

**Addressed to:** Mr Joshua Johnston, Stromness, Orkney

**From:** Mr John Johnston, London

Dear Brother

I rec<sup>d</sup> yours of 4 Mar. I am sorry to tell you that my necessitys oblided me to use the 25 £ intended for you & it was then an amazing service to me & I had expectations of remittance from different parts which I judged would be to refund by the time that an opportunity offered but to my very great loss & disappointment I had upwards of £70 worth of goods returned, & only advice that they was to send me the money for what was sold & onoy<sup>f</sup> this with the astonishing deadness of the times & general distress here has put it entirely out of my power even to ans<sup>f</sup> your directions to me to pay Mr Irvine, and has forced me to a step so disagreeable to me it that the thoughts of it rakes my very heart. I shall refer Mr Irvine to advise (?) you more particular & shall only say that I am in hopes thro the blessing of God to do better than hitherto & have made provision for the money to be sent you tho it will be some time before it comes. In the interim my heart grieves for those that cannot want it, Mr Irvine in great danger & need here & my poor Moy<sup>f</sup> & others wth you & also my dear wife. Comfort her as a broy<sup>f</sup> & let my Moy<sup>f</sup> & you all look on her as a daughter & sister. Perhaps God may enable me some time or other to acknowledge it. My misfortunes is great but I thank God that my intentions & natural affections is just & good. Communicate of this so far as your prudence shall direct. With my love to you all, I am

Your affectionate but unfortunate brother

John Johnston