

To Jane Bell.

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41. Gilmore Place  
Edinburgh

18<sup>th</sup> September

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My dear Margaret

I received your two last kind letters for which accept my sincere thanks. I am well aware I do not deserve to hear often from you my conscience gets lulled a bit by knowing that Christina keeps you informed from time to time of what is going on here. At the risk of repeating what she may have told you I will begin with her leaving for Torquay with dear Louisa who although coughing a little had no expectoration and was looking as stout and well as ever she did. You may suppose the shock it was to me after an absence of three months to get her home not able to walk from the cab to the door but I felt beyond expression grateful that God in his great mercy had

granted her strength to return that we might all see her and hear the delightful and satisfactory state of mind she was in poor dear Child she only lived ten days amongst us but her end was perfect peace.

Then Gordon's sad bereavement took place a fortnight after, his wife was in a very poor state of health all the time she was with us two months. I suppose you are aware she left two nice Children besides the baby who was very weakly from his birth, Jessie brought him over here and took the greatest possible care of him until death relieved him of his suffering last week, Jessie had got so fond of him she was not able to be out of bed for some days after, but really under the circumstances his death was not to be regretted, poor Gordon feels sad and dull, Charlestown (where he has gone) with Simekilns situated within a mile of each other have a population



of about sixteen hundred so that his practice lies within a radius of three miles the people are engaged in works of coal iron lime &c the work-people have formed themselves into an association and guarantee the Dr. one hundred and fifty pounds he expects to make at least one hundred more he has a handsome house and large garden at the nominal rent of twenty pounds. We hope he will find himself comfortable for some years at any rate.

Mrs. Primeson has let her house for six weeks and has been jaunting about with Marion. I have no official information but I hear Charles is to be married within a few months to Miss Alice Anderson of Musselburgh. The Cleghorns are all well I hear nothing of any of them going off yet.

Mrs. Reid engaged a house at Eskbank and brought all her children and servants down

for six weeks, she spent a week  
with us at Largo in the month  
of July she is the same lively  
offhand person as ever and  
enjoyed herself much,

Margret Dun was with us all  
the month with her two fine  
Children David was with us  
a fortnight Papa got all the  
time, Ellen and her Husband  
are well they have moved to  
Trinity. Portobello did not seem  
to suit James health and they  
have gone to Jordan bank  
Morningside a fine new house  
nothing between it and the hills  
but green fields, I have had  
to scribble this very hurriedly  
rather than defer it another  
week I was glad to learn  
that you are all well I have  
not time to say another word  
but that we all unite in best  
love to all your family and  
believe me your ever affectionate  
sister Jane Bell