

Mrs Kemp  
Rose Cottage  
Trinity. 16-2-1881.

My dear Uncle,

It was extremely kind  
of you to take the trouble of  
replying to my letter. I didn't  
in the least expect it, and I  
know your professional duties  
must claim your close attention.  
Please accept my cordial thanks  
for your kindness to my friend  
Mr Hunter. I hope he may suc-  
ceed through your influence  
in getting into the Civil Service  
which he seems very anxious  
to do. I had a letter from him  
yesterday, in which he tells me  
that he is now in the Grand

Frank Railway, while very  
thankful to be in a situation  
of any kind, is still desirous  
of getting into something a  
little more remunerative, if  
possible. He also tells me  
that he had seen you a few  
nights before writing to me,  
that you had kindly promised  
still to interest yourself in  
his behalf. I can't tell you,  
dear Uncle, how deeply I  
feel obliged to you; as I have  
a very warm regard for Mr.  
Hunter, nothing would give  
me greater pleasure than to  
hear of his thorough success.  
He had, all his life, had to

struggle against great disadvantages;  
they: They struggled bravely;  
he had never known the influence  
of a home, and his mother died  
when he was quite a child,  
The stepmother did not add  
any brightness to his life.  
I always feel a great pity for  
him, on that account, & also  
a great admiration for the  
persistent way in which he had  
faced one difficulty after another.

The failure of his last trial of  
Africa, was evidently a great  
disappointment to him, but  
he returned, poor fellow, more like  
a skeleton than anything else:  
we never expected to see him in

his present health; but thanks  
to his perfectly temperate habits  
he had made a wonderful recovery  
if only he could get settled  
in a good situation, I have  
no doubt he would fulfil our  
expectations of him, fully justifying  
your recommendations. —

You will perhaps think it  
strange my entering into all  
these particulars; but Mr. Hunter  
is often so reticent, as to  
leave one who doesn't know  
him well, quite under the  
impression that he is indifferent  
which, in reality, I know he  
is not. Will, please to send him  
a line, saying how long he had  
known him &c. in case it may be

of use. — We were delighted  
to hear that there is a prospect  
of Rankine visiting Edinburgh  
If such a prospect should be  
realized: I sincerely hope there  
will be no such thought enter  
either his head, or yours, as  
that of obligation! Speaking  
for myself (I have no doubt  
I feel pretty much as others do  
on that subject) I always feel  
that any visitor coming to us,  
gives a great deal more pleasure  
than he can possibly receive.

We none of us live in palaces,  
you know; but even a well  
furnished cottage can contain a good  
deal of love & contentment, some  
times, I either Rankine, or anyone.

Use belonging to you, will get  
the heartiest & welcomed when  
ever they choose to come.

With much love to all

Ever dear Uncle

Your affectionate Niece

Ellen Kemp.

