

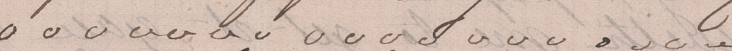
Murray Bay
July 29th 1870

Age 14 43

Dearest Mamma,

I received your rather melancholy letter on Tuesday & papa went to the post with me to get it, you need not have begged me so pathetically not to urge you to stay longer you seem to imagine that we want to get rid of you altogether I would have been rather glad had you decided on leaving one week later for then we would have more time to get the house in order before you came I had rather an idea to stay down here a little later this year, but of course we wont know about servants do you wish me to engage another girl when I go home or will we go on as before till you come out & decide. Maria went home to spend the summer as her parents particularly wished her there of course I will write to

But I have her come to town the same time we do.

Now I must thank you very much for your beautiful present. The watch is exquisite, I like plain gold so much better than enamel & a gold face is so much handsomer than a white one. I really don't know how to thank you enough unless by Nina's very original plan of putting a row of kisses  & the scarlet cloak too is so exceedingly acceptable, besides being quite the fashion, I like the ^{it is} short too for it looks warm & bright without making one completely red as the long ones do. I have not got my dress yet, as papa left all his baggage but a small part meantime, he hopes to be back here again in about ten days as a fortnight, when he intends to stay & get through some writing. The children would have written but I promised her a birthday party which was delayed on account of Mrs G's illness & is now taking place I will make her write & tell you all about it early next week.

Papa said that your sisters
complained of your dressing too
youthfully, don't believe a word
of it. I beg of you don't be per-
suaded to buy dowdy things, for
if you do I will take them all
myself, & make you wear what
you buy for me, so be warned
in time, besides you don't look
a bit nice in black, or worse
still ruffy browns, or melancholly
greys, you need pretty bright things
to make you look presentable.
Now please take my advice, for
I will see you next winter &
not they.

I am glad that you got
Mrs Baynes a ~~spectable~~ case, if
it will fasten on to her dress in
any way it will be quite a blessing
to her, for she spends a good part
of her time looking for her "eyes"
we else send some one else to do
so - I quite long to have my fingers
on those two boys at home, but
must of course wait patiently.

I must not leave the children
too long alone so Good by, dear
of mamma & many many thanks
from your ever loving
Anna

M. S. Mrs G. sends love to both
you & George