

Papers of Assistant Surgeon David Greig

Publication/Creation

1854-1860

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Pursing

Army & Ordnance
Medicine Department

21 October 1854

Sir

I request you will immediately procure, overland,
to Mansfield, so as to arrive there on the 26th Inst for the purpose
of embarking for Turkey on board the "Vesta".

I have the honor to be

Sir

Yours ob^d Serv^t
Andrew Smith

Director General

D. King
Act: Asst Surgⁿ

Rmc 392 / 1

52 QUEEN ST
EDINBURGH

22 Oct/54

My dear Doctors -

I do not know if this
reach you in time; but I
hope it will.

Mr Storrar will have al-
ready told you that Lord
Plantagenet has written about
the money & I suppose you both
have each received £50. The
House

2
22 QUEEN ST
EDINBURGH
Surgeon of the Aberdeen Hospital
is to have the Remaneda; but
I do not know his address in
London. I have telegraphed to
Aberdeen for it.

Be so kind as remember
that Lord Plantagenet's Candidates
simply are

14th That you write me
now & again how matters
go on with you, & with the Sick.

2^d - That if his brother - ~~the~~
Honble Mr Stuart - an officer in
the Rifles is wounded or ill - You
"will be kind enough to pay
him special attention -"

3^dly Lord B's sister - Lady
Seafeld has a brother ^{-in-law} an
officer in the 4th (1st Dr Greys)
for whom he & his sister would
fair claim an equal privilege.

Further he wishes the Chas:

4
from taken out. - They have not
nearly enough there. And I
hope you will be able to show
them how to use it properly.

Please let me ask of you
as a personal favour to make
any incidental ~~inquiries~~ you
can about the existence of
Leprosy (Elephantiasis ~~Ar.~~
Gracorum) in Turkey or the
Brinca. Have they anywhere
Hospitals

Hospitals for lepers - What
 symptoms does the disease
 principally exhibit? I have
 heard that one of the Greek
 Islands is used as a Lazar-
 house, or Lepers House.

Dr Linnar has £10 over. If
 you can lay it out as Herman's
 Mediterranean (a model
 military: medical work); or
 Frigley's Campaigns - or Larrey's

6
EDINBURGH
21 QUEEN ST.
works - please be so kind as
to send it ^{on these written books} as a present from me.

And if you take notes of the
diseases - as well as the
wounds &c. I do not ~~not~~ see

why one of you, or all of
you, conjointly or separately,
should not write an excellent

Essay (Medico-Chirurgical)
on the Campaign.

Feel sure that three more
 energetic & more able young
 medical officers will not be
 found in the East.

Be just - more. Pray do
 take care of your health, &
 do not unnecessarily overwork
 or expose yourselves. If you
 meet with any difficulties then
 Lord Plantagenet, or Sir Symonds
 can remove - write at once

46.
to me.

May God bless & prosper you
& believe me that ~~no~~ no
one feels ~~more~~ deeply interest-
ed in your prosperity, success
& well-being than

Yours ever faithfully

J. J. Simpson

To Wm. Greig, Johnston & Struthers

Camp. Sebastopol

3rd January 1856
in "the"

My dear Brother

In my last letter to Father I think I promised to write you soon after the New year, & give you an account of how it & Christmas day were spent in the Crimea. - These days this season were very different compared with last, we had, had fine hard frosty weather for about a week before Christmas, there was snow on the ground but it was quite firm & crisp. - On Christmas morning I was awakened at day-break by "the reveille" followed by a great many times, among which the most prominent was "Home, Sweet Home", & such like so that if one had not known what day it was, he might easily have guessed that it was something out of the common. We had arranged to have a dinner in the hut on that day & had been feeding a goose for three weeks before for the great occasion. - I & Dr. Walker were very

busy all day superintending the cooking,
we had got a sheep's head & a leg of
mutton cooked out of the commissary
- eat & plum & rather raisins & flour
bought a few days before - I am
sure you would have been amused
to have seen us cooking the goose,
& to have heard the various remarks
made on how it should be done, & also
on cooking in general, however we got
it done very well - To make a plum
pudding was rather a feat, & one which
Mr. Walker & myself did not feel
we were able to perform, so rather than
make a hash of the materials, we
handed them over to my servants &
he turned us out as dinner - Our
party consisted of three Scotchmen &
three Irishmen, all apt surgeons &
of course we ate down to dinner in
uniform - I am sure you will be
wondering how we managed with
regard to plates, & spoons &c - although
it was a small dinner, still it was
a case of every one bring his own plate,
but to do the thing in genteel style, we

had collected all we required during
the day - We had such a Christmas
fire burning & what was more on a
beautiful white table-cloth, which
table-cloth had it come to hand
been examined minutely, would
have been found to be an hospital
sheet, borrowed for the occasion -
The dinner then consisted of sheep's-
head broth, boiled mutton & giblet
pie, roast geese, plum pudding,
& fruit; washed down of course with
lots of drinkables - The sheep's-head
broth was very good, the boiled mutton
was superb, the goose was beautiful
& as for the Plum-pudding it made
one blush to look at in the face -
We were all hungry & we did great
excitement on every thing, so that I
am inclined to believe, if we got
a better dinner than usual on some
got a worse - We spent the evening
in as good style as the circumstances
would permit, that is to say, we were
very jolly, but we had no priests
& no dancing, & only a few headaches
next morning which we all agreed was

the result of the sheep's head broth -

On the last day of the year, I was
very much surprised & glad to find
that six letters had arrived by the last
fox run, this was a trick of James Rogers
who had made all my friends in
Edinburgh promise to write me by that
post, so that I might have something
to cheer me on New Year's day, they
were very acceptable I can assure
you & I do not mind how often they
repeat the trick - I brought in the
new year at a small party in our
cave, it was a nice quiet party (of
course), but I must say I did not
relish it so well as I would have
done at home, we had no clock
striking twelve & there was none of
that excitement of waiting for the
exact moment; we sat & smoked,
first one fellow would remark "that
it was surely twelve now", so after
arguing the question for about an hour
and at last came to the unanimous con-
=clusion that it must be past twelve
& that it was the New Year's day begun,
so we all shook hands round & then

went to bed - Bengalia's day seems to
be very little taken notice of in the
army, & all the frolic & jollity takes
place on Christmas, the same I believe
as in England - Since Bengalia's
day nothing new has taken place
here except that Dr. Walker has
"hooked it" to camp where he now
resides & I am all alone beside
the Hospital, I expect Gibbont will
very soon again as his leave expires
to-day, but I doubt much if he will
come here, as the Hospital is to be changed
over to camp & I think he will go
there, while I remain in my tent - I
am going on with my own work but
can scarcely say it is fairly begun
yet, I will be struck off all regimental
duty, but expect still to remain with
the regiment as before, as long as I
choose, however I am still working
away in our Hospital as before -
Our band now got a theater started here
& I must say it is a great treat, it
has only performed once however
& of course I went, the prices I suppose

man two little comic prices entitled "To
Paris & back for £5" & "Box & Cap
married & settled" - They went off
very well & of course we had a first-
rate band - The greatest amusement
of the evening was the ladies, who
were acted by some of our household
servants, the dresses had been gotten
from the French at Karmish, & some
of them I must say made very handsome
pretty girls, some of them imitated the
voice well, others did very well so
long as they did not speak, but when
- even they began to talk their voices
betrayed them, & on looking closely at
them you might have seen small
whiskers peeping from under the cap
strings; the whole wound up with the
Royal Anthem & a dance by the actors
& actresses. - (You may see how
my dog "Ripe" is flourishing, I am
sorry to say I had to kill him soon
after coming back from Kilmarnock, he
went mad & I was dread glad to
get rid of him & so knocked him
over the head with a stick -

When you mention it, I think I did
receive a letter from Dr. Crockett just
as I was starting for Timbuctoo, but
in the bustle I forgot almost all
about it & had an idea that I
had answered it, it appears how-
ever that I have not, but you may
tell him that I will do so soon.

When we were at Dryburgh lately I thought
that Mr. Roberts was engaged to
one of the Princesses, but it seems not
I think some of them would have
liked him & it will soon be an
open to them in future, if the man
comes to or close there will be lots of
Crimians ~~herald~~ to be picked up,
perhaps they are waiting for them?
All the folks at home seem to be very
much amused at the dissipation
which goes on in Camp, but it is
all the fault of the government giving
the soldiers too much money, they get
a sixpence a day extra pay & my
other have working pay which is by
far too much & the result is they spend
all this at the canton; there is not
nearly so much shambles now, for
the men are more flogged, at least
very seldom now, & the hands have

& confinement principles is adopted,
the prisoners are all on beds with
a white stripe round their caps,
have their hair cut quite close, have
all the dirty work to do, are punished
up three times a night in all weathers,
& are not allowed to smoke. - The
men are frightened at this treatment
& any man would rather take 30
lashes than have his hair close cut.
When the siege was going on we could
not furnish a man this way, because
we could not want him, therefore
the more expeditious mode of flogging
was always done -

In my heart I think I wish
you all a Merry Christmas & a happy
New Year & now I hope you have
enjoyed both & that this will find
you all well - With kind love
to Father, Aunt, & Mother

I am

Very dear Mother

Your most aff^r Son

David Spring

Just give Father a hint to drop
me a note now & then

D.S.

Camp. Sebastopol

13th January 1856

My dear Anna

I have now before me a
letter from you dated 17th December &
another from Mother dated 22nd, besides
various newspapers & Punch's Almanack.
Punch's Almanack was a great treat
& I think it is the best one I have seen
for a long time. I have cut out all
the pictures & they now adorn my tent.
And so Dr. Crookins has cast up in
Dundee & told you all about me &
that I have grown very stout, well,
it may be all very true & I am sure
I can't say that I am very lean, but
still I think I am much the same
as when I left Dundee, & am what
would be termed in robust health -
if Mother, as you say, has taken a liking
to medicine, I have not, for I have
never tasted medicine since I bade
farewell - I was sorry to hear that Aunt
had been complaining, but by this time
I hope her eye is all right again -
Mr. Rodger is I fear too kind to you

all & if the young man continues send-
ing my letter home, I fear I must
be more careful in what I write
to him - Mother in her letter, says, that
"it is quite exhilarating to hear one talk
nothing seems to go wrong with one" &
in truth nothing does, I always take
things as they come & am contented
& I hope things will continue so until
next September or October when if I
do not get home I am sure you
will hear one grumbling - Since I
have commenced my own duties I
can assure you I have had no time
to grumble, for I on my say I am very
busy - My duties now are something
like those of a country practitioner, only
we have no lumbering old wives
to chatter to - I get on my horse & trot
away to whatever regiment requires
that I should visit it, finish my
work there & then go to another & so
on; then in the afternoon, I have to
write out all my cases & enter them
in a thundering big book, that would
frighten you - I like the work very
well, having the writing which is a
great bore & which I am very often

likes to grumble at - I have now left
the "Royal Sigsbee" after having been
attached to the 1st for some months,
but although I have nothing whatever
to do with the regiment I still hail
from it & all my letters are to her
and addressed to it still - The commanding
officer was very kind & has allowed
me still to keep my room out from the
regiment, in fact I liked the regiment
very much & if I mistake not I think
the officers liked me which of course
is everything towards making a regt.
pleasant - I do not like to talk much
about how I was liked in the regt. or
you may accuse me of egotism, but
when one of our officers was wounded at
the taking of Sebastopol he would
scarcely allow another inf. Surgeon to
strip him, but insisted on being taken
to one, however I was out of the way &
could not be found at the time &
he had to submit - How long I may
be employed as I am at present, I do
not know, it will depend altogether
upon how the thing goes on -

You seem to have great difficulty in
sending out as has the case, there are regul-

agents in London for these things &
the one who sends most parcels is
the firm of Houghton & Howard, I
think they call themselves "Army Pro-
viders" but I am not sure - I
am much obliged to Mr. Davidson
for his kind offer, but I would much
rather not accept of it as I do not
wish to have anything to do with the
young man, I believe he once
called on Aunt Fennick here but
I think his visit could easily have
been dispensed with - I am Fennick
the other day, he called on me one
afternoon & was looking very well
indeed & promised to come & spend a
night with me soon - I am very
much obliged to Mother for the portraits
& in looking at them I think I could
almost speak to you, they are in the
whole pretty good, but you have studied
attitudes too much & have been too
sensitive to the face, & when Mother tries
it again, she must frown or smile or
look just as usual, I am sure
I only once saw her look so obliged &
that was when her servant Lindsay
went to Church in her boots & split

them up the sides, I am sure if I were
only inside I should make the book
shrink - You look quite stunning but
I do not think you have shown you
honor to the best advantage if that
was what you kept it on for, it looks
like a cap with a large border to it -
I am I assure them both very much
& will keep them carefully in my desk.
Father is in a great hurry to get the
paper which I mentioned to Dr. Poirer
& I am not sure if he can get them,
as H. & L. will not be published before
next month, I will be sure to get
a copy & if you can't get it at
home I will send it to you, when
I get it - After sending of my last
letter to Mother, we had a very heavy fall
of snow which remained a long time
on the ground, however as the sun took
place for a few days ago & we are
now as usual up to the knees in mud,
the weather is very mild at present
& it has been a very heavy rain the
whole of the day, which of course won't
improve the roads much, however
with boots up to the knees one manages
one always on an eye to the snow along

somehow - There are little or no news to
give you from this quarter, everything is
quiet & only a shot now & then from the
North side of Sebastopol much to keep
us in mind when we are - Of course
you will be heard & come in for a
few fights at present, but all our
gallifications ceased after the Russian
& everything is as usual again - The
Theater in the division is still going on
& affords some amusement & something
to talk about - I was at it three nights
ago & it was very good, of course the
plays acted are all short one scene
affairs, but we have two a night &
that makes up for it, it is all comedy
& no tragedy - Comedy is what we require,
tragedy, we had enough last summer.
The two pieces performed three nights
ago were entitled "A Phenomenon in
a smock frock" Major Lord A. Russell
(brother to the ex-premier) being the Phenomenon
& "The Monstrous Movement". There
were about half a dozen actors the
lots of females & of course created
great amusement. General Garrett
Plate of the 46th Regt. the "Now we record"
of Windsor's notoriety, is the great patron

& is always present at the performances -
What I like most is the Rifle Band
which is always in attendance & plays
Waltzes Quadrilles Polkas &c without
number - I hope you enjoyed Ben-
jamin's stay at Liff as usual & I
suppose some of my Edinburgh friends
were over & joined you - On Ben-
jamin's night I was sitting quietly in my hut
thinking on all the parties that would
be going on at home, so I became a
trouble for myself & drank all your
very good healths, thinking at the
same time that you would not be
forgetting me in your merry-making.
I wish Father to send me out a book
to assist me in my present work
& the title of it I enclose, it can be
sent by post, the margins must be
shown & no writing inside - I wish
you would also send me an Army
List for February so soon as they are
published for that month - An Army
list is a very useful thing out here
as much use as an almanack at home -
it tells one where one's friends are
& a great many useful particulars
which you could not appreciate -

And now I must bid you good-bye
Remember me to Father, Mother & Aunt
also Cousin David, Anne & Agnes
& if George has not sent me a
dispatch from the garrison I will
by the time you receive this, tell
him I have him tried by Court-
Martial & flogged - Kind
Compts to Mr. & Mrs. Sanderson &
family hoping they are all well &
hoping this will find you all as
well as I could wish you

I am

Very dear Anne

Yours (kindly & lovingly) affect- Brother

D.

I will write to Father about the end
of the month or the beginning of next
D.S.

I.S. On second thoughts, if you would not mind
the books, as I have written to Mr. Rogers
for them & he will send the money to Father
who will please pay him.

Camp. Sebastopol

3^d Feb. 1856 -

My dear Father

Since writing you last I have received three letters from home, two from Anne & one from Mother. You all seem to know my great (new) year's day very much at Liff not to mention the beautiful walk you had in the evening. - Prof. Rodger & Linkins seem always to be turning up & seem to come to Dunder every time they can & I have no doubt they are a great acquisition to the Lancers which are going on just now. Mother tells me that you have come to the conclusion that "I am as well off here, as travelling through the dirty streets at home", well, I am sure you are not far wrong, for if I was at home I would be always grumbling & discontented & here I am as busy as a bee & as happy as a prince. In the last gazette which arrived here, I saw I have got a commission & that I am now as it were regularly enlisted as an "soldier" - With regard to our leaving the Army it does not matter much, as I can resign my commission when I like, in the meantime it gives me a higher

standing in the Army - it is a permanent
appointment (if I like) - should I be
wounded or get sick & unable for duty
I get a pension, & should I get shot
my widow will get one, which I must
say, is a great thing to look forward
to in my case - On the whole, although
I do lose $2\frac{1}{2}$ per day by the transaction
I am very well pleased with it, more
especially as I get my Commission
antedated to the time I entered as an
Acting Asst. Surgeon on the 27th Oct. 1854 -
All the pros & cons of this question I cannot
give you on paper, but a permanent
appointment is I think better than a
temporary one, & as I am the only one
concerned & think so, I am sure you
will have no objections - I suppose the
Director-general thought he must give
me something, for this pathological business
& gave me a Commission - "D'importe",
be content & don't grumble" -
I am by the way that Mr. Gillan's
father was dead, I did not know him.
The "Sutty" has gone to Empatonia & where
she is going next I do not know. Before
she left I put a parcel on board, knowing
that when she does arrive at home, although
that should be a year hence the things =

will be all perfect, which would not have
been the case if they were to remain with me.
The Journal is of no great importance, but
when I had a chance I thought I might
as well send something - I enclose
you a list which you can keep & which
will explain everything when you get
the Journals - I see you are still at your
old tricks, buying books, & what is worse
getting them to smuggle them into the
house - I have a very curious volume
beside me which I got out of Sebastopol
some time ago, "sic" a French sea-voyage
dictionary with a great many old
pictures in it, of ships, shipbuilding
&c it is about 200 years old & is rather
a curiosity - I must try & send it
home - I am sure you would like it -
I had a letter from Dr. Curran the other day
he is at Chatham just now, he is still
far from well & it is a very great chance
indeed if he comes out here again, so
you must not expect to send a Journal
by him - Another mentions that Smith,
the student who is in the Turkish con-
tingent, had not written home for
two months; as I have not the most
remote idea where the Turkish con-
tingent is, I am very sorry I am there

you nothing whatever about him, but
I have no doubt he "carries his load" -
I am very much obliged to Miss Mary
Baxter for her beautiful present, it
has been admired by all who have
seen it & you must return her my
very best thanks for it -

In my last I think I told you that
Mr. Mulken had gone on to camp to
him there, but the young man was
now content & about a week ago
he sent in his resignation & bade
home to his wife about three days
ago, what he is to do at home I do not
know, he is not sure whether he will go
to a militia regiment or commence
practice - Dr. Kilbuck made his
appearance here about 10 days ago,
he is now quite well & seems to
have enjoyed himself very much
at home - But he is changed since
he came back, he looks very eagerly
for the post & is often engaged in
writing long letters, talks sentimentally
& various other little things, which
clearly indicates that the young
man has been & got engaged -
He no soon came to the post than
he commenced making improvements

stopping up rat-holes, doing the best
he could to cure the smoky chimney,
repairing every thing that was broken
down &c &c in fact he is something
like James Rodger "rather a nice
fell man to have about a house".
We had some very wet weather when
he came out, & the wet found its
way into the hut, so that our men
nearly were uncomfortable - to cure this one
of the boards which formed the floor
was raised & a hole dug which had
to be emptied about six times every
day - the water does not come in so
fast now, but the hole our house dog
has now turned into a beautiful
well of clear spring water, of which
we have a large supply always on
hand, & may be obtained by raising
a small trap-door about six feet
from our fire places, & instead of
being annoyed at the circumstances
we are both rather well pleased at
having every thing so handy, within the
small compass of the little hut.
During the latter part of last month
we had very bad weather & it
rained continually, some days were
very beautiful & warm; the commences

ment of this month is very different
for we have now hard frosts & snow
we are all very comfortable however
have lots to eat & drink & plenty of
fuel - Gilbert who has still ideas
of England & comfort about him
keeps a very jolly fire always going.
He has brought out some beans & jam
with him, & I may safely say, that
we are living luxuriously at present.
He has still a great love for the old
hut & although the hospital is to be
changed to beside the regiment, he
is still to remain beside me, on
circumstances at which I am very
well pleased - Nothing new is
going on here whatever, there are strong
rumors of Peace, some believe them
& some do not, no one has any objection
how soon it comes - I was looking
at the Russian camp on the hills over
Ankum one day with a glass, I
saw some muskies moving about,
but the place where their camp is
must be very cold indeed & I doubt
very much if they are as comfortable
as we are - I had a letter from
Dr. Pirie the other day I was glad to
hear from him, every thing seems to

he going on swimmingly at Liff, not
to mention the nurse & the Hanson's
daughters, who seem to have a great
respect for "the Doctor", "happy man!!"
"every dog has his day" & I suppose
mine will come sometime - as it is
at present I think I would sub-
=side into my boots if I saw a lady,
& if she spoke to me I am sure I
would tremble like a criminal.

Talking about criminals, I was at
a General Court. Mentioned the other
day, giving evidence in a case, where
a private of the 77th a patient in hospital,
had given another patient a chip over
the head with an iron bar & as bad
luck would have it he died the same
night - the man was found guilty of
willful murder I believe, but I do
not know what is to be done to him
yet - Miss Dix wishes me to

send her a small Turkish coin
as an ornament for her watch chain,
I am sorry I have none beside one
just now, & have no chance of getting
one, but the first I get I will send her.
I think we have now got the worst
of the winter over, & are looking forward
to the spring weather again, with

all its frontier, if the war continues
we will in all likelyhood be in Asia
Minor or if it does not continue,
why, that is rather too much of a
good thing to look forward to -

I am as usual enjoying first-rate
health, strength & spirits & I hope
you are all doing the same & I
with kindest love to Mother - Aunt
& Anne & many thanks for the
Scotchman, Adventure & Cornish

I am

Very dear Father

Your most affectionate Son

David Greig

Camp - Sebestopolis

11th February 1856.

My dear Father

Enclosed is a letter from
Stewart Lithgow which I would
like you to hand to his brother
as I do not know his address.
There is nothing new here, I am
quite well & hope you are all
the same - I received a letter
from Mother three days ago -
By next post I will send you
some bills for some money, please
write & tell me if you receive
it & if you get these bills cashed
easily

I am
My dear Father
Yr affec^d Son
David Spring

Camp - Sebastopol

15th February 1856 -

My dear Anne

Sometimes when the day for writing comes round I am often quite at a loss what to write about & just now I am in that happy state, but "what must be, must" & since it is again the middle of the month I suppose I must say something for myself - There is one great thing however, in answering the letters which I receive every week, I always manage to get a goodly bagging & then fill up the rest of the page with the few news which we have in Camp - I have now before me a letter from Mother dated 23rd Jan & another from you of the 30th - And so you have sent me off another box "via the" "Royal Exchange" of Montrose, which I will keep a sharp look out for then months after this, when I suppose it will arrive at Balaklava - as for your opinion that "it is just business that prevents me getting my first one" I am sorry I cannot agree with you, I have asked & bothered so many people about it, that

I often wish, the Confounded thing had
never been sent me at all, but at the
same time in order to keep your minds
at ease, I am sure "it carries her
last" & when it does cast up I will
be most happy to receive it "just to
show you there is no illfeeling". As for the
Whisky which Mr. Thomas has sent, I
will not return him thanks until I
receive it & then I will do so.

Another question about Mr. Robert's man-
=singe, I refuse answering except
"viva voce". it would do me
harm - And so you have seen
Dr. Watson P.C. & thought a great
deal of him, of course you could not
do life to any Criminal here. I am
very glad you saw him & I think with
you that he is a very nice fellow, but
I fear you heard him too much about
the Camp, Culverin, Thompson &c you
say he explains the pathetic parts
of Miss Stanley's letter, I do not exactly
understand what you mean, but I
suppose you refer to the time when
I was seeing all sorts of funny things
& hearing all sorts of nonsense. I do
now like Miss Stanley much & I
can't say I did either. Mrs. Linn I

thought a great deal more of, but Dr
Watson did not think much of her
either - I do not know why Dr
Breskin has been so long in Dundee
he ought to have been out here 10
days ago, but I suppose she likes
home during winter better than the
Camp - You seem to have had a
grand party at Cliff & what is more
enjoyed yourself well - What extra-
ordinary fellows Lindsay & Flockhart
are, I would not be in the least
surprised to see them together upon
ones some evening "just to show
that there was no ill feeling" -

Enclosed in your last, was a letter
from Stewart Littlejohn, from the Cape
he is well & is still at Fort Lodge
he does not much to do & seems
enjoying himself, but he is still
grumbling at things in general & his
hard luck which sent him to the Cape
& not to the Crimea - He has taken
to bird-stuffing & collecting all sorts
of curious things which he can buy
his friends on - He is wishing very much
to get a permanent appointment & goes
about at Leith having got on before him,
but I have no doubt he will get one

by & by. Shant is in the 83rd Regt & is
now in London - I have had some
little or nothing going on here during
the last fortnight, with all the
strong rumours of peace the guns
are still roaring across Sebastopol
harbour & the French & English have
been blowing up & destroying all the
clarks & forts which are in our
possession - The weather has been
mild during the day & cold at
night, the snow has all disappeared
& the grass is making some attempts
to appear once more - The roads
are as hard as ever & the snow in
my hut continues full of beautiful
clean water - My friend Gilbert has
been very busy, hammering away at
metal, he has re-created the stables,
made an iron chain & invented a
rat-trap, which rat-trap however
the rats won't go into & are there -
"not to be caught" -

Enclosed is a Theatre play-bill
of last night's performance in an
Theatre, which has been changed
since I wrote you last - The former
Theatre was too small, but now

R.A
XVII
XX
XXI
XLVI



R.E.
XLVIII
LXIII
LXVIII
LYII

(R.A. & R.E. are Regus Artillery & Regus Engineers)

you must excuse the chawing, the line
to mine one which I have made look
very drunk I must say, but it
will answer what I wish to give
you an idea of. The acting was
the same as usual (very good) & of
course comic - In the last play going
to the Derby there was actually a cart
drawn by a live horse on the stage,
& I must say the horse did much
itself very well - With regard to
light, of course we have no gas, but
there is always a great number of
candles & it does very well -
Now you will suppose me enjoy
this very much, & I can tell you, you
are not far wrong, it is one of the
greatest pleasures we have here -
we have always such laughing, far
more so than a visit to a theatre
would cause at home -

Now, I have more to give - The rumor
of peace are still as strong here as
they were a fortnight ago & from all
accounts I think it is very likely
we will get it, but it will only be
for a short time I suspect, Persia
is not a bit humiliated yet, & why
she wishes peace now seems very

strange, to say the least of it.

I know that the position & condition of the medical department of the Army is to be much improved very soon, & some of the points of the new warrant are - Asst. Surgeons, on entering - 10/- per day & rank as Lieut. after five years service - 15/- & rank as Capt. - Surgeon - 18/- per day & after a certain time to be made Surgeon-Major at 25/- per day & leave to retire on or pension after 20 years service, with a greater pension after 25. & greater after 30 - promotion to be rapid &c &c in fact too many good changes to be there - however one or two promises some changes -

The Col. of the 17th has come back again to his regiment & one of the first things which he did, was to write for me to be gazetted to the regiment, but as I am required at my present duty his request was not granted, I did not mind much what was done to me, but as my present work is to the new statute & may do some good some after I am very much pleased as I am -

When I tell you how I am getting on I
do not wish any one to be telling
trials & haunting about me, which
I fear Father is too fond of doing,
if I may judge from his conversation
with Dr. Bee. And now
my dearest Annie I must
shut up shop & bid you good
bye - Remember me to Father -
Mother - Aunt - Cousin & the
rest - Hoping you
are all in good health -

I am

My dear Annie
Your most affec. Brother
Levid Spring

Enclosed is the tree -

Camp. Sebastopol
3rd March 1856
in " "

My dear Father

Now I am again, in receipt of a letter from Mother dated the 6th & another from Anne dated the 12th July. It is quite useless telling you, that I was afraid to hear of an war all well, as you must always take that for granted when I hear anything else to tell you, but this time as I have no news of any importance to communicate it will serve to fill up a line or two - Well, on the whole I consider that as my good beginning & I must now see what I have got to say for myself. Mother asks me if the large silver coin, which was in the parcel which I sent by Dr. Fair, is Russian or Turkish? it is a Turkish dollar valued at $4\frac{1}{2}$ English money - At home you seem to be all anxious for France & with us here I must say it looks very like it, although we are not very anxious for it - There was a meeting of the "Chiefs of the Staff"

English, French, Scandinavian & Russian
two days ago at Trakhtin Bridge
& an armistice was concluded, so far,
that there is to be no firing at one
another - The Russian General was
accompanied by about 15-20000
& our General (Wincham) has a
few of the 11th Corps with him,
they were very friendly to-yether, but
I can't say who stood the "Brandy &
Water" - Since then there have been
great fraternizing across the Schi-
-ron, but none are allowed to
cross the river - The Russians have
got medals for Sebastopol as well
as men & this affords a great source
of haunting - I have never been
shown yet but I intend going in
a day or two as the weather is
good - Talking of Amulets & the
contents of the helmet, some ask
me how I get on with my mending -
very well I can sew on & I can
stitch on buttons & hem coats very
well, but darning stockings, is I
must confess, a real trial of
patience & naturally I have given
up the attempt altogether & have

own that duty to my servant who does
it "in a kind of a way", but I can't
say his standing please me, nor
does it last long - in fact, when
a hole appears in a pair of socks
I conclude that they are little more
use to me - You seem interested

in Dr. Critten who was out here.
I thought his situation was kept
open for him in Glasgow, but
from what Anne says I fear
not & he will never be put his
"shoulder to the wheel" now. He is
too old to enter the army altogether
& as you say $\frac{1}{2}$ would be rather
indigestible after £2.2 for him.

Allen, oh Allen, Allen, Allen!
Who would have believed it!!!

very long, long, long, long lost.
Long have turned up at last
after 13 mos knocking about
I have just now received it
& I can tell you it tells all
Gilbert's mechanical losses
to open it - Works seem to be
cheap in Dundee - Every
thing is in good condition &
the gingerbread splendid, the

boots splendid, in fact everything
Bono, there are only a few pipes
broken - I know the family that
before I get the things examined,
to be in time for the Post - As
hoping you will excuse this
hasty scrawl, & I will write
another or very very long letter
next time & send you the
drawing of the boat at the same
time - I am so anxious to
examine every thing that I must
give up - With Love to all
I am

My dear Father
& you affec^d Son
David Greig

Ed: is beside me putting
into the "sweeties" & says
that they are first rate -

Camp. Sebastopol
14th March 1856

My dear Mother

The last letter which I sent
from the Father was a very short one
& I suppose I must make up for
it this time & give you one longer
than the generality of my letters -

When I was writing to Father I had
just received the box & as it took
some time to open it, some time
to look over the contents, & some time
to talk about the contents, as you
may easily suppose I had very little
time to write, as the mail left the
same evening & I did not wish
you to lose the regular fortnightly
letter - Hence the shortness -

In the first place, the box was
fastened in the most extraordinary
manner, as if it were never intended
that it should be opened, hence
Gib: & I managed to get into the
inside of the interior, after a good
deal of hard work - The Pen-
casket is a very nice one & is rather
good for the Crimea but it will be
quite a small affair to me during

the summer, I have a large sailors
jacket just now which is a better
winter dress - The same I have
said of the jacket, applies to the
large boots, they are too fine for
a common winter & will make
beautiful summer riding boots,
if I can get them on, which is doubt-
-ful at present, the boots being
rather tight on my feet have got
loose since I left home - The
leather leggings are very good -
The waterproof leggings are not
good - The woolen leggings are
first-rate, but it is rather late in
the season for such warm things
now - The suits I do not know
who made them but Bill & I are
both highly pleased with them, I
have got one pair - The comfort
is, I am saying the way quite useless,
as I never mean a rockership, I
am not likely to put on a comfort.

The two services, one a great boon
& Bill has got one - The knife &
tube, ditto - The pipes are quite
a luxurious donation to all in
the regt who smoke - The pipe
from Lewis is beautiful -

The Etina will be a useful thing
for hot days in the evening -

Soy's Cooking, as far as I am
at a loss what to say about it. I
have no use for it just now but
it may come into use yet - The
Lard in Butter, Wax, Vaseline &
Soap are luxuries out here -

The Confections make us all happy
they are a thing, none can here -

The Song-book - ah! yes! - well,
I did not expect it was a song
book of that kind, but still
I am glad you have sent it -

The newspaper man as you might
suppose, all rather old. The
Singer - bread was in first-rate
condition in fact you could not have
wished it better at home, it was
not too soft & it was not too hard,
I have seen a cake of Singer bread
not improved by a journey to India.
but much to our astonishment this
one seems to have improved by being
left to its own resources for 13 days.
Happy, contented gingerbread. I
feel a great inclination to moralize
over you - The two frosts of March & April
did not (I am sorry to say) behave

so much, they seem to have been disques-
taded with their treatment, & I suffer
more long in the back in the sun
once on an, in a shop - window -
They did all they could to force
out the bungs, but it was "no go"
so they fermented & threw out the
ill down on in the shape of Syrup,
which made a beautiful mess of
the newspapers. Thinking I suffered
that this was a way to make
their grievances & imprisonments
known to the public - So this
was the hot, & this was the state
of the contents when it arrived here,
all very welcome, all very nice,
but, all rather late - I hope
you are pleased that my word
"have come true" "Keep your minds
easy, it will turn up & carry me
lost" & that you will cease the
accusations of carelessness, inactivity,
want of energy &c &c, too many &
beautiful epithets, which it would
make even one blush to mention,
so with this I will make my
bow, & hope my mind will never
again be troubled, nor my mother's
- rest broken, not to mention
my savings in form, all out,
As long, lost & lost.

In my last I think I told you that
all firing had now ceased, & that
we have an armistice at present.
The armistice is a great boon & we
can now ride all round our out-
posts with safety & wander through
Sebastopol as one likes - We had a
severe snow storm which lasted from
the 3rd to the 9th I think it is the sever-
est we have had since the winter before.
The snow was at one time about two
feet deep & the thermometer seventeen
degrees below the freezing point.
The snow has now all cleared away
or after undergoing the pleasure of a
Crimean thaw, we have now, once
more beautiful weather although still
rather cold at night - The rides
we have in Sebastopol & down by
the river at Inkermann, are so
delightful that I often wish I had
you all down here with me - Last
Sunday afternoon I took a walk
over the fields of Inkermann & then
along the south bank of the Tchernya
towards Sebastopol - The ground
was hard with frost & just in walk-
ing condition, the air was clear &
everything was quiet & like a Sabbath
at home, "not a gun was heard"

except on occasion a "Jap" from our
Frenchman shooting sparrows, an
amusing amusement to which the
French are rather addicted, we walked
all over the field under the guidance of
D. Ward our Surgeon who was at the
battle. There is nothing to be seen on
the field now except a stray shot
or broken piece of shell; but on the
slope of the hills as they lead down
to the Schumayer & the top of the
hills of Scherstol, there were
or great many clothed skeletons
still remaining as monuments of the
battle of Solbourn, when our men
struck or picked it all went to smash,
& if a foot was picked it was found
filled with bones & the remains of a
stocking - these bodies had not been
buried at the time of the battle
& it was quite impossible to get
into them after that, they were all
Russian. The small river Schu-
=umayer is the boundary between the
two armies & here & there groups
of English & Russian soldiers chaff-
ing & laughing at each other, &
throwing money across the water to
each other - all seem happy, the
Russians look strong but miserable

Kind of animals - Thin Affairs are
seen riding about on the opposite side
of the water examining us with equal
curiosity. The town of Sebastopol
is completely destroyed now & I
scarcely think you could get an
entire plank of wood in the whole
town; every house is gutted from
roof to cellar & nothing remains now
but heaps of ruins & crumbling,
solitary, blackened, & unbecomingly
The place has a desolate and much of
look about it which I can't describe,
& if I may give an opinion, I should
think that when the landed Prop-
rietors of Sebastopol are allowed
to return to their possessions, they
must feel rather disgraced, with
the aspect of things in general.
The Russian batteries which protected
the town are now dismantled but
even now on visiting them, one stands
lost in amazement at their strength,
battery after & above battery, & ditch
behind ditch. The Flagstaff battery,
Central Bastion, Swananton battery,
Redoubt, Moulakoff & 1/2 can still
be seen but much changed & all
the guns gone. As for Fort Alexandr
at the south side of the entrance of the

harbour, & Fort Nicholas, a little way
further up, they are now nothing more
than a mass of stones & rubbish.
As for the docks I can say nothing
not having been near them more
for more than a month, but I
believe they are now amongst the
things which remain. The cause at
Salem and also the Aqueduct are
well worth seeing. The cause are on
the Russian side of the Schumay &
we can't get to them as yet, but we
have a very good view of them, they
are all cut out of the rock, which is
quite white & soft like the Carrara stone
at the new Infirmary in Dundee, a temple
with an ornamented front cut into the
rock is the most striking object. The
aqueduct is on our side of the water
& at one point it passes through a hill
by means of a tunnel about a quarter
of a mile in length cut through the
rock, this I believe is to be blown
up, in fact everything which will
destroy is to be destroyed, so that
in the long run Sebastopol will not
be worth rebuilding. As for the
famed Russian Black Sea Fleet
it is quietly at rest, at the bottom
of its favourite harbour -

The Army is so healthy at present that I must say I have very little to do, but since the good weather has come, I feel I am not so much inclined to remain in my hut writing cases, but rather prefer to get some exercise by riding or walking about. In the front line, where we (the Pathological Board) have 27,000 men under our supervision we had only 22 cases of death last month or as far as we have gone this month, it promises to be the same, in fact no one could wish the British Army to be in a better condition.

The French are however very sickly & I would be almost afraid to say how many sick they have, but they have more deaths in one day than we have in a month. I was sorry to hear that Lieut. Fenwick had been sick. I have not seen him for a long time now, but I suppose he will be better now - if he had been very ill he would have been sent home.

Dr. Earskin called on me the other day but unfortunately I was out so I have not as yet got the latest news from Dundee. I hear he is looking very well -

It is now a long time since I promised
to send you a sketch of "The House I
live in" but here it is at last & I
hope it will please you. It was done
by my friend Lib: as I was too busy
to do it myself. The sketch on the whole
is very good & will give you a very
good idea of the place, it looks rather
grand & romantic on paper & so clean
that you may well wonder what use
I can have for better boots, however
it is intended to represent a beautiful
day after a fortnight of dry weather, &
I leave you to imagine what like it
looks after a fortnight of wet weather.
Well, you see the boat in the centre, with
the smoke coming out at the chimney,
with such apparent good will, that
you would at once conclude it always
did so. Oh, no, it is merely going
well at present, in order to make a
good impression on the friends at
home. so don't believe it -

The porch looks rather "nobby" does
it not, quite in the tea-garden style
"Tea & Shrimps for 10^d" "Chamberlain's Cakes
with cream in season" &c &c. There
is a figure in front of the boat, that
is supposed to be the "D. Walter Bros."

Liberal of the Majesty 17th Feb^r
He has got 17 on the front of his cap
only you can't see it at present, as
his back is towards you. On the
extreme left you have the stable, &
on the right the servants' tents. Beyond
the tent on the other side of the road
you see a number of huts, these are
the Commissariat stores of the
4th Division, the old rum casks being
made into a kind of wall around
the place. This then is a descrip-
tion of the picture & I hope you may
understand it, I repeat again, that
it is very like the place, but decid-
edly more elegant, cleaner & more
than the place ever was or ever
will be. Since my last I have
received as usual two letters one
from Mother & another from Anne.
I was very sorry indeed to hear
of Mrs. Bayle's illness & still more
so of David Marshall's death.
With regard to Mrs. Rotch's request
about a monument to her son, all
I can say is, that I will be most
happy to do all I can to get it
erected, I will not be able to write
to her until I hear from Boston.

about it, but in the meantime if you
are waiting here you may tell her what
I have said, & in the meantime I
think she ought to write to Mrs.
Prof. Gregory & counter order what
she told them before. I have very
little doubt I can get it done
but I cannot say for certain yet.
Now in her letter enclosing to me
were entitled "a Bachelor's Review"
tell her I am much obliged to her
& that there are lots of reviews &
no realities in the market here.
I am not at all pleased at you
& her attempting "to do one out of
a letter" & should any of you ever
carry out your base intention, do
not imagine that I shall in-
-regulate it at all from
you, I must have a letter every
month, or "Was behind you".
Miss Alexander seems a most
extraordinary girl, if she calls me
"a Brick from Schustofol" I will
call her "a blue-stocking", she is
so smart & clever that she quite
frightens me, she can do everything
from writing in magazines to making
jills, when Anne writes to her next

She must not tell Sam I am frightened
at her or she would think it a great
triumph, but she can ask her, if she
remembers our discussions about
cooking & making soup & that she
had better not try one in that depart-
ment now. - They all are very
kind at Brooklyn & seem determined
to have Anne there by & by & I
hope I may be there at the same
time. - Anne asks me a very diffi-
cult question, whether I am an
Episcopalian, Catholic or Presbyterian?
& in fact I cannot tell her, for I do
not know, still I can safely say
I am a Catholic, but not a
Roman Catholic. - She asks me
what a Sunday in the Crimea is
like? It is just like any other
day, only we have services in the
forenoon on the top of Cathcart's
hill & lots of ~~musical~~ marching
to & from that place, as for myself
I usually sit in my hut & read
& then have a walk in the after-
noon, but often, when it is not for the
bands playing "The Merry March
Bells" in the morning, I would not

Know it was Sunday -
I think this long letter will make
up for my short one the last time
& I hope you will in return write
me a very long one - Remember
me to Father - Aunt - Anne
Cousins, Mr. & Mrs. Sanderson
& family - Mr. Mr. Satoh &
the rest of the family
& hoping this will find you
all well - believe me to be

Your most affec^t Son
David Spring

P.S. I would (of course) have
written a much longer letter than
this, but you must excuse me
this time - as there is nothing new
& nothing doing in Camp -

D. S.

In the last Gazette which comes
out here yesterday I was very glad
to see that my friend Stewart-Lytton
had got his permanent appointment,
he is now "Adj. Surgeon 75th Regt".
His regiment has been two or three
years in India & will be there
for 5 or 7 more. Stewart will
in all likelihood go on & join it
in India. He may meet his friend
Dr. Sturges, who is in India with
his regt the 83rd. - I think they
will both like the country -

D. G.

I have received the two books which
I asked Mr. Rogers to send me, &
I hope he has sent further the apc. -

Camp. Sebastopol
1st April 1856-

My dear Cousin

I wrote Brother on the 15th of
last month & enclosed a sketch of
"my hint", by this time I hope you
have received the letter in safety
& have now a very good idea
of my school, after having had a
fortnight to discuss the subject.

Before I begin I may as well tell you
that I expect this will be a very
short letter, as our last mail which
brings your much letter has not
made its appearance yet, owing I
suppose to the rough weather. Why?
we should have rough weather at
this time, when we are all so im-
-tense to hear about France I do not
know but such is the fact. To
make up for the want of your letter
I am happy to say that I received
one from Father. it was short but
most welcome. He says that he
sends me all the newspapers &
that I cannot expect news from
him. even in the newspapers I
discern his sentiments, by some

Art. bits which he mangles off for my friends.
I generally like them very much. But one which he mangled in
the last "Oratorian" which I received
I am sorry to say I did not enjoy
& I cannot imagine why he should.
It was a leading article, (written
I suppose by some penny-a-liner)
blackguarding Lord Stirling &c.
now, that, I do not like, & you must
tell Father, that, it does not show
a good spirit to enjoy these sort
of low squibs written against a
man who did all he could to
forward my views at home & who
I am sure has never done Father
any harm. From Brother's letter
of the 4th ult. I learn that concerts
& all sorts of fine things are going
on in Dundee at present. From
what Dr. Erskine says, that seems
not to have been the case when
he was there, for he seems to have
found it quite painful to be in
Dundee even for a short time,
& he has given me such a bad
account of the dull town, that
I am quite frightened at the

idea of coming home again. Jack
is looking well & as strong as
ever. He gave me all the news
& that was not much. I am
not a bit surprised at the result.
Bob: Cochran has made again.
There are a great many people in
this world, who, let them have
even so good prospects, will never
get on. I fear that he & his
worthy brother are a couple belonging
to that class. I pity his wife very
much, poor girl what a fool she
was to marry such a scamp.

Brother asks me "if I am personally
acquainted with the correspondent
of the Morning Herald"? - How
on earth (excuse me) can she ask
such a question when she knows
how I hate the very name of
the tribe - I was very glad to hear
that Mrs Boyd was progressing
favorably after the operation. I
hope by this time she is now well.
if it will please her at all, you
may tell her that I was asking
kindly after her, & sorry to hear
she had suffered so much.

From all Dr. Eschlin tells me, Danden
will be very much changed by the
time I visit it again, new build-
ings, new streets, new faces & most of
all a great many old faces gone,
even the meeting house as you say
will be very much changed, but
still there will be some things the
same as ever & even yet the rest
Mr. Manswell (your body) coming
into the meeting on Sunday after-
-noon about five minutes before
it separates - I hope you will
all excuse me saying this, it
came into my head & I could not
help putting it down - odd re-
membrances do sometimes turn
up in my brain, more especially
in this place where one has so
little to think about - I suppose
Father will be busy with his flowers
now & the windows will be
looking quite gay - our crocuses &
snow-drops have made them so.
I am attempting to get some ground
this season, but they have always
been nipped by the frost, & even
this morning we had a shower of

know it was not much, but still
it showed that winter is not yet
over. However I am sure this will be
the last & that before the end of the
month we will be roasting with heat.
So soon as the flames are out I
will begin to collect some from
Sébastopol. I believe \approx for you,
for I suppose they are rather cur-
iosities at home. Being out here
I do not know what is worth picking
up & what is not, certainly there
is not much to be got now, but
anything in the way of flames collected
from any remarkable place I can
easily send you, if you let me know.
My little has been going on here
since I wrote Brother, our horse had
races & steeple chases on
Trabkett Bridges, which were very
good & would have done credit
to England. General Cadogan
sent an invitation to London, the
Prussian General, to be present at
the races, but he declined the
honour & said, that as France was
not yet signed he could not do
himself that honour, & I think
he was quite right. The river

Schunaberger is still the boundary between
the two armies & no one is allowed
to cross it - On day last week
I was at Carnarvon seeing the
highland games which had been
got up by the Highland division.
The games took place in a small
valley surrounded by high hills,
it was a most picturesque spot
& brought Scotland so much to
my mind - I saw as good many
there I knew & amongst the rest
Lt. Fenwick. I was not near enough
to shake the hand but he was look-
ing as well as ever - i.e. very fat -
The games consisted in the various
amusements, of putting the stone
throwing, the hammer, tossing the bar,
foot racing, &c. all went off very
well & I enjoyed our race very
much & that was a race in
"heavy marching order" - As you are
not much of a soldier I must
tell you what that is, a man is
in "heavy marching order" when he
is in full dress, & all he possesses
on his back, including blankets,
& fifty rounds of ammunition with
muskets & bayonets. Now it is not

very easy work racing in all this
& more especially when a highland
feather bonnet is on the head, there
was one fellow of "the Royals" who
had a fine trim & shades & it was
thought that he had the advantage
but no, a big "highland bonnet" ran
far better than he did - I & two
other friends dined in the highland
camp with an old Edinb. friend who
was there & in the evening our most
thorough french characters, who dropped
in to have something to drink, they
were very jolly fellows & we spent a
very pleasant night, with all sorts of
french songs going - I must say I
talked very little but that did not
matter much - The night was
rather dark & the ride home rather
long, but we arrived at our respective
homes in perfect safety -

The French have all got our Crimean
medals on their breasts & they are
far prouder of it, than we are
ourselves, they wear the side which
has the Queen's bust on it, always
shown, which we never do, as it
looks so like 5/- - they again have
different ideas -

Last week I received a letter from
James R. & another from J. K. Lindsay
they had no news to tell me.
James is as usual grumbling
at income tax, & wishes the war
to go on, in fact he seems not to
know very well what he would
like, but as it is term time he is
busy & has not much time to
think about his grievances -

My home establishment is much
the same as before with the addition
of a kitchen which is a great
amusement to me & keeps the mice
away, we can get one mile for
the little beast & it has to make
the best it can of the tough salt
junks, it catches on mouse occasi-
onally however by way of variety.

The Army still continues very healthy
& of course I have very little to do,
so I amuse myself the best way
I can, riding, writing, reading novels
&c & having got hold of a very
old French grammar I am going
over it again - the theatre is still
going on but the plays are becoming
less & less frequent & I fear that
the time is not far distant when

it will die a natural death, by
want of variety, the man in the Rifle
acted one night & did very well -
I have been enquiring after the
"something" (I forget the name) of Mother
at Baluchistan, but I don't think
she has come in yet -

Remember me to Father, Mother,
Aunt & the two sons

& Hoping you are all well
Believe me to be

Your most affec^t Brother

David Spring

This is a very rambling letter,
but when I have any little to
tell, you must excuse me -

D. S.

Camp. Sebastopol

14th April 1856

My dear Father

Although this is not exactly
my day for writing home, still, as
the mail leaves to night, & it would
be some days more before I could get
another, I do not mind much if I
give you this letter a little before
the proper time, provided the female
portion of the family will promise
not to go into hysterics, should I not
write before the proper time next time.
Well, since writing to Anne I have
received no more than two letters -
In the first one, Mother gives me such
a blowing up for not writing & fears
that all that is bad has happened
to me, it is needless to say how I
received the letter - it was with the
air of an injured man - & I have
my own feelings to return the blowing
up - The next letter was from Anne
in which she makes the thing worse by telling
me that the letter had arrived all safe
& that it was the fault of the mail - Had
the letter been lost I would have excused
your anxiety, but you must not be dis-

=appointed should any of my letters be
a day or two behind hand - However,
much as the blowing up does stick
in my throat, let bygones be bygones
& if Mother writes me a very long
letter by way of finishment I will
say no more about it - Annie's
letter is a rather rambling one, she
tells me a great many things &
amongst the rest, that "she had now
got property", however, she does not
finish her story & I am in doubt
if she has clear ideas what she
is talking about - at any rate I can
not make head or tail of her
story & have come to the conclusion
that she must have been dreaming -
I was sorry to hear that you had been
so much engaged with your apprentices
however I hope you have now got
a good steady hand & one who knows
something of the business, so as to
allow you to have some relaxation -
I have not got "Box No 2" yet, but
I have no doubt it will turn up
very soon, if it is not landed I
suppose the ship will take it back
to Montreal again, & if should it be
so I will be rather pleased. J. J.

since we have peace, we will be
moving very soon & the less I have
with me the better - What makes me
doubt if the ship will come into
Balaclava, is, that the harbour
is being cleared out for transports
to take troops on board, & since
peace has been concluded the
ship may not come to Balaclava
at all - The kind folks at
Wooler are determined not to be
behind & I have received notice
that a box is on its way to me,
& what is more that it will be
in Balaclava in a few days - I
do not know what to think of
this great kindness, & I send
you a list of the contents, to show
you how careful they are of my
creature comforts, for as Mrs
Alexander remarks that "food
for the body, in the Crimea, is of
greater moment than books, or
food for the mind - I am sure
you will all say it is very kind
of them. - We have Peace at
last - on Easter Sunday the shell
quintade of the armistice was broken
by a salvo of 101 guns, for the birth

of the young Emperor of France, & on
the 2^d of April, 101 guns again
thundered forth Peace on the world.
Since then "not a gun is heard" &
every one is looking forward to the
time when he shall once more
step upon British soil. After
the news of Peace came we were
for some days restricted to our old
boundaries, but now all kind of de-
marchation is gone & all can
mingle together. The Russians
first made their appearance in
our camps & were received by the
men with great good will, which of
course ended in a great many getting
very drunk indeed. They are a set
fine looking men & appear not a
bit inferior to our own. Their officers
are young, & seem intelligent fellows,
some talk French & English very
well. The railway interested them
very much & men so as the waggons
were employed in carrying off their
captured guns & shot from Sebastopol.
The sight was a bitter one to them, I
have no doubt, but it was something
that they must swallow. I got a
slight taste of their feelings the other

day & can therefore sympathize with
them - I was on the North side &
riding about some of their works I
came upon two English 12 pounders
of course I was astonished & could
scarcely believe my eyesight, but there
was no mistake, & in all probability
these were the guns which were captured
from the Turks at the Battle of
Balaklava - The round-jacks on
the north-side, I found not to be so
strong as they seem, some had no
guns in them, & in others which had,
very few were in position, & of course
useless - The greater part of the
Russian army is encamped on
the Belles & as yet I have
only visited their advanced camp.
In the most part they all live in
round houses & chambers, which
is of so much importance in any
camp, for the preservation of the health
of the troops, is not much attended
to - One officer, very politely invited
me into his tent, but the place looked
so nasty, that I politely declined
his offer - The greatest good will
& harmonious friendship are amongst us &
every one is more polite than another.

Some nights ago the theatre in our
division was honoured with the
presence of General Ludlow's Staff.
The general did not come himself
but about 8 of his officers came. They
were very much pleased & after the
acting was over, they wished to
see the actresses as they could not
be persuaded that they were only
young officers - The actresses however
bided their time to the last &
appearing as husband & modest
are possible refused to come
forward - At the conclusion the
band played the Russian "God
save the Emperor" followed by
"Portent from la Syrie" & last of all
"God save the Queen" - it was a
very good night - I enclose the bill -

We have not as yet heard what are the
terms of Peace, & we have no idea
when we will have to learn this, but
from all appearances I should think
very soon, & in anticipation of a move
I repacked "Box No 1" with a quantity of
odd & ends, which I did not require
& which I wished out of my way so
as to lighten the bulk of my Port - I have
sent the box to Balaklava & I have

reach home, "in" some ship or other - at
anyrate it is consigned to the care
of a Mr. J. W. Deane Custon Home, apt
80 High St. Southampton - who will
get it through the Custon house, & send
it to you & charge you something for
doing so, which you will place to my
acc - The box as usual contains a
few stupid curiosities which will
speak for themselves - There is a large
Crimean fur coat which may be
useful at home, but is too heavy to
wear here even in winter & as it is
rather bulky I thought it best to get
rid of it - I have also sent home
my blue uniform coat & scales - soon
after I got it, the uniform was changed
& of course I have worn it very little,
it can be easily changed to the new
uniform (which is a double breasted
coat & no scales) & I wish you to
keep it until I get home, when
I can get it changed so as to do for
the Army or private life - There are an
old pair of jacket shoulder cords &
a set of buttons in the scale cases,
keep them too, they are old trench friends
of mine - I think you will under-
stand all that the box contains &
what you do not, keep till I come home.

