



as he can find cause for. Father showed me  
your letter and I was much pleased to observe  
the spirit it breathed.

Both Father & Mother  
are in better health, although Mother is rather  
distressed with fullness and distention of the abdomen  
which causes her great uneasiness and renders it  
very painful to move about - she is not doing  
anything very decided for its relief, and Dr Melbychik  
does not seem to make much account <sup>of it</sup> or perhaps  
is at a loss to apply a remedy; - I think there is  
much of it flatulence arising from indigestion and  
I would hope that if Mother were to get away  
to the country, - have a change of air and scene,  
it may be removed.

Mother with her wife,  
and Annie, are at Moffat, and they all feel  
the better of the change - they went on Wednesday  
last week and are likely to prolong their  
stay another week at least. I was at

Arreston place this morning and saw a letter  
which had just come from Mrs Newcombe. She  
with her husband are well and she says "they"  
are as happy as it is possible to be in this world"

Mr Andrew Ather has been married a few weeks  
ago to Miss Melne (not the eldest but the second) I  
forget her first name, - they have got a house the  
very next stair to Father's house. Miss Grant  
(eldest daughter of Mr Grant bookseller) was married  
last week (in great style in the Chapel) to a gentleman  
who resides in London - a Publisher but I have not his  
name. Mrs High's son was spending yesterday at  
11 Abchurch Lane, I am glad to say she bears very  
well. There came on ~~the~~ a thunder storm accompanied  
by such rain and hail that I do not remember of  
ever seeing worse, - lightning always produces a very  
uneasy feeling to Mrs High but after the worst  
of the storm was past they would enjoy their Tea  
very much. Mother was very poorly yesterday, she  
took some purgative medicine and was much re-  
lieved this morning. My Uncle is enjoying very  
good health although the deficiency of sight is a great  
drawback on his comfort in some respects, but he does  
not repine, while on the other hand old age rather  
increases an infirmity of temper but we try to keep  
him as smooth and comfortable as possible. He  
walks out as usual every good day and really has

more strength than you could suppose. I asked Anne  
this morning if she had any idea of writing soon, her  
reply was "if Margaret feels her time so much occupied  
she will be able to picture how mine is to be up".

Margaret Anne although healthy and active, yet  
requires a great deal of attention and keeping, she  
wrangles herself out and needs to be much carried,  
and is exceedingly disappointed if she is not taken  
out every day. She does not speak any words but  
'Papa' and 'tata' although she has a gibberish of her  
own which she screeches off at no allowance, and  
which she thinks we should all understand. How-  
ever with the help of signs on her part we make  
out pretty well what she wants. She is now a  
regular guest at the dinner table and takes her part  
very well and orderly considering her youth.

I find my sheet is getting done and believe  
I must add a bit more not because I have plenty  
of time, but not having written for some time would  
like to tell you all I remember. I do not pre-  
tend to observe any order in my letter but just  
set down my thoughts as they occur. Mr Blair  
Galachiel's got a Daughter a few days ago, all doing well.

I should have told you Walter has had a smart  
attack of influenza and has a troublesome cough which  
is the immediate cause of his seeking a change of air.

Moffat (57 miles off) is now approachable by the  
Caledonian Railway, with great ease and a moderate cost.

Both he and Helen are delighted with the place.

Marian with her husband and family are well.

Alfred got an accident very simply at Father's same day  
ago, he fell in the lobby and cut his under lip right  
down through - a surgeon was got near at hand who  
sewed the wound and it is now rapidly mending.

Marian got a sad alarm, he bled so profusely.

Jessie with her husband and children are well,  
they popped and drank tea with us on Wednesday  
last, it was kept as a Holiday in Dalkeith and they  
visited Father's and our house. Our own children  
are all well for which we cannot be sufficiently thank-  
ful.

James goes on steadily with his business and happy  
who entered on the practical Engineering at Keith on  
the 16th May also goes on contentedly and well.

He starts every morning 1/4 to 5 as he must be at  
the work by 6 and it remains nearly an hour to

walk down. He gets his breakfast and drives in  
lett and walks up at 6 when the work closes and  
arrives at home at 7 ready for his tea - his first  
act being to wash himself and change his Molesters  
for some other dress, he then sits down comfortably  
to his meal - after that if the weather is fine he  
goes out for an hour or two seemingly nothing  
fatigued - on Saturday he is at liberty at 4  
o'clock.

Our flowers are no great thing this  
summer but they may improve, - I need hardly  
say the shrubs are all dead dead. The seeds of  
Succae you sent were duly sown but some of them  
have come up, if you ever have an opportunity of  
sowing more you should try to protect them better,  
they were crushed and probably injured in that way.

Our pears seem to promise a fair crop but  
you know our trees are few. There are unpromising  
accounts of fruit generally, but grain of all sorts  
and Potatoes promise well. I am joins me  
in kind love to you and best regards to your Mrs  
and - Uncle also joins in my best wishes for you  
both. I remain very affectionately yours  
Peter Bell