

MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
ACC. NO. 909A117
REF. 5

Nov. 18th

STONELEIGH,
ROCK FERRY.

My dear Anna
Mother has
asked me to write down
for her the following
reply to your letter, as
she is unable to do so
herself:

"It would give me great
pleasure to recall any-
thing about your dear
father in his early
boyhood, but I fear that
my recollections of him
then were very scanty,
as he was several years

older than myself, and
we lived some distance
apart in those days. He
must have been a sociable
& high-spirited boy, for I
can remember my mother
talking with some friends
about an escapade of his.
On this occasion, he
brought a troop of boys into
his mother's dining room,
when the table was set out
for a party, with plenty
of good things, and made
a total clearance. On
another occasion he had
been punished for some
trifling misdemeanor (I
have heard, for pulling
his schoolmistress's cap string)

and was seen dragging a trunk downstairs saying that "he was going to his uncle's to live, & that he wouldn't stay there to be punished." I believe when he was about ten years old this uncle died, & from that time forward his character entirely changed. His whole life seemed to be under the influence of strong religious feeling; in this respect he differed from most boys. He became very studious, & made great progress in his studies. He began to take a special interest

in Nature. I can distinctly remember his bringing me impressions of ferns on stones which he found when the foundations were being dug for a house my father was building. This is the earliest distinct recollection I have of him. From time to time he brought me fossil shells & reeds or "calamites" found two or three miles out of Pickton. I believe he went to Pickton College, then under Dr Mculloch, at twelve years of age. He gave a lecture before

the "Library & Scientific
Society when very young,
& when most boys would
have preferred games.

I don't remember anything
of his recreations, such as
rowing, fishing &c, but

I do remember his
enthusiasm over gardening.
Our gardens adjoined, & if
making a half hour he
spent in explaining and
replying to some point
or question I had
asked, in the same
charmingly clear and
delightful manner which
he always had, while
our rakes & hoes were idle
in our hands. I always

looked upon him as a
living encyclopedia, & went
to him for information
on every possible subject,
and he never failed
me. He was always genial
& pleasant with everyone,
but I do not remember his
having made any special
friends (though personally
he was the best & kindest
of friends to me). I don't
think he was ever a
reader of stories, but was
a great reader of useful,
& especially of scientific,
literature. Of course he
had exceptional oppor-
tunities for getting good
books. I remember his

Bringing me with great
enthusiasm, Lapard's
"Discoveries in Nivech" to read,
soon after it came out,
He was held in high esteem
by the ministers of the
churches in the district.
At one time he had some
idea of entering the Ministry
& I remember hearing
some of them at my
mother's, at the time of
the Synod, discussing this
with great pleasure, but
as we know, he decided
otherwise. I never
remember to have met
him out at any of
our little parties.
These little reminiscences

are I fear very scanty &
I don't know if they will
be of any service to you.
Should any further
memories come, I will
write again."

Dear Anna, this is all
that Mamma can
manage at present. She
does not think my
aunts will be able to give
any help, as they were
so much younger. Mamma
says she never had
more than three or four
letters from your father,
& those she is sorry to say
she did not preserve.