We have some beautiful weather here
& a great many Gentlemen are being got
up for visiting that part of the Crimea
near us, some have gone to Bakhchali &
Seraï, Yalta, & Alma & I intend
to take a trip some of these days to
the almas & go across the road the
army marches when they come to this
place - The army is very healthy at
present & of course I have very little
to do, however I spend my days very
pleasantly, rambling amongst the
romantic provinces of Sevastopol
& riding as far as my horse can
carry me - You will naturally be
asking, "Since Peter is concluded, when
are you coming home"? - Dinna know -
but I should think in 3 or 4 most rooms.
I will remain as I am until the
army begins to break up & then
as my services as Pathologist will
be no longer required here, I suppose
I will be sent home - well, supposing
I am sent to England, I will then
try to get home for a month or two
& supposing I get that, you may then
suppose that the supposition of seeing
me in Scotland will not be a supposition
but a real reality -

Yesterday (Sunday) I had a long walk
with Dr. Evershine, he is quite well & is
like every other person in camp here
wondering when his regiment is to be
sent to, it has very little chance of
going home as it has completed its
home service already - We were pro-
posed to get up as early in the morning
of next week to visit Baktchi-Serai
& Sympheropol, taking along on
our way home - if we take this journey
it will furnish a letter when I come
back, but as yet it is doubtful -
I think I may now draw to a close
wishing you all health & happiness
with love to Mother, Aunt & Anne

I am

Yours most affectly Son
David Greig
"5"



CAVALRY BARRACKS ON THE BOSPHORUS.

Kubulee

Camp. Schastopol
25th April 1856
m.m.

My dear Father

You may tell all my cares =
London to not to send me any more
letters until further notice. The
Camp will begin to break up
next week & I may be sent out
of this very soon now. The 17th
am ordered to the Command, & will
embark, it is expected, in about
a week now. Still send me
the Scotsman newspaper every
week & address it to the Post Office
Balaklava, so that should I

not hear this so soon as I
expect, I may still hear that
you are well, & that I will
know by your sealing the
envelope with red wax -
The newspapers will be no
great loss although I do not
get them, but I would not
like my letters to go astray.
I am all well & hope
you are the same

Yours affect. Son
Darius Spring

You may expect a letter next
week - D.S.



Camp. Sebastopol
28th April 1856

My dear Anne

From Mother's letter dated
1st April it would seem that all the
inhabitants of Dundee were taking
advantage of the news of peace, &
including that greater & important
body, "the Town Council" were making
fools of themselves & no mistake,
will I hope they enjoy their
"cake & wine" for it is not often
they have such an event to cele-
brate. I was very glad to hear
you were all so well, & that Father
had got such a good shop boy,
which must be a great comfort
to him. Mother's request about the
lace collars &c. I will do my best
to fulfill. I have also received
your letter of the 10th instant, I was
very glad to hear of Tom Maxwell's
marriage with Miss Luckie, it is
an old topic & I am sure it will
be good for all parties, James
Rodgers will be sure to be there as
"best man" & I would not be at all
surprised if Jack Lindsay should
"turn up in them diggings" along with

From your letter it seems you are
enjoying yourself as much as ever
& in fact I may say you are very
gay, notwithstanding the absence
of your brother, which you seem to
so much. I have been rather
gay also & since I wrote home
that I have had a jarnut to
Smythopol & enjoyed myself
very much; I suppose it is no use
trying to escape giving you a full
true & particular account, so I
suppose, as I am in for it, I must
just tell you patience & tell you
all, at least I will try to do so,
& should I omit anything, which
you would like to know, you must
rest contented at present, & I will
perhaps answer all your questions
"Viva Vox" sometime or other -

Our original party for this trip would
have consisted of six & included
Dr. Erskine, but through some mis-
understanding, he could not get
away & another of our party dropped
off from the same cause, we had
still a party of four women including
Gil. & myself, & after a good many
committee meetings, in the shape of evening

parties for the purpose of arranging matters, it was concluded we were ready to start on our journey -

Each of us were mounted & we carried with us some grub both for ourselves & horses - We left camp on fine day & crossed the Russian line at Trukhtin Bridges about midday, we rode slowly along & ascended the Mackenzie heights, from which we had a beautiful view of the valley of the Schumayon. When the army came from the above they came down these heights to their present position. The Russians have had possession of them ever since & as we passed up we saw a great many of their guns still in position & it would have been a very difficult matter to have ascended those heights while the war was going on - I suppose you have heard a great deal about Mackenzie's farm, it is situated on these heights & here the Russian advanced camp was situated. Mackenzie's farm takes its name from a Mackenzie who was an admiral in the Russian service & who got a grant of land for his services. There is no farm, but there was still the ruins of a farm - houses standing, while

the country all around was covered
with brush-wood & stumps of trees.
It was at this place that Dr. W. Kewie
of Edinb: died of Cholera, but the country
is now so much changed, that no
one can find out his grave. - The
Russians are not encamped in
tents but in small underground
round huts which are covered with
boughs, & on the whole look very neat.

The road is very hilly until you arrive
at the valley of the Belue, which
stream is crossed by a wooden bridge
& here another part of the Russian
army is encamped. - The country
beyond this is rather flat & it may
be said to be the commencement of
the steppes, we crossed another small
stream, the Katcha & without meeting
with anything extraordinary we arrived,
rather tired, at Baktshi. Serai about
7 in the evening. - We had great diffi-
culty in finding out our inn, but at
last we succeeded in finding out
a kind of eating house with a court
yard in which to tie our horses.
Baktshi-Serai is a very good specimen
of an oriental town, the streets are
narrow & covered with mud, & are

you stumble along the main street which is nearly a mile in length, you see the tailors, shoemakers &c sitting & selling their goods in little open booths in true eastern style. This little town was at one time the capital of the Crimea when it belonged to the Tartars & the palace of the Grand Khans is still to be seen, although now partly converted into an hospital for Russian troops, the palace itself must have been splendid in its day, but I must confess my taste for oriental architecture does not carry me so far as to say that I thought very much of it. We had dinner at the inn, such as it was, & then went out to have a stroll, we returned about 10 o'clock, & were informed by the landlord that a soldier from the commandant had been seeking us, we were rather alarmed at this & mine of Siberia began to float through our minds, we were very much relieved however when we found out that it was a civil invitation to sleep at his house. The soldier returned in about half an hour & off we went with him - he took us on

short way out of the town & then handed
us over to a dirty half-turk, half-
Tartan who seemed to be waiting for
us at the door of a large empty house.
Our friend the Tartan took us to a
large room & by means of signs
explained to us that two of us were
to sleep in a sofa (which with a few
chairs were the only furniture in the
room) & for the other two he made a
shaken down in the floor. It was
altogether a very ludicrous proceeding,
but we slept well & next morning
when the old Tartan appeared he
cleaned our boots, gave us coffee
& sent us on our way rejoicing.

After giving our horses breakfast
& having the same for ourselves
we started for Sympheopol. Very
much pleased with our treatment in
Bakhti-Serai. The food we got to
eat was very good, green soup &
fish seemed to predominate, but
substantive roast beef & cutlets
were not rare, & what was the greatest
treat of all, plenty of milk. The
drinks were few & in general
cheap, "London Porter 10p per bottle" &
foreign wines much the same price

The wine we usually drank was the wine of the country, Crimean wine, it is very like the "vin ordinaire" of the French, & people at home would think very little of it indeed, but after a time you like it very much.

The road from Baktchi-Sera to Symphopolis is very uninteresting & is nothing but a succession of plains stretching out on either side of the road. The whole country looks very barren & bare in the valleys of the Alma & Bulganas there are no trees to be seen. The part of the Alma where our camp was about 10 miles further up than where the battle was fought, the river flows through a beautiful fertile valley & its banks are covered with vines & orchards, at the spot our camp was there was a large hotel with I believe "good accommodation for man & beast" we did not go in however - there & there were to be seen a distant few houses, no sign of civilized life was to be seen & the country seemed to be wholly taken possession of by soldiers. We met a great many carts loaded with provisions making their way to

the front escorted by bands of collocks
with their long lances, other carts
were bringing sick from the front to
Symphiosopol, & they all looked
miserable enough, the most of them
were suffering from Typhus fever,
& I am sure they must have suffered
greatly in these little, wooden, spring
= life carts - The most of the troops
we saw were militia & I believe
the regular troops are between Sym-
= phiosopol & Perisop, they seem strong
men, but did not look either well
clothed or well fed - We reached
Symphiosopol about 4 P.M. & had
some difficulty in finding a hotel,
we at last succeeded however in
establishing ourselves in a very
nice one, as for beds, there was
no one asking for such a thing,
so we were promised a part of a
sofa or the floor which we con-
sidered "superior accommodation".
After dinner we went out & had a
stroll about the town, looked at
the shops &c. The inhabitants seem
quite amused with us & looked as
if they had never seen English before,
we found a few Russian officers who

spoke English & almost the whole spoke French fluently. The Russian officer is very like the English, he is generally of good family & has a great deal of true politeness about him, which contrasts strongly with the French officer. They were very kind to us showed us all they could & told us all they knew. I asked one fellow who was with us, how he liked the Allies? his answer was, "We don't like the English much; we hate the French; we despise the Turks; as for the Serbians, we have not seen much of them, but we believe they are very good". When we questioned them about the battles, they will not admit that they have been beaten, & rather confuse us with the question, "What have the allies done?"

Symphuopol is, considering the place, a very nice town, it has a large market place, good broad streets, good shops, fine churches & I believe a good theatre which however was not going on when we were there, as it was Lent. After wandering about the town until we were tired we returned to the inn, & meeting

a new party of Russian officers were
of course fraternised & soon became
very happy, another party of English
who were in the room joined us &
in all, we at least had a party of
16 or 18. We wished to be content
with coffee & Cigars, but they ordered
champagne & when we saw that we
were fairly in for it, we accommodated
ourselves to circumstances & of
course a jolly night ensued. The
health of the Queen was drunk about
twenty times each with three cheers
& the smashing of glasses, the health
of the Emperor Alexander - ditto -
toast & sentiment followed with
so much rapidity, that after singing
"For we are jolly good fellows" (which
by the way amused the Russians very
much,) it was discovered that our
Russian friends had got very —
& as for the British — a great many
had headaches next morning —
We wished to pay for this, or at least
or share, but the Russians would not
hear of such a thing & I think their
hospitality must have cost them
something like £10 or £15 — not bad
for fellows who would have shot any
of us, with great pleasure, a month before.

Next morning to my surprise I discovered a large swelling on my horse's back, having been caused by a beautiful saddle which I had borrowed for the trip - it was at once evident, that my humanity would never allow me to put the saddle on his back for two or three days, & of course, here was a fix - How was I to get back? - Fortunately my horse had kicked one of my companion's horses, & of course he was lame, so after consoling him the best way I could it was agreed to coach it to Babtschi-Serai & let our horses run behind. When the serial coach turned up at the river door, it proved to be a four wheeled, covered cart, drawn by four ponies abreast, nor rather grumbled at this turn out but it was no use, so we got & after a most extraordinary smashing, crashing, shaking kind of ride, we landed in safety - at our old quarters in Babtschi-Serai - This night the Commandante, much to our disgust forgot his illustrious visitors & we had to content ourselves with "a soft blanket" for a bed, I slept very well

home & rest on morning when I was
roused in order to allow an old
woman to sweep the floor, I could
scarcely believe I had been asleep.
Next day it was coach again &
after travelling on a road, stiles
rougher than that of yesterday I
was very well pleased to find my-
self once more safe in my hut in
the evening, having enjoyed myself
for four days in glorious style.
But still resolved not to travel
in the Crimea any more, until I
take a trip to Balaklava, to
be followed by a trip across the
Black Sea - Now I must draw
to a close - I hope you are well
as well as I am, & I am sure I
could not wish you better health.
Please do not write to me any
more until I tell you, as you
may be coming soon -

Remember me to all my friends
Mother, Aunt &c. Thank J. P.
for his letter & will write him
soon -

I am
My dear Anne
Your affectionate brother
David Greig

Camp - Sebastopol
16th May 1856
in "Jen

My dear Father

As the mail did not go off yesterday I could not keep my usual time in writing, but as I am not far behind it I hope you will not be uneasy, & will forgive my apparent neglect. I fear you will be imagining that by this time I am on my way home, but it is not so, & I am still in the old tent, but as I know you will all be very anxious to know when I am to leave this, in this letter I propose to tell you all my ideas on that subject. The 17th Regt. or as I may say "my old regiment" expected to leave started for Canada about the end of last month & the Colonel in order to do a sharp thing, wrote the Constantinople to have all the letters for the regiment stop there & the result has been that I have never got a newspaper or letter for the last three weeks.

human that can't be helped, & as
I am not inclined to imagine that
all sorts of evils have happened
at home (as Brother does when one
of my letters is a little behind time)
I must believe that "no news are
good news", that you are all well,
& that my letter "arrived he lost"
& will come up by & by. - All
the Canadian regiments have
left now & the 17th embarked on
the 8th Inst., they all seemed very
glad that they were going to such
a nice station, & I must say I
almost felt sorry that I was not
going with them. - Since they went
one regiment (3rd Buffs) have gone
to Corfu & two or three more are
going off in a few days for Corfu
or Malta (46th 68th & 14th). - Since
the 17th left I have been rather busy
& have not missed them much, I
am still in my tent all alone, &
if I did not see others going off
I would even think of leaving
myself. I tried very hard to get
the Pathological Board broken
up at the end of last month, & at

one time I thought that I would be
on my way to England by this time,
but as I am not my own master
here, I am still - One of the
members of our board belonged
to the 39th Regt, & when it embarked
for Canada he had to go with it,
leaving only Dr. Stone (the president)
& myself to do the work, of course
we thought that this was the first
step to a dissolution followed by
being ordered to England & Dr.
Stone proposed this to Sir John Hall
who had no objections whatever to
offer, we wound up the affairs of the
concern & in fact I was begun to
pack up, when we were informed
that the Board was not to be
broken up yet, & that we were
still to go on as usual - all I
could say was "Well I'm blessed,
what a sell" & began work again
with as good a grace as I could,
it was I must say rather provoking
but it was no use grumbling, so
I am still, very busy, & as
happy as I could wish to be.
I do not intend however to let

The subject drop, & at the end of
this month I will again call on
Sir John Hall K. C. B. & if he still
says that he cannot let me go,
I have a very good mind to put
in for "urgent private affairs" such
as "coming of age" (?) or "having
fallen heir to a landed estate" (I
wish I had) &c; the "sick dodge"
would be "no go", for I am in such
a rude state of health, that it
would be quite an absurdity to
attempt such a thing. - Well, what
is the odds? or would it be in the
Crimea does not matter much, so
it would be quite useless to vex
myself about getting away -

I am still sorry to inform you
that the "Royal Exchange of Montrose"
has now at last appeared in
Balachuan Harbour & as a con-
sequence I have now got my boots
home, no great matter. I have
received the box from Wooler
which was a great treat, full
of eatables, & the most of them in
a good state of preservation, if
I did not spoil my stomach

with them, it's a pity. That's all, but
I won't tell you definitely whether
I did or not, in case you should ever
see a baby, instead of a "Crim: Leo",
which would be, I must say, rather
a down-come. Since writing you
last we have had the most beautiful weather
& I have enjoyed a great many
beautiful rides, & boating ex-
cursions in the harbour of Sebastopol,
visiting Fort Constantine & $\frac{1}{2}$, &
fraternising with the Russians, who
still keep their character of being very
jolly sort of fellows & always love
to drink beside them - isn't it ro-
-mantic, only think of a spree in
Fort Constantine. The Russians
have very nearly all embarked now,
& the French are embarking as
fast as they can - the English with
their large transport fleet, seem
to be embarking very slowly, but
we expect to be all out of there before
another two months are over - When an
English regiment does embark, it
does so very quickly, the men march
down to the Balaklava in the morning,
they are all on board ship, & the ship

may be out of Baluchana Larkham
in less than half an hour -

Although there is every prospect
of our moving very soon, I will not
promise to write oftener than I used
to do, so you must not be dis-
appointed. I received a letter from
D. Pinn a week or two ago & I
will write him next week, so that
you will hear if I expect any change
before the end of the month - In
my last I mentioned that I would
not expect a letter from home, after
this, but as I have had a slight
taste of that sort of thing just now,
you must tell my two faithful
correspondents to begin again, but
in case I should be moved, to write
me only once a fortnight & address
to "D. G. Staff Ass. Pay - Baluchna P.O."
& should I be moved, I will learn
where with the Postmaster to send
me after me - I wish it however to
be kept in mind that these fort-
=nightly letters must be very long ones
ten pages at the very least -

I am sorry I have no news to
give you this time & I fear I

must draw to a close - I won't
forget the Malta Lane, should
I call at that Port, so Brother &
Anne may keep their minds at
ease - I wish very much to
know, what Aunt would like
me to bring home to her, & I hope
I will hear in the next letter -

I hope you are all well & that
you will remember me to Brother -
Aunt, Anne, Cousins &c &c
& other friends too - I am
to the convention - Hoping to hear
my letters soon - not to mention
newspapers - only think of being
three weeks behind the world
in news !!! -

I am
My dear Father
Yours most affec^t Son
David Greig

Camp. Sebastopol

1st June 1856

My dear Anne,

Now I am again, all alive
& kicking, still in the Crimea, & day
of writing, come round again to
blow me, if I know what to write
about - Since writing last I have
received a letter from Mother dated
15th April, it was rather long on its
way, & as it was addressed to the
17th Regt. I suspect it had been kept
at Constantinople, then gone with
the regiment to Malta, & from thence
found its way up here. As for the
rest of my letters I think I may
expect to get them in about 6 mos.
from this date for I feel sure they
have all gone to Constantinople -

One letter from home in about six
weeks, is, I must say rather slow
work, still I must not grumble,
it could not be helped, & I must
just fancy you are all well &
rejoice over this letter that I have
got - I was very glad to hear that
Mr. Millon had turned up at last
& that you had got your new skin

it is no great thing after all, but I
hope you are pleased with it. I do
not remember what was in the parcel
besides the skins, but I suppose you
understood all & if you did not
you must just have patience until
I come home. - So you thought
Miss Alexander wished to pay you
a visit in Dundee. I cannot
say whether she did or not, but I
fully agree with Mother that a visit
from my Wooler friends would be
perhaps best conducted when
I am at home, whenever that may
be, they are kind beyond measure
but still I think you would find
it difficult to amuse visitors
whom you had never met before -
I am quite amused with Mother,
her servants seem always to come
to grief in some way or other, I
hope the trouble is better now &
Abigail is now able for her work
once more. Mother asks me what
I think of Miss Luckie's marriage?
I think she will find all my opinion
in another letter, & I think it is
a Luckie match for both parties.
I was very glad to hear that Father

hard such an easy thing if it in the
shop now, are actually the people
to visit me - with regard to fishing
& what bait would be most suitable
I am at a loss to answer - very
few of our people ever try such a
thing - but the French are always
busy in the Schumacher & in the
Harbour of Sebastopol, the fish
caught are very small & chiefly of
the smallest kind, very little pleasure
or fun in it & it is quite amusing
when you see his eyes sparkling
as he hooks up a minnow or stick-
-back, as well pleased as if it were
a 20th fish - there is a saying & a
very true one "A Frenchman can live
luxuriously, where a Turkey would
starve" - however I do not think
Father would like this kind of
fishing & he must just wait until
I come home when I think I will
enjoy a days fishing very much -
as I talk about "when I come home"
you will naturally ask, when is
that? well, I am sorry I can't tell
you yet, but I may as well tell you
all I know about it & so you can't
grumble & I will have a chance

conscience about it. At present I
am busy with the report for last
month & thinking things easy it
will not be finished before 10 days
well, if at that time Sir John Hall
says - that, as the army is now broken
up we can go to England - good -
we go to England - if London - he
tells us to continue on still, we
may yet stay all this month, but
I do not think there is any probability
of remaining here, beyond the first
week of July - as it is, I am quite
indifferent about it now, determined
to take things as they come & in
fact or weeks or two does not
make much odds in the long run -
In fact if I got my choice I would
prefer leaving this on the first week
of July & I will tell you, why?; Part
of our pay out here, we get in the
shape of fiddo - all on once, & this
being about £11 per quarter is
paid on the first day of every quarter
the 1st of July is the quarter-day, if
I am in the Crimea on that day I
get £11, should I leave the day
before, I lose it - See see -
I doubt if you do -

Since writing you last I have changed
my plan of abode, & have left my
old hut for good & all. I was very
unwilling to do so, but the rats
compelled me to do so whether I
would or not - For a long time
before I left went away, the
rats used to run about outside
the hut but were too foolish to come
in, but by & by, all their sense
of politeness was off & besides making
large burrows into & under the hut,
they became very impudent, & used
to have large evening parties, and
committee meetings under the
table, after I had gone to bed; of
course I could not sleep, & after I
had to rise & clean the place, I used
to strike about right & left with a
large stick, killed some & wounded
others, the killed were all well enough,
but the wounded in order to have
their revenge, crept into all sorts of
out-of-the-way corners & died; -
when a mouse unfortunately gets
shut into a drawer or chest &
dies you know it makes a bad
smell; - well - just imagine six
rats, about the size of small cats,

rapidly undergoing decomposition, when
the weather is very hot & often 86 degrees
in the shade - & you will be able to
imagine the cause of my leaving my
hut... The hut I have removed to
is a very nice summer comfortable
one, which was built by the Surgeon
of the 5th & as his regiment went
off to Malta a week ago, when
he left I took possession & am
very much pleased with the changes,
it is more solidly built than mine
was, is nice & cool for summer,
& not a single rat near it -

Stake our masts very little now &
one to be had in all directions,
simply, for the taking, in fact all
that are not occupied are being
pulled down, & are whole camps
are disappearing, & men becoming
fewer & fewer the place has a
very desolate look now - all the
regiments for the Mediterranean
stations have gone off now, & the
regiments for England will begin
to embark, I believe, this week -

The Guards go first, then the Rifles
followed by the 7th Fusiliers, 23rd ditto
rest of Light Division - Highlanders &

in fact, it is difficult to say, but
we may be all out of this before
another month is over - D. Erskine's
regiment (the 4th) has left the front,
& is now stationed at Balaklava
where I believe he is in a very good
spot, but I have not called on
him yet - all the star-buffers
& army followers are beginning to
consider their trade gone & are
now talking themselves off - still
Balaklava & Kammerik are busy
places & things are now selling
very cheap - cheap in a Crimean
point of view - Beer 1/- for bottles &
such like - When the 57th left I
fell heir to a lot of cockles & hens
which are a great amusement to
me & supply me with no end
of Lancashire & egg-flip, the latter
when cold is very acceptable in
this weather - What a curious
country this is, the weather here
here in the winter, & something
near the Boiling-point in summer,
in my tent I have a nice large window
which I always keep open & which
looks out upon something like green
grass, & it is so pleasant to sit

as I am doing now, in a hot stewing
day, almost in a state of nudity,
fortunately there are no ladies pass-
ing so no body's feelings can be
hurt. Oh! isn't it jolly when you
can do, & dress as, you like! -

I think I have now talked enough
nonsense for a fortnight, so I
will draw the curtain - Hoping
this will find you all well -
with kindest love to Father -
Mother, Aunt, Cousin &c

I am
My dear Annie
Your most affect. brother
David Greig

Remember my health at
suffer on the 16th Inst -

D. G.

Camp. Sebastopol
16th June 1856
" " "

My dear Father

Since writing to you
a fortnight ago, very little news
has taken place here. I have re-
ceived no letters from home which
I am sure you is a great blame
to me indeed, it is true I have
received two or three newspapers
but even the red sealing wax did
not make up for the want of a
letter; had the mail come in to-day
I expect I would have got a letter
but that event has not come to
help us yet so I must just live
in hope until tomorrow. Within
the last fortnight a great number
of regiments have left for England
The First Division, including the Guards
is all gone. The Light Division is
gone. The remains of the Second will
be off tomorrow. The Fourth is
quite extinct. & all that remains
now of the old British "Camp before
Sebastopol" is the 18th (Royal Irish)
Regt & one or two Battalions of the
Land Transport Corps. The Camps
of the regiments that are gone look

very desolate, a few of the best wooden
huts were taken down & sent to Malta
but by far the greater number were
left, & we all on fellows left with
a very strong impression that they
would soon require these huts in
the Crimea again, every one tried
to destroy everything as much as
he could, smashing windows &
unroofing huts during the day &
having large bon-fires during the
night; the night before last I
counted no less than 10 large fires
blazing all over the camp. & last
night, although it was Sunday,
a large fire was blazing in the
Light Division all night.

Since all the regiments have gone
you will naturally think, that I
can have nothing to do & I can
with safety say that such is the
case, I have only had one case
this month & it is very improbable
that I can have another. I have
not been altogether well however
for I have been very busy writing
& finishing off all our reports, they
will be all finished tomorrow &
then I will have nothing whatever to do

but wait with patience until I am
ordered home, which I strongly
suspect will be before the end of the
month. While I am writing, Dr. Howe
has gone over to Grand Junction
to ask Sir John Hall what we are
to do now, & if we are to be sent
home immediately; so I will not
finish my letter until he comes
back & then I will put in a P.S.
to tell you what the old buffer
has got to say for himself or for
us, which comes to much about
the same thing. — In the meantime
I may go on, & tell you that we
have at present as boiling hot
weather, as any sensible Indian
with a moderate development of
the organ of Conscientiousness, could
wish for, & the result is that the
heat of the day is spent very
listlessly indeed, & in the cool of
the evening we have long walks
or rides, in fact we spend the time
the best way we can & as things
are at present that is not at all
difficult to do pleasantly. You
will I am sure say "I am fond of
changes" & at the same time you are

saying, about a certain class of
people who "are fond of them", when I
tell you I have again changed
my habitation, & that I am now
in a beautiful cool wooden hut
above the D. House, it is not at
all excavated like my former
one & is therefore much cooler,
& in this hut I intend to remain
until I get my final order to
quit, which I could easily do
any day at half. am. Louis notices
for you may well imagine my kit
is not a very large one now & in
fact the most of the things which
I take with me I will take on
my back, & then for an outfit in
London or wherever I land!—

By the way, I wish you would tell
Mother & Aunt to be getting some
of my shirts (white of course), & socks
ready, so that they can be sent to
London whenever I tell them to be,
so, for as it is at present I have
not a single white shirt, & as
I suppose these things are still
new in civilized society, I must
once more take to stiff breasts or
"stick-ups" in the form of cut-throats

call me - This last expression puts
me in mind of a very serious case
which occurred here about 10 days
ago - Do you remember me mentioning
the name of Dr. G' Connor when I first
went to Keshmish? He was P.M.D.
before Dr. Rice came to take charge
well, he had been up here for some
months, had very little to do, &
as I suppose to amuse himself
in the long evenings he had taken
the drinking rum & water (rather
more of the former than the latter,
I suspect), took Dr. J. - & by way
of a final off cut his throat with
one of his own instruments, leaving
a wife & three children to the care
of government - rather a poor way
to go out of the world I must say,
but although a simple, good natured
Irishman, he was not a man
any one could admire -

I suppose you see by the date of this
letter, what an important day in
the year this is, & I have no doubt
you will all be drinking very good
health at home to-night & hope I
may soon be with you all once
more, how time flies!! it appears
that it is almost time that I have

beginning to seriously think what I
am to do - However I do not con-
sider that the last two years
have been altogether lost with me,
for I feel that I would not
have missed seeing what I
have seen for any sum of money
& only regret that I was not
with the army from the very first.
Oh! how splendid it would have
been to have shared in the
victories of Alma & Inkermann,
but that could not be helped.
I have no doubt it would all for
the best - I settle for any time
at home, since now I am sure
be a very difficult matter for
me to do, & when I do come once
more under ^{government} petticoats, I hope they
will not be too severe upon me,
but deal gently at first.

Since I cannot learn that you are
all well, I must just hope that
you are so & adopt as my motto
that no news are good news -
As you wish a host of plants
I have made a small collection
of a few such as they are, & will
bring them home with me, you
need not be telling any one about

them, for they are no great things after
all & if I mistake not I have
seen them all as natives, either
wild or cultivated in Scotland.

And now I fear I must bid you
good bye. I am sure you can
not either expect or long for an
interesting letter from me, when
I have nothing new to write about,
but as I know you are always
anxious to hear from me so
just now than perhaps at any
other time as you will be so anxious
to hear if I am married & when I
start for home; so I will promise
to give you a note (what though
it of course must be) every week
until further notice — Kindest
love to Mother, Aunt, & women
with best wishes for all my other
friends — I am

Your most affec. Son
David Living

P.S. Dr. Home has come
home, but no news. I will
write as soon as I know
myself — D.

Sights of Balaklava
21st June 1856
— " —

My dear Father

In my last letter I think I told you that I intended to remain in my new tent until I was ordered home, but the camp got quite deserted & as a matter of safety we were ordered down here, where we are stationed on a most beautiful spot on the top of a hill overlooking Scutari & Balaklava. We came down yesterday & had just got our tents (tents again) & set to rights, when we received notice that we are to appear in orders to-day, & start for England in 2 or 3 days. I do not intend this for a letter but will perhaps write you next mail or year. Dr. Arsenius's regt.

left for England yesterday, or am
to leave today - I think I
will be sent home by the
"Foyle" or "Resettlement", what
kind of vessels they are, I
do not know -

I am

Yours very affectionately
David Greig

Saturday Morning



H. M. S. "Resistance"
Constantinople
Monday - 7th July 1856
m m

My dear Father

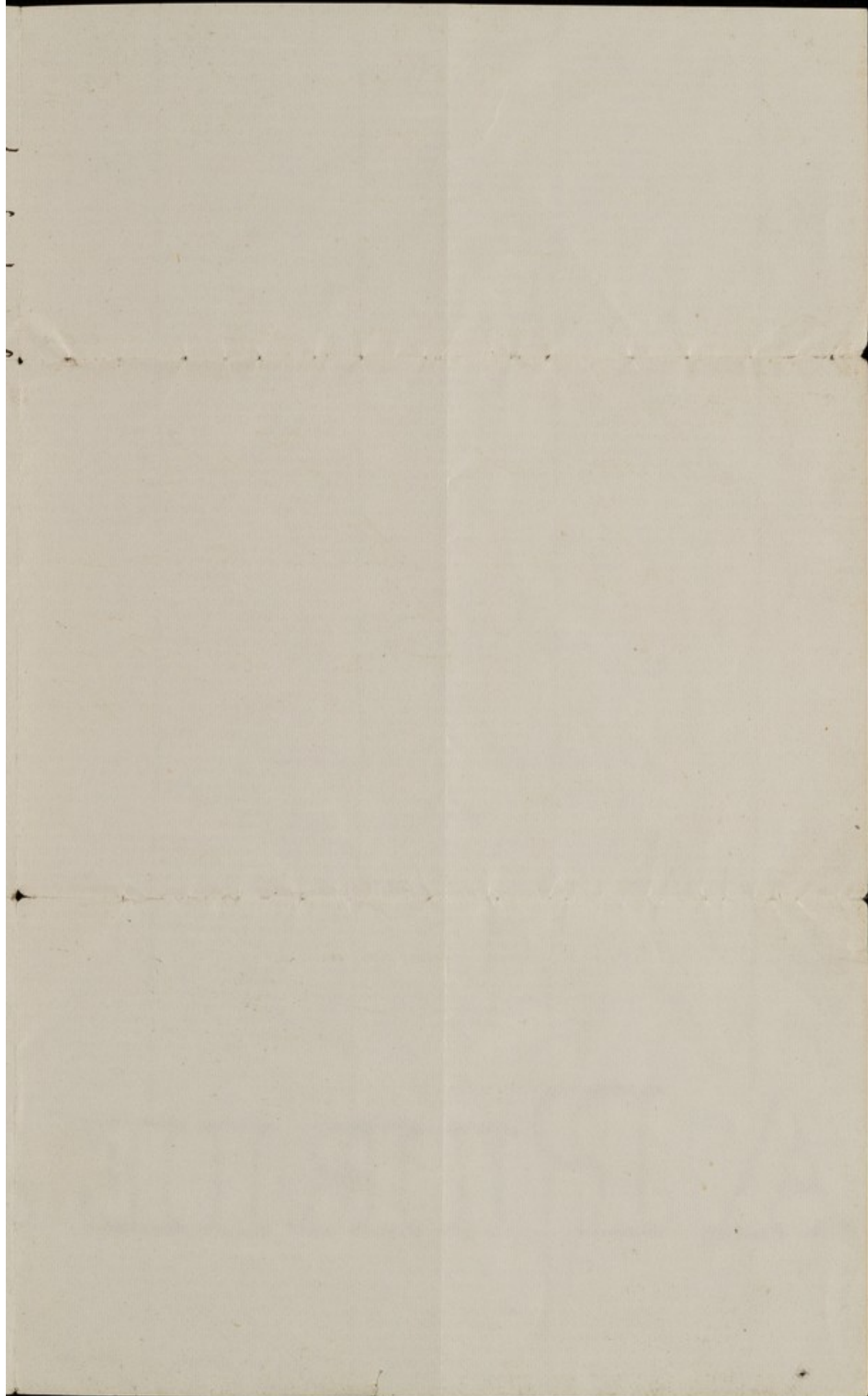
You see I am at last
on my way home - I embarked
on board the Resistance at
Sebastopol on Wednesday last
& am sailed most day the 4th instant.
On Friday evening we left the
Crimea & arrived at this
place yesterday morning
after a most beautiful, quite
smooth passage across the
Black Sea & which I am
happy to say I enjoyed very
much & was not at all
sea-sick - I have not
time to give you a long story

just now, & I must drop
this note to tell you I am on
my way - We are to proceed
on our way again this afternoon
Hoping you are all well.
I am

Very dear Father
Your affec^t Son
David Greig

I will write again from
Orkney when we are to put
in for 2 or 3 days -

D.G.



H. M. S. "Resistance"
Malta - 21st July 1856
" " "

My dear Father

I arrived here last night after a very slow but very fine passage from Constantinople - We had two or three days of very rough weather off Cape Matapan, when of course I was - not sick - but I must say decidedly agitated & had to keep my bed, as the only comfortable place I could find. This I was not in the least surprised at but was rather disappointed I was so very well all the voyage - After rounding Cape Matapan we had something like a dead calm for a week the sea was like a lake & every one enjoyed himself. I commenced to write a long letter a few days ago & intended giving you a long account of the voyage, but the good intention I am sorry to say broke down, & you must now have patience until I get home, when I will "affirm you as of yore" - I write on board a ship is

no easy job, there is always a
noise & row going on, together with
considerable motion & a feeling, as
if your head was undergoing the
process of churning, in this condition
you know it is not very pleasant
to sit down to a long letter, so

you must excuse me. - I
expect we will be here for two
days as we have some cargo to
load & unload, during which time I
will have an opportunity of seeing
all that is to be seen here.

We would have made a far
quicker passage in a steam-
vessel & in that case I might
have been able to say when
I would land in England, but
in the present state of things I am
quite unable to say. Our journey is
divided into three parts of nearly
equal length - we have only con-
sulted one man & have taken
three weeks to do so, so that if
we get home at the same rate that
we have been going you may expect
to hear from me in England in
about 6 weeks from this date.
We expect however to drop into

Gibraltar + if we do so I will write
from that place. We are not very
sure where our mill lands in England
but at present our orders are for
Portsmouth. I enclose a list
of things to which I wish you to en-
close in a box + send to London
when I may get it when I arrive.
I will put up at the New Opera House
Box St. Covent Garden - Please
pay for the carriage + mark on
it, "to be left till called for" -
as a matter of course I have
no news to tell you, so you must
excuse a long letter at present
+ be content with a simple in-
=timation that I am quite well
+ hope you are all the same.
With kindest love to all

I am

My dear Father

Your most affec^t son

David Greig

N. M. S. Resistance
Gibraltar
13th August 1856

My dear Father

After being away 18 days
at sea, I am now in at the
famous rock of Gibraltar,
and I am happy to say we have
got over the longest two-thirds
of our voyage. The voyage
from Malta to this place was
a very nice one & we had
light winds & a calm sea
the whole way, it is true we
have been a long, at a snail's
pace, but still I would rather
take that, than suffer from
sea-sickness & always be in
fear of "the next big wave
coming" as you will remember
was the case when fishing at
Broughty ferry coast. I am
in robust health & as jolly
as you could wish me to
be, & only wish I could be
as near you now as the
same, for it is now a long

time since I have heard from
home. As for a description
of Gibraltar & the other places
which I have seen during my
Mediterranean voyage, you
must have patience until
you see me when I guess I
will spin you a yarn. For
I now consider myself as
bit of a sailor, having on
little sea-sickness now &
then. When you receive this
letter I wish you all to write
me a long epistle & tell me
all the home news for the
last three months, please
address it to the care of my
agents (Messrs. Messrs. Grey & Co) for
I will be sure to catch them
first, & it will be so jolly to
hear from home. I am
still very comfortable on
board & when we land at
Portsmouth I intend to pop
up to London & see if I can
get home, which I expect to
do immediately. & then No
for Dundee!!! - Do not let
the sea however, I mean

not get home so soon as I
expect - However, look on the
bright side of the picture at
present, & you may expect to
see me, & my little ruckie
dog, coast up at Burnham
House some evening, asking
for lodgings & good treatment
which I have no doubt we
will both get - I have
nothing more to tell you just
now & have merely sent this
to show you when I am, so
Good bye, & with kindest
love to Mother, Aunt &
Anna

I am

My dear Father

Your most afft. Son

David Greig

We said again in the afternoon
D.S.

H. M. S. Resistance
Portsmouth
September 1856.

My dear Father

After a voyage of 19 days
from Gibraltar, here I am once
more on English soil & expect
to be home very soon now.

I have not reported myself
yet & of course can tell you
nothing about leave or when
you may expect me home, but
I will drop you a note from
London as soon as I know.

The voyage from the Crimea
although it has been a very
long one (63 days) has been
I must say a very jolly one
& I have never been once
what you would call regularly
sea-sick, the Bay of Biscay
is rather a rough & tumble
kind of place & the old tub
did roll furiously but I was
not in the least sick.

I am wishing very much to
hear from home & expect to
find letters waiting for me in
London. I hope you are well

much -

I am

Very dear Father

Your most affec^t Son

David King

I have landed from the
vessel, at Anthon in the
Isle of Wight & am in
Portsmouth before she is -

D.K.

Handwritten text, possibly a signature or date, located in the upper right corner of the page. The text is faint and difficult to decipher.



27 St Georges Square
Portman. Portmouth

3rd Sept: 1856
m m m

My dear Father

Burns says something
about the "flame of love & men"
& certainly my flame here
in the present instance has
"gone aghill". & here I am
stuck in Portmouth doing
duty at the Garrison Hospital.
Isn't it an awful sell?
However it can't be helped
& in order to make myself
jolly under the circumstances
I propose in this note to tell
you only how this has
happened & in my next letter
when I have more time I

will give you a long account
about the voyage & things
in general.

When I arrived here as I
was in medical charge of
the troops I have to go to
report my arrival to an
Dr. Ball who is the P. M. O.
here, he is an old scotchman
& a very civil old fellow
to boot, he comes from Calcutta
& we soon got into a long
talk. I told him I was so
very anxious to get home
that I would do any thing
to attain my object. He told
me that as far as he knew just
now it was no use asking
for it, as there are great
changes taking place &
a lot being sent on half pay

The Director - General is in no
good frame of mind & if
I ask for it, he might put
me on half-pay or give me
a flat refusal, in all
probability the latter. Once
the best thing I could do at the
present was to quietly remain
with him & he would do
what he could do for me,
& as the getting of leave is
highly problematical, he
has promised to put me in
charge of the depot of the
21st Regt which has every
chance of being sent to
Scotland soon, when I will
go with it, or if I do not
get to Scotland in duty
that way, he is to try & get
me exchanged for one

Altho. am young in Glasgow -
in fact the more such an
jolly old fellow as that I
took his advice & here I
am, a gentleman at
large, in respectable
lodgings with a front
door & brave servants.
I must say I am dis-
appointed but I suppose
it can't be helped &
when I only get some letters
from home I will be quite
contented. Love to Mother
& Aunt & Anne & hoping
you are all well.

I am Father
My dear Father
Your most aff. Son

David Greig
I have sent for my box in London.

I will write you in a day or two again.

Portsmouth
5th September 1851

My dear Father

A soldier's life is a
very curious one, & when I am
again changed to where you
write me you must address
the "Fort Pitt. Chatham" for
then I am to proceed to-morrow.
I was very much surprised
when I was at hospital
this morning to get an order
from the Director-General
to proceed immediately to
Chatham for duty there. &
of course then I must go.
I intend to start to-morrow
morning for London & spend
the Sunday with my friends
John Alexander & report
myself at Fort Pitt on
Monday morning -

As good luck would have it
Dr. Taylor (who is the P.M. of
Chatham) & I are great friends,
& of course I will see what
he can do for me towards
getting leave. I must say
I am very much disgusted
at not having been able
to come to Scotland, but
still I look upon it as a
thing that can't be helped
so I must just make the
best of it, be happy under
the circumstances, & hope
that it is all for the best.
As for resigning my commission
& coming home immediately,
I do not wish to do so, until
I have time to look about
me, & if I did so without
thinking well over it, I
might take a step which

I would repent all my life,
at any rate we must all
have a little patience &
be as jolly as possible in
the mean time - of course
I will write you from Chatham
& tell you how I get on -

Oh! I was so glad this
morning when I received
from my agent in London, three
letters which he had had for
me - viz. 2 from Mother & one
from Annie - one of Mother's
letters is a very old one &
is dated April 28th the other
two are dated August 25th &
were enclosed in one envelope.
It is useless saying how
glad I was to hear that
you were all well - as
for Annie's toothache, I am
sorry to say I can sympathize

with her, for thus of my truth
have been a great annoyance,
to me since I left the
Crimea. I am so
unsettled at present that
to give you an account of
the voyage, would be a
great task to me. However
I have notes of all my pro=
ceedings & I will spin you
a yarn some fine day -
I am sure I am much obliged
to the Misses Sims & all the rest
of my kind friends who are
asking for me & I am sure
it would be as great a
pleasure for me to see them
as it would be for them to
see me. I have got poor
little "Ruskie" beside me
but how I am to get it to
Scotland is rather a puzzle.

but I suppose that can be
done in some way or other, by
r. eyes - Living on shore &
in civilised society seems
very curious to me, but I
am becoming accustomed
to the soft beds & pillows
which at first I could not
put up with, & it was with
the greatest difficulty I could
sleep at all for the first three
nights - Portsmouth is a
very curious place & seems
to be composed of fortifications,
drawbridges & ditches. I
have not seen much of it,
but still quite enough. The
Isle of Wight is I think the
most beautiful place I ever
was in & I am not at all
surprised at the Queen
having a palace there -

The letters which I write now
you must think very careless
ones, but really I am in such
an unsettled state, that if
I can sit down for any
few minutes to write off
a few lines to tell you
where I am it is about all
I can do, so you must
excuse me, & I will promise
to be a good boy when I
get settled down some-
where - I am of course
very well & in high spirits
in fact I never let these go
down - Kind love to
Mother, Aunt, Anna -
Cousins &c

I am Father's
My dear
Your most affect. Son
David Briggs

Many thanks to Mother & Ann
for their very kind letters to
me. & for my absence they
must just make up their
minds to it as a good thing,
for if I came home direct
from the Crimea I might
fall in love & get married
& so make an awfully
fool of myself -

D.S.

Kululu

21st March 1855

My dear Father

I suppose you will be very glad when you see my hand again & I can assure you I am just as happy I am able to write you once more - It is now a month since I was seized with Typhus fever & I believe I have been very ill indeed. I do not remember much about it now, but I am as the saying is as weak as water at present & as hungry as one recovering from fever only can be - Dr. Watson I believe has been kind enough to tell you how I have been progressing & I fear he at one time gave you very bad accounts indeed - that is all fact

however & with the exception of the
extreme weakness I would be as
well as ever - Dr. Watson advised
me not to write this post as my hand
was so shaky but I am sure you
will excuse this my first attempt
at letter-writing after my illness.

During my illness I have been
most tenderly & carefully nursed
by Mrs. Rice, the lady of our Chief
Medical officer here - to describe
her kindness I cannot, she was
constantly beside me & I am sure
I may say I wanted for nothing.
Dr. Rice was very kind also & but
for him, his lady & Dr. Watson, I
am sure I would now be sleep-
ing quietly on the hill above
Kululie - as it is however I am
getting on jolly now - if I recover

fast, I will not come home yet
as the best of the weather is coming
now - I intend going to Therapia
for a week or two & then I expect I
will be as strong as ever, if not I
will get leave home but I think
it would be a pity to leave just
now when every one is expecting some-
thing to be done - I am tired of hospital
work now & wish I was sent to the
Crimea, all say it is a healthy
climate during summer from the
shores of the Bosphorus, all this is
to be seen however yet & will depart
from I gather up - During the time
I was ill all my letters were kept
back & when I got them some days
ago I found such a feast of kind
news, the newspapers I also receive

regularly & all enjoy them - So you
are the happy Union St. at last I for my
part think you are making a good
move - I will write Mother & Mar-
by & bye, many thanks in the mean-
time for their long letters - Some of
Mother's last letters have been a
good exercise to me in theological
point of view - I was very sorry
indeed to hear of the split in the Church
& I sincerely hope & trust it may
yet be put to rights - as for my part
I think it is going rather far &
since the Church is so small already
everything ought to be done in order
to keep it together & preserve its strength,
however it is none of my business -
A great many doctors have been
ill here ^(Scenting) chiefly of fever, but we have
suffered also & one of our members an

Dr. Graham died this morning. He had
not been out two months & was like
my friend Watson, the only child of a
widow, it is very sad all that sort
of thing but we get quite used to
it - Mother, Hunt & Anne will no
doubt be wishing they were here to
nurse me, but it is perhaps just
as well they are not. The nursing part
is least now, it is cooking & eating
I need - I have never heard
anything of "the box" as yet but
I have no doubt it will cast up
in due time & the things will keep.
but I wish I had the gingerbread
& marmalade, wouldn't I pitch
into them - I have been up for
the last three days & spend
the most of my time in Mr. Tice's
room - at present I have just

finished dinner with them & am
sitting before the fire, while
Mrs. Rice is bustling about the room
giving it such an appearance of
home. she tells me not to write too
much or fatigue myself after dinner.
what a kind creature she is -

I believe Miss Stearns wrote Brother
about a fortnight ago, but whether
she had the right address or not I
do not know. she is a very peculiar
kind of lady. I had a long
letter from Dr. Struthers I forget the date
as it was amongst the bundle I got
the other day. His brother James was
complaining at the time but I hope
he is now well again - So Dr.
Crockett has become one of the
franchise surgeons. I suppose it
is the first step to being physician

or surgeon in the hospital, now
as he keeps, give him my best
respects - Liff Cottage will be looking
very pretty now, I suppose you often
pay the Dr. a visit, oh; if I was only
there for a fortnight now I think I
would soon gather up - the Dr. knows
well what meekness after Jesus is &
when I tell him this is the third
day I have been up, he will easily
imagine my picture - A Soldier gets
a hold of my arm & keeps me up &
so I stump about in a very funny
manner I can assure you -
I will write soon again - Remember

our Mother, Aunt, Anne, Cousins
& & & Hoping you are all well
I am
My dear Father
Yours affect Son
David Craig

Hobdrip to }
Kululie }

Hotel d'Angleterre
Therapies 28th March 1855

My dear Anne

I am very happy I am
able to write to you once more - How are you?
How is Father, Mother, Aunt? How is every
body - Oh! how I long for another letter
from home - I wrote Father about a week
ago giving him, as well as I could, an
account of my illness - At one time at home
I thought after being so much about the
hospitals & never taking from that I was
proof against it, it seems however that
I was mistaken & I have come thro' as
sharp an attack & been as near death
as anybody could well wish to be, it is
all over now & I am about as jolly as
ever - On Sunday last the Inspector
- general had an inspection of the Dublin
hospitals & of me at the same time, he
was very kind, he asked if I wanted
home, this was my idea when I was
very ill but it passed off as I got better
he said he had heard my good accounts
of me & would be sorry if I ran away
so soon, he gave me a fortnight leave
to come home, I am then going back
to Dublin as soon as I am strong
enough he has promised to send me
to the Curragh & I am sure can live

during the summer will be far better ^{than} staying
in our hospital - I am getting stronger
& stronger every day & can now take
pretty long walks, but if you could
only see me I am sure you would laugh
my head was shaved when I was ill,
& the hair is not yet grown, while my
whiskers become & monstrosities are very long
I often take a good laugh at myself
when I look in the glass - With regard
to questions &c in your letter I can tell
you nothing about them, while I was ill
all my letters were kept back & when
I was able I got a bunch to read &
nearly took me a whole day to get thro',
the only thing of any consequence is "the box"
there is no word of it yet, many thanks
to you for the many nice things it con-
tains, I wish I had the memorandum
you know I was always partial to
Memoranda - I think I hear you say
tell me something about Therapies, well,
look in the map & you will see that
Therapies is a small village situated
on the west bank of the Bosphorus
opposite Bebek Bay & not far from
the black sea, it is a small village
but beautifully situated at the corner
of a small bay, the Hotel is close
to the water's edge & one can see all the war
steamers &c constantly passing up &

down to the Crimea, the country around
is very pretty; the weather is very warm &
if there is any place where an invalid should
come to I think it is Therapia. The
Hotel is very good, clean, comfortable
beds, real English cooking & don't I
walk into the eatables, I think that
is my only disease now, what Father
would call a galloping Consumption
"takin", hath my friends to supply my wants.
I am very glad you are leaving London &
the those abominable passages, just as
far - simile of the streets of Constantinople.
I want to see the road home now, when
I do come you will need to be in waiting
at the train - So there has been
publishing again, Confound Master
Croll, I am not very strong just now
but I think I could manage to fetch
him into the Bosphorus if I had him
here - People always say "do let us
publish some extracts & we will take
care what we publish" now what
could have been worse than publishing
that the perfidious Major had been cut
up & his shoulder kept as a memento,
it might have offended some of our
government men as being a thing to
irritate Russia, I see nicely how
it will end, I will only require the
write a few more letters & then I will

give up correspondence with everybody -
The best of the joke about the Russian
majin is that I have not yet got the
shoulder after all. For when I put it
into a jar the majin ate the rats took
it out & devoured it. I do not
know if you heard of the earthquakes
we had here about three weeks ago
at Brusca which is further south in
Ukraine. It was very severe &
destroyed about 60 villages, with us
it was not so severe no damage being
done. Probably in account of the houses
being chiefly composed of wood. - I was
in bed sick when it took place the
whole hospital shook. The walls of my
room I saw moving whilst the roof
seemed quite undisturbed what to do.
This was in the afternoon, we had
another shake during the night I was
asleep but it awoke me in a dreadful
fright as if I had seen night-mares,
a regular earthquake is not what an
Javan meets in with every day -

I am sure you will wonder how I spend
my time here by myself, well I will
tell you - I get up at 8 & have got
dressed & a good breakfast swallowed
by 9 past 9, I then go out & walk
until between 11 & 12 the coffee-shop
are close to the winter's edges I drop into

one of them & have a pipe & a glass of
lemonade, which is very pleasant by the
winter's side. I then come home & read
or write for a while, have lunch, take
another walk - or rest before dinner - or
just good dinner at 6 P.M. Coffee after
it. There is always a good morning at
dinner so there is no lack of con-
-versation - lounge or rather till about
10 & then off to bed - rather a nice
kind of life you will say, yes, but
remember it is only the last or fortnight.
You will be frightened at me talking
about the Crimea so soon after being
ill. Keep your mind easy I will not
go up till I am quite strong, every-
-one is wishing to get to the Crimea
since the warm weather has come
in - Do write me soon as long letters
give me all the news - Love to Father
(Mother, Aunt, Cousins &c)
I will write again before I leave
this place, of course address to
Kulubin as usual - I will tell
you as soon as the box casts up.
I am

Your most affect. brother
David Spring

Nov 31/55-

Mr.

I have heard from Lord Rayleigh
relative to your son. When he
says. "I have received my
letter. about David George." & I
"I have in consequence made arrange-"
"ments with the principal Medical"
"Officer that he should be brought"
"up to the Prison very shortly".

I only hope that he may
keep his health. and enjoy
his special service.

