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1859

Text [illegible] 1859

Secretary Feb 2nd 59

My Dear Emma

Belated Mercy that as you see gathers
deep hold of friend Paine to do nothing [illegible] not that I am very
much interested with any object recreation for the truth is I have not
time to study very hard at present, nor read: there [illegible]
to carry, I thank. But yesterday was the day for drawing books from the
Library, and I have determined to read one volume of the Family
Tom Is every week until I have completed them, so, of course, there
are my exercises. You know that I did not read at Christmas, when
would I, now, my recreations until I did it. So I took out and read
at once. M. Jane Ward Brock a tale of the Revolution 1776, and being
from the pen of the Wizard of the North, contained, of necessity, some very
able and striking characters; but is not to be compared either in strength
originality, of conception, to many of his tales. There is, I think, but one really
new creation of Scott's mind in the whole work, and that, though you may laugh
at the conceit, is a truly noble one, viz - the old and faithful wolf-hound
Bevis. It is indeed a master conception, worthy of the brain of Scott and one
which no other mind, with whose writings - i.e. novels, I am - I am
acquainted, could have conceived and portrayed. There is, in fact, nothing
in which the consummate genius of Scott shows itself more nobly triumph-
ant than in his delineations of the canine race. Every dog he has portrayed
while he is a true exemplar of his peculiar branch of the canine race is also
a perfectly distinct and separate individual dog. While we learn from
a faithful representative of his species, are distinguish also his own particu-
lar form, habits, and manners so to speak, the traits that [illegible] this
ground, [illegible] his peculiar [illegible] of the tail by all of which he is [illegible]
distinguished from and [illegible] connected with every other individual of the

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[illegible] Common just as much as any one of the Boys, among other things of beauty and character. On the first day of Commencement Week I read the Bible, reading chapter after chapter, while the nurse read the Bible to the negro and of the highland village and the stately building of the Garden to the discovery of Lord Cornwallis's retreat, to the noble deer-hound of Hardwicke Lodge, his portraiture was a dear and familiar face of Lordsburg for me just that the dreams of the great mammal friend, or other days, especially as celebrated by Scott in Rob Roy & the adventures of the celebrated one that, these days not only took up the night to dream things, but they actually fulfilled our highest expectations that since Commencement which included such performances by other engravings. Each one which he has presented as much an essential character of the Salem school days from the hero and heroine themselves, and on the one of Burns on Stonestock Spaniards, to engravings about Scott or general embracing as either of these personages. It is said that the engraved of the Lieutenant Scott, about Scott, one of the Stage-coach Driver, a working engraving of Scott's and Scott's Lodge, Scott's Bible to the memory of the old Knight Sir of Ditchley, and the slaughter, the gentle thing But enough of Scott and his days and haunts and Lore of those stirring Woodstock of which upon are probably as yet entirely ignorant of my knowledge — as a matter especially well known to me both I must just lead a dream to literature and Literati, for the present and come back to the ordinary record of this monotonous sphere, and try and give you some idea of the regular routine of College Life, as R. The government and discipline of the University, are very much akin to those of Kingsville Academy, which I am about also to enumerate & describe. One may do just about as he pleases as long as he does nothing bad. The kind of self government begets a manliness, and self-respect of thought and action, which is to be found in any form of any other College. The 2 Hours is one of the principal punishments of the institution. One must commit a good deal of Mischief to get into it, & even then it is not very severe. Each Professor has the power to excuse the pleasure of getting into it, & most of the best fellows at times [illegible] and during the time of my stay I was never in it. I [illegible] are prepared & learn and ready to recite a lesson each day. To do exactly Common is fair, or be marked down. The highest mark in each scale is 5, the smallest 0. The first is given for prompt attendance and the first recitations. The latter for immaculate posture, and the intermediate numerals are applied as the degrees of perfection are exhibited, or rather as the mind of the Prof. may dictate. Though I must confess that I think them generally just impartial especially Prof. Lumsden, Prof. Cutting, Tyrrell usually marks the boys high or low, according as they fully, or partially agree with his doctrines in all matters of Oratory, Belle Lettres in general. And those who take ingenuously & must diametrically observed to them in most things that exist and do not fear to express opposition of opinion even to a D.D., I think generally awards 0, as incorrigible reprobates, and miserable egotists. I believe I have not as yet marked one lower than five, being I believe very much pleased with the perfect boldness and audacity which he exhibits in criticising either himself the author, or the productions of any classmates, one of which is read every morning in his recitation room. I have however been warned by Seniors and the older Students, not to continue this show of opposition to his opinions, or he would not mark me above zero hereafter, & to conceal my opinion and hold my tongue whether he broaches, and advocates any dogma which I consider false, as for instance Whately's theory of Poetry. How can a Student & know the Professor likes me very well, and I am bound to keep down in that mind. Prof. R. Richardson is probably the most spiritual of any of the faculty & although one of those men who like to have every one appreciate them very highly, [illegible] there are very few men of his penetration enough to catch his jokes, of which he is more vain than of his Latinity, — which is indeed considerable — not discreet enough to laugh at them great and heartily as if he really enjoyed them, — no matter how stale they may be — and shows every learned man to call forth even the dullest of his own estimate & will be sure to find great favor in his eyes even if he is nothing [illegible] them an ordinary Scholar. But more to them some day to [illegible] take upon him, I would make them the exception of this rule. However perfect they recited with respect to [illegible]

