

Pictou Nov 29, 1844,

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Dear Margaret,

To receive a letter from you is al-
ways a joyful event with me, and on
the present occasion, even more so than usual,
because, for some reason or other, I was
beginning to think it a very long time
since I had heard any thing of you; and
if I had received ~~now~~ intelligence by this pack-
et, I should have felt much disappointment.

We are truly a pair of great tra-
vellers; our letters would now almost
form a book of travels; and if they came
into the hands of any judicious booksman
who could add a few marvellous in-
cidents from his own imagination, would
make a very respectable appearance,
in comparison with some modern tours.

I, as well as you, have been travel-
ling a little since I last wrote to you; and
in a country in almost every respect the

Opposite of that which has been the scene
of your wanderings, the little province
of Prince Edward's Island, a strip of
land, about 100 miles in length, and
20 to 30 wide, without anything worthy
the name of a hill from one end of it
to the other; the whole presenting a suc-
cession of fine farms and beautiful woods,
spreads over a gently undulating country,
and intersected by bays and creeks—
short, a country too uniformly pretty to be
dearly beautiful. I went there chiefly for
the purpose of attending, for three or four weeks,
the lectures of the Divinity professor of our church,
who lives at a place called Pincetown; and
also to call on several people in the Islands,
with whom we have dealings. In these occu-
pations, together with riding about the country
— collecting shells—taking sketches— and lecturing
to mechanics institutes, I spent a month very
agreeably and profitably, in acquiring cash, know-
ledge and specimens.

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Although as I stated in my last letter I
have no fixed intention to abandon my pre-
sent calling, and indeed cannot do so while
duty to my parents requires my adherence to it, I
am well pleased with the time I have spent
in receiving religious instruction, and hope I shall
be able to devote more time to its careful study
than I have hitherto done. Most Christians,
I am afraid, devote far too little of their
time to the study of the Scriptures; I am
sure that I have done so, that my know-
ledge of the doctrines of the bible does not
at all correspond to their vast importance,
when compared with what I know of other
things of less necessity. I am beginning too
to take more interest in religious truths
than formerly, in proportion as I become
more deeply impressed with the value of re-
ligion and the want of christian activity both
in myself and others. For these reasons
I am determined to give as much attention
as possible to these subjects, that in whatever
situation I may be, I have knowledge not

of that kind which puffs up, but of that kind which may ~~may~~ make me more humble, and at the same time more useful.

If there be any striking difference in my habits of thought at present, from those which I had three years ago, it is in this, that I feel more strongly the importance and reality of unseen and spiritual things in comparison with those of this world. In this I know that you can sympathize with me, and this belief that we are one in faith and hope, is an additional ground of confidence and affection.

You speak of a professorship of Geology as if it could afford a subsistence. There is however in the Brit. Colonies no such thing as an endowed professorship of this or any other department of Natural History, and to teach it on one's own account, would literally be taking a stone for bread.

I do not however intend to give up Geology. I have too strong a love of nature for that.