

Dublin the very last, 30th Aprile, 1813

Dear Betty

I should have wrote you last night but falling in with Mr. Wallace, he halled me away out to Jamestown emediatly after I had been with Mr. Charls Cannan the gentleman I have been waiting on Since I came here, he & I has made no agreement as yet, but I go tomorrow to his place near Maynooth to See him, & it, on the Spot that I may be better able to know how I can deal with him. I do not know whither or not we may agree but thinks I will know tomorrow, he seems a. very nice man & has no objections to my terms.

I do not know if I come to Belfast on Monday or not, but you need not write till you hear from me again, unless you have something very pressing. If Mr. Pinkerton knew us as well as some people dos I should not be so much surprised at his friendship; but to receive such kindness from him to invite Strangers, I must confess it to be beyond my consepction, nor do I know how to be gratefull enough to him, let him know I receeived his friendly letters, & will be now the easier to deal with in consequence of it, knowing I have such a friend to trust to. I also received John's third letter, & I think I will I will be the answering of it myself., is all at present from

Dear Betty your loving husband
James Sharp

Saintfield House 19th Dec^r 1817

My Dear Brother

I received your letter of the 29th Aprile with as much Joy as the Father did the prodigal Son, or as if I had been the means of resquing you from the jaws of Death, & the more so as it gave so much Satisfacton to my affectionat wife & your four Nefues who Seemed to be as much rejoiced as if you had actually arrived yourself, and perticularly as it gave the account of your connection with so respectable a Family as that of Mr. Aitkins, I hope the Devine Blessing will accompany the match with a long & happy, & well spent life, with a numerus and respectable ofspring.

The above was wrot the day after I recived yours but from one Circumstance & another, I have put of from time to time, as I was aprehensive I might have Some news more disagreeable than I am thankfull to Say I have to tell you part of which you are already acquainted with that of my being embaraced in conciquense from my being eight months out of place of which I have never been able to surrmount. The other were I have had a Sad batch of Blackgards to bate down with a powerful agent at their backs, Mr. Price is a very good Sort of a man, but has the Foolish Idea that the keeping of a parcel of the greatest rogues in Cristendom about will make all honest men, 6 or 8 of which he has for Billiff, Gate keepers, & Game keepers with, as I Said above the Factor who hates a Sockth man at their Backs - they have acused me of every thing that malece could invent except Drunkenness, I had Severe onsets from Mr. Price, which I laughed at, having got a hint from wellwishers what was going on, But at last I was called to account twice, before him & his agent, with my acusers, which I am happy to Say, turned out much to my Credit & their disgrace, and these very vilians Seem now as if they would go any length to Serve me—but I intend to do with them as you do Tinkers. They are all of those that saved there own lives while swearing away that of others after the Rebellion, & who have bits of posts under gentlemen & pensions from government. It has turned out for that I became I am much more respected by Mr. Price & those around me than before - it has however Disgusted me at Stewardship & if I am ever able to take a piece of Land then farewell to Gentleman Service, & I think Land could be got cheaper here than in Scotland, only there is what is called a Tennet Right to purches - There is another thing that has Turned out well for me - I have an excelent crop this year--- instead of buying 200-300 pounds worth of oats potatoes & meal, I think I will be able to sell 200 pounds worth. The crops in general in this Country is very abundant but I hear that in Antrim, our next county north, their harvest was very late, which seems to have given the alarm to those who have money, a number of whom are buying up fast & to raising the markets, the average of which are, Wheat 20, oats 11, Barley 10, & potatoes 2 per cwt., but I have nothing to sell on my own account but much to buy.

My Family are wrestling up but what to make of them in the Country is more than I know, John is Still with Mr. Oneil at Castlewellan Mills & is talk of going to Scotland in Aprile or May prior to his going to America as he proposes but, his Uncle Monro is much against it, Horace is growing a Tall Boy & must go to Something Soon exept I could get a piece of Land, which Seems to Swit his Genius, Andw is a fine little Schooler and I Supose must go to College in a year or two if I am able to carrie him on, I can Say little about James yet, but I think he promises Something of Johns Sherude

manly turn, we consider it a great kindness in providence that our health is in general good in this queer Country only Betty has too much of her Brothers Constitution about her - we have no doubt but, that from the long acquaintance before Marriage, that our Father in his declining years finds himself as comfortable under the management of his Daughter in law as under his own Daughters, please be perticular in your nixt about our Father, Sisters & George Walleces Family. My Family joins me when I offer my Best Respects & wish a happy New year to you all.

James Sharp

I must never be So long of writing again please excuse me to Mrs. Sharp for it, & for this sheet of Blunders, If I had more room I believe I could Say ten times more - plenty of its kind.

To Mr. And^r Sharp Farmer
Balmonth by Anstruther
Fife Scotland

Saintfield 1st June 1818

Dear Brother

Yours of the 27th I received by this Days post, the contents of which had dampd my Spirits very much, as my hopes of getting across the Atlantic by your help were high, but now very low, & what to do is beyond my conjecter, as the last penny I have will be gon before Saturday night & have no means to make more, & were it not for Mr. Prices kindness I know not what I would have done till now but he is now in Dublin - but I hope you will Succeed in borrowing, as in the present Situation you are in, I think it might be for both our advantage for us to be away that if you were obliged to leave the Farm, which I hope will not be the Case, I think we might be of use to be in America before you. for I See nothing you could do better than go there if it is what it is represented, & perhaps providence has determined that we Shall Spend the leater end of Days there together in a more comfortable way then we have Spent our youth, or at least leav our children in a home of their own, & in a free Country - for my part I consider that providence points it out to me as the only way I can Succeed in the world & if I fail in the attempt I know not what to do - Should you not Succeed in your friendly design in Serving me I must still look to you as my nearest friend, to look out for Some little house near you where I may linger out anther winter, when I may perhaps get out with my Brother in law as he generally Sails out there once a year - the Ship that I thought to go with is taking her pasangers aboard today and to Sail tomorrow - there are another that Sails in 9 or 10 Days if I could get away with her it might answer as well as I supose the freight is cheaper here than in Leith & at all events I hope you will Send me as much as bring us over out of this miserable Coutnry.

Dear Andw it is with the deepest regrat that I have thus to trouble you, by laying a load above the burthern you have allredy to bear, but Imperious nessity has no Law, & me or mine may yet have it in our power, with pleasure to oblige you - your answer as Speedy as possible will very much releive the distressed Situation of

Your Affect Brother James Sharp

To Mr. And^r Sharp
 Balmonth
 Anstruther Fife Scotland

Saintfield House 10th June 1818

Dear Brother

After parting with you I went to Foulinsbys office & engaged our passage in the Sarah of Belfast for Quebec, at Therty Guineas in the Second Cabin, I believe I could have got in the hold at Twentyfour or 25, but, Mr. F after hearing the Family discribed remonsterated against me taking the hold, & after he understood who I was, he Said he had admited non but people of a respectabl appearence & that he knew Something about, & had refused Six Guineas from Some people of a different description who have now taken theirs in the hold 4 pounds/10. He threw off 3 Guineas to induce me to take it, & has promised that non but Such as have good character & desent apearence shall be admited there. The Ship Sails you know about the 22 or 25 or at farthest if or altho not full, on the first of July. I have been with Mr. Price today & requested he would give me some directions about the sale of things. From the kindly manner he treated me saying he considered himeself bound to give me the most ample discharge & to see that I was at no loss of any thing.

