

I intended to  
write to Fred. but  
poor Father is awake &  
sleepless I am  
afraid it worries him  
to see me writing - Had  
shall have a letter on  
Thursday.

North Shore  
Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> - 1880.

My darling Lucy,  
Maisy, Maisy  
Happy returns of the day my  
darling. May the Lord bless you  
abundantly - during the year  
you have now commenced -  
The Master keeps you very very  
near to his dear side - the only  
safe place for any of us - in times  
of joy or sorrow and trial -  
Trials have been our portion in  
the year that is now passing away  
such sorrow as I never dreamed  
of - but the Lord has been our

support has he not dear? and he  
will be to the end. Sometimes  
I think that this our great-trial  
is not to be removed. if not I know  
we shall have the strength to bear  
all that may be before us yet -  
Poor dear Father - if only I could  
see him once more resting on the  
sure foundation I could give him  
up thankfully - almost gladly  
Pray earnestly for that - not for life  
but for peace and joy - He is not  
quite so weak as he was a few days  
ago - still he is very weak - We cannot  
get him to take any medicine at  
all which is very trying - but I am  
thankful to say that he eats very  
well. though he always says he  
must not - still he takes what I

give him generally - he likes milk  
and sponge cake - better than any  
thing - I sent away the man I  
had for in Father's weak state I  
can manage him very well. indeed  
he is quieter with me than anyone  
He does not like me to leave him  
for many minutes at a time which  
makes me so thankful - for it is  
very evident he likes me beside him  
though he feels he ought not to show it.  
I seem to need the Lord's guidance  
very moment: in every thing I do  
about Father I seem so helpless  
for I cannot & must not try to reason  
with him - He is much worse than  
when we left Invercargill -  
Aunt Emma is nearly always with  
me which is nice company - and

My landlady is always ready  
to help me when I am obliged to  
leave Father for a few minutes at  
any time. Friends are very kind  
and sympathizing and I know there  
are many praying for me. Mr. Goulet  
said - "We think of you day and night."  
She has been over three times & Mr. G. too  
since I came over here. They have seen  
so much of this kind of mental trouble  
among acquaintances that they  
understand all about it better than  
many - Ada & Lena come over  
sometimes. They are dear girls. You  
know of course that Ada has left  
the dress making and come home.  
She is a great comfort just now for  
the servant has left. She might have  
waited till we could get another I  
think - but she is a very selfish girl  
and wanted to go to some picnic. I  
would not stop any longer so that

Aunt Emma could not be with me so much if Ada had not been at home to see after everything. The yearly examinations have commenced at the High School so Anna is not at school - she was not at school the first half of the year so it would be no use her being at the examinations she would not stand a chance and just now we are very glad of her help at home. Grandpapa is over every day to see us. which is cheering to me. our sitting room has a very pleasant aspect - we have a beautiful view of the Harbour. the sea is only a few yards from our fence. just a road

between. Father and I watched  
the "Ye Anaw" come in an hour or  
two ago. I hope she brings me a  
letter from some of my Inverarigill  
darlings. Mrs. Utting was here  
this afternoon with her baby boy,  
who is just three days younger  
than our wee darling. I used to  
look at him and think ours was  
the same size etc. but now it makes  
me rather sad to see the little fellow -  
still we know that all is well with  
our little treasure. Mrs. Utting  
is so kind and sympathizing  
you would really think she  
belonged to the family - she thinks  
so much of our sorrow. She said  
today "I don't know what I shall



do if Mr. Nutter's mind is not  
restored. even if it is only for a  
short time, before the end." so many  
have been praying that she felt  
as if it cannot be that the Lord  
will not answer. Mr. Olby came  
in this afternoon also and Father  
actually consented to have him  
into the room. - He stopped a very  
short time - did not say much but  
prayed for us all. You remember  
Mr. Olby I expect do you not?  
Will you give my warmest love  
to dear Mrs. Gould. I have been trying  
to get time to write to her but have  
failed to do so yet. - It is not  
that I do not think of her and  
appreciate all her motherly

kindness to my dear motherless  
girls. Oh how I do thank the Lord  
that you were all spared to me.  
Dear old Sue I am so thankful  
she is getting strong again. Hope  
Dear Emma is quite herself again.  
Emma told me how nicely you  
nursed Sue. it cheers the old Mother  
to hear these things. Now darling  
I must say good night. dear Father  
is sleeping so quietly. - he sleeps a  
good deal all the while since we  
came over here. and his appetite is  
good. Give my very best love to Arthur  
Emma. Fred & Sue. I asked Father  
if he had no birthday message for you  
but he only shook his head and  
looked very sad. Goodbye darling  
The Lord bless & keep you very near  
to himself is the earnest prayer  
of your loving Mother

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