

Thursday 1849
[c. 1850]

Dear Margaret

I got down & wrote to day
as I have a little time & spare, and therefore
may be able to write something better than
I can when I leave it to the last.

I am almost vexed that you should
have taken so much trouble about the
Lecture. I rather think the notes of it
must have been lost or destroyed or
do not look any more for it. With respect

to your question about the clothes I have no
reason to believe that there is any disease
where I got them washed. I think people's
fears here are beginning to subside. The

weather since I last wrote has been re-
markably mild. Yesterday it was like

spring; to day it is warm but very

foggy. I have not had time to have another
good walk. It gives me great pleasure

I hear of all that you are doing, though some-

times it makes me feel a little home-sick

by lingering up before me all the pleasant hours

I might spend with you, I hope you take walks when you can, and I suppose in some of these fine days you give Martin George a little fresh air. I seldom see the P. Chronicle as I have not time to go & reading rooms or to borrow it. On receiving your letter however, I got a copy and read the communication you mention, which is rather a lame one though written in no very bad spirit.

On Sabbath last I attended three services two at Mr. Mifflin's, and one at Mr. Scott's, and read a little chiefly in the latter and had a short walk. I am a little troubled here by invitations to Sunday dinners. The leading persons here such as Home & Wynne are so busy during the week just now that they have no time to see friends; to make up for this they have the practice of meeting any one with whom they wish a little familiar chat on Sunday afternoon. I have been obliged to refuse this kind of invitations as they

break up the Sabbath evening and lead to
a great deal of unprofitable conversation.

I was in a cabinet shop the other day getting
a few stands made for my birds and saw
a neat little cabinet not far thing such as
we were speaking of before I left. I asked
the man its price and he said £6. I thought
at that rate it would be a vast deal
cheaper. I have it made in Picton.

On Thursday night I shall give the last
lecture of the Botanical part of my course
which will be the 18th lecture or exactly
one half of the course. The time seems
to go by more and more slowly and I am
pretty sure that before I am done here
I shall be very glad to get home.

I am much indebted to you for your
trouble in copying the paper for smelting
iron. I hope it will be a successful
one though from the description I cannot
judge of it. Another invention somewhat
talked of here is a mode of making gas
from bitumen for which Dr. Gerrier has taken
out a patent in the U. States. The material
is no doubt a good one for the purpose, and

I hope the Dr will make something
by it, as I believe he much needs it.

When the last coach came in I
asked the driver about the state of the roads.
He said they were all bare and the frost
coming out in some places. If this
killed weather continue, there will before
the 1st of March be pretty good wheeling; but
if (as is more likely) we have heavy snow storms
the roads will be almost impassable.

(Wednesday) Today there is another change,
a small specimen of February weather. In the
few days I wish you were here and in the
cold days I begin to be afraid. However, if
you can get ready I have great hopes that
the weather will be fine enough in March. In re-
gard to hiring Margaret, that would cost you here
from £4 to £5, but perhaps you would not
wish to trust baby to a stranger, and ~~my~~ would
also be more comfortable on the journey with her,
you must calculate all these things and let me
know what you think. You do not say anything
of your health, but I take it for granted that this
is because it is good. I am quite well, I have only
been once threatened with a slight cold in the head
which soon left me. We have much cause to be
thankful for our preservation hitherto and I trust we
shall find all gods dispensations working for our good.

I am my ever dear Margaret
your own William

I fear although I have not written any letter than usual more time taken than usual