that your official chair is sent to you at the earliest possible moment
and if there is anything further I can do for you here is will gove me much
pleasure.*

*We will all miss you and yours greatly when Parliament meets and my wife
strongly shares this feeling and sends her kindest regards to Mrs Bain and the
young ladies.*

Hoping to hear from you and perhaps to see you in Ottawa.

*Believe me,
I am very sincerely,
Henry R. Smith*

Box 3

- 3-1 Letter from William Paterson, Minister of Customs, thanking Bain for his aid during the election campaign. November 12, 1900.
- 3-2 Letter from Joseph Israël Tarte, Minister of Public Works, asking about the Drill Shed. November 22, 1900.
- 3-3 Letter from A. [G]obe[r], Deputy Minister of Public Works regarding the lease on the Post Office building in Dundas. December 13, 1900.
- 3-4 Letters from Henry R. Smith to Bain. First regarding space for the French translators in the Building and the second in thanks for the photograph of himself which Bain sent. December 17 and 18, 1900.
- 3-5 Letter from Sir John Bourinot to Bain regarding the matter of Mr Fielding and Mr Murray. January 10, 1901.
- 3-6 Letter from A.T. (Andrew Trew) Wood, thanking Bain for his congratulations on Wood's appointment to the Senate, January 25, 1901.
- 3-7 Letter from L. Dube telling Bain of a gift of two shields being sent to him by Dube and the Sergeant. February 1, 1901.
- 3-8 Letter from A.D. (Alexander D.) Crooks to "Uncle" Bain about Weir property. February 6, 1901.
- 3-9 Letter from Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, regarding the placement of Mr Pearson in the Census office. March 9, 1901.
- 3-10 Letter from C. George to Bain telling him that he was sending along his hat and requesting a photograph of Bain. March 18, 1901.
- 3-11 Letter from Henry R. Smith to Bain telling him that Smith will be sending along the Speaker's chair shortly. May 22, 1901.

Series 3. Correspondence from Ottawa

This series consists of Bain's letters to his wife in Strabane while he was in Ottawa. The letters are a mixture of news of parliamentary happenings and gossip, his spare time occupations and companions, and directions to his wife on the management of the farm, family, and household.

- 3-12 Correspondence from Thomas Bain: February 14, 1876 to April 1, 1876

February 14, 1876 (to his wife at West Flamboro. 1 sheet, 4 pages; envelope included with House of Commons stamp).

Contents of letter:

Received his wife's letter of Thursday on Saturday morning; Baby adjusting to her new home; Mary and Jessie being with him in Ottawa; attending Mr. Gordon's church, as he helped to open the new St. Andrew's; going to the Temperance Hall to hear Mr. Roper at 4 o'clock; hearing Mr. Farries in the City Hall Church in the evening; weather conditions; sleighing (in Ottawa) all winter; Huntington's speech in the House of Commons on Friday; concerned with election in Argentine and remarks made about priests meddling in elections; recommended the Protestants of Quebec unite with Liberal Catholics against Ultra [Montane] influence; Huntington tendered his resignation as Postmaster General but was refused by Premier; concludes with "Truly yours, Thomas Bain".

February 17, 1876 (to his wife at West Flamboro. 1 sheet, 4 pages; envelope included with House of Commons stamp).

Contents of letter:

Receiving his wife's letter of Feb. 14 on the morning of Feb. 16; receiving a few lines from his mother with a letter she sent on to him from Wallace McDonald; the girls (Mary and Jessie) planning to leave Ottawa Friday night at 10 o'clock; details included re: their train trip to Dundas; ie, leave Ottawa 10 o'clock Friday night in the Pulman Car; arrive in Toronto about noon on Saturday; leave Toronto at 3:15 in the afternoon on the Western for Hamilton; connect with the train to Dundas to arrive 5:55 Saturday evening; Jessie thinking they can get to Dundas themselves but Thomas Bain requests that John meet them at Hamilton in the evening; referring to writing to his wife at Strabane next week; concludes letter with "Truly yours, Thomas Bain".

February 17, 1876 (to his wife at West Flamboro. Second of two letters written on February 17, 1876. 1 sheet, 4 pages; envelope not included).

Contents of letter:

The arrangements made for the Girls (Mary and Jessie) to reach Dundas via train on Saturday evening; Thomas said he would travel with them as far as Prescott Junction so there will be no trouble for them at the Ottawa end; going to Gowan's Opera House the previous evening to hear a "Colored Prima Dona sing and play on the piano"; Mrs. Oliver accompanied them, as Mr. Oliver was dining with Mr. Cartwright, the Finance Minister; St. Joseph's Church having a concert at Gowan's Hall at same time; Temperance Mass Meeting this evening (Feb. 17) in Mr. Moore's Church; having a card for the Temperance Meeting entitled him to take his family; he offered it to Mary, but she declined; receiving a letter from his mother, who was well; Mr. McLean being unable to

preach on Sunday and required the Dr.; the Methodist Minister, Mr. Turner, preached for him; weather conditions in Ottawa; snow, cold, lots of sleighing; sleigh ride around the City over by the Chaudere Falls and through Hull, with an outside view of Rideau Hall; mentions that he has not yet had an invitation to Rideau Hall; reference to his invitation to the fancy Ball on the 23rd and the need to hire fancy costume at a cost of \$5 to \$30; reference to this as a supplement to his morning's letter. "It is always pleasant to write to my own pet wife when I am so far away." Concludes with "Affectionately yours, Thomas Bain".

February 22, 1876 (to his wife at West Flamboro. 1 sheet, 4 pages; envelope included with House of Commons stamp).

Contents of letter:

Receiving his wife's letter of Saturday night at noon today; mail was stuck on the Prescott Junction's railway near Osgoode due to snow and high wind; his relief that the girls were fortunate in their company home and arrived home safely; comment that it was "good for Mary that she repented and went to the Temperance Mass Meeting in Bank Street Church and thus got to see Mr. McLean"; reference to a letter he wrote to Mary Saturday night enclosing proofs for her to choose from for her photographs; description of costumes possible to rent for the Fancy Ball, \$5 to \$20 each; Thomas and Mr. Young saw some of them at Russell House yesterday; he mentions Cockburn and ? Trow attending from his own Club; reference to the Quebec Cabinet Ministers giving a Ball next Monday in the new library; he mentions criticisms and dissatisfaction re: work stoppage and payment of wages for the men re: the Library construction; he says the public will finally have to pay for this; his intention to go to his first dinner tonight, given by Mr. Blake; mention that last night (in the House) was one of the liveliest yet with Mr. Blake and Dr. Tupper sparring; comment that "our Temperance men were at a Tea Social down at the Hall last night by the Bytown Temperance Society to celebrate their 25th anniversary; Rymal was down and made a speech; hoping that Nellie receives this letter for leaving Flamboro. "It seems to bring me nearer my dear pet wife". Comments that he is "glad Baby is getting along so well and hope she won't continue to make you get thinner"; "I have not yet seen any book to suit on juvenile training". Concludes letter with "Affectionately yours, Thomas Bain".

February 28, 1876 (to his wife at Strabane. 2 sheets, 8 pages; envelope included with House of Commons stamp).

Contents of letter:

Receiving his wife's letter of the 24th on Saturday as well as Mary's; reference to delay in doing Mary's photos at Topley's due to his extra business from the fancy Ball; mention that Cockburn was the only one to attend (the fancy Ball) from our Club; 17 MPs exclusive of members of the Cabinet attended and this evening, there is Couchon's Ball in the library; Mr. Gordon's election as

Chaplain to our Club and his falling out with Mr. Oliver about "some religious dogma"; reference to "Jake Surrarus" and the "quince orchard"; Mrs Keagy adding another girl to the family; comment that he hopes Baby and Jessie are recovering from their trouble and back to their usual health; refers to sick Baby causing anxiety and trouble for his pet wife; writing two or three letters in the end of last week to his mother; attendance at a formula dinner with Mr. Smith, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries at the New Club House on Saturday night; the Deputy Minister, also a Smith, was there too; the Finance Minister has a similar feed on Wednesday; attendance of a large number of "our club" at Mr. Blake's and Mr. Scott's on Saturday night; reference to the bar and meals at "our club"; dining room cheerful and meals well-served; mention of G.W. Ross expecting to be down at the end of the week; he has been ill with erysipelas in his head; reference to the Temperance men being quiet since the Premier refused to consider the idea of a Plebiscite; they are not in agreement about the right thing to do; mention of the Finance Minister's budget speech on Friday "knocked the life out of the Protectionists, particularly Wood and Irvine of Hamilton re a hoped for tariff; additional comments included re Wood and Irvine and a statement that "manufacturers now will stay away from the Capital"; mentions his religious exercises yesterday in Mr. Moore's church; Speaker in the morning was Mr. Fraser Campbell from Cape Breton, designated by "our church" as a missionary to Madras in the East Indies; Mr. Moore's sermon in the evening was on "Christian Perfection"; he was critical of Mr. Varley and some of the modern Itinerant Evangelists; Mr. Cockburn was a Mr. Gordon's church; mild reprimand for such follies as Balls; intended going around for an hour to the Ball in the Library; says he will try to be home a week from Saturday; asks his wife to tell Tom not to feed the cut straw and cornstalks on the barn floor to anything but the horses; sent his mother Burton's Syria 2 vol. this morning; concludes letter with "affectionately yours, Nellie dear, Thomas Bain".

March 2, 1876 (to his wife at Strabane. 1 sheet, 4 pages; envelope included with House of Commons stamp; envelope signed "T. Bain, M.P." and closed with wax seal).

Contents of letter:

Discussion of vaccination for Baby; mentioned enclosing a note to the Dr. which his wife could mail if she thought it be to have it attended to immediately; no session of the House yesterday as it was Ash Wednesday; Osler of Dundas was here (Ottawa) yesterday on his way home from Montreal; Mr. Stock was here on Tuesday attending the Agricultural and Arts Association first annual meeting; Caswell of Ingersoll was here about some dairy matters at the Philadelphia Exhibition this summer; description of the new Library and mention of Madam Couchon's Ball; vote on a motion in the House Tuesday midnight made by the Hamilton members; only Devlin of Montreal voted along with them.

March 6, 1876 (to his wife at Strabane. 1 sheet, 4 pages; envelope included with House of Commons stamp; envelope signed "T. Bain, M.P.").

Contents of letter:

Mentions growth of Baby and refers to wife's letter of March 2; mentions "Little Charlie", Jimmie, Freddy (but no reference to who they are); attended the Daly Street Church; did not attend the afternoon Temperance Meeting "it not being quite in my line"; not much excitement just now on that question; G.W. Ross coming tomorrow; refers to the Budget speech, late rising of the House, Tupper being in one of his big fits; details about his travel plans home to Strabane on Friday evening.

March 11, 1876 (to his wife at Strabane. 1 sheet, 4 pages; envelope included with House of Commons stamp; envelope signed "T. Bain, M.P.")

