

Kingston U.C.

20th September 1838.

My Dearest Marion,

I am afraid I have let rather too much time pass since I last wrote but I must plead as an excuse that for the last 20 days I have been on a hunting expedition only having returned on the 17th. I found your letter that you wrote when on the eve of starting for Southhall had arrived + certainly was a most valuable production giving all sorts of news of no ordinary nature wh. I am affraid this will fall far short of for any news here at present is not to be had for any consideration. Things are going on in a very steady hum drum way, at present which appears very stupid after the excitement of last winter, even Bill Johnson has not been [] heard of for some time altho he never gave us much trouble I certainly wish he would stir up a little amusement of some kind to break the monotony of the place. [Edward] D'Alton Derinzy + myself started on a grand Deer hunting expedition. We went in our boat about 20 miles up the Rideau river + then struck into a succession of the wildest + most beautiful Lakes I ever saw in my life. We had a character with us by way of a guide, but he was the most worthless ruffian you can imagine, + got so puzzled with the appearance of the country the first day that he caused us to lose our way. We got so completely bewildered amongst Lakes + islands without a person living on them that we could not find our way home out of them, had we wanted it. We continued roving on sailing for Days, at night we went on shore, made a roaring [] fire, built the best covering we could of in the shape of a sort of Tent, + commenced cooking our fish + Wild Ducks, both of which we got in great profusion, in fact as many as we chose to kill. We fortunately had some Camp kettles with us or we would have been badly off. Derinzy was cook, but I had often to assist the plucking + taking the insides out of the birds + fish disgusted me extremely but we were all so hungry that we soon got over it. We heard the Wolves every night kicking up a desperate noise. At one of our encampments they came very near us, attracted no doubt by the savory smell of our roast ducks, or what is more probable, by our Dogs who stood in great fear of them + kept very close to their masters. The weather was most beautiful the finest I ever saw perhaps rather too hot during the day, but when we were enjoying it my great comfort was abusing [] our unfortunate Guyde on whose head I heaped the most choice epithets I could think of, for deluding us with the idea that he knew the country.

We at last arrived at our hunting ground, having found an indian in his canoe who put us on the right road, + got us out of our dilemma. During the time we remained at the old hunters house we killed 9 deer wh. is very well for a first attempt in my oppinion; one way of catching them is this. A man goes into the woods with about 6 hounds who very soon get on the track of a Deer for they are very numerous. The deer as soon as they find they are chased make for the water to deceive the dogs + swim into the lake or across to some of the islands. Boats are placed at different points where the deer are thought likely to take the water, + as soon as one [] is seen, we row up + shoot him. We killed several in that way. The remainder we got by hunting them + killing them on chase. We came home with our boat loaded with venison + wild Ducks of all sorts to the great astonishment of our brethren in arms, who have been starting off in detached groups ever since our return. I have been fortunate enough to kill 5 this season 3 of them fine bucks, + intend to slay a great many more before the season is over as it is now only commencing. I will give you further accounts of my exploits in that way as they occur. I think I have about tired you out with my long prozy accounts of Deer hunting + will try something else by way of a change.

I was perfectly amazed + dumbfounded at [...] love affair. It [...] very absurd, + caused great merrymen within me. I suppose you see him very often now that he has returned [] to Paisley. Remember me particularly to him + tell him I hope he will be very kind to his wife + be a good husband to Miss Nancy Dawson. I remember meeting a brother (I suppose) of his when at Cork I think he was in the 90th Regt. We had a very slight acquaintance picked up at a Billiard Table in that city. What a melancholy case that was of your supposed cock laying an egg. It must have affected you + [...]. It only shows that the most experienced hands may be astoundedly mistaken.

The good people of Kingston have been giving a few parties since I last wrote. There is no great fear of anyone losing their hearts here for the beauties are very scarce. Indeed I saw more up the country at St. Thomas + Amherstburg.

You must not dream of sending any hogs out to me. The chances are fifty to one it would never reach me, altho Miss Mackay may know all the Merchants in Liverpool [] and N. York. Still it would be absurd to think of sending any thing unless someone was actually coming out. So my dear Mother must Reserve those good things for some time to come.

I hope you are all well + hearty at Southhall now [] Nelly's head must have improved greatly, + I hope Addy may get round quickly. I get the Advertisers regularly, which are a great treat. I think I may as well bring this blotch to an end. My pen uncommon bad, wh. is some excuse. [] Kindest love to all at Southhall if you are there as well as my dear Mother, Mary + Nelly not forgetting the [summer] List of the 22nd. Believe me your affect. Brother, D. Campbell