



Stoneleigh,
Rock Ferry.

Oct^r 4/78

My dear Mrs Dawson

I was much gratified
at receiving your very
kind letter a few days
since. It was marked
"too late" or it would
probably have come soon
er. Your son William
saw us only a day or
two of his journey, being
in haste to reach Paris
to familiarize himself
with the language, &c.

to prepare for the examine
trials there. She was much
pleased to see him even
for the short time he
could spare. His cousins
were very glad to make his
acquaintance, and Monday
too was very favourably
impressed by him. Perhaps
he may be able to make a
longer stay next time, &
to see something of the
neighbourhood. How fast
the changes of life seem
to be coming to you now.

One is always sorry to have
a family scattered, & yet if
the choir were firm to
have all the members
stay at home, I don't
think many of us would
choose it. Young people
are like young birds in
this respect. Will you
give Anna my regards
we gratulate her on her
prospects. I don't know
that as a rule tall
husbands are any better
or more loving than those
of lesser size, & for the
best, I think Anna is

More likely to be happy
with one whose tastes
are so congenial, than
with one who is rich, &
stupid & worldly. We
cannot have any thing.
I think you will ~~love~~
a ~~rest~~ ~~love~~, your life
has been so busy. I sincerely
hope your evening may
be a restful happy one.
You ask about our
children - Maggie is
at home, after spending
two months in Scotland
discovering the true nature
of school friends, & Aunt
Maggie. Though her school



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Life is once, she contrives
to take letters from
teachers at home. She
was at school in Edin-
burgh for a year, at
Misses Du Plessis & Black's
in Royal Terrace. She
was to have gone a second
year, but the new east
winds caused such severe
neuralgic attacks that
she dare not risk her
return another season.
She still has them
occasionally, at times

is at School near London
Anthony is yet undecided
as to his future, I regret
my wish that so far he
had not developed any
taste for Scientific pur-
suits, further than to become
joined of his own accord
the Natural History class
at School. He will have
to stay for some years yet
at School. Unfortunately
last year he was threat-
ened with total deaf-
ness, & in order to follow

fully the treatment prescribed
by the artist (D^r Salvet
of Strasbour) he was not
sent to school for nearly
a year, which at his age
was a very great loss. We
have now any cause to
believe that the disease
is checked, & he can hear
as well as most people.
But of course his studies
~~are~~ have been thrown back.
We get very good reports
of him however, & the school
is good, so we must be
very thankful that it
is no worse. The two little
girls are at school, three

course - both the faces with
them. I don't think we
will send either of them
to boarding school. We
can get the best masters
here, & it seems to me that
there should be some very
good reason before chil-
dren are sent from here
at such an important
time of their lives. My hus-
band & I are both delighted
to be so near. We see each
other every day. Does it not
seem strange after being
separated for more than
twenty years? Mr & Mrs Scott
& Minnie are (D. G.) to spend
xmas with us. we are looking
forward to it with great



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pleasure. All our family
have been visiting Mrs S.
this summer. They now
live in a beautiful new
place. It is near Buckler
Cess. Though the house
is new, the hedges & trees
to say nothing of an ugly
old cattle close by give
it the appearance of age.
They have the most beau-
tiful terraces I have seen
anywhere. The farm is
~~now~~ after the cattle some
Barclay. Mappie S. is my

well this summer. I gave
Cubbie your letter to read
before I close I must see
if she has a message at
present she is out. Poor
little Lady. No man has
had to go to America on
business, & she is alone.
He takes so much of the
responsibility of her family
off her when at home,
that she misses him very
her children are already
growing taller than her-
self, but she is an excel-
lent mother for boys.

My letter has passed far
beyond the limit in-
tended, & yet I have not
spoken of Mrs. Bell. How
her family must miss her
and indeed all her letters
too. I saw her when taking
Maggie to school, & thought
her appearance much
changed, she had had
a year of grief.

We have had such a
strange season here. In
Scotland the weather
has been most brilliant
even in May it was fine
while in England it has
been the reverse. The land

~~Dear you~~
at a night since, a terrible
thunder storm while in
church on Sunday evening
the lightning struck a
pretty little village church
on the banks of Dee, &
killed the organist &
stood beside him, & struck
many of the congregation.
Since then we have had
such a gale of wind as has
not been known for nearly
50 years. The damage done
in two hours was incredible.
This is a year of storms. I
must close now with
kindest regards to you all
Your affectionate son
Mrs. Radcliff sends her love