

McGill College

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My dearest, dearest George,

The days & weeks seem long since last we heard news of you, & that wild savage region you had to pass through is an object of dislike to my mind. Oh my darling how I wish I could have the hope of seeing you this winter, a few months of absence I can go through quite cheerfully & without much sense of loss, rather enjoying the news from foreign parts - but so long, so long, it eats into one's heart, the vacant place seems constantly more vacant, the dear voice further away, & you are so reserved that the little confidences & amours - to gather from your eyes & manner of saying things, are now quite unattainable, & I only hear the news about your outer life. I wish dear that you could have

loved me with that same kind  
of love, I loved you with & we  
might have been even more to  
each other, but after all every  
one must do as his own nature  
dictates, & if I have the mis-  
fortune to have such an in-  
satiabile craving both for giving  
& receiving sympathy, it can't  
be helped - It seems such  
ago since I was engaged, that  
your longed for words on the  
subject - seem as if they w<sup>d</sup>  
never come - I sh<sup>d</sup> so like you  
to be pleased about it, I sh<sup>d</sup>  
so like you to feel that you  
really do like Bernard, I feel  
as if, our home w<sup>d</sup> be home  
to you too. It w<sup>d</sup> be the  
crowning pleasure of that new  
home, to have you with me  
my dear dear boy, for no new  
love will ever take one moment  
of the place that belongs to you  
& I hope you will look after

me & scold me & laugh at me  
just as you used to - Even your  
scoldings seemed nicer than other  
people's praise - how am I writing  
treason to Bernard? I think not  
I don't think that loving the old  
snare will make me less faith-  
ful to the new. I will not take  
down yr picture to put up his,  
though there was no other nice  
place to hang it, so he got me  
a pretty velvet stand, & its place  
is on my table a new place  
for itself. On Saturday we  
had such a lovely walk on the  
mountain, the new park road,  
make it more beautiful than  
ever, we went up through  
where redpaths used to be, & then  
wandered away back to where  
we had most exquisite views of  
the back river, & the setting  
sun just like what you described  
in yr poem - "Far on the West  
ward river lay like molten  
gold the dying day"; do you

remember? I do not quite re-  
collect the next part about the  
twilight, but intend to look it  
up it is such a perfect description  
do send me some of those scraps  
of verse that make themselves  
in yr head, they will be quite  
safe with me, & they will be  
such a pleasure to me - I am  
very anxious to hear all about  
Victoria, but you are so good  
in writing about all that happens  
that we are sure to know how  
you find it - Interruptions  
up to half a dozen or so have  
already checked the current  
of this epistle... The last one  
was a letter from Jack Mc-  
Lennan congratulating me on  
my engagement!!! He is now  
at Cambridge studying.

Maggie Fartin leaves Montreal  
next Thursday, with her hus-  
band & child, for Winnipeg  
is it not a wretched season  
for such a journey? I really

pity her though there has been so  
much indecision about their  
prospects that even this settlement  
comes to her as a relief - all their  
pretty things are to be sold by  
auction on Wednesday, & they are  
not likely to get much for them  
as times are so bad. If I only  
knew when I was to be married  
I w<sup>d</sup> feel inclined to go & buy  
some of her things, but I don't  
know. Sophie Braune was in  
town for a few days, & it was  
& nice as ever & then Mamma  
went back to Kingsley with her &  
stayed 10 days wh. little rest  
has done her good I think.  
Eva & B. - have a small tea party  
nearly every Saturday night  
wh. is very pleasant for all  
concerned. I like juveniles  
much better than real "grown  
ups" as hina w<sup>d</sup> call them.  
Our Bible readings have be-  
gun again, & hina & I have

been marking up the subjects  
for the next few months, it is  
quite a literary labour I assure  
you.

Every one seems overcome by  
the extreme goodness of your report &  
the papers praise it; & letters from  
N. E. W. & S. continue to send its  
praises, but I suppose paper for the  
ward all such to you -

You will be pleased to hear  
that G. H. got through his exam. for  
being a notary, all right  
& is now a notary public, & in  
partnership with Mr Griffin  
who has a splendid business. The  
new G. H. says he is on the look  
out for a nice wife, & intends  
to settle down soon - his first  
notarial fee, was for Matt.  
Clymer's wedding contract  
quite a cheerful deed, but it  
hurt his feelings to have to put  
so I on it - Miss Jenkins was  
married last week to an English

to man named King, indeed  
is there have been a number of  
are meetings lately though not people  
you knew.

The weather has been as wet  
dark & dark as one supposes English  
weather to be, & what darker  
its picture & I paint. the old  
traditional clear Canadian sky  
seems a myth now. & till the  
last few days it has been  
bitterly cold as well -

The Campbells gave a swell  
dinner party for B. & I the other  
evening & the worst of it was  
that he was in Ottawa & con-  
sequently & not come, & I had to  
go all by my lones. Everything  
was very fine indeed, & I nearly  
expired with a sense of oppression  
when Dr C. himself took out  
in, I don't like being honoured  
but I wd much rather live in ob-  
scurity, & the next person wd probably  
enjoy the honours more.

now dear I want to ask yr opinion  
you remember the plan of paper  
house, well it is nearly fin-  
ished now & he wants B. & S. to  
live in it - & he proposes to give it  
to us for a nominal rent of say  
£100, wh. wd be a loss to him, &  
it does seem to me as if it wd be  
rather a "white elephant" to us, but  
papa declares that it is so well  
planned that it will take less  
fuel, less water & gas, to supply  
it than if it were smaller, but  
I am a little doubtful. Now what  
do you think? I sh<sup>d</sup> hate to have  
to keep up appearances on a small  
income, & yet it might be stupid  
to throw away any real advan-  
tage because it does not suit  
my own ideas.

William writes very much  
& such long full letters, quite  
delightful I forward you 2  
wh. give an idea of his life over  
there it seems rather comfortable  
& his being accepted for an air  
perfectly splendid -

This is what I call a jagged  
letter all scraps & edges, but these con-  
tinual interruptions must be blamed  
for that I not yr ever loving  
aunt