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David Walker

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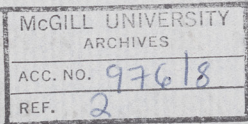
Windmill Street

Edin<sup>g</sup>

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Am an March. 26<sup>th</sup> 1844 -

My dear Margaret -

Time flies - is an axiom which man daily acts in direct opposition to, and one by which it appears, I am determined to test the good nature of my friends - On looking at the date of your well filled pages I am truly ashamed that I should have been so long in answering, and also of offering my grateful thanks for them. -

Believe me, I cannot express how pleased I felt at the receipt of yours, and to pleasure was added delight by the perusal - continue to bestow such rich presents. Never once dare to affirm that you are not an adept in letter writing, to spin the first paragraphs may give you a little trouble, but once started, your pen glides on easily, easily - By practice you must excel in common parlance, you have the knack. -

I am indeed pleased to find that you continue to enjoy good health, and have a good coat on your back. also that you are now preserving health - You have already had painful experience, that it is easier to keep, than make well. You have lost another intimate in the removal of Mr Skirring to London.

I trust the business upon which Mr S. has entered will prove, or rather  
is proving successful - Is <sup>the rich in a hurry</sup> ~~not~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~over~~ <sup>to</sup> anxious, to live in London  
will require a considerable increase of annual income, over what is neces-  
sary in Edin<sup>g</sup>. - I wish them both well, and trust they are so -  
Your description of Mrs K. Beyson tickled me not a little, I shall keep  
the vision in my brain until it shall be lot to have a peep at her -  
I was not aware, that young Ladies had a Doctors eye -  
You ask my opinion on the, Cold water System, alias, Hydropathy,  
I am at present engaged in the study of a work on the subject, and  
will tell you my opinion at a future date - It is however no new  
doctrine, as the records of ancient history & medicine attest -  
It is evident, that in the earliest ages the abundant use of water  
was resorted to, as the remains of ancient aqueducts (which must  
have poured in more water than c<sup>d</sup> be consumed for culinary purposes  
& simple ablutions) testify, and also the presence of Baths in Cities  
of the East - You are testing the powers of cold water, Miss Pirie &  
I would agree, for no Shilling would tempt me to plunge into cold  
water in winter. - My flesh is soaked often enough, in winter, with rain  
or snow, without the addition of such a cool customer after the  
warm bed - - - Is Miss Pirie still the same as of old, and  
her Brother what of him now a days? -

I suppose Miss J. Kuppell is in Edin<sup>g</sup>, does she improve as she  
increases in years, to my mind she is far inferior to what her elder  
sister was in appearance, but mind, what of it? - Are any of

our Edw's female acquaintance likely to shine, do they incline to  
put on a blue stockings - By the way, you will be delighted to  
see that so many works have been published during the last 12  
months, or thereabouts by Ladies, and in their own defence - You will  
also be glad to learn that their labours are certain to be attended with  
good results, that woman must rise both in a social & domestic  
capacity - The work of your townswoman Mrs Reid is I see favor-  
ably reviewed - I am pleased to find that you correspond with  
my sister - <sup>The</sup> ~~Your~~ intercourse will improve both, yet write carefully,  
but she is scrupulously correct to time - Christina is making up  
her lost time at Miss Plims near Melrose - If this girl's mind  
is properly nurtured, she will in my opinion make the best ap-  
pearance of the family - Her brains are of the right sort, and only  
want good training, such is my hope, may she be all I wish her -  
My Father & Mother are well, and happy -

I was lately favoured with a pretty considerable epistle from our  
friend Miss Sea. Mathew - She obliged me very much by giving  
me a sketch of many friends in Gala, and also of some of your  
exploits on horseback. Little did I think of ever hearing that the  
timid Margaret, who trembled at the thought of going near a  
rock on Arthur's Seat, would make such an excellent & daring  
rider - never write - "nervous" again -  
You are now on the eve of visiting the city, which you have

