

young wife's body Donald turned to the diary he had neglected since July. He wrote:

You are gone to the world of spirits my own dear Douglas and left me to mourn my loss when I can share death with thee then happy shall be my lot, but thou hast left a pledge of affection which I must not now neglect and oh may his mothers affection be renewed in this little prise [*sic*] I have got, may his heavenly father protect him as mother he has got none, thou art still in my presence my Susan but alas its lifeless form and soon shall that same be taken from me to mix with its kindred worms.⁶⁰

The cause of Susan's death was not uncommon in the nineteenth century but that did not lessen the pain for those close to her. McLean never remarried. Their son was brought up by nurses, friends, family and then sent to school in England. It is futile to speculate how Susan and Donald's marriage would have fared if Susan had not died. Nevertheless some comments may be made on their relationship, which even if it has some unique features has others which fit established historical patterns.

There is no doubt that Susan and Donald experienced what they perceived to be love. It was, as Donald described it, an 'affection that commenced in such a romantic manner' and which he hoped would 'end in our hearts being knit together'.⁶¹ From an early stage in their 'friendship' each realized that their happiness depended to some extent on the other. For Susan this dependence was total. She had no happiness, no future without Donald, without a husband. Donald's life gained meaning through marriage. He seems at times to be surprised at the impact it had on his sensibilities. However his work, his business affairs, his other-relations provided him with a life outside of his relationship with Susan. Although his happiness depended on Susan, it was a different dependence, in kind as well as degree. Susan depended on Donald *being*; Donald depended on Susan *acting* towards him dutifully, kindly and affectionately.

Both Susan and Donald were people of their time. Donald believed that his wife should be subject to his authority, follow him wherever he wished her to go, and obey his instructions. Susan was anxious to please and do her duty, but she was not submissive. She clearly found it difficult to sit at home sewing while her husband went about his business. She was however bound by the conviction that her security and happiness lay in marriage. One feels sure that Susan would have been prepared eventually to sacrifice her independence and identity for her husband. She had no alternative.