

I shall not expect an answer
Auntie dear, for I
know it must be next
to impossible for you to
find time for letter-writing
then. I can always write
many of them when I
you speak of a very good
letter
substitute for a letter
know.

TRINITY LODGE
EDINBURGH

Edith

My dearest Auntie,

A few lines, you must
I shall have today. I don't
tell you how ashamed I feel,
for never having written a
single word of congratulation.
Jane, quite electrified me the
other day, by saying she had
not yet written either; which
seemed to make my remissness
doubly culpable. - We were
all delighted to hear of the
new dignity conferred on
Uncle Tom. I trust you
may both be long spared

18-11-84.

to enjoy. I ~~grace~~ the title.
I quite rejoice in your ex-
ceeding fitness to grace it.
One would naturally expect
on seeing you, to be told you
were the Duchess of some-
thing or other; & I am sure
"Lady", will sound a great
deal more appropriate to you
than "Mrs" ever did. Won't
you think so? — Well, you
are thankful, I dare say, that
the bustle & excitement of the
summer is now at an end.
I do hope you didn't lose
all the good of the change of
air &c. you had on this side
the Atlantic, through the
fatigue of heaving yourself over

burdened with work &
worry of all sorts, on your
return, your bright visit,
furnished us with many a
conversation; but now very
past, it all feels already.
you can tell Eva that the
"wee boy" was weighed for
her special benefit, I weighed
them, (beginning of Sept.) 2 stones
3 lbs. but I think he is a
good deal stouter now. He
scampers about at a great
rate, & says lots of words
of two syllables, very dis-
tinctly; he seems to know
their meanings quite well too,
& says, "up knee", "out garden",
"otter things", so clearly. -

I had an interesting letter from Rankine a few days ago, to which I have just replied. He says he may come to Scotland in the Spring. I do hope he will manage it. Jane, went off to London two or three days ago, to spend a few weeks with friends; I don't know whether she will be back for Christmas; probably not. The others, are all back in town again, busy with their winter's duties. Our household, spent Sept. in Ballinbeg (Kesh), the magnificent weather; much warmer than the middle of

summer had been. - I had
got three new satine dresses
in the

IVY LODGE
TRINITY, EDINBURGH

summer,
two of them very light
(one pink, & the other cream)

I was just thinking it a
very poor speculation, as
the weather got so cold;

but I was most thankful
for them at Balmindie, where
it was so hot, that we
could sit out of doors till
quite late in the evening.

It is a beautiful place; we
all enjoyed it immensely.

Woods, rivers, hills, waterfalls
boating, fishing; everything we
could wish, close at hand,
without restriction of any kind

Speaking of dresses, by the way; I hope Eva's Egyptian silk, created a sensation!

I am having an evening dress made, of black Oriental silk trimmed with lace; it will be pretty, I think, it had such a soft, rich look.

Will, is head-over-ears as usual in public work, of one kind & another. He had been coming out in the Political line lately. He went up to Sutterland on the invitation of the merchants of Stafford to take part in a Franchise Demonstration; which turned out a great success. The merchants afterwards introduced

him to his father (Duke
of Sutherland) who asked
him to dine at the Castle
in the evening. But unfortunat^{ly}
ly Will couldn't accept the
invitation, as he was obliged
to return to town for an
important meeting. - The
marquis got married a few
weeks ago to Lady Millicent
St. Clair Erskine. You may
have seen some account of it.
There were rejoicings over it,
in nearly every part of Scot-
land. - The list of her presents,
dressed &c. w^{ould} like reading
a fairy tale, where the most
fabulously costly things, can
be conjured into existence, at

the mere want of a want.
I should think such a wealth
of possessions must be quite
burdensome. — Will, ad Vice
President of the Dutchland A.S.
Society, entertained between
fifty & sixty gentlemen at a
cake & wine banquet; when the
health of the bride & bridegroom
was pledged with much en-
thusiasm. It was held in a
hall in the City, & I saw the
setting out of the tables so as
they looked beautiful, ad besides
a large variety of cakes, & wines
we had a great profusion of
flowers, & ferns; & a button-hole
bouquet of heliotrope, was laid on each
plate. But it is high time I wound
up this lengthy gossip. With much
love to you all, from Will & myself
Ever darling Auntie
your loving niece
Ellen.

976/25/1