

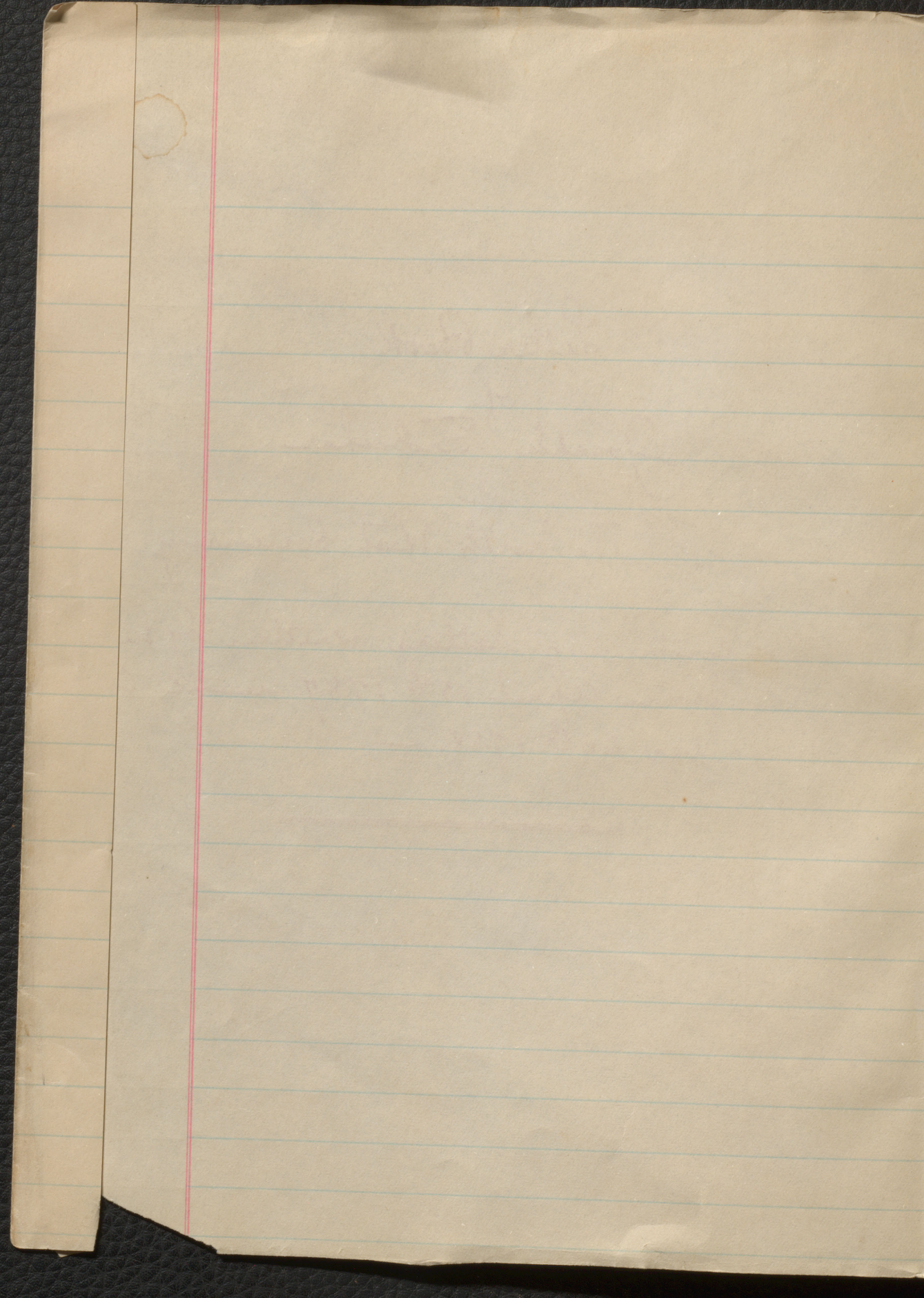
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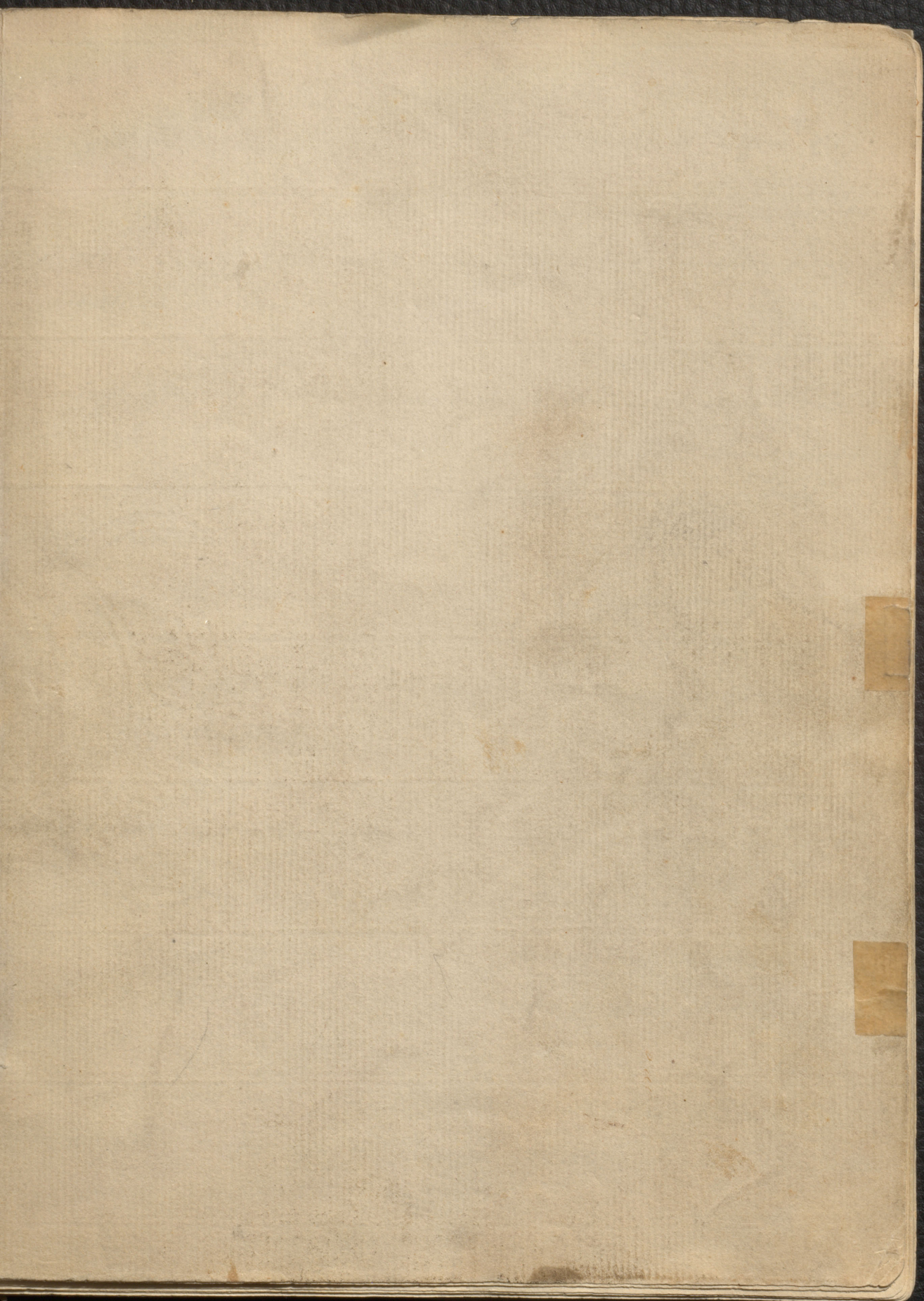
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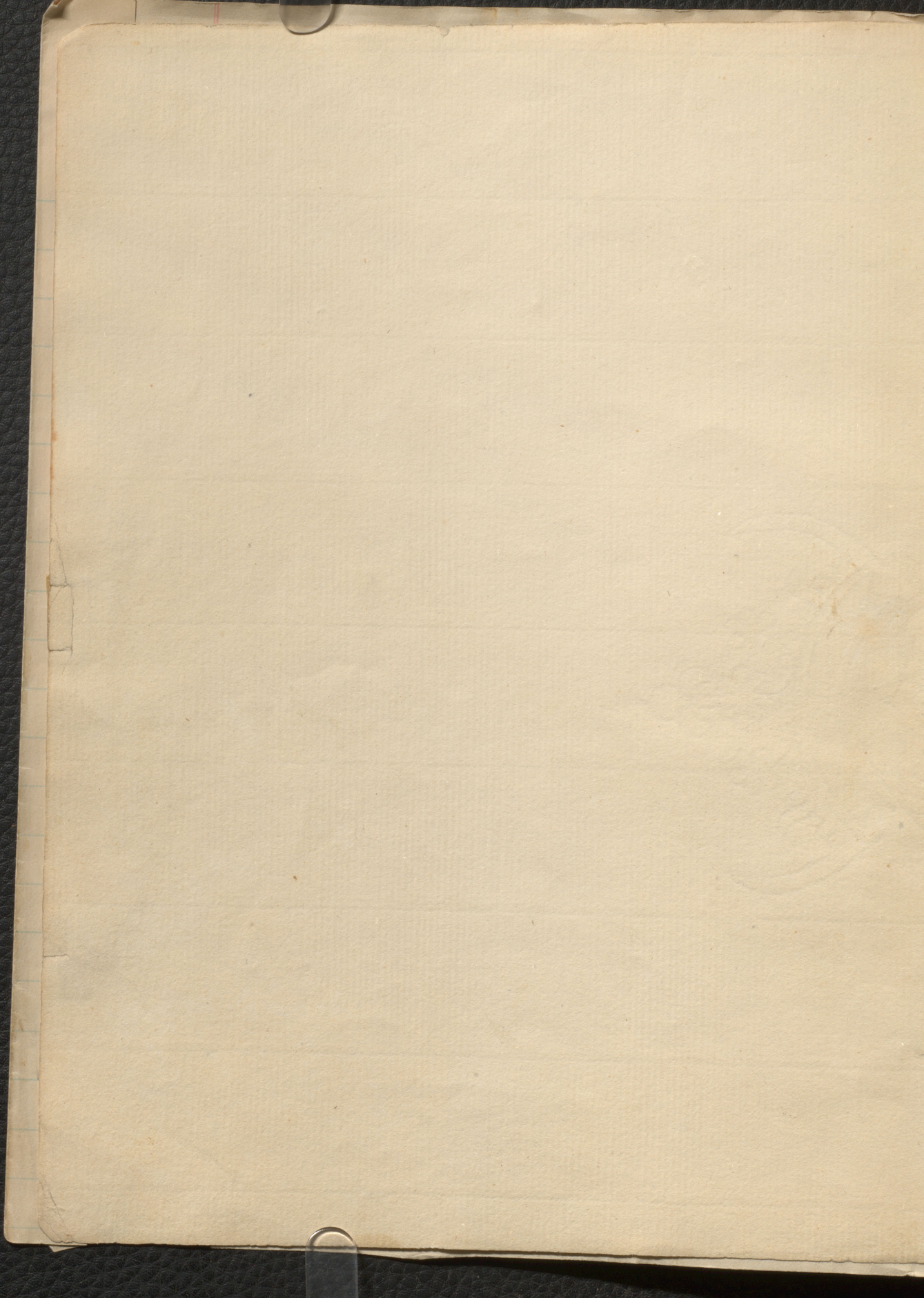
Letter Book  
of  
Joseph Frobisher  
of  
The North West Company

8 to  
containing letters written by him  
from April 15<sup>th</sup> 1787 until Octo-  
ber 20<sup>th</sup> 1788. —

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Mess<sup>rs</sup> Brickwood, Pattle & Co<sup>ys</sup>

Montreal 15<sup>th</sup> April 1787

My distressed situation prevents me to enter into a detail of the great Misfortune which has this Day happened in our Family

My worthy Brother, - yes I may say Father, - died this Morning, after an Illness of seven Days only. - Oh, hard Fate! to loose such a Friend, however it's to be hoped that Divine Providence will endue me with sufficient Fortitude to support the heavy Burthen.

