

J. McDermott Glasgow Thursday Oct 7<sup>th</sup>  
Oct 7/22

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
ACC. NO. 22 11/22
REF. 11

Dear Papa,

I take the opportunity of writing while we are being towed up to Glasgow. You will see by the date that we have made rather a long passage, and I am afraid I will not have much time to spend in Edinburgh. However when I get there I hope to have information from Dr Bisby about the commencement of the School of Mines &c. Also to have the pleasure of getting a bundle of letters from home. It seems like a year since I left. We have had a long and not very pleasant voyage, that is to say the weather has been cold and wet, almost every wind from the northward, and very often from the North East. We had two very heavy gales one just on the edge of the banks of Newfoundland, and another about 800 miles West of Ireland,

The ship was loaded for two days  
and made fearful weather of it, taking  
in blue water every wave, and once  
or twice she lay over with the main deck  
full to the top of the bulwarks and  
righted with great difficulty. We did not  
know exactly how we were situated with  
regard to the Virgin rocks, which increased  
the trouble. The second gale we  
had to run before for for about twelve  
hours, and were lying to for the  
best part of two days. The grain in  
the lower hold also shifted somewhat,  
and after she had been on one tack  
for some time she had to be ~~changed~~  
put round on the other to bring it  
even again. Do not think  
however that I have suffered from  
the passage, I feel quite strong, though  
of course it might have done  
me more good had it been better  
weather. I was only really  
sea sick two days, and that before  
we left the gulf. Everything on  
board has been very comfortable, quite

as good as on most steamers.  
For all our trouble in the gales we  
have to thank Mr Murray, as it was  
him who loaded the ship so full. And  
in fact the Captain said that he ~~had~~  
was ~~was~~ told that she was for too deep  
before she left Montreal, but paid no  
attention. And then he comes down  
to the wharf and kindly wishes you  
a pleasant passage!

I did not get so much use out  
of the tow net as I expected, on  
account of the rough weather, but  
still I have got a good many  
curious <sup>minute</sup> crustaceans &c. and some  
affairs which I don't quite understand.

I made <sup>rough</sup> drawings of some of the soft  
animals which would not keep well  
but of course have not had time to  
look over them yet.

We made Toig Island last Tuesday  
but the weather was thick and no try  
to be seen, and we had to beat  
all up the North Channel in thick  
weather with fresh winds, which  
occupied us till this morning about

two o'clock when we at last got  
a tug at Ailsa Craig! I have not had  
much sleep the last two nights, as you  
may suppose, and therefore do not feel  
very fresh this morning. I am going to  
try however to get a good rest before we get  
to Glasgow. I do not yet know whether  
I will go across to Edinburgh this afternoon  
or not. It will depend on our time  
of arrival the train &c.

I must plead my fatigue as an excuse  
for not writing any more just now, but  
I intend this much as an avant courier  
to post immediately on arrival, reserving  
details and letters to the rest till I can write  
from Edinburgh. It is rather thick this  
morning, and there is not a very good view  
of the Clyde, though every now and then I have  
to run up on deck to see something, so that  
this letter is written under peculiarly unfavourable  
circumstances. I have just put things down  
as they came into my head, without any  
attempt at order, which as well as the weathering  
please excuse.

Best love to all at home. and

Believe me your affectionate son

I hope the "Lake Erie" will be telegraphed to George.  
The vessel in which case you will have your answer tonight  
or tomorrow morning.