

**Addressed to:** Mr John Johnston at Mess<sup>rs</sup> Johnston & Purse's, merch<sup>ts</sup>, Quebec

**From:** Mr Crafts Mckay, London, 29 March 1783

London the 29<sup>th</sup> March 1783 & 21<sup>st</sup> May

D<sup>r</sup> Cousin,

I rec<sup>d</sup> yours p<sup>r</sup> the Enterprise of the 5<sup>th</sup> June. I am much oblig'd to you for your early & agreeable intelligence of every kind, also for your friendly caution in your last of 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>. I did not intend taking any further notice of what has past. I am verry glad to heare your time passes so agreeably during your tedious winter season. Cousin Jack Taylor has given me a still more particular & agreeable acc<sup>t</sup> respecting many particulars. He is a fine sensible little lad. I went down to the school with him to Waltham Abbey. He was in town along with me during the Christmas hollidays. Have been down to see him along w<sup>t</sup> Cousin David once before & once since the hollidays. He is in expectation of the same indulgence at midsummer from M<sup>r</sup> Brymer but am doubtfull of his concent at all times. I find you are a particular favourite of his, as well as of his mother & sisters. The eldest I find is a sweet girl. I heartily wish you success.

I am sorry to find you were disappointed of the watch sent out, but at the same time am glad to heare it was attended with no worse consequence. Uncle James has paid me verry generously for it.

I am verry sorry to heare his complaint of sickness & burthen of age. I pray God preserve & long restore his health & strength. If any extraordinary change there, twill be a severe shock to all of us, the only friend & support of a whole family, must be greatly mist.

You promis'd me in your first ment<sup>d</sup> letter a more full & compleat ans<sup>r</sup> to all particulars but you neglected it in your last. I was much disappointed in your not writing me by Cousin Taylor. You never mention any particular persons. You take no notice of your brothers in law. You never yet ment<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Halcro, nor took any notice of M<sup>r</sup> Urquhart. I expected the latter wou'd have wrote me. I think he has not us'd me well in that respect. Am sorry to find him so neglectfull. I did as much as lay in my power to serve him in every respect when in London.

I have had no letters from Orkney lately. They are always late in writing. I am in daily expectation of seeing your sister M<sup>rs</sup> Halcro here as Cap<sup>t</sup> Robinson informs me she intends comeing up to goe out to Quebec along with him if convenience in his ship. I believe he will be late in sailing.

I doubt not you have already heard of a general peace but am sorry to find the conditions are so much disaproov'd, in particular with respect to a great part of Canada being given up to America. I cannot enter into particulars neither am I much acquainted with political affairs. You will undoubtedly have the preliminary articles with you by this time.

There have been such changes & doings amongst the ministry of late, such contention & disputing amongst them & such party doings, &c. that even as yet since the 1<sup>st</sup> of March there are not a new arrangement form'd. Never was the nation known to be so long without a ministry before.

I have only to observe that a certain loveing cousin (is) pleas'd to desire his compliments to Cousin Crafts, in one of the ..... love letter to two kind young ladies. Tis not worth notice, I only mention it by way of a jest.

I conclude with love to you & best respects to your new intended arrangement, & all other worthy friends & cousins of your acquaintance. My respectfull complim<sup>ts</sup> to Aunt Taylor, and my D<sup>r</sup> Cousin

Yours affectionately

Crafts Mackay

At N<sup>o</sup> 10 Crutched Fryars

P.S You see I do not spare a little time tho you are so much engag'd