

Birkenshaw,

Little Metis.

Aug 1, 1897

Dear George,

I sit down this  
 pleasant Sunday after-  
 noon, being your birthday,  
 to wish you many happy  
 returns thereof, and to  
 say some things which I  
 wish you to keep in re-  
 membrance of me in case  
 should not be spared in  
 life to another return of  
 the season.

Since I came to Metis  
 this summer, the sudden  
 attacks of vertigo and un-

Circumstances I have had  
warn me that my tenure  
of life is very uncertain. I  
may at any time fall  
into one of these fits  
and not awaken from  
it in this side the grave.  
My mother passed away in that  
manner at a less age  
than that I have attained  
to. This liability which depends  
on a little over-fatigue or  
excitement or indigestion,  
obliges me to be very careful,  
and very much limits my  
capacity for any work. It  
renders it impossible for me



to think of being present at  
meetings this summer, which  
would give me a great  
deal of pleasure. Last summer  
in England I was obliged  
to forego many things, but  
I was then strong in comparison,

I naturally think much  
of the past and of the change  
which looms in the immediate  
future. Respecting the  
letter, I trust my  
Mercy of my God and Father,  
God in Christ is Love and  
I can have faith in that  
Love, notwithstanding all  
my sins and shortcomings  
and failures; among which I  
can reckon duties & my



Family. The part is in Gods  
hands not in mine, yet  
I can see how much  
better I might have  
Cared for you and our  
other children had I not  
been so obstinate and  
unpractical. Please forgive  
all this, in far as you are  
concerned, and that that  
our Dearest Father who has  
allowed you to suffer so much  
undeserved pain and illness,  
can more than make up for  
all; and has already allowed  
you to receive infirmities  
that might have crushed many  
a weaker spirit.  
I ~~was~~ wish that now  
I could not only refer to your letter



day but to a second or  
 new spiritual birth, making  
 you more fully a child of God.  
 I give you with reference to  
 these two sayings a Sopha  
 of Jesus Christ, which are  
 now most precious to me,  
 and which I hope will be  
 the same to you. Christ  
 says to Nicodemus (John, 3: 16)  
 "For God so loved the world  
 that he gave his only begotten  
 Son, that whosoever believeth  
 on him should not perish but  
 have eternal life." That  
 is a free gift to whoever chooses  
 to seek, and I know it is  
 open to you for the asking,  
 as Jesus Christ says at the end of  
 his earthly life in praying for  
 his disciples (John 17: 3). "That  
 is life eternal that they should know



Then the only true God and Jesus  
Christ whom thou hast sent.

The real knowledge of God is to  
know him as the loving father  
in Christ who pities and would  
save us, and to trust the  
same Saviour he has provided  
for us. These things are eternal  
realities whereas the mere  
phenomena of this life are  
but temporal and transient,  
Kneel take these words to heart  
as they may be parting words,

Mamma I am sure would  
urge them upon you as much as  
I, as she now joins in  
wishes in your both-day. She  
I am glad to say is much more  
active than I, and devotes her  
self to caring for me. It is most  
likely that she will be the one  
wor, and I shall trust that  
if I am taken first you will be  
a guardian and I shall be  
as I am sure call our children will  
be according to their ability, but



The others are left independent, being  
 more tied to family duties and  
 other bonds. Mamma will have  
 the use of all our little means,  
 so long as she lives. I wish  
 there were more; but I trust  
 there will be enough with  
 your kind and loving assistance  
 in attending to her affairs.

I may without veritatem  
 add the love and good  
 wishes of all the members  
 of the family here, the youngest  
 of whom look with reverence  
 and affection to "Uncle George"  
 may we all meet at last  
 in the better spiritual rest and  
 in the new heavens and earth  
 wherein dwelleth righteousness,  
 and where all the troubles



of this confused and little  
understood world will be  
solved.

Ever your loving father

J.W.D.,

P.S. I have brought here with  
me the m.s. of my Prologues,  
and am reading it over at  
intervals & shall try to bring it  
up to date; though to prepare  
it for publication it should  
be re-copied and touched up,  
a work which I do not hope  
to complete. In a tin-box on  
my study at home are many  
papers relating to it and  
wood-cuts and photographs for  
illustration. I may add that Dryden  
died in Alnwick and Hodder  
& Knoughton 27 Paternoster Row London  
have offered to publish it. Thus I  
leave at your discretion. J.W.D.