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1. ✓

Thursday morning

My dearest little Martha

Your note of yesterday has just come to hand, much to dear Mamma's relief - who has been fretting about you all ever since the Enterprise left. She is quite happy now since hearing of your safe arrival. You had I hope, a pleasant trip, as the weather here was magnificent till the evening. Yesterday was showery, and today there is a steady down pour.

Uncle Cameron was here yesterday having called to ask James to drive some of his voting friends, to the Esquimalt election - which takes place today. James was fortunately out of the way, and so was not dragged into what, I fear, will be a losing cause: owing to Uncles delitoriousness; having begun his canvass too late, in the day.

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day. We hope dear Agnes and the little ones are all well. Kiss them all for me. Mamma unites with me in love and best wishes.

My dearest Child
Your affect.e Father
James Douglas

I send this mornings Colonist. I would have written much more, were the light better: as it is, it is painful to the eyes.

ever yours
J D.

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Victoria 30th Oct. 1871

My dearest Martha

The immortal Semi brought a letter from you and one from Agnes on Saturday - yours was very brief and not so chatty as I expected, in fact I had almost arrived at the conclusion, that Miss Douglas was going to be any thing but a good correspondent. So matters were up to this morning, when Semi who had been over to town, popped in with a letter which proves to be one from you dated 27th Oct., which you must have posted before Jamie's arrival at New Westminster, and made no mention of in your note by him; so we did not think of sending to the Post office for it. A very nice amusing letter it is, full of fun and information - what a jolly trip you had, with your

chatty fellow passengers Mr and Mrs Fane; then the grouse and bacon, the jolly big potatoes, with their torn coats. and the keen appetites you brought to bear on all these luxuries, gives one quite a fancy for New Westminster.

I am glad to hear that the Guelphe pleases Agnes so much; she will never lack occupation or amusement, with that toy in the house. We are busy now with the apples, they are finer than usual and abundant. Mamma is rather dull, but is getting on much better than I expected without you. she is always so busy that she has no time to pine.

I will write to Agnes another day. her letter was much prized. Kiss Agnes and all the dear little ones for me. Tony finds no purchaser. the box from England has not yet made its appearance. Mamma unites with me in love to you all.

May God bless you
My dearest child
Your loving Father
James Douglas

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Victoria
6th Nov r 1871

My dearest Child

I have just this hour received your dear letter of the 3d Nov r announcing the welfare of all the dear ones at New Westminster. My dear Martha you must not relax or cease your efforts to improve, as you know I am most particular about letters, and I don't like to see mistakes in yours - You

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have omitted at least two words in your last, and mispelt Sciatica. Pray don't be remiss in future. How fortunate the accident to the Cape was not more serious. You were invited to the Ball but I of course declined the invitation on account of your absence.

The Mail Steamer arrived this morning. I have heard nothing as yet of the Box but I presume it is come.

I send herewith enclosed a letter just received from Alice, and one from Wifey Dallas - read and return them without fail. they give all our news. I will send you, a five dollar Note - by next Boat - to pay for your photograph. See that ~~the~~ it is a good one.

Mamma unites with me in love and kisses.

No time for more.

My dearest Martha

Your loving papa

James Douglas

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Friday morning

My dearest Child

Many thanks for your last letter. and for the nice piece [redacted] some for dinner so good that Mamma would eat nothing else.

The Governors Ball was splendid. Mr Cameron and James were there but being rather out of sorts I could not go. The races yesterday were not well attended. Dawn is off to Christ. and Amy is all alone and has more to do, than he can manage. I shall go or send for you next week. I have not time to get a note of Mr J for you. I will send

one next week. Excuse this short note. Love to Agnes and all the children. Mamma unites in love and kisses -

My dearest mother
Your loving Father

Mansell has sent in a Bill for shoes supplied in Augt. I am sure I paid for them before, but cannot find the Bills - are they in your possession.

Your box is come, and found your things are all ~~dont~~ up in pasteboard boxes and have not been touched - so we cannot tell how they look In haste
I send the Morning Colonist

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C. [1871?]

Victoria - Monday 13th Nov.r

My dearest Child

We had the pleasure of Agnes' and your letter, by the Enterprise on Saturday - Do not forget to return the letters I sent you to read - from Nifey and Alice, as I wish to answer them soon - Pray do not take the trouble of sending more stamps as you know we have great abundance of fish here - and very little is used when you are away - as James Lancies he has brains enough, and has no desire for more - What a deluge we had last night and there is every appearance of more rain coming - Mamma has agreed to your remaining for another week with Agnes but not longer - I enclose herewith a five dollar note - to pay for your photographs - Mamma has not been very well for some days, but is now better - The confirmation

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service took place yesterday. and
was most impressive. I did not
attend as the weather was very bad.
Mamma is much obliged for Agnes
letter, and hopes to hear from her again.
I met Cecy Wallace the other day
as I was driving to town, she told me
she was quite well and looked so.
The apples are nearly all in
after a very tough job, delayed
as the pickers have been by the
weather. They make a fine show
in the apple house. and will I think
keep much better, than they did
in the large boxes, we used to have.
Your last letter was very
good. Mamma desires her love
to you. Agnes and all the children.
May God bless you
my dearest child
Your loving Father
James Douglas

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PROVINCIAL COLLECTION

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Victoria 16th Nov: 1871

My dearest Martha

We had the pleasure today of your welcome letter pr: Enterprise. rather a short one, however, shewing you must either have been very busy or not in the humour of writing. just as I am at the present time - it being 10 o'clock in the morning and I am grumbling about being kept so long out of bed.

Mamma is seated in her corner talking about you; I just hear her saying oh, my poor little Martha this is the first time, she has been so long away from home. I miss her so much in the evenings oh my precious child - she must not attempt to come down if the weather

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is stormy. This is all very well for Mamma to say, but I fancy we must take the weather as we find it.

The Members of the Ministry have been gazetted

Mr. McCreight Attorney General

R. Rock Robertson Colonial Secretary

Henry Holbrooke Commissioner of Lands & Works.

Not a very strong Ministry I fancy. but we must storm to keep them afloat.

Jim says it is four minutes to eleven - so I must close with love and kisses to Agnes you and all the little ones -

My darling Child

Your loving father

James Douglas

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but I remain with the
Train as he thinks the
walking will be too much
for me. We shall overtake
him at Cache Creek so
the arrangement stands
at present. I hope my
dear Mother and her
chickens are well. Excuse
this horrible scrawl. I
shall write again when
I have a chance.
With but love to all
I remain
Your affectionate Son
J W Douglas.

Copied by dear little Amy. James you
see is improving, in mind as well as in
body. He will, I trust, have plenty to say
on his return home. I have just made
a conditional sale of Metchosen for $5000
dollars. A poor price. Yet better than keeping
it on hand. Mamma sends you her love
Amy wrote you the other day
May the Almighty bless you My dearest child
Your loving Father
James Douglas

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DOUGLAS COLLECTION

present, and have joined the
mule train under Dunster
Gauntlets party crossed on
rafts and lost so many things
that our party determined
to build a canoe. No sooner
was the idea conceived than
executed and the result
was a splendid canoe
twenty five in length and
three feet wide. Mr Smith
crossed last Friday and
wonderful to relate, returned
last night having failed to
cross a rapid river about
six miles away and which
he says must be bridged.
I dined with him this
evening and he was telling
me how very fortunate it
was I did not go with him
as he had had a very hard
time of it. It has been

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raining hard for the last
two days but Hunters tent
is waterproof. I like him
very much. last night he
recited poetry and prose
to each other, told stories with
a golly fire burning outside
and the rain pattering
on the tent, varied occasionally
by the braying of one of the mules,
and last but not least the
roaring of the river, which is
about 40 ft. distant. My
knee is quite strong and
well but the ankle of the
right foot is rather weak
Every body says I am getting
fat I feel much better I
think I shall stick to
the mule train. I have
been writing a Diary and
will give you a benefit
when I return. We left

on Saturday 26th July at
12 Noon in Canoes which
were waiting for us I did
not know what canoeing
was till I went up the
Squamish River. I
candidly confess I felt
sometimes frightened but
the Indians understood
the River and managed
their Canoes beautifully
No boat could have got up
the River the water was so
swift. Excuse the crossing
but I fear greatly this will
be over weight if I do not
I could fill sheets of paper
about the trip but I have
not the time. We cross
tomorrow and cut a trail
till he arrive at the river
to be bridged. Mr. Smith
will then go on again

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Address
Misses Pauke
Landodown House
Worcester Park
near Wimbledon - Surrey

Victoria Vancouver Island
10th Aug.t 1872

[illegible]
[illegible] C. Pauke
DUKE OF
CUMBERLAND

My dear Mr Bushby

I do not like to trouble you with my affairs and vicissitudes but as I am coming to England, and have decided on sending my youngest daughter Martha to accompany her sisters Jane & Agnes to England & as Mrs Dallas will not be in London at the time she gets there - I have taken the liberty of requesting your good offices and those of your dear sister to see my darling safely placed at a proper finishing school where she may have the comforts of a home - and a careful training in manners and general knowledge. Martha is 15 years of age and so far as her nature goes, is fairly educated - she plays well, sings has a taste for drawing
is well read, writes a good hand, and a neat letter - What I should wish more especially is, as what I consider attention is elocution and English Composition

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the French language, which she has studied for several years - & larger & broader views of life, and that expansion of mind, which may be called the education of the eye, and cannot be acquired out here -- She is also fond of music and drawing, and may improve in both arts.

I wish her to be a parlour boarder and to have a bedroom for herself.

Mrs Nicholls, a widow lady, who has for many years been Martha's music teacher has recommended a ladys school near Wimbledon. It is kept by her two sisters the Misses Turk- who it appears are most excellent people, and will cherish Martha & give her a most careful training, and as a parlour boarder - she will be always with them -. If at all like Mrs Nicholls, they must be of the excellent of the earth - so if their terms and references are satisfactory, I should wish Martha ~~to be happy with them~~ to become a pupil of theirs: but if not, I leave Jane and Annie to make a choice of schools; good food and fresh air being essential conditions, as the childs health is after all the main consideration

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Flower beds. Foot much better
Arthur and James at Police
Court. Had a pleasant drive
with Arthur and James, riding, to the
Uplands and round by Mount Tolmie
home. Mr Crease called in,
this evening, to have a chat about
our dear departed ones. Watching
the wind - it is fair for the
"California" feel certain you will
arrive on Saturday morning.

Thursday 15th

Lowenbergs day - he called as usual
his jolly round face, a great comfort.
but miss my little scribe.
My birth day. keep it quiet -
to avoid fuss. Mamma busy getting
things put to rights. Dear little
Dolly came in with a rush, to wish me
many happy returns of the day - leaving
in my hand a shilling as a birth day
gift, and went off like a shot, for fear
I should return it to her. Nice is it not?
Drove out in the afternoon with Arthur
Took the Esquimalt road, round by

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Victoria Vancouver Island
13th Augt 1872

My dearest Martha

I hurried up from the
garden gate, where I bade you adieu
to comfort Mamma, and found her
in a burst of incontrollable grief -
I caught her in my arms, but her
heart was full - she rushed wildly
into your room and casting herself
upon the bed - lay sobbing and
calling upon her child - Opening
the windows for air, I saw Joseph
and Tod standing by the carriages
listening sadly to her cries -
The poor fellows, looked so grieved
at our distress.

Mamma was at length
exhausted - and then I poured in,
words of consolation - and then drove
out, to see you pass out of the
harbour. Instead of Point Ogden
we drew up at Laurel Point, where
we had a closer view, of our

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departing treasures - We saw you clearly, returning our fluttering signals, and the dear children, shouting their hearty good byes. We watched you till out of sight, and returned, with sad hearts, to our deserted home. Tod spoke most feelingly of your departure.

Tod, I remarked Martha is gone now. O yes he replied, we are all so sorry - She never left us before; but she will be back again, we hope, before the winter comes.

James rode out to Point Ogden and watched you out of sight - the poor boy had nothing all day, to eat, and is very sad.

After prayers this evening Arthur was overcome, by his emotions and wept like a child, it was painful to see him, weeping for wife and children, which were no longer near him. His grief added to our own sorrows. But blessed be the Lord Jesus, who has not left us comfortless. He is a shelter from the storm, a sure refuge in distress. We feel that our dear ones are in his keeping, and we will not sorrow as those without hope.

The last month since dear Agnes came down to James Bay has been a happy time for us all: so pleasant was it to have you all about us. in our dear old home. and to see you well and joyful.

It is one of those green spots in life, which I delight to dwell upon.

Wednesday 14th.

Mamma about as usual, sad but composed. Not a dry eye at Morning prayers - We all sobbed out our griefs aloud, when Arthur, attempted, the prayer always read by Martha - We are now more composed - Busy at the

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Craig Flour, and home by the Gorge.

Friday 16th Augt.

Calm - fine weather. Arthur left this morning for New Westr. his cold is much better - he promised to come down often - Sorry he is gone. My foot much easier. Mamma well, but sad.

Drove with James to the Uplands. Have a fancy for some land there. Shall I buy a few hundred acres? what is your opinion? Better have the money in the Bank ey -?

Saturday 17th.

Weather dull and overcast.

Elections for the House of Commons approaching - great excitement.

Bunster, Beaven and Wallace all in the field - They are most amiable, promise to get every thing, imaginable for the electors. James gone out boating with Solicitor Johnson, they have a fine breeze - too light, if anything. Foot much better, radiant

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this afternoon. The exercise very enjoyable

Sunday 18th Augt

Refreshing showers this morning - and appearance of more rain. Your flowers look so happy, after the drenching, that one would almost fancy they enjoyed it.

Mary said today, sat with Mamma on the gallery, talking about you all. She were so happy this day week. seated all together on the same spot watching the children on the Lawn.

James returned this morning tired and hungry. Rooks came this morning in crowds, to settle on the apple trees - Drove them away.

Monday 19th

Heavy rain last night. The Country at large, which was suffering from drouth, will gain by it. The safe arrival of the California, at San Franco, is reported on the "Bulletin Board".

Delighted with the tidings.

I must now close my dispatch, for the North Pacific tomorrow. Be sure and acknowledge its receipt to the very day. It is satisfactory to know, when a letter is received. Mamma is with me - She sends her heart felt love to you, Agnes, and all the little ones. Show Agnes this letter It is long enough for both.

My kind respects to the Misses Buckley, and Joseph

My dear little daughter I feel very sad. I could go on writing to you all day. - But I must close. May the God of your Fathers, the blessed Saviour of mankind, have you in his holy keeping.

My dearest Martha
Your ever loving Father
James Douglas

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they are beginning to fall. how much you will miss the fruit of your favourite trees.

Friday 23d Aug.t

The weather is cool, windy and overcast today. You are now drawing near Chicago, and will I hope be tomorrow at Niagara. where I hope you will take a day or two rest, and still be in New York, in time for Wednesday's steamer, and the last stage of your journey. I wonder how dear Agnes is; she is not suffering I hope from the effects of the journey.

I heard from Arthur, who is well in health, but of course very dull. Nelson has been elected by acclamation for the Commons, as member for New Westminster. Fisher has been returned President of the Council, instead of Cunningham whose election, was invalid.

Victoria Vancouver Island

Tuesday 20th Aug.t 1872

My dearest Martha

I mailed my first letter to you yesterday; it will reach you soon after you arrive in London. Received Telegram last night, from Mr Fraser announcing your departure from San Francisco, at 7 o'clock, on Sunday morning, all well; so you must, this morning have passed Ogden and are now careering over the vast inland plains. I can fancy your enjoyment, amid scenes so grand and novel where so much is to be seen and so much to admire. How happy we feel now. I lost no time in sending Mrs Crease word, and this morning I rode over, to do the same good office for Mrs Woods. They

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were so thankful for the good tidings. The weather is still showery: the flowers are enjoying the reviving bath and shooting out gloriously. I walked to town yesterday and am much better in health, though the foot is still a little painful. Mamma is well, always however thinking of her dear little girl.

Wednesday 21st

More rain: cloudy warm pleasant weather. Saw that dear good lady Mrs Pierce today. She is looking well, is as cheerful and resigned that you could almost fancy her an angel. She was out on the verandah today, enjoying the fresh balmy air. I told her about the Telegram from San Fran.co, and we talked over your trip to Europe and the advantages, even in point of health of foreign travel.

Every one is pleased to hear of your rapid progress. My chief occupation at present, is poring over a Map of the Central Pacific endeavouring to trace your steps. By the Time table which I have carefully consulted - you must this morning have passed Laramie and are probably, at this moment, -2 P.M.- passing "Sherman" the highest point on the line. The rate of travel must be slow, just there, as the ascent is great: but you will have easier grades, and get on much faster as you enter upon the descent towards the Atlantic.

Mamma had a good cry this morning, over the fading bouquets, in the Library. They are carefully stowed away, as keep sakes, for your return.

Taking in early apples, as

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they must take heed of every thing that looks ill, because they are so much looked at. They are intended to give light to others, by doing such good works as men may see, and as will give cause, to think well of Christianity; - of the truth and excellency of the Christian religion. That they may be provoked to imitate your good works, and so may glorify God. It was a forcible discourse.

This was a medicine attendance present. Carey & were in church and good Captain Cator. We put up earnest prayers to the Throne of Grace, for you all. We are longing for the New York Telegram.

Monday 26th

Drove Mrs Fazo to the Uplands - she is a charming person, talked about you. I have asked Brother Dallas, to take you, for a short time to Dunham, to see your sister and Nieces, before you settle down.

Saturday 24th Augt

Mrs Raymur and Mrs Claudet called the day before yesterday, but I was out at the time. Met Captain Cator, who is looking hearty and well; he enjoyed the trip north, and found a great deal to interest him; Made all sorts of enquiries about Agnes and you. Found dear Mamma in tears, over your little things, which she was arranging and putting by in the Drawers. This is very natural, seeing you never left home, before, except for a few days. and now that you are gone so far away, she feels your absence acutely. There is in truth, a void, in the house, where you have been born and have been cherished for so many long years. Accustomed to your society, every thing about the house, recalls your image, so vividly, at times, that I almost fancy I see you hopping in

upon us. N'importe, I am glad of the move we have made; you may never again have so good a chance, of visiting the old world, and I know you will profit by the opportunities of improvement, so unexpectedly thrown in your way.

I hope you will make a point of seeing Broad way, the great street of New York Inspect it closely, so as to be capable of talking about, and giving an opinion ~~of~~ its architecture, and general appearance - The Americans are proud of it - and the first question asked of any person, who has been to New York generally is - What do you think of Broadway.

Follow the same plan, with respect to every other celebrated place you may see - Regent Street is for example the boast and pride of London - the Rue de Rivoli of Paris Princes Street of Edinburgh and so on with other places

Find out which is the admired thoroughfare or object, and then inspect it closely.

I am just come in, from a drive to the Uplands, and round home by the springs, with Mamma and Amy -, we all enjoyed it, as the weather is delicious -

Sunday 25th

Delightful weather. At church, foot nearly free of pain. We Dean went through the service - unaided. Text "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Ye are the light of the world." The good Dean earnestly improved the occasion - Truly the Light is sweet, it is welcome. Christ is the true Light of the world, his disciples shine by light derived from Him. They must walk circumspectly

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to school.

Tuesday 27th Augt

The Prince Alfred arrived with the Mails - Your letter received, what a shame to hurry you off so soon from San Fran^co^ A day would have made no difference in the time of your departure from New York, which will not be till tomorrow - A days rest would have been so grateful to all the party.

Reid Mr Fraser says you were all in good spirits, on leaving Oakland. it was so good of him to see you to the very last moment. Hannah is relieved, but will not be happy till she hears from new York. Mamma & James passed the afternoon and dined with Mrs A. Pemberton. Miss Wyllie called to ask after you - sends her love - the dear good Lady is looking well. The Steamer

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Wednesday 28th Augt

will leave tomorrow with the
mails - Tell Agnes I sent her
letter on to Arthur, the minute
it arrived here, by the Enterprise

I hope dear Agnes and the
all the children are quite well.

Mamma and James unite
with me in love and fond
wishes for you all.

May God bless you
my darling children write soon
and often, for we long to hear
from you -

My dearest Child
Your loving Father
James Douglas

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My darling Mattie
I had to read Papa's
letter, I hope you will not
be displeased -
Your Affy

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exercise, for we naturally love those arts in which we excel. You say nothing about the children, how they behaved and how they got through the journey. Arthur has had several letters from Agnes, and I suppose has heard all about the little ones. One mistake you made; in future address to Mamma, whatever you have to say to her and to Papa whatever you have to say to him, by that means you will succeed, in writing with greater point and precision, and your letters will, on the whole, be more satisfactory. You know I wish you to tell me every thing that is passing in your mind; to lay open as it were ~~your~~ the innermost recesses of your soul, so that, with Gods help, I may be able to counsel and advise you, in all the varying scenes of life.

Unsigned

B 40/4

Victoria Vancouver Island
31st Augt 1872

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My dearest Marilla,

The Telegraphic message arrived yesterday, announcing your departure from New York on the 28th Inst, in the good ship "Java" for England, which relieved us from much anxiety, in respect to the overland journey, shewing that you had accomplished it comfortably and that you were all well. Mamma had as usual a good cry over the missive and then we all settled down, to enjoy the tidings. I suppose you rested a couple of days at Niagara, and closely inspected that most stupendous feature of Nature and will give your impressions of it in your next letter.

In my letter to Agnes, I mentioned the death of Captain Irvine, from congestion of the lungs. He is to be buried today at New Westminster.

10th Sept. Mr. Fraser arrived yesterday, in the "Alfred" and dinared with us, in the evening. It is a great treat to see him again among his old friends. I shall tell you all about his doings, in another letter as the Steamer is on the eve of leaving, and I must therefore close. Mamma is quite well and sends you her love and his blessing. May God in his mercy bless and preserve you my walking Child. I saw Carrie today, and gave your loving Father per you love. Miss Wyllys love. James Douglas

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Sir Francis Hincks - Finance Minister who was lately defeated in an election contest in Canada has just been returned by the loyal electors of Vancouver District to represent them in the Commons. The Lane thus became useful, as a refuge, for the Members of the Cabinet in distress.

8th Sept.

I have been absent from home since the 2d Inst. on an excursion to Bute Inlet. We got back on Saturday evening - 6th Inst. at the close of an exceedingly wet day. The trip was very enjoyable with the fine weather we had, and most comfortable quarters on board the "Maude". She is really a jolly little craft, with a full length upper deck where you can sit and see every thing as you steam along - the quiet inland waters of the Straits. The scenery is striking and attractive - with much variety - James and Mr Crease were of the party - We called at all the settlements on the way landing and receiving passengers and cargo - keeping up a continual change and excitement on board - There is much improvement visible every where, but especially near the Coal districts, where canneries and saw-mills are springing up.

The survey parties at Bute Inlet are making satisfactory progress and hope to bring the rail road out there. more I fear doubt.

Your charming letter from Niagara arrived this evening - to our great joy and relief. The foreign correspondent, has made a good beginning, ears, eyes and mind have been all at work, and to excellent purpose. Go on and prosper, every succeeding letter will, we trust, be an improvement on the former, and you will come to that point, that you will be capable of writing not only with facility, but with pleasure as the

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DOUGLAS COLLECTION

her feelings, and she was soon all right again. Her health is very good and except on such occasions as I have mentioned, is in good spirits. Christ Church will be finished in a few weeks more and looks remarkably well.

Monday 23d Septr

A little rain fell yesterday morning, but not enough to moisten the ground, which is still dry and parched. I took Mr Fraser for a long drive on Saturday, round by Yales and Dead mans River. We afterwards drove to Belmont and were hospitably entertained by Mrs Switzer, who appears to be a very intelligent person. The trees are loaded with fruit, and every thing is lovely, but we missed the old familiar faces, whom we shall meet no more on earth. So passes away the glory of the world.

Thursday 26th Septr

The Prince Alfred arrived with the mails yesterday. I had a letter from Alice, she

Victoria 10th Septr 1872

My dearest Child

I have just posted a letter for you, by the Prince Alfred and begin my notes to new, so as to keep you well posted about passing events. Mrs Starr lost her baby the other day, the dear child having been carried off by a severe attack of Cholera - another baby died of the same complaint a few days previously so that the Doctor is under some alarm, as to the contagious nature of the disease, the deaths having occurred in contiguous dwellings.

The letter I last received from the "Foreign Correspondent" is admired, by all who have heard it read, great encouragement, is it not to a young writer. Carrie was delighted to hear from you, and made many enquiries about your progress.

She had been to see the Misses Turks school, and reports very favourably of it. So does Mr Dallas, and the purposes sending Jeffery to it. She will share your room and be a little friend and companion to you. I have not heard from Jane, who appears to be growing insufferably [illegible] Mail, and [illegible] the [illegible] Yesterday the rooms were turned topsy turvy, the carpet austed and ceiling [illegible] the dark knobs [illegible] and active [illegible] Mrs Marshall [illegible] and wishes [illegible] her lessons. They are very fine [illegible] our delicious pears. Mamma

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I was out with Mr Fraser, most of yesterday and greatly enjoy his society. He is full of information, his memory is prodigious, and he forgets nothing. He enjoys the quiet dinners and social evenings at James Bay.

14th Septr

All is well here. Nothing of much interest has transpired. Daily rides with Mr Fraser. He dines with us every day. The new Cemetery is to be at Barnabe's property, next to Ross's a better site than Medana's grove. being much drier, and far more secluded.

Sunday 15th

The Bishop preached, this being collection day, for Diocesan purposes. He was touching and pointed, the subject of the discourse being our Lord's words "I come to declare the truth". He enforced the duty incumbent on all the followers of Christ, to build up his Church on earth, by precept and example. All should be ministering children, gentle kind, leading pure and holy lives. There was a fair congregation and a liberal collection. A happy day Christ is revealing the truth, more and more clearly to my soul. O that I could live, more devotedly and enjoy a closer walk with God.

My dear little Alice, how is she? I have not heard from her for some time past.

Thursday 19th Septr

Charming weather, warm, bright and clear. The early apples are nearly all gone and the late kupers fast maturing. Don't you miss them in England. I saw none there so good as our own. The pears are perfect, the Sargonells never kept or tasted better. They are delicious this year. Last night after prayers, in which you were earnestly remembered, Mamma burst into tears and had a good cry; which relieved her

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(Mary Tod) to make an afternoon call. Their house is very comfortable, and they are planting fruit trees, laying out walks, making lawns, flower borders and otherwise getting the grounds in order. Mrs Booker made kind enquiries after you.

I omitted to ~~say~~ mention ~~that~~ ~~I~~ ~~made~~ a call made a few days ago, ~~at~~ Mrs Elliotts, ~~and~~ ~~found~~ both she and May were well. I told them all I had heard about your journey: we had a long chat, and we afterwards took May out for a drive, together with Amy, so they made up a very joyous party, and greatly delighted Mr Fraser who acted as whip on the occasion.

Oct. 6th. Sunday

Took the sacrament, a solemn occasion, many communicants. Mr Gribbell conducted the service; dear good Mr Cridge, being laid up, by a severe cold, but is now rather better.

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Victoria 28th Sept. 1872

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My dearest Martha

I, yesterday, despatched a letter for you by the Prince Alfred and also, one for ~~sister~~ sister Alice, which I registered, with an enclosed Check on Messrs Smith, Payne and Smiths for £12, being money received here, from Mr Good, for Alice's benifit.

Alice has been so often changing her residence of late, that one is afraid her letters may miscarry, which would be a serious matter, if they contained remittances. I addressed the letter in question to Mrs Charles Good
Isabella Cottage
Pemberton Road
East Moulsey - Surrey.

Pray mention this to Sister Alice.

Miss Devereaux who I met in town the other day, was enquiring affectionately after you. I gave her all the news and told her, how much you enjoyed the trip and the views of Niagara

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She misses you so much, as do also many other old friends here.

Mr Richardson the geologist has discovered abundance of Iron ore near the Coal fields at Comox: which will prove a lasting source of wealth to the Colony. The Kope silver mines, are again before the public; samples of ore sent to San Francisco, for assay, yielded 240 dollars a ton besides some gold. A mining Engineer is now gone up to Hope to examine and report upon them to Capitalists of large means, who will, if satisfied of their richness set to work to open them. All this bodes well for the Colony.

30th Sept

Mrs Nicholles, has just sent over a note, informing that she had heard from her sister Miss Tuck who had called at Malkin Strait but did not find Miss Bushby at home. Miss Tuck further assures me, if I decide on sending you to her establishment, she will of their earnest endeavours, to promote the comfort and advance the education of Miss Douglas in every possible way. This is at once a satisfactory, and reassuring piece of information. which I highly value, as I feel you will be among friends, who will prize and watch over you continually.

Oct 2d Tuesday

We have had heavy rain and dark cloudy weather since Sunday last. The country will soon be fresh and green, again reminding us of lovely spring. We are all well and comfortable here. Getting the apples in. Had a good jumping on the verandah, with the skipping rope for exercise. Drove out in the afternoon with Mr Fraser, towards Cadboro Bay stopping for a few minutes at Mrs Brooks

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DOUGLAS
COLLECTION

11th Oct. 1872

My dearest Martha

We had Agnes' letter of the 11th Sept yesterday, mentioning your safe arrival in Baltimore Street, and all the kindness of the dear good Bushby's

You must have found it pleasant to meet friendly faces awaiting you landing at Liverpool, and again at Euston square station, where dear Jane gave you so hearty a welcome

I am really thankful, that you passed so well, and so much better than thousands who have trodden the same path before you: truly the Almighty was about your pathes, and showered his mercies upon you.

Why did you not write a line yourself to assure us of your welfare, I fear you must be suffering from the fatigue and excitement of the long journey.

Mamma sends you her love, and all manner of good wishes - as well as Dolly and Amy

May God bless you my darling Child - Your affect. Father
James Douglas

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7th Oct.

Dr Powells appointment as Indian Agent for this Province, has just been announced by telegraph from Ottawa. A less objectionable appointment, is that of Mr Pearse, to be Engineer of Public Works and Superintendant of Light Houses. The salary is only £450 per annm Fifty pounds less, than he has now but he prefers it, on account of its being a permanent office, altogether independent of the Provincial Legislature

8th October

The weather is splendid, people busy about the garden, gathering fruit which is abundant. I wish you had, a cart load for winter use. You would be delighted, with a morning peep, of the varied and highly tinted foliage at James Bay. The splendour of its rich and gorgeous hues, reflecting the bright rays of the morning sun are beautiful beyond description

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DOUGLAS COLLECTION

Victoria Vanr Island
17th Octr 1872

My dearest Martha

I have addressed you so often, since you left home, that I have quite lost the reckoning, and can scarcely tell the number of my letters. We have again received the note you wrote on Agnes' letter to Arthur, as the "Java" was nearing Queenstown. It was brief, but still satisfactory. You had been a great sufferer, from sea sickness, which is very trying to every one, and quite accounts for your silence.

Arthur arrived last night and is in excellent health, the up country trip having done him a world of good. He will make some stay here.

I enclose a cutting from a New York Paper, which will amuse you - Your letter

apples are all gathered, such a shew in the fruit house; how are we to get rid of them in your absence.

I enclose a discription of the new church, which will suit our purpose as well as a more pretentious edifice.

21st Octr

Our good old friend Captain Swanson died this morning, after a short illness of lung desease. He is much regretted.

I drove today with Mr Fraser to "Spring vale" and went all over Saltzers Boot and Shoe manufactory. It is a wonderful combination of skill and industry dealing with every branch of the business from the tanning of the hide, to the turning out of the neatly made shoe. All these operations are conducted under the same roof. the raw hide covered hide comming in at one door, and never leaving the premises until it issues in the form of boots and shoes.

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of 10th to 18th Sept. has just this moment arrived. How delightful to hear of your welfare, and progress. How kind the good Misses Bushby have been, I owe them a debt of gratitude which I can never repay. Your letter is full of information and charmingly written: neither flippant nor too heavy.

Jane had heard of your arrival and writes to me as follows. "We "heard from them both yesterday: Martha "writing a most sensible, and business "like letter to Mr Dallas. It quite "astonished us both: and I must say "she does credit to Papa". You see my dear, what golden opinions, are won by good sense and good breeding.

18th Oct.

Have just seen Captain Cator and delivered your message, also to Miss Wollie and the Governor. they are all so pleased to hear from you. The other messages I will deliver in due time.

I read over your charming letter to Mrs Crease, who was delighted with the contents. She read over a letter Miss Carr had received from Mary It was nicely put together, but I was surprised at one remark, Mary says "I have been perfectly miserable, ever "since I commenced the journey". What led to that feeling; I thought you had all been very happy together.

Probably Mary was out of health and consequently suffered from depression of mind.

I suppose you are by this time at Worcester Park, and have settled down to your studies.

You will find it dull work at first, but that feeling will wear off in time. I have seen Mrs Nicholls and delivered your compliments: She is not very well at present, but appears active and cheerful. The weather has been very fine lately: the

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MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4)

sides. We have just heard, that the San Juan question has been decided against England, and we have lost the Island. I cannot help thinking that our case, has not been fully or clearly represented, to the Emperor of Germany, or he could not have arrived at so unjust a decision which is utterly at variance with the rights of the relative parties. Well there is no help for it now, we have lost the stakes, and must just take it easy.

28th Oct.

I must now close my despatch as the mail will leave in a few hours. We had no letters from you by this steamer, nor had the Grasses from Mary. Write often, either chiefly to me or to Mamma, and not to your "Parents", which satisfies neither Ma nor Pa. May God bless you, my dearest Child - Mamma's love and kisses - Your loving Father James Douglas

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Oct. 23d I fancy my dearest Martha that my frequent letters, may come to love you at last, though I dare say the love of home, and of dear Papa, may always render them grateful to you. Yesterday we sent men out to Fairfield and had a great bonfire of fallen logs. Arthur and I went out to see the fun, but James like a lazy boy decided on staying at home.

Mamma is still an early riser and has caught cold, which has brought on a bad cough, without however confining her to the house. So you do not fancy a land purchase at Cadboro Bay notwithstanding the beauties of the site. You are probably right in that decision. Rainy weather has set in, the sky is overcast this morning, looking dismal and gloomy. This is not however

PR 1428 - James Douglas family fonds
MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4)

the beginning of the rainy season which is I trust yet some weeks distant.

Octr 24 The ugly blot on page 1st of my first sheet, is the result of the carelessness of my Inkstand, as I was sketching out my arms, over it, to get a sheet of paper. What a mess on the table and carpet; Ann, soon however, made it all trim again.

I do so miss your neat, attentive hand in the Library. I miss the bouquets so much, though I might have them, by taking a little trouble.

This is dear sister Cecilia's birth day. She would have been now 38, had she lived.

I have just been reading the above remarks to dear Mamma, who is sitting by me in the Library. She smilingly admitted the facts adding - I have only made two bouquets for your table, since poor little Martha left.

Mrs Spence of Cedar Hill since Mrs Scott, was buried the other day; a most excellent person. She never recovered the loss of her Mother Mrs Lang, who died some weeks ago.

26th Oct^r

The weather being pleasant, I drove out yesterday with Arthur to Cadboro Bay, by a new path, which turns off from the Uplands road, at the corner of Todds fence bending to the ~~left~~ right, through groves of oak trees and beautiful shrubbery, towards the water, which it follows on level ground, all the way to Cadboro Bay, avoiding altogether the steep, fatiguing descent which one encounters by the old road. We both thoroughly enjoyed the excursion, as who would not in such weather, and with so many lovely objects, - mountain, flood and field: as there met the eye on all

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Fraser has just called for dinner, it being late, as I am writing by candle light. I have told him about your letters and he desires to be kindly remembered to you. Arthur is also present and I have given him the benefit of your critique on all the singers, you had heard before going to England. Wont that please him.

Mamma is delighted and is now glad you are in England - you must make the best of your time

God I see is with you and in his merciful Providence watches over. Be ever ready to exclaim with the Psalmist when addressing his Lord. "Who "have I in heaven but thee, and" "what is there on earth without" thee". I close in haste

My dear child
Your loving Father
James Douglas

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DOUGLAS COLLECTION

Victoria V.I. 31st Oct 1872

My dearest Child

A letter from Mr Joseph Bushby, lately arrived mentioning that he had cashed the £50 check, which I sent home for your use, and that he had delivered to you the money, with the kindly caution to keep accounts and to be careful - which he had no doubt you would be. This was both kind and considerate of him, and I am sure you will attend to his advice. You know it is a large sum of money equivalent to half your allowance of clothing for the year. You will now be able to put the many lessons in economy you received at home into practice and show how well you have profited by them. You are very young yet to have great trusts thrown upon you, but I always fancy, you are gifted with wisdom beyond your years. The "North Pacific" has

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MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4)

this moment arrived, and your much prized letter of the 28th Sept.r I write immediately to save the Mails, and the chances of a snow blocade, like that of last winter which may prevent letter from getting either to you or to us, for months together.

You have at last settled down to study, love the school and describe the Misses Tuck, as being every thing you could wish as kind and experienced Teachers. The air of Worcester Park is pure and healthy, so the place is in all respects admirably adapted to promote healthy development of body and mind. You are also thanks be to God in perfect health, enjoying every comfort and attention that can under the circumstances be expected.

Tell me all about your studies and course of training in your next letter. You must have caused a sensation at Lansdown House. Having travelled so far even from the remote parts of the earth, in the short space of 24 days. Their curiosity was therefore excusable, and gratified [illegible] by your kindness to the utmost. People are thankful for such favours; and you can turn them off any number of true yet amusing yarns.

Story telling, if the stories are true is a graceful talent, worth cultivating.

I have had a hunt after the U. S. Postage Stamps, in your Casket, on the Drawing room Table and have found only four which I enclose with this.

You must have a capital memory to remember so well where your things are. Mr

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Vancouver Island

Victoria 4th Nov. 1872

My dearest Martha

In reply to your last letter, I have no objection to your accompanying the Misses Bushby, if they go not further to the Continent, or even to the sea coast of England, in which case you would bear your share of the expenses of the trip. The more you tell of these dear ladies the better. A few American postage stamps were sent, in my last letter, and herewith a few more, and I will add to the number as opportunities offer.

In future do not begin your letters with the phrase "my dear Parents", but write either to Dear Papa, or Dear Mamma- you will then write more to the point, and your letters will be more gratifying to Papa and Mamma. Now my dear little Child, I am drawing to a close; our warmest love, and best wishes all with you, we commit you to the care of our blessed Saviour, believing He will have you in His Gracious keeping.

Mamma unites with me, in warmest affection

my dearest Martha Your loving Father

James Douglas.

My last was dated 31 Oct. so you see, in the words of the old song, I do not forget my dear, though far she is away. The weather continues mild and pleasant, the leaves still cling to the Apple trees - yellow as gold, the roses are in blossom, as well as the handsome sorts of annuals.

The Princess Royal arrived on the 2d Inst., bringing the new Church Organ, a finely toned instrument it is said, and to be landed and set up as soon as possible. The Cathedral will not be opened till then !! I have no patience with our people, they are so wretchedly slow going in all their movements. Mrs Jones (Caroline Work) lost her infant son, yesterday of hooping cough. The poor Mother is distracted with grief. Mamma is going over to to see her today.

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Mamma and Amy met Mr Jones on the road, as they were driving to Hill side; he was so much affected with the loss of his boy that he could hardly speak and burst into tears. He thought it so kind of them, to call on Mrs Jones, that he found it difficult to give expression to his feelings. The burial is to take place tomorrow.

9th Novr

We have had wet stormy weather for the last two days, it is now fine again, and I intend having a drive towards Cadboro Bay, with Mr Fraser if he comes over in time; otherwise I go alone.

Mamma has caught a slight cold, but is otherwise well, she often talks about you, and feels an especial interest in Alice.

I see she has removed to London and as we knew nothing of her intention to do so, her letters and remittances for the two last months have been addressed, to her former residence, Isabella Cottage, Pemberton Road, E. Moulsey. I hope she left directions with the people there to send on her letters, to her new residence, London. if not, both letters and remittances, may be lost, which would be a sad misfortune for her

12th Novr

The Prince Alfred arrived yesterday morning and the North Pacific in the afternoon. We expected letters from you but were grievously disappointed as none came. I hope the "Foreign Correspon=dent" is not growing remiss. I had a letter from Dallas. he speaks very highly of you, and will be most kind. He hopes you will be careful in your expenditure. The new house at Dunaen, is not yet finished, and they were still in lodgings at Nairn - they could not therefore invite you, to their own house.

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DOUGLAS COLLECTION

Vanc^r I. Victoria
13th Novr 1872

What blighting influence has come over my foreign correspondent, have her letters miscarried or been delayed on the road? I have received a long letter from Miss Turk, and have just been engaged in replying to it, explaining my wishes with respect to your education. I suppose you are very busy, with your several studies, and also casting a stray thought towards Chrismas, mince pies &c.

I suppose you will spend the holidays with Jane or Agnes. I don't know where else you can go. unless you take a run back to James' Bay; rather a long journey eh?. I was dreaming of you the other night. You came running into the house and with open arms towards Papa, exclaiming "Oh! Papa I am so sorry"

My dearest Martha.

My last despatch of yesterday, has just left by the Prince Alfred, and I commence anew with another sheet.

The cold weather set in yesterday freezing the ground, nipping the flowers and green leaves, assuring us in fact, of the near approach of grim cold winter. This is a bright, clear, bracing day, the sun shining warmly, though freezing in the shade. I have just come from a ramble, in town and am going out again, to see how the clearing is getting on, in Mr Kings field - Fairfield. where I have a sturdy Indian employed in cutting and tearing up the bushes and trees. I will so acquire nearly two acres of good land

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without purchase; better is it
not than buying land at Cadboro
Bay?

19th Nov.

Still without letters from the "Foreign
Correspondent." I have however seen
those you wrote to James and Amy
and therefore know you are well.
You have plenty to say, and you
must learn to say it well, for
that is a necessary accomplishment
to young Ladies as to others, therefore
study to express your meaning with
ease, without prolixity and without
Tautology. You speak in terms
letter of "resting your weary legs"
would it not be nicer to say, weary
limbs? In comparing the archi-
-tecture of St Pauls with that of
Westminster Abbey, the idea is good
but might be better expressed.
The structures are in striking
contrast - and I think with you
as to your preference of the airy
Gothic style which fills the
mind with admiration. You
must write a great deal, and
ask Miss Pentz to correct
your style and language -
For instance you speak over-
-hastily of the stock deacon-
-ness so, than a lady ought to
do, of any one. The Censor
having now done his part
let me proceed to other topics -

There is a change in the
weather this morning, from sharp
and clear; it is now mild
and showery; but all vestiges of
summer leaves and flowers, grass
excepted which is still green and
long, have disappeared, and stern
winter with its Ice and storms is
plainly before us.

26th Nov:

Another mail is in the harbour
and still no letter from Martha

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COLLECTION

Thursday 5th Dec. 1872

2 P.M.

My dear Martha

We have just come home from the opening service and consecration of the new Church. The ceremonial was solemn and imposing, conducted by our own good Bishop assisted by Bishop Morris of Portland, and all the neighbouring clergy. The Dean read the service and Bishop Morris preached the sermon. He is a fluent speaker, and possesses a voice of wonderful power, though not a strong looking man. The Church was crowded, and a fair amount of cash was offered by the congregation. The organ is a grand instrument; its tones want the mellowing of age, to render them perfectly agreeable. The Governor's outlook me, as I was walking over to Church they asked if I had heard from

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MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4)

Martha. Not a word was my reply. the Foreign Correspondent promised to do great things as she was leaving home. but alas! has failed; it is now going on 4 months since she left and we have only got two letters from her. It's just the same with Mary said Papa we seldom hear from her, but she writes every week to Martha. Why does she not write to us? I fancy she has forgotten all about home. Another mail has just come in, and still no letters. Mamma is much distressed and fancies all sorts of calamities. Archdeacon Rose preached in the evening at Christ Church; his sermon gave great offence to the Congregation, as he advocated Ritualism. The Dean said a few words, in dismissing the Congregation, protesting against the doctrine, which has no warrant in Scripture. The Archdeacon was wrong in broaching such subjects.

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mind, wise or simple and post the same once a week; so that we may hear from you regularly. You may occasionally send me a composition.

Hurrah - two letters from dear Martha - just this moment received from the Post Office - they had been overlooked in the hurried delivery of letters yesterday. One is addressed to Papa - dates 14th Oct. and 2d Nov., the other is addressed to Mamma and is dated 1st October. I have not time to reply to them by this Mail, as the Steamer leaves tomorrow morning and I have much to do, and am rather tired. Mamma is delighted, your letter has come with healing effect like the Balm of Gilead.

With regard to your allowance for dress and menu expenses, I wrote to Brother Dallas to allow you £100 pr annum which, is a large allowance, and more than you now ask - so that point is settled. I want an a/c of your travelling expenses on the journey home, which you have not yet sent - Do not forget it, as I must settle with the Doctor & Arthur.

You must keep exact accounts of your expenses, and send them to me from time to time. You may say by your letter as much or little as you please. Mamma sends you her love and Jim and Arthur send theirs. Your dearest Sophie

Your loving Papa

Sarah Martha Douglas

10th Decr.

Two fresh Mails from England have come in since, this letter was begun, and still, strange to say, without a single line from my dearest little Martha - You must, I am sure, have written scores of letters, and what has become of them all? - Have you been careful in posting them, and in prepaying the postage? if not, they have been missent, or not forwarded, as prepayment is essential to letters being forwarded. Be, hereafter, careful in all these particulars - I will not caution you about the address, as you know, that well - I send one of our weekly Papers - to give you an idea of what is going on, in our bustling little world. Party spirit as usual runs high and a fearful crash of the Ministry is expected, when the meeting of Parliament takes place next week - I tremble for poor

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Mr Creight and Co-adjutors. They will surely go to the wall, unless they shew a bold front, and make a good fight. Your friends here are all well, and are often asking about you. May sie I never see they have moved into James Lowe's house, and the Curtises, into Kerrs former dwelling. Miss Wyllie and your other friends, with whom you correspond, will give you all the news, which they know better than I do. Mr Fraser is still at Victoria and dines almost every day at James' Bay.

What is sister Agnes doing she never writes, I have received but one letter from her since she left and that was addressed to her "Parents" which means nobody and not to me. When you write to Mamma, write and speak to her, as you know how, and when you write to "Papa" write and speak to him, as if he was before you; and then you will write well, and entirely to my taste.

I have had such a nice letter from Alice, containing some beautiful passages, on the uses of adversity in drawing us nearer to God, and on the comfort and solace she now derives from reading the Holy scriptures. Her words are to me sweeter than honey from the honey comb. Dear Mamma had a good cry over that letter and the reflection that we had not a line from Martha dear. Give my love to Agnes and Alice as well as to Ann, Tinn and Georgie.

Georgies friend Tod, longs to see him again. You need not take the trouble of writing long studied letters, except occasionally; put down a few lines every day, in the form of a little journal, of whatever comes into your

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and direct your steps. If you
gave way, once in three months, to
a momentary impulse, by getting
into a temper, you appear to have
done all that the best of Christians
can do, - grieved sorely over your
fault. So cheer up my dear child
and be more guarded than ever
in fighting the good fight of
faith; though our enimies be
strong, the Great Captain of our
salvation, is ever present to
sustain and deliver his people.

I am delighted to hear of sister
Agnes' welfare, and that she is so
happy, with her sisters Bushby
who are such dear good girls -
Please give them all my love.

The Island of San Juan is gone
at last: I cannot trust myself
to speak about it and will be silent.

You complain of being three weeks
without letters from home, what think
you of our Sufferings when we were double
that time, without a line from you

B/40/4

Victoria - Vancouver Island
12th Dec: 1872

Province of British Columbia
DOUGLAS COLLECTION

My dearest Child

In my letter of yesterdays
date, I briefly acknowledged the receipt
of your letter of 2d Nov.r. Let me now
run through its contents. Your Photograph
we shall greatly prize, notwithstanding
the pretty face. Your impressions of
New York and London, are very amusing
and on the whole agree with my own
recollections of the latter, for you know
I never saw the great American city.

You were surprised to see the Bk of B.N.A
in such contracted quarters - but my
dear child rents are high in New York
and Banks, must, like individuals,
study economy, or the pinch of want
is soon felt. I found out your admira-
-tion of Regents Street. Call at Osler's
Show rooms 45 Oxford Street, the next
time you are in town; the magnificent
Chandeliers and other objects in Chrystal
glass are well worth an inspection: but

PR 1428 - James Douglas family fonds
MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4)

pray don't fancy every thing you see or alas for us!! So you have been to Madame Tussaud's and made the usual mistake, of apologizing for treading on an old wax ladies toes. A good laugh for Miss Eliza; n'est ce pas.

Of course you must always open your heart freely to me. There may be reasons good and sufficient for your not going just now to Dunain. The new house is unfinished, damp and uninhabitable and the old one, too small for the family. So I understand Mr Dallas to say. My letters to you appear to be dropping in with the utmost regularity. You see we are always thinking about you. I post my notes however short, by every Mail; a good example for you, my fair little correspondent. I gave Amy your message, Mr Fraser, your love. Miss Wyllie your note &c &c. How kind of Cousin Young to invite you for the holidays. The Misses Turk appear to be most worthy Ladies. I wrote to them about you, lately. Dear good Mamma is charmed with your letter. it has put her in great spirits ever since. Darning is the, ne plus ultra of womans accomplishments; and hearing of your proficiency in that art, delights her, beyond measure. She enjoys fair average health, and is active as usual. Hurrah! another letter from dear Martha, just arrived by the North Pacific; why it never rains but it pours. It is to Mamma and is dated 9th Novr; a charming letter it is; full of love and home sympathies. The rides and drives about home, will I trust with Gods blessing, all come again, in due time, when you will look back with pleasure, on your present little trials. Let your trust be in God, throw all your troubles upon Him, and He will guide

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I write to you generally once a week and never less than three times a month this keeping you posted on home affairs.

I am longing to know all about Lansdown House, its interior arrangements; what you are learning; how and where you take your daily walks. Is Worcester park private, and open to the young ladies only? Have other persons access to it? Is there a garden attached to the House? Pray answer these queries in your next letter.

13th Dec.

Weather mild and pleasant. Rode and drove out by turns the other day to "Happy Valley"; which is much improved since I last saw the place. Poor Edward is not doing much good, the work of clearing being too heavy for one man, alone. He is very industrious and in good spirits, but as you may suppose, not over comfortable. Settlers in a new country such as this is have a great task before them; but with time and industry all things are obtainable.

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MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4)

(Dec 13 - 1872) 2

It is four months today since you left home; how much you have seen and learned since then !!!. We have just heard of the terrific gale you had in England on the 9th Dec.r; it appears to have done a great deal of damage to life and property: probably the accounts we have are exaggerated or the loss must be great.

14th Dec.r

10. P.M. We have just been startled by two slight shocks of earthquake Mamma who was upstairs, in her chamber was greatly alarmed; neither James nor I, felt the motion, in the dining room, where we were sitting at the time reading.

16th Dec.r

I enclose cuttings from the "Standard" relative to the Earthquake. I have no time to add to my letter, as the North Pacific leaves soon. Mamma sends her warmest love indeed we all do the same. May God ever bless you my dearest Child. Your loving Father James Douglas

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we also may hold fast the hope of eternal life, and serve Thee for ever in heaven. Pierce is in great affliction. 26th Decr We have today received a letter from Agnes. Please give her my love as well as to Alice and all the little ones.

We had a nice party on Christmas, the dinner was excellent, and the table well served by Edward who came up for the occasion from his farm at Happy valley.

Agnes mentions that you are going to spend Christmas at Dunain with your sister Jane. I am glad of that arrangement, as you will meet your sister whom you have scarcely ever seen. Mamma who is near me, as I am writing, sends you her love, she wishes you to write very often, even if you write only short letters; as I do to you. I must now close or miss the Steamer so my dearest child once more good bye with the complement of the season

my dearest Martha Your affectionate Father
James Douglas.

B 40 4 21
DOUGLAS COLLECTION

Vancouver Island
Victoria 21st Decr 1872

My love to dear Jane and all the little ones

My dearest, dear little Martha

My last letter of the 11th left this a few days ago and I again begin with a fresh summary of events. This is you know the shortest day, and it was ushered in by a slight fall of snow, which is melting fast away, the weather being mild, not at all like winter. We are surprised to hear of the violent storms you have had in England; here the season has been so far mild and pleasant; there has been little rain, hardly any snow and very few windy days. Mamma is now busy with preparations for Christmas. Turkeys and no end of fowls are being slaughtered, and as for cakes, mince meat, pudding &c. their number is Legion. The Doctor and Amy dare to dine with us, Mr Fraser and Hamley; leaving 4 reserved seats, for other guests.

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Parliament met on the 19th and the Ministry sent in their resignation yesterday, having been defeated on a motion to amend the address by one vote. The Governor must now either appeal to the country by dissolving the House and calling a new election, or else he will form a new cabinet out of the present opposition members. I know you will sympathize with your friends Mr & Mrs Creighton; so do I, and sincerely wish they had made a better fight with the opposition instead of going to the wall at once.

23rd Dec.

We have had a storm of wind and snow since the 21st, it is now 7 P.M. raining and the snow melting fast.

Preparations for Christmas are going on, every thing we do reminds us of Martha. Papa and Mamma, are always thinking of their dear little Martha. Every now and then you hear them calling out, Oh, I wonder what dear little Martha is doing, Oh how I wish she were here.

24th

New Ministry formed. De Cosmos Premier, Walkem Attorney General, Dr Ash Provincial Secretary, Robt Beaven Com[r] of Lands and Works. A bright constellation is it not.

25th

Dear Mrs Pearce breathed her last, this morning at 10 o'clock; she was much reduced by her long illness, and lately caught a cold, which proved too much for her strength, and was the immediate cause of death. Her last moments were sweetened, by the blessed hopes of eternal life, through the merits of our dear Saviour, whose rod and whose staff, led her triumphantly through the dark valley of the shadow of death. Oh how sweetly the Christian departs from this mortal scene; Blessed Lord grant that

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MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4)

of
British Columbia
DOUGLAS
COLLECTION

Answered Vancouver Island
Victoria 14th Jan.y 1873

My dearest Child

I have not addressed you since the 3d Inst. an unusually long interval of suspence. Yesterday arrived by one and the same Mail your dear letters of 29th Nov.r one for Mamma, and one for Papa and a later date of 5th Dec.r to Papa.

These letters have been long of coming and must have met with detention on the route. A person travelling from Victoria, reaches London, as you did, in 24 days, including your three days stoppages: the Mail which travels incessantly, without delay, should therefore take less time; but the reverse is the case, as letters seldom arrive here in less than 30 days: unless they come direct from New York to San Francisco, without passing by Canada

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asking so kindly about you. May in particular, inquired in her sweet, plaintive voice "How is Martha" and put many other questions. They send you their love.

Mamma is delighted with your letter to her. She is sure she will admire the Bonnet and Cap, especially as it comes from you. I am afraid Agnes will find Royse somewhat of a bore. I refused him any thing to take home, as I thought his company was not desirable.

How did he find out, Halkin Street I gave no clue to the address.

Amy was delighted with your message, and put me to the expense of a new brush for the parlour stove.

With your letter of the 5th Dec.r I got the account of your studies, of which I approve

when they arrive here a week earlier. I have letters here from Dallas of the 7th Dec: which I received before yours of the 29th Nov:, but they came direct from New York to San Francisco, without going through the Canadian Post offices where no doubt the delay, I complain of, took place. Now listen to the moral. In future address your letters for me as follows -

via New York direct to San Franco. You will have to pay double postage that is instead of 6d you will have to pay 1/- on each letter: the expense will only be a few shillings more in the course of the year, and you may limit it to my letters. as your other correspondence, may be sent by the way of Canada as usual.

Now let me reply to your letters. You say you write to us every week: this is just what I expect, but my dear child these numerous letters, have not come to hand and must still be on the way. This you may ascertain by my letters to you, acknowledging every letter I have received from you.

The Buckby's have certainly been very kind to you and I love them for their attention. Please give them my thanks and kind respects.

I send a few more postage stamps to add to their collection.

Alice has not yet arrived but we expect her here, by the next Steamer. I am glad to hear you have made Mr Doughty's acquaintance: he is a most respectable man.

I will deliver your messages to friends here. Captain Caton is gone to the Sandwich Islands, and will probably not return here. Carey Pinder is all right again. I saw Mrs Elliot and May, the other day. they spoke

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MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4)

and you will soon find the advantage of the course, both in writing and conversation. As the French language taught in this thorough manner, I made you adopt, that is by first mastering the principles and the parts of speech, especially the verbs, an object of the first importance. to every one trying to master the language.

You find London, colder in winter than Victoria and so it is. The weather here is still mild. with neither frost nor snow. the lawns and country generally being still green.

Mr Fraser is still here and has not forgotten you.

Young Pinder has just called and is the bearer of your love to Carrie dear. Having now replied to your letters. I will put this short away, to await the

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MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4)

coming of the "North Pacific"
which will be in a day or two.

Jan.y 16th

The weather continues to be mild and
pleasant: and every one about James'
Bay, well and hearty. I met Mrs Jno
Tratch the other day, in the street, as
as I was returning from town. She
was looking remarkably well.
full of life and colour: she of course
enquired about Martha, as every
one does, whom I met. Turner and
Tunstall, have come out with their
new Almanack's. The frontispiece
which I send you, is very gay looking
quite as well as any establishment in
Regents street. The place will have
a value in your estimation, seeing
it is my property, and brings a
good income. May it flourish.
Arthur is at Cariboo, and well. He reports having
plenty to do, and very comfortable quarters. My
love to Jane and Agnes. Kisses for all and the dear
Children from dear Mamma. May God bless you
my darling child. Your loving
Father James Douglas

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for the good of those who love Him. It is only natural that you should love home and long to revisit the scenes of childhood. We all experience that feeling, when travelling abroad - and there is nothing that more enhances the pleasure of meeting again, with old friends and associates.

Having now gone over the subjects in your letter, let me request you to do the same with my letters to you, chatting, as it were, about each subject separately. in a conversational way. This will furnish you with subjects for remark, and be interesting to me. I do not like when my letters are dismissed, with a simple acknowledgement, of their receipt, without further notice. I fancy they are not read, with the care and attention, I wish them to receive

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Archives of British Columbia
DOUGLAS COLLECTION

Fancouver Island
Victoria 24th Jan 1873

My dearest little Martha

Your short and sweet letter of 13th Dec. arrived yesterday by the North Pacific, accompanied by the dear little picture, of a sweet well remembered face, touched off in the highest style of art. What a scene ensued on unfolding the precious gem. Mamma was in ecstacies, kissing it as fondly as if you had been here yourself to receive her endearments, and after a time went off in a burst of tears. Oh the depth of a mothers love, who but a mother can conceive its power and intensity. Jane was stiff as usual, but thought the picture good. Abe is now deep in legal readings, and wishes himself a full grown barister

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MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4)

revelling in the midst of endless briefs. He is now the happy owner of a handsome boat, fitted with oars and sails, every fine day, almost every gleam of sunshine sees him on the water greatly I think to the improvement of his general health.

