

Canada, a happiness that I do not despair of attaining before many years slip away. Often my dear Meredith will say, when people ask me if I should like to return to Canada: "Certainly, Sir, or Madam, nothing would give me greater pleasure than to present my dear little wife to her good parents, and say—'Here she is, your daughter!'" It is only necessary that he should be given command of a company, and if it should happen that it was one already in Canada, what joy!

The dear children are in perfect health. Yesterday we were invited to spend the day with a very dear lady of our acquaintance, who has a beautiful boy six years old. Anne was also invited and behaved like a little queen. Her little companion was charmed with her and showed himself the little admirer in a way to attract the pleased attention of all present. Anne acquitted herself so well that I leave you to guess whether I was proud or not. She is beginning to speak French, for now we talk to her always in that language. Practice is everything in speaking different languages, therefore I shall see that she does not miss this advantage. David picks up some words, too, from hearing his sister talk.

Dear Mama, I must tell you a little story about one of our friends named Mercer. My dear M. spent two days with them last year, and as he is ever on the watch for an occasion to give me pleasure, he thought he would show a regard for me by buying some pretty gifts of the value of about forty shillings for my cousins. Well Mercer returned this visit since our return from Yarmouth, and instead of bringing some little trifle in grateful acknowledgement, did he not come empty-handed! I said nothing of what I thought, but I could see plainly that my dear M. was much surprised. I write to you about it only to show you how the two natures differ, knowing well that it will go no farther. My dear Aunt is well, as we heard only a few days ago.

Behold how I have become a thief in this letter! I have used the paper of my dear Father to write to my dear Mother! But I am fortunately at the mercy of two judges who will not have me hung for the theft, and now as I propose addressing a few words to a dear sister of mine, you will excuse me from saying anything further to you in this