Yours
Annexed

Exeter,
15th April 1855

My dear Father

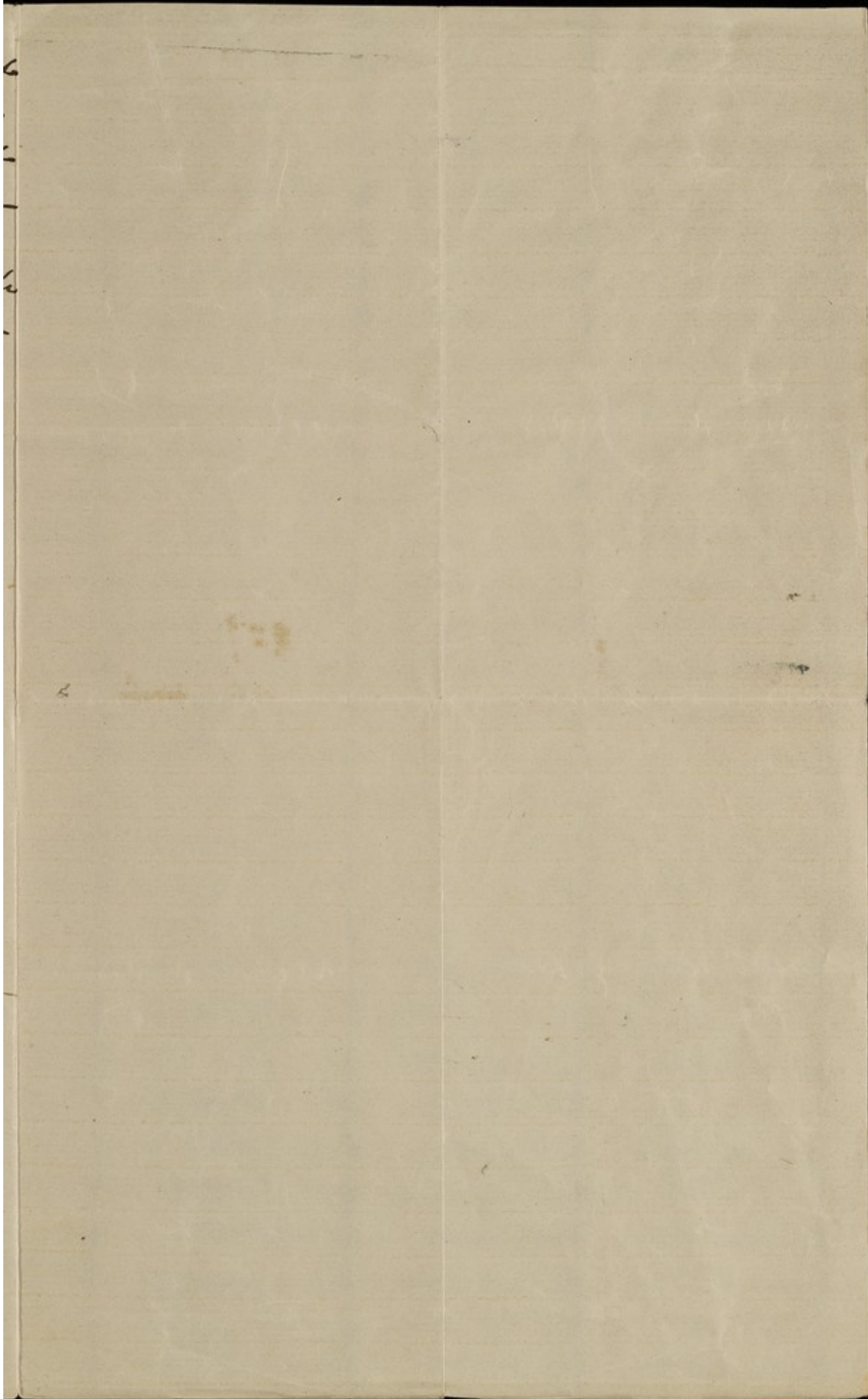
Now I am again at the old place Exeter & have resumed my writing of letters on the 15th & 30th of the month which indicates I am off the sick list & all right again - I returned here three days ago & when I reported myself; our A. D. O. wished to place me on duty & kindly offered me a few-words, of course I rebelled & insisted on the Birmess, an order the P. D. O. at Scutari settled the dispute by telling me to apply for a passage immediately. I have done so & expect to be at Sebastopol in 3 or 4 days, in the meantime I am a gent at large, & have nothing to do until a ship cast up for me. I am sure you must think me a (what shall I call myself?) much fellow? for going to the Birmess; but I have been so petted of late that I have grown quite self-willed & I suppose, like a petted child instead of coming home when I am told I go further away, however I will be a good boy in future & any future

commands will (perhaps) be attended
to - I spent sixteen happy days
at Thunafin & must say I had
a very rapid convalescence - I am
quite strong now, can climb hills
walk 10 or 12 miles with ease, ride
on horseback & we have very fine
weather now & I have no doubt
by the time I am a few weeks
in the Crimea I will be stronger
than I ever was -

Just now I have not
this. I have got my orders
at about 10 - night, & a
next letter from
Camp -

DS

Love to all



Balclutha
19th April 1855

My dear Father

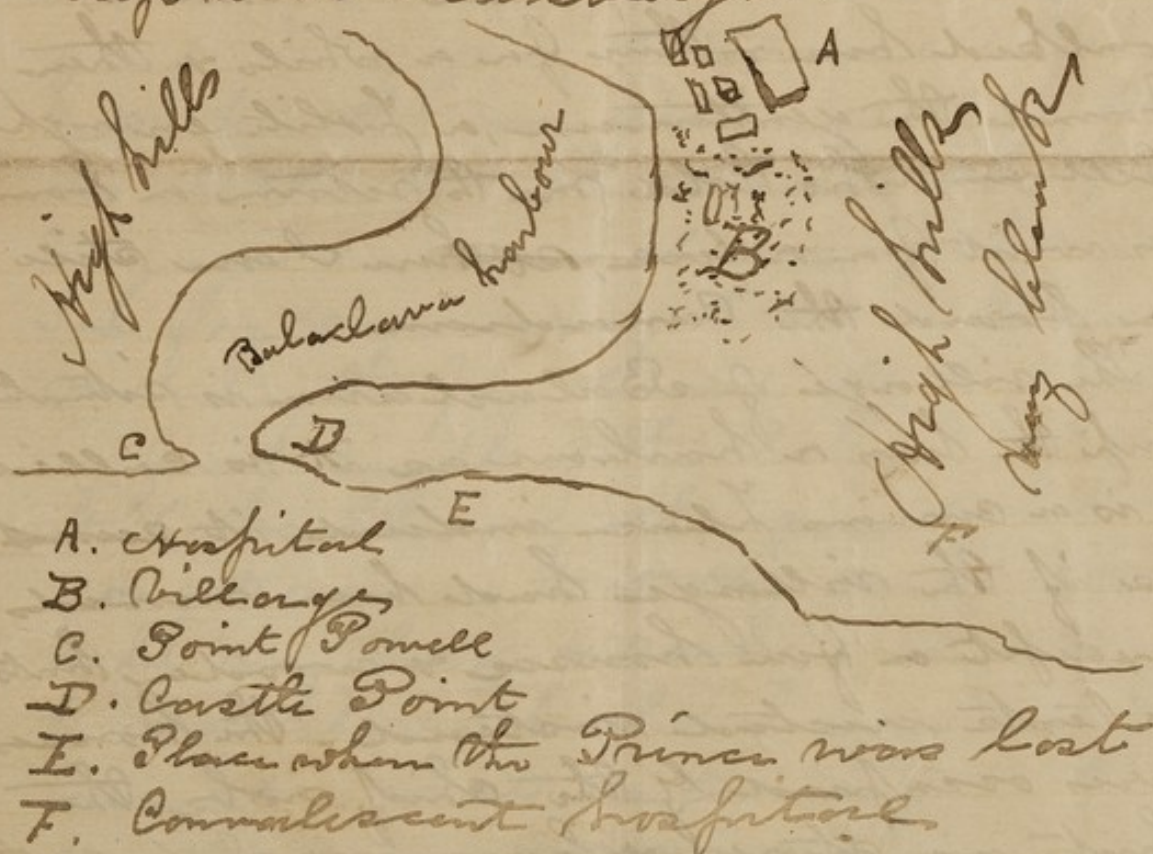
I suppose you were more surprised than amused by my last abrupt epistle, but such is the fact just as I was writing you I received my final orders for the Crimea. Things run quickly (sometimes) in this part of the world, & I was ordered off at four hours notice, however I postponed my embarkation until Monday morning when I took leave of all my friends at Kibler, glad that I was going & sorry that I was leaving from them. I got my traps on board a caïque & along with a R. C. Clergyman bound for the same place as myself, got on board the "Cornwallion" a large screw steamer, 3000 tons, & having on board about 24 officers & 420 men. To say the least of it, it was a beautiful morning & rained fire & whistles as the saying is, until we started which took place at 11 A. M. when it cleared up & we had a most beautiful sail up the Beathrons. On passing Kibler, as you may well imagine I had a good look at it & had the satisfaction of

seeing Port Tice & the D. & waving an
farewell with my handkerchief to them
which they returned. The "Canadian"
is a very fast steamer but she had
a large bark in tow with Cominparant
stores & turks on board & this protracted
the voyage for 3 days instead of 36
hours. We reached the Black Sea
about half past two & the vessel of course
began to pitch & I got squerrish, I
managed my dinner very well & also
tea & immediately there after troubled
into bed. When I awoke next morning
I was not at all surprised to find I
was sick & no mistake, I got up &
attempted breakfast "No Go" lunch was
the same, dinner however I managed
& better, I knew the great satisfaction
of informing you, continued in first
rate health ever since, eating like
an elephant. The second day of our
voyage we were closed up by a Black
Sea fog & some very little indeed, next
morning the fog cleared off & I got
my first sight of the Crimea, at first
it looks like any other coast, but when
you get nearer to it the coast is seen
to be very bold & rocky. The entrance
to Balaklava harbour is quite imissable
even at a short distance from the shore
you get nearer & nearer at last you

see an opening between the rocks, in you
go & find yourself in a very good natural
harbour where men of war are lying
close to the rocks in deep water. The forest
of masts in this harbour is quite amazing
& at first sight it seems as if 2 or 300
vessels had been tied into a knot &
placed there, if one was to take fire
I am sure almost all the vessels in
the harbour would be destroyed. We
were kept shodging outside the harbour
until afternoon when we got in & made
fast to a man of war. There is no inn
in Balachewan & of course we had all
to remain on board that night. Next
morning I set about getting ashore
to report myself to Dr. Anderson the P.M.O.
here & see where I would be sent to, I
walked here & there for a while & then
found the gentlemen, a polite enough
fellows, who told me to return on board
& wait for orders, so here I am still
on board the "Commodore".

The village of Balachewan is situated
up the bay or harbour as it is called
& is a curious place indeed, it seemed
as if the village had been ruined
except a few houses & wooden huts
& tents erected instead. The houses
are occupied by the chief nobles, the
huts are stores & houses & I do not

know who occupy the tents, it is a
 very confused place, & at present very
 dirty as it is very hot weather, in
 wet weather it must be ten times worse.
 Looking up the valley from Balachava
 you catch the first view of the camp
 & a curious & pretty sight it is, tents
 covering the hill side & here & there
 a few wooden huts. The railway
 passes thro' the town but I saw no
 trains running - we feel very curious
 being so near the far famed Sebastopol
 & that feeling is increased still
 more when you hear the constant
 boom of the guns, & think the Russians
 may attempt Balachava again. Oh
 what an idea! Plumbum 3^d, vol. "A
 trip to St. Petersburg".



I do not know if you will understand
my description of Balaclava, but I
have given you a scene which will
exist you, I have no doubt you are
well as all Britain with the very
much interested in the scene which
I may call the key to our position,
the Russians are very anxious to get
Balaclava, but as that is the
only port thro' which we can get our
supplies we cannot afford to gratify
their wishes - There is no pier at
Balaclava, only two or three wooden
jetties & there you land, as you
wander thro' the streets, if streets they
can be called, one is highly amused
by the curious sights he sees, soldiers
in all uniforms, driving carts, carrying
guns, driving cannon; piles of shot
& shell are seen in all directions
on each side of the street - here, a
heavy ammunition wagon drawn
by six horses & six heavy artillery - men
make you move out of the way. Then
a cart load of bread comes thunder-
ing past for the camp direct - a
dragoon nearly frightens you out
of your wits as he flies past with
despatches, you jump aside & come
in contact with a turban or gharra shing

Rome open in a cant &c &c in fact
Balachana is "Moulton in jeans"
much in little space, all the supplies
required in the English camp
passing thro' a small village about
twice the size of the American one.

When I may be sent, I have no
idea but in all likelyhood I will
go direct to the camp, there are no
number of medical officers here
in the hospital but I neither wish
nor expect to be kept here, how-
ever I do not know & therefore
cannot say. I do not regret at
all my coming to the Crimea I
am, I may say, as strong as ever
I was, & the voyage has done
me a great deal of good.

I do not know all the kind
friends who have wrote me my
correspondence has got into such
a confused state during & since
my illness, but if I am right
I have had three extraordinary
correspondents, if I may so term
them, viz, Dr. Schudiman, David S.
& D. Crabbe, as a reply to the
two first I must return my sincere
thanks for their kindness & as I know
they are all my letters, it would be

just the same story over again, if
I was to write them, though I hope
they will excuse me; as for Dr. C
I can give him some medical
news so you may tell him I will
give him a round soon.

Dr. Watson is at present at the office
recovering from an attack of fever.
I do not know if I told you he
had been ill, but he has had a
pretty smart attack of fever, not
very bad or dangerous but still
bad enough. I hope you are
all well. No word of my son -
fortunate has yet although I have
no doubt it will cast up in
safety before winter, when I suppose
the gingerbread will be like an
12 lb shot, if so, I will put it
in a gun & present it to Prince
Gortchakoff or whoever has charge
of Schastakoff.

My kind love to Brother
Austin, Anne, Cousins, Mr.
Mrs. Ingraham & all
again hoping you are all well.

I am
My dear Father
Your affec. Son
David Briggs

Address

Dr. Sir,
Actg. Staff Adt. Surg.
Balachara
Cinnam.

Gives me a long letter soon
D. L.

Camp before Sebastopol
24th April 1855

My dear Mother

You see where I am now & I do you the honor of giving you my first letter from Camp. About a week ago I wrote to Father from Balaklava & if the letter went safe, you would learn that I had set foot in the Crimea & that I was still on board ship when I wrote - Acting up to my instructions I remained on board "the Commodore" until Sunday morning when getting tired of my busy life & the doctor of the vessel, started to visit the Camp, it was a beautiful day & very hot, we could get no horses so we had to "drive our own fair". The road from Balaklava to the camp is to say the least of it a weary journey, it winds amongst the hills & in a hot day such as we have, the dust is very annoying; what it was in winter & during wet weather I leave others to tell - Nothing of any consequence occurred to us on the way except that we went into a french vivandier's tent & had a glass of wine, there I came in contact with one of the natives for the first time, he was sitting in the tent, in what we call a rascally state of Beer, while another companion of his was fast asleep beside him - He (the former) was very polite however, he offered me a seat beside him, which I declined - Nothing dramatic however he would have a talk "There's a - going to send me home Sir" - "Indeed is the railway finished" - "Yes" (not true) I told him they had better stay as soldiers & serve the Queen, "No" said he "we are dead glands to get home, we will see the Queen & the Rodgers" He some place or other I am not sure where for I got tired of my argumentation - Ship & walked off - We went to the 3rd Division & had a long stroll thro' it, we visited various

friends & always got something to eat or drink
amongst the best I called on Lieut. Fenwick
I found his tent first & then himself coming
towards it. Of course we had a happy meeting
& a long talk together, a glass of cherry brandy
& then we started under his guidance to have
a good sight of the fine flowered Sebastopol,
and went to a height amongst some ruins
called the Picquet houses & had a first rate
view looking right into the town - Of
course I knew the situation & shape of
Sebastopol, well, from what I saw by my
naked eye & also by the aid of a glass I
must say it has been a very pretty town, good
houses in rows with terraces in front, large
fine public buildings, streets & all what not.
When I looked at it I was quite astonished
to see the town in such a good state of pres-
ervation, there are of course ruins here & there
as a good many at the north & south ex-
tremity, but on the whole the town looks not
amiss considering the battering it has got;
I could see no people in the streets however
& no ships in harbour - "But, where were the
Cannon" I think I hear you say, Oh;
keep your mind easy, they were busy, shot
& shells going fast enough - The Russian
flagstaff battery & the Redoubt (another battery)
were blowing at us; whilst one greenhill
battery & one belonging to the French were
blowing at them. There were British Russian
ranges altho' not under fire, still at the
time I thought it was quite near enough,
the bullets were heard whistling & the shells
making their peculiar noise in all directions.
The whistle of a large shot has a very pecu-
= liar & I may add disagreeable sound,
to one unaccustomed to it, the sound seems
as if the bullet was passing over his head,
& often I start & think myself too near
when I hear a loud "whish" - When a person
is frightened very little will make him mis-
take

A good job is told of one of the apt. surgeons just now which illustrates this. He was serving one night in the trenches & was sent for to the battery to see a man who was wounded & bleeding to death. The man had been serving at a large gun & was lying close beside it. The doctor made first attempt to stop the outlay, when - Bang - off went the gun close to his ear, he thought sky & earth had come together or something far worse & of course he bolted. He soon recovered his presence of mind & came back however to his patient, just at the same time off went the gun again. Bolt, did he a second time - He returned again but just as he reached his patient he shot struck the top of the wall which they were behind & sent a deluge of bricks & mortar flying over escalapins & patient, it is almost useless to say the former bolted for good & all, while the latter of course died. After having a good sight of Sebastopol I parted with Farnwick & tramped back to Balaklava tired enough & glad to be in time for dinner. What pleased me most however was my order which had just arrived worded as follows.

"On Her Majesty's Service - Immediate
Medical Department Order

Staff A. Surgeon Spring will be attached to & do duty with the 17th Regt. & will report himself to Staff Surgeon Roberts P.M.O. 4th Division

by order

Balaklava

22nd April 1855

A. Anderson M.D.

S. Surgeon and P.M.O."

I knew what immediate meant, so I took my time & yesterday forenoon (Monday) I got my luggage upon one pony & myself upon another & set off for camp. After some labour I found the subjects of my future labours, the 17th Regt. Before receiving my orders it never occurred to me there was a 17th Regt. & of course I have not been long enough

with it yet to tell you much about it, I was told
before I came up, it was a very nice one &
as far as is you yet I think so too. I went
to report my-self to Dr. Roberts, but he was out so
I left my name, I then called on the Surgeon
of the regiment & he was at Balaklava, I
then went to the Asst. Surgeon & found him
busy constructing a hen-house, we soon
got acquainted & he introduced me to the
Colonels, Adjutant & some other officers & also
to my Graduate whose place I am to fill
& who is going home for a short time, he was
an Edinb. student whom I knew by sight &
name before, Dr. Pine will know him if
you tell it is Big Bone, Little Bone's
brother, in other words, Dr. Theodore Gordon Bone
Dr. Crockett knew him at College.

My fellow assistant is a Dr. Gehant Fro:
-nounced Feb. 0 or as he is always called
like, he comes from Jersey & is a very nice
fellow, he & I are to make the gettin. & what
is my kind has made me free to his free-
some provisions, which he has a good
stock of - So he attached to a regiment in
the way I am is far better than being
attached to one, I belong to & go with
the regiment when ever it goes, for the
time being - while I retain my staff pay.
if I had only regimental pay I could
scarcely afford to live in camp, all our little
comforts & necessaries are so dear, of course
if one likes to live on hard biscuits & pork
one need spend little, but I intend to live
as well as I can & want for nothing which
I can get to buy. - Well to continue my story
I got a tent pitched for me close to Debon's
& got my traps put into it & after having
dinner & a pipe I got into it myself
got my beds put up & was glad to spring

into it as I must say I felt the ground much cooler for my feet than a carpet would have been. As I lay in bed I was quite amused with my novel situation, the tent shivering as if it felt the night wind, the cannon blaring away just the same as during the day, the bullets whistling, the rifles cracking in the trenches &c. I fell asleep however dreaming I was a gipsy encamped somewhere or other near the plain of Dunder instead of on the battle-field of Sebastopol.

To describe the camp to you, so as to let you understand it, would be a very difficult matter indeed, & you will require to look the map before you understand what I am going to say in trying to describe it. The army is encamped along the east side of Sebastopol exactly in front of it, for about 4 or 6 miles, the encampment also passes from this as far as Balaklava & goes on that place. We have thus on your left of land & sea coast & two good harbors Balaklava which is used by the English & Kamish which the French have. In coming from Balaklava to Camp the first part of the road is up hill, for about two miles, you then come to a kind of undulating plain of great extent & this is where the camp is. The first look of the camp certainly astounds you, what a multitude of tents & wooden huts! every one exclaiming scattered in all directions as far as the eyes can see, adding marching, bands playing &c. in fact it puts one in mind of a large fair more than any thing else. The 1st Regt is encamped on the face of a small hill looking to the north-west very near the field of Inkerman & it seems to be a very healthy position. The regiment have no huts as yet so of course we are all in tents. The tents of the men & officers form one cluster, then a little removed from that you have the regimental hospital consisting of three huts & an

more or less tent, beyond this again
at a short distance from the hospital
you have the tents of ^{Gen} Libaud & Greig
& the celebrated hen-house made out of
a couple of old provision boxes. In
going thro' the camp you are often struck
by its rustic appearance, cocks & hens in
all directions, in fact, one would think
the poultry men had reached the
Crimea, not Cochin-Chinas but regular
useful, laying, barn-yard chickens.

The camp is I must say a first rate
jolly place, & I hope to continue to like
it as well as now. What we are going
to do ^{with} at Sebastopol now, no one knows,
I suppose something will be done soon,
there is some rumour that part of the army
is to march & keep the Russians in check
behind or something of that sort, but no
one knows. If such is the case the 17th Regt
will in all probability form part of this,
as it is nearly as strong as any regiment
in the field - but this may be all hum-
=bug. All the fighting at present goes
on just the batteries & the trenches, no shot
come into the centre of the camp, or at
least very seldom. Last night hearing
rather heavy firing in the direction of the

French trenches I went to the top of our hill
& saw a beautiful rifle skirmish, the moon
was shining so we saw a party of Russians
& French fighting into one another, whilst
the constant flashing of the rifles & the
shells flying thro' the air & then bursting
with a bluish light, gave the affair the
appearance of a display of fireworks.
The French did not make much way, but
the English kept what they take.
There has been great fighting about some
rifle-pits lately, the French have taken &

lost some of them two or three times. The English
took 2 or 3 the other night & kept them,
this seems to have annoyed the French Command
in Chief & he published a general order in
the French camp which was very cutting
I do not remember, if I can state it correctly
but it was something like this - "The
English have taken their rifle-pits. When
the English take rifle-pits they keep them"
(Signed) Camroux. Now I think

I have given you a long enough yarn
about the Camp so now for a little chit-
chat about things in general. Now over
you all, Father, Mother, Aunt, Uncle, Cousins
Friends of all sorts & sides. Mr. Mr. Intest
Sam Francis. Mr. & Mrs. Sanderson & family
& I, give every one my kind regards who
may ask for me. Have you ever received
the house I sent home? No word of
the celebrated box yet. Before leaving
the "Commodore" I got a pair of large boots,
yellow leather, don't require brushing, an
entire waterproof suit, a pair of washed
drawers, washed shirt, socks & mitts, all
for nothing, so much for serving the Queen
you see. I have got a lot of flowers
for you & will send some every letter if I
can remember at the time. On looking
over this letter I think I have told you too
much, camp chit-chat, but you must
remember & keep it to yourself, to tell you
the truth I am with a letter with nearly the
same language as I did at first & I don't
keep back anything I might tell
you, just in case they should find them
way into those newspapers, so
"keep dark". Love to all again
before parting - write often & soon &
I am

Your affect Brother
David Greig

Admiral

Dr King

Staff Capt: Pigeon

14th Regiment - 4th Division

British Forces
Crimea

Camp before Sebastopol
13th May 1855

My dear Anne,

I can assure you I was
very well pleased yesterday morning
when I received two of your letters from
Kublen, dated 9th & 11th April & also
a bunch of newspapers, all very welcome
things in this part of the world, not to
mention a long P.S. from Father.

Since writing you last I have been
enjoying the best of health, notwith-
standing we have had some very dis-
agreeable weather. The Crimea in fine
weather is a delightful place but in
bad weather it is quite the reverse. I
suppose you have heard of Crimean
mud, but I can assure you can have
no idea of what it is. When a shower
of rain falls the whole camp becomes a
plain of mud, not plain English mud
which takes the polish of your boots &
little more, but Crimean mud is of a
peculiar adhesive nature, whenever it
touches it sticks & you have to walk
about with four or five pounds of mud
on each foot. During wet weather we
all go about in our big boots, they are
very heavy themselves but it would be
quite impossible to walk with anything
else. The other night I tried to go to the
hospital in shoes with Indian rubbers
on all over, but I was quite astonished
when I struck first, my shoes would
rather leave my feet than the mud &

I had to call my servant to carry me
back to my tent - That is one item of
wet weather - Another is having a wet
tent over you, everything in your tent gets
as damp as possible & all the consolation
you get is that you must keep up your
spirits the best way you can until fine
weather comes again - Perhaps your
tent is not water-proof & then you have
a mess - Two nights ago I was awoken
by the rain coming right in my face as
I lay in bed, at first, I would say I was
willing to believe it, but that trick was
of no use, so I had to get up & after
getting a light I discovered that the
rain was dropping on the upper part of
my head & that I was all wet about
the head & shoulders, I pulled the
bed to the other side of the tent, gave
the clothes a shake, turned that inside
down & went off to sleep as comfortably
as possible - Turn-outs are another
disagreeable set of things, I suppose
you do not know what a "turn-out" is,
well, if during the night the Persians
attack us we have all to turn out &
give support to the men who are in the
trenches or batteries, no one at the
time knows what it may be, it may
be simply a rain, it may be an Indian
man - I had my first turn out about
four nights ago. I had gone to bed at
my usual time & about 1 in the morning
I was awakened by the noise of cannon
& musketry, I started up in bed wonder-
ing, what the row was, but it was pitch
dark I could see nothing, I was just

on the point of quietly lying down again, when
our bugle sounded the "turn out" I jumped
out of bed, you may imagine I was in a fright
after hitting my head against my tent pole &
tumbling over a box, I got my tent - done for.
It was a beautiful dark night & the sight
I saw was certainly one I had never seen
before - the shells were flying so thickly thro'
the air, it looked as if the stars had got
drunk & were having a dance, they were
bursting in all directions & the noise was
something grand - the whole camp was
alive & lights were seen moving & bugles
blowing in all directions - I got on my
clothes & then went to see what Gibbons's
opinion of this war, we agreed to sit still
till our men sent for, we lighted our
catties & took the affair in philosophical
spirit - The firing became less & less & in
about an hour all was as quiet as it
usually is - I went to bed again & next
morning our friends there had been an
attack on our light division & some 20
or 30 men besides 3 officers killed.

Since writing you last I have bought
a horse, a beautiful bay - I bought him
from a Capt. of the Lancers, he is a nice
heart but being a Frenchman neither
understands "Yes nor No", the first night
I had him, he bolted & not appearing
for 2 days I came to the conclusion
that I had been sold instead of the
horse & that my power as a horse-dealer
was not great - the horse however cast
up, he had gone over to the French
camp & was returned to me by the Lancers.

It is impossible to do without a horse of some
kind here, if we march he will carry
my baggage, & as we are at present he
is very useful & it is a pleasant comment
for the afternoon. Yesterday I had
a ride to Balasubrah & a counter over
the battle-fields. I intended to have got
a flower there for you, but I was rather
in a hurry to get home at the time, but
next time I will remember your request.

Your last letter contained the melancholy
& dreadful intelligence that Miss M.
was all out to be married. I saw you
to imagine the quantity of brandy & water
& number of pipes I had to smoke before
I could get my mind brought back
to its equilibrium again, in fact I am
scarcely myself yet - R. imports.

"I think of Villikins & his Dinah & the
cup of cold prison" & so the Yankee
beauty is gone!! & may good luck attend
her - I believe the war has produced
a great scarcity of males in the United
- Kingdom & that the civilians are
making hay while the sun shines,
but "night is near" until the red-jackets
get home again. I have been told
that gentlemen are as seldom seen
& are as scarce at home now, as
ladies are out here & I can tell
you that is precious scarce, with
the exception of French vicararies, I
think I have only seen two ladies
during the last month. The other day

Miss Nightingale rode thro' the Camp. I
was standing with some officers when she
passed at a distance from us, immediately
a cry got up "Oh! there's a lady, there's a lady"
& every one turned out of his tent to look,
the same as children would do, if an
elephant was jumping thro' the street.
I did not get spoken to Miss Nightingale
as she was a good way from me, but
I am very sure it was she. I believe
she has taken a trip up here by way
of changes - But to return to Miss B. &
tell her from me - that I wish her a
jog - that I will expect cards from her,
& that if she or her husband should
think of taking a marriage jaunt in
my direction I will be most happy
to see them at my tent & give them
whatever is going -

Just as I am writing all this blowing,
a soldier comes to me & giving me a
bunch of letters, tells me I must go to
parade immediately. So I jump into
my uniform well knowing what is the better
place when I am wanted & off I go
reserving the letters till I come back.
When I reach the parade ground the regt.
is just formed into companies - a cart
is standing by - I have a talk about
things in general with the Major, who tells
me no one in particular in the regiment
likes to see the doctor on parade, as
it is very ominous - The whole regiment
form squares, the cart is then taken
into the middle of the square - & I follow
the cart - The order is then given, there,

"Attention" - "right - about - face" - "Attend to the
proceedings of a court martial &c"
- then follows the sentence, so many
lashes. I have just now seen three
fellows flogged, a doctor one of the apts.
Surgeon must be present in case the
prisoner turn ill or faint, when he orders
him to be removed - as soon as the
sentence is read to the regiment, the
fellow takes off his clothes, is tied to
the cart wheel & gets what he deserves.
One of the fellows to-day got 25, another
15 & another 10, all for being drunk
& the first for being drunk & disorderly
as the police reports say - I had an
idea that flogging was abolished
in the army, but we can't do without
it & we have flogging matches every
third or fourth day - I now take
up my letters & find they are all from
months old - one from Lord Kinross
one from Dr. Alexander & another from
James Rogers - better late than
never - I wonder where they could have
been all this time - The one from
Lord K. is I am sure very kind & I
think it was ~~for~~ him that I was
sent up here. I will write & thank
him - as for Dr. Alexander's it is just
like one of Father's he has so much
to say to me, that he can get very
little said - while kindness to me shows
itself in every line of it - I write regularly

to John his oldest son but I will write
to the Dr. personally also - James R's
letter contained a very welcome present,
namely a copy of "The group" which I
have got suspended, like every thing
else, on the tent pole - In a former
part of this letter I spoke of the French
Vivandiers I suppose you would like
me to tell you something about them,
I know Mother likes me to describe
the ladies I meet, for what reason
I do not know - There is one or two
Vivandiers attached to each regiment,
they are young happy girls, they may or
may not be soldiers' wives - They have
tents & each has a kind of store before
the tent with all sorts of drinks, wine &c.
on it - We always call on all the Vivand-
= diers when we are in the French camps
& have a talk & laugh with them - They
are generally very good looking & their
dresses set them off to great advantage.
Each is dressed somewhat like the
men in the regiment - if the men have
red trousers & black leather at the
foot of their trousers (horsemen &c) so
have the Vivandiers, but besides the
trousers she has a skirt of the same
kind of cloth coming down to the knees
a smock white apron, an embroidered
jacket & straw hat in fact they all
look very neat & some of them, the Louises
for instance are regular swells, they

are all great flirts & laugh & talk at
no end of a rate, I think they might
even beat English ladies in the use
of their tongues. - Sebastopol is in
the same state as when I wrote last
the men are working away in the trench
as usual, but we have no words
of an assault yet. I wish Ransom
would try it - I suppose there will
be another bombardment & I hope
with better success than the first.

D. Stuthers made me a very kind
offer to come back to Calicut for another
season & demonstrate for him, much
as I should like another winter in Calicut.
I cannot think of leaving camp yet.

How are all my kind friends in
Scotland? - remember me to all.

I will write Father again at the
end of the month. I hope Mother
& Aunt are very well. - You
may all keep your minds but ease
I am as strong as I ever was now
& since I have Donald (I call
my horse Donald, in honour of the Liff
Charger) I take plenty of exercise.

Remember me to my Cousins &
hoping you are all well.

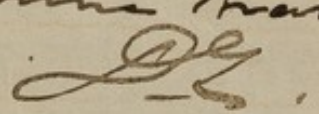
I am

Your affect. Brother
David Greig

P. S. Lieut. Fenwick & I are often together now. He is quite well & his camp is only about half a mile from mine - he was calling on me last night -

Dr. Watson is I believe quite well again & has returned to Kurland. I saw only traces of him by chance, but I am very happy he is well again - I will write him some of these days -

Tell Mother to write me a long story soon & I will expect the same from you - You can have no idea of the pleasure of reading letters from home in a tent -

Newspapers are always very welcome. I do not get them regularly, but I always know who they are from, even without the Stamp. Tell Father not to mark them as I believe it is against Post-Office rules & every one here opens newspapers especially late ones, as they pass thro' the Post, & I think many of mine have been thrown aside. 

all my postage stamps are done.

Camp before Sebastopol
31st May 1855 -

My dear Father

Since writing you last everything here has been going on here much as usual. I am in first rate health & spirits & hope I may continue so. I received a letter from Mother two days ago dated 13th May. I was very glad to hear of you were all well & that you had got chapt into your new house. From Mother's description I can form a good idea where it is, but I am not sure if I could find my way to it. However I have no doubt if I was once in Dundee again I would not be long in finding you out. Since getting on horse I have been riding over the camp in all directions & two days ago I had a splendid ride all round the outposts. I & a Capt. of the 17th started about 11 in the forenoon, passed thro' the French right attack & across the fields of Inkermann. I have never written this celebrated place thoroughly yet & this day we passed rapidly over it. Beyond Inkermann you come to a deep valley. Then to a hill covered by brushwood & occupied by the French & then to another valley, then which flows the river Tchernaya.

In these two valleys the vegetation is something extraordinary, rich coloured wild flowers so high & luxuriant that it is difficult to make your way through them even on horseback while the smell is almost overpowering; my companion had been a long time in India & Arabia but he said, he had never ~~had~~ seen anything like this all his life & we both agreed that it would be well worth John Bull's trouble to keep the Crimea although the taking of it should cost him something. The river Ichemay is a beautiful small stream, which the French have only two days before taken possession of, when I saw the stream I immediately remembered of the scenes we used to have 6 or 8 years ago on the banks of the Dnieper or Dniester, the French are grand campaigners & already they have got all their tents pitched, cocks & hens running about them & have made of the branches of the dwarf oak which grows here in large quantities, in fact they looked as happy as if they had lived for years there, some of them were fishing in the stream with crooked lines & what is more catching fish, not trout but a kind of perch. Our horses seemed to be as good as themselves.

at the sight of the stream that it was
with difficulty we could keep them
back & when we did go into the stream
they thrust their faces up to the eyes
amongst the water, drank till they were
tired, sneezed, hiccuped & drunk again.

The French were very busy throwing up
earth batteries at the bridge in order
to protect it while the caissons were
run in great numbers on the hills close
by. We then passed eastward round
the hills & entered Barchinon by
the plain passing over the battifield
& a most delightful spot I never saw.
The battle-field had been a garden
& all the vineyards although much
trampled down & cut up by shot were
now springing, we passed thro' miles
of vineyards, stumbling over large shot
as we passed along we came to the
farm house now a mass of ruins.
Such a sight is I can assure you
a very sad one, every thing looks des-
olate & mournful, even the very fruit
trees in the orchard near the house
seemed to understand their position
& although they appeared green & fresh
still they seemed as if mourning over
the fate of their native land. I ramble
about while my horse made a feed on
the vines, picking up flowers &

looking for some trophy to carry off, but
the hands of the Spoiler had been
there before me & nothing was left
save bleached horse bones, relics
of the celebrated Cavalry Charge.
I picked up a piece of a shell &
carried it home to my tent, whether
I carry it further remains to be
seen - When I was hunting for some
curiosity my companion, was always
pointing to some large shot & telling
me to send that to Scotland, I
told him I had no doubt it would
be considered a great curiosity
if it only could be got home, but
that was the difficulty - In
Balaklava after having tied up our
horses at the store we went on board
some ships in search of grub & were
lucky enough to find a Dundee ship
the "Puffin" belonging to Mr. Clark, the
Captain had some first-rate beer on
board & I can assure you it was
a treat I bought 3 dozen from him
& of course paid a Balaklava price
for it - We got home about 7 o'clock
hungry enough as you may suppose -
There are the Banks of Science we take
& very interesting they are; Oh! what
a thing even is, the country which had once
been beautiful now looking as desolate

The inhabitants fled no one knows where,
shot streamed in all directions & the
eternal roar of cannon sounding in the ears,
well may you all in Scotland be thank-
-ful you have never seen war near your
shores, for it is certainly something awful.
In a letter I had from James Rodger
a few days ago I was very much amused
by the way in which he spoke, he says, "You
must tell me all that is going on, I have
a right to know, as I pay double income
tax" - I intend asking the young man
if he would rather see the Russians in
England, than pay double income tax,
or if he would rather come out here &
fight - I mean also to ask him quietly
how he would like to fight & pay double
income tax also, as we do, every shilling
of pay that an officer gets double income
tax is deducted from it, then I think
is very hard & I wonder who have
most cause to grumble, there are a
great many grumblers at home who
would be much improved if they were
only one night in the trenches, then, I
am sure they would never grumble
about income tax again. Talking
about trenches I must tell you how
I got on my first night in the trenches
which was the first time I was ever
under fire - about a fortnight ago

when I had just returned from a journey
to Balaklava. I was informed I had
to go on trench duty for the next 24
hours. I took my dinner & a stiff tot.
after it, then filled my haversack with
bandages, lint, tannin, biscuits,
chocolate &c not forgetting a short
pipe, or in the words of Beattie's Paristie
"Dainties he hoarded not, nor game, nor
"Save one short pipe" (toy,"

I connected with the men - 1500 yards
on left attack that night. At 8
6' Clock & marched down the ravine
or as the soldiers call it "the valley of
the shadow of death" from the number
of Russian shot in it, the ground is
regularly panned with large shot
for about a mile, just behind our
Greenhill trenches. I went to the
Sergeant's hut & deposited my bundle.
He had a look about me at the
large guns, mortars &c. When
coming down the valley the Russians
threw two shells amongst us, the
first fell short, the second burst
close to us, we all immediately fell
flat on the ground until we heard
the price "where" over us & none
were hurt. After being satisfied
with my examination of the guns &c
as it was getting dark & above all

other reasons as the shot & shell were
coming over us I retired to the hut -
The Surgeon's hut, in the trenches, as
it is called. I must describe to you
just at the center of Green Hill trench
is a hole dug in the ground for about
6 feet there is then a wall made of
sand-bags & a roof of sand-bags, in
this burrow the doctor for the day
retires to & the wounded are brought
to him, except in severe cases when
he has to go to them. In my burrow
I found two gabions (wicker basket
kind of things used in making
breast works) & by partly squashing
these I made a springy bed & in
spite of the noise of guns going off in
all directions around me & comfortable
Russian bullets coming over me I
fell asleep. I was roused up about
six times by men with choleraic symptoms
& $\frac{1}{2}$ & first as day was breaking I
was finally roused up by a shell
bursting close to the hut. I felt very
uncomfortable so I thought I would
wash my self - a broken beer bottle
served as a basin & a sand-bag
pulled from a battery did for a towel.
Some of our officers from the front in the
am. m. & am. had breakfast, rum
biscuit & preserved salmon which

one of the officers had in his pocket -
very little occurred during the day,
I wandered about the batteries &
munching biscuit, smoking myself into
dyspepsia & such like little business.
At midday it was very hot & not a gun
was fired for two hours & all under
the aspect of peace, in the afternoon
the roaring began again & as there were a
mortar close to me pitching shells into the
russians they began to pitch round shot
into me & the first shot they fired came
shape this one embarrassed close to me, caught
one poor fellow in the face, took his head
off, wounded another & dashed into a
powder magazine close by, sending the
stones flying in all directions - I attended
to the wounded men as well as I could
considering the state of things I was then
in & then went to look at the one that had
been killed the whole of his head had
been knocked off except his right whisker.
While I was looking at him another
shot came "whiff" over my head - I
thought I had quite enough so I retired
to the furthest corner of the tent & remained
there until I was relaxed & jolly glad I
was to get into my tent again. Shot &
shells took very well at a distance, but
they are anything but pleasant when they
are flying about your head -

From appearance here I believe something
is to be done very soon & bloody work it
will be, quite different from the taking
of Vercor. I wish they had a regular
engagement, every one feels confident we
would smother them if they would only come
out to the open field, instead of keeping
behind their batteries - I forgot to mention
when talking of the trenches that about 4
in the morning 20 of the prisoners came on
to us, they were very stupid & all came in
a body, our sentries saw so large a
number come, fired on them & only two
succeeded in deserting they were quite
young fellows & seemed afraid they had
deserted from Sebastopol - I am
sorry to say we lost our Surgeon from
further a few days ago, I attended him
to the last, poor fellow he is a great
loss & what is worse he was our only
child, like poor Mason - We have
at present got a Lt. English, 60th Rifles,
(too: term) he is soon going to India to
join his Regt - he made me a very
good offer to day, viz, he would get
me appointed to the Regt he is in, if
I wished, he is going over board & this
regiment is only 4 or 5 years in India
& then come home, Oh! wouldn't it be jolly
I would have jumped at the offer "like
a cock at a grocer" but - but - but -

I know you would not like it, so I
refused, if he is any trifling however
I may - may - I'll not say what.

We have no green coffee now as we
used to have, nor yet salt pork, salt
meat - mutton sometimes, biscuit, white,
brown bread all by way of variation
you know - also a ration of rum -
besides all these we get beer, brandy,
sherry &c to buy at Baluchan & altogether
we manage to live pretty well - I had
the honour of dining with our Brigadier
Major in the other day & a jolly good
dinner he gave us soup, salmon &
roasted mutton, fowls &c Champagne
port, sherry, claret, beer & fruit, the
je fowers! didn't I pitch into 'em
all, I was some the worse but I must
say I had an awfully nice time that
night - He is a jolly fellow old
Brigadier Mr. Phoenix. He was ill a
few days before & (I do not know why)
he sent for me, he soon got well &
his servant taking it a few days after
he sent for the senior asst. Surgeon -
I thought he looked rather disgusted
but I said nothing, so we both got
a dinner for our trouble - I hope
you are all well - I wrote to Lord
Kinnaird about a week ago, thanking
him for his kindness. I hope you

will excuse this rambling letter I have
been disturbed so often while I was
writing it & one of the disturbances was
to go & visit the regiment - This is done
thrice a week by one of the Surgeons. He
goes into every tent to see if it is clean,
all the men have to show their feet, legs,
arms & hands & if I think it necessary
they must strip naked, to see if they are
all clean, if a man has dirty feet, he
gets extra drill, is sent to the river to
wash them or if he is very bad he may
even be flogged, what a splendid thing
military law is - Ah? -

Remember me to Mother. She tells
me to write every week, but I can't do
that, I will rather write every fortnight &
give you long letters - I hope Cornet
is well, tell her my stockings need
sandy to be overhauled & I am sorry
she is not here - Copies & flowers to
Mother, tell her to write me twice a
week, what does she get to do?
Constance, Dr. Crockett & the
others have all my very best wishes -
Hoping to hear from you soon
I am

My dear Father
Your affectionate Son
David Greig -

Camp before Sebastopol
15th June 1855

My dear Father

Since writing last I have received two letters one from Anne & another which I received this forenoon from Mother. I am very glad that "Phantom Ship" the "Export" has at length turned up & that you have received the parcels, it is not much worth but you have it as it is, & if I had not got the clothes sent home I do not know what I would have done with them & they may do for me should I ever be privileged to come into civilised society again. - Yesterday, as a friend of mine was going home, I took the opportunity of sending by him from Dr. Sturth's snuff box, a lock of his hair & also Dr. Watson's ring, as I was making up a parcel I thought I might send you something also, but did not know what to send, so I got hold of a Russian knife which was captured late the taking of the Oranienbaum on the night of the 6th & made them all up in one parcel & directed them to you. When you receive it you will send the box & hair to Dr. Sturth 19 Abchurch Lane, Colind. & the ring to Mrs Watson, Surbiton, Kingston on Thames Surrey. - I was writing to Dr. Pirie last week & I gave him an account of

the taking of the Mamelons & Ennaries in front of the Redoubt the other night & I suppose I could not repeat the story, suffice it to say it was a glorious sight, to give you an idea of the firing & noise would be impossible not to mention the roar from the batteries on all sides - I thought we were to be engaged that night, but we were kept in safe but inglorious reserve under arms & ready to turn out - It is very dangerous to go near the Mamelons & I have not seen it yet, but from the description which some of my friends give who have seen it, it seems to be a regular model of engineering & would do credit to any nation. There was a truce two days after the fight & our surgeon visited the Mamelons & had a talk with some British officers, they were very civil, examined his sword & everything about him & in bidding them Good Bye he expressed a hope that they would soon meet as friends, "Oh! No," said one of them "there can never be our Emperor has ordered us to keep the town, Providence has been kind to you in giving you the Mamelons & you may get more advantages, but whenever you come into the town we will all go to the clouds together" So we may expect a good blowing up. However I am very sure we will leave the town before another month is over.

Our guns have nearly all ceased, at present there
is only a shot fired now & then, but it is
expected we will open fire again next week
& walk into the town - No one believes we
will winter in our present position again &
many say we won't even winter in the Crimea.
The general opinion is that so soon as we
take Sebastopol Ruffin will come to
terms & that we will be all home by winter.
Won't that be jolly? - Be what it may, we
are evidently preparing for a move, we
have been ordered to ^{get up the} horses we are allowed
& also to state what quantity of baggage
we must leave behind in store, so you
see there are symptoms - The Assistant
Surgeon is allowed a charger & a
pack horse, I have got the first which
is a useful kind of animal & can carry
baggage very well but a pack, although the
donkey not like it much; & I suppose I
must get the second. - In the meantime
my name has been sent in for a medal
by way of recompense & I suppose they
will give a cross for Sebastopol if so
I will get it also. - In one of Anne's letters
she began telling me a very melancholy
story & told me to hold myself in readiness
to faint or do something far more stupid.
I must say I began to think that my
favorite Gelefer was dead, but as I read
on I was happy to find that was not the

not the case, but that it was a misfortune
of a far lighter kind, - some will under-
stand what I mean -

I intended to have sent this off by to-day's
post but as I have received an order
to convey a cart-load of wounded to
Balaklava, I fear it will not be in
time, however I will try - When our field
hospitals become full of wounded, they
are sent off to Balaklava in what we
call Ambulance Carts & an Asst Surgeon
is sent with them, we rather like the job
as it saves us much duty, the carts
hold two, six sitting in front & four or less
in the inside - it is drawn by four mules
& the Surgeon rides along-side, clears the
road of Turkish donkey carts & uses his
authority in monopolising the whole road.

Just as I suppose I have missed the
post & it is now Sunday evening when I
finish this - Oh! what a change from a
quiet Sunday evening at home - This morning
I was awoken, not by the sound of church bells
but the roar of cannon, we had opened
fire again & are to take Sebastopol
to-morrow, before another 24 hours are
over, thousands will have fallen, where
I may be I do not know, but I will write
by next post again - So Good bye
with kind love to all - I am
Your affec^t Son
David Greig

Camp before Sebastopol
20th June 1855

My dear Father

I sent off a letter to you three days ago & in it told you we were going into Sebastopol on Waterloo day the 18th of June. There is an old saying about the plans of mice & men & I suppose by this time you will know all about its failure. When I was finishing my last letter every one was in high spirits & all believed we were going in next day. What a curious sight it is the evening before a battle, every one knowing that many will never see another evening yet all as jolly as possible & hoping for the best, some writing letters telling their friends their last wishes, should they fall, others, joking with the Surgeons & telling them to be kind to them if they should require a limb amputated & so on. As for myself I was as cool as possible, because I was to remain at our field hospital, our Surgeon going down with the regiment.

Our troops paraded at midnight & marched down, I went to bed in order to be fresh for next days work. At 3 A.M. I was roused up by the rattling of musketry I dressed & went out to see

what was going on, but could see nothing but smoke. - On the left attack, the 57th were the attacking party & the 17th the support, the French were to take the Malakoff & use the Redans, in this however the French failed & no sooner had we left our trenches than a perfect storm of grape shot took the shine out of us considerably. The 57th got very much cut up & so did the 17th, besides different other regiments - Sir John Campbell in leading the attack was shot amongst the very first & as no one knew very well what was to be done & as the men were being mowed off the face of the earth by the grape shot, they retired. I am not bold enough to know where the fault lay but every one here says it was a blunder & I fear it will tell so of Raynham. - The 17th Regt. had one Capt. shot dead, 10 men killed on the field & 33 wounded. I believe there was no want of courage on the part of the men, it was all the fault of the Generals. - About 9 A.M. one wounded lay on the arrival at the Hospital & then we were busy enough, we three assistants had to manage every thing & of course I had the lion's share of the operations besides minor operations I had one

Amputation at the Shoulder Joint &
another of the Forearm. The wounds were
chiefly inflicted by grape & breast wounds
they were - others by breche balls & a few
by round shot. The men came to Hospital
in a most melancholy condition, covered
by blood & dust, they were dressed, put
to bed & any operations which were re-
quired were immediately performed.
The same cases were brought on mules
or in the Ambulances & the others walked
up themselves. I was very much amused
by a black man, he was the first wounded
man I saw that morning, he was
trudging home to his camp, with his
head all covered with a bandage.
His moustache & beard clothed with blood
but still looking the very picture of con-
=tentment, smoking a short cutty pipe,
he asked me for some water & he
was highly pleased when I gave him
some grog - What we are to do next
seems a puzzle to all, but still all
are of opinion that, if the attack was
properly conducted we could easily
go in & I hope they will soon attempt it
again - The Camp is on the whole very
healthy at present, we have about 10 in
hospital & every now & then we have
a case of cholera, which generally finishes

the patient in a few hours, this I must
say is rather unpleasant. As for me
I am very well & could even wish to
be better, I enjoy myself very well here
& am always planning something pro=
=fessionally at least I hope so. I
expect Dr. Watson here in a few days
at least he told me so in a letter I
had from him, I am very glad of this
for he is a nice fellow. You must
excuse this short scrawl at present as
I am very busy & it is fatiguing work,
besides this is an extra letter.

Remember me to kind love to Mother
Aunt & Anne. Cousins &c &c.

Do write me a long scrawl soon, all
letters are so very welcome here, not
to mention newspapers which I read
very regularly now. Good bye -
I am

Yours affect. Son
David Greig

P.S. I will write Mother (next week)
a long letter, giving her an account
of my domestic arrangements here.
& how I manage when clear of
"Pittycote Government"

I have just rec^d. a letter from Dr. P.
& another from Anne with a lot of
stamps - which I thank her for.

Camp before Sebastopol
25th June 1855.

My dear Mother

According to promise I now sit down to thank you for the many interesting letters you send me & in return to give you as much as I can a sketch of my domestic arrangements. You can form no idea of the pleasure it is here to get a letter from home, when you tell me about the little chat that is going on in Dundee, I often am like the split my sides with laughing at, I do not know what, & I am always in very good humour for the rest of the day. What? you can find in my letters to make them so welcome I cannot make out, writing from an outlandish place & always talking of horrible things seems to please you so much that I have begun to take an interest in writing home again. How do you like the account of our drop in Waterloo morning? rather a large butcher's bill, I think I hear you say, however that's nothing now-a-days, John Bull likes that sort of thing & why not indulge the poor old fellow occasionally - Oh what a splendid thing War is for the advancement of the Science of Surgery - Is it not? -

In a letter I had from Anne a day or two ago, she expresses her surprise at me having a servant, does she imagine I cook my own food, or does she think we are so cannibalized as to eat it raw?

I have always had a servant ever since I left home, & like you at home sometimes I have had a good one & at others a bad one. First of all at Scutari I had an Englishman a downright humbug, who could do nothing but get himself into all sorts of scrapes, I left him at Scutari. At Kuluier I first got a Greek humbug, who was very willing, but as he could only speak modern Greek & Turkish, neither of which I could understand, he was very little use to me, however by means of kicks & signs I did ^{make him} understand what I wanted, he was with me about a month & I was very glad when he burned his foot one day & left me, so much for Yankee. I then had another Greek for a short time, a first rate cook &c, he staid with me until I took leave.

I then got a soldier belonging to the 99th Highlanders, a very attentive fellow he was & how I did bother him at night, sometimes I could not sleep, & of course I never allowed him to sleep then, but he always took it in good heart & often

Just one to sleep by talking of Scotland; he was rather religiously inclined, although very fond of Whisky when he could get it. He would often read me a chapter from the Testament & at these times I felt myself just as safe in old Fraser's hands as in any of the four clerical men who were visiting me every day. I had one Roman Catholic, 2 Church of England & 1 Church of Scotland - rather well supplied.