Now let me see what your letter says. In addressing letters to you I shall, in future, omit "Wimbledon" in the address. The word is, as you remark, superfluous. Jemi longs for your promised tale of adventures, which will serve to beguile the long winter evenings. I am glad to hear so good an report, of the "Foreign Correspondent's" attention to duty, my opinion of her being somewhat remiss was founded, entirely on the absence of letters, for which it appears, the Post and not the Correspondent is to blame.

The Editor of the "Colonist" would not be at all flattered, by your message, and probably the less so, that the cortegue is just and deserved.

It is rather a trial, that you should remain at school during the holidays. Jane must have good reasons for saying so, and I should like to know them. for it appears so unkind to leave you, for six weeks, all alone at School.

Had this been sooner made known, you might have gone elsewhere, to be loved and cherished as my daughter. Agnes the dear child will not forget you. Jemi has my warmest love. You must bear up, my dear child under all these little trials, committing all your cares and troubles to the Lord who maketh all things work toget

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thinking of nothing else.

Monday 24th Jan.y

The Mail leaves to day, so I add a few lines, continuing our history to the latest hour. Mamma who is in excellent health sends her loves. She hopes that your communion with God is growing more and more intimate. Open to us your heart freely to us on that subject: for we desire most ardently that you should love your blessed Saviour, serve him with the noblest faculties of your mind and soul. This is the one great object of life, the wise cause, and the chief end of man.

Give my love to dear Jane and Agnes we are always talking and thinking about them; also to the Misses Brisbay

Arthur is well and comfortable at Cariboo; tell Agnes so. Alice is now writing to her. May God bless you my dearest child

Your loving Father
James Douglas.

25th Jan.y

Sister Alice has just arrived by the Prince Alfred, herself and Ellen in perfect health. She is now sitting by me in the Library - and I leave her to tell her own tale.

You must not expect much dearest Matts for I am very shaky at present & feel as though I could not spell. It is so delightful to find ones-self at home again with the dear Parents - they received me so kindly - I found our darling Mother at the door in tears & felt as tho' I could forever hug & kiss her.

I have not been able as yet to do anything but eat a very hearty breakfast & wander about with our dear Father - You will be glad to hear that I do not find him altered in the least. With our warmest love to our dearest Jane & loving Agnes - Mr. Dallas & your sweet self from your affectionate Sister Alice

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Alice met every where, on the journey out, with the utmost civility and kindness - and had on the whole a pleasant voyage. save one or two days, beyond Cape Flattery where they encountered stormy weather. She is delighted to get home again, to the shelter of the old roof tree, and I trust she will long enjoy its protection.

In this transitory world scenes of gaiety and the House of mourning, are strangely mixed up together - the Batchelors Ball came off a few days ago, and was a great success - except the Champagne - the Burns Anniversary Ball followed yesterday, and on the same day Mrs Ogilvie ended her earthly cares, after a lingering illness - intermitted by intervals of comparative ease and health.

The weather has been wet and stormy for some days past - but continues to be wonderfully mild - the lawns and Church Hill being green as in spring.

There are no letters by the Prince Alfred, from you, Jane or dear Agnes, what a disappointment? By the bye Alice with her accustomed, careful habits of business, left one of her trunks behind her, on the West Indie Mail Steamer "Ile" at Aspinwall - the trunk so containing the bonnets and all the little "ickta" which ladies love so well. The Captain ("Rivet") promised to send it on, by the following boat; but I fear she will never set eyes upon it again; as it is not even addressed; nor has her name upon it.

Alice's arrival has put my ideas all to flight, I am

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Archives of British Columbia
DOUGLAS COLLECTION

Vancouver Island
Victoria 31st Jan.y 1873

My dearest Martha

A change of weather has come at last: the sweet south wind has ceased to blow and the Ice King with all his terrors, storm and tempest and the bitter north wind, has taken possession of the land. Yesterday evening the change was ushered in, by a fierce north wind, howling and careering about the house, like an insane thing. The tall pine trees, near your chamber windows were bent and driven to and fro, like so many feeble saplings.

I fancy we are now in for a spell of biting cold weather, with wind and snow, and clear, sharp bright skies overhead, as the weather now is. Feb.y 4th

The Ice King has relaxed his grasp

I met dear Carrie and Mrs O'Reilly in town today and told them all about Martha: they were very glad to hear of your welfare and of your liking for Miss Tuckes school. I also told Carrie that I had enclosed her letter, and sent it on to you.

9th Feb.y

A pleasant spring like day. The Prince Alfred has just arrived, and here I have; have many letters from you, let me see. First One dated 24th Decr, one dated 26th Decr for Mamma, and one dated 29th Decr - with school account. I shall reply to them seriatim, in the order of their dates.

Poor child, what a cold, dreary melancholy trip, you must have had in travelling to Duncans, quite alone. It was wrong to undertake the journey - nearly 800 miles, without a protector. Mr Dallas, should either have been more careful (in providing for your safety), or left you

and again the weather is mild, to the great disgust of the Skating clubs, who were looking forward to a long continuance of their favourite sport. For my own part I prefer a milder air. so I submit to the change with perfect good humour.

It is announced in this days Telegrams from Ontario, that all arrangements, have been completed for the construction of Canada Pacific Railway, so that we are all in the highest spirits looking forward with confidence to the rise of dear Victoria, and the replenishing of her well drained coffers.

What a frightful storm you had in England on the 2d Inst, here it was bright, clear and cold, but nothing worse, in the form of snow or tempest.

7 Feby

No letters from you or Agnes, by the north Pacific, which arrived and left again yesterday. I have ceased to write you by her, the route from Oregon to California by land being so uncertain, at this time of year. I therefore will write only by the regular steamer, going direct to San Francisco, until the return of fine weather in spring, when letters may go as usual, by both routes.

Last night was held the Art Concert in the Scotch Church, which was a great success. Jamie and Alice attended, but I remained at home with Mamma. The accompanying number of the "Morning Colonist", which otherwise is hardly worth sending, will give you the details of the Concert.

Miss Durant, was the Prima Don of the evening. Mamma has just walked into the library, to embrace your Photograph, which is on the Table before me, but she has no time she asserts, to stay longer with me having so much to do.

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My love to dear loving Jane - I have received her nice letter, and delivered her message about the Brown Bonnet. which Alice bought for you. I will soon write to Jane.

Alice and James are both well, and Mamma particularly so. They all unite with me in love and best wishes to you and your sisters and to all the dear children.

I saw Mrs Nicholls the other day. She has not been very well, and was looking rather thin, but is now to be found. My kind respects to the Misses Turk.

Remember me kindly to Jane and Annie Bushby. I should so much like to see them. I hope my dear Martha, your heart is right with God - your Father and Redeemer. Love His holy name above all things. Committing you to His keeping. Your loving Father James Douglas

at school. It was neither prudent nor kind to expose my little precious one, to such risks. How different would it have been, had I been in England. I travelled over the same ground in 1864: but I stopped twice on the road, once at York, and then at Edinburgh, doing the lions at both these places, so that my journey was comparatively pleasant.

I am certain they will be kind to you at Dunans: both Jane and the dear children are delighted with you. You will I suppose return with the family to London and not again attempt the journey alone.

I am glad you had so nice a Christmas. We read all your letters aloud to the family. Mamma especially was delighted to hear from you - Your account of Jane and the children was most interesting - and dear little Lizzy acting, so cleverly the part of

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"Santa Claus" was particularly nice.

Your compliments and good wishes will be delivered in due time. The school account is I suppose, correct, and not at all unreasonably high. You must be very careful about your personal expenses, studying a proper economy in every way. Shun extravagance it is the sure road to poverty and ruin. Poor Ella Wallace is now a sufferer, from her husband (Mr Custis) living beyond his means. I see their property, that is furniture and Jewellery is advertized for sale - what a sad thing for them, as well as for those tradesmen who have lost their money and cannot get paid.

Your letters are less carefully written, than I could wish; the style is not bad, tho' there are many inaccuracies. the writing is rapidly degenerating into a sprawling hand looking for all the world, as if the letters were trying to run away from each other. Excuse this remarks, my little dear, it is for your own good. Let me see a marked improvement in your next letter.

Mrs Finlayson's party came off a few nights ago. James and Amy were there. Alice did not go. It was a great success as you will hear from the details in Amy's letter, describing the dress of every young Lady there present.

Mr Fraser is still here, but intends leaving, tomorrow for San Francisco by the return Steamer. Give my love to dear, good, kind, true hearted Aggie. We have received her letter for Maurice, and will reply hereafter. Arthur is well and is much esteemed at Cariboo

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hereafter.

24th Feby.

Still no letters from you. The last received was dated 25th Decr. Two months ago, what a time, to be without any tidings. Agnes wrote on the 1st Jany and was then well. Annie Finlayson is nearly well, and able to leave her room. The Legislative assembly was prorogued the other day, and people begin to breathe freely again. Several very good laws have been enacted during the session, and the official staff has been reduced, to an extent, that will effect a considerable reduction in the public expenditure. On the whole there is no reason to complain of the legislation of this year, less so, I fancy, than if Mr Cridght had been in power. Yesterday afternoon I took a solitary walk, by the beach and home round by Point Ogden. I met Miss Wallace, going home from Sunday school, and had a chat with her, the

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Archives of British Columbia
DOUGLAS COLLECTION

Vancouver Island
Victoria 12th Feby 1873

My dearest child

The Prince Alfred has just left, for San Francisco, and I begin another sheet for you.

Mr Fraser was one of the passengers, on board, and went away, in perfect health, after a sojourn of several months. He does not intend making a long stay at San Francisco, and will probably reach England, about the end of March. We shall miss him very much, as he was almost constantly here.

Do you know, it will be six months to morrow, since you and Agnes left us, a long time, but still not tedious, and in view of the good, you may derive from the visit to

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Europe. I do not regret it; as I know you will make the most of your time and the opportunities you now enjoy, for the improvement of your mind. I am sorry to say that Annie Finlayson, has been very ill, being threatened with inflamation of the lungs. She is still very low and though improving is not yet considered out of danger.

The Daisies are coming into flower; saw the first today.

17th Feby

I am sorry to have to inform you of the death of Mon^r Dreaid of the Colonial Hotel. He was carried off by an attack of paralysis. The weather is again colder, having a little snow, with slight frost.

The good worthy Dean gave us yesterday a most excellent discourse taken from that passage in the Book of Genesis discribing the fall of man. We were reading, last night, Henry's Commentary on the 1st Chapter of Genesis

the production of an experienced and profound Christian. It gives clearer views of the nature and attributes of the glorious Creator of Heaven and earth, and of his abounding love for man, than I ever had before. It fills the heart with comfort to know that man is the cherished object of his care, and that as the scripture says, "His delight was with the sons of men." That He gave man the dominion over all the lower creatures, appointing him as it were His vice-roy on earth, the mouth of creation, to sing the praises of the most High God Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to whom we are dedicated in baptism. My dear child love this God, cling to Him with all your heart, and let your whole life and your noblest faculties be devoted to His service, and then you will be happy here and hereafter

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I quite envy your visit to the Carigen Rock, the children were, I presume delighted with the ramble, and then the beautiful ferns, and their use in decorating the Drawing room, must have been delightful. I can easily conceive the feeling of responsibility, which pressed upon you, when Jane & Alick were on their visit to Duncraig and you were left alone in the Castle. Your description of ~~their~~ sensations of being so situated is very good.

I followed wifey and you, on your bootless excursion to Inverness to see the Dentist, with so much interest that I never saw the blots on the outer leaf, until you called my attention to them; and gladly I excuse them.

I hope you liked Miss McDonald. The enclosed letter for Amy, was sent over to her at once. Alice has been nearly five weeks here, and is so amiable. Helen is quite well, running about incessantly. Your compliments to friends will be delivered, as soon as I can see them. This closes the review of first letter

School continues to be well attended by both pupils and teachers.

From Mrs Wallace whom I met, a little afterwards, I learnt that they had received a long letter from you, "such a nice interesting letter" said the good old lady, evidently pleased with the compliment. By the bye Mr Siffken, has bought the house and lot, in Fairfield, ~~on which~~ occupied by Mrs Curtis, when we called, upon her after her marriage. The poor things are now sold out of house and home, even her watch and chain (never paid for) were sold. Siffken paid 1500 dollars for the house and 1½ acres of land. He is now a landed proprietor, and is improving his home.

24th Feby

My house, in Yates Street, occupied by Tye and Coy, commonly known as Omenica Hall was sold today, for eleven thousand dollars to Mr Pritchard. The price is

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very fair, in fact more than I expected for it. I hope this is only the beginning of the good times coming. Burrard Inlet appears to be the favourite line, with the Rail way Engineers, in which case Esquimalt will be the terminus. Alice rejoices at the prospect, as her landed estate lies in that quarter.

25th Febr

I send you this mornings "Daily Standard" it contains an account of the St Andrews Concert, at which Amy favoured a solo on the Piano. In another column you will find a letter from the "Ottawa "Free Press", to read it, and see how it treats me, this wish to make of me why am as you know a quiet old gentleman enough, a sort of Dare devil, fearing nothing. True I seized the Indian, a noted murderer, as ~~he~~ stated, and secured him after a desperate struggle, but I did not shoot him with my own hands; he was afterwards executed for his crimes.

It was a desperate adventure, which nothing but a high sense of duty could have induced me to undertake.

The Prince Alfred has just come in, with our long looked for Mails. I have your dear letters dated from 3d Jan.y, 4th and 9th Jan.y and a second letter dated 15th Jan.y, with an amusing post-script from dear Jane.

Now for a brief review of the 1st of these

I think with you, that there can be no question of irregularities and mismanagement, in our postal arrangements, a subject on which I wrote you before. Every body is complaining about the detention of letters. I have no wish my dear Child, to submit your home letters, to Miss Tuck or to any other person for correction. Why the thing would be monstrous. Did I really tell you so? or is it only Janes nonsense, which has caused you so much unnecessary pain. It was to say, the least, stupid of Jem to write you such nonsense.

PR 1428 - James Douglas family fonds
MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4)

Mamma is very well & has a cry now & then about her dear Martha. She is afraid people won't take good care of her, - that she won't keep herself warm, - in short that the cold climate of England will be the destruction of her health: - then there is the risk of travelling by rail, of being upset in boats & of foundering at sea, in ships & being buried deep, deep, deep under the dark green waves; all these things cause her endless dis-quiet - She sends you no end of love & kisses as well as to dear Jane & Agnes in which sister Alice & I do most ~~a~~ lovingly join.

Please offer my kind respects to Miss Turk & to the dear Misses Bushby when you see them. - how my darling child once more Adieu: that God may in His mercy, keep & preserve you is the fervent prayer of your loving Father

James Douglas

P.S. I have received such a nice letter from Mr Dallas about you, he says you deserve all the praise I gave you; that you are a favourite with every one. J.D.

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Now for the second letter,

Alice acting ~~as~~ amanuensis, as my eyes are tired & the day is dark with showers of snow which have just come on. The Foreign Corres-pondent appears to be in a reckless mood, caused I fear by Papa's long silence of more than a week, the thing is truly very shocking but I can assure you, that dear Papa was not to blame. the post office must bear the sin, especially good old Mr. Dewe; who must be soundly lectured for his neglect.

Sorry you can't give me the last quotations from the Times.

Few people escape the feeling you describe; It is nothing new to feel an almost irrepressible disinclination to write so that you cannot altogether put the blame on Col: Inglis' dinner.

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MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4)

It is very curious that the extreme likeness between you & Jane never struck me before; it will probably grow with increasing years - there is of course a strong family likeness between all my children, without their being exact counterparts of each other - I feel an interest in Sir Patrick Grant from your description of his manner.

Sister Jane & you appear to be leading a merry life & I hope Jane is not becoming vain of her beauty & you my little darling must not be setting your heart upon the mere sea-faws of life: remember you are to be my learned daughter, the veritable Blue-stocking of the family & at the same time endowed with a meek & gentle spirit.

I shall be satisfied with nothing less. There remains now only dear Janie postcript to notice, & that I shall do in writing to her. The chit-chat of the place I shall leave for Alice & Amy as they know more of it than I do.

This being Ash Wednesday we went to Church in the morning; the dean read the Service which you know is rather long but there was no Sermon so of at which I was rather pleased, as the fires had not been lighted, & the Church was wretchedly cold - there was a very small congregation; the Lieut: Governor was alone in his pew or I should have delivered your compliments to dear Carrie. All your friends here are quite well & desire their kind remembrance. - Your last photograph & Agnes' are nicely framed & are kept on the Library table for the convenience of friends & visitors.

Mr. Lowenberg was remarking the other day after looking at your picture that he hoped Miss Douglas would not forget her promise to send him one.

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of seeing the world, under kinder or better protection, so take advantage of it and go with your sister and the Misses Bushby.

I will inform Agnes of my wishes and also Mr Dallas - and shall also provide the necessary funds. Let that point be considered as settled.

It is said the Dean has lost caste for his reproof to Reece; but the congregation support him, and applaud his course. I fancy Mrs Hills, has a leaning towards High Church. The views from the top of Craigen Rock, must be charming, seated too among the heather - the first you had seen - it makes me think of old bye gone times - when George the fourth, was young.

Won't it be nice to have "Cendie", clipped and singed. Jim will resign the office of head groom in your favour. His Boat is all the rage now; horses are things of the past - I promise you endless rides, when you get home again, so live in hope.

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Archives
of
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DOUGLAS
COLLECTION

Vancouver Island
Victoria 5th March 1873

My dearest Martha

Having no letters of yours to acknowledge, I must find something else to fill my sheet. The Mails are again in arrear, some difference having arrisen between the Mail contractors in Puget Sound, and the owners of the North Pacific, which has unfortunately led to the detention of our letters about Olympia or Port Townsend - The Prince Alfred is therefore, now our only dependence for letters.

Annoying is it not? Had these gentlemen as many dear little daughters, in England as I have, I fancy the Mails would have quicker despatch.

I am laying out a fresh

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bed of Strawberries, and find it difficult to get good plants

I am also going largely into into Raspberry Culture, which has the reputation of being a most wholesome fruit, especially recommended in cases of Gout; so I shall make it a rule to make a very free use of them.

The Crocus beds are beginning to show flowers; with favourable weather they will soon be in a blaze of beauty. 6th March Miss Wyllie was enquiring very affectionately about you the other day, and hopes you will not forget your old friend.

"Oh no," she added, I know Martha will, the dear child, will not forget me. 6th March

The missing Mails are just in. What a number of letters. Let me see the dates. All from Dunain still, 12th Jany. 18th Jany. with a Photoh.; 19th Jany with Expense a/c, and for Mamma one letter 22d Jany. What a treat to read them. No complaints now of your long silence. The Foreign Correspondent is clearly up to the work. My dear child I never doubted your affection Let no impression of that sort, distress you. I should like to go to England certainly, if health permits, but you know, there are many claims upon me here, and one cannot always speculate on the future. This is moreover likely to be a stirring season, as ground is to be broken with the Central Pacific Railway, in July next, both here and at the eastern terminus, and I must watch the effect on property as I have much to dispose of, so I fancy it will be some months, before I can leave home. Besides you have much yet to do, before leaving England. Agnes says the Misses Bushby intend visiting the continent this season, and invites you to join the party. You will never have a better opportunity

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not be neglected, no art is more necessary or useful in the daily affairs of life. Make it a regular study. Jane speaks of your good playing and amiable deportment. This is all very gratifying. How does French get on, I hope your teacher adapts my principles of grounding you thoroughly in the language. Neither dear Mamma nor I ever tire of your letters, we wish they were longer, and more communicative. Now for your letter to Mamma dated 22d Jan.y. Janes letter came safely to hand. it was a great pleasure to hear from her. dear Jane's desk has many sins to answer for. it has often been the cause of delay, to her letters for home. As Alice kindly goes with you to London, we feel relieved from anxiety about your return to school. You will have both your sisters in London after Easter; so you will not need the wishing carpet. though home may be as dear to you as ever. Mamma has

Your health is thank God wonderfully good. Mamma is satisfied, but has still a lurking suspicion of a hard time coming and of accidents in crossing the channel. So ends my remarks on your letter of the 12th. the first in course.

Now for one of the 18th Jan.y. I rejoice that you so carefully advise my letters by the dates as you get them. I like your punctuality. My letter of 16 Dec.r was 32 days on the road. You were only 24 days in getting to London, including stoppages. why then should a letter, take 32 days. There is sad mismanagement somewhere. I will send this by Wells Fargos Express and pray let me know the time it takes to reach you. Thanks for the answers to my questions; I know more now about your doings, and affairs at Lansdown House and am satisfied. I fancy Mrs Williams died of old age. Dining with utter strangers is I admit, not pleasant: you will in time get acquainted with the people and enjoy

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society. I have seen Miss Wyllie. She is delighted with your message. Captain Cator is not here, but is expected soon. We prize the Photograph it is a capital picture. Jane and you appear as if looking us full in the face with a life like, tender expression, more eloquent than words. Dear little Jane I always think of her as my petted child, and never as a staid matron, ruling over a great house.

Here closes letter No 2. now for No 3 dated 19th Jan.y. Behold it is an account of your travelling expenses, which I shall lay aside for the present, as the mail leaves, without giving much time for writing. I have just heard from the Young they are by this time in Jamaica; doing well I hope. Your record is of snow and cold weather; we are more fortunate in the weather, which is and has been mild. You cannot come home with the Mc Donalds; they are probably out in Canada now, and even had they come out as you suppose, next November, it would not be pleasant for you, to commence a long journey at that inclement season. The trip to the continent, with the Bushby's will occupy you for a great part of the summer, and then you must back to school again you know, to make the most of time: I shall either go or send for you, when the work of education is finished. How I wish it was over, for I long to see you, but I sacrifice my own feelings for your good.

My consolation is that God is with you and that He will be as a wall of fire around you. Seek Him with all your heart, and remember the good lessons you received at home. I must change the subject, or I shall break down.

The course of study you describe is just what I wish. I thought your readings would please: the next best thing is to improve your style, and to write correctly. Arithmetic must

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health, now, and not at all
delicate: There is nothing more
in your letter requiring notice.

Give my love and Mamma's
to dear Agnes, the children and
the dear Misses Bushby.

You will find the trip to
the Continent very enjoyable, useful
and instructive You will
ask Mr Dallas, for the money,
you want for the trip, and
tell him I wish you to go.
I wrote to him lately on other
subjects, and may not have
time to write again by this mail.

11th March

On second thoughts, seeing that Mr Dallas
may be in Scotland, when you leave for
the continent, with the Misses Bushby. I now
herewith enclose a Check of £50, on Smith
Payne and Smiths, payable to your order
which will meet expenses, until you hear
from Mr Dallas. My warmest love to dear Jane
and Agnes and the little ones
and also to the dear Misses Bushby. Mamma sends love
May God bless you. Your loving Father
James Douglas

was a fancy, for the wishing carpet,
if such a thing could be had, at
Turners, you might see here, some fine
morning, settling down quietly at
Lansdown House, then what would
become of James' Bay.

10th March

The troops mustered the other night
in great force, and for the first time,
this year, made the welkin ring
with their merry bays. A change
has today come over the scene,
lovely, but undesired snow, is
falling thick and fast, covering
with fleecy mantle, the dear little
flowers, which had paid us an
early visit. It is not cold however
and no harm will come of the snow.

The Prince Alfred has just arrived
and "Willing" our new servant has
gone over for letters. Should there be
any at the Post Office from you,
I will acknowledge them at once.
Your letter of 1st Feb. has just come. Glad

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to hear of your welfare and safe return from the North. all alone as before. It is dreadful, in such weather, without an hours rest. It was truely kind of Mr Bushby to meet you at the station, and I thank him most sincerely.

How neatly your letter is written, with no blots and no omissions, this is as letters should be. Pray always write so. I was present at Mrs Pearse' funeral, which was largely attended. I wish you had entered more into detail, on the subject of your journey, to Dunain and back. Who were your fellow travellers, where you stopped for meals, your own reflections, and any little incident that amused you on the road. Speak more of yourself, and of your doings, such topics never tire those who love you as we do. You must have made the most of your time during the holidays to win applause from Miss Turk.

I think I already told you, about getting Edward up from "Happy Valley" and will not repeat the tale here.

Our new servant "Billing", is as neat as Edward, and particular about the polish of the door handles. The Stones do not fare so well at his hands. Mamma laughed heartily, at your asking her to keep some mince meat for you.

The new Ministry, are not so bad after all: they have made a bold attempt to be frugal, and have past some really good measures. Mr Fraser left some weeks ago. Hamley is well: often asks about you. Miss Cornish and Miss Wyldy don't forget you. nor indeed any of your freinds here.

Alice is quite well, and Helen is the most restless child I ever saw, equally so, but not noisy as her Brother Harry. She is in robust-

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Vancouver Island
Victoria 17 March 1873

My dearest Child

I am always thinking about you, but of late my thoughts have been more than ever occupied with your dear image. These long journeys alone, without a friend to advise or help you, such as going to Nanaimo and back again, cause much anxiety and must not be repeated. You must either travel in company with a trusty friend, or remain at school. I cannot bear the thought of your travelling so much alone, and have too much regard for your happiness, to expose you to any unnecessary risks. Moreover Miss Turk who is responsible for your safety, would have just reason to complain. So dear child let it be a rule with you to go no where, without good and

20th March

The spring has fairly set in, and the weather is glorious. The Dean called yesterday: we had a long chat about church matters: the good Bishop is I fancy, inclined to high church views, while the worthy Dean, objects to every departure from old church rules, or that savours of ritualism. The congregation I need not add, goes with him, in opposing innovations which are neither useful nor edifying. The Dean admired your Photograph, remarking the face was so pretty. He begs to be remembered to you. Alice had, yesterday, a mornings fishing with James, outside the harbour in a boat. They captured three of the finny inhabitants of the deep when some monster, made a rush and carried off poor Alices hook, so ending the days sport. The Mail service between this and Olympia is through some mismanagement, among the contractors suspended for the present. We therefore depend entirely upon the Prince Alfred, for letters is it unfortunate not.

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sufficient protection. In the proposed continental, you will be with your sister and the Misses Bushby and as safe as with your parents. so go with them whenever they may wish to take you always of course paying your own expenses. Coming the other day from Government House, I overtook a young Lady, as I suppo-sed a Miss King: she at once asked about Martha- is she well? when is she coming back? &c &c Oh- not for some time yet: you know she is at school and must finish first. "Oh" rejoined my fair little freind - "Miss Douglas has not much "to learn". You see what an idea people here have of your acquirements. The young lady was not Miss King, it was Emmeline the pretty girl who boards with Mrs Nicholls. She sends you her love.

Yesterday the little birds gave us their first morning chant It was sweet to hear their welcome to returning Spring.

18th March

Busy with the garden, have a capital neat handed man, who has dressed the borders, and flower plots, with great taste. The Crocus beds look charming. I will pick a few violets to send with this letter as a memento of home. Have had the field above Miss Wyllies turned over and nicely tilled. for a crop of oats.

My agent has made another sale- This time it is Gambiks' store on Yates Street for which I get 5000 dollars: a fair price I think, for the premises. Helen is gone to a birth day party at the Deans today - she met Mrs Cridge, yesterday at the toy shop (Jones') and had the intelligence from her. I sent a birth day gift and also a little present for Rhoda

Amy will be 18 tomorrow and has been making a harvest of gifts today - in anticipation of the happy occasion. You see I come in for a share of all the good things. I am writing by lamp light, and can hardly see to write straight.

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for Mamma by Alice. was, in the Trunk she left behind in the "Nile" at Aspenkall and she has never seen it since; nor can any traces of it be found. Perhaps the Trunk may have ben taken back to England, and may be found when the "Nile" gets there. Alice had carelessly enough, neglected to put her address upon it. I think I have now run over the contents of your dear letters. Arthur arrived a few days ago from Cariboo looking hearty and well. He is now at James' Bay. Carrie Pender is quite well again. Lizzie Monroe is also well. I saw her the other day; but had not then received your message for her.

My own health is good, thank God, and I walk about without the slightest pain in the foot. I hope you will enjoy and profit by the visit to the Continent. Keep me well advised of your movements. You will be on, what is to me, familiar ground. My love to dear Aggie and children, and the dear Misses Bushby. I have just been writing to dear Jane. May God bless you my dearest child Mamma's love. your loving Father James Douglas

24th March

Your letter to Mamma of 8th Feb.y has come safely to hand, with a note enclosed for Miss Wylley, which I delivered to her; after several corrections which I took the liberty of making. Write carefully, and leave no mistakes uncorrected, or people will amuse themselves at your expense. Better to write less and to leave no blunders in orthography or omissions - to be cavilled at. We also received another photograph of you and Jane and value it as much as the first copy. We are grateful to Miss Turk for her great kindness to you. We shall try to get some silver ornaments to send you. Coker must look very fierce in his moustache, just as a naval officer should be. Mamma hopes the day will come, when she may again, press you to her heart and rejoice over you as in days past

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evening 24th March

Your two letters of 15th Feby. to Papa and Mamma, have just arrived and we are so delighted to hear of your welfare; they had the effect of cheering Mamma, who has been rather unwell for a day or two past.

Each letter that comes, tells me something about your doings, so that I have now a pretty good idea, of the cause of study you are pursuing.

My dear Child I dont wish to find fault; but you know, I must not fail to discharge my duty to you however disagreeable to me. Besides I take an especial interest, as my favourite pupil, in your progress. I must therefore observe that your letter to me, is written in a most slovenly manner. Mamma's is neat enough. Always write as neatly and as carefully as you can, and dont attempt too much in the way of writing. Better as I have, before said to write less and to do it well. Avoid slovenly habits, they are when once formed, difficult to get rid of. I have said enough - as a word to the wise.

I will send a few wild flowers, by this letter as you have requested, say the Native "Cocus" which you will know at sight

Leather is rather a tough subject to write upon, genius is said to have the property of adorning what so ever it touches, I hope you are successful in proving your claim to talent.

Tawa has not yet put in an appearance. Ang is a capital servant, better than Tawa.

Pray dont cross your letters, for it is painful to read; fill as many sheets as you please but pray do not cross write them. Alice is very careful about Mamma, but my dear, the Bonnet you sent

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Vancouver Island
Victoria 28th March 1873

My dearest Martha

My letter ending 24th Inst left this by the "Prince Alfred" and I now begin a fresh sheet, which will I suppose find you somewhere, on the continent, gathering honey, like the busy bee from every opening flower. The dear Misses Bushby are experienced tourists and can give you information on every subject, so that you may combine instruction with amusement. I am sure Agnes will be delighted with the novel scenes, you will daily encounter. I wish I could be one of the party. It will be so different to the solitary and lonely town, I made on the continent. This day eight years I reached Munich, amidst pelting snow and bitterly cold winds; most inclement weather for the season, nor did we get rid of the snow, until I crossed

finished reading it over to Mamma who is delighted, as we all are to hear of your welfare. Your account of the ride to Sarbaton, and the courtesy of the rustic audience is amusing, more so to us, perhaps than it was to you.

The weather has been stormy for some days past, but is now favorably fair. Your flower beds are well attended. The young Cherry tree in the Kit-chen Garden, called Marthas Cherry Tree, will bear this year shall I send you all or only a part of the Cherries. I shall deliver your messages to Mrs Nicholls - she will be glad to hear all about her daughter. Your friends here are all well - and have not forgot Martha. I am now writing in haste to save the Post, which leaves early tomorrow morning, & to advise your letter just received - I will soon write again.

My dearest Child
Your loving Father
James Douglas

the Rhine at Strasbaugh three or four days later. The weather is wet and disagreeable today; but not at all cold. The country is green, and the hill sides shew a few early flowers, in warm sheltered spots.

The circumstances attending the loss of the "G.s S. Wright" and the precise spot where the wreck occurred, are still buried in obscurity. The few dirty remains of ship and cargo, which have been picked up along, tell the melancholy tale leaving no doubt of the total loss of ship and crew. The Barque "Almatea" lumber laden from Burrard Inlet towards Victoria was by a stupid mistake of the Pilot on board, run ashore in the night a little north of Plumper Pass, and became a total wreck. The Pilot it appears mistook another opening in the land for Plumper Pass, and so the accident occurred. No lives were lost.

31st March

The weather is still wet and stormy

We are thus paying for a winter of remarkable character for mildness and the absence of stormy weather.

March is however, making up for lost time - to use the old saying it came in like a lamb and is going out like a Lion.

I have quite a little family gallery of Portraits about me on the table as I am writing There is the last Photograph of dear Jane & you - encased, after a new fashion, in a massive crystal plate, Agnes, with her queenly gait, appears in the same form, while your little face; - a gem in its way; - peers out, from a neatly gilded leather case, looking at me, as naturally, as a picture can do. Thus though absent, my daughters are ever about me.

3d April

I have just received your letter dated 22d Feb.y, and have this moment

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COLLECTION

Vancouver Island
Victoria 8th April 1873

My dearest Martha

My last letter was dated 3d April, and forwarded by the Puget Sound Steamer, the present letter I purpose sending by the direct Steamer for San Franco. I trust they will arrive safely and keep you informed of our doings. The weather has not been propitious of late, for out of door exercise, that is to say for driving though pleasant enough for riding or walking. Alice nevertheless drove out with me the other day, to the Uplands, not by the old road, but sweeping around the base of the hill, among the wide spreading oaks, and green slopes open to the sun and sheltered from the stormy blast. The sweet spring flowers were just opening into bloom, and we picked a few lillies, to send you, when dry. We found it rather cold, as we faced the western breeze, coming home. We hammer to your travelling alone, as you did to and from Scotland, without escort or protection. It was cruel to let you travel in that way.

To all similar applications, let your reply be, that "Papa objects to "my travelling alone". Fancy a poor child like you, rambling about, quite alone, from one end of the King-dom to the other. "Alfred" has brought no letters from you, but we trust you are quite well. I have received a letter from Mr Young, announcing their safe arrival at Jamaica, in good health.

Mamma has a slight cold, and Alice is also complaining, otherwise we are all well.

A concert is to take place on the 17th at the Theatre, for the benefit of Christ Church building fund. I hope it will be a success, and wipe off, a little more of the Church debt; now reduced to a very small sum. Mamma's affectionate solicitude about you, never ceases, it is as warm as ever. She sends you her love and best wishes.

Alice unites with me in love and best wishes to you, dear Jane and Agnes—

Adieu for the present

my dear Martha
Your loving Father
James Douglas

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enjoyed the dance, and wish most
sincerely wish, you had been there, breathing
your native air again.

Alice is not very well
at present, having a slight cold and
headache, baby is in excellent health.

James is now debating on his future
course of life; he fears that his health
will give way, under the severe study
and close confinement, requisite to
qualify him for a profession, and he
is not strong enough for out door work.
He therefore thinks of engaging in
trade and he is now drawing up a
letter of application to me on the subject.
I shall allow him to follow the bent
of his own inclinations, and engage
in any reputable calling that pleases
him; as, for young people, the worst
thing possible, is a state of idleness.

Arthur has gone back to
New Westminster, in the capacity of
County Court Judge. The Governor would
not hear of his staying here any longer
but he will come down to James' Bay,
for a little change, as often as he
can get away from his station.

10 April
Mrs Nicholls called this
evening with some strawberry plants
which his kind Mother, sent over.
I delivered your message for Mrs Nicholls
and sent her a basket of choice fruit.

Nicholls is a very good young
man, and has the promise of a valuable
situation as head operator at the
Telegraph office Olympia; a fine position
for a youth, at his age. The Prince
Alfred has just made her appearance.
and the letters, will soon be here, if
there are any from you. I am laying
out a bed of strawberry plants, they
will not bear fruit till 1874,
when we expect you to come home.

When do you leave England for
the proposed continental tour.
In travelling with your sister
and the Misses Bushby - you will
be in safe keeping - but remember
dear Martha, that I distinctly object

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COLLECTION

Victoria
15th April 1879

My dearest Child

Your dear letters of the 10th March & another dated 15 March arrived here yesterday by the "North Pacific"; to our great satisfaction & delight. Mamma was as usual with her when your letters are long of coming getting uneasy & giving way to all kinds of direful misgivings from which your letters agreeably relieved her.

I see you have had your own trials as to weather; rain & snow storms make up the winter story. Cold rains & wind have prevailed here in the early part of the month; but a change has come at last Spring having fairly set in with fine warm days.

It was certainly painful for you to be so long as three weeks without

production. I shall read "Much ado about nothing", since you wish it. Mr Brandes reading of the play will give you an idea of the beauty and effect of our great dramatic writer.

I suppose we shall be very gay on your birthday and Amy. The programme has not yet been arranged but it will no doubt be very nice.

The aid of your Reins banner would be acceptable here. You see how the most afflicted may be useful. I am glad to hear, that God is precious to your soul. Let your heart never turn aside from Him, who will be your stay and delight for ever. Be always remember you, in our prayers. Mrs Curtis has lost her baby, a fine little boy. She is in great affliction.

I shall endeavour to procure some Hawaiian postage stamps, though I hardly know where to get them.

I enclose a cutting from the Daily Standard 18th April describing the Christ Church Concert. It came off last night

getting letters from home; they letters appear them to have come to you in crowds; as the old saying is "a feast after a famine".

The mails are certainly most irregular.

I have delivered some, & will, in due time, perform the same good office with respect to the remainder of your messages. The mystery which puzzled you about Fell & Findayson is easily explained. They failed in business, & made a composition with their creditors, who got a few pence in the pound. Both men are again, separately, in business as if nothing had happened. Strange is it not?

Your letter has made me very anxious about dear Alicks health. I sincerely hope & pray he may soon recover. James tender nursing will do him a world of good.

17th April. We had a very pleasant party at Lunch the day before yesterday. The Greases Mrs Doctor Jones Mrs Elliot Mr. MacLeod a friend of Alicks from San Francisco &c &c. The table was beautifully laid with huge bouquets of sweet spring flowers on the Silver Epergne. Alice being the cunning architect. The party went off nicely "It so reminded them of old times". The Pear & Cherry trees near Hannahs Chamber window have come into bloom last night, - the first of the season.

Your letter of the 15 March is faultless. The writing neat, the language good. Pray always write so - it is so pleasant to see careful attention & improvement in every line.

Whatever you do, do well; strive after perfection. Your letters may be brief but they will be all the more valued by your friends who may amuse themselves by criticising a slovenly

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21 April

The North Pacific being expected today - I am preparing to send this letter by that conveyance, as the Prince Alfred will not be sure, for a week to come. The first Cranes of the season appeared on the 19th. It was so pleasant to hear the well known sounds, approaching our shores, from their southern retreats.

The Scout has just returned from the Sandwich Islands. Captain Cator called at James' Bay and is looking very well. He will leave for Valparaiso in about a week, hence, and from thence probably be ordered home. At least this is what he hopes and wishes.

The North Pacific brought Aggie's letter of 16th March, but no letter from you. She heard from you the day before, so we presume you were well. Alick she says

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was much better, which piece of
news relieves me from much
anxiety. I must now
conclude as the Mail closes
tonight and leaves early tomorrow
morning. Mamma sends her
love - accept the same my
dearest Martha from your
loving Father
James Douglas

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returns. Alice and Jamie are both well. Mr Wyllie is very proud of your letter to him. Pray don't be carrying on a flirtation with the old gentleman. In writing to friends here, touch upon all sorts of nice topics: you will have plenty to tell them about the Lions of the Continent. Be careful never to talk about marrying or giving in marriage. A travelled Lady is never in want of nice things to talk about: interesting topics crop up at every turn.

Now my dear little child I must close my letter, by wishing you every happiness, it may please God to bestow, with wisdom and grace, to guide you, in the paths of life.

Again adieu

my dearest Martha

Your loving Father

James Douglas

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Fancouver Island

Victoria 26th April

1873

My dear Martha

No. English Mail came today by the Prince Alfred, so we have none of your letters, to advise or reply to. Between two stools as the saying is, you fall to the ground: which is exactly our present position, with respect to the foreign mails. Sometimes they come by the direct Steamer and sometimes by the overland route: which is slow, without the redeeming quality of being sure. I have just been writing to Agnes: the little news agoing you will get from her, as I presume, you will be on your travels together, when this reaches you. I have been out for a long drive today, with

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Punch, as fresh and frisky, as a lamb. The country is all a glow with masses of buttercups and other wild flowers. The children have rare times among the flowers and cease picking, only when their capacity to destroy, and carry off is entirely exhausted.

Captain Eaton will leave with the "Scout" for Valparaiso tomorrow or Monday. His stay has been short, this time, and he does not expect to return here as he will probably be ordered home from Valparaiso.

"Sic transit gloria mundi." Eaton drops from the Command~~ing~~ of fleet at Victoria, to a subordinate station at Valparaiso and we lose a pleasant acquaintance, just as we were beginning to know his value. These short lived friendships are not worth the trouble of straining for.

The town limits have been extended, half a mile beyond the former boundaries including nearly the whole of Fairfield. I have named the new streets running through my property as follows.

Jane Street	after Jane
Alice Street	" Alice
Martha Street	" Baby
Bushby Street	" Agnes & Arthur.

A monument you see in honour of my dear little daughters.

Your flower beds have been dressed with the greatest care. The Violets and orchis are blooming nicely. We shall have a great show of Tulips this year, and the fruit trees are full of blossom promising abundance of fruit of all kinds.

I fancy you will miss the chimes, as well as your little friends who shared in your feasts.

Mamma is quite well and sends no end of kisses and love to her little daughter, we are always thinking about you, and making all sorts of plans for your

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advantage. so I will extend your leave of absence, in order that you may reap every possible benefit from your journey home. I will either go for you my self or make arrangements for your return to Victoria with Arthur and your sister Agnes.

The Concert at St James' Hall must have been a great treat, worth going a hundred miles to hear.

The only disagreeable thing about these meetings is the crush, to reach them; to me it would be intolerable, though probably you did not mind it. Amy would have been delighted, had she been with you. She is now quite herself again, having enjoyed the trip to Puget Sound. I delivered your note to Dolly; her eyes sparkled with delight, as she took and rushed off to read it. I shall deliver your

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Vancouver Island
Victoria 1 May 1873
Thursday 5. P.M.

My dearest Martha

Your dear letter dated 28th. and 29th March, arrived this afternoon per "North Pacific". Such a relief it is to be in communication again with those we love, after the late tedious interruption, due It is reported to a snow blockade, on some part of the Union Pacific line. The "Prince Alfred" came and went again twice, without bringing a single English letter. Imagine our relief in getting letters today, and all bearing the best of news. My son Alick writes in good spirits, that he is convalescent, and purposes soon to leave London for Dunani to recruit there, and to bring

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Jane and the children up to Town, for a short time. I have also a letter from Admiral Prevost. mentioning the final settlement of the North West boundary. It is I dare say not the Admirals fault; but there is no disguising the fact, that we have lost every point for which we contended.

So you were pleased, with the description of Papa, and the newspaper he sent you. I fancied the writer had said too much.

The piece Amy played at the Concert, was done very highly thing, which I think is her best, as it is her favourite style. yes by the bye it was the Mazepa Golop she played on that occasion, and she was much applauded. Mr Fraser left San Francisco on the 16th April, direct for England intending to remain some time in the country to recruit, after the fatigue of the voyage. He did not expect to be in town before June. I fancy he will give you a call, being one of his especial favourites. Alice has been very nice since she has been here, and I hope through God's blessing, and home influences, may continue so: notwithstanding the depressing events, of her unhappy married life. How carefully young people should eschew mystery and secrecy, in the all important step in life, doing nothing that may compromise their future happiness, without the full knowledge and consent of their Parents. I should indeed be delighted to see you again my dear child, as I feel your absence very much, yet I am satisfied that a longer stay in England will be greatly to your

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interview, held for the purpose of restoring amicable relations with them. I now send you a news-paper cutting containing a full account of that detestable piece of savage treachery. The Modocs about 60 or 70 men in all, are still making a desperate resistance, and holding out with the energy of despair against the United States troops about 1000 in number. The Modocs have the advantage of a strong country and almost impregnable fastnesses. or they would soon be rooted out.

Saturday 3d May

Drove to Rosebank today, with Alice Amy and the little ones. to see the men who are clearing. They have cut down and cleared the trees off nearly an acre. What an improvement it makes in the place. The land is splendid, having what appears to be a rich and fertile soil. I was so pleased with the work, that I gave out a

message to Mr Lowenberg.

Mamma is happy to hear, so favourable an account of your health and hopes you will continue to be careful. The semile of the "Tropical Plant in Kew Gardens" is good.

We certainly feel obliged to Miss Turk for her careful attention to your health. You certainly gave a very amusing discription of the "Tableaux". What a merry set of little things you must be. How rapidly you improvised the stage and made all other preparations; there was no end both of genius and resource. You must have been fatigued with your exertions, and glad of your success.

I can't make out how the delay of Carrie's letter occurred; the blame I fancy, rests with others, than Mr Lowe. it is however evident that some one deserves a lecture.

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Your love and messages, will be delivered in due time.

Pray don't find fault with your looks, your face when lighted up with Kindly and holy feelings, will be always engaging. 2d May. Having now replied to your letter, I will turn to other subjects. Just as I am writing, strange to say, a dark mass of clouds, has overspread the heavens, followed by a hail storm which fortunately was of short duration, as the massive clouds rolled swiftly away to the south east. I hope no damage has been done to the early fruit; or cherries and plums will be scarce this year.

I wish you could see the garden now, there are flowers on every side: it looks enchanting.

I have sent some men down to Rose bank, to begin a clearing of three acres. The "Alethea" a ship lately disabled in a storm will discharge her cargo, consisting of Lumber, on the beach near the House, and the ships company will, with my permission, occupy the House, while detained here.

The beginning of lively times at Rose bank.

The inclosed cutting from one of our Daily Papers, describing a most interesting Religious revival among the Indians, is a proof that the Saviours love is present here, and that all nations will yet be added to the Church of God. I truly rejoice that the true Light shineth in the dark places of the earth.

Your letter was exactly a month, coming here: an improvement this, on the Canada route.

In a former letter I told you that General Canby, had been shot by the Modoc Indians, during a peaceful

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a further contract for clearing.

We all enjoyed the drive so much, and as we sauntered through the lovely forest-glades, our thoughts reverted to the past, to our absent dear one, whose memory was associated, with the many familiar objects, we used together to admire, in our many pleasant rides. Oh the happy past..... I must not, however, give way, to such reflections, as they make me sad.

5th May
3. P.M.

The "South Pacific" is coming in. She may have a Mail on board. if there are letters from you, I will

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reply to them hereafter. This
letter I must close at once, to
save the Mail. We are all
in good health. Mamma
is sitting in the Library by
me, as I am writing; she
has ten thousand things to
say, which all necessitate them-
-selves into the words. "I love
you dearly". She looked superb
this morning and was going
out for a drive with Alec
when Punch, shied at something
and gave her a great fright.
so Punch is not likely to
have the honour of driving
Mamma again. My dear child
I must now close my letter
with fervent prayers for your
welfare and happiness

Your loving
Father
James Douglas

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Victoria
6 ~~April~~ May 1873

My dearest Martha

The "North Pacific was coming in as I closed my letter of yesterday ~~Sunday~~ as I then supposed, we received by her your letter of 5th April = exactly one month from date which proves the advantage of sending your letters via New York direct to San Francisco.- There is no doubt great delay in the Canada Post Offices.

I shall now run through the contents of your letter on behalf of dear Mamma.

Jims promises are evidently not to be relied upon. The leaf you inclosed is highly prized & Mamma

Capt: Ella's remains were never found. I fancy his child recovered.

You have acted wisely in consulting Sister Jane about your Spring things her advice is in all cases valuable to you. We shall deliver your message to Amy about her card. Pray send a copy of your composition on the pleasures of the four seasons. I am sure it will be very good as I know you will try to do your best. The Doctors hyacinths were certainly beautiful & in greater abundance than usual.— Annie Finlayson is quite well again - she called ~~on~~ the other day & they were all making affectionate enquiries about you.- The Almond is certainly a very beautiful tree when in

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will keep it as a souvenir of her dear Martha until you return. You are never absent from her thoughts. She has just been remarking that every minute of the day she is thinking about you; But we must not indulge such reflections as they only make you sad & unhinge the mind.

Mamma wishes you to take advantage of the opportunities of improvement you now enjoy & she hopes you will be a perfect little prodigy when you come home. The present time you know can never return & what is not acquired now will not be learnt hereafter. You may be certain we will not leave you longer in England than the time requisite to finish your training & education. I have no objection to your telling the old stories about "Hyaes" but pray do not tell the world that they are Mammas.

Your meeting with Sister Agnes & Mary, must have been very pleasant as it appears also to have been to the friend who took so great a fancy to Sister Agnes. We are delighted to hear of the welfare of Jane & family & no less so that Mr. Dallas had recovered from the serious illness which attacked him in London. It appears that he was confined to his chamber for upwards of three weeks. I hope you went to see him during his illness - an act of kindness which your own feeling heart would naturally prompt

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Aug. is still at the post of duty, and is a most useful man; but we have neither Tod nor Joseph having given them a years holiday. Keane is groom, and the garden work is done by other men. Tawn is still with his friends in China. Why has Agnes abandoned the idea of visiting the Continent: ~~why~~ the cost of travelling there is not greater than the cost of living in England. I regret the change of plan on your account. It is quite delightful to hear, you have been so amiable: continue my dear child, to speak gently, and to deal kindly with every one: such is the Will of our blessed Lord, and it will promote your own happiness. The most interesting news for us, is what you tell us about yourself, therefore you can never be at a loss for topics to fill your letters. We pity the poor little Good boys. We wrote to them lately and sent them some pocket money.

blossom — even more so I think then the Peach Tree, which, however excels, in one respect, that the leaf & blossom come out together. — We were very glad to hear that you were going to take the Sacrament: that Holy rite which our Blessed Saviour invites all his disciples to attend, & where he is present in a peculiar manner. — My dear child all Christians have their trials in this world, but the followers of Jesus must hold fast their faith & cling to Him who is their refuge & ~~to~~ rock of defence, & who is a present help in time of trouble. — Our minds often wander, even in

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the solemn moments of prayer & our carnal hearts are ever ready to turn aside from God. We have all reason to use the prayer "Lead us not into temptation" & we also rejoice in ~~the~~ God's promise that His Strength is sufficient for us & that He cares for, & loves us dearly & will not suffer us to be tempted beyond our strength. You find that God answers your prayers, as he does to all who prays to Him in Sincerity & truth. Therefore in all your troubles & perplexities ask Him to give you wisdom & Grace to think of Him, to speak of Him. & to worship Him aright & rest assured your prayers will be answered. — You do right to think of home, & always remember you at the Throne of Grace. Whenever you feel lonely betake yourself to prayer — The love of God is the only sentiment that fills & wholly delights the heart. Worldly enjoyments soon lose their power to please — but the love of God delights the heart forever.

Write always, with trust and confidence, as you have now done, and I will assist you with council and advice. Conceal nothing from your Parents, as young people are often prompted, by mere bashfulness, to do — and thereby bring evil upon themselves.

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Mamma goes out very seldom: She went the other day to call on Mrs Work. who has not been well lately, but is now recovering.

Mrs Work is much alarmed about Mrs Sons health, and has sent her youngest daughter with Mr Sons and wife to San Francisco. for change of air. Mrs Sons being threatened with an attack of consumption.

Kisses from Mamma to her dearest child Martha O O O O

Mamma was holding the pen while I traced these lines, as she could not see to write herself, having left her spectacles up stairs. My dear little child we are always thinking and speaking of you, and hope when you return, we will not soon be parted again.

Having now replied to the queries in your letter,—and here I may as well add that the confidential parts of your letter respecting your own feelings and wishes. I allow no one to see but Mamma. so you may pour out your heart to us without restraint. or fear of remark.]—Let me go on to other things. Rail road affairs now

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occupy the public mind. Ground is to be broken on the 1st. July next, when the terminus will be fixed - Every one is hoping that Esquimalt will be the point, when you know we have a large interests: and I am selfish enough to wish the station, to be on my ground. Cassie Pinder and May Elliot are quite well, but I see little of them now. The Princess Alfred 10th May is in, but has no English mail; therefore not a line from you. Give my love to dear Jane and Agnes, and kiss all the little ones for me. Also the same for Mamma.

12th May.

Watching the eclipse of the Moon last night. Mamma took the greatest interest, in the spectacle. most carefully noting every movement of the Planet. Arthur now here on a visit, was also of the party. I am sorry my dearest child, that I cannot prolong the chat, as the Steamer leaves today, and I must post my letters at once, in order to save the Mail. My dearest child we are always thinking about you, and hope to see you improved in every respect, when you return to us. May our dear Lord bless and direct you in all your ways. Seek and serve Him with all your heart, then will my joy be full.

My dear child your loving Father
James Douglas.

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say to your letter? I shall certainly not show it to her. I fancy you will have to spend another Christmas in England, in order to finish your education; the second year will advance you more than the first. In fact you will become wiser every day. I delivered Amys letter: shall remember you to Mr Hamley, but think I had better not convey your strictures, on public measures to Her Majesty's Government.

The Cowslip and Wall flower are beautiful, and much prized.

Mamma is pressing some flowers for you. Here closes your letter

Mamma sends her love and hopes to hear from you often.

It is nine months today since you left home how long the time appears. I will send this tomorrow by the North Pacific. 14th May

Steamer in; no letters from you. 15th May May God bless you my dearest Child. Your loving Father

James Douglas

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Vancouver Island
Victoria 12th May '73

My dear Martha

Having posted my letter of this day, by the Prince Alfred, I strolled over, from the Post Office to Mrs Grahame's. She has received satisfactory accounts from Mrs Jones. The voyage has been of service, her appetite having improved, and being on the whole stronger and in better spirits.

Miss Work complains of the noise and bustle of the "Empire City"; the gentlemen are wholly devoted to business, and the ladies to dress and amusement. Her first impressions were not agreeable.

The North Pacific is just in; I have your precious letter of 12th April - exactly one month from date, so much gain by posting direct to San Francisco, and eschewing Canada altogether, its circumlocution offices

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and delays. I was already mounted for a country ride when Ann pushed in with your and other letters; after perusal with Mamma, I left for my ride — at the "White Horse" Hotel, encountered the good Dean and Mrs Bridge, going out for a drive; I gave them your love and told them all about you. "Martha thinks of home, and takes a deep interest in Church matters." right says the good Dean I am very glad indeed to hear she does so. Oh but I rejoined Martha has strong feelings on the subject, and has a fancy for polemics; she hopes the congregation will suffer no fruitless innovations in the service, that the good Dean disapproves. Her language on the subject is moreover rather strong, for one so young.

The worthy man then drove on in great delight, while I pursued my ride in another direction. I have been busy getting the fences and other things put to rights at Metchosin a troublesome and costly property, which I wish to get rid off and will sell whenever a chance offers. By investing the money proceeds we will get a certain income, whereas the land at present yields nothing, not enough indeed to pay the road tax.

Mrs Berkley (nee Staples) is no more, she died yesterday after a tedious illness. She was an estimable person.

Now let me turn to your letter of 12 April. You appear to have been fortunate in your company in going to and coming back from Dunsmuir; the journey was too much for you to make alone. on the chances of such favourable incidents. I am glad the Check of £50 arrived safely; you need not cash it you know, till wanted, and Miss Turk might keep it safely for you. So you like my letters, I am glad of that. In writing, never use expletives, or unnecessary words. they cloud the sense and are tiresome to read. Remember Addisons remark, in addressing a friend, "excuse this letter, for I have not time to make it shorter" What would Mrs Hills

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Victoria Vancouver Island
23rd May 1873

My dearest Martha

We had the pleasure of your letter to Mamma dated 17th April, on the 18th May. You appear to be getting through the Easter holidays very pleasantly as well as usefully. You must have enjoyed the excursion to Richmond, for the country is lovely at this season of the year, and the historical associations full of the profoundest interest.

Your get up, Mamma thinks, was neat and appropriate. Your saunterings in the Park, the glorious trees, the herds of deer are well described.

The views from the terrace are such as only England can show. I sat for an hour admiring them, from the windows of the dining room in the "Star and Garter", and could have spent a month there. Then the visit to the "Crystal Palace", what a lucky

the God whom I serve was with me - and leaves me not comfortless.

Alice and James are gone to spend a week with Arthur at New Westminster. The Rhododendrons are out in full flower. There is a great show of fruit; the gooseberries are large, and in daily use. The Royal salute has just been fired at Esquimalt, and I must hurry off to the Regatta, near the Gorge. Mamma will not go, and stays at home.

5 P. M.

There was a crowd at the Gorge - Victoria turned out with heart and good will to celebrate the day. Teas and Soda water, perhaps something stronger than soda waters were in great demand. The booths were dressing a flourishing trade, as busy as nimble hands could be - The races were good, the boats well matched, and every foot of the course contested. More of this from the newspaper, which will accompany the present letter.

27th May -

The Prince Alfred brought no letters; a long letter from Agnes 18th ap. came later in the day by the North Pacific. Came much more quickly your letter of 17 April came through - We are all quite well. Mamma unites with me in love and kisses to you and Agnes. May God bless you my dearest child. Your loving Father James Douglas

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child you are, was delightful. I followed you, in spirit, up the three flights of stairs, through the long corridor, saw the gardens, the blooming roses, the central Courts with their lovely plants and flowers, reminding one of tropical magnificence.

The Egyptian Hall and Alhambra are highly attractive. The Rosetta stone, in the former, with its three inscriptions - one in Hieroglyphics - one in Demotic - one in Greek led to the decyphering, those antient forms of writing, and is the basis of Champollions system. The Assyrian and Egyptian Chambers represent the domestic life of these nations, - their houses, their kitchens, their sleeping apartments, their baths, their business offices &c. &c.

Your discription of these objects has awakened bye gone memories, and given as much pleasure as if I had been wandering among them, in your company. Make the most of these innocent enjoyments, for now is your happy time of life. How sorry you must have been, at missing Flora McDonald, you would have, both, enjoyed a long chat, about Vancouver. You are not the only young lady, who has paid a heavy penalty of suffering by wearing tight boots, be careful in future.

24th

I drove out to Rosebank yesterday afternoon: it was so warm, as to be uncomfortable. The woods are charming: fragrant with the perfume of numberless trees and plants, and lustrous in vernal beauty. Wondrous are the works of God: who can show forth his glorious acts? I greatly missed your sweet companionship, on the way, but nevertheless was not unhappy, for

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mingling their flowers, with the fresh glossy green leaves; the harebells, cowslips and blue bells, is altogether a charming picture of an English spring. The children were, I suppose delighted with the sixpence, chusing it, sentiment apart, as more precious even than the pretty cowslips.

I love this, and your previous letter because they speak of your own dear self, your daily thoughts, feelings, and pursuits. Your messages to friends will in due time be delivered.

3d June

No letters from you. We have had refreshing rains lately. The spring flowers are all gone, a few tulips excepted; the roses are coming out and will soon be in full bloom. We went out yesterday with a party, to celebrate James' 22d birthday. Mamma was in great spirits. Mrs Harvey and family, from Portland are here, to recruit. My old friend Dr Barclay, died lately at Oregon City. The enclosed clipping, relates his history. Truly the world is becoming a desert. Mamma, Alice and miss Wyllie unite in love and best wishes. My love to Jane and Agnes. Bless you my dearest Child. Your affectionate Father James Douglas.

