

Free Church Manse

Penicuik

22nd January

Dear John

I am exceedingly grieved that I did not realise till too late that your good wife's mother had been taken. And was to be buried to day. The letter signed Peter Robertson got buried among my papers, and it was 2 o'clock before I came on it. I have a nasty cold, and was going to stay in to day and doctor myself. But had I known I should have risked coming out to be with you Believe that Mrs Crockett and I grieve with you both very much and offer our united, hearty sympathy

Mrs Crockett keeps better and is noting the [] of yesterday. I wish I had known of your stepmother's illness. I am sure it must have been sudden, or you would have. let me know.

Kindly accept for Mrs Wallace the enclosed portrait of the little boy. I think you have Maisie and we have that very beautiful one of you. Moffatt does them diligently. Ever yours in sympathy
SR Crockett