

enabled I could not think of any other & felt
greatly in the dark what to do, but looked up
& asked direction - I must tell you I have
been greatly exercised about some of the five-
men who were so terribly burned at the St. Urbain
St. fire, but being Roman Catholics the etiquette
of the hospital prevented my speaking to them
further than as concerned their health - There was
one very fine man Mr. Nolan I was particularly
drawn to, & I. Couzed to ask him to our meeting
as his terrible burns were sufficiently healed to en-
able him to move about with a stick - but I did
not - It was therefore with an incredulous feeling
I saw him & a few others R.C. enter along with the
16 men & 10 women who were able to be present -
I simply read 2 Sam. x. 1. to show that the most gifted
& spacious of men - the man after God's heart - may fall
away into sin - I continue in it without remorse
till God touches his conscience as he did to David by
the story of Nathan, which I read - & then how the soul
gives expression to its anguish & repentance as in the
57 Psalm - which I read, & to show what a broken
& contrite heart really meant - read Luke xiii. 36-37
where our Lord "out of the depths" touched the Lord
without his shrinking away - & whose faith, love,
& genuine repentance drew forth the consoling
words to all sinners - "thy faith hath saved thee
go in peace" - Two or three came up at the
close to take a note of the Chapters that they
might read them alone - But if ever the power
of the spirit was present - what it was, so in
that little company of sick & weak & weary
men & women - I hope, nay I am sure, you will
think me presumptuous in relating the above, but
would ask you to remember in prayer that the words
spoken in weakness may not be in vain - Yours sincerely
Esther Louisa

McGILL UNIVERSITY
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Louisa

Montreal 10 July 1877

Dear D. Dawson

Your kind note conveyed
a great deal of pleasure to me.

It may interest you if I still further
acquaint you with ^{the} case of the person at
the General Hospital whose name I men-
tioned, illustrating as it so strongly dis-
tinguishes, how singularly human lives touch each
other, it may be at long intervals, as
well as ^{the} startling power of a long dor-
mant conscience. -

I had repeatedly visited Dead Sister, but
had never remarked her name, - on the
day I wrote to you I had noticed it, & said,
"Your name is an uncommon one, I once
knew a clergyman in Demerara of the
same name" - She was evidently startled,
& said, after a pause, "he was my uncle."
We talked of him this family a little,
for the subject did not seem to be unpleasant
one. The next time I called she was greatly
excited & requests me to be seated as she
had a communication to make to me, which
was our R. C. but which she could not
rest till she had spoken about - I suppose

Sir, she said, you thought it strange that
my name was the same as my uncle - did
you not? I said I had not thought of it at
all, if I had, I should have concluded she
had married her Cousin or one of the same
name as her own - yes, she replied, not so, the
truth is I was never married, I lived for 16
years with a gentleman whose wife & daughter
were now alive - but being in Birmingham
& hearing John Auld's name I could not live
any longer so, this it seemed to tear my heart
out of my body to part with him - he died 4
years after he had & the utter misery of the day
I attended his funeral to one of the London
Cemeteries, alone, ^{as I was} apart from his family, can only
be known to one so desolate as I then was for I
loved him with a blind devotion - I then left
England & came first to the states then to Canada
supporting myself as a sick nurse - Poor
creature, I felt very much for her & tried as the
Lord gave me power to direct her thought to
him through whose cleansing blood, an in-
heritance undefiled is laid up, & the dead
past be unremembered against - us.
Incidentally she mentioned her Christian name
& then on my way home by Dorchester St. it
suddenly flashed upon my memory - "Sarah
Kelsey" surely Mr Joseph Kelsey had a daughter
when I first went out to Demerara nearly
40 years ago who ran away with a married
man - Can this unhappy woman be she? The

thought seemed to account for a great deal in
her manner & words that were strange - but so
what a picture it unfolded of the workings
of the fallen human heart - even where the grace
of the Gospel light has shone in - how much that
is dark & crooked will remain - It is just possible
I may be wrong in my surmise - I have written
home to a dear friend a Clergyman in London
who knew the Kelsey, intimately before I did, for
information, for until she lays bare the whole
truth - her conscience never will have rest & peace
but, as I said before, is not wonderful how in
God's my stern providence human lives touch
each other, show by a touch of his finger, a
chaos of words as it seems, feelings & memories
long buried out of sight, will start up with
irresistible power so that the dead past is laid bare?

I have never had such a day at the General
Hospital as last Sabbath, & will fill my paper
by telling you of it, for God dealing even with him
ble insignificant lives - (if any life whom the
Lord hath redeemed can be called insignificant)
are full of profitable teaching - Rev. Mr. Dix on
the Chaplain being still away, I conducted the
service for the Convalescent patients I had prepared
myself to speak on "Salvation" Titus II. 11. 12. 13
a present salvation. "The grace of God which bringeth
salvation hath appeared" - a progressive salvation.
"Teaching us that denying we should live soberly
righteously, Godly" - & a future salvation - "Looking
for that blessed hope & the glorious appearing of
the great God & our Saviour Jesus Christ" - but
I had a strange feeling it was not the message
I had to give, & up to the time the people sat