Enclosed are 1 Tuberose Lilly and last ½c violets

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Victoria Vancouver Island
30th May 1873

My dearest Martha

Your neatly penned letter dated 25th and 28th April, arrived here yesterday p. North Pacific. There is a great improvement, both in diction and penmanship, in your present letter. Your ideas flow so rapidly, that you appear to have no difficulty in filling up the sheet; it scarcely costs you an effort now, tho' once, upon a time, a serious undertaking. This is satisfactory to me, and profitable to you: continued study and application do wonders for young people, therefore persevere my dear child, in the earnest pursuit of wisdom & knowledge and you will become, all that I wish you to be. I hope soon

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to hear of your being on the continent. I hope the Misses Bushby will extend their tour to Paris and the Rhine. which will not be much more expensive, and add greatly to your enjoyment. The good Dean will be delighted with your remarks. Our worthy Bishop. is now doing duty as Parish Priest at New Westminster, and winning golden opinions. with all classes; being a most estimable man.

Mr Langley was the purchaser of Gambits stove. Amy received your gift. Carrie Sinclair also got a souvenir. My health is thank God very good and the foot gives no trouble. Arthur makes every allowance for the F. C. ts numerous avocations. and readily acquits her of neglect.

Pray send me Dr Browns Pamphlet. "The Races of Mankind" It must be interesting, and may be forwarded through the Book Post, leaving both ends open, at a cost of a few pence. Dr Brown is correct in his statements about the wreck of the Japanese Junk at Cape Flattery in the year 1834. The story about the bees wax thrown up by the sea. is rather different. That disaster is supposed to have occurred years before the settlement of the country and the natives report that the ship wrecked people were white men, of some Christian Nation. It was near Umpqua River. the wreck took place. It is too long a story for a short letter. so I leave it for the present. The brides bouquet is really a pretty ornament. and is to be kept safely till your return.

Your description of the hedge rows. with the sweet May and Hawthorn

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Victoria V. I. 9th June
1873

My dearest Martha -

Yesterday was the anniversary of your 19th birth day and also a great church festival, Trinity Sunday. We did not fail to remember you, at the family altar as well as in our social intercourse, we committed you, in our prayers to the care of that God, who watched over you in the perils of childhood and entreated Him to be your guide and guardian, in the journey of maturer life; to give you all the blessings He may see fit: and to make you a good and faithful servant in Gods vineyard.

You were the subject of conversation at dinner, amid many good wishes, of the friends who love you dearly.

Mamma, had a good cry over your photograph, but soon mastered

. well as Ella, her mother and aunt. She left, with a bouquet of fresh blown roses, promising to call another day. Love

11th June

The Prince Alfred, brought us English Mail, so I have none of your letters to reply to. I heard the other day from Agnes, then at Dover where she was expecting you to join her about the 20th May, intending to leave shortly for the Continent. You will have a good view of France and I dare say Germany, to complete your first years stay in England. Happy times for you my dearest Child. I shall leave you another year in England, and then with Gods blessing, either go or send for you, or you may have a chance of coming home with your sister Anne, who will be returning about that time. Anne meant that you should be away for less than two years. It will take that time to get rid of the cobwebs of Colonial training, and give you a proper finish. It is very trying for

her feelings, and indulged in cheerful anticipations of a happy meeting with her dear child, improved with all the advantages of education and foreign travel. The weather is now very warm, and the country improved by the late soaking rains.

Carrie Pinder was enquiring about you yesterday: I told her you were well, and longed to hear from her. The Creases often hear from Mary and we have a long chat about you every time we meet. The Munros, Miss Wyllie and others are constant in their enquiries. In fact it is rather serious to meet them, in busy times, for there is no end of their questions.

I have just returned from a morning ride: there will be good crops of grain and a great abundance of hay this year, a subject of joy and rejoicing to the farmers, adding to their wealth and prosperity.

Mrs Jones has returned in improved health from San Francisco: her sister Miss Work was overcome by the noise and bustle of the place, but on the whole derived much enjoyment from the trip. How did you like London on your first arrival, you have got accustomed by this time: perhaps partial to excitement, and may find home here, too quiet, when you come back next year. Cecil Wallace called this afternoon: but seeing no one, Mamma and Alice being both out, was about leaving, when I caught a glimpse of her from the garden, where I was enjoying the fresh air. We had a chat about you; she had just received your letter, and was so glad to hear from you. She was looking rather poorly, but assured me she was quite well, as

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Victoria Vancouver Island
13th June 1873

My dearest Child

The "North Pacific" has come in, since the "Prince Alfred" left and still, no letters from you. Your dear letters, are somewhere detained to my great discomfort.

The weather has been showery since yesterday. You will remember in our pleasant rides about here, taking shelter, under the great spreading branches of the Pine trees, till the beating showers were over, and then cantering home without getting wet. Such is the weather, at present; refreshing vegetation, and rejoicing the farmers heart, by the promise, it gives, of heavy crops, in the autumn.

I was, today, at Rosebank, examining the boundary lines and the lately made clearance. The men have done the work honestly

will now be able to tell me all about them. What a happy girl you are; so many strange sights as will greet you, on the Rhine the Cathedral and 10 thousand virgins, of Cologne. The latter I did not see, I wonder if you will be more fortunate. Your letter is not so connected, written as usual, for which your hurry and exceptional position fully account, ~~for~~ and excuse.

It was kind of Jane, to take you to the Royal Academy. Albert Hall appears to have had more attractions for you. Did you admire Pattie. I hope you may have a chance of seeing Paris - Versailles &c. Agnes' letters to Mamma, has just arrived, dear Agnes ever kind and considerate about your welfare. Give the dear child my love, also to Aunts Jane and Annie. We are all well. Mamma's love I write in haste to save the Mail

My dearest Child

Your loving Father
James Douglas

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and laid open to the sun; space enough for a fine field of corn want a good tenant to bring it into cultivation; but that rara avis has not yet been found. The roads are getting dry and dusty: the Guelder rose and mock orange, are not yet in flower, but in course of 8 or 10 days, the woods will be in a blaze of beauty, with their graceful bloom. Wild strawberries are now hawked about town for sale, and the large pulpy "Queens" will soon be ready for table use.

15th June

The air is fragrant, with the sweets exhaled by the wild rose, now blooming in countless abundance It is indeed delightful to wander about, amidst the beauty and wild luxuriance of nature - so far surpassing in grace, the utmost effort of art. I miss your company in my afternoon strolls. I find consolation in the reflection, that you will improve so much in England, that I will enjoy your company all the more.

16th June

Raining, in light showers. May Elliot spent the afternoon with Alice and went out for a drive. May is much improved in dress and manner, and is really a fine girl. She sends her love.

18th June

Received your letter of 13th May, with P.S. from Dover dated 14th May. I am glad to hear, that you were on the point of leaving England for the Continent. Wiesbaden is a charming place, where much of life is to be seen. I presume you will take the route through Belgium to Cologne and ascend the Rhine to Mayence, at which places, I severally spent some pleasant days in 1864. I had not time to visit Frankfort or Wiesbaden. You

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James is still complaining: his ankle gives him a good deal of trouble.
He will in time I hope get over it. I have been trying the effect of a new application for preserving the rose bushes from the destructive attacks of the "Aphides", but so far the effect has not been satisfactory: though it may ultimately do good. The Devonensis has produced wonderful roses, the most perfect and largest I ever saw.
We are still using last years apples. the Baldwin and Roxbury russet being yet sound. Such gooseberries you never saw, we are using them every day. The cherries are almost ripe: but not abundant. Your tree, that in the Kitchen Garden, is bearing this year. I must now close; Mamma sends her love to you and Agnes dear, to which add mine. May God bless you My dearest Child
Your loving Father
James Douglas.

Victoria Vancouver Island
26th June 1873

My dearest Martha

The Mails have gone and come several times, without bringing any of your dear letters, so we cannot have our usual chit chat about passing events. You are by this time no doubt, well established, at Wiesbaden, that chief of all hot places, in summer weather, recruiting rapidly your invalids, by bathing in its salubrious waters. It is quite a new world for you, and will store your mind with fresh ideas of men and things, supplying no end of matter, for remark and conversation.
We are all quite well here, and none more so than dear Mamma who is going today, to Mrs Finlayson's whose two eldest boys are on the point of leaving home, for school

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in England, a sore trial to them Mamma. A pic nic was held yesterday at Mc Aulays point, in honour of your birth day and Dolly's. The party travelled by water under the charge of Arthur and James. I drove out to see them in course of the day; but did not remain long. They had a pleasant time and did not get home till after 10 o'clock in the evening: a late hour for us, but to them, the time appeared too brief, a mere passing moment. People are now all busy hay making - wherever one goes, the sythe and hay cart are in motion. The crop of hay is said to be immense, much above the average cut. Captain Butler author of the recent work, on British America, "The great lone land" is now here on a visit, and was yesterday at your pic nic. He is a charming writer; the interest never flags. He leaves tomorrow for San Francisco, on his way home to England. I have just received Dr Grants work, entitled "From ocean to ocean". It speaks in disparagement of the Province and also of its Government, being led into that mistake by Mc Donalds Strictures on British Columbia, a work that no one acquainted with the early history of the Colony would venture to quote, in support of any fact or event of the past.

I have had a new door-way made into your chamber, from the stair head, and had the former door communicating with the other bed room stopped up, giving entire privacy to both rooms. The wardrobes are also being fitted with light doors instead of the former curtain arrangement. A great improvement I think.

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coming by the Prince Alfred so I shant get them for some days to come. This delay arises from your letters being addressed to San Francisco: so they are not forwarded with the other Canadian mails, direct overland from Sacramento. Therefore dear Martha - address your letters, as of old "via Canada", and I will get them sooner than by the U. States. at least until the close of summer or beginning of winter.

What a disappointment to us all, that we have not heard from you. No news is said to be good news, and we console ourselves with that reflection.

Mamma, Alice, James & unite with me in love to you and Agnes, and till dear Jane all sorts of tender love and affection from me - May God bless you

My dearest Martha Your loving Father

James Douglas

Miss M. Douglas.

Victoria Vancouver Island
7th July 1873

My dearest Martha

The latest English news-papers are dated 5th June. Agnes' last letter 25th May, and Martha's latest 15th May, so you see we have been long without your letters, probably owing to some accident, or shortcoming in the postage. Whatever may be the reason, we are no less the sufferers, as steamer goes and steamer comes in with the Mails and yet no letter from you. The North Pacific is expected in today with heaps of letters I trust from you: Agnes mentions in her letter that you were all well, and greatly pleased with the sights of Wiesbaden. While you are abroad, see and note every thing you can: keep a regular Journal, and jot down, whatever pleases or interests you, as it

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is a great assistance, and invaluable aid to the memory. If you neglect that precaution, you will forget much, and at best, have but a faint and confused recollection of the places and objects visited and even of the events of the journey.

We are all thank God, in perfect health. We have a grand luncheon on Friday next, at James Bay. and I trust the present enjoyable weather will last till then.

The place has been all alive with Pic nics, private and public. for the last fortnight - the Pioneers, the Mechanics, the Firemens, and last tho not the least attractive, the Caledonian, where the Athletic games afforded capital sport: being conducted in the Scottish style.

Conny Skinner is here today with her sister Mrs Bremner. they are amusing themselves, on the lawn at Croquet and are making sad havock with the cherries. Oh, what about the Canadian Pacific Railroad?

It has been Officially announced by an Order in Council, that Esquimalt is fixed, as the future Terminus, and that a line of Rail-way is to be run from Esquimalt to Seymour Narrows, along the east Coast of Vancouver Island It is also seriously intended to open and work the Iron seams of the Province, for the manufacture of the rails and other ironwork required for the construction of the Rail way. This is most important and cannot fail to produce a period of great prosperity.

7th afternoon

I have just returned from the Post office - there is not a line for me. I fancy your letters, are

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Victoria Vancouver Island
14th July 1873

My dearest Martha.

At last we are relieved from a painful state of suspense, having received no letters from you for the last month. Today arrived your nice and carefully written letter, commencing June 6th at Wiesbaden, and ending Strasbourgh June 16th. It is a most interesting review of your pleasant tour, and excursions to the historic and picturesque towns and villages on the Rhine. You appear to have thoroughly enjoyed the sights, as well as a good sensible appetite for the good things, which German hospitality spread before you. Dear good sister Agnes never fails to shew her good sense, at table, and never allows any mawkish feeling of modesty to interfere with her comfort.

Bingen, Rhudesheim and Johannisberg

you must bear it like a brave little girl, seeing it is all for your own permanent good. It is a great hardship for Mamma and me to be another twelvemonth without you, but we must first study your own good, by allowing you every opportunity of acquiring knowledge and experience, and our reward will come hereafter, in seeing you, with God's blessing playing well your part in the great drama of life.

Yesterday week, we had a pleasant party of friends at Luncheon, the Judges, Captain Hare R.N. Pearse, Marion Smith May, and many other of your young lady friends, being present. Edward waited - it was a sumptuous repast, comprising every luxury of the season. They, the quartet afterwards amused themselves, in the garden, at Croquet and other sports. The whole affair went off well. Last Thursday

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are celebrated for the excellence of their wines. I wish you had taken a run up the Rhine to Manheim; and then a days run by rail road would have carried you into the heart of Switzerland; the whole trip would not have taken more than a week to accomplish: and the cost very little more than by remaining stationary at Wiesbaden. Mamma was astounded at the feat of your driving three in hand; and wonders Agnes did not protest against your taking the reins. I am glad you admired the Cathedral of Strasbaugh with the spire it is a wonderful structure. I have no doubt you did wander over the same ground I traversed in my solitary rambles in 1864. I should have felt happier had I not been alone. Home will appear dull to you after these exciting travels. Will it be so? or will dear Victoria, your native land, be cherished as much as ever.

I long to hear your impressions of France. Paris was and perhaps still is a splendid city - and the environs most attractive. Versailles and Fontainebleau are parts of Fairy land. Then you must have a good look at the pictures and sculptures in the Louvre and other museums.

I hope Jane may be in London on your return to England, and that you will be able to accompany her to Dunain for the midsummer holidays. If not I suppose you will have to remain with the Misses Turk.

Another year in England, will complete your educations, and then we shall bring you home. Arthur has changed his plans, and written to tell Agnes to come home this year, leaving her two girls in England. This will be a sore trial for you, but you

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Mrs Tuzo, gave a garden pic-nic. at her residence; to a crowd of friends about 150: neither Alice nor Mamma would go. I put in an appearance, and James did the dancing - in a small pavillon erected for the purpose. It was very nice, and would have been enjoyable had there been fewer people; as it was the accommodations were inappreciat- for those present. It was altogether attempting too much for their means of entertainment.

21st July.

I paid my first visit, this year, to Belmont, on Saturday. The House is now temporarily occupied by three families Mrs Langley, Sutors, and Fillows, who have gone thither, for a while, to rusticate and breathe the fresh air. The garden has a desolate appearance - the fence near the house is gone, the cattle have come in - and eaten every thing bare - the flowers have vanished, there is scarcely a rose to be

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seen, and even the fruit trees have suffered from neglect, and the ravages of kine. I shall send Mr Lawnberg a lecture as soon as I can see him, and make him keep the fences in order.

I suppose despatching this note by todays mail, to keep you informed about our doings. The first sod of the Pacific Canadian Railway was turned on Saturday by M. Smith, in a quiet way, without any public demonstration? The terminus is at the Admiral's House, Maple Bay, Esquimalt. the line running from thence towards the Indian village near or opposite Craig flower

The Newspapers I send you, will give the particulars. The Doctor has just sold a six acre lot at Constance Cove, for 3000 dollars -- no very great price is it. Mamma sends her love and fervent prayers for your welfare - she is in very good health, and most active in all her movements. James, Alice and Amy unite with me, in love and best wishes. May God bless and have you in His Holy keeping, and may you ever love and serve Him faithfully my dearest Child

Your loving Father. J. Douglas

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you last much by taking the night train from Strasbourg to Paris, one of the finest Districts of France. Had you travelled by day light - you would have seen a lovely country. The Louvre was too much for one days examination - a month is not a day too much for such an accumulation of Art treasures, as you see there. No wonder you left the place, worn out and disgusted. I am glad you appreciated Versailles. I hope you saw the orangery, and paid your homage to the tree named Grand Louis after Louis XIV

Arthur came down on Saturday and is looking well. He expects Agnes about the beginning of September. I have just heard from Mr Fraser he saw Jane and Alick, but left London for Norwich, before your return from the Continent. Your friends here are all well and often make enquiries about you. They are now full of a party that comes

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Victoria Vane Island
4th Augt 1873.

My dearest Child

I have been thinking much of you this morning, and have just sat down to the desk to have a chat with you, on things past, present and to come. This time last year we were all assembled at James Bay, preparing for your journey to England - I look back to that, as a most happy time, and wonder if we shall ever be so fortunate again. Agnes it appears is to come back immediately, as Arthur cannot get home, as he at one time expected, on furlough. You will, no doubt miss your sister when she leaves; but you must keep up your spirits, and study all the more closely, to complete your education by next year, when please God, you will come home.

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I should like to go for you myself but if that cannot be I shall make arrangements for your safe and comfortable return. It is very hard for Mammd and me, to remain so long alone, but we are prepared to make any sacrifice, to promote your welfare. You are now well acquainted with the excellent ladies, in whose charge you are placed, and so you will not feel utterly alone, especially as you know your dear Saviour, the strength and consolation of Israel and how to seek comfort and direction at the Throne of Grace. May that blessed Lord who preserved you in the perils of infancy, give you wisdom and grace, to guide you in riper years, securely, amidst the shoals and quicksands of life. My heart yearns for you my dear child, and we daily offer prayers for your safety and welfare.

Your dear letter, commencing Paris 19th June, and continued to 5th July, when you had returned to School arrived here on the 1st Augt having come through in 26 days, a comparatively quick transit, though not more so than might be accomplished, with every mail. You advise my letter ending 3d June, but not several previous letters which I addressed you. Have you overlooked them, or have they miscarried? Never fail to advise letters received.

You had a happy meeting with Jane, who writes, "we are as happy as happy can be" I wish I had been there to share your joys. You should have told me more about the meeting, and not written so briefly, but I suppose you were fagged, with the excitement of the long journey you had made, and not in your usual spirits.

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been entirely consumed and many poor people been left destitute, a sad melancholy event. Mrs Starr's father has been a severe loser. Mrs Harvey's house, fortunately escaped.

Alice and Ellen are very well, the latter is always in motion, and has never had a days illness, since she came here. Dolly and Amy are also well. We are still eating last years apples, Roxbury Russets, and beginning to use, this years early fruit. The peach Plum is also coming in season.

I hope to hear from you today, by the North Pacific and will reply by next boat.

Mamma is very well and active, she sends her love as does every one here. May God bless and preserve you

My dearest Child
Your loving Father
James Douglas

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off in a few days, on board the flag ship "Repulse", given by the Officers to Admiral Hillyar, lately promoted. We received invitations, but neither Mamma nor I can go on board, and James is away to the mainland, on a cruize with Marcus Smith. I dare say it will give great satisfaction. Mrs Elliott is not at all well, and seldom goes out. Her illness is not, I believe, dangerous, but is very tedious and trying. Mr Lowenberg does not forget your promised Photograph, and occasionally reminds me of your promise. He has lately sold four lots on Bird cage Terrace for 1900 dollars, a fair price considering, the depression here. I have authorised him to sell all these scattered portions of land, as the taxes are increased and come heavy, on unproductive lots. I saw Mary Finlayson the other day, when I called at Rock Bay. She was looking well, and full

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of enquiries about you. Her Mamma is not very well, and Mrs Jones is much altered for the worse, being thin and emaciated. I don't know what has become of Miss Mahood, not having seen her for a great length of time. The Menoes and Miss Wallace I see occasionally in my walks through town. 5th Aug. Refreshing rain fell last night and did so much good. I have a glorious show of stocks, some of them are growing like shrubs, in one mass of gorgeous flowers. Your subdivision of the garden is kept in nice order. Claytons new roses are Tritons among minnows. The "Devoniensis" flowered beautifully. The Gladiolus is very handsome. Jams of all sorts, currant and other Jellies are being manufactured, to Mamma's great delight. Any taking a deep interest in the process, conspiring with Mamma, to run up the grocers bill

bill. Who is to consume this vast provision of sweets? seeing you are not to be at home, till next year. Madam Anna Bishop is on the way, per Prince Alfred, to delight the citizens of Victoria with her dulcet tones. A great magician has just arrived, who like Pharaohs magicians is to turn water into blood and many other wonderful works. How many schemes to deplete the pockets!!! What is of more importance, is the attempt of a company, to drain the Fraser of its gold, by lifting the sand and auriferous gravel to the surface, through the agency of enormously powerful Pumps. They are to commence at Hills Bar, near Yale. I wish them well.

7th Aug. There has been a great fire at Portland - Oregon; 13 blocks have

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Victoria Vanc. Island
8th Augt. 1873

My dearest Martha

Your letter dated 18th July by mistake I received for 8th July - the Post mark being "Worcester P. 12th July". arrived here yesterday by the North Pacific. and afforded us much pleasure. Mamma was deeply moved by your tender expressions of love and shed tears in abundance. She is in good health, and sends all manner of love and good wishes, hoping to have the pleasure of folding you in her tender embrace, about this time next year. I am looking forward to that event, with unfeigned delight.

Amy has received your letter of 18th July and will soon write. she is a dear little girl. Mamma has not received the cap, you sent. I will advise you when it comes to hand. and ask Mamma to write you a line. You may subscribe

see 4th page.

to the Illustrated London News. but I think "Punch" would be superfluous. yet it however if you like the Paper. I am glad you think of learning to play the organ. knowledge of every kind is useful.

I shall give your love to the Dean. and mention your intention of writing to him. He will be glad to hear from you. Jane will be delighted. when she hears that you admired his verses. He has not yet returned from the mainland.

I have now run through your letter, which is very much too short.

13th Augt.

This is the anniversary of your departure for England last year. It appears so long since you left us. and yet the time has not been tedious. Do you remember. saying long ago that you would like to stay away from home, six years to finish your education in England, and then return to your Parents. That would be too long, altogether would it not? Entirely

see 2nd page.

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hope that in another year we will meet again; it is so pleasant to look forward to that event. May God grant that it be so. All is bustle and stir here today. Mamma is going out to Fairfield for a little pic nic. The Harvey Wygants and several American families from Portland are invited to meet her. It will be a very grand affair the dinner being laid out, under the same ancient Maple tree, where we dined with Captain Cator.

The children are in great glee and Amy is already off in charge of Arthur. Mamma is just gone out and now I am alone in my glory, the sole occupant, Ang excepted of James' Bay.

The weather is delightful, a bright, cloudless sky overhead, and a temperature just pleasantly warm, and tempered by a gentle, ocean breeze. Dr Tolmie has issued invitations for a pic nic at Langfords Lake, to take place on Saturday next. We have accepted the invitation, and intend going to the party.

evening 13th

The pic nic was a great success, everyone delighted; the only thing wanted to complete our enjoyment, was the cheerful voice of dear little Martha. We have just had a letter from James, of which the following is a copy.

Tsee a camist River
6 Augt 1873

My dearest Papa

I am at present writing under difficulties. I am lying at full length on my blankets in a tent with a small candle by me which sheds a very faint light indeed. We have been here nearly four days trying to get over this formidable river. I have left Wm Smith at

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remember Captain Stewart. The silk worms are cured; Mamma will freize the silk. The Christians are well. Bessie is well, and is now followed by her second calf. Sandrie is in high feather, I take him out every day for my morning ride. He is as stout as ever.

Now for your letter of the 26th July. The French mined strawberries were splendid this year. We had lately a narrow escape from being burnt out by an accidental fire in the adjoining fields. Every thing is now so dry that the utmost care is requisite to prevent fires. Don't be too hard on poor little May Elliott, I dare say she has not much to say, on paper; but I remember a certain young Lady who used to say so too, though she has plenty to say now; who finds out that the more she writes, the more readily her thoughts flow. Do you

Victoria V. Island
22nd Augt 1873

My dearest Martha

Mamma received your dear letter of the 19th July, a few days ago, and this morning came to hand your letter of 26th July, written a day or two after the breaking up of your school for the mid summer holidays. You speak of spending the holiday time at school, to make up I presume, for the continental tour; I fancy however you will have to go to Durham, as Dallas wrote me a few days ago, that he wished both you and Agnes to go there, on a visit, as you had seen Scotland only in its winter garb and not when clothed in the gorgeous dress of summer. This was very kind of him, and you will have so much more of your sister's company, which will be both

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pleasant and profitable for you.
Let me now turn to Mamma's letter
Home is of course dear to you as ever, and you would naturally like to return with your sister: but this would not be wise, as you would be throwing away the precious time for improvement, a season which may never return, and losing it would be a continual source of regret, to yourself and to all your friends, who will expect great things from Martha. It would never do, you know, in so important a matter to sacrifice principle to sentiment however amiable of its kind. I miss you greatly here, but what of that, if by the little sacrifice, I can promote your good.
I gave you, with the blessing of God a sound early training, in religion and morality, and taught you to love your Saviour, to think and act on all subjects like a Christian Child. You are now far from me, your loving Parent, but the Principles I taught remain, while your God and your blessed Saviour, is ever near you, to guide, direct and shield you amidst the perils and temptations of life. Appeal to Him in all your trials and He will be a ready help in all your troubles.
I shall try to find some pictures of Victoria, on thin paper, such as you describe, and send them. I have not received Dr Brown's work, nor has the Cap, you sent Mamma, made its appearance. The Custom House people may have made a seizure of the latter, at New York, for none payment of duty. Amy is herself again and Dolly likewise. Amy wrote to you lately. Alice does not

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not yet returned from the Mainland nor have we any late intelligence of his movements. The Flags in your flower beds are now in flower, looking very pretty indeed. The Dean and Mrs Cridge lately made a little gipsy tour to Metchosen and Rocky Point for change of air. They are pleased with the excursion, which has improved Mrs Cridges health. Mr and Mrs Saunders are here, on their way to England and will return to the Colony next year, after sending their children to school. You will probably be coming home about the same time and perhaps travel with them. Miss Wylley is quite well and sends her love. Mamma has not finished her letter, but sends no end of love and good wishes. Alice also embraces you. Ellen is incessantly on the move. Now my dearest child once more adieu, and may Heaven preserve you. Your loving Father James Douglas

remember such a young lady? I often think of the Carpet beating near the Foundry, but never before reading your letter did I associate it, with the Grand tapestry screen at Strasborg. So much dear Martha for the march of intellect.

Madam Bishop has been exhibiting here, and created quite a furore in the musical world. She left yesterday for Pugets Sound.

The Finlayson boys have arrived safely in England. Aunt Sarah to her great relief, heard from them a few days ago. They are somewhere about Norwich. The cupboards and new door, have greatly improved the appearance of your room. It is unoccupied except by Arthur when he comes here. No one else is allowed to sleep there.

I have discharged Willing, he was too young and flighty. Piper

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business is going on as usual.
Victoria cannot spare so useful
a citizen. He is the "Gunter" of
Victoria. I suppose you have
been to Gunters, pastry shop; the
boast of London. Doly is gone
to Rocky Point, for a few weeks
recreation with the Parkers,
so I cannot deliver your message
till she comes home. I have now
answered all the queries in your
letter and will touch on other subjects
Great discoveries of magnetic Iron
ore have been lately made, in the
Island of Texada, near Comox
The ore exists in the greatest
abundance, and yields from 80 to 90
per cent of iron. There are also
enormous beds of Limestone near
the Iron ore, which is used and
indeed indispensable as a flux, in
smelting the ore. Comox will supply
the coal, so all the materials for
founding a great industry are
distributed by the liberal hand of
nature at, or near the spot.
This is of more value to the
Province, than the discovery of
a gold field, inasmuch as it will
be a more lasting source of
wealth. A discovery more
nearly concerning us was made
the other day at Fairfield. In
digging a well on Mr Kings lot:
at the depth of 45 feet, a rushing
spring of water was struck, that
filled the well to overflowing
and continues to send a rill of
water, by a surface drain, into
the adjoining field. The water
is pure and soft, altogether a
great acquisition in its way.
Moss street is being extended
from Langley's residence to Henley,
near Clover Point. It is certainly
a great improvement. 25th Augt ~~James has~~ James has

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DOUGLAS
COLLECTION

Victoria V. I. 11th Sept. 1873

My dearest Martha

I am returned, on Saturday, safe and sound, from my long trip on the mainland. We had a rough time, with the surveying parties, living chiefly on beans and bacon: but the tent and food agreed with me and we had always a capital appetite. The Musquitoes were at times troublesome, and we had one or two frights in crossing two turbulent rivers that lay in our path otherwise, we had nothing to complain of. We saw Hamilton at New Westminster, and left him in good health.

The day before yesterday, we drove round to Cadboro Bay, and called on Mrs Martin the new settler there. The old people being engaged we were for some time entertained by Miss Martin a charming little girl of 11 - full of sense and intelligence - The

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humans very nicely coiled but Mamma not
just in appearance. I was friends with
Mrs Martin who is really a nice, well
educated person: her husband owns
out but he is a very respectable man.
The House is built on the rocky declivi-
-ty, facing the South, in full view of
Ships, boats, canoes and every thing
passing up and down the Canal de Haro.
Mrs Martin likes the place immensely
and her husband is doing well by
keeping a flock of sheep. there being
abundance of food for their support
both in summer and winter. They
had this year 300 lambs which they
sold at 3 dollars a head, making
1500 dollars or £300 Sterling, a sum
equal to the pay of a Commander in
the Royal Navy. Pleasant is it not
to hear of settlers doing so well.
I gave them a lot of fruit, apples and
plums for the children, which made
them all very happy. The Bonetta
Alfred arrived yesterday without a mail

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The tales of a Grandfather are delightful reading, the other two works by Miss Strickland I never read. I wish you were here to read them over to me as there is no one here who reads half so well, or with a spark of your taste and intelligence. I am afraid Alice would hardly part with Helen.

Do write and be kind to the Good boys; their priestly Father has written to Mr Cooke their teacher interdicting all intercourse with their mother. Did you ever hear of such a monstrous thing.

I see several mistakes in your letter, pray write carefully, for that is expected now from you. I am glad you are getting on with your drawing, it is a useful accomplishment.

The rose is from dear Mamma, a Devoniensis, from the lower garden with her love and kisses. They all send oceans of love and good wishes. May God bless you my dearest child

I remain your loving Father
James Douglas

so ask no excuses from you.

15th Sept.r

Mamma has at last completed her assortment of Preserves; the last made that is of the Damsons, in the Kitchen garden, is to my taste the best and finest flavoured. Some of it is to be stored away for you, when you return.

I never before saw so many plums as we have this year, the trees are, not bending only, but breaking under the load of fruit which is also so fine and well matured. We have been distributing them on all sides, but still they are wasting on the trees, for want of picking.

Alice has got, just baby to the Nuns School and she is delighted. Alice is well but misses a good deal. Her future is overshadowed by a dark cloud

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through which there is no gleam of cheering light. All is gloom and darkness. Very dearly has she paid for the one false step, she made in youth; and the penalty like a "Nemesis" pursues her still. and well I fear follow her, through life. Had she trusted her Father more, and put less faith in Good; how different, and how much more happy would her lot in life have been. In all your trials and perplexities, seek wisdom and direction at the Throne of Grace; pray to your blessed Lord and he will shield you from harm. Confide in me, you have nothing to conceal from your father, and let bashfulness not prevent you from opening your whole heart to him.

Treasure up, my counsels in your ~~letter~~ inmost heart.

Mrs Elliot

is no better; the Doctor has forbid her walking out. May is well.

The North Pacific has just come in, and Ang must be off to the Post Office to enquire for letters.

The weather looks threatening, the sky is clouding over, as if for rain; a good down pour would be acceptable as every thing is getting dry and pining for moisture.

Ang has just returned from town and brought me your letter dated 13th to 17th Augt. You will no doubt feel pained, at your sisters leaving for home, but please God your turn will come next year; when the term of your exile will end. What a beautiful gift, the colours so beautifully contrasted - it is the first unspun silk I ever saw. I shall deliver your several complimentary messages, and trace our Capella and Vega, in their celestial courses. Astronomy is a most attractive study, follow it up.

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DOUGLAS COLLECTION

Victoria 16th Sept. 1873

My dearest Martha

I was hurried by the departure of the Mail in closing my letter to you of yesterday. I wished to say, about your last letter, that it was hastily written and with less care and attention to correct orthography, than usual.

Whenever you are at a loss for subjects write about yourself; your studies and daily doings, a subject I never tire of. You see what an important little lady you are, and what an interest I take about you. I was delighted in my morning ride today with the lively movements of the Larks. They have mustered in great numbers about Fairfield, making the fields and woods resound with their melodious notes. I suppose they are rejoicing in the delicious weather, and pursuing offering their tribute of praise and thanksgiving

in which I fear there is much trouble.

18th Sept.

We have just heard of Agnes leaving on the 1st of Sept. on her return via Panama. She will probably arrive at San Francisco on the 23d Sept. just 3 days too late for the Prince Alfred, which will not leave again for Victoria till the 5th Oct., so she will have a good rest at San Francisco. We shall be glad to see her here.

I have received a letter from Mr Young, announcing his promotion to the rank of Colonial Secretary of British Guiana. The Salary is £1500 a year, almost double the salary he now receives. I rejoice at this improvement in his condition.

Cousin and he are in good health.

I have placed a large beautiful apple on the toilet table in your bed room, of the early strawberry variety. It makes me fancy you are here; though a mere delusion, it alleviates the pain of absence. What a long time still, till we meet, fully 18 months more. 20th Mr Drakes large stable

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to the great Author of all good, who
giveth food in due season to these
his beautiful creatures, and filleth
their hearts with joy. The grading
of Moss street is now completed nearly
to Henleys back gate, making a
magnificent line of street. Won't it
be grand when built over and planted
with gardens and ornamental trees.

Mrs Trutch gave an at Home, last
night, Jem and Amy attended, but no one else
from James Bay. There was a crush, and
dancing was kept up to a late hour.

I have not seen Cary Pender, to speak to
for some time past. With respect
to your inquiry about our new church
I believe the whole is paid for, and not a
penny of debt remains. The Mitchosen
Church will soon be finished, but whether
paid for or not, I cannot say. My contribution
for it is to be 100 dollars.

17th Sept

Delightful weather. I missed the Lark
concert this morning, the tiny performers
having disappeared, and winged their
flight to some other quarter, probably
scared away by mischievous boys or cruel
sportsmen. What a shame to disturb their
simple enjoyments. I drove out with
James yesterday to Elk Lake, to see the
progress made in preparing the dams,
retaining walls &c &c of the intended water
works. they are now cutting and clearing
away the brush and small timber, opening
up some very pretty land, for the dam.
In strolling over the ground, I had a chat
with a very intelligent labourer, who said
the water of Elk Lake, was not at all good,
being so warm that it did not quench their
thrist, it also contained seeds of acquatic
plants, which he supposed were unwholesome.
Two of his men had been suffering from
diarrhœa, which he ascribed to the bad
quality of the water; a little raw oatmeal
stirred into the water improved its effects,
but still it was not so good as Spring
ridge water; I left him after hearing
this bad report of our future water supply.

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took fire today and was entirely consumed.
The origin of the fire is supposed to be
the burning of lucifer matches. by the
neighbouring children. the stable was insured
so the loss for Mr Drake is not great.
Fortunately there was no wind at the
time of the fire. or it would have spread
to the houses in the vicinity. Mrs O'Reilly
is said to have had a narrow escape

22nd

You would be delighted to see how
actively Hannah walks about; she has
attended Divine Service for the last three
Sundays. She loves the House of God,
to sing His praises and to hear the
glad tidings of Salvation. We have
no tidings as yet from Stones. and
hope she is either at or not far from
San Francisco. We went a long drive
on Saturday, towards Sooke. the country
looks dreary. beyond Fisher's farm. there
being scarcely a good place for a settler
to pitch himself. We however enjoyed

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the divine. through the
it was like opening
of the great deep.
a quantity of salad
delicious.

unbroken wilderness
up the secrets
The children picked
berries. which were

The North Pacific is in, and I 22nd Sept
have received your letter of 22nd August
written on silk paper. with pale ink
what a trial for my weary eyes. to
read. No more of that, I prithee dear
Martha, give Papa your whole heart
and your best round hand. Why
did you spend the holidays at school,
it would have been a change, to have
gone to Duncan. Dallas writes that
he would ask you for the holidays
I wish for your healths sake you
had accepted his invitation. I will
give Dolly, the jacket you send
enclosed. There is nothing to reply
to, in your letter; tell me all about
yourself, your studies, your pursuits, your
thoughts state of mind: in short a complete
full length portrait of my daughter. Mamma sends y
no end of love and kisses and Papa the same God bless you
Fanny Douglas

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DOUGLAS COLLECTION

Victoria V. I. 23 Sept. 1873

My dearest Child

What glorious weather: up this morning a little after 6 o'clock, bath and morning devotions, detained me, till 8, when I rode out; the air was deliciously cool, the birds singing gaily, (the same flocks of larks, I missed the other morning; they had no doubt, found a quiet retreat, in the bush and trees west of Government House; the sky and the earth were redolent of beauty, all nature proclaiming, the love and mercy of a benevolent Creator. The enjoyment was perfect, pure, unalloyed happiness. I wish you had been present.

My last letter left this morning. Dolly received your present, and will write to you an acknowledgment. The sketches from "Punch" are much admired, being really cleverly done, as Alice remarked, on seeing them, adding I wish Martha would send me

26th Once more about my dear Papa this [illegible] I [illegible] thinking of you all the time

put them up in a tin case, the better to keep them from being wet or crushed, through the pressure of the mails. This I believe completes your list of commissions. Pray let me know as soon as you receive them.

The Prince Alfred is in, and will soon be off again, with the Mails, so I must cut my letter short. I will soon however write you again by the North Pacific.

I see a great fire, in the Indian village opposite, some of their houses are no doubt being consumed by the devouring element. I hope their loss will not be serious. The dry weather we are having, renders precautions against fire doubly necessary. I do long so much to hear from you; write often. Miss Wylly sends her love. We are all well; my own health, being very good. Mamma, Alice and James unite with me in love and best wishes.

May God bless and preserve my dear Child.
Your loving Father James Douglas.

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some of them, they ought to be framed and have a place on the Drawing room table.

Good my child, study to improve, and always tell me what you are doing and what you are learning, so that I may see you, in imagination as vividly as if you were present in person.

Do not fear repetitions, whatever concerns you, is never tiresome. Last evening about 7 o'clock, a brilliant meteor, shot over the garden, appearing to fall at the Doctors door; for a second or two it lighted up the whole avenue. I never saw, any so bright before. It greatly startled poor Amy.

I have been to Mrs Maynards and selected 18 Photographs of places in British Columbia. There is one series of nine views taken from the Church Hill which together give a complete view of Victoria. By some mistake in moving the Camera too far, James Bay House has been missed. These are numbered from 1 to 9.

The second series of three, numbered from 1 @ 3 give together a complete view of Victoria, taken from Esquimalt road. You will of course have no difficulty, in arranging the several sections and recognizing the houses and other features of the city. This last series gives a peep of part of James Bay House and the new or Christ's church, which are wanting in the first series of views, my sole object in fact, in sending the last series of three. The other six pictures are views, of places in British Columbia, and will perhaps be more prized than the former, the whole are packed in a tin water proof Tube which opens at one end. 25th Sept

I have since added two more views one of the Town of Yale situated on Fraser's River, where it rushes out with impetuous volume from the Gorges of the Cascade mountains into the open country below. The other is a view, on the road from Yale to Lytton. both are very pretty, and I hope you will like them. I have

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DOUGLAS COLLECTION

Victoria 6th Oct. 1873

My dearest child

I have been thinking a great deal about you of late, and the same train of thought must have been present in sleep, and given rise to a dream I had the other night. In the course of the night, methought, we were travelling through the wilds on horseback, with a number of other people. Some of them had fallen behind, and I had to wait for them just as we were entering a long stretch of woods. I told you to ride on, as the day was far advanced, and get through the woods before dark, and I would follow when the baggards came up; you immediately dashed off with your charger and disappeared. I came on with the rear, and to my great sorrow could not overtake you. I was continually

hopefully for a change, as soon as the new gold diggings come into play. In respect to health there is nothing to complain and that is a blessing indeed, for which we should be deeply thankful.

Agnes is in great spirits about Agnes' expected return, and is now rambling about the garden full of life and activity. The next great epoch will be Agnes return with the wisdom and learning of the east. I must not write a long letter today, having been rather busy of late, at times so; and a few hours only to prepare for the Mail. I met the Grease girls on the bridge, as they were going to school this morning, and told them of Agnes arrival at San Francisco. Mamma sends you her love and kisses, accept the same from me. Amy is to write. Dolly and the Doctor are well. Amy is delighted when your letters come. He is a good boy. Again adieu my dearest child. James Douglas

asking about Martha. Where is Martha? Where is Martha? No one could tell - so in dire distress I awoke and behold it was a dream: and I rejoice it was so. We were all delighted to hear, by Telegram received last night that sister Agnes had arrived at San Francisco well and hearty, that morning - and was to start today by the Prince Alfred for Victoria. She has had a long voyage and we were getting anxious about her, but now hope soon to see her dear face again. Arthur is waiting for her here.

I have received your letter dated 25 and 30th Augt: telling what a lazy little thing you are. Your excursions with Miss Ingalls are very amusing, making you quite at home in the metropolis - You should see the houses of Parliament in session. The British Museum and Kew gardens - are grand sights, and if not already visited, you ought to see them.

I leave the wedding ceremony to an abler pen than mine.

Mamma wore her fawn silk. White & Blue shawl & blue & white bonnet - Angey wore a handsome white silk of course & long veil. &c &c.

This is a meagre discription, I might have done as well myself. Mamma looked wonderfully youthful, for a lady of 62. The bride was well got up and looked better and more than herself. A handsome gold locket was my bridal gift.

I sadly miss your pretty tasteful bouquets, and hope you will soon appoint a deputy to attend to these duties in your absence.

We are busy now taking in apples and dearly wish, we could send you some 20 or 30 bushels, to relieve our crowded stores, and keep you in fruit for the winter.

There is nothing of much importance, doing here now, times being rather dull. People are looking

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cleared up and the sun is warm and shining brightly. I do wish you were going out with me.

I have just returned 6 P.M. from a pleasant drive with James, and find there is no word of the Mail, which will probably be late in arriving; so I will close each post this without delay, or it may not go till next week.

Agnes is expected tomorrow by the Prince Alfred, and we are all impatient to see her. Arthur and Alice are playing croquet Dolly and Ellen have a little side game by themselves. Mamma is very well indeed, and sends you her love and kisses &c. as well as Papa - Sisters and brothers.

May every blessing attend you - and may you have wisdom and grace from above to guide all your ways. My dearest Martha

Your loving Father
James Douglas

Victoria V. I. 8th Oct 1873

My dearest Martha

The day before yesterday I was visited with an attack of gout in the forepart of the left foot, which is rather painful, but not so severe as the attack I had last year, in the right foot. There is considerable inflammation but not so much pain. I continue to move about, but not so actively as I have done all summer: my general health being exceptionably good

I hope it will soon go off, and with the blessing of God, and careful diet, leave me free of pain.

Yesterday, the weather was wet and disagreeable, today is clear and pleasant for apple gathering, which we resumed today. The crop is large and the fruit fine. How are we to get it disposed of. I am afraid it will spoil on our hands. We have been lately feeding the

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milch cows with apples and pears.
to the great improvement of the milk
and butter. I have lately had a
gang of carpenters at work doing repairs
about the premises: they have refitted
the back and front gates with new
posts, making every thing strong and
nice. The foundation stone
of the dam at Beaver Lake, for the water
reservoir was laid yesterday with
imposing ceremonies. The Mayor
spoke hopefully of the water supply
for the city, trusting it would be a
blessing to the place. I sincerely re echo
that wish.

Thursday 9th Oct.

The weather is overcast, with showers
of much needed rain, moistening the
thirsty earth, soon to bring out its
coat of verdure again. My foot is
not so tender and easier today.
No apples are being gathered today in
consequence of the rain. I should so
much like to have a peep at you,
and see what you are doing at this
very moment. It must be early
evening with you, probably
about 8 o'clock, it being mid day
here and the difference of time about
eight hours. How do you
spend the evenings, in reading,
chatting in familiar intercourse
with your friends or profitably
in study; closing them always
I suppose in devout pleasant readings
and fervent prayer to our
Heavenly Father, through our
Lord and Redeemer Jesus Christ.

We expect the overland Mail
today, with perhaps a letter
from you. I will at all events
post this, as a token of remembrance
from James Bay, where your
memory is so dearly cherished.

I am now going out
for a little drive, as the weather has

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the Sacrament, on the first Sunday in September. On the same day Mamma and I partook here of the Holy Communion, gratefully commemorating the death and sufferings of our dear and blessed Lord. It was indeed as you observe, a comfort to our yearning hearts. How I should have enjoyed the walk with Miss Ingalls and the black berries. It was so good and considerate of her to correct the wrong expression, even at the risk of offending you. She is a true friend. You will acquire more substantial knowledge at your present age in 12 months, than you could have done in years at an earlier age. You are quick at learning, and should form your manners and conversation, after the most agreeable and polished lady of your acquaintance, taking her as a model, and copying as you would a picture, until you can produce something better than the original — I have not time to go over the rest of your letter as the Alfred leaves again today; I have replied to all your queries. So again, good bye My dearest Martha Your loving Father James Douglas

Love from all here.

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Victoria 10th Oct. 1873

My dearest Martha

My letter of yesterdays date had hardly been posted, when it was announced that the Prince Alfred had arrived off the harbour, and taken the ground on Shoal Point, with dear sister Agnes on board. Arthur and James immediately put off in boats, and brought her and Georgy to James Bay. It was such a happy meeting for all parties, as you may imagine, better than I can describe the scene. Suffice it to say that there was no sleep for any one, till the "wee sma hours, ayont the twal"

Agnes was detained a week at Panama; more fortunate at San Franco she just caught the "Prince Alfred" and came up in something under four days. She every where met with kindness and attention, and lost

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none of her luggage on the way.
So far good.

I have just received your letter of the 6th and 7th Sept.r Pray don't neglect your hand writing good penmanship, is the requisite ornament of a lady's letter.
I have sent you to school chiefly with the view of acquiring a neat style both in speaking and writing About all things avoid "slang" phrases, such as "chaff" &c. Ask your teachers to correct you, whenever you make such mistakes. I wish you to be, in all respects, lady like, both in speech and manner.
A lady never uses slang phrases, which are essentially vulgar and to me unbearable.
I shall be proud indeed if you get the several prizes, you are aiming at it will be a trophy of your diligence and ability, as well as a great satisfaction to your friends.

I have not heard lately from Mr. Fraser; I do not know whether he is coming out again or not.
In a former letter, I told you all about my plans for your return home I will either go or send for you.
You must not be uneasy about the future - such cares will come to you my dear child soon enough.

I have just sent a note to Mrs. Coridge, requesting Miss Penrice address. I will enclose her reply.
A letter addressed Yarmouth is sure to find them.

Your offer for the lots below Miss Wyllys, is very liberal - you may have them for half the money. The taxes are now so high, that one cannot afford to keep unproductive land. Like a hot potatoe, it burns the hand that holds it. Lonely but expressive. I am glad you took

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ceremonial, which will be imposing.

21st Octr

I have just received your brief but agreeable letter to Mamma, dated 20th Septr. It is so pleasant to hear of your welfare: Mamma is delighted. The cap you sent her, never came to hand, and I fancy will never make its appearance, having probably become the prey of some Custom House Harpy. Goods of any kind subject to ~~the payment of~~ duty, cannot be sent through the Post, being, in that case, subject to seizure, exactly as smuggled goods would be. I have sent Amy your letter for her, which was enclosed in mine.

I am glad to learn that you have received my letter of 24th May. Have you received all my other letters? if so you have not acknowledged them. I always wish to hear if my letters have reached you. Pray be very particular, in doing so hereafter. Now you dear little thing

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Victoria V. I. 20th Octr 1873

My dearest little Martha

My last despatch to you was dated 10th Octr; since then I have not addressed you, having been busy, in one way or another ever since. I acknowledged your letter of 6th Septr, in advising you of Agnes' arrival. She remained here nearly a week, and then repaired to her home at New Westminster, where she is happy and comfortable. George has grown to be a great boy, and has plenty to say for himself. We have made out the stanza, which you set to music, in your letter of the 6th. It is Mamma's favourite hymn and the words are as follows.

1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise;
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of his Grace!

2 My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honours of thy name. &c &c

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You will find this ground in almost any collection of grasses.

Mamma is much pleased at your recalling it to mind. Your remarks on the political state of Spain are just and appropriate, the whole of that unhappy country is in a state fast verging on anarchy; there appears indeed to be no remedy for the evils which affect it, except the establishment of a strong central Government, armed with despotic powers.

We have just got all the apples in. The crop is immense, and the quality fine. As for pears they are wasting on the trees, as we have no where to put them, and they don't keep long, so they are fed off to the cows, and converted into butter. The weather continues fine frosty nights and clear days, have succeeded each other for the last two days. The garden is not yet stript of its beauty, the stocks roses and other hardy flowers are still in bloom; quite enough to furnish a tolerable bouquet.

The Mrs Donalds returned by the same steamer that brought Sister Agnes. Mrs McDonald is suffering from the fatigues of the voyage, but the children are all well. I saw Flora the other day; she has shot up into a tall graceful girl, and appeared glad to see me again. You make no mention in your letters of her visit to Lindsay House to see you. I have had a whole host of enquiries after you, by your friends here. Miss Pinder is well, and I may say as much of May Ellis, and of many others.

The Methodist Church is to be consecrated on Thursday next, and I presume attending the

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what more shall I say to amuse or prove my sincere affection for you. By the bye I send you the "Barkly Standard". You will see a new word there namely "Cassias" which is the name bestowed upon the new Gold diggings on Stikine River. The origin of the word is unknown to me, but I suppose it is the Native name of the place. I have received a letter from Mr Dallas: he requests you did not go to "Duncan" for the midsummer Holidays. If you think it safe to make the journey alone you are at liberty to go there for Christmas. Of course, I have no wish to confine you all the time at school. I wish I were at home, to make the journey with you

Mamma sends you her dearest love and best wishes for your health and welfare. Alice unites in these tokens of affection. Ellen attends the Nuns school, and is remarkably quick child. Dolly is also a useful

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there. I hope
of B. C. objects
sent on the 26th of Sept., will reach you
safely. I am sure
admired.
possesses you

the Photographic views
and scenery, which I
trust they will be much
May God ever bless and
My dearest Child
Your loving Father
James Douglas

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DOUGLAS COLLECTION

Victoria V. I. 24th Oct 1873

My dearest Martha

My last letter left this the day before yesterday. The weather is beautiful, frosty nights and clear bright warm days. Yesterday we, i.e. Alice, Amy, James and self, drove out to Metchosen, to witness the consecration of the Church, which was numerously attended and on the whole a most impressive ceremonial. There was a collection after service, which yielded a sum equal to the price of a new Harmonium for the church, besides the proceeds of a very nice luncheon which was spread for the guests in the school room at 3 shillings a piece. Every thing was good, and the cool, crisp air gave a zest to the appetite. Alice eat nothing, but I made an enormous meal, and we rose hungry from table. Annie and Mrs Rhodes were present, and other members of St Johns

I will now close, as the mail leaves today. The weather continues fine: the apples are in store yet the rooks are about. Pity you are not here, with bow and arrow, to drive them off to their forest homes. Mamma sends you her love and kisses all have unite with me in love and best wishes. Write often and tell me about every you are learning and doing. I long to hear, all about you. My dearest Martha Your loving Father James Douglas

Monday 27th Oct

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choir, who conducted the singing which was really very good. The Bishop Mr Gribbell and Mr Sutton Chaplain of the "Repulse" who preached the sermon were present, and conducted the services. Mr and Mrs Drake, Pearse, and all the farmers in the neighbourhood graced the occasion with their presence and made it ~~the occasion~~ a very nice reunion.

Metchosin looked its best, the beautiful slopes, the variegated foliage, the bright clear sky, the warm sunshine, the glassy smooth sea, and the grand mountains in the distance, formed a combination of indescribable beauty: I felt an exhilaration of mind, which led me to wander away through the woods towards the white cliffs bordering the sea, from whence I contemplated its placid waters with delight.

So much was I impressed with the scene that I almost regretted, our home was not there: that feeling however soon wore off and my love for dear James Bay revived. It was after sunset when we got home, and closed a most enjoyable day. It is reported this morning that gold has been discovered on a River flowing into Barclay Sound, and that very fine specimens have been brought into town. Whether true or not I cannot say. I send you the report for what it is worth.

Saturday 25th Oct

Clear, bright, warm day. The Prince Alfred arrived with a number of passengers, and no letters from you. It being a common saying, that no news is good news: I shall presume that you are in perfect health, and go on with my letter. Mamma drove out yesterday with Alice, paying visits. Mrs Finlayson expressed her delight at a letter and a photograph she lately received from you: Mamma says it is a striking likeness of you. Mrs Jones is in better health

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COLLECTION

Victoria V. I. 4th Nov.
1873

My dearest Martha

Another of your dear letters has come to hand, dated 2nd Sept.

You complain of having no news when the best tidings you can give me, are about yourself, your thoughts your sayings and doings, your occupations and studies, your devotions and the state of your mind towards God, if you love him daily more and serve Him better, than you ever did before. with these and other personal details, you can never want for matter, that is interesting to me. Do you ever get angry now, or is your temper under the exercise of a perfect control. When the mind is assailed with evil or revengeful thoughts, I always have recourse to prayer that He who knows all the thoughts

I am glad you have been to Gunters it is a classical spot. You are right in shunning ale and Porter, I seldom or ever taste either. Take a little Claret if necessary for your health. but avoid the habit of using any thing but water as a drink. As a rule Alcoholic liquors impair health. I have given up them use entirely and my health was never better. Tipplers are my aversion.

I will give Aunts Sarah and Jane your love, and send you the address of the Finlaysons boys.

Cousin Young's address is

Kingston

Jamaica

British West Indies

but they are soon going to Demarara probably about February next. however in the mean time address Jamaica, and if they have left the letters will be sent after them.

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of the hearts of men, may purify them by the inspiration of His Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love and worthily magnify His Holy Name, and I may tell for your encouragement, that I never pray so in vain. I feel strengthened refreshed and relieved from every embittered thought. Follow the same course, my dear child, and you will reap the benifit.

Mammas letter is not yet forthcoming, we cannot induce her to take pen in hand. She reads a great deal, takes plenty of exercise, has a good appetite and altogether enjoys excellent health. She is always thinking about you, and looking forward, joyfully to your return.

Alice left us this morning to spend a week or two with her sister at New Westminster.

For the last three weeks, we have had pleasant dry weather; but a change is now impending, with every appearance of rain, which is desirable on account of the farmers, who cannot get on with their ploughing, until the ground is loosened, by copious showers.

The square in front of the Colonial Office, is to be deeply ploughed and fenced in with a neat railing. It will then be planted with ornamental trees and shrubs and laid out as a lawn. This will greatly improve its appearance, and present a fine object to people entering the harbour. How sad for poor Mrs McDonald to lose both her sisters, and so soon, the one after the other. She has our sincerest sympathy.

James is now studying law with Mr McCreight; if he sticks to it, he shall have every chance of rising in the profession.

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The Philharmonic Hall, a fine building lately erected on Fort Street, next to Davis' cattle market, is now open to the Public Private, with appropriate entertainment. "The speaking hand," "the celebrated pianist," "the favourite Soprano," "and the Young Tenor, Roberts"; with such attractions we cannot fail, I should think, to draw a full House. The upper story of the Hall, is used as a skating Rink, so that every part of it is utilized, by the enterprising Proprietor Professor Schaffer. The Flag ship "Pensacola" left yesterday, for the south and will not return till the spring of 1875. by which time I hope the Rail road will be fairly started.

We are now in hourly expectation of hearing how Sir John McDonalds Ministry are faring at Ottawa. If the want of confidence vote is carried against them by the Grits; Sir John will have to resign, and there will be no end of trouble and delay, about the

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construction of the Rail way. The Grits. as the Opposition faction as termed are a base set, and nothing good is to be expected from them.

The weather is showery mild and pleasant. The leaves are richly tinted with yellow and purple but falling fast. I have still some fine flowers in the garden, and many roses. Dolly has taken cold and is not very well today. Amy and all the other members of the family are in good health.

I must now close and post my letter. though I could go on chatting with you all day. Mamma's fondest love she hopes to see you, before another year is out. James unites with me in love and best wishes.

Where are you to pass the X mas holidays? In writing tell me all about yourself

May the Lord bless, and preserve you

My dearest child Ys loving Father
James Douglas

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Victoria V. I. 10 Novr 1873

Mr Lowenberg has been selling more of my property: the last sale is a town lot in Johnson's street - 70 feet frontage for which he received 4500 dollars - a good price; I intend investing the proceeds so as to yield as large and a more tangible income than did the land.

I have not seen Mrs Nicholles for some time past, as I don't often travel through her part of the town.

Mrs Elliot is still ailing. She called with Amy a few days ago, but I was not at home.

Mamma, James and Amy send you their love: trusting you will write often and tell them all about yourself. Give my love to Jane and all her dear ones - to the Misses Bushby and to Mrs Green if you can write to her. I have not yet got the address of the Tintag son boys I will send it hereafter. Now God bye my dearest Martha Your loving Father James Douglas.

My dearest Martha

I had just done posting, my letter of the 4 & 5 Novr when we had the pleasure of yours of 4th Octr. I perceive a marked improvement in your style, - a greater variety and better choice of words; - clearer, and more expressive phrases. You are now reaping the benefit of your prolonged stay in England.

There is no deception about the Cassiar gold diggings; every mail brings his pile of dust; not one "dead broke" digger has yet arrived here. There will be a great rush of men in the spring. Mr Richardson confirms the favorable reports of the wealth of Texada Island. What pleasant rambles you must have, and then the stores of berries! Why it must be delightful. and soon

then the delicious tarts; positively enchanting, even to hear of such good things. We are so glad to hear that you are stronger and less subject to take cold, and that your general health is so good. I told Amy about the music, you sent by Mr Nathan and she is thankful for your kindness. The other enquiries in your letter, I have replied to in my former communications, and will not now repeat.

I met Mr Hamley yesterday as I was taking a stroll on Beacon Hill. He is much exercised about the recent Custom House appointments. The people who correspond officially with him, from Ottawa, he says cannot spell even common English words correctly. He is in despair; being also afraid that the Cassiar trade will all go to Portland. You see we have all our troubles in this world.

Your reason for not joining your sister at Dunain, during the holidays, is good and sufficient. I wish Mr Dallas, had taken you under his own care, in one of his frequent trips to and from London and Scotland. It would not matter much, if the chance occurred, a few days before, or after the regular holliday time. It would only be a few days lost or gained, and you would travel comfortably.

The Prince Alfred arrived this morning, without the English Mail. I hear Amy's voice up stairs with Mamma, full of fun and chatty as usual. She thinks now, she would rather like a trip to England, and I sincerely wish, she could be gratified. It would be rather hard for the poor Doctor and Dolly, were she to leave home at present; but it would be to her advantage. The weather is now beautifully clear and warm for the season; winter must soon however come now.

