

1870

Burntston August 17<sup>th</sup>

MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
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dearest Anna

Again I have the pleasure of thanking you for a pleasant letter altho' a short one. I am very sorry you were disappointed by not receiving George's & mine before you last wrote. I hope its receipt before this has proven that we did not neglect to write. I am very glad papa has put you in the way of getting attentional hints about penitence. I am glad too you have stimulated George a little. He allows too much of his time to be frittered away in silly fooling with the girls. I expect you to say the "males" comes out in this; that it is but the old story of "— who had no "pleasure in his life for the daughters of the land" to be it. Repartee or chaff flirting is rather a stimulus to chaff working but manlyish silliness is debilitating & leaves a man less manly. It is not easy to rise above the influence of ones surroundings.

might have been useful to Georgy, & certainly  
more pleasant to me to have seen him in the  
Company of girls of Culture as well as good principle.  
This is rebellion against Providence. I as written  
words are apt to be <sup>disparaged</sup> & more importance  
attached to them than the words spoken, & they  
you will pass them over lightly. I believe  
me when I say one time passes on the  
whole pleasantly. We are by no means tired  
of the many beautiful walks. Tomorrow is  
the first Anniversary of Ella's marriage. I we  
have invited her! & he has been to spend  
the day here. Georgy & I like her very much.  
She has such good taste & quick perception  
of the beautiful in nature. She picks flowers  
from nature extremely well, but is so delicate  
that her husband is afraid to let her stoop  
over elaborate pieces. She promises to do me some  
simple little mementos of her visit here. I am  
has already received a number of handsome gifts.  
Tina has given her a very handsome silver  
tea service & elegant jewelry to match. Maggie  
a plated waiter. Ella a pretty affair for steaming eggs.  
Aunt Marion a fruit basket in silver & glass. Mr. Vatter

A double China tea set. Her expected Mother-in-law  
a costly watch: gold teeth rubies & pearls. Her  
retained gold watch & chain. & diamond ring  
besides other things. She has besides got a  
set of Japan wai-ters - Cake basket - honey  
dish - &c. &c. Her Mother is giving her a very  
large stock of bed & table linen. A dozen of each  
of each kind of under garment. fine silk & T  
Latin dresses 6. eps &c. handsome fur, cloth & silk  
jackets. 72. people are invited to the wedding.  
treats are provided for 64. & they calculate upon  
some refusals. But the number fall below 64. they  
intend to ask others they wish at first to bring.  
The Cake costs upwards of £5. sterling. It may  
be good for you that I have here just  
now. I am getting my mind enlarged. Your  
lesson is to meditate well upon what you  
are to lose if you displeas me. I have again  
spent two days in Edinburgh. I went to see Sam's  
house. It is one of a pretty new group of four  
beyond the hill, near Mr. Davidson's. It  
has Chin: dress: par: 3. bedrooms, bath room & many  
closets. Pitchen, laundry, back & front garden. with

nice modern Conveniences. Sam takes all in  
a most philosophic spirit - regarding the  
war is likely to interfere with this intended  
Continental tour. She is a clever, stylish looking  
girl & a wonderful performer on the piano.  
Happily he intended appreciate this - music  
is his passion. He plays well on several  
instruments & is likely to get a teacher for Sam  
to induce him to practice a great deal. I thought  
I had not a scrap of news for you & I hit  
upon the expedient of giving you this gossip  
which has all too soon filled my paper.  
I have got all my business done. I have never  
little before me except mending for George  
& quietly count seven days ere away return to  
Edin! for two busy days Liverpool for four  
days for ten. I pray a happy reunion & settle  
down a while & I do pray a better Mother -  
wife - Neighbour & friend. for Christ's sake  
Amen. God bless you all & continue. He is  
goodness to you. I have always forgotten to say  
I hope Eva sits up better. If Strangis she ought  
to be able to do so.

Believe me yours loving Mother.