

Rudolf

Highfield South  
4<sup>th</sup> August 1877

My Dear Lady Dawson

I feel  
that your very kind & so  
pathetic letter - received so  
long ago - should have been an-  
swered long ere this - It came  
at a time, with my illness,  
when my heart was really too  
sore - to write of its great loss -  
so had to put Earth & ac-  
knowledg<sup>ed</sup> them - But how  
I can look <sup>back</sup> with some de-  
gree of calmness upon these

days of bitterness I thank our  
Father for His great loving kindness  
all through - The shock was so  
terrible when we first knew that  
our dear one had to go & leave  
us - that we could only wonder how  
he lived through it - But His  
grace alone could I think sustain  
us - Edith would tell you her  
share of her dear Father's faith &  
patience - How she first he was  
cheerfully resigned to his Father's  
will - I tried to cheer her over as  
these sad days went by -

The very trying aspect of it was  
that there was not a ray of hope  
through all the nursing - we knew  
the end from the beginning  
of it - Maggie has with us

the last month - & greatly helped  
us with her Christian cheerfulness.  
& Robert - was invaluable in the  
sick room. He has called home  
from Edinburgh just three weeks  
before the end - & it was a great  
comfort to us that we were able  
to do all for our loved ones - without  
any hired help - He all got well.  
Last before that his room was a  
holy ground - & a sacred spot -  
speaking freely of the coming change  
& the bright home towards which he was  
surely hastening - & it was a very  
strange how he looks back upon -  
My dear children can never for-  
get his example - & last words  
to them - for a fortnight before  
when we thought he was dying -  
(hemorrhage had set violently in) he

called them separately & spoke to  
them. They are my comfort. In Cal-  
if. is lonely. Lonely living without my  
dear husband. He has too much to do all  
in every way - & life never can be the  
same to me again. But I thank  
God that He has given me so many  
to live for here, with the blessed  
promise of meeting beyond the cloud  
ones who have only gone a little  
while before. I pray for strength  
for present duty & that we may meet  
and be looked upon around the throne  
at last. He has promised I also  
will be there, if we be faithful.

Thanking you, dear friend for your  
love & sympathy. I also the sweet little  
brook you kindly sent the last winter.  
I with love to yourself, dear hus-  
band & family in which Edith writes  
Believe me  
Yours very sincerely  
Lizzie M. Rudolph