

Mrs Belle January 1851

About Mother's death &
possessions



Mrs J. W. Dawson

Pictou

Nova Scotia

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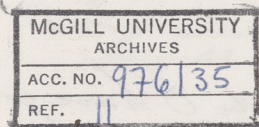
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Edinburgh 17th January 1851

My Dear Margaret

I duly received your letter dated Dec^r 8th the day on which my two Daughters were born (it was a Sabbath day here) they are fine healthy Children bigger than the last two I had, Louisa four hours older than her Sister Maria, is rather the stoutest, I have had a very good recovery for which I am truly thankful, being able to nurse one is another unspeakable comfort, how would you like seventeen people to cater for every day, I get on wonderfully well, You express a wish to know what our young folks are about, James finished his apprenticeship on a day not soon to be forgotten, namely the 21st of Sept^r last, as Mr. Blackwall did not require him we sent him to brush up his writing french &c, he has now got a situation, with Smith and McCallum constitution St. Leith, of course he cannot come home to his dinner, which is a drawback, but we must not expect to get things in every respect as we would like them, George likes his business and goes on very steadily

They are quite like young men with long tailed coats
hats or both taller than their Papa, I and C. have gone
to Mr. Eager this winter for music, Jessie is little Christ!
is quite as tall as she is. Matthewson and Peter are at
a school in newington, where they receive the usual
branches of an english education with a smatter
of latin, Jane goes to Princes St to a Miss Spindlers.
Margret Ann and Ellen are playing about beside
me I have sent you a parcel by Oand B boy
very hurriedly put up without a scrape of a pen in
it contains a white bedcover a black henrietta cloth
dress with crape, a brooch, and a miniature of Father
taken from the picture, from what you say in your
last letter you seem to think we will have something
bulky to send, we never for a moment thought of
such a thing, knowing as we did that the expense of
conveyance would be far more than any thing we could
send was worth, We saw from the first that there
must inevitably be a sale of the furniture, as there
were few things that any of us required but Maanor
as she had gone to a larger house, we therefore thought
the best way was for each of us to take some trifling
things which we could agree amongst ourselves about
and leave others to be bought at the sale, which was done

But as we had every thing valued the day after Mother was buried, you will receive your fourth of that valuation whatever less the sale may have produced. if I can get any of our young folks to copy off the receipt I will send it to you, that you may see what things sold for, with respect to the birds you mention, before your letter came, Marion had fancied the alabaster lady which you will remember, in lieu of which Jessie got the birds, I got the painted jar, and there was laid aside for you a set of three China jars. This finished the ornaments, you ask if we are all pleased, we three girls were satisfied with every arrangement Father and Mother made, but I must leave others to answer for themselves, if I had you by my side dear Margaret I could tell you many things I dare not write. The dress sent you was bought for Mother's best, but was never made up. Are you aware that Father left fifty pounds to each of George's boys, and Mother the same, with this limitation, if they cast up within ten years.

I am afraid there will be little chance of our seeing you this summer, I hope however that will get this anxious time well over, if you be as fortunate as me I think Mr. Dawson will be a proud man

Jessie is not sure of a day at present.
I had a visit from Miss Crease today, she tells
me Mrs. Thom. Lee is keeping the sofa at present.
Uncle and the Children all desire to be very
kindly remembered to you and Mr. Dawson,
as you may suppose we spent a very dull Christ-
mas this year, you have not mentioned
Mrs. or Mr. Dawson for some time I hope they
are well, and that you are upon daily, if not
hourly visiting terms with them, if so
please remember us all kindly to them
I cannot get leave to sit any longer and I dare
say your only wonder will be, that I have
sat as long as to write this if Papa can get time
after tea he may fill up

My dear sister I observe Jane has not attached
her signature to her letter but you will be at no loss
to understand it to be hers from the contents of it.
I can only add, that I have been so excessively occupied
for some time past that I could not think of writing
but will do so here after if spared. Mr. Morrison
Fontaine Bridge died 21 days ago after a long and painful
illness which he endured with remarkable patience and
contentment. Yours very affectionately
Peter Bell