

Pictou Feb 11th / 53

My dear Cousin

Mr Williams has kindly offered to
enclose a letter for me, I feel sorry to let the whole winter
pass without any communication with you, although
I would have preferred to have the news from you first.
He is all very much pleased to hear that you are well
and happy with your friends, I don't say you are over
calculating yourself on your escape from a Nova Scotia
winter, but after all it is doubtful whether it is better
to be in a constant shower bath, or suffer a little from
cold, accompanied as it is by clear bright weather. You see
I have had no cold to complain of this winter, don't mean
weather, accompanied with colds and influenza have
prevailed almost since you left us. Last week was delightful
I had the garden windows open most of the day to air
my plants, such soft sunny days were never before
seen in February, it was as if Indian Summer had
paid us an unreasonable visit. Business is almost
at a stand for want of snow & ice, the men at the
shipyards are almost idle for want of timber & ice.

that our usual wintres are the best adapted to the wants
of the country, although not always very agreeable. I may
mention among other rarities of the season that the ferry
boat crossed from the Clarence Mills to Fisher's farm
yesterday. We received the black wister yesterday
and Mother is very much pleased with both quality
and price, and I am equally pleased to know that
my wister is purchased at such advantageous terms,
although I almost tremble when I think what I have
undertaken. I do not remember whether white lead was
among the articles to be decided upon, but I would like if
you would include it, as I am afraid it can not be
procured here of the best quality, and if you think of
any other addition I would be obliged if you would enquire.

Your little Anna was on the the day accompanied by
her nurse, Bessie Ross found that she was here & came too
they spent the afternoon in a manner apparently very
agreeable to themselves & certainly very amusing by & us
Anna acted the part of hostess, and was very gracious, giving
up all her toys to Bessie, & emptying my work basket
on the floor twice for Bessie's special amusement.
Margaret and I went across to see her yesterday, so that
I can report her well and happy. She missed her Papa
a good deal at first, but is now quite reconciled to his
absence. Margaret bids me tell you that she is appointed

one of her guardians during her Papa's absence, but now she
wishes to use the clothes & furniture connected with such
an important trust I know not. At present I believe
all your friends & acquaintances are well, with the ex-
ception of Dr Anderson who is just recovering from a severe
attack of influenza, which commenced so violently that
his friends feared an attack of typhus fever. They are
in our house has had influenza this winter, except Mother
and John Coburn, we never had it before & certainly
do not wish for such an unpleasant visit again.

Margaret wishes me to ask you to bring out when you come
a few cakes of water-colours, crimson, blue, yellow, black & white
are those which she wishes. She is progressing rapidly with
her drawing, & Miss Stone is very much pleased with her
attainments, her flowers are particularly beautiful &
she wishes to learn to paint them, flowers look
so much better when coloured. We hope to see you before
very long, April I think William says. It must have been
a very pleasant for meeting for both your sakes, although not
unmixed with sadness, but I do think that there was good
cause for gratitude in meeting so many of your friends well
and happy. Mother sends her best wishes & thanks for your
attention to her commissions & Margaret & Cassie send
their love. I wish it was not so difficult to transmit
money, and I would send for a spring dress. I feel sorry to

to make a good opportunity of getting a pretty case
but it is no use wishing, & it is not a matter of vast
importance. But I must close, wishing you a happy
conclusion to your visit & hoping for your safe return

Your attached friend & cousin
Jane Dawson

Mrs William Dawson

attends at this