Contents of letter:

Refers to Sir John's amendment to committee of supply (in which he proposed to protect the farmers) being voted on; mentions McKenzie, Fleming, Blake; mentions Mr. Ross being at Andrew's; refers to the Millers, church in Flamboro.

March 16, 1876 (to his wife at Strabane. 1 sheet; one side; envelope included with House of Commons stamp; envelope initialed "T.B, MP" and closed with wax seal).

Contents of letter:

Refers to vote on Sir John's Resolution in the House; there had been a debate of three days and a majority of 46 votes; refers to view of Wood of Hamilton re farmers benefitting by paying more taxes to help manufacturers; provides his wife with his travel plans and directions for returning home on Saturday.

March 22, 1876 (to his wife at Strabane. 1 sheet, 4 pages; envelope not included).

Contents of letter:

Describes his return train journey to Ottawa; mentions travelling to Toronto with "Mercer of Dundas" who was going to "the Architect's office to see the plans of the new Catholic Church in Guelph which they propose to tender for"; letter includes mention of the following names: Murray and McDonald agreed to refer their dispute to Cargill of Nasagawega; son-in-law of Kastner; Miss Kastner is married at Peoria, Illinois; ? Trow expects to start his 5 boys with \$100,000 each; he has only one girl and she is young; Peter Mitchel is hammering away about fish and Sir John has not yet come back to his seat since before I left; includes instruction to his wife for Tom re collecting barley and barrels of salt.

March 23, 1876 (to his wife at Strabane. 1 sheet, 2 pages; enveloped included with House of Commons stamp; envelope signed "T. Bain, MP" and closed with wax seal).

Contents of letter:

Refers to enclosing the rubber tubing for Baby's bottle, but their nipples were nothing extra and did not buy any; mentions that Thompson of Haldimand is getting better; refers to letter received from Durrant saying Mr. Irvine had resigned as Postmaster in Flamboro and he wants his place; mentions that John A. has been on "the spree" all week (it is said) and has not been in his seat yet since last week; says that Williams of Hamilton is here today, supposedly about the North Western Railway crossing the Burlington Canal; refers to Costigan; has just begun to orate about a fellow Irishman O'Donohue, one of Riel's tribe who was left out of the recent amnesty.

April 1, 1876 (to his wife at Strabane. 1 sheet, 4 pages; envelope included with House of Commons stamp; envelope signed "T. Bain, MP").

Contents of letter:

Refers to receipt of his wife's letter of March 29th; mentions Dr. Tupper talking about the Pacific Railway in the House of Commons; vote in the House of Commons re purchase of steel rails; Government had 70% majority; refers to his absence from a Methodist Tea Meeting but he did attend a social of Readings and Music, at a cost of 20 cents, held to pay off a Sunday School debt; describes a situation involving a theft of \$48 from Gordon's room; suspect is an old sea captain said to be a witness in the Charlevoix election; Bain wondered if it was a "lark" since it is April 1; mentions Baby's first tooth and that Baby is getting fat.

April 1, 1876 (to his wife at Strabane. Second letter of the day. 1 sheet, 2 pages; envelope included with House of Commons stamp; envelope signed "T. Bain M.P.").

Contents of letter:

Describes political illustrations sent to his wife and Jessie (names include George Brown, Cameron, Peterson); mentions that he will dine with the Speaker this evening.

3-13 Correspondence from Thomas Bain to his wife at Strabane: February 8, 1877- April 25, 1877

February 8, 1877 (2 sheets; 5 pages; envelope included with House of Commons Stamp; envelope signed "T. Bain, M.P" and closed with seal)

Contents of letter:

Describes his journey from Toronto to Ottawa, including those who travelled with him from Toronto; mentions seeing Dr. McMahon at Toronto and being in the [hotel] house (government) in the afternoon; mentions stopping at the Toronto Post Office re his subscription to the Canadian Monthly; refers to the speech from the throne ("not much of anything in it") introduction of new members of the House, Mackenzie and Sir John; refers to the Charlevoix Election Case and that [Langevin] will have to step down; refers to reception x held that evening by the Governor and Lady Dufferin
-says he will settle down tonight in his old room at the Lion.

5th page addition:

Refers to speaking to Guthrie of Guelph about "our church deed" and goes on to describe the situation.

February 22, 1877 (1 sheet, 4 pages, envelope not included)

Contents of letter:

Describes in detail a copy of "Grip" which he sent to his wife names included Sir John, Dr. Tupper, [Lord] Dufferin, Blake, McKenzie, Cartwright, Cauchon in the political illustrations; describes a political illustration of the previous week with the following names included: Mowat, George Brown, Fraser (Commissioner of Public Works); says he sent it to Flamboro to edify Mr. Weir; mentions that he didn't go to Lady Dufferin's "at home" last night but may go on March 14th; says he will mail her the "Canadian Illustrated News" if he can find it; other names mentioned on last page of letter: Mrs. Fred Champness and Tiny, Bowman, Jessie, Mr. Weir, Dr. Hamilton, Mr. Crystal, George Nichol.

April 3, 1877 (2 sheets, 8 pages, envelope included with House of Commons Stamp, envelope initialled "T.B. M.P.")

Contents of letter:

Refers to a letter received from his wife which he received last night and some of its contents; mentions writing to his aunt this morning; mentions his cough and taking Coltsfoot; refers to Jessie "pitching in to me" [for shirking] the vote on Saturday morning when on the way home; refers to the Banner including what he said in the house yesterday in the Dundas P.O case; refers to letter received from Baptist Minister in Dundas and the possibility of a petition; mentions Dr. Tupper, Mitchel, Sir John, Palmer, Plum, Miss McCrancy, Bowman; describes going to the St. Joseph's Church on Sunday morning; refers to notepaper and envelopes stamped now and said he would include this letter in one of them; describes parchment paper on which he is writing; says he hopes his mother will be better for using the [all] and that his wife had better join her as well [note: ? contradiction with previous letters referring to Temperance Society].

April 17, 1877 (1 sheet, 4 pages; envelope included with House of Commons Stamp, envelope initialled "T.B, M.P" seal missing from envelope)

Contents of letter:

Refers to specific articles in last night's Star, which he has sent to his wife ie sermon on Universalism and Restoration, article on Woman's tact and judgement in advising a man on business, article on doing your best; mentions a letter he received from Jessie and includes details re Mr. Weir, Mary and Jane Crooks; refers to "pompous Wm. A. Gibbs" getting an article printed in his local Tory paper; refers to Dr. Blanchet, former Tory Speaker of the Quebec Legislature. He now sits in Barney Devlin's seat and has assured Gouge that he will ensure the close of the session before the first of May; says he wrote to Nellie by last night's mail (?in addition to the current letter).

April 25, 1877 (2 sheets, 8 pages. Envelope not included)

Contents of letter:

Refers to going to New Edinburgh to Mrs. Graham's tonight; refers to receiving his wife's letter of April 23 and that [Sandy] is correct as to the fields to be sewn with barley; describes in detail/ gives specific direction his wife re planting crops at their property at Strabane (barley, oats, grain, clover, timothy, peas, [McIntyres]) (note- 3½ pages of instructions. Gives one the sense that he was strongly connected to his land and crops); mentions the following names connected with the [current] week in the House of Commons: Workman's seat of Montreal, Desjardins, Mr. Blake, Anglin, Domville; refers to his wife's mentioning in her letter that Mary is unwell; says how much he misses his wife; mentions Mrs. Graham's family (2 young boys at home, 2 girls pretty well grown up) and William (?husband); signs off the letter in his usual fashion, then adds a postscript about the weather.

3-14 Correspondence from Thomas Bain to his wife: February 7, 1878 to April 23, 1878.

February 7, 1878 (2 sheets, 6 pages; envelope included with House of Commons Stamp; envelope signed "T. Bain, M.P." , envelope dated Feb 7, Ottawa and Feb 8, Hamilton)

Contents of letter:

Describes his train journey from Toronto to Ottawa, including who was in his (train) car, and their various activities. Names mentioned were: Fleming, G.W. Ross, Cockburn, senator D.L. McPherson, Belford, Diamond, Wood, large number of Western members; mentions seeing Begue and McMahon briefly before leaving Toronto

-refers to a financial matter(s); mentions the following names: Charlton and his wife, [word unreadable] Mrs Oliver; mentions the members of "our Club"; Boroman, Ross, Rymal, McGregor, Cockburn, Galbraith, McCraney, Trow, McNab, Gillis, and the [correspondent] of the London Advertiser, as well as Burke; describes changes in the rooms in the ? club; refers to Sir John and his colleagues preparing for and attack on the nomination of Anglin as Speaker; refers to the following names at the end of the letter: Lady Dufferin, Blake, Casey.

February 11, 1878 (1 sheet, 4 pages, envelope included with House of Commons stamp; envelope signed "T.B. M.P" envelope dated Feb 11, Ottawa; Feb 12, Hamilton)

Contents of letter:

Describes in detail Lord and Lady Dufferin's last reception; refers to Captain Norris and McGregor; described the gown worn by Lady McDonald and refers to Sir John wearing his Windsor uniform; mentions Mr. and Mrs. Casey, Mrs. Casey's personality, noted a gold key ornament in her hair and described her dress; described, by contrast the frown worn by another young lady "who was nearest to slipping up through hers..."; mentions the next Governor (General) the Duke of Manchester; refers to a ball at Rideau Hall on the 27th; describes a son of President Hayes who Lord Dufferin brought back with him from Washington; mentions his small room and that there is no change room for him this session "as no new man could be got to take so small a room and come so far upstairs"; mentions Mr. Galbraith being at the foot of his stairs; refers to Captain Norris sending newspapers with the report of the Reception on Friday to his lady friends "he knows where the voting power lies."

February ?, 1878 (1 sheet, 4 pages; envelope with House of Commons Stamp; envelope signed "T.Bain, M.P." and closed with wax seal; note: envelope dated Feb 19 1878 Ottawa Feb 20, 1878 Hamilton, Feb 21, 1878 Strabane
Note: This undated letter appears to go with envelope dated Feb 19/ Feb20/ Feb21

Contents of letter:

Describes going with Mr. Bowman to the Dominion Methodist Church on Sunday evening to hear the new minister, Mr. Stafford; noted the appearance of the new minister, commented on the sermon, changes in the organ and choir, and the presence of young men waiting outside the church to take their sisters home; mentioned Mr. and Mrs. Charlton reading in one of the Library alcoves, which he described; mentioned McGregor, Guthrie, Mrs [Burpee]; mentioned Blake continuing to give dinners but now out of the Cabinet; refers to McKenzie's comments that if Blake's health improves, there would likely be a reorganization of the cabinet before the next general election some think Blake might come in as Premier; refers to Mrs McKenzie issuing invitations for an "at

home" on the 25th , 8-12:30; mentions making a call on Mrs Mckenzie, along with Trown, McCraney and Cockburn; describes the "finely furnished stone house" in which the Premier lives on the bank of the river; mentions recording his name in Lady Dufferin's book in the East Block.

