

5 Rue de Valenciennes

Paris

Saturday Sept. 25

1875

My dear Anna

I received your startling letter on Thursday and have been thinking ever since how to answer it. I must confess to you that I was not altogether unprepared to receive the news, as Mother had hinted at something of the kind being on the tapis in her last letter, and I have had the alternative clearly before my mind since then.

I must say I can only look upon it all with unmingled satisfaction, especially as I have perfect confidence in your own judgement and decision. You can hardly expect me to realize it all at once, however; but still I think I know something of what it implies; and I hope you will

I cannot write to Mr. Lemmon  
at present as I do not know his  
address. But perhaps he may  
write to me, as Mr. Crow knew  
my address when he was in  
Liverpool.

I have begun a correspondence  
with Ella and wrote to her  
yesterday, but of course I did  
not say anything about all  
this. I till when I hear from  
you that you have announced  
it in Montreal, I dare say  
you will have no objections  
to my letting them know at  
Edinburgh, as you have so  
many people to tell the news  
to, unless you would prefer to  
do so yourself.

And now I have one  
more thing to say. Do not make  
the engagement a long one, as  
there is no reason in the world  
why it should be. I was telling

give us credit for having hearts after this as well as your-  
half of humanity, although we do stuff our heads full of  
Mathematics + Business and other kinds of rubbish &  
talk as if we cared for nothing else. I think I am in-  
debted to Jamie Wilson for my first rational ideas on  
this subject; and since I have seen our cousins in  
Edinburgh, and how happy they all are in each others  
company, I begin to ~~understand~~ understand what peo-  
ple mean when they talk of bliss. You see I am only  
at the beginning, or perhaps as far as the "Second  
Intermediate" but certainly not beyond; so you  
can hardly expect me to appreciate, as that is a sub-  
ject one does not learn till entering the "Senior Class".  
It is very good of you to tell me all about it;  
I shall certainly write to Dr. Harrington to congratulate

him, as I have very good reason for doing so. In fact  
to tell you the honest truth, I think he is the best-off man  
in the Dominion. Perhaps I should chapeily tell him so  
as no doubt he is fully aware of it himself; & one  
does not like to be told over & over of any what one knows  
already. You must inform me whether he likes his first  
name contracted or not, & if so, how it is to be spelt.

I try to inform you that I believe your watch  
stopped for an hour and then went on again. I have  
often known such things to happen, and besides I would  
believe any thing that you said was true. I know myself  
what it is not to be believed. Perhaps you remember  
what I prefer to; but if you do not, I will tell you all  
about it, if you promise never to say anything about  
it to anyone, but I still learnt a useful lesson by it and  
am not sorry now that it happened as it did.

Jessie one evening when I was  
at tea at Gilmore's place, a few  
items of news about the people  
she used to know when in  
Canada, and happened to men-  
tion Doris's long engagement.  
Mr. Bell at once chimed in that  
he did not believe in long en-  
gagements, and thought that  
no one had any right to pro-  
pose till they could offer to ~~sup-~~  
~~port~~ a home at the same  
time. Of course he wished the  
application of his statement  
to the case in point, when I  
explained how it happened;  
but still I agreed with him in  
making this a general rule.  
Now I should very much like  
you to tell me whether I was  
right or not in doing so; for  
if I was you should not blame  
your "Bernard". Suppose he  
had kept you waiting all  
these years? I think he was  
very considerate & self-sacrif-

rificing. You would have been tired of each other  
by this time; and Tina tells me that people do  
not get tired of each other when once they are  
married as I can readily imagine.

And now that I've said everything  
that I can think of, I suppose I had better  
come to a conclusion. Please tell me what  
George says about it all. I wonder whether he  
will say what he really thinks. It certainly  
will be a wonder if he does. I am quite longing  
to write "Miss Dawson" on the envelope, and  
"Mc Gill College" after it so you must excuse the  
writing. With my most hearty congratulations, believe  
me very (?) dear Anna, yours ever  
W. Williams

Tuesday

My dear Anna

I can still get a half sheet into my letter, which I am glad of, as I wish to mention that I enclose a letter to Dr Harrington which I shall be much obliged if you will forward to him, only however, if it meets your approval. It is rather formal I am afraid, & if you don't like it, I will write him another. I am sorry not to try but it is an envelope but I have none smaller, so I hope he won't mind my enclosing it in yours.

I have also a piece of news of which I must make the most, as I so seldom have any at all. I met Miss Baff yesterday evening in a Stationers on the Rue de la Paix. It was between the new Opera & the Vendôme Column, which by the way, you may