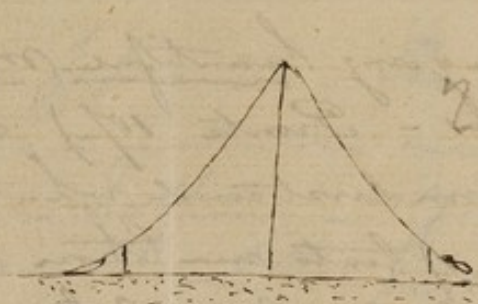
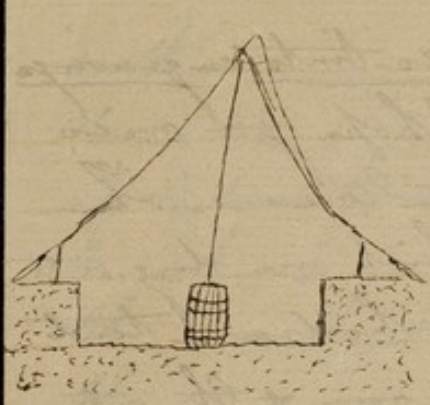
When I joined the 17th I got a servant from it & I have him still, he is a bit of a jockey, a first rate cook, a good forger & does my mill as groom & waiting man - Gilbert has of course a servant too, so that as one two him together we are very well attended -

Neither of our servants are traitors, we give them warning that they must never get drunk at once or we will immediately have both flogged, one must always be able to wait on us, this arrangement seems to answer well & on the whole we are very little bothered with them in that respect. When I first joined the 17th Gilbert & I had each a separate tent as bedroom tents & our servants stayed in a tent at the Hospital about 150 yards from us, this was inconvenient & as this tent was one day turned into a store tent I gave up my tent to them & had my bed,

removed beside Gibant, it is a much better
 arrangement, our servants are always
 at hand & all we have to do is to haul
 out for them when we want them & beside
 we are more comfortable to gether - Our
 territory is a neat little spot close to the
 Hospital & overlooking the 3rd & Light Division
 with a fine view of Corkin on, the ruins
 of the Prigut House, the celebrated Wind
 Mills &c. - The small tent in which we
 dine & in which I am writing at present
 is not a regimental tent but one that
 Gibant bought out with him, it is a
 very nice little place & every one admires
 it - It is an octagon & we have
 ornamented it with a weather-cock & a
 N.E.S.W affair, we have a small table
 in it & it is such a jolly
 little place that it always
 puts me in mind of the
 back shop on a winter's night - When the
 weather is very hot, which is every day at
 present, we get the sides of it stuck up
 & the cool draught passing thro' it is
 very pleasant - at least comparatively
 speaking, whilst the top acts like an
 umbrella - In this we take our meals,
 read, write, smoke, drink brandy & water
 & pass the time the best way we can -
 Our bedroom tent is just opposite the door
 of this one, or rather more correctly vice versa

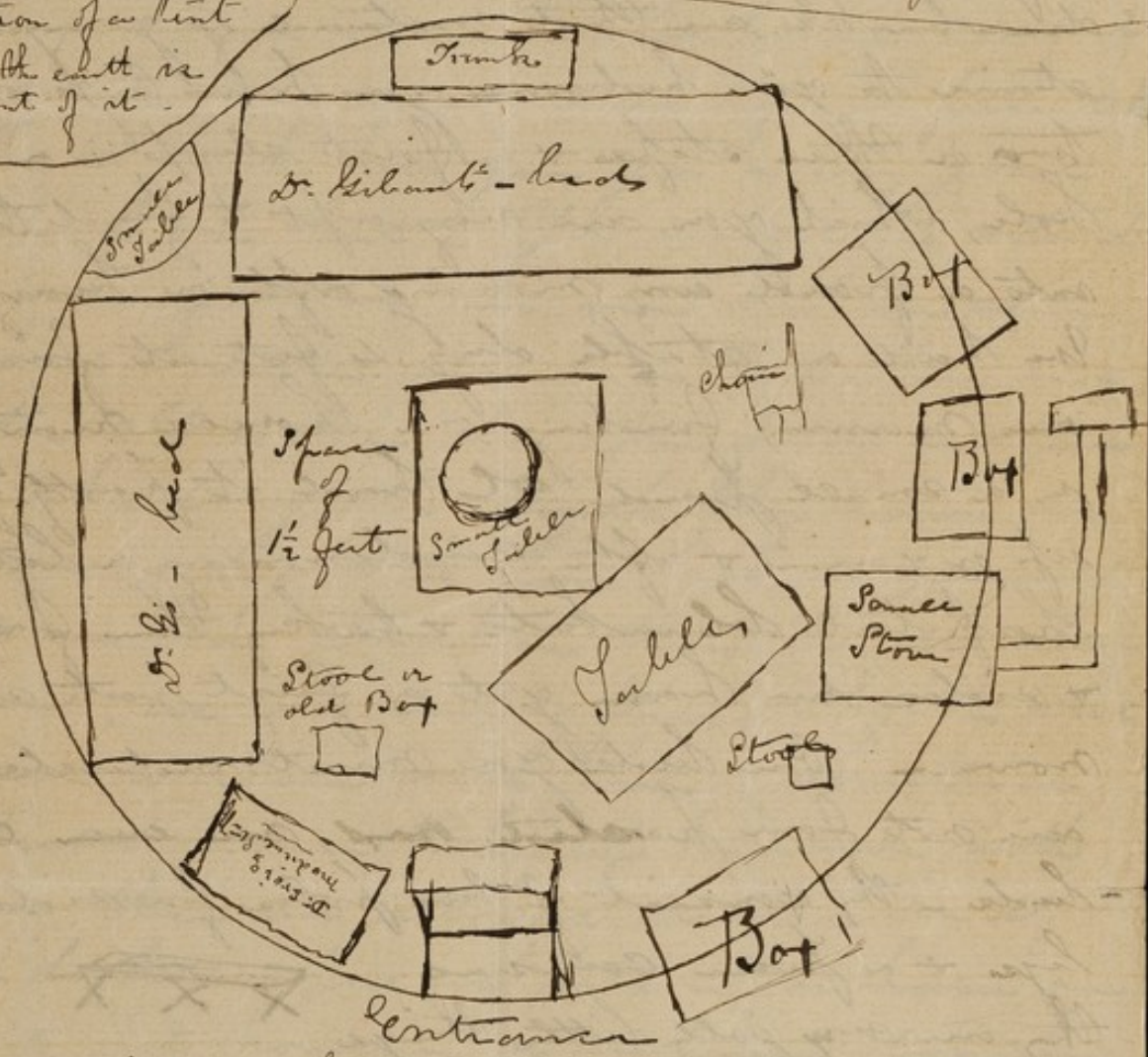


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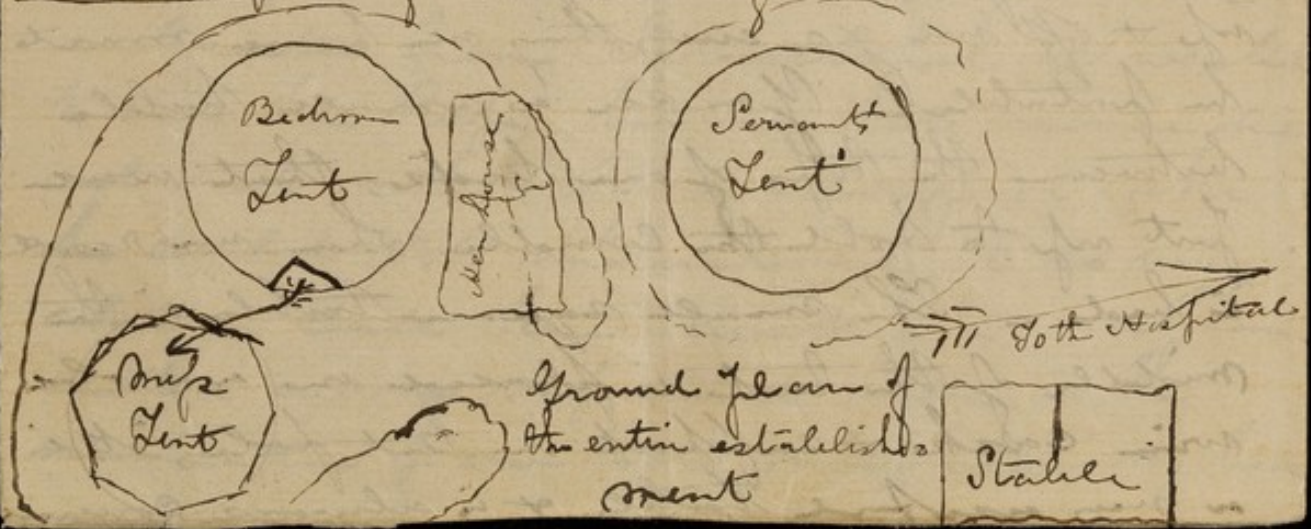


Section of a tent when the earth is not dug out -


Section of a tent when the earth is dug out of it -



Ground plan of the interior of our tent -



Ground plan of the entire establishment

From the foregoing beautiful micro-tinto engravings
(Proofs Lib. - Prints 107-) I hope you will
be able to understand what I mean. The
best kind of tents are those which are dug into
to the depth of 3 feet, like our bedroom tent,
it gives a great deal more room & the only
drawbacks are that instead of going up
stairs to your bedroom you have to go down
two or three steps & in fact sleep in a big
hole, which you are very apt to find turned
into a pond any morning after a heavy shower.
We had our stable dug 4 feet at first, but
one morning finding our horses nearly drowned
in a small pond we had it partly filled
up again & after condemning a lot of
hospital blankets & taking them for roofing
& sides we have got a first rate stable
now - Our beds you must understand
are not four fastened ones, nor even cril-
-beds - they consist of two poles for sides, three
legs & a piece canvas. 
They are very jolly little things
& when we get the route, they are soon packed
up & off we go, everything we have must
be portable - You see a small table
between the tops of our beds, that was
just up to hold the candle when we read
in bed - The small square table in the
middle of the tent is placed on an old
iron case & supported on tent poles, it is
a very useful table & is always covered

with innumerable flies &c. The syringe table
near the door is a portable one & doubles
up into life than nothing - You see our
trunks & you see these things marked "Boxes"
these are old hospital boxes fitted into
the ground & act as presses &c. We have
also a small stove, an hospital comfort
of course, very small & useless at present.
This I think will give you a very good
idea of our tent - You would be astonished
how comfortable we are & I am sure
I would rather stay in our tent than in
Surt - It is true our often fine centipedes
& inches long, who think they have an
good as right to your bed as yourself
but we soon convince them they are mis-
taken, as for ants & flies, why, the whole
place is alive with them; sometimes
a field mouse takes up his abode with
you, there are always treated kindly &
have looked upon as pets - We have an
great pet however a Russian dog, he
is somewhat like a Scotch Colley & was
a deserter from Sebastopol, I wanted
to call him "Risky", but as that name did
not end with - off or - doff or - ski
he could not understand it so we
always call him "Ruskie" - I have
omitted a very important item in the
enumeration of our tent, just below my bed

There is a large hole dug & this is our wine-
cellar which we always try to keep as
respectable as possible, it is the coolest
place in the tent & cold drinks are every
thing. I know you are very anxious to know
what our hoxen got is our cellar - Are
you not? now confess & I will tell you.
Oh! how miserably we poor fellows in
the Crimea do live, fighting for an un-
gratified country just think what a
miserable cellar we keep it only con-
tains - Sherry, Bransallen, Brandy,
Whisky, Rum & some brewed lemonade
No wonder we look thin!!! With
regard to food we get a ration of Salt
Lobster every second day & sometimes mutton
as we live beside the hospital men
always get fat - bits & good measure -
we get white bread, brown bread & hard
ship biscuit, at different times by way
of change - so much ground roasted
coffee & a gill & a half of Rum - On
the Queen's birth-day we all got a pint
of some cork porter, to drink her
health with, which gave the half of the
men cholera - Every thing else we
want we must buy & things here
are rather dear, but as we are told
to use the world & not abuse it, we
never sacrifice comfort to expense.

With regard to money matters I must say I
possess a great deal of Father's spirit,
the less said about that the better, or I
am afraid you would call me an ex-
travagant fellow. I do not know however
perhaps you might not, so in case you
should I'll say no more. We have
my hot weather here at present, everything
is burned up, we expect rain here in
the beginning of July & then commences the
second summer here - during the last
month I have been regularly stoned
I have now discovered I cannot stand
heat well & would never do for India.
Of all the wants I feel here, none is so bad
as the want of milk, I have been wishing
to get a goat but can't, & that preserved
milk we get to buy in tins is beastly, I
often think of Father's copious draughts
& wish I were only beside him, I have
never tasted good milk since my last
night at home - Another want of mine is
oat-meal, but I am happy to say I
succeeded in capturing an oat-cake
at Balachana the other day, which was
a very great treat indeed. I have
never heard from Dr. Sturthess since I
refused to come home in October; I have
no doubt he will be angry with me
but I can't help it - Dr. Watson has

not made his appearance here yet, but
I expect him soon - How are all my
kind friends at home? How is Mrs &
Mrs Sanderson & family - Give all my
best respects - I would like to write
to David but he must excuse me -
Do seem to be the same odd fellows
as when I left him, Is any of them much
taller yet? If they continue so small
they will never be taken for "Soldiers".
I hope you remember me to the Misses
Schater now & then & also all my lady
friends - Bless me! to think I have
not spoken to a lady for months now.
Well it is curious to think how well we
get on without the darling creatures,
smoke when & when we like, when tired,
throw ourselves on the top of our beds with
dirty boots on, no washing - days - no
scoldings - Now, I have come to the
conclusion, is only seen as lord of the
creation, in his savage state - There
is no Aunt here to bother one about brushing
my clothes, shirt-bosoms, neck-ties &c -
& of course I have no one to blow up
if a shirt-button is missing, I can
only give a growl, sew it do myself,
& there is an end to the matter -
I calculate we show an amount of
independence here that would astonish

some of our fair tyrants at home -

The officers of the 17th have voted Dr. Poirer
an ass and a brute, only think what he
said to one in his last letter, "There
are lots of ladies still here who will
take even a red-coat when they can't
get better" - Oh! the unpatriotic monster
He ought to be sent to the advanced
trenches for a week & I am pretty
sure he would alter his tune -

I do not think I have any more com-
plaints or grumbles to get rid of, & now
I have no favor to ask & that is do
not ask me to write every week, I am
often tired, busy &c. & I am sure my
letters would so much resemble weekly
Jolies reports that no one would take
the trouble to read them - Ah! now I thought
I was free from female government, but I
find I am wrong -

Do continue to write me every week
Remember me to all my cousins &
all who may take the trouble to enquire
after

Your most affectionate Son
David Greig

I will write to Father next week -
D. G.

In the Trenches before Sebastopol
3rd July 1855.
— " —

My dear Anne

I suppose you will be surprised at the place from which my letter is dated but such is the fact. I am at present in trenches for 24 hours & in order to pass the time I have brought writing materials with me & am now scribbling to you - I hope from the letter I sent Brother about a week ago, you will fully understand all my little domestic arrangements & you must tell me what you think of them & if you think they could be improved - I received a long letter from Brother last week besides three newspapers all of which were very acceptable - I was very sorry to hear of Mr. Mathewson's accident I hope he will soon be well again - She tells me that a Mr. Smith had called who was coming out here, as I can say is, that he is a great fool. He has only been two years at college & must be coming out as a duffer & the duffers at Seaton were none of the best conducted youths, he may have been at college three years & may have got a diploma, still I think all who hurry thro' their college time

like Lithy on & Sharp will regret it all
their lives, they can't know their pro-
= session, their patients won't trust
them & in fact they can't trust themselves.
Smith is a soft kind of boy, & I think
his parents are little better -

So I see by the papers that Mr. Long-
=lands has lost one of his Russian
relates - "Leave him right too" for
making such a fuss about the con-
= founded things. - Mother tells me
that Dr. Esbikine has applied to be
appointed to a regiment & asks
what good it can do him? I cannot
explain in a letter what good it can
do him, but I may mention with regard
to comfort, being with a regiment &
on Staff duty, that there is almost as
much difference as east from west -

So Mr. R. Crook is married by this time
"Leave him right too" like Mr. Longlands
for publishing my letter, I do not
know when I may meet him, but
when I do I calculate I won't
be, what Mother would term "in a very
amiable state of mind", however
time may improve my feelings, but
I do not think so. I am sorry
Mary Weston has been so ill, I hope
she is now better - please give her
my best wishes for her recovery -

4th July - The foregoing part of this letter
was written in the trenches but I am
now in Camp attempting to finish it as
I found it was no easy matter attempting
to write whilst under fire - The day
passed over very quietly, the Russians
did not fire much at us & we were
only giving them a shot every now & then.
What amused me most the whole day
was the firing of one of our largest
mortars which they have placed on
the top of the doctoir's hut (?) it was
throwing a shell into the town every
half hour & of course it was impossible
for me to sleep although I had
managed to convert a powder case
into a kind of pillow - I would
drop off to sleep at times & would be
rouned up by some soldier either sick
or slightly wounded. Of course I growled
but I could not help it; I would be
going off again, when "bang!" would
go this air-fires mortar making me
fancy all sorts of mischiefs had befallen
me - You can have no idea what
kind of sound a very large mortar
makes, you never heard anything like
it & I am sure from description I
can give you no idea of it - A railway
train rushing past is something like
a shell going thro' the air & should the

boiler of the steam-engine of the said railway train burst that would complete the illustration as it would represent the bursting of the shell - As I could not sleep I went beside the mortar & studied mortar practice for an hour or two, strolled about the batteries, eat, smoked & so killed the 24 hours not at all displeased with them, yet very glad, as every one is, when they have them turn over - As for news in this letter, upon my word that puzzles me, every day is very much alike at present there is no talk of taking the field storming the town or in fact doing any thing - Lord Raglan is dead, if ever you have heard this, everyone here regrets his loss as a kind hearted man, but very few regret his loss as a General, I hope we may yet see one with more spirit in him - Waterloo morning seems to have been too much for his Lordship before breakfast.

In one of your letters, you are very anxious to hear of my thinking of coming home well, that is rather a difficult question but still it may be satisfactory to you to know that I have come to some conclusions on that point - viz. - should I like the winter in the Crimea very much & anything going on, I will

stay all winter & see what next spring
will produce - but if I do not like
the winter, if there is no chance of any thing
being done, if I am not in good health,
then I will offer only services to the sick
home & if they want send me home that
way, I will resign - Some of our fellows
tell me that as I intruded all the
Crimean diseases last winter & thus
- for must know something about them
I ought to stay next winter & show a
patriotic spirit whether I liked it or
not - A patriotic spirit is all very well,
but as we do not get much credit for
any good we may do, either here or any
other way in the army, I have no
idea of making a matter of myself
Oh! No! I have some idea of a comfortable
home yet - I was very much pleased
yesterday by receiving three newspapers & a
letter from you dated 16th & 17th & one
from Dr. Henderson, one from Dr. Sturges
to one from Andrew Rogers, I perused
in them all the evening & have very nearly
got them all by heart. I am very much
obliged to you all for remembering my
birthday, I gave a small party that day
& enjoyed myself very much - So you have
struck up an acquaintance with Miss
Alexander, I should think it would be
rather a difficult matter to write to

stranger. I cannot imagine what you
can get to talk about. Your brother tells
me that she is as unreasonable in
London as the Empress of all the Russias
as she has put a stop to his smoking
in the parlour. I am sure you will
find her a very nice person for all
that, & as for a hearty welcome to
Wooler, that you may be sure of
should you ever cross the borders -

I am glad Dr. Ramsay has turned
up again, although it is at Hong Kong
he still seems to be hankering after
home - I do not know what
has become of Dr. Watson. I suppose
he is still at Edinburgh. I expected
he would have been up here long
ago - With regard to Mr. Bondman's
letter I must say I am in a fix
he has made me a request, which I
would much rather he had let alone,
to burden myself with more correspondence
more especially as that would be to
write news for a newspaper from a
place where no news are going, as
he is so very anxious however I
have no objections to him publishing
descriptions of country &c, but to publish
such things as "one having received
a pistol for dressing or treating wounds"

"That I had the shoulder of a suspicious
Major" (Confound the impudence of
Master Robert Croall) or such
like, any person in their sober senses
must see how absurd it is, & how
waxing it is to me - We of course see
my letters & Mother can pick out
points that may suit & it is by her
permission alone they are to be published
& my name & profession must be kept
secret, so that no one can form any
idea who writes them. I am sure
you will say - "Oh! No! His Lordship is
relenting" - Not a bit, I am as
firm as ever at these Edinb' papers.
Well my dear Anna - Good bye -
Give my kind love to Father Mother
Aunt & Cousins &c &c

I am

Your most affect: Brother

David Greig
in "in f"

Camp before Sebastopol
13th July 1855

My dear Father

I received a letter from Mother yesterday, dated 23rd June & I must say I was very glad to hear you were all so well. I suppose you received my letter last week, after I sent it off I must say I repented it very much & heartily wished to withdraw my stupid justification again, but you all seem so very anxious that I cannot refuse & all I beg of you is to remember that it will please you far more if my letters are kept strictly private. When I was sent up to the Crimea I had not the slightest idea that Lord Kinnaird had done it, but I am quite sure it was him now & I am much obliged to him for it. Dr. Watson is here now he came up from Kuluks about three weeks ago, but as he is stationed at the Hospital at Balaklava & I in Camp we never met until a week ago, he is quite well & seems to like the Crimea very well, he & another two friends dined with me yesterday & keeping in mind Annie's birthday, a merry evening, & as we sat over our Coffee afterwards we discussed a curious thing, viz, that

from out of him who were in my tent, had
been made M.D. in Edin. on the same
day - There is very little new in Camp
going on at present, we are just at the
same old work, when we will go at
the Malakoff or Redan again? No
one knows - Every now & then we are
getting 2 or 3 men knocked over
& yesterday we had one killed & three
wounded - I believe the French
are making two batteries on their
right attack, which will destroy the
ships in the harbor & then we will
go at the Malakoff again I suppose.
Mother seems very much frightened
for me getting shot - then it is not the
heart fear of that, for it will be
a very smart Russian that will
manage to hit me, I have seen
men knocked over close to me & must
say "I don't like it much" & will
always try to keep out of the way
more especially, of round shot.

Dr. Jones has left me & we have got
at present a Dr. Rees 2nd Class Staff, but
he ~~has~~ is going off very soon & then
we get a new Surgeon who is I believe
gazetted to the 17th, there is also another
Asst. Surgeon gazetted to this reg^t
so that I may expect no more again
perhaps not - I do not know.

I had no intention of writing a long
letter just now - all I wished to do
was to send you a curiosity. I know
you are fond of these sort of things &
I am sure it is the greatest
curiosity I have sent home yet -
if you present it at the Boston
Bank they will explain to you what
it is - Do anything with it you
like & if you do not require it
keep it for me till I come home.
I have no use for it here & keep
quiet, do not mention this to any
one - I will be writing to Anne
my soon & then you will get all
the news, this letter is intended
for your own quiet perusal & I
hope you will give me one in return.
I will not send compliments to anyone
this time as you need not mention
you have got a letter at all -
I am in first rate health & hope
you are all the same -

Love
My dear Father
Your affect Son
David Keen

Camp before Sebastopol
27th July 1855.
— " —

Very dear Anne

I have no doubt you will be wondering why I have been so long in writing of late time, & to tell you the truth even since I have made that promise to Mr. Sanderson, I feel as if a load was on my mind & I have postponed & postponed writing until I can do it no longer & I wish you to bear in mind, that, however much I should like to please you also I must still tell you that if you wish me to write often & give you all my little outgoings & incomings, my letters must be kept within the family circle & when I see anything of mine in a newspaper, it immediately goes in the fire & I feel ashamed of myself for a week afterwards & of course I make my next letter a precious short one & that is good cause there shall be nothing in it worth publishing, so please yourself, if you are content with letters half a page long, I am very willing to publish them. How would you look if I wished to publish some of your letters to me? I have no doubt our fellows would be very high minded with them.

Since writing from last I have received
a letter from you, another from Father &
another from Brother last night, besides
various newspapers. In the Courier of
the 11th July which I have just received I
am very sorry to see a letter extracted from
the Service, headed, "Reflection of the wounded
in the Crimea on the 15th June" I am sorry
to see such a letter, as I can tell you it
is a lie from beginning to end & calculated
not only to alarm the good folks at
home but to hurt the Service itself; of
course Mr. Stafford must bring it before
Parliament & make a world wonder
of it, the Service is much obliged to
Mr. Stafford for his tales about the state
of Scutaria Hospital, I lived longer
in Scutaria Hospital than Mr. Stafford
& I must say I never saw what he
describes. The gentleman who writes
the present article must either be mad
or a most consummate fool & ought
to be drummed out of the Service & the
regiment's march, he says, he could not
get drinking cups, water, food, spirit
&c. why? because he was on a post & did
not know where to get them, which he
should have done. I have never
yet applied in writing for anything at high
prices here & was the only person to whom

to Calf-foot jelly - Lemon-jelly - Soups - ~~but~~
Soup or even Champagne - everything
can be got if you go rightly about it.
Now tell you about what I saw in
our division on the morning of the 18th day.
We had a very large tent on the western
- Low road, within Persian range & while
the Persian shells were bursting amongst
the tent ropes, there were in that tent
a lot of surgeons attending to the wounds
brought there, dressing them in such a
manner as they might be brought in
safely to camp, assisted by men or carried
on mules or in carts. And you will
ask, had they every thing they wished in
that tent? Everything - A continuous
supply of water, tea, coffee, wine,
brandy, in fact there was a glut of
everything - When the wounded came up
to camp they were attended to properly,
dressed washed & put comfortably to
bed, had food given them & if a
man was severely wounded one of
his comrades was placed as guard
beside him to feed him, give him drink
& assist him to turn in bed & our
main job the want of attention to all
we have to do is to ask for them -
However, the Jackson whom he is here
got himself into an even accident, which

is being immediately acted into here & I
have no doubt, the fellow will curse the
day he ever took to publishing letters.

I am very much amused by your de-
scription of Mr. Croal's marriage, I
wonder the young man isn't ashamed of
himself - but as the saying is, "he's
been & gone & done it now" & I suppose
he must stand the consequences, what
ever they may be, that's very certain -

Did Mr. James Croal remember me
I suppose not, he was once a great
favorite of mine & from all I have
seen of him I do not think he ever
will be - I was glad to hear
that Miss Mary Baxter was well
again, give her my best thanks
for the flower & in return take them
to her & tell her that I gathered them
on the Battlefields of Inkerman &
they are not very pretty, but I hope
the name of their native place will
make up for beauty - what they are
I do not know - You ask me
how often I go to trenches? it is
very irregular, but in general it is
once in ten days & often enough two
sometimes we are in trenches by doing
divine duty, such as taking care
to Balaclava & so that is all chance

describe the said hunt - I am all safe
& sound in body & limb as yet & intend
to remain so, I had a narrow shaven
harrow the other day, or in other words
I was regularly fired at - I & another
sawbones were hiding round the French
outposts on the Scheraga, we were the
only two mounted officers near, it was
a calm afternoon & we were looking
at some prairie tents when "harry"
went on field piece & I heard a
round shot coming slowly over
the plain towards us, I could not
see the confounded thing but I
knew from the sound that it would
haze us & so it did diving into
the ground about 25 yards behind
us - I must give up as there were
3 of our officers sitting beside me in
the hut, who suspecting I am writing
to a lady insist upon me sending
you their compliments & hope you
love well - So I must give up
good bye. I hope B. Perry will
restore you all to health - Remember
me to Mother - Father - Aunt - Cousin
& all who may ask for me -
I am your affectionate brother
David Greig

I will write the Father very soon again
a letter from him is worth something,
do not mind any more I understand
yours - Oh! No! D.G.

In the letter which I received from Mother
last night she mentions that my cousin
Annie would like very much to come
out & attend to the poor wounded fellows
I have no doubt she would be very
much like some of our nurses at Kibuli
who came out as they thought to attend
upon brave, gallant heroes & instead
they found the most miserable specimens
of human beings one could well im-
-agine, the romance of war is only seen
at home when the Duke gives medals
to those who return from the Crimea, while
the poor — in the Crimea have to live in
hopes, however we will all yet receive
some day if our visit be not
before the time — I keep my mind
very easy on that point for "No man
who is born to be happy, will never be
shot" — I do not know what death Dr.
Sutton will die, but he may thank
his stars, he is out of the reach of
shot, tell me all about him & how
he is & we should you see him.

Dr. Watson is now attached to the
Artillery, it is the best branch of the
service & I have no doubt he will
be very comfortable, he is stationed
at Harpene near Peshawar &

has no trinkets duty. Dr. Erskine calls
on me the other day he is appointed to
the 4th Regt & seems very much pleased
with it. He was in first-rate health
but had skinned his nose by a fall
from his horse in leaping a ditch -
We 11th have got a new surgeon
a Dr. Ward from the artillery, he is
newly promoted & is just like one
of ourselves, we are constantly in each
others tents smoking, chatting &c. in fact
he is an out & out brick & has been
at Alma, Inkermann & Balaklava
he is a very hearty fellow & makes us
all so happy when he comes beside
us - I am glad Charlie Boyd is getting
on so well, I have never heard from
him but should anything send me the
that quantity I will like him out &
try if possible to spend a few days
with him, I should like it very much.
Since writing Mother an account of
our tent &c. Lib & I have erected a
hut & are comparatively speaking
comfortably housed for the winter, it
is much cooler than a tent & what is
more we have got a large fireplace
i.e. a hole in the wall, but what an
odd thing it is, in my next I will

Camp, July in Sebastopol

3rd August 1855 -

My dear Father

I returned last night from
26 hours trench duty & was very glad
to find a letter from Anne dated 14th
July - The two last times I have
returned from trenches I have found
a letter from Anne awaiting me & you
can have no idea how jolly it is to
get into bed & read them, I generally
read them twice & then fall asleep &
dream I see the realities - I am
very much obliged to you for your
kind letter & I wish you would
write me often, nothing in the
way of good news I can give you
is that I have hopes of getting the
unfortunate leg at last - Dr. Libente
my fellow resident, & your brother
started for Constantinople this morn-
=ning (he has 15 days sick leave)
& he is to have a shirt for it in
the parcel store there, I hope he may
get it - Anne's letter is as good as
none but there is very little news in it
except that Mother & she have got
lodgings at the Ferry, I hope it will

do them both a great deal of good -
It is quite fascinating to know how
the elaborate extraneous & cream
of the cream should be picked as thick,
only think! it is more creamy than
any the since I have seen cream
I have been trying all I can to get
a milk goat but have none here
able to get one as yet, all our tea
coffee rice &c we have to take with
us & think it very good too -
My last trench was I must say
the worst one I have been yet, the
weather had been broken for two or three
days & of course the camp was
covered with mud, on Mon before
four o'clock (7 P.M.) it began to rain
& the creek or river, bridge & mountains is
nothing to it, in fact you would think
no mortal would face it, I was
clad from top to toe in waterproof
& did not mind it much, but my
horse seemed to have a decided
objection to it, however it was no
go & off I set with 500 men from
our Division when we got to Green
hill trenches the rain ceased I gave
my horse to my servant & went to
the Surgeon's Tent, Alas! this little

compart of mine I found in ruins, the
large 13 inch mortar had shaken
the roof in, it certainly was not a
fatal but still I was sorry for it
in fact I was in a regular stone
when the first explosion I applied to the
Shield. Officer who told me I must
go to the third parallel, No 7 Battery
near the Cause & stay there, "all right
says I, what must he must be" &
off I went. I had never been so far
forward before - I passed through
the covered way to the second & then
thru the Dig. Lane to the third - You
will know what I mean as I believe
you have got plans of our works -
While the Dig. Lane was in a furious
confusion something like some ships with wind
& I found the third parallel not much
better - When I got to No 7 Battery I
enquired for the doctor's tent, not
that I expected to find a tent, but
I expected some shelter, I was sorry
to find there was none - To sit down
on the ground was impossible as the
mud was 14 inches deep, I therefore
made the best I could having
sat down on the trowsers of a 32 lb
sit my pipe & made the best of it.

As soon as I got quite drunk, I stretched
myself on the gun carriage & soon fell
asleep, I did not sleep long when
I discovered it was raining very
hard & I had better change my
quarters, as London Magazine was
close by & by making haste to the
Magazine house I got in beside the
London boxes, the Magazine was
full & there was not much room for
me, however I curled myself on
the top of a heap & had a very good
sleep, taking everything into considera-
-ation - The London Magazine in
the trenches are formed of sandbags
the same as the parapets & are very
small but still very strong places.
They blow up very soon & there, but
that is not much, the man who has
charge of a Magazine is never allowed
to take lucifer matches or a candle
in with him, not even his sword in
case it might strike fire against
a stone - I was very glad when
daylight broke & I got out to look
about me, it was a fine morning
& continued fine all day, the Russian
jackets were moving off & you could
see them very well. I thought of taking

a shot or two into them, but we
always had a chance of getting a
shot in return, I did not do it,
they had been amongst some bushes
all night & were carrying bundles
of the tar's home with them for fire-
wood I suppose; during the whole
day I was very much annoyed by
the shot & shells going to & from the
batteries behind us, passing over
our heads & some coming into our
battery, the enemy's bullets were not
so good however & at times would
come over our parapets in half dozen
whistling as they went along with
their occasional "ping", one passing by
me, struck in hand & threw the mud
in my face, rather rude I must
say - One great benefit with Pro
Batteries was, that no one knew
where the firing was & I had very
little to do, I had only one wounded
man brought to me & he was shot
close by me & I could not well
help seeing him, he was shot thro'
both thighs & all I had to do was
to send him home - Well afterwards
would you believe it, I have first
rate health & I enjoy this kind of

life very nice, how I long like the
winter is another question, however if
I stay where I am, as I have got
a little room, I think I will be
very comfortable. You ask me if
I could better myself by interest at
home such as Lord & Co. & Co.
I do not intend to stay in the
army very long & it would be no
use, if I was promoted to a pro-
moted appointment & granted the
a payment, it would cost me about
£60 or 70 & my pay would be more
than it is at present - "let well
enough alone" - As I am at present
I am very independent & do not
care or bother for any one - if any of
my superiors bully me, I quietly
tell them I come out here for fun
& not for a livelihood & so soon
as I am tired of them I will go
home & if they are tired of me I
am very willing to go, in fact it
would rather please me than other-
wise - so of course every one is shut
up at once - There is no news
what one can do yet, but I suspect
we are to open fire very soon again
yesterday the artillery men told me

that the magazines in the trenches
were quite full & that shot were
being brought in large quantities
every night - I think, or rather
I hope, our next assault on my
be more successful than the
last - There is another small
parcel on the way for you, which
will turn up some fine specimens,
there was a friend of mine going
home to London & taking the
opportunity, I made a parcel
of shot & pieces of shell &c from
different parts, & sent them with
him if they reach Dunder they may
be looked upon as curiosities &
if they do not it will be no great
loss, amongst them are one or two
rifle balls from Copenhagen
they are very much expanded having
struck stones, firelocks or some hard
substance - the specimens of shell
splinters will give you an idea
of the things which fly about as
yellows head when a shell bursts
near you - Pleasant looking things
I must say. - I am glad you
enjoy your house, I should like to
see it - I will give you a descrip-
tion of my tent in my next -

Letter now drawn to a close. I know
this is a somewhat rambling letter, but
as it is only intended to announce the
dear folks at home, I suppose
it will do. I will write soon again
& hoping Mother, Aunt, Anne,
Uncle, Aunt Pina, Cousin &c &c
are all in a state of high solicitude
I am

My dear Father
Yours affectionate Son
David Greig

There is a band playing Scotch
tunes beside me at present, quite
enough to drive a poor fellow mad.
My dear Mother is just finished
D.S.

Camp before Sebastopol
16th August 1855-

My dear Mother

I received a short letter from Anne dated 28th July, including in still others one from you & one from Mrs. Wilson. I am very sorry I fear I can do very little with regard to her son's affairs as I am not on the spot now, but I will do my best & write to some friend of mine at Scitton & then send him word whether the things are sold or not which I do not think is the case. I am very glad to hear the sea bathing has improved your health & I hope it will keep as well as mine is at present & I can have no better wish I can assure, for mine I have ceased to drink that hearty Champagne I have never even had a headache. Anne says, she is very sorry I have no one here to listen to my complaints, I am happy to say I have very few to bother any one with, except that the Russians have begun to fire round shot into our Camp which I

must say is very unpleasant, I am
in great fear my wife but should
be knocked down some night, shot
have fallen in all directions around
it but have never hit it as yet;
About a week ago as I was lying
on the top of my bed, I heard one
coming directly for me (you get
wonderfully knowing whether they
are coming directly to us or not)
I jumped up & looked out at the door
when I saw the shot plunge into
the ground close beside one of our
hospital tents & bury itself below
it, it was a large 32th shot &
had it been a shell, all our wounded
men would have gone sky high,
rather a nice mess for our hospital
to be in & only think what a state of
mind our patients were in -
Anne tells me that Dr. Johnston is
compelled to come out here again,
a very fine story, I have no doubt the
folks at home laughed so much at
him, that he was very glad to come
out again to save being called all
sorts of nice names, if I wished to
get home, I have not the slightest
doubt I could get home any time

I liked, Johnston reports going home
all I can say, that, if he comes
to the Crimea he will never leave
it, he will die of pure fright if nothing
else - don't mention this to any of
his friends - Last Sabbath evening
about 7 o'clock, I was starting on
my way for the trenches, in a considerable
state of excitement as we had been
informed that we were to have a
general attack from the Russians
that night, which we had learned
from some intercepted dispatches.
I immediately began to think of
the quiet Sabbath evenings at
home, & that it would just be
the time you would be all going
out for a walk with no idea of
danger of any kind - I can tell
you it was a strange feeling -
That night, every one in the camp
was under arms in camp & of
course we were on the out-look in
the trenches, all the guns were moved
at midnight & every thing in readiness
& in that dangerous R. of Battery, where
I was stationed, the spikes were
also in readiness to spike the guns
in case the Russians should attack it

Fortunately for me the night wore on
very quietly & during the forenoon I
went to sleep below a big gun with my
jacket folded on a round shot for a
pillow - About 4 P.M. there was a
party of men repairing our advanced
trench & the Prussians began to
fire on them - After waking from a
sleep I felt rather weak & I swallowed
all the Brandy that remained in my
flask (about 1/2 glass) I had scarcely
done so when I was startled by a
few round shot bounding over the
parapet & immediately one of the 17th
came to me & told me that a batch
of our men had been knocked over.
I do not know whether it was the
brandy or what it was but I felt
uncommonly brave, I immediately
rushed down & as I was passing
along I was remarking that the parapet
of the 4th Paralle was very low, when
something loomed over me, down all
went like a shot & kissed the ground
very kindly, "It's a shell, Sir! Keep
close" cried one of the men, & so it was
for it immediately exploded covering
us with dust; "It's all over, Sir" said
one, "Good luck to it" said I, & bolted

as fast as I could. I found three
men in a kind of hole & a large newly
fired shot between them - Just before
I got to them I met one of our Lieut.
rushing up, as pale as death, "Oh!
Grig, for - take 'em down, there's the
very devil in that advanced trench".
I found two of the men belonged to
the 1st & were only bruised, the third
belonged to the 21st & was knocked
to smithereens. Before I had time to
examine our men "bang" came another
shot, struck a cask which formed part
of the parapet close to me, which was
filled with earth & we were all
immediately buried amongst dust &
stones; I shook the dust off me, felt
their pulses & giving directions to have
them carried up, I looked it as
fast as my legs could carry me -
What an awful feeling it is when a
round shot strikes an earth work
beside you, & you screwing yourself up
into as small ball as possible, when
I was buried by that round shot, my only
feeling was, "Well, the day of Judgment
can't be much worse than this" it is
certainly something beyond description,
it requires to be felt in order to be under-

= stood - Well with all these things I
am as happy as a cricket & the more
dangerous we run, the more I hope I
will enjoy home when I get to it.
I believe we will have an engagement
very soon (I am always open to an
engagement, you may inform my lady
friends) & this is the opinion of every
one; there was a very smart engage-
= ment at the Schermain this morning,
about 50000 Prussians came out
to the right of Lobkowitz & forced the
river, they were met by the Sardinians &
French & driven back, the French then
some rockets amongst ^{them} which astonished
them a bit, we are at present all
confined to Camp & ready to turn
out, the Cavalry are all in Balaclava
Plain & the Field batteries have
all their guns ready & the horses
standing with harness on - all our
men heartily wish they could get a fair
clash at them & none have the slightest
doubt but we would beat them if we
could only get them on the open plain.
How this night will pass on I do not
know, but as the post does not leave
until tomorrow evening I will finish
this tomorrow -

14th The night passed over quietly & the
firing which I heard yesterday, now
proves to have been a great victory
on the part of the French against
by the Scandinavians - About 4500 Russian
Killed, wounded or prisoners (600 of
the latter) & 500 French killed & wounded,
the Russians seem to have got on
out & out thrashing - I rode over
the field of battle to-day & must
say it was a very curious sight, I
would say a horrible sight, but nothing
is horrible in this quarter of the globe.
Russians were lying in all directions
& in all kinds of attitudes, they
had all been rifled & the most
hardiest their clothes, I could
pick up little or nothing but just
as I was coming away I saw a
dead Russian embracing his
water flask & with an "Hallo, old
fellows what have you got there?",
I walked off with the flask & also
his cap pouch - Before I came at
him I could never understand
what people meant when they talked
of the attitudes of the dead on the
field of battle, but I can assure you
it is something very curious, some men

in sitting positions bending over
their arms, as if they had them wounded
& their life gradually ebbing away; the
most however were lying on their
backs as if they were backing in the
snow & their arms folded over their
faces to protect them from the sun.
The masses of dead Russians were
something wonderful & every here &
there, there was a Russian amongst
them - We came to a large mass
of dead bodies which were being
buried in a pit & from one of the
Frenchmen who was burying them,
I got a small medal which he
had taken from the breast of a Rus-
sian soldier, it may be a small curio-
in its way & a memento of the "Battle
of the Icheraya" if it be called so.
Dr. Kilant is going home on sick-
leave & I send by him a Russian gun
& bayonet which may cast up in
Dunder some day & be another
war's wonder, as it also was taken
yesterday at the Icheraya -

With regard to my hat, you may keep
your mind easy as I have learned
that it is somewhere in Turkey & I
have no doubt it will turn up -

I must defer the description of my last
until another letter - & I will write on
soon again & tell you what is
doing &c. Give my kind love
to all my friends - Remember
me to Father. Aunt. Cousin
&c. & hoping you will excuse
the abruptness with which I finish
this one & from it will be very heavy,
& I am very sleep, & the additional
consideration that I may be pained
out of bed to the house of "the Assembly"
bought - I am

Very dear Mother
Your affectionate Son
David Greig -

What a hasty, rambling, short & sheer kind of
letter I have written - Excuse it - D.G.

Camp before Sebastopol
31st August 1855
my dear

My dear Anne

How to write a long letter
to you this time beats my comprehension
but if I did not I suppose I had
better look out for a blowing up or at
least some very severe remarks, now
as I do not like these I suppose
I must do my best & when as Jesus
does thin best I am sure you
can say nothing to them - Well -

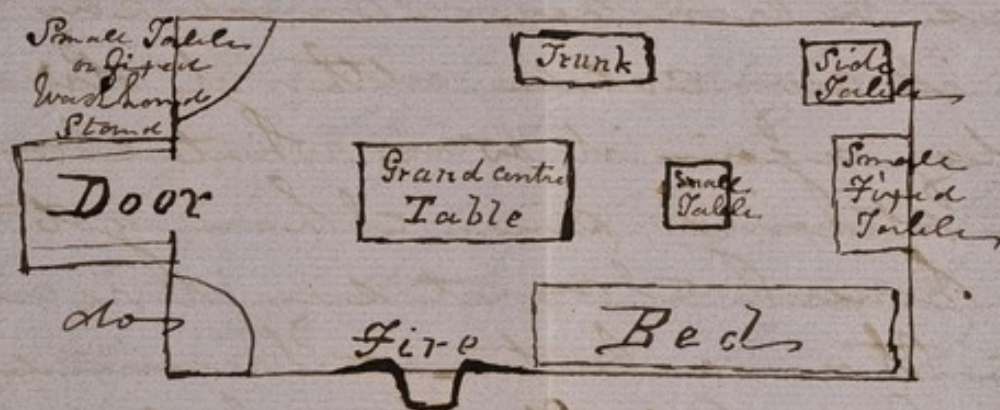
I am always fated to receive your
kind letters when I come off trenches
& your last I received on Tuesday
night & although I was very tired
I managed to keep my eyes open
until I had read it twice over.
On looking over it again I must
say I could easily have digested
double the quantity of news which
it contained, however I must
say I was very thankful for
what there was & I sincerely hope
Mother & you will never let a week
pass but what some of you will
drop me a note -

So Mr Baxter wishes to see me in my
uncivilised state, it is certainly a
compliment, but I cannot promise
him, he wish - as the saying is, when
in Rome a person should do as the
Romans do; & I say, when in Turkey
I do as the Turks do, but when
I come to the civilised country again
I must appear somewhat like a
civilised being, & therefore she
will see me very much the same
as I was before. As for my cousin
Anne, she seems a perfect Amazon
I do not know how she would
like to live in a tent & be in a
state of perpetual *fic-vic*, saying
"the dogs are went or geysing" &
such like, but since I have got
a tent I am sure she would be
very comfortable so far as shelter
went but I could not guarantee
anything else. I think she is far
better at home at least until the
war is over & then a jaunt to the
Carriacou & a visit to the battle fields
would be a very amusing thing.
Talking of my tent I do not think
I have ever described it to you
& I suppose I must do it now -

My friend Gibant was a very nice
charismatic genius & one day he took
it into his head that he would
have a hut. I told him it was
too early to think about it yet, as
no one knew what would happen
before winter, however he would
& so I agreed to help him in
other words to become his partner
in this building speculation.
We got two or three men from the
regiment to assist us & one dug
a large hole in the ground close
to our tent, 12 feet long & 10 ft broad
around this we built a wall
about a foot high & also two gable
ends & as for a roof we got a piece
of tarpaulin & some condemned
blankets & now when it is finished
it is quite a stirring mansion
& as great as our own construction
but as there is in the Crimea -
Gibant did not enjoy the hut
long & when he left, he gave it all
to me until he came back, when
that will be I do not know.
Before Gibant left we had got
another assist. Surgeon (Dr. Hooper)
he slept in a tent close to my hut

& mixed with one, he however after
staying a month got gazetted to
the 10th Hussars, joined them & I
am now all alone. There is
another Asst Surgeon gazetted to
this regiment, but as he is at
Scutari he has never joined yet,
his name is Dr. Walker & I am
glad I am sorry to say, I
hear, he has got a wife. I do
not know if you will bring her
with him, but, as our Surgeon
said when he heard it "Oh
Cricky, wont our house stinking
near-prairie in you but when she
comes up", as far as I can hear
however I believe she is in England
but I am not sure. When you
see my hut from the outside there
is little else but a roof to be seen
but when you get into it, it is quite
a snug gay & I can stand perfectly
erect in all parts of it, it has all
been whitewashed & smoothed in
the interior & I have covered
the walls with pictures from the
Illustrated London news & Punch
mixed them all up to-gether &
they do look so comical, making

one laugh whether he will or not.



Here is a sketch of the said hut & I am sure you must say that it is an elegant looking article of the hut line. So my next I will perhaps (?) send you a drawing of the hut which may give you a better idea of it than this ground plan would do, however as it is your per my domestic arrangements & I hope you approve of it. At the door I have erected a porch & two seats & it is such a jolly place to sit & smoke in the evening; I have got great in the way of tables you will see, but I am sorry to say I have not even a chair, but I am perfectly content with 3 or 4 stools & at present I am seated on the top of a box. The fireplace is something out of the common run of things & will be a great treat when the cold weather

comes on. The weather is not so hot as
it has been here & the last night
I was in trenches I must say I
felt it very cold, although during
the day again, it was what I may
term stewing, since I have got the
hut however I must say it is much
better than a tent. I received a
letter from Mr. Struthers to day as
kind as ever, he has received the
box all safe & he tells me he has
seen Johnston, but that he does
not intend coming out here again,
he is still asking me to tell him
more about his brother as Johnston
could tell him little or nothing, the
more I see or hear of Johnston the
more I am astonished at him.

You tell me about his tent other brother,
the name is quite enough, he must
be a damnation fool, who cannot
take care of himself without pledging
his oath to do so - if he converts the
fishermen at Fuzden - I'll eat my
casked meat. I think you have
certainly come down a peg in the
world, by the Anckerhouse picnic
if I could not get to a picnic
something like our former ones I

would not go out all - I think I
told you about Dr. Watson I have
not heard about him since he
went to Sautain. I hope he is
better by this time. He was very
ill before he left this. We have
had very little news since the battle
of the Chernoyah, we have been ex-
pecting an attack every day & had
different "turn-outs" but the Russians
seem to have given up the idea now
& I believe that their large army has
withdrawn towards the Belles
again - There was a tremendous
explosion of gunpowder three night
ago which shook the whole camp,
I believe it was about two tons
which the French were taking up
to the Mamelon, a Russian shell
struck it, it exploded & sent a
great many Frenchmen to their last
home - I hope you received the
Russian medal which I sent you
when you received this you may be
expecting the gun which Libault
has taken home for you, enclosed
in the same parcel is a small stick
which was cut from a vine on the
field of Cherkassan by our Surgeon

soon after the battle & while he was
exposed to a very heavy fire from the
Russian batteries, it may be a
bit of a curiosity at home, if it is
not, no great matter - You sometimes
complain that I never mention having
received some of the letters which
were sent me, since I have been
here I do not think any-one of
my letters have gone astray if I
do not get a letter every week,
keep your mind easy, you will
be sure to hear of it - There is one
of my correspondents whom I must
call a very bad one & unless I
receive a letter from him soon I
fear I must put my pen through
his name both in my good & bad
books (viz) Dr. Crockett - Remember
me to Father, Brother, Aunt -
Mr. & Mrs. Sam. Linn & all my
many kind enquirers & believe
me to be

Your most affec^t Brother
David Greig

Camp before Sebastopol
7th September 1855

My dear Father

I intend writing you a
very short letter this post, which
leaves early tomorrow morning,
as I believe there is to be an
attack on the Malakoff to-morrow
we will be all engaged -

Ever since the Battle on the Tchern
- moy no we have been very much
on our P's & Q's expecting a grand
attack from the Russians & about
a week ago we have had two or
three pleasant "turn outs" at 2 A.M.
& had to stand under arms for
about three hours, each time we
had the pleasure (?) of seeing
the Sun rise, nothing to be done
& we were all sent to bed again
very well pleased to get to it;
at the same time within the
Rusks were far enough off -
We have had a good many
bombardments on a small scale
& to-day we opened out again with
a tremendous fire on the Russians

works, it has now (10 P.M.) partially subsided, but it will open again tomorrow morning & about Friday I believe we will go at it.

Everything has been kept very quiet this time & we had no idea that anything would happen, until this afternoon when our P.M.O. sent the engineer of our hospital as was in the top trim, & how many empty beds we had for wounded men, as we had a good chance of getting them filled tomorrow. See the men who have gone to trenches to-night have taken 48 hours provisions with them cooked, in case they should require to stay there that time. I do not know when I may be to-morrow, but I will take as great care of myself, as of a ~~share~~ with the direction "Glad, with Care, This side up" -

All seem jolly & happy & the hands were playing "Cherry Boys" cheer to-night, which is rather a rare time here. - Two nights ago we were all gratified by a grand sight, viz, one of the Russian frigates

in the harbour of Sebastopol on
fire, about 11 P.M. when all the
rigging was on fire & the flames
bursting out at the Port holes
it was a magnificent sight,
such as I never saw before.

The Russians seem to be
burning all their shipping in the
harbour, for they have burned
two since & one is burning just
now, they seem as if they were
making preparations for leaving
the place & all wish they would.
I received a letter from
Mother to-day dated 18th Aug^r
& also three papers all of which
were very acceptable. I am
glad to hear that the jams &
jellies have turned out well
this year, it is a very satisfactory
fact, & if we make the Russians
into jams & jellies tomorrow the
fact (?) will be equally acceptable
at home, I hope - I like to hear
about all these things & although
you laugh at Mother for telling
me, she must not give it up -
I was very glad to hear you
were all well, I am in London

condition just now & hope to
remain so. The hot weather is
I think fast here now, the days
are cool & bearable, & the nights
are what I may call decidedly
cold, every one thinks we will
have a hard winter but not
such a wet one as last -
You will know all about the attack
therefore this will reach you, but
should it come off, I will write
you next post, if all is well -
I send love - Remember me in
kind love to Mother, Aunt, & all
your family & believe me to be

Your most affect. Son
David Spring

No word of "the Box" yet, but I
have no doubt it will come up
yet "It cannot be lost" as
I have not need to say -
D.S.

Love yours

Camp before Sebastopol
10th Sept: 1855

My dear Father

Sebastopol is taken at last & I had the pleasure of being in at the death. You will of course know more of the particulars of this great event than I can at present tell you, & you must excuse me in this letter if I show myself as thorough egotist & only tell you what I saw & did. For any single individual who has been engaged in a battle, to imagine he can describe it, is very absurd, the truth is "Every one for himself & God for all" & I can only tell you what I saw & heard the Special Correspondent of the Times to enlighten the folks at home on the affair as a whole. When I wrote my last letter the evening before the attack, I knew I was to be down, but I did not wish to make you uneasy by saying so, as I had volunteered to be one of the party who should receive the wounded in rear of the attacking party.

The morning of the 8th Sept^r dawned
cold & stormy, the cold got less
about 10 o'clock & every one felt in
fighting condition; the dust was
a great nuisance during the day
& the men looked more like miller
than anything else; we had a
few drops of rain during the day
but nothing of any consequence;
(So much for the Prediction of a
dew) — About 9 A.M. I had
just finished a jolly breakfast &
was sitting at the door of my tent
as quietly as the roar of cannon
would allow, smoking the pipe of
peace, when our P.M. came &
gave me my final instructions &
bade me be off & see if every thing
was right at the place where we
were to be stationed — I took an
hospital orderly with me & set
off, down the Mowbray Road when
I found a mangrove or large tent
erected, in a ravine behind the
21 gun battery — Every thing was
complete, lots of tea, hot & cold
water, sponges, lint &c & two free
surgeons besides myself from
the 4th Division — The next twelve

row was being carried on by the
guns, I went head before, & my
row & then a round shot was bounding
into the ravine or over where
we were, by way of variety. Between
10 & 11 all the regts from our Division
marched past where I was, they
were all in good humor, but looking
very determined & as dusty as possible.
Ordway began chaffing me & wishing
to know if it was a cantonment that
I was in charge of; I told them
they would learn on their way home
what the tents were for, & I am
sorry to say many did so - a
little before twelve the fire from
our batteries was terrific, that
gradually died away & was replaced
by musketry which continued
close to us for a short time, our
thunder ceased, both English
& French, & the Prussian off was
in the hands of the French & the
tricolor floating over the ramparts.
The musketry & cannon began
again on the left & told that
the English had gone out the Redoubt.
All the time we had no wounded
& were taking care of our hearts.

