

Free Manse Creich By Bonar Bridge 4<sup>th</sup> Septr 1855

Revd A. Paterson  
Perth

My Dear Sir

The object of my troubling you with this letter is respecting a young man from the neighbouring Parish of Kincardine of the name of Peter Ross at present in the General Prison Perth.

The occasion of his having been sent there was in connexion with removals at Greenyard Strathcarron Parish of Kincardine in April 1854, he was sentenced at the justiciary court at Inverness in Septr 1854 by the Lord Justice Clerk to 18 months imprisonment, altho he was engaged on the day on which the summonses were served, at work at Ardrross about 20 miles distant from Greenyard & had nothing to do with the scene which took place there, he was always remarkably quiet & well behaved, the sentence was not only severe but unrighteous.

Soon after his having been sent to Perth Prison I wrote Mr Gray of the Free West Church about him he saw him frequently & applied to Mr Kinnaird the city Member to get the period of imprisonment shortened, Mr Kinnaird succeeded in getting it shortened by six months, so that the period of his imprisonment has nearly expired. It was about the 14<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> Septr he was sentenced & therefore the 12 months will expire by the end of next or beginning of the following week.

I had a letter from Mr Gray dated Perth 8<sup>th</sup> June 1855, in which he stated that "Mr Kinnaird has succeeded in obtaining a reduction of six months on the term of Peter Ross's imprisonment & that he sent the Secretary of States letter to the Governor of the Prison".

As I am told, from indisposition Mr Gray is not at present in Perth, I have taken the liberty of troubling you with this letter to ask of you the favour of applying to the Governor of the Prison to know the date at which Peter Ross will be liberated, & to give to P. Ross the enclosed pound note for the purpose of defraying his expenses home; his father John Ross called on me today & wished to get the enclosed pound sent to him for the above purpose, as Mr Gray is unwell I did not know any other Person in Perth but yourself with whom I could use this liberty.

Would you be so good as to mention to Peter Ross that his father wishes him particularly to come home immediately on his being liberated, that he need not remain in the South for work as he will get work at present at home at an embankment which is being erected at Invercarron; & also to say that his brother Donald & his sister Hellen sailed from Liverpool for Melbourne about the 6<sup>th</sup> of July & that his Parents along with the other

Tenants were removed from their houses in January last, & now reside at Langwell in a house near to Malcolm Ross Roy's where a school was formerly taught.

Would you be so good as to let me know the day on which the lad is to be liberated.

Trusting that you will forgive me this trouble which I have given you & the liberty which I have taken.

I am

My Dear Sir,

Yours very truly

Gustavus Aird