Kindrogan 7 March

 1860

My Dearest Willy

 If I could use my pen as I once did you would have heard from me long before this time but alas that is not the case. I write with difficulty and am besides very lethargic I continue much the same but rather weakened like you there’s nothing going on here at present . Not a furrow has been ploughed & since you left this as we have constant frost & snow. The prospect is very dismal for the country show Turnips are almost totally exhausted and the Animals will be left without [provisions]. As I write at the Drawing room window all around is white.

 I am sorry you have suffered so much from tooth ache but was glad to learn from a Letter Mama had from Mr Bradley[[1]](#footnote-1) that you was much better. I am sure you will be glad to see Kitty[[2]](#footnote-2) at Southgate.

 They seem to be enjoying there as at [Bognor] Maria[[3]](#footnote-3) it seems has got a cold but Fletcher[[4]](#footnote-4) intends returning to Scotland on the 10th & then I suppose Kitty will pay her visit to the Mackintoshes[[5]](#footnote-5). She is also to go to Southsea so she will have a gay time of it.

 I had much pleasure in sending you the £20 for entering you at Cambridge[[6]](#footnote-6) & sincerely hope you will avail yourself of the opportunity to benefit by it .

 Grandmama sends you her love. She continues much the same as she has been.

 I cannot say I envy you playing foot ball with lunatics – I would be afraid of them giving me a kick kick as soon as the Ball.

 I remain,

 Dear Willy

 yours very affte

 P Small Keir

*Ref: letter6 to WKfrom Grandpapa*

1. His house Master at Cambridge [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Willy’s sister Catherine (Kitty) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Maria is Uncle Fletcher’s wife [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Uncle Fletcher (Menzies) is Willy’s mother’s Stepbrother [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Grace Mackintosh is their mother’s stepsister who lives in Raigmore Inverness. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Cambridge Universtiy. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)