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Dear Mamma,

In one of your recent letters you ask me to tell you about the fashions &c, but how should you expect me to be able to inform you on such subjects, when my ignorance is so extreme that I hardly know when a new fashion comes in. I am afraid you will have to trust to fashion-books for your information. With regard to presents I am almost equally at a loss. Maple-sugar seemed to be very much appreciated in Scotland, & I was sorry that I had not taken the brick which you offered to buy when I went with you to the market, before sailing. The jamies &c made from butternuts

were also very much admired.

Beyond these I can really think of nothing. It is hard enough at any time to think of appropriate presents, but harder still when you have to find something peculiar or novel for this country.

You say my letters now seldom come in time to answer by return mail, the same is now the case with regard to yours, & I should judge from the times at which they arrive that this season is the period of longest & roughest passages on the Atlantic.

Speaking, (or rather writing) of letters reminds me that my "Witness" has not arrived for the last three mails, & once before the same number came twice, what is the matter? I am getting quite behind in Montreal news, it is especially exasperating as you

always refer me to the "Witness" for
such & such news.

The weather is now quite warm again
& hopes are entertained that our last
winter cold, has been experienced,
among other hopeful signs I noticed in
the park yesterday several large-bunks
with their ~~leaves~~ catkins out.

From what you write I suppose
that this is by no means the case
with you, In fact it is probable
that the extreme coldness of the first
of the winter, will be giving you
all the cold weather in a lump
now.

I have just finished, today the Memoir
of George Wilson, I have found it
exceedingly interesting, have you ever
read it?

A most curious coincidence, or
rather series of coincidences happened about
my "Frankland's". As I wrote to Anna
in my last I had heard of one, & was to

get full particulars yesterday, at dinner,
On Thursday last, however, I saw an old
student at the laboratory who had one,
& to make matters sure, bought his.

What was my surprise on returning in
the evening to find that one had just
arrived from Montreal. And that
after having waited so long for one, I had
become the possessor of two within a
few hours, & had heard of another.

As I knew of a fellow at the laboratory
who wanted one, I transferred my
bought copy, to him, as it was the
worst, and so am now happily
over all my difficulties on that subject.

This letter, & in fact all my letters are
so full of I's that I am really quite
ashamed at my egotism. Could you
give me a receipt to get over it. When
beginning a letter the first word that
always comes is I.

With best love to all at home, & all
enquiring friends

I am your very affectionate
George