

Sir

You will be surpris'd at the Subscription. The Freedom would not have been assur'd, nor the Trouble offer'd, without so much encouragement being added to my own strong desire of shewing my Gratitude. I am not at all a Stranger to the Struggles you made in my behalf. My Brother, Mr Macpherson, now dead, had all that History from ^{myself} Professor, when under his hand, and from others. These Struggles were agreeable to your humane, benevolent and generous Reception of me, at your House, in 1755, for 8 Days, where I had the Honour of your Confidence & Sentiments on a Subject then dear to me, & which I had much at heart, to wit, the Education of the young Family of Sir Alexander MacDonald, and the Management of that Estate.

I am not accountable for my Sentiments or Actions; yet I call the Great God, the Avenger of Wrongs, to witness the Sincerity, Integrity and Uprightness of my Heart in every Step of my Conduct, where my distemp'd & distracted Reason, the Dictates of little sense, but fix'd Resolution, bore me through. I call Heaven to witness the dreadful Persecutions & Cruelties with which I was pursued, for no other Causes, that ever I could find, but that I would neither hang nor drown myself, and leave a beloved wife, the sorrowful partner of my Sorrows, and six tender innocent Babies to the mercy of a then mad & wicked World. It would be divesting myself of Humane Nature to say I had no feeling on that Treatment.

I now, good Sir, beg your Pardon for this Digression from a Subject on which I am to write to you.

When I landed at Portsmouth, ten days ago, I spent a Day with an old Friend and fellow Traveller, Colonel MacKob; At night he told me that your Son was in that Neighbourhood, waiting for a Passage to the Madeira Islands, for the Recovery of his Health after spending some time, unsuccessfully, in the South of France, &c. I assure you, Sir, I was very sorry to learn, that any of the pretty Covey, if you'll pardon me that Expression, which I saw at your House, should have a Chance of being lost to the world so soon; but more especially as he was yours.

I have now liv'd near three Years, in an odd and out of the way part of the World; the Ideas of which are enough to disgust the unexperienc'd. I beg leave to give you transient Description of some particulars regarding it.

I command, in the Governor's absence (he never resides ashore) the Garrison of Fort William in the Town, or rather large straggling fishing Village in the Island of Newfoundland. It is in Lat. 47. 30. situated on a Bay from the Atlantic, the finest Harbour in the world. Though so far South, yet there is nothing to be seen but Snow & Ice from the middle of December, when what they call the Winter begins; Frost indeed from the end of October — The snow continues 'till the middle of May, and the Frost, not entirely over, if ever in some places, 'till the middle of June; The Sun from that time to the end of September is as warm as in England; and moderate weather thro' charge 'till the middle or end of December. The Frost is excessively keen, nothing can withstand it. Notwithstanding of this rigid Cold in the Season, it is actually the healthiest Spot of Ground in His Majesty's Dominions, and, I think I may say, as healthy a Spot as is in the known World. I will give you a few Instances — Besides the general Voice of of all who have ever been there —

When the Squadron, or any part of it, arrives there, all their sick are put ashore, & there, by eating Codfish & drinking Spruce Beer (the great preservative and Antidote to all Maladies) and by breathing that pure Air, perhaps impregnated with something restorative, they all speedily recover, so much that I have never known a sailor die there. — I myself was threaten'd, for 20 months before I left Iceland, with a Consumption; I thought a deep one, so far that I settled my little worldly Matters accordingly; & so far that I was oblig'd to buy a horse, & Chaise, by advice for Livings. I embark'd in a sickly State of Body & mind, against all Opinions, to preserve the Pension to my wife, and a Pledge of Bread for my Children, by dying in the Service. I lay ill aboard, for the best part of 7 weeks — I landed in a weak Condition, with swollen legs &c. and a Diluvium which continued the best part of 5 Weeks 'till on the arrival of the Governor, I made a shift to move — I rode out on Horseback, went a

