

Addressed to: M^{rs} John Johnston, Stromness

From: M^{rs} Ja^s Johnston, Quebec 27th Oct^r, rec^d 20th December 1795

Quebec 27th October 1795

My Dear M^{rs} Johnston,

I received your verry acceptable letter of date 17th June. My dear friend, hearing from you is a great pleasure to me, a pleasure I hope you will never neglect to afford me.

I was sorry to find by your letter that you was then but in a poor state of health. I hope long before now that you are perfectly recovered from your indisposition and have got as a recompense another adition to your family of a fine boy or girle the news of which will give me pleasure. I hope that has been the case. I am happy to hear that little Maria grows such a fine girl. They are sertenly very great amusements to a mother about that age. My little Ann I have the satisfaction to see improves fast. She cane read tolerable well and is begun to write. She has already made three shirts and two shifts, one for her papa, one for M^f Purss and one for her brother, a shift for her mama and one for herself. She has finished one sampler and has begun another which is intended for a frame when finished. I hope you will not think me too vain by dweling so long on the qwalifications of me children. We mothers are apt sometimes to fall into that error. John is verry well and grows a fine latten scollar. He writes a very fine hand a specimen of which I mean he shall send you next year. I meant to have sent you a muff and tepet this fall but as the times are so very precarious your uncle thinks it best to refer it till another year. Your mother is well and alas still living in the saim unhapy way with that vile man. The law suit is not yet finished but there is some hopes of an end being put to it this winter. You will pleas to remember me to Mrs Halcro & Mrs Urquhart and their families if possible. I will write them but I ame much afraid the time will not permit as the mail is to be closed this afternoon. I request they will write me and I promis to repay them next year with long letters and likewise my young friends to whom I sertainly should have wrot if it had been possible. Remember me kindly to them all. We have received the news of my dear brother William's death a few days agou which has distressed me much. He died at S^t Domingo of the yalow fever. I was sorry to hear of your father in law's death. From his carrectar he must be much regretted in his family but all those are trials we must expect sometimes to meet with in this world. Your uncle & M^f Purss is well and desires to be remembered to you and your husband. Wishing you and all friends in Stromness may pass an agreeable and happy winter. I am my dear Mrs Johnston, not forgetting your dear little ones

Your ever affectionate aunt

Margaret Johnston