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Mrs J. W. Dawson
Gilmore Place
Edinburgh

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Halifax Feby 17, 1853

Dearest Margaret,

I received your of Jan 21, in Halifax and am most happy to hear of your continued welfare. I sent by last mail an additional £30 including Mrs Parker & Mrs Parmoes money. This I suppose will be sufficient to meet your wants, from what you say in your last. It is no inconvenience to me to send it, and it is scarcely with while to talk of it in that light, since our interests are one, and what you have or enjoy the benefit of is in no respect different from what I have. I should however be glad to send you additional money out of your own stock, but for the reason I mentioned in my last. Of the things you mention, I think first the Piano stool, and second a mirror. Both cases flower stands & chests of drawers are too lucky to be worth bringing, and the same remark applies to a couch & chairs, besides we are in no absolute need of them. A mangle you must judge of yourself — the price you mention is however higher than Allan charges for his but perhaps the article may be better. With respect to the burning fluids you mention, I dread such things & besides am not disposed to make new experiments in buying new lamps as we have now some prospect of getting gas.x A soda water machine would also I think be very little service to us. I write last mail about the shades and have mentioned to Mrs Close that they are coming. I know what to work next spring. We

x The stock is now nearly taken up and prospect of getting gas. Have given £50.

you mean by the blank atlases. Perhaps we may order some.

I can assure you I have no wish to hound you out, quite to the summer. I am beginning to feel very lonely without you, more especially since I have been here and have not even Anna beside me. I shall feel more so as April approaches, and the time comes near when I can hope to have you and dear little Jenny again beside me. I hope the weather will be fine and favorable, but a winter like this baffles all calculation. We have had literally no winter hitherto; I never remember anything so mild; and you thought perhaps without ground that we may have a cold & boisterous spring. Potter Nature has not been stingy enough to hear cools n the heavy frosts all winter, and now it is merely taken up and very busy spring away. Here in Halifax it is quite like spring. It seems very strange that you should miss the mildest winter we have had since you came to Nova Scotia. Such weather is very unfavorable to farmers & lumberers, and I fear will injure our fruit crops &c, as the buds on currant bushes &c, have been swelling already

and may be injured by frost.

I took the clothes out of the box here. They are very good and fit well. I sent a part of the sweetes to Anna, and kept the remainder to take home with me, I hope next week.

In anything I have said I do not understand me to mean that I do not wish you to spend in any way you think best any surplus you may have over paying your passage to Halifax. I suppose Jameson Jr will not have much. Take care to secure your passage of Mrs McIver in time as there is often a crowd of passengers in spring; and be in time in Liverpool. Perhaps Mr Grace can give you all information about precise times sailing and the way of getting on board &c. I am not sure but the Packet company have agents in Edinbr & Glasgow. I think they have in Glasgow at all events. I feel some anxiety about your getting proper shipped and hope you may find some one going to Liverpool who may assist you. Do not encumber yourself with much baggage more especially as the roads will be very bad and it will be difficult to bring it from Halifax to Petersham. Leave anything you can well do without to come by ship. Be sure to write by the packet before you leave, and I shall come to meet you in Halifax; and see that

in the hurry of the boat's departure and be a fortune you get everything safely landed.

Since writing above I have had the pleasure of receiving yours of July 3 which arrived in steamer to day, and I have still time to write in answer before the steamer leaves for Boston the first time I have been able to do so since you left.

I am quite well, every one says I look much better than last winter. Anna was also quite well when I last heard yesterday. With respect to funds it appears I have exactly hit the sum you mention in my last remittance as after paying for Mr Brown & Dennison's articles you will have just £20 left over out of my other £30. If I can get another £5 here I shall try to do so and send by next boat; but you must not count on it. It seems your purchases have exactly met my advice as given in the previous part of this letter.

I hope you will not think of coming by a sailing vessel; and that you will not grudge paying the passage by steamer. It is far better to spend the money in that way than in anything else you can purchase. As early spring passage in a sailing vessel is very uncomfortable besides the dangers you ice be. I cannot permit you to risk yourself again in anything else than the best conveyance and if funds should run short will repay anything you may borrow if necessary; but I trust you will have enough to pay expenses to Halifax. I shall provide for the rest.

It will be very pleasant if Mr Cleghorn & Mr Creamer can go to Liverpool with you, & also very useful.

I am sorry to say that the birds of the cape heath died away without coming out. It seemed to be a small species.

I do not know anything of the birds you Nan Sutter you mention, unless it is Sir J Alexanders "L'Acadie" which I think is published in London.

As to Mr Anderson's Plans, I think I have already mentioned that he says nothing definite. I think he means to let the Minister step by and stay where he is. I was very sorry to hear to day that James Hutchin died on board the steamer on his passage from Liverpool. It will be a sad shock to his family and I believe his circumstances are embarrassed. Catherine Thomson & his little wife have lost their child. Mrs T. is said to be very much distressed. The Legislature are getting through the railway bills. I think there is a fair prospect of the work beginning next summer. We are pretty sure to have a branch to Pictou, as the agent of the Contractors, Mr Sykes, maintains that our Pictou branch will be the best paying portion of the whole. If we get gas and a railway in one year it will be a great step in advance.

My father is satisfied with what you say of Bennetts case; but if you can find anything else not costly and likely to do good, please procure it.

These last few days the weather has been pretty bad to day we have a return to Sleet and

Lain. It is altogether a remarkable winter. I have given one lecture here and delivered another last night. The audience last evening was pretty good. I believe I have no engagements further than those I mentioned in late letters. I see Ben arches similar to those you mention in a former letter, on sale here. I have not priced them, they do not seem suitable for a child's bed. I hope to send by next packet copies of my School report which will be illustrated with cuts of School houses, which I have procured from the U. States. I am getting tired of staying here as I have not full employment for my time, and I hope I shall be able to return to Boston at the close of next week. Your next letter will therefore reach me in Boston, and I shall be usually to answer it by return of steamer, as the mail ~~seldom~~ never reaches Boston until after the steamer from Boston has left Halifax. I enclose a letter from Jane, also notes to Mrs Ol & Mrs Hellphant which please forward to them at once.

I am most happy to hear that you enjoy your visit and will be able to look back on it with pleasure; but the great pleasure to which I look forward is that of talking it over with my own dear wife in our own home. May God grant us this and to be more thankful to & from for all his goodness. Tell dear Grace that Papa wishes very much to see him again, love to all your friends. With a heart full of love and longing to see your face once more

Your own
William