

Dear Brother

Stromness 9<sup>th</sup> April 1784

I have yours of the 24<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> last  
welcoming me to the assistance you had  
given me & acquainting me that as  
you had placed my Son in a good em-  
ploy referred me for help to him in  
future and had withdrawn yours  
as you had recovered your health  
also had lately married a young Lady  
of taste agreeable to you

I sincerely wish you and your  
Spouse all the joy and happiness  
your married state can afford and return  
you thanks for your favours to me and for  
your goodness to my Son and your good  
opinion of him and rejoice in the recovery  
of your health

Doubtless you feel with yourself  
how such an unexpected event as your  
marriage must affect me every thing  
considered especially the great inequality  
of the match the disproportion of age, an  
old man indulging himself in Love &  
a young Lady of taste to Love an old  
Man is something extraordinary.  
It will be incumbent upon you both  
to act the most prudent part to main-  
tain your own happiness, to balance  
all differences by greater virtues to secure  
the approbation of all your real friends  
and good People our concerns, This will  
make all agreeable and pray God it  
may be so.

Your assistance to me on several  
former occasions was the greatest of the  
kind I ever experienced and the most suit-  
able to my occasions, I shall ever grate-  
fully remember it But are there none

your sincere friend &c

other reasons than those you assign for  
your withdrawing your aid so suddenly  
on the very dawn of such events and  
when it was expected and I depended so  
much upon it; These questions may  
naturally occur to your self as they do  
to me and it is you only that upon  
reflection can resolve them, I hope our  
mutual affection and esteem for each  
other as Brethren is still entire and  
will be so while we are open to each other  
and unprejudiced by others, The free dis-  
posal of your own subject is certainly  
opposite to your self but I still claim a  
share of your affection and feel for your  
happiness as my own.

I have laboured almost all my life  
Lifetime ~~thus~~ under a load of all most  
all the hardships of adverse fortune &  
nothing added more to my affliction  
than the frowns of some of my own  
friends which I am conscious to my  
self I never deserved, But kind provi-  
-dence still wonderfully supported me  
and made you one great instrument  
of my comfort, I wish I had the opportu-  
-nity of disembosoming myself to you  
upon this and other subjects.

Your Nephew Crafts M. Hay is here  
I recd your last letter to him which  
affected him much I can with assur-  
-ance say he is quite well affected to  
his relations, He is rather thoughtful &  
intent and active in his profession &  
every other way wears a good character  
He intends going to Boston in order to  
push his fortune, We should endeavour  
rather to cherish than to wound you  
in this sensibility and especially when

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When they claim our advice and should  
even temper that with delicacy otherwise  
it may lower both themselves and us  
in their esteem and wavering in their  
resolutions and make them regardless  
when they think us forward.

He has rec<sup>d</sup> orders from a Capt. Dickin  
to make a Gold watch for your young  
wife, It would certainly have come  
better from yourself or her directly to  
himself. This Gentleman takes upon  
him notwithstanding your discre-  
tionary orders to prescribe both the  
price and the Work and so means to  
share in the money of the whole with  
you both besides being thought more  
frugal. But Craft is determined to  
be only directed by yourself and by  
his own Honour tho' the order comes  
thro' such a Channel which I hope  
you will think commendable in  
him. We should be cautious of al-  
lowing others to help in to the decor-  
um due to ourselves. That would  
render them more assuming as they  
may think us silly. I dare say your  
own line from the root upwards &  
all the Branches of it are as good  
& blessed with as happy Genius as any  
But are rather too unsuspecting.

My son is dependant upon you  
and I hope he will endeavour to merit  
your favours you are as a Parent to  
him and the rank he stands in with  
you claims your consideration next  
to your own offspring if you are so  
happy as to be blessed with any. I thank  
God I have brought up a large family  
as gently as any in this Place and  
keep credit while others of much greater  
fortunes have spent the whole stock &  
all. I have indeed sold good part of my  
subject and most of the rest under your

your favour and so now for

mortgage I hope my son will assist  
me to releve it when he is able and  
I have no doubt of his inclination  
all had been gone had you not assist  
me

I rec. your Partners letter with the  
current account of our dear deceased  
Brothers Estate. I acquainted his wife  
of it & hope we will settle matters ami-  
cably, what I am due to you and our  
Brothers heirs is £100<sup>00</sup> to each of you  
inserted by your own hand in your  
disposition to me of our fathers sub-  
ject with interest since our Mothers  
death besides provisions to my sister  
which I have never been able fully  
to pay and neither have you made  
demands upon me which I must ac-  
knowledge as really Charitable.

David Guder is at London & writes  
to his wife that he has wrote to his friends  
in Quebec, All friends here are in  
their ordinary health my dau<sup>r</sup> "Kath<sup>n</sup>" in-  
tends going to Edn<sup>r</sup> the first occasion in or-  
der to try to recover the sight of one of her  
Eyes Her sister Mally to go with her by  
the advice of Dr. Groat in B<sup>r</sup>ish. w<sup>th</sup> a letter  
of recommendation to Dr. Monroe in Edn<sup>r</sup>. She  
will need money as she wrote (you & Partner  
to remit p<sup>r</sup> and to have your order to draw  
for the rest she means to assist me a little  
in case my son is not able at present to  
lay out her money in purchase of a piece  
of land in the country when she can have a  
good offer of a place to her liking. - All my friends  
except that I live in are in a ruinous condition  
& unable to repair them I could give you other  
instances of my want of money but referre you  
to my letter to my son. I find do age advance  
fast and unable to do any thing but write. I re-  
lize on Money & the form of contribution of this part  
I hope to perform this task before I leave it & have  
the appearance of a better world. - My Wife

My Wife & family join in our affectionate  
-mate Compliments to you & your Spouse  
wishing you joy and all the Blessings  
of your Married State I am your  
Affectionate Brother Joshua Johnson

Major Bertram  
Sir

Stourne 31<sup>st</sup> March 1781

Tho I have not the Honour of your acquaintance I presume to address you upon a curious subject, on being informed that you getting notice that I was a Naturalist you was desirous of corresponding with me & to know if I was fond of Petrifications.

What is called the stony Kingdom is indeed

Capt

Dear

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