them & used if pressed and one slight fault would exist as for instance
Sen Isser in reading, he read gave a 1, or 2, or else the incipient
pater is recognized with a great spiteful bowtering cephid You may
recollect that I was obliged to restrain my passion for repartee
somewhat while in this classroom that is except the exercises of it on my
classmates. I made full amends for my enforced silence however after
away, and some few Sensors and Theologians who endeavored to smoke
me for a time the best of their sort and richards have found out that I am
take, and Seneca says the opinion has become prevalent among the students that
I am not to be treed on with out danger of a bite I have given some as caustic re-
plies as I am capable of bestowing, to some who cannot themselves subtilty as
to awaken my contempt, and who yet condescended to fence with one whom they
considered quite encyquainted with the polished foils of refined wit - some of
these given at the table, where some 15 or twenty of us assemble I know I have cut-
deep and while they set the table ma roar, some left deep wounds on the unguarded
ent front of any opponent, which will not heal soon. They have now become rather shy
about throwing bricks at me I don't know but I have told you that Wells is a favorite
resent of the Burkens - or cents - secret fraternity - which by the way is just as secret
as any - and Seneca and I are the only secret society men here, save a young fel-
low just arrived named Church. Well this Burken aristocracy is overthrown
majority of the smartest men in College - those who could not if they would
join any other where of course some dunderheads but most of them are decent
men - their rate men Hendricks &c. They at once concluded that I would not do
because I was so intimate with Seneca, and to contrive to assail me whenever the
occasion offered. They could get everything almost they would join
them but there is they know no danger or hope of that, and they dare not pro-
voke me now. Mr Ritchie is expected here tomorrow, he is to board at
No 8 East St also. Do you perceive there something of a curiosity to see him
I first got the idea from Page that he was a man of some power and force, but
I find that though he enters the freshman class in the seminary this year he
is thought to be a perfect donkey here, destitute and life enough to knock
down when installed, or strength enough to ascend the hall of learning with
the assistance of a spring. He is a Burken and there is no danger of me

Present on Friday night to a public literary meeting of the
Delphic, one of the literary societies of the College. Just how late and long
that thought there are several secret fraternities among the boys
there are only two College Societies the Delphics and [illegible]
Thalt very well furnished, but the meeting was not to be compared
one of the Dialectic Meetings. Through disorder of Officers, and want
to it. There never did life, and energy, and audience, to speak of
of the Editors for this term, and read a paper on their course. Speeches
well done. Albert Pinckney was second in the competition. Peter Thacher
away very gay since all but three keeps of it were away from
almost heard the known - if known it be - of writing the first line of the Delphic
Oracle above. But I know you are tired of all manner of, or from me
not Jane or with me known little thing I will leave off and write you if I find
something more interesting to write to you. I declaimed yesterday for the first
time. You can have no just conception of what we have to en-
counter in this exercise here but you may form some faint idea of it
towards it somewhat as if you just were to give a recital about as large as the
Carlin's room at R - full of boys of the freshman and Sophomore classes
all well acquainted with each other and paying little or no heed to the
Cutting who trembles over this Exercise. When one goes before the stage
especially if he is a new man - if he tries to speak well and
well, he is saluted with a constant round of coughs, hems, groans
groans &c, and if he speaks ill by, hisses, jeerings, sneering remarks
&c are heard all over the room, from, God knows who - [illegible]
the Prof. All he, who speaks can do is to face it down. He does it with the
intellectual mien a good drill, but its countenance without change
by to suppress my exclamation. Of course I came on excepted to the
and stood upon the stage some minutes before [illegible]
did not care much about this, but when I first began to
first began to resume with the subject, there was a cat from
dreadful - another there - a dog - [illegible]
noisy return that of [illegible]

