

Edinburgh June 30<sup>th</sup> 1870

My dearest Anna

on way to Gala hill Cottage

Burntisland

Scotland

Accept my thanks  
 for your pleasant letter of June 19<sup>th</sup>  
 received only one hour since. I will  
 very appropriately use the same words with  
 which you begin & say, I now write under  
 "unfavourable circumstances." I what hinders  
 me at present is that having decided  
 to begin house keeping in Gala hill Cottage,  
 Burntisland, Life shire, tomorrow. I have  
 some purchases & preparations to make. My  
 trunks & room too are in unparalleled  
 confusion. Literally we have to climb our  
 packages & as to finding anything it is a  
 work of labor & time. Stacking & gluing  
 are full of holes & no time to repair them.  
 In between this & 10<sup>o</sup> C I am going to make  
 packages empty my trunks - Pack on for

Bontristland — on for Canada &  
got an extra tank for the residue &  
leave it in Edin: until I return. Papa  
left me yesterday to pay a visit, by kind  
invitation, to Mr Milne Home <sup>near Benlodge</sup> the  
gentleman who so warmly advocated his  
claims in the matter of the Edin: Principality  
& intends to return to night. It is of  
so little use giving advice about things  
you may mention in your letter to  
reach you after the need is long passed,  
that it may appear to you as if I did not  
care — second thoughts <sup>are your part</sup> will cancel this  
& the general advice which I gave you  
in my last. I hope you will weigh for  
I do feel anxious the longer you are left  
so young & so independent. — too young to be  
independent I ought to have said. I feel  
you have had too much to attend to. I  
earnestly trust that all of you will be  
content with the pleasant Change Murray  
Bay will afford, without craving for  
the extra excitement of boating & excursions.

We dined with the Vanillers last Saturday. She mentioned having had a letter from some Montreal friend in which you circumstances of being alone was mentioned. I rather pressed her for particulars but her answer was evasive. "Oh about taking care of the children & so on". I you know my habit is to infer the worst if I do not have the best. Do not for a moment infer my darling Anne that I distrust you in the least. I only feel we have left you in a delicate position that requires great prudence on your part; I papa at times feels bitterly that while we have been associating with people of culture & that you are in intimate association with people whose advice he does not value. I have talk only helps to highlight your own superior intelligence. I am sure you will be struck with the contrast between papa's own habit of talking about men & things & the high ground daily life takes in relation to God.

so that without direct religious talk, every  
thing ~~to~~ said has a purpose consistent with  
our higher duties. I am very glad you  
had a fine day for the wedding & that all  
passed off propitiously. Delay your photo taking  
until I return. I will do my utmost to help you  
getting a wally fine one. I am now content  
with the stay papa has made here. Without  
my even proposing it he remained another week  
to see P. & I safely housed in our "cottages by the bro".  
I think he is much better for the few weeks he  
has had in Scotland. The beautiful low  
walks we were to have had in Edin. have  
proved abortive. We have moved about  
too much to leave time for sentimentalism.  
I have had far less excitement & not much  
overfatigue since the Ocean has. I think  
I told you last week that we had been  
visiting at Musselburgh, Dalkeith, Dalrymple,  
Melrose, where we saw the Abbey. Abbotford  
also one day at St. Berwick & two on different  
occasions at Burntisland & Aberdeen. I trust  
that papa may be restored to you in safety  
& find you all well. So that, happy have my

be spent together. Considering also the details of what will prove to us, the future years be in store for us, a life book of reference, with many chapters of interest about interesting men & things with not a few happy incidents interspersed through the whole.

The preparations for Sam's wedding goes on apace. The date is 7<sup>th</sup> Sept. Some than at first intended to induce me to remain. I have not promised; it will make me terribly late. especially if I keep the promise I have made to Mrs Crow & Mrs Cunningham to stay a few days in Liverpool. I must first know how I can exist without papa. I do wish I cd have one telegram from you that I not know you were all well at the time I hear. You may be sick, dead & buried before I get the news of your health & happiness. Such thoughts fortunately are generally followed

by greater trust. My immediate future  
is a good deal occupied with thoughts  
about George. The weather is very  
warm in London. He has three  
examinations on three successive days  
this week & on Monday we hope to have  
him join us at Burntisland.

Tell Rankine & Eva that I shall hope  
to hear from them soon. I think they  
owe me so much more readily excuse my  
not having it in my power to write to them.  
I next steamed York Mill. I hope have something  
far better than a letter. Yesterday I bought you  
a Scarlet Cape - to wear at Murray Bay - Also a ready  
made dress which you will not like. I think I  
you must get one without muslin. I can not get  
any but very broad stripes. Tell me if any thing occurs  
to you I sh<sup>d</sup> get. I have bought some heavy bed & table  
linen - wh<sup>ch</sup> I almost regret for fear of the duty. I sh<sup>d</sup> be most  
thankful for a hint or suggestion about Eliza & Mary. I  
cannot possibly afford silk dresses as spoken of. but silk jackets  
be acceptable? Tell me if you need one. neither can I afford a  
dress for work. besides I cannot pass so many dresses. Mrs Selwyn  
hates me. with love to Mrs Millier. God bless you all. &  
grant you health & exemption from accidents - Love to Mrs Carpenter  
from your own loving  
Mamma