

THE

[Burnett]

ABBAY HOTEL

ABBAY GATE, MELROSE.

Melrose Abbey.

Abbey Hotel.



PROPRIETOR

GEORGE HAMILTON

PHEATONS.

HORSES & GIGS.

& DOG CARTS.

WINES, FOREIGN & BRITISH SPIRITS.

FOR HIRE.

Melrose - July 1-1880

My dear Mamma, Papa and Jen.

I have a few minutes this evening to spare so thought I would convenience a little to you - and finish and mail it in London. We arrived in Edinburgh Tuesday evening - Wednesday morning after breakfast we went to Calton Hill - had a very fine view of the city - on the hill is Burns monument, Nelson's and a monument to General Stewart - a monument commemorative of the battle of Waterloo and some large buildings - at the foot is the prison where I was imprisoned. Jen and I saw, who figures largely in Scott, Heart of Midlothian, we also saw his cottage. We then had the rest of the morning to ourselves, which time I was occupied in changing my travelling dress. After lunch I went

Started out for a drive - we filled
25 coaches - we drove all over the
city - and it is a magnificent city.
Visited Edinburgh Castle - saw the
dungeons - Queen Mary's apartments
and the Crown Jewels of Scotland -
in the court in front of the castle
we saw the Queens Troop drilling
In our drive we saw the residence
of Sir Walter Scott - John Knox -
and Sir Johnson.

We also visited Holyrood Palace
and Abbey. The abbey is almost
entirely in ruins. I stood where
Mary stood when she was married.
In the palace we went through
the apartments of Mary and her
husbands - and I did not feel
at all envious of her - our home
the furniture I suppose is far more
fit for a palace. I arranged my
furniture in her looking glass - a
small round piece of polished
metal. The buildings are quite
palace like but far from it in size
but I suppose it was grand in its
day - Nora and I rode in the carriage
with Mrs. Lorne and her niece
and Mr. Lorne up with the driver
we are always favored.

We had an elegant dinner at six
o'clock - and after dinner Magdalen
had an invitation from Mr. Mac-
Gibbon to take a drive. He is not
a member of our party - but a
very nice gentleman whom we
met on the steamer. Mr. Lorne
said we might go - so we took a
ride in the Queens drive - which

is around a mountain called
Arthur's Seat, and Salisbury Crags.
It was a most delightful drive.
We had a very fine view of the city
the North of Scotland and the German Sea.
This morning we left at ten o'clock
for Melrose - we are stopping at
the Melrose hotel - right next the
Abbey - and we have a beautiful
room - our window over looking the
Abbey. The Abbey is very picturesque
looking - and the view makes it
lovely. Some of the carvings are
quite grotesque - such as a pig
flaying a fat pig - a ruffian's back -
a monk's kissing confession etc.
Here are buried Black Douglas and
the heart of Bruce.
This afternoon we drove four miles
to Dryburgh Abbey - it is much
more beautiful than Melrose Abbey -
though there is not so much of it
standing. Sir Walter Scott is buried
here. From here we drove to Ayr-
ford - Sir Walter's Country Seat -
This was the greatest treat of all
to me - while going through this
apartment, it seemed like I was
standing on sacred ground and I
don't think I spoke a word from the
time I went in until I came out -
The building is very fine and the
grounds beautiful - His library con-
tains 20,000 volumes. We saw
many pictures of himself and
wife. All the presents he had
received - very fine cabinets of ivory
and to him shell - arrows taken
from the field of waterloo - the coat of
arms of all the clans of Scotland

Port Roy's shield. the suit of clothes
Sir Walter last wore and oh so
many more things that I can
not recall now. This evening we
have at pleasure - for all our going
so much and sleeping so much we
have merely time that we can sleep
we leave for London tomorrow at
half past eleven and will arrive
there at 5 o'clock in the evening.
I am sorry to leave Port Land &
it is a grand country - I have
not been disappointed in any
thing. I don't wonder that Scott
could write so well living in
such a country. It is now half
past nine and I am writing
by daylight and it is by no
means dark yet. I think
hardly like true light - we
have a lovely light - it is made
after the pattern of Queen Mary's
in Holyrood Palace and has
red damask curtains. I have
not brought many pictures for I
want the most from Italy.
I got a picture of many in
little frame mounted up from
Aberdeen. with four pictures
on it - Edinburgh Castle, Melrose
Monument & Holyrood Palace.
Then I got pictures unmounted
of Melrose Abbey and Aberdeen.
As I go back to Glasgow I want
to get pictures of Loch Lomond
& Loch Katrine they are so beautiful
Good night and God bless you
till I get to London. I shall be
having the best time of my life
in my life and will have
lots of love and kisses. Blanche