You will hear at least once more before we Sail, from you much obliged & afft Brother

James Sharp

Balmonth 19th June 1818

Dear James

After parting with you we made the best of our way down the Lock with a favourable wind but by the time we arrived at the Irish Channel we were becalmed for two days which made the passage very tedious. I got home in safety on Saturday night late found all well & on Monday Recd yours mentioning your agreeet for your Passage to Quebec, but I cannot think Foulingsbay has given you any advantage by Stowing your Family away into that ugly hole of a Cable Room & at same time taking Six Guineas out of your pocket - my plan would have been to have got out in the cheapest manner I could for you will find that the others will be as comforte as I think you will be yonder & a few guineas will be found very convenient in a Strange Land. If you got friendly with the Capt and mate they would do a good deal for you one way or other on the passage - I cannot refrain from again advising you to take the cheapest way you can of going. You have no Idea in what manner your to be placed yonder & if in a Strait what to do you will find your best friend will be your Purse So the last advice perhaps I will have in my power to give you in this Kingdom is by all means save your money as it in a great measure is your Life.

I here Send you a Bill upon London for Thirty Pounds which will go any where I believe and I Sincerely hope in God that it may be for your welfare.

I am Dear James your Affectionate Brother
And" Sharp

To Mr James Sharp
Land Stewart Saintfield House
By Saintfield
Ireland

Leith 31 March 1821

Dear Brother

Tis now about 12 months Since I had the pleasure of adressing you, and would have done So ere this time but have been anxiously looking for word from you, but have got none immediately Since I was at Quebec in 1819.

Markets are indeed very reasonable which is a great blessing considering the depressed state of business in Britain in short I may say all Europe. The Mercantle part of the community has Suffered & are still Suffering very much, which is much against the Shipping interest. I have myself only been 4 months employed during each the two last years and am not certain what I am to be about this insuing Summer, Seafairing people in general I beleave is worse to do then any other Set of men our country and what will be the end of these things is not easy to foretell, but they must either mend or end in afew years.

There is little or no alteration with any of our relatives Since I last wrote you, we have had a visit of the Scarlet fever among ourselves, young James was the first that caught it & we have had our turn but thanks to God are all doing well.

I have not heard anything about your own Relatives in Fife. Be Sure to write us on receipt hereof and let us Know how things are doing in upper Canada and when you heard from John. Best Respects to you, Mrs. Sharp & family, trusting this will find you all enjoying wanted health.

Your affectionate Brother
D. Monro

To Mr. James Sharp
Grimsby Mills 40 Mile Creek
Upper Canada

Balmonth 7th Aprile 1821

Dear Brother

My Father received yours of the 4th June 1819 mentioning your departure, voyage, and landing, in America and in a Short time answered it, and he has been a great deal disappointed at not receiving an answer to it as he requested Some information about the Country more explicit then you formerly wrote and as you concluded by observing that you had a great deal more to write it has really made us all a good deal Surprised, I have been a little suspicious that the letter sent might not have come to you & that you may be supposing my Father not to have wrote but that is not the case & even that needed not have hindered you from writing again to gratify that anxiety which you may imagine we have had these nearly two years. I therefore beg that you will write on receipt of this and let us know how you all are & how you are coming on & if you still think that you made a good choice in emigrating from here to A. Our Country is in a Still worse State than when you left it -- we have had very severe protest work in different parts of England and even at Glasgow our laws have been obliged to be attended to have a more severe appearance & effect. Acts of Parliament have been enacted to take hold & secure any body of people assembled without giving previous notice to those in power to look after these matters and at no place whatever more than 10,000 may assemble what ever business they are upon but are libel to be considered and treated as rebels, but perhaps you may have seen all this in the English newspapers which come to America.

The Agricultural Distrss here is immense our grain is not Selling & even at this advanced Season of the year prices are looking down. Present prices are Wheat 27, Barley 16, Oats 16, beans & peas 14, per cwt this is an amazing change since we came here. The house of commons are projecting severe things in order to relieve us but I can see not the least appearance of relief except taking of the war tax from malting barley which might mean one or two shillings per cwt. Your Sister Helen has been a widow & lived in St. Andrews there some years past but went away to England & is lately married again to one Samuel HolmsGunner R.N. Janet is Still in Wales but George is out of place we had a letter from her tother day Stating that She is very badly off as Geo. Is 40 miles away & sends her little to Support her family. Catharine is coming from Dundee to Pitterween her Husband has got in to be Town Clerk there. Jean & her family are all well. She has only two alive, we have not heard from Stirling these Several years about them but had any thing been the matter we would have heard. Our Father has been very Ill these two winters past, the first with a Dropsy & the last with a most Severe fluck which both nearly had carried him of the stage of life, but is at present quite recovered & well as we are all at present hoping that this will find you & all friends the same. In case my fathers letter did not come to you I have taken the precaution of sending this by Leith Ship the Neptune who I saw advertising for Quebec.

I wrote Mr. Bell the capt. & stated the anxiety of getting a letter sent by him & he has in a most handsome manner wrote me back that he will carry this to Quebec by me transmitting it to Leith under cover to him which I have done & I hope will come safe to you. I must say again you should immediately write all about what you are doing. You

may judge that I feel a Fraternal affection or I would not have taken the trouble of coming to Ireland & also accommodating you as much as in my power in order to further your intentions & also writing the Marshal of Belfast about the return of the Sarah who had not the inclination to answer me & now in doing what I can in getting this safely brought out to you.

Say in your next where would be likely a place for a Scots Farmer to get a good farm & agree with the Climate & what length one or two hundred pounds would go in Setting down in a comfortable Situation. We all join in best Compt to you all which is all I have room to Say & I have am Dear Brother yours Tru

Andⁿ Sharp

To Mr. James Sharp
Care of Will^m Crooks Esqr
Grimsby Mills Upper Canada
North America

You Should mention where John & the others of your family are & what they are doing & what they are getting for holding the Situations you wrote of. We may be at a loss to write you but you never can be at any to write us as we are well known here about altho we should be outof this Farm we have a chance to be in the neighbourhood if you Lend a favourable acct I may yet come to your Quarter as it is very Bad living here now form the State of the Country.

Grimsby 40 Mile Creek 2d June 1821

My Dear Brother

It is now about two years Since I wrot to my Father, giving an account of our voyage to this place, & also gave some discription of the Country as Something resembling East Lothian, and exceedingly fruitfull - (I now embrace an oppertunity) (by a Mr James Currie a Miller, who has been with Mr Crooks in Grimsby Mills these two years & is about to return to Edinr his wife keeps furnished lodgings of Leith Terrace) I have been anxiously looking every post for a letter from my Father or you, these 15 months past, but have hitherto looked in vain, think Dear Brother what a feast of Satisfaction it would be to us in this very distent Country, to recive a Letter from, Father, or you, or indeed any of my relations, I have had two Letters from Brother Monro, but not a word form my Side of Conections, I wrot formerly that John had gone to Virginia, he is returned about 18 months ago & is working at home at my Trade, he works prinsipaly at Waggon making, Horace has turned out a Smert Stout fellow as tall as Charles Bruce & nearly as thin, & an excelent workman he works at Cabinet & Joiner work, Andrew is with Mr James Crooks as Clark, and gives Satisfaction, James grows pretty Stout & taks care of the Cattle & Sometimes ploughs, for you must know, (that a year ago) not finding myself able to go upon Land of my own, which is great lose to me, I have taken 100 acres for & years at 65 Bushels of wheat yearly, that I may gether Strength & bread Stock to go upon Land of my own. 60 acres of this is what is called Clear, but there are Still a great many Stumps & dead Trees on it but every inch of it will bear wheat. I find myself at a great lose here for want of Rye Grass Seed, & good oats, & Barley, If you would take the truble to Send me a Small bag of the best Rye Grass Seed, with about a pint of potatoe oats, & as much of English Barley, I would esteem a great favour besides the good it would do to the Country it might be directed with dispatch in care of Mressers Maitland, Garden & Alges, Montreal & to Wm Crooks Esq. Grimsby Mills, Upper Can. A bag that would hold a bushel or two might hold the whole. There are several other seeds that might be usefull, such as tartar potatoes, long pod beans, early York cabbage, savoy & colieflower. If the above favour is not too much trouble I would esteem it a great favour. I think Cpn Monro would assist in procuring a quick convance--I forgot to say a small grain of yellow turnips - if they were Sent off by the first Spring Ship they could reach this by June, & could be Sowen here then with good Success - and now Dear Brother I hope you will not fail to write me very perticularly about Father, your own Family, & all the rest, with any perticular occurance among our relations - the State of the Country, price of wheat, etc, etc, prices of every thing here, but Marchent goods, is very low, wheat half a Dollar, white peas, the only kind that is here the Same, Indian corn 1/4 lower, oates 1/4 Dollar per Bushel - oates is the poorest trash you ever Saw - very hansom cows from 15 to 20 Dollars, a yoak of oxen from 60 to 80 Dollars - a good horse is about the value of a yok of oxen, there are few very heavy horses here, but very fleet and hansom.

