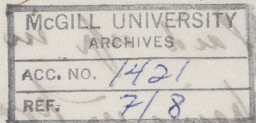


Edin 20th Decr 1858



My dear sister

Although I have told D. Dawson

I had not time to write to you, yet I am unwilling to let this opportunity pass without sending a few lines in Lavin's stead. She has been so very much engaged both before Christmas marriage, and since, that writing on her part is out of the question; and since Christmas being left ten days ago, she has been constantly busy putting things to rights, and every thing in its proper place, as the packing and preparatory for the departure of the young couple, and Matthewson as well, had considerably put them out of their usual

Cause? Besides, Lane expects to be laid up in a few weeks, and that too being in prospect, has given her more to do. This very forenoon we received a letter from Henry dated Liverpool; which amused us very much. The reason is, that after beating about in the Channel for some days they found water gaining so fast upon the ship, that after a careful calculation, the Captain resolved to run back to Liverpool, and get the vessel overhauled. It had been put in thorough repair only a few weeks ago, and every thing was supposed to be in good order and the cause of the leak they are totally unaware of. So there they are; once more in Liverpool.

and how long they may be detained
is not yet known. very possibly
the cargo will have to be taken out in
order to get the vessel properly re-
mended and repaired. It is a
matter of great thankfulness that the
leak was discovered before they were far
out at sea, otherwise the consequences
might have been more serious.

Christina was very sick all the time
they were out, but it is to be hoped
she will get more accustomed to the
sea as she proceeds.

You inquire about Mr. Pattigrew's family
history. He is a native of London, tho'
of Scotch extraction. His parents have been
long dead. He has two sisters who were
both married, one is a widow residing
in Bradford, the other is with her
husband in Ireland. He has a brother
in India, and had another in the West Indies.

who died of yellow fever some years ago. Gordon is very closely engaged with classes this session, he begins at 9 o'clock in morning, and does not get home till 1/2 past 5 evening. He is well, able for his duties, although he finds it hard enough work. Jane is at home at present, but we do not know how she may be engaged after the Xmas holidays are over. How is Jessie going on now? we have not heard you say anything of her for some time.

I do not remember whether we had an opportunity in writing lately to mention the death of our worthy and aged friend Mrs. Lybis. Her departure was calm and serene, and her mind rested as it had done for many years in the finished work of Christ. There was no wavering or doubt in her mind and her end was peace.

I must now bring to a close by again wishing you all a very good New Year and many happy returns of the Season.

Love unity with me in kind love to you all, as indeed you will consider this letter as from her as much as from me. Give yours very affectionately to Brother Peter Will