

Addressed to: Mrs John Johnston, Stromness

From: M^{rs} Ja^s Johnston, Quebec 9th Nov^r 98, rec^d 25th Jan^y 1799

Quebec 9th November 1798

My Dear M^{rs} Johnston,

I accept of this opportunity of a vessel bound for Liverpool to acknowledge the receipt of your very acceptable favour of March 19 and to assure you of our being all here at present in perfect health which is a blessing we can never be too thankful for; a blessing which I hope all our good friends in Stromness at present enjoy.

I readily accept of your apology for not writing me for two years and sorry to find you had such a good one but hope in future that our correspondence will be more regular and that my dear friend may at all times enjoy a good state of health that may not interrupt it. Your old friend M^{iss} Mackord is at last married to a M^r Bleakly, merchant in Montreal, a man they say much esteemed there. M^{iss} Walker is still unmarried and if she don't make haste will very soon be on the list of old maids. Your cousin Polly is likewise still in the same state as when you left this place. She is determined I believe never to change it for she has refused some very good offers.

Poor James was taken last fall on his way home to England. We have not heard as yet of his release. Your aunt Irvine is very well. They desire to be remembered to you.

My dear friend I am sorry I can write nothing satisfactory with regard to your mother. She continues still the same, poor deluded woman, the dupe of that vile man who has so long deceived her in a most extraordinary and unaccountable manner; you have no doubt had an account of the suits being at last finished. I wish I could say to my friend's satisfaction but as your uncle and M^r Purss writes to your husband in which he will have no doubt a full detail of the whole proceedings I will say no more on the subject for a melancholy one it is.

I return you thanks for your good intentions of sending me last year a few Orkney stockings had a good opportunity offered and in return request your acceptance of a muff and tepee (?) which I hope will come safe to hand.

Your cousins John and Anne are both well and desire their love to you and their little cousins.

You will please remember me kindly to M^{rs} Urhart and children and tell her it is my intention to write her soon as likewise M^{rs} Halcro. Your uncle joins me in best wishes to you and M^r Johnston not forgetting the little ones. Your old friend M^{rs} Woolsey desires to be remembered to you. I must end my epistle with hopes of hearing from you soon. I remain dear M^{rs} Johnston

Your sincere and affectionet freind

Margaret Johnston