

Addressed to: Mr Joshua Johnston, Stromness, Orkney, N.B.

From:

Londⁿ 17th July '82

D^r Uncle,

I rec^d a letter from my cousin John of the 5th last month in 38 days from Quebec p^r the Enterprise, Capt Robinson for Liverpool, wherein he inform'd me had wrote you by the same opportunity but nevertheless desir'd I wou'd also write & give you the particulars of mine, as follows, viz

He mentions the receipt of my letters p^r Cap^t Boyd by whom he also expected letters from you, I haveing mention'd in mine my not heareing from the Orkneys since the preceeding month of October, which gave great uneasiness, & was fearfull of some mournfull change or otherwise blames you for inexcusable neglect, not writing time enough to forward by the verry first running ships. Your letters to M^r Brymer & by M^r Urquhart came too late for the first ships this last season. All went by the fleet in dif^t ships, some of which I inclosed under cover w^t mine p^r London, Cap^t Dickie, by whom the watch went. My cousin begs you will be more punctuall & expeditious for the future that angciety may not increase.

He then mentions the long winter passed verry agreeable in his happy situation clear of old grievances from partiality & pityfull cowards who are despicable & of whom he is not afraid of, by G^d (those are his own sentiments). He expresses a great satisfaction in heareing from any friend in this quarter of the world & earnestly wishes a continuance of all my agreeable novels tho that retire part of the world does not furnish him with others in return. Am at a loss to know what he means by the word novels. I don't recollect writing anything which require that title, unless he means a piece of news which may be a novelty to him there.

Please give my love to my mother, acquainting her that M^r Harry Johnston call'd upon me the other day, inform'd me all friends in generall were well in the Orkneys, from whence they arrived in 8 days in London. I am surpris'd I had no letters by them from my mother & you. Their trunk is not yet arriv'd from Leith as yet, by which I am still in expectation of letters. Please give my complim^{ts} to Mrs Wilcox, her son William is since his arrival gone upon the circquits. I have not seen him as yett.

Strange doeings in the Cabinet here at present. Some of our principal ministers have resign'd, Fox in particular on appearance of corruption, or their deviating from their first establish'd plan of proceedings & oeconomy. An express arriv'd this morning from Lord Admir^l Howe of his haveing seen the combin'd fleet, 12 sail su..... number, therefore has ret^d as fearefull to risque Cousin David is well, accidentaly on his passage spoke the Haniball Cap^t Dickey the ship that your son in law is onboard. There is but a verry indif^t acc^t of the Quebec fleet lately, has been reported was met by the combin'd fleet

who had taken fourteen or fifteen sail. I have not had the particulars but I hope all our friends & concerns have escap'd. I add no more but conclude with love to you & am Dr
Uncle, your affect nephew

Crafts Mackay

P.S. Cousin also mentions his d^r friend Aunt Taylor is much troubled w^t a pain in her stomach, & had been for some days exceeding ill. By this we may suppose he is on good terms with her, something extraordinary but not to be wondered at from Jack's agreeable disposition. Cousⁿ also mentions Uncle James has kep his health tolerable & that all other friends are in their ordinary.