

Addressed to: Mr Joshua Johnston, Writer, Stromness

From: Mr Jn^o Johnston, London 12 Jan^y 1771

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Dear Broy^r

I have seen yours of 21 Dec^r to Mr Halcro & was the affair to be settled in that manner, it would be right & approved of but there is more artifice in the world I find than you imagine. And^w does not give it from under his hand to H. that he agrees to the proposals you set forth but he prefers (?) H. to treat w^t Mr Brown who writes that A^w order him to remit as near to £200 as possible and that on the strength of a £50 bill accepted lays due & is now under diligence & plainly says he will not remitt the money upon a Her^l Bond and unless Mr H signs the irredeemable dispossission and sends it down to he will not advance the money alledging that the disposⁿ is a better fund of credit to Mr C than a Her^l Bond & adds that he would advise Mr C to give £50 more – (ambiguous xxxx) should he not say on what ? – by which when the disposⁿ is signed they may say £50 more than £93 or more than £200 it then rest with their generosity to say either for £93 was the sum offered on the disposⁿ as compileating the full price. If you cannot see thro this I would advise you to get a telescope for I am certain you will not know your own house w^t mere spectacles. My oppinion is of this xxxxx, either to get the lands intirely on the advantage of necessity or shuffle it off that it remains as it is. In my last letter by Mr & Mrs Callas Frank (?) I told you to let it remain as it was if not concluded before receipt but both Mr Halcro & self are sorry it was wrote, and as fortune favours him so as not to be so much liable to be taken the advantage of as Mr C may immagin with respect to time you must now exert your self without putting the least confidence in whatever he may say and get Mr Laing or some other to agree in order to get money in London for Mr Halcro. Ifxxx after you receive this you will still have a few days to work upon xxxx intimated the like to Mr L. & that a certain person has made a proposal offering £400 (for) the lands for at 130 & 9 & 93 to 50 makes only 282 (while) 139 & 2 & 200 & 50 is 391 & ^{cu}more will be upward of the w sum. Now see the equity of the first proposal as the full price to 93 is but 232 (very fair & friendly indeed) see £168. So much for the first xxxx in hand, now Sir for the next all that fair & friendly. I take no tricks but by a peculiar knxx thro them in my partners hand I shall have them & I comxxxx with impunity. Exert yourself as a man of dependxxxx it you will loose your chance & then laught attxx xxxxx of your invitation to your daughter's frugality xxxx helps to injoy latter time the better, but get the Moxxx out that other assistances will not much signixxxxx have now I think sufficient intelligence in this xxxx to which prefer all mine being (youllesser ?) for you own & no other. I wish you all happiness & success &

D^r Broy^r

Yours affectionate

Jn^o Johnston

PS: you may thing this an old (?) stile but consider it well before you inwisely (?)
condemn it & you may find more in it than at first may appear