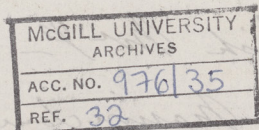


Mrs Pinrose Jan 1/64



Musselburgh July 21st
1864

My dear Sister Margaret

When I look at the date
of your last kind letter I do feel
quite ashamed of being so long
of answering it, and the longer I
am I find it worse to commence
the first thing I have to do before
writing you is to take "a good great"
when I think of the cause which
compels me to write, namely, the
absence of dear friends which I
may never see again in this world.
I feel unusually depressed this time
I know not for what reason, as
every thing is going on in the usual
way, we are all well, with the

exception of colds which Mr P
has rather badly, also Maria Jane,
perhaps you would hear of Alfreds
serious illness, but we were mir-
aculously dealt with in having his
life spared, while so many around
us have been taken away. he was
confined for two months with Ty-
phoid Fever but he is now quite
recovered and has returned to the
office, which he continues to like
very much. When George Roberts
Jane was out with Mitchell some
time ago he thought he would like
to go to London and get a situation
and see how business was conducted
there, to which I made no objection
as I thought it was a very good plan
there being a wider field there
for business and he would also
see a little of the world.

The only thing I was afraid of was
his falling into bad company in
that great city of iniquity, however,
I trust better things of him, so we
got him ready, and he left us about
the end of June he had a great
many nice introductions to good
business houses; and he was very
fortunate in falling in with a sit-
uation soon, in the same line of
business, he is with a Mr A Dunbar
eldest son of the Rev^d Sir William
Dunbar Bart of Dalwyns Castle he
is a very nice person and has
been very kind to G. A. he began
him with a very small salary,
forty pounds, but the second quarter
he increased it to fifty, and this
quarter to eighty, he has the prin-
cipal management of the business
there being only another clerk, Mr
Dunbar, and George, so it things

him into acquaintance with all the
leading merchants in London, he
likes London very much and seems
to be quite happy Mr. D was just
beginning business on his own ac-
count when G. went (he was a
Partner with some one before) and
is getting on well he got married
about a fortnight ago, G. R. has
got another young gentleman who
shares his lodgings which makes it
more cheerful in the evenings,
office hours from ten till five, he
lives about a mile and half from
the office, he is still carrying on his
French, as he expects to get a trip
to France on business. I wrote him
what you mentioned about business
in Montreal and he returned for
answer he would go anywhere

where he had a prospect of getting on, he is a very pushing young man, but I think he is very well situate in the meantime and with a much higher salary than he could have expected for a boy newly done with his apprenticeship. Poor Christina Bell has lost her husband, I need not repeat the circumstances as I suppose you hear regularly from Gilmore Place. Mrs Spittell Mrs Brown's Mother died last Oct. both at the advanced age of 88. I think I mentioned before that Mrs L. lives now at Magdalene Bridge, near Musselburgh, her son has the chemical works there. Mrs Thomas Lees is getting very stout just the make of her Mother,

He has only the one Daughter.
our dear friend Mrs Mathew
is now gone. Jessi and I went
and saw her a short while before
her death. I had a cottage at
Mountain Hall for the month of
August 'for lodgings' that is about
Ten miles from Galashiels and
Jessi came out and staid with
me all night, and next morning
we went down to Gala and saw
Mrs M. she was very glad to see us
and seemed perfectly happy in
the prospect of death. she suffered
great pain. Mr Robert Wall is also
dead, that is Mr John H's Brother
Mr J H has also been very unwell
and is living at St Andrews,
Miss Mathew is with him, so I
have not seen her since her
mother's death. I think ~~she~~ ~~is~~ ~~gone~~

Dr Mc Dougall's death about a
year ago. Mrs McD is very dull
I saw her when I was at Yale.
We enjoyed Mountain Hall very
much. it is the very place for
country lodgings, it is so quiet,
we could walk about the whole
day and never meet a single
person, the children were delight-
ed running in the woods, and
finding out Squirrels and pigeons
nests, we brought home a young
squirrel, which used to follow them
all over the house, but the little
thing died in about three months.
There were also plenty of rabbits and
Mr V & Alfred enjoyed themselves
shooting, they kept us well sup-
plied with them, there ^{were} neither
butcher nor baker in the place,
just one shop of all Trades, so

every thing had to be brought from home, but we were close to the station so when Mr. I came on the Saturdays he was always well loaded, We never enjoyed the country so much before. There were also good fishing on the river which was close by.

We have had a very mild winter with the exception of a fortnight of severe frost which was like to make us all uneasy with cold, ice every where, both within and without, but the boys enjoyed the skating on the river very much. We now know a great difference on the length of the day, Edmund forgot to tell you Charles Edward has also gone to an office in South Mill St. Beveridge wholesale grocer and general merchant, he comes home every night, I believe just

at school. He had begun French
Marion has got very tall. she
gets on well with her music and
I think will be rather a good player.
I am afraid your patience will be
tested reading this very long epistle.

so I must conclude. with very
kind remembrance to Mr D.
and George, and much ^{Love} to the rest
of the children, also for yourself

Dear Margaret accept my
warmest Love from
your ever attached Brother
Marion

Marion Jane sends her love to Anna & is