working, took a Spade or Pick now & then in the Garden; and, in short, turned so well, as to have recovered my Appetite, and to have grown rather younger in Appearance by 6 years. I never had any Sickness since. Mrs Mac Donald totally recover'd from being half a ~~Mad~~ Mad more like a Lieth Lucky sitting behind her Counter. A little Girl of mine, then near 7 years, who was always in the hands of Surgeons, turned out a beautiful, sprightly and healthy Creature. The 2 young ones I got there are worth 2 in the pound more than those got in Britain & Ireland. A Captain of a Man of War, whose wife was ill & dying for 3 or 4 years past, took her, this last Summer, to Newfoundland - There was a sensible Difference, for the better, in her looks and Health in ten Days at St Johns; and on his return from a 40 Days Cruise, she was fat & fair, & quite recover'd, to their great Joy - They said they would recommend the Climate to all sickly people -

- 3 Soldiers wives, belonging to the Detachment under my Command, who were married 6 or 7 years in Ireland, and who were sickly and had no Children, recover'd their Health surprisingly, & got Children in less than a year - I never lost a Soldier, ^{here} except 2, who landed with Pleurisy from the Ship, & were lost soon. No Fevers, no Fluxes, no Gouts, no Rheumas are ever known there. Should Mr Moray find his Health still in a bad way, after trying the Air of Madeira; and should you think of changing his Climate, you might consult Captain Patrick Drummond of His Majesty's Ship Pearl, who was on that Station now 2 years past; & who, I find, is from your Neighbourhood - As likewise Captain William Hamilton of the Favourite, who winter'd there last ~~year~~ ^{year} with pleasure, & I believe, with ^{an} additional Stock of Health - 3 or 4 young Gentlemen from Aberdeenshire have been also there, Purser, Officers of Marines, Surgeons, &c. who are now in England -

There is now at Fort George near Cairn, a Captain (Esq) of Artillery, who was at St Johns for 3 years - There is the Captain of Artillery, who relieved him, who was ^{at St Johns} ~~at St Johns~~ Subaltern for 9 years at St Johns, now with his family & Command ^{at St Johns} & prefer'd it to Perth, Fort George, or any part of the Continent of America, where Artillery are Station'd.

If after enquiries into the truth of this Description, and that Mr Moray's health should continue to decline, and that you should think of a trial of a part of the Summer, for an experiment, at least, in St Johns, I would humbly, and very sincerely, beg leave to request the Honour and favour of his acceptance of the best part of my House, which is not bad, for himself and Companion, if any, with one Servant, and of a Barrack Room, for other Servants, if any. I promise you faithfully, without flattery or views, that Mrs Mac Donald, whom I have the Vanity to think, & believe, the best Nurse & tender in the World, will be very happy in exerting her abilities to contribute to his Recovery: If he is, at any time, confined to his Bed, the tenderest regard will be, in all respects, paid - When he is well, he can ride out, on horse back 5 or 6 miles, to the verge of the Woods. He may fish trout in lakes, in rivulets, small Cod & flat fish, with Lobsters, on Rocks, & off the Wharfs - Read in cold weather, in a small, though ^{choice} Collection of Books, partly my Companions - Play Backgammon & Cards for pence & twopenies, which our contracted Society never exceed, except when honoured by the King's Entry - He may amuse himself in gardening, making Glass, playing Bowls & Cricket - Fiddle & German Flute - Walk about with 2 or 3 Lads, agreeable officers, but more particularly with a sensible young man, that is mostly with me, & who is Collector of the Port. His name is Dun, son to Mr Dun, Agent to Lord Galloway in Winton, & who, without any regard to ^{my} Moray's Connection with his Patron, Lord Garbis, I am sure, would be happy to employ his time in contributing to make things agreeable to Strangers, especially persons of Mr Moray's Rank in the World - We ~~are~~ muster up 8 or 10 Couples to dance also; Ladies, tho' not brought up in the Paris monde, who dress plainly, neatly and cleanly, & who, in their honest Simplicity, are very Chatty. The House is detached from the disagreeable, though perhaps wholesome, smell of the great Fishing Flakes & Stages. The Collector has a pretty Boat, in which we take jaunts often with Company & my Pipes. Though my Rank & Income do not admit of the Luxuries of Life yet,

