

Traill papers NLS MS 19334 Letters of Harry,
Notes and partial transcription by David Alston

Letters of Harry Robertson Watson

NLS MS 19334 f1 Photographed 23 Feb 2022

Harry Robertson Watson to his mother, from Kiltarn, 13 July 1809

My Dear Mother,

I am honoured with your agreeable letter. It made me happy to know that you and my dear Brothers are well, that they are such good boys, and promise being good scholars. [Send his thanks for shirts etc] It is my full resolution when I return again to the Town to apply to my education closer than I have done before. Mr & Mrs Young are like kind parents to me, they make no difference betwixt Hugh & me.

[Came to Kiltarn on 7 June - visited Newtown often, Tenoord and Mount Gerald.]

I have visited many good friends at Inverness who invited me to see them.

[Sends love and compliments to and from a number of people.]

NLS MS 19334 f2 Photographed 23 Feb 2022

Harry Robertson Watson to his mother (Mrs Dr Traill, Liverpool) from Inverness, 8 Dec 1812

[Has received letter with 20/- and bought a pair of boots & 3 pairs stocking; has received a letter from his aunt; says that Andrew (his brother) is writing a letter 'by Miss Robertson'. Mr Young asks to send a full suit of clothes. Compliments to Mr & Mrs Sandbach, James & Miss Tomison.]

F4-5 missing

NLS MS 19334 f6r

Harry Robertson Watson to his step father (Dr Traill, Liverpool) from Demerary, 20 May 1820

My Dear Father,

It is such a long time now since I did myself the pleasure of addressing you that that I regret it is out of my power to write to you at the length I could wish.

I have not had five minutes to myself for the past fortnight & the Caledonia's Bag going away in about an hour obliges me to forward these few hurried lines.

I now forward you the bill of a the Tuckan which I hope will answer your purpose. It is put up in Rum proof ? so that it ought to keep well.

f6v

By the Cornwall I will endeavour to send you a few things now by me. I expect to get a stone found an immense way in the Interior it is called the Warawini Diamond and resembles a Diamond in every way. There is also another stone of a redish colour brought from the interior. I shall send one of them at all events.

Mr Waterton was kind enough to send the Bill of the Tuckan he is quite well & making grand connections.

With the most affectionate regards to you yourself my mother (who I shall write to on Wednesday) & all

f7r

other friends

Believe me always

With great Respect & esteem

Your most affectionate

H R Watson

NLS MS 19334 f8r

Harry Robertson Watson to his mother (Liverpool) from Demerary, 2 July 1820

My Dear Mother

Your favours by the Dee I received, and de??red answering until now. I was glad to find that you were also well and that my grandmother was getting over her late most trying affliction.

The Dee had a fine passage. Keith is quite well and very pleasantly situated with with Captain Gray. I hope he stands a good of early promotion.

To your enquiries respecting the salary I am to have, at present it is not in my power to reply. Mr Simson told me he made some agreement with M D E & Co and I never asked any more questions about it. Mr Simson is in Essequibo otherwise I would have asked him. I never mentioned my reason for not sending to you for any clothing I wanted, but the trust is I do

f8v

not like to draw money from the House, without having funds before me I could never think of ordering out anything whatever. About the New Year I will be troubling you for some things, say shirts & trousers.

I have sent by Captain Hannay a Crape scarf of which I beg your acceptance.

As I am no judge of these kinds of things, if there is any particular colour that you like either for a dress (say of China Crape) or scarf if you would mention it to me you would confer a great obligation. I am sorry that I am disappointed in not sending the stones for the doctor but by Keith he may I hope depend upon them as well as some more plants, some of them perhaps never seen before in England. I expect from Mr Corts a Palm Tree Nut which I think will be a very great curiosity if it arrives in time for the Cornwall. I will send it

f9r

I send some Bows & Arrows for the Boys, there is an arrow among them with a cover upon it which is intended for the Doctor, it is poisoned by the Indians with some kind of poison which if it connects with the blood is instant Death. They procure it out of some Tree and the way they get it is when any of their tribe is condemned for any offence they generally set them too to make it. It is first got out in the same manner as Tar and afterwards boiled and mixed up. The person who makes it generally from the effect it has over the Body. If they do recover it is not until many years afterwards and they are always pardoned.

I send a monkey also.

