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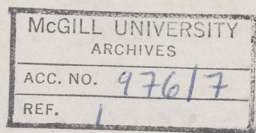
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Miss Margaret Merrett



MCGILL UNIVERSITY	
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Amman November 7<sup>th</sup> 1843

My Dear Margaret

I have forwarded this under cover to your dear Sister Marion, my reason for so doing is, that she can address it to the proper quarter - to Galaskiel, or elsewhere - Many months are passed, and gone since you last heard from me, I have not kept my promise, else this should not have been the case. Like all triflers, I find, though late, that "procrastination is the thief of time" - It was sad news to learn that you were laid upon a sick bed, to hear of your safe recovery was on the other hand, a source of joy. I hope that every vestige of the complaint has disappeared, and that you have regained the blithe, and happy heart you were blessed with in former days, if so, Maggie is Maggie again. Since I left Edin<sup>g</sup>: how many, and great have been the changes among friends, and acquaintances. Some have passed away, paid the debt of nature, leaving those near and dear to mourn the loss; some have entered the holy bonds of wedlock; some have had additions to their cares, and can now be called by the endearing name of Mother; others where, or how are they. From a few of the



many that I know when in Antiochia, an occasional letter reaches me, but what a merit of the pens honour me with a scrape of their pens - They - the many - are most litely engaged in the search after wealth & renown, or the cares, and anxieties of this world have led them, for interest, to cultivate new friends, and old ones are forgotten - That the postman no longer brings me, the how do you do epistles of some, I do not regret, but that others, who were beloved by me, do not write, and then forward me a few lines, is sincerely lamented. Marion writes to me, how I prize her letters, that the day may neer dawn during our pilgrimage here, when she will cease to afford me the gratification of reading her thoughts upon paper is my hearts desire - Her time is now much occupied, so that, I cannot expect to hear often, yet she will spare me an idle half hour occasionally. By neglect have I not forfeited the favour of some? such is perhaps the case - To you I feel that I have been unkind, I promised a letter & have not kept my word - accept of this as a token of my continued friendship - An answer is a boon that I have often craved, no one would more highly esteem such a favour from your hands. Grant my request, I shall never forget the kindness - Now I am off to other topics, you will



have had more than enough of the above, to try your patience -

When Maria heard from me, she would report to you how she <sup>was</sup> pleased - I am pleased to say that my practice here is better than a person of <sup>my</sup> standing could have expected, in so short a time - My expectations were not altogether realized as to the number of patients, I had through my predecessor Mr Thom, yet all of them continue to employ me - To the list I have made considerable additions, and from among <sup>every</sup> ~~all~~ classes - I should all go well my hopes of success are good, the professional brethren of this place are not remarkable for their amiable characters, in deed they are loose men - Thus far, I have been able to conduct my self soberly & orderly, which has done great things for me, and that especially among the higher ranks - For bringing me under the notice of the neighbouring gentlemen, I am indebted to Alex Carruther Esq; of Warmanbie, the most influential man in this quarter - Through his recommendation, and that of his family, three new patients have been added to my number within these few days - indeed they lose no opportunity of forwarding my interest - I ought to be very grateful for this good news, little did I expect such kindness from strangers. When the Senior Surgeon of Annan, Mr Irvine resigns business, my practice will receive a considerable addition - I say "will" - there need hardly be a doubt of it, unless some more weighty weight comes among us, a very untimely thing, we number 8 at present - I presume my chances



of survivorship are greater <sup>than</sup> those of a man bordering on 70 - yet  
who knows, the youngest may be the first to fall, fear not, but  
trust in Providence - Mr Irvine retains most of the better classes,  
his partner is not well liked, he drives dull care away, and drops  
it in the bowl - Helwell will be thrown aside by many of Irvine  
were to retire - By Carruthers & Marmarouch's help, I hope to walk  
tute Irvine's shoes, at least walk - er his partner out of some  
of the heavy purses - Mr Edgar is also on the downwind side  
of the hill, he and I are intimate, for a good reason, we help  
one another in labour, and in the end he may hand me a few  
patients - For the thus I care not a bawbee, some have  
much less to do than I have who are a stranger -  
Since I took up house here, my health has been very good,  
my bones are not over well thabeted, but that's of no consequence.  
I am hale, and sound as a gun. Sometimes not over buoy-  
ant, but on the whole, I am contented. I feel one great want,  
that of a friendly counsellor, no kind will that here. I know  
no congenial soul here, therefore no one, that I would advise  
with on any subject however trifling, so to ptod on the best  
way in my power is the only ~~play~~ for the present -  
I have now had a little insight to the houses of the inmates



of a goodly number in Arman - Like the people of most Towns  
of such a size, they are much given to Clash, anxious to know  
their neighbours business, every triffl is hen a 9 days wonder -  
There are several very good families, and many more bad ones, res-  
pectable, but dangerous - It is a tiresome task to manage  
household matters, I now find that a Ladys labour in perfectly  
conducting her department can be no triffl - My establishment  
consists of 4 living human beings, 1 horse, 1 dog, 3 hens & a  
Cat - descending to particulars - Mr Sandon is boarded with  
me for at least 12 months, and should he have improved the time  
he then enters as a pupil at a London Hospital - I receive  
60 guineas per annum, which will keep the pot boiling so much  
for Harry Sandon - I part with my servant girl at the first  
term, as she will not take less than £9.10. - per annum -  
My stable boy is a native of Arman, which is of some consequence  
to me, as he knows all the people in the Town, and neighbourhood.  
He can also give a hint, as to the stamina of the people, so that  
I may be guided in my dealings with them, that is, not to let  
the doubtful ones get too far into my debt - The above is what  
street critics would call a full, true, & particular account -  
For the last two months, I have been attending Dr Walter Scott



who you will remember as the friend, or more than friend, of the  
late Miss Pallison (am I right with the name) of Morningside —  
He was Surgeon to one of the steamers from the country to  
the West Indies, he has left that situation. his constitution  
ruined by Ague, Rheumatism, & what next, the Drapping  
by whiskey, or spirits of some kind —

I heard that you had paid a visit to Saulston, many thanks  
for your ~~visit~~ <sup>calling on</sup> to my parents. My Brother, Annie & Mr. Milne  
are pretty well, they have taken a house at Charming Cross —  
Mrs. Walker ~~has~~ had a slight cold, & Lee has been in attendance,  
I frequently receive a letter from them. All my relations are  
in good health, so far as I know.

The length of this scrawl will have tried your patience, but  
I am now near a close with it, as Jacob Faithful says,  
"better luck next time" to it, more said in fewer words —  
I would once more beg for a few lines, do me the favour —  
All your relatives & friends, I still bear in remembrance, and  
that with feelings of the most affectionate regard, and esteem —  
Accept of my love, coupled with an earnest wish that you  
may have once more tasted of the sweets of health and happiness.

Over



I am

My dear Margaret

Affectionately yours

David H. [unclear]

