Dear Mother.

Since I last wrote to you I have been working quietly and steadily in the laboratory and have had little or no variation in my daily routine. The laboratory is a good 2 miles up from my lodgings and I am there by 9 every day. At ½ past one I drive (not very well) and then return to the laboratory and remain till 6. In the evenings I alternate languages, chemistry & crystallography. Next month I shall commence taking lessons in fencing though I shall be sadly pressed for time. Since I wrote last I have [illegible] a French artist. One of them Birrie plays wonderfully on the French horn. He uses a peculiar [illegible] and produces a most delicious sound by which means he can blend into the mouth of the instrument. You will I think be surprised to hear that he can play 2 distinct series of notes at the same time with perfect distinctness. The astonishment of the german musicians when he first came out was very great. They would not believe their senses. Certainly nothing like it has ever been done before. 2 columns of air must be vibrating in the tube at the same time independently of each other. The tones are singularly sweet and full. The great favourite here of the public here is a Mons Sitoff who was to be known to you as a composer. His instrument is the piano and he plays as I think at least admirably. I have never heard of the Mr de Meyer whom you mention. To be a better performer than Sahnfenberg? Eliza I suppose will not be with you when you receive this. I believe she owes me a letter. I like the idea of Sam marrying Selkamff. I always thought him a Judy. You mention Blanche Powell's engagement but have not any yet responded my enquiry whether Savana has lost his wife as I half inferred from one of your letters some time back. Barring I believe is also engaged. I am glad to hear that Robert is so happy and his wife so much liked. But if matrimony has made a Swedenborgian of Robert I do not know what it cannot do. Does Carson reside with his father or has he a house of his own? He was certainly made for a domestic man and I hope will not be made a Mr Candle of. Ugly ones ought to be at least good natured. I am sorry to hear of Mr Glare's illness but I cannot believe that it is owing to platina which is perhaps the least volatile of all substances. There are constantly in his Laboratory gases and vapours which are much more likely to produce ill effects— Laura had better not purchase any books of Rodda but let me know what she wants and I will [illegible] them to her by way of Glasburgh. When Eliza returns she may also write for such things and I can send for both at once. When you write to Boston remember me to all there. I am rather sorry that Low- working with Dr Jackson as he will I fear acquire an unenviable habit. However this is better than nothing. After I believe is now piece of coming out in Italy and must be looking forward to that time with impatience I shall expect to hear from him in your next. Hal has not yet answered my extremely military letter. I must close my letter now with love to all. This is a short letter but if I do not close it at once I shall miss the steamer I will try and make the next longer. Your affectionate Boy W Heath

P.S. Is Pennicuik church finished yet?

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