



Eden April 1837

Dear Aunt

I ought to have written you long ere this, but I could not summon courage enough to get up in the morning to do so, I have at last embraced the opportunity now offered, of sending a note per Mr Greaves, from whom I received your kind present, for which I am very much obliged; I have read it all through and am very much pleased with it, but intend reading it again. I am now with Smith & McCallum Leith, Provision Merchants & Commission Agents. I have to be there at $\frac{1}{2}$ past nine A.M., and it is generally near nine in the evening before we get away & sometimes after it, so that I have not much time to myself. George will have completed the third year of his apprenticeship in May next, which finishes the first half, the second although not in reality generally appears the shortest, he still likes it as well as ever tho' he has to be

down at six every morning; Jessie & Christina are still at school part of the day, they go to Music together one day, and Jessie to French, & Christina to English composition the other. Mathewson, Peter, & Jane, are at school all day, the other four are still at home. The Greenhouse is looking very nice just now, everything appears to be healthy and growing well; we have had on the fire pretty constant this spring, more so than in December, and January, the weather was so mild then for the season: we have not had any snow on the ground here ^{this winter,} (although there was some on the hills) and the Loch has not been frozen all over. The Hens are thriving amazingly, we have now 30 hens, and 2 cocks, one of them Polish, and the other Spanish we have always an abundant supply of eggs, for all purposes. I was very much disappointed (as we all were) when we heard you were not likely to come across this spring to see us, but I hope you will be able to tell us when you write me, that you are coming soon, and perhaps even this year

yet, as all the world will be at London to see the grand Exhibition; I intend going up to see it about July, and will give you an account of my travels when I come back, if we are all spared till that time. Mrs Bowie and her family are going to Glasgow this week, Campbell and Andrew have commenced business there as Printers & Henry is going to take up house for himself, so that there is no inducement for her to stay here longer. Mrs Cromack's sister Miss Betsy Kennedy has been very poorly for some time, she was rather better when we heard today. Mrs Bleghorn Senr. was buried on Tuesday last, she has been falling off a good deal through the winter, although she was not long ill in the end; Uncle was at Dalkeith today & the rest of the family are quite well. Jessie Mercer has been confined ~~almost~~ to bed about three weeks, with a sort of intermittent fever, Dr Heigler who has been attending her, was to take Dr Simpson with him today; Mr Horsburgh has been rather unwell (with a severe cold) for some time but was able to be ^{out} yesterday for a little

and we expect he will be with us tomorrow.
Enclosed you have Grandmamma's picture, Mamma
intended to have got her likeness taken and send
it by Mr Crearer, but she has not been able to
make it out; will endeavour to send it by first
opportunity Mamma Papa & Uncle send their
kindest love all the children desire to be kindly
remembered to you and Uncle, they are wearying
to see you again. I expected to have enclosed a
letter from Mrs Primrose, but she has not
sent it yet, and I have not time to wait as this
will be late enough for Mr Crearer.

with kindest regards

I remain
Your affectionate Nephew
James Bell

P.S. remember me to Clarence & Howard
Primrose when you see them