Tho' I have not the honor of being personally acquainted with you, yet I have every Reason to expect & flatter myself, that you will place the same Confidence in me, as you did in my worthy Brother.

With respect to my Integrity & honest Endeavours I will be silent, & leave it to the wide World to determine

I am so full with Grief that I cannot proceed, and will beg leave to conclude with assuring you on the Word of an honest Man, that our Business here and in the Upper-Countries will not suffer by this unforeseen Accident, for I can venture to say without Flattery, that I am thoroughly acquainted with every Branch of it. In a future Letter

I

I will be more communicative, in the mean time I remain  
very respectfully

Gentlemen

Your obed<sup>t</sup> & distressed hble Serv<sup>t</sup>

(Signed) Joseph Frobisher

N<sup>b</sup>. The Firm of the House will  
continue some time. — if any Alteration  
should take Place, you will have timely Notices.

M<sup>r</sup>. Joseph Frobisher

Montreal April 1787

Dear Joe

Ever since the death of my worthy Friend  
your Brother, I have been considering in what manner our Business  
in the NW, can be best managed, so as to keep up our present  
Influence & Interest in that Country; for we may be well  
assured, the late unfortunate Event, will encourage those who  
wish to support Gregory in a Perseverance of the present Opposition,  
which I am afraid may be done with Success in the End,  
unless we take the most effectual Steps to prevent it.

Our present Concern is drawing near a Close, & it  
is natural for the different Parties to be now looking forwards  
beyond

beyond the Term of it; Your being alone, will render it impossible for you to attend to the Business here, and above, so as to engage to renew the present Concern on the same Footing, the Consequence would be a Division, and getting into different Companies, by which means we should be weakened, & loose every Advantage we now have over others in that Trade. I am also much in the same Predicament with you, I should be at a loss to attend the outfits & other Business here, and go every Year to the Postage, which is unavoidable for any Person largely interested in that Country. — We at present hold between us, near One-half the Concern, after deducting Montour & Small's proportions in our Shares; and I see no Means so likely to support our Consequence in that Country, as to join our Fortunes, and Names in a general Copartnership, one half each, to continue while we find mutual Satisfaction in it; in which Case, I presume we may still keep our present Shares in any future Concern which we shall form, and have the supplying the Company altogether, which I think we shall be equal to, as I intend at all Events to withdraw out of the Michilimackinac Business when the General Store is at an End. — And should Montour & Small, or either of them quit the Business, we could get the Patersons into that Country in their Place. — Blackwood wishes to give up supplying Holmes & Grant, & Forsyth will dispose

dispose of McBeath's  $\frac{2}{16}$ ths, both which will be our Interest to buy.

By your remaining here the Summer you can have your Affairs so arranged that the Connexion may take place in the Fall, and begin with next Years outfit:— As for my Matter, they are so easily seen into that I can at any time join.

As we are supplied from home by two Houses which we have reason to esteem, we would continue the Business, one half with each, for we should have Occasion for the Credit allowed by both, to carry on the Business on an extensive Scale as we do now, and all our own Capitals besides, for which Reason I would think it prudent to confine ourselves entirely to the NW, which we can attend to well enough, by one of us going up every Summer. But previous to any Connexion of the kind taking Place it will be right we should give every Information to one another, necessary to show how we stand with the world, as far as can be at present ascertained.

I wish you to consider this Matter well, and let me have your Opinion, I have put my Thoughts on Paper on purpose to give you an Opportunity of weighing all the Circumstances

Yours  
Signed L<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Jarvis



Mr Simon M<sup>r</sup> Jarvis

Montreal 22 April 1787

Dear Sir

I have perused with Attention the Letter which you put into my hands the other day, and after considering the Proposal you therein make me of "joining our Names & Fortunes in a general Concern, each one half, to continue so long as we shall find mutual Satisfaction." I am now to do myself the Pleasure of returning you an Answer.

You will readily suppose that I am fully disposed to embrace every Measure that can tend to give Strength & Permanency to our joint Concerns in the N<sup>W</sup>est, & with you I foresee that were our Interests to be separated, the weight & Influence which we now have in that Country would be lessened (supposing there should be no other Opposition than one against the other) and that it would as you observe, encourage those who now Oppose us to a Perseverance which in Time might injure both.

To prevent as much as possible these Consequences from taking Place is the Business of us both to attend to, and I agree with you in Opinion, that, throwing our Interests together seems to be the most certain Means of giving Stability to our Concern and defeating the Hopes which our Opponents may form  
from

from the distressing Event of my poor Brothers Death

Having therefore the same Views & Sentiments respecting the West Trade, I am satisfied that your Proposal for a general Concern is fair & expedient, & heartily concur in the Measure, as well as to the Period at which it should take Place, and I also join with you in the Propriety of our Affairs being rendered clear & distinct, and that an unreserved Communication of our respective Circumstances be given to each other before the proposed Agreement is finally concluded; with respect to mine it will require the Summer Season for me to obtain a thorough Knowledge of them, having never, as you know, taken any part in the Management of the general Concerns of our house here.

I can perhaps have no good Objection to going to the Postage alternately with you, unless I urge, that a single Person is more proper for that Business than one who is married, but the great Point for Consideration will be, how far Benefit or Injury may arise to our Interests, by changing the Manager at the Postage annually; and as we shall have both the same Object in View, we can hardly have a difference of Opinion as to the most proper Means of obtaining it.

Exclusive of the Advantages to be derived in the West Trade by a general Connexion, I consider it of much Importance  
with

with respect to our Friends in England, who I am persuaded  
will with greater Confidence give us their Support in a joint  
Capacity, than apart, and I have the Satisfaction of adding  
that my Friends here approve of our mutual Intentions,

I remain Dear Sir

Your Friend & Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Signia Joseph Frobisher

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Brickwood Pattle & Co

Montreal 18 May 1787

Gentlemen

I wrote you a few lines on the distressing  
Subject of my Brothers Death of which the foregoing is a copy.

Considering it proper & necessary to keep you regularly advised  
of every Occurrence touching our Business, I am now to lay before you  
Proposals which have been made me by W. Simon McTavish for a  
general Concern in Trade, for which purpose I shall enclose you  
Copy of the Correspondance that has passed between us relative  
to this Matter also of his Letter on the same Subject to his  
Friends Mess<sup>rs</sup> Dyer Allan & Co.

You will please to Note that at present Mr McTavish  
holds  $\frac{7}{16}$  Shares of the N.W. Trade, is fully acquainted with it, & no Person

more

more capable of conducting it, and as we have few other Concerns & intend chiefly to confine ourselves to the N.W. Trade, you will, I am persuaded, readily agree that the Propriety of our Intentions, is strongly marked out by these Circumstances, — But before this Business is brought to a Conclusion we both consider it necessary to have the Sentiments of our respective Friends, in order to which you will observe by Mr McTavish's Letter to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Dyer Allan & Co he is solicitous that they should communicate with you upon the Subject, and is desirous in the Event of the Concern taking Place, that they should do one half of the Business we may have to transact in England. As this appears reasonable I shall request of you to see Mess<sup>rs</sup> Dyer Allan & Co in order to your satisfying each other how far you may be willing to go hand in hand to accommodate & support us, — for this Purpose it would perhaps have been more satisfactory to you, could I transmit you a State of the Affairs of B & J Frobisher, at present it is impossible, the dispatching the Lances in the short Period that has elapsed since my irreparable Loss, has so fully employed me, that I have not till to day been able to begin an Inventory, therefore cannot with Precision say in what Situation I shall find myself; at the same time I may safely venture to assure you that something will remain after paying all our Debts, and should the Prices of Furs mend a little, with moderate Returns from the upper Country, that something will be of moment.

It is my Intention so soon as a State of my Affairs is made  
up

up to lay it before you, that you may judge for yourselves, in the mean  
time I shall advise with our mutual Friends Mess<sup>rs</sup> Todd & McGill  
who I am happy to say approve of & recommend the intended  
Connection

By a Letter from your Mr Brickwood of the 19 Aug<sup>o</sup> 1785  
to my deceased Brother which came to hand Yesterday I see that  
nothing had then been done in London, touching the Debts owing  
to Mr Cochrane or rather the Government in this Country, on this  
side the water no Steps whatever have been taken in the matter,  
nor does it even seem certain that Lord Dorchester has these Affairs  
particularly in Charge; that they must sooner or later come to  
a Settlement is evident, & should it happen in this Country, I  
shall consider it my Duty to endeavor to obtain no less favorable  
Terms than others, for altho' we are not in similar Circumstances  
to some of the Debtors; when I reflect on the Management &  
even misrepresentations employed by Mr Cochrane  
which brought upon us Part of the heavy Debt we owe, I esteem  
it a Justice due to myself & friends to try for such Compromise  
as may be accorded to others, and trust that if the Settlement is  
made in England you will exert your good offices in my  
Behalf, One thing I must observe to you, that no Interest can  
be exacted, because the Money has been stopp'd in our hands  
by the Order of a Court of Justice, it is therefore no Compliment  
to relinquish it, but an abatement of part of the Principal  
woud

would be a Real Benefit, & I am assured that Mess<sup>rs</sup> Shaw & Fraser have strong hopes of it, and should they be realized, I shall consider myself warranted to expect no less favorable Conditions

I am respectfully

Gentlemen

Your obed. & very hble Serv<sup>t</sup>.

Signed Joseph Frobesher,

Mr. John Blackwood

Montreal 22<sup>d</sup> Nov. 1787.

Dear Sir

I have received your favor of the 19<sup>th</sup> Inst., & have rectified the mistake you mention about the Hallow, & Credited you with £24 you paid L'Etourneau as also with 5/ for Entry of Goods per Artiton.

I am glad you got off the Bargain with L'Etourneau, & as to Toupin for reasons you mention I have not the smallest objection that he should continue with his associates to fulfill the agreement you made with them, rather than give 'em occasion to complain.

Your Account Current with

B. & J. F. will be forwarded to you, in  
a few days by Mr. Cull. —

The affair I mentioned to you when  
at Leices was closed the 19<sup>th</sup> Inst. & the  
articles of Copartnership signed & so forth —  
and on the day following we admitted  
our friend Mr. James Hallowell to a  
certain share in the Business, by which  
the Firm of the House now becomes  
M<sup>r</sup> Davish Frobisher & Co. to whom you  
will please to address your future favours  
on matters of Business, & hope that you  
will on every occasion place full confidence  
on their Honour Exactness & punctuality —

with Compliments to Mrs Grant remain  
with the Sincerity of a true friend  
Dear Blackwood

P.S. Please mention  
the above to

Mr God  
Mr Painter & others you  
may think proper

Yours Sincerely  
(signed) Jos. Frobisher

I have wrote R. Hester & Co on the subject —

Dr Sirs

Montreal 22 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1787

3200 I had the pleasure of receiving your favor by Post and also one from your R<sup>L</sup> by Mon<sup>r</sup> Boutheliev, both of which I must defer making any reply to, by this opportunity but will do it in a few days by W<sup>o</sup> Full and at the same time hand to you your Account with B<sup>r</sup> P<sup>r</sup> F.

