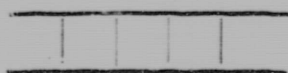


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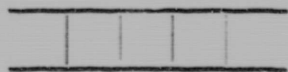
# Niagara Historical Society

NO. 14



Letters of  
**MRS. WM. DUMMER POWELL**

1807--1821



PRICE 20 CENTS.

Times Print, Niagara

## PREFACE

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In presenting to the public in this the tenth year of our existence as a Society our fourteenth publication we trust that these letters copied so carefully by the late lamented Mrs. Curzon, may throw many side lights on the history of the period referred to. It has been said that in this age of post cards, telegraphs and telephones letter writing is a lost art; at all events it will be seen that Mrs. Powell wielded a facile pen. We desire to express our hearty thanks to Æmilius Jarvis Esq., Toronto, for the photographs kindly presented to us, taken for our Society from valuable family portraits in his possession, also for information explaining some of the references in the letters. We have also to thank Mrs. J. E. Wilson for allowing the pictures of her father and mother to be copied to appear here. We trust that many descendants of early settlers will do likewise in lending portraits to be copied and giving reminiscences of those gone before that the memory of these days may not be forgotten.

39335



ANN MURRAY.

Wife of Chief Justice Powell.

From a portrait in possession of Eustace Jarvis Esq. Toronto.

## Letters of Mrs. Powell 1807-1821

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In a blank book of good size and of thin foreign paper are extracts from eighty-eight letters from 1807 to 1821 chiefly dated at York, in the handwriting of the late lamented Mrs. Curzon, copied from the Powell papers in the Reference Library, Toronto, thus headed:

[By permission of the Chief Librarian Toronto Public Library, Jas. Bain, Jr. Esq., who judged the notes might be useful to me as a student of Canadian History.

Notes on Public Affairs taken from private letters by Mrs. Annie Powell, wife of Chief Justice Powell, to her brother, George W. Murray Esq., Merchant, New York.]

These papers were placed in my hands by the wish of the late Miss Curzon, whose tragic death we all deplore, and permission to print them was obtained by me from Dr. Bain. J. C.

YORK, SEPT. 4TH, 1807.

"It is three weeks since I heard from you my dearest brother and everything which varies from general habit induces me to expect a speedy knowledge of what I most hope or most dread. I calculate the time of my husband's departure from England, his probable return from Spain, the necessary detention in London and perhaps betray my ignorance in every one except the first, which from his letter is certain, whether I am right or not it engages my mind in expectation of the desired event of his return and disengages it from dwelling upon those actual sufferings so many exertions have been made to mitigate and relieve. I have endured nearly eighteen months of uncertainty, the first were borne with tranquillity, for they were gilded with the most flattering expectations. At the moment these hopes were so dreadfully terminated, had the next

welve months been exposed to my view the prospect would have overpowered my senses, and deprived me of all ability to contend with evils of such magnitude, yet although I have suffered severe anguish I have also during this period experienced hours of cheerfulness, not the delightful serenity of reflection, and my attention has been engaged by foreign objects and I have considered it incumbent on me to seek those as the only means of enabling me to perform the active duties indispensably necessary to my situation as the mother of a large and helpless family and a member of society when every one ought to perform their part by setting examples of morality and decency.

My dearest brother, will the hour arrive when I can lay my head to my pillow and thank God for the restoration of my husband and my son with a warmth of gratitude equal to the fervor of those petitions for their preservation which I now offer at the Throne of Mercy? Surely if this long looked for event is to be awarded I shall be lost to all sense of goodness if I suffer murmuring or discontent to embitter the feelings of those for whom I live. My husband has an increased claim upon my affection, friendship and duty, and I hope the power to reward him for his exertions to restore my peace will accompany a will which must be invariable.

When I forget what I owe to you my dearest George, may God forget me, and by withdrawing his protection leave me the prey of greater miseries than those from which your fraternal affection has sought to save me. ——— I did not write last week as I intended, the only conveyance was so sudden I had not time. Your nieces are still on the other side, Evelyn and your child with John, Anne with Mrs. D. at Queenston. Mrs. D. has been confined near a fortnight, as in the wretched state of this country as to servants a mistress of a family needs a friend to superintend, it is as much as a nurse, Anne has been enabled by her attentions in this way to return in part the various acts of kind and considerate friendship we have for many years been in the habit of receiving from Dickson. I mean they should return next week as the Toronto has been in a very bad state and is now patched up I shall endeavour to send a small vessel with a decent master for them.

\* \* \* Our Governor is gone down to Kingston. I think he is well out of the way of seeing the shocking things with which Wilcock's paper is filled. I hope you see it, you know enough of the different people here to judge pretty well what is correct. The account of Mr. Thorpe's trial is perfectly incorrect, and the indecent manner in which it is detailed would shock the editors of the Citizen or Aurora. The Governor's absence gives a color to the assertions of his being called home. The arrival of the Attorney General will

most likely show who is right, the chairman of the meeting who offered to remunerate Mr. Thorpe for the loss of not going the circuit knew nothing of it until he saw it in the papers. This man so lost to decency who drives his wife and daughters to such company as the decent farmers will not associate with, what can he expect will be the result? \* \* \*

Robert is I suppose by this time on the Atlantic, God grant our mother may be indulged her wish to see him.

My poor Jerry's letter being one month later date than the one before it makes one think if he himself is not on the way another letter may be, if Mr. Reynolds application ———

Where can Kane [Paul Kane] be gone? I ask questions as if you could answer them next week, pardon me.

Grant's wife writes of the general complaint of the influenza. It seems to be considered as an harbinger of some other contagious complaint, God forbid the fever should begin its dreadful ravages.

Mary begs I will not forget to offer her duty and love, she is making an apple pudding I wish you could share it.

[NOTE. This letter has been copied rather more fully than might appear necessary for the purpose indicated at the outset see Page 1, but is done to show the excellent heart and fine nature of the lady who wrote it. The remainder of the letters are in the same tone and with one exception are signed in a most touching style, indicative of a warm affectionate nature.

Your affectionate sister and faithful friend,

Address, G. W. Murray, Esq., Merchant, New York, superscribed in another hand, Lewiston, Sept. 10th, 1807.]

YORK, SEPT. 11TH, 1807.

Your letters my dearest brother of the 25th and 26th reached me yesterday, they are truly consolatory, my mind for the first time in many months is completely relieved from the dreadful reflection that my darling son was suffering from the accumulated miseries of fetters and close confinement. I now await the result with patience, secure that a few weeks will in all probability ascertain what I greatly hope, though not without a degree of fear. Indeed your letters were calculated to afford me ease and comfort, and while I think I might have accounts of Mr. Powell I am willing to ascribe the delay to events for which I cannot account. I rejoice that your city is yet free from that horrid disease so much dreaded, and hope sincerely that the benefits arising from an uncommonly cold summer will be equal to any ill effects it may have on the produce of the country. The complaint affecting the eyes and the head has I find been very general in the States. Mrs. McGill has had an attack

something like it but I hear of no one else, and hope we shall escape it. \* \* \* What should I have been my beloved George had you possessed that aversion to the pen which marks the characters of some of your brothers. My son had languished in prison without the necessaries of life, and his mother broken hearted had been unable to look forward to the moment of his restoration to his unhappy family.

Mr. Powell says Capt Adams, should he go to Carthage I trust he may afford a conveyance to the poor prisoner from a slavery so near its termination. I thank you for your assurance of obtaining information on a subject of importance to the public.

The Governor is at Kingston, on his return, the shameful and unfounded assertions in that infamous paper are enough to irritate him to the severest measures—they strike at the public and private character—do pray read them and beg Mr. Powell to do so. God grant he may be arrived.

It is the White Havana Sugar I wish to have. I should like 100 cwt. (?) or a small cask of muscovado, that is if the other is not sent on. Mary is well and will I sincerely hope merit your affection, she has a pair of beautiful Canary birds which with her peachicks afford her employment and amusement. You do not say if they had heard of Mr. Powell after his arrival in Spain.

[They, refers to the relatives in Norwich, England, Mrs. Powell and Mr. Murray's mother and sisters.]

P.S. I give a dollar, or 10 [York Shillings 12½ cts] a gallon for vinegar. If you think it can be sent on cheaper I should be glad of a barrel or a half one.

(Here occurs a most tantalizing break of over seven years, the period of the war so interesting to us here. J. C.)

YORK, APRIL 7TH, 1815.

My Dearest Brother

Ever since the restoration of peace has removed the bar to communication between us I have been anxiously expecting intelligence from you on your own immediate situation and that of those dear friends around you from whom the calamities of the late dreadful state of warfare have so long separated us, hitherto these hopes and expectations have been fruitless. A few days' very severe illness have determined me to delay no longer to write lest a continuance of indisposition should disable me from ever giving you the assurance that no event can alienate or diminish that affectionate friendship which has been one of the first comforts of my not happy



The medal has just come to light most opportunely and its finding at this time is a remarkable coincidence, as it commemorates the golden wedding of the writer of these letters. It was found accidentally at Creemore while a reservoir was being enlarged. The plate so appropriate to our pages was kindly given us by the Toronto News the illustration having appeared in that paper Feb 1st. Chief Justice Powell and Bishop Strachan, it has been said, were for many years the real rulers of Upper Canada. John Powell born in Niagara 1809 was Registrar for many years and the son of the John Powell referred to on pages 6 and 18.



—5—

life. The scenes in which I have for the last two years been engaged will in the event most probable tend to curtail it, they have certainly served to hasten the infirmities of age and destroyed many of those hopes and prospects, which if realized would have smoothed my passage to the grave. There is little of comfort now to be anticipated but I have reason and most sincerely thank Divine Providence that all has not been wrested from me by the evils inflicted on this once happy and flourishing colony.