Immediately after the Malakoff were
taken, the wounded began to come in
& all kinds of wounds were here, from
smashed heads to smashed toes &
this continued all day - We had
a plentiful supply of Ambulances
& mules & all we had to do was
to render immediate assistance
to such as required it & get them
sent up to camp on the easiest
conveyance possible - As the wounded
came in we learned all that was
going on in front, at first we were
in the Redoubt then we were out of
it, then in it & again out of it -
Time flew very fast that day & the
evening came on before we knew
where we were & at that time
the general impression was that we
could not hold or even take the
Redoubt & soon were beginning to think
we were to have a repetition of the
18th June, not so however - As
it got dark the Russians began
to leave the Redoubt & blow up all
their ships & magazines - During
the night fires broke out in all parts
of the town & the sight was something
sublime - every now & then a ~~large~~

a large quantity of shells would explode
like a cont.-band of gigantic crackers
& fly about in all directions - The
best sight was when some of their
largest magazines exploded; a
bright flame would light up the sky
for a moment, a large black pointed
mass would shoot up into the sky,
a terrific report would shake the
whole ground & rattle along the
hills in echo, while the smoke would
extend for miles & miles - After
the Persians had left the Adram
there were a tremendous lot of
wounded brought to us, both English
& Persians, & within about two or
three hours I think I saw ~~about~~
2000 patients - Immediately after
the Persians left the Adram
they crossed over by means of their
bridge of boats, to the other side of
the Harbore & left us in entire
possession of the town - During
the time the fight was going on I
was not altogether out of danger
although I was sheltered a little,
shot & shell were passing & bursting
over me every now & then - The only
shot which came near me was

when I was placing a wounded man
on a mule litter, it must have
gone very near me. for it passed
between the mule's legs; another
shot struck the top of the hill &
rolled into our tent; another, was
rather more severe, I had placed
a wounded man on a stretcher &
he was being carried up to camp
by 4 turks, they had not gone far
from me when a round shot took
his head off. One young officer who
had been found in the Redoubt, dead,
was brought to me by some turks,
he had been shot in the head & lay
=onitted in a small place, he was
lying in an easy position, his head
thrown back & his beautiful black
hair hanging over the stretcher, no
one knew who he was, he had been
rifled, his shoulder cords & even the
most of his buttons torn off, it even
struck me that it was a melancholy
sight, the turks had found his body
just as I saw it & had brought
it to me, much because they had
not seen a ditch large enough
to pitch him into, I saw by his buttons
what regiment he belonged to &

sents him to it, when he was recognized
as a young English Baronet. The
Rufians are some men good enough
looking fellows, I offered some of
them Brandy but they refused biscuit
& one fellow eat the hard biscuit as
if he had not seen food for a very
long time. — About 10 o'clock morning
I was relieved, as all the wounded
had been conveyed up to camp,
so I thought as I had enough
heard enough for 24 hours I would
now play myself & accordingly I
went into the town with two other
fellows — I first visited the batteries
& the Redoubt which were covered
with shells. The batteries were well
made & they had very large guns,
some of which have been turned
topsy-turvy by the explosions but
all seemed in good condition —
There were a great number of huts
where the men had lain in holes & ground
they were shell proof. I expected
to have found something in them but
they had all been removed before
I got to them, lots of ammunition &
fuses were lying in all directions
but no such things as curiosities

I found a small hut which seemed
to have been the surgeon's hut & in
it I found a few small bottles, two
spoons, a lot of Latin Prescriptions
& an old trunk, the things from
I carried off & will send home.

Oh! what a place Schastofuc is,
there was a cry of "why did we
spare the town?" You will know
whether we did so or not when I
tell you there was not an entire
building in the whole town, there is
scarcely even an entire tree. The
town must have been a beautiful
place before we came to it, the
finest natural harbor I think
I ever saw, the streets broad &
handsome & the houses with ever
greens & vines in front of them, the
houses very large & commodious
as the "Liberty To Let" say, & all
that had been worth anything were
blowing when I was there. The
Russians had completely evacuated
the place & were leaving in small
boats when I was there, their bridge
had been broken & all their stores
& vessels of war sunk or burned.
Our men were not allowed to plunder.

but the French were going whole scale
into it - Then does not appear to
have been much left, I thought
I was pretty early on the ground, but
every house had been entered before
I got to it & anything of value carried
off - The first place I got into was
a kind of library, the books were
all troubled about the rooms & stored
in the streets, they were all Ruffs &
a good many manuscripts, the French
were carrying off the tables chairs &
all that was worth & what they did
not want was broken or pitched
out at the window - I got into a
shop store at the arsenal, a good
many french & english were there &
I saw some such a heterogeneous
mass butter, jackets, lace, shirts
trousers, paints, ~~ropes~~ & every thing
you could think of all mixed up
forming a beautiful compound -
I looked about & entered a great
many houses in all parts of the town
running my sword thru all the
bundles & bundles ~~beauties~~ I met
in with, some of the bonnets were
very good & one grand white satin

one I took a savage delight in
kicking along the street & then tossing
into a burning house - Our sailors
& the French Lancers were the boys
a lot had got hold of some brandy
& were very drunk - one party had
got hold of a piano & were hurling
it about the streets on a wheel-barrow
while others went along side &
struck the wires with their swords
making the strongest music you
ever heard - Here, near a Louvre
in the middle of a broad street, draped
with a beautiful white muslin gown
& a red satin bonnet kicking up
a great row - there an English
sailor admiring himself in a
large mirror & because he is
not so good looking as he used
to be, he smashes the mirror with
his foot; in fact it puts you in mind
of a fair & every one is as jolly as
possible - The perfumers seem to
have bolted in a great hurry, they
were prepared to defend the place
to the last & all the streets were
barricaded & commanded by small
field pieces - but I suppose they

Saw it was no use & I am sure
they were not far wrong - You have
now some breathing time & I can
scarcely tell you how odd I feel
the silence which reigns around
no guns are firing now & every
one is saying "It's like Sunday at
home?" - What the working of
Sebastopol may do towards finish-
ing the war, I do not know, I
hope it may do something, but
I rather fear we will have some
more work soon again & what
is nearly as bad as trenches, heavy
marching & fighting at the same
time - However winter is coming
& I hope they will allow us to be
quiet until spring - I think I
have been a Salamanca long
enough now & I should like a
little rest & if we only get this spring
we will be all able to have a go at
Simpferopol & I hope it won't be
an eleven month job like this -
Well! Thanks Goodness I have
got no very well during the first
months I have assisted at the
siege & I hope to get this all over

"Sod-jing" as well - Now I shall
bid you all "good bye" my home
(British) have 95 officers killed &
wounded, 3 belonging to the 17th Regt
as you will see by the papers - Our
division have suffered very little this
time as the Light & Second were
fighting over - Remember me
to Sister Louie, Brother, Aunt, Am
Uncle & Aunt Pige, Cousins &
all my many kind friends who
may write for me -

I am

My dear Father
Your most aff^l Son
David Spring

These leaves were plucked in the town -

Camp - Sebastopol

24th September 1853

My dear Anne

I suppose you were all very glad to receive my last letter & it must have been good news to a great many besides you. Although I state my letter Camp - Sebastopol we are still in the same old place before Sebastopol, all our camps are in the same situation & soldiers are sent down every day to the town & are engaged in putting it to rights, making roads & as for us wintering in it the very idea is all nonsense, because the place is a mass of pine & we are more comfortable & safe when we are. Immediately after the town was taken there were great talks of a move northward to re-attack the Russians & I was very much frightened we would get the order, however we had a few wet & cold days & I suppose that put a stop to the idea of night bivouacking, which I must say was not very pleasant.

I have no doubt we will quietly
remain where we are for the winter
& so soon as the weather breaks
up next spring we will com-
=mence a splendid summer
campaigns, I do not think we
will be not all willing to commence
another siege again, but the great
dodge will be to get the Turks
in the open & I think a good
battle or two would bring them to
their senses far sooner than another
siege - I do not think the camp
was ever so dull since I came
to it, there is no news of any kind
whatever & every one seems shut
up for the season - We are all
rejoicing we have no more trenches
to be made or being drilled &
sharpened up every day - all
over the camp you see regiments
going thro' their drill & performing
good step the same as at home.
There is a variety in our rides now
instead of riding thro' the camps as
before we now take a ride to
Sébastopol, the Cordon, Malakoff
or Mamelon as the case may
be - I have been thro' all this

old Russian works now & well
worth seeing they are, were it not
for the abominable smell from the
thousands of bodies which are
buried round them. The French
have taken one part of the town &
the Russians another, but still
it is dangerous to be in the place
as the Russians very often fire
from the opposite side of the town
into the town, very few men are in
it & they do no damage. I have
sent off, a week ago, a box with
a lot of curiosities from Sebastopol
there is a list in the box which will
explain the contents, the best thing
in it is a coat which I am sure
will astonish even Mr. Matthews's
muscle men. Whenever I find
in with anything curious I keep
it beside me until I get a chance
of sending it home & then off it goes
I have wished very much to get
hold of a gold cross or something
of value but have never succeeded
so you must first be content with
small mercies & take what I
can send you. Did you get
a small medal which I sent

you in one of my former letters? I think it was the one I wrote after the Battle of the Schuylkill.

The camp is very healthy just now & all the work we have to do is our child's play, only think, our regiment is about 800 strong & we have only about 30 in hospital & that amongst a surgeon & three assistants cannot be killing work - Our new assistant Dr. Walker has now joined us, he is, I think I told you, a married man but he has left his wife at home, he is a very nice, jolly, easy-going fellow & what is more surprisingly a very sensible fellow, I suspect he has been regularly taken in & done for - The other assistant who is with me is our senior asst. Dr. Bone, (Dr. Crockett & Sirin know him) he arrived from England the day before Schuylkill was taken & of course comes in for the medal or whatever goes for the capture, while poor Dr. Walker joined us the day after the capture & of course was a day too late for the fair -

I have now before me a letter dated
27th Augst & another from Brother dated
1st Sept. I got one from Dr. Poir
with an appendix from James Rogers
last post & I expect one from
you tomorrow morning. - I must
have a letter every post from someone
or I am quite miserable, two posts
ago I had a bundle of Quakerian
news, they are all very kind to me
in that quarter & I often write them,
Miss A. & I are always haunting
each other even in our letters, when
I say our letters I mean her father's
& Brother's she sometimes ventures
a P.S. but nothing more, do you
still write to her? - You seem very
indignant at me in your last &
all because I hinted that you
did not give me more news - all
I can say is "Preserve me from
a lady's tongue" it's decidedly
worse than a regular bombard-
ment - shot & shell is nothing to it.

It is very pleasant to hear of all
your visitors & my old friends
I wish I had only been in Dundee
& could have gone to Montrose with
them, Oh! wouldn't I have enjoyed

myself. Just as I am writing
I have received your letter of the
10th Inst., I am surprised to find
you do not yet know about the
sinking of Sebastopol the news
should have been known by that time
however you must know all about
it now. Your letter has a different
tone altogether from the former one
& you will soon well please
with my communication to the
Editors of the F. S. J. & L. J., I
am rather glad you saw it, as
it was a general letter & intended
for any-body, I really forget what
I wrote in it, but it has fulfilled
its purpose & amused you -
I know the gun would be a
curiosity, it is a real, Ruskie
& a very good one, it is a common
"Brown Bess", some of them are
very fine rifles, but I could not get
one at the time, I may send you
one by & bye when we have another
smoking match - You may all
talk to Elmore as you like, but
I can tell you he won't get married
until he sees his way clearly, as
a matter of that kind I must say

Seems is a very sensible fellow -
I must say you give me a good
deal of news - I am sorry Father's
apprentice has bolted so soon,
I don't think he can be much
worse & Father is perhaps as well
rid of him - John Hutchinson's
death is very melancholy & a loss
which all who knew him, will feel.
I can't understand why you can
give me Mr. Alex. Main to the
Glasgow folks so easily, you seem
to be very accommodating now-a-days.
Dr. Nichol's case quite surprises
me, I can't make it out at all
I am sure he could not take
it himself, there must have been
some curious work about, who
is to get his place? - I am
sorry I can't tell you much about
Dr. Quatern, all I know is that
he went from Sentin, home, about
three weeks ago & I hope he is
all safe & well now - I am
enjoying first rate health at present
we had some cold days last
week but we have fine weather
again & I suppose it will continue
until it breaks up again & then we

must expect cold weather & no
mistake - I have written this
letter in a careless style as I
have a sore finger which a careless
operator cut while amputating
yesterday, so you must excuse
me - Good bye - give me
long letters & lots of news, &
you will please

Yours affectly Brother
David Craig

Kind love to Father, Mother
Aunt, Cousins & all my
kind friends D.C.

On Board H.M.S. Royal Albert
Staratch Bay - 1st Oct. 1855
— J. —

My dear Father —

I have no doubt you will be very much surprised to learn that I am on board the great Ocean of war the "Royal Albert" but such is the case & what is more we are bound no one knows where.

While in Camp often & often I wondered when we would leave it & what would be the cause of our leaving — My wondering was brought to a conclusion however on the 2nd Inst. by the 1st Brigade of our Division receiving orders to hold itself in immediate readiness to march. None of us had the slightest idea of such a thing & of course we were very much taken aback. The most of the Officers in the regt. had erected huts like mine & mine was in beautiful condition & I had just got a fine arm-
-chain from Sebastopol, in fact

I am surprised the Commander
in Chief did not take my hints
into consideration - but it seems
he did not & the 17th simply
received an order to march, and
one known where we were to go
but all suspected we would
have to go on board ship & so
it was - some supposed we were
to go to Kutch, some said before
some Iliadasia & some Nikolay
& I suspect the latter were right

The 2nd & 3rd (Tuesday & Wednesday)
were very busy days, packing
up & putting our baggage in stores
as we were only allowed to take
as much as we could carry with
us - On Thursday morning we
were all up before daylight &
commenced the march to this place
at 5 1/2 A.M. - along with the 17th
were the 37th 20th 21st & 63rd Regts
The morning was very fine when
we started, but we had a good
show of rain the cool our burden
on the road. We arrived Karam
in safety at Karam about 11 A.M.
& all the 17th regt were just on

on board the *Royal Albert*, the
other regts were put on board other
vessels. We have on board
about 750 men & each of the other
regiments average 500, beside
these I believe there are a great
many French going & also our
Prussians. We are not certain
where we are going, but it is
thought, it is to be some or else
at the Perfians some way to
the north of the Crimea, I think
to destroy Picholoff on the river
Borg, we are sure to have some
fighting & then I suppose we
will return to our old camp
again, however some say we will
not but I hope we will -
I could not describe to you the
"Royal Albert" I came here when
she was at Scutari & I think
I described her to you then. We
are very comfortable on board
except in the sleeping line, we have
to sleep in hammocks or cots in
the cabin - It is the best way we
can. Last night was my first
night in a hammock & I was

frightened to go to sleep in case
I should roll out. The noise &
heat of the cabin - it is very dis-
agreeable, but that was not the
worst, some of the midshipmen
got loose amongst us & cut
some of the hammock strings
& the result was of course a
row, which continued for the
greater part of the night & which
was finished by a very wise
conclusion that the boats were
the safest; I myself was very
fortunate & did not get cut
down but some of my brother-officers
suffered - We have the antiferment
at present & it is all very well
on board ship, but to live on such
in the open on the South coast
of Russia will not be so pleasant
as we could wish it. However
we are all very jolly & of course
expect great things - I suppose
you know that this is the Flag-
ship & we have Admiral E. Lyons
on board, I sometimes see him
walking on the poop, he is an
old good looking fellow & that is

all I know about him -
One of our men on horses on
boards & I had to leave him
in camp under the tender mercies
of a commissariat officer who
is to take charge of & live in
my establishment while I am
away. In the last letter I
had from Mother she mentions
how glad you all were when you
saw that one of the 17th men
in the list of wounded published
in the newspapers - I do not
know how often I have told
you all, never to believe any
thing you see in the newspapers
except the births marriages &
deaths & even those of our own folk
& here you have another proof
we had three officers & eighteen
men wounded, certainly not
much but still quite enough
to show that we were under
fire - This is a most dis-
agreeable place for sitting &
I must conclude, we expect
to sail with the whole fleet on
Sunday (7th) & I will drop you a

note as soon as possible again -
With kind love to Mother, Aunt
Anne & all kind friends

I am

My dear Father
Yours affect. Son
David Greig

On Board H.M.S. "Royal Albert" 121 guns
Black Sea - off Odessa
11th Oct. 1855

My dear Father

When I wrote you last I was
on board the Royal Albert in
Korinth Bay expecting the sail on
our expedition on Sunday & so it
was - Great preparations were
going on around us, frigates, gun
boats, mortar boats, floating batte-
ries, transports & line of battle
ships all congregated around
us & as I was on board the
Admiral's flag ship I had a
very good opportunity of seeing all
that went on. On Sunday morning
at 11 A. On the whole fleet set sail
& passed along the coast of the
Crimea in front of the harbour
of Sebastopol. It was on
a most beautiful Sunday morning
& I enjoyed myself very much &
in fact all were in high spirits.
I do not know what the im-
pressions of Sebastopol, or rather the
Russians on the coast of Sebastopol
thought of our fleet as we sailed

along the coast, but their feelings
must have been very different to
ours & it was quite evident we
were not going on an errand of
peace even although it was a
Sunday morning. We moved
along very slowly & had time
to enjoy the scene, the ships were
mostly all steamers & the
manner in which they sailed
along was very pretty. All the
large vessels in lines on the
outside & the small fry in the
centre between them. One large
vessel always kept about the
centre & every now & then had
to go slow & bring up some
large bulk, then she would
send forward to learn what
the other great vessels were
doing, in fact we were here
there & everywhere. We had
six small gun boats with us
& they kept following the Royal
Albert like so many chickens
every one trying who could keep
next her, they are very smart
little boats & looked just like

private yachts - at night the
sight was equally interesting
there was no moon & the black
sea looked doubly black, while
all around us were lights
of all colours denoting the
various vessels. In the morning
we had to stop for a little &
get the flut collected & then
went on again as before. Life
on board a large man of war
is in some respects very nice, but
in general I would not care
much for it, we had good feeding
that was one thing & nothing
to do that was another, but
beyond these two I do not know
but what I would have preferred
the camp - When we first came
on board we all considered
it a great hardship in not
being allowed to smoke when
we liked, but the Admiral
bringing into consideration how
free we had been before removing
the restriction. When on deck
sailors seldom or never sit
down & I think it annoyed

then to see us sitting, we were always
in the way, if we sat down on a
box or coil of rope the box or the
rope was sure to be crushed.

The sleeping accommodation
on board our man-of-war is
bad, our men occupy the
2nd & 3rd decks (I do not know
their particular names) the sailors
the 4th deck & we men below all
in the cockpit in cots & hammocks.
As you may well imagine there
is not much comfort in such
a place. It is hot & close &
the very lights which burn there
never look bright. I think
I told you that the midshipmen
were given the practical joking
at night & although it is quite
harmless still it is annoying &
at the same time very annoying
to those who do not suffer & I
am happy to say I have never
suffered. The first night some
of our fellows had their hammocks
downstaring, but it was in the middle
of the night & the most of us lost
the fun but every night since now

of us have got the ship before 126°C.
as there was always some fun
going on. One of our young ensigns
~~had~~ been almost say rather
victimised. He neglected to get
a cot for himself & had a trick
of turning into the first he came to,
of course the owner always turned
him out & the other night he did
get a hammock for himself. This
was something out of the common
& of course attracted attention. He
was allowed to get into bed, with
a good deal of difficulty, & we
were all of course laughing at
him. So soon as he was comfort-
able, a fellow pulled the rope
at his feet which was in a slip
knot & down he came with a
thump on the floor & of course there
was all into convulsions of laughter.
This took place four times & then
he was allowed the ship -

Monday 8th Oct. was as beautiful
a day as the preceding one & about
2 P.M. we came in sight of the Russian
Coast & about three hours afterwards
we anchored in front of Odessa
along with the whole fleet -

Odesa seems a very nice town & the
buildings are not ~~the~~ in the state wh-
I expected to see them after the
bombardment, they seem entire &
when we look at them from where
we are no one could tell that
the town had been bombarded.
No batteries are to be seen but
I have no doubt there are
batteries there. Although we
have come to Odesa I do not
think we are to hunt the town
but this is merely a guess to
decide the Russians & I hear
it is intended to attack a
fort at the mouth of the River Boy
called Kimbourn or Killbourn &
then perhaps go up the River to
Bislaevs, however I do not
know at present - Time will show.
Sunday - 9th October - We are still at
anchor off Odesa, the fleet forming
as it were a semicircle round it.

The morning was dull but
we had a good view of the town,
towards afternoon it became very
thick & quite obscured the rest of the
fleet the day passed over heavily
& we were all very anxious to know

what was to be done -

Wednesday (10th) - Morning very dull
& misty, have been rain during the
night. It is now given out
openly that we are to go to the Kimbu
land there & take the fort -

Towards afternoon the fog cleared
off & I had a nice sail thro' the
fleet, as I was taking two sick
over to an Hospital ship, I must
say my old complaint, however
very nearly spoiled the pleasure
I mean sea-sickness & as the
boat pitched along, I thought of
Broughty Ferry, when I used to say
"Oh! there's another big wave coming"
However this was in the Black Sea
& by a great deal of resolution I
managed my excursion with-
out getting sick -

Thursday (11th) - All is now settled
& we leave this tomorrow morning
there is great commotion on board
all the fleet, ships are being put
into fighting trim, their top-sails
masts are all hauled down, the
rigging is thinned & cleared & the
spritzen mottings are being put
up. It is a most beautiful

Morning & Odessa is seen to great
advantage, we are putting ourselves
in fighting trim here as if we
were to attack this place, while
in reality we are to go 30 miles
to the eastward & then disembark
we can see the people in great
commotion in Odessa & a great
many troops in the streets. Admiral
Captains &c are on board getting
their final orders here & boats
of all sorts & sizes are at our
side - I do not think Kim-
burn will be well marked in
the maps & so I send you a
chart of the place which will
explain all. It is a very
curious place, it is at the mouth
of the River Bong & on the right
hand side as you approach the
mouth of the river, there is a
long narrow tongue of land which
forms a kind of break-water or
harbour to the mouth of the river
& on this the Russians have
a strong fort mounting 64 guns &
two earth batteries - the place
is called Kimburn Spit & the
fort Kimburn fort. it guards

the entrance of the River Bong &
therefore is a guard to Bicolour, which
is a great building place for the
Russian Black Sea Fleet - This
spot of land is therefore an important
place & this is what we are to
take - You will see there are three
or four small salt lakes & a
small streamlet below them, well -
it is proposed to land the English
at this streamlet to prevent the Russian
reinforcements coming into the fort
while the French will be landed
above the lakes & prevent the
retreat of those in the fort & prevent
them attacking us in the rear -
While we are doing this, the ships
are to do their best to destroy the
fort, an expect tough work but I
should say, there is every chance
of success - However we must
not be too sanguine, for we must
all remember the scotch saying about
the flames of Orice & Men - Many
a poor fellow I have no doubt
will be knocked over, & every one
hopes the lot will not fall on
himself - We are just going to
take our last dinner on board

& a jolly dinner we will make it -
The soldier's motto is "Never mind
the morrow" & so we must all be
jolly to-day - The greatest pain
is going on, on home & it is no
easy job writing, so I must draw
to a close & wishing you all
health, strength & happiness &
ourselves" Good luck for
tomorrow."

I am
My dear Father
Your Affectionate Son
David Greig.

kindest love to Mother
Aunt Anne Cousins &c
& as I cannot find time
to write to any of my Edinburgh friends
please send in sight of this
to James Rogers -

kinbroom for Emma

I will write next post, but when
that will be I do not know

1
2

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Camp - Edinburgh
19th Oct: 1855

My dear Father

In the last letter which I sent you from on board the "Royal Albert" I think I gave you an account of my wanderings up to 10th Inst: (Thursday) & at that time we were lying off Odessa. We were kept by contrary winds here until Sunday morning the 14th - Nothing particular occurred during that time with the exception of my dining with Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons on the 11th - He is a jolly old fellow & gave me a first rate dinner which you know goes a far way in getting a good opinion of any ones. The dinner was a first-rate one & dining with us we had some of his chief officers, & the General & some of his. All the officers in the Regt were asked in rotation & my turn came on Friday - On Sunday morning about 4³⁰ A.M. I was awoken by an awful noise, roaring of voices, rattling of chains & the tune of "Pop goes the Weasel" played in furious style, by a violon & a fife. I found we were moving

anchored, as I got up - It was a beautiful
calm Sabbath morning, the fleet was
very soon under weigh & our heads were
to Cadiz. We sailed along the coast in
an easterly direction. The shore was very
beautiful, generally precipitous & every
here & there we saw neat small villages
at the sea side & all the people looking
at us as we passed along, what their
thoughts must have been I do not
know. The day was hot but still
comfortable from the sea breeze, & we
enjoyed it very much, examining all
the land with glasses & always dis-
covering something worth looking at -
About 1 1/2 P.M. we came in sight of
Stimborn Fort & anchored about five
miles off it - It seemed a very strong
place but no shots were fired that day
as we were out of reach, but some
were fired at our gun boats which
were pounding during the night -
We were all as merry as possible
although we well knew we would have
trough works on the morrow - We had
a small jollification & went to bed at
9 o'clock in order to be up in time on the
morrow & land as soon as possible
in boats -

15th October (Monday) - We were all roused
this morning at 4 A.M. & such a row
at an early hour you never heard. The
man had a hurried breakfast & so had
me, I could not drink my tea I was
in such an excited state, so I made
a claret breakfast & relished it -

All the regiment was loaded &
marched into a small steam boat
with six small boats behind her -

We got all settled down into our
places & the sun was just rising
out of the Black Sea, when, the Band
struck up "Cheer Boys Cheer" & with
their cheers from the sailors who man
the rigging, which we returned with
three times three, we pushed off from
the "Royal Albert" - very much satisfied
with the good treatment we had ex-
perienced on board her - The morn-
ing was somewhat silly but we went
along merrily - As we approached the
low sandy beach we saw some
cossacks riding along & who took
themselves off as soon as possible,
one however staid a while behind &
when we were close in shore, he threw
his lance, sword & pistols from him
& galloped off as fast as he could -

we landed without opposition, in boats,
about 8 A. M. - on a sandy shore very like
the sands at Broughty Ferry, (in fact you
could not get a better resemblance), close
to the small salt lakes, all the ground
was covered with bent just the same as
at Broughty Ferry - The boats, as they
were full of soldiers, could not get
near the shore & it was quite amusing
to see the fellows wading on shore, some
with bare legs, others with trousers &
boots on just as they were, every now
& then you would see a fellow go head
on ears in the water, ammunition, musket
& all he had on - So soon as they got
on shore they formed into companies &
went out skirmishing - The British
were the first to land & the first boat
which touched the Russian coast, had
a "Union Jack" on board, which was
immediately planted on a small sandy
hillside & three British cheers rent
the air - The 17th Regt. was the first to
land & the colours of the 17th were the
first regimental colours on shore -
I took off my shoes & stockings, but
as sailors would not allow me to enter
my feet, but carried me from the boat
to the shore on his back -

As for my baggage, I had very little to
trouble myself about a knife, a blanket
& a water bag were my whole equipment.
After we had all got landed we
all squatted down on the top of a
sand hill, each taking a biscuit
& a lump of fat from our havers-
acks we made a hearty meal &
finished off with a glass of grog.

Our haversacks are canvas bags
which every man carries his provisions
in & on this occasion we had three
large gauds to carry & all agreed that
it was far easier to carry it in his
stomach than on his back. While
we were at our repast we were all
startled by a shot close by, proceeding
from a body of skirmishers which we
had sent out, we all rushed to see
what was the matter & found that the
officer in command of the party had
shot a calf, of which more hereafter.
There were 4 or 5 small houses close
by, but we were not allowed to go to
them, some sailors however landed
in a boat, along our sentries & carried
off a whole boatful of property, which
was certainly robbing us of our dues -
Dr. Wood (our surgeon) & myself feared

our sentries & went on to the houses
& found that the place was a cossack
station, it consisted of five small
cottages, a large stable & out-houses.
The cottages were small neat & clean
& consisted of a cooking place & one
small room, the inmates had evidently
left in a great hurry & a great many
things were lying about in all directions
I picked up a few, but they were very
little worth. Our grand object was
something to eat & having discovered
a poor unfortunate hen we set off in
pursuit of her assisted by one of our
sargents & an officer of Dragoon, it
was quite a farce to see three officers
& a Sarge^t pursuing the hen with drawn
swords, all round the houses, at
last she took refuge in one & I caught
her. I had never killed a hen
all my life before & I certainly did
make a mess of this one. I wished
Aunt Pire had been here she used
to be good at it. However I managed
to kill it & carried it off in triumph.
Soon after this our regt. was moved
more inland where we had to remain
for the night, we soon had the hen
cooked & with a piece of the calf &

+ some fried pork we made a splendid dinner - I must say it was a very romantic sight to see us all round our bonfire fires, pitching into our grub with an appetite which few folks at home ever experience. Then it was, when you heard the soldier's bonfire song, & the tales of battle & blood shed, that you thought of the kind forces at home & wondered what they were about & if all was well - it was a curious moment & at the same time a dangerous one, for had a mass of cossacks come upon us our world would have had a different tale to tell. However no one disturbed us & rolling ourselves in our blankets, with our heads full & our feet to the dying embers of the fire, I fell asleep under the clear blue sky, the shining stars & last though not least a heavy snow falling -

Next morning (Tuesday) we were roused at bugle call & certainly we felt stiff but nothing more, we washed ourselves with a very small allowance of water breakfasted again on the calf & pork (the said calf seems to have served the regiment, at least the officers for two days, with luxurious feeding) -

Nothing particular was done on this day & I amused myself examining our position - the soldiers both French & English were throwing up entrenchments to protect us from an attack either from the main land or from the fort, which we hear contains 12000 Russians & either we or they are in an unsafe trap - The wind was blowing strong in shore so the fleet could do nothing safely that day - In the afternoon tents arrived for the regt & were very soon up; the surgeon & I agreed to stick to one another & so we got a very nice tent between us which is a great blessing - he is my chamber at present & our mess & forage together along with another of my fellow who is adjutant in the regt & who will be a baronet some fine day when his father dies. This night was more comfortable than the last, in fact I may say we are very jolly, but still frightened for an attack - had cutlets again for dinner - blessings on the calf - Next morning (Wednesday) was turned out in great haste by our servants informing us that the regt had marched

off, of course we got up in great haste & got the hospital patients put on as fast as possible & just as we were about to start, we saw the regt come back again, it had only gone a short distance with the 5th which was going out on reconnaissance up the country. It was a nasty, cold raw morning, so we had the pleasure of turning into our blankets again.

The wind was blowing off shore today & the fleet commenced to bombard the fort about 10 A.M. & the fort returned their fire with vigor for some time. We could not very well see what the fort was about, as the Perfumers had set fire to the village between us & the fort, the day before, & the smoke obscured the view. We were about four miles from it & we saw the movements of the shipping to great advantage.

A bombardment from the fleet is far more than any of ours from the trenches at first they fired slowly, but it soon became more & more until broadsides after broadsides poured into the place & also over it, I could not see their effect on the fort, but we saw all the shots which went over it & fell into the water on the other side, & when a broad-

-side cannon to be fired rather high,
by the rolling of the ship for example,
the round shot fell into the water like
a shower of hail. It was soon very
evident that it must be a very strong
place indeed, to resist such treatment.
When a broadside was fired from
a ship, you at first ^{thought} the whole vessel
had blown up, it was something very
grand & we were all collected in
groups watching it & keeping the
garrison in. About noon the Russians
thought they had had enough &
ceased firing, a boat was sent to
the fort & I do not know how many
hundreds were taken as prisoners of
war & every thing in the fort fell
into the hands of the allies. We were
all very well pleased at this, it put
us in a better position than we were
in before when we had Russians
on each side of us. When I came to
my tent after seeing the bombardment
I was very well pleased to find
that the post had come in & that
I had received a letter from home
dated 30th September, it contained
a leaf of my, jubilee I dare say,
from the front of Burnside house &

had a dreadful smell of musk - I
had also a letter from David Ewing
& another from Secord - In the after-
noon all the prisoners were marched
out of the fort with all the honours
of war - each man was allowed
to carry off whatever he liked & the
officers were allowed to wear their
swords - They were all very fine
looking men & I believe had only
arrived at the fort a few days before
It seems to have been a second
Bomarsund - All the prisoners were
sent on board the Pulson the next
day - On Thursday morning we
were all roused up by a tremendous
explosion & on looking out of my
tent I found that the Russians
had blown up Fort Ochakov, why
they did so, I cannot imagine -
I would have gone to the fort
to-day but being on duty I could
not get away. I went down to
the sea-side tomorrow & had a
bath in the Black Sea, it is the
first bath I have had since I
was at Potokello & I must say
I enjoyed it very much, it was a
beautiful warm day & so like bathing

on the sands of Broughty Ferry, as
I was prowling about I fell in with
some Jumpskins & resolved to have
Jumpskin soup for dinner, as I
had heard such a thing could
be made - accordingly the jumpskin
was duly cut in slices & along with
a lump of groat (Groat is an essential
element in all dishes here) we set
the pot a-boiling. The soup looked
very like greasy water & we fussed
our brains how to thicken it & as
we had a packet of groats, which
we did not know what to do with
it was agreed to thicken the soup
with them - the result was not so
successful as might have been ex-
pected, for our splendid soup was
just like thin grouts & lumps of
boiled turnip floating in it, no
pepper & very little salt, however
we swallowed it, but will always
remember the "Jumpskin soup" -

We were in luck the day for Ward
caught a young pig & won't we
have a stew tomorrow -

Sunday - Letters are going off at
midday so I must draw to a close.
We are to march into or near the

fort this afternoon & I believe some
of the regts are going to the Crimea
again - There is a rumour that
the 17th & another regt are to remain
here all winter & that Scultham
Fort will be a depot for stores &c
for a spring campaign in the south
of Russia - Oh Gemini! what
a place to remain in, Patmos or
the Buss rock is quite a joke
to it, however some must remain
as well the 17th as any others -
I forgot to mention one thing & that
was that our host Lieut. General
of Hango's celebrity with us in the
Royal Albert, he is a very jolly
happy kind of fellow - It will
be quite impossible to write to any
of my friends until I am somewhat
settled but I will write them as soon
as I can, so you will perhaps
send a look of this to my Edwin's
Chorus - Kind love to
all & Sunday &c

Believe me to be
My dear Father
Yours most affect^d Son
David Greig

Address as usual

17th Regt

Mr. Shintus would perhaps like
to see this, C. R. will send it to him
& he can send it home to you
again — D.S.

Camp - Kimber
26th October 1855.
— " —

My dear Father

After sending away our letters at midday on Friday the 19th Inst., our Camp was struck & we marched bag & baggage on to the village near the Fort. It was dark when we arrived & our ground was no sooner pointed out than all our tents were up in double quick time. I employed myself in picking up drift wood on the sea shore, & within an hour after our arrival we were sitting quietly in our tents enjoying our roast fig. Our Camp was pitched close to the sea shore & mine was within 20 yards of the water. I slept very well & at six next morning got up rolled my blanket round me, ran to the sea side, threw it off my shoulders & had such a delightful dip before dressing. After having breakfasted we marched with our haversacks filled with four days provisions, pork & biscuits of course. The day was warm & I can assure you I felt my pack very heavy. We had no tents with

us. We marched on through a very uninteresting country, sand, sand everywhere, with a few trees & a little salt lake every now & then. About 4 in the afternoon we came to a mill & soon afterwards to the village of Petrowski. Petrowski if village it can be called, consists of about two dozen cottages scattered over a wide extent of low, sandy marshy country. To each cottage was attached a garden in which grew potatoes, cabbage, tomatoes & stramonium the latter in large quantities. Some French bands gone over the country before us & of course we got very little in the shape of plunder. We had no sooner halted than I bolted up to one cottage, I found it all plundered & broken to pieces, so I turned to the garden; already all our fellows were in it working away at the cabbages with their swords, I did the same & filling my handkerchief with potatoes & tomatoes, I went in search of my servant. We had all the same & we had a beautiful vegetable dinner; but of course we are

accompaniment. Our camp was close
to a small wood & we chose our
resting places for the night under two
trees. I collected some hay & rolling
ourselves in our blankets we went off to
sleep. I lay next to the adjutant & the
only thing that disturbed me during
the night was his spurs which came
once or twice rather close to me.

We had a shower or two during the
night but that was not much, but
towards morning I must confess it
was unusually cold.

Sunday 21st October - I was awake
up to examine two men who were to be
tried by Court martial for getting drunk.
The morning was very cold & after breakfast
I had to see them flogged (50 each).
The Brigade was paraded & went through
some evolutions, we all thought we
were to march but did not. When
we landed at the mill yesterday we
got some meal of a very coarse kind
& this morning I made a dish of
porridge, just as I was making
them on P.O. roads past &
enquired what I was after & he
being a Scotman joined me &
we had a splendid dish, rather

a curiosity on Russian soil -

The afternoon was spent in making a kind of hut with boughs cut from the wood close by & we managed to construct a very nice little place under the tree & at the same time highly romantic with our blazing bonfire in front of it -

On Monday morning we were all forwarded at 9.30 A.M. & marched about seven or eight miles further inland, to destroy a colossal village. The marching was very heavy thro' the sands & there was nothing worth mentioning occurred on the march, the 57th 65th & part of the Marines were with us. About one 6' clock we came in sight of the village & as the regiments were moving rather slowly by some of us Surgeons & assistants marched on ahead to the village.

Some of our cavalry were there before us & all the inhabitants had fled. There were lots of poultry & pigs & horses - even & one had splendid fine arms & armor. Each of us had a stick & getting into a flock of geese I began to bay about one right & left & soon had a few lying around me -

one of our fellows fired at a pig but
missing it, the pig got into a great
fright & rushed past me, I had
just time to draw my sword &
making a thrust at him I trans-
-fixed him on the spot, & this was
fortunate pig was the first thing my
sword hand ever killed. I went
into a good many of the houses, they
were very clean & white washed on the
outside, very little more to be found
in them except pumpkins & broken
furniture I picked up a lady's
thimbles however, which I will send
home & if it will fit any-one of you,
you are welcome to it. I had also
the honour of taking a Russian friend
& I must tell you about it. as I
was rambling thro one of the houses
I looked behind one of the peculiar
stone places, which all the Russian
houses have, in search of fishes &
I can assure you I was very much
taken aback when I discovered a
pair of Russian boots with legs in
them, I do not know why, but I
got into an awful funk & retreated
to the door as fast as I could,

I called a big dragoon + told him
what I should see, he took out one
of his pistols + I drew my sword
+ marching into the house again, we
called upon the fellow to give him-
= self up, he did not move, but when
I touched him up with my sword point
he showed animation + came out;
he was an old man + had been
left in the village, simply because
he could not walk off, I brought
him out to the door + was about march-
ing him off, when a shower of figs rushed
past me, so standing him over to
the dragoon I bolted after the figs
+ found no more of my prisoner.
I was slashing away amongst the
figs in grand style when an aide-
de-camp galloped up + informed
us that the General was in a great
rage at the conduct of the medical
men + ordered us all to rejoin our
regiments immediately - Oh! it
was great fun with the figs + when
the soldiers were allowed into the
village I can assure you they made
a good use of the bayonette + a first-
rate fig. stick - it is - about "three

in the afternoon the men were all with-
drawn & the village was set on fire
& in less than an hour, what, the
day before, was a beautiful, neat,
quiet country village was nothing
but a smoking ruin. Although I
enjoyed the day's expedition very much,
still I must say, I was very sorry
to see such a melancholy sight as
the blazing hay ricks & the total
destruction of a whole village -
Yet it was quite necessary, so that
no cofunks could find shelter on
harbour in any way near the Fort,
so as to destroy us during the
winter - The fige & geese were put
in carts & we returned to our spot
under the trees, tired enough from
our long march - Next morning at 11
we all started for Skinhorn again
destroying & burning nearly the County
as we passed along - The men had
followed the example of their officers
& erected rough huts & to do so,
the little wood beside which we were
encamped was completely cut down,
& as for the houses & cabbage gardens
you would never have known such

things had ever existed - Nothing
particular took place on our way
back, with the exception that I killed
two snakes which I met in with
as we marched thro' the grass. On
marching back to Kilmarnock, I had
just the same feeling, as if I was
going home & when I got to my tent
& felt that I had somewhere to
put my head I was content, &
after dinner & a portion of rum punch
I got my clothes off for the first time
for four days & tumbled into the blank-
ets, the ground was hard enough
but I slept sound & enjoyed it -

It is a very curious thing that while
I was on the march & living in the open,
starving perhaps after a heavy march,
I could swallow my dinner & lay
down on the ground, just as I was,
get up in the morning & march again
& yet I must say I never enjoyed
better health all my life, & as for
colds or coughs no body in the regt.
had such a thing. I suppose if
any one tried such a thing at
home even in July, he would be
looked upon as mad -

Wednesday. The day after I got back to our
Camp at Kimbun, was spent in resting
our worn limbs & in fact it was what
we might call a "Camp washing day"
all our shirts & stockings were scrubbed
in the sea & I commenced bathing
regularly every morning & what is more
have kept it up. I must say the water
is cold, but it is very refreshing. The
Black Sea at Kimbun is, as you
might suppose, not very salt, & when
we lie on our sides with the sand & a
roll about in the water we feel quite our-
selves. To one who has been accustomed
all his life to see ebb & flow of the tides
an inland sea is rather a curiosity,
the water is always at the same level
sometimes it will rise a foot or two,
but never more & one great advantage
of this is that you can bath at any
time you like - (Thursday)
I visited all the Forts on the Spit &
went to the very end of it - The village
in front of the great fort, which you will
see marked in the plan I sent you,
is I must say no great thing as a
village, it consists of about 4 dozen
small houses each with a small garden
attached. The houses are very small but

still have a clean look about them from
being white washed, in fact the village
is very like Callender in Perthshire,
there were some respectable houses but
they were all burned the first day we
landed. Kinburn Fort or the great
fort as I have called it is a very old
place, I believe it was first built by
the Turks when they had the south of
Rufien, & that was a long time ago.
It looks just like a small town sur-
-rounded by walls, & the walls are some-
-what of the form I put down in the plan
whilst the houses are in the centre -
The place has been very much improved
of late & about four feet of turf & sand
has been put on the top of the thick
walls - These walls are consecrated
batteries & the most of the guns were
scattered, some few guns were on
the top of the walls but they were very
old ones - By our bombardment the
place was awfully knocked about
& all the interior was in ruins, so
much so that one man was employed
at present in making it habitable -
The second or centre fort is a beautiful
work one & of quite recent construction
it is made of large logs of wood dove-

-trailed into each other & then some
feet of turf & sand on the outside &
over the solid wooden frame work.
in the center of this fort there was a
bomb-proof house made of logs &
supported by numerous wooden pillars
of great thickness & on the top of this
house or shed was several feet of turf.
altogether it was beautifully constructed.
The one at the end of the spit was
of a horse-shoe shape & more care
was bestowed upon this one than
the last. the large logs were firmer
& more carefully joined together &
each of the guns were in or casemated.
a battery is said to be casemated
when there is a shell or shot-proof covering
over the guns, so that the men can
work them in comparative safety, just
like on the lower decks of a man-of-
war. The casemate at this battery
was very strong, but the battery was only
building & was not finished, some of
our shot & shells struck it & from what
I saw, I think a few broad-sides from
one of our line of battle ships, would have
soon knocked it even to smithereens.
In the center of all the batteries were
large furnaces for making shot red hot

so that it is quite evident that the
Russians intended to give us a
warm reception. Some of our gun
boats went up the river to within 10 miles
of Nicollaf & only encountered one
very small battery; it was thought
at one time that we would be sent
up there too, but no, the season is too
far advanced & I believe we are
all going back to the Crimea in a
few days, leaving the French to take
care of the fort during the winter,
a thing we are all very glad at.
During this expedition our boats have
very good weather, it is somewhat cold
however, but we do not mind that
much so long as it keeps dry -
The next letter which I send you
will in all likely hood be from the
Crimea & then I will give you an
account of our voyage back again.
Hoping you are all well & I am
sure I must be in all your good
graces for writing so often.

I am

My dear Father
Yours affec^t Son
David Living -

P.S. I have received various news
since I came here & also a letter from
Mother dated 29th Sept. in which she
tells me you had just received my
letter of the 10th Sept. - What a lot of
marriages are taking place, in
fact I am beginning to think with
D. Ewing, that from the marriages
& giving in marriages & the wars &
rumors of wars, the world must
be coming to an end - But whether
it be coming to an end or not that
is no reason why we should not enjoy
ourselves when ^{we can} - Father would not
let Anne to Edin^g to attend her friends
marriages, I must say it was a
hard case - Of course it is all our
now & it will be all the same one
hundred years hence & Anne need
not grieve about it - Father's word to
all at home, will be I suppose, some-
thing like the Income Tax to
me, it is sometimes hard, but every-
one must obey, there is no getting out of
it - Kind love to Mother, Anne
Aunt Corinna &
D.S.

in haste -

On Board



Black Sea

1st November 1855

My dear Mother -

In my last from Simbura
I think I told you that we were all
going back to the Crimea & were to leave
the Fort in possession of the French.

Our last three days at Simbura were
very uninteresting, there was nothing
doing at all & the only way we had
to amuse ourselves was wandering
along the sea shore, picking up shells,
digging holes & building forts with the
soldiers, in fact the manners of Great-
Britain might be seen amusing them-
selves like children on the sea shore.

Before we left the place the fort was
put in something like order & as good
many guns mounted so that there is
no fear that the Russians will take
it again - On the 27th Inst. we were all
very glad to learn that we were to em-
-bark for the Crimea tomorrow morning
so next morning we were all roused
up between 4 & 5, our traps packed up

→ our Camp struck. It was a disagreeable
dark cold morning, we had to march
about half-a-mile to the place of em-
barkation & then the regiments were
divided into two divisions, one were
put on board the "Terrible" & the other
on board the "Odin". I was on board
the former vessel. I did not like
her so well as the Royal Albert, but
still this is a very fine vessel, 21
large guns & about 1000 horse power.
What I object to the vessel is that
she does pitch & no mistake, I have
not been at all sick but I must
say very near it. On the forenoon
of the 30th we got safely into Karsatek
Bay where we came to an anchor, just
in time to allow me to enjoy a good
dinner. We were first in the Bay
but we could not land as the orders
were to remain in board until all
the troops had come up. This morning
a good stiff breeze sprang up & our
hospital ship the "Orient" having broken
loose, the "Terrible" was sent in search
of her. My room was obliged to give
up writing & in order to keep my stomach
at all in good times, I had to go on
deck & walk about as if my very life
depended upon it.

1st November - I have postponed & postponed finishing this until I am quite ashamed of myself; Oh! how lazy a fellow I am when I am on board ship, eating, drinking, lying on deck & doing nothing. I am still on board H. M. S. Terrible however, & will continue my narrative - I left off, because I & my stomach could not agree - Well, we continued our hunt after the runaway hospital & a very curious event I must say it was - We steamed in the direction of Eupatoria & overtook the Blackguard hospital very near that place & we brought it into Karatch Bay that night, & having taken up a position for ourselves in the bay, we have been here ever since - Immediately on our return from Kimburn I thought we would be sent to camp, but we were not & there was great talk of the fleet with the troops on board being sent on to Kaffas or Arrabat. We spent the first day waiting for the arrival of the Admiral, the next, I believe a council of war was held at which the generals & admirals could not agree & they had to send

home for instructions & so they
have kept us on board for a week
& we have no idea what they are
to do with us yet, but I suppose
the Kaffa business will be put off
until the spring. I must say it
is very late in the season now, but
still the weather is most beautiful,
& the few days we have been lying
at anchor in this beautiful bay, have
been just like July days at home.

Every day on board ship is so much
alike, that I am quite at a loss
what to tell you in the shape of
news, however I suppose, I must.
Since writing home last I have
received a letter from Anne (16th Oct.)
enclosing one from Stewart Lithgow
I would send it to you, but there is
really nothing of importance in it,
he describes his voyage from Cork
to the Cape of Good Hope & seems
to have enjoyed it very much, & he
is now doing duty with a party of the
73rd Regt at Fort Good Hope. He regrets
he did not wait for his degree before
he joined the Army & seems to be very
angry at not being sent to the Crimea
instead of the Cape. Oh! he is a very
nice fellow & I must write him soon.

One part of Stewart's letter amuses,
one very much, he says that if an
Caffre man should break out again
"what a nuisance it would then
be to be frightened to go to bed," I
wonder how he would like to sleep
in his clothes for a week & have
his sword, or every thing that he
has with him, put in such a position
that you can seize what you want
in the dark & be ready in a moment
should the bugle sound "Stand to
arms", here, we are always glad
to get to bed, frightened or not.
Your kind letter of the 13th Oct. I
received to day; I do not know
when it had been, but I think it
must have been to Kimbarn & back.
So Anne has got to Edin: & of course
enjoyed herself very much at the
marriages of her two friends, but
I will expect to hear all the news
from herself in a day or two -

As you say, I am very much sur-
prised at Mrs Mason's marriage
but still I must say I think
she was quite right, as she was
quite alone in the world, - She
need not mind much whether she

receives his desk & papers or not,
as I can tell her there was nothing
of any importance in it, except
perhaps her own portrait which he
had with him, his letters were of
the ordinary character from his mother
cousins &c & only one letter I destroyed
which was from a friend of his in
the 62nd Regt, the rest were all in
the desk when I left it. The letter
which I destroyed was nothing at
all worth mentioning, only a letter
from one young man to another, &
from a ~~circumstance~~ which not
very long ago happened, you know
as well as I do, that (Mama)
should not always see their son's
letters - I wrote to Scutari about
the things but have not got an
answer yet & have learned nothing
about them - You ask me if I would
like any thing sent out in the shape
of clothing, boots &c - No - I am
much obliged to you, but I can
get almost every thing I wish here
& before I would bother myself about
another box or even about the one
which is, on a cruise of its own as yet,
I'd rather stake my chance with the

clothing which the soldiers get served
out to them, at the same time I
may mention that we are not
so badly off, for luxuries are most
people at home think - As for going
to Scutari & looking after the sick
myself, I might as well ask
liberty to go to look for it in the
moon - Pray, do not trouble your
mind in the least about it, if
it costs me, I will get a full
barrulade, & if it does not
I can get the same for a few
shillings - The best news I
have heard for a long time, is
the very pleasing account you give
me of your Uncle's restored health
you may send him my congrat-
ulations & hopes, that he may
never be in such a state again
for from what I saw of him
I felt for him very much -
I do not know what all my friends
will be thinking of me, for I have
never written to any one since I
left the Crimea, five weeks ago,
but I hope they will excuse me when
they know how miserable I always
am on board ship & that it was

what I would call corresponding
under difficulties when I had
no table, & the letters I did
write home, were written on a
knapsack, lying on the sand;
but when I get anything like
comfortables in Camp again I
will remember them all -

I hope Father & Aunt are both
very well, as for Anne, of course
she is - Aunt will remember
how frightened she used to be
when I used to sleep with my
windows open, "certain to get
my death of cold" she would say,
& of course I was "a positive
fellow" &c &c, how changed
times are now -

I hope you will excuse this
non-news-ual letter & I
will give you a better one
next.

I am

My dear Brother
Yours affect. Son

David Greig

Camp - Sebastopol
19th November 1855
— — —

My dear Anne

Since writing home on the 10th
I have received a letter from you, giving
me an account of Miss Flockhart's mar-
-riages & another from Brother dated 27th
October - You seem to have enjoyed
yourself in grand style in Edinburgh
& I hope you did so in reality - I have
not yet received an account of Miss W.D.
but I suppose it went off with the usual
 éclat, she was kind enough to send
me cards, which I can assure you
are something quite out of the common
run, & to which I returned a con-
gratulatory note on the great event -
I suppose you will now have settled
quietly down again, into the quiet home
routine, but still you will not be
altogether quiet for I suppose the
festive season will be commencing
again, with its usual number of
hop-fancies & tea-fights - I am afraid
my tea-fights will be very few this
season as they were last year, however
we must hope for the best -

You will see from the date of this letter
that I am once more "before Sebastopol"
+ very glad I am that we were not
left at Kimburn, that now celebrated
place was all good enough in its way
but, blow me if I would have liked
to have spent the winter there, Oh no!
I am far more comfortable in my tent
here - I enjoyed myself very well
on board H. M. S. Terrible + I may
mention that we were all landed
at Karsatch on Sunday morning (11th).
I do not know why we always do
everything on Sunday, but such is the
fact, + I suppose it is on the principle
that "there is no rest for the wicked",
be that as it may, we all landed
on shore on Sunday morning + marched
up to our old camp - Nothing of any
importance occurred on the march,
until we drew near the camp when
all the men of the other regiments came
out to meet us + gave us their con-
gratulations on our safe return, +
what was best of all, the 48th sent
their band to play us home + we
all marched thro' the division at
the time of "Auld Lang Syne", everyone
was happy to see us back in safety

again - My hut now, I was happy to
find, much in the same state as when
I left it & I immediately took possession
of it again, but it will be a
while before I get my house in such
good order as it was before. My
stock of Brandy, Port &c I put in the
store, but as bad luck would have it,
the store was broken into & of course my
drinkables went the way of all living,
& I am now under the necessity of
foraging for more. - I had sold all
my horses except one, & when I came
back I found my favorite "Bombardier"
(for so the brute was christened, from
having been in the Artillery) had got
a sore back - my saddle & bridle I
had entrusted to a friend in the 4th
Light Dragoon, they were ordered a
few days after I left, off to Eupatoria,
& of course he took my horse gear with
him - so much for a few kit-bits in
the campaigning line - there are my
misfortunes but some of our fellows are
worse off than I am -

The Camp life here is just the same
as before, & the men are still employed
making roads - We are glad of
anything in the way of excitement &

a few days ago we had a blow-up by way
of changes, I suppose you have heard of
it - I was working outside my hut in
the afternoon when my attention was at-
tracted by a flash & when I looked up
I saw a cloud of smoke & a shower
of live shell flying all over the camp.
The explosion took place in a French
magazine close to our light division
& set fire to our artillery park there,
exploding some of our ammunition stores -
We did not lose much but the French
must have, the explosion was terrific
& a great many men were killed -
The magazine which exploded is
about three quarters of a mile from
my hut, but some of the fragments
of shell passed over it -

The Sebastopol coat seems to
have amused you all, I am not
in the least surprised that you have
not found a person whom it will fit,
Oh, I should like very much to see Dr
Pirie or Cockatt in it, I am sure
I should have such a laugh; I was
sorry I could not get spauldts for
it, but I got a pair at Kilearn which
will do, although they belong to the
10th Regt & the coat buttons are I think

26th, however it will complete the thing,
+ I will send them, when I can -
Mother shows as much curiosity as ever
+ wishes to know when I found it +
all about it - Tell her, I found it in
Prince Gortchakow's bedroom,
+ I am sure she will believe it, + after
she has swallowed the big name, you
can tell her quietly that I found it
sitting about a marine store -

I am surprised you have never received
my letters from Kimbun, I wrote you
two or three from "that locality" +
I hope they have reached you by this
time + they will give you a slight
idea of camping in the open -

Many thanks to Dr. Luckin for his comp.
I hope he is not going to get married
in Wick, or I fear there will be no
heart to let in Montrose - I have
never heard of Dr. Ramsay since his
letter to Dr. Pirie, but I often hear
about his ship, + I think the less
said about the Hornet the better, after
the beautiful one she has got into, by
letting the Russian fleet escape from
Castles Bay -

I see by the papers, which I receive
very regularly, that you are likely to

have a severe winter & that snow had
appeared already; from all appearances
at present it seems that we are to
have a very mild one - the weather
is at present beautiful, just like
autumn at home, it is very cold
in the mornings, but no rain & as
for snow there are no symptoms of
it as yet - Huts are being erected
in all directions & the whole aspect
of the camp is very much changed
from what it was when I left for
Kinburn, in fact so much so that
I would scarcely know some parts
again - From all accounts the
Scarlet fever seems to be raging violently
at home, Mrs J. Dr. Baxter calls her
sister Colin Campbell & Miss Pirie lines
her cloaks with reds, of which I duly
received a specimen, in return for
which I thought about sending her my
old jacket which I got spoiled at
Kinburn & which she would find was
made of stronger stuff than she sent me,
not knowing how that might be re-
= ceived. I enclose a flower for her and
another for Agnes, both of which were
plucked in "Holy Ruffin" near
Kinburn, I am sorry I cannot send

than presents of more value -

I was very much surprised yesterday when I learned that Dr. J. L. Perkins of the 4th (Kings Own Regt) had gone home sick, I believe he was very ill with acute rheumatism, I had not seen him for about seven weeks & he was quite well then, I hope he will see himself again by the time he reaches home, where I am sure he will be no end of a swell.

