

Addressed to: Mr Jos Johnston writer in Stromness

From: Rob^t Laing Esq^r, Kirk^{ll} 16th Sept 1769

Kirkwall 16 Sept^r 1769

Dear Sir,

I intended to have wrote you some weeks ago in order to have contradicted (?) as post (?) that prevail'd here. I suppose with you also that my brother had purchased M^r Halcrow's estate at a price not adequate to its value. As M^r Halcrow is now with you he can convince you that no such purchase was intended by me or my brother & at meeting I shall convince you we have acted the severest (?) to (?) (?) (?) for the benefit of a small family that in all probability I shall leave behind me. Yet no consideration based (?) induce me to make a purchase to the prejudice of the cousins (?) nor that the foralost (?) slur should now (?) be thrown on me my brother or children (?) by it how soon Mr Halcrow knows the situation of his affairs & that if he resolves to dispose of his estate the only

through with him reinstate her in I thank God I have now the pleasure to ac..... that I have succeeded & he promises me that he shall not only correspond with your brother but sende him annually a little for them as he does his own sister in London. Of this you'l please acqut your hoy^t & sisters with my best respects to them but I begg this may be kept amongst ourselves.

Make my compliments to your sister Mrs Jeanie. I have to (???) at meeting she (??? ???) in town & tho she promised (???) never came to see us. I can only assure her she would have given (?) us where that she would have been welcome nor would ever M^{rs} Laing forget a tender (???) she took for my little Sam at my mothers, remember me to M^{rs} Johnston & I am

Dear Sir

Yrs Robert Laing