

Addressed to: M^f John Johnston, Merchant in Stromness, Orknies, p^r Ship Nancy Cap^t Bain via Liverpool

From: John Purss Esq^r, Quebec 16th May, rec^d 26th June 1801

Quebec 16th May 1801

M^f John Johnston

Dear Sir,

I did myself the pleasure to write to you on 14th Aug^t, 28th Oct^f & 24th Dec^r last year & 19th Jan^{ry} this, the two last covered Mess^{rs} Mathew Macnider & C^{os} 1 & 2nd Set of Exch^{es} of 24th Dec^r @ 60^d/s on Mess^{rs} Ridsdale Hamilton & C^o, London, for thirty pounds sterl^g of which I begged your acceptance. As opportunities by way of Halifax & New York, by which the two last were sent, are always tedious & sometimes not without risk of miscarriage, I send you by this conveyance 3^d Set of the above Bill.

I have the satisfaction to inform you that on the whole I have had no reason to complaint with respect to health during the winter, a few slight colds & a little touch of the gout excepted. I have, thank God, weathered it out very well. It has been the mildest and shortest winter ever remembered in Canada, the month of March was as mild as formerly that of May. On the 1st of April the River S^t Lawrence was quite clear, all the lake ice had passed and the navigation open as in summer. The vessel by which this goes arrived from Liverpool on 25th Ult^o the earliest arrival ever known in Quebec. Vegetation of every kind is at least a month earlier than usual. We have now at this early season twenty four or twenty five vessels from Great Britain & Ireland, tho' only one out of 8 or 9 expected from the Clyde is arrived. Mrs Johnston & her relations who we understood were to sail early, have not had the good fortune yet to arrive, and we begin to be very anxious about them. We have a brig from Leith that touched at some of your islands, but understand she was not at Stromness, otherwise we should have expected the pleasure of a few lines from you to advise how all friends there go on. I am glad to learn that M^f Urquhart has returned from India & remitted his wife some trifle from his savings on the voyage. All your friends here are well and charge me with compliments to you and M^{rs} Johnston. Mr Irvine has procured a place for Joshua Halcro in the North West Company, but is bound to serve six years, the usual time young men engage for in that service. But if he behaves well he has the chance of soon afterwards making a fortune. Many who went in with greater disadvantages have of late years returned worth £20 - 30,000.

My best compliments to M^f Geddes & family. Excuse me to him in not writing to him by this conveyance as the vessel sails tomorrow morning & it is now late in the evening & from the confusion in moving our lodgings prevented me from gaining intelligence when she was to sail.

I have leased one property in Champlain Street to Mathew Macnider & C^o & returned to the house in which we lived when Mr Geddes was with us.

Your cousin John is well & joins me in best respects to M^{rs} Johnston & all friends in the Orknies. Believe that I remain

Dear Sir

Your friend & hble serv^t

Jn Purss

Attached Bill of Exchange

For £30 = 0 = 0

Quebec, the 24 December 1800

At Sixty days sight please Pay this third of Exchange (first second or
Fourth unpaid) to the order of John Purss Esq^r -----
Thirty Pound Sterling -----
Value received which place to Account as pr advice from

Gentlemen yr obed hble servant
Mathew Macnider &

C^o

To Messrs Ridsdale Hamilton & Co
In London