I would like you to mention to Mrs Wilson how much I feel obliged by her brothers (Mr Cort) attention. I spent a couple of most agreeable days at Lusignan about a week ago. He is a most agreeable man and a complete Gentleman. He was always very kind to me

f9v

when I used to go to the Coast which was very often when I lived with Mr Simson.

I hope Mr Pearson has been in Liverpool.

If the Caledonia has arrived the Doctor will no doubt have rec^d the Bill of the Tucan.

I should like to get a Liverpool newspaper of a late date sent sometime.

Gilbert is quite well, he was in Town lately.

We have had very rainy weather lately.

I must conclude by requesting you to give my love to all my kind friends in St Anns Street and with the most affectionate regard believe me

Your most dutiful & obliged son

H R Watson

Remember me to Mr and Mrs Munro and Mary. Mr Munro will I daresay make a box for the Monkey which in the summer time ought to be placed on the top of a pole and a slide round it to which the string to which he is tied by is to be made fast and will run up and down with ?????.

NLS MS 19334 f12r

Harry Robertson Watson to his step father (Dr Traill, Liverpool) from George Town, Demerary, 24 Feb 1821

My Dear Father,

Mr Waterton has been good enough to offer to be the bearer of anything for your family. I expected to have been able to send you the Hummingbirds I promised but really there is no dependence to be placed in anything of the kind here because unless you can drive them to use means to procure Birds it will never be done. About a month ago I send up a jar of high wines to a boy belonging to Mr Edmonstone who promised to get me the birds but the Negroes drank the Rum on the way up and the place where he was a Bottle of Rum could not be got.

f12v

I heard nothing of the birds until 2 days ago when Mr Waterton came to town. You may judge how much I was disappointed. However I have given some more High Wines and hope to be able to send some by Cornwall along with some plants I have been promised.

The community at large have waged war with the public patent offices and Law Office, and the newspaper war is carried on to excess. Mr Cochrane Johnstone is a brilliant character at present in that line.¹ We have the best paper published here of any in the West Indies. The president of the Court of Justice (Mr Sergeant Rough) has committed himself greatly, it is expected that an order will be sent from home to dismiss

f13r

him from office. Among many repeated foolish acts he lately placarded all the lamp posts in town, the purport of which was to let the people know that he considered himself to have as much authority as the governor. There was meeting lately of all the principal inhabitants for the purpose of signing a petition to be sent home for the revision of the Tariffs of public offices and among the signatories are 6 names of Gentlemen composing the Legislative Council of the Colony.

Dr Ross told me that he has got a collection of insects which he intends sending you.

I am my dear Father

Yours very affectionately

H R Watson

¹ Andrew James Cochrane-Johnstone formerly Cochrane. See ODNB entry as 'politician and fraudster'. After his conviction for a Stock Exchange fraud in 1814, he fled to France and thence to the West Indies, where [h]e discovered that his plantations in Dominica had already been sold to satisfy his creditors and failed to recover them by legal action. In 1819 he made a fresh start with a coffee plantation in Demerara, transferring slaves from Dominica.

MS 19334 f14r

Harry Robertson Watson to his step father (Dr Traill, Liverpool) from Demerary, 30 Mar 1821

My Dear Father

I have so often promised you some Humming Birds and not been able to execute your wish that I am afraid you will begin to think me trifling with you but I refer you to Captain Hannay for a character of the person I place my dependence on and hope to clear up my character.

The Plant I mentioned to you I expect are on board but am not certain as they were to be sent off from the Windward Coast along with some of Mr Wilsons stock.

f14v

Captan Hannay takes charge of a snakeskin which I think you will like. Except a piece of Band???? which I send under his charge and believe me always

Your very affectionate son

H R Watson

There is a parrot of mine on board which tell the Boys that they may get it.

NLS MS 19334 f16r

Harry Robertson Watson to his step father (Dr Traill, Liverpool) from George Town, Demerary, 21 July 1821

My Dear Father

I have to thank you for your very kind and gratifying letter per Dee. I am glad to hear the Snake Skin reached safe and that it proved acceptable

I now to myself the pleasure of sending you a Trumpeter Bird (as we call them here from the similarity of the note to the sound of the Trumpet) and hope it may reach safe as I fancy there is not another in England, so I am led to think. From what I hear

f16v

they are very tender and if it does reach you you must give it a preference for a fireside birth [sic] in the Kitchen tho' I dare say it will be now and then introduced in the Library and will be as great an annoyance to the Female part of the family as your Acids when spilt on the Carpet. I have several times thought of sending you a Baboon. If you would like one let me know?

