

Jane Bell

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
ACC. NO. 1421 B
REF. 6/82

Edinburgh 30<sup>th</sup> November  
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Dear Margaret

It seems a long time since I have taken up the pen to address you, I have intended to do so every post for some time past, but numberless interruptions have as yet prevented.

The last letter I received from you was from Glasgow dated Oct. You ask if they are prepaid, they are. I also received a few lines yesterday that had been enclosed to Walter containing some small commissions which I shall be happy to execute, to the best of my judgement.

We were glad to hear that you were all well, and that James Cosmo (of all the names ever I heard this is the foremost) is thriving so well and is so forward with his teeth, it is a great comfort when children get over their teething easily.

My little pet has got none yet, but she is a remarkably good and stout child.

You gave me a lecture lately upon firmness to children, I consider it most impor

-tant, but the idea of firmness to a child of six months old is laughable.

I will hear you with great satisfaction, on this point, by the time you have got half a dozen with all their various tempers and dispositions.

Jessie got an addition to her family, on Friday last, a fine stout little girl. I met Marion there on Saturday, their families are all well.

You complain that I have not answered your question respecting Jessie's feeling towards you. I am at a loss, what to say, as she seldom or never mentions your name to me, and I have learned not to do so to any of our family, unless I am asked a question.

Margret Anne is now speaking well, she is quite a conceit, she is so little.

We have sent Jane to Miss Mackenzie's school, she is getting on very well.

Mathewson and Peter are going on well, but P. is the most diligent.

Christina has begun music this quarter Miss Mackenzie is much pleased with Jessie's progress.

James and George are going on steadily with their respective duties, J. is off just now by 5 o'clock in the morning, no joke at this season of the year.

I am sorry to say, Mother has not been very well for some days, Margret

could you not say any thing to her,  
it would be such a pleasure, if we  
could have you with us next summer  
with your dear little boy, it is a daily  
source of vexation to me. Could you  
not say something of this kind, that  
you are sorry you have been the cause  
of so much grief and vexation to her,  
that rather than have caused her  
much suffering, you think you would  
have denied yourself, but now that  
it is done, if she would only forgive  
you, you would like so much if she  
would allow you to come and see  
her and apologize in person.

I do not know that it would do any  
good but if I were you I would  
try every means. I can say for myself  
that I would make any sacrifice  
rather than offend her.

Father is well. Uncle has been confined  
to the house for ten days, with a cold  
but I am happy to say he is better  
he desires to be kindly remembered  
to you.

I intended to have given  
you some account of a course of  
lectures that Papa and I are attending  
on the subject of the personal coming  
of Christ, but I have neither time  
nor room, I dare say they will be pub-  
lished, in which case we may possibly  
get them conveyed to you.  
I was thus far when I heard that both  
Walter and his wife were writing

I therefore thought it would be better to defer this to another post, thinking I might improve it. but as usual the day has arrived before it is touched so that you must take it with ~~with~~ all its imperfections.

Miss Loring, died the other day of disease of the heart, of Gillespie's Hospital.

Miss Bowie along with many others is applying for her situation.

you will be sorry to hear that Miss Grant who stays a few doors from us is in a very bad state of health.

Mr Crow has not yet arrived here, we will be glad to see him when he does.

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You say nothing of Miss Dawson's platits, did they live out the voyage.

I have got a woollen dress for you, which I hope will please, but the season being being over here I had not the same choice.

I had almost forgot to mention that I received a note from you a few days ago, ~~and~~ telling me I would get a pound from Father which I have got.

I write this very hurriedly as I expect James in every moment, who is to take it over to the post office, please remember us all kindly to all friends, Mr Bell joins me in love to Mr and Mrs Dawson William and yourself, and believe me  
Your affectionate sister Jane Bell