

Dec. 14th
1892.

West Hill, Hurstman
Edgemoor

Acc. 976

My dear Lady Dawson

Our thoughts always
seem to turn to you, more especially
at Christmas time, when you
have often remembered us with
a few kindly lines, & tokens of
good will. This year, I am writing
more particularly to thank you
& Sir William for your kindness
& hospitality to our nephew Herbert
Beale, to whom Sir Thomas
bestowed a fine introduction
to you; he spoke gratefully of your
kindness & the pleasant time
they spent at Montreal.

He came home in the spring
via Japan but having been
detained six weeks at Denver
where Mr. Mitson his friend nearly
lost his life from typhoid.

I hope all is going well with
you, & all whom you love, - especially
Gua & the grand children, & that you

& Sir William have still the
health & strength to accomplish
at least a goodly portion of what
you desire.

You may be interested to hear
that my Husband at the end of
this year retires from the profession
in which he has worked so hard
for 41 years; & means to devote the
larger portion of his leisure to the
Public work, which he has so
much at heart; we hope also to
have him a little more with us,
than we have done for many
years, & this has been a long
cherished wish.

The new year we hope may prove
a brighter one to us, & to many
friends than this one has been;
it has been one series of grief
& anxiety, sorrow & distress - tho'
we try to remember the blessings
too.

Last January I lost my beloved
Sister, Mrs. Arthur Chamberlain
after a long & very painful illness
her Husband lying at the point
of death at the time from

Influenza; he has recovered in a
measure, & with I hope he better
beh. The day she died my husband
fell with Influenza, 4 servants
& their laund. They were all very
ill, but all recovered; Clara
unfortunately had all the compli-
cations, double pneumonia,
pleurisy, abscess in both ears, &
other troubles; we scarcely know
how she pulled through, & I never
knew through such a month; I was
nursing & with them all, & never
took it.

We took a house on the fort shore
about 3 months this summer
& that did her much good; we
have now been to the sea, & are
advised to stay here till March. We
hope all will be well now.

My son is pretty right again but
had a narrow escape of his life in
May, when he has pitched off his
horse, broke his arm very badly
injured his elbow & was a long
time getting over the shock; but
fortisine helped him mend.

His wife & the late grandchild are
very well, & often come to cheer &

lives us up. Since then I
had my parlow heated dangerously
tho' in fork & knife from typhoid,
but with the help of two excellent
nurses, we pulled her through,
poor thing.

Already winter has come here
& I suppose still earlier with you;
let us hope it will not be a very
severe one; we are thoughtful not
to be sent abroad for it, but hope
for a little peace here.

This is nothing but a heath domestic
letter; but I should like to much
to have a few lines, if you have
time, & to hear first a little of
yourselves, & if all is well with you.

Please to give our kindest remem-
brances to Sir William, the "our"
comprising Clara, (who never forgets
him), & with love to yourself.

Believe me, very sincerely yours
Felix Martineau.

Surely I have never wished all
the good wishes of the season, but
I earnestly do so.