The matter in agitation between Friend Junon & me was closed the 19<sup>th</sup> Instant and Articles of Copartnership signed sealed and delivered in due form and on the Day following we admitted (with the advice of our good & mutual Friend Mr McGill) to a certain Share in our Business Mr James Hallowell by which the Firm of the House now becomes M<sup>r</sup> Taverish Frobisher & Co to whom you will please address your future favors on matters of Business, and I am fully convinced that you will on every occasion place full Confidence in their honest endeavors to promote and support their Character as men of Honor & Credit I am with great regard and esteem my Dear & Good Friend,

Yours most sincerely  
J. F.

please to communicate the foregoing to our friend Mr Todd as I have not time to write him

Apropos I must beg of you to do the needful respecting the Town Lots at Sorel.



Montreal 26<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1787

Mr John Blackwood

Dear Sir

I had the pleasure of writing to you last the 22<sup>d</sup> Instant, <sup>since</sup> which I have not been favoured with any of yours

I embrace this opportunity by Mr Ball to send you your Acct with the Estate of B. & J. Frobisher Balance due thereon one hundred & seventy seven pounds 12/5/4 Currency which I hope you will find free from Errors.

I hope by this time you have got the Account Account safe.

I cannot close the Acct of Skins sold here till some time hence, perhaps the 1<sup>st</sup> January, as there is Money paid every day & am apprehensive there may be more Accts Bonds & Notes still outstanding,

3201  
so that at all events there must  
be an after settlement — I remain

Dear Sir

Yours very sincerely  
(signed) Jos. Robertson

Montreal 26<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1787

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Robt Lester & Co.

Dear Sirs

I had the pleasure  
of writing to you last the 22<sup>d</sup> Inst.,  
since which have been deprived of  
receiving any of your favors —

I take this opportunity of  
handing to you, your due account  
with the Estate of B. V. P. L. Balance  
due you one pound nine shillings  
& 10<sup>rs</sup> Currency, which in order to  
close that account, I have put it to  
the credit of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Todd & Gill —

The fine weather still continues  
Pray give Mrs. Frobisher's compliments  
to Mr. Todd & tell him, that she  
wishes him back amongst us - Her  
best wishes joined with mine attend  
you both - I remain with real  
regards - Dear Sirs

Yours Sincerely  
(signed) J. Frobisher

N.B. I suppose Mr. Lindsay forgot  
when he paid you the £10.2.11 that  
he had given us his Bow for that  
sum - you have it herewith which  
you will please to give up to him  
when you see him or destroy it.

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Buckwood Pattle & Co. Montreal 16<sup>th</sup> October 1787.

Gentlemen

I am favored with yours of 19<sup>th</sup> July and am happy to find that the proposed connection between M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Jarvis & myself meets with your approbation & that the House of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Dyer, Allan & Co, our mutual Friends Mess<sup>rs</sup> Todd & M<sup>r</sup> Gill approve of the measure & have assisted us in forming the inclosed Sketch of the articles of agreement which are to take effect the 1<sup>st</sup> of January next, our affairs not admitting of a junction before that period: we have been obliged however to anticipate the business by sending our orders for the next year jointly, as if the partnership had already taken place.

As we have agreed to become responsible to each others Friends in London for the Sums we are now respectively indebted to them, it was necessary to establish a balance for which purpose I have made up the inclosed Sketch of your account with A & S Grobisher debiting you with amt of our consignments this fall, and with the amt of goods sold to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Todd & M<sup>r</sup> Gill your attornies here, which leaves a balance to your favor of £3387.19.7<sup>th</sup> which Sum you will please to transfer to the debit of the new Firm of M<sup>r</sup> Jarvis & Grobisher the amount also of the goods shipped by the Carleton under the marks **NW** you will be so good as to transfer to the same account, as they will be applied to the next Springs outfit to the North West & whatever charge for Interest you may have to bring in at the time of making up your books & for whatever the Debit may fall short of their valuation you will please to debit A & S Grobisher

The arrangement made at the Bodega with Gregory late  
our opponent in the North West of which you are particularly  
advised by B & P Proviser in their letter of 16<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> to which they  
have to refer you will no doubt lay us under a necessity of putting  
our friends in London more in advance for us as the business will  
be carried on upon a larger scale than our former share of it  
amounted to, but I flatter myself you will find the additional  
Consignment compensate for that inconvenience, You will no  
doubt remark that our North West order for the next year is very  
considerable, but you will please to observe that it comprehends the  
whole goods to be sent to that Country in 1789 when Mr Favin  
and Proviser are to furnish the two shares of Mr Beath & Bond  
who are now supplied by Phyn & Elliot and the entire  
returns of that concern will after that Period go Consigned  
to your house & Dyer Allan & Co

The Cash which we will require in the  
course of the winter and to send our canoes away in the  
spring may probably amount to 4 or £5000 which we  
propose to draw for, one half on your house & the  
other half on Mess<sup>rs</sup> Dyer Allan & Co you may be assured  
that we shall be as sparing & draw at as long a sight  
as possible

With respect to what you observe concerning our  
Affair with Cochrane as I propose going off for Dubuque tomorrow  
I will write you particularly on that Subject from thence  
in the mean time I remain respectfully

Yours &c  
J. F.

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Brickwood Patten & Co

Lucas 22<sup>o</sup> October 1787

Gentlemen

3203

The foregoing are Copies of what we wrote you by the last opportunity under the 13.16 & 20 of September since when we are favored with yours of the 12 July & 4<sup>th</sup> of Aug. - the latter accompanying Invoices by the Carleton & duplicate of Acc<sup>ts</sup> w<sup>o</sup>rt<sup>h</sup> rec<sup>d</sup>. with the former up to 30 June balance then in your favor £14499.11.9 to which our books are made conformable & a subsequent state of our Account will be handed to you by our Joseph Frobisher, the balance of w<sup>ch</sup> in your favor £3387.19.7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> you are requested to carry to the debit of of the new Firm of M<sup>r</sup> Tawish & Frobisher as well as the amount of Goods shipped by the Carleton under the Mark <sup>F</sup>NW. those under the mark BEE you will be so good as to allow to remain at our debit as also the amount of our Bills in favor of Uriah Judah £356.8/ of which you were advised in our letter of the 20 Ultimo, but were omitted to your Credit in the state our J F send you, deducting therefrom the amount therein overcredited for Bill in favor of Delisle for £155/ stands there 173.4.5) £18.4.5. total difference 338<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> These objects as well as any Interest that may further become due on our Acc<sup>t</sup>. and for any loss that may arise on the Sales of our Consignments this fall, shall all be provided for as soon as the State of those Sales shall be determined

we thank you for your Attention to supply our omission of inclosing our order of the 11 June, the Articles you sent will do so in part & the whole will be wanted referring

referring to the several Letters from I.F. by this Opportunity  
we are Gentlemen most respectfully  
your very obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>ts</sup>  
B. & J. F.

we have been under the necessity of Drawing on you further  
at 60 Days favor of In<sup>r</sup> McGill £400 & favor of Isaac Todd Esq<sup>r</sup>  
at the same Sight for £100. for which Bills we beg your  
usual Indulgences and that they may for the present be  
passed to the Debit of B. & J. F. —

W<sup>r</sup>. John Brickwood

Quebec 24<sup>th</sup> October 1787

Dear Sir

The favors of Mess<sup>rs</sup> B. & J. F. of the 7<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>  
of August of the Polly under cover to our mutual Friends Mess<sup>rs</sup> Todd  
& McGill were transmitted me here & were received here Yesterday  
the Information & advice they contain merit my Thanks & shall  
be attended to, having now a delicate subject to treat of and the  
greatest Confidence in your Friendship I take the liberty of  
addressing you particularly, my letters by this Opportunity to  
your house under the signature of our Firm as well as in  
my own Name will I hope demonstrate to them that my  
principal object is and always has been, to make them  
perfectly secure, and I flatter myself they will be satisfied  
they are so with respect to their concerns with B. & J. F.  
As a party in the new firm of M<sup>r</sup> Jarvis & Frobisher I would  
recommend myself to their favor, my prospects there  
are flattering but for your more particular Information  
I refer you to what my good & Valuable Friends Mess<sup>rs</sup>  
Dunn

Dunn, Todd & McGill write your house on the Subject as they  
are well acquainted with every Circumstance & particularly  
the latter, our Books having been always open for their  
inspection ever since I had the misfortune to lose my much  
lamented & worthy Brother.

I now my good Sir must call your attention to the  
inclosed State of the affairs of B & F and the care has been  
taken that you shall not be affected by their Situation. I think  
this Communication due to the Friendship you have always  
shown to our house, it would also answer another purpose  
should Mr Cochran's affairs be settled in London, in that case  
you would see the utmost the house could pay, & if Mr Simon  
Fraser who goes home in the Everetta should endeavor to  
make a separate Settlement, that we may have one on terms  
as favorable as his I have been apprehensive he would  
purchase the whole of the debts due Cochran if you find  
those are his Views by this State you may convince him  
how little is to be expected from ours: Could a Compromise  
be made for ours, I think 8/ in the pound is the most that  
could be offered, to be paid in two years half each year  
after the settlement takes place, You see I presume on your  
Friendship & trust should the business be settled on your side  
the water you will do your utmost to serve me, should the  
settlement be refered to D Dorchester I flatter myself he  
will be very indulgent in the business & I hope those Terms  
will be accepted of

With respect to the inclosed State, it is a  
true



true one, the first Article to the Credit of it is higher than any  
other could pay for that Interest, but to Mr Savish & Frobisher  
it's worth much more, as in their hands it may give  
returns equal to those of this Year, and we have good reason  
to flatter ourselves more Considerable ones. Mr Mc Savish's  
Interest will be assigned to the new Concern on the same  
Terms so that in that respect we shall be upon an equal  
footing

Perhaps shall do myself the pleasure of writing  
to your house before I leave Quebec in the mean time &  
remain with unforgotten regard and esteem

To Sir  
your obliged & obed<sup>t</sup>  
J. F.

Montreal 11<sup>th</sup> Dec: 1787  
Mess<sup>rs</sup> Brickwood Pardo & Co.  
Gentlemen

I enclosed you have a  
State of your Acct<sup>t</sup> with the late Part-  
nership of B. F. F. corrected from that  
sent you by the October Fleet by which  
opportunity you were desired to debit  
the New Concern of Mr Savish & Frobisher  
with the Balance £3387. 19. 7<sup>1/2</sup> Sterling  
on revising the same it appeared there  
would

would still be due to you from B & F  
 the sum of Eight hundred sixty one  
 pounds 3/4. unprovided for, and as there  
 was a Balance due from M<sup>r</sup> Simon M<sup>r</sup> Smith  
 to B & F, I as surviving partner of that Firm  
 took his Notes (which the present Company  
 has assumed to pay) for the amount of  
 said Balance & paid them into the hands  
 of your Attorneys Mess<sup>rs</sup> Todd & Melgill on  
 your Ac<sup>t</sup>. as stated in the subsequent  
 part of the ac<sup>t</sup>. inclosed; the Balance of  
 which in favor of B & F stands for the  
 present, to cover any loss that may arise  
 in Sales of Turs & Interest that may  
 become due on said ac<sup>t</sup>.

