



Montreal

May 21st 1876.

My darling Anna,

I am delighted on your account that the weather is so fine and so summer-like. The balmy air and the morning hymns of the birds, even here in the heart of a dusty distracting town, have a soothing effect, and fill our heart with thankfulness, and I can imagine what it must be where you are, away from all bustle & confusion. The rapidity with which the leaves have unfolded

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during the past two days is
really marvellous, and I suppose
that in a week's time the trees
will be in full glory. It makes
me quite long for Lake George.
And this brings up something
which is very very hard to
realize - that in two weeks
from next Wednesday, if every-
thing goes as I trust it may,
we are to be married, yes
married; and while it gives
me great happiness to think
of this, my mind is at the
same time filled with many
solemn thoughts. When I see
what little things destroy the
happines of many a household,
and even estrange the affections

of those who once pictured to
themselves a life of love, just
as we do, surely I am not
wrong in pondering upon the
responsibility which I am about
to incur in taking to myself a
loving & trustful girl, whose
happiness must of necessity
depend so largely upon me.
I have thought of this much
of late, and I pray God that
I may be enabled to be to you
all and far more than you
expect.

On the whole I think we
may congratulate ourselves on
being ^{like-minded on} so many subjects. Still there
are some points upon which
we do not think exactly alike,

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and I must ask you to be patient with me if I sometimes express opinions different from yours. You must remember, darling, how much our minds are apt to be biased by our surroundings. In time we may come to think more nearly alike on all things; but mean^{while} ~~time~~ we must be charitable & reasonable; we must strive to get rid of prejudice and to attain to truth.

To me, I may say, the time of our engagement has been a very happy time, & one for which I feel most thankful. Your constant thoughtfulness & consideration have saved us from all the

little unpleasantness so often incident to engaged people, and for once at least I believe that the course of true love has run very smoothly.

You know not how glad I am that you are of a trustful disposition, and that you feel you can repose full confidence in me. It is a great bulwark against wrong-doing to feel that you are trusted in.

But dear, I am forgetting myself and moralizing altogether too much. Pardon me if I have wearied you; another time I'll try to moralize to myself.

6. As yet I have heard nothing from Mr. Selwyn, but I expect to get a reply to my letter tomorrow or next day. From all accounts the Canadian Geological Collection is a great success, and I am very glad as there has been a great deal of labour spent upon it. Perhaps, considering how fine it is, you would prefer to go down to Philadelphia to see it, instead of going to Lake George. For my part, I still prefer Lake George.

10. P. M. The above was written this afternoon; but I could not finish as Russell came in to see me, and afterwards I went to the college to tea. I am

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very glad that I went, for
Mrs Dawson told me that
she and Dr. Dawson had just
been wondering whether I would
come & whether I had any
affection for them. I hope they
will soon feel fully assured
that I have, and I must make
an effort to have them feel
so. My unfortunate reserve
& fear often makes me seem
cold when I feel most keenly.

After tea I took Eva & Laura
to Mr. Stevenson's Church, and
we heard a beautiful sermon
from a text which I do not
remember ever having read
before, but which was very
appropriate - "For, lo, the winter
is past, the rain is over & gone;

9!!!!!!
the flowers appear on the earth;
the time of the singing of birds
is come. —

You know not, my love,
how I miss you. After coming
home to-night without having
seen you, I felt as if I had
been to a funeral; but still
you must remember my injunc-
tions & not hurry home. I was
very sorry I had not asked you
to telegraph to me on reaching
Richmond, but as I have heard
nothing of you I take it for-
granted that no evil has befallen
you. To-morrow I shall look for
a letter. Be sure to let me know
at what hour to meet you at the
train.

If you think it fit & proper you
can give my love to Miss Browne—
as much of it at least as you think
you can afford.

Ever your loving & affectionate
Bernard.

