

My dear Margt^h Edinburgh 12 Janry 1849

From the wish so often expressed in your letters to have a few lines from me I shall take the advantage of this packet in doing so, my long silence is not from any unwillingness, but from two other causes 1st the little composition in my brains for letter writing 2^d the large number of friends as substitutes to supply this deficiency so that my correspondance has always been few and far between, but I am happy to see that notwithstanding the duties now incumbent upon you both as a wife and a mother you are still able to keep up the communication, and long may you be able to do so, I am happy to say that all the family (yourself excepted) and some of the younger branches dined at No 11 on New years day, — Mother has been laid up for five weeks with a severe inflammation in one of her knees but is now able to move about the house again, Mrs Watter has also been confined with a very smart attack of influenza but is much relieved this few days past, Mrs Prumerose and all her family has been residing with us for two weeks but is now returned home Mrs Cleghorn was in yesterday with her baby which is a very fat healthy child, all the other branches are well this is cause of gratitude and thanksgivingⁱⁿ to our heavenly father

you say Mr A Dawson. Thanks I look as well, and
youthfull as on his last visit to Scotland but looks are
some times deceitfull as well as smiles for notwithstanding
of my looks I do feel the infirmities of old age preping hard
upon me thus putting me in mind that my journey is fast
drawing to a close, may I be able in the language of
the Apostle to say I have finish'd my course I have fought
a good fight I have kept the faith henceforth there is laid
up for me a Crown of righteousness which the ^{Lord the} righteous judge
will give me at that day &c - was happy to hear that your
son is a fine fat healthy child, and I hope that your exci-
=llent theories respecting the training of children will prevent
him from being spoiled - there is nothing particular to notice
regarding the Church the Members are all much in their
ordinary^a health there are many of them frequently enquiring
about you - I see by your letter to Walter that you would
like to have my Brothers address - Walter Mercer
Woolen Manufacturer Cornish New Hampshire will
find him, - having confin'd myself to our own family
circle you naturally will expect that I should extend a little
and note down something else but this I must leave to your
younger correspondents, - please give my best respects to
William I hope he will get through ^{his} Lectures with satisfaction
to himself and profit to his hearers - Mr & Mrs de Sur Mr & Mrs
Ois & also Miss de after this long epistle please allow me to
subscribe myself your affectionate father Geo Mercer

Dear Mungt.

Father has left me half his sheet to sell up
for you we received your kind letters and were
happy to hear that you were all well as I am happy
to say we are also all now in good health Father
has told you about ^{all} our movements except Mr Bell
They are all well especially little Helen who is
the finest of all James children like the Ladies
daughters the best comes himmost. That's for
William to hear too as it happens to be applicable

We are going to a party to night to Mr Thompsons
I expect it will be quite a musical treat as the
has just given £40 to John Renton for an Organ
Mother was invited but cannot go but I don't
think she cares much for Music - observing your
remarks about Elliot I got it out of the Library
but we think nothing of it at least as far as the end
of the first Vol. etc all about Goblins & Vandal's
we have got the quarterly journal of Prophecy
a good work but dear £6 it is published in London
by Wicket Burners St.) you say you hope I am

Keeping to the temperance plan I do & feel
the benefit of it I have also begun to try the
vegetarian plan I understand there are as many
of them in the States as there are Sec totatters here
that is to eat everything that grows nothing that
has lived I have read a long work upon the
subject very ably written shewing that grain &
fruits & roots are the natural food of Man for
which his Physical structure is most adapted

I must tell you that Maroon is likely to
get into a better house at Whitsunday the one
belonging to Tho^s which the Free Church Ministers
occupied - George has bought some old property
in the main street near Thos of which he is
going to make his Warehouse & manufactory
and they leave the present place entirely at
the term we all expect the change will be very
beneficial to Maroon it is such a low lying
sunk like place where they are & she has not
been very strong for some time - I must
now finish Helen joins me in kind love to you
& to Mr & Mrs respects to Mr & Mrs D - you affly,
Walter W. Beer