

Pictou July 15, 1845.

29A

Dear Margaret,

If you were an ordinary correspondent, I should begin this letter with blaming you for not answering my last letter. Since, however, the original terms of our correspondence were that I should write without any promise that an answer would be sent, I have no right to do this, but must content myself with saying, that I have hoped to receive a letter by every succeeding mail for some time past, and have hitherto been disappointed — no small disappointment either I can assure you. What can have been the reason of your long silence?

Have you been travelling — or over-whelmed with household cares — or only very idle and not inclined to write? I hope that you have not been unwell, and that Dr. Kepp has not attacked your father or mother or any of my other friends. Or perhaps it is only some dearer than transatlantic friend, who has occupied your thoughts too much to permit any of them to wander over the ocean, in Her Majesty's mail bags. I hope soon to learn which of all these causes is to blame.

It is now the height of our short but beautiful summer; and bright sunny skies, fields covered with waving grain or scented clover or luscious wild strawberries, and woods in their fullest luxuriance, tempt me to ramble as of old among them.

As yet however I have had little
 time to gratify my love of rambling
 and trade however is much more busy here
 than last year, and most of the labour
 of the shop falls on me. By this
 I am of course anything rather
 than grieved; though I shall have
 little time this summer for study, and
 now for amusement except a little
 gardening, or perhaps a very little tra-
 velling. I have had one little fault
 and have made one or two interesting
 discoveries among the rocks

The geological society have published
 two papers for me on the geology of
 Nova Scotia. I scarcely think it nec-
 essary, for obvious reasons, to send
 you copies of the Journals containing
 these. If, however, you think that
 I should prefer to the letter my promise
 to send you any thing that I published,

July 15th /45

I shall present them to you when
next I pay you a visit, and I have
serious thoughts of doing so or trying
to do it next year.

We have been blessed with good health
and prosperity, since I last wrote. No
incident worth noticing has broken the
uniformity of our usual course of life;
and this, with the want of a letter from
you, whose contents might suggest new
thoughts, must excuse the flatness of the
present epistle. It will however serve to
show that amidst all my business pursuits,
and scientific trifling - and searching after
true and useful knowledge - and desire
to do good, I have some spare time
to think of you, and neither forget, nor
cease to wish for a renewal of our
many pleasant and in some respects va-
luable rambles & conversations
Give my most sincere good wishes & yours affectionately
to your father mother & all the rest
I. S. Do write soon & please
J. W. Dawson