The Appointment of Commissioners  
 for the Settlements of Ac<sup>t</sup>s due to Government  
 & Mess<sup>rs</sup> Harley & Drummond seems much  
 in our favor, they are only three, which  
 is Mr James Melgill, Mr Powell & Mr Coffin

Coffin a Secretary to Lord Dorchester,  
the first most assuredly my friend, the  
second our Attorney (by whose advice  
in conjunction with that of Wm Gillet  
every thing relative to our late arrange-  
ments has been transacted) & the third  
a person who will implicitly follow  
the opinion of Mr. Powell; I am pre-  
paring a state of the affairs of B. & F.  
to lay before them whenever I may  
be called upon & expect the matter  
will be settled by way of compromise  
when undoubted security will be required  
for what I may be able to offer, & hence  
arises my principal difficulty, which  
I see no way of getting over except  
you my good friends would authorize  
me to make use of your names; should  
you be inclined to favor me in this

this particular you may depend on my  
 subscribing to such terms only as the  
 Estate will undoubtedly make good, &  
 that I will give to your attorney here  
 any Counter - security they may require  
 on the property, or otherwise within my  
 power. —

The Estate at present is not  
worse than it appeared by the state  
 sent your Mr. S. Brickwood by the  
 October Ships & I flatter myself I may  
 obtain a Settlement at 7/6 in the pound  
 which on £16633.14.10. will amount be  
 £237.13. Currency payable the one half  
 in 12 months & the other half in two  
 Years after the Settlement — to this I beg  
 your answer by the very first Convoys  
 Whatever is done in this business  
 I will acquaint you from time to time

I am Sir

(Signed) Wm. J. Frobisher

Montreal 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1787

Mr John Blackwood

Dear Sir

Last post I was favored with yours of the 10<sup>th</sup> instant - you will please to have Dr. Kerr's Note protested & keep it in your hands till its call for.

Monday I will send you down a pattern Bag by the Post Man - I would have done it to day by the Courier (Mr. Phillips) but dont wish to lay under any obligation to him & being ashamed to offer him money - with respect to pins, you must make the best bargain you can, but by all means get them all well secured.

I have this day closed your old and cleared the Balance £177. 11 9<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> to your debit in Mr David Frobisher's A/c<sup>os</sup>

Banks - You are also debited with Coffins  
dft on Mr Grant -

You shall have Credit for  
£104. 11. 4 as soon as the particulars  
is handed <sup>to</sup> us - that we may know  
how to charge it - I imagine there is  
some Fish included in their and what  
I had of Mr. Straser Senr - I think Mr Young  
rather too keen - he might have had  
the discretion to have waited our  
convenience for the payment, without draw-  
ing & not giving us any advice -

I believe what you say about  
Money matters, you may depend that  
we will be as indulgent as possible -  
& if there is a possibility of Running  
on till April without your assistance,  
you may be well assured we will do it -  
I have not forgot the ample aid you

gave me last Summer when we was  
in great need of Cash. —

I am Yrs &c

J F

The Hon<sup>ble</sup>. Tho<sup>s</sup>. Dunn Esq. } Montreal 22<sup>d</sup>. Decr. 1787  
Quebec — }

Dr Sir

I embrace this opportunity  
by our mutual friend Mr McEite who  
leaves this to day for Quebec; the  
Occasion of his going down you are  
acquainted with; you may easily suppose  
that its highly pleasing to me, that  
he is appointed as one of the Board  
to examine into those matters of Mr  
Cochranes. — He has a perfect know-  
ledge of all our affairs, for the Books  
of B & F has always been open for  
his inspection since my poor Brothers  
Death, & I have occasionally Consulted  
& followed

followed his advice since that period  
in every Transaction of any Consequence.

The Books of B & S F are  
brought up, & a Balance sheet struck,  
from which I am happy to find  
that the Estate appears something  
better, than that I shew'd to you  
my Friends at Lubeu, & which was  
sent home to Mr. Brickwood; I hope  
that worthy Gentlemen will be fully  
satisfied with the steps I have  
taken to secure their House.

I don't care how soon the  
Board meets on the Business for the  
Burthen will remain very heavy on  
my Shoulders till its determined.

The state of the affairs of B & S F  
which is made out, & which I propose  
to lay before the Board consists of  
the Balance sheet of the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1780,



The Acc<sup>t</sup>. of Profit & Loss from that  
period to the 21<sup>st</sup> Inst. & the actual  
Balance, the whole literally copied  
from our Books; I have not reserved  
any thing for myself, I have even gone  
further for Mrs. S. has given me up  
her right of 20000<sup>l</sup>. which I settled on  
her on our Marriage, a settlement I had  
then every right to make being at that  
time possessor of upwards of six thousand  
pounds Currency, this I entirely abandon  
for the benefit of the Estate.

I hope before  
the Spring this disagreeable Business  
will be finally settled, it hurts my  
feelings very much, to find after labouring  
very hard for 20 Years - to be worse  
than when I began Business - however  
there is no help for it; I am content  
and flatter myself, that in future  
9

I will be more lucky. —

Mrs Frobisher joins me in our  
best wishes to Mrs Lunn & all  
your worthy family with many happy  
returns of the season — I remain very  
respectfully  
Yr Serv

Yr Obedt Friend & Serv  
Chas Lest

P.S. Mr Melgill just this  
moment tells me he dont go. (signed) J. Frobisher

Montreal 24<sup>th</sup> Decr 1787  
The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Ins<sup>rs</sup> folding Dep<sup>t</sup>

Dear Sir

Your very agreeable favor  
of 20<sup>th</sup> Inst. I recd & duly note the contents. —

My trip to Quebec is put  
off till the latter end of next month as  
the Board will not meet till that time,  
& I hope even then that it will not be  
necessary for me to attend, as the Aud

are so clearly stated, that they speak  
for themselves; however I am equally obliged  
to you for your kind offer & good intentions  
& please to tender my hearty thanks to  
our mutual friend Mr. Cochrane for  
his kind offer of service.

I am highly pleased  
that Lord Dorchester is satisfied with  
your Report.

I have waited a long time  
to send down by a private hand the  
letter Capt. Anderson spoke to you about  
I believe it contains an address from  
Kingston - as you're desirous to have  
it down soon I send it by this post  
with respect to your And other necessary  
Vouchers they shall be forwarded by  
the first private Conveyance. - & give  
you Joy in having carried your point  
with respect to the appeal of Mr. Guggis

3210  
Mr Guggs affair but you dont mention  
what point - is the verdict give agt  
him here to be laid aside - or is the  
affair to be carried home -

I have taken  
the liberty to draw upon you at ten  
days sight in favor of Messrs Todd & Co  
for one hundred pounds currency,  
which I hope will meet with due honor.

Mrs Frobisher joins me in our  
best compliments to you & Mr Lockrane &  
believe me with great sincerity my good  
Sir Your friend & obd Serv<sup>t</sup>

(signed) J. Frobisher  
If Mr Todd is with you  
Please give my Compl<sup>s</sup>  
also to Mr Lakin morough  
& friend Scott

Gentlemen

Montreal 10 Jan'y 1788

In answer to yours of the 22 Dec<sup>r</sup> last requiring that on or before this day a state of the account of Bury & Co<sup>s</sup> Traders with Mr Cochrane should be transmitted to W<sup>d</sup> Powell Esq<sup>r</sup> together with their reasons why the Balance and the accruing Interest have remained so long unpaid.

I have first to agree that the Balance demanded of sixteen thousand Six hundred sixty five Pounds 15<sup>s</sup> <sup>and</sup> is conformable to the state of Mr Cochrane's Acc<sup>t</sup> in the Books of B. & C. Traders.

and further they leave to state, That at the close of the war in 1783 we had a large stock of Liquors on hand, the loss on which must at all Events have been considerable, it was however much augmented by the apprehension that the very large

large quantity in the hands of Shaw & Fraser would (in consequence of proceedings against them) be put up at public sale which induced us to sell for  $1/9$  p Gallon what cost 5/-: added to this we were summoned to Court to declare the Balance we owed to Mr Cochran, which was attached in our hands at the Instance of General Haldimand: this public exposure of our situation soon reached our friends in England and would have put a total stop to our Credit & the means of carrying on the Trade to the West (which we had established at great expense) had not Friends stood forth & assured our Correspondent, that if he continued his support his Debt should not be put on a footing with that owing to Mr Cochran but be secured by the Trade he supported, which common justice

justice guaranteed to him, in consequence  
of this support we have been able to pursue  
the Trade which however fair the prospect,  
has from the interruption of the Trade between  
Russia & China for some Years caused  
such a fall in the price of Furs as to  
injure much that Business: However as  
my only wish & desire is to do every thing in  
my power to satisfy as far as we are able  
this demand, I am making out a State  
of the affairs of B. & S. Tobishur which I shall  
have ready by the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month, and as  
I understand the Gentlemen named by  
Lord Borchester to examine into these  
matters are to meet at Quebec about  
that time, I will endeavour to attend in  
order to explain & give every satisfaction  
in my power, and I trust that notwithstanding  
my insufficiency to make good the  
payment, my Conduct & Character will

will appear such as to ~~not~~ merit the  
 protection & Clemency of his Lordship & all  
 concerned.

I remain respectfully  
 Yr<sup>ts</sup>. Yours &c

Thos. A. Coffin & Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 Wm. B. Powell & Esq<sup>r</sup>

Montreal 9<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1788

Sir  
 as your note of hand became  
 due the 1<sup>st</sup> Instant, I have now  
 to request that you will by the first  
 opportunity transmit to me your Bill  
 of Exchange for one hundred Pounds  
 Sterling at 30 days sight, according  
 to your promise — With wishing you  
 many happy returns of the Season I  
 remain respectfully Sir Yr<sup>o</sup>. h<sup>ts</sup>.  
 Major Murray to Reg<sup>t</sup> JF



Gentlemen

Quebec 28 January 1788

Agreeable to my Letter to you dated at Montreal  
10<sup>th</sup> Instant I have prepared a State of the Affairs of my late  
Partnership, which I take the Liberty to hand you herewith  
& will be ready to attend you when called upon to answer  
Questions I give every other Satisfaction in my power  
relative to this unfortunate Business, & beg leave to observe  
at the same time that the housefurniture and all other  
property belonging to the Estate of B. & F. is included  
in this State and further that a sum of 20000 Lires  
settled by Marriage Contract on Mrs. Frobisher at a time  
when my Circumstances were such as warranted  
that or a larger Settlement is now relinquished by  
her for the benefit of the Estate

I am respectfully

Gentlemen Your most obed<sup>t</sup> &  
very humble Serv<sup>t</sup>  
J. F.

Thomas Aston Coffin

W. D. Powell

Jas. McGill

} Sign

Gentlemen

Quebec 1 Feb<sup>y</sup> 1788

3213

I have consulted with my Friends respecting the Offer I made to you yesterday & it is with great Satisfaction I have the pleasure of acquainting you that they are willing to come forward as my Security for the performance of the following proposal.

To pay nine shillings in the pound on the Original Debt being £1665<sup>..</sup>15<sup>..</sup>1 Currency & acknowledged in the Letter I wrote you the 10<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> at two different payments Viz. one half being £3749<sup>..</sup>15<sup>..</sup>10<sup>..</sup> in the Month of October next & the other half being an equal Sum in October 1789 In making this offer you will no doubt observe that 9<sup>s</sup> in the pound falls short of the estimated value of B<sup>x</sup> Irobishers Estate about £1000. but it will occur to you at the same time, that whatever my own opinion might be of their property it was necessary to submit that opinion & the consequent estimation of that property to the inspection of those Friends from whom I derive hopes of obtaining such security for fulfilling the Engagements I might enter into as you & I might safely depend upon Mess<sup>rs</sup> Dunn & Lester & Mr Isaac Todd are reputable Characters which I have to offer & being acquainted with

with the Debtors, having also a Knowledge of the fixed  
property, they are willing to go to the length of the proposal  
which I make but decline going any farther from a  
conviction of Experience that in winding up the Affairs  
of a Commercial house, the property realized ever falls  
short of the supposed Value: When you consider the  
very bad prospect of the Sale of Furs from the War between  
the Russians & Turks which shuts the Communication  
with China, - some of the most considerable debts due to me  
being payable in Furs, and our great dependance being  
on the demand from Petersburg for the sale of our best  
Beaver; also the risk of an Interruption to our Missisipi  
Trades from the Americans or Spaniards if either of  
them should take an Active part in the War which by  
report is likely to break out. - All these threatening  
Circumstances considered I am persuaded you will be of Opinion  
that the State of my Affairs will not admit of a more liberal  
offer with any degree of safety to my Friends; & if Mrs  
Trobisher had not given up 20000 Livres settled on her by  
Marriages Contract, I could not have hoped for the  
Countenance or assistance of my Friends in making so extensive  
an offer with security for the performance of it

I have the honor to be respectfully  
Gentlemen your most ob<sup>d</sup> hble Serv<sup>t</sup>  
J. F.

