

Miss Margaret A. G. Mercer
5 Windmill Street

ACC. NO.	9767
REF.	24
MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	

I Mudmill Street April 21st 1840

Dear Margaret

Your sister has acknowledged the receipt of my note, but as yet, I have neither seen, nor heard of any answer from you. I am yet in the hope that you will honour me with one, however short, and the next post shall convey my thanks to you. The more letter writing is practised, the greater proficiency is acquired, and the difficulty experienced becomes gradually greater, the longer it is delayed. The habit of committing our thoughts to writing is a powerful means of expanding the mind, and a knowledge of our language is obtained, which can be mastered by no other means. The persons accustomed to write have generally an accuracy, and fluency in expressing their ideas, which distinguishes them in conversation above their fellows. I shall only to add that it is a necessary accomplishment for ^{either} ~~every~~ Lady or Gentleman - I own and feel that at first, it is difficult to frame a letter, but this gradually becomes

more easy, until, it is no longer looked upon as a task,
but a recreation. These observations, will I hope be
received in the same spirit, in which they are given;
I now feel the effects of my neglect, and wish to guard
you against it.

My Sister Harriet Landell, will likely be in Edm^{ts},
for a few days on her way to London. She never
was in the fair Metropolis of our native land, and
is naturally anxious to see all, that can be seen,
in so short a period. As my time will be otherwise
unavoidably employed, may I take the liberty of as-
king you to accompany her through some parts of
the city. If you can do this, you will confer an obli-
gation on me, for which I will feel very grateful.

You will find her a lively and affectionate girl, her
temper is quick, but it only lasts for a moment.
I am very fond of her, and may perhaps not see her
faults, should you find her different, from what I
have said, forgive me, she is my sister.

Perhaps I may leave Edm^{ts} for a few weeks after

passing my first examination, and return for my trials
on my second. I expect to get all my certificates today,
for attendance on the lectures. I have to appear be-
fore the professors for my Latin, soon, I will let
you know how the trial terminates - James
Lee has ^{attended} to appear the day previous to me -

I must conclude with a request that you will
oblige me with an answer, if not, I doubt I
will cease short of matter -

I had as much or I would have spun this
a little longer. I will be my own postman
once more, and have the pleasure of your com-
pany to the shipping.

I remain
Yours affectionately
David Walker