Land is also very low, wood Land can be had as low as half a Dollar per acre, which is the Same as the fees for Government Land, Cleared Land is from 4 to 20 Dollars, according to Situation, Clearence Buildings, orchards, etc, etc, - there has been

little or no money astir here these two years past & nearly all Business is done by Barter - a man coming with 500 Guineas in his pocket, might make a famous grab in Land. A guinea goes here for 4 3/4 Dollars, & Sometimes for 5 Ds - we Still like the Country, it being rich and fruitful, but mis Edinr when any little nick:cnk is awanting. We have enjoyed good health in general Since we came here, only Jamie had the fever ague, & Betty the Rehumitsm in her head, & I in my left Lig & arm, I think we begin to fail pretty fast, but the young fellows gets pretty stout, is all I have room to Say - I remain Dear Brother, with Love to Father, you Wife, little John & all Friends - your affect Brother

James Sharp

To Mr. And^m Sharp Farmer
Balmonth by Anstruther
Fife Shire Scotland

Grimsby 27 June 1821

My Dear Father

the letter came to hand on the 20th

We were all made very happy by the receipt of my Brothers letter of the 7 April last, & I feel myself much obliged by Cap^t Bell forwarding my letter with the Such despatch, I have never received your letter in answer to mine of 4 June 1819, which I assure you gave us great uneasiness, but hopes it will not be so long again, & the receipt of And^rs letter has almost made us forget the length of time elapsed since we came here. I have just finished a letter to my Brother a few days before I received his which comes by a Mr James Currie who leaves this next week for Edin^g. His wife keeps furnished lodgings on Leith Terrace. I think he will be home soon after this comes to hand, if any of you were at Edin^g, by calling on him he can give a tolerable description of the country but I hope some of you have seen Mr. Gourly before this, none more able than he, his friends have got into parliament this year.

We have no reason to repent our coming to this Country, for we have had as good health as we use to have at home, & have still had daily bread and altho we are making no money, we are gathering some property, money seems to have left the Country these two years past, but those who had money by them & is not terrified to lose sight of it, is picking up nice properties, that will make their children great men in this Country, as the English did long ago in Ireland, farmers do not feel the effects of low prices in this Country as they do with you, as they have no rent to pay & their taxes not worth naming - what you pay yearly, would purchase a better farm than Balmonth if it stood in as advantageous a situation, it is a wonderful Country for apples & peaches, & indeed I think any fruit would grow by cultivation, unless the delicate kinds might be hurt by the severity of the winter, which I think exceeds Scotland, & also the summers for heat, but spring & fall, is remarkable fine. If one can content themselves with the want of a sight of great city they may live as comfortable or even more so than in Scotland, every one has an oven & bakes their own loaves for there are no other bread used here except pie or pies or what do you call it, & tea, sugar, & spirits is rather cheaper here than with you, but other merchant goods are far higher such as hardware, cloth cotton goods. Silk & tobacco is very cheap in the lower province. John had 200 dollars for the year he was in Virginia but did not like to drive Nigros, And^rs lives with Mr James Crooks upon trust, they keep him well clothed but I must know what he is to have soon or I will bring him home, the other three are at home as I have stated in And^rs letter, but I think John won't be long as he seems rather fretful, & selfish as he always was. I have also stated that land under wood can be had for 1/2 - 4 dollars per acre, cleared land up to \$20 with building thereon. As to the best place for a Scotch farmer setting I think hereabouts or somewhere round this lake the best.

There are, I am told some very fine tracts of land on Lake Erie near where the Grand river falls into it owned by a gentleman in Britain that might be had if able could fall in with them, it is 40 or 50 miles south of this - 2 or 300 £ would make grand beginning here & altho for fear of reflections I would not try to persuade any of my

friends to come here, yet I think it right to State plain truths, & if any or all of them come I Should be glad to See them, I could Sometimes wish myself at home to See my Dear Father & friends once more, but have no desire to live there in preferance to this, how happy I Should be to See you & Family here & Father along with you, perticularly if you are not doing well, Should you think of coming I Should like to kown, as I would give Some directions, for comfort & Saving. You have forgot to mention Betty & family, I think Helen an astonishing woman - & Jennet full more unfortunate then myself - remember us affectionatly to Jean & Katherins Familys, & all other friends, & write very Soon, & be Still more perticular about freinds in all the room I have left to Subscribe myself Dear Father

Your son
James Sharp

To
Mr. John Sharp Farmer
Ballmonth by Andstruther
Fife Shire Scotland

Balmonth 25th Decm^r 1821

Dear Brother

I was favoured Some time ago with yours by M^r Ja^s Currie who Sent it by Post from Leith, and not having any opportunity of going as yet to See him I have not had the Satisfaction of a conversation with him but intends at present going this week at farthest & will get all his news about this new Country of yours, I also intend calling upon Cap^t Monro in order to make arrangements with him about Sending out the different articles you wrote for in your letter to me.

We also rec^d yours to our father only a few days ago. Altho it is So long Since it was wrote and Sent away by you we are all extremely happy to hear of all your wellfares and in an appearance of doing something for yourselves and that you are all keeping your health so well, Our friends here are all well also except Helen which has lately returned from England in a very bad state of health not having been much out of her bed these Eight months past. She is all hurt inwardly from a fall She got at Portsmouth about two weeks after her marriage with Samuel Holms. We have not as yet seen him, he being still in England. Helen has come to Pittenween to try if the change in climate will have any good effects upon her health which I am afraid will not be the case as She looks very ill and is reduced to a Skeleton altho you know how Stout She was. Geo Wallace is Still out of place & he as also Some others of his family have of late been complaining. We heard from Janet lately. I believe they have Eight children, Betty and her family are all well and doing better then ever they have done, Jean & her family are also doing pretty well, Catharine and family are also doing pretty well & have one girl, we have not heard from Stirling these Some years the correspondence has Some how dropped I do not know about their number nor doings, Our Father is Still wonderfull Stout altho he is within a few months of 82. Of course my number of Family is two. I never Saw the Country in a duller State in our live. We See by the Newspapers that there are great meetings of the Gentlemen & Farmers in Some of the largest Counties of England in order to devise some plans of relief to the Agriculturists but they have all hitherto failed in doing any thing or finding out any means for the better.

I Shall here Stop until I See if I may have any thing else to Say after I See M^r Currie or Cap^t Monro if he is at home at present.

Decm^r 29 I last night returned from Edin^{burgh} where I had the good fortune to See Cap^t Monro who assures me of his aid in getting out the Seeds. I will write you what is going on when I Send the articles in the Spring.

