

Addressed to: Mr Joshua Johnston, Notary Publick in Stromness, Orkney

From: Mr John Johnston, London, 6th Oct. 1769

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Dear Brother

I have this day received your letter & I hope by this time you have received mine of y 20th ult. which will ease you with respect to your daughter Peggie. She is well at my house but much concerned at the uneasiness she has caused to her mother and you, but we adverse (?) her against the folly of repining for what is done cannot be helped, encouraging her to hope for your parental forgiveness of a folly of youth. She seems to have been as innocently unguarded as we when seduced by the Sergeant, but y tryal I hope will be much for her good, as she has seen a sample of the World's deceit. You put a very mild construction on the directions from Marnway, but it certainly was intended for further opportunity to defraud, that letter was dited by Mrs Irvine & Peggy dared not to write anything but what the Vile Hussie directed, and it is the opinion of all that has heard the story that it is fortunate for Peggy to have lost her money so soon for if she had gone farther it might have been much worse. We have prevaled with several to use their interest in procuring a good place for her untill which she will be with us. And I hope she will do to the satisfaction of her friends. I have done as much for her as I could with propriety and I assure you it was out of my power to do more for times are very hard here so that I hope you will comply with the request of my last letter without delay both for your credit and for mine.

I have received a very friendly congratulating letter from Mr Malcolm Laing & it adds to our happiness that all our friends are satisfied wrt our union & give me leave to acquaint you as a bro^y & friend on my part, that I have the greatest proof of my wife's affection towards all my relations which undoubtedly merits the like return from me & my friends & wherever it may be in our power to demonstrate, it is our duty so to do. Xxx agrees.

I am glad to hear of xxxxxxxx Halcro's safe arrival. I have heard that he is to dispose of his estate in the Orkneys and I have by considering the interest of both you & your brother in law, thought on after to cultivate a very worthy friendship, it is well known to you that my brother in law Mr Laing is inclinable to make purchase of lands in Orkney, & I am convinced that he would be as fair a purchaser as any other. I would unknown to any here recommend to you & solicit your interest for procuring an offer to him in case he should be inclinable to purchase. If not it will shew your readiness to serve him, but if he is inclinable, I would intreat you still farther as a peculiar favour which will induce me to esteem you as a ready oblidging friend & bro^{yr} to use your utmost interest with Mr Halcro to let Mr Laing have in his option to accept or refuse the highest offer. This I am persuaded will recommend you greatly to his favour & friendship & I will venture assuredly to say that your Broy^r Mr Halcro will likewise experience it to be his own interest to adhere to this liase, especially if they came to an amicable conclusion, more than with any other whatsoever, as he would thereby cultivate & confirm a very

substantial & interesting friendship both in Orkney & Jamaica. This I intimate to you as the fruits of my own considerings your sincere friend & likewise Mr Halcro's, & which I advise you to prosecute any request with the utmost alacrity as your own prudence shall dictate. I am your affectionate brother John Johnston

P.S. Peggie desires to be remembered to her mother and her uncle xxxxxxxx xxx All friends with all xxxx & affection. My wife joins me in love to you & wishing you all happiness.