



Peter June 15, 1844.

15/44

Dear Margaret,

A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of receiving the very beautiful purse sent by you from London; and which fortunately escaped the dangers connected with the illegal conveyance by which you sent it. To receive such a present, at any time, would be agreeable; but it is peculiarly pleasing as a token that, even amidst the bustle & novelties of London, your Transatlantic friend is not altogether absent from your thoughts; and what is more pleasant than to know that we are present in the thoughts of absent friends, whose images

are cherished in our own
hearts. I thank you therefore for
your pretty gift, which would, if
that were necessary, be an ad-
mirable souvenir of your goodness.

You must when you have leisure
give me an account of your London
adventures. You used to tell me
of some friends who were there, so
that I suppose it would not be
altogether a strange city.

You have now travelled almost
from one end to the other of your
little Island of Britain; your next
journey, if you are not tired of
the novelty and excitement of travelling,
when compared with the quiet security
of home, should be abroad; and
if I could overcome your extraordinary

preference of the old world to the new (which is very strange at present, when everyone seems to think that whatever is newest is best), I might hope that your next voyage would be to America. It is I am afraid, however, hopeless, since I have a recollection that you have told me already that you would not cross the Atlantic, even if I went for you myself, or some thing very like it. Yet who knows that you are not destined to "vegetate" somewhere in the "backwoods" of America (people in Britain always talk of America as if there were nothing in it but backwoods).

When I last wrote, winter was scarcely gone; now I may call it the height of summer, and within these few last weeks trees have come into full

leaf and blown; ~~and~~ the change from
winter to summer, always rapid, has
this spring been unusually so.

If the penmanship of this letter
is even worse than usual, you
must attribute it to want of time.
I was unwilling, however, longer to
delay acknowledging your gift, as it is
however I shall wish that, when you
receive my epistle, you may be in
health and happiness, in the best pos-
sible humour with yourself and all
the world; and therefore disposed
to judge even more lenient than
usual, the faults of your true friends

Y^r Obedient
S^r J. Dawson

P.S. My best wishes to all your friends
& relations. Mine here are well. I shall
want, eagerly you may be sure, for
an answer to my last & this or to both
together. Y^r Obedient