

Edinburgh St.

Miss Margaret Mercer
Windmill Street
Edinburgh

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lower classes are very superstitious about the aforesaid
messengers and carry on their merry making dances
under a bunch of firs. All business is suspended, and
every person, man woman & child of the Cocting base,
go a hunting for pleasure. Far otherwise with new years
day, no one seems to think aught of it, except here & there
a solitary old Scotchman according to old custom does
in with a dash of the real Glenlivet - however these
ancient customs are gradually declining, and the "mussel"
with its accompanying jovialities will pass away as fast
"fitting" is gradually doing at home. I had occupied
much space with this long wounded story, you will excuse
it. My Mother has been a dull one, at not being
kept so, & of course made but little of it, only I had
wished to describe the health of all relations, friends in Russia
& felt satisfied - I will send you respectable news of how
I respect in various letters to all friends, such as you
Lately Mother is - You see I still hang on at thirty, too,
with no success, but it will most likely be for a short time
now, as my situation must be soon determined - I am
weary of this indecision, but when my duties interfere an
hurry to me, I am well and your love has been directed, and at

works for so I'll go in real earnest but where, then is the
rub. My Brother, his wife Harriet & Mrs. Pulver are still in Br.
leams, they are at present hard at work with the Italian,
as they will perhaps take a tour in Italy before returning
home. They are all enjoying excellent health. My Brother
well does than lately see, or rather try for a government
situation on his return to England, as his health will
not stand the close confinement required for his business.
Dear ~~let send~~ ^{send} my kind regards to you in her last long &
much prized letter. The dear girl is nearly heart broken
because I thought of going to India, and as for little Lib.
at home, she regularly blubbers. I had a sly hint from
an old lady in London that Anne (Mrs. Walter) would bring
home a young stranger with her next day of travel
Anne is a subscriber to both the Societies for the pro-
motion of the fine arts in Scotland. In her own house
to the old one, and her two others to the new one. These
they'll be among the presenters. London at present con-
tains a swarm of Scotch Practitioners, old acquaintances,
not a few. You remember Walter Scott that so recent-
ly deserted the late Miss Patterson, she is appointed
Surgeon to one of the West India Steam packets Co's
ships, and is I hear at present sporting about in this
here city. Talking of the West Indies, I had a letter

from my old acquaintance Alex Berthwick on Tuesday
last, he is at present at Barbadoes. on board the Steam frigate
Becla. in the very quarter for catching the "Yellow Jack"
(yellow fever). Dr. Stearns that lives in Newington has got an
appointment in the E. India Co's Service, and is in London. But
why do I enumerate all these names, you can have no
interest in hearing of them. My heart warms to all who
come from Scotland, and have got a habit of telling my
friends of what my old chaps are about.

My Father and Mother as well as little Lib are very
well, and I hope will long continue so. I am anxiously
waiting for their over due letters, in which they give me
pleanty of news -

You are still continuing to draw, and will be by this
time an adept at using the pencil, I lament my want
of patience, had the virtue been in my composition
I would have taken lessons in drawing - But alack a
day, in this as in many other things I want the patience,
and also the courage to make a trial. - In music you
are also become a proficient, the pleasure awaits me
of again hearing you play, and also sing some Ould
favourite - I have heard much singing in London, but