

Jane Bell

Hinburgh Feb 23/65

Interesting letter  
tells of all her  
children

Margaret

I received your  
welcome letter on new years  
day with a post office order  
for 20 pounds enclosed, it is  
useless to add that I intended  
to answer it immediately, as  
I have determined every week  
since to do so and have never  
made about till now.

I think you have made a  
mistake about the amount  
due to you, the first sum  
sent was £8 the dress ac-  
cording to my calculation at  
the time cost only a few

much more than I sent and agreeable, I will  
send you the next with kindest  
wishes to you and the children  
I am your affectionate sister  
Jane Bell

shillings more than that sum.

Mr. Bell took payment for the magazine up to Dec/65 which left a balance of 24/ one pound of which I have retained the other four shillings papa divided amongst the younger children as you desired.

They all (four in number) request me to thank you for it they had a few shillings collected in their money boxes it made a good addition and was put in the bank.

It is probable you may <sup>be</sup> requiring some light thing soon in which case this pound could be applied to it.

We had a short visit from

George a fortnight ago, he was absent when we were in London, and not having seen him for  $4\frac{1}{2}$  years we urged him to come down if only for a few days, he is in excellent health and seems to thrive on his new employment, he is engaged as Engineer in a screw Steamer which sails from London to the Mediterranean and adjacent seas, is absent from six to eight weeks and at home two or three, he has two fine children the eldest a beautiful boy the other a girl.

We had an interesting letter from Mathewson a week ago he has been appointed Manager

of a smelting establishment  
at Las Cardenas with a salary of  
\$1500 and a house, he thinks the  
salary small but the Co have  
promised to increase it.

We also had a letter from  
Gordon this morning from  
Point de Galle on his way to Hong  
Kong he complains much of  
the heat and speaks of asking  
leave of absence having been  
eighteen months in warmer  
latitudes he requires a change.

Jessie goes along  
with Mary Anne and Ellen  
to the Govt school of design  
for drawing three days a week  
two hours each time. This school  
is now considered the best in  
Eding and is attended by the

most genteel portion of  
the community. I may say  
in a word she is never a  
moment idle she gives her  
three younger sisters music  
lessons, a great portion of her  
time is filled up with various  
religious meetings, and when  
she can command a spare  
hour or two she is at the sewing  
machine.

Christina  
is still with us, is very well  
and happy. Jane assists with  
the house keeping.

Last session M. D. and C. had  
considerably too much work  
in hand and as C. was grow-  
ing and suffering under it,  
we resolved to withdraw them  
from Mr. Cliphart's for the

winter half year, by the end  
of this session they will  
have been  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years with  
Mr. Espinasse the best teach-  
er in town (in our opinion)  
His fee is two guineas a quarter  
for each, they are getting on  
very well B, especially as she  
is the most persevering and  
clever,

The twins and Amelia are  
with Mr. Cliphart they have  
not begun french yet, we  
do not think much of the  
F. teacher at the school and  
the difficulty is to find a  
suitable hour to leave  
besides I think they make more  
progress when not sent too  
young they have more sense

The youngest Henrietta is a smart little girl, she reads very well under my training, she has a good ear also a good memory which makes her spell easily.

I intend sending her to school with her sisters as soon as the weather will permit.

Now I have endeavoured to give you a short account of the whole family, which I hope will please you. but it is difficult for me to express myself as I would like by letter I am so throughly out of practise

People say the back is made for the burden but my back does

not seem to have been  
made for your kind of  
work, it surely must be  
a great labour for you to  
write so much besides all  
your household duties, I calm  
my conscience by thinking  
I am not fit for it. although  
that does not altogether sat-  
isfy me, the question is do  
I do all I might do.

Marion spent last Wednesday  
with us, her family as also Jessies  
are well. I have neither left my-  
self time nor space to tell you  
any thing about them they are  
fast growing up to be men  
and women. Walters family  
are well I think him very  
much improved of late, he is