

Montreal October 14<sup>th</sup> 1860

My dear George

I sit down to write to you today, for the first time since my return, with something like a settled gloom feeling — our visitors all gone — a party given to introduce Prof: Forbes to Calley & other friends, a fast event & nothing more exciting before me than that Papa & I are to dine at Mr John Paulson's to-day. grieved to talk over the ways & means of getting up Ladies Classes in connection with the College. Papa supposes that if she could be stirred up to hearty enthusiasm in this matter that it would prove an important help. Professors Carmick & Johnson positively refuse to help the

the movement on the plea of being already  
"overworked"! I have my private doubts whether  
this assertion might not vanish in thin  
air if a good part of it were promised. Forbes  
is very willing of course to do paper. Nancy  
also, the hardest worked, heartily offers to put  
his shoulders to the wheel. He will give man  
will teach either maid or wife, willing to  
learn, Hebrew. After grave debate on the  
whole subject with Mrs Simpson & the profs,  
it is decided that amongst this Community it  
is a necessity that English literature should  
precede every other subject, or might possibly  
be accompanied by a little very much diluted  
science. Being now wholly abandoned by the  
military & very many of our young ladies in a  
state of despondent ennui it is thought by  
some to be a most favorable time to try  
to interest them in the noble pursuit of  
mental culture. I do not know whether you  
are aware that Prof. Wilson has been carrying

on a similar march <sup>to that in Edin</sup> in ~~Edin~~ <sup>Edin</sup> ~~Edin~~ <sup>Edin</sup>, very successful,  
but whether we shall succeed here is  
of course, as yet, an unworked problem.  
Your last letter received as early as Tuesday,  
the earliest since my voyage, altho' you  
apologize for its having been written hastily  
before going to see Mr & Mrs Lennie was  
a particularly nice one for which I thank  
you. The books I have also received in good  
order & prize most highly; you do not have  
sent me anything from which I expect to derive  
more pleasure. I had just been looking  
over Evans's Catalogue of Prices & had decided  
that as I had so lately had so much spent  
on my pleasure that I wd not indulge in  
any hyacinths. The children had prepared  
as a present for me two birch bark baskets  
filled with growing ferns from Munnay Bay.  
I have suspended them from the windows  
in my bedroom & I find them a constant  
source of pleasure. The fragrance & gay coloring  
of hyacinths in vases will be the more

I intend to put mine in earth. I fear  
you will not be able to afford that luxury  
for yours. I hope however, they will flower well  
& at the same time with mine. Mr. Lum sent  
me a perfectly lovely bouquet for our party  
on Tuesday by - & an exquisite geranium -  
Colored glaucalbus stands before me on papa's  
library table as I write, one from the bouquet.  
He is to send today a pear tree of a very fine  
kind for the garden. I have also had three  
baskets of grapes sent by different friends. I hope  
if you are spared to return to Canada you  
may receive as warm a welcome. Indeed I  
have not a doubt (God willing) that you  
will. Every one asks to specially & kindly about  
you. I have sometimes been thinking of the  
probability of our having that pleasure next  
summer. - My feelings say yes it must be so arranged.  
My judgement says no, in all probability  
the whole of his afterlife would be improved  
by his spending his next holidays on the Continent.

however it is too long before hand to decide  
the question one way or other. Every now &  
again papa has a little fit of depression &  
grumbling about his life - lost to science, for which  
in another position he could have done so much.

At such times I feel that little would induce  
him to through asick education for geology.  
Mr. Davidson has written to him confidentially  
about the changes in the chair of Nat. his: in Edin:  
but papa will not after being a Conductor for the  
Principalship become one for a Professorship & it  
is hardly to be expected that with, no doubt, many  
applicants he would be invited to fill it. Besides  
us it scarcely be able to subsist on the salary.

Personally I will not like the changes. although  
I never will object to anything papa would prefer.  
He is still sadly overworked here - I often sorely  
tried by the selfishness of those with <sup>whom</sup> he is associated  
but the first is partly voluntary. & I feel the human  
heart is too much alike in all parts to permit of  
one escaping the trials contingent upon contract  
with the men to whom they belong. but this

two is still in the secret storehouse in  
our heavenly Father's keeping & we must  
patiently wait His time for unblocking His  
purposes in regard to us. — Eva likes  
school & is hitherto no trouble about lessons  
preparing. Rankine is under Mr Carpenter this  
year & complains much of his strict discipline.  
His lessons are pretty hard, the discipline may  
prove a good training for him. They have  
Wednesday & Saturday half holidays. It is hard to go  
to school Saturday. I have lessons to prepare  
every day. — — — Have you seen anything  
of the Walds in London? Mrs Scott the daughter  
has a little daughter two weeks old. It has  
been matter of some regret to me that I et-  
ernal show her more kindness but we have  
been really very much enjoyed. I hope you  
have received the proof of your paper at Corn-  
an hour after the last Amation must have left.  
It thus are not yet leafless & the weather is  
still delightful. Nothing destroyed by frost.  
I received the piece of Lamb's hides etc. Don't  
please grumble at my troubling you with such a long  
letter! Best regards to Mrs Guest. Believe me to remain your loving  
mother.