February ?, 1878 (2 sheets, 8 pages; envelope with house of Commons Stamp; envelope signed "T.B, MP"; Note: envelope dated Feb. 22, 1878 Hamilton; Feb. 23, 1878 Strabane)

Contents of letter:

Begins by saying he has received a letter from "my dear wife" and is now replying says he thinks he wrote to her last night; refers to the election of church elders mentioned in his wife's letter. Names mentioned are Alex McFarlane John Robertson; mentions that he and Cockburn called on Mrs. Oliver and Mrs. Charlton; that there is a big "At Home" at Scott's this evening; that Madame Laurier and Mrs. Pelletier will give a grand ball soon; that Mrs. McKenzie has a free and easy on the 25; that the Rideau hall is on the 27th; "the season is gay and festive"; refers to the Tories starting a [reput] that the MPs and Senators would give a Ball as a farewell to Lord and Lady Dufferin; describes a meeting with the Hon. Mr. Scott to discuss proposed Temperance Legislation a possible amendment to the constitution to give local legislature full power to prohibit sale and manufacture of liquors; the implications of the Dunkin (Duncan) Act, meeting of the Temperance alliance; mentions that John A. is in Toronto attending to his party preparations for the coming elections; refers to Hansard Reporters sending him his information to check; he says he tried to keep the protection to manufacturers by itself and doesn't think the Standard will get much comfort out of it; says likely to have whole question over again and Dr. C. Orton has got six distinct greviances that oppress farmers.

February 23, 1878 (2 sheets, 5 pages; envelope included with House of Commons Stamp; envelope signed "T. Bain, MP" envelope dated Feb 25 Ottawa; Feb 26 Hamilton, Strabane)

Contens of letter:

Mentions writing his weekly letter for the Banner, including mention of the Temperance fuss; describes Peter O'Leary, the correspondent of the Irish Labourers Union who were present at the Emigration Committee; refers to contents of a letter received today from his wife; says that Rymal's Hamilton riding nominated him as their candidate for the coming election; refers to Foley's note coming due March 14th and will send money to the bank; mentions writing to his mother and reading a book; describes, in detail, food choices at breakfast, lunch, and dinner; describes footwear, shoes, rubbers, [gaiters], socks, and use of brandy on his toe; mentions Bowman reading McPherson's pamphlets; says he has an appointment to call on Mrs. Young soon, with

McCraney; mentions that Dr. Christie was at Sinclair's, asking if "we would say a word in behalf of his Sunday observance motion".

February 26, 1878 (1 sheet, 4 pages; envelope included with House of Commons stamp; envelope signed "TB, MP" and closed with wax seal; envelope dated Feb. 26, Ottawa; Feb 27, Hamilton; Feb 28, Strabane; letter was registered (A bill for \$100.- was enclosed)).

Contents of letter:

Refers to \$100.- loan for 6 months to ?Jos Lewis (?Strabane) to help him start his grocery; a bill for that amount was enclosed with the letter with instructions to his wife for dealing with it; describes the "At Home", in detail, given by Mrs. McKenzie, which he attended with Cockburn and McNab ie the band, dancing dress, refreshments; says that after about half and hour, Casey came in and said "we were wanted at the House in consequence of a threatened division on a motion by Peter Mitchel for a return of the expenses in detail of the Governor's trip to British Columbia, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories which McKenzie resisted an insult to his Excellency; the opposition eventually cooled down, and accepted the situation without voting; says they had paid their respects to Mrs. McKenzie before leaving; says he wrote to his mother last night; mentions listening to Peter O'Leary for 1½ hours on British Columbia before lunch; says he brought away a dancing card as a memento of last night.

February 28, 1878 (1sheet, 4 pages; envelope included with House of Commons Stamp; envelope signed "T.B, M.P."; envelope dated March 1, Ottawa; March 2, Hamilton; March 2, Strabane)

Contents of letter:

Mentions receiving a letter from his wife last night; described two humorous anecdotes involving Cockburn's daughter when 4 years old; mentions that Sir John has not yet appeared and is in Toronto; mentions the following books: "Judging of Character by Handwriting" by Humley; "Ocean to Ocean", and "Great Home Land"; mentions the following names: Mrs. Adams, Charlie, Jimmie, Freddie and Mrs. [Champness]; mentions mailing his wife a copy of the "Free Press" with the details of last night's vice-regal ball in it; copies were also sent to Miss Weir, Miss Sanderson, and Miss MacIntosh; pProvides his wife with additional information re the ball, which he did not attend; describes in detail, a lecture given by Dr. Fowler (?Towler) of New York on the "Coming Woman" at the Dominion Church; ie. 3 classes of women and their characteristics: the Working Woman of the Budget class, the Fashionable women, and the Coming woman, including getting the vote; he says Dr. Fowler has a "short, pungent way of putting things for instance man struts around and thinks he reigns. Women all the time knows She does"; postscript included at end of letter "I enclosed you a \$100.- bill last night before last for Lewis".

March 1, 1878 (2 sheets, 6 pages; envelope included with House of Commons Stamp envelope signed "TB, MP"; envelope dated March 1 Ottawa; March 2, Hamilton, ? West Flamboro).

Contents of letter:

Refers to most recent letter exchanged between him and his wife. Wonders how he will create more news after that; mentions a lady correspondent here from the New York Times who does Rideau Hall and other festivities around Ottawa. An anecdote between McCarthy and the correspondent follows; mentions "my Colleague the Captain addressing the "free press" to many lady friends using a large white envelope for each, and extravagance at the public cost; says he will mail the book on Judging Character by Handwriting with this letter; mentions various interceptions in the cause of writing a letter- samples of what he has gone through this morning; refers to the debate on Goderich [Harbaw]. Names mentioned include McCarty, Mr. Blake, Mr. Mone, Rymal, McGregor, John [Ailyard Cameron], Cockburn.

-1/2 sheet included with letter includes comments re the following:
"The little wing of discontented Presbyterians, headed by Sir Hugh Allen, have to start a synod in [emrection] with the Kirk of Scotland"; Wallace of Norfolk re his theory on making everyone rich without gold; mentions that Sir John has turned up again-from his looks has been on the spree.

March 8, 1878 (1 sheet, 4 pages; envelope included with House of Commons Stamp; envelope signed "TB, MP" and closed with wax seal; envelope dated March 9, Ottawa; March 11, Hamilton; March 11, Strabane)

Contents of letter:

Refers to those speaking in the Commons- Diamond on Sir John's amendment respecting Protection to the Farmers, Masson, followed by Charlton; refers to contents of letter received from his wife re their new church; mentions he will try to get home "next Saturday", and that he may have to go to Simcoe April 15th as the Court sits there that day; says that his "cuffs and fronts" are holding out, has added a couple of undershirts and only wore his short flannel one day, as he felt "a threatening of a sore back"; says he takes porridge every morning, meat once a day, and avoids beef; refers to an article in the Standard which his wife mentioned; is quietly laying on a stock of information on political issues; has order 1,000 budget speeches of Cartwrights for distribution in the Riding; says he has received a letter from Osler "about Hall's claim in the Dundas Post Office loss"; Bain says "I am not very anxious to bother myself about Hall as I [Fauey] Thorton and he were trying their hand at humbugging Mrs. Hall now deceased"; finishes letter by describing the weather and a reference to his mother ie hoping she is getting better.

March 20, 1878 (1 sheet, 8 pages; envelope included with House of Commons Stamp; envelope signed "TB, MP"; envelope dated March 21, Ottawa; March 22, Hamilton).

Contents of letter:

Tells his wife that Somerville is now in Ancaster, having traded "his old place to Forsyth and paid the difference. Mrs. S. is convinced about a name for it Tom Robertson calls his place just below the "Fox Bar"; Somerville has told T. Bain that the shareholders of the Boys Wesleyan College propose to have it sold to the Female College Proprietors in Hamilton and sell the present building there. It is no longer a paying dividend to the stockholders; comments on stock, printing account, and money owed to Billy Newitt for beef; has assisted Bowman compiling agricultural figures for use now and at election time; has received a letter from the Manager, Bank of Commerce, Dundas, stating that Foley has paid his note, giving T Bain \$1000.- credit; includes details, his thoughts, and the effects on temperance monument related to Dr. K. Rine (Stratford) and his trial. Bain regretted Rine's misconduct as bringing disrepute on the whole Temperance movement and felt a "supreme contempt" for the covert Tory attack on the Temperance cause itself; comments on importance of morals for there in public life; related a conversation he overheard on the train re "pursuing the acquisition of knowledge under difficulties"; says that the Board of Agriculture elected Thomas Strelk as President, and McKenzie Howell as vice President. Suggests a circumstance which increased his chance for the position of President.

Invitation- March 23, 1878

Mrs. Anglin requests the pleasure of Mr. Bain's company on Saturday evening, 23rd March at eight o'clock
Speaker's chamber Music
House of Commons R.S.V.P.

March 26, 1878 (2 sheets, 8 pages; envelope included with House of Commons Stamp; envelope signed "T.B, MP"; envelope dated March 26, Ottawa; March 27, Hamilton; March 28, Strabane).

Contents of letter:

Mentions receiving his wife's letter of the 22nd; says he had received a letter from Joshua Wheeler's father acknowledging receipt of \$7.- of Joshua's; says he did not see Matthew Hall "when I was going down"; refers to writing to Isaiah Millard re Matthew making his wife an offer for the oxen Matthew Peelles is also mentioned; refers to writing to James Robertson, having [James] take the best ox to the next fair at Guelph and sell him in the market; advises his wife re the girls' that Rebecca or Lizzie would be better than Jessie but leaves the decision re wages up to his wife;

describes using a cold water towel around his throat at night for a cold; says he has been working hard on Agricultural Figures, looking up reports and Returns; described the evening in the Speaker's Chamber (invitation issued by Mrs. Anglin) including the food, drink, and music. Notes that he has become a practical [teetotaler]. Names mentioned: Mr. Trudeau, McKenzie's deputy; Kimber, the usher of the Black Rod, Miss Perault from Montreal; Mr. [Hash], the deputy Minister of Justice; Charlton and Mrs C.; Mrs Oliver; Mrs. Young; says "theatricals" at Rideau Hall resume next week and thinks he will go on his invite to pay his farewell visit to that sort of thing under Lady Dufferin. Says it may be his last anyhow since Mr. ?Strelk is now in the political field; says John ?Yolsetter indicated in a letter that uncle and aunt plan to visit Ottawa soon; reports that two or three of "our chaps" were at McKenzie's at the dinner on Saturday night. He is still alive and likely to live a while longer; Municipal Institutions for Keewatin are being considered this afternoon in the House.

