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Boston, Nov 16, 1842

Dear Margaret,

The barge Scroster being about to sail hence to Glasgow, I intend to send you a small parcel of American magazines, which I hope you will favour me by accepting. I will also send a pair of moccasins or Indian shoes, made of the skin of the moose deer, by the Indian women of Canada, though in no way to be compared with the slippers which you presented to me, and which I value more than any present I ever received, they may be new to you. They are sometimes, though not often, worn by ladies here as house slippers. (Lady Falkland I believe set the example). You may try them, and, as they are durable articles, I may perhaps yet have the pleasure of seeing

how they fit. I hope that I may, for this hope involves pleasant anticipations of various kinds, among them that times may mend, for at present they are so bad that it is scarcely safe to import books or anything else in any large quantity.

It has occurred to me that, in writing to you, I should, ^{state,} more explicitly than I have done, the impressions which our intercourse has left on my mind, and the feelings with which I in consequence regard you. The truth is, that you have excited in me an interest ~~stronger~~ ^{stronger} & greater than I can feel for any other ~~one~~ person, and this not arising from any chance or accidental impression, but gradually growing from acquaintance with you, and founded on my perceiving in you a combination of qualities more agreeable to me than any other which I have ever found. Feeling therefore for

your affection thus strong, and
 which is increased rather than di-
 minished by the length of my absence,
 I hope you will neither be surprised
 nor offended at this declaration of
 it, although made in circumstances
 which I know few would choose for
 such a purpose; and as it must
 convince you of the implicit con-
 fidence which I repose in you, as well
 as of the favourable prepossession with
 which I must receive any intelligence
 from you, I hope that it will in
 no way tend to embarrass our pre-
 sent correspondence, nor to prevent
 us (if we can be nothing more) from
 being at least as good friends as for-
 merly. These hopes are confirmed by
 my reliance in your own good sense,
 and by my confidence, (without which
 I would never have written this) that,

whether my love be much or little
 valued by you, you will not re-
 gard it as either despicable or unworthy

Our autumn this year has been
 unusually wet and disagreeable,
 (Mother calls it a "Scottish winter") and
 as, in bad weather, there is much less business
 in business, I have had some leisure for
 writing and for the reading & thoughts necessary
 to writing. I have little else in the way
 of news to tell; but when I look back
 upon any past period, last summer for
 example, I can think of a hundred new
 facts which I have learned, and almost
 as many old notions which I have found
 to be mistaken, in those subjects which I
 have studied; and while this is a cheering
 indication of increasing wisdom both in me
 and the world in general, it also shows that
 there is still much to learn.

We are all well at present, my kindest
 respects to all your friends & relations, Write to me
 soon. With the sincere wish that all
 peace, prosperity and happiness may attend you
 I am
 Yours most affectionately J. W. Dawson

As the *Sesortia* will not sail so soon as I expected and may be long on the passage I will send my letter by post. The parcel will very likely be sent by Mr. Cramer who I believe intends to go on the *Sesortia*. Poor John has been very unfortunate in being connected with people who have means of not altogether robbed him of the earnings of the few years he has been in business.

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*Mrs Margaret of Alton
St Michaels
Coburn Burg*



November 16 - 1/42