

Addressed to: Mr Joshua Johnston, to be opened by none but himself, Stromness

From: Robert Laing Esq^r, Kirkwall 1st Nov^r 1769

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Dear Sir,

I refer you to the cover of this letter which is what personally occurs to me upon M^r Halcrow's affairs. But as you have better access to know them you'l more readily judge how far I differ from the reall state of them. In consequence of what profit betwixt you & me the oy^r day at Stromness, I hereby oblige myself that if M^r Halcrow sells his estate to me over & above the price we may agree upon, to pay you two hundred pounds sterling & I think I could lay down a plan to you in the event of his selling to me whereby you may at least earn (?) a 100 gs over & above & you may agreed (?). I shall use my outmost indeavours with my broth^r Malcolm that whatever money Mr Halcrow carries out with him shall be so invested that in the event of his & his sons death it shall revert back to you & yours almostly. Whether these terms will be more for your interest than an eventuall chance of your succeeding M^r Halcrow and his son, I leave to your own consideration. When I was with you, you inquired whether this purchase was for myself or not. I do assure you (it is ?) at the particular desire & request of my brother Malcolm who is to pay for the most part of it & I have reason to believe it's at his request your brother has made you in my favour. I am

Dear Sir

Yrs Robert Laing