yet, I thank my Great Purveyor, and the King, I do not want, I have plenty of choice Mediterranean & Italian wines, with a little good Claret, Liguors, and Spruce Beer (tho' the common drink, yet probably the wholesomest known; without which, Scouries, Fluxes &c, would sweep off the Inhabitants in one Season, as they have no Food, except Fish & Salt, ^{fresh} Fish, Pork) — I can have Chickens, Geese, Lamb, small roasting Pigs, ^{fresh} Butter, Eggs, Milk, Goat & C^d; but no Vegetables, except Dedelion & Nettle Tops, which all eat these, all this, I say, in the end of May, June and beginning of July — after that time, plenty of Beef, Mutton, Geese Ducks &c. from New England; and all kind of garden stuff then, produced on the spot.

I would not be understood as if I could say more than that Mr Moray should honour ^{me} by accepting of the House, and of such things as would be really necessary and useful, and that could not be purchased, at certain times, for money; as also to accept of my humble Endeavours to make every thing as agreeable as possible to obtain the main end, his Health.

It is a delicate point to advise, or even to give an Opinion, when not asked; particularly on so tender a Subject: The liberty I took in hinting mine only, as it cannot proceed from selfish views, I hope you will forgive. I would not chuse now to be officious or importunate. My Deal^r may have led me to a pardonable mistake, from indeed, a good Motive. — The Winter is long, in the course of which, if you find Mr Moray's Health, by your Correspondence through Lisbon, requiring a Change, and that you should entertain the most distant thought of St Johns, which lies, by the bye, 8 or 10 days sailing from the Madeira's, in Summer, when the Easterly Wind set in on the Atlantick, I would humbly pray you would honour me with your Commands, in any Questions, Scruples or Doubts that might arise, touching that place — I engage as far as the opinion of experienced people, my own Remarks and truth can go, that they would solve with pleasure — I forgot to tell you, that second Birch and Spruce is our spring — The first is recommended by the first Physician, that lived in his time, Mr Jagon, to consumptive people — I would have had the honour of waiting on Mr Moray, tho'

out of my way, if I had not been oblig'd to come immediately to
Town to settle some little business, before the arrival of our Governor.

This long letter may encroach on your good Time, but your blessed
and happy Leisure in the Country, far from the deluging and false
Smiles of Courts and Courtiers, will pardon your glancing it over.

I was about to forget to hint to you, that, during the Summer, we
having Shipping sometimes at St Johns, from the Madeira Isles, but often
to New York, Boston and Philadelphia, all which have a continual
intercourse with St Johns. The Squadron sails partly in the end of
September & in October, on their return home, by the way of Cadix &
Lisbon. The Governor, who is Commodore also, always sails for Ports-
mouth, ^{on} the 5th Day of November, when the westerly wind set in on
the Atlantick. Money is always got at St Johns, for Bills on London
Bristol, or Liverpool, at 7/2 per Cent, & sometimes indeed for 5 per Cent.

May God Almighty send you good Accounts of the young Gentlemen.
I wish it with all my heart. Permit me to say that I am with
sincere and very great Respect

Tom Lewis Mayrich's Esq, Parliament Street
London - Dec^r 1st 1767.

Your most Obedient
and most humble Servant

P.S. I stay here till the middle of January. Allan Mac Donald.
I then go for Dublin to see my Boys, & my Irish
Chief, Lord Antrim. Thence embark in April, at
Waterford, for the Land of Snow & Eeds.

Mayrich's

James Moray of Abercainey, Esq

Alonzo Donalds
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