

by Canadian packet

Walter Mercer / 68

to his Sister

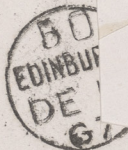
Margaret
Mercer

Dawson

M^{rs} Dawson

McGill College

Montreal



RECEIVED
DEC 11 1868



MCGILL UNIVERSITY	
ARCHIVES	
ACC. NO.	1421B
REF.	3/1

MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
ACC. NO.	1421B
REF.	3/2

West Newington House
Edinb. 19th Dec 1867

My Dear Sister

Your welcome letter of the
came very opportunely to hand this morning
for I sat down to write you yesterday
but in its absence could not make
a beginning so postponed it, and
now tomorrow has cleared my way
it would seem that we have been
much in each others mind, this
year you intending I me always
expecting - for I knew you were
much engaged, but had no idea
that you were so very busy, and
your account of your active life is

very acceptable to me - I think
yours is a useful life and when
we thus find ourselves in the position
which no doubt has been arranged in
Divine providence who orders all things
for us, the more we can fall in with its
duties & circumstances the happier we
shall be ourselves & the more beneficial
we shall be to others - for instance
visitors (home) & foreign particularly you
perhaps sometimes think an intrusion
but then you may happen to be useful
to them in some way unknown to you
and that you may never know

I have recd of I think an American
Minister who was troubled & intruded
on in his studies with many callers, but
looking on things in that light - he

resolved thus "every one that wants to
see me, that just the man that I want to see"
your meetings for scripture study
must be very interesting & profitable
have you read Arch Bishop Leighton on Peter
he is so rich & sweet & then there is the late
Dr John Brown very learned & exegetical -

I am glad Mr Dawson is about his
geological works, if all would write on
geology as he does it would be a happy
thing - I liked his Archaica very much
there is a great deal of foolish speculation
getting up on that subject -

referring again to your domestic
life I can assure my wife does not envy
you your 4 servants for she thinks
two quite an infliction and would
do with one if she could - but our
new house would even require three
it is very ^{near} Arncliffe place you

remember it. opposite nearly, within
a high wall in its own grounds,
but the ground is now all fenced and
a row of Houses, building fronting the
road facing the Row where Mr Dickie
once lived - it is rather a large house
than we would choose, but the Situation
& ^{changed} circumstances ^{fit} were the inducement

Mr Mercer has for some time now
been quite free of her complaint
and enjoying good health, but not strong
for much out-door exertion, she
would like to visit more in the Church
as a Deacons wife but is always the
worse of it - - Annie & Johnny are
well he has gone to School this session
and likes it - he distinguishes himself
the very first day at Scripture before
the question was put the wisest Man

and it came round to his turn none
 could answer one said it was the
Queen of Sheba! - so he gave it blown
 and they all cried out he is dux, he
 is dux -

As you allude of Mr Horsburgh
 he has remarkable health & vigour
 and is spared in long usefulness
 to the Church, I fear we do not
 value him & his kind intercourse,
 & rich instructions, as we ought
 which we may have deeply to regret
 when he is removed - the young
 have almost all left us - my
 Annie among the rest (she goes
 to Jonathan Watsons) so

we make no progress I may say
either internally or aggressively
externally - but we are united
peaceful & loving in some good degree
and mostly well on in life looking
steadfastly onward upward

do you ever see any of Spurgeons
sermons they are published weekly
many of us read them regularly
they have a fine encouraging tone
with them very interesting & evangelical
they are sent I believe over most of
the world, & translated into several
languages - but really the
works that issue from the press
of latity & now are quite endless

& trying to follow them it comes to
just what is written Much study
is a wearing to the flesh
I for I read a great deal having
the evenings to employ at home
I like the old puritans writers
the best in theology only they are
tiresomely minute & particular on

The way I have the evenings
so much to myself is that altho
my health is ordinarily good
it is only kept so by avoiding
all excitement particularly
at night either going out to Meetings
or company or receiving company
much at home I have had
ever

to refrain going to the Church week
night meetings — all which is a
Cause of regret to me —

I think all our friends, Betts,
Parnasses, Gleyhorns, in their
various Branches are well

Mr. Mace & Annie desire
their kind regards to you & Mr
Dawson in which of course
I join most heartily and
subscribe myself your
affectionate Brother
Walter Mace

As I have heard from you
so recently just take your
avertment in reply — Will