

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

From: Mr Jn Urquhart, Portsmouth, 1st May 1782

Portsmouth 1 May 1782

Dear Say^r,

I have wrote you from London p^r Miss Halcrow annent all particulars and also wrote to my wife in answer to her letter acquainting me of the death of my Aunt Chirsty. I hope all I have said in my letter to her is sufficient on that subject as I have wrote Mr John Campbel to remmitt to her or order what my old aunt was pleased to be bequath to me which I hope will be honour'd on demand. My pen is at a loss to express to you what kindness has been shown me by that worthy man Mr Brymer not only in doing all the necessary for me here but his kind letter in my favours to your broyr & I hope in time I will have it in my power to make him a suitable retaliation. From what I learn he takes a certain pleasure in serving you & broy^s.

I have been here this ten days which is a verry extravagant place to live in but this day unexpectedly we have got orders to sail this night or tomorrow under convoy of the Assistance (?) a 50 gunn ship, Capt Worth, & one frigate but does not know the frigate's name. Matters answering so well with me since I left Stromness makes me hope it will do so in future. May God grant it.

I have to acquaint you of two rich French prizes being this day brought in here, a 74 & 64 gunn ships and a vast deal of money on board. This is the first fruit of our new ministry and hope they will do better soon. I thought it not necessary to write my wife at this time but leave her to the protection of an Almighty God and hope I will have it in my power to help her soon. I hope you will as hitherto be mindfull of her and little Peggs and I should never pay providence wile. I have nothing further but a farewell for a time. My best love to my wife & little Peggs, Mrs Johnston, self & family, all friends, neighbour & acquaintances. May God grant a happy meeting & I am for ever your affectionate son in law, while

John Urquhart

Mr Crafts Mackay was well when I left London, understand he wrote you from home (?). Complis to Mr Crukshank & wife, also to Mr Mackinlay and everyone J.U.