

Rose Cottage
Trinity. 7 October 1874
Interesting letter fr Ella
her niece

My own dear Auntie,
your letter was such a
treat! & strangely enough, it
arrived on the 5th Anniversary
of our marriage day, recalling
most vividly the 1st one, which
we spent with you at the
Cottage in Burntisland; that
never-to-be-forgotten Summer,
is one of the sunniest spots
in my memory! We were
truly thankful to hear of
dear Anna's recovery, I trust
she has quite regained her former
strength long ere this, what

a pity her hair had to be shaved!
but of course that was a very
minor consideration when
compared with the risk, of
trying to sew it. How I sh^d.
like to see her sketches! I
have been painting a little
this summer, but as you
say, it is very fascinating. I
when I do sit down to it,
I feel very much inclined to
neglect everything else, I have
three different groups in hand
at present, but none of them
are more than about half
finished. I am learning Pitman's
shorthand just now, just for the

fun of the thing, a gentleman
friend is teaching it me. I can
read & write it quite easily, but
not very fast yet, it is very
useful for taking notes at lec-
tures, &c. I spent 5 weeks with
friends in London this spring
& enjoyed it so much. I had
a very prolonged attack of
bronchitis just before I went
& I think the change did
me a great deal of good. I
was fit for very little, the
first fortnight of the time,
as the cold had weakened me
so, but Mrs. Gile took such
care of me, & nursed me up

with all sorts of delicacies. —
I spent an evening in the
House of Commons, which I
enjoyed immensely, there was
a most interesting & animated
discussion on some Irish
law question, which ended
in a division of the House,
the "Y's" going out at one door, &
the "No's" at another; there were
two new members received
also, who went through the
curious little ceremony of
kissing the Bible &c. I enjoyed
a most delightful day at the
Royal Academy, the leading

picture seemed to be one painted by a Miss Thomson a country woman of yours, it created quite a stir, but there was no possibility of seeing it, without about at least a dozen heads intervening.

The subject was, "Calling the muster roll" a scene in the Prussian war, I should never have taken it for a lady's painting, it was so bold & masterly in its style!

The pictures I enjoyed most of all, were Doré's, his painting is perfectly unique, it is such

a nice select little gallery too,
with only about a couple of
dozen pictures or so, all his
own works. There has been
a beautiful new one added
since I was there last, "The
dream of Pilate's wife", & the
conception of it, is marvellous!
I wish you could have a peep
at our dear little Cottage,
I have just been putting some
finishing touches to the drawing
room, & now it looks so nice.
There is a bright fire blazing
which quite illuminates the
room. I have been hanging up

some creeping plants. I arrange
ing my ferns &c. & it looks like
a fairy scene, reflected back
in the mirror by the glowing
fire light. I think of devoting
part of every evening this winter
to practising. I had a dozen
singing lessons from a master
in spring, & I don't want to
forget it, as my cold did away
in some measure, with the
benefit I received from him;
but Will, wishes me to have
some more lessons this winter.
I do so enjoy them. & My
Heathcote was very much pleased

with the progress I made!—

I suppose you will have heard from some one at home, since the marriage! Everything passed off most satisfactorily, & Marie looked very well indeed. Their house is so pretty, we were all there to welcome them home, it is in Stafford Street not three minutes walk from the West end of Princes Street. The tramway cars pass their door, & there is one every hour which comes to within three minutes walk of Rose Cottage. So there will be no excuse for either of us failing to see one another

10th October. - When at
Slemore Place on Thursday
Mamma told me she had
just written to you. & as my
letter was over postage anyhow
I thought I might as well
get the benefit of it, by adding
a little more! Aunt & Uncle
Mercer had been calling on
Mamma just before I arrived
& they were wondering whether
you had received the announce-
ment of Annie's death, as they
had not heard from you since!
Mamma also told me, that
you were in doubt about your

letter having reached me,
which looks as though you
had been expecting an answer
to it sooner. I am so sorry
to have disappointed you, but
I know you will forgive me
dear Auntie, won't you?—

I wonder if you remember
ever having seen Dr. Oliver C.
Edwards, who studies at
McGill College. He studies at
St. Thomas's Hospital, London
last winter, but has returned
home again to Ontario. He
seemed a very superior, intelligent
young fellow, & a thorough
Christian. It was rather a

joke, we met him out at
tea one evening, & the con-
versation happening to turn
upon his studies, he said
he had been capped by Principal
Bawson, & then spoke about
Uncle in the highest terms of
praise, quite unaware of course
that anyone present, knew
him more than by name.
He said he never ^{met} with anyone
who so completely won the
love of the students, as well
as their deepest respect and
esteem; he also said he had
seen you more than once, at

entertainments given to the
students, & has always taken
you to be "Miss" Dawson, until
someone informed him to his
great amargement, that you
were "Mrs" Dawson. —

The only incorrect thing about
the address of your letter, was
"Granton" instead of "Trinity"
but it found us all right.
We are pretty well known
now! I have just been putting
new crimson silk into our
piano, & it has so improved
its appearance, but I really must
not begin another sheet! Ever yours
Ella.

I hope you received the Bride's
Cake all right! Charlie Primrose
rose was married yesterday to
a Miss Alice Anderson. she
is a very nice girl. they used
to live in Gilmore Place. I
we have known the family
for years. I think Alice will
be about one & twenty now.
you did not tell me how you
liked my photo; Auntie dear!
What extensive alterations you
have been having made on yr.
house, to be sure! I should
think it would be something
like the pair of boots you told

us about, "new soles. new heels,
& new uppers"! I suppose you
will be enjoying the Comfort
of the improvements, now that
the discomfort is a thing of the
past! I can quite understand
your loss, in having to part
with a valued servant, the
one who left us in Spring, is
the third who has gone from
us, to be married, & if good
looks will gain a husband.
I fear we won't manage to
keep our present one long!
I was so very glad to hear
about dear George, & I do trust

he may be brought back in
perfect health & safety. I often
long so to hear from him!
Now dearest Auntie, please
don't be so long of writing
next time, as you can't think
what pleasure your letters
give me, & Will too. who has
an intense admiration for
my darling Auntie; he is very
busy just now, & his evenings
are a good deal taken up,
as he interests himself in
several different meetings, he
has become a fellow of the
Royal Scottish Society of Arts, &

* takes a great interest in
their proceedings. Will has
just come home, so I must
conclude for the present,
with much love in which
he heartily joins me.

Ever your affectionate Niece

Ella.