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MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4)

indescribable charm. I write in haste to save the Mail, you must therefore overlook the brevity of this epistle and fancy all the kind and tender things I wish to say. Dear Mamma and Alice's love and kindest wishes. My love to dear Jane and her dear ones.

May God bless and preserve you my dearest child.

Your ever loving Father
James Douglas.

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Victoria 17th Nov: 1873

My dearest Martha

My last was dated 10th Nov: since which I have not heard from you Time is passing away: we are now within a month of Christmas when your presence will be greatly missed. You may be as happy where you are, but we should so much like to see you here. I wish you a happy and enjoyable Christmas and many returns of the season.

The weather continues mild, with occasional rains. Today is quite Spring like and I am having the garden orchard, all deeply turned up with the plough. Mr Grahame is to leave today, for London, being called home by Telegram, to meet the Directors of the Hudsons Bay Co. I will ask him to call and see you.

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Sister Agnes is staying at New Westminster, and is pining after her little girls, whom she greatly misses though satisfied she did for the best by leaving them with their kind Aunts in England. Alice lately returned from New West. after a brief visit to her sister. Ellen attends the same school; she is very quick and is the most restless child I ever saw. It is impossible to keep her quiet for ten minutes together even in my sister's presence. She is in perfect health - suffering neither from colds nor other complaints. Alice lives very retired, we hardly know she is in the house.

Miss Wyley is full of enquiries about you, and hopes to see you soon. Would you like to extend your residence in England to three years, if so I will yield to your wishes; but if not I must take steps to send for or go myself to bring you home. Let me know, when you write, which you consider the better course. The present time is all important to you, for there will be no more school after your return to Victoria. Therefore, make the best of the present time, and acquire all the useful knowledge, that is possible.

Where will you spend the Christmas holidays this year; I hope you may be able to join your sister at Duncan. We still continue our daily drives, about the country, the roads being firm and hard with very little mud. Such of the trees as retain their leaves are beautifully tinted with purple and yellow, making the views exceedingly attractive. Autumn is indeed a delightful season; to me possessing an

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this morning, and I have been reading it over, with Mamma, who is overjoyed to hear of your welfare. I am glad you liked the Photographs. They are really well executed, and have a merit as pictures, independently, of the interest one takes in the scenery. they so truthfully delineate. I shall send you a fresh supply when I can get them. How kind the Bushby's are to my little Daughter. Pray thank them for me with my love and best wishes. The Comic Concert, must have been an amusing affair; I should have liked it immensely. Dores Pictures are a treat to come; the subject of the new picture is a touching one.

My love to dear Sister Jane, Wifey, Rupert and all the little ones; in which Mamma and Alice unite. I enclose a Monthly rose and rose bud from Mamma. I could still make you a bouquet from the flowers in the garden, still in bloom, if you were within reach. Again adieu my little dear. May God in his mercy, bless and preserve you

My dearest Martha. Your loving Father

James Douglas

Victoria V. I. 23d Nov. 1865

My dearest Martha

Your welcome letter of the 18th Oct., came to hand on the 21st Inst. Oh, how far apart are the lines with so much to say. why not turn the paper to the best account by writing a little closer. So the rose from Mamma, retained its sweetness, even after the long journey. She was delighted to hear it.

Your account of the Clever Conjuror you saw at the Egyptian Hall, is amusing. There was no spiritual agency about the feat; it was a mere trick, effected by sleight of hand; or in other words, which I once heard from a noted Conjuror was, "my hands sir, are quicker than your eye" and on that rapid manipulation, my success depends. The poor spirits sir have nothing to do with it. There

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MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4)

slight of hand men, are so quick and clever, that they may easily puzzle the uninitiated. I have just received a line from Alick, mentioning that you were to spend the Christmas holidays, with your sister at Dunn. I am glad it is so, for I wish you to see a great deal of your friends, while you are near them.

Miss Wylly and Mrs Raymur called the other day. Mrs R. told me that Cecilia Wallace had lately received a letter from you. Oh yes, I remarked Martha writes to many of her young friends here. Well says Mrs R. of course Miss Douglas, wishes to hear all the gossip, and she gets it all from them. I was about to reply for Miss Douglas, to the effect that she never cared for gossip, when Miss Wylly chimed in, well Sir James I never write gossip to Martha. What an idea Mrs R. has formed concerning young lady friendships. Disagreeable this, is it not. We have later intelligence from "Cassiar", confirmatory of former reports, of the wealth of the new diggings. A ship has just sailed with a full cargo, of Vancouver Island produce, the first direct shipment of the kind to England, except the H.B. Co.y ships. This is a subject of gratulation to the whole Colony. The good ship was followed from the wharf, by loud cheers from the spectators. Dear little Annie Rhodes' engagement has been broken off, by the faithless swain. She bears the calamity with great firmness. It is the best thing that could to her. I never thought the engagement was a wise step, with poverty on both sides, it promised happiness to neither party. 24th Nov.r

Your dear letter of 25th Oct.r, arrived

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may enjoy his presence, experience his consolations, become more entirely devoted to his service and fruitful in good works. These are impressive words; ponder them my dear child in your heart.

Four inches of loose snow cover the ground this evening. we have had showers of snow all day. I have just returned from a stroll to Beacon Hill with Helen, all through the snow It was most enjoyable, and not at all cold.

2d Decr

Clear, cold weather, lovely sky and bright sunshine. The trees and fields look charming in their pure, white mantle of snow. I am just going to post this, and afterwards for a long walk, into the country; this being just the weather for exercise in the open air. My health is, thank God, very good. My love to dear Jane, wifey, Rupert, and all the dear little ones. Mammas warmest love. May God bless you

My dearest Martha
Your loving Father
James Douglas

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Victoria V. I. 27th Nov. 1873

My dearest Martha

The Prince Alfred left yesterday with my last letter to you. I met Mrs Nicholls & son the other day at Hibbens. She was full of enquiries about you, which I satisfied and gave her your love. She has not been well of late, and requires rest, her son though well is out of employment, having through ill health lost his situation as Telegraph manager at Olympia, which is a cause of anxiety to her. He is a fine steady young man, and will I suppose soon find another situation. Mrs Nicholls also told me that you were a great favourite at school; which is very gratifying to me, and Mammas I happened to see Mrs Billings yesterday she was enquiring particularly about Miss Douglas and when she was coming home, and seemed disappointed

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when I told her, you would not be
here till next year. Her little boy she
added was always asking about you,
and enquiring when you were coming.
She is such a favourite of his.

This is I suppose the little Tartar,
who was such a trial of patience at
the Sabbath school. Your labour has
evidently not been thrown away, a
proof that "Ministering Children" can
do good, much, much good. What have
you done with that excellent little
work. "Ministering Children."

We have bought a new horse
for James' use, a pretty bay, gentle
and well trained for riding or harness
and quite up to my weight, when I
wish a good mount. I have put
down a few more fruit trees, for you,
the "Douglas Prune" cherry, and two
new varieties of Plums, the "golden drop"
and "Egg Plum"

28th

Mr Hawley and Marcus Smith dined with
us last night. They enjoyed themselves
greatly, appearing very happy. It was
a nice party. The dinner good. There was
a touch of frost last night, winter
is at hand, every thing must be
made snug, for coming storms.

30th Nov. Advent Sunday

A very good sermon today, by the
Very Rev. Dean, on aid of the Diocesan
Society, as the instrument of spreading
the knowledge of the Gospel and adding
to the Church of God. The seat of gods
praises is in the Church. The little
return of praise God receives from
this world is from the Church, a
sacred society, constituted for the
glory of God, every member of
which is to concur, in praising God.
The Mediator of these praises is Jesus
Christ. All Gods gifts come from
Him to us, through Christ, and through
Him all our praises pass from us to
~~Him~~ God. Let us pray that our
hearts may become the throne and
temple of the Lord, Jesus, that we

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are all gone - and winter, stern cold winter fairly set in. The new Post Office, a pretensions building, faced with Freestone from Nanaimo, is finished externally, and is a great ornament to Government Street, on which it is situated. The custom House is to be erected, near the water at the lower end of Fort Street. It will be finished in the coming year.

I have just heard from Amy, that she has received the music you sent by Mr Nathan. Young Raymur arrived by the Prince Alfred, to the delight of his doting Mamma. The trip has improved him in mind and manners. Mr Hamley is starting an equipage say a one horse buggy. He has sold "Lady Jane" she brought the magnificent sum of $2½ !!!. Be sure and give my best love to dear Jane, Wifey and all the children. Pray tell Mr Dallas, for I fancy I forgot to do so in my last letter to him, to buy a christmas gift for the children, and present it to them in my name. Mammas love, to you all.

Bless you, my dear Child. Your loving Father
James Douglas

B 40 4 53

Master Jno. Finlayson
Bracondale School
Norwich

Victoria V. I. 4th Decr 1873

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My dearest Martha

The weather, continues cold and bright, freezing hard, yet warm in the sun. Skating is now all the fashion; Carris' pond is alive with merry skaters. Mr Finlayson has just called, and put all my ideas to flight. I asked him, for his boy's address, which you will find at the commencement of this sheet. Mrs Finlayson and family are all well, and send you their love. 8th Decr

The weather was milder on Saturday and yesterday was pleasant. The snow is fast disappearing, though still freezing at night. The day before yesterday, I drove round by the "Thames" with Alice and Ellen, and had a pleasant turn, the air was however, rather fresh and chilly, except in those parts of the road which were sheltered from the wind

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I have not sent you a paper this week, neither of them is there any thing of interest; except the untiring bickerings of the rival editors, now carried on to a disgusting extent.

James is again complaining about the pain in the ancle, which does not prevent his skating: he also went to Schaffers' assembly room a few evenings ago; not so bad for a sick man. He is assiduously pursuing his studies with Mr Creighet, and reads history closely, for genral information.

I have given orders for the new croquet lawn, to be executed by Mitchel and Johnson: it will thus be the correct thing. 9th Dec.

By the Prince Alfred which arrived this morning we have received your letter to Mamma, dated 1 Nov. and an enclosure for Amy, which I immediately sent to her. The Boil on your neck, is I hope discharged, and will have a good effect on your genral health.

The Worcester Park post mark on your letter to Mamma is 9th Nov. so you must have kept it by you for nearly a week after it was written. How very naughty of you, not to add a postscript with the latest intelligence. I wrote lately about Mrs Nicholls, and there is nothing new to add. I have just been reading over your letter with Mamma: she is delighted to hear of your welfare, and sends all manner of love and good wishes. Her letter is long of coming, and I fear the photo will be not less delatory; but my dear Martha, Love in hope. Agnes is well and is to be down this week for Christmas. There will be noise enough, when the three youngsters meet together; one is bad enough, but three will be overpowering.

How does it happen, that none of my letters are acknowledged, on your last, I fancy more than one must have reached you, since last you wrote. I love to have my letters to you, carefully adviced as something valuable. The sharp clear, dry weather continues; the flowers

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Victoria V. I. 3 Jan.y 1874

My dear Martha

What a long time, since we heard from you; and your last letter, like the Barmecides feast, was arrayed with empty platters, so brief, the lines so far apart; and it said so little about your own sayings and doings, that it only awakened a desire to know something more about your own dear self.

The holidays are past and gone- and its amenities and gaieties are numbered among things of the past. We had our usual Christmas dinner, whereat you were greatly missed; otherwise a very pleasant time: the streets of Victoria were not so gaily decked with green, as in past years, yet there was the usual bustle and activity about the

and to say that she will write you when she gets back to New Westminster and tell you all about the Christmas festivities. A very amusing tale it will no doubt be, if given in sisters best manner. 8th Jan.y

I have been much engaged of late and rather idle perhaps, so have not continued my letter with the usual industry. The foreign correspondent, must also, I fear, plead guilty to the same indictment; it is so long, so very long, since our last advices from her. The North Pacific and the Prince Alfred, being both expected in today, I confidently look for letters by the one, if not by both.

Arthur and Agnes left yesterday for their home, at New Westminster, in excellent health. The weather is mild and stormy, overcast and altogether with a desolate aspect: yet I feel no depression of mind; such weather has its

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holiday shapes; toys and cakes being in general demand. The calls on the First lasted from 10 o'clock till dewy eve. I was thoroughly tired out, and glad when the reception came to an end. The weather was mild and pleasant, more like a day in spring, than a day in mid winter. Mamma was nicely got up, and won all hearts by her kindness and geniality.

Arthur and Agnes are both here and in excellent health. George did his part in keeping up the noise. If not the merits of Christmas. Ellen was not a whit behind George in noisy romps. Madam Blum gave a party the other night; our people all attended, except Mamma and I, who kept solitary house together. Madam played the host, with the most charming grace to the admiration of the guests. Your sisters were delighted with their entertainment.

Last night, Dr Holmcken accompanied Agnes danced like a child of 15; as lightly and as merrily.

There is a change of weather coming; last night, it froze hard, and now the snow is falling fast and furiously, the air being mild, without wind. I had a long walk up Fort to Moss Street then through Fairfield and home by Humboldt Street. It was snowing all the time, and though all alone I enjoyed it greatly. Yesterday I drove Alice to Craigflower, crossed the Bridge, & home by the Gorge. a drive which you missed by being away from home.

5 Jan[y].

Agnes and Arthur are seated near me, while I am writing; the former desires me to send her love

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gives time for mature thought or reflection.

The weather is fine, and I am going out, with Alice for a long drive, in the direction of Ros bank.

Your friends are all well and send their love, especially dear good Miss Wyllie. Our good worthy Dean, is taking a course I do not exactly approve, in opposition to the Bishops; which may give rise to serious misunderstandings in the Church, and be a cause of grief to the congregation Church. Mamma is in very good health and moves about with her usual activity, believing that nothing would go on prosperously without her close attendance. She sends you her love, and also Alice and James. That idle boy has, I fear, not written to you lately. May God bless you my dear Child, and direct all your ways, is the fervent prayer of your loving Father James Douglas

Answered

its peculiar charm for me. I have no longings for clear skies and a bright sun: these will come in their season, and be rendered more enjoyable by their temporary privation. I am, in fact, happy and contented; my joy coming from above, is not darkened, nor my sun obscured by overshadowing clouds.

2 o'clock P.M.

The North Empire has come, but brought us letters for me. Shall I become the foreign correspondent? Dear Amy has a bad cold and keeps her bed today. The poor child has been over exerting her strength, in the holiday pastimes. Such are the fatigues of pleasure.

9th January

Amy is rather better today, and will I trust be well in a few days.

Last night was the Sunday school treat; there was a large gathering and much enjoyment to the children. Ellen was rewarded with a little picture from the

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Christmas Tree, and Dolly a toy Musket to scare the Rooks I suppose.

Ang has just brought your two letters, of 28th Novr and 5th Decr brought this morning by the Prince Alfred. These have relieved our anxiety, on your account, and the foreign correspondent, from the charge of neglect. I have been reading them over with Mamma, who devoured your kisses. Dear good Mamma is always so delighted to hear from you; that she cannot rest, when the Mail comes in, until we have sent to the Post office to enquire about letters. The letter for Alice, enclosed with mine, I have duly delivered. Poor Good is taking a very stupid course, with his boys. There is no alternative however, so let him have his own way. I suppose you are now with yoursister at Dunain, enjoying the holiday times. What a merry house you will make with all the little ones about you.

I must write to Wifey soon, the dear child is I hear grown out of all knowledge; so I fancy must also Rupert and Douglas, be grown up into youthful giants. Give them and dear Sister Jane, my warmest love and best wishes.

10th Jany

Amy is much better today. I will write hereafter about your return home. The Saunders are coming back in July which would be soon for you. The Pembertons will probably return at a later date, and I will write to Mr Pemberton about you. I should like to take a turn home myself, if health permits, and I do not like to relinquish that idea, until the last moment. I will think over your request in your letter to Alice about spending some time in France and give you my decision hereafter. The Mail leaves today, and hardly

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Victoria 19th Jany. 1874

My dear little Martha

My letters to you, have not, of late, been so frequent, as during the summer months; the route by Puget's Sound, overland to California, not being safe, in stormy weather, and the Prince Alfred, leaving this only once a fortnight. My thoughts are not the less occupied about you, I love you not the less dearly, and I long to see you again. with God's help, that will be this coming summer. I fancy you are now about leaving Denman, on your return to school. I wish I could once more see dear Jane and all her little ones. They would hardly know me now, and except by the family likeness, I might not recognize them. The weather has been stormy for some days past but it is not cold, and the grass is still

Jane driving two in hand, "Punch and "Dick", the new steed. They go beautifully together. Alice and Ellen were of the party, and thoroughly enjoyed the drive. The snow lies about four inches deep, but I fancy, will not endure, as the air is mild. Mr Forman died today, an event deplored by the whole community, who deeply sympathise with the bereaved widow and family.

24th Jany

The Prince Alfred has just arrived, and there are no letters from you. I suppose you are down in the frozen north, under the rule of the "Sternest King", beyond the sway of the "Sweet south wind".

We are all in good health; Mamma sends you no end of love and kisses as also Alice and Helen. they are longing to see you again. My love to dear Jane and the little ones. May God in his mercy, bless and keep you.

My dearest Child Your loving Father James Douglas

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green. At Yale and along the Fraser, the weather has been more severe. Two feet of snow are reported at Yale, but the River is still open.

I am glad to hear that the Plots are so much admired. I shall try and get some more for you, & other news in B. C., though I fancy my last remittance nearly exhausted the stock in town. I am now engaged in the perusal of Cassells French and Prussian war, a work of rare merit, full of interest; infinitely more so, than any mere work of fiction - How forcibly it portrays, the horrors of war, the evils of ambition, and the supreme blessings which peace and security confers on nations. It is too full of harrowing scenes, for you to read.

23rd Jany.

The weather is now colder - and the ground covered with snow, so that the little birds are forced, by hunger, to come about the house, for their daily crumbs.

There was a large party, last night at the Finlaysons; Ellie, Amy and James attended. It was very enjoyable and went off with great eclat.

At the same time an atrocious attack was made, on Mr Fo[illegible] while seated at dinner with his family, by his son in law, which it is feared will terminate fatally. I send you a newspaper, which contains the painful details, as I do not wish to enter upon them here. What a misfortune it is for poor Jane. I feel greatly distressed about it. The wretched assassin is in gaol, awaiting the punishment of his crime.

You will also find an account of the shipping casualties, in the storm of last Sunday in the same papers; fortunately no lives were lost, though there is much loss of property.

4 P.M.

We have just been out for a jolly sleigh ride

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DOUGLAS
COLLECTION

Victoria V. I. 27th Jan.y
1874

My dearest Martha

I have just been reading an account of the great storm, in England, of 16th Dec.r The number of lives lost, and the great destruction of property, was lamentable. In our dear little Island, the weather, was then calm and pleasant. We had a very severe storm of wind and rain on the 18th of this month: the force of the wind was tremendous, exceeding in violence, any thing I remember here. No damage of a more serious kind, than the uprooting of trees and fences, have been reported, though there may have occurred casualties at sea of which nothing is yet known. Letters from the Edmonton boys were received by the Prince Alfred later than any we have from you-

good time, and produce in you a better state of mind.

31st Jan.y

A fine bright morning: the first month of the year, is past and gone. What mercies we have received, my Gracious God is ever present as a help in the time of trouble and I trust so it is with you. He will save and direct you, while you seek him with a perfect heart. I have just bought a new Gold pen with silver mounted handle, and am now writing with it. Do you think it improves my hand?

We are getting a head with the garden work: the whole surface is now nearly turned up, and today we are going to put early vegetables such a pease and cress, in the ground.

3d Feb.y

Have just received your letter, dated 18th Jan.y, to Mamma, with the enclosed despatches from all the dear little ones. We are delighted

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they mention your having a severe cold, with an attack of bronchitis which gives us much uneasiness. and increases our desire to hear from you.

29th Jan.

Wet, stormy weather; extremely mild the hill sides green, and temperature pleasant. We drove out yesterday afternoon, by the Burnside road and home by the Gorge; through which the waters of the inner Basin were rushing out with tremendous force, forming a regular cataract into the outer basin. I stood watching it for some time from the bridge; the fall and the fury of the struggling waters being a sight worth seeing. I never saw the place in its glory before. Some enterprising person has just finished a house of entertainment immediately at the bridge, trusting to its being a place of resort for public in the summer months.

Alice, who was with me enjoyed the drive. She is now stronger and in better health than she was, on arrival from England and as for Helen she is as active and healthy as any child can be.

Amy is quite recovered from her illness. and is going about as usual.

30th Jan.

The North Pacific, arrived yesterday, but still no letters from you. Your last letter is dated 5th Dec. nearly two months ago. What a time to wait. The Bishop called yesterday. and we had a long conversation about Alice. We both heartily desire she should be reconciled to her husband but I fear the wish is vain.

What a painful subject for me to dwell upon. I trust God will change her heart. in his own

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10th Feby

There is a prodigious excitement just now, in the Colony, respecting the conduct of the Cabinet. It is suspected De Cosmos, is betraying the Country - compromising its best interests - and bartering the Railway for a money payment, from the Dominion Government. This has excited all classes against him, as you will see by the two Papers - the Colonist of today and yesterday, which details the particulars of these stirring events. You will see the "Little Doctors" name prominent among the agitators.

Mamma sends you her love; not a day passes, without a prayer to Heaven for you. May the blessed Saviour, have you in his holy keeping. Love from Alice, James &c. I delivered your letter to Amy. My dearest Child

your loving Father
James Douglas

to hear of your welfare, after your protracted silence. You must have felt very happy, in being again with dear Jane, and passed the holidays very pleasantly with her. How much I would have enjoyed being with you. You make no mention of your journey to Scotland. I hope you were not much fatigued, nor suffered from the cold. Alick is I suppose quite well and also dear Jane - who has not, yet sent her long promised letter. Dear Jane has so much to do at home, with all her little cares about her, that she has little time to indulge in other thoughts. Mamma is delighted with the letters of her Grand children and will preserve them as keep sakes, very precious to her. You must tell them so, until Mamma has time to do so herself.

Unnecessary

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9th Feby

By the Prince Alfred this morning I had the pleasure of your dear letter dated at Dunain 24th & 27 Decr. In acknowledging the receipt of my several letters, you have omitted two letters I wrote in Octr. You probably did not receive them.

Jane has been truly good and kind to you, and you must love her all the more, for her sisterly affection. How I love dear Wifey. Her letter to Grandma is very nicely written and gave great pleasure to Mamma. I hope the dear child will go on improving. Such a treasure as she will be to her Parents no less to all her relations and friends. Her Father writes that she is getting on very well with her new Governess, and we are all so glad to hear it. He also writes as follows. "Martha is "much improved in every way", "& I leave her to give an account" "of herself and all her doings"

Very pleasing to me, is this report, though nothing more than expected from the genius of the family. Great things are expected from you, more worth and intellectual accomplishments. I cannot clearly make out your wishes, with respect to your stay in Europe. Do you wish to stay in England till August 1874 and then have six months in Paris, or do you ask to remain in England till August 1875, and then finish off in Paris. Let me know as soon as possible, for if so I will not go or send for you this year. I do not mind the cost, provided it be for your good. write explicitly on this subject.

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MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4)

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of
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DOUGLAS
COLLECTION

Victoria Vanc[r] Island
20th Feb[y] 1874

My dearest Martha.

I have just finished a letter to Mr Dallas, in reply to suggestions about your return to Victoria, when Mr Fraser, comes this way, under his care. The following extract contains what I have written to him, on the subject.

"With respect to Martha's return to Victoria, I have not yet decided, on the time and the means. I dearly wish to see you all again, and had almost made up my mind, to take a run to England this year, but I have just received a letter from Martha, expressing a wish, to prolong her stay, so "that I am at a loss what to do"

of a golden harvest. May success attend the poor fellows; I am sure they deserve it, in return for so many toils and privations as they endure.

I enclose a few violets which I have just picked, in the flower border, for I am sure you will prize them. The elections are over. De Cosmos and Ross-ell are returned for the Commons. It was a hard fight for De Cosmos but he stood bravely to his colors and won the prize. Politics are still rampant here; the great questions of the day, are closely debated, with reference to the future well being of the Colony. I hope that good will be the result.

24th Feby.

You dear little delightful child, the P. Alfred is in, and brought no letter from you. What a disappointment. There was a light fall of snow, yesterday, it is melting away fast today. Mamma is quite well, Alice has a bad cold & Helen, strong and hearty. All unite with me, in fond wishes for your welfare. Write often.

my dearest Child
Your loving Father
James Douglas

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"until I hear from her again".
But I may say that I wish her
to complete, the two full years in
England, that is till September 1874,
after that I have no objections
to her coming home, if she is
so disposed, under Fraser's wing.
but not before. Should there be
no other good opportunity, I will
either go myself, if spared, or
send James to bring her home"

So you see, much as I regret your
absence, you are not to think of coming
home, until your two years in England
are completed, my object being to give
you the fullest opportunity of completing
your education, which I hope with
Gods blessing, will greatly redound
to your advantage. Oh! how I long
to see you again?.

I have just received
your letter dated Duncan 11th Jan.y

You are still happy in the
Society of dear sister Jane, who
not only loves you dearly,
but admires you for many estima-
ble qualities of mind. She writes
me that you are very careful
and not at all wasteful or
extravagant. Always be careful,
for waste and extravagance, have
led to the ruin of thousands.

You must have enjoyed the
views from Duncan Hill, as well
as the bracing air and healthful
exercise. To me, it would have
been delightful. My walks
are, at this season, limited to
Cloven point and Fairfield.
The views of the Straits and
Mountains are ever varying and
always full of beauty.

The Gold hunters, are now
hurrying off to Cassiar, with
bold hearts, full of visions

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MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4)

particulars of that hateful war. Tell me all you know about it.

"Ino" has just brought over your nice letter of 23 Jan.y from the Post office, and also the Photographs We are all so pleased; I have been over to Amy's with hers. Alice and Sir have got theirs. The one intended for Mamma, and me, is charming. Mamma dislikes the hat, as being too coxty, while, on the other hand I perfectly dote upon it, and think it suits you to a marvel. We shall have it framed, and placed as an ornament on the Drawing room table. Now my dear, for the contents of your letter. First I wish to observe that it is somewhat of a scrawl, carelessly written, and not so neatly worded as it should be. There is a great deal

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Victoria. Vanc.r Island
28th Feb.y 1874

My dearest Martha

Sister Alice called yesterday on dear Miss Wyllie, and brought home the glad tidings, that she had just received a letter from you, with a Photograph, taken at Inverness. Dear Mamma is delighted with it, and so are we all. It has been scanned and criticised by the whole family, and decided by one and all that it is a capital picture and a perfect likeness, rather highly coloured perhaps, evidently by your own hand, a very difficult thing to do, yet the execution is greatly admired. I observe a change, for the better in your appearance, a great likeness to Jane, and altogether a more womanly aspect; a consolation, in some

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MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4)

measure for your absence.

In an unusually talkative vein Alice made some admirable remarks about her sister Martha, saying she was a child of a noble character and that her mind and sentiments were all of the same stamp and had nothing mean about them.

This was very pleasing to me, I love my children dearly and nothing can be more gratifying than to hear of their good qualities and virtuous deportment.

The Lady Lampson is to leave today for London with the furs and other exports of the Hudsons Bay Company. Mr Barnaby, who is almost prostrated by a severe illness goes with her as a passenger; for the benefit of the sea voyage. a doubtful experiment which will either kill or cure.

3d March

The weather has been stormy, raw and disagreeable, since the 28th.; but has improved today, the sun shining warm and bright on the clear, white snow which fell last night. The flowers have a hard time, but the Crocus beds are struggling into flower, and will soon be in a glow of beauty. The Wyllies spent the evening with us, and were as usual very nice. We heard that Miss Pinder is soon to be married to the Honble Captain Hare Commander of H. M. Corvette "Hydra" a good partie for her and I wish her every happiness.

We have just heard of the great battle with the Ashantees; we appear to have sustained a severe loss, without the consolation of having gained a decided success.

We are dying to hear further

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of importance attached to what is called "style" in writing. Trifles light as air, acquire a zest when put in neat and pointed language, and make up a very interesting letter. The art of writing well, is one of those accomplishments which can only be acquired by close and careful study. In order to improve your style, study the writings of good authors. Read a page attentively and after mastering the sense, write it out in your own words without looking at the Book. By comparing the two, you will observe the beauties and defects of each.

Authors improve themselves in that way. See how well expressed Sister Jane's letters are: they are always neatly and cleverly hit off: an example and encouragement for you. My dear, writing is a most important part of education. I wish you to devote

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a great deal of time and care to its attainment. Remember this my dear, and let every succeeding letter from you, practically assume me, of your progress. Your last letter, is nearly as badly written, as Agnes' scrawls, and they are intolerable. I enclose a part of your last letter, pruned of redundancies, as a study. Observe how it is improved by the process.

Now, my dear, pray, in future, take care: let me see no careless or slovenly letters from you. Your rule must be, to write only so much as you can write well.

Having thus done the disagreeable let me dearest, answer your queries. We have seen the Grand Duchess Marie's portrait. Mamma thinks her only passable, while I love that dear sweet, innocent face, fancying it resembles yours. Alice sides with Mamma, without producing a change in my opinion. I cling to my first love. The walks about Dunaid must be

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a long letter you will find this. though there is still much to say. Time presses and I must close, for the present. Mamma sends her love and kisses, she had a good cry on your account yesterday. She does not admire the extension of your leave, but agrees with me that it is all for the best. So good by darling, I will soon write again. May God bless and preserve you, in His faith, fear and love -

my dearest Child

Your loving Father

James Douglas

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be delightful. Your readings with sister Jane, and musical soirées, instructive and pleasant. How I long to be with you. What an advantage for you to be with your dear sister. What are the Miss's Pemrice doing. keeping school, or living on their means. I wish you could see your old friends. So closes your letter. I see by this morning's Papers, that Mr Forman, is advertising his Furniture for sale, intending probably to give up house keeping. Amy was saying the other day, that she was going out again and was looking for a place. The Doctors, if he takes her again, would just suit her. Parliament is now prorogued, and we breathe freely again; since we have no longer to dread a repetition of their daily wrangling and folly. Mamma is well and sends you, her love and kisses. James is studying law, with ardour and perseverance, trusting some day to

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to make his mark at the Bar.

10th March

My darling. I have just received your letter, dated 28th & 29th Jany., and we are so glad to hear from you. I left the Photograph at Mr Lowenbergs office, he being out at the time. Owing to the uncertainty of the Post, by Puget's Sound, I have not, sent by that route, but only by the direct Steamer, which accounts for your hearing so seldom from me this winter.

With respect to your going to school for six months in Paris. I see no objection provided, there is a school known to Miss Turk, which she can recommend, and that we can get you safely conveyed there. Mention the subject to Miss Turk and inform her that you will probably leave her establishment, temporarily, at midsummer, as she should receive a quarters notice. I have asked Jane and Mick to advise me on the subject. There is plenty of time to think about it, between this and the end of the midsummer holidays; as it would not be advisable to go to Paris, before the hot months are over; on account of your health.

Write me all about this in your next letter. What a sharp boy Sidney is, and Wifey such a splendid girl. We have read your letter with great pleasure, and heard your adventures and escapes with breathless interest.

You have paid more attention to neatness style and expression, in your last letter, being a great improvement on the former, so my darling you must always do, and you will give me untold pleasure.

I met Miss Pendie the other day when out walking and had a chat with her. She is in good health, and said, she was sorry you were not coming out from England this year. She is a good, kind hearted girl and a favorite of mine. What

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a weed is to be seen. There will be no trouble in digging the garden this year, as the work is already complete. People are flocking to "Cassiar" the new gold field at Dease' Lake, Stikine River. You of course know, that is north of Fort Simpson, and can find the place on the map.

Mamma has just been in seeing me, active, lively and happy, looking. She sends you her love, and kisses, with every good wish, she can frame.

Alice is suffering from a cold and trying to convert Helen into an invalid, by keeping her in bed and touching her with caustic. Amy and Dolly are well. They all unite with me, in love and best wishes.

May God bless you my dear Child

Your loving Father
James Douglas

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DOUGLAS COLLECTION

Victoria V. I. 19th March 1874

Answered

My dearest Martha

This being dear Amy's 19th birthday - she is in great spirits, enjoying the kisses and petting that young ladies naturally, on such occasions, expect to receive from their friends. Amy has I fancy also received something more substantial, than mere petting, but I have not as yet heard the extent of her good fortune, though I think she has several weighty gifts. Who is to pet or fondle my own little daughter, when her birth day comes round; but cheer up my dear, your turn will soon come. You were at Dunani when you last wrote to us. We have not yet heard of your return to school; we shall probably get letters, today by the "North Pacific". That is however uncertain, as there is a stoppage on the Railway, between Sacremento and

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the the Rocky Mountains, near Elchs
where there has been a land slip, over
10 miles of the road, rendering it
impassable until remade.

I have been seriously thinking
over your request, to be allowed
six months schooling in Paris,
it would in many respects, be useful;
it might improve your manners,
by associating, with kind, easy,
engaging French girls. There is one
strong objection however, which I
cannot overcome, that is the dread
of French morals and sentiment-
which I believe to be so different
from our own. It may be bigotry
on my part, their moral sentiment
may be as pure as our own, but
still the impression, remains unchanged
in my mind. Miss Turk, having
as I understand been to school
at Paris will be a proper person to
consult. Let her know my opinion
and let me know her views, about the
character of French, young ladies schools.

2. P.m.

The Mail has arrived and
brought no letters from you

A slight touch of gout,
in the same foot, as the one you
doctored, so well and so lovingly
months ago, has been troubling
me, for some days past. It
is easier today, and will soon
I hope be well. It is not a
severe serious attack, not confining
me to the House, nor disabling
me from taking out door exercise,
either walking, or on horseback.

The weather is getting warmer,
but there is still a bite in the
wind, which imparts to motion,
and makes exercise grateful.
The Crocus beds are out in full
flower, and look so pretty.
The Bulbs, are all up. The violets
have long been in blossom.

The garden has been turned
over from, end to end, and not-

PR 1428 - James Douglas family fonds
MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4)

between the Dean and the Bishop.
Well the worthy Dean, who is a sound Churchman, has conscientious objections to ritualism, and he imagines the Bishop has a leaning that way, and is seeking to introduce its forms, in the Churches here. This is the whole and sole cause of the difficulty, in our Church; we all deplore but cannot remove it. Pretty little Madam will be a model, for you; good manners make the Lady.

Mamma continues in good health and sends you love and kisses without number.

James is suffering from a swelling in the knee, and is otherwise out of health and disperited - poor boy he has been a great sufferer, and bears his trials with patience.

Alice is well. We have seen a number of birds about the garden, a free concert every day. May God bless you - My dear Child Your Father James Douglas

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Victoria V. I. 24th March 1874

My dearest Martha

This has been one of our "white" days: we were still at breakfast, when "Ang" presented your dear letter to Mamma dated 7 Feby per the "North Pacific" and a few hours later, arrived your prized letter to Papa of the 14th Feby, per the direct Steamer "Prince Alfred". We are glad that you enjoyed the holidays at Dunain, I am sure Jane in her sisterly love would spare no pains to make you happy, and Alick is kindness itself. His kindness in taking you to Scotland and back to school, I duly appreciate, and feel highly grateful for. In a letter which I have just received from him, he good humouredly remarks, "I brought Mar. back on the 4th Inst, and next day but one deposited her in Miss Turks arms at Waterloo Station". He says

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moreover, something more interesting than that, "Matthew is very much improved indeed, "and a pleasant and cheerful inmate "and companion. She plays very well "and is well up in all lady "accomplishments, not omitting the "very important one of "manners" &c.

This is really gratifying, and shows that you are making the best use of time; we are all so pleased to hear these good accounts. they are some consolation in your absence.

The Barmacede has at last feasted his half famished guest; the details of your journey from Dunain, are most interesting; I only wish you could have given a day each, to the Lions of Edinburgh and York, both are well worth seeing. How pleasant it must have been to fall in with Miss Elizabeth at the Waterloo Station, it was meeting an old friend, at the right time. The enclosure for Amy and Dolly, I delivered to them at once; and Miss Dolly is particularly grateful, as having a letter all to herself. Helen will no doubt, be looking for a like favour, or she may get awfully angry. The Provoke is now quiet, the political excitement caused by the defeated attempt of the Ministry to change the terms of Union, has completely subsided with the ease which gave rise to it. Cassiar is now the attraction, people are hurrying to it by every steamer, each pressing on a head of the other, to secure a claim. I am afraid they are over doing the thing, as so little is known of the auriferous area which has yet in a great measure to be explored. If the rush of people be too great, it is almost certain that many will be disappointed. You ask about the difference

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COLLECTION

Victoria Vancr Island
1 April 1874

My dearest Martha

This being business day, and having a long array of accounts to settle, I cannot write so fully as I wish. Yours letter of 21 Feby arrived yesterday and found us all well, except James and Helen who are both ailing, but not seriously.

I delivered your message to Dolly who was duly edified by its import.

Mamma devoured the kisses leaving hardly any for me

You may take riding lessons if you please; the exercise will be useful and promote your health

We were so glad to hear that the Misses Pemberton were well; we entertain a lively recollection of the dear good, kind souls. Remember me kindly to them. Mr Pelly is not doing much in the way of business. I

Tidings of good diggings are flowing in apace from Cassiar, causing great elation in town. I hope the yield of gold may prove as good as expected, for the poor fellows who go there suffer great privations & run endless risks, in seeking to better their fortunes. How unfortunate it is, that the gold fields, are so far away, and in the most inaccessible parts of the country. were they near town one might go there, and make a raise every morning before breakfast would'nt that be great fun.

I send you, a newspaper containing the good Deans address explaining the nature and objects of the Synod. You will find the Bishops letter, comprised in the address; His Lordship, in his inductions certainly exceeded the bounds of Christian charity. My dear child, I must now say adieu. May God in his mercy keep and preserve you.

Your loving Father
James Douglas

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MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4)

had not heard about the consign-
-ment of Pianos, until I received your
letter. I hope it may be so poor fellow.
for I fancy he is badly off.

The weather is now very
fine, and the flowers looking up.
The return of spring makes me long
for a roam somewhere, most of all to
England where I have so many that
are near and dear to me. It would be
such a nice change, and give a
fillip to existence. Mr. and Mrs
Grahame are about to leave this place
about the end of the present month, for
Red River, to take charge of the
Northern Department, a fine appoint-
-ment for Grahame, with better pay
than he now receives. It will be
a trial for Mary to leave Mother
and all her friends. Many new
houses are going up in town, yet
there is no increase in the population,
and complaints of dull times general.
Amy has lately heard from Mary
Grease - you never
say any thing
about her now.

3 April Good Friday
We were at Church
this morning
in gratitude for our Saviours
unspeakable love, in redeeming
us from sin and from death
everlasting. Oh! the wonders of
his love and grace. I had a
chat after church with dear Miss
Pender, who desired me to give you
her love and promised to write
soon, even though it were a short
letter, to tell you her story, which
she thinks will surprise you.
meaning her engagement to Captain
Hare. Mr. McKenzie, nee
of Craigflower, is and has been for
several months in very bad health.
His children are a great comfort
to their Parents, doing every thing
in their power to assist them, and
largely contributing by their exemplary
conduct, to their comfort and support

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Victoria V. I. 11th April 1874

Answered

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My dearest Martha

It was only the other day. I wrote you by the "North Pacific" since then the "Prince Alfred" has come in, with the Mails. and I have received your two welcome letters of 28th Feby and 7th March, both replete with pleasant details and many queries, which I will now answer.

The Forman murder case has been tried, and the criminal condemned to death. Being under the influence of liquor, is not regarded by the Law as a palliation, when crimes are committed; drunkenness is an aggravation of the offence.

I shall not fail to write you often; I know the value of a letter from home. What a pleasant winter you had in Scotland; is it always

Scaut was at Valparaiso, and might possibly return to Victoria. What a disappointment, that will be to Captain Cator, so long away from his family. It is amusing to hear the enquiries made about Miss Douglas, every one I meet asks "when is Martha coming home" just as if it was a matter of general importance. You see what it is to be a favourite. A great many people are going to Cassiar, every steamer for Stikine is full of passengers. I hope there may be no disappointment. I pity for Caribos and Omineca; they will be almost deserted. We are all well at home, enjoying the fine weather. Mamma's love and kisses without number. James and Alice are gone out boating. May God bless you my dearest Child. Your loving Father. James Douglas

I have no doubt, we shall find a quicker horse than Cydnet, for you to ride, when you come this way. Cedric is still sound and active, keeping his own with his younger friends. Ang is still flourishing. Tann has not yet put in an appearance. Agnes dear child is not a good correspondent.

It is only right, you should think of home, my darling, we often think of you. Your portrait is on my table, its constant place and is much admired. There is nothing encouraging known about the over-land Railway. I fear this year will again pass away, without seeing a beginning made. We must live in hope. The Pemberton's live somewhere in London, and are expected out next month. Their address is

Y & A Grantoff & Co
3 Jeffrey Square
St Mary Axe - London

The violets, you sent, are very sweet and nice. I gave them to Mamma. Your violet plant is very large, I must dress it the other day. It is now coming into flower. There is just one sweet little blossom, but more are coming. Who are the "Barbadians" you speak of, that Miss Tuck talks of taking to Paris at midsummer. Are you to be one of the party. It is very hot at midsummer in Paris. Jane seldom writes now, she has her own cares poor thing. So ends my review of your letters.

Mr. Mc Kenzie of Craighouse died yesterday, of heart disease aggravated by a fall from his carriage. I called upon him a few hours, before his death, but did not see him, as he had dropped into a quiet sleep. He has left a large family very slenderly provided for. Commit your fatherless children to me saith the Lord. I saw Mrs Antwich yesterday, she told me the

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MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4)

happy couple are to reside at Fairfield

18th April

We drove out to Cadboro Bay, with our two carriages this afternoon. Amy, Dally, Ellen, Sams and Mabel Grey. daughter of Judge Grey, a charming girl. and I formed the party. Neither Ma. nor Alice would go. We had a very pleasant time, botanizing and collecting shells and marine plants. Got home in the evening laden with these treasures.

20th April

The "North Pacific" is just in; I must finish my tale and post it at once. Any letters from you will be advised in my next.

We are all quite well, and send you no end of love and kisses

May God bless and preserve you

My dearest Martha

Your loving Father
James Douglas

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Victoria V. I. 15th April 74

My dearest Martha

Yesterday, I followed the late Mr. McKenzies body to the grave; the funeral was numerously attended, by the friends and acquaintances of the deceased gentleman. He was buried in a family vault lately constructed in the new cemetery. Mrs McKenzie and family, are inconsolable, it was painful to hear, as the cortege was moving off from their residence at Lake Hill, to use a scripture phrase, they lifted up their voices and wept aloud, as the Father and husband, who had so long cheered them, by his presence, was being borne away, from his peaceful home. He died in peace after receiving the Communion, and was perfectly resigned to the will of God.

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God. May we be found so also when our turn comes. It matters not how brief our pilgrimage on earth may be, provided we walk in faith, with our loins girt and our lamps stored with oil, ready at the voice of the bridegroom when he comes to call us home.

17th April

Have just seen the Revd Mr Holmes the Episcopal Minister, at Cowitchin. who called to solicit aid, in erecting three small churches in his parish. He is a good worthy man, a true follower of our Lord and Master. One cannot help feeling a deep interest in his work of proclaiming the glad tidings of Salvation, through a crucified Saviour. He is full of hope, and meets with zealous support from white men and Indians. He likes Cowitchin preferring it to Yale, where he was previously stationed. I gave him thirty dollars, for the building fund, and he went on his way rejoicing.

The Iris, in your flower bed is now in flower, looking more lovely than it ever did before. We have now abundance of flowers, making the borders exceedingly gay.

Mamma is in excellent health though she will not think so up every morning at 6 o'clock she bustles about till breakfast time. The chickens, now fill her mind with anxious cares and we all look grave and appear to sympathize, if mishaps occur. To laugh, would be a a serious offence. The 'Princess Royal' has just arrived, in little over four months from England, a remarkably quick voyage. Miss Pinder is to be married next month; the

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Victoria V. I. 21st April
1874

My little Darling

The "North Pacific" has come and gone, and by her, I sent my letter of yesterdays date, You will thus have a chance of getting a letter from me, every week; very nice, n'est ce pas; on my part I shall be delighted to hear as frequently from you. The weather is lovely, and the garden beautiful.

22d April

Had a few friends to luncheon with us, today. Mr and Mrs Edgar, the gentleman acting confidential agent, of the Dominion Government; a very pleasant man; Dr and Mrs Tuzo. Had a delicious spread, with all the delicacies of the season. We did it full justice and had a very pleasant afternoon James is always complaining; never

I now understand your wishes, with respect to your stay in Europe; your return home, is to be in 1875. I have already in a former letter, given you my views with respect to the proposed term, in Paris. I have no objections to the plan, beyond those I have stated; a reluctance to my lamb, being committed to the care of wolves. Write to me fully on the subject; telling me how you are to get to Paris, and how you are to get back again, to Miss Parks and who you are to be placed with. You cannot travel alone, and who is to take you backwards & forwards.?

You must have had a jolly time at the Procession, kissing your hand to the dear Queen, was rich, I hope Her Majesty, appreciated the complement. It was truly kind of dear Jane, to place No 3, at your service.

Mamma is pleased with your letter, and sends love and kisses. She is quite well. The Children are all going out to a little pic-nic. I delivered your letter to James. I shall write again in a few days.

May God bless you, my dearest child

Your loving Father
James Douglas

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MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4)

being altogether well. His appetite is good; so that the poor boy may yet recover his health. I have not heard from Agnes lately. She is a careless correspondent. We know however that she is in good health.

24th April
6 P.M.

The "Prince Alfred" has just arrived, too late, for the distribution of the mail this evening, so we must wait for your letters till tomorrow. I have been riding today, about "Fairfield" getting various improvements made. The Chinamen, have their grounds in splendid order; their crops are coming on finely; I hope the poor fellows may have a large return, and be well repaid for their labour. Wards grounds, are a picture of neatness, the fruit trees are thriving; the strawberry beds, are full of flower buds. I must visit him often when the fruit his ripe, to test their quality and his cream. Smith is a sloven, his chief pride being in large turnips. Moss street is finished as far as Henleys fence save and except a very short piece near the gate, which is not yet graded. It is, notwithstanding, a splendid drive.

Poor King is not thriving, chiefly thro' his own folly, being a thoughtless improvident man.

Ah. here comes Ang with your letter dated 15th March; what a treasure, but rather long in coming - 39 days!!

The Post marks are as follows. Worcester pack 14 mar.

Windsor Canada 7 April. This tells of a tedious passage to New York, and of delay, in the overland journey to San Francisco. There is no help for that, we cannot command the elements, and must yield to their sway. I acknowledged, the Photographs - in a former letter, and your dear image neatly framed, is now standing before me, at the writing desk; a very nice picture it is, looking hard at Papa.

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MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4)

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Fancouver Island
Victoria 28 April 1874

My dearest Martha

The sweet little Robin is pouring out his heart in melody, making the welkin ring with his morning song of praise and thanks-giving. Would that we, were equally grateful, to the Author of all good. Would that we would lift up our hearts to the Lord "who is good and gracious, whose mercy endureth for ever"; "whose works are manifold, in wisdom hath he made them all; the earth is full of his riches" Such is the inspired language of the Psalmist, it comes with peculiar force, upon the mind at this season, when the fields are clothed with beauty, and nature rejoices in her God. I had an early ride this morning and returned from it, fresh and vigorous for breakfast

It is settled now, that you are not to come out, this year or before the early part of 1875. You have many subjects, contained in my late letters to reply to; pray let your replies be full and precise.

"Cambridge" I see won the University Race again. Alas!! for "Oxford" Why didn't you go with Miss Eliza, to see the contest?

Sights like that, are instructive and suggestive. The Whiskey Crusade, is not likely to succeed. The devoted women who have struggled so hard, to arrest a disastrous evil, entailing misery on thousands, have my warmest sympathy and respect. The evil is beyond their reach, except through their indirect influence on legislation

Mamma is well and unites with me in love and good wishes. I close in haste to catch the Steamer,

My darling Your loving Father Jas. Douglas

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MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4)

May 4th.

I saw Mrs Elliott yesterday: She is not at all well; May I did not see, as she was out when I called. She is however quite well. Mrs Tratch mine is seriously ill; it is feared she will not recover. Let us hope for the best.

My darling I should like to know, what you are doing just at this moment. It is for Papa he was up early, before 6 o'clock, and after going through with the usual morning duties, he rode out through Fairfield and round by Beacon Hill and so home, on the stroke of 9 o'clock for breakfast having earned, in the morning air a thorough relish for the early meal. Parties are out in all directions repairing the old and making additional roads. Mr Beaven the new commissioner of

of works is certainly energetic and carries on the business of his department, in a thoroughly earnest and efficient manner.

Better certainly than the former incumbent. "May day" passed away without any public notice; the old English observance of the day, once in vogue here, has fallen into disuse, and its pleasant associations are gone with the day. We are fast lapsing from English and adopting Canadian customs. The 1st of July "Dominion day", is now the great celebration of the year.

The "North Pacific" is in, and I have received your letter of 26th March: and the Saturday following We are thankful for the tidings of your welfare, and so glad that the climate of England agrees with you so well.

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MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4)

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Answered

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Victoria V. I. 5th May 1874

My darling

I dispatched a letter yesterday, and now begin another. Mrs Trutch more, is improving, and will, I hope, be restored to health.

The "Otter" arrived last night from Stickeen. The River was free of ice, and people were thronging up in boats and canoes. Two men who arrived here direct from the diggings, report great doings there, though there is still snow on the ground and that hard frozen. Mr Moore dug out 10 ounces of gold in one day, about 160 dollars. This is something marvellous, and the report will attract thousands of handy miners. So much the better for the country, as a stimulus for settlement. Nothing certain is yet known about the commencement

Shoal Point.

Your letter of 3d April to Alameda, has just come over. It set Mamma's mind at ease. She implores you not to wear tight shoes, as they invariably hurt the feet, and cause much suffering from Corns &c.

Your stormy Sunday, or rather Good Friday, was ours, marked by a strong easterly breeze, accompanied by showers of rain. Weather not very dissimilar to that, which you describe as occurring at the same time in England. Your dinner was certainly good; the dessert proposed what pleasant times you have.

11th May.

The Steamer with the Mails, goes today. Better tidings from Ottawa, about the Rail road, nothing certain however, except that a new project for its construction is to be submitted, tomorrow to Parliament.

We are all, thank God, in good health. Mrs Trutch is doing well. Mamma sends her fond Love. Your little Apple Tree Orchard is one mass of blossom. Ma. asked me to say so, as she looks at it from her window every morning and thinks of you.

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-ment of the Rail-road. We live in hopes of seeing it started this year.

I wish we could send you a few bushels of "Roxbury Russets" which we are now using, in a perfectly delicious state. I am sure you would enjoy the treat. James is pursuing his legal studies with commendable tenacity, hoping one of these days to make his mark at the Bar.

I had not time when writing yesterday, to go very thoroughly into the subject of your last letter; I will do so now. I delivered your letter to Amy, at once. You are rather hard upon poor De Cosmos. Young Ladies must not be so decided in their politics: they must always be gentle and good, carefully avoiding the use of strong language.

I did not visit Windsor Castle and saw it only in the distance. It is a beautiful place, well worth a visit;

Mamma was in great sorrow about you yesterday. She heard from James Helmcken, that you had a sore foot, and had been obliged to go with it to the Doctor. Pray what is wrong with the foot. You make no allusion to it in your letter to me.

9th May

The "Prince Alfred" is in with the mails. Ang is off to the Post Office, for any letters there may be. The Grahames are to leave immediately for Red River, and will be away for some years. I fancy they will eventually settle here. Alice and Amy with all the little ones, and some invited friends, have gone out for a little pic-nic; they were also out last Saturday and enjoyed it so much, that they are off again to the same spot a sandy beach somewhere near Shoal Point

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Victoria V. I. 14th May 1874. "Ascension day"

Answered

My own darling

It is just 10 years today, since I left home on my last journey to England; so rapidly has the time passed away. You were then a child, and perhaps retain a very indistinct recollection of the event. This is also the day, that saw Uncle Cameron breathe his last, just two years ago. I remember how useful and courageous you were on that occasion. What a change there is now, in poor Belmont; it is in a sad state of neglect, without a tenant or an inmate. I attended morning service, and took the Sacrament with a feeling of love and gratitude for all that our blessed Lord has done for us. Infinite are his mercies

She is just now, full of the subject.

The Country is now in all the beauty of the advancing spring. I wish you were here to enjoy the season. My journeys into the country and daily drives, would be so enjoyable in your company. You will have so much to tell;- for to me you must play the part of chatter box, that likes the perennial spring, the conversation will ever flow. Shall I see you this year or not? is now the question, which another month or two must decide for by that time, I shall have made up my mind, whether I go to England or not. If I do cross the Atlantic it will be, entirely on your account, you see what an important part you play, in my life drama.

No letters by the North Pacific. Now my dear child once more adieu. may God bless and preserve you

Your loving Father
James Douglas

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and past finding out. There were few people in Church, it being a week day. Mrs Trutch is recovering. The Rhododendron is now in flower; but not the Grande flora. The Tulips are beautiful, never saw them so fine before. I have taken another servant, a respectable man named Penny, into my service at £120 a year. Very high wages. Unless he proves as useful as I expect I will not keep him long.

18th May

The "North Pacific" is expected today and I will forward this letter by her.

The contest about the Synod is still going on, causing no little dissention in our Church. Whatever the ultimate result may be, whether for good or for evil, it is certainly giving rise to much present evil, without any compensating good. In secular matters, we have also our own troubles; the Dominion Government, are not doing us justice, in respect to the Railway. Marcus Smith and the Engineers, are busy on the surveys, but there is little prospect, of the road being started this year. We must not despair, as it may prove in our case, as in the natural world, that the darkest hour, is the hour that precedes the dawn. We are now battling with the catterpillars, which have this year attacked the apple trees in great force; one would fancy their name was legion.

Mamma is quite well, and sends you her love. She is longing to see you again; but you know it is better to finish your education while you are in England, and not remaining a half learned lady all your life. Amy will tell you all about her journey to Boston Bar.

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23d May

Drove to-day, with Alice, little Helen and Dolly to Rosebank, and had altogether a pleasant day, picking up, a quantity of wild strawberries by the way, perfectly ripe. The Rosebank clearance of last year, looks green and pretty, and we strolled about it for some time, enjoying the ~~green~~ cool shade, and delightful perfume of the forest.

Leach River is looking up again. We drew up, for a few minutes, at Parsons Bridge for a glass of lemonade, when a man, came out of the house, and with great civility held the bridle. I entered into conversation with him, and discovered it was John Scott from Leach River, where he has been domiciled for ten years, making a good living by mining. He told me that there was a population of 83 celestials, also mining and making about 6 shillings a day each, so the fellows are in great luck. This shews there is gold there, which will be found some day.

25th May. The Prince Alfred is in no letters from you. Oh! oh! Martha. We are all well. Love from all. God bless you, my dear child

Your loving Father
James Douglas

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Victoria V. I. 20 May 1874

My own little darling.

There was last night a refreshing rain, which has laid the dust, and made things more pleasant than they were before the shower. I was out this morning and had a very pleasant ride, through the fresh balmy fields, all looking so bright and cheerful. The fruit trees are covered with blossom. We shall to all appearance have abundance this year. A few faint hearted minus have returned from Stekeen, and are abusing the mines, though I fancy, they never reached them, or perhaps fell short of food, and could not wait tell the snow melted away, and left the ground to thaw, sufficiently for working. In a few weeks more we shall have more decided reports I trust of an encouraging character.

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21st May

Mr and Mrs Kneimler are about leaving the Colony, intending to join an old friend of the former, at "Santa Cruz" in carrying on business there. I sincerely hope they may gain by the exchange, in a pecuniary way, what they will assuredly lose, in the matter of climate.

Great preparations are being made for the Queens Birth day, to be held on the 24th. A Regatta forms one feature of the programme the militia will turn out, and other exhibitions be provided. It will no doubt be a gay season.

Do you remember, a great block of white granite, on the east slope of the Park, facing Wards, before you get to Beacon Hill. I found a man this morning, busily engaged in splitting it - the Block of Granite, not Beacon Hill - into great slabs about 10 inches thick, for ornamental work. The slabs were perfectly straight, as even almost as if cut out, with a saw; they take a high polish and will have a pretty effect, in a building.

Schalley's execution is to take place tomorrow morning. Mrs Forman and family have left the Colony, with the intention, I believe, of settling at San Francisco. What a misfortune to the poor things.

22nd May

More rain last night, and still more would be acceptable. News there is none to give and I imagine you would not take much interest in politics or even Railway discussions, such as I could now favour you with. We hoped at one time to announce a commencement this year; but that hope, is now almost extinct; I fear the work, is adjourned "sine die".

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Victoria V. I. 27th May
1874

My dearest Martha

In my note of yesterday I hurriedly advised your two precious letters of 17th and 23d April, and will now, as far as necessary, notice their, ~~more~~ in detail. I am glad you received the corrected sheet, in good part, showing thereby your regard for the lesson intended, as well as your excellent sense. The lesson will, I know, not be thrown away, but lead to redoubled attention in future. The Photo - as it is, pleases me immensely and no profane hand shall be permitted to alter it. The Parisian school so highly recommended by Miss Bushby will suit the purpose, but then how are you to travel to and from Paris, you cannot go alone, and who is to take you there and back again. Will

nice letter from dear sister Jane. It gave me unmitigated pleasure, and is so much prized by dear Mamma. Jane speaks of you in highly laudatory and affectionate terms.

She declares, you can write, when you take pains, as well as she can, and she winds up her remarks about you in these words. "She - (Martha) is a very" "good child, I must say, well" "principled and very good tempered" "and takes all my advice in such a nice way, that I can't help loving" "her very dearly, for it. I wish" "I had her nearer me for some things"

It is pleasant to hear you so highly praised, and I believe you deserve the eulogy.

1 June -

Jim's birthday; all well - the "North Pacific" is in, so I must close, to save the mail as she leaves again immediately

God bless you
Your loving Pa
James Douglas

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Alick or Miss Bushby be able to find a safe conduct for you. This difficulty had probably not occurred to you, when writing your last; let me know, particularly, how it is to be provided for.

I am glad you enjoyed yourself at the "Opera", notwithstanding the delay and little mishaps, you met with in going to and returning from it. Your present letter is satisfactory. Now for Your second epistle. I will not follow you in your reverie. It is good and profitable to soar from Nature to Natures "God", all whose works are marvellous and in wisdom hath He made them all. It is pleasant to hear you speak of them, with grateful feelings of love and adoration.

The trip with the Misses Bushby to the continent, meets with my entire approval; as I stated in my last hurried note. Were you pleased to admire Kerry coffee's hat and bracelets. If gifted with speech, they could a tale of horror unfold, that might freeze your kind heart. You are I am glad to hear making many agreeable acquaintances, and so extending your knowledge of the world.

Miss Eliza's bouquet, was certainly a great success. You announce Mr Dalla's return home and nothing more, I suppose he was in good health.

