

Birkenshaw,

Little Metis, July 27th/85.

My dear George

It was the greatest

comfort & pleasure to me to receive
 your letter of June 25th with a
 description of your wishes, & also
 of general prospects, as these seemed
 all favourable. The weather here
 too has been much finer during
 most of this month & despite of
 reason this has a marked effect in
 making one feel more comfortable
 about you. I do hope however that

you will exercise thus produces
 which will enable you to overcome
 the desire to do more work than
 is quite safe, leaving off before the
 severe Autumn storms may reasonably
 be expected. I write readily to acknowledge
 my own weakness on this point —
 I have such a taste for finishing only
 despise my lack of will-power over sleep.
 I do enjoy the kind of life we lead
 here — improving the hours. Certainly
 a tiny wee garden in which there
 is not a weed & the few plants perfectly
 lovely & full of blossoms. I gathered
 our first today yesterday. I also arranged
 a plant group of buttercups, nasturtiums

~~with~~ the Crimson variegated leaves
 of the wild Currant ~~or~~ ~~strawberry~~ it
 is a perfect piece of Colouring! - beautiful
 to behold. I have also done a good
 deal towards decorating & improving
 our parlour so that the whole place looks
 really very pretty. Now we are going to
 enjoy the Company of some our friends.
 We expect Adelaide Campbell tonight,
 to stay for a week, & early in August
 we are to have Miss Beaks. You know
 I invited her because she was a stranger
 & lonely, before papa & you concerted
 the foolish plan of getting her to put
 my old withered face on Curran, but
 altho' I have been as persistent as I safely
 could against being singled out for

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This honour I shall have to submit
if the Cosmos equipped with all his
parraphernalia. Your photos are very
much admired & very justly so, none
of us, less saw such an excellent likeness
together with a class & artistic, arranged
to picture. I have carried out your wishes
in respect to the exception of Ella, as I wait to
find time to write. I have also sent
a copy to Rankine who for some time
has been planning for a new set of the
family. I received a letter from him
last Saturday, dated from London,
in the act of sailing again, but this time
for Australia. He had been desirous to
take this voyage & had told us that he
would rather lose some time waiting
for this opportunity if he thought it

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likely that he could effect the
transfer to his boat at Marseilles, on the
last homeward voyage, instructions
were awaiting them that they would
only be allowed six days in port
as the "Escomania" was to be sent to Australia.
He asked in a previous letter that his
best thanks should be conveyed to
you for the newspapers you had sent
as they were very acceptable. There
is still with us looking very well
& very pretty, the sea air has given her
such a high complexion. Will
take her last word from this at

Wag Lake & coming near the end
 of the work he had ^{been} asked to do, so
 that if he did not get farther instruction
 he expected to return about the end
 of this month. He intends to ask for
 a halibut if granted will come
 here; personally I fear it will be denied
 & am only too glad thus notwithstanding
 the many discompos he has endured
 he has been mostly in the open air
 & not heading over a city office desk dur-
 ing the hot weather. Anna & her flock
 are all well. The Recurve's weekly letters
 from Bernard containing excellent
 descriptions of his travels of which we
 all have the benefit, & as we have no

I have been ourselves at many of
 the places we are deeply interested
 in following his experiences. I doubt
 if he has told you that he has given up
 his original idea of going to Norway &
 Sweden & taking instead the Common
 Council of Belgium, Prussia, Germany
 & Switzerland & where of course he will
 see much of interest & use to him in
 his own specialty.

I am plodding through a dead
 edition of Perry's life. She
 was a woman of remarkable grasp
 & power of intellect but from my point
 of view having missed ^{in her life} ~~the~~ which Com-
 pletely satisfies her even the first lectures
 of mind, she differed from Cousin.

shoelaces & dissatisfactions & failure
 to make the highest use of his noble
 gifts. I read his "Romance" shortly before
 going to England in 1835 & I am indebted
 to his pen greatly enhance the pleasure
 of our delightful visit to Florence. I quite
 intend to read his "Adam Bede" as soon
 as I can get it - that is Countess her
 best is it not? By the way I ought to
 tell that P. saw the Mc Bonellis in London
 they are having a very gay time - they are
 horrified to contemplate the necessity they
 are under to return to Victoria in September
 I have run on at quite length then
 I had proposed to trouble you reading
 writing as I do from this hamlet obscure,
 but I must spare you a third sheet. So
 with all loving good wishes I am as ever
 your affectionate
 Mother