April 1, 1878 (2 sheets; 8 pages; envelope included with House of Commons Stamp; envelope signed "TB, MP"; envelope dated April 2, Ottawa April 3 Hamilton: April 3, Strabane).

Contents of letter:

Received a letter from his wife yesterday morning; has not had anymore trouble with his throat and has only used the wet cloth once since; refers to their (Bain's) minister and a family social for the Church; expresses concern about Mary's health; asks about George's lambs and comments on the grey cow and calves; describes Captain Norris' family reaction to his (Norris) moustache; referred to Henry Binkley and the demand for pork or bacon; [says] his next dinner invitation is to the Minister of Customs on Saturday night and will go to Rideau Hall Friday night to make his farewell bow to Lady Dufferin; says Lord Dufferin's extravagance is being criticized; mentions that the Tories have started a German candidate against Bowman, as well as a Tory paper partly printed in German in his riding; says Patullo is there now and wonders if "they" will be asked to contribute to his expenses; sent \$5.- in response to a note from Rev. Mr Turner of [Carlisle] (methodist) asking for keep in paying off the debt on the new [parsonage]. Questioned whether this was correct as to quantity in quality by way of aid to a Methodist parson; refers to the followey: Mr. Mowat Massic of Guelph, Champness, Trow, Rymal, Mcorancy; says he wrote to his mother this morning and is now putting in time while some stupid motions are being put in from Cape Breton; says he encloses Miss Miller's letter.

April 9, 1878 (1 sheet; 4 pages; envelope included with House of Commons Stamp; envelope "TB, MP"; envelope dated April 10, Ottawa: April 11, Hamilton; April 11, Strabane).

Contents of the letter:

Says he received his wife's Monday and the accompanying book; refers to planting their (Bain's) [word unreadable] fields- barley, marigolds, carrots, potatoes; refers to their (Bain's) elders in the Church and Sunday School affairs; says he has received a thank you note from Mr. Turner for his \$5.- contribution and Mr. Turner feels that a good picnic on the Queen's birthday will clear the debt; describes the situation concerning being [executor?] for Mr. Notman. Names mentioned were: Gwyn, [Asher], Mr. Crooks, Mrs. Meredith and her two daughters; says he is not likely to be at Rideau Hall this session, as he would be away "up west" the Saturday of the dinner invitation; tells his wife that he mailed her Charlton's speech and the Free Press with Lady Dufferin's valedictory; says that Brooks had invited "them" to contribute \$3.- each for 4 copies of photographs of Lady Dufferin and Captain Hamilton in costume. Proceeds were to pay off the debt in their church near Rideau Hall; says they sit (in the House) until 2 o'clock in the morning but his health has stood very well and his cold has not given him any trouble; includes a "PS" saying he has written to Jessie tonight.

April 17, 1878 (1 sheet; 4 pages; envelope included with House of Commons Stamp; envelope signed "TB, MP"; envelope dated April 19, Ottawa; April 19, Hamilton; April 19, Strabane).

Contents of letter:

Refers to writing to his wife from the Walker House in Toronto last night; describes the location of his room in the quietest side of the Walker House; describes the farming activity as seen from the train window the following day; says he arrived "here" (?Ottawa) at 7 o'clock tonight, having stopped in Kingston about 2 o'clock for dinner; mentions Adam Begg of Millgrove, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. [Gerrie] and the Governess; refers to an editorial in the Globe stating that Sir John was drunk on Saturday and the follow-up from that activity; mentions the following names: J.N. Gibbs, Dr. Landerkin (?sp.), Senator [Carall].

April 23, 1878 (2 sheets, 8 pages; envelope included with House of Commons Stamp; envelope signed "TB, MP"; envelope dated April 24, Ottawa; April 25, Hamilton; April 25, Strabane).

Contents of letter:

Mentions receiving his wife's letter of the 22nd by this evening's mail; says he had taken tea with the Rev. Mr. Moore. Mr. Horton (from the House) and a Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, merchant in the city were also present; refers to an imminent vote in the House on the Excise duty on home grown tobacco; mentions going to the Supreme Court Room yesterday afternoon to say goodbye to Lady Dufferin and His Excellency. They will leave in May, take the summer going "down the St. Lawrence and about Gaspé", returning home in the autumn; says he intends sitting for half a dozen cards for some of his friends at home; says

he has arranged a meeting with the Minister tomorrow for Rymal Wood and himself to accompany Henry Binkley into the "august presence of Sir Albert Smith"; provides specific directions for his wife to give Sandy (their farm worker) re planting, ploughing, and spreading manure; mentions his regret at Ms. Sanderson's case being so hopeless; comments further in their farm and planting (oats, carrots, marigolds); mentions possible times of the close of the present session. Says "Peter Mitchel has not yet got Tim Murphy's [mare] paid for which may mean a day or two longer"; refers to having written to Mary, and Jessie with a copy of Grip for his wife's father; says Blake and Huntington went over the Dundas Post Office Claims with him last night. Names mentioned: Mrs. Hall, Robert Coleman, John Adams, Patton.

Note:

1. a note written by Thomas Bain referring to papers and a "handbook" mailed home

Initials: T.B.

2. A note with some Biblical reference

?saunce

3-15 Correspondence from Thomas Bain: March 8, 1879 to May 9, 1879.

March 8, 1879 (to his wife at Strabane. 1 sheet, 4 pages; envelope included with House of Commons stamp; envelope signed "T. Bain, MP"; envelope dated March 8, Ottawa; March 10, Hamilton; March 10, Strabane).

Contents of letter:

Refers to receiving a letter from his wife the previous night; describes his general state at the time of letter writing, ie reading the Banner, had his weekly bath before dinner, and a walk around the market in the morning; mentions Mr. and Mrs. Charlton and comments on Mr. Charleton's state of health; mentions people at his table: Mr. and Mrs. Watts, Mr. Trow, Charlton; mentions Knox Church social but that neither he nor Mrs. Charlton attended, although Ross was there. There was tea available at 25 cents; says he sent his wife the Citizen with Mr. Gordon's Congregational Report in it, noting that many members do not bear their share of expenses, as is not uncommon; tells his wife that he has received the letter and (?) Guard enclosed as she sent it. He said he put it on this morning and it answers very well; refers to sending \$5 for another subscription to the Globe for his wife; says he writes to his mother on Mondays, a long established habit; says he has received a letter from Mary, as well as James Robertson.

March 10, 1879 (to his wife at Strabane. 2 sheets, 4 pages; enveloped included with House of Commons stamp; enveloped signed "T. Bain, MP"; envelope dated March 10, Ottawa; March 11, Hamilton; March 12, Strabane).

Contents of letter:

Begins letter by referring the cards, samples of sittings, asking his wife to choose which one she prefers and how many copies; mentions that McLeod, formerly MPP of West Durham, is dead. Information in this morning's Telegram; describes a story related to McLeod ie pointing a pistol at Boulton across the Local House, in Toronto, McLeod being "a little the worse for liquor"; says he has written to his mother this morning; says that McCarthy was telling Cockburn that he (McCarthy) would need a Private Secretary as he had received so many applications of various kinds asking for offices both in and out of his own county; mentions that Cook was here last week.

March 11, 1879 (to his wife at Strabane. 2 sheets, 8 pages; enveloped included with House of Commons stamp; envelope signed "T. Bain, MP"; envelope dated March 11, Ottawa; March 12, Hamilton; March 13, Strabane).

Contents of letter:

Mentions receiving his wife's letter of yesterday; says he will write another to his wife, as [Mouseau] has been speaking French all afternoon in the House in the Letellier dismissal matter; mentions that a number of "our Club" were at Huntingdon's last night; says that cards have been issued for Theatricals at Rideau Hall' describes the invitation in detail and says he thinks he will go down Saturday night but is sorry that his wife will not be with him; says there were several dinner parties last night, as the House was thin on both sides; Mackenzie was away at Toronto and Mills occupied his seat; says that Mrs. Charlton has been diligently making calls on the set days and that Trow has had a letter from home; mentions the dominance of the French language this evening in the House; says he has sent a Plan of the House, marking our friends seats or theirs, to Mr. [Chrystal], Dr. Smith of Sheffield, and John Folseter, Paris; says they may get the Budget on Friday; mentions receiving a letter from John Folseter, who has been "getting out basswood sawlogs, about ten thousand feet"; mentions that John Henderson has returned from Alabama, and is not very much taken with the South; thinks that his brother is overworked attending to the public business and his own plantation at the same time.

March 13, 1879 (to his wife at Strabane. 2 sheets, 8 pages; envelope included with House of Commons stamp; envelope signed "T. Bain, MP"; envelope dated March 13, Ottawa; March 14, Hamilton; March 15, Strabane).

Contents of letter:

Mentions the enclosed notice from the Exchange Bank, an accommodation note for Mr. Reid which was included in his wife's letter of March 11; says he received a letter from Jessie indicating that she arrived home safely from Strabane; mentions that Mr. and Mrs. Charlton were on the dinner party list at Rideau Hall this evening; says that Mrs. Moreton and Lady MacNamara have been in the Chamber the last two nights; mentions that Sir A.Y. Galt arrived

last night from Europe; says that flowers are in bloom in the greenhouse near the West Block, where plants for the grounds are kept over winter; describes parliamentary situations involving Drew, Shaw, Col. Skinner (sp?), Brown of Ingersoll; says that the Emigration Committee is running again; mentions Pope (Minister of Marine from the Island), Madame von [Keuibur] representing Swiss/German emigration; mentions that John White of Hastings and Dr. Orton are back in the House, with Plum returning next week; mentions a poem by John McDonald written when he had his last interview with Lady Dufferin; describes in detail a situation involving new stock in the Anglo-Canadian Co., and shares and implications for his own finances; he asks for his wife's opinion; mentions an article in the Globe of the 12th: "The Silver Wedding of the Two Continents"; says he saw Cyrus Field's invitation card to Sir A.J. Smith here to attend it and commented on the elaborate nature of the card.

March 14, 1879 (to his wife at Strabane. 1 sheet, r pages; enveloped included with House of Commons stamp; envelope signed "T. Bain, MP"; stamp "Registered"; envelope dated March 14, Ottawa; March 15, Hamilton; ? Strabane).

Contents of letter:

Says he received a letter from Mr. Allen of Freelon yesterday asking for a loan of \$50 or to ask Mr. Weir for him. Thomas enclosed the money in this letter of his wife, and sent Mr. Allen a note to sign in favour of John Weir, to leave with his wife about Wednesday, when she can give him the money; describes a very large crowd in the public galleries in the House to hear Mr. Tilley's Budget speech; Tilley presented a glowing picture of the Country's prosperity when he was Finance Minister in 1873 and presented a gloomy picture of the present state. This met with great applause from the Tories. Tilley's speech on the Tariff - a Protective Tarrif in the interest of the Manufacturer; Bain says that the Hamilton men are delighted and our friends feel they have a good field on which to attack them; Bain notes that the Maritime men do not seem very taken with it; says he received his wife's letter of yesterday after tea tonight and will write to her more fully about matters mentioned in it, tomorrow; says he will see about a book for her mother; he wrote to his mother yesterday.

