

Addressed to:

From:

Dear Brother

This accompanys a 2nd letter to your son. I have proposed to him to be a doctor, & to learn Latin for that purpose. It is a genteel business & profitable & sutes any country I mean to have him regular bred by the study of phisick and whereby a man that is clever may stand a great chance to advance himself. I dout not but his natural capacity may attain to it as well as another, but of this you are the best judge. And I think if he is inclineable & goes to Latin immediately he may learn what is requisite by the time he is old as begin to study that profession. I would have you streach a point for him and if you should melt an old house it may lay a stone for him to rebuild the whole upon. Begin what you think best and right and God may help you to go thro', for he said to Joshua only be though valiant, he was so & conquered the promised land & as this came spontanious from my pen who knows but it may be prophetick. I have wrote to Broy^r James concerning Jack & may be he may help Cethirn take care to improve & in the Spring as desired send me a letter to forw^d to Quebec. We congratulate you on the company of your son & daughter Mr & Mrs Halcro & on the opportunity you will have to advise her so as to make a good wife. This comes by your nephew James Irvine to whom I dout not but you will show proper kindness. He is under the care of his aunt Jean to be put to school. I have not heard further xxxxx of Broy^r Ja^s since I wrote you last. Mr Isbister died at Quebec before the ship sailed in which he proposed coming passenger to London being invited home of (?) the Hudsons Bay Company. His wife & six children sailed in that ship in the year '71 and has not since been heard off. His oldest daughter, Mary, still is living. She was married to one Madan, an ensign or Lieutenant in the army, just before her father died and now is at Quebec. Betty Isbister died here in the hospital poor girll. She was over grown of the dropsy and when tapped there came from her 27 quarts & 1 pint English. My wife joins in love to you & yours and all friends. I am

Dear Brother

London May 25th 1773

Yours affectionately

Jⁿ Johnston

If Capt Fowler should deliver any parcels or boxes to you for Mr Laing in Kirkwall be so kind as take great care and send them to him. I shall be glad if you have succeeded or is likely in the recovery of Kitty's sight. I think it is very proper that you should try any means and that it is your duty so to do. Pray lett one know of this the first you write. I heard by May's letter to her sister that she & Kitty was to go to Edinbrg to an oculist

there. I hope you will advise May to guard against the snares that she may be exposed to in y^e town which is only done by prudence & care to keep from danger that is from being in the way of it.