Pray draw upon your "well of thoughts", as much as you please for I delight in the exercise, and the more you draw, the clearer the water will flow. There has been no oppressively warm weather here as yet. I have given your message about the songs to Amy, and your promise to James. So here ends your letter, and I will now take up some other subject.

I lately received such a

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LETTERS TO MARTHA DOUGLAS

October 30, 1871 to May 27, 1874

by

SIR JAMES DOUGLAS

[Transcribed July, 1954 - C.E. Browne]

ARCHIVES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

PR 1428 - James Douglas family fonds
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Thursday morning

My dearest little Martha

Your note of yesterday has just come to hand, much to dear Mamma's relief--who has been fretting about you all ever since the Enterprise left. She is quite happy now since hearing of your safe arrival. You had I hope, a pleasant trip, as the weather here was magnificent till the evening. Yesterday was showery, and today there is a steady downpour.

Uncle Cameron was here yesterday having called to ask James to drive some of his voting friends to the Esquimalt election--which takes place today. James was fortunately out of the way, and so was not dragged into what, I fear, will be a losing cause; owing to Uncles dilitoryiness; having begun his canvass too late, in the day. We hope dear Agnes and the little ones are all well. Kiss them all for me. Mamma unites with me in love and best wishes

My dearest Child
Your affect^te Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

I send this mornings Colonist. I would have written much more, were the light better; as it is, it is painful to the eyes.

ever yours
J.D.

Victoria 30th Octr 1871

My dearest Martha

The immortal Jim brought a letter from you and one from Agnes on Saturday--yours was very brief and not so chatty as I expected, in fact, I had almost arrived at the conclusion, that Miss Douglas was going to be any thing but a good correspondent. So matters were up to this morning, when Jim who had been over to town, popped in with a letter which proves to be one from you dated 27th Octr, which you must have posted before Jame's arrival at New Westminster, and made no mention of in your note by him; so we did not think of sending to the Post office for it. A very nice amusing letter it is, full of fun and information--What a jolly trip up you had, with your chatty fellow passengers Mr and Mrs Fane; then the grouse and bacon, the jolly big potatoes, with their torn coats and the keen appetites you brought to bear on all these luxuries, gives one quite a fancy for New Westminster.

I am glad to hear that the Guelphe pleases Agnes so much, she will never lack occupation or amusement, with that toy in the house. We are busy now with the apples, they are finer than usual and abundant. Mamma is rather dull, but is getting on much better than I expected without you--she is always so busy that she has no time to pine.

I will write to Agnes another day, her letter was much prized. Kiss Agnes and all the dear little ones for me. Tony finds no purchaser--the box from England has not yet made its appearance. Mamma unites with me in love to you all

May God bless you
My dearest child
Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

Victoria
6th Novr 1871

My dearest Child

I have just this hour received your dear letter of the 3d Novr announcing the welfare of all the dear ones at New Westminster. My dear Martha you must not relax or cease your efforts to improve, as you know I am most particular about letters, and I don't like to see mistakes in yours--You have omitted at least two words in your last, and mispelt Sciatica. Pray don't be remiss in future. How fortunate the accident to the Hope was not more serious. You were invited to the Ball but I of course declined the invitation on account of your absence.

The Mail Steamer arrived this morning. I have heard nothing as yet of the Box but I presume it is come.

I send herewith enclosed a letter just received from Alice, and one from Wifey Dallas--read and return them without fail, they give all our news. I will send you a five dollar Note--by next Boat--to pay for your photograph. See that ~~the~~ it is a good [?] one.

Mamma unites with me in love and kisses.

No time for more
My dearest Martha
Your loving papa

JAMES DOUGLAS

Friday morning

My dearest Child .

Many thanks for your last letter. and for the nice piece [letter torn] some for dinner [letter torn] so good that Mamma would eat nothing else.

The Governors Ball was splendid MT Cameron and James were there but being rather out of sorts I could not go. The races yesterday were not well attended. Taun is off to China and Ang is all alone and has more to do, than he can manage. I shall go or send for you next week. I have not time to get a note of $5 for you. I will send one next week. Excuse this short note. Love to Agnes and all the children. Mamma unites in love and kisses.

My dearest Martha
Your loving Father

[signature cut from letter]

Mansell has sent in a Bill for shoes supplied in Augt I am sure I paid for them before, but cannot find the Bills--are they in your possession.

Your box is come, and opened your things are all done up in pasteboard boxes and have not been touched--so we cannot tell how they look In haste

JD

I send the morning Colonist

Victoria 16th Novr 1871

My dearest Martha

We had the pleasure today of your welcome letter pr Enterprise--rather a short one, however, shewing you must either have been very busy or not in the humour of writing--just as I am at the present time--it being 10 o'clock in the evening and Jim, grumbling about being kept so long out of bed.

Mamma is seated in her corner talking about you; I just hear her saying oh, my poor little Martha this is the first time, she has been so long away from home. I miss her so much in the evenings oh my precious child--she must not attempt to come down if the weather is stormy. This is all very well for Mamma to say, but I fancy we must take the weather as we find it

The Members of the Ministry have been gazetted

Mr McCreight	Attorney General
R. Rock Robertson	Colonial Secretary
Henry Holbrooke	Commissioner of Lands & Works

Not a very strong Ministry I fancy, but we must strive to keep them afloat.

Jim says it is five minutes to eleven--so I must close with love and kisses to Agnes you and all the little ones--

My darling child
Your loving father

JAMES DOUGLAS

Victoria--Monday 13th Novr

My dearest Child

We had the pleasure of Agnes' and your letter, by the Enterprise on Saturday--Do not forget to return the letters I sent you to read--from Wifey and Alice, as I wish to answer them soon. Pray do not take the trouble of sending more sturgeon as you know we have great abundance of fish here--and very little is used when you are away as James fancies he has brains enough, and has no desire for more.

What a deluge we had last night and there is every appearance of more rain coming. Mamma has agreed to your remaining for another week with Agnes but not longer. I enclose herewith a five dollar note--to pay for your photographs. Mamma has not been very well for some days, bu[t] is now better. The confirmation service took place yesterday, and was most impressive. I did not attend as the weather was very bad.

Mamma is much obliged for Agnes letter, and hopes to hear from her again.

I met Cisy Wallace the other day, as I was driving to town, she told me she was quite well and looked so.

The apples are nearly all in after a very tough job, delayed as the pickers have been by the weather. They make a fine show in the apple house and will I think keep much better, than they did in the large boxes, we used to have

Your last letter was very good. Mamma desires her love to you, Agnes and all the children

May God bless you
My dearest child
Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

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[pages 1-4 of letter are missing]

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present, and have joined the mule train under Hunter Ganstys [?] party crossed on rafts and lost so many things that our party determined to build a canoe No sooner was the idea conceived than executed and the result was a splendid canoe twenty five in length and three feet wide. Mr Smith crossed last Friday and wonderful to relate, returned last night having failed to cross a rapid river about six miles away and which he says must be bridged. I dined with him this evening and he was telling me how very fortunate it was I did not go with him as he had had a very hard time of it. It has been raining hard for the last two days but Hunters tent is waterproof. I like him very much, last night we recited poetry and prose to each other, told stories; with a jolly fire burning outside, and the rain pattering on the tent, varied occasionally by the braying of one of the mules, and last but not least the roaring of the river, which is about 40 ft. distant. My knee is quite strong and well but the ankle of the right foot is rather weak Everybody says I am getting fat I feel much better I think I shall stick to the mule train. I have been writing a Diary and will give you a benefit when I return. We left on Saturday 26th July at 12 noon in Canoes which were waiting for us I did not know what canoeing was till I went up the Squamish River. I candidly confess I felt sometimes frightened but the Indians understood the River and managed their Canoes beautifully No boat could have got up the River the water was so swift. Excuse the crossing but I fear greatly this will be over weight if I do not I could fill sheets of paper about the trip but I have not the time. We cross tomorrow and cut a trail till we arrive at the river to be bridged. Mr Smith will then go on again but I remain with the Train as he thinks the walking will be too much for me. We shall overtake him at Cache Creek so the arrangement stands at present. I hope my dear Mother and her children are well. Excuse this [word illegible] scrawl. I shall write again soon when I have a chance.

With best love to all
I remain
Your affectionate Son

J W DOUGLAS

Copied by dear little Amy. James you see is improving, in mind as well as in body. He will, I trust, have plenty to say on his return home. I have just made a conditional sale of Metchosen for $5000 dollars. A poor price, yet better than keeping it on hand. Mamma sends you her love Amy wrote you the other day. May the Almighty bless you

My dearest child
Your loving Father
JAMES .DOUGLAS

[Endorsed:] Answered

PR 1428 - James Douglas family fonds
MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4A)

Address
Misses Turk
Landsdown House
Worcester Park
near Wimbledon--Surrey

Victoria Vancouver Island
10th Augt 1872

My dear Mr Bushby

We are now preparing with sorrow and tribulation for Agnes journey to England, and have decided on ~~sending~~ allowing my youngest daughter Martha to accompany her, for the benefit of finishing her education in England. As Mr Dallas in whose charge I have placed ~~her~~ Martha, will not be in London, at the time she gets there I have taken the liberty of requesting your good offices and those of your dear sisters, ~~to as~~ in placing her at a proper finishing school, where she may have the comforts of a home, and a careful training in manners and general knowledge. Martha is 18 years of age and so far as literature goes, is fairly educated. ~~being~~ She plays well, sings has a taste for drawing is well read, writes a good hand, and a nice letter. What ~~she now wants is~~ should now engage her ~~may be is what included~~ attention is elocution and English Composition, the French language, which she has studied for several years--larger & broader views of life, and that expansion of mind, which may be called the education of the eye, and cannot be acquired out here. She is also fond of music and drawing, and may improve in both arts.

I wish her to be a parlour boarder and to have a ~~private~~ bed room for herself.

Mrs Nicholls, a widow lady~~here~~ who has for many years been Martha's music teacher has recommended a ladys school near Wimbledon. It is kept by her two sisters the Misses Turk, who ~~she say~~ it appears are most excellent people, and will cherish Martha giving her a most careful training, and as a parlour boarder, she will be always with them. If at all like Mrs Nicholls, they must be of the excellent of the earth, ~~and~~ so if their terms and references are satisfactory, I should wish Martha to become a pupil of theirs; ~~on the contrary~~ but if not, I leave ~~you~~ Jane and Annie to make a choice of schools; good food and fresh air being essential conditions as the childs health is after all the ~~most important~~ main consideration

PR 1428 - James Douglas family fonds
MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4A)

As Martha to avoid trouble will leave most of her clothes behind she will need some things ~~after~~ on arriving ~~and~~ I enclose a Check of Fifty Pounds on Messrs Smith, Payne & Smith to put you in funds: and please settle any balance with Mr Dallas

I trust you will excuse this trouble ~~and~~ making use of me whenever I can be of service. With my kindest remembrances to Jane and Annie.

I remain
My dear Bushby
Yours very sincerely

JAMES DOUGLAS

Victoria Vancouver Island
13th Augt 1872

My dearest Martha

I hurried up from the garden gate, where I bade you adieu to comfort Mamma, and found her in a burst of incontrollable grief--I caught her in my arms, but her heart was full--she rushed wildly into your room and casting herself upon the bed lay sobbing and calling upon her child. Opening the windows for air, I saw Joseph and Tod standing by the carriages listening sadly to her cries. The poor fellows looked so grieved at our distress.

Mamma was at length exhausted--and then I poured in words of consolation, and then drove out, to see you pass out of the harbour. Instead of Point Ogden we drew up at Laurel Point, where we had a closer view of our departing treasures. We saw you clearly, returning our parting signals, and the dear children, shouting their hearty good byes.

We watched you till out of sight, and returned, with sad hearts, to our deserted home. Tod spoke most feelingly of your departure.

Tod, I remarked Martha is gone now. O yes he replied, we are all so sorry. She never left us before; but she will be back again, we hope, before the winter comes.

James rode out to Point Ogden and watched you out of sight--the poor boy had nothing all day, to eat, and is very sad.

After prayers this evening Arthur was overcome by his emotions and wept like a child, it was painful to see him, weeping for wife and children, which were no longer near him. His grief added to our own sorrows. But blessed be the Lord Jesus, who has not left us comfortless. He is a shelter from the storm, a sure refuge in distress. We feel that our dear ones are in his keeping, and we will not sorrow as those without hope.

The last month since dear Agnes came down to James Bay has been a happy time for us all:-- so pleasant was it to have you all about us in our dear old home, and to see you well and joyful.

It is one of these green spots in life, which I delight to dwell upon.

PR 1428 - James Douglas family fonds
MS 0776 - Correspondence (B/40/4A)

Wednesday 14th

Mamma about as usual, sad but composed. Not a dry eye at Morning prayers. We all sobbed out our griefs aloud, when Arthur, attempted the prayer always read by Martha. We are now more composed. Busy at the Flower beds Foot much better Arthur and James at Police Court. Had a pleasant drive with Arthur and James, riding to the Uplands and round by Mount Tolmie home. Mr Crease called in, this evening, to have a chat about our dear departed ones. Watching the wind--it is fair for the "California" feel certain you will arrive on Saturday morning.

Thursday 15th

Lowenbergs [?] day.--he called as usual his jolly round face, a great comfort, but miss my little scribe.

My birthday. keep it quiet to avoid fuss. Mamma busy getting things put to rights. Dear little Dolly came in with a rush, to wish me many happy returns of the day, leaving in my hand a <u>shilling</u> as a birthday gift, and went off like a shot, for fear I should return it to her. Nice is it not? Drove out in the afternoon with Arthur Took the Esquimalt road, round by Craigflour [sic], and home by the Gorge.

Friday 16th Augt

Calm--fine weather. Arthur left this morning for New Westr his cold is much better. he promised to come down often. Sorry he is gone. My foot much easier. Mamma well, but sad. Drove with James to the Uplands. Have a fancy for some land there. Shall I buy a few hundred acres? what is your opinion? Better have the money in the Bank ay?

Saturday 17th

Weather dull and overcast.
Elections for the House of Commons approaching. great excitement. Bunster, Beaven and Wallace all in the field. They are most amiable, promise to get every thing imaginable for the electors. James gone out boating with Solicitor Johnson. they have a fine breeze--too light, if anything. Foot much better, rode out this afternoon. The exercise very enjoyable

Sunday 18th Augt

Refreshing showers this morning and appearance of more rain. Your flowers look so happy, after the drenching, that one would almost fancy they enjoyed it.

Very sad today, sat with Mamma on the gallery, talking about you all. We were so happy this day week seated all together on the same spot watching the children on the Lawn.

James returned this morning tired and hungry. Rooks came this morning in crowds, to settle on the apple trees. Drove them away.

Monday 19th

Heavy rain last night. The Country at large, which was suffering from drouth, will gain by it. The safe arrival of the California, at San Francco is reported on the "Bulletin Board". Delighted with the tidings.

I must now close my dispatch for the North Pacific tomorrow. Be sure and acknowledge its receipt to the very day. It is satisfactory to know, when a letter is received. Mamma is with me. She sends her heart felt love to you, Agnes, and all the little ones. Show Agnes this letter It is long enough for both.

My kind respects to the Misses Bushby, and Joseph.

My dear little daughter I feel very sad I could go on writing to you all day. But I must close. May the God of your Fathers, the blessed Saviour of mankind, have you in his holy keeping.

My dearest Martha
Your ever loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed:] Answered

Victoria Vancouver Island

Tuesday 20th Augt 1872

My dearest Martha

I mailed my first letter to you yesterday; it will reach you soon after you arrive in London. Received Telegram last night, from Mr Fraser announcing your departure from San Francisco, at 7 o'clock on Sunday morning, all well; so you must this morning have passed Ogden and are now careening over the vast inland plains. I can fancy your enjoyment amidst scenes so grand and novel where so much is to be seen and so much to admire. How happy we feel now. I lost no time in sending Mrs Crease word, and this morning I rode over, to do the same good office for Mrs Woods. They were so thankful for the good tidings. The weather is still showery: the flowers are enjoying the reviving bath and shooting out gloriously. I walked to town yesterday and am much better in health, though the foot is still a little painful. Mamma is well, always however thinking of her dear little girl.

Wednesday 21st

More rain: cloudy warm pleasant weather. Saw that dear good lady Mrs Pearse today. She is looking well, is so cheerful and resigned that you could almost fancy her an angel. She was out on the verandah today, enjoying the fresh balmy air. I told her about the Telegram from San Franco, and we talked over your trip to Europe and the advantages, even in point of health of foreign travel. Every one is pleased to hear of your rapid progress. My chief occupation at present, is poring over a Map of the Central Pacific endeavouring to trace your steps. By the Time table which I have carefully consulted--you must this morning have passed "Laramie" and are probably at this moment,--2 P.M.--passing "Sherman" the highest point on the line. The rate of travel must be slow, just there, as the ascent is great; but you will have easier grades, and get on much faster as you enter upon the descent towards the Atlantic.

Mamma had a good cry this morning, over the fading bouquets, in the Library. They are carefully stowed away, as keep sakes, for your return.

Taking in early apples as they are beginning to fall. how much you will miss the fruit of your favourite trees.

PR 1428 - James Douglas family fonds
MS 0776 – Correspondence (B/40/4A)

Friday 23d Augt

The weather, is cool, windy and overcast today. You are now drawing near Chicago, and will I hope be tomorrow at Niagara, where I hope you will take a day or two's rest, and still be in New York, in time for Wednesdays steamer, and the last stage of your journey. I wonder how dear Agnes is; she is not suffering I hope from the effects of the journey.

I heard from Arthur, who is well in health, but of course very dull. Nelson has been elected by acclamation for the Commons, as member for New Westminster. Fisher has been returned President of the Council, instead of Cunningham whose election, was invalid.

Saturday 24th Augt

Mrs Raynun and Mrs Claudet called the day before yesterday but I was out at the time. Met Captain Cator, who is looking hearty and well; he enjoyed the trip north, and found a great deal to interest him; Made all sorts of enquiries about Agnes and you. Found dear Mamma in tears over your little things, which she was arranging and putting by in the Drawers. This is very natural, seeing you never left home before, except for a few days and now that you are gone so far away, she feels your absence acutely. There is in truth, a void, in the house, where you ~~have been~~ were born and have been cherished for so many long years. Accustomed to your society, every thing about the house, recalls your image, so vividly at times, that I almost fancy I see you popping in upon us. N'importe, I am glad of the move we have made; you may never again have so good a chance, of visiting the old world, and I know you will profit by the opportunities of improvement, so unexpectedly thrown in your way.

I hope you will make a point of seeing Broadway, the great street of New York Inspect it closely, so as to be capable of talking about, and giving an opinion ~~about~~ of its architecture, and general appearance. The Americans are proud of it--and the first question asked of any person, who has been to New York--generally is--What do you think of Broadway. Follow the same plan, with respect to every other celebrated place you may see. Regent Street is for example the boast and pride of London, the Rue de Rivoli of Paris, Princes Street of Edinburgh and so on with other places Find out which is the admired thoroughfare or object, and then inspect it closely.

PR 1428 - James Douglas family fonds
MS 0776 – Correspondence (B/40/4A)

I am just come in from a drive to the Uplands, and round home by the springs, with Mamma and Amy. We all enjoyed it, as the weather is delicious.

Sunday 25th.

Delightful weather. At church, foot nearly free of pain--the Dean went through the service--unaided. Text "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see "your good works, and glorify your Father which is in "heaven. Ye are the light of the world". The good Dean earnestly improved the occasion. Truly the Light is sweet, it is welcome. Christ is the true Light of the world, his disciples shine by light derived from Him. They must walk circumspectly they must take heed of every thing that looks ill, because they are so much looked at. They are intended to give light to others, by doing such good works as men may see, and as will give cause to think well of Christianity;--of the truth and excellency of the Christian religion That they may be provoked to imitate your good works, and so may glorify God. It was a forcible discourse. There was a medium attendance present. Carry &c were in church and good Captain Cator. We put up earnest prayers to the Throne of Grace, for you all. We are longing for the New York Telegram.

Monday 26th

Drove Mrs Tuzo to the Uplands--she is a charming person, talked about you. I have asked Brother Dallas, to take you, for a short time to Dunain, to see your sister and Nieces, before you settle down to school.

Tuesday 27th Augt

The Prince Alfred arrived with the Mails. Your letter received, what a shame to hurry you off so soon from San Franco A day would have made no difference in the time of your departure from New York, which will not be till tomorrow. A days rest would have been so grateful to all the party. Kind Mr Fraser says you were all in good spirits, on leaving Oakland, it was so good of him to see you, up to the very last moment. Mamma is relieved, but will not be happy till she hears from New York. Mamma & James passed the afternoon and dined with Mrs A. Pemberton. Miss Wyllie called to ask after you--sends her love--the dear good Lady is looking well. The Steamer

Wednesday 28th Augt

will leave tomorrow with the mails. Tell Agnes I sent her letter on to Arthur, the minute it arrived here, by the Enterprise

I hope dear Agnes and the all the [sic] children are quite well.

Mamma and James unite with me in love and fond wishes for you all.

May God bless you my darling children Write soon and often, for we long to hear from you.

My dearest child
Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

My darling Mattie
I had to read Papa's letter, I hope you wont be displeased

your Amy

Victoria Vancouver Island
31st Augt 1872

My dearest Martha

The Telegraphic message arrived yesterday, announcing your departure from New York, on the 28th Inst in the good ship "Java" for England, which relieved us from much anxiety, in respect to the overland journey, shewing that you had accomplished it comfortably and that you were all well. Mamma had as usual a good cry, over the missive and then we all settled down, to enjoy the tidings. I suppose you rested a couple of days at Niagara, and closely inspected that most stupendous feature of Nature and will give your impressions of it in your next letter.

In my letter to Agnes, I mentioned the death of Captain Irvine, from congestion of the lungs. He is to be buried today at New Westminster.

Sir Francis Hincks, Finance Minister who was lately defeated, in an election contest in Canada has just been returned by the loyal electors of Vancouver District to represent them in the Commons. We have thus become useful, as a refuge, for the Members of the Cabinet in distress.

8th Septr

I have been absent from home since the 2d Inst on an excursion to Bute Inlet. We got back on Saturday evening 6th Inst at the close of an exceedingly wet day. The trip was very enjoyable with the fine weather we had, and most comfortable quarters on board the "Maude". She is really a jolly little Craft, with a full length upper deck where you can sit and see every thing as you steam along--the quiet inland waters of the Straits. The scenery is striking and attractive--with much variety. James and Mr Crease were of the party. We called at all the settlements on the way landing and receiving passengers and cargo, keeping up a continual change and excitement on board. There is much improvement visible every where, but especially near the Coal districts, where various industries are springing up.

The survey parties at Bute Inlet are making satisfactory progress and hope to bring the rail road out there. mais J'en doute.

Your charming letter from Niagara arrived this evening--to our great joy and relief. The foreign correspondent, has made a good beginning, ears,

PR 1428 - James Douglas family fonds
MS 0776 – Correspondence (B/40/4A)

eyes and mind have been all at work, and to excellent purpose. Go on and prosper, every succeeding letter will we trust, be an improvement on the former, and you will come to that point, that you will be capable of writing not only with facility, but with pleasure in the excercise, for we naturally love those arts in which we excel. You say nothing about the children, how they behaved and how they got through the journey. Arthur has had several letters from Agnes, and I suppose has heard all about the little ones. One mistake you made; in future address to Mamma, whatever you have to say to her and to Papa whatever you have to say to him, by that means you will succeed, in writing with greater point and precision, and your letters will, on the whole, be more satisfactory. You know I wish you to tell me every thing that is passing in your mind, to lay open as it were ~~your~~ the innermost recesses of your soul, so that with Gods help, I may be able to counsel and advise you, in all the varying scenes of life.

10th Septr. Mr. Fraser arrived yesterday, per the "Alfred" and dinned [sic] with us in the evening. It is a great treat to see him again among his old friends. I shall tell you all about his doings, in another letter as the Steamer is on the eve of leaving, and I must therefore close

Mamma is quite well and sends you her love and no end of kisses. May God in his mercy bless and preserve you my darling Child

Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

I saw Carrie today,
and gave her your love
Miss Wylly's love

J.D.

Victoria 10th Septr 1872

My dearest Child

I have just posted a letter for you by the Prince Alfred and begin my notes a new, so as to keep you well posted, about passing events. Mrs Starr lost her baby the other day, the dear child having been carried off by a severe attack of Cholera--another baby died of the same complaint a few days previously so that the Doctor is under some alarm, as to the contagious nature of the disease the deaths having occurred in contiguous dwellings.

The letter I last received from the "Foreign correspondent" is admired by all who have heard it read, great encouragement, is it not to a young writer. Carrie was delighted to hear from you, and made many enquiries about your progress

I was out with Mr Fraser, most of yesterday and greatly enjoy his society. He is full of information, his memory is prodigious, ~~and~~ he forgets nothing. He enjoys the quiet dinners and social evenings at James Bay.

14th Septr

All is well here. Nothing of much interest has transpired. Daily rides with Mr Fraser. He dines with us every day. The new Cemetery is to be ~~at~~ on Barnabe's property, next to Ross's a better site than Medana's grove, being much drier and far more secluded.

Sunday 15th

The Bishop preached, this being collection day, for Diocesan purposes. He was touching and pointed, the subject of the discourse being our Lord's words "I come to declare the truth". He enforced the duty incumbent on all the followers of Christ, to build up his Church on earth, by precept and example. All should be ministering children, gentle kind, leading pure and holy lives. There was a fair congregation and a liberal collection. A happy day Christ is revealing the truth, more and more clearly to my soul. O that I could live, more devotedly and enjoy a closer walk with God.

My dear little Alice, how is she? I have not heard from her for some time past.

PR 1428 - James Douglas family fonds
MS 0776 – Correspondence (B/40/4A)

Thursday 19th Sept[r]

Charming weather, warm, bright and clear. The early apples are nearly all gone and the late keepers fast maturing. Don't you miss them in England. I saw none there so good as our own. The pears are perfect, the Jargonells never kept or tasted better. They are delicious this year. Last night after prayers, in which you were earnestly remembered, Mamma burst into tears and had a good cry; which reliev[ed] her feelings, and she was soon all right again. Her health is very good and except on such occasions as I have mentioned, is in good spirits. Christ Church will be finished in a few weeks more and looks remarkably well.

Monday 23[d] Sept[r]

A little rain fell yesterday morning, but not enough to moisten the ground, which is still dry and parched. I took M[r] Fraser for a long drive on Saturday, round by Yales and Deadmans River. We afterwards drove to Belmont and were hospitably entertained by M[rs] Switzer, who appears to be a very intelligent person. The trees are loaded with fruit, and every thing is lovely, but we missed the old familiar faces, whom we shall meet no more on earth. So passes away the glory of the world.

Thursday 26th Sept[r]

The Prince Alfred arrived with the mails yesterday. I had a letter from Alice, she had been to see the Misses Turks school, and reports very favourably of it. So does M[r] Dallas, and he purposes [sic] sending Wifey to it. She will share your room and be a little friend and companion to you. I have not heard from Jane, who appears to be growing insufferably idle. We shall expect a long letter from you, by the next Mail, and feel assured we shall not be disappointed

Yesterday the rooms were turned topsy turvy, the carpet dusted and ceilings white washed. Ang was very useful and active. He keeps the door knobs in high polish and wishes Miss Martha to know, that he remembers her lessons. I wish we could send you some of our delicious pears. They are very fine this year. Mamma wishes me to say all manner of kind things to you and to desire you to be careful of your health. She sends you kisses without number James Amy and Dolly, are no less liberal--both with kisses and good wishes. I have written to you so often that I quite forget the number of my letters. May God bless and preserve you my dearest child

Ever your
Affectionate Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

PR 1428 - James Douglas family fonds
MS 0776 – Correspondence (B/40/4A)

Victoria 28th Sept.r 1872

My dearest Martha

I, yesterday, despatched a letter for you by the Prince Alfred and also, one for ~~sister~~ sister Alice, which I registered, with an enclosed Check on Messrs Smith, Payne and Smiths for £12, being money received here, from Mr Good, for Alice's benefit.

Alice has been so often changing her residence of late, that one is afraid her letters may miscarry, which would be a serious matter, if they contained remittances. I addressed the letter in question to Mrs Charles Good
Isabella Cottage
Pemberton Road
East Woolsey [?]--Surrey
Pray mention this to Sister Alice.

Miss Devereaux who I met in town the other day, was enquiring affectionately after you. I gave her all the news and told her, how much enjoyed the trip and the views of Niagara She misses you so much as do also many other old friends here.

Mr Richardson the geologist has discovered, abundance of Iron ore near the coal fields at Comox, which will prove a lasting source of wealth to the Colony. The Hope silver mines, are again before the public; samples of ore sent to San Francisco for assay, yielded 240 dollars a ton besides some gold. A mining Engineer is now gone up to Hope to examine and report upon them to Capitalists of large means, who will if satisfied of their richness set to work to open them. All this bodes well for the Colony.

30th Septr

Mrs Nicholls has just sent over a note, informing that she had heard from her sister Miss Turk who had called at Halken Street but did not find Miss Bushby at home. Miss Turk further assures ~~that~~ me, if I decide on sending you to her establishment, ~~she will~~ of their earnest endeavours, to promote the comfort andadvance the education of Miss Douglas in every possible way. This is at once a satisfactory, and reassuring piece of information which I highly value, as I feel you will be among friends, who will prize and watch over you continually.

Octr 2^{d} Tuesday

We have had heavy rains and dark cloudy weather since Sunday last. The country will soon be fresh and green, again reminding us of lovely spring. We are all well and comfortable here. Getting the apples in. Had a good jumping on the verandah, with the skipping rope for exercise. Drove out in the afternoon with Mr Fraser, towards Cadboro Bay stopping for a few minutes at Mrs Bookers [?] (Mary Tod) to make an afternoon call. Their house is very comfortable, and they are planting fruit trees, laying out walks, making lawns, flower borders and otherwise getting the grounds in order. Mrs Booker made kind enquiries after you.

Bowker's

I omitted to ~~say that I made~~ mention a call made a few days ago, on Mrs Elliotts ~~and found~~ both she and May were well. I told them all I had heard about your journey; we had a long chat, and we afterwards took May out for a drive, together with Amy, so they made up a very joyous party, and greatly delighted Mr Fraser who acted as whip on the occasion.

Octr 6th Sunday

Took the sacrament, a solemn occasion, many communicants. Mr Gribbell conducted the service; dear good Mr Cridge, being laid up by a severe cold, but is now rather better.

7th Oct^{r}

Dr Powells appointment, as Indian Agent for this Province, has just been announced by telegraph from Ottawa. A less objectionable appointment, is that of Mr Pearse, to be Engineer of Public Works and Superintendant [sic] of Light Houses. The salary is only £450 per ann^{m} Fifty pounds less than he has now but he prefers it on account of its being a permanent office, altogether independent of the Provincial Legislature

8th October

The weather is splendid, people busy about the garden, gathering fruit which is abundant. I wish you had, a cartload for winter use. You would be delighted with a morning peep of the varied and highly tinted foliage at James Bay. The Splendour of its rich and gorgeous hues, reflecting the bright rays of the morning sun are beautiful beyond description

11th Oct. 1872

My dearest Martha

We had Agnes' letter of the 11th Septr yesterday, mentioning your safe arrival in Halken Street, and all the kindness of the dear Good Bushbys You must have found it pleasant to meet friendly faces awaiting your landing at Liverpool, and again at Euston square station, where dear Jane gave you so hearty a welcome. I am really thankful, that you fared so well, and so much better than thousands who have trodden the same path before you; truly the Almighty was about your paths, and showered his mercies upon you.

Why did you not write a line yourself to assure us of your welfare, I fear you must be suffering from the fatigue and excitement of the long journey. Mamma sends you her love, and all manner of good wishes--as well as Dolly and Amy

May God bless you My darling child your affect^t Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria Vanc^{r} Island
17th. Octr. 1872

My dearest Martha

I have addressed you so often, since you left home, that ~~that~~ I have quite lost the reckoning, and can scarcely tell the number of my letters. We have again received the note you wrote on Agnes' letter to Arthur, as the "Java" was nearing Queenstown. It was brief, but still satisfactory. You had been a great sufferer, from sea sickness, which is very trying to every one, and quite accounts for your silence.

Arthur arrived last night and is in excellent health, the up country trip having done him a world of good. He will make some stay here. I enclose a cutting from a New York Paper which will amuse you. Your letter of 10th. to 18th. Septr. has just this moment arrived. How delightful to hear of your welfare, and progress. How kind the good Misses Bushby have been, I owe them, a debt of gratitude which I can never repay. Your letter is full of information and charmingly written, neither flippant nor too heavy.

Jane had heard of your arrival and writes to me as follows. "We heard from them both yester-
"day; Martha writing a most sensible, and businesslike
"letter to Mr Dallas. It quite astonished us both; and
"I must say she does credit to Papa". You see my dear, what golden opinions, are won by good sense and good breeding.

18th. Oct^{r}.

Have just seen Captain Cator and delivered your message, also to Miss Wyllie and the Governor, they are all so pleased to hear from you. The other messages I will deliver in due time.

I read over your charming letter to M^{rs}. Crease, who was delighted with the contents. She read over, a letter Miss Carr had received from Mary It was nicely put together, but I was surprised at one remark, Mary says "I have been perfectly miserable ever since I
"commenced the journey". What led to that feeling; I thought you had all been veryhappy together. Probably Mary was out of health, and consequently suffered from depression of mind.

I suppose you are by this time at Worcester Park, and have settled down to your studies.

PR 1428 - James Douglas family fonds
MS 0776 – Correspondence (B/40/4A)

You will find it dull work at first, but that feeling will wear off in time. I have seen Mrs Nicholls and delivered your compliments; she is not very well at present, but appears active and cheerful. The weather has been very fine lately; the apples are all gathered, such a show in the fruit house; how are we to get rid of them in your absence.

I enclose a discription [sic] of the new church, which will suit our purpose as well as a more pretentious edifice.

21st Octr

Our good old friend Captain Swanson died this morning, after a short illness of lung disease. He is much regretted.

I drove today with Mr Fraser to "Spring vale" and went all over Switzers Boot and shoe manufactory. It is a wonderful combination of skill and industry dealing with every branch of the business from the tanning of the hide, to the turning out of the neatly made shoe. All these operations are conducted under the same roof the raw hair covered hide coming in at one door, and ~~the~~ never leaving the premises until it issues in the form of boots and shoes.

Octr 23d I fancy my dearest Martha that my frequent letters may come to tire you at last, though I dare say the love of home, and of dear Papa, may always render them grateful to you. Yesterday we sent men out to Fairfield and had a great bonfire of fallen logs. Arthur and I went out to see the fun, but James like a lazy boy decided on staying at home.

Mamma is still an early riser and has caught cold, which has brought on a bad cough, without however confining her to the house. So you do not fancy a land purchase at Cadboro Bay notwithstanding the beauties of the site. You are probably right in that decision. Rainy weather has set in, the sky is overcast this morning, looking dismal and gloomy. This is not however the beginning of the rainy season which is I trust yet some weeks distant.

Octr 24 The ugly blot on page one of my first sheet, is the result of the capsize of my Inkstand, as I was stretching out my arm over it, to get a sheet of paper. What a mess on the table and carpet; Ang soon however, made it all trim again.

PR 1428 - James Douglas family fonds
MS 0776 – Correspondence (B/40/4A)

I do so miss your neat, attentive hand in the Library. I miss the bouquets so much, though I might have them, by taking a little trouble.

This is dear sister Cecilia's birthday, she would have been now 38, had she lived. I have just been reading the above remarks to dear Mamma, who is sitting by me in the Library. She smilingly admitted the facts adding. I have only made two bouquets for your table, since poor little Martha left. Mrs Spence of Cedar Hill once Mrs Scott, was buried the other day; a most excellent person. She never recovered the loss of her Mother, Mrs Lang who died some weeks ago.

26th Octr

The weather being pleasant, I drove out yesterday with Arthur to Cadboro Bay, by a new path, which turns off from the Uplands road, at the corner of Tods fence bending to the ~~left~~ right through groves of oak trees and bea[u]tiful shrubbery, towards the water, which it follows on level ground, all the way to Cadboro Bay, avoiding altogether the steep, fatiguing descent which one encounters by the old road. We both thoroughly enjoyed the excursion, as who would not in such weather, and with so many lovely objects,--mountain, flood and field: as there meet the view on all sides. We have just heard that the San Juan question has been decided against England, and we have lost the Island. I cannot help thinking that our case, has not been fully or clearly represented, to the Emperor of Germany, or he could not have arrived at so unjust a decision which is utterly at variance with the rights of the relative parties. Well there is no help for it now, we have lost the stakes, and must just take it easy.

28th Octr

I must now close my despatch as the mail will leave in a few hours. We had no letters from you by this steamer, nor had the Crease's from Mary. Write often, either directly to me or to Mamma, and not to your "Parents", which satisfies neither Ma nor Pa. May God bless you, my dearest child. Mamma's love and kisses. Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

Mamma unites with me in love to dear Alice. I wrote to her lately and will soon write again.

PR 1428 - James Douglas family fonds
MS 0776 – Correspondence (B/40/4A)

Victoria V.I. 31st Octr
1872

My dearest Child

A letter from Mr Joseph Bushby lately arrived mentioning that he had cashed the £50 check, which I sent home for your use, and that he had delivered to you the money, with the kindly caution to keep accounts and to be careful, which he had no doubt you would be. This was both kind and considerate of him and I am sure you will attend to his advice. You know it is a large sum of money equivalent to half your allowance of clothing for the year. You will now be able to put the many lessons in economy you received at home into practice and show how well you have profited by them. You are very young yet to have great trusts thrown upon you, but I always fancy, you are gifted with wisdom beyond your years. The "North Pacific" has this moment arrived, and your much prized letter of the 28th Septr I write immediately to save the Mail, and the chances of a snow blocade, like that of last winter which may prevent letter[s] from getting either to you or to us, for months together.

You have at last settled down to study, love the school and describe the Misses Turk, as being every thing you could wish as kind and experienced Teachers. The air of Worcester Park is pure and healthy, so the place is in all respects admirably adapted to promote healthy developement [sic] of body and mind. You are also thanks be to God in perfect health--enjoying every comfort and attention that can under the circumstances be expected.

Tell me all about your studies and course of training in your next letter. You must have caused a sensation at Lansdown House--having travelled so far even from the remote parts of the earth, in the short space of 24 days. Their curiosity was therefore excusable, and gratified I hope by your kindness to the utmost. People are thankful for such favours, and you can turn them off any number of <u>true</u> yet amusing yarns Story telling, if the stories are true is a graceful talent worth cultivating.

I have had a hunt after the U.S. Postage Stamps, in your casket, on the Drawing room Table and have found only four which I enclose with this.

You must have a capital memory to remember so well where your things are. Mr Fraser has just called for dinner, it being late, as I am writing by candlelight. I have told him about your letters and

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MS 0776 – Correspondence (B/40/4A)

he desires to be kindly remembered to you. Arthur is also present and I have given him the benefit of your critique on all the singers you had heard before going to England. Won't that please him.

Mamma is delighted and is now glad you are in England. You must make the best of your time.

God I see is with you and in his merciful Providence watches over. Be ever ready to exclaim with the Psalmist when addressing his Lord. "Who have I in heaven but thee, and what is there on "earth without thee". I close in haste my dear child

Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

PR 1428 - James Douglas family fonds
MS 0776 – Correspondence (B/40/4A)

Vancouver Island
Victoria 4th Novr 1872

My dearest Martha

My last was dated 31 Octr so you see, in the words of the old song, I do not forget my dear, though far she is away. The weather continues mild and pleasant, the leaves still cling to the apple trees-- yellow as gold, the roses are in blossom, as well as the hardier sorts of annuals.

The Princess Royal arrived on the 2d Inst bringing the new Church Organ, a finely toned instrument it is said, and to be landed and set up as soon as possible. The Cathedral will not be opened till then!! I have no patience with our people, they are so wretchedly slow going in all their movements. Mrs Jones (Cecilia Work) lost her infant son, yesterday of [w]hooping cough. The poor Mother is distracted with grief. Mamma is going over to to [sic] see her today.

Mamma and Amy met Mr Jones on the road as they were driving to Hill side; he was so much affected with the loss of his boy that he could hardly speak and burst into tears. He thought it so kind of them, to call on Mrs Jones, that he found it difficult to give expression to his feelings. The burial is to take place tomorrow.

9th Novr

We have had such stormy weather for the last two days, it is now fine again, and I intend having a drive towards Cadboro Bay, with Mr Fraser if he comes over in time; otherwise I go alone.

Mamma has caught a slight cold, but is otherwise well, she often talks about you, and feels an especial interest in Alice. I see she has removed to London and as we knew nothing of her intention to do so, her letters and remittances for the two last months have been addressed to her former residence, Isabella Cottage, Pemberton Road, E. Moulsey [?]. I hope she left directions with the people there to send on her letters, to her new residence, London, if not, both letters and remittances, may be lost, which would be a sad misfortune for her.

12th Novr

The Prince Alfred arrived yesterday morning and the North Pacific in the afternoon. We expected letters from you but were grievously disappointed as none came. I hope the "Foreign Correspondent" is not growing remiss. I

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MS 0776 – Correspondence (B/40/4A)

had a letter from Dallas--he speaks very highly of you, and will be most kind. He hopes you will be careful in your expenditure. The new house at Dunain, is not yet finished, and they were still in lodgings at Nairn they could not therefore invite you to their own house.

In reply to your last letter, I have no objection to your accompanying the Misses Bushby if they go next summer to the Continent, or even to the sea coast of England, in which cases you would bear your share of the expenses of the trip. The more you see of these dear ladies the better. A few American postage stamps were sent, in my last letter, and herewith a few more and I will add to the number as opportunities offer.

In future do not begin your letters with the phrase "my dear Parents", but write either to Dear Papa, or Dear Mamma, you will then write more to the point, and your letters will be more gratifying to Papa and Mamma. Now my dear little Child, I am drawing to a close; our warmest love, and best wishes are with you, we commit you to the care of our blessed Saviour, believing He will have you in His Gracious keeping. Mamma unites with me,in warmest affection

My dearest Martha Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

My love to dear Agnes and Alice and all the dear Children, as well as to the dear Misses Bushby.

J.D.

[Endorsed] Answered

Vanc^r I. Victoria
13th Novr 1872

My dearest Martha.

My last despatch of yesterday, has just left by the Prince Alfred, and I commence anew with another sheet. The cold weather set in yesterday freezing the ground, nipping the flowers and green leaves, assuring us in fact, of the near approach of grim cold winter. This is a bright, clear bracing day, the sun shining warmly, though freezing in the shade. I have just come from a ramble, in town and am going out again, to see how the clearing is getting on, in Mr Kings field.-Fairfield where I have a sturdy Indian employed in cutting and tearing up the bushes and trees. I will so acquire nearly two acres of good land without purchase; better is it not than buying land at Cadboro Bay?

19th Nov^r

Still without letters from the "Foreign Correspondent". I have however seen those, you wrote to James and Amy, and therefore know you are well. You have, plenty to say, and you must learn to say it well, for that is a necessary accomplishment to young Ladies as to others, therefore study to express your meaning, with ease, without prolixity and without Tautology. You speak in Amys letter of "resting your weary <u>legs</u>"-- would it not be nicer to say, weary <u>limbs</u>. In comparing the architecture of St Pauls with that of Westminster Abbey, the idea is good but might be better expressed. The structures are in striking contrast--and I think with you as to your preference of the airy Gothic style which fills the mind with admiration. You must write a great deal, and ask Miss Turk to correct your style and language. For instance you speak over-harshly of the Arch deacon more so, than a lady ought to do, of any one. The Censor having now done his part let me proceed to other topics.

There is a change in the weather this morning, from sharp and clear; it is now mild and showery; but all vestiges of summer leaves and flowers, grass excepted which is still green and long, have disappeared, and stern winter with its Ice and storms is plainly before us.

26th Nov^r

Another mail is in the harbour and still no letter, from Martha.

What blighting influence has come over my foreign correspondent, have her letters miscarried or been delayed on the road? I have received a long letter from Miss Turk, and have just been engaged in replying to it, explaining my wishes with respect to your education. I suppose you are very busy, with your several studies, and also casting a stray thought towards Chris[t]mas mince pies &c.

I suppose you will spend the holidays with Jane or Agnes. I don't know where else you can go, unless you take a run back to James' Bay; rather a long journey eh? I was dreaming of you the other night you came running into the house and with open arms towards Papa, exclaiming "Oh! Papa I am so sorry." More I did not hear. I suppose you were sorry for not writing oftener?

Mamma sends you her love and best wishes. May God bless and preserve you My dearest Child

Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Thursday 5th Decr 1872
2 P.M.

My dear Martha

We have just come home from the opening service and consecration of the New Church. The ceremonial was solemn and imposing, conducted by our own good Bishop assisted by Bishop Morris of Portland, and all the neighbouring clergy. The Dean read the service and Bishop Morris preached the sermon. He is a fluent speaker, and possesses a voice of wonderful power, though not a strong looking man. The Church was crowded and a fair amount of cash was offered by the congregation. The organ is a grand instrument; its tones want the mellowing of age, to render them perfectly agreeable. The Crease's overtook me, as I was walking over to Church they asked if I had heard from Martha. Not a word was my reply, the Foreign Correspondent promised to do great things as she was leaving home, but alas! has failed, it is now going on 4 months since she left and we have only got two letters from her. It's just the same with Mary said [word illegible] we seldom hear from her, but she writes every week to Martha. Why does she not write to us? I fancy she has forgotten all about home. Another mail has just come in, and still no letters. Mamma is much distressed and fancies all sorts of calamities. Archdeacon Reece preached in the evening at Christ Church; his sermon gave great offence to the Congregation, as he advocated Ritualizm. The Dean said a few words, in dismissing the Congregation, protesting against the doctrine, which has no warrant in Scripture. The Archdeacon was wrong in broaching such subjects.

10th Decr

Two fresh Mails from England have come in since, this letter was begun, and still, strange to say, without a single line from my dearest little Martha. You must, I am sure, have written scores of letters, and what has become of them all? Have you been careful in posting them, and in prepaying the postage? if not, they have been missent, or not forwarded, as prepayment is essential to letters being forwarded. Be, hereafter, careful in all these particulars. I will not caution you about the address, as you know that well. I send one of our weekly Papers to give you an idea of what is going on, in our bustling little world. Party spirit as usual runs high and a fearful crash of the Ministry is expected, when the meeting of Parliament takes place next week. I tremble for poor McCreight and co-adjutors.

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They will surely go to the wall, unless they shew a bold front, and make a good fight. Your friends here are all well, and are often asking about you. Maysie I never see they have moved into James Lowe's house, and the Curtises, into Kerrs former dwelling. Miss Wyllie and your other friends, with whom you correspond, will give you all the news, which they know better than I do. Mr Fraser is still at Victoria and dines almost every day at James' Bay.

What is sister Agnes doing she never writes, I have received but one letter from her since she left and that was addressed to her "Parents" which means nobody and not to me. When you write to Mamma, write and speak to her, as you know how, and when you write to Papa--write and speak to him, as if he was before you; and then you will write well, and entirely to my taste.

I have had such a nice letter from Alice, containing some beautiful passages, on the uses of adversity in drawing us nearer to God, and on the comfort and solace she now derives from reading the Holy scriptures. Her words are to me sweeter than honey from the honey comb. Dear Mamma had a good cry over that letter and the reflection that we had not a line from Martha dear. Give my love to Agnes and Alice as well as to Ann, Jenn and Georgie.

Georgies friend Tod, longs to see him again. You need not take the trouble of writing long studied letters, except occasionally, put down a few lines every day, in the form of a little journal, of whatever comes into your mind, wise or simple and post the same once a week, so that we may hear from you regularly. You may occasionally send me a composition.

Hurrah--two letters from dear Martha--just this moment received from the Post-office, they had been overlooked in the hurried delivery of letters yesterday. One is addressed to Papa. dates 14th Octr and 2^{d} Nov^{r}, the other is addressed to Mamma and is dated 1st October. I have no time to reply to them by this Mail, as the Steamer leaves tomorrow morning and I have much to do, and am rather tired. Mamma is delighted your letter has come with healing effect like the Balm of Gilead.

With regard to your allowance for dress and minor[?] expenses, I wrote to Brother Dallas to allow you £100 p^{r} annum which, is a large allowance, and more than you now ask--so that point is settled I want

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an a/c of your travelling expenses on the journey home, which you have not yet sent. Do not forget it, as I must settle with the Doctor & Arthur You must keep exact accounts of your expenses, and send them to me from time to time. You must be careful not to fall into careless habits--as the pecuniary struggle is the great worry of life in England.

My dearest child I must now say good bye Mamma sends you no end of love. Jim and Amy are both out or they would join in the offering.

May God bless and preserve you

My dearest Martha
Your loving Father

"James Douglas"

[Endorsed] Answered

Remember the 18th Jan[y] 1873

Victoria, Vancouver Island
12th Dec[r] 1872

My dearest Child

In my letter of yesterdays date, I briefly acknowledged the receipt of your letter of 2d Nov[r] Let me now run through its contents. Your Photograph we shall greatly prize, notwith[st]anding the pretty face. Your impressions of New York and London, are very amusing and on the whole agree with my own recollections of the latter, for you know I never saw the great American city. You were surprised to see the Bk of B.N.A. in such contracted quarters--but my dear child rents are high in New York, and Banks, must, like individuals, study economy, or the pinch of want is soon felt. I join you in your admiration of Regents Street. Call at Osler's Show rooms 45 Oxford Street, the next time you are in town, the magnificent Chandeliers and other objects in chrystal [sic] glass are well worth an inspection, but pray don't fancy every thing you see or alas for us!! So you have been to Madame Tusseaud's and made the usual mistake, of apologizing for treading on an old wax ladies toes. A good laugh for Miss Eliza, N'est-ce pas.

Of course you must always open your heart freely to me. There may be reasons good and sufficient for your not going just now to Dunain. The new house is unfinished, damp and uninhabitable and the old one, too small for the family. So I understand M[r] Dallas to say. My letters to you appear to be dropping in with the utmost regularity. You see we are always thinking about you. I post my notes however short, by every Mail; a good example for you, my fair little correspondent. I gave Amy your message. M[r] Fraser, your love--Miss Wyllie your note &c &c. How kind of Cousin Young to invite you for the holidays. The Misses Turk appear to be most worthy Ladies. I wrote to them about you, lately. Dear good Mamma is charmed with your letter. it has put her in great spirits ever since. Darning is the ne plus ultra of womans accomplishments, and hearing of your proficiency in that art, delights her, beyond measure. She enjoys fair average health, and is active as usual. Hurrah, another letter from dear Martha, just arrived by the North Pacific; why it never rains but it pours. It is to Mamma and is dated 9th Nov[r]; a charming letter it is; full of love and home sympathies. The rides and drives about home, will I trust with Gods blessing, all come again, in due time, when you will look back with pleasure, on your present little trials. Let your trust be in God, throw all your troubles upon Him, and He will guide and direct your steps. If you gave way, once in three months, to

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a momentary impulse, by getting into a temper, you appear to have done all that the best of Christians can do,--grieved sorely over your fault. So cheer up my dear child, and be more guarded than ever in fighting the good fight of faith, though our enemies be strong, the Great Captain of our salvation, is ever present to sustain and deliver his people.

I am delighted to hear of sister Agnes' welfare, and that she is so happy, with her sisters Bushby who are such dear good girls. Please give them all my love. The Island of San Juan is gone at last; I cannot trust myself to speak about it and will be silent.

You complain of being three weeks without letters from home, what think you of our feelings, when we were double that time, without a line from you I write to you generally once a week and never less than three times a month thus keeping you posted on home affairs.

I am longing to know all about Lansdown House, its interior arrangements; what you are learning; how and where you take your daily walks. Is Worcester park private, and open to the young ladies only? Have other p ersons access to it? I s there a garden attached to the House? Pray answer these queries in your next letter.

13th Decr

Weather mild and pleasant. Rode and drove out by turns the other day to "Happy Valley", which is much improved since I last saw the place. Poor Edward is not doing much good; the work of clearing being too heavy for one man, alone. He is very industrious and in good spirits, but as you may suppose, not over comfortable. Settlers in a new country such as this is have a great task before them; but with time and industry all things are attainable.

It is four months today since you left home; how much you have seen and learned since then!!! We have just heard of the terrific gale you had in England on the 9th Decr. It appears to have done a great deal of damage to life and property; probably the accounts we have are exaggerated or the loss must be great.

14th Decr

10 P.M. We have just been startled by two slight shocks of earthquake Mamma who was upstairs, in her chamber was

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greatly alarmed; neither James nor I, felt the motion, in the dining room, where we were sitting at the time reading.

16.th Decr.

I enclose cuttings from the "Standard" relative to the Earthquake. I have no time to add to my letter, as the North Pacific leaves soon. Mamma sends her warmest love indeed we all do the same. May God ever bless you my dearest child.

Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Vancouver Island
Victoria 21st Decr 1872

My love to dear Jane
and all the little ones

My dearest, dear little Martha

My last letter of the 11th left this a few days ago, and I again begin, with a fresh summary of events. This is you know the shortest day, and it was ushered in by a slight fall of snow, which is melting fast away, the weather being mild, not at all like winter. We are surprised to hear of the violent storms you have had in England; here the season has been so far mild and pleasant; there has been little rain, hardly any snow and very few windy days. Mamma is now busy with preparations for Christmas--Turkies and no end of fouls are being slaughtered, and as for cakes, mince meat, puddings &c, their number is Legion. The Doctor and Amy are to dine with us, Mr Fraser and Hamley; leaving 4 reserved seats, for other guests

Parliament met on the 17th, and the Ministry sent in their resignation yesterday, having been defeated on a motion to amend the address, by one vote. The Governor must now either, appeal to the country by dissolving the House and calling a new election, or else he will form a new cabinet out of the present opposition members. I know you will sympathize with your friend Mr McCreight; so do I and sincerely wish they had made a better fight with the opposition instead of going to the wall at once.

23d Decr

We have had a storm of wind and snow since the 21st, it is now 7 P.M., raining and the snow melting fast Preparations for Christmas are going on, every thing we do reminds us of Martha--Papa and Mamma, are always thinking of their dear little Martha. Every now and then you hear them calling out, Oh, I wonder what dear little Martha is doing; oh how I wish she were here.

24th

New Ministry formed--DeCosmos Premier, Walkem Attorney General, Dr Ash Provincial Secretary, Robt Beavan Comr of Lands and Works. A bright constellation is it not.

25th

Dear Mrs Pierce breathed her last, this morning at 10 oclock; she was much reduced by her long illness, and lately caught a cold, which proved too much for her

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strength, and was the immediate cause of death. Her last moments were sweetened, by the blessed hopes of eternal life, through the merits of our dear Saviour. whose rod and whose staff, led her triumphantly through the dark valley of the shaddow [sic] of death. Oh how sweetly the Christian departs from this mortal scene, Blessed Lord grant that we also may hold fast the hope of eternal life, and serve Thee for ever in heaven. Pierce is in great affliction. 26th Decr We have today received a letter from Agnes. Please give her my love as well as to Alice and all the little ones.

We had a nice party on Christmas, the dinner was excellent, and the table well served by Edward who came up for the occasion from his farm at Happy valley

Agnes mentions that you are going to spend Christmas at Dunain with your sister Jane. I am glad of that arrangement as you will meet your sister whom you have scarcely ever seen. Mamma who is near me as I am writing, sends you her love, she wishes you to write very often, even if you write only short letters; as I do to you. I must now close or miss the Steamer so my dearest child once more good bye--

With the complements [sic] of the season

My dearest Martha your affectionate Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Vancouver Island
Victoria 14th JanY 1873

My dearest Child

I have not addressed you since the 3d Inst. an unusually long interval of suspense. Yesteray arrived by one and the same mail your dear letters of 29th Novr one for Mamma, and one for Papa. and a later date of 5th Decr to Papa. These letters have been long of coming and must have met with detention on the route. A person travelling from Victoria, reaches London, as you did, in 24 days, including your three days stoppages; the Mail which travels incessantly, without delay, should therefore take less time; but the reverse is the case, as letters seldom arrive here in less than 30 days; unless they come direct from New York to San Francisco, without passing by Canada when they arrive here a week earlier. I have letters here from Dallas of the 7th Decr which I received before yours of the 29th Novr, but they came direct from New York to San Francisco, without going through the Canadian Post offices where no doubt the delay, I complain of, took place. Now listen to the moral. In future address your letters for me as follows--

via New York direct to San Franco You will have to pay double postage that is instead of 6d you will have to pay 1/- on each letter; the expense will only be a few shillings more in the course of the year, and you may limit it to my letters, as your other correspondence, may be sent by the way of Canada as usual.

Now let me reply to your letters. You say you "write to us every week"; this is just what I expect, but my dear child these numerous letters, have not come to hand and must still be on the way, this you may ascertain by my letters to you, acknowledging every letter I have received from you.

The Bushby's have certainly been very kind to you and I love them for their attention. Please give them my thanks and kind respects. Isend a few more postage stamps to add to their collection.

Alice has not yet arrived but we expect her here, by the next Steamer. I am glad to hear you have made Mr Doughty's acquaintance; he is a most respectable man.

I will deliver your messages to friends here. Captain Cator is gone to the Sandwich Islands, and will probably not return here. Carry Pinder is all right again. I saw Mrs Elliot and May, the other day, they were asking so kindly about you. May, in particular,

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inquired in her sweet, plaintif [sic] ~~little~~ voice "How is Martha", and put many other questions. They send you their love.

Mamma is delighted with your letter to her. She is sure she will admire the Bonnet and Cap, especially as it comes from you. I am affraid [sic] Agnes will find Royse some what of a bore. I refused him any thing to take home, as I thought his company was not desirable. How did he find out, Halkin Street, I gave no clue to the address.

Ang was delighted with your message, and put me to the expense of a new brush for the parlour stove.

With your letter of the 5th Decr I got the account of your studies, of which I approve and you will soon find the advantage of the course, both in writing and conversation. Is the French language taught in the thorough manner, I made you adopt, that is by first mastering the principles and the parts of speech, expecially the verbs, an object of the first importance to every one trying to master the language.

You find London, colder in winter than Victoria and so it is. The weather here is still mild, with neither frost nor snow, the lawns and country generally being still green.

Mr Fraser is still here and has not forgotten you.

Young Pinder has just called and is the bearer of your love to Carry dear. Having now replied to your letters, I will put this sheet away, to await the coming of the North Pacific which will be in a day or two.

JanY 16th

The weather continues to be mild and pleasant, and every one about James Bay, well and hearty. I met Mrs Jno Trutch the other day, in the street, ~~she~~ as I was returning from town. She was looking remarkably well, full of life and colour; she of course enquired about Martha, as every one does, whom I meet. Turner and Tunstall, have come out with their new Almanack. The frontispiece which I send you, is very gay, looking quite as well as any establishment in Regents street. The place will have a value in your estimation, seeing it is my property, and

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brings a good income. May it flourish. Arthur is at Cariboo, and well. He reports having plenty to do, and very comfortable quarters. My love to Jane and Agnes. Kisses for all and the dear children from dear Mamma.

May God bless you
My darling child, your loving
Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

Let me know what postage Stamps you want
J.D.

