

Addressed to: Mr David Geddes

From: John Purss (for J & P)

Quebec 2nd June 1785

M^f David Geddes

Dear Sir

We had the pleasure to receive 15th ult^o your esteemed favour of 11th Febru^y & congratulate you on the happiness you enjoy in the increase of your family & on the safe recovery of M^{rs} Geddes. Report told you truth, your aunt M^{rs} Johnston was safely delivered of a fine hearty stout strong boy on the 23rd March last. He thrives amazingly & looks like a boy of six months. He was baptized by the name of John Purss in token of your uncle's regard to the writer hereof. M^{rs} Johnston has had rather a hard time of it, has been very feeble and weak since her delivery, but begins to gain a little strength & we hope with the aid of air and exercise will get soon perfectly well. She was obliged after many attempts to give over suckling much against her inclinations & wishes.

We wish you great success in your adventures in vessels & fisheries. We approve of your reconciling yourself to the wishes of M^{rs} Geddes and your friends to settle in the Orkneys where we dare say you may be as happy as any where else.

The trade of this place at present is far from being encouraging, sales are slow, cash & produce scarce, notwithstanding it was allowed on all hands that the crops last year was very abundant. The price of grain keeps too high for exportation. What your parliam^t mean to do for this country is yet uncertain. We understand that a petition from hence last winter addressed to the king & both houses of parliament signed by the greatest part of the old & new subjects independent on Government praying for a repeal of the Quebec Bill & to give us a House of Assembly, an introduction of the Habeas Corpus Act, a Tryal by Juries in civil matters & other privileges of British subjects had arrived in April last but was not bro^t before parliament when the last ship left London, so that we still remain in suspense with respect to our destiny.

We have some encouragement from your brother George in the essence of spruce answering at Philadelphia. We are however at present at a loss to know which way to convey it to him as we can clear no vessel out from this to any port belonging to the States. However for this year he will have a pretty good supply from Jamaica as James Irvine has been able to do nothing there, & the quantity he has with him will be a tolerable stock to begin with. We expect Irvine soon as he wrote us 21st Jan^{ry} that he was to leave Jamaica the first opportunity after.

All your friends & relations here being well join with us & M^{rs} Johnston in best wishes for yours, Mrs Geddes & your daughter Anne's health & happiness. This will be delivered to you by M^r Halcro to whom we refer you for further news from this country. We remain

Dear Sir your friends & hble servt^s