

Peebles 25 Aug 1849

Mr Walter Mercer - his sister
Margaret.

(John William Ballantyne)

Dear Sister

You will wonder who writes
you from this place but I have been
out here for two months past for a change
and looking over my Memorandum today
was reminded that your kind letter when
Mr Mercer died remains unanswered
but I have never been very well since
then having caught Cold just after and
it has never quite left me even in the
summer -

I had a letter from Mrs Primrose lately
from a place call'd Fort Teviot She
has been there and at Carnoustie
for some time and expects to pass

through Edinburgh in a few days
on her way home to Woodwick she
has her daughters eldest girl with her
I believe she has got matter settled
with the Bank and her Law Agent
told me he was hopeful they would get
an annuity for her from the Bank Aid
fund which I hope they will —

I have not heard much of the Cleghorns
for a while except sometime ago that
Mrs Cleghorn had been very ill but was
better — and Mr Bell and family
have been at Dunbar all the time
that I have been here —

My family circle is very limited now

only my grandson John William Ballantyne ^{the}
and a faithful tried domestic —

John is with me partly for Convenience
of classes as he is studying hard for the
Medical & goes up for his first professional
examination in October, about which he
is anxious, yet he has passed all preliminary
exams in every class with honors —

There are very few of your old friends
to name now there is Mrs Horsburgh who
must be nearing ninety she is very well
and quite clear I had a letter from her
while here the writing was rather shaky
that was all and she is not able to go
out of doors for a good while past
She has an attached servant who has
been with her 30 years or more —

I dont know if you remember Miss Mackays
my sister in Law she lives very near us
and has a niece keepsher in Company
a daughter of James her Brother I see them
frequently Kenneth who has a numerous
family is living retired at Enford Hillshire
on a Pension of £400 a year from his late
Employers in Liverpool - one of his sons
who is in the same House of Business
was here to see me a few days ago being
on his holiday trips

My two grand children Missmans are
nice Boys and I see them frequently
they are with their Grandmother & Father
in the same house I suppose you are
aware of old Mr Missmans death sometime
ago of disease in the throat though him likely to be
long lived and that is more than I expected for myself
and yet here 73 nearly but I must now subscribe yrs affly
W. Meredith