

Peter March 4th 1877

Acc. 1377

My dear Mr Parker

A few weeks since

Agnes startled me by enquiring whether I had received a letter from you while in Mobile, I had always understood acknowledged you it, but the many changes of scene through which I have passed since I received it, had quite me forget how long it had remained unacknowledged.

Even at this late hour, accept my thanks for the pleasure it gave me, for the form its length, and for the minute description it gave me of your history from the time you arrived in Canada. I had often vainly tried to picture to

myself, your new life. — Since
I have returned home, I miss you
and William very much, I miss the
pleasant evenings we spent together,
but indeed, things have come so
rapidly since I left home, both among
friends and in my own personal
experience, that nothing seems to be
as it was, that a world of change this
is! and how plainly this teaches that
we are so slow to learn, that this
is not our rest. You already know
of the last marked change which has
come to me, the birth of my little boy,
in saying that this event has opened
up a new world of feeling to me, I scarcely
let express the experience of any
woman since I've, but we must

feel it for themselves before they
understand it. I cannot tell you
how glad I am to be at home beside
my mother just now, even although
it involves separation from her son;
for I had always been so indifferent
to my children, that I was totally
unacquainted with any thing con-
cerning them; and I have been taking
lessons in a good but not very easy
school. In three days he has been the
most troublesome child she ever
saw. Even with all the advantages
of having no house keeping or other cares
to distract me, I really feared serious
injury to my health from needless
toil by day and night, for no one
could relieve me much. I do not know

what ailed him, his health appeared perfectly good, but he must have been pampered, and besides has a most irritable temperament. He is now nearly six months old, and much better than he was, but there is still room for improvement, especially in sleeping. On the very few occasions on which the weather has permitted him to be out, I have observed a marked improvement, and spring may surmount his selfishness altogether. You will think me very egotistical to say so much about my own baby, but before I conclude I must give you an idea of his appearance. Large deep blue eyes, a rather large straight nose, not very large forehead and small, retreating chin, are his most

prominent features. He has not much hair yet, but it threatens to be decidedly red. He is very tall for his age, has beautifully formed legs and arms, long slender fingers, with very fine nails, (quite unlike my own) altogether, as Lemmie says, "he will pass".

I had my song to learn from uncle, last Sabbath, that your youngest just was very ill. I sincerely hope he may be better long ere this; - Miss Eccleie told me that he is a most engaging child, and that she missed him so much when she left you. Apropos of Miss Eccleie, what a cruel marriage has been, we all are rejoiced at the prospect of such a valuable assistant for you, and such a comfortable home

for her, when she was spirited off
to the land of gold, by an old lover.
I had never dreamt of Miss Seaborn's
ever having had a lover, but it is just
a lesson not to judge so hastily in
such matters. I earnestly hope she
may be happy, for she is a good
creature. Her friends here frequently
hear from her, and she is delighted
with her new home. — I do not know
whether you are in Agnes' Rankin's
confidence or not, but there are strong
symptoms of another marriage. Mr
Kenay is coming home next summer,
and it may be, that he will not return
to his adopted home alone. —

We had a pleasant visit from Miss
this winter; she & Mr Scott arrived the

coming before New Year's day, and we
had exactly the same party next day.
That next the last New Year's day I was
at home, with the addition of four
noisy children. Phyllis remained with
us four weeks, and sometimes it really
did seem as though Time had
rolled backward a few years, but
she at last had to go. She is now alone
in her home for the first time, her hus-
band having gone to England by the
last steamer. She will not I think be
very lonely, for she has formed a large
circle of warm friends, and has just
undergone the change of an opera-
tion about eleven years of age, so that
her household duties included she
will not have much time for bearing

ness. Both she and Bessie have
become devoted Christians since
Barbara's departure, and this piece
of grace is incident in their life. You
know they were always amiable and
interesting, but they now seem to him to
do good. I expect to be at home
for some time yet, as my work cannot
uprise and his time, we hear weekly
from each other, so that our separation
is much more easily borne than it would
otherwise be. I expect that noble will
be our witness for the next few weeks
years, if we are spared. If this should
persist, I would tell you the reasons
which influenced his choice in this
matter, for I believe it is possible we
our friends that we should seek

as a matter of course
I have been thinking
of the time when
I shall be able to
write you again
and tell you of
my progress
in the work
of the Lord

Barbara's departure
is a great blessing
and I expect to be
at home for some
time yet

My work cannot
uprise and his time
we hear weekly
from each other

so that our separation
is much more easily
borne than it would
otherwise be

I expect that noble
will be our witness
for the next few
weeks years

If this should
persist I would
tell you the reasons
which influenced
his choice in this
matter