[Endorsed] Answered

Vancouver Island
Victoria 24th Jany 1873

My dearest little Martha

Your short and sweet letter of 13th Decr arrived yesterday by the North Pacific, accompanied by the dear little picture, of a sweet well remembered face, touched off in the highest style of art. What a scene ensued on unfolding the precious gem. Mamma was in ecstacies, [sic] kissing it as fondly as if you had been here yourself to receive her endearments, and after a time went off in a burst of tears. Oh the depth of a mothers love, who but a mother can conceive its power and intensity. Jim was stiff as usual, but thought the picture good. He is now deep in legal readings, and wishes himself, a full grown barister revelling in the midst of endless briefs. He is now the happy owner of a handsome boat, fitted with oars and sails; every fine day, almost every gleam of sunshine sees him on the water greatly I think to the improvement of his general health.

Now let me see what your letter says. In addressing letters to you I shall, in future, omit "Wimbledon" in the address. The word is, as you remark, superfluous. Jim longs for your promised tale of adventures, which will serve to beguile the long winter evenings. I am glad to hear so good an report, of the "Foreign Correspondent's" attention to duty, my opinion of her being somewhat remiss was founded entirely on the absence of letters, for which it appears, the Post and not the Correspondent is to blame.

The Editor of the "Colonist" would not be at all f[l]attered, by your message, and probably the less so, that the critique is just and deserved.

It is rather a trial, that you should remain at school during the holidays. Jane must have good reasons for saying so, and I should like to know them, for it appears so unkind to leave you, ~~for~~ six weeks, all alone at school. Had this been sooner, made known, you might have gone eleswhere [sic], to be loved and cherished as my daughter. Agnes the dear child will not forget you. Give her my warmest love. You must bear up, my dear child under all these little trials, committing all your cares and troubles to the Lord who maketh all things work together for ~~the~~ good ~~of~~ to those who love Him. It is only natural that you should love home and long to revisit, the scenes of childhood. We all experience that feeling, when travelling abroad--and there is nothing that more enhances the pleasure of meeting

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again, with old friends and associates.

Having now gone over the subjects in your letter, let me request you to do the same with my letters to you, chatting, as it were, about each subject separarately [sic], in a conversational way. This will furnish you, with subjects for remark, and be interesting to me. I do not like when my letters are dismissed, with a simple acknowledgement, of their receipt, without further notice. I fancy they are not read, with the care and attention, I wish them to receive.

Sister Alice has just arrived by the Prince Alfred, herself and HEllen [sic] in perfect health. She is now sitting by me in the Library--and I leave her to tell her own tale.

You must not expect much dearest Matts for I am very shaky at present & feel as though I could not spell. It is so delightful to find oneself at home again with the dear Parents--they received me so kindly--I found our darling Mother at the door in tears & felt as tho' I could forever hug & kiss her.

I have not been able as yet to do anything but eat a very hearty breakfast & wander about with our dear Father--You will be glad to hear that I do not find him altered in the least. With our warmest love to our dearest Jane & loving Agnes--Mr Dallas & your sweet self from your affectionate

SISTER ALICE

Alice met every where, on the journey out, with the utmost civility and kindness--and had on the whole a pleasant voyage save one or two days, beyond Cape Flattery where they encountered stormy weather. She is delighted to get home again, to the shelter of the old roof tree, and I trust she will long enjoy its protection.

In this transitory world scenes of gaiety and the House of mourning, all strangely mixed up together--the Batchelors Ball came off a few days ago, and was a great success--except the Champagne--the Burns Anniversary Ball followed yesterday, and on the same day. Mrs Ogilvie ended her earthly career, after a lingering illness--intermitted by intervals of comparative ease and health.

The weather has been wet and stormy for some days past--but continues to be wonderfully mild--the lawns and Church Hill being green as in spring.

There are no letters by the Prince Alfred, from you, Jane or dear Agnes; what a disappointment? By the Bye Alice with her accustomed, careful habits of business, left one of her trunks behind her, on the West India Mail Steamer "N[i]le" at Aspinwall. the trunk too containing the bonnets and all the little "icktas" which ladies love so well. The Captain ("Rivet") promised to send it on, by the following boat; but I fear she will never set eyes upon it again, as it is not even addressed; nor has her name upon it.

Alice's arrival has put my ideas allto flight, I am thinking of nothing else.

Monday 27.th Jany

The Mail leaves today, so I add a few lines, continuing our history to the latest hour. Mamma who is in excellent health sends her loves. She hopes that your communion withGod is growing more and more intimate. Open ~~to-us~~ your heart freely to us on that subject; for we desire most ardently that you should love your blessed Saviour, and serve him with the noblest faculties of your mind and soul. This is the one great object of life, the wise course, and the chief end of man.

Give my love to dear Jane and Agnes we are always talking and thinking about them; also to the Misses Bushby Arthur is well and comfortable at Cariboo, tell Agnes so. Alice is now writing to her.

May God bless you
My dearest Child
Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Vancouver Island
Victoria 31st JanY 1873

My dearest Martha

A change of weather has come at last; the sweet south wind has ceased to blow and the Ice King with all his terrors, storm and tempest and the bitter north wind, has taken possession of the land. Yesterday evening the change was ushered in, by a fierce north wind, howling and carreering [sic] about the house, like an insane thing. The tall pine trees near your chamber windows were bent and driven to and fro, like so many feeble saplings. I fancy we are now in for a spell of biting cold weather, with wind and snow, and clear, sharp bright skies overhead, as the weather now is.

FebY 4th

The Ice King has relaxed his grasp and again the weather is mild; to the great disgust of the skating clubs, who were looking forward to a long continuance of their favourite sport. For my own part I prefer a milder air, so I submit to the change with perfect good humour.

It is announced in this days Telegrams from Ontario, that all arrangements have been completed for the construction of Canada Pacific Railway; so that we are all in the highest spirits looking forward with confidence to the rise of dear Victoria, and the replenishing of her well drained coffers. What a frightful storm, you had in England on the 2d Inst, here it was bright, clear and cold, but nothing worse in the form of snow or tempest.

7 FebY

No letters from you or Agnes, by the North Pacific, which arrived and left again yesterday. I have ceased to write you by her, the route from Oregon to California by land being so uncertain, at this time of year. I therefore will write only by the regular steamer, going direct to San Francisco, until the return of fine weather in spring, when letters may go as usual, by both routes.

Last night was held the Aid Concert in the Scotch Church, which was a great success. James and Alice attended, but I remained at home with Mamma. The accompanying number of the "Morning Colonist", which otherwise is hardly worth sending, will give you the details of the Concert. Miss Durant, was the Prima Don [sic] of the evening. Mamma has just looked into

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the library, to embrace your Photograph, which is on the Table before me, but she has no time she asserts, to stay longer with me having so much to do.

I met dear Carrie and Mrs OReilly in town today and told them all about Martha; they were very glad to hear of your welfare and of your liking for Miss Turks school. I also told Carrie that I had enclosed her letter, and sent it on to you.

9th Feby

A pleasant spring like day. The Prince Alfred has just arrived, and here I have; how many letters from you, let me see. First one dated 24th Decr, one dated 26th Decr for Mamma, and one dated 29th Decr--with school account. I shall reply to them seriation, in the order of their dates.

Poor child, what a cold, dreary melancholy trip, you must have had in travelling to Dunain, quite alone. It was wrong to undertake the journey--nearly 800 miles, without a protector. Mr Dallas, should either have been more careful in providing for your safety or left you at school. It was neither provident nor kind to expose my little precious one, to such risks. How different would it have been, had I been in England. I travelled over the same ground in 1864; but I stopped twice on the road, once at York, and then at Edinburgh, doing the lions at both these places, so that my journey was comparatively pleasant.
ill

I am certain they ~~would~~ be kind to you at Dunain; both Jane and the dear children are delighted with you. You will I suppose return with the family to London, and not again attempt the journey alone.

I am glad you had so nice a Christmas. We read all your letters aloud to the family. Mamma especially was delighted, to hear from you. Your account of Jane and the children was most interesting--and dear little Wifey acting, so cleverly the part of "Santa Claus" was particularly nice.

Your compliments and good wishes will be delivered in due time. The school account is I suppose correct, and not at all unreasonably high. You must be very careful about your personal expenses, studying a proper economy in every way. Shun extravagance it is the sure road to poverty, and ruin. Poor Ella Wallace is now a sufferer, from her husband (Mr Curtis) living beyond his means. I see their property, that is furniture and Jewellery is advertized for sale--

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what a sad thing for them, as well as for those tradesmen who have lost their money and cannot get paid.

Your letters are less carefully written, than I could wish; the style is not bad, tho' there are many inaccuracies. the writing--is rapidly degenerating into a sprawling hand looking for all the world, as if the letters were trying to run away from each other. Excuse this remark, my little dear, it is for your own good. Let me see a marked improvement in your next letter

MTS Finlaysons party came off a few nights ago. James and Amy were there. Alice did not go. It was a great success as you will hear from the details in Amys letter, describing the dress of every young Lady there present.

MT Fraser is still here, but intends leaving, tomorrow for San Francisco by the return Steamer. Give my love to dear, good, kind, true hearted Aggie. We have received her letter for Mamma, and will reply hereafter. Arthur is well and is much esteemed at Cariboo

My love to dear, loving Jane--I have received her nice letter, and delivered her message about the Brown Bonnet, which Alice bought for you. I will soon write to Jane.

Alice and James are both well, and Mamma particular[l]y so. They all unite with me in love and best wishes to you and your sisters and to all the dear children.

I saw MTS Nicholls the other day, she has not been very well, and was looking rather thin, but is now on the mend. My kind respects to the Misses Turk.

Remember me kindly to Jane and Annie Bushby. I should so much like to see them. I hope my dear Martha, your heart is right with God--your Father and Redeemer. Love His holy name above all things committing you to His keeping. Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

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Vancouver Island
Victoria 12th Feby 1873

My dearest child

The Prince Alfred has just left, for San Francisco, and I begin another sheet for you.

Mr. Fraser was one of the passengers, on board, and went away, in perfect health, after a sojourn of several months. He does not intend making a long stay at San Francisco, and will probably reach England, about the end of March. We shall miss him very much, as he was ~~always~~ almost constantly here.

Do you know it will be six months tomorrow, since you and Agnes left us; a long time, but still not tedious, and in view of the good, you may derive from the visit to Europe, I do not regret it; as I know you will make the most of your time and the opportunities you now enjoy, for the improvement of your mind. I am sorry to say that Annie Finlayson, has been very ill, being threatened with inflamation of the lungs--she is still very low and though improving is not yet considered out of danger.

The Daisies are coming into flower; saw the first today.

17th Feby

I am sorry to have to inform you of the death of Monr. Driard of the Colonial Hotel. He was carried off by an attack of paralysis. The weather is again colder; having a little snow with slight frost.

The good worthy Dean gave us yesterday a most excellent discourse taken from that passage in the Book of Genesis discribing the fall of man. We were reading, last night, Henry's Commentary on the 1st Chapter of Genesis the production of an experienced and profound Christian. It gives clearer views of the nature and attributes of the glorious Creator of Heaven and earth, and of his abounding love for man, than I ever had before. It fills the heart with comfort to know that man is the cherished object of his care, and that as the scripture says, "His delight was with the sons of men." That He gave man the dominion over all the lower creatures, appointing him as it were His vice-roy on earth, the <u>mouth of creation</u>, to sing the praises of the most High God Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to whom we are dedicated in baptism. My dear child love this God, cling to Him with all your heart, and let your whole life and your noblest faculties be devoted to

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His service, and then you will be happy here and hereafter.

24th FebY

Still no letters, from you. The last received was dated 25th Decr Two months ago, what a time to be without any tidings. Agnes wrote on the 1st JanY and was then well. Annie Finlayson is nearly well, and able to leave her room. The Legislative Assembly was prorogued the other day, and people begin to breathe freely again. Several very been [sic] good laws have been enacted during the session, and the official staff has been reduced, to an extent, that will effect a considerable reduction in the public expenditure. On the whole there is no reason to complain of the legislation of this year less so, I fancy, than if McCreight had been in power. Yesterday afternoon I took a solitary walk by the beach and home round by Point Ogden. I met Cissy Wallace, going home from Sunday school, and had a chat with her, the School continues to be well attended by both pupils and teachers.

From Mrs Wallace whom I met, a little afterwards, I learnt that they had received a long letter from you, "such a nice interesting letter" said the good old lady, evidently pleased with the compliment. By the bye Mr Siffken, has bought the house and lot, in Fairfield, ~~on-which~~ occupied by Mrs Curtis, when we called, upon her after her marri[a]ge. The poor things are now sold out of house and home, even her watch and chain (never paid for) were sold. Siffken paid 1500 dollars for the house and 1½ acres of land. He is now a landed proprietor, and is improving his home.

24th FebY

My house in Yates Street, occupied by Tye and CoY, commonly known as Omenica Hall--was sold today, for eleven thousand dollars to Mr Pritchard. The price is very fair, in fact more than I expected for it. I hope this is only the beginning of the good times coming. Bute Inlet appears to be the favourite line, with the Railway Engineers, in which case Esquimalt will be the terminus. Alice rejoices at the prospect, as her landed estate lies in that quarter.

25th FebY

I send you this mornings "Daily Standard" it contains an account of the St Andrews Concert, at which Amy played a solo on the Piano. In another column you will

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find a letter from the "Ottawa Free Press", do read it, and see how it treats me, they wish to make of me who am as you know a quiet old gentleman enough, a sort of Dare devil, fearing nothing. True I seized the Indian, a noted murderer, as ~~there~~ stated, and secured him after a desperate struggle, but I did not shoot him with my <u>own</u> hands; he was afterwards executed for his crimes. It was a desperate adventure, which nothing but a high sense of duty could have induced me to undertake.

The Prince Alfred has just come,in, with our long looked for Mails. I have your dear letters dated from 3^{d} Jany 7th and 9th Jany and a second letter dated 15th Jany with an amusing postscript from dear Jane.

Now for a brief review of the 1st of these

I think with you,that there can be no question of irregularities and mismanagement, in our postal arrangements, a subject on which I wrote you before. Every body is complaining about the detention of letters. I have no wish my dear child, to submit your home letters, to Miss Turk or to any other person for correction. Why the thing would be monstrous. Did I really tell you so? or is it only James' nonsense, which has caused you so much unnecessary pain. It was to say, the least, stupid of Jem to write you such nonsense. I quite envy your visit to the Carigen Rock, the children were, I presume delighted with the ramble, and then the beautiful ferns, and their use in decorating the Drawing room, must have been delightful. I can easily conceive the feeling of responsibility, which pressed upon you, when Jane & Alick were on their visit to Duncraig and you were left alone in the castle, Your description of your sensations of being so situated is very good.

I followed wifey and you, on your boatless excursion to Inverness to see the Dentist, with so much interest that I never saw the blots on the outer leaf, until you called my attention to them, and gladly I excuse them.

I hope you liked Miss McDonald. The enclosed letter for Amy, was sent over to her at once. Alice has been nearly five weeks here, and is so amiable Helen is quite well, running about incessantly. Your complements to friends will be delivered, as soon as I can see them. This closes the review of first letter

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26 Feb./73

Now for the second letter.
Alice acting as amanuensis, as my eyes are tired & the day is dark with showers of snow which have just come on. The Foreign Correspondent appears to be in a reckless mood, caused I fear by Papa's long silence of more than a week, the thing is truly very shocking, but I can assure you, that dear Papa was not to blame the post office must bear the sin, especially good old Mr Dewe, who must be soundly lectured for his neglect.

Sorry you can't give me the last quotations from the Times.

Few people escape the feeling you describe. It is nothing new to feel an almost irrepressible disinclination to write so that you cannot altogether put the blame on Col: Inglis' dinner.

It is very curious that the extreme likeness between you & Jane never struck me before, it will probably grow with increasing years--there is of course a strong family likeness between all my children, without their being exact counterparts of each other--I feel an interest in Sir Patrick Grant from your description of his manner. Sister Jane & you appear to be leading a merry life & I hope Jane is not becoming vain of her beauty & you my little darling must not be setting your heart upon the mere gew-gaws of life: remember you are to be my learned daughter, the veritable Blue-stocking of the family, & at the same time endowed with a meek & gentle spirit.

I shall be satisfied with nothing less. There remains now only dear Jane's postcript to notice, & that I shall do in writing to her. The chit-chat of the place I shall leave for Alice & Amy as they know more of it than I do.

This being Ash Wednesday we went to Church in the morning; the Dean read the Service which you know is rather long but there was no sermon as of at which I was rather pleased, as the fires had not been lighted, & the Church was wretchedly cold--there was a very small congregation; the Lieut: Governor was alone in his pew or I should have delivered your compliments to dear Carrie. All your friends here are quite well & desire their kind remembrance.--Your last photograph & Agnes' are nicely framed & are kept on the Library table for the convenience of friends & visitors. Mr Lowenberg was remarking the other day after looking at your picture that he hoped Miss Douglas would not forget her promise to send him one.

Mamma is very well & has a cry now & then about her dear Martha. She is afraid people won't take good care of her, that she won't keep herself warm, in short that the cold climate of England will be the destruction of her health:--then there is the risk of travelling by rail, of being upset in boats & of foundering at sea, in ships & being buried deep, deep, deep under the dark green waves; all these things cause her endless disquiet--she sends you no end of love & kisses as well as to dear Jane & Agnes in which sister Alice & I do most lovingly join.

Please offer my kind respects to Miss Turk & to the dear Misses Bushby when you see them.-- Now my darling child once more Adieu: that God may, in His mercy, keep & preserve you is the fervent prayer of your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

P.S. I have received such a nice letter from Mr Dallas about you, he says you deserve all the praise I gave you; that you are a favourite with everyone

J.D.

[Endorsed:] Answered

Vancouver Island
Victoria 5th March 1873

My dearest Martha

Having no letters of yours to acknowledge, I must find something else to fill my sheet. The Mails are again in arrear, some difference having arrisen [sic] between the Mail contractors in Pugets Sound, and the owners of the North Pacific, which has unfortunately led to the detention of our letters about Olympia or Port Townsend. The Prince Alfred is therefore, now our only dependence for letters. Annoying is it not? Had these gentlemen as many dear little daughters, in England as I have, I fancy the Mails would have quicker despatch.

I am laying out a fresh bed of Strawberries, and find it difficult to get good plants I am also going largely into into [sic] Raspberry culture, which has the reputation of being a most wholesome fruit, especially recommended in cases of Gout; so I shall make it a rule to make a very free use of them. The Crocus beds are beginning to show flowers; with favourable weather they will soon be in a blaze of beauty. 6th March Miss Wyllie was enquiring very affectionately about you the other day, and hopes you will not forget your old friend. "Oh no", she added, I know Martha will [sic], the dear child, will not forget me.

6th March

The missing Mails, are just in. What a number of letters. Let me see the dates. All from Dunain still, 12th Jany 18th Jany with a Photo., 19th Jany with Expense a/c, and for Mamma one letter 22d Jany What a treat to read them. No complaints now of your long silence. The Foreign Correspondent is clearly up to the work. My dear child I never doubted your affection Let no impression of that sort distress you. I should like to go to England certainly, if health permits, but you know, there are many claims upon me here, and one cannot alway[s] speculate on the future. This is moreover likely to be a stirring season, as ground is to be broken with the Central Pacific Railway, in July next, both here and at the eastern terminus, and I must watch the effect on property as I have much to dispose of so I fancy it will be some months, before I can leave home. Besides you have much yet to do, before leaving England. Agnes says the Misses Bushby intend visiting the continent this season, and invites you to join the party. You will never have a better opportunity of seeing the world, under kinder or better

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protection, so take advantage of it and go with your sister and the Misses Bushby

I will inform Agnes of my wishes and also Mr Dallas--and shall also provide the necessary funds. Let that point be considered as settled.

It is said the Dean has lost caste for his reproof to Reece, but the congregation support him, and applaud his course. I fancy Mrs Hills, has a leaning towards High Church. The views from the top of Craigen Rock, must be charming, seated too among the heather--the first you had seen it makes me think of old bye gone times--when George the fourth, was young.

Won't it be nice to have "Cendie" clipped and singed. Jem will resign the office of head groom in your favour. His Boat is all the rage now; horses are things of the past. I promise you endless rides, when you get home again, so live in hope.

Your health is thank God wonderfully good. Mamma is satisfied, but has still a lurking suspicion of a hard time coming and of accidents in crossing the channel. So ends my remarks on your letter of the 12th the first in course.

Now for one of the 18th Jany I rejoice that you so carefully advise my letters by the dates as you get them. I like your punctuality. My letter of 16 Decr was 32 days, on the road. You were only 24 days in getting to London, including stoppages--why then should a letter take 32 days. There is sad mismanagement somewhere. I will send this, by Wells, Fargos Express, and pray let me know the time it takes to reach you. Thanks for the answers to my questions; I know more now about your doings, and affairs at Lansdown House and am satisfied. I fancy Mrs Williams died of old age. Dining with utter strangers is I admit, not pleasant; you will in time get acquainted with the people and enjoy society. I have seen Miss Wyllie, she is delighted with your message. Captain Cator is not here, but is expected soon. We prize the Photograph it is a capital picture. Jane and you appear as if, looking us full in the face with a life like, tender expression, more eloquent than words. Dear little Jane I always think of her as my petted child, and never as a staid matron, ruling over a great house.
Here closes letter No 2. now for No 3 dated 19th Jany

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Behold it is an account, of your travelling expenses, which I shall lay aside for the present, as the mail leaves, without giving much time for writing. I have just heard from the Youngs they are by this time in Jamaica; doing well I hope. Your record is of snow and cold weather; we are more fortunate in the weather, which is and has been mild. You cannot come home with the McDonalds, they are probably out in Canada now, and even had they come out as you suppose, next November, it would not be pleasant for you to commence a long journey at that inclement season. The trip to the continent, with the Bushby's will occupy you for a great part of the summer, and then you must back to school again you know, to make the most of time; I shall either go or send for you, when the work of education is finished. How I wish it was over, for I long to see you; but I sacrifice my own feelings for your good. My consolation is that God is with you and that He will be as a wall of fire around you. Seek Him with all your heart, and remember the good lessons you received at home. I must change the subject or I shall break down.

The course of study you describe is just what I wish. I thought your readings would please, the next best thing is to improve your style, and to write correctly. Arithmetic must not be neglected, no art is more necessary or useful in the daily affairs of life. Make it a regular study. Jane speaks of your good playing, and amiable deportment. This is all very gratifying. How does French get on, I hope your teacher adopts my principles of grounding you thoroughly in the language. Neither dear Mamma nor I ever tire of your letters, we wish they were longer, and more communicative. Now for your letter to Mamma dated 22d Jany Janes letter came safely to hand. it was a great pleasure to hear from her: dear Jane's desk has many sins to answer for, it has often been the cause of delay, to her letters for home. As Alick kindly goes with you to London, we feel relieved from anxiety about your return to school. You will have both your sisters in London after Easter; so you will not need the wishing carpet, though home may be as dear to you as ever. Mamma has a fancy, for the wishing carpet, if such a thing could be had, at Turners,you might see her some fine morning, settling down quietly at Lansdown House, then what would become of James' Bay.

10th March

The frogs mustered the other night in great force,

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and for the first time, this year, made the wilkin ring with their merry lays. A change has today come over the scene, lovely, but undesired snow, is falling thick and fast, covering with fleecy mantle, the dear little flowers, which had paid us an early visit. It is not cold however and no harm will come of the snow. The Prince Alfred has just arrived and "Willing" our new servant has gone over for letters; should there be any at the Post Office from you, I will acknowledge them at once.

Your letter of 1st FebY has just come. Glad to hear of your welfare and safe return from the North, all alone as before. It is dreadful, in such weather, without an hours rest. It was truly kind of Mr Bushby to meet you at the station, and I thank him most sincerely.

How neatly your letter is written, with no blots and no omissions, this is as letters should be. Pray always write so. I was present at Mrs Pearse' funeral, which was largely attended. I wish you had entered more into detail, on the subject of your journey, to Dunain and back. Who were your fellow travellers, where you stopped for meals, your own reflections, and any little incident that amused you on the road. Speak more of yourself, and of your doings, such topics never tire those who love you as we do. You must have made the most of your time during the holidays to win applause from Miss Turk.

I think I already told you, about getting Edward up from "Happy Valley", and will not repeat the tale here.

Our new servant "Willing", is as neat as Edward, and particular about the polish of the door handles. The Stoves do not fare so well at his hands. Mamma laughed heartily, at your asking her to keep some mince meat for you.

The new Ministry, are not so bad after all; they have made a bold attempt to be frugal, and have past some really good measures. Mr Fraser left some weeks ago. Hamley is well: often asks about you. Miss Carrie and Miss Wylly don't forget you--nor indeed any of your friends here.

Alice is quite well, and Helen is the most restless child I ever saw, equally so, but not as noisy as her Brother Harry. She is in robust health, now, and not at all delicate. There is nothing more in your letter requiring notice.

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Give my love and Mammas to dear Agnes, the children and the dear Misses Bushby.

You will find the trip to the Continent very enjoyable, useful and instructive You will ask Mr. Dallas, for the money, you want for the trip, and tell him I wish you to go. I wrote to him lately on other subjects, and may not have time to write again by this mail.

11th March

On second thoughts, seeing that Mr. Dallas may be in Scotland, when you leave for the continent, with the Misses Bushby, I now herewith enclose a Check of £50, on Smith Payne and Smiths, payable to your order which will meet expenses, until you hear from Mr. Dallas.
My warmest love to dear Jane and Agnes and the little ones and also the dear Misses Bushby--Mammas love
May God bless you--Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Vancouver Island
Victoria 17 March 1873

My dearest Child

I am always thinking about you, but of late my thoughts have been, more than ever, occupied with your dear image. These long journeys alone, without a friend to advise or help you, such as going to Dunain and back again, cause much anxiety and must not be repeated. You must either travel in company with a trusty friend or remain at school. I cannot bear the thought of your travelling so much alone, and have too much regard for your happiness, to expose you to any unnecessary risks. Moreover Miss Turk who is responsible for your safety, would have just reason to complain. So dear child let it be a rule with you to go no where, without good and sufficient protection. In the proposed continental, you will be with your sister and the Misses Bushby and as safe as with your parents so go with them wherever they may wish to take you always of course paying your own expenses. Coming the other day from Government House I overtook a young Lady, as I supposed a Miss King; she at once asked about Martha is she well? When is she coming back? &c &c Oh not for some time yet; you know she is at school and must finish first. "Oh", rejoined my fair little friend--"Miss Douglas has not <u>much</u> "to <u>learn</u>". You see what an idea people here have of your acquirements, The young lady was not Miss King, it was Emmeline the pretty girl who boards with Mrs Nicholls. She sends you her love.

Yesterday the little birds gave us their first morning chant It was sweet to hear their welcome, to returning spring.

18th March

Busy with the garden, have a capital neat handed man, who has dressed the borders, and flower plots, with great taste. The crocus beds look charming. I will pick a few violets to send with this letter as a memento of home. Have had the field above Miss Wyllie's turned over and nicely tilled, for a crop of oats.

My agent has made another sale. This time it is Gambit's store on Yates Street for which I get 5000 dollars; a fair price I think, for the premises. Helen is gone to a birth day party at the Deans today--We met Mrs Cridge, yesterday at the toy shop (Jones') and had the intelligence from her. I sent a birth day gift and also a little present for Rhoda.

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MS 0776 – Correspondence (B/40/4A)

Amy will be 18 tomorrow and has been making a harvest of gifts today--in anticipation of the happy occasion. You see I come in for a share of all the good things. I am writing by lamp light, and can hardly see to write straight.

20th March

The spring has fairly set in, and the weather is glorious. The Dean called yesterday; we had a long chat about church matters; the good Bishop is I fancy, inclined to high church views, while the worthy Dean, objects to every departure from old church rules, or that savours of ritualism. The congretation [sic] I need not add goes with him, in opposing innovations which are neither useful nor edifying. The Dean admired your Photograph, remarking the face was so pretty. He begs to be remembered to you. Alice had, yesterday, a morrings fishing with James, outside the harbour in a boat. They captured three of the finny inhabitants of the deep, when some monster, made a rush and carried off poor Alices hook, so ending the days sport. The Mail service between this and Olympia is through some mismanagement, among the contractors suspended for the present. We therefore depend entirely upon the Prince Alfred, for letters, unfortunate is it not.

24th March

Your letter to Mamma of 8th FebY has come safely to hand, with a note enclosed for Miss Wylley, which I delivered to her; after several corrections which I took the liberty of making. Write carefully, and leave no mistakes uncorrected, or people will amuse themselves at your expense. Better to write less and to leave no blunders in orthography or omissions--to be cavilled at. We also received another photograph of you and Jane and value it as much as the first copy. We are grateful to Miss Turk, for her great kindness to you. We shall try to get some silver ornaments to send you. Coker must look very fierce in his moustache, just as a naval officer should be. Mamma hopes the day will come, when she may again press you to her heart and rejoice over you as in days past

evening 24th March

Your two letters of 15th FebY to Papa and Mamma, have just arrived and we are so delighted to hear of your welfare; they had the effect of cheering Mamma, who has been rather unwell for a day or two past.

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MS 0776 – Correspondence (B/40/4A)

Each letter that comes, tells me something about your doings, so that I have now a pretty good idea, of the course of study you are pursuing.

My dear Child I dont wish to find fault; but you know, I must not fail to discharge my duty to you however disagreeable to me. Besides I take an especial interest, as my favourite pupil, in your progress. I must therefore observe that your letter to me, is written in a most slovenly manner. Mamma's is neat enough. Always write as neatly and as carefully as you can, and dont attempt too much in the way of writing. Better as I have, before said to write less and to do it well. Avoid slovenly habits, they are when once formed, difficult to get rid of. I have said enough as a word to the wise.

I will send a few wild flowers, by this letter as you have requested, say the Native "Crocus" which you will know at sight

Leather is rather a tough subject to write upon, genius is said to have the property of adorning whatsoever it touches, I hope you were successful in proving your claim to talent.

Tawn has not yet put in an appearance. Ang is a capital servant, better than Taun [sic]

Pray don't cross your letters,--for it is painful to read; fill as many sheets as you please but pray do not cross write them. Alice is very careful about Mamma, but my dear the Bonnet you sent for Mamma by Alice, was in the Trunk she left behind in the "Nile" at Aspinwall and she has never seen it since; nor can any traces of it be found. Perhaps the Trunk may have been taken back to England, and may be found when the "Nile" gets there. Alice had carelessly enough, neglected to put her address upon it. I think I have now run over the contents of your dear letters. Arthur arrived a few days ago from Cariboo looking hearty and well. He is now at James' Bay. Carrie Pender is quite well again. Lizzie Munroe is also well. I saw her the other day; but had not then received your message for her.

My own health is good, thank God, and I walk about without the slightest pain in the foot. I hope you will enjoy and profit by the visit to the continent. Keep me well advised of your movements. You

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will be on, what is to me, familiar ground. My love to dear Aggie and children, and the dear Misses Bushby. I have just been writing to dear Jane. May God bless you my dearest child

Your loving Father

Mamma's love JAMES DOUGLAS

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MS 0776 – Correspondence (B/40/4A)

Vancouver Island
Victoria 28th March 1873

My dearest Martha

My letter ending 24th Inst left this by the "Prince Alfred" and I now begin a fresh sheet, which will I suppose find you somewhere, on the continent, gathering honey, like the busy bee from every opening flower. The dear Misses Bushby are experienced tourrists [sic] and can give you information on every subject, so that you may combine instruction with amusement. I am sure Agnes will be delighted with the novel scenes, you will daily encounter. I wish I could be one of the party. It will be so different to the solitary and lonely tour I made on the continent. This day eight years I reached Munich, amidst pelting snow and bitterly cold winds; most inclement weather for the season, nor did we get rid of the snow until I crossed the Rhine at Strasbourgh [sic] three or four days later. The weather is wet and disagreeable today; but not at all cold. The country is green, and the hill sides show a few early flowers, in warm sheltered spots.

The circumstances attending the loss of the "Gge S. Wright" and the precise spot where the wreck occurred, are still buried in obscurity. The few drifting remains of ship and cargo, which have been picked up alone tell the melancholy tale leaving no doubt of the total loss of ship and crew. The Barque "Almatea" lumber laden from Burrard Inlet towards Victoria was by a stupid mistake of the Pilot on board, run ashore in the night a little north of Plumper Pass, and became a total wreck. The Pilot it appears mistook another opening in the land for Plumper Pass, and so the accident occurred. No lives were lost.

31st March

The weather is still wet and stormy We are thus paying for a winter of remarkable character for mildness and the absence of stormy weather. March is however, making up for lost time to use the old saying it came in like a lamb and is going out like a Lion.

I have quite a little family gallery of Portraits about me on the table as I am writing There is the last Photograph of dear Jane & you--encased, after a new fashion, in a massive cry[s]tal plate, Agnes, with her queenly gait, appears in the same form,--while your little face;--a gem in its way,--peers out, from a neatly gilded leather case, looking at me, as naturally, as a picture can do. Thus though absent, my daughters are ever about me.

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3d April

I have just received your letter dated 22d FebY and have this moment finished reading it over to Mamma who is delighted, as we all are to hear of your welfare. Your account of the ride to Surbaton, and the courtesy of the rustic audience is amusing, more so to us, perhaps than, it was to you.

The weather has been stormy for some days past, but is now passably fair. Your flower beds are well attended. The young Cherry tree in the Kitchen Garden, called Marthas Cherry Tree, will bear this year--shall I send you all or only a part of the Cherries. I shall deliver your messages to Mrs Nicholls--she will be glad to hear all about her daughter. Your friends here are all well and have not forgot Martha. I am now writing in haste to save the Post, which leaves early tomorrow morning, & to advise your letter just received. I will soon write again.

My dearest Child
Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

]Endorsed[Answered but not long

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MS 0776 – Correspondence (B/40/4A)

Vancouver Island
Victoria 8th April 1873

My dearest Martha

My last letter was dated 3d April, and forwarded by the Puget Sound Steamer, the present letter I purpose sending by the direct Steamer for San Franco I trust they will arrive safely and keep you informed of our doings. The weather has not been propitious of late for out of door exercise, that is to say for driving though pleasant enough for riding or walking. Alice nevertheless drove out with me the other day, to the Uplands, not by the old road, but sweeping around the base of the hill, among the wide spreading oaks, and green slopes--open to the sun--and sheltered from the stormy blast. The sweet spring flowers were just opening into bloom, and we picked a few lillies to send you, when dry. We found it rather cold, as we faced the western breeze, coming home. We however enjoyed the drive, and wish most sincerely wish you had been there, breathing your native air again.

Alice is not very well at present, having a slight cold and headache, baby is in excellent health.

James is now debating on his future course of life; he fears that his health will give way, under the severe study and close confinement, requisite to qualify him for a profession, and he is not strong enough for out door work. He therefore thinks of engaging in trade and he is now drawing up a letter of application to me on the subject. I shall allow him to follow the bent of his own inclination, and engage in any reputable calling that pleases him; as, for young people, the worst thing possible, is a state of idleness.

Arthur has gone back to New Westminster, in the capacity of County Court Judge. The Governor would not hear of his staying here any longer but he will come down to James' Bay for a little change, as often as he can get away from his station.

10 April

Mr Nicholls called this evening with some strawberry plants which his kind Mother, sent over. I delivered your message for Mrs Nicholls and sent her a basket of choice fruit. Nicholls is a very good young man and has the promise of ~~good~~valuable situation as head operator at the Telegraph office Olympia; a fine position for a youth, at his age. The Prince Alfred has just made her appearance and the letters, will soon be here, if there are any from you. I am

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laying out a bed of strawberry plants, they will not bear fruit till 1874. when we expect you to come home.

When do you leave England for the proposed continental tour. In travelling with your sister and the Misses Bushby--you will be in safe keeping--but remember dear Martha, that I distinctly object to your travelling alone, as you did to and from Scotland, without escort or protection. It was cruel to let you travel in that way. To all similar applications, let your reply be, that "Papa objects to "my travelling alone". Fancy a poor child like you, rumbling about, quite alone, from one end of the kingdom to the other 11 April The "Alfred" has brought no letters from you, but we trust you are quite well. I have received a letter from Mr Young, announcing their safe arrival at Jamaica, in good health.

Mamma has a slight cold, and Alice is also complaining, otherwise we are all well.

A concert is to take place on the 17th at the Theatre, for the benefit of Christ Church building fund. I hope it will be a success, and wipe off a little more of the Church debt; now reduced to a very small sum. Mamma's affectionate solicitude about you, never ceases, it is as warm as ever--she sends you her love and best wishes

Alice unites with me in love and best wishes to you, dear Jane and Agnes--

Adieu for the present

My dear Martha
Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered but not long

PR 1428 - James Douglas family fonds
MS 0776 – Correspondence (B/40/4A)

Victoria
16th April 1873

My dearest Child

Your dear letters of the 10th March & another dated 15 March arrived here yesterday by the "North Pacific", to our great satisfaction & delight. Mamma was as usual with her when your letters are long of coming getting uneasy & giving way to all kinds of direful misgivings from which your letters agreeably relieved her.

I see you have had your own trials as to weather; rain & snow storms make up the winter story. Cold rains & wind have prevailed here in the early part of the month; but a change has come at last Spring having fairly set in with fine warm days.

It was certainly painful for you to be so long as three weeks without getting letters from home; My letters appear then to have come to you in crowds; as the old saying is "a feast after a famine"

The mails are certainly most irregular.

I have delivered some, & will, in due time perform the same good office with respect to the remainder of your messages. The mystery which puzzled you about Fell & Finlayson is easily explained. They failed in business, & made a composition with their creditors, who got a few pence in the pound. Both men are again, separately, in business as if nothing had happened. Strange is it not?

Your letter has made me very anxious about dear Alicks health. I sincerely hope & pray he may soon recover. Janes tender nursing will do him a world of good.

17th April. We had a very pleasant party at Lunch the day before yesterday. The Creases Mrs Doctor Jones Mrs Elliot Mr MacLeod a friend of Alicks from San Francisco &c &c. The table was beautifully laid with huge bouquets of sweet spring flowers on the silver Epergne. Alice being the cunning architect. The party went off nicely "It so reminded them of <u>old</u> times". The Pear & Cherry trees near Mammas chamber window have come into bloom last night, the first of the season.

Your letter of the 15 March is faultless, the writing neat, the language good. Pray

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always write so--it is so pleasant to see careful attention & improvement in every line. Whatever you do, do well; strive after perfection. Your letters may be brief but they will be all the more valued by your friends who may amuse themselves by criticising a slovenly production. I shall read, "Much ado about nothing", since you wish it. Mr Branders reading of the play, will give you an idea, of the beauty and effect of our great dramatic writer.

I suppose we shall be very gay on your birthday and Amy. The programme has not yet been arranged, but it will no doubt be very nice.

The aid of your Piano tuner, would be acceptable here. You see how the most afflicted may be useful. I am glad to hear, that God is precious to your soul. Let your heart never turn aside from Him, who will be your stay and delight for ever. We always remember you, in our prayers. Mrs Curtis has lost her baby, a fine little boy. She is in great affliction.

I shall endeavour to procure some Hawaiian postage stamps, though I hardly know where to get them.

18th April

I enclose a cutting from the "Daily Standard" describing the Christ Church Concert. It came off that night.

21 April

The North Pacific, being expected today. I am preparing to send this letter by that conveyance, as the Prince Alfred will not be here, for a week to come. The first Cranes of the season appeared on the 19th. It was so pleasant to hear the well known sounds, approaching our shores, from their southern retreats.

The "Scout" has just returned from the Sandwich Islands. Captain Cator called at James' Bay and is looking very well. He will leave for Valparaiso, in about a week, hence, and from thence probably be ordered home. At least this is what he hopes and wishes.

The "North Pacific" brought Aggies letter of 16th March, but, no letter from you. She heard from you the day before, so we presume you were well. Alick she says was much better, which piece of

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news relieves me from much anxiety. I must now conclude as the Mail closes tonight and leaves early tomorrow morning. Mamma sends her love--accept the same My dearest Martha from your

loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Vancouver Island
Victoria 26th April 1873

My dear Martha

No English Mail came today by the Prince Alfred, so we have none of your letters, to advise or reply to. Between two stools as the saying is, you fall to the ground, which is exactly our present position, with respect, to the foreign mails. Sometimes they come by the direct Steamer--and sometimes by the overland route, which is slow, without the redeeming quality of being sure. I have just been writing to Agnes; the little news agoing you will get from her, as I presume, you will be on your travels together, when this reaches you. I have been out for a long drive today, with Punch, as fresh and frisky, as a lamb. The country is all aglow with masses of buttercups and other wild flowers. The children have rare times among the flowers--and cease picking, only when their capacity to destroy, and carry off is entirely exhausted.

Captain Cator will leave with the "Scout" for Valparaiso tomorrow or Monday. His stay has been short, this time, and he does not expect to return here, as he will probably be ordered home from Valparaiso.

"Sic transit gloria mundi", Cator leapsfrom the Commanding of fleet at Victoria, to a subordinate station atValparaiso and we lose a pleasant acquaintance, just as we were beginning to know his value. These short lived friendships are not worth the trouble of striving for.

The town limits have been extended half a mile beyond the former boundaries including nearly the whole of Fairfield. I have named the new streets running through my property as follows.

Jane Street	after	Jane
Alice Street	"	Alice
Martha Street	"	Baby
Bushby Street	"	Agnes & Arthur

A monument you see in honour of my dear little daughters.

Your flower beds have been dressed with the greatest care. The Violets and orchi[d]s are blooming nicely. We shall have a great show of Tulips this year, and the fruit trees are full of blossom promising abundance of fruit of all kinds.

I fancy you will miss the cher[r]ies, as well as your little friends who shared in your feasts.

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Mamma is quite well and sends no end of kisses and love to her little daughter, we are always thinking about,you, and making all sorts of plans for your return. Alice and James are both well. Mr Wyllie is very proud of your letter to him. Pray don't be carrying on a flirtation, with the old gentleman. In writing to friends here, touch upon all sorts of nice topics. You will have plenty to tell them about the Lions of the Continent. Be careful never to talk about marrying or giving in marriage. A travelled Lady is never in want of nice things to talk about, interesting topics crop up at every turn.

Now my dear little child I must close my letter, by wishing you every happiness, it may please God to bestow, with wisdom and grace, to guide you, in the paths of life.

Again adieu
My dearest Martha
Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

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MS 0776 – Correspondence (B/40/4A)

Vancouver Island
Victoria 1 May 1873
Thursday 5 P.M.

My dearest Martha

Your dear letter dated 28th and 29th March arrived this afternoon per "North Pacific". Such a relief it is to be in communication again with those we love, after the late tedious interruption, due It is reported to a snow blockade, on some part of the Union Pacific line. The "Prince Alfred" came and went again twice, without bringing a single English letter. Imagine our relief in getting letters today, and all bearing the best of news. My son Alick writes in good spirits, that he is convalescent, and purposes soon to leave London for Dunain to recruit there, and to bring Jane and the children up to Town, for a short time. I have also a letter from Admiral Prevost, mentioning the final settlement of the North West boundary. It is I dare say not the Admiral's fault; but there is no disguising the fact, that we have lost every point for which we contended.

So you were pleased, with the description of Papa, in the Newspaper he sent you. I fancied the writer had said too much.

The piece Amy played at the Concert, was some very lively thing, which I think is her best, as it is her favourite style. Yes by the bye it was the Mazeppa Golop she played on that occasion, and she was much applauded. Mr Fraser left San Francisco on the 16th April, direct for England intending to remain some time in the country to recruit, after the fatigue of the voyage. He did not expect to be in town before June. I fancy he will give you a call, being one of his especial favourites. Alice has been very nice since she has been here, and I hope through God's blessing, and home influences, may continue so; notwithstanding the depressing events of her unhappy married life. How carefully young people should eschew mystery and secrecy in the all important step in life, doing nothing that may compromise their future happiness, without the full knowledge and consent of their Parents. I should indeed be delighted to see you again my dear child, as I feel your absence very much, yet I am satisfied that a longer stay in England will be greatly to your advantage, so I will extend your leave of absence, in order that you may reap every possible benefit from your journey home. I will either go for you myself or make arrangements for your return to Victoria with Arthur and your sister Agnes.

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The Concert at St James' Hall must have been a great treat, worth going a hundred miles to hear. The only disagreeable thing about these meetings is the crush, to reach them; to me it would be intolerable, though probably you did not mind it. Amy would have been delighted, had she been with you. She is now quite herself again, having enjoyed the trip to Puget Sound. I delivered your note to Dolly; her eyes sparkled with delight, as she took and rushed off to read it. I shall deliver your message to Mr Lowenberg.

Mamma is happy to hear, so favourable an account of your health and hopes you will continue to be careful. The simile of the "Tropical Plant in Kew Gardens" is good.

We certainly feel obliged to Miss Turk for her careful attention to your health. You certainly give a very amusing discription of the "Tableaux". What a merry set of little things you must be. How rapidly you improvised the stage and made all other preparations; there was no end both of genius and resource. You must have been fatigued with your exertions, and glad of your success.

I can't make out how the delay of Carrie's letter occurred; the blame I fancy, rests with others, than Mr Dewe, it is however evident that some one deserves a lecture.

Your love and messages, will be delivered in due time.

Pray don't find fault with your looks, your face when lighted up with kindly and holy feelings, will be always engaging. 2d May Having now replied to your letter, I will turn to other subjects. Just as I am writing, strange to say, a dark mass of clouds has overspread the heavens, followed by a hail storm which fortunately was of short duration, as the massive clouds rolled swiftly away to the south east. I hope no damage has been done to the early fruit; or cherries and plums will be scarce this year. I wish you could see the garden now, there are flowers on every side; it looks enchanting.

I have sent some men down to Rosebank to begin a clearing of three acres. The "Aletheca" a ship lately disabled in a storm will discharge her cargo, consisting of Lumber, on the beach near the House, and the ships company will, with my permission, occupy the House, while detained there.

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The beginning of lively times at Rosebank.

The enclosed cutting from one of our Daily Papers, describing a most interesting Religious revival among the Indians, is a proof that the Saviours love is present here, and that all nations will yet be added to the Church of God. I truly rejoice that the true Light shineth in the dark places of the earth.

Your letter was exactly a month coming here: an improvement this--on the Canada route.

In a former letter I told you that General Canby, had been shot by the Moduc Indians, during a peaceful interview, held for the purpose of restoring amicable relations with them. I now send you a newspaper cutting containing a full account of that detestable piece of savage treachery. The Moducs about 60 or 70 men in all, are still making a desperate resistance, and holding out with the energy of despair against the United States troops about 1000 in number. The Moducs have the advantage of a strong country and almost impregnable fastnesses--or they would soon be rooted out.

Saturday 3d May

Drove to Rosebank today, with Alice Amy and the little ones--to see the men who are clearing. They have cut down and cleared the trees off nearly an acre. What an improvement it makes in the place. The land is splendid, having what appears to be a rich and fertile soil. I was so pleased with the work, that I gave out a further contract for clearing.

We all enjoyed the drive so much, and as we sauntered through the lovely forest glades our thoughts reverted to the past, to our absent dear one, whose memory was associated, with the many familiar objects, we used together to admire, in our many pleasant rides. Oh the happy past... I must not, however, give way to such reflections, as they make me sad.

5th May
3 P.M.

The "North Pacific" is coming in, she may have a Mail on board if there are letters from you, I will reply to them hereafter. This letter I must close at once to save the Mail. We are all in good health, Mamma is sitting in the Library by me, as I am writing; she has

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ten thousand things to say, which all resolve themselves into the words, "I love you dearly". She looked superb this morning and was going out for a drive with Alice when Punch, shied at something and gave her a great fright, so Punch is not likely to have the honour of driving Mamma again. My dear child I must now close my letter with fervent prayers for your welfare and happiness Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria
6 ~~April~~ May 1873

My dearest Martha

The "North Pacific" was coming in as I closed my letter of yesterday & as I then supposed, we received by her your letter of 5th April to Mamma exactly one month from date which proves the advantage of sending your letters via New York direct to San Francisco. There is no doubt great delay in the Canada Post Offices.

I shall now run through the contents of your letter on behalf of dear Mamma Jims promises are evidently not to be relied upon. The leaf you enclosed is highly prized & Mamma will keep it as a souvenir of her dear Martha until you return. You are never absent from her thoughts. She has just been remarking that every minute of the day she is thinking about you; but we must notindulge such reflections as they only make you sad & unhinge the mind. Mamma wishes you to take advantage of the opportunities of improvement you now enjoy & she hopes you will be a perfect little prodigy when you come home. The present time you know can never return & what is not acquired now will not be learnt hereafter. You may be certain we will not leave you longer in England than the time requisate [sic] to finish your training & education. I have no objection to your telling the old stories about "Hyass" but pray do not tell the world that they are Mammas. Your meeting with sister Agnes & Mary, must have been very pleasant as it appears also to have been to the friend who took so great a fancy to sister Agnes. We are delighted to hear of the welfare of Jane & family & no less so that Mr Dallas had recovered from the serious illness which attacked him in London It appears that he was confined to his chamber for upwards of three weeks. I hope you went to see him during his illness-- an act of kindness which your own feeling heart would naturally prompt.

Capt. Ella's remains were never found. I fancy his child recovered.

You have acted wisely in consulting sister Jane about your Spring things her advice is in all cases valuable to you. We shall deliver your message to Amy about her card. Pray send a copy of your composition on the pleasures of the four seasons. I am sure it will be very good as I know you will try to do your best. The Doctors hyacinths were certainly beautiful & in greater abundance than usual.--Annie Finlayson is

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quite well again--we called ~~on~~ the other day & they were all making affectionate enquiries about you.-- The Almond is certainly a very beautiful tree when in blossom--even more so I think than the Peach Tree, which, however excels, in one respect, that the leaf & blossom come out together.--We were very glad to hear that you were going to take the Sacrament; that Holy rite which our Blessed Saviour invites all his disciples to attend & where he is present in a peculiar manner. My dear child all Christians have their trials in this world, but the followers of Jesus must hold fast their faith & cling to Him who is their refuge & rock of defence & who is a present help in time of trouble.--

Our minds often wander, even in the solemn moments of prayer & our carnal hearts are ever ready to turn aside from God. We have all reason to use the prayer "Lead us not into temptation" & we also rejoice in ~~the~~ God's promise that His Strength is sufficient for us & that He cares for, & loves us dearly & will not suffer us to be tempted beyond our strength. You find that God answers your prayers, as he does to all who prays to Him in sincerity & truth. Therefore in all your troubles & perplexities ask Him to give you wisdom & Grace to think of Him, to speak of Him & to worship Him aright & rest assured your prayers will be answered.--You do right to think of home, we always remember you at the Throne of Grace. Whenever you feel lonely betake yourself to prayer--The love of God is the only sentiment that fills & wholly delights the heart. Worldly enjoyments soon lose their power to please--but the love of God delights the heart forever.

Write always, with trust and confidence, as you have now done, and I will assist you with council and advice. Conceal nothing from your Parents, as young people are often prompted, be mere bashfulness, to do-- and thereby bring evil upon themselves.

Ang is still at the post of duty, and is a most useful man, but we have neither Tod nor Joseph having given them a years holiday. Keave is groom, and the garden work is done by other men. Tawn is still with his friends in China. Why has Agnes abandoned the idea of visiting the Continent; ~~why~~ the cost of travelling there is not greater than the cost of living in England. I regret the change of plan on your account. It is quite delightful to hear, you have been so amiable; continue my dear child to speak gently and to deal kindly with every one; such is the will of our blessed Lord, and it will promote your own happiness. The most interesting news for us, is what you tell us

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about yourself, therefore you can never be at a loss for topics to fill your letters. We pity the poor little Good boys. We wrote to them lately, and sent them some pocket money.

Mamma goes out very seldom; she went the other day to call on Mrs Work, who has not been well lately, but is now recovering. Mrs Work is much alarmed about Mrs Jones health, and has sent her youngest daughter with Mr Jones and wife to San Francisco for change of air. Mrs Jones being threatened with an attack of consumption.

Kisses from Mamma to her dearest child Martha 0 0 0 0

Mamma was holding the pen while I traced these lines, as she could not see to write herself, having left her spectacles up stairs. My dear little child we are always, thinking and speaking of you, and hope when you return, we will not soon be parted again.

Having now replied to the queries in your letter, (--and here I may as well add that the confidential parts of your letter respecting your own feelings and wishes, I allow no one to see but Mamma, so you may pour out your heart to us without restraint, or fear of remark)--let me go on to other things. Rail road affairs now occupy the public mind. Ground is to be broken on the 1st July next, when the terminus will be fixed. Every one is hoping that Esquimalt will be the point, where you know we have a large interests; and I am selfish enough to wish the station to be on my ground. Carrie Pender and May Elliot are quite well, but I see little of them now. 10 May The Prince Alfred is in, but has no English mail; therefore not a line from you. Give my love to dear Jane and Agnes, and kiss all the little ones for me. Also the same for Mamma.

12th May

Watching the eclipse of the Moon last night, Mamma took the greatest interest, in the spectacle, most carefully noting every movement of the Planet. Arthur now here on a visit, was also, of the party. I am sorry my dearest child, that I cannot prolong the chat, as the Steamer leaves today, and I must post my letters at once, in order to save the Mail. My dearest child we are always thinking about you, and hope to see you improved in every respect, when you return to us. May our dear Lord bless and direct you in all your ways. Seek and serve Him with all your heart, then will my joy be full My dear child Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

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Vancouver Island
Victoria 12th May '73

My dear Martha

Having posted my letter of this day, by the Prince Alfred, I strolled over from the Post Office to Mrs Grahame's. She has received satisfactory accounts from Mrs Jones. The voyage has been of service, her appetite having improved, and being on the whole stronger and in better spirits. Miss Work complains of the noise and bustle of the "Empire City"; the gentlemen are wholly devoted to business, and the ladies to dress and amusement Her first impressions were not agreeable.

The North Pacific is just in; I have your precious letter of 12th April--exactly one month from date, so much gain by posting direct to San Francisco, and eschewing Canada altogether, its circumlocution offices and delays. I was already mounted for a country ride when Ang, rushed in with your and other letters, after perusal with Mamma, I left for my ride. At the "White Horse" Hotel, encountered the good Dean and Mrs Cridge, going out for a drive; I gave them your love and told them all about you. "Martha thinks of home, and takes a deep interest in Church matters". right says the good Dean I am very glad indeed to hear she does so. Oh but I rejoined Martha has strong feelings on the subject, and has a fancy for polemics; she hopes the congregation will suffer no fruitless innovations in the service, that the good Dean disapproves. Her language on the subject is moreover rather strong, for one so young. The worthy man, then drove on in great delight, while I pursued my ride, in another direction. I have been busy getting the fences and other things put to rights at Metchosin, a troublesome and costly property, which I wish to get rid off [sic] and will sell whenever a chance offers. By investing the money proceeds we will get a certain income, whereas the land at present yields nothing, not enough indeed to pay the road tax.

Mrs Berkley (Jessie Nagle) is no more, she died yesterday after a tedious illness. She was an estimable person.

Now let me turn to your letter of 12 April. You appear to have been fortunate in your company, in going to and coming back from Dunain, the journey was too much for you to make alone on the chances of such favourable incidents. I am glad the Check of £50 arrived safely; you need not cash it you know, till

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wanted, and Miss Turk might keep it safely for you. So you like my letters, I am glad of that. In writing, never use expletives, or unnecessary words, they cloud the sense and are tiresome to read. Remember Addisons remark, in addressing a friend, "excuse this letter, "for I have not time to make it shorter". What would Mrs Hills say to your letter? I shall certainly not show it to her. I fancy you will have to spend another Christmas in England, in order to finish your education; the second year will advance you more than the first. In fact you will become wiser every day. I delivered Amys letter, shall remember you to Mr Hamley but think I had better not convey your strictures on public measures to Her Majesty's Government.

The Cowslip and Wall flower are beautiful, and much prized.

Mamma is pressing some flowers for you. Here closes your letter

Mamma sends her love and hopes to hear from you often.

14th May

It is nine months today since you left home how long the time appears. I will send this tomorrow by the North Pacific. 15th May Steamer in; no letters from you. May God bless you my dearest Child Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria Vancouver Island
23d May 1873

My dearest Martha

We had the pleasure of your letter to Mamma dated 17th April, on the 18th May. You appear to be getting through the Easter holidays very pleasantly as well as usefully. You must have enjoyed the excursion to Richmond, for the country is lovely at this season of the year, and the historical associations full of the profoundest interest. Your get up, Mamma thinks, was neat and appropriate. Your saunterings in the Park, the glorious trees, the herds of deer are well described. The views from the terrace are such as only England can show. I sat for an hour admiring them, from the windows of the dining room in the "Star and Garter", and could have spent a month there. Then the visit to the "Crystal Palace", what a lucky child you are, was delightful. I followed you, in spirit, up the three flights of stairs, through the long corridor, saw the gardens, the blooming roses, the central Courts with their lovely plants and flowers, reminding one of tropical magnificence. The Egyptian Hall and Alhambra are highly attractive. The Rosetta stone, in the former, with its three inscriptions--one in Hieroglyphics--one in Damotic--one in Greek led to the decyphering, those antient [sic] forms of writing, and is the basis of Champollions system. The Assyrian and Egyptian Chambers represent the domestic life of these nations,--their houses, their kitchens their sleeping apartments, their baths, their business offices &c &c

Your discription of these objects has awakened bye gone memories, and given as much pleasure as if I had been wandering among them, in your company. Make the most of these innocent enjoyments, for now is your happy time of life. How sorry you must have been, at missing Flora McDonald, you would have, both enjoyed a long chat, about Vancouver. You are not the only young lady, who has paid a heavy penalty of suffering by wearing tight boots, be careful in future.

24th

I drove out to Rosebank yesterday afternoon; it was so warm, as to be uncomfortable. The woods are charming; fragrant with the perfume of numberless trees and plants, and lustrous in vernal beauty. Wondrous are the works of God; who can show forth his glorious acts? I greatly missed your sweet companionship, on the way, but nevertheless was not unhappy, for the God whom I serve

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was with me--and leaves me not comfortless.

Alice and James are gone to spend a week with Arthur at New Westminster. The Rhododendrons, are out in full flower. There is a great show of fruit; the gooseberries, are large and in daily use. The Royal salute has just been fired at Esquimalt, and I must hurry off to the Regatta, near the Gorge. Mamma will not go, and stays at home.

5 P.M.

There was a crowd at the Gorge--Victoria turned out with heart and good will to celebrate the day. Ices and Soda water, perhaps something stronger than soda water were in great demand. The booths were driving [sic] a flourishing trade, as busy as nimble hands could be. The races were good, the boats well matched, and every foot of the course contested. More of this from the newspaper, which will accompany the present letter.

