

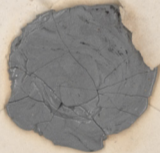
Jan/47
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Tuesday

POST OFFICE	CITY
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ACC. NO.	1377
REF.	15-B-18

Miss Margaret A. G. Mercer
11 Arminston place
Newington
Edinburgh

JAN
13 FRI
1847



24 St Patrick's square
Tuesday Evening

Dear Margaret

When I last wrote to you, I expected that we should now have been able to speak to each other on a subject of which I did not then dare to write, and though I had made up my mind, and also promised to your father, to consult him before saying anything to you, I had no anticipation that he or your mother would not consent to our having so much communication as would enable us thoroughly to understand one another's views and pur-

poses, in a matter in which
we are surely not less in-
terested and likely to be
affected for good or evil than
they. It may be that,
in so long a correspondence,
we should have been more
explicit ere now; if so the
fault is mine, and all
that I can now say in
apology for it, is that was
at least due to other causes
than want of affection to-
wards you. This however ren-
ders it all the more proper,
and even necessary, that we
should now have an
opportunity of consulting with
each other.

Though I believe that this
is right, and should not
have been opposed by your
parents, I have waited in
the hope that their views
might be somewhat modified.
I believe, however, that I
have waited in vain, and
in these circumstances I have
determined to ask an inter-
view with you, that we may
have a few minutes con-
versation on what it is right
for us to do in the very dif-
ficult circumstances in which
we are placed,

I do not know what
time or place will be con-
venient or even possible

In you, if disposed to grant
this request; I may suggest,
however, that if you could
take a walk in the meadows
on Friday or Saturday next, I
will be on the north side,
near the place where we used
to enter them from the square
behind Windmill St, on
those days, from 2 o'clock till
dark.

You must understand, dear
Margaret, that in the event
of your considering it wrong
to meet me in this way,
or of its involving any incon-
venience or risk of injury to
your health, I do not wish you
to attend to it, for however hard

it may be to be de-
barred from conversation
with you, I can hear that
more early than I could
bring the cause of my in-
jury to you. It is also
possible that there may
still be some prospect
that your mother and
father may not always
be so inflexible. If you
think so, it may be better
to wait a little longer than
to do anything of which
they may disapprove.

In any of these cases,
I would of course like that
you should let me know

your opinions or position;
but as it is possible
that you may not be
able easily to do even this,
remember that it is better
~~that~~ for me as well as for
you, that I should have
a walk in the meadows
for an hour or two in vain,
than that you should get
into any trouble.

I feel, dear Margaret,
that in this matter we
have need of much wisdom
& moral strength; and I
pray that god may grant
us more than we have.

I feel however confident
that out of all these trou-
bles good will come; and
have even good hope that
your parents may be induced
to abandon the position
they have taken; since if
your feelings toward me are
as strong as mine are and
it have been toward you, it would
not be hard to show that
their present position is a
most injudicious one. This
is the chief reason for my now
being anxious to see you. I
am fully aware of the many
real sacrifices which you

must make of you go
with me; though I also be-
lieve that you would find
many countervailing goods
of which you can have less
knowledge at present. It is the
weight of these apparent sacri-
fices in your mind, that I have
always regarded as my chief
difficulty; and if I should be
so happy as to overcome that,
I would fear others little; if
that cannot be overcome, the
others of course need not be
meddled with

I am yours most truly
J. W. Dawson