

husband has got a very good appointment. they never
write me, so, my heart
of them is sore.

Ever your loving
sister Maron



7 Duntrine Terrace
West Ferry
February

My dear Margaret ^{96/}

I was glad to receive
your welcome letter, & X
mas card, and I read the
contents with much interest
it was my intention to
have written you in reply
long since, but when one
gets up in years they seem
more inclined to delay.

The last publication
by Sir William was received,
and I have carefully read
it, although the first
chapters (with so many long
scientific words) was puzzling
The latter chapters I enjoyed
very much; I have now lent
it to a retired Minister who is
greatly ^{delighted} with it.

Enclosed you will find a
few teeth of some Antediluvian
fish, or animal, I think it
may interest Sir W. they came

from a phosphate mine
in Constantine Algeria, where
Alfred holds some shares;
The company take about
3000 tons out per week,
it is then treated with
sulphuric acid, & becomes
superphosphate for agricult-
-ural purposes, the mine
is about 18 miles in cir-
-cumference & is on a hill, it
must surely have been there
since the flood. I understand
it contains about 74% and
a great many of those teeth
are among the stuff, & are
shipped all over Europe.

Erasmus Gray has been
with us all winter, & Alfred
goes about in the usual
way his chief amusement
seems to be shooting and
Volunteering. This has been
a very mild winter, quite
the reverse from last year.
and I am glad of it.

I have not been in Edin^w since
you were here, but sometimes
hear of the Bells through Alfred
who calls on Mr John Lennie (who
married Jane Bell) when in Edinburgh
he was there at a party lately to
celebrate their silver wedding.
Jinnie is Edin^w, Amelia in London,
Mrs Joseph Lennie in Trinity, and
Mrs David Kemp in London. Wherever