

(script)

1028/68/2

From W.O. to his mother.

CV5417/68.2

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Pencil note (Staying with Sir Edmund's mother-in-law (3) Scotland).

John's mother from W.O.

Balfour Aug. 14th. [1872]

My dear Mother,

Up here, in this far north region, I had forgotten the distance from Liverpool and so let Canadian mail day pass, this however will reach you via New-York. Since I last wrote, I have visited many new places and met many new people. I left London on Thursday evening for Edinboro' by the London & North Western via Carlisle, I was fortunate in having a nice travelling companion and one who knew something of old friends; it was a gentleman from the West Indies who knew Dr Bovell intimately and had seen him within the last two months. He gave a very nice account of him and his doings which naturally interested me very much. I managed to sleep pretty fairly, though not as I would have in a Pulman. We arrived in Edinboro at 9.30 a.m. on Friday morning, too late to take the through train to Aberdeen so that left me four hours to examine the city, I was much struck with its beauty; it exceeds anything in cities I have yet seen; Princess St. in particular, leading up to the Citadel, is wonderfully picturesque. I found out young Grasset (of Toronto) who is studying medicine at the University, under his guidance did the wards of the Royal Infirmary (the chief hospital of the city) a queer rambling old place, as you may imagine as it was built in the beginning of last century. ~~The Scott Memorial is a very handsome structure, the next thing of its kind to the "Albert" one in London.~~ The trip from Edinboro to Aberdeen, though very long and tedious, in consequence of delays, was enjoyable enough, as the scenery is beautiful, the chief portion of the Railway running close to the German Ocean. We had to cross two Firths, in a choppy sea, which unsettled the stomachs of not a few. (At Aberdeen I was met by Mr Alex. Cochran who took me to his house, where I slept that night. In the morning I had a few hours to spy out the "Granite city". It is very regularly built, somewhat too uniform but has a delightful cleanliness about it which to a Londoner like myself was very refreshing. I left at noon for Glenninan, Mr R. Smith's place, where Edmund was staying; it is a nice spot and he has recently rebuilt his house, in grand style. Both he and his wife seem very delicate, but probably his trip to Canada with Edmund will do him good. In the evening we went on to Balfour, the Cochran's place, and there received a hearty welcome from Mrs Cochran. The trip up the Deeside as far as Aboyne is very lovely, but up towards Balmoral it is still more so. I will have to postpone the account of my journey to the Aberdeen Highlands as I wish this to catch the Friday mail via New York. We go down to Edinboro again and from thence to Glasgow and the Western Highlands, but more of all this by the Cunard. I hope all are well. Much love. Yours in haste,

Willie.