

Edinburgh 2^d April 1854

My dear Sister

Death of James

I wrote to Annie on the 20th ult^o giving her some details respecting the last hours of our dear James, and desired her to give you the letter to read, which I hope she has done, as I cannot bring my mind to go over the same ground again — it is too trying for the feelings to do so. However, I may just state in a word that, it affords to Jane and myself, unspeakable comfort to reflect on the peace and calmness with which he departed, and assures us of the hope of a blessed resurrection when Jesus our Lord comes again. My beloved Jane is bearing this severe bereavement with much composure and fortitude, and altogether we have been wonderfully supported but, the blank will long be felt, only,

we have no upbraidings or reflectaries
of any kind, and all our recollections
of James are of a pleasing nature,
and embalm his memory in our hearts.

There is no doubt Jessie will feel the
stroke severely, but Mr Dawson and you,
are well able to comfort and console
her, and also to turn this event to good
account, by directing her mind to the
grand antidote to the sting of death.

I omitted in my letter to Jessie
to take notice of the health of your
dear little William Bell. We trust
he has now quite recovered from the
bronchial attack, which he was suffering
from, and also that George is well,
and that your fears for his health
will prove groundless.

I have to acknowledge receipt
of Mr Dawson's kind letter of 14th Feb
enclosing bill for one pound for the
Scottish Press for this year. The paper

together with postage amounts to $\frac{24}{8}$
and the odds can easily be included at
another time.

We did not at all oppose Gordon
in his intention of proceeding to Greenland
and when he had set his mind upon
it, and any medical men we consulted
approved of the step; indeed it is
not thought a bad thing for a young
man engaged in the study of medicine
to go out there one voyage. Besides,
he had had such constant and tiresome
labour in the Infirmary for some time, that
his mind was worn out, and he had
grown so rapidly that we feared his
health might give way if he continued
longer there at present. He has got
an excellent Captain and chief mate,
and in a note we had from him on
the day before he sailed from Shetland
he expressed himself ^{as} quite comfortable.

I took an opportunity of introducing
the subject of the business in Pictou to Mr
Gormack, but he says he is too old to change
his position, so there is no hope of the
matter being sustained in that quarter.

We note what you say about Jessie's
health. She sometimes had a cold during
part of winter when here - but as a gene-
ral rule she enjoyed good ordinary
health. We think it likely that she has
felt the severity of your winter, coming
there shortly before its commencement
but we trust she will get quite strong
and vigorous when the weather im-
proves.

Miss Thorsbough has just
now come in to take tea with us. She

sends her love to you. I am
united with me in love to you and
Mr Dawson, also to Jessie. We send
the music which Jessie wrote for. Also we
enclose a lock of James' hair

Ever yours very affectionately
Peter Bell