

Miss Mercer

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Edinburgh

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My dear Margaret

I have sincerely to apologise for having been so long in answering your last kind communication but feel less remote than I otherwise should, on account of your long delay in writing to me. Why, my dear girl, are you so reluctant to put pen to paper in my service. I can partly answer my own question from what I have heard you alledge but I shall begin to think you have a bad opinion of me, as you imagine I shall so severely criticise you

writing, which I assure you
has no other fault in my
eyes than that of appearing to
be written with great pains
and a kind of stiffness pro-
ceeding entirely from your
evident wish to write with
the greatest correctness. To
use an English expression,
you seem to pull out your
words and look at them before
writing. Now if you will only
think of me as a dear friend
which I trust I am, and
put down what you have
to say just as if you were
talking to me, and only write
as your enthusiastic and

warm heart feels, you would
be just the thing! In England
you know full well, we use
a good deal of liberties some-
times rather beyond the bounds
of decorum. But enough of this.
I am sorry to say, I have mis-
laid your letter, so cannot refer
to it for any purpose, but
as I don't remember you asked
me any question, it matters the
less. I hope you received my
~~letter~~ paper. If I remember
right it was a good deal con-
cerning the visit of the King of
the French. Rarely has anything
of the kind conferred more gene-
ral satisfaction. We have since

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is a sweet little woman. We
have lately had Miss Thompson
to make up some dresses and
continue to like her very much.
She scarcely ever takes her
eyes from her work and almost
no time for her meals. I have
made up my old pink silk
bonnet which you remember
after having it dyed, on the
model of the muslin one you
made me. Every one admires it
and Mr. Walker wants me to
make my winter one, but I
am so afraid of spoiling the
new good black satin, that I
decline, unless he will promise
me another in case I make it
not so well as I like. This

he refuses to do; no proof of
his great confidence in my
millinery. I must therefore
get it made by a very good
and worthy person whom I know.
When you receive this I have
no doubt you will have seen
Daniel indeed who can tell
but she may be in your house.
Tell me in your next how
you think she is looking.
How delighted she must be to
come to Edinburgh. What
are the Sanders doing at
present? What I saw of Robert
at the last exhibition did not
strike me. Did I tell you
that I go to learn Wilhems

mode of singing, and like it
very much. Hullah attends
himself occasionally, but
our chief teacher is a Mr. May,
a very good master. The
system appears to me admi-
rable and I think anyone
however stupid or inattentive
naturally might learn by
it, it is so easy to seize, and
so obvious. Many do not apprehend
of it however. We hear of
as far as the learning of quavers.
When I say we, I mean Gramme,
she goes with me, partly for
amusement, partly for instruc-
tion, partly to be with her dear
daughter. She has learnt a

good deal of music. Mr. Russell-
lotys two dear children are just
come in, and require all Mamma's
and my attention so I must
now conclude in the full
hope of hearing from you soon.
Give our kindest regards
to Mr. and Mrs. Mercer and
all your sisters and their
good husbands, and with
the kindest love of Mamma
and myself and best wishes
of Mr. Walker to yourself
I am my dear Margaret
Very sincerely yours
Wm Walker

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