

John Johnston

London April 20th 1773

Dear Nephew

I have your letter of y^e 19th Feb^y I think that your improvement is but little, but as there is a little it gives hope. I have remembered your Compliments to your Friends in Canada, and have advised your Uncle James agreeable to your letter & that I should desire you to write to him next Spring in order that he may Judge of your performance, & as I have thus introduced you I expect you will act accordingly the Ship will sail in March. I think that in my last to you I was so plain that I need only say refer to it. However if I take the trouble to Annadvert a little on your letter possibly it may not be amiss. & Judging that you recollect the Contents I would observe, that you may follow the School run over Arithmetick &c. a second third & fourth time, & then know but little, if you have not at same time a Carefull Attention to what you are about both when at School & at leisure hours at home, to improve & know the very meaning & intention of every Rule, the Connection they have one with another & the purpose & end to be obtained thereby, for Instance if Jam desired to be 100 Guineas to Pounds Multiply by 21 and divide by 20. I don't know for what reason, & when I am alone I will enquire into the reason of every rule, which when obtained the Memory is eas'd, having only to bear a part with reason & Judgement. & now I would ask you what you think is my reason for writing this & my former letter to you, it is for your own good that I advise you in order to induce you to be attentive & diligent now to improve yourself while young that you may have some knowledge to improve upon in

your Pifer years when you come to Business, you ought
to be curious to learn to write a fair Clean hand & Consult your
Dictionary for the Meaning of words. I would be glad that
you learn Latin, as well as Writing, & Book keeping for
I think if you was Qualified in that Language it would be
better in case some business might turn up for you that
may require it. And with due Application you may learn
all I speak of by the time you are 15 years Old. for I would
wish you either to be a student in *Prisick. school* may be had
in Scotland and is a genteel Business by which advance
ment may be had. Or to take your Chance in the Capacity
of a Merchants Clerk, but the first I would rather Recommend
to the Consideration of you & your Father, anent which shall
like to have the Opinion & reasons of both. I am

Dear Jack

Your Affectionate Uncle

M^r. Johnston

May 24th

This comes by your Cousin James Irvine I hope
you will be true & well to him and that you will
love one another