

December 20/1870

a Christmas letter to Bernard  
who is not able to get home  
for Xmas but remains in  
New Haven - This probably an  
account of the expense of the  
trip.

from his mother

St Andrews Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 1870

Dear Berrie.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
ACC. NO.	1421
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The girls propose a family letter to greet you on Christmas and of course your Mother must contribute. I dare say you have had an idea of letting such a favor be your substitute for personal presence and that these burdens of good-will and affection will cross on the road. This Post Office arrangement is a splendid institution - how much pleasure we derive from letters from absent friends! Our children have been so much away from Home for several years that the coming in of the mail has been the excitement of the day and we often speak with grat-itude of the fact that these letters have never summoned us to sick or dying beds of absent children and now that another Christmas is so near bring- ing with it pleasant memories - let us rejoice that we are spared to each other and surrounded by so many comforts & blessings. I wish I could shake off for a little, the cloud of disappointment that has hung over Papa & me the whole year & let gratitude get the mastery: but the members of a family are bound up in a bundle - what ef- fects one effects all and the bond that unites Parents to Children is stronger



them the reverse. I often wish that  
as a family one Christmas had more  
of the cheerful - happy religious ele-  
ment in it. Though trying to make  
each other happy is most decidedly  
a religious duty - yet recollections of  
the Birth of Christ - announced as  
bringing with it "Peace on earth -  
good will to men" should be one  
of our highest sources of joy. —

Red Mary has finished her part  
and is off to bed; but her loves I see  
are far apart. We have had no  
very cold weather yet, and are con-  
sidering about how Charlotte is to get over  
the Grand river. The Cushing's are all coming  
up this week I hear. The roads are fine.

Poor Bob Howard has gone to some warm  
climate for his health - we have not  
heard when get. The family are sad  
& anxious about him. The boys very

little about our friends at Sulphur or  
Chatham as we have no news. I hope  
Misses will give the girls some good  
news. — He has decided to remain  
in Montreal. Our thoughts were with

the Brauns Monday Evening. I am  
glad Cornelia is secured to M<sup>r</sup> A - I  
was afraid that F - would get her  
some time or other. They say he is very  
passionate & unreasonable & a bigot.  
I am afraid Charlotte is worn out.

I must stop - What will you be about  
Christmas Day - I sometimes wish I was  
a clairvoyant and could peep in upon  
you, it is a great comfort I do not  
wish that because I am afraid you  
are doing mischief & I hope I shall  
soon have occasion to have my confidence  
in my much loved son. Papa joins  
our best wishes for Christmas & say  
Adieu you with your aff<sup>l</sup> Mother - L<sup>Y</sup> Han-