

Edinburgh 8th Oct 1861

MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
ACC. NO.	1421
REF.	7/11

My dear Sir

I am ashamed of myself in not having long ere this written to you since the receipt of your kind letter of June 17th. I have to plead the great amount of business I have always on hand, but chiefly that I have been disinclined for all things that I could avoid, having been in a weak state of the nervous system for three months past, and yet I have always endeavoured to do the positive daily duties laid upon me although often very unable for them.

I am now somewhat better although not what I would desire to be, and have forced myself to write a few lines just to show that I am not altogether forgetful of your kindness. Jessie has been on a visit to her maternal grandfather, for more than four weeks past, and is still enjoying the hospitality of our friends there. She has sent us a letter for her aunt which accompanies this. It appears to us that Jessie's sojourn in Canada has very much increased her regard

from this country and reconcile, although
perhaps after she has ^{had} the experience of a
winter with us she may be more reconciled
to it. We have had an unfortunate kind of
summer, - much wet and very little heat,
which has impressed her unfavorably just on
her return.

You would be made aware by Jessie
that she arrived some days before your
letter, having had a very good passage.
She is quite well, although not so robust
as we would desire to see her, but you
know she never was very strong, at least
not so much as some other of the family.

She writes that she is improving at Besma-
ragon, and the friends there say they will
keep her till they can send her home strong.

A letter from Gordon accompanied this, which
he forwarded to us soon after he went to Stairland
but it has been allowed to lie till I should write
which I have much to long delayed. He is getting
on well although he cannot be reconciled to the
locality. He has no society whatever beyond the Doctas
(wife and daughter) family, and keeps hold of this, only tell something better
than us. accept this apology for a letter. My dear
wife unite with me in kindest regards to Mrs. Dargson, your
self, and all the family circle. Yours very truly
John Bell