

I thank you for the view of
Return over your letter, to show
some changes since I saw it, and recalls some pleasant
remembrances of your dear old city & dearest self; when shall I have
dear Margaret, the pleasure of a stroll along
Princes street with you again!

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It is very near the time when

the week closes, yet I shall try to write
an answer to your letter of Sept 2, and
perhaps I had better begin by giving you,
according to my usual custom, a "running
commentary on your letter; a practice
which you also should perhaps follow;
since from your stating that you think
of some things in my letter, and form
opinions which you do not mention,
because you fear you could not con-
vince me of their correctness, I must
infer, that you scrutinize and condemn,
without telling me your conclusions, a
course which lacks something of the
 candour & confidence of friendship; however
I must not blame you, since you say that
all these things are reserved for that course

communication - may I soon have an opportunity of hearing them. Seriously, however, I fear that even then I shall be unable to answer your questions. Every mind has its own doubts and difficulties, with which strangers cannot intermeddle; and which can only be solved by serious communing with itself and with God; for they alone have a right to enter into that inner sanctuary of thought and feeling where such doubts arise. I feel the want of true sympathy as much perhaps as you, yet, when you shrink from seeking it; and it is only rarely and incidentally that, in reading or conversation, I find anything that exactly suits my wants & feelings. In the absence then of that sympathy which can feel as we feel and yet think more correctly, we should accustom ourselves to self-contemplation, not to dreamy abstraction of our minds from realities, but to a rational scrutiny of our inner world, to tracing out our feelings - and the desires and actions which result from them, to their causes; and examining them in their mutual connections; and considering how

They are controlled or, if controlled at all, by the will of god or by our own conscience as weakened by his grace. If we can thus try and understand ourselves, we will not only have less need of advice, but be able to give it to others; and know exactly of what graces we are most in need, against what sins we should especially watch. After all, the best guide we can have in this process, is the word of god; though I would not think of despising the assistance of fellow believers.

It is perhaps just as well that I do not hear any Edm^d gossip, for the mention of your husband does produce a queer sort of feeling; and at least I should not be pleased to have your name connected with that of any one I thought unworthy of you; I do not know however to whom you allude in your letter. I hold that there are three indispensable qualifications necessary for the husband or wife of a sensible person - Piety, good sense, and good health; the absence of any of them, causes much need of forbearance, leads to many trials, to which no one

September 30th /45

25B

should willingly or without very strong reasons
expose him or herself - but I must not get
into a dissertation on matrimony.

Last week, I spent a good part of
two days attending a meeting of a mission-
ary committee, connected with our Church.
We have determined to send a missionary,
or two if we can afford it, to the heathen;
thinking that, though our country be young,
it is still able to do something towards spread-
ing the gospel to other lands. As the person who
appeared best fitted to go, had set his mind on
the South Seas as a field of labour, New
Caledonia was chosen, though I think we might
have found places nearly in as great need nearer
home. I hope the attempt will succeed, and
I have no doubt that the agitation of it will do
good to religion here.

My father has just finished his harvest -
we are now enjoying the most delightful season of
our year, when the temperature is moderate, the skies
serene - late fruits ripe - the leaves beginning to change
& the garden flowers to look drooping, giving warning that
the dark stormy weather of early winter will be here
ere long. May all good attend you and all your relatives,
give them all my kind regards Yours sincerely J. Dawson