

Loanhead Dumblade

3^d March 1859

My dear Uncle

Since you so kindly prohibit me from apologising, I shall not do so any more (you are very kind you as I am sure to express such an interest in my poor epistles, I duly received yours of the 27th and was glad to learn that you was well and all your friends I was getting somewhat uneasy at your long silence.

CH 580
We have had a remarkably mild Winter here I do not recollect ever seeing one so mild but it has been equally remarkable for gales of wind and people ascribe that as the cause of the absence of snow, I do not know whether it is or not but I am very glad

to see the green fields, the country is so
dear in Winter when every thing is
covered with snow, The fields and the
woods are now vocal with the voice
of Spring. ~~and~~ ^{by} all the Spring birds
I like the Harris best, it is calculated
to drive away sadness with its cheering
notes, The climate of N. America is much
more severe in winter than Old Scotland
and it is as good as a great drawback
I think the climate of Scotland is grow-
ing milder but as a necessary conse-
quence people are not so hardy and
robust as in the days of our forefathers

There is no such thing now as the
snow drifts that old people tell us
about when the drifting continued
sometimes for a week together without
intermission, I do not know whether
it is attributable to the climate or

to change of diet, but there is a striking
circumstance observable, that of the
Deaths that take place here more
than the one half of them are very
sudden many of them indeed ~~of~~ out
of perfect health to all appearance.

When I wrote you last I was in hope
that I would have ^{some} cheering news to
tell you concerning the awakening that
is at present going on, though no where
it would seem our time is not yet fully
come, it is indeed partially manifesting
itself in Albany, there are earnest
~~these~~ ^{where} men who are looking and longing
and waiting for the manifestation of
of the Spirit, but in our neighbourhood
I regret to say it, I can only apply the
words of Ezekiel the prophet and say
"Can these dry bones live? but with
God all things are possible. I am not
yet to say I have never had a stir

my power to be present at any of the
deeply interesting meetings that are taking
ing place in Hurdly, I would like very
much to go but I cannot get anybody
to accompany me and my parents will
not let me go alone, the hour at which
it is held is very inconvenient for some
people who have a distance to go being
at eight o'clock, and the nearest way
that we can get to Hurdly is three miles
or three and a half, when we go by the
turnpike as we are obliged to do with
a gig it is four miles good, this is a ~~great~~
great drawback to our place and we some
times find it very inconvenient.

my Father & Mother are getting old and
infirm and when they go to church
it is very rarely but they catch cold.
My Mother indeed is seldom at church
now in winter unless the day be very
mild, There is some excitement among,

The tenantry of the Richmond estates just now, we are all getting our leases renewed they have not been our length yet, but I do not think there is any fear of our not getting our farms, the Duke is a very generous land lord and rarely puts out his tenants

If we get our lease in time to commence this coming Summer we will require a new farm steading but of course we cannot proceed till we get a settlement

But I am tiring out your patience with this long recital of things that may be uninteresting to you, so I shall proceed to tell you answer a question you proposed in a former letter concerning the present proprietor of Quendrought or Bognie as it is now called

Mr. Brown the present proprietor did not purchase it at all, he was a Kephew of the late Mr. Brown of Bognie

and of course when he died his Nephew
succeeded to the estates of Auchintoul and
and Bagnie, This is a son of Mr Mansons
of Auchintoul, and he (the elder Mr Mans) CH 380
being a reckless Speculator broke down
upon Auchintoul and I think his Brother
refused to become surety for him, latterly
however Bagnie possessed Auchintoul
and when he died he bequathed both
estates to his Nephew the present pro-
prietor, I think I am right in this statement
but if I have not answered it entirely to
your satisfaction let me know and I shall
with pleasure advert to it again.

The old Castle of Frenchcrag
is now in ruins there has not been a
tenant in it for many a year I think
Mr Mans stays mostly in Edinburgh
Your next question is what family
my Aunt Elizabeth has she has three

daughters Elizabeth, Isabella, and
Christian, Elizabeth is married to a
Grassduff man, when he married her he
was a Shoemaker, but his health broke
and he became a bank Agent he lost
deeply with the failure of the Western
Bank, they are living in Miss Butchell's
house, they keep up a great style, but
I doubt it is off ^{her} ~~their~~ father, I think
I mentioned to you before that he had
resigned the small farm, that he had
in Cedarhill and that my sister and
her husband had it now.

They both stay with their married
daughter and also their youngest daugh-
ter Christiana, poor foolish people they
are already repenting having given up
up the farm but they have nothing
to say to us as it appeared in the pub-
sents and my father had to take his
chance along with others of being the

successful or unsuccessful Candidate
Isabella the second daughter ^{was} married
lately to a farmer in Kinross In. Gray
of Midplough, he is in very good circum-
stances, he is nearly thirty years older than
her but I suppose they live very happily
together. Your old friend Mr. Irvine is still
alive and well but you will excuse me from
speaking of his family till another
time as I am somewhat busy.

My father and mother desires to be remem-
bered to yourself and Son & Family
and hoping to hear from you soon

I remain your affectionate ^{Niece} friend

P.S. I had almost forgot I am desirous
to remind you of your promise of
coming to Scotland this Summer.
I hope you have not forgotten it

L. M.