

Ms. 11

1785

Stemmes Mth Feb^{ry} 17th 1785

15

Dear friends

I had the pleasure to receive your favour of the 4th Nov^r last, and am very happy to learn you keep your health so well, and that matrimony agrees so well with my Uncle

I learn from report that his endeavours that way have been crowned with success & that my young Aunt is in a fair way of giving him an heir I sincerely wish her a happy time of it & I hope ere this gets to hand, they will be as happy as I am now with my young Ann of three weeks old, a fine little plump lass, & if my good friend does not find his soft Rib before she is fit for business I will send her out to him.

The night I returned home from London I found Mr. Geddes so well recovered that we got this one for that day nine months she was delivered after only three hours labour she is now recovering bravely & we mean to put another upon the stocks in a very few days. - To provide for this increase I am going to try my fortune in the Seas this Summer in a very fine Sloop I have got built at Louth of near 100 Tuns burthen, all Oak out & is fitted out in the best manner she costs me near £100. - I mean her to go on freight or force a Trade from the Baltic or Norway to Liverpool or Ind^a. this and the fishing is all I can attempt in this country and I find I cannot prevail on Mr. Geddes and my friends here to let us quit it. - I must let fate take its own way with me, for it will never let me have mine, I am now becoming reconciled to it.

Y^r Young

Shaw

I have put a Youth of 21 in Master
of this Sloop he is a Brother in law of
mine, who has taken to himself a wife at
those years, being determined not to lose
any time, My Cousin Polly Johnston has
got married to a young Bachelor a Mr.
Hood at Edinburgh only a little more
than 50. & Peggy M'Kay as reported here
says is to be married to another not quite
so young. — I am glad to learn you have
so good prospects and that you have got
aid of your Dutch Governor, from what
I had learn I fancy he will have his
hands full at London, I hear your old
friend Sir Guy is to return these great
Men are but very small in London,
where they are all party mad, without
any regard to the Good of the Country or
Colonies, every one for himself in all lines
I believe to be the ruling passion of the
present times. — I learn my friend
Mr. Jordan is purchasing away the land
what he has got are good I know them
well. — I am waiting for an opportu-
nity of laying out a small sum in
that way here; much contrary to my
wishes but so it must be, the money
has been lying for some time in Bankers
hands at Edinburgh for which I only
get 4 per cent Int. My Brother writes
me from New York to bring the Sloop
out full of Men & women servants for sale
which I believe would answer well but
its a business I do not much like. — I am
sorry Mr. Todd would not take better care of
the news papers there were a good number
of them well put up and contained the most
interesting debates, If ever I should see
him again I'll let him hear me, as I
think he has behaved very dirtily in
keeping them up, —

All friends here are well; jogging
on in the usual way. I beg to be
kindly remembered to my aunts and
all

all friends with you & am with best
respects to my fair Aunt - Dear
friends yours most sincerely
M^{rs} Geddes desires her good wishes

M^{rs} David Geddes ^{John Geddes} ^{John & James} ^{John &}
Quebec 2^d June 1785

Dear Sir We had the pleasure to receive
15th Ult^o your returned favour of 11th Febru^{ry}
& congratulate you on the happiness you enjoy
in the increase of your family & on the safe
recovery of M^{rs} Geddes. Report told you
truth, your Aunt M^{rs} Johnston was safely
delivered of a fine hearty, stout, strong Boy
on the 23^d March last he thrives amazingly
& looks like a Boy of Six Months, he was
captured by the Intense of John Burp in
Token of your Uncles regard to the writer
hereof. M^{rs} Johnston has had rather a
hard time of it has been very feeble and
weak since her delivery, but begins to gain
a little strength & we hope with the aid of
Air and Exercise will get soon perfectly well
She was obliged after many attempts to give
over suckling much against her inclination
& wishes.

We wish you great success in your ad-
ventures in Vessels & Fisheries, we approve
of your reconciling yourself to the wishes
of M^{rs} Geddes and your friends to settle in
the Artillery where we dare say you
may be as happy as any where else

The Trade of this place at present
is far from being encouraging, Sales
are slow, Cash & Produce scarce, not-
withstanding it was allowed on all hand
that the Crops last year was very abun-
dant, the price of Grain keeps too high
for exportation, What your Parliam^{ts}
mean to do for this Country is yet un-
certain. We understand that a petition
from hence last winter addressed to the
King & both Houses of Parliament signed
by the greatest part of the Old & new Sub-
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