

Addressed to: Mrs John Johnston, Stromness, Orkney

From: M^{rs} Ja^s Johnston, Kilmarnock 9th March, Rec^d 27th Ins^t 1801

Kilmarnock 9th March 1801

My Dear M^{rs} Johnston,

I received your much esteemed favour of the 7th January and was sorry to learn that your young ones were in the chin cough. I hope by this time they are greatly better which I will long to hear of but cannot expect to have that pleasure before (please God) we arrive at Quebec as the vessel we go in will sail about the 20th of this month. I hope you will continue to write to me as usual there. The vessel we go in is the Countess of Darlington from Ayr.

Gladly my dear friend would I have payed you and the rest of our good friends in the Orkneys a visit without entertaining the least fears of crossing the Petland Firth had my dear mother been either in a state that I could have leaft or that she could have accompanied me on the visit. But neither being the case I must submit though I assure you that I will not leave Scotland without regretting my not having had that pleasure. How happy should I have been to have seen you and your dear little family. I am pleased to hear that your little James so much reassembles your much regretted uncle & may he be spared to be a comfort to you and a blessing to society.

I am happy to learn that you correspond with your sister in law, that your brother is doing so well and that he has made such a prudent choice in a wife. I wish them all happiness. The news of the return of M^f Urquhart to his family is pleasing news indeed. I congratulate M^{rs} Urquhart with all my heart and I hope they will live happy; for poor woman she has had her own troubles which I hope are now all over. My dear Nancy is very well, she sends her love to you and says she will write you from Quebec. You will please to give my compliments to M^f Johnston. I have not had the pleasure to receive the letter you mentioned his intention of writing me in your last though I have long waited with expectation for it. Pray remember me to all our good friends in the Orkneys. And now my dear I must take my leave of you on this side the great ocean without eaven having had the pleasure of seeing you. But no more of that, lett us still hope to have that happiness. My dear Nancy, my mother & my brother joins me in best wishes for your, M^f Johnston and family's happiness and believe me to be my dear

M^{rs} Johnston your loving aunt

Margaret Johnston

Footnote on address page

George Geddes sailed from Stromness on 10th March 1801 on board the Brothers (?), William Garrioch ???, for Dumbarton to go work (?) M^{rs} Johnston (?) to India (?)