my face ... left it very suddenly. I stood looking at them for a moment, with, I think very much the look of a mad bull regarding the red flag of the matador just before he rushes forward to crush the guilty rag to atoms And truly it must have been ludicrous to the Prof and my classmates though one of my friends told me afterwards that I was then the most dangerous looking person he ever saw. Still you Emma hard words rose on my tongue and in my throat choking my utterance and keeping back all others. You saw me interrupted by noise in an audience once I believe - while speaking the Haunted House - and thought me somewhat enraged then - but my anger then was no more to be compared with this than the zephyr to the storm I mastered it however and ~~left~~ proceeded but there was no more grunting till I had left the stage. I am almost ashamed to acknowledge that I went the other day to see M. Delave walk across, on his rope over the falls in the Genesee river at this place. I presume you have heard of the result ere this but since I was fool enough to go I will give you a more circumstantial account. The rope is directly over the falls on one side and a little below them on the other. Its extremity on the Western side was about 125 feet from the bed of the River, and on the Eastern side about 130 from the same point. Its length is about 400 feet. It is much smaller than the one on which Mons. Blondin performed a similar feat at Niagara, being only 1¼ inches in diameter when fully stretched. It is moreover right over the edge of the fall, where the water curls and boils fearfully away down below, and the blinding spray arises around the performer, dimming his sight, and dampening the rope on which he treads while at Niagara the water, though far below is comparatively deep and still and the blinding spray is gone. Quite a concourse had of course gathered to witness the exploit, for M. Delave had advertised that he too would carry a man across the rope. Unwilling to pay the quarter exacted for a seat in Falls field I clambered down the steep bank and secured a very eligible position with many others on a small island in the river. Five or six rods perhaps below the falls Perhaps it was on account of my position that the dreadful thing affected me so much. Delave started from the western side alone, and passed over very easily and quickly, lying down on his back once or twice, shaking the ropes kicking the guys &c. After resting a few minutes on the western side he set out on his return, carrying in truth a man on his back. The man he carried

sailor named Smith was it is said drunk, and Delave himself had imbibed pretty freely. When he first set out it was evident that the burden was too much or something was wrong. He stepped very carefully and slowly and could now and then stop as if to regain his balance [illegible] his feet very quickly first on one side and then on the other showing that it was difficult for him to preserve his equilibrium. He had gotten on this way about half across and was right over the principal part of the falls, at a point where [illegible] the rope was very [illegible] from the [illegible] spray [illegible] Every one expected they would fall to the bed of the [illegible] be dashed in pieces or drowned at any rate [illegible] and the [illegible], some shut their eyes. I could not [illegible] the stream [illegible] over [illegible] the rope [illegible] rather Delave caught with one hand [illegible] over the rope. Fortunately they [illegible] that with one hand, and kept the other clasped around Delave. And there they hung, struggling and striving for life more than [illegible] feet above the boiling waters, grasping that frail rope which seemed but as a spider's web thrown across that dreadful gulf [illegible] Good Heavens Emma [illegible] [illegible] and trembling [illegible] to look [illegible] thinking of that fool Delave. The [illegible] to think about it. It was the most [illegible] passed, and [illegible] years. And though they [illegible] [illegible] almost afraid to [illegible]

