

Towie Barclay
Aberdeen

8th May 1883

My very dear friend

I was so delighted to receive your letter last week but it made me feel very undeserving not having answered your last kind one. I cannot bear that you should think me ungrateful for all your love as I think I love you less, so must tell you the reason of my being such a bad correspondent. For about two years or more I have been suffering pretty from pulling & contraction in the hands & muscles of my neck & shoulders from rheumatism, the landing & spring causes me great pain both when writing & often for hours

afterwards; thus I have such an amount
of correspondence to keep up with
sister, brother, niece & nephews &
am seldom able to write
more than one letter a day if it is a
long one often has to be finished the
next so you may imagine how with
the most loving intentions friends
letters are just off from week to week
to be just forever. I wish some
clever person would invent an
apparatus for photographing from
the mind, for many a long letter
is written to you in my heart;
only we would like to keep the
working of it in our own hands.
This trial often makes my heart
for heaven, when intercourse
with loved Christian friends
will not be dependent upon any
of these outside mediums.
Our travellers have reached home
after a charming trip; they were out

The whole world fortunate in the
weather getting so justly cool when in
Egypt & being moonlight when in
Venice. We were much disappointed
that we could not accept the in-
vitation to join the party, but it
was at a time of year my husband
could not leave home & so we
were obliged to say "no". What a
comfort it is when things do not
seem to go with our desires, to have
a firm belief that "for a' that" all
things well" that all our circumstan-
ces are arranged for us, ^{for a better} than we
could plan; this belief is taking a
far stronger hold of my life, as
I now know is known of the
wonderful love & wisdom of
our God, & what best of grace
it brings to the soul. I wonder
if you have heard that Minnie
has born a little daughter &
that both are doing so well? the

and because missed five weeks,
sooner than was looked for & we
were anxious for about a week
but though small she is a strong
child & possessing very fast; Minnie
has abundance of nature's own
providing for her & this makes
such a difference; Minnie makes
such a devoted good little
brother; she & she herbert are as
happy a couple as we can know
being one in all joint, spiritual
as well as temporal, helping
one another to walk worthy of
our high calling. We do indeed
miss her, more & more though
our house is generally full of
congregational visitors, as you say
"no one can take the place of one
gone". It has been a great joy
however to us to find that we
are just as much to one another.

indeed know, as when we were
first married, & without any one
an perfectly satisfied & happy
in one another. ^{Towie Barclay} Love and
^{Aberdeen} companionship "early & soon".
When Minnie was with us she
could get by herself & be
alone but when we are home
alone she has taken to it, & it makes
our evening delightful.

She has been in better health this
winter than since the accident,
which has made very cups very full
of thankful up & happy up.

We are so pleased to hear that at
last Mr. Salmon is paving his way to
a good long holiday, & do hope the
difficulties may one by one be re-
moved out of the way: for we indeed
see how that we cannot give you
little party, we would all be so
congenial, but as already said by

husband cannot leave home for any length of time during winter & early spring. Could you not find the "quiet little place" for the wintering of Mr. Lewis? What a joy it would be to us both to have the bird for a long long visit! If it is not too far from large cities to find. Calumet, Michigan, we feel sure we could make you enjoy yourself. The quiet, refined, so well suited for wintering of. do think of it, and if possible do not disappoint our wishes.

Your home must indeed feel sadly changed & quiet with so many of the loved ones away, we feel keenly for you. How well it is that you are drawn to William's choice; I am not surprised to hear of her being a decided Christian, he could not have been attracted to a

He had this had been the case but
all christians are not so, & when
our dear ones choose those who are,
we have double cause for gratitude.
I hope we may have the pleasure of
seeing them in our home before
very long; will you give him our
warmest congratulations?

We have much interested to hear
of Anna & her dear baby girl, will
you give our love to her & her
husband, with our warmest
wishes that their little one may be
a great blessing to them?

You have heard I have no doubt,
of the conversion of Nellie and
Robin Reddy within a few days
of one another, we have been putting
it in prayer all winter, very especially,
that our feet would reach the
letter to himself, before he went
out alone into the world. While

Kindly, now that we are asked
has been given in a remarkable
way too. Robin is diffident & may
not have cared to speak on the
subject, so in case you may not
have heard tell you the good news.
Willie is with us at present & I see
fine fresh growth already in his
Christian character. I need not
draw this long epistle to a
close with many many thanks
for your loving letter and hoping
to hear from you often when
they are returned, with much
love to you & your family
circle believe me ever
Yours most lovingly
Meggie Scott

²⁰⁰ My husband is away today at
the other farm, but I can quite
safely send kindest wishes from him