only — this is all I have to give as a marriage present — and you will receive — perhaps more valuable in your eyes — but they will not be of lasting — I have been informed that the regiment is to proceed to Eng. and immediately — then more advice.
This letter was a wedding present to my Great-Great Grandmother Maria Hamilton from her Grandmother Hannah Jarvis. The significance of this letter is indicated on the outside specifying "not to be opened on the lake" and its worth is self-evident.

Pettie Copeland
Halifax
February 1879
and also many who are deficient in every thing that is good — if they go in God, that way, let it be in the first place — that love and affection has been our guide (and that you have well considered). The solemn promise we are to make in the presence of God, that it is to be known in every situation — in sickness, death — in all affairs — in business or in religion, etc. — for if it must be your duty to be a faithfull wife to him or to you, you have known before, and you shall do so. Remember the fourth commandment; keep it holy — let God be in your first consideration — next your husband — if you see he wishes you to talk familiarly with any servant, treat them with care, but draw off by dissuasion; some men cannot bear to have their wishes refused too much by others; avoid raising that storm. Mind — once raised it is always ready to start up on all occasions — just or unjust — that the word that you respect your husband, and that you expect others to do the same — never call him by an Christian name in company — before servants, for in doing you give them the habit to do the same — which is disgraceful. — My dear wife, do not allow the company — as always think, that so much street become the Word — has it better been to make your husband your constant, your husband is your only legal advisor — never deceive him in any case. Let your ac-
simply this is all I have to give us a warning present—others you will receive—perhaps more valuable in your eyes—but they will not be of lasting—I have been informed that the regiment is to proceed to England immediately—been more advice

"the lake"

Acknowledgements
Eye Level Gallery
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The Nova Scotia Dept. of Tourism