

Mr Joshua Johnston

Your fav^r. of 1st & 8th Oct are both before me
which I shall answer as they stand. — As the price of the Help
made on Cowbistors Shores an: 1773 & eight preceding years
is not due till the Martinmas immediately after the burning
Season, It therefore follows, that whatever money I expnd on
burning the Help is chargeable with Interest down to the above
term, and tho' I charge the Interest only from Aug. yet I am
frequently in advance many months before that term. It is
indeed very rare that any part of the Expence of making is left
in my hand so late as Lammas. Thus you say is charging
Interest upon Interest. If the Expence was paid when it fell due
there would be no need of such a charge, but as it is otherwise,
trifling as it is, it ought to be accumulate, and no body deals
otherwise with me when they happen to be in Advance. Will
you be so good to show you many scores of Instances of this kind.
I shall be far from desiring you, in your Situation, to settle in
Acct. which may reflect on either of us afterwards. Any man of
Business can tell you, that my plan is nothing but what is
practic'd every where. — I need not tell you, that had the
burning of these Shores been left to Cowbistor himself, He would
not have made so much out of it by many pounds as has been,
nor did I ever charge him a single penny for all my trouble
in the making, neither has there any less Help been made
the Shores, than could possibly be made except in the year 1773
when no body had hardly half their quantities. owing to an
uncommonly bad Season. —

Th

The last Contract I made with Cowbister, begins with the
current Season, The terms are £10 ff An: Procent, and if
I burn more than 30 Ton in three years. I pay an advance
rent at the rate of 12/6 ff Ton, and if I burn Dingle, the
same Rent is to be paid for each Ton of 20 Cut. The Shores
on Cowbister Estate are divided in three lotts. - Cava, the least
lott of the three, falls to be burned this Season, by And^r Moud
& Partner. - If you have occasion to go that way, it would be
serving me & your pupil also, that you look a look to see
what they were doing. - I have a man employ'd to superintend
the burning of my Kelp in the South Isles. - It is but seldom
he can go to Cava. The largest quantity I ever had out of it
was 7 Ton 8 cwt at 12 ston of weight & 12/6 ff Ton, & I am sure I
can give no more, but much depends upon the Season.

In yours of 8th you desire to know, how it comes about that
there is such a difference between the first Contract & the last.

In the first Contract you'll observe Cowbister was bound to
deliver me the Kelp on or before the last of Sept^r. but the Contract
did not subsist any time, untill Cowbister saw, he could neither
make the quantity the Shores could yield, nor could he get any
body to Ship it on his terms. - It was therefore to serve him as
well as myself, that I took, & he consented to it, the manage-
ment out of his hands; and I dare Venture to affirm that no
body would have done it cheaper and at same time done it

You surely cannot be at a loss to account for my
Charging Interest on the Expence of making when this alter-
ation in the Agreement is considered; as by this Plan I was
oblig'd

obliged to lay out so much money before it fell due.

I hope what I have said will be abundantly ~~sufficient~~^{sufficient}
to explain the whole matter, so as the Acc^{ts} may be settled,
and in future I shall take care to advise you who are to
turn the Stone yearly, so as you may not only have an
Eye on them, but also know the quantities made yearly

In hope of hearing from you soon I remain

Sir

Yours most obed^t Serv^t

Riskwall 16th April 1774

Thos Baffon

Wapole 1774
The Post Office

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To
Mr. Joshua Johnston
Writer
in Stromness



Adopted
The Post Office