

Addressed to: John Johnston, Stromness

From: Mr Mathew Macknider, Kilmarnock 3rd June 1797, rec^d 16th Ins^t

Stromness, Orkneys

Dear Johnston,

I am at a loss how to account for the interruption that has taken place in our correspondence. Perhaps you can clear up this mysterious matter if it is owing to any negligence on my part. I am sorry for it and beg forgiveness. If on the contrary it originated with you I expect amand (?) honorable on your part.

You'll no doubt be surprised on receiving this from me at this place yet your admiration will cease when I inform you the case of my aged parents is the cause ..they are both at present well. I have been here this some weeks past and expect to remain two or three more before I return to London where I intend to pass the time until I am call'd back to Canada.

When I left Canada last fall very late all our friends were well and express'd much concern for your Mrs & family's welfare. I am truly happy to find (on enquiry) you are agreeably settled (and I hope during the remaining part of life) and bless'd with many sweet little pledges of mutual affection. May they still increase and ever prove dutiful and affectionate is my sincere wish. When in London I conversed frequently with your brother in law, M^r H^y Taylor. He informed me M^r John Taylor, by Lord Hugh Seymour's interest, got appointed purser to a first rate with the promise of a more eligible situation so soon as an opport^y afford. The business respecting a settlement of the affairs of the late estate of M^r H^y Taylor was not in a favourable way towards a final termination when I left home yet I think they cannot procrastinate much longer.

My situation here is pleasant and agreeable yet I would think myself truly happy could I enjoy a few days in your & Mrs J comp^y. I have some intentions of paying you a visit but you must not depend on it as it's very uncertain when my affairs may call me up to the metropolis. Perhaps you expect from me a compleat detail of occurrences since our correspondence dropt which no doubt would me amusing but rest satisfied that all shall be revealed at meeting if my intended visit can be accomplish'd. By return of post I expect a letter from you in which please state the situation of affairs with you. In the interim I am with best respects to M^{rs} Johnston and all friends

Your very h^{ble} serv^t

Mathew Macnider

Kilm^k 3rd June 1797