

1.
Toronto

Nov 18 1861

My dear Sir

I received your very
flattering letter a few
days ago. And in answer
I give you the names
of Mamma's sisters
Elizabeth the eldest is
by far the most talented
and thoroughly educated
woman in the family
She is unmarried and
lives at Baywater
(London) by her self and
is one of the greatest
scholars in the world

She edits several well
known magazines
and writes reviews
but never gives her
name to any thing

She it is who Hunt
Agnes says in her Preface
to the Success of England
"She is indebted to for
valuable assistance"
in completing the work
I without that assistance
I doubt if the work
would ever have
been written - She
prepared all the matter
for Hunt Agnes to

wrote from - Translating
all the old Norman script
& letters from the original
old Norman French
and Latin & the still
more difficult quaint
old English style and
spelling - Besides that
she assisted in the
actual composition
their style being so
like that one could
go on where the other
left off without their
being any perceptible
difference. I imagine
nobody can detect

The more masterly
writing of the older sister
This however is not
for the world to know
As to Madame de Montaigne
celebrated has been her
name all her life
Montaigne was the
next sister and
I believe only a year
younger - She wrote
many things before
the "Innocent" almost
all historical - Poems
Stories - and novels were
upon historical subjects
even as a child she
was a wonderful

5.
Historian - And a house
in the country with
good visitors and a
splendid library was
very favourable for
making her such
she had a lovely
face and all who
saw her say it
most charming in
every way. Her only
fault being extraordinary
family pride.

The next Sarah
had been married
twice she was con-
sidered the beauty
of the family and
was published by

thinking through I believe
like the rest had
written when quite
young but never had
the courage to have
any thing printed

Her first husband
was a Mr Child
What profession I know
not but was a clean
decent man from
letters of his that I
have seen to mention

She was for many
years a widow &
then married a man
of considerable fortune
a Mr Richard Quelling

(I am not quite sure of
I spell it properly) She
is Rector of Wroston
in Lancashire - She never
had any children

The next Jane Margaret
had what she calls
"a Religious reputation"
is also unmarried and
lives at Rydon Hall
with her Mother who
is still living though
beyond of ninety - In
her youth she wrote
tales and "profane
poems" but latterly
confined herself solely

to Religious stories &
 tracts. She has however
 lately published a
 History of Rome called
 "Rome Regal & Republican"
 This has taken her
 many years to compile
 & is I believe a good
 work but owing to
 its really not being
 needed in the literary
 world has not sold
 so rapidly as was
 expected. She has
 also published some
 other work lately but
 do not know the

tette of it -

Then comes Mrs
 Trull & last but not
 least my own dear
 Mother - The eldest
 son Samuel was 24
 father is some weeks
 less than a year
 younger than Mamma
 Has been in Canada
 since he was a
 boy of fifteen &
 has had three wives
 & something like fifteen
 children visiting
 England some years
 ago in search of a

third wife was persuaded
to write a book upon
not knowing of ^{my} ^{husband's} ^{name}
"Canada", which was
edited by Aunt Agnes
This had not a very
great sale though
a very amusing
book in its way
As it came out
almost at the same
time with "Toughing
it in the bush" & as
it overlooked most
of the hardships of
a backwoods life
& spoke only of the
advantages it did

not seem true
It was however true
as he coming out to
Young adapted him-
self to the country
& married a girl brought
up in the woods who
had a large family
of brothers who assisted
him in the first
hard work of clearing
land &c. all these
advantages, Gunpowder
& Paper had not who
when they first came
out were as much

disgusted with the
rough looks of the people
as the handshakes they
gave to me.

Uncle Strickland or
the Colonel as he is
commonly known is
from being such in
the militia at the
time of the rebellion
has done a great
deal of good to the
country. In bringing
out young gentlemen
from England to
teach them farming
all these young men

have either massive
 Canadians or some from
 far west. Most without
 an exception have
 settled as close as
 possible to him.

The consequence is
 that the same place
 that was a wilderness
 twenty years ago is
 now a flourishing village
 I may almost say town
 of "Lakefield" which is
 a sort of Patriarch which
 there called "Governor"
 by all the "Students"
 as we used laughingly
 to call them. He is a
 regular picture of

a handsome well
looking English man
He has built an
excellent house
& has an elegant English
wife & his house is
a sort of rendezvous
for all sorts of Jews
He holds a situation in the Canada Company
He has still several
children. Who are
certainly a credit
to Backwoods bringing
up - all steady. The
two eldest daughters
are married one in
Toronto the other now
in Oporto the third

A girl about eighteen
spends a good deal
of her time here is
pretty & had the honor
of dancing with the Prince
of Wales at Clarnilton

The three elder sons
are all well married
the fourth I see was wrecked
on the North Britton
on his way home
to be married —

The youngest Brother
Thomas Strickland
was Captain of an
East India Man for

16

many years. I had
though still at sea
I hardly know where
I heard something
late of his coming
out to try and break
the American blockade
his name only be known
- He had a large family
but we know nothing
of them at all -

Now I have given
you a regular gossipy
account of the whole
family for your own
benefit but by no means
tell half what I

17
I have told you in
your book. My cousin
Miss Tully begs me to
tell you by no means
to give any date which
might lead to any
discovery of age. You
should it ever be
seen by the old maids
at home there would
be mortal offence
given. Old as they
are they it appears
look wonderfully
young. Indeed poor
Grandmama speaks
of them in her letters
as the girls considering

That the youngest of
all my Mother's grand-
children of our ten
years of age - it is rather
absurd to say the least
of it. But every one
has their weaknesses
and it is better not
to offend them.

You may however
do as you please
but be guarded not
to say too much as
I would get into trouble
if they found out
that I gave you
the information.

I believe I made Mother
two years younger in
my last letter to you
than she really is she
was born in 1803. Not
in 1805 as I at first
thought. I suppose
they could have no
objection to your giving
the date of Mamma's
marriage. As my sister
& I are being witnesses
(I by the bye look ten
years older than we
are) to prove that she
must have been married
at least thirty years.

I am the youngest of
the two but as I was
married at seventeen
I have an immense
family (eight) five
still living. So to Henry
one's age seems such
a perfect absurdity
but Mamma always
annoyed her sister
by her frankness upon
that subject —

Praying that you
will excuse this very
long & rambling letter
as I have had many
interceptions & hoping