

Mount Pleasant 30th 71

My dear George

For the first time this winter I have to write before the mail has arrived, rather dreary especially at this season when Custom seems to bring absent members of a family constantly to ones thoughts & lips. The why I cannot tell but somehow I am very anxious about your present holidays. I hope our friends in London will be very kind to get I meant your time hanging laggingly. I picture you feeling lonely & friendless in the uncourgenial atmosphere of Halsey St perhaps the cause of this is partly due to the

absence of Anna's cheerful presence from
our own parlour. The Wilson's would
not allow her to return with Papa &
I today she writes wishing to remain
beyond the limit of her return ticket.

Saturday & Sunday of these were very cold & windy
days. So that there were unusually few Chick
goose on + mus day. The remainder of the
week has been below zero, so at last we
have genuine Canadian winters.

An unpleasant thing happened to Papa
the Monday night before the entertainment.
When all had retired except himself, a
little after eleven, the door bell rang & he
left one bedroom to see who was there.
A respectable looking young man, apparently
intoxicated, muttered something & tried to
push past into the house. Papa gave him
a quick thrust & slammed the door shut.
But before he succeeded the man chattered

him a blow on ^{the} nose. Cutting it slightly
 altho' not here. otherwise. of course it was
 extremely unpleasant to think anyone else
 feel so unkindly to people but the interesting
 I paper I Anne leaving home put it out
 of our thoughts. On Thursday night about
 nine we at ^{is absent} were in the parlour when
 the servant came up. I said a Mr
 Henderson wished to see me. I had
 been working hard all that day I was
 excessively tired I not knowing the name
 I said, "tell the gentlemen I am too tired to
 see any one tonight". Just my he at the
 same hour she came again with
 the same name. I went down I found
 a respectable looking youth. I told him paper
 was not at home but if he had any message
 I wd be glad to give it to him. He replied
 "I know he is from home", I went on talking
 for such a long time that I got quite faint

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I shut for William to come beside me
however he went away peacefully. This
I thought to a mysterious visit I told
Papa about when he returned. Again
last night came the same man when
Papa at once recognized in him the
fellow who had struck him. He also
remembered having seen him at his
Bible Class a year or two since. He was
quite abusive so that we had to send
for Hamilton to help to get him out
of the house. Papa has been making inquiries
about him today I find he has become
partially insane. I suppose that Papa's not
helping him in his business is the cause of
his having failed. His friends have been
informed of the circumstances I told they will
be held responsible for his conduct. I
I trust he will be confined or watched.
The whole thing is unpleasant. I for a time

will make me feel uncomfortable
about papa when out evenings.

Have we ever told you that Prof:
Hutches, the new Prof: that papa enjoyed
while in Edin:, now boards with
Prof: Carnish. I think he is well liked
Johnson seems to take to him very kindly
They walk out daily together. William
Rankin, Anne & myself were asked to
tea at Mrs Carnishs Saturday night
& to dinner at Mrs Baynes Monday night
& to pass the few days of papas ab-
sence. Hamilton has entered into an arrange-
ment with Mr Baynes to keep a house
& to keep the avenue called & clear of snow
The house of course has not full employ-
& Rankin is engaged to have it to
dine about - Hamilton with him he
drowns about town yesterday & today he
is off again. Anne & he are trying to make

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a skating rink between the Laboratory
& College steps, flooring it with the hose
but they have not succeeded in making
it smooth yet. Julia Parker is
again with Eva. Mrs Carpenter (whose
husband is in Boston) took dinner with
us last day - I begged me to send you
her most affectionate regards. Robert goes
on steadily at his farming - he does not
write often to them. Mr Bayard sends his
love. Yesterday William & Sam. Greenfieldes
had a snow-shoe walk of 12 miles. Since
the holidays. Archie Taylor - now at Colby
& William's visit - Came off first man at
4 new examinations - was missing a Compound
for fireworks, when the whole exploded. It
in his face & has burned him sadly. Dr
St. Campbell says his eyes will be bandaged
for a month, that it will require great
care to preserve his sight. It will

he two month's before he will be
well enough to resume study. Please a
moment I beg of you to be careful in
all your risky matters. I think it
very probable that Anna will write
from Toronto so I am referring
her to her than I otherwise would
besides I think I shall enclose
her letter to me today. It seems to
many of the people we met at Inver
Bay two summers ago. With the children
at home; — Anna absent — & some
time. I am not suffering from emmi-
I do assure you. I have had to delay
writing until this afternoon. & as I have
not been out today I am going to
town to mail it myself & have now
just time to do so before dinner.

~~Little~~ George Cornish is in;
grows a fine fellow with a good
deal of his father's sharp manner.
He has Rankin's gun & is most
amusing. Trusting to have good
news of you very soon & praying
continually that you may be blessed
& kept from evil in every form.

Believe me.

My dearest son

Yours affectionate

Mathew