

W. Johnstone

Shornep 9th March 1788
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Dear Brother

I sent my Son to London by
 one of the discovery ships the 20th Sept. last in
 order to stay at London till the shipping time this
 year for Quebec your friend Mr. Brysoned spent his
 time in the school and writes me the 30th Jan^{ry}
 that he and John Irvine were to proceed
 with the fleet about the last week of this month
 in Quebec I wish them a happy passage &
 a happy meeting with them, when he
 left me he was something ailing & is but of a
 delicate Constitution tho' like the whole of us
 he would enterprize things with the most hardy
 is full of sensibility so it requires some care
 to keep such tempers especially in youth
 within bounds tho' they should be indulged
 with every thing natural to a moderate de
 gree till they gain experience I would beg of
 you to keep him in your own employ some
 time at least & to caution him against
 every roving inclination such as thurston
 and to guard against the inclemency of the
 water you are in. in short I would not u
 ncrash but to temper the ardent spirits
 with he seemed to incline to the Sea but
 think you will easily deswade him from
 that arduous & dangerous course of life with
 an independant state. I find that to know the
 laws of different different Countries, to study
 human-nature & natural history in general
 is the greatest satisfaction: the last brings a man
 to a certain correspondence with the Almighty
 creator of even fits him for futurity, it enlarges
 the mind furnishes the largest field^{for} contemp

And makes our happy even here, I need not that you
enlarge upon this subject, But state your on rock
in the place of a Parent to caution him of lots of
at all vice & to induce him to Virtue and you how
commit the whole to the Almighty. I hope

I cannot enough express my gratitude things
to you for your favourable & indeed necessary sile his
and seasonable assistance £50 just now & £10 I have
in December last since you are both able of Mate
willing it would afford you double consol saw the
to think how comfortable you have render Phans
both our Sister and me in our circumstan ly ima
it appears divine in the several instances Master
your benevolence because I must be plain tictor
with you it comes so seasonably and in & Decon
of need all the return we can make is a by him
grateful acknowledgement of it and that further
you'll please to accept of one of the fiddles I pr
I have sent by my Son another is for bro Voyage
John I mean you to have them conform may he
to their number as they were made & they you Al
not of my own making I have also sent many he
one of my brother & each of my Sisters a you All
in of salt-cellers of my making of Orken I am
the first ever done since the creatio
this Country & have also sent you a Stor
sugar box as a small acknowledgement
of my affection and to show you my fiddl
fossil and mechanical genius.

Natural history & especially fossils
now become my favourite study the last
attainment on this side of time I would
desire of you to send me some of the rock
crystal you find the Stones your breaking
up and if possible the manner they lay
the fissure or otherways in the rock and

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that you'll let me know if it is a shelving Stone
or rock & how the strata lie or incline and a
bit of the stone it self my son will tell
you how intent I am upon this study and
I hope well ease you in sending me these
things or any other curious thing in the fos-
sile kingdom I think or rather am certain
I have discovered something in this branch
of Nature and broke thro' the time that
saw the earth created not formed out of a
chaos as is commonly or I may say vulgar-
ly imagined but a regular structure and
masterpiece of Masonry by the real archi-
tector Its a pleasure to observe the Art
& Economy of the whole to be taught it
by himself Alone. — I shall not enlarge
further on this subject.

I pray God grant your Nephews a happy
voyage and meeting with you and that I
may have the pleasure of good accounts from
you all. — All friends here are in their ordi-
nary health and desire to be remembered to
you all in the most affectionate manner
I am

Dear Brother

Yours most Affectionately
Joshua Johnston