Thos. A. Coffin  
W. D. Powell Esqrs  
La<sup>s</sup> McGill

Thomas Aston Coffin Esq

Quebec 9 Feby. 1788

3214

Sir

Having given in my proposal to the Board, it becomes necessary for me to make the proper Arrangements to carry them into Effect; which, and finding the actual Situation of my Affairs demand my Presence at Montreal I have to beg the favor of you, understanding it is probable you may see his Lordship to day, to expose these Circumstances to him; From a point of delicacy with my Friends I would not wish to absent myself from the Board, but by leave, and as it may not be in his Lordship's power to decide on my Business early, and should <sup>you</sup> have no further Occasion for me, I request you will procure me the Board's leave of absence in writing, until I may be again wanted; which you will please to signify to Mr Lester, & you may depend I shall very readily obey the Summons

I remain respectfully

Sir Yours &c  
T.A.

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Buckwood Pattle & Co

Quibec 4 Feby 1788

Gentlemen

I have been here nigh a Fortnight attending the board appointed by Lord Dorchester to examine & settle the affairs respecting Mr Cochran's Transactions when agent in this Country, and I am happy to inform you that this unfortunate Business is in great forwardness, indeed I have referred writing to you till the last moment flattering myself that this day would have brought forth something decisive in respect to the Estate of B & J F, as the Gentlemen of the board have been ready to give in their report, since Saturday last, but the indisposition of Lord Dorchester prevents him attending to any business: the State I delivered to those Gentlemen consists of the Balance Sheet of 1780: the Acct<sup>ts</sup> of Profit & Loss since that time up to 21 December last, with the Actual Balance Sheet as it now stands all literally copied from the Books of B & J F, annexed to which is extended the supposed Value amounting to  $7552^{\text{L}} 15^{\text{s}} 6\frac{3}{4}$  Curry in this State there appears to your debit  $705^{\text{L}} 8^{\text{s}} 4\frac{1}{2}$  — but only extended 300 £ & a Nota Bene mentioning the Interest you may have to charge against the Estate which may reduce the balance to this Sum

with the advice of your Friends & mine Mess<sup>rs</sup> Todd & ~~Martin~~ Dunn & Lester I gave in the two following Proposals

proposals ---  $\frac{1}{6}$  in the Pound on the Original Debt say 1666.15.1  
is £6249<sup>3215</sup> 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> one half of which payable in October next & the  
other half in October 1789 but if the Terms of payment  
could be extended I might possibly make something more of  
the Estate therefore begged leave to offer £3. in the pound  
payable at three different payments One third being 2291.12.8  
in October next, One third for an equal Sum Oct<sup>r</sup> 1789  
& one third for the remainder in October 1790

Of the two proposals I prefer the first & Mr  
Junn seems to be of opinion, as it's the wish of Government  
to have these Matters settled as soon as possible that it  
will be accepted of however one way or the other I  
shall be satisfied as I am confident that the Estate is  
well worth it, and that my Friends who step forth to  
be my security will not suffer by next conveyance  
I hope to have the pleasure of acquainting you of its  
terminating according to my expectation & to the entire  
satisfaction of my Friends — Mr McTavish informs  
me that our Firm has drawn on you for 400 £ in favor  
of John Bell which I hope will meet with due honor  
we have also drawn for the same sum on Mess<sup>rs</sup> Syer & Co

If it's not attended with <sup>too</sup> much trouble I would be  
obliged to you to send me over two sets of the Courier  
De L'Europe, & must request of you to ship a Bale  
of Hops about 2 @

Sold, if sold, as I shall probably be the Purchaser Lods et ventes must  
be paid, if a Sale is not necessary this Charge may be avoided

In expectation of receiving your Answer to the foregoing  
as soon as you can find it convenient to yourselves I remain  
respectfully  
Gentlemen Your most obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
J<sup>H</sup>

The Honble Thomas Dunn Esq<sup>r</sup>

Montreal 10 April 1788

Dear Sir

Being informed that a Bishop has been appointed  
for, & arrived in the Province of Nova-Scotia, with power to appoint  
Commissaries, to exercise Jurisdiction spiritual & Ecclesiastical in  
the Provinces of Quebec, New-Brunswick, & the Island of Newfoundland  
And having so often experienced your readiness to oblige, I take the  
liberty of troubling you on account of my Friend the Rev. Mr. Chas.  
Delisle, whose long residence in this Country; general Character  
& large Family induce me to wish to interest you so far in  
his favor, as to recommend him to Lord Dorchester and  
Governor Carleton as a proper person for that appointment in this  
District. - should it not be a pecuniary one, it will at least be  
a Distinction that seems due to the person who is the first  
Protestant Clergyman settled in this District, & who without  
doubt would be sensibly hurt to see a Younger man placed over  
his head

I am very anxious to hear of L<sup>d</sup> Dorchester's better  
Health, & that something decisive may be done in Mr. Cochranes  
matters

matters, pray make a tender of Mr. Frobisher's & my respects  
to Mrs. Dunn trusting to your Goodness for the freedom I take  
in troubling you I remain very respectfully

Dr. Sir  
Your obliged friend & very  
Able Servant  
J. Frobisher

3216

Monsieur

Montréal 13 Avril 1788

C'est avec beaucoup de Peine que vous  
m'obligez d'exposer La situation ou je me trouve  
aujourd'hui par écrit.

Je pense que Madame Chaboillez ignore  
la Conversation que nous avons eu ensemble L'autre  
Jour; C'est pour quoi il est necessaire que je vous repete  
encore une fois, que Messrs Todd & McGill, Mr. McTavish  
et deux de mes Amis a Quebec se sont rendus caution  
pour moi au Gouvernement pour une grande somme  
que Ben: & Jos Frobisher doivent à Monsieur Lechrane

Quand je prie ces Messrs. d'être caution pour moi  
je leurs ai montré un Etat exact de toutes nos affaires  
en general dan lequel est compris La Maison en  
Ville L'ancien Maison et Jardins au Courant de St  
Marie, meubles de la Maison et tout ce qu'en depend,  
leurs disant en même Temps que Madame Frobisher  
aviez une Hypothèque sur les biens par Contract

des



Marriage de 20,000. mais comme La Société est  
insolvable elle a de bon Cœur abandonné son droit  
pour le bien de nos Creanciers

Ces Messieurs ayant beaucoup de Confiance en moi  
m'ont laissé en possession de toutes les affaires de La Société  
pour agir et arranger pour le mieux, bien attendu que  
je ne ferai rien sans leur demander avis, Rien me  
reste que Mon Caractere et l'Industrie en bien  
travaillant pour soutenir ma femme et mes Enfants

Tous les jours je reçois des reproches de ces  
Messieurs et je crois avec bien de raison et droit  
que j'ai tort de me servir du bien d'autrui et  
soutenir une Personne qui me doit si Considerablement  
ou moins qu'il ne me donne Caution pour la somme

Mons<sup>r</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Tavis<sup>t</sup> sachant le grande Somme  
que vous êtes redevable n'est pas disposé de vous  
avancer les Merchandises ou moins que vous ne  
donneriez quelque Caution suffisant pour le paiement  
C'est pour quoi je vous prie de renvoyer les Merchandises  
que vous avez reçu l'autre jour, si il y a quelque  
Ouvrage de fait l'on vous payera la façon

Moi et ma femme qui a tout abandonné  
pour satisfaire les Creanciers de B & F Frobisher;

Comment

Comment est il possible que vous trouvez à que  
nous qui n'avons rien puise nous exposer de perdre  
Le bien que nous est confié pendant que Madame  
Chaboillez ne trouve pas a propos de le faire

L'amitié qui a toujours subsisté entre les deux  
familles est la Cause que je vous donne tant  
d'explication de ma situation donc j'espère vous  
serez assez discret de ne pas en parler

Je n'ai point d'autre chose a vous dire que  
de vous assurer que je suis comme j'ai toujours  
été votre ami ——— J J

Mons<sup>r</sup> Chaboillez

(Copy)

Know all Men by these Presents that we Joseph Frobisher, surviving Partner of the late Firm of Benjamin & Joseph Frobisher, and Isaac Todd of Montreal Merchants, and Thomas Dunn Esq. & Robert Lester of Quebec Merchant, are severally held & firmly bound unto our Sovereign Lord the King in the Sum of Fourteen Thousand nine Hundred and Ninety Nine pounds three Shillings & seven pence lawful Money of the Province of Quebec, to be paid to our said Lord the King, His Heirs or Successors. To which payment well and truly to be made we severally bind ourselves & our several Heirs, Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with our seals, Dated the twenty Eighth Day of May, in the Twenty Eighth Year of the Reign of our said Sovereign Lord George the third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France & Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c. and in the Year of our Lord One Thousand seven hundred & Eighty Eight.

The Condition of the above Obligation is such, that if the said Joseph Frobisher, Isaac Todd, Thomas Dunn, and Robert Lester or either of them, their or either of their Heirs Executors or Administrators shall well and truly pay or Cause to be paid to our said Lord the King, His Heirs or Successors the Sum of Three Thousand seven Hundred & forty Nine pounds fifteen Shillings & ten pence three Farthings, at any time during the Month of October in this present Year of our Lord One Thousand seven hundred & Eighty Eight, And also the further Sum of Three Thousand seven hundred & forty nine Pounds fifteen Shillings and ten pence three Farthings, at any Time during the Month of October which will be in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand seven Hundred & eighty Nine, Then this Obligation to be void & of no Effect otherwise to be and remain in full force & Virtue

Sealed & delivered by the aforesaid Joseph Frobisher in the Presence of

Signed { James McGill  
John Ogilvy

Signed Joseph Frobisher (28)

Tho. Dunn (28)

Rob. Lester (28)

Isaac Todd (28)

Isaac Todd Esq

Montreal 29 May 1788

My Dear Sir

3218

I received your very acceptable favor by Post which arrived only this Morning, inclosing the Bond for me to sign, which I have done in presence of Mr McGill and return it you here inclosed

I think myself much obligated to you for the trouble you have taken in my behalf to forward this matter, and you will please to signify to my worthy Friends Mess<sup>rs</sup> Dunn & Lester, how sensibly I feel myself obliged to them for their generous support & confidence, & assure them from me that every exertion on my Part shall not be wanting to convince them that I am not unworthy of their Confidence with respect to the first payment I stand provided in manner following

Mr Tavish Frobisher & Co for money rec <sup>d</sup> at different Times subject to Interest	2220 <sup>17</sup> / <sub>5</sub>
Ditt for Goods due 1 October next	810 <sup>11</sup> / <sub>1</sub>
half ann <sup>d</sup> Dumoulin's Tiers sold to Mr Dobie payable in July next	306 <sup>18</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
This Sum due by Mr Collins for money paid to his Bateaux Men, & people under him on survey last Summer	} 248 <sup>6</sup> / <sub>0</sub>
Mr Chaboilliers Returns (at least)	
	900 <sup>—</sup> / <sub>—</sub>
Currency	\$ 4486 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>10</sub>

You will please to observe that I have drawn on Mr Collins by last Post in favor of Mr May which when paid will appear to the Credit of the Estate in the Books of Mr Frobisher

I suppose the Release you mention which I am to sign, is in regard to General Haldimand; pray don't Lord Duchester intend to give me a general discharge once the Bond is executed. We have got off from La Chine Thirty Canoes & Eight Bateaux for the Grand Passage, besides Patersons & Haulins Canoes, & I am just going to La Chine to send off St. Germaine for Michipicoton by this you see all our Business is over for the present therefore if my presence is in the least wanted at Quebec I will attend Mr Frobisher joins me in our best wishes to Mr Dunn & Family Mr Lester & Mr Monrogh & believe me with Sincerity D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your obliged Friend  
I T

Monk Esq

Montreal 2 June 1788

Your favor & post received with the inclosures therein contained  
agreeable to your desire I have prepared a copy of the Release & dated both  
the same day as the Bond, I have inclosed them to my Friend at Quebec  
for their perusal For many reasons I would wish to have the Acquittance  
double in the same manner as the Release I remain &c  
I Probiher

Montreal 2 June 1788  
Mess<sup>rs</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Dunn  
Rob<sup>t</sup> Lester  
Josac Todd

Dear Sirs

Last Post I did myself the  
pleasure of writing to our Friend Mr Todd in answer  
to one he wrote me inclosing the Bond, which I signed  
and returned him — I must beg leave my worthy  
Friends to refer you to that Letter for the Provision  
already made for the first payment & be assured  
the second payment will be equally ready when  
due — Thursday's Post handed to me a Letter  
from Mr Monk, inclosing a Release for me to sign,  
which I have done as also a duplicate, & take  
the Liberty of Inclosing them herewith, to act as  
you think proper — For your information you  
have

3219  
have copy of what he wrote me & my answer  
hereto annexed — I think it would be proper  
to have the acquittances executed double in  
the same manner as the Release.

