

Towie Barclay  
Aberdeen

July 13<sup>th</sup> 1880

My very dear friend

I am sorry you have had to look so long for a letter from me, it must have seemed unloving & ungrateful, but this was not the case; for scarcely a day has passed without you being in my thoughts, and very often on you and your dear ones form the theme of our conversation in the family circle, but the truth is I have scarcely been able for correspondance this winter from confusion in my head, brought on from too much excitement during the summer, as my husband

often says, I am "a little  
engine with too much steam"  
at the time I felt able  
for all that was to be  
seen & enjoyed, but the reaction  
came afterwards, feeling that  
my spirit was greater than my  
strength. After we left jail  
we had the pleasant walk  
in Pictou, though we were  
almost killed with kindness  
(if that is feasible) knowing  
how bright we were occupied  
with old friends who were so  
good & loving to us, lessening  
of our hearts & filling us with  
gratitude & being so lovingly  
remembered after our long  
separation. It was such a  
pleasure too to visit again all  
the old haunts which we had  
so to delight in when young  
girls, and heart for the dear

old familiar flowers I could  
breathe. My heart was too full  
when driving around familiar  
we stopped and searched for  
them. All looked so exactly  
the same as twenty five years  
ago I wondered if all my life  
since then, had been a dream,  
and God's goodness I love to  
us as a family during all that  
time almost overwhelmed  
me. The only alley (and it was  
a very prett one) was being  
John Adams' feeling so different  
from what we could wish  
for, it was like to break my  
heart, and their case seemed  
so hopeful, from the very founda-  
-tion their training has been  
on a luxury system, allowed  
to follow their own way, choose  
their own confessions, and from  
of without almost any education

I felt the only thing I could do was to pray that our Father would take them under his own training by dealing them into his own fold by whatever way he saw best.

Smith has a very sweet home, a very nice wife and dealing children whom they are bringing up most carefully, and seeking to bring to our Father in real life: he has not been very strong for a good while so we coaxed him and his wife to accompany us to our county home, and we had the pleasure of their company for three months: they enjoyed their visit so much though it was winter, and his health improved, though not as much as we hoped for. We promised that if they would stay over

It seems we should all go to  
Rock Ferry and spend the week  
together which we did &  
for the first <sup>Towie Barclay</sup> Aberdeen time since  
Janis's marriage we put down  
together to our dinner  
& visited fishing (with the  
exception of John Adam) feeling  
truly each one that "goodness &  
mercy had followed us"  
You may imagine what a  
many time old & young had  
the present & past, were  
perfectly conferring, each  
gatherings, without break, con-  
-ceded he often on earth and  
made us long to see all the  
dear ones safe in heaven, that  
the benediction he wishes might  
be in heaven. Smith & his wife  
failed on New Year's day & we  
are longing to hear of their safe  
arrival, as there has been very  
stormy weather on the Atlantic

the last ten days. I forgot to  
pay we put down a party of  
twenty on Jesus day ~~of~~  
Miss Blew from there  
being the only strength.

Papin with two of her children  
came North with us, she and  
the youngest remain a month,  
and Pierson an indefinite  
time as he is here for change  
of air, his eyes are very painful  
and disordered from being  
ten weeks he has had them  
bandaged but already they  
are much better: it is a great  
trick to him he is so fond of  
reading, but his patience is  
wonderful in a boy of eleven  
listening to reading aloud  
is his great pleasure, at present  
our book is "the life of  
Livingstone" in which he is  
much interested. It is such  
a delight having dear Papin

with us, it is like old times  
having our work & reading  
aloud to one another. Maria  
remained behind in place  
to pay long journed visits  
to friends. There is nothing yet  
- that about her marriage yet  
but you will be pleased to  
know that the more we know  
of her of Mr. Child the better  
we like him, and the more  
do we feel that God has joined  
her in the matter. When in Rock  
-bury Mrs. Steering's letter came  
to me and received a very warm  
welcome from us all. We rejoiced  
with you in getting George  
safely <sup>home</sup> knowing how anxious  
you were about him, what  
grateful heart you would  
have to our Heavenly Father  
for his care & love to ~~him~~  
him in all his wanderings.  
Will you give our love to Mr.

and Mr. Kensington & them for  
the photograph of Matis, which  
being up pleasant memories  
of our happy afternoon there?  
Indeed all our day spent  
with you were happy ones &  
they stand out in our memories  
as the pleasant & most fearful  
of all our journey. We live  
them over often, at "the side  
fire-side" which have been  
in talking about your kind  
help & tender care to him when  
he felt so unwell, & is longing  
to have a chance of making  
you as happy in our home  
as you made us in <sup>your</sup> which I  
join with all my heart. What  
a joy it would be to have  
you and your kind husband  
with us for a long time!! and  
we are looking forward hope-  
fully to it. When is Rankin  
coming over? tell him we claim



him as our friend during all  
his spare time, or rather as one  
of our fishing circle. As if any  
of your dear ones are on this  
side tell them with our love  
and that our heart & home  
are waiting for them.

The enclosed bears my husband  
wishes you to accept as a little  
memento of our happy visit.  
And how dear friend I  
must say good bye with  
much love and kindest  
wishes to you and yours  
in which Alice & Jessie join.  
I need not thank you all  
the thanks I have your cards  
sent, which were much  
appreciated

Believe me ever  
yours most lovingly  
Maggie Scott

Many thanks for your photo  
which we believe very much,  
and would so like to have  
as proof a one of your husband