

**Addressed to:** Mr William Brymer

**From:** James Johnston

Quebec 24<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1785

William Brymer Esq<sup>r</sup>, London

Dear Sir,

Since we did ourselves the pleasure of writing to you 1<sup>st</sup> Septem<sup>r</sup> last, we received 1<sup>st</sup> inst your obliging favour of 5<sup>th</sup> August and are glad to learn that your cough was then much easier than usual, and hope it has continued so ever since. We have to thank you for advice of Mr Bridge's accepting our bill on him for the Essence pr the brigg Nancy Peterson pr £ 458..18..2

and we doubt not he has accepted of our three others, viz<sup>t</sup>

28 <sup>th</sup> July pr the Syren, Harvey Midforth for	267.. 7..4
11 <sup>th</sup> August pr Lord Musgrave, William Boyd	333.. 3..6
& 1 <sup>st</sup> Septem <sup>r</sup> pr Charlotte William Wilson	<u>132.. 0..7</u>
together eleven hundred & ninety one pounds 9/7 sterling	1,191..9..7

In which assurance we have taken the liberty to draw on you @ thirty days sight viz<sup>t</sup>

28 <sup>th</sup> July favour of Mr James Davidson for	£ 100..-..-
25 <sup>th</sup> August .. of Mr Mathew Macnidre	50..-..-
22 Oct <sup>r</sup> of d <sup>o</sup> d <sup>o</sup> N.3	300..-..-
d <sup>o</sup> d <sup>o</sup> 4	50..-..-
d <sup>o</sup> d <sup>o</sup> 5	25..-..-
24 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup> d <sup>o</sup> 6	25..-..-
d <sup>o</sup> Lindsay & Macknider 7	<u>300..-..-</u>
Eight hundred & fifty pounds sterling	£ 850..-..-

which we request your favour to honour when they fall due, & to make our annual payments to our relations as usual, viz<sup>t</sup>

To remit to Mr Johnston's sister Marjory Mackay fifty pounds, to accept his father in law Mr Macknider's bill for £50..-..-, to remit to his brother Joshua £50..-..- ster<sup>l</sup> for acco<sup>t</sup> of his son and to Captain William Halcro also of Stromness £ 64..18..3 for some debts recovered for him since he left this. And to remit for acco<sup>t</sup> of our J.Purss to his brother in law George Cumming Jun<sup>r</sup>, merch<sup>t</sup> in Forres £ 80..-..- or give him leave to value on you for that sum. We are sorry to trouble you in paying in so many petty sums but you will excuse us when you consider they are all for our relations and friends.

We hold ourselves much obliged to you for the early intelligence you give us of a competitor in the Essence of Spruce at Merumichic. We are happy to tell you that we think they are not formidable rivals.

Mr Callinder has at last wrote to us & assures us of Captain Aitkin's paying his note on his return from Jamaica, so that we are under very little doubts but that you, or Captain Boyd, will receive payment. We begin to be a little more anxious about Colonel Jessop's & beg your good offices in keeping a sharp look out in that quarter. We have the pleasure to tell you that since our last been all in good health, till a few days ago that Mr Johnston has got a little touch of his old complaint a rheumatism in his right thigh & leg occasioned as we suppose by an almost uninterrupted series of rainy weather for three weeks past. But we hope when dry hard weather sets in he will get the better of it. James Irvine returned yesterday from Halifax as he did not see an opening of making a living there. He left with your friends Messrs Brymer & Belcher 1<sup>st</sup> inst the Essence of Spruce he had remaining and seventy eight pounds Halifax currency in cash which they are to remit to you as soon as they can get a bill. We have nothing new to communicate; the politics of the day are above our comprehension; you folks in power think nothing now of capsizing Lieu<sup>t</sup> Governors etc. etc. at pleasure. Our late Lieu<sup>t</sup> Governor Hamilton goes home in the packet i<sup>st</sup> prox<sup>o</sup>

Mrs Taylor kindly thanks you for your care of the boys. We think John is now of an age turned fifteen that he should be sent apprentice to some trade or other, & after maturely considering of the affair we can find none that has so great an affinity to the manufactory that the family must depend on for a living as chemistry, permit us to request your favour to procure such information respecting the manner etc. that art is carried on in London, Edinburgh, or other part in Great Britain. We suppose if equal advantages of insight & practice was to be obtained by a boy bred to the business in Scotland, it would be most adviseable to send him thither, as the apprentice fees are not so high there as in England, nor the time of apprenticeship so long. Seven years is a long time to become bound when we think the principles of any trade may be learned & a great deal of practice had by a lad of genius in three or four. Your sentiments hereon as early as possible will oblige, who wishing you long life & health to enjoy it, are truly, dear sir

Your much obliged hble serv<sup>ts</sup>