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Mrs. Mervin
No. 16 Windmill Street
Edinburgh

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London 2 January 1843

Dear Miss Mowbray

With much sorrow I learned the distressing news which your
family have been plunged, by the intelligence lately
received of the Death of your dear Brother, and
must feelingly do I sympathize with you all in
the deeply afflictive & unlooked for bereavement
I can easily conceive the feelings which you in particular
must have cherished at the prospect of again seeing an
only Brother (to whom you were so much attached) after
so long an absence, and can imagine the frequency
of your grief at the unexpected news of his
early death, while mourning however the loss
of our dear departed relative, you know it

become us in every such visitation to bow with submission
to the will of God and to beware of aspiring to his
land - How often the many instances that
we daily see of the shortness & uncertainty of human
life add all (the young in particular who are
so apt to be engrossed with the vanities of this
vain world, to the neglect of their Eternal interests)
to form a proper estimate of the things of time &
the folly of setting our affections on these

He builds too low
who builds beneath the skies

Time & other occupations will unseasonably mitigate the
Anxiety you must at present feel, and it is a great
 mercy it does so, for otherwise we would be incapacitated
for performing the duties of life. ~~but~~ your poor
Dear Mother how much does she require sympathy
& support under this severe trial, but what a
mercy is it, that she is acquainted with that

Fourth, which can support the mind under all the
afflictions & vicissitudes of life. She will remember
that God does not afflict his people willingly, & that
every afflicting dispensation of his Providence is meant
for their good, "for he will make all things work
together for good to them that love him, and he will
be true to his promise" ~~and~~ "the trials he
permits to visit his people with here, we are
assured they are intended to meet them for the
learning in his time, where sorrow & sighing is unknown."
That you may be all supported, strengthened, and
comforted under your present afflictions is the
sincere prayer of your sincere friend

Alex. Duff

This was intended to have been accompanied with a small
present for you of an interesting book, but respect for your
feelings, forbids its being at present sent

I hope to hear from you all and

