Kindrogan 6th June

1859

My Dearest Willy

It seems a long time since I wrote you but I know you were hearing frequently from someone or other of the family, & having been by no means well I have felt much indisposed to exertion of any kind.

You will readily [believe] this when I tell you that tho’ the Boat was taken to the Loch some weeks ago,I have never attempted to resume my favourite amusement. There will be the more fish for you under [diminution] only of what P Newbigging may capture & who is expected here in about a fortnight.

I shall be glad to see him and have his advice.

We are again [disfavoured] & I presume you know that [Kitty] is at [Raigmore][[1]](#footnote-1) and Mama has just left us for the [Hangingshaws[[2]](#footnote-2)] to see her friend Mrs Johnstone[[3]](#footnote-3) who has been and still is seriously ill.

Papa has gone with Mama as far as Blairgowrie but return at dinner. Mama is only to be absent for a week.

We have had a visit from [Jane Hay ][[4]](#footnote-4) & her Brother the Colonel but they left us two days ago. The time is not now very distant when we shall again have you with us. The weather has been splendid, but by no means favourable for the country as every thing is burned up. There will not be nearly so much fruit as last year with exception of Strawberries & Raspberries of which there will be plenty.

The Skye men are again here & busy doing many things.

The Perth paper did not come last week, so I could not send it.

Grandmama pretty much as usual I send you her

love

& I am yours affte

P Small Keir

*Ref;letter4fromgrandpapa toWK*

1. Raigmore is the home in Inverness of Willy’s Aunt Grace his mothers’s stepsister. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This is another estate owned by the Johnstones in Selkirk as well as Alva [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Willy’s mothers friend Mrs Augusta Johnstone of Alva. The Johnstones lived at Alva House a very large mansion in Alva. Mr James Johnstone (04/07/1801 – 24/02/1888) was an MP for Clackmannshire from June 1851 to 1857 election. Mrs Johnstone died in 1859. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Lady Jane Hay is believe to be the daughter of the 8th Marquess of Tweeddale of Yester house East Lothian. Her brother Arthur later 9th Marquess of Tweeddale. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)