

Addressed to:

From:

London April 20th 1773

John Johnston

Dear Nephew

I have your letter of y^e 19th Feb^y I think that your improvement is but little but as there is a little it gives hope. I have remembered your compliments to your freinds in Canada, and have advised your Uncle James agreeable to your letter & that I should desire you to write to him next Spring in order that he may judge of your performance. & as I have thus introduced you I expect you will act accordingly. The ship will sail in March. I think that in my last to you I was so plain that I need only say refer to it. However if I take the trouble to animadvert a little on your letter possibly it may not be amiss, & judging that you recollect the contents I would observe, that you may follow the school, run over arithmetick etc. a second, third & fourth time, & then know but little if you have not at same time a carefull attention to what you are about both when at school & at leasure hours at home, to improve & know the very meaning & intention of every Rule, the connection they have one with another & the purpose & end to be obtained thereby. For instance if I am desired to bring guineas to pounds multiply by 21 and divide by 20. If I first know for what reason, & when I am xxxxxxx of the reason, then I know that I am right, & thus I would inquire into the reason of every rule, which when obtained the memory is xxxxxx, having only to bear apart with reason & judgement. & now I would ask you what you think is my reason for writing this & my former letter to you. It is for your own good that I advise you in order to induce you to be attentive & diligent to improve yourself while young that you may have some knowledge to improve upon in your riper years when you come to business. You ought to be curious to learn to write a fair clean hand & consult your dictionary for the meaning of words. I would be glad that you learn Latin as well as Arithmetick & Book keeping for I think if you was qualified in that language it would be better in case some business might turn up for you that may require it. And with due application you may learn all I speak of by the time you are 15 years old. For I would wish you either to be a student in Phisick which may be had in Scotland and is a genteel business by which advancement may be had, if cliver, or to take your chance in the capacity of a Merchant Clark. But the first I would rather recommend to the consideration of you & your father, anent which shall like to have the opinion & reasons of both. I am

Dear Jack

Your affectionate Uncle

Jn Johnston

May 24th

This comes by your cousine James Irvine. I hope you will beheave well to him and that you will love one another