

**Addressed to:** Mr Joshua Johnston, attorney in Stromness, Orkney

**From:**

Dear Uncle,

Your last of the 4<sup>th</sup> April I rec<sup>d</sup>. I also rec<sup>d</sup> the box & letters sent by Ja<sup>s</sup> Mowat and forwarded them to Portsmouth, together w<sup>t</sup> other parcels, all of which I p<sup>d</sup> the carriage thence. I hope my cousin John has not been so neglectfull in writing you as he has been to me, which I must declare was not using me well. I have at last rec<sup>d</sup> a letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> inst ment<sup>g</sup> the receipt of the things sent to Portsmouth, & desireing I would mention to you what money he had rec<sup>d</sup> of me, & on my acc<sup>t</sup> from his aunt, as ment<sup>d</sup> in the follow<sup>g</sup>.

Aunt & cousins sett out for Portsmouth the 18<sup>th</sup> last month, next day went over to the Isle of Wight where they continued in lodgings until the fleet sail'd, and am inform'd they were seen under sail, with oy<sup>r</sup> fleets four days ago amount<sup>g</sup> to 300 sail for diff<sup>t</sup> departments. God grant them a speedy & agreeable passage w<sup>t</sup> safety. My cousin ment<sup>d</sup> their convoy appoint<sup>d</sup> were the Hanniball of 50 guns & three frigates, the Deddulus, Midstone & La Brune, besides a sloop of war. Cousin has always kep his health verry well since he has been in England. I never heard him once complain, and likes London exceedingly well, & wish'd to continue longer. The ship aunt & cousins are on board is the Betsey, Capt Boyd, a verry fine ship & a ship of some force. I make no doubt but you have been acquainted of every particular of every kind from himself. He has rec<sup>d</sup> all the letters that came thro my hands. I have not been able to meet w<sup>t</sup> those books ment<sup>d</sup> in your last as yett. Shall make diligent enquirey & send them by the first opportunity. They are not general books therefore are not always to be met with. Excuse haste. I conclude w<sup>t</sup> love to you, aunt & cousins, & am your affec<sup>t</sup> nephew

Crafts Mackay

P.S. I have never seen James Mowat since he brought me the box, therefore am at a loss how this comes as yett. I judge he is affronted w<sup>t</sup> me because of my refusing to pay him an unnessesarie expence he was at in going to Gravesend on purpose for the box. He told me it cost him three & ninepence. The box was wanted but did not desire him to go on purpose. Therefore thought he had the justest claim on you provid<sup>g</sup> you approv'd of it. He required a note from me ment<sup>g</sup> his expence but as I told him I had no more than his word for it, & did not doubt but that would be sufficient with you as well as with me. I'm surprised Mrs Halcro did not embrace the opportunity of comeing to London & taking her passage in compy wt her brother &c. I am same as before in haste

Yrs &c

C Mackay

London 27<sup>th</sup> May 1781

Dear Uncle

I rec<sup>d</sup> your several letters p<sup>r</sup> M<sup>rs</sup> Deacon, Mowatt & p<sup>r</sup> Bakies franks. I also deliver'd & forwarded those of my cousins to my care. I wrote you a paragraph in one of his letters some time ago, which I make no doubt but you have receiv'd, in which letter he mention'd what money he had at that time rec<sup>d</sup> of me, but afterwards at his request advanc'd him still farther for pocket & other necessarie expences, including postage of letters (to the 17<sup>th</sup> April) to the amount of £1..17..8, together with a book sent him that he wrote me for, and the carriage of his box w<sup>t</sup> stockings &c & oy<sup>r</sup> parsells sent to Portsmouth after his departure. Also the sum of 11/6 that he rec<sup>d</sup> of Aunt Jeanie at the I of Wight due to me occasion'd by a letter that I wrote her that settled her so that she paid him on receipt on my acc<sup>t</sup> which he mention to me in his last letter from said place as verry acceptable to him being entirely in want of money for purchasing small necessaries such as gloves, hair ribbon & paying for washing, &c, the whole amounting to £2..13..9. He desires my mentioning the whole to you & makes no doubt of its being return'd. Tis evident that his aunt would not nor has not advanc'd him a single shilling at her own expence or out of her own pocket to supply his for small necessaries. I have only to observe tis an instance of her friendship to him, as well as one of many to me.

My Uncle James's true friendship & benevolence to my mother have been such to my mother. Makes me think the above mentd sum will be of more service to me (than to her) by applying it in the way of business & by that means making a proper use of said uncle's benevolence to me & the intention of forwarding me in the world for my own benefit & the good of my mother & sisters in future I would therefore wish if you please to send me an order on Mr Brymer for the amount as soon as possible for the aforesaid purpose & intent. And obliged

Your affect nephew

Crafts Mackay

20<sup>th</sup> May