

Nicolson Street  
Edinburgh 26 Dec 1865

1868

Dear Sister

The season reminds me to hasten

to pay a small instalment of that debt, which

the debtors seems to say we can never wholly

pay up, & he writes "give no man anything

but love"

I see this is not now in

time to reach you ere the year had run

its course, but trust it may be now

pleasant words for the new Year

and <sup>find</sup> you all well and prosperous.

When you have time, I should like

you to tell me all about your family,

particularly so that when I think of you  
I may in some measure realize your

I believe in some measure realize your  
particulars, so that when I think of you  
I may in some measure realize your  
and find you all well and prosperous.  
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family Circle - as I may say the one  
only portrait we have, is that taken  
all in a group on the small Cart, and  
there too we would like to have something  
better & more individual -

I enclose you my little grandson  
John William Ballantyne - he lives  
with us, & is a constant pleasing remoral  
of his Mother, to whom perhaps you can  
observe the striking resemblance - he  
was rather timorous at the taking of his  
photograph, afraid as he said of the man with  
the cloth over his head, "so he looked rather  
solemn, for he is a joyous little fellow and  
sing & plays all the day long - My Daughter  
Anne, & my wife who make up our  
little family Circle, desire their kind

love to you Mr Dawson & any of your  
family who remember us — I was sorry  
to hear that your son reaped no benefit  
from his voyage across — and I hope  
all the rest with yourself and Mr Dawson  
enjoy good health, I suppose your  
alarms from the Fenians are now ceased

We all are blessed with good health <sup>but</sup>  
Mr Moreau has been troubled with an irruptive  
skin complaint called Zemenia Annoying  
but not affecting the general health it is upon  
t her neck — My own health has been  
better for some years than perhaps I ever  
had and I trust I have been redeeming  
the past, filling as I may be enabled  
the office my Father so well fill'd in the Church  
and giving to the world & my Family  
all service in due measure & due manner  
for

time flies the 26<sup>th</sup> completed by 60<sup>th</sup> year  
and I may say it is a day I never at one  
time expected to see I thought always  
I should be away before my Father  
instead of surviving him 16 years & more  
to this date — I suppose you know  
the Church has left all into House where  
we each had about a seat <sup>a few</sup> to ourselves  
we have bought & fitted up a very great &  
smaller place in Roxburgh St — it was  
once Mr Pattison's dwelling House — !!  
we are there more together & comfortable,  
but many are aged & infirm our numbers  
are down to about 60; & 30 to 40 are  
about as many as are over out our  
Lord's day — but my paper warns me  
to be done so wishing you & yours  
every blessing temporal & spiritual  
Remain yours aff<sup>r</sup> Father W. L. L. L. L. L.