

Mrs. Harrington 1876-

St Andrews Sep 21<sup>st</sup>

Dear Mrs. Dawson. <sup>Re Anna's engagement</sup>

Many thanks

for your kind and cordial note. I have no occasion to consider what is etiquette as it is manifestly my duty to answer promptly. I was very much surprised when my son's letter announced his engagement to your daughter, and am glad to say that my surprise was not followed by any misgivings, though I scarcely know the object of his choice. My impressions of her through others were in her favor, - and Bernard's expressed confidence in her Christian character and his conviction of its influence over him for good - the thought of her congenial tastes & of her forcentage - all made my heart swell with gratitude to our

Heavenly Father for this gra-  
cious Providence. Your assis-  
tance of your daughters chur-  
ful disposition and domestic  
tates increases my satisfaction.  
That Dr Dawson and yourself  
had confidence enough in my  
son to commit to him so pre-  
cious a treasure is gratifying  
and I hope you will never  
have occasion to regret doing so.  
We have always been conscious  
of the value of Dr Dawson's ad-  
vice to Bernard and of his  
influence in his behalf.  
As to our respective families,  
there has been a great dif-  
ference in the education and  
social advantages of yours  
and mine. but if you take us  
just as we are, there will be no  
lack of friendliness on our part.  
I do not know any thing yet  
about plans for the future - but

hope as Bernard will have  
to depend on his wife for his  
living - that the young people  
will be satisfied with  
modest beginnings.

I should try to make some  
arrangement to get acquainted  
with your daughter at once, were  
we not all so absorbed in the  
care of our dear invalid. She  
was the sunshine, the very  
efficient helper in our house-  
hold, and her long, serious, ill-  
ness is most painful to us all.  
Though some days are more  
comfortable than others, I can-  
not say she is improving and  
find it very difficult to cheer  
her when my own heart is so  
heavy. Your late experience of  
this kind will increase your sym-  
pathy. Mr. Harrington  
joins me in the sentiments of  
this letter and also in recip-

Receiving your friendly greetings.  
Our dear invalid wishes to  
be remembered to you and  
sends her love to Miss Dawson  
(We must learn to call her Anna)

Believe me

Dear Mrs Dawson

Yours affectionately  
Laura Harrington.