

McGILL UNIVERSITY
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Porter Bay 18/33

Dear Margaret,

After telling you that we are all well I shall just describe of full the little matters mentioned in your last letter. John Cresser has left this morning and I have given him a pair of chair bottoms they last Mrs M. I had. She had another pair but as you mentioned one I thought it best not to exceed the order more especially as the parcel is a large one & trouble Cresser with. (they cost 15/ per pair). I had intended to have put in a few pieces of paper and for A. Bryson but quite forgot until I took up your letter this morning. I shall put in a few small pieces of paper but not too heavy. You may get the stones done up in the cheapest way you mention. It will not cost much and they will be good specimens for my cabinet. I cannot judge of the feeling up but you mention would be a suitable and comfortable bed for George. I would not get one to serve two purposes and not be quite comfortable for three purposes. With respect to freight, it goes by the air post, and I think things with legs and arms are carried under the deck so that they are pretty costly for freight. It would therefore be

much better to have a thing that would come
to pieces. If you do not purchase, let me know
and I shall try to get something up here for
George; but if you see what suits you, I think
the price you mention very low. I am much
obliged of your attention to the newspaper to Mr. Sumner.
It may I think be useful. We have got still
later accounts from Mr. Goldie, who has organized
a church and is now aided by a Scottish Missionary
(Mr. Jones I think is the name) you will see in the Register
sent last mail.

I fear you must not think of my
going to bring you home. Independently of the difficulty
of taking the time you know the expense would
be a matter of some consequence to us, and
I am sure we should think it prudent that
it would have been better to spend our money
in increasing home comforts. Besides you know I
came for you once, and it is your turn now
to come to me. Not that I am not anxious to have
you back; for nothing but the thought that you
are enjoying yourself in your temporary respite from home
ours and duties, would recollect me to being so long
separated from you, and I am ~~of~~ beginning to count
the weeks that must elapse before I shall be
re-united to my dear dear wife.

Mr. Brown will call if he goes to Edinburgh
He expects to return in March and if you
have no better opportunity may undertake to take
out your passage tickets to Liverpool. It will be
well to secure them early, as there is some
trouble about getting good tickets. If I have
learned that George's passage will let a quarter
this is the rate for a child 4 years old.
rate, or £6.3s sterling your uncle at £25, or
£31.5s in all. I shall try
to make up what you
will need and please let me know in your
next the state of your funds.
I am a little assured at the idea of your
going to the Continent; but I hope you do not need so
many medicines; and as for fatness, I suspect
you will find that your appetite and your liver
will suffer more than you think. I am sure if
you had gone to winter among the whinnies
you would have been some sense in the thing.
Do not forget that it is a terrible thing for children
to be in your company.
I have just written both Anna and Julia
that the cold, which has been reported as
here. We are both well and nearly so. I had a
deal of trouble with Anna for two or three nights
last night. She was very restless and appeared
to be in great pain. I am sure you will be
glad to hear that she is now well and happy.

I got her bathed in water & soap and gave her a little Rhine's syrup, she seems now quite well except a little running at the nose. She is growing taller and is on the whole a dear little girl. I feel quite disposed to make a pet of her, and it is quite natural to bestow on her a little of the love one feels for the absent. I feel quite sorry to leave her for the week or two I shall be in Halifax, though I know she will be well cared for.

Our winter has as yet been very mild none of those very little days - and but little snow. It is held that the mild weather is the principal cause of the excessive prevalence of colds. I have sent by Mr. Cress the Goggles paper to Sir L. Dyer. It is a long & elaborate affair. I had a letter from him from London last mail. They had a fine passage from it in 10 days. He is busy with the reptiles which are pinned by Owen who has examined the specimens. He expects to have ^{the account of the reptiles} at least ^{at least} sometime in this month. You will hear of it if you see any of the London literary papers. I send to day my school report to Mr. Home. I am making out the tables and setting up the last number of the Journal of Science. When these are done and I return from Halifax I shall be about done with literary labour for this winter. Young has been ill. I had a letter from him thanking you for your trouble (as usual he did not pay the postage!).

He said he would write to you. The "Daemons" have
 been laid up with colds, but are recovering. All
 other friends I believe pretty well. Next mail
 we expect to send our orders for the spring and
 I shall perhaps ask you to select a few bottles
 of papers to come with them. When you next write
 I shall probably be back from Halifax, and
 shall be ready to attend to anything you wish
 me to do about the home ac. preparatory to
 your return in April I hope.

Telling George that I have given Anna
 the loan of his wheel-barrow, and that Anna wishes
 him to come back and will help him and give
 him "cakes and gingerbread". Papa will want from
 in spring to help him in the garden, and he
 must bring some seeds to sow in his own
 little garden. Papa hopes he is very kind to
 Peter & Mathew and every one else, and that
 he is always well & happy. Give him kisses
 for me and tell him I wish very much to see
 him again.
 I forgot to say in my last that I have
 framed and hung up your "Dangers" in the large
 parlour. I got stuck at the paper. We have repaired
 the frame. The miniature frame cannot be improved
 now as the engraving is ripped up the edges of the
 plate to make it suit the plate glass and it cannot
 show long.

It may be worth while to alter it. The size is
3 7/8 inches by 2 3/4. We are taking measures
to have our coins represented at the Holyday
Exhibition. So your good letter has provided
with materials for a wax flower. Miss Lane
is going to get up a class in wax flowers but
says she is to make her wax here as directed
in one of those instruction books.

Mr Purves has given me a note
to cash and has paid £6 currency
equal to £4.16s sterling. Mrs Purves
has also paid the same sum and
wishes a duplicate of Mr Purves's note.

These sums, say £9.12s sterling, I shall
endeavour to remit next mail. Mrs P's
letter makes up the weight of my letter, and
therefore cannot send any joyful word.

Father & Mother send their love.
Give my best wishes to all your friends.
May God bless you in all things and
give you all comfort and happiness and
grant them the most precious pleasure
of a safe and happy return.
Many friends here tell me to send
good wishes