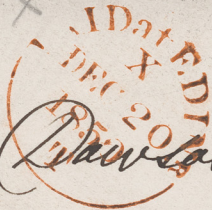


Re portraits X



Mr J. W. Dawson

Pictou

Nova Scotia

Mr. Bell Dec 1868

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My dear sister

I write now chiefly to inform you that Jane was safely delivered of Twin Daughters on Sabbath the 8th instant, and both she and the infants are going on very well. Jane is steadily progressing in her recovery and the babies are both healthy children and we trust will be spared for a comfort to us. We cannot be sufficiently grateful to God for his great goodness to us, in granting safety and a good recovery to my beloved wife, — it was, and could not fail to be a source of much anxiety to her in the prospect of her confinement that she was no longer to be attended by a kind Mother, but must be in a great measure in the hands of strangers. We were very fortunate however in securing the services of a nice, quiet, decent old woman, (who usually attends a particular friend of ours here) and really she did very well and caused no trouble, as too many of those regularly employed by Ladies Nurse do. We have also got a wet Nurse who we think will ~~do~~ turn out well, and altogether matters have proceeded better than we could have

anticipated, for which we desire to be thankful.

Jane is much better in health than when she had
Twins formerly, and thinking she will be quite able to
nurse one of the babes.

I have now to acknowledge receipt of your
letter of the 31st October in which you express a
desire that Jane and Marian would write to you
they had anticipated your wish and I have no
doubt you are in possession of their letters before
this time. With regard to Jessie, she had deter-

mined (she says) not to write to you while Mother
was living, but, as, unhappily, that hindrance no
longer exists, I suppose you may be hearing from her
some day. She expects to be confined soon, so you
must wait till that event is over.

But what do you think of paying us a visit
next summer as Jane invited you to do in her
last letter? We would all be delighted to see
you once more, as we know such visits must be
rare owing to the distance, expense &c.

I regret to observe that you infer from the difference which Father has made in his Settlement between you and your sisters that it was through the influence of another, — we have every reason to believe that that was not the case. Father of his own accord intended to make a difference, for while he did not keep up the same sort of feeling that Mother did, yet he was much displeas'd and griev'd, neither did he conceal it when occasion required. Another reason why Father fix'd a specific sum for you, was, that the business of the Trust might go on without interruption. ~~the~~ necessity of corresponding and consulting with you at such a distance would inevitably have been involved in another mode of division; ~~and~~ without having any such additional difficulty to contend with, the arranging and settling all matters connected with the Trust costs us little trouble. I may add as my own opinion, that you are secure of your share before every division of the residue can be made, and it remains to be seen whether there will be any great difference or not; the value of the Stock in Trade (being nearly the half of Father's means) having been

reduced by the valuations to one half of what it was estimated at by Father in his lifetime. And besides this, the value of Edinb' Glasgow Bank Stock in which the greater part of other money is invested, has been greatly depreciated, and will not soon realize what was paid for it.

I see that I made a slight mistake in stating the time when Father's legacy is payable; it is, "at the first term after the expiry of twelve months from the death of the longest lives of the two".

With regard to the Portraits - Jessie chose Mother's considering she had the best right to it, having got it painted herself. Jane wished Father's and got it, and Marian took Jane's portrait, - thus were they disposed of. Had Jane thought of it in time she might have retained hers for you, but she never thought of sending out such a lumbering article. We have succeeded in obtaining a very good (Daguerotype) likeness of Father from the painting, and shall send you a copy, and if we succeed equally well with Mother's shall send you that also. I think Jane will set for her likeness when she is able to go out.

I am thankful to be able to say all the family are in good health, including my Uncle (barring the cough) and all send their love to you. Jane unites with me in very affectionate regards to you. Remember us most kindly to Mr Dawson. I remain
My dear sister yours very sincerely and affectionately
Peter Bell