I hope Father Mother & Aunt are all well - Remember me to Uncle & Aunt Fim & Cousins David, Anne & Agnes, also to Mr. Mr. Clarks, Mr. & Mrs. Baxter, J. Mr. Baxter & lady - Mr. & Mrs. Sanderson & family & a whole host of others too numerous to mention -

Write soon again & hoping you are none the worse of your Editor's excesses

I am
My dear Anne
Your affect. Brother
David Greig

Camp. Sebastopol
4th December 1855
in " "

My dear Father

What I am to write about this time, I do not know & I suppose I must use the common dispatch phrase "nothing new has occurred in the Crimea since last report".

The weather is now very much changed & winter has regularly commenced, we have snow, hail, rain & when we do not have frost we have mud up to the knees & I suppose you know Crimean mud is no joke. However I am very snug in my hut & when I have a blazing log fire at night & hear the rain beating on the slate & Franklin roof, I often think I have no reason to complain of my lot. The day is very short now & closes in about 4 P.M. & I must say I enjoy the evenings very much. My friend Walden & I sit & smoke our pipes, each reading a newspaper or book, but these do not long continue, we rather prefer chatting about home & all our friends there.

This generally ends in me chaffing
him about the wife, & how the little-
-un would pull his beard if he was
only at home - he chaffs me in return
& so on, while one laughing might
be heard by the Patients in Hospital;
in fact we spend a very merry time
of it - My hut is nice & dry, which
is a great thing here, & the only fault
which I have is with the chimney,
& as I have the same fault myself
you will say I have no right to
grumble - it smokes - I am to
improve it however, when I can
get some bricks from Sebastopol,
you see we are not particular on what
kind of work we engage in here -
In the last letter which I had from
Mother she mentions that Anne
& she have sat for their portraits,
I hope the artist was successful
& if so there is nothing I would
like more than a copy & I hope
one will be sent over - I am
a great swell now for I received
my Crimean Medal the other
day, I suppose you know what
like it is; we are all very well

flowers with the medal & also with
the ribbon when it is new, but only
when it is new, for it soon loses
its color & then looks very rusty
indeed, I enclose a small piece
of the ribbon which may get a
place in Anne's album & will
show you what it is like -
In a paper which you sent me a
few days ago, there was a mark
opposite a Panagraph by G. Fennick,
Oh: yes. I read all the letters from
"our new correspondent" & I must
say they amuse me, more especially
the one about his being the first
in the Bedon - I must say I
never read such a crum all my
life, however if the folks at home
can swallow it, which I am sure
they can easily do, it will ~~surely~~
do them no harm - I was sorry
to see that Lieut Fennick's trumpet
= ite butt been shot at the taking
of the Bedon & that he was
under the painful necessity of blow-
= ing his own horn - What a
grand thing, humbug is & how
clever people are, when they can use
it well -

I have not seen Fennick for a
long time now, his regiment is about
7 or 8 miles from ours, beyond the
village of Comar near the valley
of Biadara, where the Highland
division are encamped, it is
an out of the way sort of place
so visits are seldom exchanged.

I suppose Graham will be home
by this time & I hope he is now
well, he will in all likelihood
call on you, & I have no doubt
spine out long years about the
tranches &c. - I am much obliged
to you for the two extracts which
you sent me, but still I must
confess I would much rather
have preferred a letter - The one
from the "Family Herald", "When
one is to go when one is ill"
is to say the least of it a bombastic
piece of nonsense, written by some
mad misanthrope, who of course
strikes out right & left at the
medical profession - it is very
amusing & ought to have appeared
in the "Morning-side Mirror" -
I have packed up another parcel

of relics of Sebastopol & Skribum
& will send it whenever I get an
opportunity, I do not know if
you care much for the stuff wh.
I send home, these things are not
much thought of here, but I
suppose they are curiosities at
home. - I am sorry I could
not get a Russian rifle before
now, but the next engagement
we have I will try to get one.
I am told it seems to me now,
reading our newspapers from home,
"Iron Councils," elections, "Harbour
Boards" &c, all, I suppose very
important with you but quite a
scaled down to me. I am
sure London must be changed
very much since I left, yet I
am sure it cannot have changes
like what we have here. - It
is now nearly fourteen months
since I left England in com-
-pany with sixteen others & it is
very curious to think what has
become of them all, four are dead.
four in the Crimea, & the rest all
gone home chiefly from sickness.

I in a former letter from Mother she
asked me what books I read,
not medical books I can say
at once - I read every thing I
can get a hold of, "Light Infantry
manual"; "Lebl, on the attack &
defence of outposts"; "Essays on
Fortification"; "Wellington's dis-
patches"; "Murray's words"; "Allison
History"; "Sidney Smith's lectures"
& "Guthrie's Military Surgery"; so
I am sure you will say I have
a variety & there is always a
large supply in the possession of
the Chaplain for the use of the division.
Reading is a difficult matter
here, one becomes very lazy &
never likes to sit still, must
always be roaming about & as
for study, that is impossible.
Enjoying first-rate health which
is a great thing, & although I
stay for two years in the army
I hope still to be as able as
ever, to begin private practice
& perhaps in a better position to
do so, than if I had never been
out here. I presume on

letter from Dr. Pinn the other day
which had been about a month
on its journey, which I will
answer in a few days & then perhaps
will have more news than I
can give at present -

I hope the rheumatism is better
& that you are otherwise well,
& also I hope you will write me,
Postage-stamps are all very
good, but still you might have
given me a word or two along
with them - Love to Mother
Aunt & Anna - Remember
me to Dr. Pinn & all
my well-wishers & with kind
wishes that you may all spend
a very Christmas & a happy
New-year -

I am

Very dear Father
Your most affect. Son
David Pinn

Camp. Sebastopol
7th December 1855

My dear Anna

The letter to Father dated the 4th Inst. I intended to have sent off on that day but by bad luck I lost the post & then when I received your letter dated 17th Nov. I thought I might as well write to you too. And so Dr. Curran has been humbugging you, by telling you that I am coming home in the summer, it may be true & I may have said so to him, but to tell you the truth I do not know myself when I will be home. I wrote to Dr. Simpson some time ago asking him what he would advise me to do, & as to the time of coming home, that will all depend upon his & Dr. Struthers advice. I like the army, & even it not for my friends at home, I should remain in it altogether. Now I have told you as much about my coming home, as I know myself, & if you wish more particulars you must suppose them. I am sure Dr. Curran was very

kind in offering to bring out a box
for me, but I fear it will be too
much trouble for him, not that he
would think so, for he & I were
great friends & when he was sick
I saw him safely on board ship &
have written to him since - so do
not make it a large box nor a
heavy one - The only thing which
I require here are two pair of
ankle boots, lacing up the front &
some half dozen pairs of socks,
everything else which I require I
can get here & I could even get
these if I were hard pressed for
them - let the boots be strong, thick
soles & one with nails in the sole, they
should be as like Norway's boots as
possible & they will please me -
The boots & socks would make a
very small parcel so you can
fill up the box, & with a burn &
cutables - I am sure to get
my former box yet, it is in the
store at Scentuin & I have no
doubt whatever but I will get it
by & by - The weather here
is still hearty & the whole camp
is a row of round, round inches

in depth, to go about in the daytime
is difficult & at night when it
is dark, quite impossible, so
I am quite a home-bird, sit in
my hut by the fire at night & feel
as happy as a prince -

I am very much disappointed
about the portraits & all I can
say is that Brother & You must
sit again, I won't attempt to send
you a picture of my hut until I
reside there -

There is nothing whatever new here
at present, except that we are
all preparing for Christmas &
at present I have a goose tied
by the foot at my door & which
sends of over me one feeding up
for that great day, we are also
to get some raisins & currants &
if possible start plum-pudding,
we will all have a helping hand
& as my servant is a good cook
I have no doubt we will spend
Christmas in grand style -
My last Christmas was not a pleasant
one, Dr. Sturges had just taken
ill & Dr. Wason & I had to
eat our dinner very quietly together,

I hope this one may be somewhat
better - I do not know if I
told you that Dr. Wason's things
were all sold & the proceeds of
the sale was in the hands of the
Capt. Adjutant General at Pontiac,
if Mother was writing to Mr. Wason
she should tell her to enquire at
Capt. Dr. Grigon, the Army Agents
they are the people thro' whom to
get the money & all particulars
of the sale - Although this
is a short letter to you, yet you
cannot expect or say any one
both to you & father, as you must
be pleased for the present -

As to the kind of rocks, I am that
the Agents I am sure she will know
what will suit you.

Most affect. Brother
David Spring

Camp - Sebastopol

21st

December 1855

My dear Father

Last night I received
a letter from Anne dated 31st Nov:
the two mails are due, but owing
to the severe storms they have
not arrived & it is rumored
that one is lost, but I hope not.
I was very glad to hear of you were
all well & everything going on at
home much as usual. Since
I came in Camp, & nothing whatever
doing in the fighting line, you must
not expect to hear so often from
me as you have done & I must
fall back upon my old plan
of writing once a fortnight which
is often enough, although I must
have an alternate letter from
Mother & Anne every week -
I am quite surprised at the news
about Dr. Fleming & I am, I must
say, very sorry he is giving up the
profession for I liked him very
much; if his fractious likes to wait
till the end of next summer, then

I will perhaps think of it - I
doubt much if he had been
getting on as well as people thought
himself; I hope he will succeed
as a merchant - I am sure
I do not know what to think
of the kindness of the Moslem folks
& if I do not know what to think,
I am sure you must be puzzled -
I have not heard from any of
them for some time now, but I
am quite convinced they have
not forgotten me altogether &
any help if it comes all right, is
very good; we shall see however -
I had a visitor here for two
days this week & very happy
days I spent with him, he was
an old school-fellow of mine from
Dundee, I cannot tell you
who he is, but his name is
James Millan, he used to
live at Newfort & has one
or two sisters married in Dundee.
I sent him on board the Suttie
in Bebaclava harbor & in-
vited him up to Camp, he had
never slept a night in Camp

before & seemed to enjoy himself
very much, he does not belong
to the Army but is acting as
Jensen or super-cargo on board
the Lally - We had such long
talks about Denmark & all our
old school-fellows, that we
completely took all the conversa-
tion, & my friend Healdsen, could
not get in one word, I have
not had such a talk about
Denmark since I left it - I
am sorry he had not better
weather when he was with me
for it snowed almost the
whole time - There is
another journal on its way to
you & you may expect it about
as soon as this, the things are
all described & you will easily
understand them, they are
taken home for me by an
Dr. Fair of Colindale & when Mr.
Miller goes home I will try
to send another with him.
We have had very stormy
weather for the last fortnight
snow, snow, snow & frost that

would astonish you at home.
Although we have a fire in
the hut, we often have the
floor covered with snow &
it never thinks of melting,
we jump into bed & cover
ourselves up with all the
coats & blankets we can
get hold of & even these are
sometimes not enough to
keep us warm - Washing
in the morning is a somewhat
difficult matter, everything
is ice & no water - our drink-
ing water, vinegar, pickles
here, everything frozen, in
fact nothing fluid except
the brandy - Again when
walking about, more especially
if it is against the cold wind
the breath gets frozen on the
mustache & hands, forms
icicles & your mouth is quite
shut up, (no laughing allowed,
or loud talking) - I have seen
icicles 3 or 4 inches in length
hanging from each mustache.
I am sure you will doubt the

but it is quite true, & you can have
no idea how odd the men look -
The whole army is very healthy at
present, we had a few cases of
cholera about ten days ago but
that is all gone now, & in its place
we have frost-bites which although
painful are much to be preferred.
I suppose you will be surprised
when I tell you that I have
got a new appointment (viz) that
of Pathologist - A Pathological
board is established at Secunder,
Balaclava & in Camp, & I am of
the one in Camp - Our board consists
of a 1st Class Staff Surgeon, an
Asst. Surgeon in the 39th Regt & my-
self - we have appeared in General
orders, but will not commence
duty until about the new year -
Our duty will be to perform all
post-mortem examinations in Camp
make out reports on them &
prepare specimens & preparations
for Chatham Museum - I do
not know how I will like it,
but I should think very much
as it is just my trade, & more

especially as I was appointed by
the Director-General & asked if
I would take the appointment.

The letter which I received from
Dr. Hall our Inspector-General
here, I enclose to show it to you
& I think it is a very kind
letter indeed - I think I got the
appointment through Dr. Guthrie,
a retired great-souled of an
military surgeon, for whom I made
a few preparations & wrote a paper
"on gunshot fractures of the Femur".
I am to have no regimental
duty whatever, but I am still
to remain in my post with the
17th Regt which is a great thing.

I do not know if I will get
more pay for this, but Hall
said he thought there would
be, but he could not be sure,
however, the honor is a great
thing itself, although a little
more pay would not be a bad
thing - By the time you
receive this it will be A.D. 1856
& I hope it will find you all well
& that 1856 will be as good a

Year for us all as 1855 has been,
how ever we must hope for the best,
& this I promise you, I will be
in Denver, if it is at all possible,
before the new-year is finished -

Christmas is now here now in
four days & we intend having
a dinner in my tent on that
day & the goose is already fattening
for the occasion - I will write
Brother Brown the first letter
I write next year & I will give
him an idea of Xmas & New-year
in Camp - The last snow
goes off at night instead of
morning, so I have been forced
to write this in haste, so you
must excuse -

Hoping this will find you
all well & wishing you all
"a very Christmas & a Happy
New-Year" with hopes that I
will be with you on the next -

I am

Very dear Father
Your most affect. Son
David Greig

Love to Mother, Aunt & Anne & 2

Dr. Hall's letter
Please return

London
Friday Afternoon
in - l

My dear Father

We have at length got
finally appointed as Staff Assist-
ants to the Army in the East -

Yesterday we were examined at
the War Office & to-day were
told we had all passed
"our Optime" examination &
to hold ourselves in readiness
to start at 12 hours notice,
we do not expect to be off
before Wednesday however,
but we cannot say & whenever
we do get notice I will write

You immediately & also from
on board the transports if
possible - It is fairly better
we do not go on land,
so I must suffer for a
few days of horrid sickness
in the Bay of Biscay -
The director-general told
us we would in all likelihood
be stationed at Antwerp
but that if Sebastopol
was taken we would
winter there with the troops,
but we cannot tell until
we get out -

I have got my uniform
made & is all right, we
have as little uniform as

we can & are to make it
as seldom as possible, we
must have it however &
it is quite stirring -

If I am here on Sabbath
I will be at the Meeting &
hope to see some friends,
at least I will pay good
attention to the sermon, for
it may be a while before
I hear another -

The directors - general seem
to think a great deal of
us & when we do wonder
expect good things from
us in Turkey, no fear
of us when we have Agge
& Blountye at our backs.

Dr. Sturth of Little has got
your address & may send you
a read of his brother letter
when we get out & so may
Johnston's friends, if so you
may send them mine,
their addresses are

Dr. Sturth

22 Charlotte St. Little

Mr. Johnston

Fisk Comm. Montrose

If Anne will write something
I will get the letter before
starting, if I am off it
will be sent back, I am
address

21 Great James St
Bedford Row

Write home to Mother, Aunt
Anna - & ever think in
Love

I am your affec^{ed}
David Henry

Enclosure for Annie

We are all in good
health & high spirits -

6 Liverpool Terrace
Kington - London
23rd October 1854
— — —

My dear Father

We have at last been
ordered off & have to be at
Marseilles on the 26 inst. to
embark on board the
"Victor" for Turkey - we leave
this to-morrow evening &
forward to Paris & thence
to Marseilles - I do not know
if we will have troops on board
& if we have any, they will
in all likelihood be French.
I was very much obliged
to Mother & Anne for their

kind letters & also to Mr
Dr. Antack for the introduction
to Faraday but I am sorry
it will be out of my power
to present it, I intended to
have gone to the Meeting to-
day but cannot get the least
idea where it is.

We have not yet got any money
from Simpson yet but will
get some to-morrow if I
have more than I want
I will give it to John Ab-
raham who will send it to
you. I have left my diploma
with him & I may have
some of my things which he
will get forwarded to you
some time or other.

Dr. Sturges is much better
but both him & I are disaffec-
-tioned we are not sent by
Gibbalden, however that can't
be helped & I doubt not
we will be sick enough
without having so long a
voyage - I will try if I
have time to write you from
Paris & Marseilles but I
will not promise - I
have now I think got our
outfit complete uniform &
all - I am sorry I cannot
oblige Anne at present, but
if I get an opportunity in
Turkey I will have a likeness
taken, I am sure she would
not know me -

I do not think I have
much more to tell you -
I have seen very little of
London, not even St Pauls
but I will have a walk
in it when I come back -
The Agents who manage my
pay & manages all my other
business here is

Mr. Frigon & Co
17 Charles St

St James' Square
You had better keep his address
as it may be useful after a
while - And now I may

say "I am in England for
a while" - Kind love to
Mother, Aunt, Anne, Cousins
Mr. & Mrs. Dr. Corbitt &c

I am your affectionate Father
James Esq. and David Esq.

Hotel des Infirmeries
Marseille - 26th October 1854
— — —

My dear Father

Now I am at last on the shores
of the Mediterranean & propose to give you
a slight account of my journey from London
to this place. - Before leaving London each
of us were paid £50 besides a present of
£10 amongst us from Simpson himself with
a great many good wishes & good wishes.
The time spent in London was passed on
the whole very pleasantly & more especially as
I stayed nearly the whole time with John
Alexanders, I saw a good many sights &
got an idea of the place if nothing more.
We left London on Monday evening in company
with 11 other surgeons all bound for Turkey
the most of them young fellows but there a few
of considerable standing in the service, from
London we went direct to Dover it was
quite dark & nothing was to be seen the

whole way, when we reached Dover we found
the packet waiting for us, before starting the
sailors said we were very lucky in getting
so calm a night & I of course began to
flatter myself I would keep up & enjoy
the sail; the white hills of Dover were faintly
seen & as they became fainter & fainter
I of course thought on home & when I would
see England again, the ship lay on
the pitch I soon got dead sick & my
last sight of the hills of merry England
was any thing but a pleasant one. We
reached Calis about two in the morning
& were immediately bundled into the Custom
houses & had to show our Passports when
this important ceremony was gone through
we got some coffee, which of course I
being sick could not take, & then started
in the train for Paris. As officers in the
Army are always travels first class & do
so at a reduced rate, we were very con-
=fatable more especially in the French rail-
=way carriages which are far better than

The English ones, as soon as I got fairly seated I fell asleep & never awoke till 6 in the morning, it was broad day-light & I may say I then got my first view of La Belle France, we were passing through a beautiful country somewhat like England richly wooded, irregular fields & every now & then a vineyard; what amused me most was the number of wind-mills going at a great rate in all directions as if the safety of the country depended upon them alone. We rattled on at a glorious rate & entered Paris about 9 o'clock. Immediately on entering Paris one is struck with the sight of so many soldiers, at the station when our baggage soldiers took our tickets, soldiers took our luggage, soldiers told us where to go & in fact you could not turn but a soldier met you; our luggage was taken from us & when we saw it again there was a soldier mounted guard over every bundle.

who demanded the key & proceeded to open
it in the coolest manner possible, was
objected & I explained to the fellow in
broken French that if he emptied my trunk
I would never get it back again, or
it had taken me about a week to get
it into its present state. I told him
I was going thro' France & that to stay
in it or that I was a British officer.
This latter had the desired effect, & after
a short conversation was got clean off
without any examination - he drove
to the Hotel de Normandie, washed our
selves, hired a guide & set off to see the
sights of Paris - Some parts of Paris are
very bad, but in general it is a beautiful
town, fine buildings & gardens all open
to the public - we visited the Tuilleries -
Palais Royal, Louvre, Luxembourg, Notre
Dame, St Sulpice, Boulevards, Champs
Elysees &c &c of the three first we only
saw the exterior, the Luxembourg is full
of paintings & statues the like I never
saw before, Notre Dame is a splendid

old cathedrals which I suppose would
hold all the churches in Dundee put together.
Saint Sulpice is of smaller size but equally
beautiful, & here we saw a roman catholic
service for the dead, when we entered the
church it was a while before we could
make out what was the row, fourteen priests
all chanting the latin service & two trom-
bones going as hard as two good pair of
lungs could make them, this continued
for about half an hour, the body was then
carried out & we followed to see something
else - The Boulevards & Champs Elysees are
very beautiful, & here we saw the large glass
building newly erected for the exhibition of
next year - Besides these we also visited
the Hotel Dieu the largest & oldest hospital
in Paris, can hold 900 patients it is
a curious old house, large wards but
very close & ill ventilated - It was
very curious how well we got on with the
languagers, talk about rounding the Queen's

english, we certainly did so to the emperor's
french, however we got on very well in
fact we were surprised at ourselves, we
stammered, spluttered, laughed & often
fairly broke down, the french were not
in the least put out, they laughed too,
& then we generally came to an understand-
ing in some way or other, The food we
have got in France is just so so, you
never know what you are eating, the
only good thing is the Coffee & the bread.
at dinner you get about 6 or 8 courses,
some good others very suspicious & bad,
a plate of green stuff with a greasy taste
will be put before you, you ask the name
& are just as wise as ever, if you are
hungry you will try & eat it, if you are
not you will of course refuse to have
anything to do with it - A bottle of wine
is set down always to every diet, but
what a beastly stuff some beer is a treat
to it, but nobody knows what that is
hence -

I left Paris at 8 in the evening I was
very much fatigued & falling asleep I
never awoke till we were near Dijon
it was near 7 1/2 clock & we were running
thru a fine country covered with vines,
we got to Lyon about 10 & getting on
board a large funt-like steamer we
had a ride of 120 miles down the
Rhone, it was a beautiful day &
the scenery was very fine, just like the
day near Perth, the whole way, every now
& then we passed a curious looking
villages, an old castle, bridges & &
now we caught a glimpse of the mighty
alps covered with snow, along the whole
of the river the banks are steep & as usual
covered with the vine which seems to grow
anyway in this country, we reached Vincennes
at 3 P.M. & got into the train reaching the
place about 11 at night, we were all
as soon & tired as possible & after getting
some supper we were very glad to turn

into had the first we have been in since
Babelath night in London - It is a very
work travelling, more especially at the
rate we are going, the distance we have
gone can be easily understood by reference
to the map, but the fatigues can be only
known by one who has gone over the ground.

This town is one of the best we have seen
in France it is somewhat like Dunkirk
but larger, has splendid docks & of
course is strongly fortified, we hired
a boat & went out to the "Vestis" this
forenoon, she is a splendid steamer
belonging to the Peninsular & Oriental Coy.
& carries the mails from this, to Malta
Constantinople & Egypt, our sail to-
morrow at two o'clock, will call for
about six hours at Malta & then go
direct to Constantinople - I am in
good health & Dr. Sturtham is now quite
well, we are as jolly as possible, so
many of us together, & besides we have about
two dozen nurses or rather sisters of mercy
from London going out with us to Scutari

I have not seen a good looking lady
since I left London, in Paris & here
they all wear little caps & look very
smart, at Lyons & the interior of France
they mean steam boats with very broad bins
very like the celebrated sea-side boat of
Dunelm, it is more difficult to under-
stand them talking than the men, for
they talk so fast & look astonished, when
you do not understand them - It is
very curious to hear the little children
talking French, this strikes an Englishman
more than anything else - What a beautiful
climate we have here, to-day it was as
hot as a day in June with me & yet
there was a coolness, which I had never
felt before - If I am not sick
I will enjoy the Mediterranean voyage
very much, every thing seems so beautiful
soft & ethereal -

I am at present, your wishes
to all -

D. G.

I will not write again until I am in
Turkey I might write from Malta but
I suspect I will be busy getting a view
of the islands & will not find time -
I hope you got the money in safety from
Mr. Alexander & did with it as I requested
you - I will not expect a letter from
any of you until I write again & give
you my address, where that may be I have
not the slightest idea - I hope you are
all well - Give my kind love to Mother
Aunt & Anne, also Cousins, Dr. Crocker
Stewart Littlejohn & 1/2 & 1/2 -

Believe me to be

Your affect. Son

David Greig -

P.S. When I write Mother's name it just
came in mind she told me to tell her
about the ladies I saw. The French
ladies are a curious looking set, very neat
& clean but not at all pretty, in fact

On Board the Victoria

Malta 30th October 1854

My dear Anne

As we were the the for an
hour I took the opportunity of writing
you a few lines. The left Marseilles
on the afternoon of the 27th Inst. - Very
glad I can assure you to escape
from France & equally glad to
find a good English dinner
ready when we came on board.
When leaving we had a nice view
of the South Coast of France
& as the sun was setting at the
time I could assure you it was
most beautiful. I was quite
sure I would get sick but
was very fortunate in being dis-
appointed & I slept up very well
all that night & most day -

3
saw a small village on the coast but we were not near
enough to see any of the people - sleeping on house ships
is very common; you are never yet into there than you
have the feeling of being there at. The ship is constantly
creaking & you think she is going to pieces, it is not the
all comfortable you are glad to see anchor & stop in
a house - When I had yesterday morning there were
the sail or say, or great swell on" & the result were
I immediately got sick & the first thing, I got a shock
sickness & remained all day better & in fact, it was sufficient
but no help a guy - thing the tide of the harbor to
my watch & thought when you would see her at the time -
The house was the best in the morning left during the
afternoon we passed a rocky island (St Mary's island) &
the coast of Sicily looks smooth & beautiful, white

The sun has set & night
is upon us. The weather
is what I can't describe. The evening
is quite warm & pleasant while
the day is uncomfortably hot.
We sailed along the coast of
France all evening & next morning
when I saw the sea was peopled
along the west coast of Corsica
we had a distant view of the
towns of Ajaccio the birthplace
of Napoleon & Bonaparte about
midday we passed the straits
of Bonifacio, which is more beautiful
- fine scenery I never saw it is
very like the Fjords of Butte but
far better. I sat at the bow of
the vessel it was rough. I shall
not get sick & I must say
I enjoy myself - The coasts of
Sardinia & Corsica are very rough
& rock bound like the West Coast
of Scotland every hour & there were

As I was only back here day I together with his son &
 was my place to give a lecture. For the ship was yesterday &
 no mistake. I was on the ship on Sunday, with the whole of the
 ship was being to give. It was only 2 days to give it in
 only a single day. It was on an evening at the Theatre.
 I received 2 pairs of men living without meat for 2 days & 2 days
 the things of Valentin & Church built by the Knights of St John
 the Church is the most beautiful piece of Coloured ornament
 architecture I ever saw, & which was going on but that the
 not matter, on the 2nd day closed by the friends of the
 about the things in the church all the time & the first went
 on with his candles. The town of Valentin is strong & further
 the Pacific station having been built by the Knights of St John
 it is a pretty but irregular place & the town is on a high
 black granite looking out & the women are worse any person

seems to be a bigger & more full
of a crowd of men & children than the other
times. I was only about 100 yards
from the shore & all felt as goodly numbers
to get out there again. In a few
days in a week I will be straight
to Constantinople which we expect to
reach at the 14th hour. I hope you
and all very well. I am very anxious to
hear from you. Please write me a long
letter giving me all the news & nonsense
going & address it to D. B. - Agent: Sup.
British army in Turkey - that I believe
will find me out where I am &
when I reach Turkey I will write you
again & give my correct address -
Nothing is doing about the watch I
have been so concerned myself & any-
body seems to keep their own time. I
think I can tell you it has been
going. I hope Father is quite well
also Mother, Aunt & Cousins -
Reminds me to Mr. Rice. Mr. Mr.
Sanderson - Mr. Mr. Litch, Dan

Alight Boston & all kind of things.
I am in fine state health & if the author
- says so off I will enjoy my walk
among the "Isles of Greece".

We are soon about to start. I am
- this awful letter. I am sure I
do not know what I have wrote,
but I know anything is better than
nothing & I hope you will think
so too.

I am sure my dear sister
Your affect Brother
David Craig

Tell Dr. Price how sorry I am
- having to go off without seeing him
it would have pleased me so
much. I will not promise to write
him from Turkey but I will write
him & I stick together, Dr. Price
is not such a good fellow &
we take our way & let him take
his - Adieu D.C.

On Board the "Vesta" off Gallipoli
3rd November 1854

My dear Father

As we are all anxious to get our
letter posted immediately on our arrival at
Constantinople I write you from this place.
I wrote Anne from Malta & I hope she received
the letter & contents in safety. I gave her
an account of my voyage to Malta & my
opinions of that island, if she has got the
letter it is all right, if not, I will give her
the account over again some other time.
I had anticipated a beautiful sail away
"the sunny shores of the Grecian Isles" but soon
after leaving Malta a gale sprang up & I
may say has continued ever since. Towards
evening I of course got sick & after taking
as good a view of the storm as I could
I went quietly off to bed where I lay till
till next afternoon (Tuesday). I was not
sick but felt that if I got up I was sure
to turn sea sick after getting to sea. I got on
deck, the moon as usual was bright & a
very nice sight it was, the waves were going
as high as the ladder-hoist & rolling along
with a white crest in the moon-light. I have
enough to do to keep my feet, but managed it
very well for some hours. The gale was rather
worse next day. I got into my old state & kept
my head for the first time the whole day, one would
think there was a lull but I can assure you

it was a pleasure, I only felt sick when I attempted to rise & I lay quite comfortably in bed & heard all that was going on, no one could go on deck as the waves were washing it every minute, every body seemed tired of the voyage & most day even more so than this.

Towards night it became worse, it was difficult to lie in beds & the ship creaked so much, that every one had an idea she was going to piece, about 12 when all was dark, a sea struck her & smashed a quantity of crockery on the stowaway party, you may soon see a man every body was slightly frightened & highly annoyed; another fallowed & I had a good laugh at Dr. Sturthens being pitched out of bed, under the table; towards morning the stowaway cabin which was on deck was carried overboard & fortunately for him he had left it a few minutes before or he would have gone the same road. All these disasters annoyed me so much, that I got quite sick & was troubled with seasickness, no more the decks were stiff wet & as we have to stay below it was not at all comfortable, we saw Cape Moutapan & a few of the Greek isles but they all looked so black, that we wished they were enough. Yesterday evening we came in sight of Mytilene but as it was getting dark we saw very little of it, it was still very rough but what was a great thing I was able to eat & felt very well. "Oh! the delightful sea the blue, the fresh the ever free" & I don't believe a word of it except "blue" & that sometimes is changed to black, a view from the shore during a storm is all very well & if you are wise you let them try the Russian Archipelago in a gale & I am sure they will come to my way of thinking. This morning I got up early & going on deck found we had just passed the island of Tenedos, we were now in sight of ancient Troy, there was very little to be seen about it, a low range of hills ran along the shore & on them you saw the

celebrated plains of Troy, I had heard so much about
when at Mr. Lowe's; we wished very much for a copy of Virgil
but of course no one had such a thing, the names of
Hector, Achilles & Patroclus were painted onto the
side & some on board declared they could see "To
the Memory of" &c. Some after passing Troas we entered
the Dardanelles between the castles of Europe & Asia
which are two forts belonging to the Turks & command
the entrance, it was here we first saw the Turkish
flag (crescent & star) floating over the ramparts -
after passing to the inner fort we had to stop for an
hour, during which time the doctor of the ship went
ashore & reported all well after which we were allowed
to proceed. When he came back every one crowded
round him to hear the news, but unfortunately no
news had been got from Constantinople for a fortnight
before, it had been so stormy in the Sea of Pharnox
Schistful had not been taken but they were busy
at it - The Dardanelles are about three miles
broad & with the exception of the names of the villages
as you pass up very uninteresting, you have rocky hills
& here & there a few cypresses trees on each side - one
passing Idris bay, Seicos, Abydos & Gallipoli -
there were a good many ships taking refuge from the
gale here - some Turkish boats came off to us, but
none came on board, one of the boats were very
pretty others much the same as ours but not so
good, on the latter ones there was generally an old
Turk in the stern & beside him his large pipe -
they all wear turbans of various colours, loose
jackets, wide trousers & something very like an
Armenian twisted round their waists, as yet I
have seen very few & far from so fat as you
must have noticed. The towns we have seen
look very well from the water, but I believe in
reality are very shabby holes, they are generally built

on the face of a hill & the houses seem all atop of each
other. Painted blue & then by a minaret which to our
eyes seem funny things, they are round, quite small,
shoot up for about 15 or 20 feet & then a belfry above
which it tapers off, they are white-washed, & when seen
at a distance, they look so clean & contrast
well with the blue schates (or something like schates).
We are now in the sea of Marmara - as it is getting
rough I can assure you it is difficult to write, I will
not clear this until we are at or near Constantinople
& I will tell you anything new I hear in a short note.
I have not as yet the slightest idea when we
will be sent, there is a new hospital built on the
asiatic side of the Dardanelles & some say we
will be sent there but no one knows. I hope
you are all well, I would like very much to hear
from you & I think a little address to Dr. B.
Staff Assistant Surgeon British Army in Turkey, will
find me out. I told Anne this but miss the Staff
& any letter even may reach the better way -
I will write none of my friends until I am settled
you may tell them so it is so difficult. Give
my love to my Mother, Aunt & Anne. Hoping they are
as well as I am, Mrs. Hill, Cousins & etc.
I do not know what it will be when we land
but it is very cold here. If we are stationed at
the Dardanelles I will be very near Charlie Dyer.
Oh how I should like to meet an old friend here.
wouldn't I have such a shake of his hand, I
am not like myself then I should much if even
my father would know me, we at present look all
like a flock of swans with bristly heads &
mustaches. What a camp we have, it consists
of 18 doctors from inspectors down to assistants
& 48 nurses, protestants, episcopal & catholic
including nuns (black & white) sisters of mercy
& nurses from the London hospitals & etc., I do pity them

during the voyage, they are all so sick, & when they do
get to Scutari or wherever they may go, some ladies who
are amongst them even ladies of fortune & title, will
I am sure say some thing of their good works.

Since writing the above I find I must finish
this tonight as the mail bag will be sent off
to-morrow morning before we land, so the account
of my first impressions of Stamboul must be
sent in another letter. I am very unwilling
to finish & at present feel as if I could
write the whole night, when one is between
2 + 3000 miles from home it is a curious
feeling, in ^{fact} I scarcely believe I am here,
I suppose it is a fact however & when I
mount the red jacket to-morrow I think
it will be proof positive. We are now
sailing over the Sea of Marmora it is calm
I have been well all day & it has been
a day of excitement, every one busy looking
over our traps, fastening our names on our belts
seeing our swords are not rusty from the sea
air & a host of little nic-nacs too numerous
to mention. It is expected we will be
at Constantinople by 8 o'clock to-morrow
morning, we will get breakfast on board
& then be sent ashore; I am tired of the
ship & my eight days voyage, yet I am
unwilling to land, so long as I am on board
I am amongst English & feel a kind of
attachment to the ship which I cannot
describe, however I must face the barbarians

Trusting & hope Providence will watch over me
in this strange land - Dr. Sturges had
great hopes & so James I. of us being sent
together wherever we may go, in fact we
have agreed to petition if repeated, to be
allowed to go together, if so we will be
as happy as possible - Tom Wells has
just rung & all lights are to be put out
so I must conclude - I had intended
to do so long ago & am now as far from
the end as ever - Excuse this rambl-
ing letter my thoughts are so confused &
I wish to say so much -

Good Bye - Comps. to all & kindly
kind friends at home to who may
ask for me - Farewell

Your affectionate Son
David Greig

You must not expect a letter
like this every time -

When I must write me a long long
letter immediately as close as this &
I will return the favour & full soon

Good Bye

Scutari Hospital - 5th Nov - 1854

My dear Father

As I have learned that a mail starts for England to-day - I seize this opportunity of writing you again - I wrote you from on board the "Beetle" on the 13th & I suppose you will receive both letters together - As ill luck would have it my first sight of Constantinople was spoiled by an old dear friend being present, viz, a Scotch Priest, or to speak plainly it was a beastly day - We anchored in the Golden Horn about 10 A.M. yesterday & about 12 the rain ceased & we had a view of the Queen of the East well named. I can assure you - you would think it was fairy land, but I believe the best view is from the sea for in reality the mud in the streets is knee-deep - I did not land & cannot tell you much about it yet - We were all anxious to know when we were to be sent & about 2 P.M. we received our orders for Scutari - Each of us got into a caique or small beautiful Turkish boat with our luggage & sailed over the Bosphorus & in doing so, as it was now a fine day we had such a splendid view of the city & bay - In crossing the old Turk was as delighted with the view as we - He talked to us but all we could make out was, with regard to the sight "Duono Stambul" repeating it often & pointing it out to us & with regard to us "Duono Johnny" to which of course we replied "Duono Turko", every body here is called Johnny, the Turks call us all Johnny & we call them the same - They are very fond of the English even more so than the French & they are always talking of the "Duono Anglis" - What a sight we met when we landed there, a steamer had just arrived from the Crimea with 150 wounded & they were transferring them from the ship to a Hospital on stretchers carried by four men each, you cannot conceive the feeling I had - the sight of man after man being carried on stretchers & the same continuing for hours as if it would never cease, this is the work day after day & is performed by parties of convalescents

Talk of large Hospitals I wish our friends in Denver
only saw the one here. It is a large square as large
as the High St. then flats & as far as I saw
quite full. The rest of the wounded are in the barracks
which are about a quarter of a mile from the Hospital
Oh what a sight it is upwards of 2000 men
sick & wounded. I cannot give you the least idea
of it, & will not try. I do not know how many
doctors are here but there are plenty & plenty of every
thing that is comforting speaking - What a
blessing it is to meet friends here. We had no
room entered the Hospital than we met Caldwell
an Edin. fellow & then another Stewart then an
third Litterton, then a fourth Drysdale, & they
were as happy to see us as we them. We retired
to Caldwell's quarters to have some dinner & I
must describe to you an officers room. A shutter
placed on two empty casks in the center of the
room (four bare walls) forms what is considered
here as good tables, trunks, empty boxes & benches
do very well for seats, pipes, smokes, uniforms
&c are hung on pegs driven into the wall &
this is the furnishing & accommodation required
& all that can be got. (James Rodgers
will with difficulty give an estimate for you
of what it costs). Dinner was ordered, &
a soldier (officer's servant) in livery (shirt & trousers
both abominably dirty) set a blacked tin pan in
the middle of the table, three tin plates & as
many spoons & this was for first, second & third
courses. I do not mean to say we eat the tin plates
but the fat contained something what its name
I do not know, no-body gave it a name & no one
asked. I think it was some beef boiled in water.
This was followed by steaks, talk of tough steaks I
wish you had a chew of one here, leather is nothing
to it. Will you believe its our engine our first

divine here as well as I am enjoyed me at home -
I am in first rate health & believe I could at
present digest figs - in one of Dr. Sturges & I have
just up together but it is doubtful if we will remain
so, as our hands not yet our words pointed out to
us yet - Our hands just reported ourselves & have
been told we are to remain here for some time
at least, a great many hands have sent to the
Crimson & they say it is well supplied now -
Since reporting myself I have not had time
to take off my uniform & here am I in "figs"
writing, standing at a window overlooking
the Daphne the day is most beautiful. but
how unlike a Sabbath at home, it is Sunday
here & not Sabbath, no church & every one is
as busy as any other day, I am doubtful if any
half here know what day it is -

I am going to Constantinople in the afternoon
to buy some cups, plates & etc. & a number
of necessities if not money - Oh! I wish I
had Father's Banteen which is in the back
shop I fear it would be quite a treasure
here - Post closes at 12 & as there is
not another for a fortnight I must bid
you good bye - Address to Scutari
Hospital & if I am sent any other
way I will get it the same
I will write soon of my father's friends
most fond
Good bye - in haste

Cups to all

Your affec^t Son
David Greig

Scutari Barracks. Turkey

14th Nov- 1854

My dear Father

I intended writing you last mail but just as I had got then my works, 500 wounded men were landed from the Crimea a small specimen of the result of the glorious (?) battle at Sebastopol on the 5th inst - I had to lend a helping hand, & of course could not get more - I have now been 10 days here but as yet have had very little opportunity or time to look about me, but what I have seen I will attempt to give you some ideas of - Just opposite Constantinople there is a small village, Scutari, & about a mile or two to the east of this there is another village Katchik between these two but nearer the former the larger the large general hospital is built, again better this & Scutari you have the barracks. Both are very large buildings more especially the latter, they are built in the form of a square with a large parade ground in the centre. At first the Hospital alone was used as one hospital but it was soon found too small, & the barracks were turned to the same purpose, they now are nearly full also. I think I told you in my last that Dr. Sturges Dr. Wason & I had got quarters in the Barracks, in the shape of an empty room & 2 iron bedsteads, well, we were making ourselves what we call comfortable that is we had got three chairs & were making a table we had also got some pots & frames, when we were quite told to flit as some wounded officers were coming to take possession of one room - To flit was easy enough - so in the morning we removed to our new quarters an old room which belonged to the Sultan or as the Turks call it a "Kiosque", it is an old square building overlooking the Bosphorus, not large has evidently been once a very fine place, but now looks very seedy indeed - We ascend to it by marble steps, there is a marble font in almost every room, the roofs are beautifully painted & ornamented in oriental fashion, the floors are covered with fine matting & the place is falling to pieces & you would be surprised to see us pulling a shutter off when we want firewood, as a recommendation we were told it was nice & airy -

That's a fact, the place is all windows & the wind blows
thru' it like fury not to mention the way the rain comes
pouring in, when it happens to rain which by the bye
is very often. We are not to be here long however, for
the officers are to be sent home & we expect to get
our watertight quarters again. If you only could see
our room you would be amazed, every thing here is
turned to the best advantage, we are constantly on the
look out & if anything we meet in with we can be of use as
a seat or anything else, it is immediately captured. We
are not in Barracks, but have a large open ground in front of the barracks to our quarters which as
I said are within 6 yards of the shore. I have only been
once or twice at the general hospital, all my work is
confined to the Barracks & enough I have to do. We
go at 9 a.m. visit our patients dress the sores, wounds
&c. & work away till about 1 P.M. when we have lunch
at work again till 3, we have dinner at 6 - then
at 7 - evening visit & generally go to bed about
11. This is our plan but we seldom get it carried
out something or other always comes in the way.
The work is very pleasant & most interesting, the
wounds we see here, one thing we can never see
at home, to day for instance we have 3 operations
amputation at the thigh, excision of the shoulder
& amputation of an arm; this we have almost
every day, besides various other little things we
do ourselves. What a scene the hospital here is,
drummers, musketeers, lanciers, riflemen, grenadiers
& common soldiers all mixed up together, very
few have clothes on as you see them at home, when
they have they are generally in rags & glad of any
thing to cover them whether regimental or not, when
they are put to bed & comfortable it is not so much
noticed, but what a sight it is to see them wounded
those who are not able to walk are carried up
to the hospital on stretchers by four soldiers.
Those who are able, look the worst, clothes hanging
in rags & all mud, hats & helmets smashed
where once had looked so beautiful, bloody bandages
round their heads & arms, faces & hands not
washed since we had the battle, the men
looking most miserable & just as if they had landed

dragging their mangled limbs after them to die in peace -
They all show a great deal of spirit & some are proud of
their wounds rather than otherwise, they have suffered
very much in the Crimea & besides the wounded men
there now & then a shipload of sick chiefly Diarrhoea
& Dysentery. The wards in the Hospital are not large
& generally hold about 30, we have them also placed in
the passages which are broad, extending half the length
of a side of the building & as many as 180 may be
placed in a passage, how many patients we have altogether
I cannot tell but I think about 2000. I have
changed the surgical wards & half a passage. I
have plenty to do & like it very well, we have about
70 doctors here, but I do not know one half of them
we have no mess & therefore never meet together. The
want of a mess is not much felt, although many would
like to get one set a-going if they could, it is very
expensive & would soon run away with money which it
is no use to throw away here. We get what are called
rations, that is a loaf of bread, a pound of tough meat &
some other things, ^{cocoa} confection, chocolate & for all the rest we
have to buy - we get tea at 1/2 for the surgeon at 2/4 ditto out
of the army store - butter, cheese, fish &c are bought at the
village & are dear, the two former 1/2 for the, all we buy
from the Turks is dear & they know how to take advantage
of us. When we go to a shop for anything we ask the
price, offer half what is asked & after bargaining for a
while, generally get it. The Turks are a dirty, abominable
looking set, constantly smoking their long pipes & looking
as badly as you could possibly imagine. Their dress looks
well in a picture, but the reality is far from pretty. All
men the fez or turban, a loose jacket, showing a bare
breast & dirty shirt, trousers as if the fellow had jumped
into a deep sack, & pushed his feet thro' the corners & had
drawn the mouth tight round the waist, sometimes he
has stockings, sometimes leggings & last of all his feet
are covered either with old shoes or buckles generally
the latter. For the ladies all you see of them is a dark
coloured loose gown with a hood covering the head & instead
of a face, two strips of white linen & a pair of eyes between,
sometimes the veil falls down & we then see a face generally
an ugly one, the Greek ladies look very well & are, more
especially the little girls who are neatly dressed & very like
an English miss out for a holiday. I have been over a town
at Constantinople, it is a most beautiful place when you
see it from the sea, but when you enter it, you never saw a
more abominable place all of your life, to describe it would
be impossible, but just imagine to yourself a large town
with a street like the Bazaar, the best street in it, every
house seemingly built in the very spot you would have chosen
to have had the street straight for 50 yards, streets running
into each other at all sorts of angles & no arrangement what-
-ever regular or irregular, every house looking as old & miserable
as possible as if a breath of wind would blow it down - the

roads not repaired since the time of Constantine & you will have
some slight notion of Constantinople. When you board your
trunk up of our thousands nearly to your knees & stumble
along the streets if you venture to look into a shop or
forget your feet you are immediately up to the knees in
a pool of mud, or you trample on some dogs which are
constantly in your way, & while you are the least
of it in a stew (more especially if you have on uniform)
you are very much provoked to see 3 or 4 turks all together
on mats in front of their homes, smoking their Turkish
pipes & looking as contented as princes amongst
the mud. All the filth is pitched out of the houses into
the street, the dogs eat what they can & what they
cant is made into mud of which every body must
take a share. No one here thinks of keeping a dog
all the dogs belong to the state if I might say so, &
act as scavengers, there are hundreds of them in all
directions continually prowling about, sleeping or
munching at bones during the day & kicking up
an awful row at night, we have a large common
adjoining the Hospital & a very common amusement
at night is to have a Cherry amongst the dogs, sticks
& stones fly in all directions & many a poor canine
skin catches it - they are very mongrel curs some-
what like our colts, smaller & always a threatening
look about them. The Turkish hobs are small
& shabby. Dr. Pirie's Donald would have been a perfect
beauty amongst them, bull-dogs are always used
in the courts, they go along as slow as possible & that
pleases the lazy Turk, who generally sits in the front
with his long pipe stuck down his back &
the pipe held high up in the air. Oh! they are an
irascible set & it would have been telling us if we
had had the Russians as friends & the Turks as
enemies. Some of their soldiers exercise under our
windows every morning, they wear a tight dress but
do not look at all well or smart, they are drilled into
exercise but it is hard work. I do not know
if I told you I had taken out a dress & some other
things to Miss Scott who is at a boarding school
at Constantinople, I had met her friends at Miss
Young's last winter & when I called at Miss Young's
before leaving & saw them & was asked to take out
a parcel which I was most happy to do. I found
out the place the other day when I was across the
water & saw the young lady & also Miss Welch who
runs the school, I had in my red jacket & Miss W.

evidently thought I was a dangerous character
regarding schools, we came to a good understanding
however & I am going back very soon again. The
(Miss W) is a sister of Mrs. Dr. Handicraft's of Colind. Dr.
Pittman has met her in Colind. & what is very strange
Dr. W. has a letter to her from some of the friends
in England, so we are all to visit her together.

I commenced this letter yesterday & changed it in the
letter has taken place since, last night I was in
a very stormy night & an old Negro who nearly
fell on his head into the Bosphorus, at any rate the
roof was torn off, it was dreadfully cold, we applied
to Dr. W. & Dr. Grey in direct general there & have now
got a very strong & warm room & as a change from
the beautiful (?) white, the walls are painted yellow
& a few big nails driven into them which is rather
a curious thing & also a good large press. We have
a dragon servant who cooks our food in many
a curious manner, which would make the good folks
at home open their eyes a bit, Tom however is not
good at forgiving for us & we have to do that by
themselves, sometimes a disagreeable business when one
is busy, we are to dismiss him therefore & try for a
better. It feels very curious to a great hand to be
under military laws, when you are going you are
at night being challenged at every corner you turn
by "Who goes there?" & the salutes you are constantly
receiving from sentries & all the soldiers you meet.

The climate here is very good but very changeable
you may have a most beautiful afternoon when
you sail on the Bosphorus in a Caique is most
acceptable & if you are complaining loudly of the
heat, next day may be as cold as the former was
warm & when it does rain here it does & no mistake.
The Bosphorus is very like our Tay but moreover,
when we go to Constantinople we get into a Caique
a neat Turkish boat, sharp at both ends like a whale
boat but more turned up. They are beautifully carved
& manned by either one or two Turks who pull two oars
each, they would be easily capsized, but there are
no seats except for the rowers, we squat down on
a cushion in the bottom of the boat & talk & laugh
to the boatmen all the way. You no doubt wonder
how we manage to talk that is very easy, for instance
you step into a boat & tell him when you want to
go with a "Halla Johnny" Hallata Johnny. Turkish answer
"Banno Johnny" of our answer "Banno Johnny" we Banno
one another the whole way & are as happy & jolly as if
we understood one another perfectly & were old friends.
I have learned some Turkish but it won't go for
much as yet.

I am anxious to hear from him, I suppose you have
wrote already but I have never received any yet - Tell Anne
& Mother to write me long letters all the sense & nonsense
going - Newspapers also will be very acceptable - As
great want I feel here is the want of postage stamps
I cannot pay on letters & I have to write all my
letters unpaid, please send me some - I will
try to write you every fortnight but you need not
be disappointed if I do not, the mail may be
too late or I may be very busy but I will try & do
what I can - We are all in first-rate health
& like the style of things very well, we have of
course a great many friendships but I can tell you
we enjoy them gloriously - As for news I can give you
very little as the men, all our news are put for the
wounded, & if an engagement takes place the folks
at home will hear as soon & as truly as we will
do - I hope you are all well - Mother, Aunt
Anne, Cousin, Mrs. Still & the dear Dr. Paine
I will write him sometime but it may be a while
yet, it is very difficult writing him as your time is
so much broken up & it is a great object to take
the time to - Some good folks may be wishing
perhaps to make extracts from this but I would
rather not, more especially anything about the Hospital
here as I might get into trouble about it, so
use your discretion -

Good bye - I hope you are
all well -

Yours affectly Son

David Greig

Do Write Soon -

I do not think we will be sent to the
Crimea this season at least, when I came at
first I was anxious to go, but could not yet,
now I have no wish just now but only be
sent up in the spring if required - I should
like to see the gun -

When the wounded men come in I shall look out for
him, I wish, but I am happy I could not see him, if he
should come here I will take care of him -

Scutari Barracks
30th November 1864

My dear Anne

You can have no idea of the pleasure your kind letter gives me, when in India. The letter from home was a matter of course, but I can assure you it was something more. I was not content with simply reading it but have reread it over & over again & yet still pleasure in reading it, I was very glad indeed to hear of you were all well, & sincerely hope I may receive no worse news. In my last I think I told you we had got comfortably settled at last & so we have, Oh, if you could only drop in here & see our room, wouldn't you be amused it is a very snug apartment indeed & the ornaments on the walls, from military cloaks & red jackets down to swords & revolver pistols give it such a comfortable military appearance as you can have no idea of. Dr. Sturthwaite & I are as comfortable as we could wish, considering the circumstances. Our servant Tom, has now got better into our way of working & we have got a sergeant-major's wife who cooks for us & has in the tough goat's flesh which she passes by the name of mutton, I may say we have very good living. Tea & butter which is our staple commodity & I am sure you would be frightened if you only saw how that & eggs go down at breakfast. Along with your kind letter I was indeed very glad to get one equally so from Mother & I hope she will repeat the dose often. She tells me Father would like to know what encouragement I get here, that is a difficult question, but I will try & answer it. My great object in joining the Army, was in the first place to get surgical practice in these active times, to see the world, to get the éclat of being at the wars & to get a year or two's recreation before settling in practice, when I intended I now thought what pay I would get, but since, I have learned that we staff men get $\frac{7}{8}$ a day as pay, $3\frac{1}{2}$ a day to keep a servant & $2\frac{1}{2}$ as room all on ones, in all as we calculate it at $13\frac{1}{2}$ for ours. Our expenses here amount to

about 20/- for make & various little odds & ends beside.
As for money it is far better than we at least Dr
Stutthaus & I expected, if we have the bad luck
to be gazetted to a regiment as our friend Dr
Washburn has been, we immediately lose 4/- for
stay & in lieu of that we get a soldier's account,
if we are sent to the Crimea we earn money for
the simple reason we cannot get it spent -
Dr. Washburn joined a fortnight before us & has been
gazetted to the 13th regiment & for all that I
know I may be gazetted to one ere now.
When we came out Dr. Stutthaus & I volunteered
for service in the Crimea which I am now
gladly to say was refused, the work & hardships
in the Crimea just know are awful, but in the
spring, if I am not sent up before then, I will
volunteer again & kick up a row if I don't
get, when I am here at any rate, I should like
to see the actual forms. The wounded who come
here, tell me that Sebastopol is as near, as
far from being taken as ever & will not be so
before spring, so I am very glad to escape the
bad weather, in comfortable quarters here -
John Arskin is not here yet, I have heard nothing
of him but he may have been sent straight up
to the Crimea without landing here, as many have
been, I saw a newspaper addressed to him
here & took the liberty of opening & closing it
again - newspapers being very acceptable
articles here. I was very sorry to hear
of Mary Bush & hope he may have turned
up before this; as for Bob. Cosgrove all I
can say is, it was just what I would
expect, however I hope for his wife sake he will
prove a good husband. From Mother's account
of Dr. Johnston's brother I think he must be very
like the Dr. Dr. Stutthaus & I very soon tired
of him, he is a selfish kind of fellow & that
sort of thing won't do with us. We especially in
this part of the world, we never give him any
encouragement to come with us & were very glad
when he got quarters out of barracks away
from us, we are of course on good terms with
each other, but go no further our intimate friends.

