

OAKLAND HEIGHTS,
ASHEVILLE,
NORTH CAROLINA.

Acc 976

March - Saturday 25th 1893

My dear George

I wish to thank you very sincerely
for your letter, written shortly before your departure
London, wh: I received at Summersville
about a week ago, as it gave me great
pleasure to hear of the many kind thoughts &
plans you have about us. Incidentally I hope
you have got a letter from me telling you
about the sale of the Wallace property, wh: sets
papa's mind at comparative ease in regard
to means, when he leaves his position in Mc Gill.
I have at last persuaded him to write a
decisive & final resignation of the Principals-
hip to his b. t. d., wh: likely will be read to the
Soc^y at the monthly meeting of yesterday. One
point he wd not concede as he thought it any
his duty to offer to continue in office until a
successor was found, & he himself thinks that
it may mean another session for him, wh: I hope

it may not. So on anything seems to point to the
 presence as the necessary as well as the desirable
 time to make a complete break & not risk the
 benefit now gained, for although your father
 is well & able to write clearly, while unobstructed,
 I am convinced that he is even more dan-
 gerous to himself & his strength more seriously
 affected by them than was the case before his
 illness. He has the more or less swelling of
 the right leg & foot. I had thought that this
 was declining but I observe that it varies
 according to weather & fatigue, & lately a few
 bluish, raised looking spots have appeared
 on the leg. Showing congestion of some of
 the blood vessels. In this hotel there are all
 kinds of baths & appliances, with trained
 messengers men & women, & I expect much improve-
 ment to follow the use of baths with gentle
 rubbing - a course of which he intends to try.
 I need not enter in any more detailed way
 upon other topics, why your father should retire, because
 you know as well about these as I do if not better.

For after all the thinking & planning we can do
for him we must still wait & act in some
things as circumstances dictate. He is still desirous
to return to Montreal at the end of April to
appear at Convocation, notwithstanding both
Cruik & Stewart wrote asking him not to do so. Dr.
Packelick who visited us at Dumfriesville & he
said he saw no reason why he should not
return at that time, but he was to confer
with Dr. C. & J. & let them to write again but the
nature of this conference has not yet been sent
to us.

What occupies many of our thoughts at present
is the fact of the Harringtons having to turn out
of this house & to find a home for their large
family, & we think the best thing for them & for
ourselves would be, if we can find a large house,
or two houses together, in a Terrace, that we
could buy & alter to suit to form a Conjoint residence
we securing, say, three private rooms & taking
meals with the H.P. This not take time as we

We do not wish to decide so important a matter
 hurriedly. Anne, who is rather delicate just now,
 appears to have decided to store her furniture for
 the summer & then go to Dr. Ambrose, & then later
 on send the family to Paris & remain at P. St. till
 she was able to join them. I have very heard of this
 but I wrote immediately & told her to give up
 such a fatiguing & complicated plan, & urged that
 we should all go to Paris earlier or later in June,
 & that I would make everything ready to receive her
 into our Cottage for the month of July, which I
 hope she will see to be the best way. Papa has
 also written to the Medici's telling them that they must
 delay doing anything to the house till we do not disturb the
 H^o before the end of June. They are very pressing to
 go to work to get alterations made before the Autumn
 session begins.

In regard to a home for ourselves I cannot express
 how deeply your asking us to live with you has
 touched me. I assure you to see you with a home
 of your own & to be allowed to help to make it
 comfortable will be to me a sincere gratification.

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but none of you know how little strength I have
& notwithstanding all the "high living" & charming
not I am hearing I do not feel any dry joints!
the smallest exertions fatigue me, so that in
looking forward the charge of a house, however
simple, appears beyond my capabilities - For
your further searching seems more delightful
your companionship in pursuits - a museum or
library of books without labor & responsibility
nothing could be better but the housekeeper where
is she to be found? where? Yet thank you ever
so much dear George. One other thing I want
to thank you for is the kindness & profferance you
have shown to Rankine as I believe he is now at
a critical juncture in his life when loss may
make or impudence or harshness mar him.
I hope all the family may be kind & patient
until he settles on some mode of life which I
think must come down. In connection with him
this overturning of an affairs cause me some

anxiety for, should he come to Mentone & find no
 welcome & no home he will feel discouraged &
 get here again we must hope & wait & all will
 be well. . . . We got to this place late last
 night & this morn'g find ourselves on the top of a
 hill, two thousand five hundred feet above sea level,
 surrounded by a circle of mountains much higher.
 Towards the West, about a mile distant, the town of
 Ashville climbs a pretty & irregular slope. It has 6000
 inhabitants, & with its spires, towers &c. is an attractive addition
 to a varied & beautiful panorama. When we left Durham on
 yesterday the therm: was merely 80. here it is 65. & the air & water
 pure & good. I don't find packing much trouble
 when one knows where is to be packed, & am well repaid
 by the pleasures of novelty. Each place at first seems better
 than the one before. . . . We have not yet seen a
 word about the doings of the Arbitration & every word
 of its doings has an interest to us as of a personal
 matter. I wonder how long it will last. We shall
 welcome any personal communication very warmly &
 we ever hope & pray that your health & strength may be
 sustained thro' the siege. ^{& that you may not} ^{might} ^{very well} ^{do}
 ever believe me ever ^{to be your aff-}
^{mother.}