

Jessie R Bell

41 Gilmore Place
15th December 1864.

My very dear Aunt, ^{Interesting - fair} but ^{nothing special}
I dare say you will have wondered again I again why you have never received a letter from me for such a long time, for long time it is, but from the middle of July to the end of August, I was very much taken up both by out door & in door duties, then I left for London on the 31st of the latter month returning on the 31st of Sept. & since that time I have been more than usually occupied outdoors.

This month in the great city I enjoyed very much indeed, I spent the first fortnight with a very fine christian young lady (an orphan) & an elderly Aunt who resides with her, they are great friends of Mr. & Mrs. Newcomb who lives about ten minutes walk from them, I saw both Mr. & Mrs. Newcomb

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frequently & they desired to be kindly remembered to you, also Mr. Blythe sent kind regards; the young lady (Miss Jones) paid a visit to Edin^g of a week last year & Mr. Newcomb gave her a card of introduction to our family, the first time she called she spent the afternoon with us & she & I seemed instinctively to draw to one another, she spent another entire day with us when she made me promise that if ever I was opened to visit London I should spend some time with her, & really it was as delightful a time as I have spent for a long time, I went thence to the great Tabernacle & heard Mr. Spurgeon twice, the third time it was a stranger but he had a very excellent discourse on the words "These are they who came out of great tribulation, & have washed their robes, & made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

therefore are they before the throne of
God, & serve Him day & night in His
Temple".

My nephew & niece are indeed very
fine children, but George I was much
disappointed at not seeing; he had
taken a situation as engineer of a
steamer sailing to & from the Mediter-
anean: it was expected he would have
been home again before we left, but
he did not return till a month
after I was off again in a fortnight,
he is enjoying excellent health.

The many sights in London I enjoyed
very much it is a wonderful place
I do not know whether
you remember Mr. Charles's
family, they lost their only son in
the month of July last of Typhus
Fever in America where he had
gone about a year before, he died
rejoicing in the Lord, it was a
severe blow to them as the first

information they received was that
of his death: it was Miss Arthur
that shared the tract district with
me & she was to take care of my part
while I was in London, but what
was my surprise & astonishment
on my return to hear she had been
laid up with Typhus Fever all
the time I was away & was still
confined to bed, but their affliction
did not end here for Mr Arthur
who welcomed me back again with
great kindness was the next week
confined to the house with a cold
but being so much better on the
following Monday he thought to
go out the next day to his business,
but during the night he was seized
with violent pains & every thing was
done to relieve him till medical
advice could be obtained, when
the D^r arrived he said it arose
from an ulcer in one of the bowels,

& that from the nature of it he could not recover, indeed his life would be only a matter of six, eight or ten hours at most, he died within six, being little more than three months after his son it is a sad loss to his wife & two daughters, as also to the church, for he was a most zealous & consistent christian.

The district which Miss Arthur shared with me I have now got the entire charge of, as she will be required more at home now, I have also got an addition to my Sabbath Labour, in the charge of a class of girls, thirteen in number, whose families I must visit occasionally & thereby get to know them.

I am still continuing my drawing, so with it, my out door work, the instruction of my three sisters from half past two till six, & my meetings in the evenings I have very little

time over, & that is given to the
sewing machine.

The class I have undertaken is in a
branch school of Kusto place newly
opened since my return from London,
& for which I & another young lady
had to canvass about the neighborhood
of Simon Square for scholars, which
occupied my time considerably
till it was fairly started, I had
also at the same time to attend
a practising of part singing, as I
was to take part with a few
others at the soiree, given by the
members of the Young Men's Improve-
ment Association, it came off
last Friday, & most successfully,
both our Pastors were present &
we all spent a most agreeable
evening; there were a hundred
present mostly young people of
both sexes; we had ~~two~~ rows
of tables the length of the room,

& one across the head, & there was
a young lady to fill out tea for
every tea!

You ask what Christina does in
an active way for Jesus, but it
grieves me exceedingly to say that
she has never yet made a public
profession of His name, & as to doing
anything for His cause, she does
not seem at all desirous to be so
employed.

What is Anna, George, & William
about this winter? & dear little
Kathine & Lea, how I should like
to see them all once more!

How is the church getting on & is it
increasing at all in number?

We are having additions every now &
again, there is to be two young
men baptised this evening.

Give my kind love to Mr. & Mrs.
Brydes & tell the farmer that I
have been expecting a letter from

Time for some months past, & acc-
ompanied by the L. de V.S. which
I doubt not have been taken by
this time: also love to Mr. & Mrs.
Coruish, & to any other kind or
acquaintance.

Mrs. A sends her love to you, & says
that she feels her last letter was
but an apology for one, but she
was anxious to let you know speedily
that your parcel was all right &
what it came to, but as she so
dislikes letter writing, she has put
it off a little longer seeing me
writing this mail.

With very best love to yourself,
Mach & all the children, I think
I must conclude for this time
trusting I shall not be so long
again.

Believe me my dear friend
Your very affectionate niece,
Sophia R. Bell