Mean time I am Dear Brother yours Truly And^{ly} Sharp

To Mr James Sharp Cabinet Maker
Care of Will^m Crooks Esq^r
Grimsby Mills 40 Mile Creek
Upper Canada
North America

Balmonth 14th March 1822

Dear Brother

I hope that long before now you have got my last letter to you in ans^r of yours Sent by Ja^r Curl (which is his name) I intend Shiping the different Seeds to you in a few days by the way of Dundee by the Brigg Psyche bound for Montreal which I hope will come Safe altho perhaps at a unseasonable time of the year, but you must keep until you get a proper Season, my reason for troubling you with this is in order that you may be on the outlook that they may be as little time as possible lost, as I could not get them away Sooner this being the first vessel from this country this year. I have caused a Strong Barrel to be made for the Safety of the Seeds as a bag might have been chaffed and had a tendency to have mixed them, I will probably Send you a little more as also a few more Qualities then you have wrote me for, as I think there will be little more charge for a barrel bulk than a Smaller parcel. I will pay all costs due in Britain So that you will have only the others to pay. I cannot as yet Say the day the vessel will Sail, but I think about the 26th of this month at Soonest. I will write you along with the articles all particulars.

When I wrote you last I think I mentioned about Helens Distess which it has pleased the Almighty disposer of all events to terminate in Death, on the 26 of Jan^y & I would have wrote you to that effect had it not been the prospect of writing you now. She got her last wishes fully answered in this world which was to Die beside her Father under the care of my wife for whom She had an uncommon regard altho not a great deal of acquaintance of her. I hope this will find you all well as I am extremely happy to Say we are at present. We have had nothing of a winter here this year but we have not got much done to the Seed as yet as it has been Some Snow & rain of late, there has been a Severe Typhus Fever raging here with a good deal of Mortallity with it but it has abated a good deal at pressent which is all at present from Dear Brother

Yours Sincerely
And^m Sharp

To
Mr. James Sharp Cabinet Maker
To the care of William Crooks Esq^r
Grimsby Mills - 40 Mile Creek
Upper Canada
North America

Grimsby 25th June 1823

Dear Brother

However your Modesty may prevent you Saying any thing disrespectfull of me, I am Sure you cannot but think me an ungratfull Scoundral, when after you have wrote me a volum of Letters, & been at So much trouble & expence for me, That I only now begin to acknowlege the receipt of your Letters, of the 25th Dec^r 1821, 14th March 1822 and 22d of Same Month, I also recived my Barral with its contents, So late as the first of Dec^r on account of its being left at the Store of Wm Peddie & Co. instade of Garden & Alges and Mr. Crooks had \$4 to pay, I know not whither for storage or freight or both & he charged \$3 for his trouble, but I was very glad to See it, altho I feared almost all would be lost & when I had opened the cask & found the potatoes had vegetated & run through nearly the whole I was still afraid. I did what I could to prevserve then, & have Sowen the whole but the Turneeps which I hope as they Seem pretty fresh, will do well. The potatoes that seemed to turn into fibers & young ones like small marbles. I threw them into drills and 34 have come up. The ryegrass is not come up yet but I hope it will do so well - it is a fine parcel. My potatoes, oats, & English barley, as also my peas & beans look grand - The Scotch barley not so well being lately sowen - not one of my broad beans or homes peas have come up, but the rest of my garden does pretty well. I am now my Dear Brother So Deep in your Debt that I know not how to get you payed, unless you do take a Stet over Some morning, when I Shall have an opportunity to treat You to a Dish of Indian Meal Brose, or an Aple, or a pech, which is far less value here than a potatoe, (or perhaps a Mellon)

About 9 months ago we had an awful visetation of providence, I know not if I wrote you that I had brought Andⁿ home from Crookses, who was soon Sought after by a M^r Page another March^r, who engaged him at 100 dollars a year, & to raise his Sallary 25 Dol^{rs} each year he should continow, in less than 3 months he was brought home to us bound between two men upon a waggon, quite out of his reason, we never got Such a Shock before, but through the tender mercies of God, he was restored to his reason in about 2 months, & went back to his business in about 3 months & has now been about 7 months quite well, he was a very happy man, just after getting better, when helping to unpack the Seeds, and reading your, & Grandfathers letters, & Said what a blessing he enjoyed, We had a Letter from John a few days ago, who, I think I wrote you, is 170 miles above this near Detroit, he says he has married the 21st of May last, to a Sarah Arnold the Daughter of an old Settler there, & has much disapointed the Methodests who expected to make him a traveling preacher - Horace and James continow at home who with ourselves, (pretty old bods, & beginning to fail a good deal) & an apprentice lade, is all our family, we had a girl last year from west Calder, who came with her Father & family, but they have now taken her home & Betty is toiled to Death for want of one.

I wish we had a few of what you could Spare of both men & women, they live far better here than at home, they must not be called Servents, they only live with us, & must eat at table if there were 20 Strangers with us, with a few exeptions of Scottish

Marchants & Big Bugs, - & is this the last Letter I am to recive from our Dear Father, wouldit not be Curious to See him here at 4 Score & 4, if you Should take a notion to come perhaps he may come to take care of you as he used to do, - we all enjoy good health in general, I hope it is Still So with you & family, does your wife mind of ever Seeing Such a Sheep of a fellow as me about Balmonth I Scarsly mind what like She was, our respects to her & all her family old & young, as also all other friends. That plaguy little Sheet for I am not half done with my Blunders, our Markets gets quite astire, I was much intertained with the Newspapers. Write tomorrow, as it will be two Days more before I recive it, I have Scarsly room to Say

Your Affec^t Brother James Sharp

To Mr. Andⁿ Sharp Farmer
Balmonth by Anstruther
FifeShire
North Britain

It is Somewhat Strange to me that the wonderufl and checkered life of our Sister Helen Should have ended in Such a comfortable manner, Let us prepare be ye also reddy.

Grimsby 29th June 1824

Dear Brother

Yesterday brought your much esteemed Letter to hand, & according to your desire, I have sat down to answer it, & as I find you are disposed to quarrel & if I have room at the end of my letter I mean to pay you hom again: I did recive all your letter, & must acknowledge as I did before, that I am very blamable, your observation on the Shortness of time is very juditious, & if we wish, as I hope we do, to meet & convers together in a happier State, we really ought to corespnd more than we do, & that too about the things of a future State, for my part I Seldom fail in meeting with you & all my friends that come to a Thron of Grace dayly, but this not enough, we ought also to copy after our Blessed Lord & his disciples who went about doing good, & that we may do by our frequent correspondence. I hope you do not forget us in your prayers.

As to my Seeds - my Scootsh barley there were only 3 grains came up which I took care of & have now the prospect of at least 1000 fold, but my Rye Grass my principle hope I feared I had lost, but I now See I will Save Seed, there are a number of bushels of it which I will be very carefull of to turn it out to the best account. All the others Seem to do well, the English Barley, & potatoe oats in perticular, & I would not be surprised if I would raise 20 bushels of scotch potatoes this year from half a peck Upon the whole I beleive my Seeds will give me the highest Satisfaction, which I know will be thought by you, a full recompence for your trouble & expence; - As to our Seasons since we came here, the first winter was just Such as I have Seen at home, only a few days strong frost with very little snow & an erleyer Spring than is general here by a month, for there is Seldom much Spring here before Aprile. The nixt three winters or years were much alike, after a Summer considerably warmer than yours we had a very pleasant fall, followed by falls of Snow of from 1 1/2 to 3 feet deep, but Seldom So Stormy, the air being more Sarene & in the time Snow lays is the time work is done in the way of halling as they call it here, the very day the snow comes on they will hardly wait till it fairs, but out they get with their Sleighs, (things with runers the Shape of boys Skaits and Shod with iron & framed together) & after bracking the road a little, they will fly like Mail Coatches with great loads of grain, wood, hay, &c, &c. in good Sleighing as it is called, there are great getherings at preachings from many miles around, (& altho there are good Christians here in the Mehodest persuasion, or persuaision) I am afraid more come for the Sleigh ride of which they are passionatly fond, - & besides this we have all our threshing with horses or oxen treading upon it. it is threshed one day, cleaned the nixt, & hauled away the third day; for our part we have never got to the end of our Cabinet work, we are never a day Idle in all wethers - last two winters the Snow would have measured 3 feet, but was a good deal blowen which is not common here & Spring came as late as 1st of May, I began in my Garden on 3d May and began to plow on the 10th.

