

Acc. 976

7 Great Street S.

Edinburgh

Jan. 4th 1899

My very dear Lady Dawson
How good of you to make
for me that pretty little
nest for flowers - It's quite
safe & reminds me so
absolutely of you to Kirkcaldy
& my most happy visit to you -
I fancy I see you walking
among the birches & choosing
things as I look at it -

I value it so much as your
work & can't say how kind
I think it of you to make some-
thing for me - I long for the business

to come, they & roses are the things
that will grace it, but they &
a few violets!

I am so glad to hear such good
accounts of you all, Anna is so
kind about writing to me -

Will you, in the mean time
thank her for the photo of her
three bonny boys, which is so
much admired, I mean to write
to her myself soon; but I've been
lazy or busy & am much behind
hand with letters. My little Flab
is most gone, & I wish I could
show it to you - but Kelly has
been ill almost ever since we've
been settled in it. She went for
a course of massage treatment in
summer & then joined me in the
country, & afterwards for a month to

be with her sister Denny at Dundee
She came home seemingly so
well; but just about a fortnight
after her return, the attacks of
sickness returned & she is now
beginning to go about the
house & hopes to be able to go out
next week. It makes her life
very sad & dull & occupies a
good deal of my time in
nursing duties. However she
is nearly well now & we always
hope for better things.

D. - Barbara too has been feeling
ill & is only now recovering
enough to hope to start for
Egypt next week. That is a
pleasant wind up to an
illness, as you know.

My cousin Georgie Sime, to whose
letters you took a fancy, is a
dainty visitor, always with
something bright & amusing
to say. I have been brushing
up my French by taking lessons
from her & she is such a delightful
teacher I look forward with great
pleasure to my lessons. She has
lived in France a great deal -
One meets a great many foreigners
here & needs to speak languages
more than I, at least well in
Canada -

I wish you could sometimes
be with me on Sunday, I do
hear such delightful sermons
from Mr. Simpson our very
nice clergyman. Not being

² sermons I call them, because
they poke themselves into one's
life all the week through,
whether one will or no!

I had a nice X^{mas} letter from
Eva & a card from D. & Mrs

Rankine Dawson, both of
which I mean to answer -

I find myself longing to go
out again & always think
of the dear land as Home,

yet this is home too -

The nicest thing is to have
Canadian friends here -

Miss MacLaren from Hamilton
was with me in November
& I enjoyed her visit very

much, though since I stayed
with them a year ago, the
dear Hamilton home is broken
up - & many sad changes come.
How much I should have to
say were I beside you, how
little seems worth writing.

Many thanks for sending me
a copy of Sir William's little
book. Will you give him
my love & to Anna & her
household also & with
my own warmest love to
yourself & such genuine thanks
for your gift & all it means
very affectionately yours
Sybil Wilson