



Muskegon 25th Oct 1853

My dear Margaret

My time was never so much occupied as it has been since Baby's arrival. I intended to have written you as soon after her birth as I was able, and felt quite ashamed when I received yours before I got it accomplished. I am now, I may say, quite recovered; although, easily fatigued. Baby was a very very large child when born, quite the style of the rest; dark eyes and hair, and I may say I do little else all day but sit and rock her. (thanks to you for such a nice nursing chair! the rocking is certainly a very great improvement.) Frederic Douglass still requiring to be kept a great deal, it is only the short time she is asleep, I get any thing done. The weather here is very bad, and she has not got out to walk yet, as for myself I have been very little out of the house since you were here, I have only been once

in Jane's house since I dined with you
there, having just made an exertion to
go up to see the Colonel for the last time.
I have had Miss Goodall in making up
my winter dresses; also a Petticoat for baby,
and trousers for the boys, I see you have
been similarly employed. Mr. Primerose
also bought a pig ready for killing for our
winter use; of which I have made two
hams a spiced roll, sausage, white food
things, etc etc, every thing here is very dear
this winter. Bread 9^d a loaf Potatoes 25/
a boll meat & flour 13 & 14^d a peck, all
sort of clothing is also much higher,
even the skins of silk are raised. it
will be a very hard winter for many.
I gave Jessie your message and desired
her to write you, she has had Miss Lee
from London staying with her for a fortnight
she left on Saturday, she is quite a fine
lady fond of very thing great and grand
very unlike Jessie. she is to have Miss
Gill with her next week for a few days,
I had a visit last week from Mr. Shirving
he was down at his Brother James's
funeral he died very sudden, disease of

heart, he has grown very stout, I do not think I have seen him before since he went to London, I was glad to hear some of the roots you took with you survived the voyage and have flowered. The gas must be a very great improvement to the town and a great comfort, especially to those who have been accustomed with it before, what a difference it also to servants work, I think you are very safe with shares in it as it is a thing that generally rises in value very much. George Robert is very anxious I should write some part of this as from him, and has written me a copy of what I am to say, (here it is), My dear Aunt

I hope you are all quite well, we are all well, and have got a little sister with which we are all quite delighted, her name is "Maria Louisa ^{or Marione} Het", and she has got her Petticoat and Bonnet ready and is just waiting for good weather to get out for a walk, Give my love to George and say I was very glad he got safely home, I have begun Latin this winter, I got two prizes at the

examination one for Drawing and one
for Writing. Alfred got one for Reading.
Give my love to George & his little sister
I say I was very glad to hear he got safely
home
George R. Grimrose

Mrs Bell has just been down I tells me this
will not go away untill Friday week.
You may say to Mr Grimrose I have never
heard Burn Brae, mentioned since you
left. but when he comes we will try and
help him to find out the next heir.
I have no doubt he will make himself
out a relation of ours, and also of theirs;
perhaps he is the missing branch.

Mr J along with myself send our kindest
regards to Mr Dawson and your self remember
me kindly to George, tell him he must not
forget his far away friends. do write soon
do not do as I do but do as I bid you,
you know what a business it is for me
to write, you must excuse me, and take
the will for the deed for I assure you that
is not wanting, My Dear Mary
for ever your affectionate Marion