While all correspondence was precluded except such as must meet the eyes of the public I could not write for many reasons, it is unnecessary to detail them, one is sufficient, you know the former machinations set on foot against my husband, suspicions were raised and not always removed even by the most conclusive proofs of innocence amongst various characters who have held the supreme authority here, it was possible that some one might have received false impressions from those who imperfectly remembered former transactions, to prevent the most distant shadow of probability I thought it incumbent on me to forego all communication with those friends so dear to me. Your kindness to my son John was sometime since acknowledged by his father, the style of that letter originated from the same necessity, but I have many fears that it did not reach you, that your answer has miscarried or that the unavoidable brevity gave offence when we all longed to express the gratitude we felt. John's habits of prostration delayed the remittance of the money you had so liberally advanced for it was furnished immediately on his return and it would be a great satisfaction to hear it has been received by you. To relate all that has befallen us since the bitter hour in which our correspondence ceased is as impossible as it would be unprofitable, great indeed must be the change if you have ceased to feel an interest in our concerns therefore I shall as concisely as possible give you some idea of our present situation. The number of our family has not diminished. Mr. Powell has enjoyed good health with the exception of two or three short attacks of fever. Had not the late unhappy war existed his circumstances would have by this time been perfectly easy but the great expenses attending the most economical mode of living have retarded this most desirable and long expected event — Your neices are yet and will most likely continue unmarried. A very pressing invitation for one of them to visit their aunt Progdgers has tempted Anne to talk of a voyage to England. \* \* \*

Evelyn's constitution is greatly improved, ever seeking to serve others she is universally beloved. \* \* \* Mary, your favorite, is changed beyond description, the loss of flesh and complexion has been in part the consequence of a complaint in her stomach, from which she

frequently suffers, but still more to increasing regret for unkindness to one who merited and I believe possessed her best affections— for many months subsequent to the dreadful loss we sustained on the 13th Oct. 1812, I feared no time would restore her tranquillity, the generous bequest of our late lamented friend was a proof of his regard which she could not but feel a reproach for her capricious conduct, but these are statements I have never hinted to her—the good sense she possessed and the vivacity of her feeling rendered it unnecessary, and the subject is ever carefully avoided.

(This reference was not understood till explained by the kindness of Æmilius Jarvis, Esq., who states that Miss Mary Powell, who afterwards married Samuel Peters Jarvis, the son of Mr. Secretary Jarvis, was previously engaged to Col. McDonnell, Attorney General of Upper Canada, and Aid-de-Camp to Sir Isaac Brock. A later letter refers to this marriage. J.C.)

[The schools and nunneries of Montreal are animadverted upon in connection with sending an orphan grandchild Mary, to some school for accomplishments.]

John Powell since his return has lived with his wife and child in an apartment at Mr. Shaw's, they are now removed to our immediate neighborhood and he goes in a few days to see if the ruins of his dwelling at Niagara admit of such reparation as will shelter them for the summer.

Grant, as Surgeon of the Incorporated Militia, passed the last campaign on the frontier and caught the Lake fever which though conquered at the moment has been attended with a very serious liver complaint, he is just now convalescent, but I fear his constitution has suffered a shock not likely to be overcome. He with his wife and two daughters live in a very comfortable house. The discharge of the Regiment reduces his means to £200 per annum, as clerk to the House of Assembly to which he succeeded after the 27th April, 1813, when his predecessor was killed in defence of this post, [Young Allan Maclean] Thus have I given you an account of us \* \* \* although it is not indicative of prosperity or comfort, that we have been preserved to struggle through the difficulties which surrounded us is more than we have frequently anticipated and for which we are grateful to the Giver of all Good. An hour before the intelligence of Peace reached us we had determined to abandon our all here and seek bread and quietness in the only country that promised to afford them, to that Beloved Country my wishes ever incline and until now

-7-

I have indulged the hope that some effort of fortune would gratify them. I no longer look forward to such a possibility \* \* \* In this country, probably in this place will be the closing scene — My most earnest prayer is for permission to retain my usefulness to the last hour.

April 25th. The want of conveyance has detained this and I open it to say that I have received yours of the 22nd March on the 24th of this month \* \* \* I send this by Kingston, as yet no nearer to us, if you will direct yours for me to the care of Major Glegg, Dep Adgt. Gen., Kingston, it will be forwarded immediately by express."

[This letter is addressed as usual to George W. Murray, Esq., Merchant, New York, and is marked on the left hand lower margin "single sheet" on the upper left hand margin is written "Ogdensburg, N.Y., May 13th" and at the right upper margin 39, probably the amount of postage. The sheet is lawyer's foolscap size, unruled and is written 47 lines of thirteen words to the page in a small clear hand, both the top and bottom fold of the paper on the address page is closely written upon, the manner of folding letters admitting of this economy. The letter was wafered but a great blotch of red sealing wax upon the same spot indicates opening which may have been done by the writer herself, as shown by the shrinking of the wafer in doing it having been steamed soft to open for last words.]

[4th Letter]

YORK, JUNE 30TH, 1815.

My Dearest Mother

I have been greatly at a loss to account for your silence and began to fear that the circuitous route I was obliged to adopt for my letters had been an unsafe one. Yours of the 1st has just reached me in a cover from Mr. Clarke and sets my mind at rest respecting the fate of the first. I will hope a few days longer will ascertain that of the last and I should have waited had I not been desirous to lose no time in saying that the post to Niagara had been re-established, therefore letters to me directed to the care of Thos. Dickson, Esq., Queenston will meet with neither delay nor danger \* \* \* This information (private) and the difficulty of a passage to Quebec had decided Anne to relinquish her intention of going to England that way.

You ask the distance from Kingston to this place, it is 140 miles, but except on horse back the roads are impassable for traveling. The American Vessels are constantly passing up and down.

\* \* \* Mr. Powell came from Niagara this morning, where he has been for some days distributing relief to the sufferers in the war."

(In the list of houses burned at Niagara the name of John Powell referred to in last letter does not appear. The money distributed was raised by the Loyal and Patriotic Society, of which Bishop Strachan was the Secretary. J. C.)

[5th Letter]

YORK, AUGUST 23RD, 1815.

[This letter expresses great anxiety at long and unexpected silence, says letter of latter end of June, was forwarded by Mr. Dickson with "the Post" at Lewiston with assurance of enquiry for any which came to me by that conveyance] \* \* \*

This letter may be long on its way \* \* \* is given to a son of Dr. Kerr, whose journey is in search of health [asks Mr. Murray's kind attention to Mr. Walter Kerr, who may have to go further southward than N.Y. \* \* \* deploras inability to assist a relation] but the recommencement of European contest continues to reduce our ability to procure even the decencies necessary to our station in life, nor can we look forward to the desired period when this reduction will cease to distress us \* \* \* Mr. Powell left us five days ago to take the Eastern Circuit which will be a very long one, John accompanies him, the derangement in his means of subsistence requires the aid this temporary office affords him—indeed I see no chance of recovering from the unfortunate events of the last three years \* \* \* It is said that our good Governor (Gore) and Mrs. Gore are on their way from England but dissatisfaction has so frequently attended our best grounded expectations that we are fearful of encouraging the hope of an event so desirable \* \* \* You will have seen in the papers the death of our respected friend Mr. Cartwright, his valuable life fell a victim to that cruel complaint which carried to the grave his four hopeful children, his only surviving daughter is married to a Captain in the Royal Navy, Capt. Dobbs, a very fine young man, but whose health precludes all hope of a long life, of his three sons the eldest is consumptive, the other two above ten years of age are not free from the threatening of that dreadful malady, but we have hopes that Mrs. Cartwright will remove to this place and that change of air may check the progress of a disease that seems inherent.

[6th Letter]

YORK, OCTOBER 13TH, 1815.

My Dearest Brother

[Two pages and a half of family news concerning chiefly the illness of Mr. Murray's son, John, of consumption and the baseness of an elder brother, who while apparently a wealthy man neglected to aid his mother and other members of the family who had a right to expect him to do so] \* \* \* I have a thousand things to say in which self is concerned—the Governor is arrived, well and friendly as ever, we owe to him the ability to support the late disastrous times, the timely nature of his influence at home gained for my husband the means to get rid of difficulties that would almost have overwhelmed us. An evil is now with the officers of the King's Government hanging over us—the seat of Govt. is to be removed to Kingston but it is too great an undertaking to be accomplished this winter—we are to have remuneration for unavoidable losses but yet the decision is a sad distraction to the comforts of those who have been devoting many years to the improvement of their possessions—for myself I am perfectly resigned to the measure, the few years before me render it unimportant where they are passed, and the hope of my remains reposing beside one of lamented children is consolatory to my feelings of everlasting regret.

[A Letter from Miss Anne Powell, the eldest daughter of Judge Powell to her uncle, Mr. G. W. Murray.]

[7th Letter]

YORK, NOVEMBER 11TH, 1815.

If this were the first time I had addressed you my dear uncle since the communication has been open between us \* \* \* When I last wrote to you I fully expected to see you in a few weeks, however papa applied for leave to go home and of course I gave up all idea of any other protection — he was disappointed but not half so much as I was for by that means I lost the chance of going in company with my old friend Mary Cartwright, now Mrs. Dobbs [wife of Capt. Dobbs of 1812 fame].

To Geo. W. Murray, Broadway, N.Y.

[by Miss Mary B. Powell]

YORK, JANUARY 5TH, 1816.

My Dear Uncle

\* \* \* Mama's sudden determination to take Mary to school to N.Y. has thrown us all into a little bustle, Mary [one of

two fatherless grand-daughters of Judge Powell] \* will I am sure all ways find in you and my aunt George interested friends who will soon make New York a second home to her \* \* \* I hope nothing may prevent Janie's [Miss English] taking her as a boarder \* \* \* [sundry warniags against certain relations follow] I hope you will not think I mean to dictate by writing thus, nor when I say that could I prevent it she should never go to a Presbyterian Church and except for some particular reason to none but Grace Church — and never to any of an evening, I may be fanciful but I cannot think such a rule could be a disadvantage.

\* (This refers to the children of Wm. Dummer Powell, one of the ten members of the first Law Society of U.C., a letter of whom from Queenston in 1801 to Col. Robert Nelles at Forty Mile Creek (Grimsby) is in possession of the Society. This returns thanks for forwarding their escape in an elopement with Sarah Stevenson to Niagara, where they were married by Rev. Robt. Addison. W. D. Powell died in 1803, as shown by entry in St. Mark's register, while his wife lived to 1834, as shown by tombstone in St. George's Cemetery, St. Catharines. J. C.)

[8th Letter]

JANUARY 6TH, 1815.

Favoured by the Hon. and Rev. Dr. Strachan  
My Dearest Brother

From your letter to Anne, received the 1st I have some hope this may meet you at Utica, where Dr. Strachan has promised to inquire for you. You will hear from him of my intended journey, \* \* \* to induce our dear Jane English to take our little Mary under her charge. Mr. Powell had consented to my placing her at Quebec \* \* \* There were and are objections, all will be done away with if I am able to accomplish my present wishes. \* \* \* Mrs. Grant Powell and her children accompany me to Albany, from Buffalo to that place we go unprotected except by a careful and discreet servant, neither Mr. Powell nor Grant can be spared and I am too old and good a traveller to feel any apprehension from this circumstance.

