

18.1.17

My beard was rather thin

So at a pleasant  
me prior to night when two  
letters arrived for me. one from  
you containing a handkerchief and  
pin and one from Nana. Very  
many thanks for them were today.  
I am so sorry that you are  
having such a troublesome time and  
losing sleep. I do hope that  
it won't do you any harm.  
And it is a pity that Nana  
is being such a bit of work  
with Neil. I had my hair cut  
today by a barber on the 9<sup>th</sup>  
Sordani who knows Neil well.

I have managed to get a  
waist done in this bonny  
wee village which is a blessing  
on all my clothes are full of holes

a month up there. I am  
gradually getting clean by bits.  
Last night I did not manage  
to write as I was out at night  
working with a compass. Snow  
lies deep on the ground & I  
enjoyed going over there down  
my track in the dark with  
these little villages in the  
hollows and the sheep and  
quiet peacefulness - a  
difference from stumbling over  
ground cut and broken by  
shell from looking out for coal!  
We had a quiet day today - between  
months as there is a thaw on  
and it is too damp outside.  
I am writing this after dinner  
in the usual comfort with  
the additional one that I  
have a fire in my bedroom!  
I am afraid it will make me

too soft for the time but I  
don't think I will be back  
there unless one town is more  
intended of which of course  
there is a possibility

I don't know whether you  
will be back in Peebles yet  
in any case I hope that  
things will be going better

I don't think that I  
have any more news. I  
do hope that you are all  
well now.

Very much love,  
your affectionate son  
Menton