I thought I had informed you of the nature, & way of giving out Land here, but as you Seem Still Ignérant of it, know then, that a Township, that is 6 miles Square of Land is Surveyed, or run out, & the plan of it lodged in the Land office & every British Male Subject entitled to Draw from one to 1200 acres according to their circomstances

Service or Favour, - but these Townships being run out in 200 Lots there is a reserve of every Seventh Lot for Crown & Clargy alternatly, but Some how it hapens that their, & the Survayers Lots (which they get for Survaying) is Still the best if there is a Choice, the Survayer Sells his, but he Crown & Clargy Let upon a 21 years Leise, at first 7 Seven dollars a year & nixt 7 at 14 Dollars & last 7 at 21 Dollars, & renewable forever like the Irish Leises.

Non of us have Drawen our head Right but John, nor do I think we will, to. To go back into the woods we have another object in vew if it Succeed that is Indian land on the Grand River pretty Seemelar to Tweed Side, if I could get one of the bits of holms of about 1000 or 1200 acres you might come in for a share if you were to Come here, 300 L would buy a wee world of wild Land, but where there are any Buildings & Clearing thats worth it would take it all to buy 100 acres.

Now my lad mind whats coming, you have mentioned the Death of Some of the our friends, a Languige Speaking loudly to us be ye also reddy, but how comes it about that you mention non of the living. Even your own Wife honest woman, nor of her children, nor a Sister or friend we have, nor have you mentioned Mr Aitken my old acquaintance, think of that, & tell Father who has minded to tell about himself, to mind you to be more perticular as well as me - I am just now offered a good 200 Lot in the very Edge of the woods for a gray horse, & a 2 year old Colt that I have, & would do it, but I am afraid of truble getting the Deed.

Betty & I begin to fail a good deal, but we enjoy tolerable good health, We have not seen Johns wife yet, & it is Such a distence, 170 miles that we have not had time to viset them, but we hear She is an excelent young Woman, we hear he is a very busie & doing well, working at our Trade, Horace is Still at home a very good boy & a good Tradesman, Andw continows quite well, and at the Marchent trade. James is Still a plowman but works a little in the shop when he has time, & is a fine Stout fellow, for want of room I must conclud, Remember us to Father & all friends with you, & that the God of peace be with you is the prayer of -- James Sharp

To

Mr Andw Sharp Farmer
Balmonth
By Anstruther Fife Shire
Scotland

Please let Skipper Monro know I will write him Soon

Ancaster 12th September 1824

Dear Uncle

As you mentioned in your last letter to Father that you wished to know what goods would afford the best profits & readiest sale in this country & as I am a merchants clerk (as a shop boy is called here) Father has assigned me the task of stating the names of the profits which the will afford here. It affords me the pleasing opportunity of addressing you for the first time & I hope you will afford me more opportunities by opening communication with me in your next letter.

(Andrew proceeds to list, in great length, the good that would sell well)
You will see from this scroll that there ought to be a general assortment to suite this country market, & as I fear I have been too lengthy, I shall close, by desiring to be remembered to Grandfather, Aunt, and Cousins. I am your

Affectionate Nephew & namesake
Andⁿ Sharp

That little Blockhead
has taken up So much of
paper, that I will lose four lines

To; Mr Andrew SharpFarmer
Fife Shire, Scotland

A New Date) that is to Say New Years Day 1825

Dear Brother.

Your much esteemed favour came to Land after a passage of nearly 4 months, the reason is it came by Halifax, by which Rout it has a Land passage of 1000 or 1200 miles of tedious post, whereas by New York it has but 500 miles of a Swift mail Coach passage, besides the New York packets are weekly, but Halifax only monthly, & I think it the far best way for emigrants to come to this part of upper Canada, as there is now a Canal cut to our frontiers. Your first enquiry is of Johns getting before us, it is not because he is more fortunate but because he is more persistent & has drawn his Land quite out of world 180 miles from this, & altho his Land is rich there are few Settlers & no market at all till he travel many miles, & then but a poor one, & there it lays, & he has bought a 100 acres across the River Thames opposite his Father in Law, I was offered any quantity of Land I chose not exceeding 1200 if I paid the fees which was then £300 St^d for 1200 acres but is now considerably reduced, but I prefer buying near this Lake Ontario. We have just returned from looking at Land in Dumfries Township on the Banks of the Grand River which we can get for 15/St^d, the Situation is Beautiful with one 100 plains & one 100 wood Lands, & would have wrote you a month ago but waited till I saw it but have not seen its owner yet, it is 40 miles from this in a very thriving Settlement & Dry rich Land finely watered with pure living Streams - Johns Wife is a very religious Methodest, & I hear himself a preacher but I suppose he is only an exhorter - I believe Government want to establish the Church of England but the people will never submit to that or any other Shackle or arbitrary Law that church or Statesmen ever contrive - & altho Methodism is the best & by far the numerest Sect in the Country, I think & am almost Sure, if a few faithful & able ministers of the Church of Scotland were sent out they would soon take lead as a great proportion of the people very much desire it. A township six miles square would make a handsome parish. I think clocks without dial plates would be incomplete & I think they would bring 6 guineas here as the old settlers who are able are getting quite fashionable. Even table linnen of modest quality would sell well & if whalebone whips strong and handsome from 3 to 4 feet long for driving waggons could be sold for 12 to 15/s - they would sell fast. Some might get 20/s. Good shoemakers & taylor's would sell better boots and shoes. The school lands you mention are 50 or 60 miles up the Grand River above Dumfries - they must be high laying & far from any settlement.

With regard to my change of Country I and my family are well pleased, it is true if I had it in my power to come home in such a way as to make every man my friend, I certainly would, & take a last farewell of all my friends that did not choose to come along with me but otherwise, I shall never see Scotland, which I look upon as the happiest land under the sun to the man of independent fortune but none else I think this the next & by far the best to an industrious Sober man particularly if he arrives possessed of 200 or 300 pounds - we are still farther indebted to a gracious God for health, peace, & plenty to eat, drink & were and glad to hear things are not worse with you. I think John promises well, his Ant & Cousins joins me in best respects to you all & others enquiring

& remains your affect Brother James Sharp

To Mr And^m Sharp Farmer
Balmonth by Ansteruther
Fife Shire
Scotland

With what pleasur would travel 500 miles to See my old Father & indeed all of you for my affections Seem to get Stronger the older I grow & I never had Such a desire to See you as now.