Emma

Dear little Darling Emma "Ans Emma! Surely my precious Darling
Emma thought that expected a little More. Yes Dear, only sufficient funds
for enough and natural employment of those little things in my letter and
only desired some to tell you how Dear Darling Emma
always learned upon when you ask me to perform so pleasing a task as
that. Now for me as your Love that if you did not write such
dear sweet & good little things, I should get as Dear as you encouraging
my own letters, and should feel like scolding you seriously. Tell you me tell
In next very life was made up of trifles. Little Treasures must for be
Love those for me from it. Yours dear of your last letter you wish you
that every night upon, all full of little Darling things. It made me laugh
big as a dear minded Emma, as a serious subject I want to learn and
taught to be good & industrious, and as do you think a dear instead
Darling promised a dreadful thing! !!! But to be sober, Love these things do give me
so much joy. They seem to gravitate more downwards into the secret places of
good heart, and show that the seeds of Love, & Confidence from
Heaven in my words, & Love answered then a glimmer where the true Love
of Christ & Christ's, along the course of Life's Pilgrimage, and rewarded
them for me. And then may our Dear Dear God keep these little
things safe and remember with the sweet joy the kindest Darlingness. That
dropping of your dear head close to my heart, when I said you me that
Emma, "that, Mary dear Lord Byron," one thing evening as one reads, that
dear song of my dear Darling dear one, then, Heart beating
for me which quoted was so that label Schoolhouse clock, one hour more upstairs
that dear arms interlaced carelessly around my neck, kept in fingers all
warm as the room. Oh! that was to learn to Love, as Darling as the
darkness, that Lack of human trustfulness, that Darling dear Heart
morning drunk to sing sweet the morning of August 22 continue
followed the evening of May 29. All these things through your many
long forgotten days of absence, one child, one dear heart, and the
throne of Life and Love of Christ and Heaven and Darling dear Mary

length on the ground, starting at Arrowcamp with, nothing doubted, with
the exception, that the big grand treasured day, at Crosby & thereabouts of
each Year of Thanksgiving should be our year starts and at night fall
we shall have reached our Creek and Prayer shall be raised & Heart offering to
the Eternal Father, not for earthly comforts, nay thanks, but for approved
treasures, Stars to grace our Heavenly Crown. Shall we ever and pray for
Transcendental riches, Dearie, Ah shall we take for earthly and transient
Precious Eternal Spiritual Blessings, Dearie? Ah Dearie, pick up for
Tidings may you doubtless will be over to Eva, Cousin, Dorothy and
Luke and with Stones to gain Immortal riches, gracious Heavenly Crown
and Thirty acquire not only the Crown of Earthly Conquerors, but
Adventurers and Stars. Well a strange Storm I have written to
to day, Betrothal, Well & Pilchuck Prince Russia Letter to Aunt Rosa My word
is just as telling the long tortured way from that Storm street. The Bard
of Alloway is Burns — It was another one who was referred to
in the Testimonies the person. Dear Dear Stars, Dearie, Dearie
Stars not Dear, At least I hear some heart rending and unwanted Heart
Aches; My ah if any one had urged that I should probably become
Deaf. It was just contrary among the ancients Greeks & gone
persons what passion old grey beards. The word Quaker
upon refer is an old English in rather Saxon words meaning Lord
Worthy Day Dear Stars, Dear Spirit, &C, It is over absolute
Deliverance sweet Saved Trysted Lord at the Precious Mountain
be it Rain or Snow any more Darkness any Light on the Subject Meeting
or Written Story of Life Pilchuck is indeed a very interesting one Dearie that
Pilchuck and Dearie authentic. I cannot tell you any thing at present Dearie
or rather with and about Dearie will come soon and to Bishop Graves
regarding that Point or at least tell you all that is known — not much about Stars
Dearie written by Engine once I became to it — and Letter Pilchuck for Pilchuck
fore & left Eva Dearest Dearie Dearie Dearie and all and Dearie Stars
Stars will write to Nellie again if the Stars work to our Stars matter between
Evan & myself — You & Josie &C Evan all straitened the next day, by one of the
Dearie Dearie Dearie Dearie Dearie Dearie Dearie Dearie Dearie Dearie
general home Letter. Should it prove true, be very glad to receive the Cheques
Dearie Dearie Dearie Dearie Dearie Dearie Dearie Dearie Dearie Dearie
Dearie Dearie Dearie Dearie Dearie Dearie Dearie Dearie Dearie Dearie
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Miss E L Kilborn
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