[9th Letter]

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 2nd, 1816.

[From Mrs. Powell in New York where she had gone expecting to see Mr. Murray but he had left for Utica just as she arrived — Great disappointment.]

[10th Letter]

2 Miles from Black Rock.

FEB. 26TH, 1816.

My Dearest Brother

I arrived here a few minutes ago in the hope of crossing the St. Lawrence [Niagara] this evening but I find no means of doing so, indeed were I to proceed the wind and the snow would probably prevent the boat from going over. My journey has been entirely on wheels, of course fatiguing enough \* \* \* the road from Canandaigua to the Genessee River was dreadful, we were ten hours travelling it excepting the time taken to mend the stage which broke down in the midst of the worst road. I had the pleasure to deliver the letters to Dr. Onderdonk.

[11th Letter]

YORK, MARCH 15TH, 1816.

My Dearest Brother

From my letter of the 5th, written at Queenston to our sister W. you would find that I had proceeded thus far without accident \* \* \* I then tried to escape the bad roads which were declared almost impracticable by crossing in a vessel the next day, you will suppose that I was not a little surprised at the sight of Mr. Powell about 11 at night, who had left York at 12 the day before, the Equinox had so alarmed him that all difficulties as to his absence and hazardous travelling were speedily overcome and nothing could satisfy him but that his presence and attendance was necessary to ensure my safety. He most certainly judged correctly as to the uncertainty of the navigation for a change of weather detained the vessel five days at Fort George, and the heavy easterly gale which brought her over prevented all communication with her for twenty-four hours after she anchored to the west of the Garrison, while I on the 8th at noon was rejoiced by seeing my children well and receiving the congratulations of my friends.

Mr. Powell is likely to suffer from a little excursion a few miles out of town, where he took Mrs. J. Powell and little Anne to see Mrs. Claus. The horses ran away and Mr. Powell's leg was hurt.

The kindness of our excellent and warm friend, the Governor, has been exerted to serve my husband, at his desire the Legislature now in session have voted \$4000 to remunerate him for extra judicial services in settling land claims which occupied much time and were a laborious business some years ago, this sum will about overcome the perplexities resulting from the late war, and we have

reason to hope that reward for the services of a life of which a great portion has been spent devoted to promote the good of the colony will not stop here, but of this nothing is certain \* \* \* The most perfect confidence prevails between the Governor and the Legislature, of this they have given every proof by ordering £3000 to his Excellency for the purchase of plate. Anne is with Mrs. Boulton, who has a little daughter.

[12th Letter]

YORK, APRIL 26TH, 1816.

My Dearest Brother

[Concern about the increasing illness of Mr. John Murray] \* \* \*

John is inhabiting his ruins (in Niagara) and doing his best to make them tolerable for his wife and children who go over next week. When remuneration is made we will be enabled to rebuild, in the meantime he and Grant have the addition of \$100 per annum added to their salaries.

(Signed) Anne Powell,  
who is this day 61 years of age.

[13th Letter]

YORK, MAY 9TH, 1816.

[This is entirely occupied with family affairs and the little girl at school, but speaks of Mr. Powell's (Judge's) departure for England with his eldest daughter, Anne.]

[14th Letter]

YORK, MAY 25TH, 1816

My Dearest Brother

\* \* \* I had anticipated the satisfaction of hearing of the travellers [Mr. P. Miss A. P. Mr. John Murray, the sick son, he died in England] by the Toronto which took Major Hatton to Sackett's Harbour, that they had reached Albany. Mr. C. writes me from Montreal that L. had letters from Mr. P. while there (Albany). I send the order to Senor and Maitland \* \* \* It seems Capt. Phelan came on the Niger to N. Y.

[15th Letter]

YORK, JUNE 12TH, 1816.

My Dear Brother

\* \* \* Young Charles writes that his father by being thrown out of his chaise had his right thigh broken and Mr. Astley



Cooper had set it \* I am suffering from rheumatism, hope the warm weather, if ever we have any, may relieve me. This is the first day we have sat without a fire, all the fruit in the country is destroyed, the grain is much injured and no prospect of hay. \* \* \* Mr. Dickson lives at Queenston but he always sends over for the letters [to Lewiston] therefore the best direction is to him at Lewiston, County of Niagara, N.Y. If directed to Queenston it is a chance but they go to Buffalo.

[Superscription marked "double sheet" in Mr. Murray's received 30th. Letter enclosing one for Mr. W. D. P. and forwarded by ship Edward to Liverpool. Top line Lewiston 29th June. \$1.00 postage to England included probably.]

[16th Letter]

YORK, JULY 9TH, 1816.

My Dear Brother

\* \* \* [Matters relating to little Mary and the "extraordinary interference" of her aunt in the arrangements made with Miss English before she left for England] \* \* \* They know and you are fully aware that nothing but a permanent benefit to the last objects of my poor William's earthly solicitude

Enclosure forwarded by ship Magnet to Liverpool 1 oz. \$1.00.

[17th Letter]

YORK, JULY 31ST, 1816.

My Dearest Brother

[Domestic affairs] \* \* \* I think Mr. Powell will be home in about two months, the Govt. is very anxious for his arrival and I believe feels his absence greatly. Nothing can be more friendly and attentive than both His Excellency and Mrs. Gore, \* \* conviction that it proceeds from friendly regard for me and mine. Indeed we owe the Governor so much. \* \* \* Mary's sister Anne would have written her an account of the Ball and Supper to be given at the Govt. House tomorrow night and to which Mrs. Gore has invited me to take her \* \* \* The season has been very unpropitious, the weather though tolerably fine is not seasonable. We begin to look with less dread of consequences if it pleases God to grant us a dry harvest, although the late frosts destroyed a good deal, the crops are in many places abundant.

[Superscribed] Packet forwarded pr ship Importer to Liverpool

[18th Letter]

YORK, AUGUST 11TH, 1816.

My Dearest Brother

Mr. Hogan offers to forward letters to you by private hand. \* \* \* I have not heard from you of the arrival of the Minerva Smith at her distant post whether that was London or Liverpool. The Governor says she is a Liverpool trader. It is now thirteen weeks since they sailed and I look with great anxiety to to-morrow's post. \* \* \* I wrote you the last of the month by Mr. Crane who had offered to take letters of the Governor. \* \* \* John goes the Western Circuit with the Chief Justice and by so doing gives room for a visitor, Miss Eliza Powell, for their "ruins" are too scanty to admit an addition to the family circle when he is at home. The claims for remuneration of losses are gone home and if they are granted he will be enabled to lodge his family more comfortably but the prevailing system of economy may perhaps interfere. Happily our fears of want are fading away, favourable weather and the promising appearance of the grain encourage the expectation of an abundant harvest and we may be indulged in good wheaten bread, a luxury we had scarcely dared to anticipate; the overflow of merchandise is here comparatively as great as with you, of course every description of British manufacture and every foreign article is cheaper than ever was known; and as the increase of importation exceeds that of population we shall experience a favorable difference in our expenses of living — and we have need of it.

If Mr. Powell does succeed in the object of his voyage we may look forward to a tolerable competence for our future lives, if he fails we have been so accustomed to suit our living to our circumstances that we may be as well content; the almost certain conviction that the government will never permit its faithful servants to suffer want will assist to support our spirits under the unavoidable infirmities of age.

Has Capt. Phelan paid the promised visit (at Norwich), by a change of regiments he may be stationed at this post \* \* \* a romantic visionary character \* \* \* he is too eccentric for a desirable neighbor, other ways \* \* \* a pleasure to see the daughter of my sister.

[19th Letter]

YORK, AUGUST 20TH, 1816

My Dearest Brother

[Expressing much solicitude with regard to Mr. Murray's health] I do not know what other medical men

there are in Norwich but I have the greatest confidence in the skill and attention of Mr. Martineau, whose uniform friendship for my father's descendants will secure his best exertions. \* \* \* I think Mr. P. is now on his way out, the Parliament was sitting of course, the public offices were not deserted and as a public and domestic man he knows his own importance too well to delay his return an hour longer than necessary. Eliza goes to Niagara to-day. The Captain of the Toronto has just called to receive his orders from her and she has concluded to sail at sunset. Nothing can exceed the Governor's and Mrs. G's kind attention to every circumstance which can contribute to our comfort. Greatly do we dread military influence and as truly hope that no temptation will induce the Government to place us under its control, but such is the present system that those who wish it frequently report its probability \* \* \* [Deplores serious disaster to relatives in commerce]. Again I wish you were all in this country where the commercial security compensates for the tardiness of accumulating wealth. \* \* \* S. G. has made a very handsome portion, is now gone to France and returns to marry into one of the best families at Quebec indeed in proportion to the population, the late war has made as many fortunes in these provinces as it has marred in the U. S. \* \* \* Mr. Hogan promised to send my packet (for England) from Utica, he was much liked here and may be induced to fix in one of the provinces.

[20th Letter]

YORK, SEPTEMBER 18TH, 1815.

My Dearest Brother

I had flattered myself that by this time I should have been enabled to announce to you Mr. Powell's safe arrival at his own humble dwelling and was greatly disappointed when the Toronto returned yesterday with letters for the Governor by the July packet and I received neither letters from nor intelligence of my husband. We have seen that the Courier and the Pacific had arrived at New York in tolerably short passages from Liverpool and as Mr. Powell on the 12th July had reason to imagine the next day's interview with Mr. Goulburn would conclude his business. I was surely not unreasonable in supposing that he would be ready to embark on the 26th the day it is said the latter sailed. I thank you for your kind congratulations; the object attained would be valuable could it have been secured without the expense and fatigue of a personal application:—however, independent of the emoluments (which when compared with increased demands are scarcely a consideration) it was a point of honour to solicit that which has long been considered the

just reward of a life of exertion for the good of the colony:—but there is another point of view in which it is more gratifying to me:—the Governor's strong recommendation of the measure is a proof of his confidence in the talents and integrity of a man who at one period was held up to him as undeserving of his regard or esteem and the consideration that it gives a claim to a respectable support when age and infirmity may incapacitate him for his arduous duties, serve to cheer the present moment and remove apprehension of future want.

[21st Letter]

YORK, OCTOBER 7TH, 1816.

My Dearest Brother

\* \* \* The Chief Justice was taken very ill on the circuit and unable to hold the Niagara Assizes—Mr. Powell is therefore obliged to do this duty and leaves this on Friday. I suppose he told you that Mr. Scott (Chief Justice) returns with a pension of £800 per annum, he is perfectly satisfied with the arrangement and I can truly say that looking forward to a similar provision is more satisfactory than the present elevation and increased salary [to the Speakership of Leg Assy. at salary of £400 per annum] indeed the latter is scarcely equal to increased expenses for in many instances we must depart from the system of economy which has saved us from ruin.