I have given Captain Spence in a Bottle 3 Hummingbirds which I shall be glad to hear answer the purpose you originally intended them for. He has also 2 Red Stones a kind which are only found at a very

f17r

great distance in the interior of the country.

Mr Simson leaves the Colony for Quebec in about 10 days in very poor health. He has has a very narrow escape indeed. His complaint was inflammation of the bowels. He goes with Captain Hannay in the Richard. My mother mentioned that Peter will soon be coming out. I trust he will first be fixed in some good situation for there are hundreds of young men out here at present who from want of employment are going headlong to ruin.

I hope to have the pleasure

f17v

of hearing from you soon.

Ever believe me

My Dear Father

With great respect

Your most affectionate son

H R Watson

You must excuse me in the writing department as I am not accustomed to candle light and can hardly see what I put on the paper from a dimness which however I do not feel from reading.

NLS MS 19334 f18r

Harry Robertson Watson to his mother(Mrs Traill, Liverpool) from Berbice 7 July 1824

My Dear Mother,

Enclosed you will receive a letter for Gilbert enclosing a bill for £50 which I send you in case of his having left England or any other cause which may prevent him getting it , which if it should be the case you will then open the letter and keep the Bill. I hope that it will get to you in time to assist his difficulties a little.

Andrew is again with me and is to remain. He gives me every satisfaction as yet and I have no doubt but he will continue to do so, as he is now permanently

f18v

settled with me. I have told very plainly what I expect of him and he took it all in good part. I have therefore every reason to expect he will turn out a clever fellow and be of use to himself yet.

Mr Macdonald was up here for the first time last week and brought Peter with him. They spent the time during Peter's stay very pleasantly and went up the river to Mr Fullarton's Island (which is considered the finest in Berbice coffee) about 40 miles which was a treat to Peter as he has never seen coffee & cocoa on such an extensive scale.

Peter went down and left Mr Macdonald here who then began business and I am proud to say expressed himself very pleased

f19r

with the manner in which everything has been conducted. He told a confidential friend (who afterwards mentioned it to me) that everything has turned out fully better than either Mr Fullarton or he had reason to expect from the difficulties I had at first to get over.

You will no doubt be a little surprised when I tell you that he made a proposal for me to return to Demerary and take charge of the establishment to be set agoing there on the 1st of January, so far it has only been talked about between ourselves and if it takes place he makes me a fair offer 1/6 of each concern which is equal to a third of the whole. There is a gentleman here who would succeed me and is very capable. The only thing I feel doubtful of is the great charge that wold fall upon me of being

f19v

the principal conductor of the most extensive House in Demerary. However if it takes place I must just exert a little more.

You will oblige by keeping this matter private to yourself and the Doctor for were it to be known too soon it would derange there plans and also those of this Establishment at once, as the Kings of London will be sadly out of sorts when they hear that it is the intention of Fullarton & Macdonald to open a House in London which will be done if this is carried into effect.

I consider my income for last year say 12 months from time we begun to be about £1000 and this year I little doubt that it will be £1500. If a change takes place it will, or ought to be from £2000 to £3000.

I really do not know what to attribute the unprecedented

f20r

kindness and confidence received from these Gentlemen in the present instance the offer (if it does not yet go into effect) convinces me that it is from motives of friendship for there are plenty of monied men in Demerary with more experience who would readily advance money to get into their House.

Mr Semple lost a fine child about a month ago which has distressed himself & Mrs S a good deal, they are now getting into better spirits. Mr S looks for his Mother who talks of coming out to take the 2 girls as they are getting rather old to remain here much longer.

Excuse this long scrawl but as I know you are anxious to hear matters relative to me of such importance I give it to you at full length. You will hear

f20v

no more on this subject for some time as we wait for letters from England before anything more can be said or done.

Make my kind compliments to the Doctor my grandmother Aunts Brothers and Sisters Miss Sandbach and all the other branches of the family

And Believe me always

Your affectionate son

H R Watson

NLS MS 19334 f22r

Harry Robertson Watson to his mother (Mrs Traill, Liverpool) from Berbice 1 Aug 1824

My Dear Mother

I wrote you about a month ago mentioning that some new proposals had been or rather were to be made me by F & McD which has been done, and I have declined them altogether.

The as well as me other friends appeared surprised at my doing so as the advantages to be derived were great but I have also my reasons which are in detail as follows.

