

Dec 4 / 1870

This letter for a spinster  
cousin by the name of  
"Cornelia" - who is about  
to be married - Charlotte  
is in Montreal helping her  
to get ready for her marriage

5.24

(Cousin of B. J. H.)

Montreal Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 1870

216 Montain Street -

McGILL UNIVERSITY  
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My Dear Benie -

As I wish to keep in  
your <sup>good</sup> graces I comply with the urgent  
request you send me to write to you  
once more as a spinster cousin -  
fortunately that Sunday comes on  
to stop work. You I am so busy &  
all around that I doubt believe I  
could find a free moment through  
the week. As it is my head is  
so tired hearing sewing machines  
& the fashion plates consulted that  
I can hardly collect my thoughts to  
form anything of a decent letter -  
but never mind you will be le-  
sured I am sure under such conside-  
rations though you write such  
good interesting letters that I am  
just ashamed to send you any



more of my nonsensical scribbles - but  
soon you will have to send two  
letters to my one - for you were al-  
ready in my debt - since last year - I  
was glad to hear through Charlotte  
that you kept well & sorry that we  
will not have the pleasure of having  
you spend Christmas here - & still more  
disappointed not to have you at  
the wedding - for I am proud of  
my relatives & would like to have  
them all here - that is as many as  
can come - I wish the weather would  
get colder - that we might have snow  
& good sleighing before the 19<sup>th</sup> for  
then I think perhaps Mary would  
have a chance to come down if  
not the rest of the family too - but  
it is so very mild that rain & snow  
is in store for us instead of snow -  
Of course you know that Charlotte  
had finally managed to settle.

down at our house - You can hardly call  
it settling down for she is continually  
out with Mamma on shopping expeditions  
to rig up this Institute Mamma's ward-  
robe (which was in great need of a  
gleamishing) & try to make me look  
stylish & grand. I tell L. she will  
have to remain here till after the  
New-Year to teach me how to wear  
such fineries - but what gossip - I  
fancy I hear you well aim - so will  
try to find something more inter-  
esting - I am so glad Charlotte is due  
I really don't know what I would  
do without her - but I should  
like her to remain over till after  
Christmas for it is such a busy  
time just now. that we have no  
chance for amusement of any  
kind but will have time to breathe  
some fresh & indulge after the 19th  
but I fear my entreaties will be



again for Maria wrote such an urgent letter about L going home before Christmas that she would not consent to let us write to Aunt Laura to have her remain on longer.

I will tell you our plans concerning the wedding - which is the <sup>thing</sup> uppermost in my mind at present. We are to be married by Dr. Gibson Monday evening the 19<sup>th</sup> - no strangers are to be asked but the groom's ones & one or two of his other intimate friends the rest of the party we intend to consist of the two families - I am so glad Bernice & feel so happy that our long engagement is about to come to a close - for I feel that though not getting a rich man I am giving myself up to one whose kindness to me cannot be surpassed - for really

thoughtlessly one way & another I have  
tried him very much & always found  
him tenacious & in giving of with me -  
He me to send the Dutch Church  
altogether - Will not my Canadian  
friends disown me for ever more -  
Little I care - it is not them I have  
to please now - You see Barnes  
I talk quiet confidently to you  
So you will think my decision was  
right about that matter - to go with  
my husband to whichever Church  
he wished - feeling that it mat-  
tered not where you worshipped  
as long as you are good - To return  
to the snuff-box he are going  
to Burlington for our trip - return-  
ing Saturday to be here for Christmas  
as I will only have a weeks holidays -  
it is just as well for travelling  
at this season to my idea is any-  
thing but pleasant - After our return



We are to board with mamma -  
The back parlor is to be the room  
dedicated to us - we intend to arrange  
it so cozy that our friends will  
like to come & visit us. But  
this is a queer kind of a letter  
it strikes me self being the  
only subject talked about so far -  
But it would be hard for me  
to write outside news as I go no  
further than the market - which  
is a poor place for information  
We are to have two fine concerts  
to-morrow & Tuesday given  
by the Grandet / you will  
have to imagine the act - as  
I can't spell it -) from Boston.  
I guess you heard them -  
When they were here before  
& we had it - is to have such  
music here ever - for some time.

You left town positively the con-  
-ceded we have are but worth taking  
- the trouble to go as far as town  
to hear them - How dear Bessie  
I guess you will find this long  
- enough encompassing on your pre-  
-cious time - but you know my  
- old sailing wheel once started  
I don't know when to stop - this  
is the third letter I have written  
- some morning & now I must  
- compose a note of thanks to send  
- to Miss Fotheringham the next  
- time Charlotte writes - one day  
she gave C \$33 before leaving  
to buy me a black silk dress -  
- was that not great kindness - I  
- a perfect stranger but I might  
- say - But I must bid good bye &  
- leave a black sheet for perhaps  
- Charlotte who is spending the day



ah grandpapa's might like to add  
something. With dreams of love  
from us all believe me for ever  
Yours loving cousin  
W. W. Corn -                      Cornelia

Dear Barnie -

Cornelia left a blank sheet for  
me - but I have something particular  
to say - Since these wedding  
preparations began, I have  
completely lost my individuality  
and don't know whether I'm a  
"button to match" a double skirt  
or a sewing machine - Did your  
parcel reach you all right?  
With love I am, as ever  
your aff. sister Charlotte.