Since visiting here we have had frequent migrations
thru the country & enjoy themselves very much, we
get home for 1/2 or 1/4 of an afternoon & have very pleasant
rides. The ponies are small pony-muffin little
animals but possess great spirit & go at a
very good pace. The Turks are quite amazed
at us for riding so fast, their great delight
is to go as slow as possible. To see an old
Turk driving a bullock cart is quite a
treat, the oxen go at the same rate as a cow
at home & here is John sitting cross-legged
on the front of his long rickety cart, either
smoking his long chibouk or when not doing
so having the long shank sticks down his
back & the pipe held high in the air over
his head - Oh they are a busy set, one feels
often inclined to kick them, they seem to pass
their whole existence in a brown study. When
two or three are walking in the country instead
of talking to each other, why the fellows have nothing
to talk about, & jog along the road singing
together, not an active song, but a kind
of low droning chant. The ladies are I
think as bad as the men, since I came
I have never seen a woman working, no
crochet work to make people think they are
busy. Some of them wear very thick & close
veils, there we know one the plain looking
one, any who are good looking wear thin
veils & very often see if by accident the veil
drops down just as we pass. The Greeks are
not veiled & we always get a good look
from them in passing. I admire the little
children most; in passing thro the street
of Scutari on horseback the other day, I
came upon two little girls playing themselves
in a cart, I & Stephen stopped to admire the
little things, when one looked up in my face
& hisped "Ewano Johnny" to which I returned
a "Ewano Johnny" & passed on while they kept
calling the same after us. I cannot tell
you how I am looking, but I believe very well
I have never changed since I was in Paris
so I am sure you would be frightened to kiss me now.

I would like very much to write to St. Pirie, but
I hope he will excuse me now & I will promise
him a long period some fine day when I have
less work to do, when that may be I have
no idea, my wounds are soon getting thin, then
down comes another batch of wounded from
the Crimea & I am as busy as ever. I
have been searching amongst my patients
to see if I could find a Dundee man
but have none met with one yet I wonder
if Andrew McNaughton is out here, do you know
what regiment he belonged to? Geo. Norwich
I hear from some of the men of the 1st is very
well & not likely to come under my tender
care - I am searching as much as I can
for curiosities but pick up very few as yet,
I have got a first-rate revolver pistol which
was taken from a Russian general at Sebastopol
& which may be of use to me yet, also a lot of bullets
which I & others have taken out of the wounds
some smashed bones & such like - it is no
use getting large things for you cannot keep
them & you cannot carry them with you on
a campaign - I am very glad you are pleased
with your watch, the one with Mother was as big
as had one, you "like a brick" every one has
their time here, but mine is I may say the
standard - I know this is a short letter,
but I will write a longer one next, I wish
if possible with twice a month & if you may
do so every week & I will be much obliged
to you - I hope you, Father, Mother & Aunt
are all well, Mrs. & Mr. Sandlin.
Miss & Agnes Pirie, ask the latter if she
remembers giving me a box of friends, & that I
find it very comfortable here - Remember
me to all kind engineering friends & hoping to
hear from you very often. Believe me to be
Yours much, my letter, in
future & you do the same, it
will let me know if I get
the all -
If you are very kind
affect. Brothers,
David Gray.

Scotoni Barracks
14th December 1854

My Dear Father

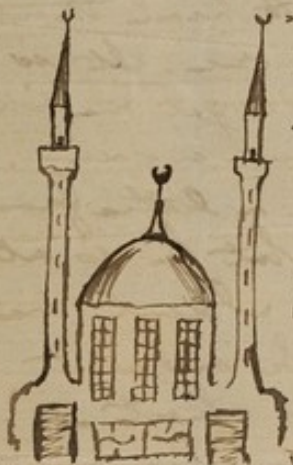
As I expect it to be just the
New-year or at least very near it, when you
receive this, will you be wish, you all, a
very happy New-year & as the saying is, many
returns of the same. There is only little word
of any rejoicing there, the only thing I have heard
that at all puts me in mind of the scene at
home at this time is one servant having in-
vested in two ducks which he is to fatten & kill
for a Christmas dinner. I tried to explain to
the fellow that as Scotchmen are intended to
keep the New-year & not Christmas, he is not
very sharp in the understanding at any time
& certainly the idea of keeping the New-year
precluded him, we compromised the matter
however by resolving to kill one on Christmas
and another on New-year's day. In this country
time passes in a way curious manner indeed
every day is alike & there is no break seemingly
from one year's end to another. The New-year will
however I hope be a mark & by the time I am
to the next I in all likelihood will have the
pleasure of being amongst you again, that
however will depend upon how the war goes,
From all I can hear here you may expect
to hear very important news from Sebastopol
soon, shiploads of troops are passing this every
day both French & English, they cannot remain
long in the Crimea as they are so soon reduced
by sickness as to be of little use & it is supposed
the town will be stormed very soon. Since the
battle of Inkerman filled our hospital with
wounded, it has been gradually emptying
itself of them, by curing some & sending others
to Malta & England. People at home think we
have nothing but sabre cuts & gunshot wounds
but that is a great mistake, the sickness
which prevails in the Crimea is far worse than the

Russian bullets, as soon as our wounded are sent off
their place is immediately taken by the sick, we are
all far kinder of the wounded than the sick or in other
words of the surgical cases than the medical, but
of course the sick soldiers must be attended to
& we must make the unpleasant with the pleasant
& interesting work of these terms are all
applicable, when Sebastopol is taken however
there will be awful slaughter & lots of wounds going
straight & I am very anxious that our shells
be sent up to the Crimea, but we can't get at
present it is to be hoped however my wife gets sent
up, from what I see here, I think if I was
there I could save both lives & limbs to some
poor fellows - If you were here I am sure you
would be very much amused with some of our
wounds & the effects of the rifle balls would aston-
ish you - The Russian bullet is a good deal
larger than the English one - The latter weighs
in general one ounce while the Russian one is
one ounce & a half & some which I have seen
& extracted here have weighed an ounce &
three-quarters, you may imagine how un-
comfortable one of these feels when lodged
in a fellow. Our small balls do as much
damage every bit as the large Russians, the
small musket ball gives as severe a shock,
but was beside the poor fellow who receives the
contents of a minié or needle rifle, they are all
conical in form, sometimes they lodge but in
general pass right thro' whatever they hit -
you can have no idea of their effects, if one
strikes the femur, that bone is done for &
the sooner the thigh is amputated the better,
when a conical ball strikes the femur it is
shattered sometimes from top to bottom, a Civil
accident cannot be compared to it when
you look at the limb there is nothing but a
small round hole seen, all the mischief is
internal - so much for bullets & now for
something softer & more agreeable -

I received Anne's second kind letter in safety
+ also a very kind one from my cousin Anne
for which I have directed George to return her
my sincere thanks - Since writing last I have
as usual enjoyed first rate health + been amuse-
ing myself during my leisure hours at pistol
practice shooting clay + open air exercise when
I can get it, the weather here is in general wet
but we have some very fine days somewhat like
a fine day at home. About a week ago I
had a Turkish bath which I must tell you about
as we have nothing like it at home - I & another
two S. A. S. made a small party + went to have a
scrubbing in a "hammam" or bath in the village of
Sentein. The exterior of the bath is certainly not very
imposing + looks somewhat like a dirty bakehouse.
We entered + were met by an old Turk who directed
us to undress on three soft couches at the side of
a large room, a towel was then placed round
our bodies + wooden patens on our feet + we
were marched into a dismal small room, which
felt very hot + moist in fact it was with great
difficulty we could breathe at first, then of our
mad Turk seated us on cushions + furnished
us with long pipes + coffee this put off about about
half an hour, when you may imagine we were in
a precious stew, the sweat was pouring from us, I
did not feel at all uncomfortable but very languid.
The young Turk then began shampooing us, pressing
all the muscles of our legs + arms making our joints
crack + c. After this had been done for about a quarter
of an hour we were marched into room No 2 which
was of large size + far hotter than No 1, not any
dry heat but a moist heat. There was an elevated
platform in the center of marble + around the room
were fountains of hot + cold water. We were directed
to lie down on the marble platform on our backs
we did so but immediately springing up again, de-
clining it was by far too hot + burned our backs,
the turks seemed determined to give us the full
benefit of it + pulled us down by our arms, we very soon
got accustomed to the hot marble, we were now
washed + shampooed in a severe manner than in
room No 1, we were turned over + over, squeezed, punched
kneaded + even our ribs cracked, we were roaring +
laughing all the time but felt very sore + weak after
it - We were then seated beside a fountain each

the turks after putting on a rough kind of gloves began
to rub us all over & you can have no notion of the
amount of matter he took off the skin, it came
off in rolls at first I thought it was the skin itself
but then there was no pain, so I kept my mind
easy & let him rub away. When he had pleased me
to his heart's content I was then plastered all over
with soap, in fact I never got such a lathering.
I was then covered with hot & cold water alternating
from the fountain & this finished the scrubbing process
& you may believe I felt considerably mollified.
We were then conducted into room No. 1, again where
we were carefully dried, out of this we marched into
the room where we had undressed at first when we
found the couches transformed into light beds - each
of us had a shawl rolled round him or turban
placed on his head, we jumped into these beds &
in a sitting posture smoked long pipes & drank
coffee until we had completely recovered from the effects
of the operation - The turks talked & laughed to us the
whole time & seemed as much amused with us as we
were with them. The coffee was splendid & drunk out
of small cups like egg-cups. A bath is a delicious one
of the most pleasant things you can get here, & I can
swear I found it so, the only objection is that when
your skin is so clean & fine the fleas bite easier
than it. I suppose you have heard of Turkish fleas
my eyes, if you could only feel them would not
they astonish you, we are very lucky at present as
it is the cold weather & we have few of them i.e.
10 perhaps may be caught on a shirt before tumbling
into bed, we generally have a flea hunt before
going to bed & then make out a return of the
killed & wounded. They are larger slightly than
the common fleas we have at home but they
bite & leap amazingly, the poor fellows who come
down from the Crimea are covered with fleas
& vermin of all sorts & in working with them one
must get one's share of what is going, the Crimean
fleas seem to be stinging like the ones they come
on & when one has the good luck to be bitten
before any of us he seems to make up for lost time
& lay in a store in case he should be sent up
again. Dr. Mason & I had a long stroll in
an English Cemetery last Sunday & then stumbled
into a Mosque or House of Prayer you can scarcely

call it a church but it is something like it, we have
a good many churches, & some very handsome ones, but in Constantinople
the mosque of St. Sophia is almost one of the
world's wonders - a mosque is generally in the shape of a
dome or minaret. St. Sophia is on a two minaretted battlement



adds to it. I have made a sketch here which
will let you understand what I mean -
The mosque is when the service is conducted
& the minarets are when the cryer or muezzin
is called the muezzin ascends 4 or
5 times a day & calls the faithful to prayer
when all who are disposed come in from the
streets & join in the service looking towards
Mecca. The muezzin calls in a very peculiar
style rather monotonous, I cannot tell you
what it is like it is just now but if you
make your imagination intuitive the

Edinburg of Calla - a - oo & the first line
of the old C. you will have something
like it. We were not at all well if we would
get in, we passed in first & then made a halt when
we saw an old priest, he seemed quiet enough
& we returned again, he signed us to enter & after
making us take off our boots we were conducted
thru the mosque. The floor was covered by a most
beautiful carpet & about 200 lamps of various colors
hanging about 9 feet above the floor. The walls were
beautiful mosaics & 20 men two small pulpit-like
places & a gallery near the roof on high occasions
we of course admired every thing which pleased the
old priest, & of my fellow then took us up one of the
minarets from which we had a splendid view. The
minaret is very slim & the stair goes up almost
perpendicular & there is a small door looking towards
Mecca, which leads out to the bastion. The muezzin
for it was he that was with us, pointed to his watch
& made us understand if we would wait for five
minutes he would call but, we did so & had an
opportunity of assisting in calling the faithful to
prayer. When we came down our former prayer began and
stood at the door, but were not allowed to enter as
we had our boots on, every time our feet touched the
carpet the priest warned us off. The priest raised the
prayer which sounded very pretty, there were about 20 persons
who stood in a row behind him & followed all his motions
such as prostrating themselves, kissing the ground etc. -
every person who came in immediately cast off his shoes
& turning forwards joined in the movements, as soon
as service was finished we halted off & astonished
the stranger by telling him that as it was Sabbath we
had been to church -

I cannot tell you how much engaged I am by my
letters being published I have seen one in the Mercury
& heard of one in the Courier, I do not wish to say
much but this I must say that if I hear of such
a thing again, you alone may expect to hear that
I am made, once or month & nothing more. It is
against all every regulations & might get me into
at end of rowe, so do not allow it to occur again.
Since commencing this I have received a letter from
Dr. Price I am much obliged to him but he is at
his old tricks again cropping letters I sent me
off a fortnight ago to him. I think a greater
deal of his letter but it is by far too short -
Mother & Anne of course will write soon & I would
also like you to do the same. Many thanks for
the plan of Sebastopol & the Courier which you
sent - I suppose it is winter here but it is more
like a mild autumn than anything else, we have
some beautiful days & a great many beautiful nights
once - The Reynolds (131 guns) passed up by
to-day with 1700 troops on board chiefly French
& the 7th Regt. I was there then all she is a splendid
ship - I hope you are all well & that Mrs.
Price is better - Give all & send my kindest
wishes & many happy newyears to them all -
I will write to Anne on or about the 30th & not
forwards to her mother & her.

Believe me to be ever
Yours affectionately Son
David Price

N.B. The Top Page -

I cannot send you Mistletoe or Holly but I
enclose a sprig of "Myrtle" -

I send you "something for your newyears" in the
shape of a ten shilling note (value 20^s)

Scutari Denmark,
30th December 1854

My dear Anne,

I am sure one of your letters must have gone astray as I have heard none since the one of the 22nd Nov. & what makes it worse I have seen by a newspaper that Mr. Hill is dead. I need not say how sorry I was to hear that. I have looked for a letter post after post in order to get some intelligence about it, but as yet have looked in vain. I am easily forgiven however that it was in one of her ill throes. Nothing told me she was ill when she last wrote but hoped she would get over it, poor kind hearted creature she suffered a great deal & although it is with pain we part, we must be consoled at the same time with the assurance that she is now permanently released & happier than we. During the last fortnight I have felt more uncomfortable & less spirited, than I have done since I came out & that from three causes Mr. Hill's death. My letters being published & my being on the sick list - With regard to my letters Oh! I could eat my fingers could I only recall them. I know Mr. Lindsay & you all thought it was a kindness, but I know as well as you it was a mistaken kindness, the greatest kindness you can do me is never to think of such a thing again, if it is done, I give you my word of Honor I will never write but a single word saying I won't mention this painful (to me at least) subject again but I trust you will attend to it - About a fortnight ago when out shooting dogs I got cold in my left eye, it was slightly sore for two or three days but I did not much mind it & from Conjunctivitis it went on to Scleritis & then slight Iritis, I was in bed for 4 days, but through the kind management of Dr. Sturtevant I was able to enjoy a pleasant

on Christmas day - Oh! it is disappreciable being
so far from home more especially if you are
in bed, then comes the full appreciation of the
comforts of home, I was as comfortable as any
one in harness could have been, I had Wason
& Sturges beside me, & a kind sergeant's wife
to attend on me, as thing I never saw any other place
home - The eye was very painful & as I lay in
bed I reasoned thus; well, if I was at home what
would my father do, "He would bleed me" accor-
dingly I had myself bled, from the arm. That
gave it a check, well, what next, "He would
leech my eye" so we went to Leeches, I felt a great
deal better after that & I then all owed Dr. B to
treat me as he liked. The eye was dim for a
day or two after but is now quite well & in truth
(no blarney) I am as jolly as usual, every one here
says I am getting fat & I am frightened my fine
tight uniform will soon be useless - I was
only well four days when I am sorry to say Dr. Stott
took ill with fever & I have now ample opportunity
of repaying his kindness to me, it is not typhus
nor have any little of that here, but a peculiar
kind of typhoid fever which is very common
here, attended by great prostration & restlessness
our men suffer greatly from it at Gallipoli
& also in Bulgaria & many take it immediately
on coming down from Sebastopol. Very few
die of it but they generally have a slow recovery,
it is not considered at all infectious - As
yet I cannot say how he will get over it, but
I hope easily. I have wrote of this last to his
brother telling him about him. Johnston is
also ill but it is only a slight feverish attack
brought on it is said by Thompson's doing. don't
mention this however to any of his friends -
I had a note from Major Lennick the other
day asking me to go to Constantinople & look
after a horse which he sent to George some
time ago, I have not got over yet but

will go this week & see about it. I was happy
to see George Hunt got his promotion the other
day & is now a Lieut. - I was very much
surprised on Christmas day to get a visit from
a Mr. Laird who turned out to be a cousin of
Miss Mrs. Donnell's. She had been writing him
& told him to be sure & call on me when at
he did. He is a jolly young fellow an engineer
I think on board the "Italia" one of the
Austrian Lloyd's steam vessels. He was just
going off to Alexandria & is to call for me
when he comes back, when you write to Miss Mrs.
give her my kind compliments of thanks for her
kindness. You may also tell her, her Cousin
is in first rate health & spirits. I have
heard no word of going to the Crimea yet, there
is plenty to do here, chiefly medical practice
& I suppose will continue so, till we have a
battle again, Struthers & I both wrote to Lyon
& Simpson asking them to get Lord Balgownie
to send us up. Some time ago & I hope he
will do so, our volunteered for service in the
Crimea, twice & more told me even required
where we were. Johnston says he went up
up. I suppose he would hold home if there
was any chance of it. - I am very much oblige
to Mrs. Geo. Baxter for the kind & constant
inquiries about me, my life isn't insured, but
when I do get home which must be sometime
I hope to have a long winded crack with
her, remember me to her, Mr. B. Richter, May
25. That puts me in mind of Charlie Dugals
I should like to have his bedchamber in case
any chance should show me near Longman
we have got an hospital there & at least
there were some talk of having one. - What
a difference it is here from Christmas at home,
our notion of Christmas is cold crisp weather
jolly fires & happy parties, here we have neither
the one nor the other the weather is beautiful &
mild & we are in a fire, when I was on board the
Royal Albert nothing pleases me more than
the sight of the large fire the women cooking at,
all we have here is small charcoal furnaces &
when it is cold at night we get our drugg
our apartment & we all sit round it & smoke

trunk. By the bye if you look in the "Illustrated
London News" for 16 Decr you will see a picture of
Lane's Dispensary Hospital, it is one of the passages
& the view is taken from the door of Miss Brighten's
garlic quarters just where I lived. The picture
is not good but will give you some idea of
the place, the passage is not nearly so high
nor so broad, in the center between the two
rows of beds are beams only two or three feet
while in the picture you would think it was
eight or ten, you see the first arch crossing over
the passage, well on the right hand side you
see a fellow entering or just to enter or about, I
am sure say that it is me for he is going into
my quarters; the beds are placed close to one
door & of course all the moaning of the patient
at night is heard to the best advantage while
one is in bed, in general however I sleep so fast
that that never disturbs me in the least -
Liff will be looking just now as when I came
at first twelve months ago, remember me to
the ministers of the parish & tell them I
hope to hear from him soon again - Of course
Aunt will be fretting herself & wondering how I
am with regard to clothing, tell her to keep her
mind easy I am very well off in that respect, my
I wish all my white shirts were home again as
they are of no use here, nor are our colored
woolen ones & my comfortable things they are
saving their own price in washing in less than
no time, socks I have in plenty - I hope Father
Mother, Aunts, Cousins &c are all well - I shall
like to hear from Father & Mother often, ditto you.
I have heard there is a mail just arrived at
Constantinople, I hope that may be something
in it for me - In future I intend writing more
interesting letters & ones that will not be worth
publishing, but I think it would be difficult
to do that - Love you, & am ever
I remain your affectionate brother
David Lewis

Coolidge near Scutaria
January 14th 1855 -
- - -

My dear Mother

Since I have never yet had
the pleasure of writing you since I left home
I intend now to give you the first letter this year
+ a long second I will try + make of it. I was
very happy to receive some days ago such a long
letter from you + Anne + many thanks to you
all for it! I brought in the baggage very quietly
includes owing to Dr. Struther being ill, in fact
at that time I scarcely thought he would live
I had to sit up the whole of Dr. Struther's night with
him + had to cut out all his hair myself. I
am glad however to say he is now past the
worst + when I heard that he was progressing
very well under the care of Dr. Watson - You will
see by this letter I have changed our quarters
+ I must now tell you how that change took
place. There were so many of us at Scutaria
we had so much to do + were so knocked out
that I must say I was beginning to get tired,
it + heartily wishing myself to the Crimea. I have
been exactly two months there, on the 4th I Dr. Polk
just asked leave to accompany our army -
being refused I must say I felt somewhat over-
burdened at the operation as it was one of
our patients + after the operation was going
quarter in a dome state, wishing Scutaria + all
its 1st Class Staff Surgeons to the mischief when
I was touched on the shoulder by our Principal
medical officer + the following conversation en-
sued "Get one Dr. S." "Yes." "You are ordered to proceed
to Coolidge immediately + take charge of Russian
wounded prisoners." "I can't go Dr. Struther is very
ill, I can't leave him." "You can't go! You must
go when the service requires you." "Very well." "You
give our your present charge + proceed to morning."
If Dr. Struther had not been ill I should have been
most happy to have gone - Poor Dr. Struther was far
more about it than I was - I packed up my
traps next morning + also my blankets + what I had

got out of stone at Santaurin. I had no qualms of
Conscience about stealing the blankets, for no, I
was determined to make myself comfortable
whenever I might be sent as the general rule to keep
in health here is to "eat well, drink well & sleep
well" & it was impossible to do the latter without
good blankets. The weather had suddenly
changed, & it was very cold & snowing. On the
5th I was furnished with a boat by the Commissariat
& taking some of my things on board, I started for
Coolahie which is situated 5 miles up the Bosphorus.
I was fully equipped, sword & all, came up by my
large military cloak & a water-proof over it. It
was snowing & very cold, but with a short curly
life in my cheeks I must say I enjoyed it, as
I passed up the banks of the Bosphorus looked
most beautiful. The Turk who took me was a
jolly fellow & talked the whole way, as we started
he put his large coat over my legs & in his own
way made me comfortable, intimating at the
same time, he expected a "Bucchiach" for it, I
said "Bucchiach" as off we went. In passing up an
Armenian was calling the faithful to prayer just a dinner table
the banks of the Bosphorus, I asked him about it, but
told me it was "yok buwa" & that he did not
take in it, as he was an Armenian Protestant.
I was coughing & I explained to him I was a doctor
coughed & pointing to his chest always cried, "No
" & then followed it up by "Bucchiach by & bye" to
of course I assented. After about an hour &
pulling we reached Coolahie, & I landed at
my new quarters which I must now describe.

Coolahie is a small village situated four miles up
the Bosphorus on the Asiatic side, it is chiefly
Greek chiefly, but also by Turks. It is most healthy
situated in a kind of bay with hills behind, from
the top of one of which you can get, it is said the
finest view in Europe, in a clear day you can see
down the Sea of Marmara, the whole of the Bosphorus
& as far up as the Black Sea. At the northern
extremity of the village there is a large Cavalry
barracks situated close to the water's edge & as
there is no tide or flow in the Bosphorus the water
is always within a foot of the front in front
of the barracks. A part of this barracks is set
aside for the wounded Russian soldiers & men.

of it is to be appropriated as an Hospital for the
English, both barracks + hospital at Scutari
being full. It is a most romantic place + I
am very glad I was sent to it - There are only
two other English army surgeons + a French one here
at present. We have got what we term a scrubbed
mess, that is every one bring his own tin plate, cup
+ saucer &c. - In the other apartment staying together
in a very nice room overlooking the water + our mess
is held in our room. It is smaller + on our com-
fortable than we had at Scutari, our mess
table it is true is as usual two shutters placed
on a box + a cask, but when it is spread over
with a B.O. bed-corn + a on a frame you it is
a small table. My companions are the other two
Medical men, a Commissariat Officer + the Com-
mandant (Capt Brecken, 1st Regt. L. Grenadier
Regt.) all jolly fellows. They all smoke + smoke
in our room at night + every second night we
are honoured by a visit from the Bey who commands
the Turkish Cavalry here, he brings in his long
pipe + we are as happy as Prince. Besides, we
have the Turkish band performing during dinner
+ also in the evening, they play very well. Walter, Polk
&c. + by way of honouring us "God Save the Queen"
is attempted every evening, with "Partant pour la
Syrie" in compliment to our allies the French -
Oh! it is jolly, we are quite isolated here + are
happy as I could wish. The other assistants -
surgeon comes from Cyprus + talks Greek which
is of great use here - Now already I have seen
more of Turkish + Greek customs than I did
all the time I was at Scutari. No sooner
was I landed than Dr. Comely (Asst Surg.) + I
went out to see an old Turk who was sick, his
name was (Ali-hay) of course I was very willing
to go in order to see the house - All the Turks here
so soon as they enter a house cast off their shoes +
then go up stairs, we don't do that but our wife
our feet are clean as our corn, well, well, well
this is Ali-hay's house + entered his garden, as

I suppose, when we found the old chap, comfortable
enough I can assure you, beautiful ottomans
all round the room & a large brass chandelier
burning in the centre, a servant brought our long
pipes & a small cup of coffee & our cat & examined
our patient, rather a comical medical visit
I must say, then was my little talk with
him, so we cleared off soon - I did nothing the
first night & next morning I went to Penton
for the rest of my baggage, the morning was cold
but very fine - I took a soldier with me & after
getting my things all packed there about 3 P.M. I
wished to go back, however it had come on to snow
& although there were about 30 boatmen all smoking
round a fire none would move, so I was
left, I did not care for myself but the soldier
whom I had as a servant would have been put
"in goods" if he stayed away all night from Cox-
shales, so after a great deal of trouble I succeeded
in getting ~~two~~ at least out of things the usual price
to save our life. I have been in a great many of the
Greek houses, they are as it were the town houses
richly & affluently as usual & generally built of wood
& brick, the rooms are small & in these houses
which one would call the better class you find
ottomans round the rooms the same as in the
Turkish houses. The Greeks are a very changeable
set, very much given to use the knife & therefore
not at all comfortable to deal with, however
they are very kind to us, as I suppose we do them
goods - As we passed along the street the other day
(I & a friend) some Greeks pulled us into a tavern
& insisted on treating us to wine & they also
presented us with flowers, I discovered however
afterwards that I had prescribed for his wife
the day before - The Greek girls are most beautiful
& come quite up to Byron's description, there is
a laughing merry debauched English look about
them which I can't describe, I am sorry I can't
talk to them, but my companions do for me & we
get away good friends & laughing to one another -

They are very neatly shaven. The shaven is plain & generally
unadorned above the front with a neat comb over
covering so much of it. When they are doing anything, such
as cleaning about the houses, the shaven is tucked up
on each side & by this arrangement is shown, short
fetticots, beautiful white aback trousers, finger with
laces, white stockings & slippers. I think I hear
you say "there are things you have no business with"
but since I have been blessed with eyes I can't help
using them. However - The headpiece is very simple
& very neat also, a colored muslin handkerchief
with flowers printed round the margin, is put over
the head in such a manner that it can be tied
tight round the head & allow a corner to hang
down over the back covering the back hair which is
put up in two long plaits, sometimes the hair is
adorned by artificial flowers wrought into it.
Oh! I wish I could only bring home some of the beauties
of the Borjoms, to show them to you I am sure you
would like them? - As for their customs the best
thing I can do is to give you an account of my first
visit to one of their houses. D. Temple & I went to see
an old fellow, with liver complaint. We knocked at
the door & it was answered by a very pretty girl a daughter
of the patient. She wished us good morning in her native
tongue, we brushed our boots as clean as she could at
the bottom of the stairs, they always remove their shoes
here & leave them until they go out again. we are however
excused this; we went up stairs & saw our patient
curled up in the corner of a room & quatted on an
ottoman, the old lady was then nursing him also and
= other daughter & a son. We sat down felt his pulse
looked at his tongue, & then we admired the girls.
I looked at them & they blushed, I laughed & they laughed.
I told one she was like a pretty English girl, she seemed
to understand me & looked flattered, the old folks
looked, gazed, & I thought I had better
stop my flattery. The Jettie then went out & returned
with a small tray on which was placed a glass jar
of jelly or rather jam somewhat like conserve of
roses, two tumblers of water & 4 or 5 teaspoons. She
presented this to me, & I could not make out, for
the life of me what to do. I could do nothing but
laugh, so she showed me what to do much to the
amusement of all. I took a clean teaspoon, took

a large cup of jelly, replaced the spoon on the tray
took a drink of water & so ended the ceremony -
every one present did the same & the tray was carried
off - each of us then had a small cup of coffee
we talked for a short time & then took our leave
in all the Greek houses we visit we always get
"a cup of jelly" & in most coffee also, sometimes
we smoke but very seldom, that is more of a
turkish custom - I enjoy this place very much
& a more beautiful place you could not well see
I was all over the hills the other day with the Commons
don't shooting, there was about three feet of snow on
the grounds in some places, it was so cold, I don't
remember anything, as for fishing none of us try it, but
I suppose it would be good, the fish "ain't" likely
muzzers" but lots of beautiful mackerel are yet doing
I have down at Port au Port yesterday & saw Struthers
he is better, but I cannot say he was looking well
there was a large abscess formed on the side of his
face, he is very weak & quite unable to get out of
bed yet, he will I hope get over it but I don't
think he will be much more use here, Johnston
is also knocked up he has been confined to his
quarters since Christmas & when I saw him last
he was in bed, he has been out one day but took
ill immediately again, he has been ill, but more
frightened than I think, I think he will
be home very soon, the only thing that keeps him is
the question "What would Simpson say" - I heard
two days ago from a fellow who had come from the
Prisoners that Erskine was lying very ill of Typhus
fever in a tent at the Camp - I am in great relief
health in fact never was better, I must say I look
coarser, but nothing comes wrong to me I can eat &
drink at all times & in any quantity - The work
here is very pleasant we have 221 Russian Prisoners
& I have charge of 77 of them they are very comfortable
& what is more very happy, they are smart good looking
fellows, some are very badly wounded, more especially
the Cossacks who were engaged in the Cavalry charge
at Balaklava & who have got some very ugly

cut more especially about the backs of the hands - at
home they talk of Russian cups & all the men we
have got here are some fellows, almost all can
read & many can write - they are little or no
trouble, give them plenty to eat & "Dobro" (all well)
they are in two large wards the most of them are able
to walk about & they spend their time as they like,
some mend shoes, some clothe, some play at cards
some smoke & all are happy. The only thing disagre-
able is the sentry walking inside the door with a
drawn bayonet. One of them, a young fellow can
talk a few words of english & he acts as my servant
in the wards & I am picking up some Russian
words from him for the benefit of my patients -
I suppose you will have heard of the celebrated
Major Alexander Angelicofilo who was found striding
the wounded english after Inkermann. He had
received a wound thro' the shoulder joint & died
under my charge here three days ago. I took
his shoulder as a memento of the battle. This place
will be very soon turned into a general hospital
& the Russians removed to the Arsenal at Constan-
tinople - two days ago we got 368 english sick
from the Crimea a great many having lost their
toes & from frostbite in the trenches, since writing
the first part of this, two other assistant surgeons
have also come here to help us & joined our staff.
Oh, what a strange thing the sun is change, change,
change, got notice yesterday to flit away, we
are now in the Sultan's quarters, (the Sultan has
quarters in every Barrack) & well quarters
they are, exactly in the center of the Barrack, looking
on the Bosphorus, it is no use saying "I don't
that I dwell in marble halls" for it is "I actually
dwell in marble halls" the roofs & walls are
most beautifully ornamented (I only wish my cousin
David could see them) & the Star & Crescent looks
you in the face every way you turn - as I lay in bed
this morning I actually counted about three dozen
Stars & Crescents on the roof of my bedroom - The
Commandant occupies the best room & it is
most beautiful, paintings (fresco) & gilded flowers,
leaves, more & in great profusion I cannot describe

it but I enclose a plan which will give you some
idea of it. I'm of one heart (the Turkish hospital is
at present playing one of our tunes below my window
Sunday night this it be - excuse the interruption)
you will all my kind in asking me to address you
the friends on a box all I can say is I will only
be too happy & I enclose a list of things I would
like sent out & you can pack the box with any
thing you think proper if there is room, I do not
require more uniform but if I should at any time
I will direct it to be sent you from London.
I am only very sorry I can't return the compliment &
send you a box also - I will write to Father
must I hope Aunt & Anne are very well -
Kind love to Mr & Mrs Sandiman not forgetting
David, George & Elizabeth. Remember me to Mr. Whitelock
Don, Mrs Bayly & Uncle Aunt Cousins &
all kind friends in London. Also when you
write to Miss Schute remember me to both of the
Mr & Mrs Schute & thank them for all their
kindness to me. I suppose you have not
heard what a row one of St. Stephen's letters
caused, it was to Simpson & the more officious folks
heard that he had said something about Miss
Wrighton in it, a correspondence ensued
& the letter had to be sent them before they could
be satisfied, saying there was not much in
it & the accounts they had received had been
exaggerated, government are on their toes &
at present so they well may, such meddling
& bad arrangements I never saw the like of,
no more publishing. I was sorry to hear
that Stewart Lithgow has volunteered as a surgeon
here he is a great fool, anything after Yaccing, but
not before; they come as camp followers and
bullock of every body & as for Dr. fu day, that
he will find to be all humbug & no mistake.
Ann tells me of a lady who was visiting Miss Birn,
I can't think who, & who it seems has fallen in

home with me - do tell me who it is. I suppose
she has an eye to the "Patriotic Fund" -
I am very sorry I never get had time to look after
it. I must be up at Constantinople. I have
not been in that place for months now &
do not know when I may get, but I will
go as soon as I can - I hope my letter will
reach you - I am a ship named Sebastopol
& at present am thankful I am no nearer
home if I were ordered, I would go with
great pleasure knowing I would be of use
to our poor men who are suffering under
hardships & being anticipated by the
by sickness & not by wounds. I had intended
to have finished this long ago & feel as
if I could write all night, but I must stop.
I will be writing to John Lindsay soon - Please
give Dr. Pinn a filip & tell him I am at
Coolidge - Give James Rogers a
filip - I hope to see you all soon.

I believe you to be
Your affectionate Son
David Spring

"Singing - O - land - O - land - O - land -

but I jolly at Coolidge" (Dr. Pinn's Song)

I am being drilled into P. & W. exercises at
present, by a Sgt. Major of the Band, in
case I should require the use of my
fork or sword or ball, when I
am sent to the Crimea which will be some
time I have no doubt -

Good Bye

List of Articles required -

1. A thick coarse Pea-jacket with lots of pockets.
2. A pair of Sack-boots to come 4 inches below my knees -
3. A pair of leggings like what Dr. Pine had.
4. The Countess (Special)
5. A Knife, having a cork-screw &c &c you know what I mean - & I must have a hole bored thru it so that I can tie it to me & not lose it -
6. One dozen short Cutty Pipes, get Dr. Pine or James Rodgers to pick them for me.
7. VZ VZ VZ VZ

Mr. Matheson has my measure for clothes
When you send them off write me & tell
me what ship they go by & who they are
consigned to -

14
You asked me, by the bye, about Miss Nightingale, when we
boarded the "Arctic" I did not know who or what she
was, but since then we all know her very well.
She is a very kind lady & what is more has
£ 8000 a year, which we all joke about here, the
nurses are all under her charge, sometimes we
get a visit from her in the wards & if a nurse is
required for a patient she sends one; at some
parts of the hospital they attend every day & dress
the patients, but to do that at all the hospitals
would require about 50 times the number - She
keeps a strict watch over them & they work very
well, but I think just the same could be done
by the orderlies which we have always in our
wards, (soldiers who act as nurses) - I had
a fair with Miss Nightingale to-day, she was
visiting some of my patients who were very bad -
& was asking one poor fellow who had got his
leg shot off & who was complaining of thirst, if
he would like rice water or barley water to drink
he thought for a little & then said he would
prefer brandy & water if it was the same to
him - D. L.

Cochran
21st January 1855
m. -

My dear Father

My dear friend Dr. Alex^r
Sturthens died in my arms at
Portauis yesterday morning at
3⁴⁵ A.M. & was buried this
afternoon on a slight close
by the shore of the Sea of Mannan.
I have wrote to his brother by
this post & will write you soon
again -

I am

My dear Father

Your affect^d Son

David Greig

This leaves me in first-rate
health - D.D.

Coolidge near Portau
30th January 1855
m. of

My dear Father

I suppose you will by this time have received my short note informing you of the death of my dear friend Sturthess, he died of Typhoid fever - He took ill the day after Christmas & the fever ran its course as we thought very well, unfortunately he had a relapse, which was again followed by a longer absence on the left chest, this was opened & large quantities of matter was discharged. Next day he became comatose & continued so for two days when he died - Dr. Wason sent for me about midday on the 19th, I rode in as fast as I could, but he was unable to speak. I asked him if he knew me & he said "No" when he was becoming comatose, he was anxious to see me & the last words he said were "Is Mary come yet" I stood all day beside him, he gradually became worse, towards night, about 2 1/2 in the morning I was lying on the top of a bed beside him, when his breathing altered, I jumped up & raising him up I thought to give him a little relief, he had a short struggle & fell back in my arms dead - Was on & arranged his things that night & wrote to his brother for instructions about them - Next day he was buried on a height close by the sea of Portau it was a melancholy sight to me, the "Union Jack" covered his coffin & he received a soldier's funeral - I cannot tell you how his death affected me at the time, but I am now going on much in my usual way - Johnston was then confined to his quarters for the last month ill of remittent fever, so soon as he is able, he is going home, & I must say it is the best thing he could do, for he is little or no use here, he gets frightened about every little thing that affects him & he jokes him about going to the Regatta him up for a fortnight - Johnston is a strong fellow & one which I must say I can't admire, from Sturthess & I pulled very well together but neither of us could with Johnston so we let him go when he liked to choose his own companions -

Thinking of Sturth's death you will I have no doubts
be very anxious about me, well I am in as good
health as I ever was all my life, I eat, drink
smoke & sleep to any extent & am just as happy
as I could well expect to be. Of all the stations
which a fellow can be sent to here, I believe Coolah
is amongst the best, an air out of the way of the big
-wigs & mean what clothes one likes, when I am going
about my usual work I am dressed in rough brown
shooting coat & trousers, a red sash round my waist
which one term a Cholera belt, & my fadge bag
(which is the only article of uniform I wear) with
a gold crown & thundering V.R. on the front of
it, showing I belong to the N. M. Service, added to all
this a moustache, beard, whiskers & I am sure
you will say, the good folks in Dundee would be
astonished if they saw me, - Do not be frightened
you are killing myself with work, Oh no you may
keep your mind easy on that point, I have
must say plenty to do for me here now about
500 Irish English here, I am generally amongst
my patients till between 12 & 1 O'Clock, I have
lunch & off I go to amuse myself on the hills
shooting, or do every thing I like, I borrow a gun
or if I can't get one I take my pistol, & amble
about till between 4 & 5 & then about I get into
drinks, in the evening, I visit my patients about
8 O'Clock & after having a talk about things in
general, a glass of grog, smoke & off to bed at
10 O'Clock - You will say that is early, but going
early to bed & having a good sleep is one of the best
things for preserving the health here I know of -
Poor Sturth's case here, he would sit up till all
hours, the same as he had done at home, &
it was no use talking to him, I told him he
would hurt himself, but he only laughed at me,
& I am sure this would say much to you & your
-

Many thanks to you for your kind letter & postage -
standing. Your letter bears the same fault as all the
rest, viz. too short - Your letter is dated the 5th Dec. &
you may imagine when it had been, at no less a place
than Sebastopol. I do not think it was actually in
the town, but it was picked up in Balaklava's Post
Office by a friend of mine then & reached me to-day.
All the letters which have been sent me, as well as
the newspapers, I have received. They come very re-
gularly but still I am thankful they do come.
Dr. Pines' letter also reached me to-day, it is very
pleasant to hear of parties & going on as usual. I
am not very sure if I could speak to an English lady
now. I am sure I cannot give very addresses.
The only English ladies I ever see are the nurses &
nurses. Then come here about a week ago under the
charge of a Miss Stornley a daughter of the Bishop
of Norwich. She is a very nice person & she
under her she very anxious to do good - The first night
they come over to the Bay to give me some music at
night, he said that the band instead of playing the
tunes, would play fine, two for the gentlemen & three
for the ladies & doesn't they astonished that night by
singing "Buffalo Galls" & "Lucy Reals" under their
windows. The nurse are dressed in black & these
tunes were very appropriate. Lady Stratford de Radcliff
has taken a fancy to this hospital & has taken
it under her special protection & we are honoured
by a visit from her every 3 or 4 days. She comes in
a splendid carriage (10 ours) and often accompan-
ied by her two daughters, sits up a row about
this & that, gives us all a most gracious bow
& we wish her happy. "Good Luck" Miss when
comes back again - A great many of our cases
now are cases of frostbite & we have a few operations.
I seem to be a doctor here & am consulted by my seniors
on every case, one of which I must tell you about -
A man of the 30th Regt was brought down from the Crimea
with his feet frostbit & was put under the charge
of one of the assistants here. I had nothing to do
with him, but one day the surgeon who was charge
here, took me to him & asked me what should be
done - I told him he ought to amputate one of
the feet at the ankle joint after Lymie's method.
he said he would rather amputate below the knee

as he was not acquainted with that operation having
been all his days at the Cape of Good Hope. I
took him to the dead house & showed him how to
do, he said "My fine fellow, it is a beautiful operation
but I can't do it, if you like to take the risk &
say it should be done, you must do it" just
what I wanted, we had a consultation of all
the staff, every one spoke against it, but as I
insisted on it, the patient was taken from
a fellow, senior to me in the service, put into one
of my wards, the operation performed & I am
gladly to say I have secured a nice young
fellow's leg, besides getting a great deal of credit
from all my companions & the result is all the
bad cases are sent to me, which is very good.

The amount of practice I see here of all kinds
is gigantic & I hope may be of use to me
in after life, I am as comfortable as possible
but I should like to go to the Crimean room, all
the talk just now is about medals & if I am
not there before the war is finished I want
to get a Crimean medal. Some say we are
to get one for service at Penta in from the
Sultan & the job gave me one to get one from
attending to his wounded Russians from his
legs & from them the Queen herself
we have had some very cold weather here, but it
has now passed off & we have as it were alternate
wet & fine warm days. Very little has occurred
here worth mentioning except a ceremony which I
witnessed about a fortnight ago, viz, "the Christening
of the Bosphorus" - Two days before the ceremony
we had a young Greek in our quarters talking
about things in general & he told us that the
ceremony was to take place & that if we liked
he would come for us & take us to it, my colleagues
agreed to go although he told us it took place
at 6 in the morning & there was snow on the ground

There is an old saying that it takes two good fellows
at night to make one in the morning & so it proved
with us, we forgot all about it & were quite astride
in fact we could not understand what the fellow
wanted when we found him in our bedroom when
it was yet quite dark, we reasoned the thing &
at last I & another two did get up & off our sets.
The ceremony took place close to a wooden jetty
on the shore of the Bosphorus, looking a streamer was
lying at the jetty taking in cattle & we went on
board of her. The morning was very cold & hands
frost had made the roads like glass, some young
Greek ladies had managed to get us out of bed & so
appeared on the beach in "full fig" as we say - the
describe the dress of the young ladies' dress I suppose
I must, shortly however - he had a very pretty small
bonnet, on the back of her head, made of white & blue
silk, blue satin dress & white scarf; another had
a tartan silk dress & I can't be bothered
talking about these. Well, to show our gallantry
we got them all on board & gave them seats, if I could
this gave quite "echat" to the affair. The morning was
cold & we were very glad when the mate of the
vessel gave us what he called "a nipper" to keep
cold out. We waited about half an hour & then
there came a good many carriages arranged them-
= selves off the shore & some of the men in them began
to take off their clothes, soon after, our friend the
Beg, who is governor of the village, & a party of
Turkish soldiers arrived, followed by three
priests & a procession bearing crosses, long thin
flays & = there again followed by a mob.
The priests came close to the water's edge, one
said a short prayer, another read a kind of
proclamation & the third taking up a small
silver cross, threw it, with a cry, into the water
immediately the fellows who were round began to

-dipping plunged & dived into it, there was of course
a scramble & an aqueous fight, one young fellow
got it & swam to his boat, the crock was seized
by eagerly seized by all on board & then handed
round - The procession then moved off to the church
to finish the ceremony, we wished to go but the Bey
persuaded us rather to come with him, he took us
into a grand house where he introduced us to
a general (turkish) we had of course long pipes &
coffee, sat for about half an hour & then got so
hungry that we were very glad to let the termination
of the ceremony alone & went home to breakfast
& you may believe we were quite ready for it -

I had the pleasure of seeing my old friend
Dr. Miller Surgeon H. M. S. Hornet who was to
attend the infirmary in Dundee, when I was there
I cannot tell you who he is but you know
who I mean - I heard he was at Constantinople
& he invited me to dine on board with him.
I had a first rate dinner & then we went to
the opera - The opera in Constantinople is on
the whole very good, it is small & the company
are chiefly gypsies with a sprinkling of italians
& also an english prima donna who calls
herself Madam Alban, Belier, in plain
english, Mrs White - the scenery is very fine in
fact much better than we had in Edinburgh
the singing is good & on the whole I enjoyed my-
self very much, I slept on board the Hornet
that night & returned to Coobalee next morning
Dr. Miller is looking as stout as ever & we had
such a long talk about Dundee - I was very
lucky also in knowing the assistant surgeon
who I found to be an old Edinb. friend & was
much all so jolly - A good dinner sets a fellow
on his feet for a number hours & as a general rule
whenever a ship is landing sick here I go on
board & am very often invited to breakfast on
dinner & all before dinner on board ship is

no Hamburg - I am much better of now with regard
to living than I ever was before we have a regular
mess established & I can assure you it is much
better & more pleasant than making food by yourself,
when a person is by themselves alone. He makes
anything do for a dinner, but when in a mess you
must always take a good one, we have only
breakfast & dinner, no tea or supper, in fact
every one is so hungry that he eats so much dinner
it would be impossible to take anything but
jerk after it - In one of Annie's letters she
tells me something about a Capt. Davis whom
Annie Pina knows - What about him? I have
never seen him yet - Many thanks to Mother
for her long kind letter, I hope she received
mine which I had sent off to her before I
received it - Mr. Leeger Boston wishes me to bring
home a turban for her, a real turkish one -
give her my kindest compliments & tell her
the ladies do not wear turbans here & as
for those of the gentlemen they simply put on
a fez & then twist a shawl round their heads
but nevertheless I will keep an look out & if
I should see anything like what she wants
I will remember her - Just as I am
finishing this I have received Annie's letter
of no date & of an short note enclosed, of the
15th I am very glad to hear you
are all so well & hope you may long con-
-tinue so - Tell Annie that her letter is a
capital one & since I have decided she
can write such a long one, just let me try
& catch her writing any other kind after this.
We have very few flowers here just now but
I will remember her request & always send
her a leaf - The first opportunity I get I
intend to send home all my white shirt &
my black dress suit, also a sword picked
up on the field of Almon & some charms
& trinkets taken from rapacious Indians
Cuvier's tubs in this way

I fear it is time to draw to a close - I never
remember me to all the many kind friends
who may ask for me - Continue to send
the newspapers & you will oblige the whole
suff - I am by the way that the Abner has
come out very gratified & I recognize the
names of my three cousins & both of my friends
are subscribers it seems to be quite the fashion
now-a-days - I think I deserve some of it -

What is Dr. Crockett about? I suppose he is
trudging about our woods, every old wife's
servant - Tell him to get a cocked hat &
a red jacket & to come out here & serve his
majesty - Oh! how some of the Doctor's patients would
stare if he came to see them in a red jacket -
How is Uncle & Aunt Dixie, how are all my
cousins, how is every body - Mr. & Mrs. Pouchin
& family - Mr. Justice - John Thomas
& a host of others two names are to mention
Mr. Mr. Luntz, Mr. Baxter, John Stewart
V2 V2 V2

Write me often & give me all the news &
news - I will always write on the
15th & 30th of each month & give you all my chat -
- Chat - Good bye - May you be all as
well as this leaves me -

I am
Your affec^ted Son
David Croft

I shall keep a look out for my box
which I am sure you will be sure to send me
in - Send me a letter if it is not
all so small ones -

D.C.

P. P. - Lord Kinnaird's offer have just come in
time & I wish you to forward the enclosed
to him, to stay in a large hospital during the
heat of summer would be clean murder -
I am very anxious to get to the Crimea &
although I wrote to Lyne & Simpson to get
one sent up I have never yet heard any-
thing of it. Dr. G. Coman our Chief Medical Officer
advises me to get attached to a regiment, by
all means, if I go to the Crimea, because when
you go to a regiment, you are the same as going
to a ship, you belong to the regiment & the
regiment belongs to you & you have brother
officers who take an interest in you. Whereas
at present I belong to nothing &
I may be shipped here, there, or anywhere
at an hour's notice - I do not much mind
what regiment I am appointed to, but if I
had my choice I should prefer the Rifle
Brigades which is a very fine regiment -
As for me there is none to pay to, so that
would not be expensive, & as no uniform
can be got here what I have at present
would do - A regiment during peace is
a very expensive thing but just now it
is quite different. I do not ask your
opinion on this matter, because you are
not in a position to give an opinion, but
you may believe me it will be better for
me afterwards, so please send the letter
do not keep it back, or I will be very
much disappointed indeed - At the
same time do not mention to any
one what you have done - I may be
assigned to a regiment before this reaches

you, if so do not send it, but if not send
it - If I am appointed I will go up just
at the beginning of summer to the Crimea
which will be very nice, thereby escaping
the Cholera, Plague & other nice diseases
which go about Turkey during summer.
Dr. Watson an old fellow clerk in the
Police. As it says has arrived here &
curious to say address to the Staff at
Coolidge, -

D.H.