[22nd Letter]

YORK, OCTOBER 27TH, 1816.

[All family news, Mr. Dickson, Niagara, is mentioned as our very great friend.]

[23rd Letter]

YORK, NOVEMBER 29TH, 1816.

[Complains that letters entrusted Mr. C. Shaw and a parcel all to be delivered at New York appear to have been only partly distributed. Mr. P. objected to sending letters etc. by this gentleman, regarding him as most careless.]

[24th Letter]

[Refers to illness of Mr. Murray's son.]

I have just written to Grant who lives in the country, the sad

account, the event will distress though not surprise him, his opinion has been long decided.

[25th Letter]

YORK, JANUARY 20TH, 1817.

[Comforts the father (Mr. G. Murray) on the loss by consumption of his son John, who had been sent to England the previous year for his health to his father's mother and sisters in Norfolk. The young man appears to have started for the south of France to spend the winter but was detained on the coast, where he died. A very pious, wise and affectionate letter.]

[26th Letter]

YORK, FEBRUARY 24TH, 1816.

This is the sitting of the Legislature and there is every probability of its being a long session. An allowance was made for the Speaker of the Upper House, and this obliges us to give dinners twice a week, the party always consists of 16, so you may imagine we have a continual tax upon our time. The severity of the season adds to the trouble, the 14th was one of our days and the thermometer was  $\frac{0}{2}$  (below zero) the combined art of the family could not make the house warm, and the provisions were almost frozen by the fireside. An accident has added five children to our family, Dr. Strachan's house caught fire on Saturday and though it was not wholly destroyed rendered uninhabitable. Mrs. Strachan is on a visit to her mother at Cornwall and we have taken the children in till their own dwelling is repaired \* \* \* good children, the youngest about 18 months old, the good Doctor has been unfortunate, this is the second dwelling house besides his school house which has been burned.

[27th Letter]

YORK, MARCH, 24th, 1817.

[Private matters] \* \* \* Am quite well and have only to complain of the difficulty of giving dinners twice a week and the little chance of my being relieved by the prorogation of the Legislature. The members like the good things of the metropolis too well to leave them.

[28th Letter]

YORK, APRIL 13th, 1817.

My Dearest brother

A person of the name of Jones who is a saddler in the town goes to N. Y and affords me an opportunity of send-

ing to your care a parcel for England. \* \* \* The delays in the communication by Quebec are so great, at this season of the year particularly. \* \* \* We have had as yet no account of the arrival of the January packet. \* \* \* A dinner to the Bench and the Bar in the first day of Term fully occupied me the last post day. I am glad to say our bustle is over for the present. The Governor prorogued the House of Assembly on the 7th and the long detention here made it desirable to the members to return with all expedition to their different employments. John Powell was amongst those most anxious to return to his humble but comfortable dwelling which consists but of two rooms and a kitchen, the former dwelling place having been burned but fortunately for him the detached buildings escaped the conflagration. This gentleman's son was coming to attend Mr. Strachan's school, not one of that description fit for a boy of his age at Niagara. A Mrs. Goodman was intending to come from Quebec with a staff of teachers to conduct a school for females. [The writer objects to sending her grand-daughter because there can in this place be no distinction of classes: this objection does not arise from aristocratic pride, but from the conviction that the vulgar habits of home are more likely to become contagious than to receive correction by example]

[29th Letter]

YORK, JUNE 2, 1817.

My letters are always by the packet and, by some absurd arrangement go first to Quebec, the movements of the post from there are shamefully tardy, so much so that the Governor gets his private letters direct from New York three weeks before the official ones from Quebec. I am sorry to say that His Excellency and Mrs. Gore leave us in a few days for England, he has obtained leave of absence and they mean to take their passage from New York when I most truly hope you will see those friends whose loss we shall severely feel. I shall perhaps write by Mrs. Gore. The Governor has been much and seriously indisposed within the last month. \* \* \* We are sitting by the fireside and a few nights ago all the early vegetables were destroyed by frost.

It is impossible to describe the confusion of this house. We have added a story which gives us five bed chambers and a drawing room, the size of the dining room. The Carpenters are this day laying the floors and we are covered with dust and stunned with noise.

[30th Letter]

YORK, JUNE 9, 1817

My Dearest Brother

As the ship is arrived which conveys the Governor and Mrs Gore to Sacket's Harbour I have no time to lose in availing myself of the opportunity to write tho' it will be perhaps but a few lines. Our friend Lt.-Col. Coffin, Adj. Gen. of Militia, accompanies His Excellency across the lake and I hope to N. Y. \* \* \* the good Colonel, though not one of the most animated is one of the best and most honourable of men: his greatest pleasure is the ability to do an act of kindness and his friends not unfrequently upbraid him with too great facility to sacrifice his own interests to promote that of others. You are a personal stranger to the Governor and Mrs. Gore but I think when you do see them, both you and my sister will cease to wonder at the regret their departure excites in this limited circle: however, it is to be hoped that they may be induced to return to a Province where they will be ever remembered with the most grateful regard. \* \* \* Col. Coffin will, I am sure take charge of anything for us. I wish there were anything worth sending \* \* \* There is a Mr. Roberts arrived from England with very respectable recommendations and is seeking for a house fit for a school. \*

[31st Letter]

YORK, JULY 7TH

[Private] \* \* \*

The season except a few days has been so cool that warm clothes were necessary. It is now perfectly summer and we are cheered by prospects of abundant crops. We paid last year \$46 a ton for hay, we might now contract for it at ten \* \* \* This is the first day of Term and soon after it concludes Mr. Powell will begin the circuit.

[32nd Letter]

YORK, 26th JULY, 1817

My Dearest Brother

If Mrs. Gallagher has reached N.Y. before this she will tell you of the hurried visit paid to us by herself. Mrs. G. and Olivia \* \* \* Our neices (Mrs. G. and Olivia) Mr. Powell leaves this on the 6th Aug. for the Eastern Circuit \* \* \* Mrs. Cartwright is on a visit to Dr. Strachan, she looks ill but her spirits are good; a

change of climate is recommended for her and her twins who are threatened with a malady so fatal to her numerous family. I think she will take them to Ireland with her daughter and son-in-law Capt. and Mrs. Dobbs.

[33rd Letter]

YORK, AUG. 12th.

My Dearest Brother

\* \* \* \* Mr. Powell is on the Circuit: you will be surprised to hear that I was gratified with a visit from our friend Mr. Clarke of Montreal, which though but a few hours was a satisfaction which I had never dared to contemplate; he came up with the Commissary General, dined with us, went to Niagara, returned on the steam boat, staid a few hours and returned to Kingston. Mr. Powell went by the same conveyance and by that means had the pleasure of his society, which was denied to me: you will readily imagine that we neither recognized the other, the loss of teeth and complexion prevented my immediately knowing my first Canadian friend, and you know the change effected on your sister by the long term of twenty-eight years during which period her couch has not been strewn with roses \* \* \* \*

I hear nothing from Col. Coffin but think the steambot tomorrow will either bring him, or tidings of him. I am the more anxious to see him that we may learn what foundation the editor of the Albany Argus could have for the disgraceful paragraph respecting our Governor, I know the impetuosity of his Excellency's temper but cannot think it would lead him to merit the epithets so liberally or rather so illiberally bestowed upon him; the more so as Mrs. Gore's unbounded influence is always exerted to calm undue irritation \* \* \* We sat by a good fire the 8th and 9th of August.

[34th Letter]

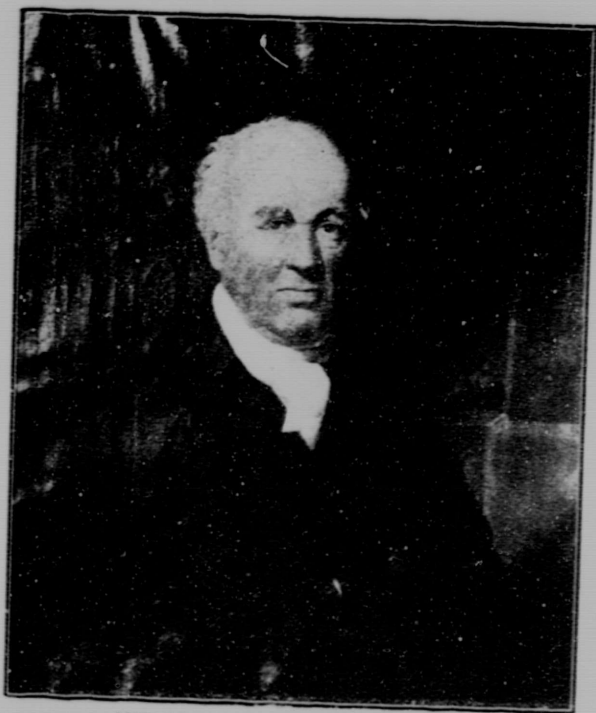
YORK, AUG. 31st, 1817

My Dearest Brother

Mr. Powell is on Circuit still but lamenting that he had been persuaded that the business of the Court would occupy an unusual long period; by which means he has taken three weeks longer time than necessary. John is with him and he says will make a very profitable circuit as independent of liberal allowance for travelling expenses the Clerk of Assize has fees upon all Court causes.

I have letters from our sister by the June packet \* \* \* a





WILLIAM DUMMER POWELL.

Chief Justice of Upper Canada.

From a portrait in possession of Emilius Jarvis Esq. Toronto.

contested election has kept them all alive and she expresses much satisfaction at the proof it has given "that the influence of the Norfolk Democrat [William Cobbett] is less extensive than he and his friends have anticipated."

There is in the London papers eight o'clock in the morning an account of a new Governor appointed for this Province. Such intelligence must be premature as the Government will be Mr. Gore's as long as he chooses to retain it, the only possible foundation for this report may be a promise of the succession to Sir Peregrine Maitland if our Governor will accept of an equivalent at home, this is all he can desire and although his loss will be seriously regretted by his friends and all the well affected in the country, it would be selfish in them to wish he should lose an opportunity of securing permanent and more advantageous employment. Amongst his earliest friends and connexions we shall feel his loss, perhaps the more from his successor being a military man; few of that profession are well calculated for the duties of civil government. The gentleman named has lately married a daughter of the Duke of Richmond, her father is a strange man \* \*

We are gratified with a prospect of an abundant season and I think our whole family will be furnished this year with the produce of the country with as little money as our horses cost.