Grimsby 28th Aprile 1826

Dear Brother

After a too long silence I have set down to write a few lines to you, an opportunity having offered of sending by a friend to New York - but how to appologise I know not, all I can say is that besides negligence, I have been long in suspense about a Lot of Land that I think I mentioned in my last which Lot I have not got but have bought another by a Bonny Burn Side called the Grand River but formerly the River Ouse it is about 100 yards broad resembling the Tweed - the Land is in the Township of Dumfries a Mr. W^m Dickson from Dumfries in Scotland being the proprietor gave it that name - it is very pretty lot of half plain & half Timbered land at £1 Starling per acre, the Boys are going next week to put up a Shelter & put in Some Spring Croke & we move to it in about three or 4 weeks, but you may direct as formerly & my friends here will foreward it to me as it is 40 miles from this - it is about 20 miles above the head of Lake Ontario & a fine dry loomy Land abounding with streams of pure water. We are glad to hear Father is so stout & wish he would take a jaunt to Canada, I think it would put us in a wonderful flighter - I am of your opinion about Tom Sheperd's enterprise, I would rather be where I am for I think this will be a great country soon, it settles up so fast & canals cutting in all directions & people flocking in from all quarters - from the States, Scotland, England, Ireland, Germany, etc. Is T. Sheperd still as rumbling & rattling a chil as he was when young & does his father and mother still live, if they do I am sure they don't wish Tom to go. As to the duty on goods coming out here it is little or nothing. If any one were coming out here I think a handsome cart & a set of horses for a patron would be worth while bringing but very light shod as our roads are not settled. There is a sort of treescoms here about the strength of a good jack chain that takes 3 pairs to make 2, they are very cheap but when we get them made by the smith we must cox him to do it for 1 pound sterling the set, that is a dollar each & not so good as what used to be called the button linked kind at home. I will observe your instructions if necessary.

I recived Cathrines as also George Wallaces Letters but Georges was only a card, the goods he asks every thing but tells me nothing, but I intend to answer them both by this convance, & I wish you could Send your letters to George & he could Send them by New York which would bring them to me in half the time, at half the postage & less. By Halifax they cost 6/2, by New York 1/s & comes by a regular Mail Coach & is only 500 miles, but by Halifax it is 1200 miles and in summer is carried on a man's back 500 miles through the woods & in winter in a sleigh drawn by dogs.

I almost forgot to tell you Dumfries is mostly Settled by Scotesh people, a good steady sober Smith is an exelent Business here, & many an honest Industrious Farmer might buy a farm & put up buildins here, for one years rent he pays in Scotland.

We all cotninow to enjoy tolarable good health, only we old folk are rolling down hill pretty fast. I would not have you advixe any man to come out here farther then telling him the truths I write you, I have never had a wish, nor have any of my

acquaintances expressed a wish to return home for any other reason than to see the Friends that are Dear to our hearts, tis true there are some little difficultys at the first as has been the case with your affect Brother

James Sharp

To Mr. And^r Sharp
Balmonth by Ansteruther
Fife Shire
Scotland

Excuse me Don't you see how I blunder along

Dumfries 18th Dec^r 1826

My Dear Brother

I have at length prevailed with myself, Indelent as I am, to answer yours of the 30th Jan^r; But recolect I wrot to you about new Year, & again on the 1st May last both of which I hope you have recived safe - this I intend to send by Minister Chap Mr Shead who has been several years here & is coming home to be ordained for Ancaster a place about 20 miles from this, if he calls upon you he can give you a good discription of this Country. In answer to yours we have no States here, but Provinces, Counties, and Townships. Our present situation about 20 miles west of the head of Lake Ontario on the banks of the Grand River, having about a mile of that River. I have this Day been takin the Level of the water with a vei^w to Build a Saw Mill nixt Som^mmer, which if we can accomplish will be the mean to enable us to put up more Machinery, but it will be hard Scratching to make it out, we are 13 or 14 miles up the River form the Mohawk village, & John is almost 130 miles west from us & 50 below Moravien Town on the Thams, in Chatham Township. You say you hope we are still going on well, we dare not complain everything considered but I am afraid the figur we make either Temporais, or Spirituals, is hardly worth Imitation, although for ought I know the contrary we are as much respected as any of our neighbours who are mostly Scotch in our Station, tho living in a hut made of Logs - the Seeds you sent me have not done so well as I expected, but I hope they will do much better in this warm, dry, ritch Land. I beleive the Lord hath chosen out for me the Lot of mine Inheretence. the mor I see of it the better I like it, I have only 164 acres but am promised what will make out 200 acres, it was the end of June before we got here & have got 8 acres of wheat in only. Horace and James are still at home & Andrew is still a Marchants Clark & has 180 Dollars a year, but we are but one family, have but one purs & one Interest each doing their best - we have also had two very drouthy Sommers & Spring crops have suffered much except in this neighbourhood where the Land is a rich Loomie laying on Sand about 3 feet down, wheat was generally good. I see by the British & Canadian papers which I some times see that Business is doing better with you now - I hope they will continow.

I wish Father would speak a word or two to some of you & not be ay scolding me for laizeness and Horace would give sail in his new Sciff when he comes to Dumfries for it, I send this to Andrew who is to forward to Mr S. & speaks of writing himself, we all enjoy the Blessing of as good health as ever we did at home, but would be the better of one or two of your godly Minesters in the quarter, even although they were not quite as fashionable as our Rev^d friend, if they only had the life & power of Religion - I must now present our joint Love to you all & subscribe myself your affect Brother James Sharp

To Mr And^r Sharp Farmer
 Balmonth by Anstruther
 Fife Shire
 Scotland

Dumfries 22d June 1828

Dear Brother

Your long looked for & welcom Letter 12th of Sept 1827 ten days ago arrived here, after an extraordinary passage across the Atlantic to Hallifax & through the vast wilderness of Nova Scotia in no more than nine months, if you send any more letters by Hallifax you will pleas Send only such as contain bad news, for they are sometimes 15 months & good news by New York will come in 6 or 7 weeks, & besides the postage is not more than one third. Mr Sheed returned a year ago & I was very sorry when he told me he had no time to call on you, if you had conversed with him I think you would hardly have taken Leckerston, My hopes are now all gon of ever enjoying your Society, but let us keep up a Epistlary correspondance as long as we live for that will not be long as I fail very fast & so is Betty. I am very distresssed with my breath which weakens me much, we are otherwise much the same as when I wrot you last, trying to improve our farm as fast as we can & we continow to like it the longer the better, it is an exelent kindly dry soil & bears good true crops after being well pulverised - We are sorry to learn that your health is much impaired & that your wife is so poorly, but we hope you are both better & that your nixt will bring us the pleasing Inteligence that you both enjoy your health & that the Children continoing a comfort & a blessing to you, as ours is to us; My Dear Brother you can hardly emagan the pleasure we antispated in the thoughts at seeing you & Family with our venerable Father at your head, in Dumfries, but your letter has fairly dampened our joys, we may propose, but Infinet Wisdom will dispose of us as Seemeth good unto Him. I wish you had said how far & in direction from Dumfermline Leckerstone lays. If north I fear you will not change for the better. We had a letter from John some time ago which says his wife has been bad of a Liver complaint for several months. We had little crop last year, this year it looks well but prices very low, wheat which is the only Staple article is about 3/s sterling per bushel other things proportional. Remember us affectionatly to Father, Sister & all other friends & that altho we should never meet in person here let us often meet at a Thron of Grace that we may at the Right Hand of Judge at the Great day is the earnest desire of your affect Brother

James Sharp

To Mr Andrew Sharp (Farmer
 Balmonth by Anstruther or
 (Leckerstone by Dumfermline)
 Fife Shire
 North Britain

Dumfries 8th Oct^r 1828

Dear Brother

I am loth to skip an oppertunity of sending you a few lines by a young man, Mr Hugh Wight from Ayre Shire where he is going on business & intends to come back nixt Spring, if he comes within 20 miles of you, I think he will call on you & if he does, altho a blunt country lad, he will be able to answer the most of the quaistens you may put to him respecting us, or this country.