Please accept of my hearty thanks  
for the many obligations & Confidence I have  
experienced from you & particularly on this important  
Business, which will for ever be ingrafted in  
my mind — I remain with gratitude & respect

Gentlemen

Your &c  
(Signed) J. F.

John Brinkwood Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Dear Sir

Montreal 30 June  
1788

I have your obliging favor of the 3 May before me, on the Subject of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Iyer & Lank<sup>es</sup> requesting you to undertake the whole of our Business; it is strange we have not yet had a hint from them on this Matter. I certainly cannot disapprove your caution in declining it, & do feel myself sensibly obliged by your appeal to my Wishes in this Business, — Should you see it prudent & convenient on your part, I should be happy to have our whole Business center in your House, but at present dare not recommend your taking such an additional burthen on your self. I first wish to be acquainted with the fate of our last Years remittances & see the Returns of this Fall, these will enable me to give you the Opinion you require, in which you may be assured no Consideration shall induce me to mislead you. At present I can only observe, ~~that~~ With respect to the probable Advances the Company may require in future — it can never exceed the amount at present due to the two Houses, as it is our settled determination to contract, rather than extend the Scale of our Business, and altho' under the present deplorable State of the Fur market, we may be barely keeping our grounds, yet even now, with prudence & Economy there is in my Opinion no Risk of its being a losing business.

Should the posts be given up to the Americans in conformity to the Treaty of Peace, we should suffer no material Injury. The entry (grand Portage) & a small inconsiderable part only of the Country to which we trade will fall within their Lines. And some Years ago apprehending this Event would sometime happen we explored another entrance into

into the Country by the way of Mipegou, after having gone  
up the River of this Name about 60 Leagues we break off to  
the Westward & fall in with a Chain of Rivers & Lakes which  
carry us about 40 Leagues to the Westward of ~~the~~  
the Lake of the Woods — An Indian War, might  
affect us a little with regard to provisions but it cannot  
extend further than Detroit or Michilimackinac at which  
place we get our Supplies of Indian Corn & Flour at present  
the which in case of an Indian war being cut off, we must  
take our Supplies from the New Settlements on the North side  
of Lake Ontario & the Bay of Lenty from whence there is  
a Water Communication to Lake Huron except two  
Carrying Places of about 9 Miles each were the Goods must  
be taken over by Land Carriage.

The Indians with whom we trade are  
frequently at War with distant Nations to the Westward  
which the Traders Generally encourage, because on their  
return they come over a vast tract of Country & bring  
with them, large Quantities of fine Furs, but they were  
never known to league with the Southern Nations or  
make war against the English, indeed they are so far  
distant from the Indians that have been Hostile to this  
Country that they are hardly known to each other.

I do not at present recollect any other Circumstance  
connected with this Subject that I have to speak to, I  
have



have communicated your letter to our mutual Friends Messrs  
Todd & McGee & refer you to what they may write you on it  
they are minutely acquainted with our situation & prospects,  
& valuable Friend to us both

You may depend my good Sir that we will draw  
as little as possible, tho' at the same time we shall be under  
the necessity of craving Indulgence next Fall, as we have the  
following heavy payments to make. B & J. Bond to  
Government for 3749 £ Currency being the first payment &  
already in the hands of our House & the sum of 3000 £ Currency  
due to Mr Goodall in October for Goods bought to supply  
Mr Gregory's share of the N<sup>o</sup>. besides the necessary advances  
for the N<sup>o</sup> of <sup>a</sup> which will be about 6000 £ with respect  
to the Fees I may receive for the Estate of B & J. I  
will endeavor to turn them into Cash here if any tolerable  
price can be had when you are at leisure I shall be  
very proud of hearing from you: referring you to what  
our house writes you as by this opportunity I remain with  
Respect  
Do Sir Your obliged Friend  
J. F.

Montreal 28<sup>th</sup> July 1788

John Collins Esq<sup>r</sup>.

My Dear Sir,

I was duly favour'd with yours of 26<sup>th</sup> Inst. the former ought to have been answered sooner, but I was waiting, in hopes of picking up some old voyageurs, that might partly answer the description Mr Stuart lays down; but find it impossible at this season; the men that keeps about Town all summers are generally employ'd in Battaus, & were the men that goes to Michilimackinac, & who never wintered amongst the Indians would not answer your purpose. Indeed I cannot see that you can be well supplied but by some of our North West Lads, & they would even start difficulties & nothing but extra Wages would induce them to hire. From all these circumstances I would advise you not to depend on me getting the men by the time limited.

By last post I sent down to Friend Harrison & Davison copy of Gen Answer to the Committee of Council delivered to Mr Fraser - since which have not heard any thing from the

Gen<sup>l</sup>

Gentlemen here which compose part of that Com-  
mittee — I suppose Mr Harrison would have shewn  
the Copy, as my Friend Mr Davison was absent,  
Pray when you write him, give Mrs T. & my kind  
Compliments & best wishes for the speedy recovery of  
his health —

as I am inform'd <sup>that</sup> his Lordship only  
means to stay with us a Day, I think it would be  
a piece of Rudeness in us, to trouble him for the  
short time he will be with us

I am very sincerely  
My Dear Sir

Your most humble Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Signed Josh Froisher

James Clark Senr Esqr La Chine 8 Aug<sup>o</sup> 1788

Dr Sir

3222

Your several favours of the 19<sup>th</sup> June & the 10 July dated at Cataraqui, I duly rec<sup>d</sup> & note the contents thereof it's with pleasure I find the flour turns out so well & I hope in future when once the Cribble & bolting mill are fixed that you will be able to make the finest flour in the new Settlements, they cost in England no less than £26.14.11 Sterling, you must pay every attention that they don't get wet I send up with the Boats Mr Hay partly on that Account & from the Island he is to proceed to the Mill on his return I would be obliged to you if you would send down a Btl or two of the finest flour the Mill produces.

I am apprehensive that Mr Robert Clark will be at a loss how to fix the Cribble & Bolt however Mr Levy's Millwright who is said to understand these matters perfectly says the Cribble must be fixed so as to have a dip of 9 Inches for six feet in length & that the bolting Mill of 6 Feet in length must have a Dip of 26 Inches. Mr Hay will deliver you 2 Btl's of Pork, I must request of you to take the trouble to procure me a few bushels of wild oats there is plenty at the entrance of the river I would wish to have it in its natural State just as it is gathered as it is to sow if your business calls you

you to Montreal, you cannot do better than come down with  
Mottay — Friend Collins will not be with you this  
Summer, my best wishes attend all your family, to  
whom please to give my best respects, wishing that  
your honest endeavors may be crowned with success.  
I remain Dr Sir

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Brickwood Pottle & Co  
Gentlemen

Montreal 25<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1788

My last respects to you Mr J  
Brickwood, was dated the 30<sup>th</sup> June since which have  
been honor'd with your sundry favors of the 3<sup>d</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>  
& 30<sup>th</sup> May — The Bale of Hops of the Vigilant  
Capt<sup>n</sup> Dee is not yet come to hand, I observe you have  
placed the Amot. £23<sup>..</sup>16<sup>..</sup>3 to the debit of the New  
firm, which stands accordingly to your Credit in their  
Books — It was not my intention to have the Courier  
D'Europe bound I only meant, that you would take  
the trouble to Collect them & have them forwarded  
under cover to my Address, to the care of Friend  
Blackwood at Quebec by the Spring Ships & every other  
Vessel that may Sail in the course of the Summer,  
the same as any other Newspaper leaving the end  
open so that they will not be liable to pay Postage —  
The

The Accot<sup>s</sup> Sales of Furs CNP. I have now before me & observe that my proportion of the N<sup>w</sup> proceeds thereof amounts to £1055.13.1 & Sales under the Mack BIF only to £91.13.9 both of which will appear at your Debit in due time. I likewise observe that The Estate of B & J F<sup>r</sup>s proportion of the N<sup>w</sup> West Sales amounts to £4175.9. & that the fine Beaver remained unsold. I am sorry that you should be inclined to think that the sale of that Article for our proportion will not exceed £4000. All these Circumstances are truly alarming and distressing to all parties, but particularly to Us. Indeed the difference is so serious a one, that its with difficulty we can reconcile ourselves to the heavy loss. However we must bear it with patience & hope for better times.

The new firm has wrote to you under this Date, to which must beg leave to refer; only cannot help observing, that our returns from the N<sup>w</sup> West will exceed our most sanguine expectations, tho' at the same time we decline making an additional Insurance, as we are fully determined to Value our Furs, so that the Next proceeds will exceed the Invoice Valuations. We had some intention of selling some South Furs here, but don't find

any person inclined to purchase. therefore they will  
be Shipped - Inclosed I take the liberty of troubling  
you with Thomas Hyde Jun<sup>r</sup>s Draft on his Father  
Mr. Tho<sup>s</sup> Hyde for forty five Pounds Sterling at 30 Days  
which I hope will be punctually paid when due, as  
its for money I lent him in distres & without which  
he would not have been able to have left the Country  
His Fathers intimacy with Mr. Newby (by Letters he  
showed me) was a great inducement for me to advance  
the money -

I hope by this time the Maxwell  
is far advanced on her return to Quebec - I'm  
expectation of hearing from you soon - I remain  
very respectfully

Gentlemen

Yours Sincerely

Signes

Joseph Frobisher

Mr. Rob<sup>t</sup> Clarke Montreal 18<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1788

Sir

This will be handed to  
you by Mr. James Clarke by whom I  
send you Fifty pounds Currency to facilitate  
your going on with the work of the  
Mill

Mill which I hope you will use your  
 utmost endeavour to compleat as soon  
 as possible & as solid as its possible to  
 make it — I am very sorry that I  
 neglected sending you the Cotton & Salt  
 by Mr Way — I have not yet found an  
 opportunity, but when that offers you  
 may depend that you will not be forgot.  
 Mr James Clark has much difficulty to  
 get his own things up to the Island —  
 I would by all means advise you to finish  
 the Mill compleat so that it may serve  
 for Flour & if you find the Stones not  
 very good, you will please to apply to  
 Mr Jas Clark, or if you chuse purchase  
 them yourself, as I am informed they are to  
 be had at Oswegatchie which Mr Clark  
 will inform himself of in going up with  
 respect to their quality & price.

