

From Jane Bell
Re Son Mathewson
Jemie - Gordon etc

Mrs Bell

Edinburgh September 25th

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My dear Margaret

Many thanks for your
long kind and interested letter
we were truly glad to hear you were
all well after the excitement and
labour necessarily attendant upon the
entertainment of so many friends

I hope Mr Dawson senr will improve
rapidly under your care please remem-
ber us kindly to him, I scarcely
know how to thank you and Mr Dawson
for the trouble and great interest you
have taken in poor Mathewson, we
are not astonished that he should
have so soon found out his inability
for farm labour we never thought he
would be able for it and told him so well.

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he must now make up his mind
to settle at some mercantile employ-
ment and hope he has done so long
ere this as we neither can nor will
send him money to go idle, it will
do him good to feel his own weight
and to know by experience that people
cannot get on in this world with-
out carefulness and labour of some
kind, he has a recommendation
from Livingston & Bear with him
which is the only house he has been
in here except a few months with
his papa who thought him a steady
and correct worker although not so
quick as Gordon let us know if you
have laid out any money on his
account and we will remit it but
send him no more, if he cannot
fight his battle in one way he must

do it in another. I dare say he
will think shame to appear
amongst friends as he was most
particular about his dress here
but being determined as he said
to rough it out he took nothing with
him but working clothes.

I am happy to say Gordon intends
to resume his studies this winter
we were afraid that the conceit he
has of his own abilities would
prevent his settling down as
he cannot pass for four years yet
and he thinks he would be able
to do so in two (it is not always a ben-
efit to be tall and clever at an ear-
ly age) I am glad to learn
that Jessie is somewhat useful
to you although not all you would
wish. I suspect you will find by

experience there are very few Miss
Geddies in the world, I am certain
I is most anxious to please she seems
much gratified when you put any
confidence ~~in~~ her or think she is
fit to be trusted, she mentions in
a short note to Christina on Monday
that you have left her with the care
of the children and house for a
few days of which she is vastly proud
and hopes that you will find
things in such a state when you
return as will remove all anxiety
should you require to leave at any
future time, Is there any
hope if we are all spared of your
visiting us next summer we
should all be so delighted I
feel more anxious to see you than
ever it is such a world of change

I have always so much to say about
my own affairs that I leave no
time for news, I delivered your
message to Mrs Scott Miss Treas-
se the latter has no intention
of crossing the Atlantic at present,
you will be sorry to hear that Mrs
Armsmond has lost her little
Jane she died on Tuesday of water
in the head she was nearly seven.

Mariore and her family were at
North Berwick during the month
of August. Papa and I were twice
out and spent two days with them
each time, Mariore was not very
strong at that time but is now
considerably better she talks of
paying a visit to our friends in
Galashiels some of these days,
the Dalkeith folks are all well

