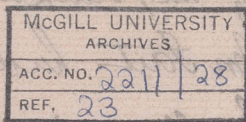


Mr Dawson
No 70 Gala Hill Cottage Burnside
August 4th 190.

Dear Mr. William



Since I last wrote
I have spent three days in Edin shops, &
in addition to some Bell's wedding things
have got all that I intend to purchase,
except a few trifling things the making of
which depended upon the decision of other
material. Shopping is always fatiguing,
so I thought it a much better plan to
get it done soon & avoid overfatigue
before leaving. It will be useless to go into
detail about my purchases. The August dress
expended on about £9. for silks & about
£5. for a breakfast set which is to be delivered.

from the said gentleman I received a
letter stating that he was the manager
of the bankrupt builder's estate, of which
Mr Pitt had been factor & the rent all he
legally received by him. I have answered him
thus as there has been three distinct claimants
for the rent, I cannot pay any of them without
a full satisfactory statement of the affairs, that
I may be safe from having to pay more than
once. I had the end of the time for which
you engaged the Cottages will be the
earliest by a date to pay the money. I have
heard nothing farther. but you ^{may} feel sure I shall
not pay rashly or without best advice & witnesses.

It is not the very least annoyance to me as yet
at the worst I can have it for Mr Bell to tell.
It has been rather a pleasant excitement to
vary the rather monotonous life we are now
leading. Pray don't get your worry about it or I
shall regret having told you. It is so natural
to me to tell you everything that happens to occupy

My thoughts at the time. We have had a dreadful
joy now for three days causing accidents on the
North & South on railway lines. It makes one
shudder when I think of the sea. How I long to
be reunited at home! In a letter I had from
Mrs Cunningham she tells me you went out
with Miss Rye & her boys. I dare say you helped
her in some way. You will also be able to
give an intelligent opinion of her scheme, which
I should like to hear. I have not read a page since
you left. I have just begun to insist upon having
the journals undisturbed. As the tide suit I have
begun again to bathe before breakfast. I have
been enjoying the most delightful, buoy, refreshing
sleep I have had since I was a girl. I rise with
a satisfied feeling. I know that I have no work
before me, if ever I am to grow stout it must be
now. Percy is very well. The girls tempt him to
a good deal of idleness. but he will speak for himself.
He seems fond of Ella, who is now with us. She is gentle
& intelligent & truly Christian. I have asked her to speak to G.
on various subjects which she is very willing to do. She sleeps
with me. Affectionate & warmest love of yours
Loving wife Maria

to me on board the "Restoration". I will
bring with me an invoice which may
save trouble at the Custom House. What
you left me in the Bank will I think
pay all bills & my own & Percy's expenses
here. The housekeeping expenses here for the
months are large a good deal than
I calculated they will be - we have however
for the last fortnight had a large household

I have had some trouble about the
rent. A sister-in-law of Mr. Jait's called to tell
me she had a legal claim on it, for
a debt of £60. owing to her by Mr. Jait. showing
his written obligation to that effect. Just
Mr. J. called for the rent, & on telling him of
the claim proposed he owned its legality, but
said it must ^{pass} through his hands to her. I declined
to pay until further satisfaction was given,
& the same evg. a gentleman from a lawyer's
office in Edin called to warn me not to
pay to any one until I had ^{the} given an Order for £50.