

From Peter Bell
165

41 Rillmore Place

Mrs 10111

Edinburgh 22nd March 1865

death of
Mathewson
James son -

Mr Dawson
My dear father

Follow specially as by me to convey the expression of her love to James.

It is under no ordinary feelings that I now address you. My dear Jane wrote to you little more than a month ago regarding Mathewson, that he had entered on a new and good situation, and with a fair prospect before him (if spared) to arrive at independence; and now, it is my melancholy task to inform you that he is no more.

The next mail after we received
such a pleasing and cheerful letter
from him, brought us a letter from the
Doctor in attendance of informing us
of his very serious, yea dangerous
illness from a severe attack of Pleurisy;
and the last mail brings us the dis-
tressing intelligence of his decease on
the 26th of January, having been just
18 days ill. What a sad blow to all
our hopes of his future advancement in
this world! But there is one bright
ray which shines, athwart the gloom.

In God's good providence he had been placed
among Christian friends, who watched
over him in his illness, and ministered
to his spiritual as well as to his temporal
concerns, and ~~so~~ we have the testimony

of two different gentlemen, that he bore
his affliction with calmness & resignation,
and departed, trusting in the merits of
Christ, and looking forward to a happy
reunion.

I need not attempt to say how much
my dear Lane, and all of us, feel under
this afflicting dispensation of Providence.

Thoughts crowd upon my mind, and
I cannot give utterance to them, but
we know it is our duty, quietly to
resign ourselves to the will of our
Heavenly Father, who, we rest assured
cannot err in his procedure, although
his way is dark and mysterious to us.

I should mention that a Mr. Mellicott
& Mr. Shanklin, both wrote exceedingly kind
letters to us on this occasion - the latter
took Matthews on home to his house, where

taken ill - watched over him like a brother, and had a good & careful nurse for him, who never left him; and Mathewson wrote a few lines to his mother, assuring her that every care and attention had been bestowed on him during his illness.

We had also a Colter from the gentleman (Mr Hamilton) who is at the head of the Company, expressing his sympathy with us, and deep regret for Mathewson's death. He had been only two months in his employment, but he had in that time formed a high esteem for him.

I have thus given you as full particulars as I could, knowing that you would feel a deep interest in all that concerned Mr.

My dear wife joins me in best love to you and Mr Dawson. all the rest send their kind greetings. Yours very sincerely and affectionately
Peter Bell