March 17, 1879 (to his wife at Strabane. 2 sheets, 6 pages; envelope included with House of Commons stamp, signed "T. Bain, M.P."; intact wax seal)

Contents of letter:

Says he wrote to his mother last night; mentions going to party caucus this morning; says that, after the caucus meeting, Roll asked him and Charlton to go with him to "help dispossess the Tories and loafer out of No. 6, which they had een trying toget an a Party private room, so we took possession"; says he worked on his Banner letter and completed it; mentions St. Patrick's Day, Costigan wearing a green badge in the House, and one of their girls wore a green ribbon this morning; says he went to Rideau Hall Saturday night with

Oliver Patterson and Gillies to the Theatricals; describes the scenery used; says he will mail copies of the programmes to his wife, Jeessie, and Mary Day; mentions the reception afterwards with the Marquis and Princess present; mentions McNiel from Paisley, an acquaintance of Gillies, and the Pricess having married a Campbell; says he has a dinner invitation to Rideau Hall next Saturday night which he feels he must keep, rather than attend the Joseph Cook of Boston lecture the same night; mentions that he has called on Topley, found that they have finished his wife's cards, and has ordered some for her; says he has escaped any severe attack of colds, and has been very well by being careful what he eats.

Envelope only approximately 4.5" x 8" with House of Commons stamp. *May have originally contained information regarding the Theatrical which Thomas Bain had attended at Rideau Hall which was mentioned in his letter to his wife of March 17.*

March 18, 1879 (to his wife at Strabane. 1 sheet, 4 pages; envelope included with House of Commons stamp; signed).

Contents of letter:

Refers to his letter of yesterday in which he described the Rideau Hall Theatricals and the letters written to Jessie and Mary Day; says he expressed sympathy for Mrs. Day's health, which "will help me in her good opinion"; mentions that Mrs. Charlton went to the dance party at Rideau Hall last Wednesday and seemed pleased that she did not go to the Theatricals on Saturday night; she was in the Gallery Friday night until the House rose at 2:30 am; says that the Galleries were crowded when Tilley made his Budget speech and that the Princess and one of the two Ladies of the Household were present all afternoon; mentions that he thought last week's "Grip" was good and sent it to Thomas McQueen "to see how Blake's ghost looks"; says that he is hoping to get home soon - hopefully getting away on Friday 29th depending on the Tariff debate; he may be able to go with Cockburn; says he will write to his wife tomorrow re the grass seed question; mentions instructions given to Angus [and Bill] re the logs to be sawn; if necessary, he suggests that his wife should ask Sandy to assist.

March 18, 1879 (to his wife at Strabane. 1 sheet, 4 pages; plus part sheet with garden diagram; envelope with House of Commons stamp, signed)

Contents of letter:

Includes a small sketch of the Huffman Place with his letter, showing the wheat fields on it; describe specifically what is to be planted in each field ie timothy alone, timothy and clover mixed, clover alone, or not to be seeded; mentions "two little fields on the home place" where only clover need be sown (timothy had previously been sown on barley and buckwheat stubble); says there is likely some old timothy and clover mix left over from last year and there is some new

clover; says the price of seed is not very high and a "fair seeding" should be done; mentions receiving a letter from James Robertson saying that a cheese meeting was to be held in the School house; refers to an address which his wife enclosed with a Portobello post mark, saying it does not look like Miss Miller's writing; he wonders if Mrs. McLean has sent it; discussion continues re the tariff; says he thinks his letters average more than one a day home this session; says he remains in good health.

March 26, 1879 (to his wife at Strabane. 1 sheet, 4 pages; enveloped with House of Commons stamp; signed)

Contents of letter:

Begins his letter by says he has reached his seat in the Chamber safely; describes in detail his trip from home to Ottawa; mentions getting a ride from above the Corners in Cowper's furniture van to the foot of the mountain, called on Fisher at his Paper Mills (away at Hamilton), walked on down and met Dr. McMahon, called at Lennard's new Stocking Knitting Works to see how they liked the new tariff; did not call on John Wilson but heard he had received a copy Bain had sent him of the tariff with the duty on oats marked for his attention; missed seeing McQueen and Begue but saw Somerville and Hugh Moore; while in the Banner office, John Robb of Ancaster came in to advertise a young Durham bull he had for sale; the Guelph stage came along at ¼ to 5 and Bain got on and went to Hamilton; he called on Mr. Bruce about his Wind[hauer] affairs and then visited his aunt; he got the evening train a little after 8 o'clock and reached the Walker House about ½ past 11:00; going to breakfast the following morning he saw Mr. Bennet of London going west, and met Mr. Patullo at the table; on the train, he had a seat with a member of the London Oil Refining Company who was on his way to Halifax and then Glasgow, with a shipment of 120 head of fat cattle; says he enlarged his information on the inside working of the late Oil Ring; says the conversation helped to pass the time, although he was a Tory, Hodgson by name.

Saturday night [March 29, 1879] (to his wife at Strabane. 2 sheets, 8 pages; envelope with House of Commons stamp; signed).

Contents of letter:

Mentioned his activities of the day: caucus in the morning, had a bath, dinner at 1:30 pm, returned to No. 6 and spent the afternoon on the Banner letter, had a walk with Ross before ten; says that Ross and Oliver (from our House) dine with the Speaker tonight, Ross dines at Rideau Hall Monday night; Theatricals at Rideau Hall have been postponed from the 2nd and 5th, to the 16th and 19th due to the death of a nephew of the Princess, Prince Waldemar, in Prussia; describes in detail last night in the Chamber; says except for one day after dinner, he hasn't laughed as much for a week; Names and situations mentioned: Patterson, who spoke on the Tariff, Rykert who opened the debate, Charlton, whose speech was referred to, and Patterson and Charlton's former

Protection leanings; others mentioned are: Rymal, John Sandfield, Ross of Dundas County, Plumb (member from Niagara); describes in detail the second situation which he found very humorous; names and situations mentioned: Major Killam (married to a sister of Ives, MP for Richmond) who was son-in-law to Pope, the minister of Agriculture; Major Killam mistook Rymal for Rykert, praised John A. for a gentleman and McKenzie as honest; the presence of two reporters unknown to Killam added to the humour; Cameron, who reported for the Mail, came in and said he would no doubt do his friend the Major justice as he had just been telling how he had been taken in at the Rideau Club last night on a horse race bet, a Tory trick.

April 1, 1879 (to his wife at Strabane. 1 sheet, 4 pages; envelope with House of Commons stamp; signed)

Contents of letter:

Refers to having received his wife's letter of Saturday; says he wrote to his mother yesterday evening; says he is writing to his wife while listening to "our philosopher Mills"; says Dr. Orton is in foavour of the "Rag Baby"; mentions receiving Mr. Crystal's letter: "not a very good Tory"; says the House sat down on Tom Robertson's Pooling and Betting Bill, didn't vote on it and gave it "the 6 month hoist"; even Sir John spoke against it; noticed Mr. Suter's death in the Banner; says he did not take the additional stick allotted to him in the Anglo Canadian Mortgage Co. because his wife's opinion was against it; says he has not yet received a letter from Freelton re Tom Sullivan's affairs; mentions the Standard paragraph on the [MP] starting one cheese factory; also in the morning's Citizen; the Globe will lively carry it, as Hawk, of the Globe, had asked Bain about it; says that Burk was at Rideau Hall for dinner last night; the Princess did not come to the table, as she was in mourning (for her nephew mentioned in the previous letter); says that Topley has finished his wife's Cabinet pictures, but Mary's not ready; says Mrs. Charlton has enquired after his (Bain's) wife; mentions that Mrs. Trow's little girl is well again, but Charlie, her brother, "was taken down with the same trouble"; says he has kept very well; Annie feeds him very well on porridge every morning, which he thinks might have something to do with it.

April 8, 1879 (to his wife at Strabane. 2 sheets, 8 pages; envelope with House of Commons stamp; signed).

Contents of letter:

Refers to his wife's letter of the 5th, local (Strabane and Freelton) entertainment, his wife's descriptive writing skill, and his own writing skill having improved with practice; describes in detail the Speaker's order in the House and how this was arranged ie Fleming, Thomas White, Charlton arranging with the Speaker for Bain to follow White; says that McKenzie assured Bain that if he spoke as well as last year, that he had nothing to fear; describes in detail his evening speaking in the House of Commons and the positive responses to his

speaking. Names referred to: Tilley, Cartwright, Burpee, Patterson, Charlton, Oliver, Trow, Joe. Comments that "the Clerks are satisfied our reputation has not gone down". Says he gain immensely (re public speaking) during the last Election campaign, especially at noisy meetings in Dundas; refers to attending his Party Caucus on the Letellier question; says that Ross feels that "this Quebec matter" might yet lead to dissolution of the House. Follows with details re the Governor [General], Sir John, French Ministerialsts, Col. Harbour and their conflicts; refers to Sir John's "lying, contemptible ways"; Col. Harvey is to go with the Dispatcher to England from the Marquis [the Governor General, the Marquis of Lorne]. There is a rumour that Sir Francis [Horicks] is to go on behalf of Letellier, accompanied by Doutre, the French lawyer of Montreal and Langevin has gone on behalf of the Cabinet; says he won't be home for Easter; will stay in Ottawa to revise his "say for Hansard"; and attend the dinner party at Rideau Hall; mentions that Barber of Streetsville is here to attend to his printing paper contract with the House; describes George Brown's attendance at caucus and his speech which "electrified the House" re his opinion of Sir John's present conduct; mentions that Holton and Mills both endorsed his speech in the House.

April 10, 1879 (to his wife at Strabane. 2 sheets, 8 pages; envelope with House of Commons stamp; signed).

Contents of letter:

Mentions receiving his wife's letter of yesterday with the snowdrops enclosed: "they are the first things of this year's growth I have seen...they have kept their colour and form well"; says that the House sat all night; the vote on the Tariff which the government won by 83 votes; mentions going to the Library to correct the Handsard Report of his speech before the vote was taken; says that he walked down to the French Catholic Church on Sussex Street after dinner to see the decorations, as it was Holy Thursday; mentions the shrine and a great profusion of wax candles burning on it; says he showed the snowdrops to Mr. Cockburn and he is sending them to Beaverton to "his little 11 year old correspondent"; describes in detail an anecdote relating to this youngster; mentions George Nichol, selling barley, and his price; says he doesn't know whether Cummins has paid his note or not; says that if George's ewes do not have milk for their lambs when they come, he should give them a few more turnips or some bran to help them; says that his wife should ask the Doctor about her periodic weekly headaches; mentions that Sir A. Galt is up from Montreal to meet Tilley and report as to his "negotiations to get admission to our shops at low duties into France and Spain"; mentions Donald Smith and that he (Bain) finds him pleasant company; says he had a chance to snub Hesson in Committee for an ungentlemanly attack on Smith, which has drawn Bain and Smith a little closer together.

