

Addressed to: Mr Joshua Johnston, Writer, Stromness, Orkney, p favour of Capt Robertson

From: John Urquhart

Quebec 17 July 1782

Dear Say^r,

I have done myself the pleasure to wrote you from London and Portsmouth which I hope came safe to hand and I at present have verry little to add but that I have arrived here after a pleasant & expeditious passage. I on my arrival wrote a few lines to Broy^f Johnston who came immediatly to see me and before any time I was introduced to Broy^f Halcrow who in reality xxxxx to me like a broy^r, after asking a little of the Orkney news. I expatiated matters to them and wanted their advice which they both gave their opinion that I should send the letter to Captain Johnston and would wait myself till called for. This I have done and was informed by my worthy friend Broy^f Johnston of what past. I undoubtedly could not expect of course that Captain Johnston would take it well as all matters was done unwarrantably but I am happy not only on my account but Broy^f Johnston's that it was soon over, for his anger is only for a night and joy and good will in the morning. I was also informed that he has been enquiring for a birth to me in town (?) though it has not as yet cast up. As I could not expect to engage in business here without learning a little French, I have boarded myself in a French house in town and hopes again any good offer casts up I can be fitted (?) to undertake it. I had the pleasure this day of a little conversation with Captain Robertson who was willing to tender (?) his good will to recommend me to any of his augua..ancy (?) but as they make it a rule to have three or four years of any that engage with them I cannot think I agree to it however if better dog not cast up must (???) I am determind to have a fortune err I return north so that I may triumph a little over those who triumphed over me in my adversity. I have every day since my arrival here have the pleasure of Broy^s Johnstons' company which afords us mutual satisfaction for he to me your serius and good advises and I represent to him the Orkneys as if personly present. From this you may judge how happy we must be at our meeting.

I hope yet he will deserve the blessing of the poor of his country as well as his uncle does that of Cannada that by giving employment to that ignorant idle sort of people. I mean the pheasantry of the Orkneys. I have wrot John Campbels from London with regard to that little cash left me by my aunt which I hope was remitted my wife in course. Broy^f Halcrow is done (?) the river (?) about 30 leagues and is daily expected here. I shall refer you to Captain Robertson for the news of this place and also Broys Johnstons' letters and as I mean to write you by the I conclude at present wishing that my circumstance in life will of seeing you once more in the hearty good health that I left you in and I am with sincer esteem to you, moy^r, sisters, aunts and all, your

Affectionate son in law, while

John Urquhart

I am this morning to breakfast with Mrs Irvin and Aunt Jeanny JU