1st The large capital that I became joint in was in my opinion too much for me to have at stake at once it would seldom be less than 50 to £60,000 stg. In the next place I was to become joint

f22v

proprietor of their extensive and valuable premisses and Negroes, their Furniture &c which must be at least £6000 more. Now all this appears very good and was a very fair proposal, but my accepting would have bound me down to Demerary for at least 10 years at least, a thing I will never make myself liable to, and in the event of death happening either of the parties my share would be lost to me in a great measure, for it would be impossible in these times to command anything like the value when to be sold.

At present I can carry on here without much risk and with one third the Capital to advantage, and I can at any time wind up here in 2 years, and when our present

f23r

engagement is up I will see how we are to go on. I should be very glad if they retired which is likely for with a Capital of 5 to 6^m pounds I can do very well and a friend here can advance 2 or 3 and I can get about 5 so that I will not leave Berbice as I am very well established and have the command of some of the best custom in the Colony.

I enclose you 2nd of the Bill sent for Gilbert should my last letter to him not have come to hand send the inclosed if it has there is no occasion to send it, it can be tore up.

Andrew is quite well and is behaving himself with great propriety. I have told him very plainly what his

f23v

duty is and he gives every reason to be satisfied.

I have several business letters to write for this Vessel and since the bag leaves our store at 9 o'clock so you must excuse me.

With affectionate regards to all our Friends

I am my Dear Mother

Your very affectionate son

H R Watson

NLS MS 19334 f24r

Harry Robertson Watson to his mother (Mrs Traill, Liverpool) from Berbice 18 Nov 1824

My Dear Mother,

I wrote you a few hurried lines about 10 days ago from Demerary where I had gone with Mr Fullarton for a change of air having had two severe attacks of dry belly ache. I am now however perfectly recovered and going on in the old way.

When I was down another offer was made me in a different way from the former ones of becoming a partner in the Demerary Concern and I took Mr Rainy's advice upon what I should

f24v

do and the result is satisfactory to all parties concerned. I came up from Demerary by land and have not yet received my luggage which comes by water. When that arrives I will send you copy of the Contract entered into. The heads are principally to the following effect

That my interest be $\frac{1}{3}$

That the Premises be taken over by the new concern (done at my particular desire) for f44,000. I consider them worth £5000 at this moment.

That the entire charge and management of the concern rest with me.

That F & McD go to England in April for the purpose of establishing themselves in London.

The business in Demerary is to be under the firm of Macdonald, Watson & Co, in Berbice as at present, and in London Fullarton & Macdonald.

Mr Rainy says he considers the terms as far as regards me very liberal, indeed I prefer living in Demerary far more than here, the climate here is very different from George Town where there is always a fresh sea breeze, but here we are so far up the River that the little wind we get is very impure from passing over immense savannahs, and I do not enjoy such

f25r

a vigorous state of health as formerly. I month or two in Demerary will sett all to rights.

I will have a very heavy charge on my shoulders but I hope to be able to get through pretty well. I can undertake it with much more confidence than I did the business here which I am in hopes will by the 31 March the time I give it over have cleared some 10^m sterling. This we cannot ascertain well until the debts are got in.

I will write you soon again.

Always your affect Son

H R Watson

Excuse haste I am very busy but do to like to let the oppy pass.

NLS MS 19334 f26r

Harry Robertson Watson to his mother (Mrs Traill, Liverpool) from Demerara, 1 Oct 1825

My Dear Mother,

By the Leonora arrived two days ago I had the pleasure to receive your very acceptable favor as also Ann & Lucy's letter which when I have some spare time I will answer.

It afforded me much satisfaction to hear that William was recovering so well from his late severe accident, and that all the rest of the Family were well. I will now be anxious to hear of your own recovery which before this can reach will be quite effected. You must excuse my not being so

f26v

punctual as usual but I have much tatted to that my time is quite occupied.

Captain McDonnell will send you some (6) pots of preserves and a Bottle of Pickles, and I have shipt a Barrel of Sugar which I have requested Messrs Gladstone & Co to send up to you and hope may be acceptable.

Remember me kindly to the Doctor and all other enquiring Friends.

Believe me always

Your very affectionate son

H R Watson

f27v

Note by address

With Mr Watson's compliments a Barrel of Sugar per Seaforth shall be entered & sent up when landed.