With Compl<sup>ts</sup> to Mrs Clark —

I am Sir

Y<sup>r</sup>. obt<sup>d</sup>.



Mess<sup>rs</sup> R Lester & Co

Montreal 13<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1788

Dear Sirs

I take the Liberty of sending you  
Two Barrels Apples, one Gris and one Bourassa,  
with a Barrel of Cranberries of L'Esperance Capt  
Munn, as per enclosed Bill of Lading, which I beg  
your acceptance of. You have no occasion to give  
yourself any trouble about the other Barrels addressed  
to our other Friends, as I have wrote them by this  
Post. Munn was paid for the freight of the whole.  
I hope Mr Lester got safe down and in good health  
Mr Dunn has not yet made his appearance -  
you'll please send up to Mrs Dunn with my respect-  
ful Compliments the three Barrels, say

1 Barrel Pommes Gris  
1 Do Bourassa  
1 Do Cranberries

Mrs Frobisher & your humble serv<sup>t</sup> congratulate  
your Mr M: most heartily on his safe return, with  
her kind Compliments to you both.

I remain my worth Friends  
Yours very sincerely  
Signed J. F.

Poor Major Dunbar died yesterday morning & Bur.  
Theodore was buried yesterday in the afternoon.

W<sup>o</sup> Geo: Longmore Montreal 13<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1788

3225

Sir

I have only this morning received the  
Case of Codfish from on board the *St John*. Directed  
to my Friend Capt Wickham, which I will forward  
by the first Conveyance, but I assure you that  
I am very doubtful of its reaching him this  
Fall, which will be a great disappointment  
to him; however I will take care to inform him  
that neither you nor me is to blame. The vessel  
has been no less than 39 Days on her way up  
Summit

Sir

Your most ob<sup>t</sup>hble Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Signed J. F.

Mr. Popeter Hoyle

Montreal 21<sup>st</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1788

Sir

Your favor by the Express I received respecting the House & Stones at the foot of the Current - and I am sorry to tell you that neither the price or Terms will suit me, - I value the Stones & the lower Garden at that price - & for the whole Lot £800. Currency at two payments one half 1<sup>st</sup> May & the other half next Fall.

I am told that you have been at the Expence of this Express which surprises me a good deal as to morrows Post would have answered your purpose as well - that & other little matters which you have done lately, behoves me as your Friend to advise & beg of you never to determine on Matters of Business, but, after serious & Cool reflection - Remember my good fellow last Fall - what grief & sorrow it cost you & your Family last winter - I have only to

to beg that you will excuse the freedom  
I have <sup>3226</sup> taken to to assure that I am  
nevertheless as much your friend as  
any person in the country.

Yours Sr.

P. F.

Capt<sup>l</sup> John Gibson Montreal 20<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1788

Dear Sir

This will be handed to you  
by Mr M<sup>r</sup> Farish - I took the liberty to send you  
by Mr Lester a small Box directed to Mrs  
Stratton, which I beg you will delivered, & at the  
same time send to Mrs Gibson one of Mr Fro-  
bisher's Shoes, I beg that she would take the  
trouble to buy for her - Six pairs of Sattinet  
Shoes, the Heel to be rather higher than the  
Shoe sent likewise four pair of Fashionable  
Womens Slippers of the same size with a piece of  
Book Muslin of the widest kind. I have used all  
my endeavours since you left this, to procure you,  
a

a little more freight, but cannot succeed. I am  
very glad to hear of your getting safe down, & sincerely  
wish you a <sup>pleasant &</sup> prosperous Voyage, with a speedy  
return in the spring. We have ordered some things  
out in the spring, which we will want very early  
& have desired Mess<sup>rs</sup> Bickwood & Co to put them on  
board the Integrity, the last, so that they may easily  
be got at, & to which I hope you will pay due atten-  
tion - I mean to write you by the Maxwell and  
perhaps will trouble you with another <sup>small</sup> Order.

An arrangement took place the other day which  
perhaps may surprise you, it may probably get sent  
before you sail, but I beg you would not mention it  
first. We have for many reasons thought proper  
to give Mess<sup>rs</sup> Ellice & Co's House, half our business jointly  
with our Friends Mess<sup>rs</sup> Bickwood & Co, so that they  
step exactly as the Common phrase says into their  
shoes. Don't be afraid that this connection will hurt  
the Integrity, Mr Frobisher joins me in our kind  
to Mr Gibson, wishing you an agreeable sight of your friends  
in England I remain in great haste Dear Sir Yours &c  
J. Frobisher

Mr Tho Stratton

Montreal 20<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1788

3227

Dear Sir

your obliging favors dated the  
10<sup>th</sup> June & 3<sup>rd</sup> of August. I duly received the for-  
mer speaks to your particular acct with the late  
firm of Benj<sup>n</sup> & Jos<sup>n</sup> Frobisher to which I must  
refer replying till the Maxwell sails, which I believe  
will be about the 10<sup>th</sup> of next month, as we are hurried  
in our Business at this season - your favor of the  
3<sup>rd</sup> Aug<sup>r</sup> hurts my Feelings very much, as I cannot,  
comply with your immediate request; I note  
with great attention what you therein mention  
respecting the Porter & Cheese you Consigned to  
Poo<sup>r</sup> <sup>another</sup> Tom I am apprehensive that you will have  
a very dismal account of the Porter in the first  
place never Porter came to the Country so bad in  
Quality, & in the next place you have only Yourself  
to blame, for I have repeatedly wrote to you  
that I would not be answerable for any thing con-  
signed to him, with respect to the Cheese, I advised  
him

advised him (as the multiplicity of Business I had  
to do could not admit of leisure to attend to the  
disposing of it) to give it to a former Clerk of Ours  
Mr Provan who is since turned Auctioneer  
& Broker - & he informs me that he has only  
disposed of a few Baskets - however you may  
depend that your money is perfectly safe but  
probably will not be realized till the spring  
with respect the money due from him to Mr  
Hindly, I don't know what to say for tho' Mr  
Hindly's Invoice amounts to £90 Stg, the neat proceeds  
of the waistcoat Patterns sold here, only produced  
about £42 Stg. which by letters from him last sum-  
-mer when he had some thoughts of passing the  
winter in the Indian Country, he begged I would  
Remit to Mr Hindly the neat proceeds of what he  
sent him & no more. - But how in Nature can I do  
it, when I never touched a penny of the money, &  
that he is indebted to the Estate of W.P. upwards of £100  
besides to myself £25. which I became answerable for

3228  
him last spring, exclusive of several Debts he owes  
about Town which I most certainly mean to pay &  
if its possible I will remit to Mr Hindley, the pro-  
-duce of what his Invoice fetched here but not  
a furthing more, for they were charged at such  
extravagant prices that I cannot help thinking,  
but what Hindley imposed upon him very  
much - as for remitting you any thing its out  
of my power by this conveyance & I assure you  
that it distresses me a good deal that you  
cannot allow me to draw upon you this fall as  
I have no less than £ 3740 to raise for the estate  
of B & F, this Month & I assure you my Friends  
who were joint security with me for this payment,  
is not altogether pleased that I would not draw  
upon you for the amt of what you are due the  
Estate I have disgraced myself and sacrificed  
the good opinion of my friends to serve you, therefore  
my good fellow remain Content as things are You  
not personal acquainted with me, I have a  
good



good & generous Heart & only wish to have it in  
my Power to convince you that I am Dear Sir

Your Sincere Friend

Signed J. F.

Isaac Todd Esq<sup>r</sup>.

Montreal 30<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1788

Dear Sir

Yesterday I completed the  
payment of the Obligations due to Government for  
which I have Capt. Genevays receipts being £3749<sup>rs</sup>17<sup>d</sup>10  
Currency which receipt I would wish to give up, &  
have the Amount Indorsed on the back of the Obligations,  
I therefore must beg of you to speak to Mr. Coffin  
either to send it up, or to have it indorsed when he  
hears from Capt. Genevay which I suppose will not be  
by this Post as the last payment of £1000<sup>rs</sup> he has  
not yet weighed. Yesterday Capt. Man arrived  
from above by whom we had Letters from Mackina  
giving us an Account of the Melancholy accident which  
happen'd to our old acquaintance & Friend Paterson  
the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> last. about 20 Leagues from the  
Post, endeavouring to get into into the Harbour of  
Chouchoin, was supposed to over sett - as his body,  
two

two of his men & a Paris Girl was found on the Beach;  
three <sup>3229</sup> Days after he had left Michil<sup>m</sup> By Campion  
& Tabac who sent an express to Capt<sup>r</sup> Malcom acquaint<sup>ing</sup>  
him of the Terrible Disaster upon which he immediately  
dispatched  
Gaultier & Serg<sup>t</sup> McDonald in order to bring in  
the Body & to pick up all the Effects they could  
they found all his papers & a great part of his Effects,  
even heavy Packages such as a Case of Guns, from  
which we must naturally conclude that he must  
have been very nigh Shore ~ With Compliments  
to all our Quebec Friends I remain Dear Sir

Yours sincerely

Signe J F

Mr W Tarish tells me that he acquainted  
you & my other Friends of the Bargain I have  
made with Hoyle. he is so much in earnest that  
I have got his Note for £400 payable the first of  
May next and another for the same sum next  
Oct<sup>r</sup> ~ And I assure you if he should repent I am  
no ways inclined to relinquish the Bargain

Signe J F

Montreal 20<sup>th</sup> Octo: 1788.

Dear Sister

I ought to appologize  
for being so neglectful as not to have  
wrote you for some time past, but  
I hope you will be so generous as not to  
attribute it to any want of inclination or  
affection: — I must drop this subject  
for another of a more serious nature,  
& truly distressing, shed an affectionate  
Tear to his blessed Memory, our poor  
Brother Tom is no more; he died of a  
Symptom atick Fever Friday 12 Sept<sup>r</sup> about  
5. o'clock in the afternoon after being  
Confined to his Room only 36 Hours — He  
arrived from the Indian Country the 8<sup>th</sup>  
Sept<sup>r</sup> & to all appearances in perfect health  
I was then, & had been for two Months  
before Confined to the House with a very  
Violent

violent intermitting Fever, attended with a  
Billious <sup>3230</sup> Complaint, Mrs Frobisher at  
the same time sick in Childbed, & the  
Young Infant Died & was buried only  
the day before he arrived so that you  
may easily Conceive the distressed and  
Melancholy Situation we was in at the  
dreadful Scene - However its the duty of  
every good Christian to submit to the  
will of Divine Providence, & to endeavour  
to bear our Misfortunes, with that Manly  
Firmness Fortitude & Perseverance becoming  
our Nature & for which we was  
formed by the creator of all things -

Mrs Frobisher desires her love to you  
& has taken the liberty to send you a  
work bag for one of your little Girls -  
with my best wishes to you & your worthy  
husband - I remain with sincerity  
Your Sister  
Yours &c

Mr William Frobisher Montreal 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 1788

My Dear Brother

I wrote to you last Year a very dismal Epistle, but alas I have another equally distressing; Drop an affectionate tear to his blessed Memory, but my Dear Will dont let sorrow & Grief harbour too long in your tender breast & I will tell you the Dismal Tale; Our <sup>poor</sup> Brother Tom is no more; he died of a Symptomattick fever Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> about 5 O'clock in the afternoon, after being confined in his Room, only 36 Hours, he arrived from the Indian Country, the 8<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>. & to all appearances in perfect health. I was then, I had been for two Months before confined to the House, with a very violent intermitting fever, accompanied with a bilious complaint, Mrs Frobisher at the same time sick in child Bed, the Child died and was buried only the day before our Dear Brother

arrived so that You may easily guess our distress  
& melancholy situation at the time of his death.  
Words cannot express the dreadful scene — I  
wanted to pay the last tribute to the debt of  
Nature, by attending the Corps to the place of  
interment, but my friends opposed it so warmly  
on Acc<sup>t</sup>. of my bad state of Health that I was  
under the necessity of complying with their request  
what with grief, Sickness, & Weakness, that then  
possesst my whole Frame, I would scarce been able  
to have stood the fatal shock, however the  
various changes, misfortunes, and Vicissitudes of this  
transitory life are so uncertain that every good  
Christian ought to submit to the Will of Provi-  
dence and bear every thing with that Manly  
Firmness, Fortitude perseverance & due resigna-  
tion becoming our Nature & for which we were formed  
by the creation of all Mankind. Your kind  
favor of the 24<sup>th</sup> April I duly received & have  
it read it over several times, with much attention

