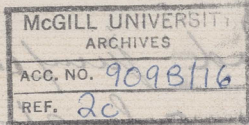


Edinburgh Sept 20 / 1870.



My Dear Anna

My first duty this week will no doubt be to give you some account of my little journey. Well, I started from

Maxwellburgh last Tuesday morning by the 9 o'clock train & got into

Edinburgh by about half past 8 after waiting a little while for the

10 train for Glasgow. The morning

was very unpromising looking

but as I had been shranked the day

before I was determined to set out.

It takes only a little more than an

hour to go to Glasgow, where I take the

Coalders junction, first station to the

city where you change for Balloch

The Balloch train was waiting & so

soon as the passengers had jumped
in off it went. It takes only about
an hour to go from Glasgow to
Balloch which is the station at
the foot of Loch Lomond. You pass
through Dumbarton, though you
get no view of the Castle, Bowling
& a few other places on the way.

About Dumbarton the scenery begins
to become rather pretty. Bold craggy
& wooded hills being common.

At Balloch the steamer was in
readiness. The sail up the Loch was
beautiful all the more so perhaps that
that day was not an insipidly
sunny one. The effects of light &
shade, & the heavy showers coming over
the mountains was very fine.

The many little islands with which
this Loch is dotted were beautifully
tinted. The bracken having already
turned of a yellow ochre tint &
the bright purple of the heather with

which they are all more or less covered. There are a good many gentlemen boats at the lower end of the Loch & at the various villages where the boat stops there are houses to let for summer as well as a hotel at each. It must be a really charming place for boating. The colours on the mountains which rise higher as you approach the northern end were really so magnificent. Covered with the best tracken & they showed tufts such as I never saw on our tree covered ones. The day too being well covered the wood distant views with a beautiful atmospheric blue & the mountains were filled with little gullies from top to bottom. In consequence of the frequent subsidence of these masses I was obliged to take a little four page book. I sometimes got out of my boat

then again dashing over some rock. I do not think I ever saw so many rainbows on the same day as soon as one vanished another took its place & gave really beautiful effects. The top of Ben Lomond, which is the highest mountain in sight - was rather shrouded in mist & only became really visible near & then. About 3 o'clock we got to Inversnaid which is nearly at the top of the Loch & here I went to the Hotel & got a room for the night. After having had something to eat I went out to see the waterfall of the river & also with the intention of being sketching. The waterfall though ordinarily of not any great size, was in consequence of the rainy weather really magnificent, quite a torrent. The water however was quite clear, & of a sort of

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transparent brown colour, a small bridge spans it, & as it rushes under among the huge rocks it is really a very picturesque waterfall. As heavy showers & tremendous gusts of wind were frequent the sketching proved rather disagreeable & I only succeeded in getting three rough pencil outlines of the mountains which by the help of imagination may someday be finished up into something. The upper part of Loch Lomond reminds me very much of the Saguenay, but the hills being bare of trees are more beautiful in colour & much more broken & less monotonous in outline. The little stunted woods at the foot of the hills much resemble those of some parts of the Lower St Lawrence. In the evening I had another look at the waterfall, & then amused myself by reading "Nature", talking into several people, amongst others of course the ubiquitous Yankee, who

were at the hotel, & looking over
the names in the hotel register,
Among the names were those of
several Canadians but I could
find no one of whom I knew
anything. Next morning at
8 a party of four, myself included
started for Loch Catherine. There
is a regular coach several times
a day connecting with the steamboats
but as there were so few of us
we were driven over in a little
waggonette. The road is very beautiful
& takes about an hour. The
morning was splendidly fine
& deliciously fresh. At
Stronachlachar at the west end
of Loch Catherine we got into
the little steamer Rob Roy which
plies on this loch. The scenery
becomes more & more beautiful
as you approach the Eastern end
where Ellens Isle, celebrated in
the "Lady of the Lake", lies. The

little Harbour into which the
steamer goes at this end is
completely shut in by the mountains
as you look back to the Loch. Here
you get a coach which takes you
for about two miles through the
celebrated Trossachs which is a
sort of pass through the mountains
with magnificent scenery.
At the Trossachs Hotel you get another
coach which takes you in about
two hours to Callender, you pass
several very pretty Lochs, with
jawbreaking narrows, & also go over
the celebrated "Breeg of O' Turk". Ben
Ledi & Ben Venue form all the
way striking features both being
somewhat high mountains.
At Callender I stayed a few hours &
walked about a little to see the place,
& also began a sketch. Starting
again by the 3 train for Stirling &
got there about tea-time, & in
the evening went out to see a

