

54A
Oxford July 25/43

Dear Margaret,

As you will probably be surprised by the enclosure contained in this letter, I may proceed at once to explain it. Being in want of some Flower seeds, to make up an apartment, and having at present no correspondent in that line in Britain, I have ventured to trouble you to purchase a few for me. I have taken the list sent from Peter Lawson's catalogue, and have sent a half foreign which I think will purchase a packet of each. If they have not any of them, any others can be sent in their room. Or, if you think of anything new, you can substitute it for any of them. The seeds may be sent to Oliver & Boyd's warehouse, any time before the 1st of April, when they will send a parcel to us; or if Mr

Crerar, or Mr Purves, the bearer of this, have Scotland before them, and you should see either of them, they will take them to me.

The sovereign, also enclosed, is for your father, to be credited to the Scotsman account.

I was pleased to learn that the Scotsmen had arrived, after a very short passage. Mother desires me to inform you that the jar of preserves marked Gooseberry, ~~is~~ ^{contains} Black Currants, preserved with maple sugar (which tastes shilled in competition, I believe consider best for them)

News of every description is remarkably scarce here at present, and, unless I should have recourse to the weather, and tell you of a

long than in January, which reduced
 our roads to a state which I heard
 some one emphatically call "thin",
 and of subsequent frosts which
 have made them like granite,
 or of the quarrels, births, marriages,
 and deaths, of people unknown to
 you, I am afraid I shall find
 little of that description to tell.

I see, in the newspapers, an account
 of an ingenious gentleman who has
 invented a machine, in which he pro-
 poses to fly to America in 24 hours,
 when he has it properly "fixed", as they
 say here, I will come over some fine
 morning and make a call. That "fix"
 reminds me of Sicken's "American
 Notes". If you have not read them
 you should. do so, some peculiarities
 described in them, are a little exaggerated,
 but they are both amusing and instructive.

54B

January 25/43

Give my best regards, and those of my parents, to all your family. Notwithstanding the silliness of my present letter, I can assure you that my spare time, for some months past, has been seriously, and I hope, usefully occupied,

Mrs Margaret A. Mercer
6 Winchell St
Edinb

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and that my feelings of affection and gratitude, toward you and yours, are deeper and stronger than I can tell,
Yours affectionately
J. Dawson