

Pictou May 26th 1858

Dear Sir

Setting
 off
 26 May 58

I have not heard any thing from you since I last wrote to you ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ ^{some} ~~some~~ ^{time} ~~time~~ in February: but as I have lately had a letter from Scotland I think I will drop you a few words to let you hear of my friends there. My Mother has been very frail and weak George writes me all through the winter and especially of late during the Months of March and April which appear to have been very cold and stormy in the North of Scotland, although he describes the first part of winter as having been very fine. Colds and inflammatory ^{complaints} have been rife among the people there, and my sister Margaret has lost her husband by inflammation in the lungs. His name was Alexander Taylor. He has left her with 3 Children the oldest a boy between 18 and 19. They work a small farm which they still intend trying to do; but George writes that it is a hard place to work and he is doubtful if they will succeed to do it for their own maintenance. He died on the 19th of April I think at the age of 45. or thereabouts. My own family at present are pretty well.

but we have had much sickness among
us of late the weather has been fearful all
this spring. yesterday we had a great snow-
storm all day. and now the country all round
is white with snow. The hay is all done all
round about and I am afraid the people will
lose their cattle yet; some of them at least.
The crop is about half in about the Town
but up the country it is much more backward.

Mrs Brown Mrs Brown's widow
is lying at the point of death. no hope of
her recovery. She will leave a helpless and delicate
family. Mrs Cassidy at the 10 Mill house
Pine John Road, is dead - died about 2 weeks
ago. Business looks dull all round and
seemingly must remain so for some time yet.

There are parties engaged in mining
operations in the neighbourhood of the Town
they have been digging on Wm Pattersons
place near the gas work - and another set
out back of Abraham Pattersons on what
used to be Henry Stems' farm. The men at
work report favorably in each case. but that re-
-mains to be confirmed. remember me to Mrs family
Yours very truly James Hepburn