April 12, 1879 (to his wife at Strabane. 1 sheets, 4 pages; envelope with House of Commons stamp, signed)

Contents of letter:

Says he spent Good Friday revision his copy (Hansard), then went out for a walk with Cockburn; mentions taking a walk to the French Church and Thursday; says that, after dinner today, he went with Oliver, Cockburn, and Senators Haythorne and Montgomery to the market to see the display of Easter meat. "The heaviest and fattest stuff was two pigs weighing 500 lbs each". Mentions that "Sachell says the Marquis is not so extravagant in style as Dufferin was and is not therefore as good a customer". Apparently, official dinners have fewer courses. Says he looked into Rower Auction Room to see some ancient Catholic paintings sent up from Quebec; he said "they had a soiled and dirty look with old, dilapidated frames and often the name of St. John or Jerome. Some apparently cost £500 and worth it yet. I am a little deficient in veneration for dirty antiquity". Says he enjoyed Grip very much this week and provides details.

April 22, 1879 (to his wife at Strabane. 3 sheets, 10 pages; envelope with House of Commons stamp, signed)

Contents of letter:

Begins his letter by describing spring-like conditions in Ottawa; mentions potato planting and his directions to Sandy; mentions his daughter Mary: "I fancy Mary has been in training over those nasty Tories, but I am glad that she seems well if mischievous"; says he does not expect to have his speech in the Banner but will get 300-400 copies made for circulation when it appears in Hansard in another week or ten days; mentions that a new Tory printer has the Hansard contract, price is doubled from last season; describes in detail his visit to Mr. and Mrs. Wiser's home, ie, meals, interior of the house, cattle; 400 head of cattle will go on to the City of London to the English market next month, accompanied by Mr. Wiser. Wise's farm of 600 acres is "out the Brockville turnpike on the bank of the river about a mile from the Distillery in Prescott". Describes in detail the horses at the Wise farm; says he has a coloured oil painting of "Phil Sheridan" who is valued at \$10,000; Wiser owns half interest in him; mentions that Senator Grant and his wife from Pictou, Nova Scotia, are visiting; mentions Trow and Rymal; says that he attended Donald A. Smith's dinner party; describes in detail a situation which was discussed related to a person called Brydges, who was in "poor circumstances financially". Describes another situation mentioned by Donald Smith relating to a request to Smith for a donation to pay off a church mortgage in Winnipeg. Mentions that local elections are June 1st and that this means early work.

May 9, 1879 (to his wife at Strabane. 1 sheet, 4 pages; no envelope)

Contents of letter:

Describes the situation in the House of Commons where the Minister of Justice "is pounding away at Mrs. Campbell's alimony bill on Mills motion for a three

months hoist". Further details are provided. Bain describes Mrs. Campbell as "a bright, smart looking woman". Says that he "has very little sympathy with either Campbell or her, but unless the Tories go against the Government view as explained by the Minister of Justice, she must be beaten". Says that McCrae of Guelph is in Ottawa and he says that they are working on the Credit Valley Railway near their farm in East Flamboro, they are likely to have a station there; mentions that he has 400 copies of his speech from the Hansard; copies will be sent to friends all over the Riding; copies to "our Minister and City friends" will be sent in a white envelope, as it is more stylish; mentions upcoming House of Commons business ie Pacific Railway Resolutions and the proposition to buy up the Rivier de Loup Branch of the Grand Trunk (railway); says that they subscribed \$50 each today to help to pay off the \$5000 of debt our Reform association have incurred in Toronto; says he hopes to be able to get away by Monday night next week.

3-16 Correspondence from Thomas Bain: February 12 to December 14, 1880.

February 12, 1880 (to his wife at Strabane. 3 sheets, 10 pages; envelope with House of Commons stamp; signed)

Contents of letter:

Refers to having mailed the first part of his letter, and is now continuing on; describes the situation in detail as new members come into the House of Commons; names mentioned: McKenzie, Holton, Mr. Wiser, Harlow his oldest son, Mrs. Wiser, Mr. Blake, Fleming, Cockburn, Bedwell, Hooper, Trow, Oliver; refers to Dr. St. George, his father-in-law, Mrs. Tibodeau, Mr. Angiers, Joly; refers to the Lucan tragedy, the Donnellys, and that they were the terror of the countryside; says it is almost a foregone conclusion that Blake will lead the Tories; says that the Citizen is calling the Globe "everything bad" this morning; turns his letter focus now to details re his farm and instructions for his wife eg bolts made from ½ inch iron rod Sandy brought from Dundas, plaster arriving at the station with instructions for Sandy to get his load. Plaster will be about \$6 per ton; Sandy may be 2 ½ tons and may put it on the floor over the turnip cellar; says he get ¼ lb arsenci and some soda for the ticks on the sheep; mentions telling George to mix some tar with salt to put in the trough for the sheep in their pen; sulphur can be mixed in later; mentions the Princess as having occupied the second seat on the throne; says the two tiers of seats on each side of the Senate were nearly full of ladies in all styles of dress; mentions the dress of Sir John, Pope, and Tilley; mentions McDonnell (who succeeded Galbraith) and McLeod (the new Cape Breton man).

February 16, 1880 (to his wife at Strabane. 2 sheets, 8 pages; enveloped with House of Commons stamp, signed)

Contents of letter:

Says "I am now getting by degrees to assume more importance"; mentions mailing his copy of the "Illustrated Guide" to his wife and expects her opinion; mentions the portrait plates, arranged alphabetically according to Constituencies (Bain represents Wentworth); says he went (to church) with Mr. Patterson yesterday morning to hear Mr. Moore, who spoke on the mission of the Holy Spirit as Comforter from John :14; Dr. Kemp of the Ladies College was there with 12 of 15 of the girls; in the evening Bain and Cockburn went to hear Mr [Yarries] who preached a sermon on the duty of the church to encourage young men to study for the ministry; refers to Mrs McKay of Colchester who is occupying Mrs. Charlton's old room, Senator Grant, his wife, and a lady friend (from St. John's); says Mrs. Grant told them about an accident their train had on the Intercolonial; Bain says that their accident was one of half a dozen quite recent ones; says that "old McPherson" was made Speaker of the Senate but another Speaker will have to be chosen due to McPherson's illness; mentions an accident to the Princess Saturday night: "they had a narrow escape and were not much hurt". Many ladies were disappointed not to go to the Drawing Room (Rideau Hall) in their fine clothes; says he ordered a copy of "Grip" for both himself and a year's subscription for his wife; says there is "a grand fuss here among our friends over the publishing by the Mail of the Ontario Governor's Liquor and Cigar Bills".

February 17, 1880 (to his wife at Strabane. 2 sheets, 5 pages; envelope with House of Commons stamp; signed; wax seal)

Contents of letter:

Refers to John (?) selling [Tony] to Genie; says he will send his wife the money for plaster which should have arrived at the Station; mentions his wife likely being back in Strabane by the time this letter reaches her (no reference in this or previous letter as to where she had been); says that Joe (?) drew his attention to the paragraph in the Times re John's prospective wedding; comments in detail about forthcoming wedding; mentions that Mr. and Mrs. Charlton have arrived and taken possession of their old room; says this is his first letter written in his own room, and the paper is a sample of a new kind found in "our Stationary boxes"; says the boxes are better filled with more variety than formerly with a huge glass inkstand and penholder combined; asks his wife to tell his mother that he had a letter from Mr. Porteus this morning; that his stationary trunk and key have reached him; says that Mr. Porteus has extended an invitation to Bain's mother, and to Thomas and his wife to come and see them (Mr. and Mrs. Porteus) next summer; says he has written to Jessie; says he is glad the new mineral water is beneficial to his wife's father; says he plans to go to Rideau Hall with Cockburn if there is time after the House rises to register their names in the Princess' Book; says that Wisser has his "better half and the girls here".

February 17, 1880 (2nd letter of that date. To his wife at Strabane. 2 sheets, 8 pages; envelope with House of Commons stamp; signed; wax seal)

Contents of letter:

Says he walked to Rideau Hall with Cockburn and Macdonnell (new member in Galbraith's place) to leave their names in the Governor's and the Princess' books; mentions an article in The Citizen saying the Princess lost \$20,000 worth of diamonds in the accident; mentions seeing William Graham in the Street Railway office - Graham's younger brother is at McLaren's Lumbering shanties and is getting better up on the Gatineau; says that smallpox is confined to the French quarters of the Lower Town; mentions Tom Scott's valentine, as well as Blake's; says none of our Clerks have gone to the British Lion; says he had heard that Elliot of Brampton had "gone up the spout" borrowing money from friends; says that Robertson of Shelburne saw a smallpox card in a window while out for a walk; he left the street immediately without being ordered; provides details re various financial transactions and bills paid. Names mentioned: Sandy, Graftons, Dr. McMahon, as well as specific bills paid; reassures his wife that there is no cause for worry re finances; asks his wife to mail Dr. Kennedy's letter to him sometime; says he drew \$100 when in Hamilton from his special deposit and sent it to James Scott to pay claims against Uncle William's estate; mentions that Wisser ordered 3 more copies of the "Illustrated Guide" and he (Bain) ordered one too.

February 23, 1880 (to his wife at Strabane. 1 sheet, 4 pages; envelope with House of Commons stamp; signed)

Contents of letter:

Begins letter by acknowledging receiving his wife's letter of the 21st as well as Kennedy's letter; says he wrote to his mother in the afternoon; says he got the Standard of last week but neither the copy for the Reading Room nor his copy of the Banner (in which he had a letter) came; says Wisser was ordering 3 copies of the Illustrated Guide so he got one at \$2.50; mentions that Bunster has been circulating a petition asking the Government to appoint him Lieut-Governor of British Columbia and has also been "chaffing" Blake about wanting to be a Judge in that province; describes in detail the situation/conversation about Bunster and Blake. Names include Sam Macdonnell, Sir John A, Cockburn, Bunster, and Blake; mentions that Bunster has "got reconciled to the man that ran away with his daughter last summer and is trying to get him some government appointment". Mentions that Mrs. Charlton of Hamilton is in Ottawa at the Russel along with a Miss Bristol of York State, a ward of her husband's; says they were at Rideau Hall on Saturday at the skating and tobogganing party and Miss Britol had her first toboggan ride; mentions that Charlton himself is in Cuba just now for his health; says he doesn't expect to see the Princess at dinner tomorrow night, as she has kept in her room since the accident.

February 25, 1880 (to his wife at Strabane. 1 sheet, 4 pages; envelope with House of Commons stamp, signed, partial wax seal). Enclosed is a list of guests invited to dine at Government House on Tuesday, February 24.