not inaptly called the "Modern Babylon" - An Englishman would  
prefer the name given to Rome of old, and call it the "Eternal City" -  
Do you mean to remain in London for any length of time? - I am sure  
that Mr. Stalker would be most happy to have your company, and if  
you could stay with him it would please the more. It would be use-  
less for me to point out to you objects worthy of a visit. See all  
that you can, but go leisurely to work, because, if any object is  
worthy of an examination, & perhaps a long walk or ride to reach it,  
it deserves to be ~~done~~ <sup>seen</sup> well - Again should time not press you, do  
not take over much for one day, travelling in London is very  
fatiguing; remember your rule to take care of yourself; besides,  
the mind gets confused with the numberless attractions of such a  
place. By endeavouring to visit all in a short space, the greater  
part is forgotten. An circumstance which strikes terror into the  
heart of every Son & Daughter of Scotland is the utter disregard of  
the Holy Sabbath, by the people of London - In that City, there are  
many good, but the terrible host, that parade the highways &  
byways of London <sup>who</sup> that care not for any good thing. You must  
see, to believe that such can be the case - For many reasons, I  
am delighted to know that you are at last bound for the  
Capital - It will increase your knowledge of the Country, &  
I trust elevate your <sup>in your estimation</sup> own, indeed make you proud of the Land  
of the Thistle - If as I speak of London, I would fain push my for-  
tune in it, but never wd I forget that it was not My Native Land -

Mr. Shalters address is 5 Charing Cross. When you have time, I would be happy to hear what were the impressions left on your mind by visiting London - By what route will you return, could it be so managed that you return by the per Railway, you come by Lancaster Carlisle, at which place I would meet you - Leg. I would be so happy, and if you could pass on to Auman still sure so, if not, then and coaches daily to Edw., from Carlisle & on through Auman to Glasgow, the mails from Carlisle to Glas. pass within a few miles of this -

From Maion you will learn, that after the next term, I am to have an old Lady and her daughter as my housekeepers. The Lady will manage all my house, with what little assistance Alice, (the daughter) can render her - You must know that Alice has been lame from her infancy, she has no power of her limbs, below the knee joints - she has also a <sup>lateral</sup> crooked spine - They will occupy two of my empty rooms - <sup>By</sup> <sup>their</sup> <sup>rent</sup> <sup>free</sup>, they have no salary, and thus I am saved a servants wage - The Lady's name is Mrs. Scambler, she is the widow of a Medicine man that practised in Cumberland - Should they and I agree, we will continue together until the happy day, when I may win a wife - So you envy me of my pony, and so do many Ladies - It is a really a handsome creature with a long neck, and beautiful head - It has never as yet had the honour of carrying a Lady, but could easily be trained, it is so gentle, besides, it canter & gallops very sweetly - Indeed I am very proud of my beastie - For information in regard to business see Maion's letter, I need only say it improves. The last additions to my list of patients have

been a step higher than formerly - There is also an increasing under-  
current in my favour among the higher classes - Forthas I am in-  
debted to Miss Carruthers of Karmantia, & Mr Capt: Alex Deron of Mount-  
Aman Cottage, at least, such are my two best friends.

You would receive a while ago per Carrier from Aman, a box  
containing two young Ladies & a Song - I was one day calling  
at a house, when a pin cushion, in the form of a Lady, was being  
made for the above mentioned Miss Carruthers. The article pleased my  
fancy, (although it is rather a queer use to make of <sup>the</sup> human form-  
divines), and I ordered two - It was a very trifling present, only it  
was new to me, so bought, & sent the same, One for Marion, & then  
for yourself - The Song pleased me from what I considered a very  
pretty accompaniment - Accept of them to please me & excuse  
the sending such trifles - I would have ~~sent~~ <sup>enclosed</sup> one for Jessie, but  
could not get another at the time, if you thought she would ac-  
cept of such a thing from an old friend let me know - Libbons  
plait - In Marion's letter, I sent my kind regards  
to all friends, so that, they need <sup>not</sup> be repeated so shortly after -  
I hope you will have a pleasant journey to London, & wish  
you safe home again - By the way some morning you might  
pop into St Pauls London, & see the manner in which prayers

are offered up in the large cathedrals - The music is grand, but  
the mind is not touched with any thing like religion -  
I am just called for & it is within 1/2 an hour of posty leaving  
so this long ramble must be closed -

Pass over any imperfections, for then a [redacted] for I have  
no time to look over this again -

Accept of my love & best wishes [redacted] in welfare  
& believe me to be

Thy Dear Margaret  
Ever yours affectionately  
Dana Walker