NLS MS 19334 f30r

Harry Robertson Watson to his mother (Mrs Traill, Liverpool) from Demerara, 14 Oct 1828

My Dear Mother

By the Belmont arrived last evening I had the pleasure of receiving your kind letter to the content of which I will pay due attention at present I have not time to reply to it fully but will avail myself of the sailing of the Seaforth to do so.

It afforded me great pleasure and satisfaction to hear that you were all well. I a delighted to hear such accounts of Mrs McDonald she ought to be good for she is married to one of the best of men & one who will do everything to please her that he profitably can. I have wrote him letter of congratulation. I assure you I have the greatest feeling of attachment towards Mr McDonald and feel always glad to hear of him. I hope soon to have the

f30v

pleasure of seeing Mrs Mc in London, who knows by young Gladstone Sandbach may induce me to write for leave. I have never entered on the subject to [F & McD?] but perhaps soon will.

I return you Mr MacInroy's letter. I am glad he takes an interest in James.

Ever my Dear Mother

Your most affectionate son

H R Watson

All the boys are well.

NLS MS 19334 f32r

Harry Robertson Watson to Eliza Traill, from Demerara, 14 May 1832

Dear Mary Eliza

I am much obliged to you for your kind letter by the Sandbach and the very pretty chain you sent me which I shall have much pleasure in wearing for your sake.

It gave me much satisfaction to hear that you had gone to Mrs Smith's & I trust you will make the most of the time you remain with her which cannot be very long. I see a decided improvement in your writing.

It is rather a change for you to get spat 6 & go to bed at 9 & I dare say that at first you sooner played a hand at cards than ????? but custom does

f32v

much to change habits & feelings.

Tell Miss Scobie that her sister, Miss Richardson & Mr McKenzie are quite well & remember me kindly to her.

I am Dear Mary Eliza

Your affectionate Brother

H R Watson

NLS MS 19334 f34r

Harry Robertson Watson to Anne Traill, Edinburgh, from Demerary, May 1835

My Dear Anne,

You will be surprised to see my hand again as I have no doubt you long since gave up the hope of from the length of time I have been silent but the truth is that I have been since the month of Jan^y a complete invalid and left town to be under the charge of a medical friend where I could keep quiet and I only got back last week and I am happy to say quite recovered only in want of strength to walk any distance but I am gaining it daily and hope in a month hence to be able to go about as well as ever.

My brothers are all in the enjoyment

f34v

of the best of health. Andrew has gone to live in the country within a few miles of William.

Since the change has taken place with the negroes several people have opened stores to supply such articles as they require and you can have no idea how smart some of the young ladies are on Sunday. I am sorry however to say that that they are in a very unsettled state entirely owing to the ill advised proclamations and interference of the Governor to whom the colony owes all its present disturbed state but it is hoped we will soon be relieved of him the inhabitants to the number of 1300 odd having sent a petition home to that effect.

From report I expect to hear soon that some of you are going to take anew name. I fancy it is Miss Lucy. She was always in luck that way and it is about time now if intended at all

f35r

We have had quite a marrying epidemic raging here of late. I suppose more so than has taken place at any former time. Jane Scobie will be among the next. She is engaged. One other happy pair has gone by the Parker. They sailed the day after the ceremony took place - a Miss Bagot and Mr Laxdale.

Mr John Fullarton who goes home by May of Clyde has promised to this in the Post Office on his arrival.

With kind remembrances to all friends believe me

Your affectionate

H R Watson

[Next section cross written, by Anne to her mother, forwarding Harry's letter]

Harry Robertson Watson died in Demerara 13 February 1836

Letters of Andrew Watson

NLS MS 19334 f36 Photographed 23 Feb 2022

Andrew Watson to his mother (Mrs Traill, Liverpool) from Kiltarn, May 1813

. . . Glad to hear all friends in Liverpool well - my brothers and I are delighted with accounts we hear of our sister Ann. We love her dearly and long to see her and even would be happy to have her picture. I have a little garden and I hope I will have something to amuse you in it by the time you visit here.

NLSMS 19334 f38r

Andrew Watson to his mother (Mrs Traill), from Bahia, 5 Oct 1819

My Dear Mother,

After a very pleasant passage of 43 days I arrived here on Sunday 25th Sept^r. We had every very comfortable on board the Swift, Captain Herbert was a very pleasant man and was very kind to me during the voyage. I was at first rather sick for a week or more.

