

Seeds of
the Lofa a lovely
creeping flower the
second year

San Francisco Sat Jan 20/60
Interesting in the 1860
old fashioned way it is
written -
My dear Mrs Dawson

MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
ACC. NO.	1421
REF.	10/2

your favour of Aug - came
to hand in due time. I will not attempt to
excuse my seeming neglect if letters are not answered
at once a Multiplicity of duties & cares help to forbid
my writing to friends when I ought. as I keep a regular
correspondence with my now scattered relatives that
appear an excuse for procrastinating habits

I received your welcome epistle with great pleasure
indeed I thought you had almost forgotten me I wish
you joy & comfort in your dear babe I regret exceedingly
to learn George is so delicate poor child he needs
patience to bear up under his sufferings and
you also need much fortitude & wisdom to care
for him but I sincerely trust that as this time his
health is improved that the means used has been
blessed I trust Anna is kind & attentive to her
brother it gives me great pleasure to hear
she is improving her advantages also so kind
to Brothers. Sweet Wm I often think about him
so affectionate & wishing my Affections were set on him

I could have robbed you of such a treasure oh how I would
like to see you all once more. but that I never expect
I do wish you could be transported to this delightful
Climate I feel for you imagination picture you
matted up almost stiff with cold here we are gazing
Pink's Rose in bloom, but notwithstanding our
general Chinese death has made sad havoc among
Children whole families has been swept off by
Scarlet Fever & Rubeol Parthoid from two years upwards
it is strange & cannot be well accounted for some writers
say thin clothing light shoes &c. my own opinion is
much the same like ⁱⁿ the Eastern States children here
are over dressed and no doubt they suffer they are
also often exposed to night air their Festivals
& Parties all being held after night. you may fancy
Men & Women in Adventure and in general you
can form an idea of the young we have heavy cold
Fogs of the Pacific & require to be careful I have great
reason for thankfulness my family enjoy excellent
health I am careful both in regard to diet dress
&c for no Parent can confer a greater blessing on their

children than endeavouring to lay in a store of health
in youth they mature so early in this climate Girls of
twelve or thirteen are as much of women here as those of sixteen
at home. my girls are growing fast - our eldest Boy has
chosen to follow the sea he is a fine Noble young man
& we can only regret for ~~it~~ we found it was folly to
prevent him following his inclination to live on
the watery element although he remained home for
some time he felt quite out of his element and only
our consent was wanted to leave again I miss him much
he was so affectionate and kind as his Brother dreads
the briny element I presume he content himself on land
as yet he has attended school. with regard to my own
relatives you would see by the register the removal
of my Deice & Insoford from Tanna Mr Matthews
health has not improved & little hopes are entertained
of recovery. Many hopes for the best but from her Aunt
letters they expect he will not be long spared to them
Poor Mary her trials has been many though young in
I must add in Grace she enjoys better health than
at home but her constant watching Mr Malbon

was trying also the death of Mr Piton but we must
commit them to the care of him who alone can sustain
them amidst trials & dangers. we all regret to think
we are so far separated but an all wise Providence knows
what is best for us my Brother being near is a great comfort
to us all my Sister Elizabeth is still a great sufferer from
the old complaint as a friend of ours goes to Pictou to be
married we have sent for Jane Johnson if she wishes to come
she has an opportunity to ship freighton the intended Mr McKenzie
comes probably they will leave Pictou about the last of Feb or
first of March probably be some time in New York as Jane
has often expressed a wish to come Mr Henderson has made
arrangements for her coming. the I hope will be a great comfort
to us & hope the change will be beneficial to her we thought it
was the best for both my Sister & her young Men can do
so little to benefit themselves or Parents in Pictou here she will
assist me be Companion & Teach the girls Music & have a good
comfortable home I hope Mr Dawson enjoys his health
I read a Notice his Work was in Press I would much
wish a Copy if out I will instruct Jane to endeavour to get
one in New York if possibly should she come I have not
forgotten my promise but should have sent on the
speciment I have as I have the promise of a few more I trust
to wait for them I have Goldwax Silica & Iron a Mineralogist
put me up a number of Specimens but I must stop myself
is full please kiss the dear Children for me kind regards
to friends not forgetting Grandpapa Mr H joins our
best wishes to Mr Dawson & accept the same
Yours very truly Elizabeth Henderson