





miss you daily. I feel your absence so  
much more since we settled down  
for the winter — the dinner table  
especially is so dreary. What will it be  
if Anna leaves us before either of you  
return! My little world seems dissolving  
under my feet but as Laphia Brown says  
"Such is life" none the less sacraunt to  
each of us as it becomes our experience.  
I am literally bewildered by the rushing  
tide of changes that have swept passed  
me since last June, my only chance  
of being at all coherent is to begin at the  
beginning & give you a sketch of some  
of my summer's experience. I spent a very  
happy month at Fretts, not that there is  
any thing particularly attractive there but  
partly because the people with whom  
I came in contact were agreeable & ~~happy~~  
chiefly I think because my tent for planning  
had full scope. Prof. Carey was after  
ask my advice about paths, galleries &  
& Mrs. Major was really at my or every



hours to plan or replan his prospective  
Cottage until I myself thoroughly by  
caught the mania which first showed  
itself by joking about buying ground  
& building a cottage & then, as you  
know, ended by my really doing it —  
fortunately I am not yet regretting this  
as a rash act but hope now that it  
may prove valuable to more than  
my own generation — my full enjoy-  
ment however must be postponed  
until all my own children spend  
a happy summer with me there. You  
must arrange to write your next paper  
in summer & I now earnestly invite  
you to do so at Braeside, Melis. I will  
try to send you a plan of the Cottage  
& show what a nice room I have for  
you, with dullying & heating for relaxation.  
So William there are wonderful railway  
cuttings & bridges, as at that part of the



of the Country there are so many isolated hills that there have been many engineering difficulties to surmount. I was told that Flemming spent a year planning one a few miles there. Papa & I returned from Tunis on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August proceeding to Detroit on the 9<sup>th</sup>. It is a charming place with fine broad streets & beautiful suburbs. The Science meetings were I understand about average in attendance & interest. Miss Lums accompanied us which greatly increased my pleasure as Papa being President of the Principal section was much occupied. I came to know Mr & Mrs Cape well & liked them very much. As we were back I saw something of Toronto but was disappointed at not finding one of the Wilsons in Iowa. Then three full days were spent at Niagara gazing by



by moonlight & sunlight into  
the fall, under the fall, across it &  
above it from dizzy heights & slipping  
slaps without a touch of nervousness.  
I had a rather bad fall hurting my  
knees, but still I enjoyed every hour  
of our stay & now I often recall the  
beautiful scenes I enjoy it over again.  
House cleaning & hard work were in  
store for me on my return & the  
weather was the warmest we have  
had this summer. Helen, the Cook  
we have had for five years, did not  
return as expected but went to keep house  
for two brothers which has given great  
trouble & after some trying experiences  
with a professed Cook we have lit  
upon an intelligent, clear, untrained  
girl who, for Anna's benefit & my relief, I  
have given over to A. to train & future  
dinners are promising. During the high



of my household — difficult as Anna  
returned from Fates heartful of  
gratitude fully shared by me & now that  
that is <sup>changed</sup> ~~changed~~ into a new found happi-  
ness I still suffer late misgivings, the  
cause being his inherited delicacy of Con-  
stitution & small income although this  
by no means finishes my list of objections  
but it is now more than well  
to dwell on the unpleasant side of this  
matter & many things might be said  
in its favour — he has a good  
character & fits well into the scientific  
part of our family. God grant that  
when weighed in the scales balance  
of married life he may not be found  
wanting in any of the qualities needed  
to make Anna a happy wife. I suppose  
Anna has told you of Alfred's engage-  
ment to Nellie Cochran. They talk of  
being married at Christmas & living  
for a while at his father's. Poor  
little Miss Papineau who was mar-  
ried



in August to Mr. Davies - Son  
of Mr. Davies of Regent's Park Call: London  
- has just died in London. His  
father died this summer which  
leaves him without a near relative.  
While on the subject of marriages I  
may mention that Mrs. Campbell  
has brought a wife with her from  
Toronto & they are now receiving their  
congratulatory visits.

William's unexpected determination  
to remain in Paris is quite a trial  
to me. Three years seems an interminable  
time. I want him to come out  
next summer & I tell him that (W.V.)  
I will bring Eva to France in the Autumn  
of 179. & stay with him & all return  
together in the Spring. That supposes  
a great many things in the unknown  
future. Amongst others that Mr. & Mrs.  
Harington will take care of my good  
husband & son Rankin



Your father is going up to Ipswich  
tonight to <sup>give</sup> an opening lecture to "Ladies  
Educational Ass: there". The Wilsons have  
sent me a most kind, urgent invitation  
to go up with him & pay them a visit.  
but I am not strong enough to make  
new friends & go about as I wont have to  
do there. Sophia Brown is paying us  
a visit just now & A & R. are pressing me  
to go to Rugby on Monday with her.  
& have a quiet week there. I believe I shall  
be sent off. It is so kind of you to warn me  
I am going to enclose you <sup>against overburdening you</sup> with <sup>the</sup> last  
letter but the one of the week before decid-  
ing his feelings. He has sent you by  
Stratfordham two little parcels, however  
they are to be conveyed to you is mysterious  
to me unless I find on inquiry there is  
a parcel post. We saw all the Gilmore Place  
people & spent a happy time with them.  
Mrs Primrose is now living in London  
making a home for her son George. She is 12  
miles from her daughter Mrs Gray. She can not  
get a house to suit near her. She feels very lonely & I  
must not begin another sheet as I have to write to