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A SCOTCH TRADER.

In sending us a copy of appended letter, the original of which is in possession of Mr. W. Maddan, of Berwick on Tweed, Mr. Frank Hume, of Washington, writes as follows: "I am sure there is much in the way of old letters from friends in America to their Scotch friends at home written in Colonial times, which would be of interest to us could we get them."

Charleston, S. C. 12 May 1798.

Dear Brother:

I am happy to inform you that I am in good health, hoping this will find all friends on your side of the water in the same condition. I wrote some time ago to W^m & Walter informing them of my safe arrival in this part of the world, these I expect you have seen. There was nothing of any consequence happened to me during our voyage excepting being chased by a French Privateer when we were within a day's sail of the American coast, she however left us in the night, at which I was nothing sorry. We once were almost lost too in a gale of wind which continued nearly 50 hours, twas this that frightened me most. I had very little hopes at that time of ever seeing you more, which I expect now will be in a very short time, at least in the course of six months if the summer does not stand hard with me here, there is not a place in America more fatal to a European constitution than Charleston. I was very much disappointed with this country on arrival, I had never formed very flattering prospects but still I expected to find it otherwise than what it is. It is impossible almost to make a fortune here, extravagance in living I believe is no part of the world carried to such a height as in Carolina, and there is fewer rich people here than in any other country. We are now preparing for war with all our might, fortifications and arming all vessels, building frigates, is now the order of the day, the Americans are now to a man against the French as they were formerly favourable to them to a man, indeed the conduct of France to thy country

[America?] has no excuse, it shews however that republics as well as kings will abuse power when they have it and some of the people that have the *government of France to Rule*, are *without doubt the Basest rascals that ever abused power*, their demands on thy country at once exposes their meanness, avarice and villany; to bribe the Directory with a sum of money and purchase *a million and a half of bad Debts belonging to the Dutch*, are the *preliminaries for the American commissioners to be admitted to a hearing and to be allowed to complain of the wrongs done to their country*, and without even a promise of granting peace, but these terms say Talleyrand you must * * * previous to your being heard, or leave the country. Such are the official accounts from the American ministers at Paris.

I have now sold about 5,000 pounds worth of the goods I carried out, and now have only about 2,000 more to sell, part of which I am afraid I will not gett off not being suitable to the sales of this country and the prospects of war deters merchants sending such goods to the West Indies, if however there is not the probability of selling them immediately I will leave them here and return home as soon as I can get the money collected. I have at present about £3,000 value of Tobacco and Cotton which is shipping on board an armed ship here for Greenock the vessel is freighted, Mr Henry the Gentleman who I was recommended to and I have the half of her. I wrote Mr. Maclean by this ship and Walter the ship before this one and will continue to do so to each of of you by every opportunity. There was 2 ships arrived here lately from Greenock by which I expected to hear from some of you but was very much mortified when I had not a scrap from one of you. I think it was rather unaccountable, but certainly you did not know of the opportunity, or it would not have been neglected, I would fain hope that you have got a favourable answer to your letter to the Doctor in Grenada, should this be the case it will give me the greatest pleasure, but if it should not be so I expect other resources will be found, should I be spared to get home. Give my warmest remembrances to our Sister who I hope was satisfied that I had it now in my power to go round by Renton before I came away. I hope my little niece is in a fine thriving way, and mind that I expect to see another niece and nephew when I come home. Give my compliments

to Mrs. Trotter and family. Remind me to our brothers in Glasgow and to all friends when you can find the opportunity, you know we have so many of them that I cannot well recollect them all at present and in meantime I remain Most Sincerely Dear Brother.

Your Mo. Affect. Friend

ANDREW GOW.

LETTER FROM LONDON, 1659.

(York Records Vol. 1657-62, p. 294, Va. State Library.)

London December the 29th 1659.

Loving Father:

My duty remembered to you with my love to my Mother in Law and all the rest of our friends in general, desyring yo^r health, praised be ye Lord for yat health I enjoy at present. My last to you was by Capt. Halman wherein I certified you of the Receipt of 16 hhds. of tobacco ꝑ ye Virg^a M^cchant & three of my Uncle Tustians. I think I also certified you that I had sold Fifteen hhds. of your Sixteen hhds in ye aforesaid shipp for Five pence ꝑ pound & the Excise; the hhd. that I thought had been lost was found & I have rec[']ed Sixteen hhds. upon your Acompt out of ye Virginia M^cchant this yeare & my uncle Tustians 3 hhds. of tobacco. I have here sent you an Accompt of ye Sixteen hhds. in ye Virginia M^ccht what they produced. My uncle Mann & Aunt rememb. their love to you & my Mother in Law and my Aunt Price rememb. her love to you and my Mother in Law and all ye rest of your friends in ye countrey rememb^r their love to you and my Mother in Law. Since ye 9th of October here hath been another over turne in ye Governm['] of this Nation ye Soldyers turned out ye last long Parlim['] & for a while we were without any settled Governm['] but ye sword