

Outward

Blandford
I.P.P.



Miss Margaret Mercer
O Millmill Street

Edinburgh-

MAY
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on the one object and for him London had no allurements; her absence
This is good I sincerely hope that he arrived safe in the good town
of Belknap's well, and not being hurt by his long journey, and that deficit
is now quite better, in fact is as if once more
Among the many events which have taken place among my friends and
acquaintances in and about London since I left it, one stands prominent,
not from its being unexpected, or of great import, but from the associa-
tion connected with it, viz. the marriage of the Forest Valley nation
I long ago knew that such was to be the case John told me at the time when I was
for 2 or 3 days at his house, so did you but as to the when, I was ignorant
until a few days before it took place. It was determined that Mr. Blair
should be made groom, and from him I got the news. He was then, and is now a
patient of mine; during the course of conversation, he mentioned his intention
of going to London next week, the next one I suppose, and purchase, but the right
train on the way, which means, he gave me a full trace, & particular
accounts. Thus apprized of the near approach of John's wedding I showed
him a short letter, hinting the fact, & saying he had done, & would do nothing
of the marriage in writing, but he, he cut me a card, & I received nothing
through, were covered with cards, so that I was obliged to read the
one - & indeed in his excellent letter, which by the way, he sent enough
to tell me was due to me, and shall be soon answered. I mentioned some
of the marriage guests, the treatment which the boys have received
from John, & as my opinion is strong in the fieldship of his temper,
the bump of obstinacy must be flat, and self-esteem, or the increase
of that his wife wishes, some higher associates.
Mr. Blair's claim has not been done posthumbly, in case his former situation
be considered, but in the city, but meant that this should be only a
temporary concern, he being in hope that a new life assurance Company,

would be formed and he made manager. It is long of reaching maturity, having
been in contemplation since before I came to London. In his present office he
is literally doing nothing, or just about. He published a small book, entitled
"A Popular View of Life Assurance." This you may have seen. What you know
he may have had, had been spent in paying out the book, and I much ans-
wer of the capital will ever be realized from it. I sincerely hope that his
expectations will not be disappointed, both with respect to the book, and the com-
pany, his mother is very gloomy about them. Willie & I are very good friends here,
we now call to see one often, but he would do anything until he wanted my aid,
I have no need to judge harshly, but Willie now knows too much of London life,
he should take a wife, as was reported to me when his intention. Her name, that is the
intended, is Kate Sharon, cal. Catherine Mann. This is report, you must take it
as such. In John S. & W. C. I could say much more, but enough, we know one
that it is not wrong, that F. has made his choice, when if words mean any thing, it
it is not have been. For our part glad at her escape, her good sense has long
ago made her pay this tax. And the cause of it.

The marriage of Missy & John Sherring is shortly to be celebrated
Marion informs me that their future abode will be in Buccleugh Place
You will then have your old friends nearer than was expected.
I certainly wish that it may prove a very happy marriage, and that
in place of the delightful friendships we had, the story they may
enjoy uninterrupted peace and happiness. It still however continues
my opinion that when changes any much, the future presents a
dark side. There will be much danger to Missy's principles, but
if she expects that peace which a wife may have over a husband, with
of that evil, it may be reclaimed. Of marriages &
we have had enough for the present. The sentimental and sad enough to
make one melancholy. I have done.

Dr Alex. Leitch has called on me often, he is now in Her Majesty's Service, having been stationed at Plymouth Hospital for 12 Mos. after which period he will be appointed to some ship - He tried practice in Devonport, but had neither patience nor temper sufficient to carry him on - His conversation often turned to the charming Misses Grant - My Brother his wife, Mr Milne & my Sister are still at Orleans. Mrs Milne would not go at first, but, followed them in about 6 weeks or so - She does not intend remaining with them above 2 months, but this is uncertain - My Dear Sister Harriet, alas too sick, is very well, and likes France much - She is acquiring the French very fast, her knowledge of the grammar being complete - I am sorry to say that James still continues very poorly, (at least up to the last date of writing me, only 16 days ago) London has broken him up, but I fondly hope the continental air will restore him to health & strength - He has ^{or his wife} no idea of danger, nor do Father & Mother know of his complaining - About the latter end of summer I may perhaps cross the Channel and sojourn with them for a few days - Annie is in excellent health and delighted with France - My Father, Mother & Christina are very well, they write me regularly, how precious are their letters & me now that we are so far apart -

Mr Glynn would tell you that it is my intention to remain here somewhat longer, - I am gradually getting on more and more practice, my duties are an excellent preparation to commencing on my own account. What may be my future destination is as yet undetermined, in fact, on this point I am the child of circumstances - Should I continue in the same mind, should my opinion of the English not improve, Scotland will certainly be the scene of my future labours - I am charmed with a prattling Eng^l child, but when they reach to manhood, what a change - Its country must be named in the same breath with Merry England it is a failing of the cockney. I like Eng^l well, but Scotland better, and this is only natural - I am to day in the expectation of getting some news about Edm^d, Capt. Boyd of the 2^d Dragoon Guards will be here, & from him something may be fetched. I know his wife's relations here well -
 They are patients of Mr Dickers