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little of the place. Next day was
spent in seeing Stirling, till 3:0⁰C
when I took train for Edinburgh.

Stirling Castle is well worth visiting
it is a good deal like Edinburgh
Castle, but there is a little more
room on the top of the rock, which
besides the castle holds the Cemetery,
& Greyfriars Church. The Cemetery
though small is very tastefully
laid out, & contains a number of
monuments, statues, &c. Among
others those of Erskine, Knox & many
other celebrated Scotch reformers.

There is also a massive monument
to the Covenanters, & a very beautifully
executed group in white marble to
that martyr (I forget his name)
who, you remember, was left tied to
a stake till the advancing tide covered
her. From the Castle there is a
magnificent view in all directions
the highland mountains, from which
I had come, closing the prospect to

3 the North & West. There are three
viewing places at the castle battlements
called respectively the "Ladies view",
"Queen Marie's view" & "Queen
Victoria's view". At Marie's there is
cut in the wall the letters M.R. 1566
& at Victoria's V.R. 1840. Some
of the buildings in the enclosure of the
Castle are very old, & quaint looking,
with grotesque figures sticking half
out of the wall supporting pilasters.
Near the castle is the former residence
of that Earl of Stirling to which
Nova Scotia was originally granted.
The place seemed to be overrun with
tourists & everywhere you meet
people would meet a few consulting
their guide-books as they went along.
The new Wallace monument, near
Stirling is a prominent object in the
view from the castle, it is very handsome
but rather clumsy. was seen
on the railway at Edinburgh
obtaining a satisfactory view of the

old ruined Palace at
Lithlinow.

Sept. 22.

You see I have given you a long
rambling account of my trip,
neither poetical, or romantic. That
you can do for yourself as the
whole region is traversed in Sir
Walter Scott's "Lady of the Lake".

Your sketch which you sent to
Christina is very pretty. I especially
admire the rocks, which from
personal experience I can testify
to be very difficult. In fact it
seems almost impossible to
properly depict foreground rocks.

A very good Idea which is in a
little book I have I would recommend
you to try. Namely, ^{seldom or} never to paint
on the white paper just as it is
but after you have sketched in your
outline to give the whole paper a
light wash of Neutral orange,

composed of brown madder & yellow ochre, the tint can of course be changed according to the subject, by putting more of one colour or the other. My greatest difficulty is to mix up a suitable colour for some things, & if one is chosen by the help of a book it usually turns out not at all the thing.

I got letters from Joanna & also one from Isabella, telling of her safe arrival so far of Falton Point - Day before yesterday. It was quite a surprise to see one from Isabella so soon, & very kind of her to think of sending it the way she did.

Pray ask her to excuse me from writing her this mail as I have already written so much that I am quite tired.

As you say the idea of tinting & shading over in pencil was derived from Mrs Gilbert, & I did

not intend to claim any
originality of in suggesting it.
I happened to remember it when
at Burntisland & merely thought
I would try how it would do.

I don't know how many mistakes
I may have made in this long
letter, as I cannot really be
bothered reading it over, nor yet
how many so I may have
perpetrated.

Aunt Cleopatra & Mrs Reid were of
here a few days ago, spending the
afternoon. Mrs R. looks wonderfully
well & you would never think
from her appearance she was the
mother of four children. I had
never seen her before.

Enclosed is a rather funny little
o'crap about Paris.

Believe me, with best love

Your affectionate brother

George.

Reading Wp & Co. Station
Reading