Mrs Armstrong answered

12. Alva Street
Edinburgh.

Dec: 1st 99:

My dear Lady Dawson.

We were very much grieved & shocked here in the English papers the news of the sudden ending to your beloved Husband's long & wearisome illness - & your months of terrible anxiety & nursing. The news I had only a few days before in a letter from Mrs Harrington was so cheering - that we had really begun to hope that dear Sir William had taken a decided turn for the better & might be spared

to you all - for some years yet. But it was not to be - & altho' I know no details as yet - I feel sure - no matter how bitter the trial of parting to myself - dear Lady Dawson - you will rejoice for him - that he was spared more weariness & pain & has "entered into glory" - I feel also sure that the end could be a fitting crown to such a life as his: a life of love - devotion & usefulness - We cannot be sorry for him - but for you - & the rest of your family - the loss is irreparable - & for us - we

feel that we have lost a dear & most true friend - & that something very good & precious has gone out of the world - never to be replaced. I cannot tell you how greatly my husband & myself treasure the remembrance of those few pleasant hours Sir William & you spent with us at Grasmere: before even illness had laid its hand on him. I can see him so ~~very~~ well - as he turned to wave "Goodbye" to me, on the "Prince of Wales" steps (you remember we towed across in the boat?) looking a little older perhaps - but so bright

cheery & full of quiet fun -
My Husband saw him & yn
afterwards at the Brit: Ass: Meeting
at Liverpool - but I could not go -
so that was truly the last "Goodbye"
to me -
Dear Lady Dawson! What will you
do without him! My heart aches
for you - What a blank in your
life! & all the more for these
months of close watching
& nursing. More than fifty years
of the closest - most loving
companionship - Words of com-
-fort utterly fail when one thinks
of it all - & that such a severance

means to you - But you have the joy of looking forward to the bliss of a not far distant & perfect re-union; & our Heavenly Father will comfort you & give you strength to bear the our-shadowed life which must now be yours. But you have many dear ones round you - who will shine by every means in their power I know, to brighten & comfort you; & I trust in a little time you will be able to rise above yr. grief & take interest in them & their belongings. -

I write at once to Mrs. Hope Atkin

Had from her a very appet.
letter in return - but she then
knew no particulars of her
Father's last hours.
It was a great pleasure to us to
have a visit from Claire - It
seemed bring you all so much
closer to us - for we were able
to hear so many <u>every-day</u>
details from her - in a way
impossible by letters only -
We were never tired of hearing
her talk about you all. -
Poor girl! this will be a bitter
grief & trial to her - being away

from home at such a time.
And now I must say farewell
trusting my letter has not wearied
you. Please give my love to Mrs
Harrington & I hope to write to her
another day.
My husband joins me in much
love to you & in deepest
& most heartfelt sympathy
in your great loss. We shall
never either of us forget how
~~you~~ kind & good both you &
Sir William were to us - when
we were in Montreal & away
from all our own relations & friends.

Believe me always
Dear Lady Dawson
most affect.ly yours
Margaret A. Ainslie