Contents of letter:

Says he has enclosed \$20 to pay for plaster; says he has drawn his sessional mileage of \$65.40 and has sent his first installment of \$13 on his subscription to the Episcopal Methodist Ladies College at St. Thomas; describes in detail, his visit last evening to Rideau Hall for dinner; Cameron (Huron), Gilmore, Gillies, and Farrow accompanied him; dinner was served in the large Theatre; Sir Richard and Sir Albert wore knightly decorations; had Alison on one side and Dawson of Algoma on the other; the Princess was not present; the coachman who let the horses run away with them coming down through the grounds that night had been imported from England to do the driving (note: this is the first specific mention of the cause of the accident); dinner was not as elaborate nor the courses as numerous as in Lord Dufferin's time; describes, in detail, each course served; describes tapestries, wallpaper, window finishings in the Halls and Drawing Room; mentions that Patterson, Charlton, and Mrs. C., Senator and Mrs. Grant will dine at Rideau Hall Thursday night; says that the House did not sit last night and the rest of our Club mostly went to the Opera House to see the Political Burlesque of Her Majesty's Ship Parliament; says he isn't sure whether he will go to the performance tonight or not; says he is thinking about going to hear Milburn lecture on Thursday night.

February 27, 1880 (to his wife at Strabane. 3 sheets, 10 pages; envelope with blurry House of Commons stamp; signed)

Contents of letter:

Mentions that his wife's letter of the 23rd arrived yesterday; says he went to the Opera Wednesday night to see "Her Majesty's Ship Parliament" and had a good laugh at a political burlesque; he describes the characters, costumes, conversation in detail; refers to political situations/personalities of the time; he said Sir John as Captain was the best personal imitation, and George Brown "brought down the house" with his part; attendance had been very good. Says that he and Cockburn each put in 25 cents to hear Milburn the blind preacher lecture on "What a Blind Man saw in Paris"; he gave an interesting letter and has good descriptive powers; mentions that he met Mrs. Charlton coming from breakfast yesterday and she asked to be remembered to Mrs. Bain; says that Mr. and Mrs. Charlton and Patterson were at Rideau Hall last night; says that Ross got anxious about Mrs. Ross and went home to check on her and the baby. Mentions other names: Hooper, Casey's petition, Sir John, Gillies, Donald A. Smith is back after a 15 day trip from London on a Cunard mail steamer; mentions that Mrs. Casey had a baby during the summer but it did not live; mentions that Blake had his youngest boy here, perhaps 10 years old.

Postscript to letter: refers to several letters received and sent; mentions that Dr. Christie is here consulting with Party Leaders protesting the Argentueil election re names unlawfully added to St. Andrew's voters list; refers to Girouard talking to the House on behalf of his Bill legalizing marriage with a deceased wife's sister or a deceased husband's brother.

March 4, 1880 (to his wife at Strabane. 2 sheets, 8 pages; envelope with House of Commons stamp; signed)

Contents of letter:

Says he received his wife's letter of the 2nd and refers to several items in it, as well as the weather in Ottawa ie needing to wear his rubbers and purchase a silk umbrella; refers to Tom getting their logs to Angus' mill; says he has had a couple of walks with Cockburn and Guthrie and was at the shipyard east of Hull with Cockburn; says he "doesn't go poking about suspicious places much although there is no more smallpox here not than in former years"; says he "believes this soft damp weather is unhealthy"; says he looked into Notman's new photo studio with Cockburn; describes some of the pictures; mentions that it was discussed in high social life in London (England) that Queen Victoria was very much displeased with Princess Louise for leaving her husband and returning to England and refused to see her (Louise) for three weeks; says that David McCrae of Guelph has been here for 2 days with Major McDonald, attending the meeting of the Rifle Association; mentions Colonel Higbothans and the possibility he will go to Manitoba where he has considerable property; has met with heavy business losses in Guelph; provides details re Hooper, fraud, political spite, Committee on Privileges; says that "Bichard has introduced a Bill today proposing to reduce the Governor's salary to \$35,000; Ministers' salaries to \$5000; and our allowance to \$600 per session"; describes the situation involving D. Christie, the sale of his effects, bills owing, the farm of 540 acres mortgaged to the Trust and Loan Co. of Toronto for \$43,000 or \$80 per acre which is now to be sold.

March 16, 1880 (to his wife at Strabane. 2 sheets, 8 pages; envelope with House of Commons stamp; signed; partial wax seal)

Contents of letter:

Comments at length about Mary leaving what has been her home for years; he talks about "a girl's nature", "we are in an imperfect world" re living situation; refers to Wm. Austin in the loss of his wife; says a "kind providence has spared us" compared with some others; says he spent all morning on the Railway Committee - debate between the Grand Trunk Railway interest in a branch line south of Montreal and a new charter for a railway through the same region. Names mentioned: Mr. Scriver, Senator Ferrier, McLaren, Davidson; says he went to the Russel House to Dr. Brouse's room to get vaccinated and gives details. Names mentioned: Senator McLellan, Charlton, Gillies, Thompson, Scriver; describes arrangements for going to Mr. Holton's funeral tomorrow in

Montreal; says a number from "our Club" went out to the Baldwin Iron Mines on Saturday; talks about his old (from draughts in the Chamber), inflamed eye; colds prevalent; mentions annual soiree at St. Andrew's Church tonight (25 cents) and tomorrow night the Bible Society has their anniversary in St. Andrew's where Dr. Mackay of Crescent Street, Montreal, will be the attraction; says he had a letter from Dr. Dellenbough of Buffalo in reply to his, as T. Bain is anxious for his wife to see him. The Dr. is to be at the "Mansion House", Hamilton, April 2nd and 3rd. They will discuss this when Thomas is home at Easter. Says he return to the House to hear MacCallum: the "very incarnate embodiment of "Highland" conceit and assurance"; refersn to an Art Exhibition going on this week downtown which he visited with Cockburn.

April 1, 1880 (to his wife at Strabane. 1 sheet, 4 pages; envelope with House of Commons stamp; signed; wax seal)

Contents of letter:

Begins by commenting on April 1 - April Fool's Day and describing attempts at fooling various people. Names mentioned: Daniels, Ross, Oliver. Mentions mild, spring-like weather; says there was a lively time in the House last night with (?) Orton's Bill regulating the rate of Interest and Mortgage Loans. Says the Bill carried but it will be smothered in the Committee it goes to; says it gives another queer sample of how a vote sometimes goes against the intelligence of the House; mentions that there was more discussion about marriage with a deceased wife's sister. The Methodist Ministers in Toronto have petitioned in favour of the bill. He notes the endorsement of Gavin Laing and other ministers from Montreal. Bain says it only confirms a "mournful truth" he realized long ago that when Clergymen want to carry a point, they are unscrupulous as to the means and fall into blunders active politicians would avoid. He encloses a letter from yesterday's Citizen by "my lady friend" to the Bishop of Ontario: "She kicks the men and the Church after a lively fashion". Says he doesn't "care a straw" about the Bill and the clause allowing marriage with a deceased husband's brother to a man's widow. It won't be of any use to his wife, anyway. Says he will mail the rest of this letter tonight, as the morning mail is closing.

April 1, 1880 (second letter) (to his wife at Strabane. 3 sheets, 10 pages; enveloped with House of Commons stamp, signed)

Contents of letter:

Describes engravings and paintings in "my English friend's Picture Shop"; he admired two engravings: "The Stag at Bay" and "The Victor" but could not look at them with satisfaction daily. He describes in detail "Waiting for the Ferry" (his favourite) and "Morning in the Highlands". Says he feels inclined to buy one good engraving to hang over the sofa; metions a set of three large oil paintings (copies of landscapes, \$40) which he could get for his wife's parlour; says he is also looking for a small pair (of paintings) for his mother's bedroom;

mentions that the "Holman's" are playing at the Opera House; mentions that Col. Bob Ingersoll may be prevented from lecturing next week because of his "Infidel Tendencies"; says that Brydges (President of the Mechanics' Bank) has been here for a day or two from Montreal before going to the North West; says he had his first bath since Dr. Brouse's (?) abortive attempt to inoculate him; says that McPherson is back from Toronto and expects to be made Speaker in the Senate soon; mentions that "Lorne" was down this afternoon and made a final end of the Insolvent Act; says he will write Laing of Sheffield and send him Mitchell's pamphlet; says the Tories here are "down at the mouth" over Liberal gains in the Borough elections in England; it appears Beaconsfield will be defeated; mentions Sir A.T. Galt (? High Commissioner en route to England).

April 2, 1880 (to his wife at Strabane. 1 sheet, 2 pages; no envelope)

Contents of letter:

Says he told Sandy to get peas when he goes to Guelph for the salt, and the others except the sugar beets can be obtained at Levis; says his (Levis's) seed will be fresh enough, bought from either Bruce or Evans. Comments on the weather: lovely morning but frost at nights; mentions that the look at the Vienna oil paintings this morning; says the colouring of the pictures was entirely new to him and that two or three looked very nice; says the paintings are mounted in very heavy frames in gorgeous style; says our friends feel happy this morning over the Liberal successes in England.

April 23, 1880 (to his wife at Strabane. 2 sheets, 6 pages; envelope with House of Commons stamp; signed)

Contents of letter:

Refers to receiving his wife's letter of Wednesday written after the wedding (John and his new wife); comments on the female gender: "girls are a contradiction anyways, dull and afraid when they get their own way, and the same if they don't get it". Says the Banner of this week has quite a run of Greensville weddings; talks about his summary of Blake's five hour speech which was in the Banner; mentions Somerville and Tupper; mentions dinner with Donald A. Smith to meet a namesake, Bain, a Winnipeg lawyer. Present were Wiser, Cartwright, Gunn of Kingston, [Dewe] the Post Office Inspector. Says he enlarged his stock of ideas somewhat. Mentions that Cartwright went up to the House to attend to the Estimates; mentions the imminent death of the Hon. George Brown. Says Bunting read the obituary notice of Brown's life prepared for the Mail before leaving Toronto to come to Ottawa; refers to Brown's gunshot wound - the tissue was not in a healthy condition, the wound would not heal, something of a scrofulous nature being in his blood; says that as Mr. Brown always saw the papers, the reports for their week were always favourable to prevent depressing his spirits but he was nevertheless sinking steadily; says he is glad that his wife's medicine seems to agree with her; says she probably won't have so much excitement again for awhile. (Note: does not

mention a reason for why his wife needed medicine). Says he received a letter from his mother yesterday morning and he had written the night before, as well as the usual Monday letter; says he has not seen Mr. Johnstone here yet; says he noticed a few nice petunias in the greenhouse on the grounds this morning; says he will go up for "Prayers" in the House.

