

Addressed to: Mr Joshua Johnston, Writer in Stromness, Orkneys, N Britain

From:

London 28 March 1782

Dear Say^r,

I have arrived here yesterday after long passage but considering what weather has been since I left Stromness ought not to complain and what ships has been lost upon the coast.

I have this day waitted on M^r Brymer and gave him your letter and on perusing the same he told me he could not undertake to procure me my passage (?) on such a critical footing though he did the least doubt but Mr Johnston would have on my arrival. This you may believe has been a disapointment to me that exceeds all others. May God Almighty direct me to the best. He likewise advised me to writte you on receipt to acquaint of same and says if you order him to pay same he will instantly advance it, as all passage (?) is paid befor they sett of. He also says if your to him signifys to see him paid that possible I may have it in my own power to paid it before he makes a demand. From what I have learnt of him, he is a genteelman that relishes to serve you and your brother both verry much though he likes to be on the safe side. He did not mention to me what the passage would be but says he will procure as easy as possible. I cannot presume to advise you to the above but your own goodness will direct you how to behave in it. M^r Brymer has ordered me to wait on him in a few days and may God grant that he may have a different mind again that time. I hope he will.

I have a guinea to pay for my passage here and if I am detained long my circumstance will be in a poor way but hopes God Almighty will turn matters better. I have not as yet called on M^r Crafts M^cKay or any other person but M^r Brymer alone as being the main business. Your letter cam only here about two days ago and the fleet sailed about ten days before but Mr Brymer me the Grand Fleet will be soon. I have not wrote my wife at this time as I think it is unnecessary expences but I remain with my love to her and Peggs, you, Mrs Johnston and all family, your ever affectionat son, while

John Urquhart

NB I hope to have a letter from you myself if you do not write M^r Brymer with your best advises. I'll xxxx that non will be sensible of the above till we see how it turns out J.U.