

**Addressed to:** Mr David Geddes, London

**From:** (J & P)

Quebec 27<sup>th</sup> July 1785

Mr David Geddes, London

Dear Sir,

We had the pleasure to receive your esteemed favours of 17<sup>th</sup> March & 11<sup>th</sup> April last, and are glad to learn that after so many difficulties and disappointments, you had at length got your public acco<sup>ts</sup> settled so much to your satisfaction; & hope the fickle dame fortune has at length after purling, perplexing & crossing now become more complaisant and obliging, and that you now enjoy in comfort & satisfaction all the pleasures of the married state. We must own we were a little disappointed at your resolution (in your time of life) to sitt down in so retired a corner as the Orkneys when there is so much latitude in America for a young man to push forward in life. If the difficulties and trials you have of late encountered deters you from entering again into the busy world, and that you are fully determined on retirement in your native island, we sincerely wish you every happiness you can desire, but if otherwise on trial you should change your mind, we think Quebec offers at present a favourable opening for a young man of your bustling and industrious turn of mind, especially to one who has acquired so much insight into the corn trade. Permit us to hint to you that should you be disposed, we have every convenience within ourselves for carrying on that business to any extent. We have storehouses the most commodious of any in the country, sufficient to contain a large quantity of grain, and have lately finished a most compleat bakehouse with four ovens esteemed by judges in that branch to be on as good a plan for despatching of business as any in America. In that case we offer you a joint concern or otherwise as may be judged most convincing for both parties, and beg your sentiments on the head as soon as convenient for you. Your friends here are all well. Cousin Johnston we have initiated a pupil in his Aunt Taylors distillery. Ja<sup>s</sup> Irvine lives with us. Harry Taylor goes home by this conveyance, the London, Captain Dickie, for his education, his sisters Miss Nancy & Hetty are pretty girls fit to start for prizes & Jenny growing up; Polly Irvine also becomes a fine lively girl; Mrs Halcro is arrived safe & with Betsey is well. Jn<sup>p</sup> Purss begs you to accept of his thanks for your kind intentions to have paid a visit to his friends in Nairnshire. Cap<sup>t</sup> Robison is arrived safe, he & family are well; He is not yet determined whereto sit himself down; Mrs Robison being from New York we understand would willingly settle in that State if circumstances there make it adviseable to go thither. Make our best respects acceptable to M<sup>rs</sup> Geddes and your uncle. Love to all relations in the Orkneys. Our best compliments to M<sup>rs</sup> Johnston your aunt, we received her letter which we shall answer per fall ships. That you may long enjoy every happiness the married state is capable of is the sincere wish of

Dear Sir

Your friends & humble servants