

48 Melville St. Leeds

Edinburgh

Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> / 99

My dear Lady Dawson

How good of you to write me that long & delightful letter, which I appreciate & enjoy so much; but you must not feel bound to answer any of my letters, just send me a message, when Anna is writing.

Dear Anna, I hope that by this time her anxiety about Clare is over, I long to know how she is, & Anna is so kind about writing, in spite of the many claims on her time.

All you tell me about Sir William interests me so much - I can so fully sympathize in your feelings about a nurse coming in to do anything for him, when you have so longly

Cared for all these years; but one  
learns that their professional skill  
makes things so much easier, it  
leaves you time & strength for the  
higher & sweeter services, at home  
but you could render - It seems  
to me very beautiful that in these  
closing days of his useful & honored  
life, he should lay aside the science  
which he has ever made a hand-  
maid & key to Revelation, & study  
God's word & teachings, <sup>alms.</sup> - I was greatly  
touched & pleased by your telling me  
of his asking for 1 Cor. XV. as my  
dear Father's Chapter - He always  
called it: "the beautiful Chapter", &  
he too loved the Pilgrim's Progress &  
used to ask me to read it to him -  
I always think there is a beautiful  
& childlike simplicity about  
great & clever men, w<sup>ch</sup> one sees in  
mothers - Sir William's New Year's

message to me was very sweet & beautiful  
& I value it & can indeed wish for  
nothing higher or better. I have  
always thought lovingly of him as  
my Father's friend; but this summer's  
friendship, <sup>increased</sup> my admiration & love  
for him & for you, & I am so much  
richer in many ways for that  
happy visit to you.

I am quite well again, so that  
now my health is not worth mentioning  
but I do rejoice in it, very much.

My unfortunate has been more  
or less ill all winter, however the  
seems to be mending now, & my  
illness brings to us new kindness  
from dear friends & Dr. Barlow.

The house is definitely mine now,  
& the Landlady seems inclined  
to be nice & do most of the things  
I want. So far, I have not done  
much towards furnishing; but I

purpose visiting all the old furniture  
shops, where one finds such pretty  
things & when my "nest is lined" as you  
say, I will gladly describe it to a  
friend, who is kind enough to be  
interested.

Meanwhile many interests are  
coming into my life - A special  
effort is being made on behalf of  
the students - Last Sunday there  
was a meeting for them, in memory  
of Prof. Drummond - it was addressed  
by a very clever man, who owed  
much to his <sup>(Drummond)</sup> former address to  
students - I helped to send out the  
invitations; about 400 fell to my  
share, & this week again I am  
sending out the same number - They  
think that a special invitation may  
receive more attention, than just a  
general notice - If the meeting is well  
attended next week, they will continue

to have them on Sunday Evings, to the end of the session, I suppose - they get younger men, to speak. It interests me, to be allowed even to share a share in this work - which brings back the old College interests -

Yesterday I was at a very interesting drawing-room missionary meeting - Indiana, in the Punjab was the field, wh. Miss Greenfield told us about, a medical mission, where a great work for body & soul, seemed to be doing - I am going to give a little help as Sec to one of its branches, & I do feel as if it was a great privilege to be allowed to do any thing to help Foreign Missions, where the field is so large & the workers are so few -

Dr. Barbour has asked me to visit his hospital: (the Maternity) & take flowers there for him, & of course I will gladly do anything he asked me to do.

but I am sure I shall like the work -  
 People who have made a failure of  
 life appeal to my sympathies, it is  
 nice to feel that one can tell them  
 how to begin again - I think I am  
 to begin next Sat. but Hugh will take  
 me - I think that is all the out-  
 side work I can undertake; for  
 a while, arranging my house will  
 keep me quite busy -

Howard pays us daily visits & makes  
 this his home, to a large extent -  
 I wish I could sometimes take you  
 with me on Sunday evenings, there  
 are such fine preachers to be  
 heard, helpful & heart-stirring,  
 one only wonders that one does not  
 make more rapid progress, when  
 one hears so much -

I want to enclose a scrap for Anna, &  
 I just add warm love to you & Sir  
 William from your affectionate friend  
 Sybil Wilson