

Montreal January 13th 1716

My dear Perry,

Your letters to Papa & Anna were as late as Monday & this week there is yet no news of the mail. I have not received a word from Anna since the letter I forwarded to you last Friday. & that came after five in the evening, & when I had in much haste just sealed down my letters to you afraid I should lose my chance of sending it to the mail at all. So I glanced over it & did tell Papa very little of its contents. Today I have been trying to write letters to Mrs. Crow & Mrs. Noble, in the parlour with Rankine & Eva distracting me with questions & discussions - the former on a sofa bed, the latter not allowed

to leave the room, both having
colds. Besides running up & down stairs
for things wanted by them & others, as,
on Wednesday afternoon, one table maid,
a coach & most valuable servant left
me on an hours notice, his mother,
living at Kingston, having taken dangerously
ill. If she dies, I am, will not return as
she is the eldest & will be needed to manage
the family. I heard the other day that
Mrs Barnard has had a little girl added
to her family. They very rarely write to their
friends here. I believe they are not much
delighted with the place. I doubtless it is
a poor place either for association or education.

Papa's lecture on Tues day evg, a synopsis
of which you will find in the Witness -
was most excellent. It was one of the
greatest pleasures I have had for some
time. Mr. Lums wished to have it published
but it was not written out in full &

maner could spare more time to do
to them he can afford at present. He
struggles on from one thing to another
in the old way. But a minute to spare
for conversation or any kind of family
enjoyment. I do hope you will rather
abandon all hope of being eminent & have
time in life for its amenities or have many
or many a chance & highly cultivated woman
~~who~~ whose tastes & sympathies accord with
yours. as a mere housekeeper to attend
to your creature comforts — a despicably mean
shift. — I know not why this exhibition slipped
from my pen. I am not at present out
of humors & you may suppose I am in the
blues perhaps it is the effect of dreadful dis-
eases. This is at this moment sounding
from Wilton's organ trying to play on it.

In a letter I received from Aunt Pinner
last Monday she tells me you have never
written to her since you returned to London
& she has heard nothing of you through others

This seems very grateful, it would be well
to write. It seems a long time in the future
to talk of next summer's holidays yet at odd times
it might be well to forecast a little. I have
it strongly before me you need to learn German
& French to succeed at all with any professions
you are likely to enter. & the choice of occupation
for the holidays seem to be between taking work
on the Survey or going to Germany or France to
acquire the languages. I look forward to your coming
home the beginning of the holidays of the year
following. & all of us I think will be sadly disappointed
if you did not. Whether to remain or to return. It
will appear desirable that you should be known to the
Survey men. Then when is German & French to be
acquired? I have been for some time wishing to talk
to Papa about this & now merely throw out hints
to suggest thoughts ^{of the} subject to yourself. Papa has been
inquiring what prospects there would be for any of my friends
in this Country. They are not at all encouraging. Lately
Mr. Duncan wrote asking Papa to recommend a secretary
for his (Primitives of Agriculture) office. He told him of the
gent who lately brought letters of introduction from his brother
Mr. Lloyd. A thing of this sort leaves no time for communication.
It will have been a Capital thing for P. Primitives. but he will be here
for years & no such opening occurs. With much love
Ever believe me. My dear Primitives.
your affectionate sibling. Mother