

Walk on Mountain
spoiled by children
getting ill

McGill College
May 11th 1870

Ever your Rankine

Acc. 1443

My own dearest mamma,

I got your long letter yesterday, it was quite unnecessary to apologise for not reading it over for it was beautifully written. I do hope that you will pick up a little "brass" on your travels, for you have such a ridiculous way of depreciating yourself, you see how material I am getting, lecturing even you. I have not yet received your parcel but I suppose it will come later. It was very kind of you to think of getting me a bracelet, & as the weather is becoming quite summer-like it will be a very welcome addition to my muslin dresses. I am sorry that you forgot to send the pattern of your silk, as I should very much like to see it, you did not even mention what color it was.

As for the love you sent Miss Lunn, I am afraid it will be quite

state before she gets it, as she has
never been near me since you left
& I have not even seen her except
the day I lunched with the Campbells.
Miss Mac Donald has been most
kind, she came up to give us a drink
the other day, but I was out, she
seemed a little hurt that I had
not come to see her oftener, but I
will try & go soon.

Have prepared yourself for a string
of disasters, I told you that we
were going up the mountain on
Saturday. All the party assembled
we joined them, I armed with
some biscuits to give the children &
was in the best of spirits, anticipating
a charming day, longing to feel the
fresh mountain air, & pick the
spring flowers, do you know that
mountain has the greatest charm
for me, I am sure you would laugh
if I were to tell you what unmixed
pleasure it is to me at any time or
in any company to go there, but to
return to my tale, we all set out
but had not got half way up
when Eva clasped her hands over
her stomach, began to groan, & as
she must be taken home instantly

of course there was nothing for it but
to go with her, so back home she
had a slight attack of Diarrhea
(is that spelled wrong?) accompanied
by the usual stomacheic disturbances
and gave her a dose of castor oil. (I was
not a patient on the difficulty of
administering it) put her to bed &
the next morning she was all
right, however the consequences
did not end there, Hankins
had had a slight cold & I had
it on my mind to be very careful
that he did not get a chill on the
mountain, when he came home I
thought he did not look well, &
when he went to bed I was just
on the point of doctoring him when
Dr Evans came in to ask after
Eva, by the time he went Hankins
was asleep & no persuasion would
induce him to swallow the black
currant drink I had prepared, or
to allow the mustard plaster to
stay on his chest a moment. Next
morning he called me early, I ran in
& he complained of choking, I had such
a funny cough that though I never
heard anything like it before, I at once
though it sounded rather croupy

I got the ipecac directly & gave
it to him every half ^{hour} ~~hour~~ ^{not} ~~quite~~ ^{quite}
quite enough to make him sick,
this relieved him very soon, I went
for the Doctor, not so much because
I was alarmed as because I thought
you would like me to, he said
that I had treated him quite right
said he had a croupy cold & gave me
directions what to do in case he com-
plained of choking again. I felt a
little anxious when night came
but I took him into my bed &
he slept like a top till 12 o'clock
then began to get restless, cough
& wheeze, so I gave him a very
small dose of five syrup in water
every quarter of an hour, I kept
his flannel round his throat
saturated with camphor &
laudanum, gradually his cough
got softer & by morning he seemed
much better, now he is almost
quite well only an occasional
cough, but of course I am very
suspicious of him till he is quite
well as I know real croup would
be no joke, as troubles never come
single & he has been complaining of
toothache occasionally as a diversion

For the last three days we have
had a steady rain which was very
much needed. It was the first
we have had since you left. Every
thing looks much beautiful. The
leaves have turned the grass green
a misty decay from showing up
all. All the garden is dug. The
potatoes etc. put in. We have had
one dash of sparrows & several
shubert. I go down to the garden
nearly every morning to take a look
at what is going on. Pick flowers
& examine the grass. Every thing
William says to reveal his love to
is sorry to see it quite as he had way
hard Adams last night. I as he
looked down to look him out for a
little walk just before tea. So we
up his time. William is going
to school on the afternoon. He
seems glad to get home. I had
been as good as possible all
the time. He has been in the house
I would not have had him in so
long but for the continued wet weather.
I saw Mrs. Smith's daughter yesterday
she desired me to give her one
she gave me quite a long account of
her bible school. The girls seem to be
very well satisfied with the work. Who
seems now to wish to stay on. Her class two

I hope I have not frightened you
by my long account of misfortunes
I only gave you such a full true
& particular account to show you
how careful I am, & what good remedy
I use, in fact to show you generally
how wise I am getting, Mrs Baynes
& Nina have been most kind
Nina slept here a night - we try be-
cause we refused to sleep alone she
also gave us a her lessons the day he
was really sick & did it - very well
too, of course it was a great relief to
me. Jessie M.S. - is still with them
& I believe Miss M.S. - is to come up
for a few days soon.

Marriages & engagements seem to
be all the fashion! I believe I told
you of several in my last & now I have
a most ludicrous engagement to inform
you of, of course you remember Mrs
Sitz-gibbon, in the course of her
travels she fell in with Mr Cham-
berlin (of the Gazette is he?) some paper
at any rate, & they are engaged, he
is such a small man & she such a
large woman that they must look
rather ridiculous, also I believe he
supports three sisters & a mother, & she
has 4 or five children - What a charming
large family circle they will have! - As
everyone says, we can only exclaim
"Poor little Chamberlin"