

Addressed to: George Geddes, New York

From: James Johnston

Quebec 16th Septem^r 1784

Captain George Geddes

New York

Dear Sir,

We take the liberty to inclose you a letter for our mutual friend Mr James Irvine which we beg your favour by the very first opportunity that offers to Jamaica to forward, as it may be of some consequence to him, containing letters of credit which his abrupt departure from New York (without waiting advice from us) prevented us furnishing him with before he sailed from your place, and has led him into some difficulty as cash fell short with him, have low sales and no friend to value on.

We beg to know of you whether essence of spruce would find a market at your place, and if a consignment to you from time to time on your Aunt Mrs Taylor's acco^t, on the usual commission at your place, would meet your approbation. We are of oppinion that a brewery for making it into beer may in your place render a man that can attend to it a handsome profit adequate to his trouble. It was in great demand there while the British troops held possession of the town and we doubt not that it would still meet with encouragement. Provided the person who manages it will be industrious and take care to make the beer of a good quality, it must sell fast both to shipping and private families. Should this not suit yourself perhaps you may find some active husly person to execute the business on his own or your acco^t, you furnishing him the essence.

The shipping, especially those going into warm climates, we imagine would take of a good deal of the essence, as it is so easily made into beer on board ship for your government. We have to advise that the price of the essence here is half a dollar p^r pot of 12 ounces which is sufficient, with two gallons good molasses, to make thirty gallons of double spruce beer, or sixty gallons ship beer. When we sell it in casks half a dollar p^r pound exclusive of the price of the cask. If you think consignments of this article will suit your own & your aunt's purpose, please so advise us, together with such information as you can give us of the readiest way of sending it to you at New York as we cannot at present enter goods at our custom house either outward or inward directly to or from any of the American states.

Perhaps it might sell with you at such a price as to allow of a double freight to say from hence to London and from London to New York.

Your aunts, cousins and all friends here are well and join in their best wishes for your health & prosperity, with dear sir, your friend & most hble serv^t