I must say that I have been very agreably disappointed in every way by Scotland. I expected to find it a rough and half-civilized country, while in reality in many things I think we might imitate it with profit. Some parts of it are as highly cultivated as England even, & while the highlands are wild & thinly settled, all places of interest are easily reached either by coach or rail, and when reached you find good comfortable hotels there. Coaching is not fatiguing here as it is in America, the roads being without an exception very smooth. It looks very queer to see a man on a solitary road, miles from any house, trimming the grass on the edges of the road-way. The people are too, in general, better mannered than at home. If you ask a hackdriver or even a ragamuffin in the streets a question and he does not understand you, he will say very politely, "I beg pardon?" never, "hey?" This is only an illustration.

It amused Cousin Virgy very much to see Cousin Theo. and myself trying to converse with a native Scotchman. I confess I can hardly understand a word they say. When you once get a Scotchman to talk he keeps on in a perfect string, and all we can do is to stand by and appear to take it all in, with an occasional "yes" or "no." "you don't say" &c. But when it comes to Scotch names I am really stuck. Cousin Theo and I murder them. Cousin Virgy on the contrary has them all down like a book. We call her the "Walking Encyclopedia". She is, however, commencing to rebel now. She says we expect her to remember everything in place" the names of the best hotels and even how the places look that she has not seen for twelve years. She declares that as she has planned our journey so far, we must commence now to be useful. So this morning we sat down before about a dozen railway time-tables and attempted to plan a trip for to-morrow. I should like to show you an English time-table. They are enough to make a saint swear. I cannot describe them, suffice to say that a table of a railway, only a few hundred miles long, takes a large book containing over 300 pages, in fine print.