

Balmakill
Clachan Argyllshire
Oct. 19. 1879

Dear Mr. Somford

I have been away pursuing
two or three short visits and on
my return home this afternoon
I found your note of 15th waiting
me. I only write tonight a line
or two to acknowledge receipt
of it and to ask you how soon
you propose to leave for Florida
and when you expect to be in
London. I should try to meet
you in London, if not

perhaps you would not mind
taking a room down here for
a few days when we could
talk about everything. I shall
be happy to do all I can to
help you with your Florida
Scheme. Does Mrs Sampford
accompany you to London &
across the Atlantic? It is too
long a journey at this season
of the year to ask her in the
event of your coming here to
accompany you, but if she

did venture to come I need
hardly say my wife would
try to make her comfortable
and we should both give her
and you a hearty welcome.

I have been a good deal
occupied of late with the Goa
Affair I told you of, and
I may have to go to Durrobin
Castle on the 28th in connection
with it. This is the only thing
which stands in the way of
my returning, a time to meet
you either in London or here
I was so sorry to hear of the

death of one Elephant. From
the rough food & heat of the
Country & want of its Indian
comfits may have been more
or less the cause. Carter has
something to learn in connection
with the management of the
Nakhots & the Elephants, but
he will soon learn & his energy
will carry him through every-
thing. The success of the scheme
must indeed be gratifying to
you as well as to me.

I have two very long letters from
Strawth which I hope to reply to
on Monday or Tuesday
with our united kindest regards to Mrs
Simford & yourself. Believe me very sincerely yours
W. Mackinnon