January 16th 1873

My dear Jennette

I was so glad to get your nice long letter yesterday morning and to hear that you and the dear old Marian were well, at least so I supposed until I read the little Mothers letter in which she says that you are a used up party afflicted with nose-bleedings &c That is not good, you must take better care of yourself I am sorry Percy is not well, but he is in good hands medically and I am sure with two such nurses no one ought to be ill long I hope they have sent down my last two

or three letters as they tell of my Xmas visit in Norfolk. I spent a very happy ten days in spite of a rather severe cold which kept me indoors for nearly a week. I did not get to church on Xmas day even. I was going to say for the first time in my life, but probably my first two Xmas days were spent in a very similar manner, eating & sleeping forming the chief part. Books, Music and cats are the chief features in Watton Vicarage, the former I read, the second I listened to, and tried to understand, while the third I stared unmercifully. The girls are accomplished, good musicians, but are lacking in books, which in spite of all else are very requisite at home. I visited the Cathedral and saw what I could of the relics of my favourite Sir T. Browne. His skull and a good painting were in the Infirmary, his tomb in the church of St Peter Mancroft. I could not resist the temptation of going by & so stopped there on my way up. It is a wonderful building, the restoration making it look almost perfect. I was there for the morning service, going in just with a couple of Reds, the congregation

I am very sure that after a months residence in this moist clime you would pine for the land of your adoption. It only needs the "fountains of the great deep" to break up and then in many part- the deluge would be complete. For a few days the rain has ceased, but the clouds only permit an occasional glance of sunlight.

One hardly knows which to pity most: Mr Prince or Miss Hartell. What are they going to live on? Is he still in connection with St Johns? He is very good, but I should not be heartbroken, if I found him gone on my return. How is that dear Mc Vee? I am glad he is making another effort: though they will never save him; still I should think in a case like that- when the hereditary taint is so marked, every struggle will lessen his condemnation.

I have not yet been to see your old friend but must make an effort to do so soon. I went to Drury Lane the other evening & saw the Xmas Pantomime. It was very good indeed but oh! so long. I left long before it was over. Napoleons death has caused much a sensation: he was buried yesterday. I will try and get a paper with

full particulars in it though of course the news will be state enough by this time you get this letter.

You may quiet your soul about my India schemes. I shall not go there Canada's my destination.

They seem to have had a pleasant Xmas in the West, but you have had our share of cold, even in Dundas they have had 10° below zero. I must hurry as the Mail closes in half an hour. We go out to a small Spind, at the Pellats this evening. They are along very kind, & the old woman seems to have taken a fancy in this quarter I have not seen or been out to see the Francis for an age I am thinking of going there on Sunday

Much love to Marian. Kisses to all the kids

Yours

Willie