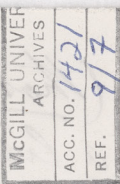


Galashiel 16<sup>th</sup> June 1849



My dear Margaret

This is a mild, beauti-  
ful afternoon 4 o'clock, Tom has  
gone out to get his usual walk of  
an hour or two, so I am alone, a  
quiet house, John is at present  
engaged with the building of a  
large house, 12 miles distance,  
comes home on the Saturday evening  
goes again from me on the Monday  
morning, so I have the clean linen  
provision boy also, it being a  
Country place on Garrow water, to  
get in readiness early on the Mon-  
day about 7 as Aunt Agnes says  
You may see the parting scene  
going on, from Grandmas little gate  
the Gig at the door, boxes being  
carried, <sup>port,</sup> & the little boy Tom jumping  
about the horses feet & Aunt John

(that is me now) peeping out too, but  
a little farther back — Nothing  
more of Uncle John all the  
weeks, unless a few <sup>lines</sup> by any means  
can be conveyed either to or from  
Langingshan House — dear  
Maggie when I see numbers of the Maids  
then of this place lingering about the  
streets untill even a late hour, I just  
wonder, if they can have any idea  
of the comfort & happiness of those here  
who value their own fireside above  
all other places of resort — This letter  
was to tell you some more about what  
belonged to myself, if I remember aright  
— I have got what the people of Gola  
call a comfortable house, but small  
is added to it, every body has such  
grand Villas now a days, here <sup>Shanty</sup> Parlour,  
dinning room, Kitchen, two bedrooms  
and many comforts in the shape of  
Santys, shelves, & presses, belonging to



a Joiner you know I get all these odds  
& ends, with a nice garden to the  
back, green & poles for the wash-  
ing day, which comes round <sup>day</sup> once in  
each week, & with all belonging  
to me I am as content as the days  
long - compared with Mrs. Halls  
it is just a little cozy, but another  
house could in <sup>no</sup> ways add to my  
happiness - the Halls are said  
to be prosperous, but I am glad to  
say as far as I can see, it makes  
my Husband more humble & I do  
hope that the blessings thus bestowed  
upon us, will not be a snare, as  
they often are - all kinds of earthly  
happiness is so, if not ~~kept in~~  
keeping in view, the one point,  
love to God, through Jesus our  
friend &aviour, if right there  
then there is less to fear from those

blessings of earthly love & prosperity,  
it is sometimes gently hinted, by some  
of my near neighbours, that I am  
thrift~~ly~~, very near being called hard  
in the way of dress & sundry other  
things - but I hear all in good  
humour, & having a Husband who  
gives me this advice, be  
straight forward, truthfull  
in all your dealings, do what  
you think proper & mind what  
no one, does, or says, conse-  
quently we all get on wonder-  
fully well together - Son  
is a quick boy, almost more than  
I can well do, to keep him in order  
is 2 years & 2 months, speaks well  
& the story has been this week is  
about his visit to Hangingshan  
tomorrow to bring Papa home, he  
is to go along with my maid of



all work, for the change of air  
having had measles lately — what  
changes are taking place, I often  
think of you, when I see the Rail-  
way Carriages flying along Gala-  
water opposite Grandmas garden  
I my boy speaking of long & short trains  
— the Ladies here take a return  
ticket, goes out & in to Edin-  
burgh one day — Mother is  
just come from visiting Dr  
Todd & the Arnis tou place people  
was 3 weeks with your Mother  
she is dear Maggie very feeble  
in her limbs particularly the knee  
but the spirit of some new opera-  
tion to be carried out, is as strong  
as ever, many earthly plans still  
to be accomplished, her will  
is not touched yet, but when  
you she has all the property

cleared, which will take some  
years I understand — she is to  
make another one — is not  
often down stairs, consequently  
has many wants always to be  
attended to — I am sorry to say  
it, her prejudices take very deep  
root, but I hope, before the Lord  
takes her from this world, that  
with <sup>the spirit</sup> it becomes unto possess the  
Christians spirit too, she will  
leave her blessing to all of you  
— the people of your Church often  
make me wonder, the gear of  
this world holds so prominent  
a place — I have been in  
I die — once since you left it  
your Mother was at Gala &  
on condition that on my way  
to Prestonpans, I should, along  
with my child & servant, stay



one week with your Mother,  
Father consented that she should  
stay after he left Gala, for  
sometime, she was far from  
being well, however we left  
Gala in one of our conveyances  
having 5 miles to go before we  
got the Railway at that time  
— we were loaded with a long  
wooden box, filled with all  
kinds of flower roots, which  
John had enough to do to get  
stowed into the carriage, the  
earth making it heavy besides  
the length of it, & sundry long  
holes for roses & one remarkable  
for its great length, to place at  
the head of the garden, on which  
a weather cock was to be perched  
— but the train could take nothing

So long at that time, it was sent  
by the last Carriers cart that went  
into Odin - from Gala - John  
loves to gratify old people, had  
rode many miles to procure this  
last mentioned one - come to  
Odin. found the door locked,  
Jeany off to Fife, Father stay-  
ing himself - in the evening  
Tom got so much worse  
that I had to send for Neiloby  
Mother in the meantime scold-  
ing my Maiden for not finding  
in the kitchen what she want-  
ed, angry when my boy sick  
Bill, cryed, told the girl to  
keep him quiet, she could not  
bear the noise, Neiloby  
said the boy would be the  
worse of leaving for Great