Conclaves is the smallest Turkish gold
coin value $\frac{1}{10}$ - It will go for Mother's
watch as an ornament -

Coolahen near Pentair
10th February 1855
—

My dear Father

Dr. Wason died at Pentair
on the 8th Inst. of Fever -

Oh. Father I leave you to judge
the effects which the death of my two
(only) friends have had upon
me - I am in first rate health
& what is more I am comforting
in good spirits - If you have not
sent off my note to Lord Olmsted
please do so immediately, if we
are to have crowded hospitals
during summer I am afraid
you it will be far worse than
in camp - I have seen
very few here who would not
infinitely prefer the camp to an

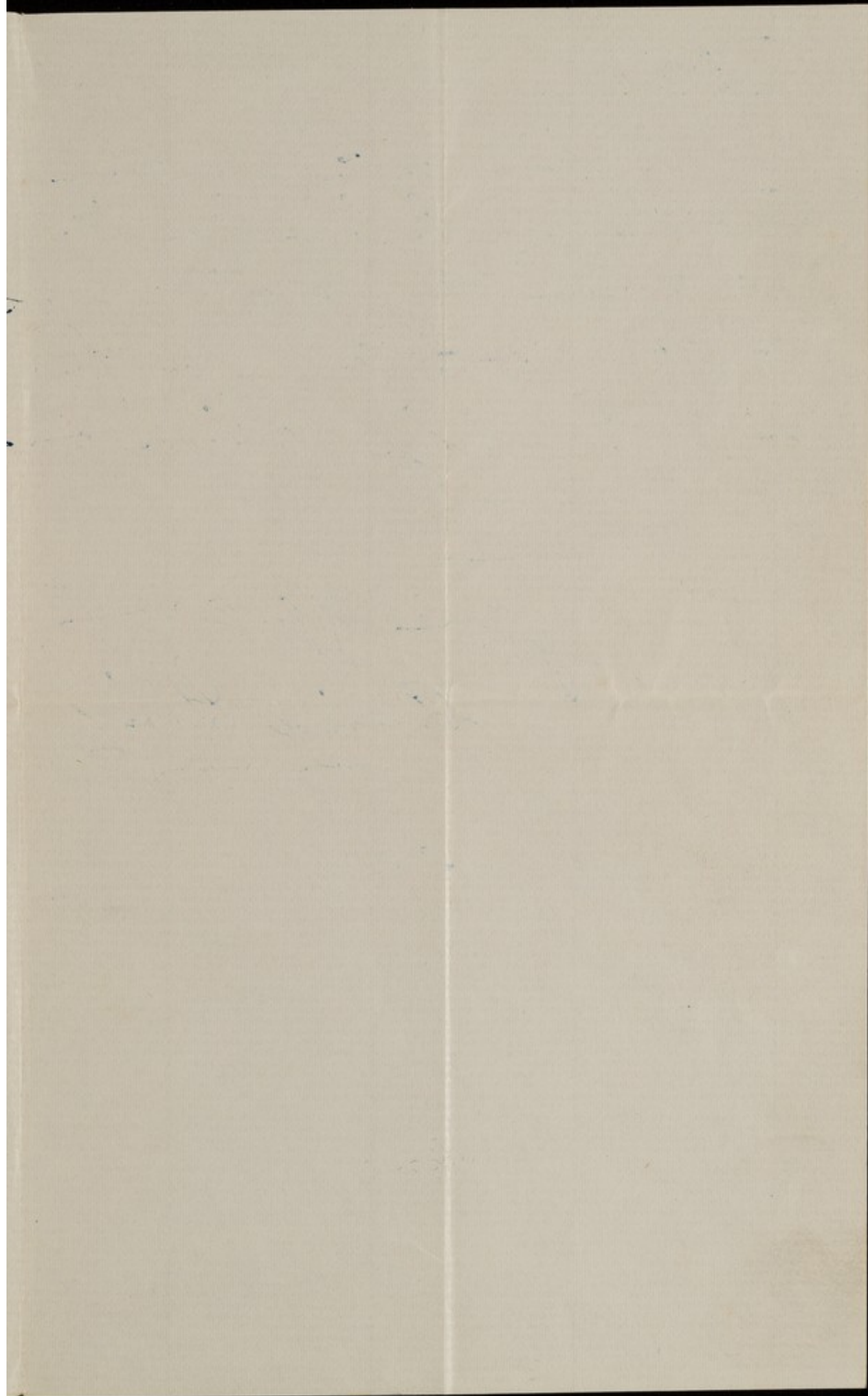
Hospital —

Dr. Eschme called on me
the other day, he has been ill
but is now almost quite well.
I will write to Ann on the
15th Good bye at present

I am

Yours affec^t Son
David Greig
many

Come to see



Coolidge near Scitowic
15th February 1865
— — —

My dear Annie

I suppose you received the notice I sent you of Dr. Warren's death, poor fellow he was only 40 and days ill. I saw him the day before he died & the Commissioner Mr. Arnold he died the day his friends Dr. Struthers & wife came to his mother, both were difficult tasks but more especially the latter as he was an only child & his mother a widow. I wrote her two days ago & gave her an account of his illness in as tender a manner as I could. — Only think, a month ago, these young fellows in the very best of health living as happy as possible together & now they are dead & I am alone. When I look back on the last month & a half, I am struck with the wonderful manner Providence has preserved me. — Dr. Struthers took ill of fever & I was just beginning to get fagged, nursing him & thereby liable to take fever, when without any cause, I was forced to leave him & come to as healthy a place as you could well choose. Dr. Struthers was so restless that I must have sat up night after night with him to keep I dare say I in all probability would have shared Dr. Warren's fate, as it were he was left, he removed to another quarter & got a companion with him. He took ill, died & now I believe the companion who nursed him is ill too. When I left Scitowic fever was just commencing to attack the medical men then & since then 10 have been carried off with it & I dare say I have been I should have got my share of it. — However as it is I am still in the land of the living & in first rate health. Since coming out here & witnessing so many melancholy & sad sights & seen every day so many dead & dying men that I must say my feelings are now very much depressed & in fact I do not know what would make me cry. You would have thought that the death of my two friends would have been an awful blow to me, it has so far as day or two, I found new companions & I & the ladies around me went on as if my two friends had never been known. — If I were to get into low spirits here I do not know how I would stand it at all, but I never am, there is so much changes — away on the hills, sailing on the Bosphorus, — shooting, peacocking, &c &c & so I keep in the very best of health & am happy —

When I wrote last I think I told you the weather here
was very cold, now it is quite changed & you could mis-
-agine yourself, in the middle of summer in Scotland, some
of our fellows but the every day he consider it warm, all the
hills are beautiful & green & the trees are begun to bleed,
I am sure this must be a beautiful country in summer
for even now we have so many evergreens, that it looks
well - Our hospital here is now full here, we have about
1000 English & upwards of 100 Russians & what is
more, I am allowed to perform my own operations & I
had the pleasure of performing an amputation at the thigh
on a poor unfortunate Russian this forenoon & tomorrow
I am to perform my second amputation at the ankle
joint, this is something like work & recompenses for our
many many medical cases - I had the pleasure of
meeting Dr. Erskine about a week ago, I found him in
my quarters seeking for me, he has been in the Crimea
but was sent down sick, he is now much better & like
all who come from the Crimea would much rather prefer
the hardships of the Camp than the dangers of our hospital
he was expecting to be sent to Soudham for a while to do
duty there & recover his health, but I do not know
more about him, I wished him to stay for a day or two
with me, but he could not, he promised to come back
soon again, but I have not as yet seen him again.

When I was across at the other side of the Daphnion,
yesterday I met some English soldiers & by way of saying
something I asked them when they were going home, they
told me they were to sail tomorrow morning, so are the
ships belonging to Hull I asked the mate if he could
take as parcel from me, & he said he would do so,
if I had had time I might have sent a lot of things,
I had to bundle what I could into a canvas bag
& send it off tomorrow with what I had & I scarcely
know what I put in - my black dress suit & some
white shirts which are quite useful here & which are
a burden I stuffed in, the Russian Road from Alma
a string of Russian charms & amulets taken from
the prisoners, some half dozen bullets & anatomical
instruments - this is also a whip, rather the nose
of a man from thrashing dogs, but which may be of
some little use to Dr. Poirer & an old curiosity in its
way as having come from Coolahes, in fact I wished
to send him something & there was nothing else I could

lay my hand on at the time - My black coat & shirt you
may just bye until I turn out on a civil swell again
& now I shall feel them I have not the slightest idea
I wonder how a hat would feel on my head, what an
idea, a cocked hat is comfortable enough, but St. Crispy
think of a round tile - The sword was taken from an
antillery man (bussions) at almar & is of no means a bad
blond, - the crosser & may be hung up in the cabinet &
the anatomical dissections & bullets put in a safe
glass, take care of them for every one has a history &
they must not be lost - I do not think they will be
hung for eight weeks at least but you can keep an
look out for the "hark" "Aspect of Hell" - the motto said
he would put it on board one of the Dundee & Hull
traders - I know it was a great risk to send them
home so, but I could not spare them always about with
me, & I thought it a good opportunity to give them a
chance - if they reach Dundee, well; if not it can't be
helped - Nothing of any very great importance has occurred
in my sight since I wrote, except a visit which
I made along with two friends to the Palace of the Sultan
one afternoon - I can tell you a very little about it, the
outside was very beautiful & the interior was a
hundred times more so. In fact I never had an idea of
Levantine until I saw the Palace of the Sultan. He
is not living in it himself yet, it is newly built, situated
close to the water edge - an ornamented garden & fantastic
grass plots & fish ponds give you the first idea of grandeur
a look at the ornamented & gilded front of the building
makes you open your eyes a little & make an exclamation
"How did I believe if the Turks were such heathens after all,"
I thought for a little, "Yes they are, if they only made gutters
& streets instead of palaces it would be much better" -
However we got a guide & entered first a large hall which
was undecorated to be the throne room, it is in the form of a dome
beautiful marble pillars, fluted & carved with white &
gold - room lit from above thru' columns glass windows
the whole of the roof appearing as if (from jointing) it were covered
by rich crimson satin drapery - & an immense glass chandelier
hanging from the centre. This was covered with a cloth
but which was removed to let me see it & the Turk with
a green book informed us that it was "English candle"
I suspected it was Baccis Patent, but to my surprise discovered
he meant gas, the first I had seen in Turkey - a small
geometric puffing the Palace - on the floor of a stain-
case (stockings poles of course) it was beautiful & the

numerous pillars which supported the railing men of cut
crystals - the stiffest nor were men in, men in general small
& looked like so many bees - in my ornamented cabinet -
we visited the bathroom which was made entirely of
porphyry & of course cut into bath basins & of all sorts
& sizes. I jumped into the bath & others followed my example
saying, they could pay as well as I that we had been in the
Pileton's bath - the Turk looked in amazement at us, but we
hinted "buckshish" & he was content - altogether the place
was well worth seeing, even the floor could not be plain -
it was highly polished & composed of numerous small pieces
of wood, all colours, something like the tops of our small
stools, & as fine every bit. - We have now a good many
nurses - or rather sisters of mercy & nurses here & each of us
have two, who attend to our patients & do what we bid them
cook extras &c. - the nurse are much quiet creatures, &
although very willing can't do much, the nurses are like the
latter class of our nurses at home - all one ready dis-
-appointed at what they have come to & wish themselves home
again - one told me, it was a great mistake, they were
little or no use here - they were carried off of the patients at
home, & instead of coming out to attend noble fine fellows
they were to attend poor miserable creatures, covered with fleas
lice &c &c - "They do their best however & in doing so set
the hammocks on fire the other day & a pretty mess we had
to go this before it was put out, so much for females
when they find their way where they have no business -
I hope Father Brother & Aunt are well, remember
me kindly to my Cousins &c &c I should like to get
a glimpse old Grandpa again, I often dream of you
all & have long talks with you - I sometimes start
up in bed & instead of the Day find the Bosphorus
rolling under my bedroom windows - When
I hope to see you all - so I wish to
a happy meeting when it does happen, be that
when it may - Excuse chatness this time as
this is a short month & I will write again
on the 28th - So good bye

My dear Anne
Your affec^ted Brother
L.D.
May think of the
many newspapers
from Father &c
James Rodger

RANC 391/4

D. Denis Freig
Hospital
Colorado
Sutani



Murphyson



Cambridge

February 13th 1855.

My dear H. J. J. J.

Your sad account of
 your brother's illness and death
 in collecting by the sea -
 in his letter. When I had
 been visiting in account of a
 sea chest. was very much from
 the report that preceded the final
 one -

Immediately upon re-
 ceiving your first letter I com-
 menced your obituary notice to be the

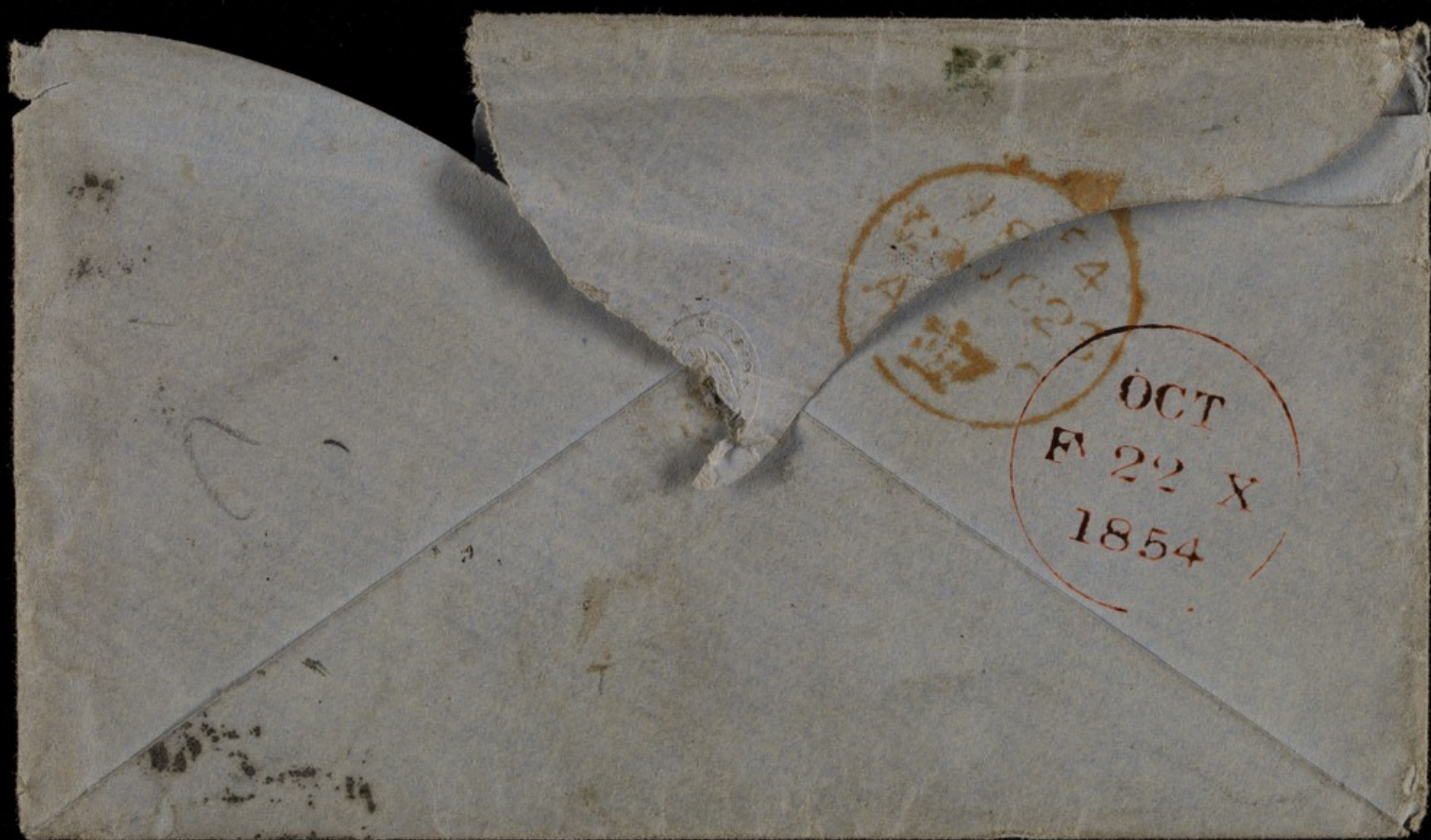
Best tolerence - and at the same
time wrote to yourself - in the
first place to say that I still
set think there was very chance
of your wish being completed with-
out hardly to express any opinion
that you would have found no more
opportunity of being useful. and
as great about some Discontent -
This letter unfortunately did not
reach you - as it was returned
to me from the Post office in care
of person of some information -
You will therefore not regret me
as quite to justify in the way
of compensation as you have

had reason to be -

I was at Dinner on
Wednesday last at the opening
of the new Hospital - Every thing
went on most admirably - The
day was beautiful - and the
speeches - Dinner & all that
could be desired - An offer of 100.
towards the erection of beds and
wounded soldiers had been made to
S. Smiths - but declined by that
gentleman - on the ground of the
circumstances -

Give my best respects to
D. Johnston & believe me
Y. very truly
S. D. Spring - J. M. Lyman

Ms Struttens, Greig & Johnston
care of Dr Storrar
37 Brook Street
London



Hon: James Stuart - Thistles -
Captain George Grant. A2. Regt.
Lt. Col. E. W. F. Walker Scots Fus^{ry} Guards



RMC 391/5

Miss Mary
Stoughton

Feb 21/55

Mrs -

I have written to Lord
Byron. I thought in your
favor. and have also applied
to Lord Palmerston. I send out
the order for you to proceed to
the Crimea, so that I hope
you will succeed in your
object. and get safe back
I send you Father the other
day looking as fresh as
ever.

Yours
Hermann

I believe that my Father will



Dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the health of the General, and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours, &c.



[Faint, illegible handwritten text]



[Faint, illegible handwritten text, possibly a signature or list, with a large flourish extending towards the right edge.]

17th Regt
4th Division
Crete



W. D. Greig

~~Off. Surgeon British Army~~
~~in Turkey~~
~~Crete~~
~~Scutari~~
~~Constantinople~~



Kululee Febr 28th 1855.

Dear Sir

As soon as David has been by no means well, and as I am sure it will cause you far less anxiety to know this and to know at the same time how he is getting on, than that a post should be allowed to pass without your hearing of him I have pressed him to allow me to write to you; to this he has consented - Last Thursday (20th) he was in Senter's making some arrangements about poor Wason's things, and when he returned, he complained of not feeling at all well, and of feeling cold & chilly - Next day his stomach was very much out of order, and since then he has been suffering severely from gastric & biliary derangement - Yesterday

day morning he was much better, but having
been a good deal annoyed, by a proposal on the
part of our Phys B. Tice that he sh^d be removed
from his quarters along with the rest of us to give
better accomodation to the ladies under Miss
Stanley's care, and when he got ^{order} this countermand
upon Sam Louis account, by the noise of removal
of things in the adjoining rooms, he felt uneasy
and restless all afternoon but slept soundly last
night. - He seems a good deal better today.
and I hope that in a few days he will be
quite himself again. - He only now suffers
from capitude and a feeling of weakness.
We have had a very severe Earthquake today
The House rocked & shaken & sprung in a
very alarming way. There are several cracks

cracks in the walls. The result of the shock.

I tested about a minute. I am glad to say
there has been no accident here.

I hope you will excuse the liberty I have
taken in thus addressing you.

And believe me I am
very sincerely

Patrick Henry Watson.

If you know our when I have a game on
a gas table ^{billiard} ~~billiard~~ it is generally on
pretty serious ~~but~~ complicated with
an earthquake. I can assure it is
no joke - yesterday as I was lying
in bed just arranging the roof of my
room downing & all the walls setting
to each other. Last night I heard a

dreadful night. ~~quake~~ which turned
out to ~~be~~ be an earth quake
again. I have scarcely got over
the shake. But this morning
I feel very ~~fine~~ well. I will give
you ~~you~~ a short note every
Monday & Thursday if I think ~~much~~
- any until the 15th -

Good bye

I am

Very dear

David Craig

Kulalce near Scutari
March 4th 1855.

Dear Sir

I regret that I again have to write to
you instead of your Cousin, who I am very sorry to
say has been very seriously ill indeed. This ill-
ness Wth at the time I wrote, I along with all
his other friends regarded as simply a severe
case of Sack-bilious derangement, very speedily
showed itself to be neither more nor less than Typhus
fever - Last night and the night before he was
really alarmingly ill, but I rejoice to be able
to tell you that there is a marked improvement in
all his symptoms from this morning at day
break - This is now the Eleventh day, and from
the comfortable state in Wth he now is, that of

a quiet natural sleep. I expect that tomorrow
and next-day will find him better settled.
He is in good hands as Mrs. Rice the wife of our
Principal Medical officer is most unremitting
in her attention, and her servant and the nurse
and I ^{also} add the Chaplain
, are whole as - He bids me tell you that as soon
as he is able he intends to start for Suva,
to spend his sick leave but I think he will
Charles Boyd - I dare say you will know to whom
it is that he refers - and that I hope he will
speedily get strong and well there, he will finish
the service and return home without delay
I do not think there is any room for anxiety
for him now, this of course at this stage of his
illness it is impossible to speak better than

Certainly, Mr. Swell knew you long to prosper.

He is comparatively little brought down by the attack
his tongue appetite & pulse are much improved
and his intellect is becoming quite clear & acute
while the rheumatism is passing gradually off.

I will leave this letter open until the dispatch
your letters in the morning to give you the
latest intelligence of how he is. Pray accept
my most sincere sympathy with you in the
anxiety. I regret such a letter must be a
cause, and remember that in all probability
he will be on his way to England by the time
this reaches you.

I remain me with sincere respect

Yours most truly

Patrick Henry Watson.

March 5th 1855.

Dear Sir, as I had anticipated, he awakened
this morning, both in feeling & in reality a great
deal better. He awoke only once or twice during
the night asking for a drink. He has some appetite
for breakfast, and looks forward with anxiety for the
forenoon when he is to have a good plateful of
porridge and milk. I think he enjoys more from
some association than from any thing else.

Yours sincerely
Patrick Henry Watson &c.

Kululua March 7th 1853

Dear Sir

I regret exceedingly that I cannot give
you so favourable report of my dear friend
in fact we all consider him to be in a most
dangerous state - Since I last wrote his various
symptoms have continued unabated, we have
had to shave his head and apply first one blister
to the crown of the head, and today another to
the back & nape of the neck. He lies in a dreaming
state, but when roused answers questions slowly
but collectedly, but often in the middle of some
train of thought of his own starting, forgets
what he was saying and cannot furnish the

Sentence - The worst symptom of all however
is the constant tho' slight twitching of his
fingers and arms, while his pulse keeps up
at 120, and is very weak.

I do not think that his case is by any means
hopeless, but I think that it is only right to
let you know the worst, that tho' our dear friend
be taken away from us you may not be un-
prepared for the severe blow - Our Protestant
Chaplain who sees him frequently, speaks of his
state of mind as most satisfactory, & I am
sure must be a very great consolation to you
in your affliction -

May accept of my sincere sympathy with you
self, and may find in this severe trial

may you receive strength to endure it from
him who alone can give it, and with whom
are the issues of life.

and believe me

Dear Sir

Very sincerely yours

Patrick Henry Watson

I am glad to be able to tell you that we all
think David decidedly better this morning
and Dr. O'Connor has such a favourable
opinion of the improvement - that he thinks him
out of danger - David says he feels much better

Yours most sincerely

P. H. Watson.

Keokuk March 11th 1855.

Dear Sir

I am very glad to be able to communicate
Cats good news to you by this letter. Since I last
wrote David has made slow but most satisfactory
progress. All his unpleasant symptoms are
now gone, and there seems every prospect now of
a speedy convalescence. His memory is not yet
very strong. He sleeps soundly and well as he can.
I myself say "fully Eighteen hours out of the twenty four"
Dr. I don't think is by any means an exaggeration.
His appetite is still capricious, his great desire
is for oat meal porridge, Dr. he generally gets
once or twice in the day from Mrs. Lee who con-
tinues to tend him most devotedly. As soon as

He is strong enough to bear removal, about till
he held on him to invalidate him for several weeks
and grant him such leave. I think that in all
probability he will go to Malta, W. of all places
is I think the most pleasant & the most con-
venient when one's time is limited - I am sure
he well deserves every indulgence in the way
of relaxation, as no one else have been more
thoroughly devoted to his most onerous duties
than he was just before he took ill.

I will leave this letter open as I have done in pre-
vious ones. To the last moment to give you the
latest accounts.

and with best regards.

Believe me

Ever most sincerely

Albion

March 12th

David is quite out of danger, he bids me tell
you he won't bother himself writing to any body
till he feels quite well. He says that he
has such an appetite that he eat Satahorse
He has taken Tea, bread & butter & EGGS
& enjoyed it exceedingly.

P. Watson.

P.S. He insisted on having my pipe this
morning to have a smoke.

P.W.

Ms Freige
Care of Mr James Hodgers
10 Leaze St
S Edinburgh.

Spauldy



My dear Madam

I know you have
accounts by every post of your
son's state. but knowing how
valuable every detail is - I have
time to write -

I sincerely trust that your
son will be spared to you.
That his state is very precarious
cannot be concealed. but I
see that Dr. Dice, the chief medi-
cal man, hopes the worst is
over. -

I am here as Superintendent
of the Nurses & Ladies who
come out to attend upon

the Sick & wounded Soldiers
- Jam son is the room next
to ours. It is a large high
room with a range of win-
dows on one side command-
ing a magnificent view of
the Bosphorus & Constantin-
ople. - There is always a
fresh breeze coming from
the water -

Jam son's bed is moved
into the centre of the room
with his head towards the
window - it is a small camp
bed with a grey rug -

For the last 10 days he has
requied night as well as
day attendance and as
Mrs Dice & her maid

undertook the day my staff
undertook the night. We
have but few hands, but
each has gladly taken her
turn both nurses & ladies.
I am not strong enough to
take my turn I am sorry
to say:-

He is so patient, no expression
of murmuring ever crosses
his lips I believe, even
when he has wandered -

I truly believe had he been
at home he could not have
been nursed & attended
more carefully or have
had more comfort. The
medical men have been
most attentive - Dr. Jice

is in the same passage and
can be called any moment.

Mr Sice has had the chief
charge of his Sibs room. &
& he spoke on Saturday
about his things saying
that such directions would
not impede his recovery
but that he should feel
glad to have given them.

He has always thought so
much of you. Miss Taylor
one of the ladies who was
sitting up with him one
night was much affected
by hearing him as he was

half asleep. murmuring
"Kiss me, Mother."

The Presbyterian Minister
Mr Johnson who has lately
come out here has been
constantly to visit him. &
therefore I feel he has had
every spiritual consolation.
- We all feel deeply interested
in his case. He was so much
respected by all. -

This morning's account is
that he is decidedly better.
He has eaten an egg & some
toast for breakfast.

Dear Madam May God
be with you in this great

anxiety & may be give
you strength to say "Thy
will be done"

I will write again by
the next or the following
post. Any letter sent to
me / Miss Stanley / 6 Gros-
venor Crescent, London
will be forwarded.

Believe me to remain
yours with deep Christian
Sympathy

W Stanley

Kaulali March 12. Monday

Kululee March 16th 1855.

Dear Sir

I am truly glad to be able to tell
you that David is making most satisfactory
progress towards a complete recovery - He sleeps
soundly, has a capital appetite, and is now
perfectly composed and happy - I think
there can be little doubt but that we shall
be able to get a board to send him home on
sick leave, unless they rigidly adhere to the
rule that no officer shall go further than Hawaii
on sick leave - I repeat accordingly to think
that when we are now rejoicing in his recovery
you will find he is receiving his letter from home.

I felt it to be my duty to prepare you for
the worst - He is very much brought down
by his illness, but has improved somewhat.
Awfully in appearance, as in every other
respect within the last few days. We have
had a great deal of sickness among
us of late, out of Eleven Ap. Surgeons.
There are Six confined to bed with
fever and other affection more
or less serious, and I think I may say
with truth that not one of us has escaped
from some digestive derangement more
or less severe during the last two weeks.
I believe this to be owing to the quarantine water
as we have put after being excited from

the Sultan's quarters by Lady Stratford's
order for the better accommodation of Miss
Stanley and her Nurses. - I am now however
still continuing in our old quarters, and
he will close until his convalescence is com-
plete -

Just as usual keep this letter open until
morning, not as before to give you the latest
intelligence, but to tell you any thing he
has himself to say to you.

and believe me

Yours most sincerely

Patrick Henry Watson

This morning up to the last moment I could not
be sleeping so soundly that I think it is
better to wake him

P. H. Watson

March 19th. 1853

Kielulee

Dear Sir

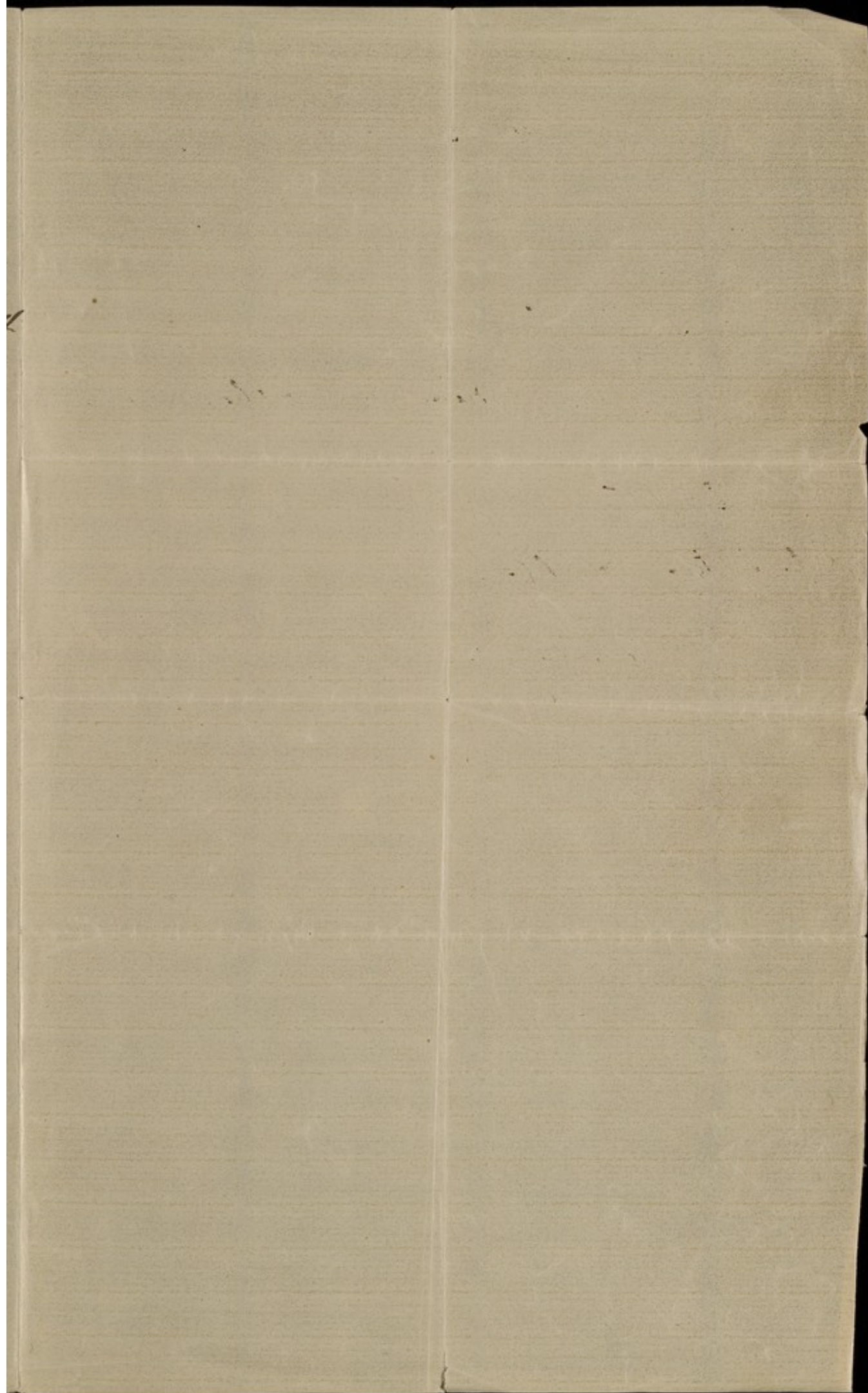
I am glad to be able to continue
a most favourable report of David's health
he was sitting up in bed for 3 or 4 hours yesterday
for the first time, today he will sit up in another
room, so as to have his own room well ventilated
and put in order. He sleeps very soundly and
his appetite continues to improve. I am sure
we all rejoice most sincerely in the restoration
again to health of our friend, who has been so
seriously ill. Now that he feels well, I doubt
that he is quite so anxious to run off to Scotland
but as far as my influence goes I shall urge it
very strongly - for the sake of the good before

he gets home, he will be as strong and fit
for duty as ever. Still I think it a mistake in
any one to begin hard work again too soon
after having been so long laid up - (just a month
tomorrow). It is so near the post home that
I will not have time to see him this morning
before this must go.

and believe me

Yours most sincerely

Patrick Heron Watson



*British Camp
before
Schast of Pol*



HUE AND CRY.

APRIL 3RD, 1856.

LOST.

HORSES AND PONIES.

£1 Reward.—Bay Horse, black legs, about 15 hands high, 2 Russian letters on near hind leg, snorts when approached.—Captain Lyons, 46th Regiment.

£2 Reward.—Dark Bay Spanish Horse, 16 hands high, Saddle, Waterproof Coat, Head Stall, all marked M. S. C.—Post Office, Head Quarters.

French Horse, mark of wound on withers, 7 years old, 15 hands high;—Bay Chestnut, with white hind fetlocks;—French Horse, 10 years old, 15 hands 2 inches high, rusty black, hog mane, mark near nostril, spot on off side without hair.—Camp, 9th Cuirassiers, near Monastery.

£5 Reward.—Light Bay Entire Horse, 14 hands 2 inches high, 7 years of age, white off hind foot, switch tail, and traces of mange on neck and back; new Saddle and Bridle, by Peat, London.—Rev. E. B. Evelyn, W Battery, R.A., Kadikoi.

£3 Reward.—A Purse, containing One Sovereign, a Plain Gold Ring.—Adjutant, 49th Regiment.

£1 Reward.—Silver Hunting Watch, with plaited leather strap.—Assistant-Surgeon Grantt, 31st Regiment.

£1 Reward.—Pair of Field Glasses, marked J. A. S. N., Grenadier Guards.—Lieut. Nicholson, Grenadier Guards.

Liberal Reward.—Newfoundland Dog, black, with white under neck.—Lieut. Brine, R.E.

£1 Reward.—White Pointer Bitch, with liver-coloured head and ears.—Lieut.-Colonel Morris, C.B., Head Quarters.

FOUND.

A Silver Hunting Watch, (French).—Apply at the Orderly Room of the 3rd Regiment, "the Buffs."

Near the Camp, 3rd Division, a Gold Watch and Curb Chain, with Seal attached.—Apply at Orderly Room, 31st Regiment.

English Officer's Sword Blade, marked with Royal Arms, and "Buckmaster, New Burlington Street, London."—Etat Major, Reserve Corps, French Army.

Leather Pocket Book, containing money.—Head Quarters, Royal Artillery.

Purse, containing Coins, &c.—Orderly-room, 47th Regiment.

A Wilkinson's Sword.—Adjutant, 30th Regiment.



THE NEW BARRACK-HOSPITAL, AT SCUTARI.

THEATRE ROYAL,
4TH DIVISION. *Camp Bifaz
Sebastopol*

This Evening, *Thursday 10th April*
1856-

HER MAJESTY'S SERVANTS WILL PERFORM

**LITTLE
Toddlekins!**

Mr. Jones Robinson Brownsmith...	...	Captain Earle, 57th Regt.
Mr. Barnaby Babicombe (of Babicombe Bay)...	...	Major Garret, 46th "
Captain Littlepop	...	Captain Nicholas, 46th "
Amanthis...	...	Mr. Clarkson, 68th "
Annie Babicombe	...	Mr. Saunderson, 68th "
Susan	...	Mr. V. Stuart, "

To conclude with

GOING TO THE DERBY.

Mr. Jeremiah Twiddle	...	Captain Earle, 57th Regt.
Mr. John James Chucks	...	Lieut. de Lacy Lacy, 63rd "
Captain Nobble	...	Maj. Lord A. G. Russell, R. B.
Sam (Waiter of Spread Eagle)	...	Lieut. Harrington, "
Pedestrians, Sportsmen, Policemen, Gipsies, Stable-boys, &c.		
Mrs. Twiddle	...	Lt. Saunderson, 68th Regt.
Mrs. Chucks	...	" Prior, 48th "
Mrs. Plummy	...	" Clarkson, 68th "
Gipsy Woman	...	" Stuart, "

Doors open at Half-past Seven o'Clock. Performance to commence at Eight.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

MEMORANDUM.

HEAD QUARTERS, SEBASTOPOL;
17th JANUARY, 1856.

It is proposed to hold a Horse Fair, in the Camp, on each WEDNESDAY, at Noon, for the convenience of Officers.

"The Corner" selected for this purpose is the piece of Ground situated between the Bazaar (Little Kadiköi) and the Main Road opposite the "Iron Huts."

A Serjeant has been appointed to act as Auctioneer.

A Certificate of Ownership and Description is to accompany all Animals sent for Sale, and should be signed by the Owner or some responsible Officer.

The Seller of each Horse will receive from the Auctioneer a Certificate, stating the Name of the Purchaser and the Price at which the Animal has been knocked down, and this will enable him to claim Payment.

An Entrance Fee of One Shilling will be paid to the Auctioneer before any Horse is put up;—and should the Animal be sold, or a bid made for him, a second Fee of One Shilling will be paid by the Seller.

All Animals for Sale will be Registered in a List previous to the day of Auction, upon the Certificate of Ownership being sent to—

THE AUCTIONEER.

HORSE FAIR,
CARE OF THE ASSISTANT QUARTERMASTER GENERAL,
FOURTH DIVISION,

And they will be put up in rotation as the Names of their Owners are entered.

If a Horse is not forthcoming in his turn, he will stand over until the others entered on the List have been disposed of.

All Animals sent for Sale will be distinguished by a Wisp of Hay fastened to their Manes.

The first Horse Fair will be held next Wednesday, to commence at Noon.

By Order (Signed),

C. A. WINDHAM, CHIEF OF THE STAFF.

NAME 39217

RAME 39217
In a week after this every one in Camp felt happy, & ^{in our hearts we thought} ~~about~~ ^{examined} the
trenches, examined & criticised our own trenches & works, as things one could
now do satisfactorily or with safety when the siege was going on,
then, one pointed out the spot where such & such an incident
occurred, then another pointed out a very even when he had
been buried during ^{night} heavy snow or rain, in fact the opposite
connected with our own trenches & batteries interested them
with a degree of interest which was only equalled by
the town of Sebastopol itself - After spending so much
time in these works amongst dangers unqualified & even
^{in the midst of men} unbeknownst of, therefore, it was with a peculiar feeling of
sorrow, I might call it, that I stood up on the top of the parapet
of the 21 gun battery & looking around me thought on the
world wide famous "trenches before Sebastopol" & how soon
they were the pass among & remain only in the story of
this mighty siege - Our feelings after doing this first work
of holiday which the army had done since it landed in
the Crimea, put me very much in mind of school days & the
first week of the vacation after the year hard working, ^{mod.} which
came at the end of the session & which we brought to a
climax of the examination day; we felt unwilling to do
any more work, & as the scholars rejoice in the thought
of no more tasks & books all his books away out of
sight for a season; so we rejoiced at the prospect of no
more trench work, laying up our swords against the
tent pole & luxuriated in the life of peace - This change
however was too great & this first week had scarcely
passed on our heads when we began to long for more exertion
& if possible more conquest & glory - Longing eyes were cast
towards the Mackenzie heights & the Russian out-works there
& even whispers ran that we would have a scramble yet

then some fine morning before breakfast, some brown in high
quarters said "No", & then the question was in everyone's
mouth, "What is to be done next?" - makes brown fustian
over or no sign of anything being done, all concluded that
nothing was to be done, at least that season, everyone
was making himself comfortable against the approach of
winter, when a rumour passed over the Camp that another
expedition was in contemplation, this although dis-
credited at first was soon made certain by a general
order which appeared next evening, ^(25th Oct^r) stating that the 12th Regt
of the 4th Division was to hold itself in readiness to march
at a few hours notice. Anxious as we were for change & to
gain more barrels before the winter came on, I must confess
we were a little taken aback by this sudden order. The most
of us had erected small half-underground huts, mine was
in beautiful condition & besides a comfortable arm-chair
from Sebastopol, it contained many other little luxuries
then comfort to the ^{General} command - Chief seems to have ignored
or we were simply ordered off in light marching order, no one
knew where, some said we were going to Skutsk, others said
Odessa, some Theodosia & some hinted darkly at Nicopolis
nothing was known of our route & the only thing certain was
that we were going somewhere - Tuesday & Wednesday (25th & 26th)
were very busy days with me packing up & putting on baggage
in store as we were only allowed to take as much with us
as we could carry, my hut & house were left in charge of
a brother officer belonging to another Brigade, with the under-
standing that if we did not return to the Crimea he was
to inherit my property - On Thursday morning the Brigade was
under arms before daylight, all the tents were struck out
6 A.M. we commenced the march to Karsatch Bay where we were
to embark on board A.D.S. - The Brigade consisted
of the 17th, 20th, 21st, 57th & 63rd Regts, a Battery of artillery & a
Squadron of the 6th Dragoon Guards - The morning was very fine & the

The sight of the Brigade on the march, quite enough to have instilled
enthusiasm into the most phlegmatic breast. We were all in
high spirits & felt quite equal to anything, before having arrived
at Kustatch on military orders and was considerably dampened
by a good shower of rain, which we little expected & which met
a few of us to the skin. The regiment to which I was attached
was transported from the shore in a small steamer & put on board
one of the largest line-of-battle ships in the Black Sea. We
were received by the officers of the ship very kindly & made as
comfortable as circumstances would admit of. The ship was
rather crowded but we had nothing to complain of except the
sleeping accommodations - at night we were all stowed away in
the cock-pit which ^{is} as I suppose every one knows, to be under water
level, it is dark, close & when moderately crowded very hot, the
candles burn with a dull light & it requires the eyes to
get a little accustomed to this state of things before you can
manage to go this the place in safety. If you enquire at a
sailor what kind of a bed a hammock makes, he will be
sure to tell you that no bed can be better, this may do for
sailors & marines, but soldiers & landmen have different
ideas - One first night in the cock-pit was most amusing
& the scene was well worthy an album from the Prince
to describe, those who attempted to get into their hammocks
by their own individual ^{became the other side &} means, generally, landed
on the hard boards ~~on the other side~~; the midshipmen who
had their sleeping quarters somewhere on this deck, fastened
the shore grant kindred to some of us, instructed us
how to get into the hammock & when we fancied we
were quite safe in mid air, away would slip the
rope at the foot & the occupant would find himself
bedclothes & all sprawling on the cock-pit floor in
the center of a crowd of high amused "Yankees".

When a person is put to it, it is wonderful how soon ~~they~~ he
learns to take care of himself, not only how to
get into & sleep in hammocks, but also how to protect
himself against frostbite & jolting, the most coming
plan was to take one boot to bed with me, & when
a frolicsome midshipman attempted any tricks or bores
in the stateroom at his head was a good warning, to him
to be off, the law in such cases was always taken in
our own hands - But I am digressing - On Sunday
morning at 11 A.M. the whole fleet set sail & passed along
the coast of the Crimea in front of the entrance to the
harbour of Sebastopol. It was a most beautiful
calm, quiet morning, & would have told well for a
Sunday morning in Glasgow Scotland, ~~even although~~
~~Sunday it was not a day of peace, still every one~~
was in high spirits & the sanctity of the day was
forgotten in the enthusiasm imparted to me by the
grand spectacle of the fleets of Great Britain & France
under sail & in motion. The Russians on the north
side of Sebastopol I am sure could not but have
admired the fleets although their feelings must
have been different for ours, as it was quite
evident to them that we were not going on our
errand of peace, although it was Sunday morning.
We moved along very slowly & had time to enjoy
the scene, with few exceptions the ships were all fitted
with screw-propellers. The ~~four sailing~~ ~~and the~~
~~inter-line~~ long vessels found their lines on the outside
of the fleet while the flag ship of Lord Lyons & the smaller
frigates were in the center. It is impossible to give you
rightly of the magnitude & grandeur of the scene
which met our eyes as we lay ~~down~~ ~~ground~~ ~~to~~

RAMC 392/7

the Royal Albert (flagship) in the centre from the lofty masts
of which the Admiral's orders were being constantly issued
to the different vessels. The six gun boats kept in
the centre & around the Royal Albert, like so many
chickens following a hen, every one trying to keep
as near her as possible. They are truly smart ^{clever} little
boats & run it out for the day you imagine which
each carries they would easily pass for pleasure
yachts - at night the sight was equally interesting
there was no moon & the Black Sea looked dark
black, while all around us we had lights of all
colours, denoting the various vessels, which being
reflected in long lines on the surface of the water
looked like chains of silver. Monday was as
beautiful a day as the preceding - In the morning
we had to sail slowly in order that some heavy
craft might get into position again, which they
had lost during the night. About 2 P.M.
we came in sight of the Russian coast &
three hours afterwards the whole fleet anchored
in the form of a semicircle in front of Odessa.
Odessa, considering it had recently stood (what
was called) a bombardment looked exceedingly
well & although we could not land still on the
great principle that "a cat may look at a king"
we could admire it at a distance.

During the first week in May, when the auctioneer who has charge of the library of reference will be removed from its present locality to the new reading-room; and in order to avoid unnecessary interruption while this operation is being carried on, no stranger will be admitted to the libraries for any purpose whatever. On the 8th of May, the new reading-room will be thrown open to the public generally, who will be allowed to visit it freely until the 16th, after which day it will be devoted exclusively to the use of the readers. As the entrance to the new reading-room is through the front hall, it will be necessary that readers should bring their tickets of admission with them until they have become known to the doorkeepers.

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.—DIVIDEND.—The affairs of the Royal British Bank again came before the Court of Bankruptcy on Friday, when proofs of debts were received, and a dividend declared. Applications were made on behalf of two gentlemen who sought to prove against the bank for certain sums they had deposited. Unfortunately, they had been induced to take new shares just before the bank stopped. It was urged that they had been misled by fraudulent statements, and had therefore a right to appear as creditors. One of the parties also claimed to have £500 returned to him, as it had been thus fraudulently obtained for worse than worthless shares. The cases were both adjourned, and evidence might be heard. Mr. Linklater gave interesting information on the position of the bank estate. The proofs have amounted to £225,000; a second dividend of 2s. 6d. is now declared, making 8s.; there will be a third dividend soon of 2s. or 2s. 6d.; there is a hope that £40,000 may be obtained for the contingent in Wales; altogether, dividends amounting to 10s. or 11s. will be certainly paid, and possibly the total will be 12s. Beyond this, the shareholders offer 6s. 6d. in the pound, and an act of Parliament is to be applied for to carry out the arrangement. The dividend of 2s. 6d. was ordered to be paid. Mr. Deputy Dikin, one of the directors, was examined on Wednesday. He said he first joined the board in February, 1856, and only remained in the direction a very short time—till the 7th of March. He was induced to join by Mr. Alderman Kennedy, and paid £1,000 to qualify as a director. He saw Mr. Stojelton at the board, but that gentleman did not tell him of the debts due from Mr. Humphrey Brown, Mr. Cameron, or Mr. Oliver; nor did he recollect being told of an expected loss by the mines in Wales, or that he entertained any doubt as to the stability of the bank. He (Mr. Dikin) left the direction because something arose which created large demands upon his time.

ANOTHER SWINDLE?—An inquiry is now being instituted on the part of the shareholders of the Athenæum Life Assurance Society, into the alleged mutilation of the deed of settlement, by the abstraction of a clause in it, purporting to limit the liability of the shareholders to the amount of their shares. That portion of the deed tampered with is to be submitted to a minute microscopic examination.

THE BANKRUPT BANKING CORPORATION.—The London and Eastern Banking Corporation have called a meeting for the 25th inst., "to receive a report of the directors." On the part of the shareholders it is observed that what is wanted is a report from the investigating committee and the accountant, and that until the extent of their individual and collective culpability shall have been ascertained, the directors should abstain from offering any statements interfering with the course of affairs.

THE FALL OF HOUSES IN COVENT GARDEN.—Another of the men injured by the fall of a wall in Russell Place, Covent Garden, has since died. An inquest has been held on the deceased, when the following verdict was returned:—"That the deceased person came to their respective deaths by the falling of a wall, some portions of which not externally visible were in an unsound state, yet the jurors are of opinion, that through an error of judgment sufficient precaution was not taken to secure the same."

THE NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERIES convention with France, the opposition to which, on the part of the colonists, was recorded in our last week's number, is said by the "Shipping Gazette" to have been set aside by the English Government.

himself from the House for a year, unless before the expiration of this period the bankruptcy shall be superseded, or the creditors paid to the full amount of their debts. At the end of the twelve months, if the bankruptcy be still in force, the Commissioner is required to certify the same to the Speaker, and the election of the Member is void. But there are no penalties for sitting and voting during the year, and no provision made for bringing the bankruptcy formally before the House. It seems, therefore, as if a bankrupt may sit and vote with impunity for the twelve months, unless he should be petitioned against.

Judges are disqualified, with the exception of the Master of the Rolls, and English and Scotch Peers; but Irish peers, unless elected as representative peers of Ireland, may sit for any place in Great Britain. There are also many other disqualifications, which it is not necessary to enumerate.

PRIVILEGE! PRIVILEGE!

We will not now go into any detail of the "privileges" of the House, for two reasons. In the first place, we should require the space of a volume; and, in the second place, nobody seems to know what these privileges are. All we shall do, therefore, is just to touch upon that most interesting privilege—"Freedom from arrest." About this there can be no doubt—that while a gentleman is a Member of Parliament, he cannot be arrested for debt; for whilst Parliament is sitting he cannot be touched, nor can he be for forty days after a prorogation, nor for forty days before the day appointed for next meeting; and as Parliament is now never prorogued for so long a period as eighty days, he is entirely safe. Some people have wondered what those repeated prorogations during the vacation mean; and why her Majesty does not prorogue from the time that the House breaks up until the time when they are ready to meet again—say from August 1st to January 30th. Well, perhaps a cause is discoverable here: from August 1st to January 30th would comprise more than eighty days!

It is now settled that the Government will propose Mr. Evelyn Denison, the Member for Malton; and whosoever the Government shall propose, there can be no doubt will be elected. And, by all accounts, Mr. Denison is "a marvellous proper man" for the office. He is tall, and of commanding appearance, to begin with; and this is no mean item in the qualification of a Speaker. A little man in that enormous wig would look ridiculous. It would remind us of the wisened-faced clerk, who put on one of old Samuel Wesley's left-off cauliflower wigs, and convulsed the congregation by giving out the psalm—

"Like owl within an ivy bush,

"That fearsome thing am I."

Again, Mr. Denison, though in his fifty-seventh year, is strong and hearty; and, though he was not bred to the law, he is an accomplished man, has had long practice in the House, having been a member more than thirty years; and, as now there is "a Speaker's counsel," he will doubtless be quite competent to perform the duties of his office. And, lastly, his seat is safe. He has been Member for Malton, in Yorkshire, ever since 1841; and may sit for this snug little borough as long as Earl Fitzwilliam pleases; for there this great family is omnipotent, having managed matters so well as to do without a contest for more than fifty years. And as to temper, which is made so much of as a qualification, that has to be tried.

may still get up.

It has been justly observed that we ought to know how far the principle of competition (if at all) is to be admitted into Staff appointments. If, as at present, favour is to be the sole ground of appointment, all we shall have gained by this order will be a modest check on the exercise of favour. In fact, the world will suspect that the order itself is more a thing of show than of substance—a sop intended to reconcile the public to the existing régime of favour itself.

One reason why we approved the appointment of the Duke of Cambridge was the same for which Sir William Draper (in his controversy with Julius) praised the commander-in-chiefship of the Duke of Cumberland in the last century. We thought a man of the blood-royal less likely to be the tool of those rich people, who are now called patricians, than a mere peer, or a soldier, who, having owed his rise to "aristocratic" influence, dared not resist aristocratic jobs. We still think so—and hope much good from the influence of his Royal Highness. But if he is to be a reformer, he had better be a complete one. He has sufficiently alarmed, and will sufficiently alienate, the foggy, the toady, and the snob, by the most moderate disposition to improve or to change; so why hover half-way between the cliques and the country? Let him invite the genius of England to compete for the Staff appointments of the English army; and, above all, let him not put the power of deciding on the Staff appointments in the hands of any one general officer. "Jacob Omnium" observes most justly of this last proposal:—"It is a task which no one single man can possibly discharge, either to his own satisfaction or to that of the country." How could "one single man" do so?—Resist the tough old dowagers—the intriguing old lords—the wily young sisters—all pressing on him indirectly to be tender on their poor, little, idiotic Bob?—Bob, who longs to air his white tuft on the parade-ground as a dashing young Staff officer!

When any improvement is in the wind, there are not wanting fellows to hint at the dangers of it; and, in the question before us, we have found them busy enough. Because a more scientific education is found necessary to save our officers and army from discomfiture, we are reminded that there are "other qualities" besides cultivation needful. Of course there are, but the country has a right to expect that its officers shall have both, and that common pluck and good horsemanship shall not be sufficient to cover with glory—

"—the straitened forehead of the fool."

There are disadvantages in a merely professional army, but an army not professional at all would surely be an imposture. As for danger to our "liberties," that objection (which, by the way, often comes from men whose zeal for any kind of liberty is highly dubious) has been frequently noticed in these columns. England can take care of her army, we trust, without ceasing to be able to take care of herself.

No. 25.



HUE AND CRY.

APRIL 29th, 1856.

LOST.

Ten Guineas Reward.—Porte Monnaie, containing 31 Sovereigns ; a Navy Pay-bill, in favour of Captain Ireland, R.N., H.M.S. "Gladiator," payment of which has been stopped.—Assistant Adjutant General, Land Transport Corps, Balaklava.

£1 Reward.—Purse, containing £1, a Medal, and a card with owner's name on it.—Lieut. and Adjutant Jenkins, 3rd Batt., Land Transport Corps.

£1 Reward.—Sky Terrier Dog, low, rough, light grey, scar near right nostril.—Hospital, 56th Regiment.

French Sword Blade.—Chief of Staff, French Army, Head Quarters, French Army.

Carpet Bag, taken from Steam-ship "Cumberland."—Parcel's Office, Balaklava, or the Purser on board.

HORSES AND PÖNIES.

Dappled Grey Stallion, 13 hands high, long tail, hogged main ; a little lame.—Staff Surgeon Templeton, Castle Hospital.

Chestnut Horse, 14 hands high, marked 12th Lancers on hoof and 59 on near quarter ; grease in hind legs.—Cornet Wilkin, 11th Hussars.

FOUND.

Drab Overcoat, with large buttons ; and a small Riding-whip.—Adjutant, 23rd Regiment, Light Division.

Infantry Officer's Sword and Scabbard.—Orderly Room, 57th Regiment, 4th Division.

Army Med^d Dep^t

12 Sep^r 1856.

16400

2 — L

Sir

49/

Your great exertions
as a Member of the Pathological
Board in the Crimea having
been represented to The Secretary
of State for War: I have the
gratification to inform you,
by the desire of Doctor Smith,
that His Lordship has been
pleased to sanction the issue
of £50 to you, as a Gratuity,
on account of those services;
and Sir John Kirkland has
been authorised to pay the
same. —

I am

Sir

Doctor Greig
Staff Assist^t Surgeon
Chatham

Your Obed^t Serv^t
D. ~~W. W. W.~~
Dep^y Insp^t Genl

✓

C. H. M. S.

D^r Greig

Staff Assistant Surgeon

Wm Dep^r

Chatham



RAMC 392/11

Army and Ordnance

Medical Department,

25th November 1856.

No. 21943
Gazette

To be quoted in any
future reference.

Hospital Staff

Sir,

Assistant Staff Surgeon
David Greig M.D.
has been permitted
to resign his
Commission -
dated 21st November
1856.

I have to inform you of the
that the Memorandum
~~Appointment~~ named in the margin; and
that appeared in the
Gazette of the 21st Instant.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient

humble Servant,

D. Greig Esq
late Staff Asst. Surgeon

gc. gc. gc.

High Street
Dundee W.B.

M. Smith

Director General.

✓

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RAMC 392/12

Dr. David Greig of Dundee.

Born 1832

Died 1890





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