

and he is so good to them, lets them on his back, or pull him about as they choose. I thought I had lost him just before we left Fort William, as a stone we had in the fire in lieu of a "Dog Iron," broke with the heat, and a piece struck him on the forehead: however, I doctored him and attended him, as you know I love to do when a dog is in the question, and now he is all well, save a bald spot on the head.

If you pass "Marshall & Aitken" call in and give my kindest regards to young Aitken, and tell him I am coming home, and will give him a tremendous big order, as I shall fetch none of these beastly Canadian clothes home with me, and will only be too glad to feel once more I have their goods on my back; also tell him that *now* the bills are to be made out to *Mr* Swain and *not* "*Mrs.*," as after this I pay all my own accounts, though still a minor.

I am nearly crazy at the thought that so soon I may be among you all. The thought of seeing you all once more, and dear Freddy, and the Serjeant-Major, not to speak of numerous friends and outsiders, and all the parties and balls I may be at this winter, after my wandering, is almost too much for me; and Mr D. declares I will be into a brain fever. One thing is certain, you shall never know the day I am coming, as the surprise will be the beauty of it. Fancy my coming in and finding you in the kitchen amongst all the dinners, &c. I pity the dishes, for I am sure I should break all within my reach, and knock the old cook into the dripping-pan for a finale.

I am very sorry Mr Brown has been so ill. Give him my fondest love, and tell him I hope soon to take a