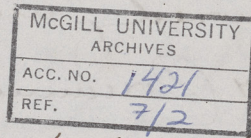


You omitted to answer my query as to whether Mr Secretary saw  
Dugald was at home with her, and how they all were. Do not take  
notice of our coin.  
I am communicating to you  
in my letter but  
to ourselves, as it  
gives expressions  
and impressions of our  
being constantly  
writing to you.

Edinburgh 27<sup>th</sup> August 1848



to have been Sam's letter, but  
the feels sick and unwell, and therefore unable  
to write at this time. There is really not  
much to communicate just now, but as Mr  
Dawson goes in a few days, it is an inducement  
to send a few lines by him. Mother was  
very poorly while Miss Dawson was here but I  
am glad to say she is somewhat better now, and  
only hope it may continue. Father is in his  
usual health - Walter had a troublesome cough  
which is now happily removed, Mr Walter and all  
the children are well. Marion has not been  
very well, and has gone to Galaskeels with the two  
eldest children, for a week or two. George Robert's  
eye is now quite well. Jessie with her family  
have been at Portobello for some weeks. They are  
all quite well, and have been enjoying bathing.

Miss (Jane) Ell was married a few weeks ago to her  
Cousin Mr Drummond, and they seem very happy  
together. Mrs Drummond enquired kindly for  
you last time we saw her, and requested me to  
remember her to you and to say that she would  
be glad to have a few lines from you. Her address  
is 15 Gardner's Crescent, - not very far distant from

us. Our own family are in good health with  
the exception of Jane's temporary ailment. Uncle  
with Jessie & Christina went down to Elie on Tuesday  
last, to visit Mr McIllegan's family. The girls will  
remain two weeks or so, but Uncle will return on  
Monday first, - they have all enjoyed their visit.

James had eight days leave of absence lately  
which he spent in Glasgow among friends there.

Mathewson and Peter Gordon are spending their vac-  
ation at home with a days excursion now and then.

You ask what advance Jane has made with her ed-  
ucation, - she has not been sent to school yet, but her  
brothers Mathewson & Peter have taken in hand to give  
her a lesson daily, to bring her on with her Cetty.

We have judged it best to let her lay in a stock of physical strength, believing that by that means the vigor and health of the mind will be promoted thereby. I have never been an advocate for eliciting precocity of intellect in children, ~~and~~ as I have more than once witnessed the baneful effects of this (in my opinion) serious blunder in Parental legislation. As respects Jane, however, I hope her mind is forming, and that when the drudgery of the first school lessons is overcome, that the mind will expand and make progress.

Our little babe, - I mistake, our great babe is quite of a different make from Margaret Anne, she is more in size like what Peter was, and very quiet and good natured; her name is Ellen Primrose.

Jane encloses herewith, a comb, which Miss Dawson left in her room; - and Miss D. left a message with Jane that she had left a Handkerchief at Patobello when she was visiting Mrs. Cleyburn; - but the handkerchief was never seen by Mrs. C. after Miss Dawson left, and every inquiry has been made about it without any effect. Jane sends also as much cloth as will make a Winter Pelisse for S. Cosmo, and if you prefer

a good thick lining in it will make a comfortable garment for him.

I am and I visited Mrs Braidwood one evening lately, - we found her in wonderful good health, although very frail and also now very deaf. Mrs Lander enjoys tolerable good health and although becoming more feeble is seldom absent from the meeting of the Church on the first day of the week. Mr, Mrs and Miss Woodhouse are well. Mrs Paddie and her family are all well and I understand both the young men are employed.

Mr & Mrs Wood and their family are also well at present, as are also Mr & Mrs Irvine and their children. Mr Iry, Sen wears wonderfully well she is generally out on Sabbath and sometimes also on Thursday nights.

Mr & Mrs Cornack and the Misses Kennedy are in good health. Mrs Moore continues much in the same state that she has been in for a long time; the family are well. The members of the Church whom I have not named are generally well.

Kind and affectionate regards from I am Uncle, and self to you and your husband. Offer also our respects to Mr & Mrs Dawson Sen's subscribing myself yours affectionately Peter Bell