[35th Letter]

YORK, NOVEMBER 2ND, 1817.

My Dearest Brother

Yours by Mr. Robinson came to hand last evening as the delay of the steamboat had detained him ten days at Kingston, A thousand thanks to you for it and for the kind attention our young friend received during the few days he remained in your city, he is considered by us as a young man of uncommonly good talents and will in all likelihood be the head of the Bar in this Province, a distinction to which his Honour and integrity fully entitles him and it will ever be a satisfaction to me to reflect that Mr. Powell has been the means of bringing him forward for the benefit of the Province. (Afterwards Chief Justice Robinson.)

[36th Letter]

YORK, NOVEMBER 23RD, 1817.

My Dear Brother

Mr. Crookshank called yesterday to say he leaves this to-morrow for New York and kindly offered to be the bearer of any

letters. Mr. Powell therefore avails \* \* \* We were surprised a fortnight since by the marriage of Miss Crookshank to Dr. Macaulay. Mrs. M. you may remember to have seen just going to Quebec when you were here. She died and left a large and young family, of whom Miss C. has consented to receive a legal right to protect; it is for them a most happy occurrence and I trust her meritorious motive for becoming Mrs. M. will meet its reward not only in the consciousness of having done right, but in the enjoyment of domestic tranquillity. She has long lived in the possession of every elegant indulgence the world can give and was secured from losing them. Mrs. McGill must feel the loss of a sister whose cheerful activity rendered her essential to the comfort of the family. \* \* \* I have not written since we heard from the Governor of his intended resignation on the 1st Oct. I am truly grieved at the determination, indeed his friends are only consoled for their loss by the conviction of his being amply provided for at home; their rich and expensive furniture is now selling, few articles are in my means to purchase, you may judge of the rest when I tell you that a Library Table of Rosewood left with us to take care of is 48 Guineas. The dining tables are 72 guineas and everything in proportion. It gives Dr. Strachan an opportunity of furnishing his most elegant mansion which is the handsomest and largest house in the Province, ours, more humble but more suitable to my wants and wishes is not fitted for such expensive luxuries. \* \* \*

[37th Letter]

YORK, OCTOBER 19TH, 1817

My Dearest Brother

[Recites a sad case of desertion of a young woman by her husband and the fact that twins were born later, a little one of two years their eldest child. Poor woman helped on her way to connections in New York who would send her home to her father a "Coal Meter" on the Thames and of course known to many ship-mates. Deplores poor woman's helpless fate and sends a letter by her to Mr. Murray, proceeds thus] A society was yesterday established upon the basis of the original Scots Society, now termed the Friends to Strangers, the first donation was to this unfortunate woman. Eliza was requested by Dr. Strachan, the Treasurer, to give \$50 to her as the first donation of a society formed by her grandfather, no compliment could be more grateful to my filial reverence. Eliza and Mary with Col. Coffin stood sponsors to the poor infants and this circumstance adds to the interest we take concerning her, Mrs. Irving \* \* \* Mr. Wood and Mr. G. Crookshank are

going in a few days to N.Y., on their way to England, we have had very severe frost but expect the Indian Summer will give us a few weeks of fine weather before winter.

[38th Letter]

YORK, DECEMBER 22ND, 1817.

My Dearest Brother

Mother's health is declining fast. Letters from Norwich to this effect as late as 30th Sept. [Mrs. Irvine seems not to have delivered the letter entrusted to her for Mr. Murray. Mrs. P. accounts for it \* \* \* she might have met her worthless husband and been obliged to submit to his control] \* \* \* Mr. Crookshank took long letters \* \* \* We hear that Charles Shaw and his wife spend the winter in your city. The October mail brings commissions or rather appointments to Mr. Boulton as Judge and Mr. Robinson as Attorney-General. It is a great advancement for a young man of 26, the situation is about £1800 stg. per annum.

[39th Letter]

YORK, 26th JAN, 1818

[Family matters. Praises a nephew for having erected a stone or mural tablet with very appropriate inscription over the remains of "our lamented John" Mr. Murray's only son] \* \* \* The late grievous news from England caused a universal shock to the people of the Province and doubtless throughout the whole British domains: it is a great national as well as domestic calamity; that heart must be hardened which does not sympathize with the survivor, rare and perfect domestic happiness subsisted between the Royal Pair: it is almost a solitary instance of a connexion in that rank of life being formed upon principles of affection and the choice of the parties: as a national loss it cannot be estimated. May Heaven avert the evils threatened by the unexpected visitation. [This event so much deplored was the death of the Princess Charlotte of Wales, the only child of the Prince Regent (George 4th) and the Princess of Brunswick (Queen Caroline) she was married on the 2nd May, 1816, to Leopold, Duke of Saxony, and Prince Saxe Cobourg and died in childhood the following year. Princess Charlotte was heir to the throne of England after the father's death] \* \* \* The Legislature meets the 5th Feb. and my cares begin.

[40th Letter]

YORK, FEB. 2ND, 1818.

My Dearest Brother

\* \* \* had I not wished to introduce to you Mr. Askin, of Detroit, the son of a gentleman whom while he lived we were in habits of intimacy and whose family have conferred various obligations to us. I believe Mr. Askin is in doubt whether he proceeds to Ireland or returns here. An estate at Strabane, in that country has fallen to him but some difficulty has arisen respecting the legality of those marriages where the ceremony was performed by the officer commanding at the post, and he will be guided by the opinions on this subject; he is an excellent young man \* \* \* [The orphan nieces at school in N.Y are expected to remember Mr. A. as the brother of their kind friend Mrs. McKee probably the wife of the Indian Agent at Detroit]

Grant's [Powell] annual duty commences on — and a few weeks finishes the employment for which he gets \$1,200 per annum. It is certainly great remuneration for brief attention, but it is not sufficient for his support and as he has declined practice [medical] in his profession he is endeavouring to obtain some addition; the difficulty of doing this is more obvious to others than himself for his father's situation prevents him from making those exertions to save his children which he has done heretofore \* \* \* The Governor writes that it is supposed Sir Peregrine Maitland will be his successor his lady is daughter to the Duke of Richmond and niece to Lady Bathurst. I hope their high rank will not induce them to consider the inhabitants of the Wilderness as an inferior race of beings: we have been so long accustomed to the condescending kindness of our regretted Governor and his excellent lady that reserve and hauteur would be ill received, however, we will hope that the higher the better bred. \* \* \* Improved health of Mrs. Cartwright and all the family except Capt Dobbs, who has never recovered a blow he received in the attack on Fort Erie.

[41st Letter]

YORK, MARCH 1st, 1818

My Dearest Brother

Wrote nearly a month ago by Mr. Chas. Askins sent letter to him at Queenston find he has not yet left. Received the children's letters from Mr. Creighton who sent them from Fort George \* \* Mr. Bethune, the clergyman from Brockville, was re-

turning in a comfortable sleigh and Anne availed herself of such a favourable opportunity to pay her visit to Kingston the only moderate days between 29th Jan. and 26th Feb. Never have we known such a season, the day you say the thermometer was ° (zero) it was with us <sup>0</sup><sub>3</sub> at eight o'clock in the morning \* \* \* Mr. Chewett is very ill. I fear there are small hopes of his recovery.

[42nd Letter]

YORK, APRIL 1ST, 1818.

My Dearest Brother

Mary is just gone down to see Mrs. Boulton who had a little daughter born on the 26th \* \* Mr. Robinson is Attorney-General: his lady presented him with a son on the 27th, Mrs. R. is wonderfully well but the infant is puny \* \* With the exception of the last few days the weather for the last month has been delightful, but the streets are now almost impassable.

[43rd Letter]

YORK, APRIL 27TH, 1818.

My Dearest Brother

I would not reply to your kind favour of 20th March till this week \* I wished to announce that I have entered upon my 64th year in as good or better health than is usually enjoyed at that advanced period of life \* \* \* [The lady lived to be 92] I hope Charles Askin will see you. We look for Mr. Crookshank, common report has given him a wife \* \* \* Henry J. Boulton went down to the steamboat to bring up a lady; a Miss Jones of Brockville is by this time Mrs. Boulton. A fortnight's acquaintance in this place last winter terminated in an engagement now indissoluble \* \* We are glad to hear of Mrs. Irvine's good fortune and hope she is now near home.

[44th Letter]

YORK, 4TH MAY, 1818.

[Nothing of use]

[45th Letter]

[No date within, outward marked May.]

My Dearest Brother

You will be surprised to see Mr. Powell who is by this time I trust safely arrived \* \* Capt. Dobbs goes by N.Y. to France \* \* Mr. Powell will make those adjustments which cannot be so well ar-

ranged at a distance: the journey he has undertaken is arduous for his time of life but I hope it will \* \* settle business \* \* for years particularly irksome to his sister Warren. \* \* We have had the worst season ever experienced here, incessant cold rains till the last five days \* \* We have reason to fear its consequences from delay in sowing the summer crops.

[46th Letter]

YORK, JUNE 15TH, 1818.

My Dearest Brother

I cannot allow the daughter of our esteemed friends Mr. and Mrs. Cartwright to pass through N Y. without introducing her and Capt. Dobbs to your acquaintance \* \* Mrs. Grant Powell expects her sister the beginning of next winter, they come, six in a light waggon.

[47th Letter]

YORK, JUNE 23RD.

\* \* Mrs. Dobbs writes to Eliza that they have changed their route and go by Montreal to Dublin.

[48th Letter]

YORK, JULY 9TH, 1818.

[Private entirety]

[49th Letter]

YORK, AUGUST 3RD, 1818.

