

1 Next day June 4th proposed this morning to make an excursion to the town of Ayr 40 miles
2 south west of Glasgow to visit the scenes of the Poet Burns early performances. Mrs. Van did
3 not care to make the trip. She remained at Glasgow in company with a Mrs. Holmes, an invalid
4 lady who with her husband, a Presbyterian Minister of Hudson, New York, were fellow
5 passengers with us on the Iroa, and had been our fellow travelers in Ireland, so that Mr.
6 Holmes, the two girls and I made the trip to Ayr and returned the same day. It proved a very
7 interesting and pleasant days excursion. Saw the house in which Burns was born (or the hut
8 rather than house). Sat down on the "Banks o Bonnie Doon." Visited Tam O Shanter Inn.
9 Bought a beautiful little volume of Burns poems from the keeper of the stall in the Base of the
10 Poet monument.

11 Also on the 3rd drove out to the Queens Park, and then around a large common, or public park,
12 called Glasgow Green. Very picturesque, it is about 2 miles in circumference and is used
13 principally for clothes drying & bleaching.

14 Left on the 5th at 7:40 a.m. by rail for the town of Balloch at south end of Loch Lomond, passing
15 on our way the old historic Dumbarton Castle of which we had a fine view. Steamboat on the
16 lake to Inversnaid where we took coach for 10 miles to Stronachlacher [Stronachlachnar], and
17 then stopped for dinner at the west end of Loch Katrine. I was very ill at this place and had
18 suffered great pain during the trip on Loch Lomond which culminated here, and soon after
19 getting on board of the steamer on Lake Katrine, the pain having subsided, I fell asleep from
20 exhaustion and saw none of the magnificent scenery by which this lake is surrounded. Leaving
21 the boat, we were again in coaches to travel about 12 miles to Collander; where we arrived
22 safely and left immediately by rail for the old Town of Stirling where we arrived about 5 p.m.
23 Put up at a very comfortable hotel and Doctor Holmes and the girls slipped off for a stroll about
24 the city. His wife, Mrs. Van, and I preferred an easy chair and a little rest after the fatigue of
25 the day. I would remark here that 5 o'clock in this latitude at this time of year is about the
26 middle of the afternoon. One could see by -daylight to read a letter at ½ past 10 in the evening,
27 making the nights very short and the days almost interminable. This will account for the large
28 amount of sight-seeing done in such apparently short time.

29 On the 6th rose early, explored the old Stirling Castle, and enjoyed the splendid panoramic
30 views from its parapets. Southward we could see the battle field of Bannockburn, westward a
31 lovely valley, northward a fertile plain bounded by the picturesque highlands, eastward an
32 undulating fertile tract extending for many miles toward the sea. On our left about 2 miles
33 distant on an eminence jutting upward 300 feet above the plain stands a lofty and well
34 designed tower in memory of the Hero Walace, while immediately in front at the edge of the
35 town are the ruins of the Abbey Cambuskenneth. A large tower is still standing, which we
36 visited and ascended. This tower has been restored of late years and is in very good order. The
37 historical events connected with Stirling Castle are of great interest but outside of my purpose
38 in writing this journal; therefore, I will not recite them. In the afternoon took the train and in
39 one hour and a half reached the City of Edinburg [Edinburgh] and were fortunate in securing