I like Bahia very well from what I have seen of it. The streets are very narrow and dirty in the lower town and very ill paved. The entrance of the bay is the most romantic piece of scenery I ever saw being very much wooded and all hill & dale. The churches here are innumerable

f38v

and very magnificent. The saints about the altar piece are generally made of gold. The virgin Mary is generally enclosed in a glass case (to keep the cold out) with great number of Tapers burning around her. There are very few seats in the churches. There are here and there in the streets the figures of some of the saints with a light before them round which the people gather at 8 o'clock to say their Ave Maria. The houses are not handsomely built here. If you were to see me now you would not know me. I am so much bitten by musquitos my face is covered with their bites and about my wrists which does not look

f39r

very well.

I have been dining at Mr Molineaux who is a very pleasant young man. I will thank you to pay some attention to his brother in Liverpool. Mr Gilfillan & Mr Miller are pleasant gentlemen.

I got my things safe and [torn paper] at the Customhouse they [torn paper] only my book box and the [torn paper] I will thank you to send my school [torn paper]

We get up about 7, breakfast [torn paper] 8 go down to the office lunch [torn paper] 12 go to dinner at 4 and spend the evening as you please. I generally go to the gardens which are a very pleasant lounge in the delightful evenings we have here.

f39v

Give my love to Grandmama Uncle & Aunt Sandbach Aunt Robertson the Doctor Peter Will James Anne Lucy M.E.T & all other enquiring friends of who there will be a great many & accept the same from your affectionate son
W W Watson

Remember me kindly to the Miss Rogers & Mr Hammills & Mr Smiths families and Miss ????? when you write to her. A Watson
Dont forget Miss Lyall

NLS MS 19334 f40r

Andrew Watson to his mother (Mrs Traill), from Bahia, 10 Dec 1819

My Dear Mother,

I received your kind letter for which I am very much obliged for all the kind advices in it. I have been looking for a long time for letters from home there having different vessels arrived here from Liverpool since I came.

I am extremely sorry to hear of the dear of my dear cousin James Sandbach. I can easily suppose the grief that you must all have been in but especially his parents who I hope are now recovering from the shock it must have occasioned them. I am sorry to hear Aunt Robertson & Miss Wilkinsons illness. I am glad to hear that Grandmama's trip to Buxton

f40v

has done her so much good & that she liked the Place at east the Crescent & the walks about it.

I am glad to hear of Keiths appointment to the Dee which from the accounts I have heard much be a very fine vessel. By this conveyance I have had letters from Mr Tho^s Molineaux and my brother

Peter. Mr & Mrs Brother is very kind to me here. I should thank you to send my box of books & al the papers & letters which were in it particularly copy book belonging to one of my schoolfellows Mr G Merrell. By my last letter I sent you a Journal of my voyage which was more entertaining. You will all be glad to see Uncle Hugh but I am sorry he is likely

f41r

to come at such a sorrowful time. The Doctor must have had a delightful trip with such agreeable companions. I am glad to hear of the good health which the children enjoy & hope the rest of my cousins also & of the changes which have taken place in the house since I left. You must certainly have all been very busy. The [torn paper] must be very pleasant [torn paper] & the back yard now it is flagged. Hugh must be very comfortably situated [torn paper] as also the little girls. Mary Eliza must be very busy now at school. I shall be very happy to receive a letter from Anne or anyone else because there is no fear of postage being incurred here because a clerk from every house boards the vessels as they come in & get all the letters

f42r

I have not seen any of the Liverpool papers relative to Saddlers ????? One or two would be very acceptable now or then.

I have a few birds to send the Doctor chiefly humming birds which I intend sending by this vessel or the next. As I do not know which Captain to trust most. I am sorry to hear of Kenneths illness. There is a young man a Mr Robertson just come our here who came from Glasgow & remains in Liverpool for a fortnight. I expect letters from you by him.

