

**Addressed to:** Mr John Johnston ..... At Miss Johnston ..... Men..... Pr the  
Betsey, Capt Boyd

**From:** Mr Crafts M<sup>c</sup>Kay, London, 12<sup>th</sup> March 1782

London the 12<sup>th</sup> March 1782

D<sup>r</sup> Cousin,

I rec<sup>d</sup> yours of the 20<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> last, was verry happy to heare of your safe arrival at Quebec but at the same time was exceedingly sorry to heare of the melancolly meeting & the death of my friend & uncle John. Confident of your angciety of seeing him gives me the better idea of the shock & circumstance of the disappointment. I have thought it the least of my duty to go into mourning for him in memory of his past friendship to me. Shoud be glad to hear how you dispos'd of my letter to him, & whether he had left any will. His brother in law, Malcome Laing in Jamaica is also dead the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the same month Augt last, has left Mrs Johnston it is said £50 a year or otherwise a thousand or two principall, either to return to her broy<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> at her death.

Am verry happy to heare of your being so agreeably situated to your wishes, along w<sup>t</sup> your uncle & that worthy gentlm<sup>n</sup>, Mr Purse. I hope you will ever do your endeavour to merit their favour & esteem.

I am much oblided to you for your unprejudiced conversation & opinion of me, whatever it was, or what ever is the consequence. I would wish you always to act & speack on that just & good principals & when the follow<sup>s</sup> part of my carracter is called in question, I would wish that also to be treated the same.

As to the follow<sup>s</sup> parragrafe in your letter, ment<sup>s</sup> my last letter, tho you are doubtfull yet do not I apprehend the least danger. For as justice & truth dictated by a good contience is the rule of my conduct as well as that of my pen, I fear not an impartial judge.

I am sorry I cannot have your watch ready to send by Cap<sup>t</sup> Boyd, not expecting him to sail before the rest of the fleet, of which I did not know until about two days ago not being to meet w<sup>t</sup> him before when he gave me a box for your father to my care & told me he sails as tomorrow. Your watch will be completed in about two days & I intend sending it by Cap<sup>t</sup> Dickie (of which I make no doubt he will take the trouble) along w<sup>t</sup> the fleet & convoy. Cap<sup>t</sup> Boyd comes out by the run along w<sup>t</sup> other armed ships. I have made your watch according to your order in every respect the same as Mr Brymer's, cap'd & jewel'd & every other quality, verry neat & verry hansome tortoisshell case which I make no doubt will please you in every respect. The watch will come to eight guineas, same as the above ment<sup>d</sup>. The ..... in your last letters. All friends in the Orkneys were well in October last, but have had no letters since. Please give my love to aunts & cousins where due & accept the same yourself & I remain, D<sup>r</sup> Cousin

Your affec<sup>t</sup> cousin

Crafts Mackay

P.S. I have rec'd the money advanc'd you from your father. Shall send him your box by the N.W.Ships (?) Mrs Johnston & daughters desire to be remembred to you. Miss Nancy Jones is married. Pray excuse haste & finish for the present wishing good acc<sup>ts</sup> from you & all friends, etc. etc.