

Dec 13th / 85

Acc. 1443

Dearest Mother,

A great deal of
news this week & very little
time to say it - in fact I have
had so many N. news letters to
get ready for today's English
Mail - Mrs Armstrong - Alice
Brailsford - Maria - & Katherine -

My dear Miss Mackay Gordon died
last week & as far as I can hear
has left no will in which case
all she had will go to her brothers
& sisters. I had thought she wd
remember some public or charitable
funds. To go from this close of life
to the opposite, a funny accident
has occurred in America, the
wife of Mr Ellis of the Genl. Survey
has just had a triplet - & Dr Green
who attended on the occasion
was so amused that he went
forthwith to the Survey to tell
Mr E's friends of his happier -
Two girls & a boy all doing well
I imagine the consternation such
an arrival must cause in any
household.

We dined at the Gordon's
last week. Did I tell you about
it - I suppose the honored guest
was Dr Stuart - the new Medical
Professor. He is not a man of polish
but evidently a man of power &

I sh^d say of good sound sense
& judgment. which makes the
lack of polish less obtrusive.

Mrs Judge, Mackay had one
of her large at-homes afterwards
to which we also went. I was
very sorry that Florence & Will
did not appear there, as they had
promised to do. Afterwards they
explained that I was not feeling
well, she slipped on her Belletts
steps & had a fall, she felt no
bad results at the time but the
next day she felt sore & stiff &
unable to stir about much.

Few of tears has been in full force
one at Mrs Mercer's yesterday where
were all the world & his wife quite
a crowd of people of all sorts & con-
ditions, then Mrs P. Stevenson has
one on Friday to wh. I can't go, &
Mrs J. Malrose one next week the
Boggs one last week.

I am glad that you saw
Kaukaia after all though it
seemed a pity to shorten your
time on the Continent & otherwise
now you are summing your life
by the blue Mediterranean. I
hope not overpowered by friends
or dinners, secretly in New Orleans
or Honolulu you ought to find
peace & quiet among the shades of
the long departed.

I am somewhat unsettled
about it now - as I may have to
go up to St. Andrews I don't like
to far since the crash I fear

the chance & change of even such a
~~long~~ short-journey - but at the same
time I feel that a change might
be very beneficial to B - who has
been working night & day ever
since the session began - & also
as B - has never been home at home
since he was married & Mr H. is
old & in poor health, it looks
selfish - Still I hope I can stay
far I don't feel at all like
going off - I am just waiting
for a quiet-hour to talk it
over with B - If here we will
of course have W. & Mrs C. &
George will come down - I can
well do our best to keep up the
family traditions - If not George
will come down at his years
not H. was - in either case to say
he can't stay stay more than
3 or 4 days - he seemed bright
& looks well - but then, I per-
suaded him to go over & see Carpy
the Sunday he was here but I
had no chance of beguiling him
into any further amenity to his
kind -

Wendy Carpy is suffering from
a gathered thumb, not very bad
fortunately, but enough to make
her feverish & restless, & consulted
Dr. Ross - lanced it - yesterday, & so
I hope she will soon be better,
of course she feels put-back in her
her letter writing etc & begs me to
tell you how glad her intentions
were towards you in regard to
writing -

Lucia Barber has it - seems made
up her mind to devote herself
to the good work at least that
is what I gather from Carpi's
somewhat confused story, but
all her work is at a stand still
for the present, for a few days
she was knocked down in the
street by a runaway horse, &
though not-injured by oral
bruises the shock has been great
to so sensitive a frame, & the Dr
recommends perfect-rest for
as long as she can be happy on
her back. she is with Mrs
Smithers now, & quite free from
pain I believe - our very un-
settled & wild weather has
had a very bad effect on health
one hears of much diphtheria
sore throat - scarlet fever etc
Mr McDonald is quite well
again, & Miss Luc D. seems as well
as usual & rested after her long
fatigue, she received yr message
with due gratitude, but wd
I think be pleased with the
little note her life runs in such
quiet & successful channels
that any breeze from without
is welcome

Your photo duly arrived
& was certainly a surprise as no
word had given us warning of
it. I like it very much, & it
seems to me the best you have
had - of course it is not as flat
tiring as many likenesses are
but that we have ceased to hope

far in your case - A very natural
& pleasant picture I found it - I
intend to take a tace with it
in my pocket - & show it - to the
various friends whose opinion
you wd like - The lace is pretty
in the picture, & wd also be
becoming in reality I sh^d think
Mrs Judge, Tarrence does herself
up with lace like that only it
is black not white - & seems to
continue on shoulder arms &
skirt - till it finishes on the
train, I can't say I think it
becomes her very much - I wd
like to see her in a little
ruffled cap with filled lace
like the dolls it wd suit her
perfectly - Tell Eva that



the stems letter she sent -
& Florence was exactly
what I expected her to send and
to us & very satisfactory as it
gave us such a good idea of
your day by day slavings -

continued & continual inquiries
are made about you all &
as I tell Florence I am beginning
to feel so large as head of the family
that you will have some diffi-
culty in suppressing me into my
proper place when you retire

The weather now is fine
& mild winter weather, just
enough snow for sleighing.
The deep falls we had before
almost entirely went in the
late thaws -

Mrs Carnith desired particular
love to be sent to you - Also greetings
from Mrs Keelittle - Miss Linn
Miss Garrison Mrs Mercer & many
more who at the moment I have
forgotten

After N. mas & yr parcels, which
I ought to thank you for in advance
& wh. I shall give with great
pleasure - I will have a solemn
review of all my wearables & those
of the means & let you know the
result - as to a dress if ready made
as you suggest - w^d it be best to bring
it out as you buy it - or for me to
have a felled lining & send it - to
be made up where bought. I fear
you will be shocked to learn that your
grey dress fitted me exactly, being
tight - only about 3 buttons at the
waist - & with a shawl let out
down the back seam - looks as
if made for me - I was much sur-
prised at this, surely it must
have been much too large for
you - but a thing made loose &
ample on your figure w^d almost
suit you - but these vein words
will look much amiss at the
foot of the Pyramids, or in a Hebrew
tomb - you have never told us
where or how you intend going in
Egypt - The false prophet seems to be
comfortably dissolving so I hope we
will not interfere with you -

Very affectionately

Love to papa & ma I send Anne

three or 3 carels last went wh^{ch}
now I hope reach safely -