We have great reason to bless the Lord, we have all enjoyed good health this season except John who was here on a viset, the first Since he was married, he took a fever which lasted near three weeks, but is now better & gone home, and desired to be remembered to all friends in Scotland when we wrote, and I asure you he does not forget you in his prayers. I & Betty have had better health this summer than ordinary & the Boys Stout and hearty - I forget if I mentioned in my last the death of Nelly Brown about a year ago. O what caws have we to be watchfull and prayerfull when we see the youngest of our company taken away. I hope our dear Father if still in life is earnest & busie in the great work of self examination, praye, faith, & repentence, let us all do so for o what a happy thing it would be for us all to meet at the right hand of the gate at the day of accounts. What a Glorious prospect a whole Family in Heaven, there should we sing of the ritch soverain Merry & face Grace of God our Savier - I hope the voice of prayer & praise is heard in My Dear Brothers house every day he rises - if not take up the Crops & that without delay, it is easie it is light it is pleasant - With regard to temporal concerns we prosper tolarable well altho on account of building we have got no great breath brocks up, yet what we have has done very well, we are not done with our wheat seed yet & will barely finish this week, I see a large follow & building is too much for one year strong as our teem is - Except in Dumfries plains & a few farms about the head of Lake Ontario, plain land also, the wheat crop has entirly failed. Ours is among the best I have seen this Season. I have seen some timber land wheat wors than any tailings I even saw in Scotland ours is among the best I have seen this season - to give you an Idea of the State our markets a few months since wheat would fetch only half a dollar now it will fetch a dollar. And^m is paying that in cash at Brantford 12 miles below that is down the River from this, & 20 miles from the shipping on the Lake, some think it will be 1 1/2 dollars before Spring, God forbid altho I have non to buy & little to sell - I understand Lower Canada will be able to eat up Upper Canada this year & a good deal of the States is very bad. So that you must do the best you can this year for any help we can give you if the report be true we hear -Horace has been a good deal out this Sumer, he is now Building a Stadeing of houses for an English minister who is come out to preach to the Indians at Brantford beside Andrew, he has three or four men employed, but exept John, we have still but one purs but not much, & whiles nothing in it.

I really wish you would send your Letter by New York they would come in less than half the time & less than half the postage. I supose you have been, or are now busie with moving but try & steal as much time as to write to us for we begin to think very long to hear from you. Since we are so disappointed in not seeing you, I hope you will do well, but I really think would have done still better here, this Country grows very fast & I

know not one Sober Industrious man repents of his coming and those who have a little money to start them come very fast on if they are carefull at first in laying out with the advice of a judicious friend who knows the country - Even labouring men who keep sober & steady are soon able to go on the land of their own - but I must have done least I tyre you. I hope I neednt tell you to remember us to your own Family & others of our dear friends that you may see or correspond with, & mind this brings you pretty deep in debt to

Your affect Brother
James Sharp

P.S. If Hughie calls on you show him your farm that he may describe it to us & if he does not I think he will give you his adress in a Letter that you may write by him. I feel sorry for George Wallaces family but dare not invite them here, as I always thought & still thinks he has soft place in head & altho I did something for them once, the only return is ingratitude & reflection & that too at a time I was least able to bear it -

J.S.

To Mr And^r Sharp Farmer
Leckerston By Dunfermline
Fife, Scotland

Dumfries 23 January 1830

I know not how to address myself to so kind a Brother after so unaccountable neglect on my part. But must say something as near the truth as possible in palliation of my crime - on that day 5 months after the date of your sable liverage letter I was in the post office when the Post Master presenting me with it, here Sir is something that will please you, for you always look Cheerfull when you get a Scottish letter, but when I looked at it I said I am afraid there is nothing here to make me cheerfull before I see more of it I can tell you I am a Fatherless Boy, the others that were there were rather surprised at the expression being among the oldest men myself in the Neighbourhood. But when I opened & saw the contents of your woefull Epistle I was almost paralyzed, I could proceed no farther, I mounted my mare & came home and with difficulty got through it when all the family, particularly Betty was as much affected as myself, your loss I think is irapareable in this world & I think, not the least to our venerable parent, My heart is heavy, I know not what to say, your situation is such that it will be hard for you to live alone but there is hardly one among a Thousand that will fully fill the void, But your own prudence & the Council of the Lord must direct you in such an important transaction. I feel thankful that the Lord has given you grace & strength to stand under such a sever trial, I will conclud the sorrowfull subject by saying, let us often meet at a Thron of Grace.

I feel much chagreen that I cannot answer your letters as they meret, I am so old & stuped now, but you must take the will for the deed. I must now tell you of the increas of my family, John has two Daghters & the old woman & I propose to start in a sleigh next week to see them for the first time, the distance is 100 or 150 miles. Horace was married on the 7th Aprile to Margaret Campbell a neighbour farmers daughter, an active young woman & lives in the house with us, Andrew has begun business for himself in Brantford & was married on the 11th Nov^r to a Jane Sturges, another farmers daughter at Mount Pleasant about 5 miles from him. I hope he will succeed as he is pretty smart & cationous. Horace & James have been building him a house & shop last summer with other work at Brantford, they are still working for the English Minister but have paid off all their hands & will soon be home. I was left all Summer with a man & boy to fight away as I could, but we got 30 acres of very Grubby plains brock up & sowed with wheat which looked well before the Snow fell. We had about 16 acres of wheat last year of fine quality but only produced about 20 bushels per acre. Your affect Brother

James Sharp

To Mr Andⁿ Sharp Farmer
Leckerston By Dunfermline
Fife, Scotland

A reproduction of the above letter on the next two pages illustrates the handwriting style which features writing in both directions to save paper and postage (Cross Writing).

Dumfries 25th January 1831
 1831

I know not how to address Myself to so kind a
 Brother after so unaccountable neglect on my part
 But must say something as near the truth as possible
 in palliation of my Crime. — On that day 5 Months
 after the date of your sable livered Letter I was
 in the post office when the post Master presented
 with it, here lies something that will ^{please} you, for
 you always look cheerful when you get a Letter
 Letter, but when I looked at it I said I am afraid there
 is nothing here to make me cheerful before I see you
 & it has told you I am a Fatherless Boy, He & other
 that were there were rather surprised at the expression
 being among the oldest men myself in this Neighbourhood
 But when I opened & saw the contents of your woeful
 Letter I was almost paralysed, I could proceed no
 farther, I mounted my Horse & came home and with
 difficulty got through it when all the Family, particularly
 Betty was as much affected as myself, Your last Letter
 is comparable in the world & I think, not the last to
 our venerable parent My heart is heavy, I know not
 what to say, your Situation is such that it will be
 hard for you to live alone but there is hardly one
 among a thousand that will fully fill the void

Dumfries Dec^r 9th 1833

Dear Brother

This is the third time I have atempted to write. first, on receipt of your letter & again in Octobar, but had to quite, my hand shaks or shook so much & my head almost as Trim as a Whistle So that I took your letter to Andrew who wrote you more than a year ago & we have had many a long look since then for another, I had a sort of Nervish fever last year that gave my nerves a sad shake, but am now quite well but weak & tender as a pipe stem. Your post boy was not so quick as mine, by five days, he took 41 & mine only 36 days, that is quick work now a days compaired with old times, if we would only keep going - but as you was complaining when you wrote last we fear you are not well yet, it seems rather Extraordinary for you to be 16 months silent.

I have found out Mr Dunbar he lives in Pickering about 20 miles below York, & 80 or so from this he has been hear lately & waited 3 nights for me I being at Brantford overseing Statute labour on the Road for And" who is path Master there, & Horace & I both in Dumfries, I have had all the fall work to atnd to for them & myself too, they have been so busie this year but as Mr. Dunbar was going to Guelph 24 miles above this & had apointed to meet me at Dundas on his return home; I went but was too late, he being before his time & heard the Steembox was to start early nixt morning went to Hamilton to lodge instead of Dundas but I being tyred riding 24 m. & now dark I went no farther but sent him word by a gentleman going in the same boat to York.

