

Please let me know S. Salmon's plans
when they are completed

Wm. Clatt

Towie Barclay

Turiff

11th March 1880

My very dear friend

How can I thank
you was my enough for your
two kind, satisfactory letters,
with the precious enclosures
in the last? There was a family
opinion over the photographs,
and one decision, that they were
excellent likenesses, please accept
of our most loving thanks for
them. S. Salmon now has his
right place beside you in
my album, the place which
had to be occupied before, by
the nicest stranger I could
find for you as companion.
We did not know before what
a wonderful likeness there is

between you & Eva, it startled
me when first looking at her
photograph, as if I was in a dream,
it seemed scarcely possible it
could be other than you, as I
first knew you: do the others see
the likeness as strongly as I?
We have all been so much inter-
-ested in the "silver wedding" &
will be much with you in
thought on the 2 of April, but
what a ponderous undertaking,
even the shaking of hands with
so many, is enough to wear any
common mortal out, but your
dear good husband is not that,
I trust he will perform it
nearly though in sober earnest
I fear it will wear you all
out with excitement.

Since receiving your first letter
by husband I have been build-
-ing castles in the air in connection

With Dr. Seaman, should be ^{be} able
to arrange for a long holiday and
though a little upset by what you
say in your last about his being
to remain all summer in America
about some geological problems,
we get used that when satisfied
about them, he will come over to
this country and consent to
feel our home as his, coming
✓ going just as he pleases, with
a den to study in with a promise
that he ~~will~~ shall be perfectly
free from disturbance, and
be allowed to have as many
stones as he pleases, all toward
him, with as much heat as his
active brain will allow him to
take. The one place our home is
so far from his point of attract-
tion, Edinburgh ✓ London but in
every other way that affliction ✓
disrespect can suggest, we shall do

all in our power to make up for
it. It would add much to our
pleasure & his could you come
with him, but if that is impossible,
we shall hope to welcome dear
Eva, & I shall do all I can in any
way, to steady your husband's wants
in your absence. Will you give
him our united love and ask
him not to disappoint us, for our
wishes on the subject, come
from the very depths of our
hearts. Father remained six weeks
with us returning home, I cannot
say "like a giant refreshed" but
certainly much better, so well
I presume. The last time we went
with us to spend several months, that
his constitution may be healed.
His eyes are so bad, give little
follow, we think country life
is the only thing to be useful him,
and already you a great change

Towie Barclay

Turriff

for the better, both in his eyes &
general health. Edith is down
with us, and we are a happy little
circle, time passing so peacefully;
the weather has been so beautiful,
we walk & dine a great deal,
and as I was going to the fields
at tea time we need never
take a walk without feeling
we have made some good, an
old person happy by a visit,
for walk where we please, we
help their houses & sympathy
does cheer them up so much &
certainly makes our walk more
pleasant to ourselves. What led
to my remark was their telling
me of how happy they had made
some old woman when out at
their afternoon walk & of the
promise they had made them of

returning soon to sing hymns &
lead aloud to them. Edith a most
delightful girl so unselfish,
sweet tempered and very musical,
so companionable. I think she is
Minnie's favorite cousin.
I heard from Stonleigh lately.
Fannie is improving though very
frequently & Maggie's ankle is being
well. Some has had an anxious
winter of it between them, but
on the whole has been very well,
and not so anxious minded
as she used to be.

I am sorry to have to tell you
that John Smith has been very
previously unwell ever since
their return, we fear from
the effects of the stormy passage
they had; he gets so depressed,
it keeps us very anxious about
him; it is such a comfort to

Know that he has committed his
soul to Jesus, and ^{can} see a Father's
hand in his prolonged trial of
bad health. I am fearing you
have not had a letter from me
sooner but though one was
begun last week I had to give
it up on account of my head,
which still troubles me very
much. How you would enjoy
wandering about through the
grounds in this weather, watch-
-ing the coming into bloom
of the sweet spring flowers.
You used to love in June
your eye days, proserpines,
Liliums, and the first berries
which bloom so early in this
country, and gardeners are quite
gay with them. I was thinking
of you the other day when walk-
-ing about on the terrace which

at present are so green & plentiful
with the little white daisy or
poppies: after your first visit to
Scotland you told me that ~~at first~~
you thought for a moment the
fields were covered with little
bits of paper, the poppies had plucked
from your memory. I must stay
how dear friend and join the
others in the dining room when
we are to have reading aloud,
I then Missie.

My husband has been at Perth &
Aberdeen for several days on
business business & the house feels
so lonely without him. I'd like a
stem of ivy without the oak to
lean on but it makes the deer
I receive all the more receivers.
Missie, with her love to see the
forming circle daisy, you to thank
Nan for the book he sent, I wish
she means to thank him for by letter from
and ever my own dear friend good bye
with fondest love to Jim & all your dear
ones your ever loving & true friend
Maggie Scott