

July 10th Robert, 10-11/20 young's eldest son, is to be baptized on Thursday forenoon  
the 15th. I understand  
at a great cost to his father in his  
declining health.

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
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Athlone Place  
Edinburgh 5<sup>th</sup> July 1860

Dear Sister  
Jane baptized -  
Jane sprained wrist  
writing packets.

The beginning of a New Year  
seems a fitting time to write you  
a few lines, and more particularly  
to recall to recollection the many  
mercies received during the year  
that is past. Our large family  
at home and abroad, have enjoyed  
an abundant measure of good health.

In the beginning of the year that  
is past, we had a daughter born (our  
youngest) who is a fine, lively, healthy  
child, and we hope will be spared  
to be a blessing to us; and in the

end of the year, we have had another daughter (our eldest) born premature, which causes us great joy and gladness, and many thanksgivings to God on her behalf.

We trust that Jessie will be enabled to hold fast the beginning of her confidence firm unto the end, and manifest the power of the truth in all her conduct, so as to glorify our Father in heaven.

The intelligence in her last letter of her change of heart, and of her intention of being baptized in the beginning of December was an agreeable surprise to us all. We had had in some of her previous letters indications that her mind was undergoing a change, but how far she had obtained

right views of herself as a sinner  
in the sight of God, and right views  
of the Character of God as revealed in  
his Holy word we could not exactly  
determine. Although she has not  
given us any particulars of the progress  
of the change wrought in her by  
God's Spirit, yet we have little  
doubt it was a gradual process,  
but now that she has obtained peace  
to her mind through the belief of  
the glad tidings concerning Jesus,  
we hope and trust she will "grow  
in grace, and in the knowledge of  
our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;  
to whom, be glory and praise eternally.

I am requests me to say that she  
has no apology to offer for herself but  
her disinclination to write, if she can

at all get it done by deputy. She had thought she would write to you at this time, but as the period arrived she was as far from it as ever, and I have volunteered to substitute her as usual. Walter with his wife & daughters are quite well. Mr & Mrs Cleghorn with their family are also quite well. The same may be said of Mr & Mrs Primrose and their family. All their young people except Henry, were spending New Year's day with us. Mr Primrose has had a severe cold, but is better, and able to be out of doors again. Mrs Enghisod in Jan last, better how Jane got her wrist sprained, it was in assisting the servants in bringing blankets in May last. I am glad to say it is now quite well, and is never felt now at all.

Mathewson is now quite rid of rheumatism - he keeps up a regular correspondence  
with the children. We had a letter from him the day you head in his situation.

We hear regularly from Valparaiso  
every month, and sometimes an extra  
letter in the fortnightly interval. Christina  
has been on a visit to the  
Capital (Santiago) for several weeks,  
and had not returned when Henry  
last wrote (date 14th Nov) she has  
been enjoying her visit very much,  
the place is so beautiful and so un-  
like any place she had ever seen.  
She went there in company with  
some friends from Valparaiso, but we  
suspect she has staid beyond the duration  
of their visit, and "will remain"  
till she can get a safe escort home"  
as Henry phrases it. Christina writes  
that "she is as happy as a kind husband  
can make her" but doubtless she  
feels the want of the society of old friends.

Among the members of the Church here  
there is a good deal of sickness this  
winter. Mr Irvine is very poorly indeed,  
and almost confined to his bed. He gets  
up usually in the evenings for a little  
time, but his appetite is much  
impaired, and consequently he  
must be losing strength. Dr

Reybie was called in a few days  
ago to consult with Dr Fairbairn,  
on his case, and the former takes  
a more favourable view of his  
case than the latter who has been  
the ordinary medical attendant of  
the family for 30 years, but although  
they were inclined to be lifted up  
with the more flattering views given  
of his health, they feel it is not safe

to hunt to it, and I greatly fear  
his present illness will terminate  
fatally. Mr Perry too is worse  
than his usual this winter. Each  
succeeding winter tends to pull him  
down, and he hardly recovers from  
the effects of it in summer.

Mr & Mrs Hodge are very infirm. The  
former is now above 80 years of age  
very deaf and blind, but composed  
and thankful withal. James Royd,  
our blind brother, is confined to the  
crank, and almost to bed for some  
weeks past. He suffers from Chronic  
Bronchitis, and it is doubtful, with  
great part of winter before him  
how he will come out of it.

Other a good member, Mr Williamson,

82 years and Miss Jean Milne, are  
feeling the infirmities of age very much  
and are gradually wearing down.

John Murray (a very little man, a  
tailor) also nearly fourscore and a  
member of 60 years standing is somewhat  
infirm, but is usually present with  
us on the first day of the week.

Ms Hall, long an invalid, from Palsy,  
is much the same as she has been for  
years, but of course not improving.

George is waking very steadily in freedom,  
and enjoying fully as good health as he did  
here, we keep up a constant correspondence  
with him. Gordon is also very busy, his time  
fully filled up. We all unite in sending  
our best love to you and Dr Dawson, also  
my kindest remembrances to Mr Dawson Esq.  
and to the children.

I remain  
my dear sister yours affectionately  
Peter Bell