My Dearest Brother

\* \* Mary has consented to become the wife of Mr. Jarvis: it is possible the change in her situation may take place this autumn. We can have no personal objection to the connection but truly regret that \* \* has entailed difficulties upon a son who would have been perfectly equal to the support of a family. After being called to the Bar the young man to render the office respectable and productive relinquished his professional pursuits and devoted himself to official business: the father was urged to resign in his favour and by that means secure the reversion: the young man offering to assume all his father's debts if he would only make over his property to him: to the latter he consented but the delay of resignation rendered it ineffectual. \* \* \* some discussion with \* \* \* caused a fatal duel: \* the father died during the son's confinement and the established rule of our Gov-

ernment not to allow of an immediate succession in a family gave the Secretaryship to another. Devotion to the comfort of his widowed mother and to obtain education for his only unmarried sister with uniform exertion to conquer the embarrassments of his late father have united to abridge his means: he is now private Secretary to the Administration but as a few days will probably bring our new Governor this may cease: however it gives him a claim to some provision and I am satisfied that whatever can, will be done to serve him and I hope they may be enabled to form a decent establishment without being taxed with imprudence. Debts he never has and never will incur, a lesson has been taught him by witnessing the misery to which \* \* have been exposed by an indulgence in this unhappy propensity \* \* Except from Julia Claus's verbal intelligence I have had no intelligence respecting you, a letter from Anne on Saturday by Major Hillier, Sir Perigrine Maitland's A.D.C. she was at Woolwich on a visit at Col. Pilkington's \* \* expect the new Governor the day after to-morrow \* \* the heat has been beyond anything ever experienced here, the thermometer has been as high as 112 in the shade on the north side of the house and although that was only for one day its effects were very seriously felt, the mornings and evenings are now so cool that \* \* expect much sickness \* \* Tell Anne that on Saturday evening Capt. Atty was married to Miss Eliza Crookshank. They go by N. Y. to New Brunswick in the coming month \* \* Charlotte Shaw is to stay with Mr. McGill, Mrs. Fulher is dead and Mrs. Shaw has retired to Oak Hill with her two orphan nephews.

\* (This was one of the famous duels in early times here, and was fought July 12th, 1817, between Samuel Peters Jarvis and John Ridout, the latter was killed, and the former imprisoned for some time. J. C.)

[50th Letter]

YORK, SEPT. 6TH, 1818

My Dearest Brother

Yours of the 10th August was 21 days on its way  
\* \* Mr Powell is now on the Western Circuit, the last commission opens to-morrow at Sandwich, when his presence could not be dispensed with, as the cause between Lord Selkirk and the North West company comes before the court \* \* I have had the honor of seeing Lady Sarah Maitland and found her a most unaffected woman perfectly affable and desiring to be on easy terms of ac-



quaintance with us all: the Duke of Richmond and his family are to be at Kingston to-day on their way up. I understand that the same affability marks the manners of His Grace and the Lords and Ladies who are his children. The Duchess is not come out. 7th. I wrote thus far before church yesterday, amidst the alterations and improvements of this thriving place, we are enlarging and embellishing our church and it bids fair when finished to be a decent place of worship: at present we assemble in the lecture room. Anne \* \* \* had paid a visit to Weymouth and the tribute of paternal affection in a spot rendered sacred to us by the ever lamented and beloved youth \* \* \* She dined with the clergyman lately appointed who had that morning seen and admired the inscription and was surprised to meet with one so deeply interested in him whose memory it commemorates \* \*

[51st Letter]

YORK, OCT. 2ND, 1818.

My Dearest Brother

Your niece Mary last evening assumed the certain cares and doubtful comforts of conjugal life and early this morning left us to proceed to Queenston where Mr. Jarvis has taken an house and finds a fair prospect of professional success \* \* They are to be at Burlington to-night and remain there two or three d<sup>ys</sup> with his sister Mrs. Geo. Hamilton \* \* Mr Powell is just now particularly engaged as the Governor returned last evening from a visit to the Western part of the province, which he commenced the morning of the day on which Mr. P. returned from the circuit. I think it is probable that Grant may obtain an appointment which will add 4 or 500 dollars per annum to his income \* \* The season here has been particularly favourable for invalids, mild and dry weather for the last two months \* \*

[52nd Letter]

YORK, 8th NOV, 1818

My Dearest Brother

[Letter sent by Mr. Stephen Jarvis returned undelivered. Money matters] \* \*

At present it is impossible to speak to him on any business other than legal or political, the last three weeks have been incessantly occupied by such an accumulation of duties that I have dreaded the consequence, the Legislature: Assizes: Executive Coun-

cil and the Term have entirely engrossed his time sometimes from eight o'clock in the morning till ten at night with no other refreshment than a sandwich and a glass of lemonade. \* \* \* Our great people are very pleasant, her ladyship particularly: the Governor is very reserved but I believe a most excellent man: we have dined once, been at two evening parties and are to dine on Wednesday next:—their style of entertainment is plain and handsome, no affectation of fashion in defiance of comfort \* \* \* I suppose you have seen accounts of the trial at Sandwich, or rather of the conduct of the Grand Jury who prevented them: and I trust will consider the assertions respecting Mr. Powell as the production of an infamous agent of one of the parties: no human being is more free from partiality in his judicial character.

[53rd Letter]

[No Date]

Marked outside 1ST DEC. 1818.

[Chiefly Private]

Mr Wm. Jarvis went to N.Y. with his grandfather, Dr. Peters; who lives in the Bowery: if Mrs. W. Powell had the ingenuity to give him the address of her daughters his return will afford an opportunity to write \* \* \* I see the Exchange Coffee House in Boston is burned down \* \* \*

[54th Letter]

1819.

[Private]

\* \* \* to keep a dinner engagement previously made at Govt. House: these invitations are not extensive: therefore we have been frequently honoured by receiving them: Sir Peregrine and her ladyship are most superior and estimable characters, but neither of them in the enjoyment of good health—the only apparent interruption to the most perfect domestic happiness. \* \*

[55th Letter]

YORK, FEBRUARY 27TH, 1819.

[Entirely Private]

[56th Letter]

YORK, MARCH 15TH, 1819.

[Chiefly Private]

\* \* \* We have for the last fortnight experienced all

the rigours of winter, the sleighing never was better and the thermometer at 7 this morning was ° an unusual degree of cold so near the Equinox. Mary and her beloved have been with us the last three weeks. They came over in a vessel and to-morrow leave us in their carriage, the schooner which takes over their baggage is fast in the ice which extends beyond the Garrison. \* \* \*

[57th Letter]

YORK, APRIL 6TH, 1819.

[Private]

[58th Letter]

YORK, APRIL 26TH, 1819.

[Private]

[59th Letter]

YORK, MAY 17TH, 1819.

[Private Chiefly]

\* \* \* The Provincial Legislature meets the 7th June which is only three weeks from this day and from that till the middle of September \* \* \* duties occupy instant attention \* \*

[60th Letter]

YORK, 31ST MAY, 1819.

[Private]

[61st Letter]

[From Mary B. Powell one of the orphan daughters of Mr. William D. Powell \* and who was brought up by the paternal grandfather. The letter is addressed to Mrs. Geo. Murray, New York, the children, Anne and Mary having returned to their home after several years at Miss English's boarding school New York]

[YORK, AUG. 15th, 1819

My dear aunt

As the steamboat goes to-day at one o'clock I will write a few lines by it \* \* \* as the weather has been uncommonly warm: for two or three days the heat has been dreadful and uncle Grant who went to Queenston with aunt Eliza says that it is much worse there. The Duke of Richmond has been here and is gone

further north with the Governor, he left his family which consists of ladies Mary Louisa Lenuox and Lord William, who have been here some time, they are going over to-day to meet the Duke who they expect to return by way of Niagara. Lady Louisa is only sixteen, she is thought to be a little like Anne. Lord William called here the other day but we were all unfortunately gone to the Humber, although we see him almost every day when we ride, which is the fashion here to ride every afternoon, and Grandmama does it as she thinks it is good for her [In a carriage is meant] I have been to ride on horseback very often and am very fond of it Grandpapa goes the circuit to-day. \* \* \*

[62nd Letter]

YORK, AUG. 2nd, 1819

My Dearest Brother

\* \* \* Mr. Powell has been at Niagara since the 13th The Assizes commenced on the 15th and I am anxious to know how he supported the heat of a crowded court (the summer intensely hot and Mr. P. unwell, when the thermometer was 92 in the shade. The trial of Gourlay \* for sedition, has, I understand, collected a vast concourse of people as well from the State of New York as from different parts of the Province. It was to come on yesterday and we shall hear the result to-day or to-morrow. The letter respecting the Emigrant who had come to York was sent to him by Grant, who had seen him sign his name to an affidavit the day it arrived \* \* \* Mary is with her aunt at evening church. They go at ten in the morning to the Sunday School where each has a class, from that to church, return at two o'clock to the school, and return home after evening service to a five o'clock dinner. [This is an old English custom of reading Evening Prayers in the afternoon and holding no service in the evening. In large towns evening service began to be necessary instead of the afternoon hour and the custom spread]

\* (In Duet's history of the Rebellion this trial is described very graphically, the Court House, the prisoner, the lawyers, the witnesses, the judge. See page 9-15, Vol. 1. J. C.)

[63rd Letter]

QUEENSTON, SEPT 7th 1819

My Dearest Brother

A very heavy calamity has cast a gloom over all reflecting minds in this Province: the account of our irreparable loss in

the death of the Duke of Richmond arrived at York two days before I left it. The Governor was absent and this sad event had not even at that time been communicated to his excellent daughter its effects upon her delicate constitution were dreaded by all who know her unbounded affection for her father, who, most unduly attached to all his children, had ever been wrapt up in this darling daughter: as the energetic promoter of all good in and to these provinces his Grace will be long and deeply regretted; indeed to promote the welfare of the Country committed to his care, he has sacrificed his valuable life. \* \* \* the knowledge that had he been within the reach of medical aid his life might have been preserved is an aggravation to affliction. Depending upon his own excellent constitution and great physical strength he neglected the means of preservation and died in a wretched hovel in an almost pathless wilderness unattended by any of his numerous family, three of whom had separated from him at Kingston in the vain hope of again embracing him in Montreal: a march of 20 miles under a burning sun brought on hydrophobia and a few hours terminated a life which he resigned in full possession of his mental faculties, and with the most perfect resignation to the will of the Almighty. \* \* \*

[64th Letter]

YORK, SEPT. 9TH, 1819

[Announces birth of a dead child to Mrs. Jarvis (nee) Powell]

[65th Letter]

YORK SEPT 19th 1819

My Dearest Brother

[Mrs. J. recovering] Mr. Powell leaves home next Friday to hold the Assizes at Newcastle \* \* \*

[61st Letter]

YORK OCT 10TH 1819.

My Dearest Brother

\* \* \* The ! from New York and his daughters dined with us on Wedn \* \* \* all of us were much pleased with the Miss Buchan \* \* \* They go home by Montreal. 11th Have just received our re-erred aunt's letter forwarded by you \* \* \* I suppose the parcel which is Mrs. Philan's Poem contains letters. \* \* \*



Hannah Owen Peters, wife of Wm. Jarvis, Secretary of U.C.  
Maria Lavinia Jarvis, afterwards Mrs. Geo. Hamilton.  
Augusta Jarvis, afterwards Mrs. T. McCormack.  
From a portrait in possession of Emilius Jarvis Esq. Toronto.

