

Charlotte & Bernice

1870

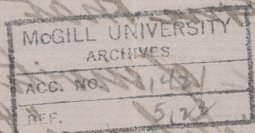
5.13

Visiting Combs with mamma
& Louisa -

Miss Lollingham going to
&
Europe -

Both Miss "Lollingham"
and "Louisa" refer to
Mrs J. H. R. Molsess -

522
Annapolis
4th October 1870



My dear Bennie,

Believe me that when I tell you I am heartily ashamed of myself for not having written you long ago, it is no mere "figure of speech" but the real truth. I remember very well that I promised to write the first letter of our illustrious correspondence, that is to be, but for reasons which neither you nor I know I did not keep my word.

Quite and I did not stay long in St. Andrews after your departure. I don't remember whether we had any more balls (?) but rather

think we were left in peace for the rest of our visit. What an absurd custom that is that country people have of inviting their friends and neighbours "to tea." I hate it with all my heart, but that I hate tea by any means, I must confess to almost an old maid's weakness for the "cup that cheers," but of all the stiff unsociable things a tea-party is about the worst. One feels so uncomfortable when one knows that the hostess and her bygone daughter have been to a good deal of trouble in getting up the wondrous display of cakes and preserves that one does sure to find on a country tea-table. But what on earth am I writing. Nothing that can be very interesting to you I fear. But remember I told you that any letter would be stupid

and you said you did'nt care,
so I feel at liberty to write whatever
comes uppermost in my mind.
Since I came home. My wife has
been guilty of two chattering parties,
and I have heard faint rumours
of some others that are coming to
pass. One of the said festivities I
enjoyed very much, the other was
so well. As is usual in villages,
we have very few gentlemen and
my number of young ladies, never-
theless we always manage to have
very good fun. Don't think I mean
an insult to you or your friends
but beyond two or three fellows who
I know and like very much, I would
not care if I never saw any other
man. I like my own sex best, for
a wonder.
I suppose you know that the

Canada Central Railway has been
opened at last. We find it the
greatest convenience in the world.
Going to Ottawa is now a matter
of two hours and a half, or thereabouts.
There are two trains a day, either
way so that we can go to town in
the morning have several hours
there and return in the evening.
Marie and I went down on
Wednesday, spent one night at
Auntie's, and came back yesterday.
The road passes through some
of the worst parts of the burnt
district. It is most melancholy
indeed. One sees nothing for
acres round but charred wood,
and even the very ground is burnt.
The saddest of all is to see only the
walls of what were once elegant -

able and even elegant stone house standing, and beside these ruins the most wretched little huts, which are all these poor people can have during the winter. Of course tremendous sums have been collected for their relief, but it seems very little when one thinks of the numbers that need assistance.

I am went to Montreal a few days after I came home, and only returned last week. He brought me something for which I have been wishing for a long time, namely a black and tan terrier. Scamp is a dear little chap and very pretty, though when country air and diet have made him a little fatter, it will be an improvement. He is an affectionate

wee dog, and seems quite attached
to me already.

Hugh, Jack and Claude leave very
early tomorrow morning to go up
the Mackinawacka. for a week's shooting.
It will be Claude's first experience
of anything of the kind, and of course
he is delighted. I am sure you
would be amused if you could
hear the numberless cautions his
female relatives have been giving
him all evening. I wonder how
long he will remember them.

When I was in Ottawa Gertrude
showed me the photograph you
sent her. I like it ever so much
better than the one I have, and
as a matter of course I want one
of these last ones too. You must
send it to me in politeness if
you've no other and better reason

as I have so promptly obeyed your
order and given you this thing
one of myself. Perhaps you would
like an ~~and~~ enlarged edition?

It has just struck me that I
remember having once heard you
say that you disliked long letters.
What must you think of this one.
I hope I shall hear from ^{you} again
soon. In the meantime, Good night.

Yours affectionately
Jessie M. Franklin