

Halepoo July 9

Dear Margaret,

I received yesterday with much pleasure yours of the 7th. The shortness of my last is easily explained. I put on Tuesday evening a parcel into the stage office with a letter for you, and wrote on Wednesday night to prevent all chance of another disappointment. It was well that I did so for last evening, happening to be at the stage office, I saw my parcel lying there, and was told that it had been sent back to Huli-foa by mistake. It goes on to day. — I hope you and baby have not caught cold in the late cold nights. — I am at all events glad to learn that you were not frozen. I was pretty low tonight, though it certainly was a trial to sleep in the morning. Hope it is the coldest part of the winter. It is now quite mild here. There will I think be no fear of much colder weather ^{coming} before the beginning of March. I have posted your letter to Luana

in good time for the mail - with
the £5 check enclosed. Do not hurry
about the books; it will be two weeks yet
before I need them. The slices of wood
of which I write in the letter of my parcel,
should be sent by Monday's coach. If you do
not receive the parcel in time for this never
mind them. The patterns of ~~trimming~~ ^{we}
in the parcel I hope you will receive them
before this reaches you.

Mr Gas Thomson is in good health;
and I believe intends to go to England
in April to bring out a lady to whom he
is engaged.

On Thursday I delivered the
first of my Botanical lectures; and believe
the audience were well pleased with
it. The perpetual round of Balls & parties
kept up here in winter is a great hindrance
to comfortable lecturing, as the people do not
attend regularly; the audience one night being
very different often from that of the previous night
I went out last evening & tea with Mr Cathcart

Thumper, and heard a few Scots tunes
on the Piano; the first music I have heard
since I came here, though it appears that
almost every house here has a Piano.
I saw two daughters of Mr Howe the Prov-
Secretary; rather intelligent looking girls; but
on the whole the company, courtesy of
my 5 or 6 were not very interesting. I am
busily employed preparing drawings, lectures
&c, & a great many little errands arise
every day almost, and take up a good deal
of time. Within the last few days Mrs
Thomson has had a visitor, Mrs George Thomson,
her daughter in law from Cornwallis. She came
over in one of those very cold days, with a
little girl of 15 months. The distance is 60 miles,
the stage however is covered, otherwise she
could scarcely have escaped being frozen - She
is a tall ~~rather~~ pleasant looking young woman,
and the child is a nice little creature - all
to toddle about a little. I do not know
of much other news that I have to tell, except
that I am quite well; only think very often of
my dearest Margaret and little boy, and feel some-
times as if it was very bad to be away from them so long.

May all peace comfort & blessing attend you, and may
God grant us a safe & happy reunion

Yours ever loving William,

PS You must excuse bad writing,

as I often cannot afford time to write even my best which you know is not good.
Mrs Martin at whose house I sleep, is very kind and attentive to my com-
fort.

Mrs J. W. Johnson
P. O. Box

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