27th May

The Prince Alfred brought no letters; a long letter from Agnes 18th Ap. came later in the day by the North Pacific. How much more quickly your letter of 17 April came through. We are all quite well. Mamma unites with me in love and kisses to you and Agnes. May God bless you my dearest child. Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

Enclosed are 1
Turkscup Lilly
and leaf
violets &c

Victoria Vancouver Island
30th May 1873

My dearest Martha

Your neatly penned letter dated 25th and 28th April, arrived here yesterday pr North Pacific. There is a great improvement, both in diction and penmanship, in your present letter. Your ideas flow so rapidly, that you appear to have no difficulty in filling up the sheet,; it scarcely costs you an effort now, tho' once, upon a time, a serious undertaking. This is satisfactory to me, and profitable to you: continued study and application do wonders for young people, therefore persevere my dear child, in the earnest pursuit of wisdom & knowledge and you will become all that I wish you to be. I hope soon to hear of your being on the continent. I hope the Misses Bushby will extend their tour to Paris and the Rhine, which will not be much more expensive, and add greatly to your enjoyment. The good Dean will be delighted with your remarks. Our worthy Bishop, is now doing duty as Parish Priest at New Westminster, and winning golden opinions, with all classes; being a most estimable man.

Mr Langley was the purchaser of Gambits store. Amy received your gift. Carrie Pinder also got a souvenir. My health is thank God very good and the foot gives no trouble. Arthur makes every allowance for the Fn Cts numerous avocations, and readily acquits her of neglect.

Pray send me Dr Browns Pamphlet. "The Races of Mankind" It must be interesting, and may be forwarded through the Book Post, leaving both ends open, at a cost of a few pence. Dr Brown is correct in his statements about the wreck of the Japanese Junk at Cape Flattery in the year 1834. The story about the bees wax thrown up by the sea is rather different. That disaster is supposed to have occurred years before the settlement of the country, and the natives report that the ship wrecked people were white men, of some Christian nation. It was near Umpqua River, the wreck took place. It is too long a story for a short letter so I leave it for the present. The brides bouquet is really a pretty ornament, and is to be kept safely till your return.

Your description of the hedge rows--with the sweet May and Hawthorn mingling their flowers, with the fresh glossy green leaves; the harebells, cowslips and blue

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bells, is altogether a charming picture of an English spring. The children were I suppose delighted with the sixpence, cher[i]s[h]ing it, sentiment apart, as more precious even than the pretty Cowslips.

I love this, and your previous letter because they speak of your own dear self, your daily thoughts, feelings, and pursuits. Your messages to friends will in due time be delivered.

3d June

No letters from you. We have had refreshing rain lately. The spring flowers are all gone, a few tulips excepted, the roses are coming out and will soon be in full bloom. We went out yesterday with a party, to celebrate James' 22d birthday. Mamma was in great spirits. Mrs Harvey and family from Portland are here to recruit. My old friend Dr Barclay, died lately at Oregon City. The enclosed clipping, relates his history. Truly the world is becoming a desert. Mamma, Alice and Miss Wyllie unite in love and best wishes. My love to Jane and Agnes. Bless you my dearest Child Your affectionate Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria V.I. 9th June 1873

My dearest Martha.

Yesterday was the anniversary of your 19th birthday and also a great church festival, Trinity Sunday. We did not fail to remember you, at the family altar as well as in our social intercourse. We committed you in our prayers to the care of that God, who watched over you in the perils of childhood and entreated Him to be your guide and guardian in the journey of maturer life; to give you all the blessings He may see fit; and to make you a good and faithful servant in Gods vineyard.

You were the subject of conversation at dinner, amid many good wishes, of the friends who love you dearly. Mamma had a good cry over your photograph, but soon mastered her feelings, and indulged in cheerful anticipations of a happy meeting, with her dear child, improved with all the advantages of education and foreign travel. The weather is now very warm, and the country improved by the late soaking rains.

Carrie Pinder was enquiring about you yesterday. I told her you were well, and longed to hear from her. The Creases often hear from Mary and we have a long chat about you every time we meet. The Munroe's, Miss Wyllie and others are constant in their enquiries. In fact it is rather serious to meet them, in busy times, for there is no end of their questions.

I have just returned from a morning ride; there will be good crops of grain and a great abundance of hay this year, a subject of joy and rejoicing to the farmers, adding to their wealth and prosperity.

Mrs Jones has returned in improved health from San Francisco, her sister Miss Work was overcome by the noise and bustle of the place, but on the whole derived much enjoyment from the trip. How did you like London on your first arrival, you have got accustomed by this time; perhaps partial to excitement, and may find your home here, too quiet, when you come back next year. Cecil Wallace called this afternoon; but seeing no one, Mamma and Alice being both out, was about leaving, when I caught a glimpse of her from the garden, where I was enjoying the fresh air. We had a chat about you; she had just received your letter, and was so glad to hear from you. She was looking rather poorly, but assured me she was quite

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well, as well as Ella, her mother and aunt. She left, with a bouquet of fresh blown roses, promising to call another day.

11th June

The Prince Alfred brought no English Mail, so I have none of your letters to reply to. I heard the other day from Agnes, then at Dover where she was expecting you to join her about the 20th May, intending to leave shortly for the Continent. You will have a good view of France and I hope of Germany to complete your first years stay in England. Happy times for you my dearest child. I shall leave you another year in England, and then with Gods blessing, either go or send for you, or you may have a chance of coming home with your sister Agnes, who will be returning about that time. I never meant that you should be away for less than two years. It will take that time to get rid of the cobwebs of colonial training and give you a proper finish. It is very trying for me but I would cheerfully make any sacrifice to promote in any way, the happiness and welfare of my dear children.

Mamma sends you love and kisses without number. Now my dearest child I must again close with fond affection

Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

Love to Jane, Agnes and the Misses Bushby

Victoria Vancouver Island
13th June 1873

My dearest Child

The "North Pacific" has come in, since the "Prince Alfred" left and still no letters from you. Your dear letters, are somewhere detained to my great discomfort.

The weather has been showery since yesterday. You will remember in our pleasant rides about here, taking shelter, under the great spreading branches of the Pine trees, till the beating showers were over, and then cantering home without getting wet. Such is the weather, at present; refreshing vegetation, and rejoicing the farmers heart, by the promise, it gives, of heavy crops, in the autumn. I was, today, at Rosebank, examining the boundary lines and the lately made clearance. The men have done the work honestly and laid open to the sun, space enough for a fine field. I now want a good tenant to bring it into cultivation; but that rara avis has not yet been found. The roads are getting dry and dusty; the Gueldie rose and mock orange are not yet in flower, but in course of 8 or 10 days, the woods will be in a blaze of beauty, with their graceful bloom. Wild strawberries are now hawked about town for sale, and the large pulpy "Queens" will soon be ready for table use.

15th June

The air is fragrant with the sweets exhaled by the wild rose, now blooming in countless abundance It is indeed delightful to wander about, amidst the beauty and wild luxuriance of nature--so far surpassing in grace the utmost efforts of art. I miss your company in my afternoon strolls. I find consolation in the reflection, that you will improve so much in England, that I will enjoy your company all the more.

16th June

Raining, in light showers. May Elliot spent the afternoon with Alice and went out for a drive. May is much improved in dress and manner, and is really a fine girl. She sends her love.

18th June

Received your letter of 13th May, with P.S. from Dover dated 14th May. I am glad to hear that you were on the point of leaving England for the Continent. Wiesbaden is a charming place, where much of life is to be seen.

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I presume you will take the route through Belgium to Cologne and ascend the Rhine to Mayenee, at which places I severally spent some pleasant days in 1864. I had not time to visit Frankfort or Wiesbaden. You will now be able to tell me all about them. What a happy girl you are; so many strange sights as will greet you, on the Rhine the Cathedral and 10 thousand virgins, of Cologne. The latter I did not see, I wonder if you will be more fortunate. Your letter is not so correctly written as usual for which your hurry and exceptional position fully account ~~for~~ and excuse.

It was kind of Jane, to take you to the Royal Academy. Albert Hall appears to have had more attractions for you. Did you admire Pattie. I hope you may have a chance of seeing Paris, Versailles &c. Agnes' letters to Mamma has [sic] just arrived, dear Agnes ever kind and considerate about your welfare. Give the dear child my love, also to Aunts Jane and Annie. We are all well. Mamma's love I write in haste to save the Mail My dearest Child

Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria Vancouver Island
26th June 1873

My dearest Martha

The Mails have gone and come several times, without bringing any of your dear letters, so we cannot have our usual chit chat, about passing events. You are by this time no doubt, well established at Wiesbaden, that chief of all hot places, in summer weather, recruiting rapidly your invalids, by bathing in its salubrious waters. It is quite a new world for you, and will store your mind, with fresh ideas of men and things, supplying no end of matter, for remark and conversation.

We are all quite well here, and none more so than dear Mamma who is going today, to Mrs Finlayson's whose two eldest boys are on the point of leaving home, for school in England; a sore trial to their Mamma. A pic nic was held yesterday at McAulay's point, in honour of your birth day and Dolly's. The party travelled by water under the charge of Arthur and James. I drove out to see them in course of the day; but did not remain long. They had a pleasant time and did not get home till after 10 o'clock in the evening; a late hour for us, but to them, the time appeared too brief, a mere passing moment. People are now all busy hay making--wherever one goes, the s[c]ythe and hay cart are in motion. The crop of hay is said to be immense, much above the average cut. Captain Butler author of the recent work, on British America. "The great lone land" is now here on a visit, and was yesterday at your picnic. He is a charming writer, the interest never flags. He leaves tomorrow for San Francisco, on his way home to England. I have just received Dr Grants work entitled "From ocean to ocean". It speaks in disparagement of the Province and also of its Government, being led into that mistake by McDonalds Strictures on British Columbia, a work that no one acquainted with the early history of the Colony would venture to quote, in support of any fact or event of the past.

I have had a new doorway made into your chamber, from the stair head, and had the former door communicating with the other bed room stopped up, giving entire privacy to both rooms. The wardrobes are also being fitted with light doors instead of the former cu[r]tain arrangement. A great improvement I think.

James is still complaining; his ankle gives him a good

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deal of trouble. He will in time I hope get over it. I have been trying the effect of a new application for preserving the rose bushes from the destructive attacks of the "Aphides", but so far the effect has not been satisfactory; though it may ultimately do good. The Devoniensis has produced wonderful roses, the most perfect and largest, I ever saw.

We are still using last years apples, the Baldwin and Roxbury russet being yet sound. Such gooseberries you never saw, we are using them every day. The cherries are almost ripe; but not abundant. Your tree, that in the Kitchen Garden, is bearing this year. I must now close; Mamma sends her love to you and Agnes dear, to which add mine. May God bless you My dearest Child

Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS.

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria Vancouver Island
7th July 1873

My dearest Martha

The latest English newspapers are dated 5th June, Agnes' last letter 25th May, and Martha's latest 15th May, so you see we have been long, without your letters, probably owing to some accident, or shortcoming in the postage. Whatever may be the reason, we are no less the sufferers, as steamer goes and steamer comes in with the Mails and yet no letter from you. The North Pacific is expected in today--with heaps of letters I trust from you. Agnes mentions in her letter that you were all well, and greatly pleased with the lions of Wiesbaden. While you are abroad, see and note every thing you can; keep a regular Journal, and jot down, whatever pleases or interests you, as it is a great assistance, and invaluable aid to the memory. If you neglect that precaution, you will forget much, and at best, have but a faint and confused recollection of the places and objects visited and even of the events of the journey.

We are all thank God, in perfect health. We have a grand luncheon on Friday next, at James Bay, and I trust the present enjoyable weather will last till then.

The place has been all alive with Pic nics, private and public, for the last fortnight--The Pioneers, the Mechanics, the Firemens, and last tho not the least attractive, the Caledonian, where the Athletic games afforded capital sport; being conducted in the Scottish style.

Conny Skinner is here today with her sister Mrs Bremner, they are amusing themselves, on the lawn at Croquet and are making sad havock with the cherries. Oh, what about the Canadian Pacific Railroad? It has been officially announced by an Order in Council, that Esquimalt is fixed, as the future Terminus, and that a line of Railway is to be run from Esquimalt to Seymour Narrows, along the east Coast of Vancouver Island It is also seriously intended to open and work the Iron seams of the Province for the manufacture of the rails and other ironwork required for the construction of the Rail way. This is most important and cannot fail to produce a period of great prosperity.

7th afternoon

I have just returned from the Post office--there is not a line for me. I fancy your letters,

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are coming by the Prince Alfred so I shant get them for some days to come. This delay arises from your letters being addressed to San Francisco, so they are not forwarded with the other Canadian Mails, direct overland from Sacremento. Therefore dear Martha--address your letters, as of old "via Canada", and I will get them sooner than by the U. States at least until the close of summer or beginning of winter.

What a disappointment to us all, that we have not heard from you. No news is said to be good news, and we console ourselves with that reflection.

Mamma, Alice, James &c unite with me in love to you and Agnes, and tell dear Jane all sorts of tender love and affections from me--May God bless you

My dearest Martha
Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

Miss M. Douglas

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria Vancouver Island
17th July 1873

My dearest Martha

At last we are relieved from a painful state of suspense, having received no letters from you for the last month. Today arrived your nice and carefully written letter, commencing June 6th at Wiesbaden, and ending Strasburgh June 16th. It is a most interesting review of your pleasant tour, and excursions to the historic and picturesque towns and villages on the Rhine. You appear to have thoroughly enjoyed the sights, as well as a good sensible appetite for the good things, which German hospitality spread before you. Dear good sister Agnes never fails to show her good sense, at table, and never allows any maukish feeling of modesty to interfere with her comfort. Buigan [?], Rhudesheini [?] and Johanisberg are celebrated for the excellence of their wines. I wish you had taken a run up the Rhine to Manheim, and then a days run by rail road would have carried you into the heart of Switzerland; the whole trip would not have taken more than a week to accomplish; and the cost very little more than by remaining stationary at Wiesbaden. Mamma was astounded at the feat of your driving three in hand; and wonders Agnes did not protest against your taking the reins. I am glad you admired the Cathedral of Strasbourgh with the spire it is a wonderful structure. I have no doubt you did wander over the same ground I traversed in my solitary rambles in 1864. I should have felt happier had I not been alone. Home will appear dull to you after these exciting travels. Will it be so? or will dear Victoria, your native land, be cherished as much as ever.

I long to hear your impressions of France. Paris was and perhaps still is a splendid city--and the environs most attractive--Versailles and Fontainebleau are parts of Fairy land. Then you must have a good look at the pictures and sculptures in the Louvre and other museums.

I hope Jane may be in London on your return to England, and that you will be able to accompany her to Dunain for the midsummer holidays--If not I suppose you will have to remain with the Misses Turk. Another year in England, will complete your education, and then we shall bring you home. Arthur has changed his plans, and written to tell Agnes to come home this year, leaving her two girls in England. This will be a sore trial for you, but you must bear it like a brave little girl, seeing it is all for your own permanent good. It is a great hardship for Mamma and me to be another twelvemonth without you, but we

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must first study your own good, by allowing you, every opportunity of acquiring knowledge and experience, and our reward will come hereafter, in seeing you, with God's blessing playing well your part in the great drama of life.

Yesterday week, we had a pleasant party of friends at Luncheon the Judges, Captain Hare R.N. Pearse Marcus Smith May, and many other of your young lady friends, being present. Edward waited--it was a sumptuous repast, comprising every luxury of the season. They (the guests) afterwards amused themselves, in the garden, at Croquet and other sports. The whole affair went off well. Last Thursday Mrs Tuzo, gave a garden pic-nic at her residence; to a crowd of friends about 150; neither Alice nor Mamma would go, I put in an appearance, and James did the dancing in a small pavillon [sic] erected for the purpose. It was very nice, and would have been enjoyable had there been fewer people; as it was the accommodations were insufficient for those present. It was altogether attempting too much for their means of entertainment.

21st July

I paid my first visit, this year, to Belmont, on Saturday. The House is now temporarily occupied by three families Mrs Langley, Sutro, and Fellows, who have gone thither, for a while, to rusticate and breathe the fresh air. The garden has a desolate appearance--the fence near the house is gone, the cattle have come in--and eaten every thing bare--the flowers have vanished, there is scarcely a rose to be seen, and even the fruit trees have suffered from neglect, and the ravages of kine. I shall read Mr Lowenberg a lecture as soon as I can see him, and make him keep the fences in order.

I purpose despatching this note by todays mail, to keep you informed about our doings. The first sod of the Pacific, Canadian Railway was turned on Saturday, by M. Smith, in a quiet way, without any public demonstration? The terminus is at the Admiral's House, Maple Bay, Esquimalt, the line running from thence, towards the Indian village near or opposite Craigflower.

The newspapers I send you, will give the particulars. The Doctor has just sold a six acre lot at Constance Cove , for 3000 dollars--no very great price is it. Mamma sends her love and fervent prayers for your welfare--she is in very good health, and most active in all her movements. James, Alice and Amy unite with me, in love and best wishes. May God bless and have you in His Holy keeping, and may you ever love and serve Him faithfully My dearest Child your loving Father

J. DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

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Victoria Vanc^{r} Island
4th Augt 1873

My dearest Child

I have been thinking much of you this morning, and have just sat down to the desk to have a chat with you, on things past, present and to come. This time last year we were all assembled at James' Bay, preparing for your journey to England. I look back to that, as a most happy time, and wonder if we shall ever be so fortunate again. Agnes it appears is to come back immediately, as Arthur cannot go home, as he at one time expected, on furlough. You will no doubt miss your sister when she leaves; but you must keep up your spirits, and study all the more closely, to complete your education by next year, when please God, you will come home. I should like to go for you myself but if that cannot be, I shall make arrangements for your safe and comfortable return. It is very hard for Mamma and me, to remain so long alone, but we are prepared to make any sacrifice, to promote your welfare. You are now well acquainted with the excellent ladies, in whose charge you are placed, and so you will not feel utterly alone, especially as you know your dear Saviour, the strength and consolation of Israel and how to seek comfort and direction at the Throne of Grace. May that blessed Lord who preserved you in the perils of infancy, give you wisdom and grace, to guide you in riper years, securely, amidst the shoals and quicksands of life. My heart yearns for you my dear child, and we daily offer prayers for your safety and welfare.

Your dear letter, commencing Paris 19th June, and continued to 5th July, when you had returned to School, arrived here on the 1st Augt having come through in 26 days; a comparatively quick transit, though not more so than might be accomplished, with every mail. You advise my letter ending 3^{d} June, but not several previous letters which I addressed you. Have you overlooked them, or have they miscarried? Never fail to advise letters received.

You had a happy meeting with Jane, who writes, "we are as happy as happy can be". I wish I had been there to share your joys. You should have told me more about the meeting, and not written so briefly; but I suppose you were fagged, with the excitement of the long journey, you had made, and not in your usual spirits. You lost much by taking the night train from Strasbourg to Paris, one of the finest Districts of France. Had you travelled by day light--you would have seen a lovely country. The Louvre was too much for one days examination--a month is not a

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day too much for such an accumulation of Art treasures, as you see there. No wonder, you left the place, worn out and disgusted. I am glad you appreciated Versailles. I hope you saw the orangery, and paid your homage to the tree named Grand Louis after Louis XIV

Arthur came down on Saturday and is looking well. He expects Agnes about the beginning of September I have just heard from MT Fraser he saw Jane and Alick, but left London for Norwich, before your return from the continent. Your friends here are all well and often make enquiries about you. They are now full of a party that comes off in a few days, on board the flag ship "Repulse", given by the Officers to Admiral Hillyar, lately promoted. We received invitations, but neither Mamma nor I can go on board, and James is away to the mainland, on a cruize [sic] with Marcus Smith. I dare say it will give great satisfaction. MTS Elliott is not at all well, and seldom goes out. Her illness is not, I believe, dangerous, but is very tedious and trying. MT Lowenberg does not forget your promised Photograph; and occasionally reminds me of your promise. He has lately sold four lots on Birdcage Terrace for 1900 dollars, a fair price considering, the depression here. I have authorised him to sell all these scattered portions of land, as the taxes are increased and come heavy, on unproductive lots. I saw Mary Finlayson the other day, when I called at Rock Bay. She was looking well, and full of enquiries about you. Her Mamma is not very well, and MTS Jones is much altered for the worse, being thin and emaciated. I don't know what has become of Miss Mahood, not having seen her for a great length of time. The Munoes [sic] and Miss Wallace I see occasionally, in my walks through town. 5Th Augt Refreshing rain fell last night and did so much good. I have a glorious show of stocks, some of them are growing like shrubs, in one mass of gorgeous flowers. Your subdivision of the garden is kept in nice order. Claytons new roses are Tritons among the minnows. The "Devoniensis" flowered beautifully. The Gladiolus is very handsome. Jams of all sorts, currant and other Jellies are being manufactured, to Mamma's great delight, Ang taking a deep interest in the process, conspiring with Mamma, to run up the grocers bill. Who is to consume this vast provision of sweets? seeing you are not to be at home, till next year. Madam Anna Bishop is on the way, per Prince Alfred, to delight the citizens of Victoria with her dulcet tones. A great magician has just arrived, who like Pharaohs magicians is to turn water into blood and many other wonderful works. How many schemes to deplete the pockets!!! What is of more im-

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portance, is the attempt of a company, to drain the Fraser of its gold, by lifting the sand and auriferous gravel to the surface, through the agency of enormously powerful force Pumps They are to commence at Hills Bar, near Yale. I wish them well.

7th Augt There has been a great fire at Portland, Oregon,--13 blocks have been entirely consumed and many poor people been left destitute, a sad melancholy event. Mrs Starrs father has been a severe loser. Mrs Harvey's house, fortunately escaped.

Alice and Ellen are very well, the latter is always in motion, and has never had a days illness, since she came here. Dolly and Amy are also well. We are still eating last years apples, Roxbury Russets, and beginning to use, this years early fruit. The peach Plum is also coming in season.

I hope to hear from you today, by the North Pacific and will reply by next boat.

Mamma is very well and active, she sends her love as does every one here. May God bless and preserve you

My dearest Child
Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria Vanc.r Island
8.th Aug.t 1873

My dearest Martha

Your letter dated 18.th July by mistake I presume for 8.th July, the Post mark being "Worcester P. 12.th July". arrived here yesterday by the North Pacific, and afforded us much pleasure. Mamma was deeply moved by your tender expressions of love and shed tears in abundance. She is in good health, and sends all manner of love and good wishes,hoping to have the pleasure of folding you in tender embrace, about this time next year. She looks forward to that event, with unfeigned delight.

Amy has received your letter of "18th" July and will soon write. She is a dear little girl. Mamma has not received the cap you sent. I will advise you when it comes to hand, and ask Mamma to write you a line. You may subscribe See 4.th page
to the Illustrated London News; but I think "Punch" would be superfluous; get it however if you like the Paper. I am glad you think of learning to play the organ, knowledge of every kind is useful. I shall give your love to the Dean and mention your intention of writing to him. He will be glad to hear from you. Jim will be delighted when he hears that you admired his verses. He has not yet returned from the mainland.

I have now run through your letter, which is very much too short.

13.th Aug.t

This is the anniversary of your departure for England last year. It appears so long since you left us, and yet the time has not been tedious. Do you remember, saying long ago that you would like to stay away from home, six years to finish your education in England, and then return to your Parents. That would be too long, altogether would it not? I truly see 2.d page

hope that in another year we will meet again; it is so pleasant to look forward to that event. May God grant that it be so. All is bustle and stir here today. Mamma is going out to Fairfield for a little pic nic. The Harveys Wygants and several American families from Portland are invited to meet her. It will be a very grand affair the dinner being laid out, under the same antient [sic] Maple tree, where we dined with Captain Cator. The children are in great glee and Amy is already off in charge of Arthur. Mamma is just gone out and now I am alone in my glory, the sole occupant,

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Ang excepted of James' Bay.

The weather is delightful, a bright, cloudless sky overhead, and a temperature just pleasantly warm, and tempered by a gentle, ocean breeze Dr Tolmie has issued invitations for a pic nic at Langfords Lake; to take place on Saturday next. We have accepted the invitation, and intend going to the party.

evening 13th

The pic nic was a great success, everyone delighted; the only thing wanted to complete our enjoyment, was the cheerful voice of dear little Martha. We have just had a letter from James, of which the following is a copy.

Tseeacamist [sic] River
6 Augt 1873

My dearest Papa

I am at present writing under difficulties. I am lying at full length on my blankets in a tent with a small candle by me which sheds a very faint light indeed We have been here nearly four days trying to get over this formidable river I have left Mr Smith at

(see second sheet)

[second sheet missing]

Victoria V. Island
22d Augt 1873

My dearest Martha

Mamma received your dear letter of the 19th July, a few days ago, and this morning came to hand your letter of 26th July, written a day or two after the breaking up of your school for the mid summer holidays. You speak of spending the holiday time at school, to make up I presume, for the continental tour; I fancy however you will have to go to Dunain, as Dallas wrote me a few days ago, that he wished both you and Agnes to go there, on a visit, as you had seen Scotland only in its winter garb and not when clothed in the gorgeous hues of summer. This was very kind of him, and you will have so much more of your sisters company, which will be both pleasant and profitable for you.

Let me now turn to Mamma's letter Home is of course dear to you as ever, and you would naturally like to return with your sister; but this would not be wise, as you would be throwing away the precious time for improvement, a season which may never return, and losing it would be a continual source of regret, to yourself and to all your friends, who will expect great things from Martha. It would never do, you know, in so important a matter to sacrifice principle to sentiment however amiable of its kind. I miss you greatly here, but what of that, if by the little sacrifice, I can promote your good.

I gave you, with the blessing of God a sound early training, in religion and morality, and taught you to love your Saviour, to think and act on all subjects like a Christian Child. You are now far from me, your loving Parent, but the Principles I taught remain, while your God and your blessed Saviour, is ever near you, to guide, direct and shield you amidst the perils and temptations of life. Appeal to Him in all your trials and He will be a ready help in all your troubles.

I shall try to find some pictures of Victoria, on thin paper, such as you describe, and send them. I have not received Dr Brown's work, nor has the Cap, you sent Mamma, made its appearance. The custom House people may have made a seizure of the latter, at New York, for none payment of duty. Amy is herself again and Dolly likewise. Amy wrote to you lately. Alice does not remember Captain Stewart. The silk worms are curious; Mamma will prize the silk. The

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chickens are well. Bossie is well, and is now followed by her second calf. Sandrie is in high feather, I take him out every day for my morning ride. He is as stout as ever. Now for your letter of the 26th July. The Frenchmans strawberries were splendid this year. He had lately a narrow escape, from being burnt out, by an accidental fire in the adjoining fields. Every thing is now so dry that the utmost care is requisite to prevent fires. Don't be too hard on poor little May Elliott, I dare say she has not much to say, on paper; but I remember a certain young Lady who used to say so too, though she has plenty to say now; who finds out that the more she writes, the more readily her thoughts flow. Do you remember such a young lady? I often think of the carpet beating near the Foundry, but never before reading your letter did I associate it with the Grand tapestry screen at Strasborg. So much dear Martha for the march of intellect.

Madam Bishop has been exhibiting here, and created quite a furore in the musical world. She left yesterday for Pugets Sound.

The Finlayson boys have arrived safely in England. Aunt Sarah to her great relief, heard from them a few days ago. They are somewhere about Norwich. The cupboards and new door, have greatly improved the appearance of your room. It is unoccupied except by Arthur when he comes here. No one else is allowed to sleep there.

I have discharged Willing, he was too young and flighty. Piper business is going on as usual Victoria cannot spare so useful a citizen. He is the "Gunter" of Victoria. I suppose you have been to "Gunters pastry shop; the boast of London. Dolly is gone to Rocky Point, for a few weeks recreation with the Parkers, so I cannot deliver your message till she comes home. I have now answered all the queries in your letter and will touch on other subjects. Great discoveries of magnetic Iron ore have been lately made, in the Island of Texada, near Comox. The ore exists in the greatest abundance, and yields from 80 to 90 per cent of iron. There are also enormous beds of Limestone near the Iron ore, which is used and indeed indispensable as a flux, in smelting the ore. Comox will supply the coal, so all the materials for founding a great industry are distributed by the liberal hand of nature at, or near the spot. This is of more value to the Province, than the discovery of a gold field, inasmuch as it will be a more lasting source of wealth. A discovery more nearly concerning us was made the other

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day at Fairfield. In digging a well on Mr. King's lot: at the depth of 45 feet, a rushing spring of water was struck, that filled the well to overflowing and continues to send a rill of water, by a surface drain, into the adjoining field. The water is pure and soft; altogether a great acquisition in its way.

Moss street is being extended from Langley's residence to Henleys near Clover Point. It is certainly a great improvement. 25th Augt James has not yet returned from the Mainland nor have we any late intelligence of his movements. The Flags in your flower beds are now in flower, looking very pretty indeed. The Dean and Mrs Cridge lately made a little gipsy tour to Metchosen and Rocky Point for change of air They are pleased with the excursion, which has improved Mrs Cridges health. Mr and Mrs Saunders are here, on their way to England and will return to the Colony next year, after sending their children to school. You will probably be coming home about the same time and perhaps travel with them. Miss Wylley is quite well and sends her love. Mamma has not finished her letter, but sends no end of love and good wishes. Alice also embraces you. Ellen is incessantly on the move. Now my dearest child once more adieu, and may Heaven preserve you. Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria V.I. 11th Sept. 1873

My dearest Martha

James returned, on Saturday, safe and sound, from his long trip on the mainland. He had a rough time, with the surveying parties, living chiefly on beans and bacon, but the life and food agreed with him and he had always a capital appetite. The Musquitoes were at times troublesome, and he had one or two frights in crossing turbulent rivers that lay in their path otherwise, he had nothing to complain of. He saw Arthur at New Westminster, and left him in good health. The day before yesterday, we drove him to Cadboro Bay, and called on Mrs Martin the new settler there. The old people being engaged we were for some time entertained by Miss Martin a charming little girl of 11--full of chat and intelligence. She [did the] honours very nicely until her Mamma put in appearance. I was pleased with Mrs Martin who is really a nice, well educated person; her husband was out but he is a very respectable man. The House is built on the rocky acclivity, facing the Straits, in full view of ships, boats, canoes and every thing passing up and down the Canal de Arro. Mrs Martin likes the place immensely and her husband is doing well by keeping a flock of sheep there being abundance of food for their support both in summer and winter. They had this year 300 lambs which they sold at 3 dollars a head, making 1500 dollars or £300 Sterling, a sum equal to the pay of a Commander in the Royal Navy. Pleasant is it not to hear of settlers doing so well. I gave them a lot of fruit, apples and plums for the children, which made them all very happy. The Prince Alfred arrived yesterday without a mail so had no letters from you.

15th Sept.

Mamma has at last completed her assortment of Preserves; the last made that is of the Damsons, in the Kitchen garden, is to my taste the best and finest flavoured. Some of it is to be stored away for you, when you return.

I never before saw so many plums as we have this year, the trees are, not bending only, but, breaking under the load of fruit which is also so fine and well matured. We have been distributing them, on all sides, but still they are wasting on the trees, for want of picking.

Alice has just put baby to the Nuns school and she is delighted. Alice is well but mopes a good deal. Her future is overshadowed by a dark cloud through which there is no gleam of cheering light. All is gloom and darkness. Very dearly has she paid for the

one false step, she made in youth, and the penalty like a "Nemesis" pursues her still. and will I fear follow her, through life. Had she trusted her Father more, and put less faith in Good, how different, and how much more happy would her lot in life have been. In all your trials and perplexities, seek wisdom and direction at the Throne of Grace; pray to your blessed Lord and he will shield you from harm. Confide in me, you have nothing to conceal from your father, and let bashfulness not prevent you from opening your whole heart to him. Treasure up, my counsels in your ~~letter~~ inmost heart. Mrs Elliot is no better; the Doctor has forbid her walking out. "May" is well.

The North Pacific has just come in, and "Ang" must be off to the Post Office to enquire for letters.

The weather looks threatening, the sky is clouding over, as if for rain, A good down pour would be acceptable as every thing is getting dry and pining for moisture.

Ang has just returned from town and brought me your letter dated 13th to 17th Augt. You will no doubt feel pained, at your sisters leaving for home, but please God your turn will come next year, when the term of your exile will end. What a beautiful gift, the colours so beautifully contrasted--it is the first unspun silk I ever saw. I shall deliver your several complementary messages, and trace our Capella and Viga, in their celestial courses. Astronomy is a most attractive study, follow it up.

The tales of a Grandfather are delightful reading, the other two works by Miss Austin I never read. I wish you were here to read them over to me as there is no one here who reads half so well, or with a spark of your taste and intelligence. I am afraid Alice would hardly part with Helen. Do write and be kind to the Good boys; their foolish Father has written to Mr Cook, their teacher interdicting all intercourse with their mother. Did you ever hear of such a monstrous thing. I see several mistakes in your Letter, pray write carefully, for that is expected <u>now</u>, from you. I am glad you are getting on with your drawing, it is a useful accomplishment. The rose is from dear Mamma, a Devoniensis, from the lower garden with her love and kisses. They all send oceans of love and good wishes. May God bless you my dearest child

I remain your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

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Victoria 16th Sept. 1873

My dearest Martha

I was hurried by the departure of the Mail in closing my letter to you of yesterday I wished to say, about your last letter, that it was hastily written and with less care and attention to correct orthography, than usual. Whenever you are at a loss for subjects write about yourself, your studies and daily doings, a subject I never tire of. You see what an important little lady you are, and what an interest I take about you. I was delighted in my morning ride today--with the lively movements of the Lark. They have mustered in great numbers about Fairfield, making the fields and woods resound, with their melodious notes. I suppose they are rejoicing in the delicious weather, and perhaps offering their tribute of praise and thanksgiving to the great Author of all good, who giveth food in due season to these his beautiful creatures, and filleth their hearts with joy. The grading of Moss street is now completed nearly to Henleys back gate; making a magnificent line of street. Won't it be grand when built over and planted with gardens and ornamental trees.

Mrs Trutch gave an at Home, last night, Jim and Amy attended, but no one else from James Bay. There was a crush and dancing was kept up to a late hour.

I have not seen Cary Pinder, to speak to for some time past. With respect to your enquiry about our new church I believe the whole is paid for, and not a penny of debt remains. The Metchosen Church will soon be finished, but whether paid for or not, I cannot say. My contribution for it is to be 100 dollars.

17th Sept.

Delightful weather. I missed the Lark concert this morning, the tiny performers having disappeared, and winged their flight to some other quarter, probably scared away by mischievous boys or cruel sportsmen. What a shame to disturb their simple enjoyments. I drove out with James yesterday to Elk Lake, to see the progress made in preparing the dams, retaining walls &c &c &c of the intended water works, they are now cutting and clearing away the brush and small timber, opening up some very pretty land, for the dam. In strolling over the ground, I had a chat with a very intelligent labourer, who said the water of Elk Lake, was not at all good, being so warm that it did not quench their thirst, it also contained seeds of acquatic plants, which he supposed were unwholesome. Two of his men, had been suffering from diarrhoea, which he ascribed to the bad quality of the water, a little raw

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oatmeal stirred into the water improved its effects, but still it was not so good as Spring ridge water; I left him after hearing this bad report of our future water supply, in which I fear there is much truth.

18th Sept.

We have just heard of Agnes leaving on the 17th of Aug.t on her return, via Panama. She will probably arrive at San Francisco on the 23d Sept.r just 3 days too late for the Prince Alfred, which will not leave again for Victoria till the 5th Oct.r so she will have a good rest at San Francisco. We shall be glad to see her here. I have received a letter from Mr Young, announcing his promotion to the rank of Colonial Secretary of British Guiana. The Salary is £1500 a year, almost double the salary he now receives--I rejoice at this improvement in his condition. Cousin and he are in good health.

I have placed a large beautiful apple on the toilet table in your bed room of the early strawberry variety. It makes me fancy you are here; though a mere delusion, it alleviates the pain of absence. What a long time still, till we meet, fully 10 months more. 20th Mr Drakes large stable took fire today and was entirely consumed. The origin of the fire, is supposed to be the burning of lucifer matches, by the neighbouring children; the stable was insured so the loss for Mr Drake is not great. Fortunately there was no wind at the time of the fire, or it would have spread to the houses in the vicinity Mrs OReilly is said to have had a narrow escape.

22d

You would be delighted to see how actively Mamma walks about; she has attended Divine service for the last three sundays. She loves the House of God to sing His praises and to hear the glad tidings of salvation. We have no tidings as yet from Agnes, and hope she is either at or not far from San Francisco. We had a long drive on Saturday, towards Sooke, the country looks dreary, beyond Fisher's farm, there being scarcely a good place for a settler to perch himself. We however enjoyed the drive, through the untrodden wilderness it was like opening up the secrets of the great deep. The children picked a quantity of salal berries, which were delicious.

22d Sept

The North Pacific is in, and I have received your letter of 22d August written on silk paper,

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with pale ink--what a trial for my weary eyes, to read. No more of that, I prithee dear Martha, give Papa your whole heart and your best round hand. Why did you spend the holidays at school, it would have been a change, to have gone to Dunain. Dallas writes that he would ask you for the holidays I wish for your healths sake you had accepted his invitation. I will give Dolly, the packet you send enclosed. There is nothing to reply to, in your letter; tell me all about yourself, your studies, your pursuits, your thoughts, state of mind; in short a complete full length portrait of my daughter. Mamma sends you no end of love and kisses and Papa the same God bless you JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria V.I. 23 Septr 1873

My dearest Child

What glorious weather; up this morning a little after 6 o'clock, bath and morning devotions, detained me, till 8, when I rode out; the air was deliciously cool, the birds singing gaily, (the same flock of larks, I missed the other morning; they had no doubt, found a quiet retreat, in the bush and trees west of Government House) the sky and the earth were redolent of beauty, all nature proclaiming the love and mercy of a benevolent Creator. The enjoyment was perfect, pure, unalloyed happiness. I wish you had been present.

My last letter left this morning. Dolly received your present, and will write to you an acknowledgment. The sketches from "Punch" are much admired, being really cleverly done, as Alice remarked, on seeing them, adding I wish Martha would send me some of them; they ought to be framed and have a place on the Drawing room table. Good my child, study to improve, and always tell me what you are doing and what you are learning, so that I may see you, in imagination as vividly as if you were present in person Do not fear repetitions, whatever concerns you, is never tiresome. Last evening about 7 o'clock, a brilliant meteor, shot over the garden, appearing to fall at the Doctors door for a second or two it lighted up the whole avenue. I never saw, any so bright before. I greatly startled poor Amy.

I have been to Mrs Maynards and selected 18 Photographs of places in British Columbia. There is one series of nine views taken from the Church Hill-- which together give a complete view of Victoria. By some mistake in moving the Camera too far James Bay House has been missed. These are numbered from 1 to 9. The second series of three, numbered from 1 @ 3 give together a complete view of Victoria, taken from Esquimalt road. You willof course have no difficulty, in arranging the several sections and recognizing the houses and other features of the city. This last series gives a peep of part of James Bay House and the new or Christ's Church; which are wanting in the first series of views, my sole object in fact, in sending the last series of three. The other six pictures are views, of places in British Columbia, and will perhaps be more prized than the former; the whole are packed in a tin water proof Tube. 25th Septr which opens at one end.
I have since added two more views one of the Town of Yale situated on Frasers River, where it rushes out with impetuous volume from the Gorges of the Cascade mountains into the open country below. The other is a view, on

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the road from Yale to Lytton, both are very pretty, and I hope you will like them. I have put them up in a tin case, the better to keep them from being wet or crushed, through the pressure of the mails. This I believe completes your list of commissions. Pray let me know as soon as you receive them.

The Prince Alfred is in, and will soon be off again, with the Mails, so I must cut my letter short. I will soon however write you again by the North Pacific.

I see a great fire, in the Indian village opposite, some of their houses are no doubt being consumed by the devouring element I hope their loss will not be serious. The dry weather we are having, renders precautions against fire doubly necessary. I do long so much to hear from you; write often. Miss Wylly sends her love We are all well; my own health, being very good. Mamma, Alice and James unite with me in love and best wishes May God bless and preserve my dear Child

Your loving Father JAMES DOUGLAS

26th. Once more adieu my dear I am thinking of you all the time Papas Kiss O

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria 6th Oct. 1873

My dearest child

I have been thinking a great deal about you of late, and the same train of thought must have been present in sleep, and given rise to a dream I had the other night. In the visions of the night, methought, we were travelling through the wilds, on horseback, with a number of other people. Some of them had fallen behind, and I had to wait for them, just as we were entering a long stretch of woods I told you to ride on, as the day was far advanced, and get through the woods before dark, and I would follow when the laggards came up, you immediately dashed off with your charger and disappeared. I came on with the rear, and to my great sorrow could not overtake you; I was continually asking about Martha. Where is Martha? Where is Martha? No one could tell. So in dire distress I awoke and behold it was a dream; and I rejoice it was so. We were all delighted to hear, by Telegram received last night that sister Agnes had arrived at San Francisco, well and hearty, that morning and was to start today by the Prince Alfred for Victoria. She has had a long voyage and we were getting anxious about her, but now hope soon to see her dear face again. Arthur is waiting for her here.

I have received your letter dated 25 and 30th Aug.t; telling what a lazy little thing you are. Your excursions with Miss Ingalls are very amusing, making you quite at home in the metropolis. You should see the houses of Parliament in session. The British Museum and Kew gardens are grand sights, and if not already visited, you ought to see them.

I leave the Wedding ceremony to an abler pen than mine.

Mamma wore her fawn silk. White & Blue shawl & blue & white bonnet Angy [?] wore a handsome white silk of course & long veil &c &c.

This is a meagre description, I might have done as well myself. Mamma looked wonderfully youthful for a Lady of 62. The bride was well got up, and looked better and <u>more</u> than herself. A handsome gold locket was my bridal gift.

I sadly miss your pretty tasteful bouquets, and hope you will soon appoint a deputy to attend to these duties in your absence.

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~~to these duties in your absence~~.

We are busy now taking in apples and dearly wish, we could send you some 20 or 30 bushels, to relieve our crowded stores, and keep you in fruit for the winter

There is nothing of much importance, doing here now, times being rather dull. People are looking hopefully for a change, as soon as the new gold diggings come into play. In respect to health there is nothing to complain and that is a blessing indeed, for which we should be deeply thankful.

Mamma is in great spirits about Agnes' expected return, and is now rambling about the garden, full of life and activity. The next grand epoch will be Martha's return with the wisdom and learning of the east. I must not write a long letter today, having been rather busy of late as timesgo; and a few hours only to prepare for the Mail

I met the Crease girls, on the bridge, as they were going to school this morning, and told them of Agnes' arrival at San Francisco. Mamma sends you her love and kisses, receive the same from me. Amy is to write. Dolly and the Doctor are well. Ang is delighted when your letters come. He is a good boy again adieu my dearest child

JAMES DOUGLAS

My love to dear Jane and and [sic] all the children

JD

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria V.I. 8th Oct. 1873

My dearest Martha

The day before yesterday I was visited with an attack of gout in the forepart of the left foot, which is rather painful, but not so severe as the attack I had last year, in the right foot. There is considerable inflamation but not so much pain. I contrive to move about, but not so actively as I have done all summer; my general health being unexceptionably good I hope it will soon go off, and with the blessing of God and careful diet, leave me free of pain.

Yesterday, the weather was wet and disagreeable, today is clear and pleasant for apple gathering, which we resumed today. The crop is large and the fruit fine. How are we to get it disposed of. I am afraid it will spoil on our hands. We have been lately feeding the milch cows with apples and pears to the great improvement of the milk and butter. I have lately had a gang of carpenters, at work doing repairs about the premises; they have refitted the back and front gates, with new posts, making every thing strong and nice. The foundation stone of the dam at Beaver Lake, for the water reservoir, was laid yesterday with imposing ceremonies. The Mayor spoke hopefully of the water supply, for the city, trusting it would be a blessing to the place. I sincerely reecho that wish.

Thursday 9th Oct.

The weather is overcast, with showers of much needed rain, moistening the thirsty earth, soon to bring out its coat of verdure again. My foot is not so tender, and easier today. No apples are being gathered today in consequence of the rain. I should so much like to have a peep at you, and see what you are doing at this very moment. It must be early evening with you, probabably [sic] about 8 o'clock, it being mid day here and the difference of time about eight hours. How do you spend the evenings, in reading, chatting in familiar intercourse with your friends or partly in study; closing them always I suppose in scripture readings and fervent prayer to our Heavenly Father, through our Lord and Redeemer Jesus Christ.

We expect the overland Mail today, with perhaps a letter from you. I will at all events post this, as a token of remembrance from James Bay, where your memory is so dearly cherished.

I am now going out for a little drive, as the weather has cleared up and the sun is warm and shining brightly. I do wish you were going out with me.

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5 P.M.

I have just returned from a pleasant drive with James, and find there is no word of the Mail which will probably be late in arriving; so I will close and post this without delay, or it may not go till next week.

Agnes is expected tomorrow by the Prince Alfred, and we are all impatient to see her. Arthur and Alice are playing croquet Dolly and Ellen having a little side game by themselves. Mamma is very well indeed, and sends you her love and kisses Ø; as well as Papa--sisters and brother.

May every blessing attend you--and may you have wisdom and grace from above, to guide all your ways. My dearest Martha,

Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria 10th Octr 1873

My dearest Martha

My letter of yesterdays date, had hardly been posted, when it was announced that the Prince Alfred had arrived off the harbour, and taken the ground on Shoal Point, with dear sister Agnes on board. Arthur and James immediately put off in boats, and brought her and Georgy to James Bay. It was such a happy meeting for all parties, as you may imagine, better than I can describe the scene. Suffice it to say that there was no sleep for any one, till the "wee sma hours, ayont the twal"

Agnes was detained a week at Panama; more fortunate at San Franco she just caught the "Prince Alfred" and came up in something under four days. She every where met with kindness and attention, and lost none of her luggage on the way. So far good.

I have just received your letter of the 6th and 7th Septr. Pray don't neglect your hand writing good penmanship, is the requisite ornament of a lady's letter. I have sent you to school chiefly with the view of acquiring a neat style both in speaking and writing Above all things avoid "slang" phrases, such as "chaff" &c. Ask your teachers to correct you, whenever you make such mistakes. I wish you to be, in all respects, lady-like, both in speech and manner. A lady never uses slang phrases, which are essentially vulgar, and to me unbearable.

I shall be proud indeed if you get the several prizes, you are aiming at, it will be a trophy of your diligence and ability, as well as a great satisfaction to your friends.

I have not heard lately from Mr Fraser; I do not know whether he is coming out again or not. In a former letter, I told you all about my plans for your return home. I will either go or send for you. You must not be uneasy about the future--such cares will come to you my dear child soon enough.

I have just sent a note to Mrs Cridge, requesting Miss Penrices [?] address. I will enclose her reply. A letter addressed Yarmouth is sure to find them.

Your offer for the lots below Miss Wyllys, is very liberal--you may have them for half the money. The taxes are now so high, that one cannot afford to keep unproductive land. Like a hot potatoe, it burns

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the hand that holds it. Homely but expressive. I am so glad you took the Sacrament, on the first Sunday in September. On the same day Mamma and I partook here of the Holy Communion, gratefully commemorating the death and sufferings of our dear and blessed Lord. It was indeed as you observe, a comfort to our yearning hearts. How I should have enjoyed the walk with Miss Ingall and the black berries. It was so good and considerate of her to correct the wrong expression, even at the risk of offending you. She is a true friend. You will acquire more substantial knowledge at your present age in 12 months, than you could have done in years at an earlier age. You are quick at learning and should form your manners and conversation, after the most agreeable and polished lady of your acquaintance, taking her as a model, and copying as you would a picture, until you can produce something better than the original. I have not time to go over the rest of your letter as the Alfred leaves again today. I have replied to all your queries. So again good bye My dearest Martha your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

Love from all here

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria V.I. 20th Octr 1873

My dearest little Martha

My last despatch to you was dated 10th Octr, since then I have not addressed you, having been busy, in one way or another ever since. I acknowledged your letter of 6th Septr, in advising you of Agnes' arrival, she remained here nearly a week and then repaired to her home at New Westminster, where she is happy and comfortable. George has grown to be a great boy, and has plenty to say for himself. We have made out the stanza, which you set to music, in your letter of the 6th It is Mamma's favourite hymn--and the words are as follows.

1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemers praise;
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of his Grace!
2 My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honours of thy name.
&c &c

You will find this grand song of praise in almost any collection of hymns. Mamma is much pleased at your recalling it to mind. Your remarks on the political state of Spain are just and appropriate, the whole of that unhappy country is in a state fast verging on anarchy; there appears indeed to be no remedy for the evils which afflict it, except the establishment of a strong central Government, armed with despotic powers.

We have just got all the apples in, the crop is immense, and the quality fine. As for pears they are wasting on the trees, as we have no where to put them, and they don't keep long; so they are fed of[f] to the Cows, and converted into butter. The weather continues fine frosty nights and clear days, have succeeded each other for the last ten days. The garden is not yet stript of its beauty, the stocks roses and other hardy flowers are still in bloom, quite enough to furnish a tolerable bouquet.

The McDonalds returned by the same steamer, that brought sister Agnes. Mrs McDonald is suffering from the fatigues of the voyage, but the children are all well. I saw Flora the other day; she has shot up into a tall graceful girl, and appeared glad to see me again. You make no mention in your letters, of her visit, to Lansdown House to see you. I have had a whole host of enquiries after you, by your friends here. Miss Pinder is well, and I may say as much, of May Elliot, and of many others.

The Metchosen Church is to be consecrated on Thursday next, and I purpose attending the ceremonial which will be imposing.

21st Octr

I have just received your brief but agreeable letter to Mamma, dated 20th Septr It is so pleasant to hear of your welfare: Mamma is delighted. The cap you sent her, never came to hand, and I fancy will never make its appearance, having probably become the prey of some Custom House Harpy. Goods of any kind subject to ~~the payment of~~ duty, cannot be sent through the Post, being, in that case, subject to seizure, exactly as smuggled goods would be. I have sent Amy your letter for her, which was enclosed in mine.

I am glad to learn that you have received my letter of 24th May. Have you received all my other letters? if so you have not acknowledged them. I always wish to hear if my letters have reached you. Pray be very particular, in doing so hereafter. Now you dear little thing what more shall I say to amuse or prove my sincere affection for you. By the Bye I send you the "Weekly Standard". You will see a new word there namely "Cassiar" which is the name bestowed upon the New Gold diggings on Stikine River. The origin of the word is unknown to me, but I suppose it is the Native name of the place. I have received a letter from Mr Dallas; he regrets you did not go to Dunain for the midsummer holidays. If you think it safe to make the journey alone you are at liberty to go there for Christmas. Of course, I have no wish to confine you all the time at school. I wish I were at home, to make the journey with you

Mamma sends you her dearest love and best wishes for your health and welfare, Alice unites in these tokens of affection. Ellen attends the Nuns school, and is a rema[r]kably quick child. Dolly is also a pupil there. I hope the Photographic views of B.C. objects and scenery, which I sent on the 26th of Septr, will reach you safely. I am sure they will be much admired. May God ever bless and preserve you

My dearest child
Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

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Victoria V.I. 24th Octr 1873

My dearest Martha.

My last letter left this the day before yesterday. The weather is beautiful, frosty nights and clear bright warm days. Yesterday we, ie Alice, Amy, James and self, drove out to Metchosen, to witness the consecration of the Church, which was numerously attended and on the whole a most impressive ceremonial. There was a collection after service, which yielded a sum equal to the price of a new Harmonium for the church, besides the proceeds of a very nice luncheon which was spread for the guests in the school room at 3 shillings a piece. Every thing was good, and the cool, crisp air gave a zest to the appetite. Alice eat [sic] nothing, but I made an enormous meal, and yet rose hungry from table. Annie and Mrs Rhodes were present, and other members of St Johns choir, who conducted the singing which was really very good. The Bishop Mr Gribbell and Mr Sutton chaplain of the "Repulse" who preached the sermon were present, and conducted the services. Mr and Mrs Drake, Pearse, and all the farmers in the neighbourhood graced the occasion with their presence and made ~~the occasion~~ it a very nice reunion. Metchosen looked its best, the beautiful slopes, the richly tinted foliage, the bright clear sky, the warm sunshine, the glassy smooth sea, and the grand mountains in the distance, formed a combination of indescribable beauty. I felt an exhileration [sic] of mind, which led me to wander away through the woods towards the "white cliffs" bordering the sea, from whence I contemplated its placid waters with delight. So much was I impressed with the scene that I almost regretted our home was not there; that feeling however soon wore off and my love for dear James Bay revived. It was after sunset when we got home, ~~after~~ and closed a most enjoyable day. It is reported this morning that gold has been discovered on a River flowing into Barclay Sound, and that very fine specimens have been brought into town. Whether true or not I cannot say. I give you the report for what it is worth.

Saturday 25th Octr

Clear, bright, warm day. The Prince Alfred arrived with a number of passengers, and no letters from you It being a common saying, that no news is good news; I shall presume that you are in perfect health, and go on with my letter. Mamma drove out yesterday with Alice, paying visits. Mrs Finlayson expressed her delight at a letter. and a photograph she lately received from you; Mamma says it is a striking likeness of you. Mrs Jones is in better health Mrs Work is rather poorly, but in great

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spirits. Annie and Mary Finlayson send their love and will soon write and speak for themselves. I have just been out for a long drive, round by the Uplands, Mount Tolmie, passed King's towards Mount Douglas and home by the middle road. Dolly and Ellen honoured me with their company, affording great amusement by their innocent remarks. It was a pleasant drive. The children pressed me to hurry home, as they wished to make a batch of taphy. [sic] On reaching home, however they wished to go out again; but I declined the invitation as I thought we had been far enough.

Monday 27th Octr

I will now close as the Mail leaves today. The weather continues fine; the apples are in store, yet the rooks are about, pity you are not here, with bow and arrow, to drive them off to their forest homes. Mamma sends you her love and kisses all here unite with me in love and best wishes. Write often and tell me about every [thing] you are learning and doing. I long to hear, all about you. My dearest Martha Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria V.I. 4th Novr 1873

My dearest Martha

Another of your dear letters has come to hand, dated 27th Sept. You complain of having no news when the best tidings, you can give me, about yourself, your thoughts your sayings and doings, your occupations and studies, your devotions and the state of your mind towards God, if you love him daily, more and serve Him better, than youever did before, with these and other personal details, you can never want for matter, that is interesting to me. Do you ever get angry now, or is your temper under the exercise of a perfect controul. [sic] When the mind is assailed with evil or revengeful thoughts, I always have recourse to prayer that He who knows all the thoughts of the hearts of men, may purify them by the inspiration of His Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love and worthily magnify His Holy Name, and I may tell for your encouragement, that I never pray so in vain. I feel strengthened refreshed and relieved from every embittered thought. Follow the same course, my dear child, and you will reap the benifit. [sic]

Mammas letter is not yet forthcoming, we cannot induce her to take pen in hand. She reads a great deal, takes plenty of exercise, has a good appetite and altogether enjoys excellent health. She is always thinking about you, and looking forward joyfully to your return.

Alice left us this morning to spend a week or two with her sister at New Westminster.

For the last three weeks, we have had pleasant dry weather; but a change is now impending, with every appearance of rain, which is desirable on account of the farmers, who cannot get on with their ploughing, until the ground is loosened, by copious showers. The square in front of the Colonial Office, is to be deeply ploughed and fenced in with a neat railing. It will then be planted with ornamental trees and shrubs and laid out as a lawn. This will greatly improve its appearance, and present a fine object to people entering the harbour. How sad for poor Mrs McDonald to lose both her sisters, and so soon, the one after the other. She has our sincerest sympathy.

James is now studying law with Mr McCreight; if he sticks to it, he shall have every chance of rising in the profession.

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I am glad you have been to Gunters it is a classical spot. You are right in shunning ale and Porter, I seldom or ever taste either. Take a little Claret if necessary for your health, but avoid the habit of using any thing but water as a drink. As a rule alcoholic liquors, impair health. I have given up their use entirely and my health was never better. Tiplers are my aversion.

I will give Aunts Sarah and Jane your love, and send you the address of the Finlayson boys.

Cousin Young's address is

Kingston
Jamaica
British West Indies

but they are soon going to Demarara probably about February next, however in the meantime address Jamaica, and if they have left the letters will be sent after them.

Novr 5

The Philharmonic Hall, a fine building lately erected on Fort Street, next to Davis' cattle market, is now open to the public Vivian, will appear there tonight, with a "parlour entertainment", "the speaking hand", "the celebrated pianist", the favourite Soprano", "and the Young Tenor, Robusto"; with such attractions he cannot fail, I should think, to draw a full House. The upper story of the Hall, is used as a skating Rink; so that every part of it is utilized, by the enterprising Proprietor Professor Schaffer. The Flag ship "Repulse" left yesterday for the south and will not return till the spring of 1875, by which time I hope the Rail road will be fairly started.

We are now in hourly expectation of hearing how Sir John McDonalds Ministry are faring at Ottawa, if the want of confidence vote is carried against them by the Grits, Sir John will have to resign, and there will be no end of trouble and delay, about the construction of the Railway. The Grits, as the opposition faction is termed are a low set, and nothing good is to be expected from them.

The weather is showery mild and pleasant. The leaves are richly tinted with yellow and purple but falling fast; I have still some fine flowers in the garden, and many roses. Dolly has taken cold and is not very well today. Amy and all the other members of the family are in good health.

I must now close and post my letter, though I could go on chatting with you all day. Mamma's tenderest love she hopes to see you, before another year is out. James unites with me in love and best wishes.

Where are you to pass the Xmas holiday.

In writing tell me all about yourself
May the Lord bless, and preserve you
My dearest child Yr loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria V.I. 10 Novr 1873

My dearest Martha

I had just done posting, my letter of the 4 & 5 Novr when, we had the pleasure of yours of 4th Octr. I perceive a marked improvement in your style,--a greater variety and better choice of words;--clearer, and more expressive phrases. You are now reaping the benifit of your prolonged stay in England.

There is no deception about the Cassiar gold diggings; every miner brings his pile of dust; not one "dead broke" digger, has yet arrived here. There will be a great rush of men in the spring. Mr Richardson confirms the previous reports of the wealth of Iron ore, and lime on Texada Island. What pleasant rambles you must have, and then the stores of berries!!! why it ~~is~~ must be delightful ~~even~~ and then the delicious tarts; positively enchanting even to hear of such good things. We are so glad to hear that you are stronger and less subject to take cold, and that your general health is so good. I told Amy about the music, you sent by Mr Nathan and she is thankful for your kindness. The other enquiries in your letter I have replied to in my former communications, and will not now repeat.

I met Mr Hamley yesterday as I was taking a stroll on Beacon Hill. He is much exercised about the recent Custom House appointments. The people who correspond officially with him, from Ottawa, he says cannot spell even common English words correctly. He is in despair; being also affraid [sic] that the Cassiar trade will all go to Portland. You see we have all our troubles in this world.

Your reason for not joining your sister at Dunain, during the holidays, is good and sufficient I wish Mr Dallas had taken you under his own care, in one of his frequent trips to and from London and Scotland It would not matter much, if the chance occurred, a few days before, or after the regular holliday [sic] time, it would only be a few days lost or gained, and you would travel comfortably.

The Prince Alfred arrived this morning, without the English Mail. I hear Amy's voice up stairs with Mamma, full of fun and chatty as usual, she thinks now, she would rather like a trip to England, and I sincerely wish, she could be gratified. It would be rather hard for the poor Doctor and Dolly, were she to leave home at present; but it would be to her advantage. The weather is now beautifully clear and warm for the season; winter must soon however come now

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Mr Lowenberg has been selling more of my property; the last sale is a town lot in Johnson's street--70 feet frontage for which he received 4500 dollars, a good price; I intend investing the proceeds so as to yield as large and a more tangible income than did the land.

