

Addressed to: Mr Joshua Johnston, Writer, in Stromness

From:

Tain 2nd May 1781

D^f Sir,

I received some time ago both your agreeable favours, and all now refered as had nothing new to transmitt you with regard to my former situation. But now acquaint you that I had offer from the cred^f that incarcerated me of liberation, and that without any point of settlement. This I did not chose to accept, being made to understand that his meaning was to have recourse on my future progress. And to prevent his intention I caus'd a friend in town to lay an arrestment to detain me here till such time as I will get a generall & finall settlement which I am resolved to have err I come out. As the matter cannot hurt me in person circumstance or character more than it has done, and I will be entirely misfortuneate unless it proves in my fav^f hereafter if I chance to lead the xxx line (?) of life. And I am bold to think I shall never be a means of my friends despising me as it is a matter incident to all men of business & is not foreseen nor prevented. The three principal cred^{ts} I have been concerned with in Glasgow has stopt payments and has got settled with their cred^{ts} for half the sum. I made offer to them before coming here but using this step with me urges me to give them as little as I can & if possible none at all. I have had a letter from London from Mr John a few days ago which says he means to sail very soon. I would be heartily sorry to think he would loose this opportunity as from the xxxxxx of what I read in the papers each vessel is of the Quebec fleet. They will be accompanied with a strong convoy. In a letter from Mr McDonald of this day, I am happy to understand that you & family is well. I dare say you would have a long conference with him and am sure you would before now understand that the gent^{ln} is not accomplish^d with great policy (?), yet same time is a good kind of a lade.

I had the pleasure of seeing that good blade (?) Stevenson from your part whose conduct I will refer to mention till meeting. I had seen a gentⁿ pass by here who resembled Mr Geddess but imagine if it was him would have call'd. You would have read of our defeat at the East Indies & is much suspected was duing to treason. Likewise what hidden treasures is daily found at St Austalid (?) I mean to send Miss Katty's commission by post soon.

You'll not fail in writing me a long letter on receipt, and I am with the greatest esteem to you, family & friends

D^f Sir

Yours while

John Urquart