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1898-02-25

**Letter from M[argaret] Hay Lunam to [John Muir], 1898 Feb 25.**

Margaret Hay Lunam

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Susan Gibroy is still with an old  
 lady in Codin<sup>d</sup> - Jane Mathers busy  
 with her school: W<sup>o</sup> Kelly very  
 lame from Rheumatism. Not able  
 to leave the house, she is very  
 contented and happy. never  
 forgets to ask for you when  
 I see her. W<sup>o</sup> Dick is out of  
 the school house, she is into  
 one of the cottages near her  
 old home, W<sup>o</sup> Notman is here  
 and enquires after your welfare,  
 so you see Dunbar folks has  
 not forgotten you! did I tell you  
 that our dear dog Jim died in  
 Oct<sup>r</sup> - a dog worth his weight in  
 gold! Maggie was very sorry at his  
 loss, we have got another one. Sam,  
 a wee comical fellow, a dark  
 grey terrier, young, a little

Westfield,  
 Dunbar.  
 Oct 25<sup>th</sup> 1908  
 Dear Mr. & Mrs. Gibroy  
 I received your  
 kind letter  
 and was glad to  
 hear from  
 you. I see the date of your  
 last letter is Oct<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> telling  
 us of the death of W<sup>o</sup> Sturge  
 Maggie & I often speak about  
 you all when sitting by the  
 fireside in the long winter  
 evenings. however the days  
 are getting much longer now,  
 which does not make it so  
 dreary for us two. we had  
 a kind long letter from

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W<sup>o</sup> Galloway, from Portage  
the beginning of the month  
she mentions that you had  
a cold: Bronchitis; which makes  
us anxious to hear how you  
are, I do trust. W<sup>o</sup> Muir and  
the two dear 'Bairns' are well,  
we hear through our Liberty  
friends that Willie McDowell  
has got beside you! we hope  
he may do well and thrive  
with the beautiful warm  
climate of California, you  
will be sorry to hear that our  
good Minister W<sup>r</sup>. Buchanan  
has broken down in health  
this winter, some months

past, he twice lost himself  
when preaching in the pulpit,  
(at different times, he has got  
leave of absence for some  
months: all the D<sup>no</sup> agree  
that he must have complete  
rest; from all care and  
worry, some reports say it  
is softening of the brain  
others that it is paralysis of  
the brain & heart, he is near  
Glasgow amongst his own  
friends. So we are all hoping  
that he return to his parish  
work amongst us. after a long  
rest we think he will  
have to get an assistant,

Westfield, Dunbar,  
Feb. 25th, '98.

My dear Cousin John:

It seems a very long time since we heard from you. I see the date of your last letter is Oct. 15, telling us of the death of Mrs. Strentzel. Maggie and I often speak about you all, when sitting by the fireside in the long winter evenings. However, the days are getting much longer now, which does not make it so dreary for us two.

We had a kind long letter from Mrs. Galloway from Portage the beginning of the month. She mentions that you had a cold, bronchitis, which makes us anxious to hear how you are. I do trust Mrs. Muir and the two bairns are well. We hear through our Liverpool friends that Willie Howie has got beside you. We hope he may do well and thrive with the beautiful warm climate of California.

You will be sorry to hear that our good minister Mr. Buchanan has broken down in health this winter. Some months past he twice lost himself when preaching in the pulpit, at different times. He has got leave of absence for some months. All the Drs. agree that he must have complete rest from all care and worry. Some reports say it is softening of the brain, others that it is paralysis of the brain and heart. He is near Glasgow amongst his own friends. So we are all hoping that he will return to his parish work amongst us after a long rest. We think he will have to get an assistant.

Susan Gilroy is still with an old lady in Edinburgh. Jane Mather is busy with her school, Mrs. Kelly very lame from rheumatism, not able to leave the house. She is very contented and happy. Never forgets to ask for you, when I see her. Mrs. Dick is out of the schoolhouse. She is into one of the cottages near her old home. Mr. Notman is well and enquires after your welfare, so you see Dunbar folk have not forgotten you.

Did I tell you that our dear dog Tim died in October. A dog hurt him and he got blood poison. Maggie was very sorry at his loss. We have got another one, Sam, a wee comical fellow, a dark terrier.

I hope Mrs. Reid is pretty well at present and all your other friends. Maggie joins me in much love to you and I am,

Your affectionate cousin,

M. Hay Lunan

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