I return you my warmest thanks for your brotherly  
& friendly feelings for our late misfortunes, I believe  
me sincerely my dear Will, that I heartily condole  
with you on your heavy losses, tho' I hope your  
affairs are not bad as Brother Stratton repre-  
sents them to me, if so my poor fellow you are  
much to be pitied. I know by dear bought experience  
what every honest heart must suffer on the occasion  
it's a hard & cruel fate, after all our fatigue,  
anxiety & honest endeavours for upwards of twenty  
Years, to be reduced to the disagreeable necessity  
of beginning the world again, at our time of  
life when we ought to reap the benefit of our own  
Industry & Labour, however don't let your noble  
courage be cast down, but endeavour to support  
your dejected spirits, with the hopes of better times,  
& frown & despise at the fate of dame fortune. This  
I suppose is the only misfortune you have met with,  
therefore you must feel it very sensibly, but it's not  
the case with me, I am so much used to losses &  
disappointments

disappointments that are become to me quite  
familiar, <sup>3232</sup> & I am resolved let what will happen  
in future not to vex myself or encourage Grief to  
that degree as to effect my Faculty or destroy my  
Health & Constitution which God knows is very in-  
different, its a duty incumbent on me to keep  
to this resolution for the sake of my Dear Wife & Children.

I am sorry that my presents circumstances  
oblige me to draw upon Brother Nash for £600 &c  
The situation of poor Tom's affairs vexes me to  
the very soul particularly at this critical jun-  
-ture, poor Stratton sent him last Year  
50 Hhd's of very bad porter, together with some  
cheese this spring, which remains still on hand,  
except a few Baskets which are disposed of, the re-  
-mainder probably may be sold in the course of the  
winter, but with respect to the porter it was sour  
before it came here & what has been sold only fetch'd  
27/- except a few Hhd's sold to a man who has since  
become a bankrupt, there remains still on hand  
about



about  $\frac{1}{3}$ , the other two thirds I cannot acco<sup>t</sup>  
for above ten or twelve for he kept no acco<sup>t</sup>. A  
Mr Hindley of Manchester sent him a small advent<sup>ure</sup>  
of waistcoat Patterns of about £90 of such an  
imposition was never seen, every thing charged  
at an extravagant Price & by what I can learn  
they only produced about £60 he gave them all to  
a Broker to be sold for Mr Hindley's acco<sup>t</sup> while the poor  
fellow was absent last summer & who had then  
some intention of passing the winter in the Indian Coun-  
try he wrote to me several times to endeavour to remit  
to Mr Hindley the neat proceeds of the acco<sup>t</sup> sales  
but no more, I intend to comply with this last  
request of his & likewise to pay off all his trifling  
debts in this Country the amount of which I don't  
yet know. He stands likewise indebted to the estate  
of B. D. F. about £100 — which I put down as  
good in the state of our affairs, not wishing that he  
should appear insolvent. Exclusive of all this

advanced him last spring in Cash Goods,  
to the amount of £80, for which I am answerable  
to the New Firm of Mr Tavish Furbisher & Co, will  
these circumstances are very distressing to me, &  
still Brother Stratton desires I would remit (for  
things I never had in my possession) when  
I am not possesst of a penny of his Money, when  
he is acquainted with all these Circumstances  
he ought to think himself well off. That I  
did not draw upon him for the Money he owes  
the Estate, I assure You my Friends who are  
security for me are not pleased with me for such  
a piece of delicacy. I have to pay in the Course  
of this Month in Cash into the receiver General's  
Office £37/10. Currency & an equal sum being  
the last Dividend in Oct<sup>r</sup> next. I have not rec'd  
any Letters from Nash, this Summer. I have just  
this Moment rec'd the News of the Vessel from  
Mr Buckwood's House been arriv'd at Quebec  
with

our Indian Goods, by whom I have letters from  
Tally & Mr Stratton & will endeavour to answer  
by this favorable Conveyance, if time will admit.  
I am happy to find that our worthy & dear  
Mother enjoyed her Health so well, I think  
it would be prudent not to mention poor  
Tom's death to her. I pray make a tender of my  
warmest affection for her, joined with those of  
Mrs Frobesher & Family. I must conclude with  
wishing You every Blessing this world can afford &  
am

Dear Will

Your very affection Brother

Signed J F

M<sup>r</sup> Nathaniel Frobesher Montreal 20<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1788

My Dear Brother

I wrote to you last Fall since  
which I have not had the pleasure of hearing  
from you, which surprises me much. Since I  
lost my worth and ever lamented Brother Ben  
nothing

nothing, nothing but Melancholy & Misfortunes  
attends me, since his death I have lost two of  
my children, but what is still more distressing  
to me is & must be to You also, the late Melancholy  
Event in the death of Our poor Brother Tom who  
died after being confined only 36 Hours in the  
House, he was attacked very violently with a  
Symptomattick Fever Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>,  
about 5 O'Clock in the afternoon & expired in  
a few Minutes afterwards I was very ill at the  
time with the intermitting fever accompanied  
with a Billious Complaint. Mrs Froisher  
was also sick in Childbed & only five days  
before had buried the poor infant, so that you  
may easily conceive our distress'd situation,  
I spoke to him about an hour before he died,  
but had no the least apprehensions of his  
approaching Danger, he afterwards turn'd  
quite insensible & tho' I was with him to the  
last moment along with three Gent<sup>l</sup> of the

Tracully nothing could be done for him, I  
wanted to attend to attend at the Burial, but  
that with grief and weakness, put out of my  
power & my friends opposed it very much,  
I had his Corps laid along side poor Ben, his  
Burial was attended by all the Gent.<sup>ns</sup> of the town  
both Military and civil. Your Friend Truman  
was at the House at the time. Poor Tom had  
many things from Brother Stratton which he has  
partly sold & expended for his Personal use, other articles  
he has given credit to different people who will  
never pay, so that I am afraid he will fall considera-  
-bly on his debt. He likewise owes a Mr Hindley of  
Manchester about £ 90 for waistcoat Patterns & which  
were Invoiced one half above their value, for he gave  
them to a Broker to sell & they only produced as <sup>the</sup> <sup>best</sup>  
Acc<sup>t</sup> sales £ 46. 15. 7 Province Currency equal to £ 2. 2. 2  
Of which money I have not received, the last summer  
he mentioned to me & I said that I would endeavour to  
remitt to Mr Hindley this fall the am<sup>t</sup> of the Acc<sup>t</sup>

Sales & no more, as he had never ordered them out &  
could not think of paying more than what they produced.

3235

I have been under the disagreeable necessity  
of drawing on You for Six hundred Pounds  $St^d$  at  
90 Days in favor of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Buckwood & Pattle & Co<sup>o</sup>  
which I hope you will readily accept & pay punctu-  
-ally when it becomes due, I did not wish to draw  
for more, not knowing what money you may have  
disbursed for Martin. I wish you could bind him  
out to some good Trade such as Ship Carpenter,  
for I cannot afford to keep him at that expence.  
I therefore wish You would do it immediately  
after Christmas taking Care to Consult the  
Boys inclination what respectable trade he  
would wish to learn. By the spring ships I expect  
to hear from You, would at the same time, transmit  
me Your Acc<sup>t</sup> that I may ascertain the Balance.  
I would likewise wish to be informed, if Mr Trieman  
has any thing to expect more than the Commission  
he now bears. I find him a very good honest hearted

Dellow & I believe the worst Enemy he has in the world  
is himself he happens not to be here just now, tho he  
is only quarter'd a crop the River, he has been very  
anxious about a Box sent him out by one of his brothers,  
which I learn by Stratton's letter is on one of the fall  
ships which is arriv'd at Quebec, he will be very  
glad to hear of it — Mrs Frobisher has sent to the  
Care of Mrs Stratton a small box containing  
two work Bags for Children one of which is directed  
to Your Rib & the other to Sister Blanchard for  
Your little Girls, they are of no value therefore  
Your acceptance will be more agreeable to Mrs  
Frobisher. We are always very much hurried at this  
Season of the Year, which happens to be my case  
at Present, however I intend to write to sister Betty,  
if I can spare a Quarter of a hour. I have nothing  
more to add only Mrs Frobisher's affectionate Love  
joined with mine attends on Your beloved Wife &  
Family I believe me with sincere affection

Dear Nath

3236

Your loving Brother  
Signed J. Froisher

Montreal 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 88

My dear Sally

I wrote to you last year a very  
dismal Epistle, but alas! I have another equally  
distressing, Drop an affectionate tear to his  
blessed Memory, but my dear Sally don't let sorrow  
& grief harbour too long on your <sup>tender</sup> heart, and I  
will tell you the dismal Fate. Our poor  
Brother Tom is no more, he died of a Symptoma-  
-tick fever Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> Sept. 5 O'clock in the  
afternoon after being confined to his Room only  
36 Hours, he arrived from the Indian Country  
the 8<sup>th</sup> Sept. & to all appearances in perfect health  
I was then & had been for two months confined to the  
house



house, with a very violent and intermitting fever, accompa-  
nied with a Billious Complaint, Mrs. Trubaker at the same time  
sick in child bed, the child died and was buried only the  
day before our Dear Brother arrived so that you may easily  
guess our distressed & Melancholy situation at the time of his  
death. Words cannot express the dreadful scene. I wanted to  
pay the last tribute to the debt of nature by attending the  
Corps to the place of Interment, but my friends opposed it so  
warmly, on acct of my bad state of health, that I was under the  
necessity of complying with their request, what with grief, sickness  
& weakness, that then pressed my whole frame, I could scarce-  
ly have stood the fatal shock; however the various  
changes, Misfortunes and vicissitudes of this transitory life  
are so uncertain that every good Christian ought to submit  
to the Will of Providence and bear every thing with that  
manly firmness, patience & perseverance & due resignation  
becoming our nature & for which we were formed by the  
Creation of all Mankind.

Since coming thro' above the Port from Quebec  
is arrived & brought you an agreeable and long Quilt of  
the 5<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>r</sup>, which I have read over with much  
attention

cost me several tears — You mention poor Tom's  
Name so often, I must acknowledge he was very  
negligent, tho' always very affectionate to his Relations  
& nothing but an indolent & idle way he had contracted  
prevented him from writing. With respect to that  
part of your Letter regarding your Interest, I will  
do my utmost endeavour to collect as much as possible,  
but as I intend to write fully on this subject to brother  
Stratton by this opportunity, I must refer you to him.  
I observe my poor & worthy parent is with you. You will  
please make a tender of my affectionate love to her joined  
with those of Mrs. Trubshaw & Family. I have a very  
Mrs. Trubshaw sends by Capt. Gibson a small box to your  
Care in which are two small bags for children made by  
an Aunt of Mrs. T. who is a Nun, one of these are for Mrs.  
Blanchard the other for Mrs. Nath. Trubshaw he likewise  
he will likewise deliver you a Barrel of Crumbees of which I  
beg your acceptance. Do for gods sake get our dear Mothers  
Picture drawn, Cert what it will, I will repay you with thanks.

God Bless you my dear Sister

I remain  
Your very affectionate Brother  
J. F.

