

Acc. 1443

Mc Gill College
June 1870

My dearest mamma, I was so
glad to get your last letter, & to
know that you are comfortably
settled in Scotland, at last. I am
not at all surprised that you at
first find almost more pain than
pleasure, in seeing again, your
old friends, nor even, that all the
changes that have occurred, should
make you inclined to right about
& come home, but by the time you
get this I hope you will be more
at home & settled, & not think of being
so ridiculous as to return to Canada
till autumn, in the first place
consider that this will be, in all
probability, your last visit to your
old home & friends, then you will
certainly not see George again, for at
least two years, & he is just at the
age when most of all a young fellow
needs a tender, womanly, hand about
him, just fancy the poor darling
being all alone on his 21st birthday

besides how stupid you would be
in town here in summer, & with
Mrs Carpenter I don't believe we should
have room for you, & you really
must have a rest before you come
back, you need not be in the least
anxious about my falling in love
with any one, for the more I see
of gentlemen the more I become con-
vinced that my fate has not yet
appeared, I only hope the poor fellow
has not fallen a victim to some
infantile complaint, for I confess I
would like to see him some day
I am afraid that I can't flirt so
you know the other day Alfred
gave me quite a lecture, he said
I did not make myself half agree-
able enough to gentlemen, that I
continually shamed that I was
quite indifferent to them, & that
I might just as well take pains
to be pleasant, & receive the
same attentions as other girls do.
Just fancy that mamma!! I from
Alfred I was to use a vulgar
expression, quite "struck up," &
shamefully responded that I would
try & conform to his amiable advice.
Mr Mc Donald gave me quite a
lecture for saying something was

'awfully nice' as I ought to impress
don't you think so? — I indignantly
repudiate your idea that my
muslin was too thick for the
wedding, it looked beautiful, &
you should have heard all the
admiration I gained. Mr Griffin
told the Baynes that in both
the Canadas he had never seen
any one so perfectly charming as myself
& three or four people said I was
the prettiest & best-dressed girl
there, now, do you think my muslin
was too thick? — I hope you don't
think that I am vain in repeating
this but I thought it might please
you. I assure you my head is too
full of solid & substantial realities
to be easily turned by a few silly
speeches — However these said realities
do not weigh on my mind, I
positively enjoy them. Monday we
lifted the library & dining-room
carpets also the parlour one. The
rooms have been thoroughly cleaned
Eliza did all the books, & I did
all papers table drawers etc, put-
ting everything exactly where I
found it, there was any amount
of dust. The drawing room is
now in process, they lifted the corners

of the carpets, I put cast oil and
as a few moths were seen, I
cannot speak too highly of all
the girls - Eliza & Maria work
like Trojans, the farmer occasionally
treats me a little undescending
but - as she does any amount of
work nicely & I generally get my
own way in the end I humour
her. I have cleaned out all the
pantry cupboard, & while doing
so selected all that we would need
to take with us, this morning
Mary & I were calculating how
many pounds of sugar, etc we
should need ~~at~~ & I have a list
of things as long as my arm to
get in town, but, - I do so enjoy
all the fuss, though I don't like
going to the sea-side, the weather
here has been so deliciously hot
for the last three weeks, every
one has been groaning, & I do so
enjoy it - & seem to drink health
& strength from it at every pore
for the last two days the weather
has been positively cold, which
I very much disenjoy - We still
hope to leave on the 30th William's
school closes the 29th - Hankins
is first in his class & has gone

down town today with Mrs C
to choose his gift, his holidays
begin next week. We have had
strawberries for a week the garden
is one mass of roses & other flowers
I send away two or three bouquets
every day to friends, in fact I have
quite a bad conscience that I do
not send more, I so long to take
some to the poor we know but
really cannot find time, the dis-
tances are so great.

On Monday I had quite a
gay day, Mrs George Moffatt invited
us to go out to Wurdale to a
croquet party, William had lessons
so I left him & arrived with
two children proceeded to the
revelry - now at 6th about a
dozen people were there & we had
a very nice time, I played one
game of croquet & devoted the
rest of my time to Mrs Kenneth
Moffatt & Mrs G. Moffatt, the
farmer is going to Murray Bay
the same evening as we are.
we left the Moffatts at a little
after eight, I sent the children
home in the cars & went on to
the Godfrey's who had a few people
to meet George & Izzy, it was

a very nice little party, you
would be quite surprised to see
how pretty Izzie looks, & George
makes a splendid husband, not a
bit silly, talking of them all their
future plans are changed. Lord
Aylmer wrote to George that one of
their Melbourne doctors had been
killed, & the other had a paralytic
stroke which would unfit him
for work for at any rate 6 months
so he invited George to go out &
see how he liked the prospect,
he did go out, arranged with
Dr. Hamilton to go into partnership
with him, he to receive as his
share of the profits £850 a year, I
believe, that in the country with
what little Izzie has will be very
comfortable indeed, they have taken
a house with a verandah, & a
little winery attached, they are
going out on Saturday, will stay
with the Aylmers a few days,
till the house is cleaned etc, &
then take possession, all their
friends are charmed at having
them so near, what a jolly place
the townships will be! Lalla is
going out in the fall as soon as
her intended can get his new

handed ready. The Browns will
no doubt be enchanted.

Our preparations for the sea-
side are getting on beautifully.
Mary & I ^{have} calculated all the provisions
and necessary & they are now lying
on the order table, ready to be
packed. As we have nearly a
~~year~~ week before us, you see
I am taking time by the forelock
for I don't want to tire myself
as it might injure my good
looks.

I have written you a very
long letter, so hoping to see you
come home with the Garrison
in September I remain
Yours very loving
Arthur -

P.S. - Nina does not look very
strong, & I would very much like
to have her down with us for a
while, but of course it will be
exactly as you like. Please say
however in your reply to this
letter we will have been all Murray Bay
some time