We have had a, I don't know what to call it, a Revelation or Reform amongst us, we have a bridge build this summer across the river hard by us, of 500 ft long, of which I have been the Cheef Instrument a villige is entended also it being the centre of the township & named Midltown. Horace built the first house & store in it for John, who has lett his in the west & come to Dumfries, but before it was finished Horace had to build a barn on Andrews farm near Brantford, but when working on the roof the scafeld gave way & he & one of his men fell 20 feet, but he knew nothing of it till nixt day when the Doctor was at work with him, when he asked how he was there & what they were about. He is now quite well but not so stout as before, but fearing he would never be not so stout enough to work hard, they resolved to build another store for John in a small Village about 5 miles from this by a mill, which will be finished this week. Horace has also lett his farm too. How they may do is not knowen yet but they are all Sober & Industrious. And if we were to buy out our two Neighours Brothers 250 acres where the villige is begun it would be a fine Speckulation. It would soon have Mr Dunbar here, it would take about 7 or 800 pound, - I had some thoughts of accepting your invitation this fall, but after weighing matters found it would not do as it would take away what would make us Lairds as you say - but altho John & Andrew are Lairds neither we nor Horace are yet but hopes to be soon.

The farm I mention above was what I had in mind for you had you come out when you proposed it could then been had for half the money and will rise another half in 3 or so years - did the Weights not mention it to you. I am three times doubly your debter for the extract of my age, but you have made me plaguy old, 68 gon is no chicken it is 3 more than I thought.

I feel as if nothing could have given me more happyness than to have viseted my

Dear Brother, but since providence has forbid it. Let us meet nightly at a Thron of Grace between 8 & 9 Oclock & lay all our cares & desires before that God who has hitherto cared for us, and let us beg to feel the life and power of Religion on our hearts, so that we may meet in a better world where parting is no more. That is the earnest prayer of your old Brother

James Sharp

P.S. I think John must be a fine Cliver Lad by this time & both him & Ann must be good Schollers. Give our Love to them & other friends when you see them. My old Wife has not a tuth in her head but otherwise well. We have got our desire in having the Boys around us.

To Mr Andrew Sharp Farmer
Hilton by Damfermline
Fife
Scotland

Hilton 16th Jan 1834

Dear Brother

I am much gratified this morning by being favoured with yours of 9th Dec. last (changed speed as you observe) in a communication beyond what we have seen in our letters. we are all happy to hear of all your willingness in every acceptance of the word, long may these family feelings exist in all our hearts coupled with that reliance on kind providence & diviner grace which appears by both your and Andrews letters, not to be forgot on your Pilgrimage journey through this world of cares & uncertainty. Do you recollect of saying to me in Edinborough that a comprehensiveness fixt in heaven was here a noble anchor? That has often occurred to me both in public and in private when a poor bum was otherwise forgot that & a few more, was the thing that made him a man otherwise he would have been in my eye a Beast.

My reason for not answering Andⁿ was the daily expectation of a visit of Mr. Noteman who the letter said was to call upon me & thought that he might be still in this country as I have nothing to the contrary & the letter lay past date induced me to think that he had kept it some time in order to deliver it himself & being detained longer than he expected had at last sent it by post. Is he home or not? I will make a point of calling upon Mr. Dickson as some of my near neighbours are coming and in Spring we will all have long letters to send by them but in the mean time I could not resist giving you the trouble of this to let you all know of our welfares & health.

John has been away from school these twelve months a stout little fellow but not as yet begun the plough but assist in doing many little matters, a keen hand among all kinds of beasts and a little tinged with mechanics and Ann is still at school learning I may say nothing of much importance, but drawing, music, geography, Arithmetic, Fancy needle work, all of which I am indulging her in to like others, but really not exactly in accordance with my own feelings in these bad times for agriculture, we are quite alarmed at the state of affairs now about to proceed in Parliament the Corn Bill is invaded from all quarters & if it is done away we will be all ruined & none of your Canadian wheat will pay to send to Britain. I sold 30 bushells wheat the other day at 5/6 per bushell & some have sold lower, Barley 3/, Oats at 2/3 & for unsalable oat meal on Tuesday 12/6 & some 12/ it is offered for old boll of 8 stones Dutch, you see but a gloomy prospect for Farming here nowadays especially such as me who have laid out all my whole capital upon a farm & still not likely to even pay the rent nor to ruminate me the outlay I have been at.

I have been trying n an indirect way of getting quit but privately but cannot succeed in any way that I could at all get in the half of my outlay or else I would not long remain bound by this iron chain, but why should I doubt that great the only wise provider of Mankind. All our ways are in his hand & he may have something in store for us beyond what we even imagine of course we must wait his good time for our deliverance.

My own health is pretty good at times. I have an attack of Bile which is troublesome for two or three weeks but goes away gradually & leaves me. Still the old thin man but in no way impaired in spirit or interprise whenever I am able to go and D. Sharp is just as you suppose my grandson.

I do not recollect Jas. Hutton if he is not son of one Hutton a weaver I knew while at Cenes School. Mr. Ballingal is just what I wrote you TB's son at Balmalcom. I am glad you have found out Mr. Dunbar, please give him my best compts. when you meet he will inform you how I was going on in laying out money to improve when he was here, now I assure you I need a job from present prospects, I would be happy if Mr. D. would write me all his news & views from your world. John has still a hankering about coming out but I do not want to be the hand of him leaving me whatever should happen him except of his own good will & inclination. Please also to return all our thanks to Andrew for his Indian gifts to the children, as also to wives & men of your age & younger. Tell A^m that I am sorry that he is not in my favour of doing what he requested in Cash matters or else it would have been at his command & perhaps all of us at his elbow.

Isobell Baxter died about a month ago. She has required a little help from me for some years. She left 4 of a family in very ordinary circumstances, perhaps you knew Murray died long ago a drunken beast with nothing saved out of a lucrative situation. All other of our friends are well as far as I know, my distance from them gives but little intercourse. I had a letter from Liverpool lately, they are just juging on in the old way, he on the Road & she grumbling.

It has rained these two months past here & by a weather gauge kept there has fallen since 1st Nov. about 10 inches, an extraordinary thing at this season. Ann Keays family are still near Cottnels in the most miserable condition you can suppose, often in distress most of them being ulcerous & weak minded. One of the sons in some frenzy flung a cast wheel eave at a blind mans head & murdered him. I went & made some interest with the minister, schoolmaster & others for him but the medical men said he was fully able to glean right from wrong of course their words condemned him & he was executed at Glasgow last Spring.

To James Sharp
Dumfries, District of Gore
U.C. North America
Paid to New York 2/5d

Newton 4th Aug^r 1840

My Dear Brother

I have been sorry to have heard from time to time of your complaining state, but hope that summer has in a great degree relived you of your heavy complaints.

I am also far from being well, but that is a matter in much higher hands than ours. Let us cheerfully submit therefore to the will of him who cannot do wrong, & as we get frail in body, may we be enabled to get strong in the Faith & the unlimited perfections of a Savior, who is able to make us wise unto Salvation, & so strong as to conquer even Death itself, when that dread messenger shall make his last approach & call us hence.

If you can at all be able to write do not deny me the pleasure of your correspondence while we are allowed the short space which we are to enjoy in this world of cares, it would be the highest of ingratitude on my part were I in the least degree to complain of hardships or even any difficulties in sojourning through this world, or laying the smallest blame on so kind & gracious a Maker, as he has all along through life hugged me as it were in his merciful arms, & made everything that I have almost ever put my hand to to prosper & succeed.

Please give our kind regard & love to Mrs Sharp & all other friends, I am afraid that they & I will never again meet in this world, adieu, & my prayers for you while you live, & receive you to himself when it pleases him to carry you hence.

I remain

My Dear Brother
Yours most affectionately
And^r Sharp

To

Mr James Sharp
Dumfries
Upper Canada

This last letter from Andrew signifies the end of the correspondence between James and his brother Andrew. James died the same year, 1840. These letters have described the events in the lives of James Sharp and his family, from their immigration to Canada to their settling and establishment in Dumfries.