

From David Gadsden

Stromness 1<sup>st</sup> March 1787

Dear friends

I recd. your much-  
esteem'd favour of the 9<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>. last;  
& shall be always happy to learn  
that you & all the rest of my  
friends at Dubee enjoy perfect health  
& happiness; the account of the ~~death~~  
sudden death of my Cousins affected  
me greatly, as it must have done  
all those who knew them, the  
situation of their poor Mother must  
have been truly lamentable,  
but there is no avoiding trouble  
& misfortune in this world;  
my Cousin John Johnston can  
inform you of a loss that  
happend to this small Place  
this winter from a Sloop that  
went out to kill Seals on an  
Island ten leagues to the westward  
of this, a gale of wind dro<sup>ve</sup> them  
to the Isles of North Fer<sup>ro</sup> where  
they all perish'd but three young  
Sabs; they were about twenty, drowned  
who have left a number of helpless  
widows & young Children almost  
destitute, & the greater part of them  
within call of my Door. I propose  
going out with the Sloop for amuse-  
ment & nothing would have  
prevented me but a cut I got  
in my Leg a little before; this  
they tell me was good Lucke;  
since fell on my right hand &



Thought to have lost the use of it,  
but it is growing better than <sup>179</sup> I  
imagin'd & with care may do;  
it may likewise be the means  
of preventing me drowning  
myself in a little Boat I sail  
in by myself & ventur'd sometimes  
toomuch. M<sup>r</sup> Halero built a fine  
one & thought to bet me, but he  
was disappointed, for you will  
know we pride ourselves as much  
on our Boats sailing as a Canadian  
does on his Horse trotting. I flatter  
myself with the addition of M<sup>r</sup> Halero  
to our little Society in other respects,  
but he seems not fond of company,  
which I am in moderation & always  
with the best, tho' we sometimes  
do get merry. —

I am sorry to hear such bad  
accounts of my Brother George, I  
hope they will not turn out so bad  
as you seem to imagine, I believe  
the situation of America with regard  
to Trade has disappointed many of  
more extensive knowledge than him;  
when in America I supply'd him  
with a sum so much as I then  
thought convenient to spare &  
which he thought would be of  
great service to him; my present  
situation will not admit doing  
any thing for him, my small  
family are increasing I have  
lately got another Son Andrew &  
must endeavour to provide for them.



them as well as I can as circumstances  
will admit & leave the rest to  
Providence, last summer I try'd a  
cargo of Corn to Norway, Deals to  
Ireland which turned out pretty  
well; have likewise got my hands  
in the building a house for my  
Father & one for myself on a wharf  
where I am to have a Dock for  
the Sloops &c

I am glad to hear my young  
cousin J. P. Johnston <sup>9 1787</sup> is coming  
on so well & that he has got over  
the tryals of the small Pox &c.  
Telling Mr. Geddes joins me in  
good wishes to Mrs. Johnston your  
good selves & all other friends and  
I ever am with due regard

Dear friends,

Your most oblig'd oblige<sup>r</sup>

(signed) D. Geddes.

x John Penn