

Addressed to: Mr John Johnston at Mr Joshua Johnston's, Stromness, Orkney

From: Mr Henry Taylor, London, 31 May 1790 rec^d 15th June

London, May 31st, 1790

Dear Brother,

I thank you for your well wishes for my future success in life, expressed in your favour of 7th May. I am glad to perceive the hurry of our business leaves us partly with the West India vessels, so that I shall not be deprived of the pleasure of writing you now & then, & in return, d'entendre de vos nouvelles. The present moment affords me much subject to entertain you with. The war we are likely to be engaged in shortly has put everything in quick motion here. The press of sailors has been very hot for some time & many of the tars enter willingly into the service to get a knock as they say at the Dons, & to touch a few of their dollars. We are informed also that the preparations in Spain are not less active as orders have been given in the different provinces for the press of 24000 men besides what they have already got. Our messenger to that court is expected daily as he has had orders not to stay longer than 48 hours.

My brother rece'd your letter but he was so engaged in this business of Scott's, & in preparations for his departure, that he could not answer it. I am happy however to inform you he met with success. He left the Downs on 19th March with Scott's wife on board, who I conclude was prevailed upon to go by the desire of finding out her husband & by the ample compensation she met with from us. I have not yet heard from him but expect a letter by Capt Patterson whom he went out with & who is expected back in June or July. I shall certainly let you know. Mrs Scott & her friends seemed positive he is the man & a circumstance they mentioned of him corresponds so exactly with one in his letter to me that I think it cannot be doubted.

I am much pleased to hear my nephew Henry has escaped the dangers you mention, & also that my sister enjoys her health & spirits.

Remember me kindly to your father & all other relations & friends, & believe me

Dear Brother

Yours sincerely

Henry Taylor