

**Addressed to:** The Widow Johnston of John Johnston late merchant, Stromness, North Britain

**From:** Mr John Johnston, Charlestown, South Carolina, 18 August 1763

South Carolina, CharlesTown Aug 18 1763

Dear Mother

I must beg your excuse for not writing you before I left the Havana. I sailed from thence 5 July last on sloop Black Prince Valenton Brown Master bound for Pensacola & I expected a short passage there defered writing until my arrival when I might be more able to acquaint you more fully but y Capt being ignorant of the Current steered a wrong course & so was drawn in to the Gulf of Florida and after escaping many perils & by Divine Providence arrived here without anchors, our provisions expended & sails and rigging unservisable. We demanded our Goods to ship on board another vessel was refused unless we would pay freight and passage The case was left to Arbitration who desided in our favour, as a passage to Pensacola would be atended with great expense. I think to defer going there imeadeatly and intend to trade betwixt this place & St Augustine until I hear from England as I had a little insurance made for me when I left Quebec and likewise some of my acquaintancess is to write me a particular account from Pensacola. I shall be then more able to judge which of the places to settle in This is a fine country is pleasant abounding with xxxx xxxxxxxx a fine xxxxxxxxxx situated for trade or at Pensacola which is suposed to flourish greatly and abound with riches in a few years on account of its situation for Contraband trade with Cuba & Spanish Main & is said to be situated in a fine country capable of improvements Some of the most eminent Planters here is to go there to Examine the Country. Shall hereafter write you more at large favour one xxxxxx Let me know how you keep your health and of bros & sisters & all friends particularly Sister Jeanie where & how she is. I hope she is at home with you for it is critical to be in London as James & I is so often crossing the seas which is very hazardous. My love to you, all bros & sisters & all friends Wishing you all happiness and Dear Mother Your ever dutiful & affectionate son John Johnston

Direct for me to Care of Capt Richardson on the Bay Charlestown, South Carolina He is now at London I lodge at his house His wife will take care of the letters for me & forward them if I should happen not to be on the spot