

UNIVERSITY
YES

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REF. 12

McGill College.

Montreal.

September 14. 1882

Dearest Rankine,

"I accept thankfully
received", was a favourite motto
for a kind of amusement gathering
album fashionable in my
younger days, & equally it suits
the style of epistles with which
you supply me & for which I am
really thankful altho' it ever leaves
me hungry for a more substantial
meal. Do you give me a little
more of your ^{knowledge} ~~work~~, your plans —
thoughts & intentions. You say you
find your position disagreeable &
am sure you must have a great deal
to bear in coming so closely in contact

with such a mass of the lowest
types of humanity. How sad that
sin should have so utterly demoralized
the once fair image of the perfect
One. Pity them — alas how a shadow
of the Divine is still somewhere hidden
amongst the rubbish heap of selfish
passions, enough to have ~~us~~ cutting
after the beautiful original. He comes
to renew. His words have power; — drop
them kindly as you pass to & fro the
impression may be effectual. Even
if it is not the blessing will return
with refreshing to your own soul:
o you know in a Country so barren
of good influences that must be
watered by any o every thing else that can
be turned upon it.

I hope that you have not missed
seeing Mr. Reppert. He had hoped

to meet Sir Hugh Allan & party & has failed in doing so & it will be an additional regret to him if he has also missed you. He sails for home on the 23^d. Mr. Meyer, who returned by last steamer, seems to feel anxious on account of not hearing about his affairs from you. I feel you are loaded with care & overmuch business.

I have myself so many things going on around me that I am in a chronic state of bewilderment as to what I ought to do or say next. The Ass: mfg. has now away in the far West - it was a terrible excitement & strain on strength, but papa & I have both pulled through & I don't care to go back on the home details. Papa left for Paris Sunday the 7th & returned via Mexico this morn. Eva & Carrie Cross joined him at Mexico Sunday morn. to show Annie this old city & they say they have had a delightful trip. C is most cheerful

to go to Niagara but neither papa
 nor I can possibly go at present. I know
 of no other coast. Anna & Bernard
 are still on notice but we expect them
 home Saturday next. Did I tell you that
 they have assumed the responsibility
 of paying for the baby cottage & lot? - It
 is rather a high price \$966. As repairs &
 alterations are necessary but young Morgan
 was most anxious to get it & it will be
 so delightful to be near together that
 that thought was in the decision.

George dates last from Geneva on
 his way to Northern Italy & thence
 to Germany. Had not met with one
 known face since he left England.

William is once again here. there
 is now competition between Louvain
 & Lachine for the "Dominion Bridge
 works". & the municipality of the latter place
 has offered substantial inducements
 to go there. 34 acres of ground, as a site,

5
is being surveyed & Computations
to ascertain if a branch railway can
be brought to Curran & level into the
existing line, if so, Lucknow will have
the preference. This also is a pleasure
we anticipate as Mr. Col. Curran home
every night for dinner. At least for
such time as the Dawson family
retain any claim upon his society, for
what do you think of the headless
man having sold himself body &
estate to a young girl eighteen years
of age named Florence Elliott! This
as happy as happy can be with the bargain.
Really & truly William is engaged to
the eldest daughter of Major Elliott. Asst
Commissary General, an Englishman lately
stationed in Aligarh. whose acquaintance
he made last Spring. You may feel quite
sure that she is a Christian, but she is also
well educated & accomplished & without

question - a lady in manner. W.
 want say that ^{she} is pretty but from
 her photo. She seems pleasant. I
 have been in the secret since before
 he left Halifax, but papa & I see very
 hard after this animal this way & you
 come next in order, even Anna does
 not know. W. of course we going
 to see her. I have yesterday written
 the conventional letter of Congratulation
 to Mrs. Elliot & asked her to allow
 Florence to pay us a long visit. W.
 is going to Halifax at the earliest date
 that present business engagements
 allow & I hope she may return with
 him. How do you feel now? Any
 of the old enthusiasm left in you?
 as do you only grant a stolid. "All right"
 One excitement after another fills our
 world as I said before - I am bewildered
 just now the hurried pace of life - new
 interests occupy me. Kate is to be married
 next Monday. Another is going into a factory. Loving
 that much love believe me love to your mother.