

**Addressed to:** M<sup>rs</sup> John Johnston, Stromness

**From:** M<sup>rs</sup> Ja<sup>s</sup> Johnston, Quebec 24 October 1789, rec<sup>d</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> January 1790

Quebec 24<sup>th</sup> October 1789

My dear M<sup>rs</sup> Johnston

I have yours before me of the 20<sup>th</sup> March. It gave me great pleasure to hear of your wellfair and your saif arrivel in the poor humble Orkneys. Well, my dear, humble as it may be I flatter meself that you enjoi more real happiness there than you ever experienced in Quebec. The good friendly society you find there will I hope amply recompence you for the loss of the beautiful shady groves of Canada.

I am sorry to say that treu friendship here is verry rare to be mett with. We have society but not that kind of society in my opinion that can possibly upon reflection give any kind of permanent pleasure to a thinking mind. I had the pleasure of a letter from your sister M<sup>rs</sup> Halcro wherein she informs me of your saif delivery and recovery of a fine boy. I heartily congratulate you and M<sup>r</sup> Johnston on the happy ocation, wishing your son may live to prove a blessing to his parents and an ornament to society. I am happy to find that you nurs him yourself.

There has been a number of young ladys married since you left us. I will begin with thouse who were married first. M<sup>r</sup> Cuthbert Grant is married to Miss Hoshier, M<sup>r</sup> Robe of the artillery to Miss Watt, M<sup>r</sup> Hall of the same redgiment to Miss Todart and M<sup>r</sup> Santure the ..... to Miss Murray. Your friends Miss Macord & Miss Frazer are stil as you left them. Poor M<sup>r</sup> Macord has failed lately. You will be a little surprised at that news, poor man, it is a great pittty, it is very hard upon him at his time of life. M<sup>rs</sup> Andtrobus has got a fine boy and nurses it herself. I will tell you another piece of news. We have got a breadge over the little river to Copour which is a verry great convenience to the publik in general. We have at last left the poor old hous upon the warf. Your Aunt Irvine now lives in it and we live in the hous which M<sup>r</sup> Andtrobus formerly lived in. Now I think by this time you must be tiered of such trifeling news so I will have done.

I thank you fore your kind inquiries after me little boy and girl. They are boath verry well. John now goes to scool and Anney begins to walk alone.

M<sup>rs</sup> Urquhart and M<sup>r</sup> Purss begs to be remembered as also M<sup>rs</sup> Woolsay and your cozen Poly whou are all well. I beg that you will not forget to write me next year and tel me how your dear little boy comes on. Your uncle joins me in compliments to you & M<sup>r</sup> Johnston and all enquiring friends.

I am dear M<sup>rs</sup> Johnston

Your loving Aunt

Margaret Johnston