67th Letter]

YORK, OCT 31st, 1819

[Private]

[68th Letter]

YORK, NOV. 22nd 1819

My dear aunt

\* \* \* I am sure you will be very sorry to hear of the death of poor Mrs. McGill. She has been ill for a long time and no one expected that she would recover. She died on Saturday night in consequence of a mortification having taken place. She was so much better two days before when Anne and I were there with Grandmama that poor old Mrs. McGill seemed quite in high spirits and Dr. Widmore, who attended her, said, he thought there might be some hope, which made her death appear a greater shock. Her loss will be very much felt, she was so much beloved and respected, and I do not think anyone will feel it more than Grandmama, who has known her for so many years. The funeral will be to-morrow \* \* \*

[69th Letter]

YORK, JAN. 18th, 1820

My Dearest Brother

\* \* \* the gentleman who takes the letters. He is the Major of the 68th, who has been Commandant at this post for some time and is on his way to join his family in Ireland. [Major Gladstone] \* \* \*

[70th Letter]

YORK, MARCH, 10th, 1820

My Dearest Brother

\* \* \* The Assembly was prorogued yesterday and we are left to the care of an Administrator. Sir Peregrine set off for Quebec this morning and we shall in all probability see him no more till the arrival of Lord Dalhousie, an event greatly desired by all who feel the importance of the presence of our excellent Governor and the pleasure of Lady Sarah's society, indeed their return will be satisfactory to me on that as well as other accounts, for during the Governor's absence Mr. Powell's station obliges him to see all strangers who come to the place. \* \* \* Anxious for intelligence from home the change here occasions the Government Bag to go to Halifax and by land to Quebec therefore the various impediments increase the

length of time after its arrival \* \* \* When Mr. Jarvis was in New York he brought some very excellent cotton stockings at \$7 or \$7½ per doz. I very much want 2 doz. of that description, he does not remember where he purchased them only that it was in some bye lane. I likewise send a pattern of silk, begging my sister to procure if possible a full gown pattern of figured silk of the same or nearly the same color [pattern is a thin flat sarsnet of a dark dove grey] If none such can be had a nankeen figured crape of the colour—if neither of these, a black figured silk or black figured nankeen crape, about 13 yards each of two different kinds of washing silks for the children and if they can be put into a box a doz pairs of white and as many cheap coloured long gloves, it will save me many dollars in the course of the year \* \* \* Mr. P. has got through his late arduous duties wonderfully well; he is now enveloped in papers and much engaged in reading the documents laid before the Parliament relative to the contest between the Northwest Company and the Earl of Selkirk: it has fallen to his lot to prove the want of dependence on his Lordship's veracity, and the proofs are too well authenticated to admit of doubt: his Lordship sunk the character of the British Peer when he became a speculator and the loss of health peace and credit is the sacrifice \* \* \*

\* (Poor Lord Selkirk who fought so bravely through so many years against multiplied misfortunes, dangers and difficulties, floods frosts and famine, Indians, grasshoppers, Northwest Company, in his attempt to found a colony and who spent a fortune in the attempt is here rather harshly spoken of. Dent. Dr. Boyce and Kingsford give varying accounts and a pamphlet printed in 1817 in London gives the North West Company's version of the story. J. C.)

[71st Letter]

YORK, APRIL, 5th, 1820

{Chiefly Private}

\* \* \* I enclose a memorandum from Mr. Cameron, who is Mr. Gore's agent here. The Lions mentioned are most stupendous and magnificent but only calculated to be placed at the corner of stone or marble steps to adorn: they cost 70 guineas in England and I do not wonder at our good friend's anxiety to know their fate: and I hope you will be able to ascertain it \* \* \*

[72nd Letter]

{From Miss Anne Powell to her uncle Mr. G. W. Murray New York. Private, painful affairs, dated on outside York, April, 1820] Rec'd. 27th.]



[73rd Letter]

York, April 10th, 1820

My Dearest Brother

\* \* \* January Packet, the affairs of Europe are in a state of ferment the effects will not reach us I trust. \* \* \*

[74th Letter]

YORK, MAY 29TH, 1820.

My Dearest Brother

[Condolence in sad misfortunes] Mr. P. bids me say that could you relinquish the employment which has produced nought else than disappointment and distresses of various descriptions and become an inhabitant of this happy and prosperous country where industry meets its certain tho' slow reward, 1000 acres of the best land he possesses shall become yours with every aid his station in the Govt. affords \* \* \* the sacrifice to you would be greater than my imagination suggests but the transition from a life of care and keen disappointment to the calm and natural avocations of an agriculturist would perhaps reward it by the restoration of peace and the preservation of health, a finer climate or more delightful country is not within the king's dominions, and say the dissatisfied what they may there is not in the world a more equal government, but this you know as well without my information and it would be to me a source of heartfelt comfort could I be satisfied that political prejudices had so far subsided as to overcome every objection to becoming what you are by birthright a British Subject. If I err pardon me \* You know the high estimation in which I hold this privilege and will forgive my earnest desire that all whom I love should share the blessing  
\* \*

[75th Letter]

YORK, JULY 13TH, 1820.

[Private]

[76th Letter]

QUEENSTON, AUG. 23RD, 1820.

Announces birth of a son to the Jarvises, the mother doing well]

[77th Letter]

YORK, OCT. 14TH, 1820.

[Private]

[78th Letter]

YORK, NOV. 27TH, 1820.

My Dearest Brother

\* \* \* A large party at the Government house on the 23rd where the At Home which is a dress visit of half an hour was transformed into a Ball and Supper and kept us up till between 2 and 3 in the morning, the increase of our Society would surprise you, there were more than thirty well dressed Females and more than a dozen absent, my little girls, [the orphan grandchildren] particularly my dear Mary were delighted with the party, and well they might for they receive the kindest attention from Sir Peregrine and Lady Sarah.

[79th Letter]

YORK, DEC. 21ST, 1820.

[Private. The Jarvises removed from Queenston to Niagara for some little time].

[80th Letter]

YORK, JAN. 10TH, 1821.

My Dearest Brother

Mr. P. is quite well it is now Term time and his more serious labours begin on the 31st when the Legislature meets I wish it was over for it is no trifling consideration that for the next two months I shall have to prepare twice a week to entertain the members of the two Houses, whose united number is at least fifty. Do not suppose I can receive them all at one time, unfortunately my dining room admits of a table for no more than 16 of which our own family are 6.—The House of Assembly is the Brick building which you may remember at the extreme end of the town; it is now repaired after its being burned by the Americans, handsomely furnished, and Grant as Clerk of the Lower House occupies five good apartments besides a large kitchen; it saves him house rent but is attended by inconveniences which he will feel during the confinement of his wife in February or March. John [Powell] has similar apartments at which he stays during the session. Mr. Jarvis is Clerk in Chancery and as such attends the house. He will stay with us. Mary wisely determined to remain at home \* \* \* the season has been a very severe one but some pleasant weather, good sleighing. Everything here is cheap beyond belief: My servant just brought from market a Turkey weighing 15 lbs. which cost 5/ N.Y Cy. I have paid \$2 for one of 5 lbs. the finest pork is \$4 and 4½ per cwt. Flour che-

tween 3 and 4 dollars a barrel. Beef has been as low as 34 per lb, yet servants' wages are as high as ever, ours stand us in \$40 per month and the washing done out of the house. It is a sum which ought to maintain a regular family. \* \* \*

[81st Letter]

YORK, FEB. 1st, 1821.

My Dearest Brother

\* \* \* My annual labours commence this day which is the first Parliamentary dinner, the House met yesterday and by direction of the Governor the Commons chose their speaker. His Excellency meets and speaks to them to morrow. The Upper House dine with us to-day \* \* \* I hope, without expecting, a short session, for the increase of population has nearly doubled the representation and the Legislative Councillors have experienced an equal augmentation, discussions may be therefore expected.

[82nd Letter]

YORK, APRIL 17th, 1821.

[Private]

Cold and snow, ague very prevalent.

[83rd Letter]

YORK, JUNE 24th, 1821.

[Private]

[84th Letter]

YORK, AUG. 15th, 1821

My Dearest Brother

Our young friend Mr. William Robinson, brother of the Attorney General \* \* \* The intense heat of weather for nearly the last fortnight has been almost too much to endure \* \* \* I feel to-day all the effects of a night more resembling those I have passed in Alexandria, Egypt, than the general climate of Upper Canada. The drought has been equal to the heat but we shall be rewarded for our discomfort by an abundant harvest of the finest grain housed without even a shower; the great addition to our population by numbers of hungry emigrants will furnish consumers of this overflow of bread-stuff for in that alone our abundance consists. The duties levied on provisions from the States leaves us at the mercy of the Butchers who are strangers to that virtue.

I wish you could see our garden, it abounds in fruit and vegetables of the very best kind \* \* \* the alarming indisposition of our darling Sam [the Jarvis baby named after his grandfather, R.v.

[86th Letter]

YORK, OCT. 4TH, 1821.

[Entirely private]

[87th Letter]

YORK, OCT. 15TH, 1821.

[Entirely private]

[88th Letter]

YORK, DEC. 1ST, 1821.

My Dearest Brother

Mr. Powell's labours commenced on the 21st when at an unusually early period the Legislature was called together, 2nd Dec.

In the midst of all these causes of anxiety I have been obliged to do what under other circumstances would have been a matter of choice and source of amusement, attend a Coronation Ball given at the Govt. House, as soon as the farcical mourning for our unlamented Queen expired: it was numerous and splendid: between 150 and 200 people present, a proof of the increase of Society here at present augmented by the members of the Legislature.

[Copying ended 13th May, 1897.]

Samuel Peters] \* \* \* Eliza says I must have a black satin or black figured silk gown. Neither can be got here. Mr. Robinson would take charge of so small a parcel for me \* \* \*

[85th Letter]

YORK, SEPT. 11TH, 1821.

