

Interesting letter in part re piano.

To B. J. H. in England for his sister Laura

1885

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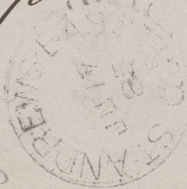
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Docr. B. J. Harrington
of Canadian Agency
9 Victoria Chambers
Westminster
London, England



LONDON
JUL 1 1856
W. S. W.

St. Andrews.

June 13th / 85.

My dear Berrie.

I was just

telling Father this evening
that it was a shame that
neither of us had written
you. and he said I must
be the correspondent. It is
a pity that he writes so seldom
as he writes a good letter.
Well the piece arrived
safely and is it not a
grand one - in more ways
than one - We had quite
an exciting time getting
it into the house - there
was not an inch before
between the sitting room
door and coat stove -
and Father. Says he would

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rather help raise a 40
ft. farm than more an-
other such piano!; fancy
10 men all lifting - The
old one is quite smutted -
poor thing! we have not
managed to dispose of it
yet. I wish we could.

If the council would only
make a purchase for
the Town Hall - but they
are a stingy set, about
as bad as our farmer
who would rather go to
the trouble of hauling out
our boat, which is full
to the top, than pay 3 ^{cts}
to cross on the ferry!!!

Just this summer when
a boat would be so very
convenient - he will not
be able to use ours - as

A-leaks dreadfully - You see
it has not used at all last
summer, and Father had
two coats of paint put on
it, hoping that then it would
be all right - but alas!!
But I believe we are to
have a foot-bridge, so
that will be somewhat
more convenient. -

Anna is by this time quite
"at home" in Mexico, as I
had a note from her say-
ing they intended leaving
Monday evening - It is well
that they are out of the city
now as it is growing warmer
daily - This evening is
very close, notwithstanding
a thunder storm at tea
time -

Father had a letter today

from Mr. Gibb in which he
says that Miss Arkey, while
visiting Charlie fell down
several steps & broke her
hip bone. Charlie sent im-
mediately for Dr. Howard &
nurse. & the Dr. says she
must remain where she is
for several months as
moving would be fatal.
Poor Charlie regrets she
cannot be moved as his
bone is not at all suitable
for an invalid. Dr.
Drake who lives in Athol
ford, although not practicing
will attend her. —
You no doubt have heard
of & perhaps been on the
steamer "Peerless" which
ran between Greenville &
Ottawa, well in some
mysterious way she took
fire the other day. & is

all burnt with the exception
of the keel which is iron.
Fortunately no lives lost as
she was at the Monte bello
Wharf - Quite a loss for
The "Company" eh?
Since seeing you we have
only had two or three
times from Walter so
cannot give you any
Aruprior news. I hope
he is getting well again
& that Baby is keeping
up the good reputation she
has had all Spring -
Lillie expects to come up
here for a visit - perhaps
this week. It will seem
strange to have her in
the house again - so
that side of the house
has drifted away from

us or be from them, the
last few years —

Well dear old Barnes, I
must stop for tonight —
as I have a S. S. lesson
to study — Mr. Peterson went
to town today & she wants
me to take her class tomorrow
& I suppose I will have
to do so, although I much
prefer being taught than
teaching the infant class.
however, it is only for
one Sunday —
good night — will finish
tomorrow — Hope you
are keeping well and
enjoying yourself —

Sunday Afternoon. After
S. S. I, with four others went
to the Episcopal church
as Mr. Peterson is away —
The English church people

have got a young student -
I believe by name. He
is nothing wonderful, but
quite an improvement on
Mr. Lonsdell who poor man
will never be fit for any
more "lecturings" -

Such changeable weather as
we are having yesterday
very warm. & today cool.
& very windy.

Father & Mr. Walsh have
finished the bridges on
the other side. of course
there is considerable
fencing to do yet: but
that will do later.

Our coal comes this
week, & really it will
be quite a work to make
room for it, in the cellar
as we have so many potatoes.

I suppose by this time Anna
has heard particulars
from you of your engagement.
You will have considerable
writing to do & I hope
you will manage to let
us hear from you now
& then -

Father is sitting beside
me reading the New York
Observer - He is working
at the garden trying
to get the plants transplanted.
Mr. Gith sent us a whole
lot of beautiful foliage
plants - How much
I am sure for this time
Lots of love from both
of us - from your loving
sister Laura