

MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
ACC. NO.	976/33
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Poverty made me take the black  
border nothing worse - Russellburg  
Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 1867

My dear Margaret

I thank you very  
much for your last letter  
which I duly received, and  
was very glad to hear you were  
all well and that you had  
the prospect of seeing George  
able to go about again in  
summer, I sincerely trust  
it may be the case, we have  
had a very severe winter,  
the last day of the year it

Bygone

" To snow there was a heavy fall  
and it lay on the ground for  
four weeks with hard frost  
and every other day fresh falls  
of snow, with bright sunshine  
between, at first we were all  
well pleased with the change,  
but then came the inconvenient  
part of it - in frozen pipes &c -  
every body seemed to be getting  
heartily tired of it, at the end of  
the month it came a sudden  
and complete thaw and the snow  
disappeared as quickly as it  
came, it is still bitterly cold,  
and we had another slight  
fall of snow last night, your  
letter just arrived when we  
were rejoicing at the change

and when Marston read Hurra's  
saying "if she were with you  
she would not like to return  
home" she said, if Montreal  
weather is any thing like what  
we have had, I should be home  
very quick indeed, she likes the  
Summer best, things go on here  
much the same, I have not the  
same kind of work you have  
at all, the only poor person I look  
after is Mrs Bain, you will per-  
haps remember her, her husband  
was foreman in the work when  
I came to Musselburgh, he died  
of Cholera and she has been  
confined to bed for eighteen  
years, but has been much worse  
for four weeks past.

you will be sorry to hear of the  
death of Mrs Irvine she was  
seized with Paralysis say for  
a week quite unconscious and  
died on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January.

I think I told you her son Robert  
was married and lived at Magda-  
lene Bridge near here, they have  
no family, I guess, who is going to  
get married "Miss Sheares" she  
must be pretty old now, but is  
getting a very suitable match.

Mr Forbes, he is a deacon in  
our church, lost his wife last  
year, has six children one of his  
sons joined the church last  
year, marriage to be in April.

he is a very nice man, Miss  
Muir, Mr Woods sister is

also going to be married to a  
North County Minister, there  
is also a report of Margaret Ann  
Bell being engaged, I hope it is  
true, but I was up at Gilmore  
Place last week spending the day,  
and there was nothing said about  
it, do take care if you are writing  
not to mention any thing of it.  
Jessie Bell returned from London  
last week, she & Mrs Newcombe  
did not get on well together,  
I do not wonder at your being  
afraid of your young lady, what  
more natural, a sprightly  
nice, cheerful, lovable girl  
surrounded by a choice lot of  
nice young men, if the one spoken

of is a suitable well connected  
person with good prospects, ~~why~~  
things must just take their  
course, in the circumstances  
you cannot avoid it, I do not  
see but taking notice of the thing  
would make matters <sup>worse</sup> and perhaps  
put thoughts into their heads  
which were not there before,  
she is far too young and it  
certainly would be a pity if  
she were to make any engagement  
not knowing how things might  
turn out afterwards, I trust it  
is only a grasping ambition in  
her life. I have copied out some  
reets, waltzes and short tunes for  
you from my copied music

book. I hope I have selected  
those you meant, you would  
like, they are old fashioned  
ones now, I have not copied  
any music since, I was married,  
so, although they are not very  
well done, I think they are cor-  
rect. I will send them along with  
this, I am getting a hot stand  
made with a marble table be-  
low and mirror in the centre  
and the pictures are to be fastened  
on the top, where I think they  
will ~~sure~~ be better seen, than  
above the entrance, I expect it  
will be a very handsome affair  
but the cabinet maker has  
taken a long time to it, he

promised to have had it ready  
a fortnight ago, and now I  
am quite out of patience with  
him, as I thought to have told  
you this time how they looked.

Remember Marion very kindly  
to Ann, she intended to  
write her, but fell through it  
she will perhaps do so another  
opportunity. All the rest desire  
to be kindly remembered to

Mr Dawson yourself George &  
Ann, and believe me dear

Mary and you ever attached  
and loving Sister

Marion