

Eden March 31, 1843

Dear Margaret—

When writing to you, I have often thought how different might be your circumstances, and feelings, when the letter was received, from mine when it was written;—how ill suited what I was writing might be, to events which might arise, even while it was voyaging over the Atlantic. This must have been the case with my letter by Mr Purves.

When it was written, I had not heard of the loss which your family had sustained, and when I afterwards saw it in the Scotsman— I was sorry that I had written as I did— I need scarcely say that, knowing as we do the hardship of such trials, we all most sincerely sympathize with you, particularly with your father and mother.

I was grieved by the news of Mr Boyd's death; I always had a high opinion of his talent and intelligence, and am convinced, that, in more favourable circumstances, he might have been both a better and happier man.

Your question respecting my reverting to Scotland, I can scarcely answer; as it is

probable, however, that I shall have to visit the United States, early next summer, it cannot be very soon. It has, as you know, been a dream of mine that our fates might be connected, and although I knew well that its fulfilment was improbable, and that I had much to do before it could even be possible, and therefore scarcely dared to hope much with regard to it, there can be no doubt that my again seeing the Modern Athens, as well as many more of my purposes, felt its influence.

Those hints which you so truly call mysterious, are of course not very intelligible to me. I think however that I can partially understand them; and shall feel anxious to learn in what way your uncertainties are resolved. In the mean time, I can only say that you have my most earnest prayers, that whatever you may decide upon, may work out for you nothing but good and happiness.

Agreeably to your request, I have destroyed your letter of December last; though I think that doing so was altogether unnecessary, since you have no reason to be ashamed of the sentiments which it contained, or of

the manner in which they were expressed. This is at least my opinion, and none of your letters ever were, or will be, submitted by me to the criticism of any one else. The manner of your answer, and the reasons assigned for it, were in truth fitted only to make me esteem you still more highly. The only thing which I could wish to see changed, was the conclusion at which you had arrived, and this you say you are not yet disposed to alter. I strongly suspect that some of my late epistles to you, are much more worthy of being thrown into the fire than your answer; and there I suppose they had better be put, since, like the sacrifices of Baal's prophets, they have failed to call down ~~the~~ spark of a divine flame.

During the winter we have been all well, and in most respects prosperous. I thank you for your letter, and your kindness in attending to my little complaint, though coming at a time so unseasonable. I have scarcely been from home all winter, except at a place 9 miles from Pictou to assist in forming a temperance society. My father and mother desire me to send their sincere good wishes to your parents and all your other relatives; mine I do not say they all have. Wishing you all happiness and that I were able to promote it, I am
 your very affectionate friend
 J. Dawson

March 31/43

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Edinburgh

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