December 14, 1880 (to his wife in care of Miss Weir, West Flamboro. 2 sheets, 6 pages; envelope with House of Commons stamp; signed)

Contents of letter:

Says that Sir Charles Tupper is still speaking in the House of Commons, and is just getting into his Pacific Railway contract statement, so he might as well write a letter; says there is a good deal of interest in the railway question and the galleries are nearly full; mentions that Ottawa is Tory and is likely to make Charlie MacKintosh mayor again unless they take ex-Sheriff Powell who is likely to be returned to Parliament for either the City or County the first chance that turns up. Says that Sir John intends to press this railway contract through before Christmas while our Friends are bound to delay if possible; mentions being uncertain re the length of the Christmas recess from the House; says that Lawson is not up from the Island this year and that he is in a little financial trouble; mentions that Mr. Yeo is not yet on hand; mentions that the property qualification is bothering a number of Senators and they will hardly be able to take their seats "for want of the necessary means". Says that Cockburn has a letter from D.A. Smith who is in Scotland; says that McIntyre and Angus were in the House last night; McIntyre is a cousin of Spottiswoode's of Paris, a Grit like George Stephens and D.A. Smith; Cockburn does business with him. Says that Cockburn is building three new steamers this winters, two tugs for towing logs on the Muskoka Lakes and a new passenger steamer on Lake Nippissing to connect with the Canada Central Railway. Describes Cockburn's financial status re this and the formation of a new company.

3-17 Correspondence from Thomas Bain: January 27 and March 1, 1881.

January 27, 1881 (To his wife at Strabane. 1 sheet, 4 pages; envelope included with House of Commons stamp; signed)

Contents of the letter:

It appears that his wife has recently left after a visit with Thomas in Ottawa; he says the House rose at 11 o'clock last night, so he was not home long from the Station when the vote was taken; he slept well, as he didn't hear either of the morning bells; Mr. and Mrs. Charlton were at the table before him for breakfast; refers to Cockburn at breakfast; refers to the "Standard and Witness" newspaper; says how much he liked reading the newspaper and discussing articles with his wife; says he hopes his wife is safely home and that she will feel better for the visit; expresses his appreciation that she stayed so long on her visit; mentions Capt. Walker; says that Cockburn goes to Rideau

Hall for dinner this evening; says he received a letter from Jessie [*Jessie Weir, his sister-in-law*] this morning; says that votes and speeches are continuing; says that Mr. Cameron and Mr. Wood, the Congregational minister(s) are sitting on one side of the Speaker's Chair this afternoon.

March (?) 1, 1881 (to his wife at Strabane. 1 sheet, 3 pages; envelope included with House of Commons stamp; signed wax seal)

Included with letter are two invitations from Rideau Hall: one for theatricals on February 28, and the other for "skating, etc" on March 3.

Contents of the letter:

Says he was teasing Cockburn about his invitation to the skating at Rideau Hall on Thursday evening, saying if he couldn't skate, he could do the "etc" on the invitation; says he found his wife's invitation (skating at Rideau Hall) on his table in his room; mentions that he accepted the invitation to Rideau Hall (theatricals) for himself; says he has enclosed both invitation with his letter; mentions talking to Casey this afternoon. Says that Mrs. Casey is as well as can be expected and that the baby is healthy so far. *First baby died within 12 hours.* Said Casey had "gone for Mrs. McKenzie to aid in the hour of trouble". Says that some of the chaps were of the opinion that never having been there herself that she would not know much about such things; mentions that Grip evidently think this week that the Scotch element is strong.

3-18 Correspondence from Thomas Bain to his wife, 1887.

3-19 Correspondence from Thomas Bain:

April 21, 1890 (to his wife. 2 sheets, 8 pages; no envelope)

Contents of the letter:

Says he received his wife's letter of Saturday; she had gone to Wardsville; says he and Paterson went to Dr. Moore's church on Sunday; service was well-attended and Bain felt that Dr. Moore must be recovering from his "Equal Rights" fever as he had no reference to the City Election in his sermon; mentions Mr. F ; Mr Hay, the E2R candidate; said the Preacher in the evening gave a very practical sermon the "Temptation of our Saviour"; mentions that "some of us" went to the nomination at 2 o'clock, City Hall, to hear the Oratory; provides details; names mentioned: Christie, MacInstosh, Mr Hay, Chrysler, McCarthy; mentions "our convention in Dundas" and doubts they will be through in Ottawa by April 30th; says that Begue wrote to him saying the Doctor was very anxious that Bain not say anything about retiring until after the convention; further comments re the political situation of the time. Names mentioned include Wardell, Perry, Charlton, Mowat, Professor/Principal Carase; says that a debate on "separate schools" threatens in the North-West and if it does, it will delay the session and leave his wife lots of time to stay

with Jessie; says he hopes his wife's cold and headache both leave and not given to Jessie; says "with the best of wishes I take off my hat to the Wardsville Household".

3-20 Correspondence from Thomas Bain:

April 25, 1894 (to his wife. 1 sheets; 4 pages; no envelope)

Contents of letter:

Mentions receiving his wife's letter of the 24th; says he is sending her "Heather and Snow" and two of Mrs Molesorth's books with it for Ella's reading. Says he can also send 2 volumes of Dr. Boyd's "25 Years of St. Andrews" if his wife would like to see them. Also when he sees the ? "Stickit Minister", he will take possession; mentions mailing John Fridley a receipt for \$70 mentioning payments from Mrs Hunter, ?Mr Beaton; says if Dr McMahon goes to Toronto, he is to get the vacant office for the distribution of Law stamps, worth \$2500 per year upwards; says that the East Hamilton Liberals have nominated Middleton as their candidate for the local legislature. Bain does not think that Middleton will be elected; says that his wife is altogether mistaken in the opinion that he has in anyway encouraged the idea that he would be the next Liberal candidate for Wentworth in that he was in any way involved in getting Middleton named as the candidate in the City. Says he was neither directly or indirectly consulted or knew anything of it until he saw it in the Papers. Acknowledges that he was not in the Field and since their session began he has done nothing to cultivate either North or South Wentworth. Says he has not spent a single dollar on literature. Says other members send speeches out by the dozen; says the North West School debate is on again tonight; mentions that French members are making things lively, and the House is ringing with the terms "Protestant" and "Catholic"; mentions Paterson, Mrs. Graham, John's greenhouses.

3-21 Correspondence from Thomas Bain:

June 24, 1895 (to his wife. 1 sheet, 4 pages; no envelope)

Contents of letter:

Says that he and Paterson completed their "Missionary Tour", coming to Ottawa from Montreal today by the Canada Atlantic Railway; says Paterson will sail to Liverpool from Montreal in Saturday on the "Vancouver"; most of letter describes his time away: meeting in Brome Saturday, with tea at Fisher's home on the edge of the lake; tremendous rain at Bedford the day before; 300 attended the meeting in a Hall; says the country is the foothills of the mountains of New England to the south; mentions Knowlton being 2 miles from Fischer's farm. "We made Paterson a church man for once, going down on Sunday morning". Says Fisher milks 25 Alderney cows; strawberries were in season buter and cheese is the chief industry; notes that it is a "moister

summer climate than with us". Mentions mustard growing, as well as ox eye daisies and buttercups; says they got the train at Sutton from Boston for Montreal; they had breakfast in Montreal after two hours on the train, then travelled to Ottawa; says that things are undecided re the School Question, but the general opinion is that the Government will not do anything about it this session and that the members will soon be sent home; mentions that the French Cabinet ministers, of course, want something done.

3-22 Correspondence from Thomas Bain:

January 15, 1896 (to his wife. 1 sheet, 4 pages; no envelope)

Contents of letter:

Mentions that he has not been in the Bank Street Church yet; says Parochial Mission services have been held recently in St. George's English Church, Metcalf Street and that a Mr. Aitkens from England is the Revivalist. Said he went to the 12:30 midday service yesterday; a very earnest address based on Matthew 19:22 and Acts 8:39; says it seems like a new departure in the Church of England; mentions that quite a list of Aitken's works are available for sale at Davies here; mentions that Mr. McDonald is recovering from his accident getting off the Cars ere but he lost his suit against the Street Railway Company; says that Casey is "cultivating the Press Boys" and is working hard to keep his nomination in his riding; mentions that Lady Aberdeen was in the House yesterday, sitting in front of Wallace; mentions Montague, Lord Aberdeen, three letters of reconciliation in the morning papers; mentions Foser, Laurier, Senator McLellan, Mrs. Foster, George Eulas, Mr. and Mrs. Gilmour. Says he received the paper re Mr. Dawson's application for admission to the Hamilton Asylum today, signed the bond, and sent them back tonight. Says the Cabinet is announced complete today and Tupper is said to be off to Cape Breton to get elected in McKean's place. McKean resigned for him and is said to get a seat in the Senate for so doing.

Thursday evening (to his wife. 1 sheet, 4 pages; no envelope)

Contents of letter:

Describes the 50th anniversary celebration of their old friends Mr. and Mrs. Gilmour yesterday, held in the Ladies Parlor of the Grand Union; No. 6 presented them with a \$20 gold headed cane and a \$30 brooch for Mrs. G.; Mr. Laurier made the presentation; said that Mrs. G. wore a neat, gold bracelet presented to her by Mr. Colbeck of Lunenburg, N.S.; Lady Aberdeen sent her a fancy ring of Irish manufacture; says that he and Paterson take their "constitutional" each day; says that yesterday they walked to "Rideau" and called on His Excellency; Buckley, the cab driver, was at the door with his sleigh and said he had just left our "Leader" inside; says he is taking his coltsfoot night and morning regularly, and using camphor outside. Says his throat is getting better. Mentions that he and Beith go to Toronto tomorrow

night and to Bowmanville in the morning; says Beith has a niece here visiting him for a week or two (the daughter of a brother who is a Doctor); mentions that Lister is ill this afternoon with an attack of gallstones , and old trouble; mentions a Poultry Show in the Byward Market this week; but he did not visit it. Says that some of the Poultry Men were at the Windsor for a day or two.

January 16, 1896 (to his wife. 1 sheet, 4 pages; no envelope)

Contents of letter:

Says the regular work of the Session began today. the speech from the throne has been under consideration; says the large crowds are not present in the galleries and Lady Aberdeen did not appear in her usual seat by the Speaker's Chair; mentions that Price Grant's brother-in-law, McKeen, has resigned his seat to Tupper run, and has gone home; mentions that Tupper is to make his first political speech at the Toronto Board of Trade on Monday evening; mentions McGilvray - content of his speech and tone of voice; mentions that Foster again seems to head the House and replied to Laurier; mentions that "Remedial Legislation: from Foster's talk is "to be gone on with at an early day"; says that Mr. and Mrs. Innes are back from Montreal; there is no more news of Mr. and Mrs. Charlton, except that he is recovering faster now; mentions that the cold wave from Manitoba did not materialize and that today was pleasant; says he has taken his sleeping berth for Toronto for tomorrow night, and after getting through there, hopes to get home in the afternoon.

Box 4 Related Material

This box contains material created by other members of the Bain family including Mrs Helen Bain and her daughters, Mary and Helen. This material requires further sorting but consists mainly of correspondence and clippings.