I have not seen Mrs Nicholls for some time past; as I don't often travel through her part of the town.

Mrs Elliot is still ailing, she called with May a few days ago, but I was not at home.

Mamma James and Amy send you their love; trusting you will write often and tell them all about yourself. Give my love to Jane and all her dear ones-- to the Misses Bushby and to Mrs Green if you ever write to her. I have not yet got the address of the Finlayson boys I will send it hereafter. Now Good bye--

My dearest Martha Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

Victoria 17th Novr 1873

My dearest Martha

My last was dated 10th Novr since which I have not heard from you. Time is passing away; we are now within a month of Christmas when your presence will be greatly missed. You may be as happy where you are, but we should so much like to see you here. I wish you a happy and profitable Christmas and many returns of the season. The weather continues mild, with occasional rains. Today is quite spring like and I am having the garden orchard, all deeply turned up with the plough. Mr Grahame is to leave today, for London, being called home by Telegram, to meet the Directors of the Hudsons Bay Coy I will ask him to call and see you.

Sister Agnes is staying at New Westminster, and is pining after her little girls, whom she greatly misses though satisfied she did for the best by leaving them with their kind Aunts in England. Alice lately returned from New Westr after a brief visit to her sister. Ellen attends the Nuns school; she is very quick and is the most restless child I ever saw. It is impossible to keep her quiet, for ten minutes together even in my stern presence. She is in perfect health--suffering neither from colds nor other complaints

Alice lives very retired, we hardly know she is in the house.

Miss Wylly is full of enquiries about you, and hopes to see you soon. Would you like to extend your residence in England to three years, if so I will yield to your wishes; but if not I must take steps to send for or go myself to bring you home. Let me know, when you write, which you consider the better course. The present time is all important to you, for there will be no more school after your return to Victoria. Therefore, make the best of the present time, and acquire all the useful knowledge, that is possible.

Where will you spend the Christmas holidays this year; I hope you may be able to join your sister at Dunain. We still continue our daily drives, about the country, the roads being firm and hardly with very little mud. Such of the trees as retain their leaves are beautifully tinted with purple and yellow, making the views exceedingly attractive--Autumn is indeed a delightful season, to me possessing an indiscribable charm. I write in haste to save the Mail, you must therefore overlook the brevity of this epistle and fancy all the kind and tender things I wish to say. Dear Mamma and Alice's love and kindest wishes My love to dear Jane and her dear ones.

May God bless and preserve you my dearest child

Your ever loving Father
JAMES DOUGLAS

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MS 0776 – Correspondence (B/40/4A)

Victoria V.I. 23d Novr 1873

My dearest Martha

Your welcome letter of the 18th Octr, came to hand on the 21st Inst. Oh, how far apart are the lines with so much to say, why not turn the paper to the best account by writing a little closer. So the rose from Mamma, retained its sweetness, even after the long journey She was delighted, to hear it. Your account of the Clever Conjuror you saw at the Egyptian Hall, is amusing. There was no spiritual agency about the feat; it was a mere trick, effected by slight [sic] of hand; or in other words, which I once heard from a noted Conjuror use, "my hands sir, are quicker than your eyes" and on that rapid manipulation my success depends. The poor spirits Sir have nothing to do with it. These slight of hand men, are so quick and clever, that they may easily puzzle the uninitiated. I have just received a line from Alick, mentioning that you were to spend the Christmas holidays, with your sister at Dunain. I am glad it is so, for I wish you to see a great deal of your friends, while you are near them.

Miss Wylly and Mrs Raymur [?] called the other day. Mrs R. told me that Cecilia Wallace had lately received a letter from you. Oh yes, I remarked Martha writes to many of her young friends here. Well says Mrs R. of course Miss Douglas, <u>wishes</u> to <u>hear</u> all the <u>gossip,</u> and she gets it all from them. I was about to reply for Miss Douglas, to the effect that she never cared for gossip, when Miss Wylly chimed in, well Sir James I never write gossip to Martha. What an idea Mrs R. has formed concerning young lady friendships. Disagreeable this, is it not. We have later intelligence from "Cassiar", confirmatory of former reports, of the wealth of the new diggings. A ship has just sailed with a full cargo, of Vancouver Island produce, the first direct shipment of the kind to England, except the HBCoys ships. This is a subject of gratulation to the whole Colony. The good ship was followed from the wharf, by loud cheers from the spectators. Dear little Annie Rhodes' engagement has been broken off, by the faithless swain. She bears the calamity with great firmness. It is the best thing that could [happen] to her. I never thought the engagement, was a wise step; with poverty on both sides, it promised happiness to neither party.
24th Novr Your dear letter of 25th Octr arrived this morning, and I have been reading it over, ~~to~~ with Mamma, who is overjoyed to hear of your welfare. I am glad you liked the Photographs, they are really well executed, and have a merit as pictures, independently, of the interest one takes in the scenery, they so truthfully delineate.

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I shall send you a fresh supply--when I can get them. How kind the Bushby's are to my little Daughter. Pray thank them for me with my love and best wishes. The Comic Concert, must have been an amusing affair; I should have liked it immensely. Dorés pictures are a treat to come, the subject of the new picture is a touching one. My love to dear Sister Jane, Wifey, Rupert and all the little ones; in which Mamma and Alice unite. I enclose a monthly rose and rose bud from Mamma. I could still make you a bouquet from the flowers in the garden still in bloom if you were within reach. Again adieu my little dear. May God in his mercy, bless and preserve you

My dearest Martha Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria V.I. 27th Novr 1873

My dearest Martha

The Prince Alfred left yesterday with my last letter to you I met Mrs Nicholls & son the other day at Hibben's. She was full of enquiries about you, which I satisfied and gave her your love. She has not been well of late, and requires rest, her son though well is out of employment, having through ill health lost his situation as Telegraph manager at Olympia, which is a cause of anxiety to her. He is a fine steady young man, and will I suppose soon find another situation. Mrs Nicholls also told me that you were a great favourite at school, which is very gratifying to me, and Mamma I happened to see Mrs Billings yesterday she was enquiring particularly about Miss Douglas and when she was coming home, and seemed disappointed when I told her, you would not be here till next year. Her little boy she added was always asking about you, and enquiring, when you were coming she is such a favourite of his. This is I suppose the little Tartar, who was such a trial of patience at the Sabbath school. Your labour has evidently not been thrown away, a proof that "Ministering Children" can do good, much, much good. What have you done with that excellent little work "Ministering Children".

We have bought a new horse for James' use, a pretty bay, gentle and well trained for riding or harness and quite up to my weight, when I wish a good mount. I have put down a few more fruit trees, for you, the "Douglas Prince" cherry, and two new varieties of Plums, the "golden drop" and "Egg Plum" 28th Mr Hamley and Marcus Smith dined with us last night. They enjoyed themselves greatly, appearing very happy. It was a nice party, the dinner good. There was a touch of frost last night; winter is at hand, every thing must be made snug, for coming storms.

30th Novr Advent Sunday

A very good sermon today, by the Very Revd Dean, in aid of the Diocesan Society, as the instrument of spreading the knowledge of the Gospel and adding to the Church of God. The seat of Gods praises is in the Church. The little return of praise God receives from this world is from the Church, a sacred Society, constituted for the glory of God, <u>every member</u> of which is to <u>concur</u>, in <u>praising</u> God. The Mediator of these praises is Jesus Christ. All Gods gifts come from Him to us, <u>through Christ</u>, and <u>through Him</u> all our praises pass from us to ~~Him~~ God. Let us pray that our hearts may become the throne and temple of the Lord, Jesus, that we may enjoy his presence, experience his consolations, become more entirely devoted to his service and fruitful in good

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works. These are impressive words; ponder them my dear child in your heart.

Four inches of loose snow cover the ground this evening, we have had showers of snow all day, I have just returned from a stroll to Beacon Hill, with Helen, all through the snow It was most enjoyable, and not at all cold.

2d Decr

Clear, cold weather, lovely sky and bright sunshine. The trees and fields look charming in their pure, white mantle of snow. I am just going to post this, and afterwards for a long walk into the country; this being just the weather for exercise, in the open air. My health is, thank God, very good. My love to dear Jane, Wifey, Rupert, and all the dear little ones. Mamma's warmest love. May God bless you My dearest Martha
Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Master Jno. Finlayson Victoria V.I. 4th Decr 1873
Bracondale School
Norwich

My dearest Martha

The weather continues cold and bright, freezing hard, yet warm in the sun. Skating is now all the fashion; Harris' pond is alive with merry skaters. Mr Finlayson has just called, and put all my ideas to flight. I asked him, for his boy's address, which you will find at the commencement of this sheet. Mrs Finlayson and family, are all well, and send you their love. 8th Decr The weather, was milder on Saturday and yesterday was pleasant. The snow is fast disappearing, though still freezing at night. The day before yesterday, I drove round by the "Thames" with Alice and Ellen, and had a pleasant turn, the air was however, rather fresh and chilly, except in those parts of the road which were sheltered from the wind.

I have not sent you a paper this week; in neither of them is there any thing of interest; except the untiring bickerings of the rival editors, now carried on to a disgusting extent.

James is again complaining about the pain in the ankle, which does not prevent his skating: he also went to "Schaffers" assembly room a few evenings ago; not so bad for a sick man. He is assiduously pursuing his studies with McCreight, and reads history closely, for general information. I have given orders for the new croquet lawn, to be executed by Mitchel and Johnson; it will therefore be the correct thing. 9th Decr By the Prince Alfred which arrived this morning we have received your letter to Mamma, dated 1 Novr and an enclosure for Amy, which I immediately sent to her. The Boil on your neck, is I hope discharged, and will have a good effect on your general health. The Worcester Park post mark on your letter to Mamma is 7th Novr so you must have kept it by you for nearly a week after it was written. How very naughty of you, not to add a postscrip with the latest intelligence. I wrote lately about Mrs Nicholls, and there is nothing new to add. I have just been reading over your letter with Mamma; she is delighted to hear of your welfare, and sends all manner of love and good wishes: Her letter is long of coming, and I fear the photo will be not less dilatory; but my dear Martha, live on in hope. Agnes is well and is to be down this week for Christmas. There will be noise enough, when the three youngsters meet together;--one is bad enough, but three will be overpowering.

How does it happen, that none of my letters are acknowledged, in your last, I fancy more than

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one must have reached you, since last you wrote. I love to have my letters to you, carefully advised as something valuable. The sharp clear, dry weather continues; the flowers are all gone--and winter, stern cold winter fairly set in. The new Post Office, a pretensious building, faced with Freestone from Nanaimo, is finished externally, and is a great ornament to Government Street, on which it is situated. The custom House is to be erected, near the water at the lower end of Fort Street. It will be finished, in the coming year.

I have just heard from Amy, that she has received the music you sent by Mr Nathan. Young Raymur arrived by the Prince Alfred, to the delight of his doting Mamma. The trip has improved him, in mind and manners. Mr Hamley is starting an equipage say a one horse buggy. He has sold "Lady Jane" she brought the magnificent sum of £2½!!! Be sure and give my best love to dear Jane, Wifey and all the children. Pray tell Mr Dallas, for I fancy I forgot to do so in my last letter to him, to buy a Christmas gift for the children, and present it to them in my name. Mammas love, to you all. Bless you, my dear Child Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria V.I. 3 JanY 1874

My dear Martha

What a long time, since we heard from you; and your last letter, like the Barmecides feast, was arrayed with empty platters, so brief,--the lines so far apart; and it said so little about your own sayings and doings, that it only awakened a desire to know something more about your own dear self. The holidays are past and gone ~~and~~ its amenities and gaieties are numbered among things of the past. We had our usual Christmas dinner, whereat you were greatly missed; otherwise a very pleasant time: the streets of Victoria were not so gaily decked with green, as in past years, yet there was the usual bustle and activity about the holiday shops; toys and cakes being in general demand. The calls on the First lasted from 10 o'clock till dewy eve. I was thoroughly tired out and glad when the reception came to an end. The weather was mild and pleasant, more like a day in spring, than a day in mid winter. Mamma was nicely got up, and won all hearts by her kindness and geniality.

Arthur and Agnes are both here and in excellent health. George did his part in keeping up the noise if not the mirth of Christmas. Ellen was not a whit behind George in noisy romps. Madam Blum gave a party the other night; our people all attended, except Mamma and I, who kept solitary house together. Madam played the host, with the most charming grace to the admiration of the guests. Your sisters were delighted with their entertainment

Last night, Dr Helmcken received. Agnes danced like a child of 15, as lightly and as merrily.

There is a change of weather coming; last night, it froze hard, and now ~~the~~ snow is falling fast and furious, the air being mild, without wind. I had a long walk up Fort to Moss street then through Fairfield and home by Humbolt Street. It was snowing all the time, and though all alone I enjoyed it greatly. Yesterday I drove Alice to Craigflower, crossed the Bridge, & home by the Gorge, a drive which you missed by being away from home.

5 JanY

Agnes and Arthur are seated near me, while I am writing; the former desires me to send her love and to say that she will write you when she gets back to New Westminster and tell you all about the Christmas festivities. A very amusing tale it will no doubt be; if given in sisters best manner.

PR 1428 - James Douglas family fonds
MS 0776 – Correspondence (B/40/4A)

8th Jany

I have been much engaged of late and rather idle perhaps, so have not continued my letter, with the usual industry. The foreign correspondent, must also, I fear, plead guilty to the same indictment; it is so long, so very long, since our last advices from her. The North Pacific and the Prince Alfred, being both expected in today, I confidently look for letters by the one, if not by both.

Arthur and Agnes left yesterday for their home, at New Westminster, in excellent health. The weather is mild and stormy, overcast and altogether with a desolate aspect; yet I feel no depression of mind; such weather has its peculiar charm for me. I have no longings for clear skies and a bright sun; these will come in their season, and be rendered more enjoyable by their temporary privation. I am, in fact, happy and contented; my joy, coming from above, is not darkened, nor my sun obscured by overshadowing clouds.

2 o'clock P.M.

The North Pacific has come but brought no letters for me. Shall I lecture the foreign correspondent? Dear Amy has a bad cold and keeps her bed today. The poor child has been over exerting her strength, in the holiday pastimes. Such are the fatigues of pleasure

9th January

Amy is rather better today; and will I trust be well in a few days.

Last night was the Sunday school treat; there was a large gathering and much enjoyment to the children. Ellen was rewarded with a little picture from the Christmas Tree, and Dolly a toy Musket!!! to scare the Rooks I suppose.

Ang has just brought your two letters, of 28th Novr and 5th Decr brought this morning by the Prince Alfred. These have relieved our anxiety, on your account, and the foreign correspondent, from the charge of neglect. I have been reading them over with Mamma, who devoured your kisses. Dear good Mamma is always so delighted to hear from you; that she cannot rest, when the Mail comes in, until we have sent to the Post office to enquire about letters. The letter for Alice, enclosed with mine, I have duly delivered. Poor Good is taking a very stupid course, with his boys--There is no alternative however, so let him have his own way. I suppose you are now with your sister at Dunain enjoying the holiday times. What a merry house you will make with all the little ones

about you.

I must write to Wifey soon, the dear child is I hear grown out of all knowledge; so I fancy must also Rupert and Douglas, be grown up into youthful giants. Give them and dear sister Jane, my warmest love and best wishes.

10th Jany

Amy is much better today. I will write hereafter, about your return home. The Saunders are coming back in July which would be too soon for you. The Pembertons will probably return at a later date, and I will write to Mr Pemberton about you. I should like to take a turn home myself, if health permits, and I do not like to relinquish that idea, until the last moment. I will think over your request in your letter to Alice about spending some time in France and give you my decision hereafter.

The Mail leaves today, and hardly gives time for mature thought or reflection

The weather is fine, and I am going out, with Alice for a long drive, in the direction of Rosebank.

Your friends are all well and send their love, especially dear good Miss Wyllie. Our good worthy Dean, is taking a course I do not exactly approve, in opposition to the Bishop, which may give rise to serious, misunderstandings in the Church, and be a cause of grief to the ~~Church~~ congregation. Mamma is in very good health and moves about with her usual activity, believing that nothing would go on prosperously without her close attendance. She sends you her love, and also Alice and James. That idle boy has, I fear, not written to you lately. May God bless you my dear Child, and direct all your ways, is the fervent prayer of Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

PR 1428 - James Douglas family fonds
MS 0776 – Correspondence (B/40/4A)

Victoria 19th Jany 1874

My dear little Martha

My letters to you, have not, of late, been so frequent, as during the summer months; the route by Pugets Sound, overland to California, not being safe, in stormy weather, and the Prince Alfred, leaving this only once a fortnight. My thoughts are not the less occupied about you, I love you not the less dearly, and I long to see you again. With Gods help, that will be this coming summer. I fancy you are now about leaving Dunain, on your return to school. I wish I could once more see dear Jane and all her little ones. They would hardly know me now, and except by the family likeness, I might not recognize them. The weather has been stormy for some days past but it is not cold, and the grass is still green. At Yale and along the Fraser, the weather has been more severe. Two feet of snow are reported at Yale, but the River is still open.

I am glad to hear that the Photos are so much admired. I shall try and get some more for you, of other views in B.C., though I fancy my last, remittance nearly exhausted the stock in town. I am now engaged in the perusal of Cassells French and Prussian war, a work of rare merit, full of interest, infinitely more so, than any mere work of fiction. How forcibly it portrays, the horrors of war, the evils of ambition, and the supreme blessings which peace and security confere on nations. It is too full of harrowing scenes, for you to read

23d Jany

The weather is now colder--and the ground covered with snow, so that the little birds are forced, by hunger, to come about the house, for their daily crumbs. There was a large party, last night at the Finlaysons, Alice, Amy and James attended. It was very enjoyable and went off with great eclat.

At the same time an atrocious attack was made, on Mr Forwomanman while seated at dinner with his family, by his son in law, which it is feared will terminate fatally. I send you a newspaper, which contains the painful details, as I do not wish to enter upon them here. What a misfortune it is for poor Jane. I feel greatly distressed about it. The wretched assassin is in gaol, awaiting the punishment of his crime.

You will also find an account of the shipping casualties, in the storm of last Sunday, in the

PR 1428 - James Douglas family fonds
MS 0776 – Correspondence (B/40/4A)

same paper, fortunately no lives were lost, though there is much loss of property.

4 P.M.

We have just been out for a jolly sleigh ride Jim driving two in hand, "Punch" and "Dick", the new steed. They go beautifully together. Alice and Ellen were of the party, and thoroughly enjoyed the drive. The snow lies about five inches deep but I fancy, will not endure, as the air is mild. Mr Forman died today, an event deplored by the whole community, who deeply simpathise [sic] with the bereaved widow and family.

24th Jany

The Prince Alfred has just arrived and there are no letters from you. I suppose you are down in the frozen north, under the rule of the stern "Ice King", beyond the sway of the "sweet south wind".

We are all in good health. Mamma sends you no end of love and kisses as also Alice and Helen. they are longing to see you again. My love to dear Jane and the little ones. May God in his mercy, bless and keep you.

My dearestChild Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

PR 1428 - James Douglas family fonds
MS 0776 – Correspondence (B/40/4A)

Victoria V.I. 27th Jany 1874

My dearest Martha

I have just been reading an account of the great storm, in England, of 16th Decr The number of lives lost, and the great distruction [sic] of property was lamentable. In our dear little Island, the weather, was then calm and pleasant. We had a very severe storm of wind and rain on the 18th of this month, the force of the wind was tremendous, exceeding in violence, any thing I remember here. No damage of a more serious kind, than the uprooting of trees and fences, have been reported, though there may have occurred casualties at sea of which nothing is yet known. Letters from the Helmcken boys were received by the Prince Alfred later than any we have from you--they mention your having a severe cold, with an attack of bronchitis which gives us much uneasiness and increases our desire to hear from you

29th Jany

Wet, stormy weather; extremely mild the hill sides green, and temperature pleasant. We drove out yesterday afternoon, by the Brunside road and home by the Gorge; through which the waters of the inner Basin were rushing out with tremendous force, forming a regular cataract into the outer basin. I stood watching it for some time from the bridge, the fall and the fury of the struggling waters being a sight worth seeing. I never saw the place in its glory before. Some enterprising person has just finished a house of entertainment immediately at the bridge, trusting to its being a place of resort, for public in the summer months.

Alice, who was with me enjoyed the drive, she is now stronger and in better health than she was, on arrival from England, and as for Helen she is as active and healthy as any child can be.

Amy is quite recovered from her illness, and is going about as usual. 30th Jany
The North Pacific arrived yesterday, but still no letters from you. Your last letter is dated 5th Decr nearly two months ago. What a time to wait. The Bishop called yesterday, and we had a long conversation about Alice. We both heartily desire she should be reconciled to her husband but I fear the wish is vain. What a painful subject for me to dwell upon. I trust God will change her heart in his own good time, and produce in her a better state of mind.

31st JanY

A fine bright morning; the first month of the year, is past and gone. What mercies we have received, my Gracious God is ever present, as a help in the time of trouble and I trust so it is with you. He will save and direct you, while you seek him with a perfect heart. I have just bought a new Gold pen with silver mounted handle, and am now writing with it. Do you think it improves my hand?

We are getting ahead with the garden work, the whole surface is now nearly turned up, and today we are going to put early vegetables such a[s] pease and cress, in the ground.

3d FebY

Have just received your letter, dated 1st & 2nd JanY, to Mamma, with the enclosed despatches from all the dear little ones. We are delighted to hear of your welfare, after your protracted silence. You must have felt very happy, in being again with dear Jane, and passed the holidays very pleasantly with her How much I would have enjoyed being with you. You make no mention of your journey to Scotland I hope you were not much fatigued, nor suffered from the cold. Alick is I suppose quite well and also dear Jane--who has not yet sent her long promised letter. Dear Jane has so much to do at home, with all her little cares about her, that she has little time to indulge in other thoughts. Mamma is delighted with the letters of her Grand children and will preserve them as keep sakes, very precious to her. You must tell them so, until Mamma has time to do so herself.

9th FebY

By the Prince Alfred this morning I had the pleasure of your dear letter dated at Dunain 24th & 27 Decr In acknowledging the receipt of my several letters, you have omitted two letters I wrote in Octr You probably did not receive them.

Jane has been truly good and kind to you, and you must love her all the more, for her sisterly affection. How I love dear Wifey, her letter to Grandma is very nicely written and gave great pleasure to Mamma. I hope the dear child will go on improving. Such a treasure as she will be to her Parents no less to all her relations and friends. Her Father writes that she is getting on very well with her new Governess, and we are all so glad to hear it. He also writes as follows.

"Martha is much improved in every way, & I leave her to "give an account of herself and all her doings"

Very pleasing to me, is this report, though nothing more than expected from the genius of the family. Great things are expected from you, moral worth and intellectual accomplishments. I cannot clearly make out your wishes, with respect to your stay in Europe. Do you wish to stay in England till August 1874 and then have six months in Paris, or do you ask to remain in England till August 1875, and then finish off in Paris. Let me know as soon as possible, for if so I will not go or send for you this year. I do not mind the cost, provided, it be for your good. Write explicitly on this subject

10th Feby

There is a prodigious excitement just now, in the Colony, respecting the conduct of the Cabinet. It is suspected De Cosmos, is betraying the Country--compromising its best interests and bartering the Railway for a money payment, from the Dominion Government. This has excited all classes against him, as you will see by the two Papers--the Colonist of today and yesterday, which details the particulars of these stirring events. You will see the "Little Doctors" name prominent among the agitators.

Mamma sends you her love, not a day passes, without a prayer to Heaven for you. May the blessed Saviour, have you in his holy keeping. Love from Alice, James &c. I delivered your letter to Amy. My dearest Child

Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria Vancr Island
20th FebY 1874

My dearest Martha

I have just finished a letter to Mr Dallas, in reply to suggestions about your return to Victoria, when MT Fraser, comes this way, under his care. The following extract contains what I have written to him, on the subject.

"With respect to Martha's return to Victoria, I have not yet decided, on the time and the means. I dearly wish to see you all again, and had almost made up my mind, to take a run to England this year, but I have just received a letter from Martha, expressing a wish to prolong her stay, so "that I am at a loss what to do" "until I hear from her again". But I may say that I wish her to complete, the two full years in England, that is 'till September 1874, after that I have no objections to her coming home, if she is so disposed, under Frasers escort, but not before. Should there be no other good opportunity, I will either go myself, if spared, or send James to bring her home"

So you see, much as I regret your absence, you are not to think of coming home, until your two years in England are completed, my object being to give you the fullest opportunity of completing your education, which I hope with Gods blessing, will greatly redound to your advantage. Oh! how I long to see you again!

I have just received your letter dated Dunain 11th JanY You are still happy in the Society of dear sister Jane, who not only loves you dearly, but admires you for many estimable qualities of mind. She writes me that you are very careful and not at all wasteful or extravagance, have led to the ruin of thousands.

You must have enjoyed the views from Dunain Hill, as well as the bracing air and healthful exercise. To me, it would have been delightful. My walks are, at this season, limited to Clover point and Fairfield. The views of the straits and Mountains are ever varying and always full of beauty.

The Gold hunters, are now hurrying off to Cassiar, with bold hearts, full of visions of a golden harvest. May success attend the poor fellows; I am sure they deserve it, in return for so many toils and privations as they endure.

I enclose a few violets which I have just picked in the flower border, for I am sure you will prize

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them. The elections are over. De Cosmos and Roscoe are returned for the Commons It was a hard fight for De Cosmos but he stood bravely to his colors--and won the prize. Politics are still rampant here; the great questions of the day, are closely debated, with reference to the future well being of the Colony. I hope that good will be the result.

24th FebY

You dear little delightful child, the P. Alfred is in, and brought no letter from you. What a disappointment. There was a light fall of snow yesterday, it is melting away fast today. Mamma is quite well, Alice has a bad cold. Helen, strong and hearty. All unite with me, in fond wishes for your welfare. Write often.

My dearest child
Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria Vanc[illegible] Island
28th Feby 1874

My dearest Martha

Sister Alice called yesterday on dear Miss Wyllie, and brought home the glad tidings, that she had just received a letter from you, with a Photograph taken at Inverness. Dear Mamma is delighted with it, and so are we all. It has been scanned and critisised [sic] by the whole family, and decided by one and all that it is a capital picture and a perfect likeness, rather highly coloured perhaps, evidently by your own hand, a very difficult thing to do, yet the execution is greatly admired. I observe a change, for the better in your appearance, a great likeness to Jane--and altogether a more womanly aspect; a consolation, in some measure for your absence.

In an unusually talkative vein Alice made some admirable remarks about her sister Martha, saying she was a child of a noble character and that her mind and sentiments were all of the same stamp and had nothing mean about them. This was very pleasing to me; I love my children dearly and nothing can be more gratifying than to hear of their good qualities and virtuous deportment.

The Lady Lampson is to leave today for London, with the furs and other exports of the Hudsons Bay Company. Mr Barnabé, who is almost prostrated by a serious illness goes with her as a passenger; for the benifit of the sea voyage, a doubtful experiment which will either kill or cure.

3d March

The weather has been stormy, raw and disagreeable, since the 28th; but has improved today, the sun shining warm and bright on the clear, white snow which fell last night. The flowers have a hard time, but the Crocus beds are struggling into flower, and will soon be in a glow of beauty. The Wyllies spent the evening with us, and were as usual very nice. We heard that Miss Pinder is soon to be married to the Honble Captain Hare Commander of the H.M. Corvette "Myrmidon" a good partie [sic] for her and I wish her every happiness. We have just heard of the great battle with the Ashantees; we appear to have sustained a severe loss, without the consolation of having gained a decided success. We are dying to hear further particulars of that hateful war. Tell me all you know about it.

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MS 0776 – Correspondence (B/40/4A)

"Ang" has just brought over your nice letter of 23 JanY from the Post office, and also the Photographs. We are all so pleased; I have been over to Amys with hers, Alice and Jim have got theirs. The one intended for Mamma, and me, is charming. Mamma dislikes the hat, as being too lofty, while, on the other hand I perfectly dote upon it, and think it suits you to a marvel. We shall have it framed, and placed ~~it~~ as an ornament on the Drawing room table. Now my dear, for the contents of your letter. First I wish to observe that it is somewhat of a scrawl, carelessly written, and not so neatly worded as it should be. There is a great deal of importance attached to what is called "style" in writing. Trifles light as air, acquire a zest when put in neat and pointed language, and make up a very interesting letter. The art of writing well, is one of these accomplishments which can only be acquired by close and careful study. In order to improve your style, study the writings of good authors. Read a page attentively and after mastering the sense, write it out in your own words without looking at the Book. By comparing the two, you will observe the beauties and defects of each.

Authors improve themselves, in that way. See how well expressed Sister Jane's letters are; they are always neatly and cleverly hit off; an example and encouragement for you, my dear. Writing is a most important part of education. I wish you to devote a great deal of time and care to its attainment. Remember this my dear, and let every succeeding letter from you, practically assure me, of your progress. Your last letter, is nearly as badly written, as Agnes' scrawls, and they are intolerable. I enclose a part of your last letter, pruned of redundancies, as a study. Observe how it is improved by the process.

Now, my dear, pray, in future take care: let me see no careless or slovenly letters from you. Your rule must be, to write only so much as you can write well.

Having thus done the disagreeable let me dearest, answer your queries. We have seen the Grand Duchess Marie's portrait. Mamma thinks her only passable, while I love that dear sweet, innocent face, fancying it resembles yours. Alice sides with Mamma, without producing a change in my opinion. I cling to my first love. The walks about Dunain must be delightful. Your readings with sister Jane, and musical soirées, instructive and pleasant. How I long to be with you. What an advantage for you to be with your dear sister. What are the Misses Penrice doing, keeping school, or

living on their means. I wish you could see your old friends. So closes your letter. I see by this mornings Papers, that Mrs Forman, is advertising her furniture for sale, intending probably to give up house keeping. Amy was saying the other day, that she was going out again and was looking for a place. The Doctors, if he takes her again would just suit her. Parliament is now prorogued, and we breathe freely again; since we have no longer to dread a repetition, of their daily wrangling and folly. Mamma is well and sends you, her love and kisses. James is studying law, with ardour and perseverance, trusting some day to make his mark at the Bar.

10th March

My darling I have just received your letter, dated 28th & 29th JanY, and we were so glad to hear from you. I left the Photograph at Mr Lowenbergs office, he being out at the time. Owing to the uncertainty of the Post, by Pugets Sound, I have not, sent by that route, but only by the direct Steamer, which accounts for your hearing so seldom from me this winter.

With respect to your going to school for six months in Paris--I see no objection provided, there is a school known to Miss Turk, which she can recommend, and that we can get you safely conveyed there. Mention the subject to Miss Turk and inform her that you will probably leave her establishment, temporarily, at midsummer, as she should receive a quarters notice. I have asked Jane and Alick to advise me on the subject. There is plenty of time to think about it, between this and the end of the midsummer holidays; as it would not be advisable to go to Paris, before the hot months are over, on account of your health.

Write me all about this in your next letter. What a sharp boy SidY is, and Wifey such a splendid girl. We have read your letter with great pleasure, and heard your adventures and escapes with breathless interest.

You have paid more attention to neatness style and expression, in your last letter, being a great improvement on the former, so my darling you must always do, and you will give me untold pleasure.

I met Miss Pender the other day when out walking and had a chat with her, she is in good health, and said, she was sorry you were not coming out from England this year. She is a good, kind hearted girl and a favorite of mine. What a long letter you will find this,

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though there is still much to say. Time presses and I must close, for the present. Mamma sends her love and kisses, she had a good cry on your account yesterday. She does not admire the extension of your leave, but agrees with me, that it is all for the best. So good bye darling, I will soon write again

May God bless and preserve you, in His faith, fear and love--

My dearest Child
Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria V.I. 19th March 1874

My dearest Martha

This being dear Amys 19th birthday--she is in great spirits, enjoying the kisses and petting that young ladies naturally on such occasions, expect to receive from their friends. Amy has I fancy also received something more substantial, than mere petting, but I have not as yet heard the extent of her good fortune, though I think she has several weighty gifts. Who is to pet or fondle my own little daughter, when her birthday comes round, but cheer up my dear, your turn will soon come. You were at Dunain when you last wrote to us. We have not yet heard of your return to school; we shall probably get letters, today by the "North Pacific". That is however uncertain, as there is a stoppage on the Railway, between Sacremento and the the [sic] Rocky Mountains, near "Elcho" where there has been a land slip, over 10 miles of the road, rendering it impassable until remade.

I have been seriously thinking over your request, to be allowed six months schooling in Paris; it would in many respects, be useful; it might improve your manners, by associating, with kind, easy, engaging french girls. There is one strong objection however, which I cannot overcome; that is the dread of French morals and sentiment--which I believe to be so different from our own. It may be bigotry on my part, their moral sentiments may be as pure as our own, but still the impression, remains unchanged in my mind. Miss Turk, having as I understand been to school at Paris will be a proper person to consult. Let her know my opinion and let me know her views, about the character of French young ladies schools.

2 P.M.

The Mail has arrived and brought no letters from you

A slight touch of gout, in the same foot, as the one you doctored, so well and so lovingly months ago, has been troubling me, for some days past. It is easier today, and will soon I hope be well. It is not a very serious attack, not confining me to the House, nor disabling me from taking out door exercise, either walking, or on horseback.

The weather is getting warmer, but there is still a bite in the wind, which impels to motion, and makes exercise grateful. The Crocus beds are out in full flower, and look so pretty. The Bulbs, are all up. The violets have long been in bloom.

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MS 0776 – Correspondence (B/40/4A)

The garden has been turned over from end to end, and not a weed is to be seen. There will be no trouble in digging the garden this year, as the work is already complete. People are flocking to "Cassiar" the new gold field on Dease' Lake, Stikine River You of course know that is north of Fort Simpson, and can find the place on the map.

Mamma has just been in seeing me, active lively and happy, looking. She sends you her love, and kisses, with every good wish, she can frame.

Alice is suffering from a cold and trying to convert Helen into an invalid, by keeping her in bed and touching her with caustic. Amy and Dolly are well. They all unite with me in love and best wishes.

May God bless you my dear Child

Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria V.I. 24th March 1874

My dearest Martha

This has been one of our "white" days; we were still at breakfast, when "Ang" presented your dear letter to Mamma dated 7 FebY per the "North Pacific" and a few hours later, arrived your prized letter to Papa of the 14th FebY, per the direct Steamer "Prince Alfred". We are glad that you enjoyed the holidays at Dunain, I am sure Jane in her sisterly love would spare no pains to make you happy, and Alick is kindness itself. His kindness in taking you to Scotland and back to school, I duly appreciate, and feel highly grateful for. In a letter which I have just received from him, he good humouredly remarks, "I brought Mar. back on the 4th Inst "and next day but one deposited her in Miss Turks arms "at Waterloo Station". He says moreover, something more interesting than that, he declares that "Martha is very "much improved indeed, and a pleasant and cheerful in- "mate and companion. She plays very well and is well up "in all lady accomplishments, not omitting the very im- "portant one of manners" &c &c

This is really gratifying, and shows that you are making the best use of time; we are all so pleased to hear these good accounts, they are some consolation in your absence.

The Barmacede has at last feasted his half famished guest, the details of your journey from Dunain, are most interesting; I only wish you could have given a day each, to the Lions of Edinburgh and York, both are well worth seeing. How pleasant it must have been to fall in with Miss Elizabeth at the Waterloo Station, it was meeting an old friend, at the right time. The enclosures for Amy and Dolly, I delivered to them at once; and Miss Dolls is particularly gratified, at having a letter all to herself. Helen will no doubt, be looking for a like favour, or she may get awfully angry. The Province is now quiet, the political excitement caused by the defeated attempt of the Ministry to change the terms of Union, has completely subsided with the cause which gave rise to it. Cassiar is now the attraction; people are hurrying to it by every steamer, each pressing on a head of the other, to secure a claim. I am afraid they are over doing the thing, as so little is known of the auriferous area which has yet in a great measure to be explored. If the rush of people be too great, it is almost certain that many will be disappointed. You ask about the difference between the Dean and the Bishop. Well the worthy Dean, who is a sound Churchman, has conscientious objections to ritualism, and he imagines

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the Bishop has a leaning that way, and is seeking to introduce its forms, in the Churches here. This is the whole and sole cause of the difficulty, in our church; we all deplore but cannot remove it. Pretty little Madam will be a model, for you; good manners make the Lady.

Mamma continues in good health and sends you love and kisses without number. James is suffering from a swelling in the knee, and is otherwise out of health and dispirited--poor boy he has been a great sufferer, and bears his trials with patience. Alice is well. We have such a number of birds about the garden, a free concert every day. May God bless you My dear Child your Father JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria Vanc^{r} Island
1 April 1874

My dearest Martha

This being business day, and having a long array of accounts to settle, I cannot write so fully as I wish. Your letter of 21 Feby arrived yesterday and found us all well, except James and Helen who are both ailing, but not seriously. I delivered your message to Dolly who was duly edified by its purport. Mamma devoured the kisses, leaving hardly any for me.

You may take riding lessons if you please, the exercise will be useful and promote your health

We were so glad to hear that the Misses Penrice were well; we entertain a lively recollection of the dear good, kind souls. Remember me kindly to them. Mr Wylly is not doing much in the way of business. I had not heard about the consignment of Pianos, until I received your letter. I hope it may be so poor fellow, for I fancy he is badly off.

The weather is now very fine, and the flowers looking up. The return of spring makes me long for a roam somewhere, most of all to England where I have so many that are near and dear to me. It would be such a nice change, and give a fillip to existence. M^{r} and Mrs Grahame are about to leave this place ~~abe~~ the end of the present month, for Red River, to take charge of the Northern Department, a fine appointment for Grahame, with better pay than he now receives. It will be a trial for Mary to leave Mother and all her friends. Many new houses are going up in town, yet there is no increase in the population, and complaints of dull times general.

Amy has lately heard from Mary Crease--you never say any thing about her now.

3 April Good Friday

We were at Church this morning in gratitude for our Saviours unspeakable love, in redeeming us from sin and from death everlasting. Oh! the wonders of his love and grace. I had a chat after church with dear Miss Pender, who desired me to give you her love and promised to write soon, even though it were a short letter, to tell you <u>her story</u>, which she thinks will surprise you--meaning her engagement to Captain Hare. M^{r} McKenzie, once of Craigflower, is and has been for several months in very bad health--his children are a great comfort to their Parents, doing every thing in their power to assist them, and largely

contributing by their exemplary conduct, to their comfort and support

Tidings of good diggings are flowing in apace from Cassiar, causing great elation in town. I hope the yield of gold may prove as good as expected, for the poor fellows who go there suffer great privations & run endless risks, in seeking to better their fortunes. How unfortunate it is, that the gold fields, are so far away, and in the most inaccessible parts of the country, were they near town one might go there, and make a raise every morning before breakfast Would[n]'t that be great fun.

I send you, a newspaper containing the good Dean's address explaining the nature and objects of the Synod. You will find the Bishops letter, comprised in the address; His Lordship, in that production certainly exceeded the bounds of Christian charity. My dear child, I must now say adieu. May God in his mercy keep and preserve you. Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

Victoria V.I. 11th April 1874

My dearest Martha

It was only the other day, I wrote you by the "North Pacific" since then the "Prince Alfred" has come in, with the Mails, and I have received your two welcome letters of 28th Feby and 7th March, both replete with pleasant details and many queries, which I will now answer. The Forman murder case has been tried, and the criminal condemned to death. Being under the influence of liquor, is not regarded by the Law as a palliation, when crimes are committed; drunkenness is an aggravation of the offence.

I shall not fail to write you often; I know the value of a letter from home. What a pleasant winter you had in Scotland; is it always so? I have no doubt, we shall find a quicker horse than Cendré for you to ride, when you come this way. Cendré is still sound and active, keeping his own with his younger friends. Ang is still flourishing. Taun has not yet put in an appearance. Agnes dear child is not a good correspondent.

It is only right, you should think of home, my darling, we often think of you. Your portrait is on my table, its constant place and is much admired. There is nothing encouraging known about the over-land Railway. I fear this year will again pass away, without seeing a beginning made. We must live in hope. The Pembertons live somewhere in London, and are expected out next month. Their address is Y & A Grantoff & Co.
3 Jeffrey Square St Mary Axe--London

The violets you sent, are very sweet and nice. I gave them to Mamma. Your violet plant [is] very large, I was dressing it the other day. It is now coming into flower--there is just <u>one</u> sweet little blossom but more are coming. Who are the "Barbadians" you speak of, that Miss Turk talks of taking to Paris at midsummer. Are you to be one of the party. It is very hot at midsummer in Paris. Jane seldom writes now; she has her own cares poor thing. So ends my review of your letters.

Mr McKenzie of Craigflower died yesterday, of heart disease--aggravated by a fall from his carriage. I called upon him, a few hours, before his death, but did not see him, as he had dropped into a quiet sleep. He has left a large family very slenderly provided for. Commit your fatherless children to me saith the Lord. I saw Mrs Autrich yesterday, she told me the Scout was at Valparaiso, and might possibly return to Victoria. What a disappointment, that will be to Captain

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Cator, so long away from his family. It is amusing to hear the enquiries made about Miss Douglas, every one I meet asks "when is Martha coming home" just as if it was a matter of general importance. You see what it is to be a favourite. A great many people are going to Cassiar, every steamer for Stikine is full of passengers. I hope there may be no disappointment. I fear for Cariboo and Omineca; they will be almost deserted. We are all well at home, enjoying the fine weather. Mamma's love and kisses without number. James and Alice are gone out boating. May God bless you my dearest Child. Your loving Father. JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria V.I. 15th April '74

My dearest Martha

Yesterday, I followed the late Mr. McKenzies body to the grave; the funeral was numerously attended, by the friends and acquaintances of the deceased gentleman. He was buried in a family vault, lately constructed in the new cemetery. Mrs. McKenzie and family, are inconsolable, it was painful to hear ~~to-hear~~ them as the cortege was moving off from their residence at Lake Hill, to use a scripture phrase, they lifted up their voices and wept aloud; as the Father and husband, who had so long cheered them, by his presence, was being borne away, from his peaceful home. He died in peace after receiving the Communion, and was perfectly resigned to the will of God. May we be found so also when our turn comes. It matters not how brief our pilgrimage on earth may be, provided we walk in faith, with our loins girt and our lamps stored with oil, ready at the voice of the bridegroom when he comes to call us home.

17th April

Have just seen the Revd. Mr. Holmes the Episcopal Minister, at Cowitchin who called to solicit aid, in erecting three small churches, in his parish. He is a good worthy man, a true follower of our Lord and Master, One cannot help feeling, a deep interest in his work of proclaiming the glad tidings of salvation, through a crucified Saviour. He is full of hope, and meets with zealous support from white men and Indians. He likes Cowitchin preferring it to Yale, where he was previously stationed. I gave him thirty dollars, for the building fund, and he went, on his way, rejoicing.

The Iris, in your flower bed is now in flower, looking more lovely than it ever did before. We have now abundance of flowers, making the borders exceedingly gay. Mamma is in excellent health, though she will not think so Up every morning at 6 o'clock she bustles about till breakfast time. The chickens, now fill her mind with anxious cares, and we all look grave and appear to sympathize, if mishaps occur. To laugh, would be a a [sic] serious offence. The "Princess Royal" has just arrived, in little over four months from England, a remarkably quick voyage. Miss Pinder is to be married next month; the happy couple are to reside at Fairfield

18th April

We drove out to Cadboro Bay, with our two carriages this afternoon. Amy, Dolly, Helen, James and Mabel Grey, daughter of Judge Grey, a charming girl, and I formed the

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party. Neither Ma nor Alice would go. We had a very pleasant time, botanizing and collecting shells and marine plants. Got home in the evening laden with these treasures.

20th April

The "North Pacific" is just in; I must finish my tale and post it, at once. Any letters from you will be advised in my next.

We are all quite well, and send you no end of love and kisses

May God bless and preserve you My dearest Martha Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

Victoria V.I. 21st April 1874

My little Darling

The "North Pacific" has come and gone, and by her, I sent my letter of yesterdays date. You will thus have a chance of getting a letter from me, every week; very nice, n'est-ce pas; on my part I shall be delighted to hear as frequently from you. The weather is lovely, and the garden beautiful.

22d April

Had a few friends to luncheon with us, today. Mr and Mrs Edgar, the gentleman acting confidential agent, of the Dominion Government; a very pleasant man; Dr and Mrs Tuzo. Had a delicious spread, with all the delicacies of the season. We did it full justice and had a very pleasant afternoon James is always complaining; never being altogether well. His appetite is good; so that the poor boy, may yet recover his health. I have not heard from Agnes lately. She is a careless correspondent. We know however that she is in good health.

24th April 6 P.M.

The "Prince Alfred" has just arrived, too late, for the distribution of the mail this evening, so we must wait, for your letters till tomorrow. I have been riding today, about "Fairfield" getting various improvements made. The Chinamen, have their grounds in splendid order; their crops are coming on finely; I hope the poor fellows may have a large return, and be well repaid for their labour. Wards grounds, are a picture of neatness, the fruit trees are thriving; the strawberry beds, are full of flower buds. I must visit him often when the fruit his ripe, to test their quality and his cream. Smith is a sloven, his chief pride being in large turnips. Moss street is finished as far as Henleys fence save and except a very short piece near the gate, which is not yet graded. It is, notwithstanding, a splendid drive.

Poor King is not thriving chiefly thro' his own folly, being a thoughtless improvident man. Ah, here comes Ang with your letter dated 15th March, what a treasure but rather long in coming--39 days!! The post marks are as follows Worcester park 14 Mar. Windsor Canada 7 April. This tells of a tedious passage to New York, and of delay, in the overland journey to San Francisco. There is no help for that; we cannot command the elements, and must yield to their sway. I acknowledged the Photographs--in a former letter, and your dear image

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neatly framed, is now standing before me, at the writing desk; a very nice picture it is, looking hard at Papa.

I now understand your wishes, with respect to your stay in Europe; your return home, is to be in 1875. I have already in a former letter, given you my views with respect to the proposed term, in Paris, I have no objections to the plan, beyond those I have stated; a reluctance to my lamb, being committed to the care of wolves. Write to me fully on the subject; telling me how you are to get to Paris, and how you are to get back again, to Miss Turks and who you are to be placed with. You cannot travel alone, and who is to take you backwards & forwards? You must have had a jolly time at the Procession, kissing your hand to the dear Queen, was rich, I hope Her Majesty, appreciated the compliment. It was truly kind of dear Jane, to place No 3, at your service. Mamma is pleased with your letter, and sends love and kisses, she is quite well. The children are all going out to a little pic nic. I delivered your letter to James. I shall write again in a few days. May God bless you, my dearest child Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

Vancouver Island
Victoria 28 April 1874

My dearest Martha

The sweet little Robin is pouring out his heart, in melody, making the wilkin ring with his morning song of praise and thanksgiving. Would that we, were equally grateful, to the Author of all good. Would that we would lift up our hearts to the Lord "who is good and gracious, whose mercy endureth for ever"; "whose works are manifold, in wisdom hath he made them all the earth is full of his riches". Such is the inspired language of the Psalmist, it comes with peculiar force, upon the mind at this season, when the fields are clothed with beauty, and Nature rejoices in her God. I had an early ride this morning, and returned from it, fresh and vigorous for breakfast

May 4th

I saw Mrs Elliott yesterday: she is not at all well; May I did not see, as she was out, when I called, she is however quite well. Mrs Trutch mère [sic] is seriously ill; it is feared she will not recover. Let us hope for the best.

My darling I should like to know, what you are doing just at this moment. As for Papa he was up early, before 6 o'clock, and after going through, with the usual morning duties, he rode out through Fairfield and round by Beacon Hill and so home, on the stroke of 9 o'clock for breakfast having earned, in the morning air a thorough relish for the early meal. Parties are out in all directions repairing the old and making additional roads. Mr Beaven the new commissioner of works is certainly energetic and carries on the business of his department, in a thoroughly earnest and efficient manner. Better certainly than the former incumbent. "May day" passed away without any public notice, the old English observance of the day once in vogue here, has fallen into disuse, and its pleasant associations are gone with the day. We are fast lapsing from English and adopting Canadian customs. The 1st of July "Dominion Day", is now the great celebration of the year.

The "North Pacific" is in, and I have received your letter of 26th March, and the Saturday following. We are thankful for the tidings of your welfare, and so glad that the climate of England agrees with you so well. It is settled now, that you are not to come out, this year or before the early part of 1875. You have many subjects, contained in my late letters to reply to; pray let your replies be full and precise.

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"Cambridge", I see won the University Race again. Alas!! for "Oxford". Why did'nt [sic] you go with Miss Eliza, to see the contest? Sights like that, are instructive and suggestive. The Whiskey Crusade, is not likely to succeed. The devoted women who have struggled so hard to arrest a disastrous evil, entailing misery on thousands, have my warmest sympathy and respect. The evil is beyond their reach, except through their indirect influence on legislation Mamma is well and unites with me in love and good wishes. I close in hast to catch the steamer.

My darling Your loving Father JA^{S} DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria V.I. 5th May 1874

My darling

I despatched a letter yesterday, and now begin another. Mrs Trutch meré [sic], is improving and will, I hope, be restored to health.

The "Otter" arrived last night from Stikine. The River was free of ice, and people were thronging up in boats and canoes. Two men who arrived here direct from the diggings, report great doings there; though there is still snow on the ground and that hard frozen. Mr Moore dug out 10 ounces of gold in one day, about 160 dollars--This is something marvellous, and the report will attract thousands of hardy miners. So much the better for the country, as a stimulous for settlement. Nothing certain is yet known about the commencement of the Railroad. We live in hopes, of seeing it started this year.

I wish we could send you a few bushels of "Roxbury Russets" which we are now using, in a perfectly delicious state. I am sure you would enjoy the treat. James is pursuing his legal studies with commendable tenacity, hoping one of these days to make his mark at the Bar.

I had not time when writing yesterday, to go very thoroughly into the subject of your last letter; I will do so now. I delivered your letter to Amy, at once. You are rather hard upon poor DeCosmos. Young Ladies must not be so decided in their politics: they must always be gentle and good, carefully avoiding the use of strong language.

I did not visit Windsor Castle and saw it only in the distance. It is a beautiful place, well worth a visit. Mamma was in great sorrow about you yesterday. She heard from James Helmcken, that you had a <u>sore</u> foot, and had been obliged to go with it to the Doctor. Pray what is wrong with the foot. You make no allusion to it in your letter to me.

9th May

The "Prince Alfred" is in with the mails. Ang is off to the Post Office, for any letters there may be. The Grahames are to leave immediately for Red River, and will be away for some years. I fancy they will eventually settle here. Alice and Amy with all the little ones, and some invited friends, have gone out for a little pic nic; they were also out last Saturday and enjoyed it so

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much that they are off again to the same spot a sandy beach somewhere near Shoal Point. Your letter of 3d April to Mamma, has just come over; & set Mamma's mind at ease. She implores you not to wear tight shoes, as they invariably hurt the feet, and cause much suffering from Corns &c.

Your stormy Sunday, or rather Good Friday, was here, marked by a Strong westerly breeze, accompanied by showers of rain. Weather not very dissimilar to that, which you describe as occurring at the same time in England. Your dinner was certainly good; the dessert profuse: what pleasant times you have.

11th May

The Steamer with the Mails, goes today. Better tidings from Ottawa, about the Rail road nothing certain however, except that a new project for its construction is to be submitted, tomorrow to Parliament.

We are all, thank God, in good health. Mrs Trutch is doing well. Mamma sends her fond Love. Your little Apple tree "Arbour" is one mass of blossom. Maasked me to say so, as she looks at it from her window every morning and thinks of you.

God bless you
My own darling
Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria V.I. 14th May
1874 "Ascension day"

My own darling

It is just 10 years today, since I left home, on my last journey to England; so rapidly has the time passed away. You were then a child, and perhaps retain a very indistinct recollection of the event. This is also the day, that saw Uncle Cameron breathe his last, just two years ago. I remember how useful and courageous you were on that occasion. What a change there is now, in poor Belmont; it is in a sad state of neglect, without a tenant or an inmate. I attended morning service, and took the Sacrament with a feeling of love and gratitude for all that our blessed Lord has done for us. Infinite are his mercies and past finding out. There were few people in Church, it being a week day. Mrs Trutch is recovering. The Rhododendron is now in flower; but not the Grande flora. The Tulips are beautiful, never saw them so fine before. I have taken another servant, a respectable man named "Penny", into my service at £120 a year. Very high wages. Unless he proves as useful as I expect I will not keep him long.

18th May

The "North Pacific" is expected today and I will forward this letter by her. The contest about the Synod is still going on, causing no little dissention in our Church. Whatever the ultimate result may be, whether for good or for evil, it is certainly giving rise to much present evil, without any compensating good. In secular matters, we have also our own troubles; the Dominion Government, are not doing us justice, in respect to the Railway. Marcus Smith and the Engineers, are busy on the Surveys, but there is little prospect, of the road being started this year. We must not despair, as it may prove in our case, as in the natural world, that the darkest hour, is the hour that precedes the dawn. We are now battling with the catterpillars [sic], which have this year attacked the apple trees in great force, one would fancy their name was legion.

Mamma is quite well, and sends you her love. She is longing to see you again; but you know it is better to finish your education while you are in England, and not remaining a half learned lady all your life. Amy will tell you all about her journey to Boston Bar. She is just now, full of the subject.

The Country is now in all the beauty of the advancing spring. I wish you were here to enjoy the season. My journeys into the country and daily drives,

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would be so enjoyable in your company. You will have so much to tell; for to me you must play the part of chatter box, that like the perenial spring, the conversation will ever flow. Shall I see you this year or not? is now the question, which another month or two must decide for by that time, I shall have made up my mind,whether I go to England or not. If I do cross the Atlantic it will be, entirely on your account. You see what an important part you play, in my life drama. No letters by the North Pacific. Now my dear child once more adieu. May God bless and preserve you Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

[Endorsed] Answered

Victoria V.I. 20 May 1874

My own little darling

There was last night a refreshing rain, which has laid the dust, and made things more pleasant, than they were before the shower. I was out this morning and had a very pleasant ride, through the fresh balmy fields, all looking so bright and cheerful. The fruit trees are covered with blossom. We shall to all appearance have abundance this year. A few faint hearted miners have returned from Stikeen, and are abusing the mines, though I fancy, they never reached them, or perhaps fell short of food, and could not wait till the snow melted away, and left the ground to thaw, sufficiently for working. In a few weeks more we shall have more decided reports I trust of an encouraging character.

21st May

Mr and Mrs Kreimler are about leaving the Colony, intending to join an old friend of the former, at "Santa Cruz" in carrying on business there. I sincerely hope they may gain by the exchange, in a pecuniary way what they will assuredly lose in the matter of climate.

Great preparations are being made for the Queens Birthday, to be held on the 27th A Regatta forms one feature of the programme the militia will turn out, and other exhibitions be provided. It will no doubt be a gay season.

Do you remember, a great block of white granite, on the east slope of the Park, facing Wards, before you get to Beacon Hill. I found a man this morning, busily engaged in splitting it--the Block of Granite, not Beacon Hill--into great slabs about 10 inches thick, for ornamental work. The slabs were perfectly strait [sic], as even almost as if cut out, with a saw, they take a high polish and will have a pretty effect, in a building.

Scholley's execution is to take place tomorrow morning. Mrs Forman and family have left the Colony, with the intention, I believe, of settling at San Francisco. What a misfortune to the poor things.

22d May

More rain last night, and still more would be acceptable. News there is none to give and I imagine you would not take much interest in politics or even Rail way disquisitions, such as I could now favour you with. We hoped at one time to announce a commencement this year;

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but that hope, is now almost extinct: I fear the work, is adjourned "sine die".

23d May

Drove to-day with Alice, little Helen and Dolly to Rosebank, and had altogether, a pleasant day, picking up, a quantity of wild strawberries by the way, perfectly ripe. The Rosebank clearance of last year, looks green and pretty, and we strolled about it for some time, enjoying the green cool shade, and delightful perfume of the forest.

Leach [sic] River is looking up again. We drew up, for a few minutes, at Parsons Bridge for a glass of lemonade, when a man, came out of the house, and with great civility held the bridle. I entered into conversation with him, and discovered it was John Scott from Leach River, where he has been domiciled for ten years, making a good living by mining. He told me that there was a population of 83 celestials, also mining and making about 6 shillings a day each, so the fellows are in great luck. This shews there is gold there, which will be found some day

25th May

The Prince Alfred is in--no letters from you Oh! oh! Martha. We are all well Love from all. God bless you, my dear child Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

Victoria V.I. 27th May 1874

My dearest Martha

In my note of yesterday I hurriedly advised your two precious letters of 17th and 23d April and will now, as far as necessary notice them, more in detail. I am glad you received the corrected sheet, in good part, showing thereby your regard for the lesson intended, as well as your excellent sense. The lesson will, I know, not be thrown away, but lead to redoubled attention in future. The Photo--as it is, pleases me immensely and no profane hand shall be permitted to alter it. The Parisian school so highly recommended by Miss Bushby will suit the purpose, but then how are you to travel to and from Paris. You cannot go alone, and who is to take you there and back again. Will Alick or Miss Bushby be able to find a safe conduct for you. This difficulty had probably not occurred to you, when writing your last; let me know, particularly, how it is to be provided for.

I am glad you enjoyed yourself at the "Opera", notwithstanding the delay and little mishaps you met with in going to and returning from it. Your present letter is satisfactory. Now for your second epistle. I will not follow you in your reverie. It is good and profitable to soar from Nature to Natures "God", all whose works are marvellous and in wisdom hath made them all. It is pleasant to hear you speak of them, with grateful feelings of love and adoration.

The trip with the Misses Bushby to the continent, meets with my entire approval; as I stated in my last hurried note. Were you pleased to admire King Coffee's hat and bracelets. If gifted with speech, they could a tale of horror unfold, that might freeze your kind heart. You are I am glad to hear making many agreeable acquaintances, and so extending your knowledge of the world. Miss Eliza's bouquet, was certainly a great success. You announce Mr Dallas' return home and nothing more, I suppose he was in good health. Pray draw upon your "well of thoughts" as much as you please, for I delight in the exercise, and the more you draw, the clearer the water will flow. There has been no oppressively warm weather here as yet. I have given your message about the songs to Amy, and your promise to James. So here ends your letter, and I will now take up some other subject

I lately received such a nice letter from dear sister Jane. It gave me unmitigated pleasure, and is so much prized by dear Mamma. Jane speaks of you in highly laudatory and affectionate terms.

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She declares, you can write, when you take pains, as well as she can, and she winds up her remarks about you in these words. "She (Martha) is a" "very good child, I must say, well principled and very" "good tempered and takes all my advice in such a nice" "way, that I can't help loving her very dearly, for it." "I wish I had her nearer me for some things"

It is pleasant to hear you so highly praised, and I believe you deserve the eulogy.

1 June

Jim's birthday; all well--the "North Pacific" is in, so I must close, to save the mail as she leaves again immediately God bless you Your loving Father

JAMES DOUGLAS

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