My Dearest Brother

\* \* \* The season is very sickly and appears totally different to those we used to experience \* \* \* excessive heat and drought succeeded by almost constant rains \* \* \* I fear for their effect on Mr. P. who is now I imagine on his way to Sandwich, where he holds the Assizes on the 13th, he has gone in our commodious covered wagon with four horses, which affords room for J. Powell who accompanies him: he is sometimes half inclined to give up these annual journeys but while the fatigue is not too great I encourage him to take the advantage of air, exercise and change of scene, there is no emolument now attending them for the allowance is seldom equal to the expense, it being now no greater when there are seven courts than when there were but three \* \* \* Mary would be pleased to introduce you to her Humming Bird which has been the pet for some weeks and appears satisfied with its captivity \* \* \*

(Additional light has been cast upon the reference to the son in prison on page one also referred to on page three as "My poor Jerry" by a letter from Æmilius Jarvis, Esq., who kindly gives the following information which is quite romantic obtained from a bundle of letters relating to Jeremiah Powell. It appears that he went away at an early age and joined a ship in Baltimore which proved to be owned by the Spanish pirate Mirando. He was ultimately captured and sentenced to be hanged with the rest of the crew. The old Chief Justice travelled over to England and thence to Spain and pleaded his son's case before the Spanish Court and was successful in obtaining his pardon, returning home with his son, who subsequently went to sea again and was never heard of. Mr. Jarvis still owns a little oak box and a few pieces of the set of chessmen which were carved by him while a prisoner in Spain. He sent them to a young lady in Boston, to whom he was engaged to be married. Years afterwards and after his death she sent them to Mrs. S. P. Jarvis his sister. J. C.)

(Mrs. Curzon's death occurred in little more than a year after copying the above letters. Her literary work had been carried on in spite of failing health almost to the last. The following tribute to her memory by the pen of the present writer may perhaps fittingly close this page written in loving memory of Mrs. S. A. Curzon, who so carefully copied the foregoing letters. The obituary notice which was written immediately after her lamented death appeared as Historical No. 82.)

By the death of Mrs. Curzon of Toronto, Canada has sustained a loss which will long be felt. An English woman, she was one of the earliest pioneers in historical research in Canada, an author, she was a loving mother and an excellent housekeeper, an advocate of Woman's Suffrage, her gracious presence showed the true lady, holding strong views on one side of politics, she antagonized none, with a frail frame she had a high courage enduring trials and difficulties of no ordinary character, she was not embittered by them but supported through all by strong Christian principle and faith in the unseen.

Born in England in 1833 she has lived in Toronto since 1862. In early years she wrote for various English magazines and afterwards in her adopted home, for the Canadian Monthly, The Week, Dominion Illustrated, Canadian Magazine etc. Her drama of Laura Secord may be said to have made the Canadian world acquainted with that heroine, and the course of historic research thus begun may be said to have been the origin of several historical Societies. For some time she was the co-editor of the Citizen and did much by her

pen to secure the right to women of a University education. She was also a strong advocate of Woman's Suffrage, to her was chiefly due the formation of the Woman's Historical Society, of which she was the first President. She was also an honorary member of the York Pioneers and the Woman's Art Assembly, and a member of the National Council of Women. "One of the cleverest, she was also one of the sweetest of women," are the appropriate words of a Toronto journalist. Another noted poet attributes to her a "virility of style, a strength and energy to be found in the work of no other Canadian woman." Another beautiful feature of character was the encouragement given by her to young writers, her example proving a strong incentive to many to follow in her steps. By birth and refinement a true gentlewoman in the highest sense of the term, she worked with wonderful energy for the rights, not only of her sex, but for the improvement of her adopted country, so that Canada has by her death sustained irreparable loss. Her lines on Queenston Heights show a grasp of thought, a sympathy, a patriotic fervor which recommend them to all lovers of poetry, as well as lovers of their country. Her modest signature S.A.C. will be much missed in the periodicals formerly graced by her ready pen.

At her funeral the different Societies to which she belonged, united to do her honor. Canon Bull represented Lundy's Lane Historical Society, Mr. and Mrs. Brant-Sero, Westworth Historical Society, J. H. Thompson, the York Pioneers, Lady Edgar and others, the Women's Historical Society, and many testified by their presence and their sorrow their appreciation of one who gave gratuitously and with no stinted hand, so much labor to the Canada she loved. J. C.



WILLIAM BUFF MILLER.



ANN VANSICKLE,  
Wife of D. W. Miller.

## WILLIAM DUFF MILLER

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It is the intention of the Society to publish from time to time as opportunity may offer short notices of early inhabitants of the town. There have been already more or less full accounts of several families in the township as Servos, Ball, Whitmore, Field, McFarland as found in our publications numbers five, eight, eleven, but there has been little mention of any of our chief townsmen such as Heron, Crooks, Grier, Dickson, Clench, Rogers, Muirhead, Lockhart. It is hoped that any who can help in this direction will do so. The name found at the head of this article may be seen again and again in early papers of the town and even down to a period in the memory of many now living, Col W. D. Miller is remembered as having filled many offices and always with honor as Secretary of many societies, Registrar for many years, Coroner, County Clerk, Merchant, Elder of St. Andrew's Church, as Militia Officer etc., all this shows in what esteem he was held and how trusted, and of his numerous descendants many have sustained the honor of the father's name.

Born in 1786 of Scottish parentage, nearly his whole life was spent in Canada. The name W. D. Miller appears as Ensign in the Lincoln Militia in 1812 and he afterwards reached the rank of Lt.-Colonel although from his retiring nature he never wished the title to be used in addressing him as so many do.

His youngest daughter, Mrs. Wilson, remembers distinctly that when a little girl she went with him on the 4th of June (Training Day) to Chippawa, as having lived there first he retained his position of Colonel of the regiment long after he had removed to Niagara. Mrs. Wynn, the eldest daughter who died at Niagara, aged 90, was born at Chippawa in 1809, while Richard Miller, another child was born in Niagara in 1817 in what is now called "The Wilderness" now occupied by W. H. J. Evans, then owned by Col. Wm Claus. Mrs. Wilson tells that while the residence on Mary Street of her father was being built her mother planted trees chiefly willows, and that she was assisted by Col. Claus, the young trees being taken



from "The Wilderness." Immense willows still stand in the low ground of this picturesque spot, a tall Balm of Gilead also and many sycamores. Here Capt. Geale used to tell he remembered seeing the whole enclosure filled with Indians as Col. Claus was the Deputy Superintendent of Indians as Daniel Claus the son-in-law of Sir William Johnson had also held this position. In the map of the town in 1813 given in Lossing's War of 1812, the place is marked Claus property.

In the Gleaner Newspaper published at Niagara from 1817 to 1837 the name of W. D. Miller is frequently found, as in 1828 W. D. Miller advertises the Sunday School Union, and in 1830 he has received a number of S. S. books from the Depository at Montreal to be sold at prime cost, and in another issue a reward of £25 is offered for the discovery of the robber who has stolen £300 from the store of W. D. Miller, showing that an extensive business was carried on. The obituary notice in a Niagara paper, written probably by his pastor, the late Rev. Chas. Campbell, gives some interesting particulars.

"Died at Niagara Feb. 18th, 1859, aged 73, William Duff Miller, Inspector and Dep. Clerk of the Crown and Pleas, a resident of the frontier about 57 years and of the town upwards of 50 years. The office of Deputy Clerk he filled for over 30 years with great care and skill. Royalty and Loyalty were his guiding stars, to his church (the Auld Kirk) he has been a pillar for many years. Conciliatory and urbane in manner consistent in conduct, a pious member of the community, an efficient public officer both in a civil and military capacity, a firm friend, his memory will not soon fade. He delighted to relate the Great Napoleon's visit to Egypt, his warm reception by the British forces and his sudden departure. The deceased leaves a large family brought up to strict business habits, engaged in active and lucrative pursuits with distinction and honor."

In the old record book of St. Andrew's Church dating from 1794 the deceased is thus in stately periods recorded. "Who for the long period of half a century had been a most valuable member taking on all occasions a deep interest and acting a faithful part in the temporal and spiritual affairs of the church, being one of that little company of excellent men (himself the last survivor) that during a lengthened probation of trial and suffering arising chiefly from the want of regular ministerial services managed and kept together the Presbyterian congregation of Niagara when in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty nine, their laudable efforts were at last rewarded by the Church of Scotland's ordaining and inducting a minister to the pastorate; the deceased the following year on the completion of the ecclesiastical organization of the congregation to church

ordinances was ordained to the Eldership, which office he worthily and actively filled to the day he rested from his labors."

In the frame building which still stands in good preservation, a large family was brought up, the wife and mother as shown by St. Andrew's old Record Book of 1794, was Ann Vansickle, remembered as a notable housekeeper, there were seven sons and five daughters, the eldest born in 1809, the youngest in 1832. The obituary notices to several of the family have been found and these show how the careful training of the sons by the father and mother had had such excellent results.

"Died at Galt Judge Miller, in his 81st year, almost the last of seven sons who made their mark in the history of Canada. Born in 1810, no less than three of the brothers William, John and Richard studied law achieving distinction. He leaves W. A. Miller, Q.C., Toronto, Henry Miller, Galt, Mrs. Z. A. Lash, Mrs. J. B. Lash, Miss Carrie Miller. The bar of the County of Waterloo passed a resolution referring to his manly, upright character, his able, upright and painstaking conduct as judge which won the respect and confidence of the people."

"Died at Galt, John Miller, aged 56, born in the District of Niagara, in 1813, educated at Niagara Grammar School, at seventeen years of age he entered the office of Judge Campbell, Niagara, and went to Galt in 1835, where his business was large and remunerative and he gained the confidence and favor of the community. He was the pioneer lawyer of Galt.

"Died in St. Catharines, aged 56, Richard Miller, Q.C., born at Niagara 1817 in "The Wilderness". He studied law with the late Judge Campbell and became his partner, removed to St. Catharines in 1850, Mr. Boomer being his partner. In his long career at the bar he gained a reputation for probity second to none, his integrity was unquestioned, kind hearted and considerate he handled with care and prudence alike the estate of the poor man and that of a millionaire. Peace to his ashes. The members of the bar attended the funeral and there were 60 carriages in the cortege."

"Died aged 71, at Peoria, Ill., Duncan Miller, M.D., born in 1827 in Niagara, he was predeceased by his six brothers

Mrs. Wynn died at Niagara aged 90.

A son of John Miller an M. D., died in California, the next son Judge Miller died in Winnipeg.

A son of Mrs. Lash is a lawyer in Toronto and Prof. Miller of the University is the Judge's grandson.

Mr. Miller was a lover of books as shewn by the large collection he had gathered (many of them of a religious natur-)

and his care in preserving these as well as the early newspapers of that time. Several volumes of the Gleaner newspaper for the years 1826 to 1833 are still in existence and these as well as other books show his methodical habits, his love of reading and his love of music. A very good water color portrait by Hoppner Meyer a noted artist of that date represents a younger man than does the picture which appears on page 41. Many interesting articles have been contributed to the Historical Room by Mrs. J. E. Wilson, Toronto, the youngest daughter and the only surviving child.