With love to all & wishing you a very happy Christmas & New year from

Your affectionate son

A Watson



On the 30th day of December 1819 I set sail from Bahia about 6 o'clock in the evening in an open boat on company with Mess H [Veustette?], E Patten, C J Westmans, John Bawdwen. At about ½ past 7 o'clock we arrived at Mar Grande where we dropped anchor about 50yards from the shore the wind blowing pretty fresh. In about ¼ of an hour after we arrived a negro belonging to the American who keeps s distillery came off to know who we were. We told him we were English. As soon as we were gone we made a hearty meal on a giblet pie potatoes bread wine portu &c & after that we got our beds ready. Went to bed & lay under the awning in the open part of the boat with a mat over us to keep the dew off which falls very heavy. Everyone was provided with a blanket pair of sheets

f43v

pillow counterpane & mats on which we slept very comfortable til 6 o'clock next morning when we got up & dressed. (I bathed before I dressed the water was very cold). After that went on shore with our guns & saw the American who sent off to us the night before. After we had aid our respects to him we went in the woods a little with our guns & shot 4 birds. We then returned to the Americans to breakfast (he having previously invited us) and where we made a hearty meal of Pork Pie, fish, & tea, after breakfast we walked around his distillery which was very neat & clean. After that 3 of us went out shooting, I and another staid in the boat fishing. About 12 the others came back after killing a few birds which we gave to the blacks who cooked & eat them. ABout 3 o'clock we weighed anchor & set sail for the village of Japori?? which was about 9 miles distant. We arrived there about 4 o'clock when we went ashore & walked through mud cottages about 6 we went back to the boat & about

f44r

7 we supped on cold duck & made a very comfortable meal. When supper was over we weighed anchor & went further out from the shore. At 8 o'clock we fired 4 guns & 2 pistols to let the inhabitants know that we were arrived & 4 of us went to bed. The other stay up to keep watch which we kept for 2 hours each. At 12 I was called out it being my watch when nothing occurred only a great many canoes passing & a great noise on the shore. I was armed with a pistol & 2 bayonets. At 2 o'clock I wet to bed again & slept very sound until about 6 o'clock. About ½ past 6 we weighed anchor & set sail for Mar Grande to get a fresh supply of provisions our blacken having dispatched most of them. We arrived there about 8 o'clock & sent a black man to buy bread which he did and returned in about an hour after when we breakfasted on coffee eggs cheese &c which we cooked in a negro hut. After breakfast went on shore & 3 went out to shoot. Another & I stopped in the distillery for ½ an hour & there got a canoe & went a sailing along the coast. We got a fowl cooked for us at a negro hut & about 1 o'clock the others came back

f44v

bringing with them a few birds. After dinner being New Years Day we went to church but could not get in it being very crowded. We left it & took a walk in the woods. In the evening we were sailing in the canoe & about 8 o'clock got our suppers & went to bed. In the morning we set sail for Bahia & arrived there about 7 o'clock after a very pleasant excursion.

A Watson

NLS MS 19334 f45r

Andrew Watson to his mother (Mrs Traill), from Bahia, 13 Mar 1821

My dear Mother

It is now a long time since I had the pleasure of hearing from you but there is a vessel [awaits?] Landing which would leave you about Christmas by which I hope to hear from you.

This will be handed to you by Mr Davidson who goes passenger by this conveyance. He belongs to Caithness, says he knew my grandfather. He will give you a full account about Bahiayour humble servant &c

Since I wrote you a revolution has broken out here & a new

f45v

constitution similar to that of Portugal proclaimed. It was very peaceably conducted, there were only the following killed

1 major killed

3 soldiers killed

2 blacks killed

1 major wounded

5 soldiers wounded

7 blacks wounded

I was taken prisoner going off to board an English brig that was coming in. A boat full of soldiers had been coming about a considerable time. As I was passing they hailed me but I would not bring to, they then presented their muskets upon which the Black chaps would not row any longer & neither thrashing nor threats

f46r

would make them do it. The boat came up to us and an officer very politely stepped into my boat & made be take about 1/2 a mile to an old guard ship there is lying in the mouth of the bay. I refer you to Mr Davidson for further particulars & enclose you some papers which were published. With love to all

I remain my dear mother

You are affectionate son

Andrew Watson

f46v

Mrs Traill

21 St Anne Street

Liverpool

Covered by Jas Davidson Esq

NLS MS 19334 f47r

Andrew Watson to his mother (Mrs Traill), from Bahia, 7 Dec 1821

My dear Mother

I sit down to write you a few lines to inform you of my departure from this for Rio de Janeiro for which I go tomorrow in the [Doris?] Frigate where I am to serve the remainder of my time in consequence of a misunderstanding between Mr Miller & I about his wishing me to stop in the House Sunday about with another young man which I would not do. I hope to be more comfortable in Rio than I have hitherto been here. I shall write you immediately on my arrival there.

This will be giving you by a namesake of mine a Mr Watson who comes from Mansfield ??????? relations I know. By him you will also receive 2 Flowers & some buds of which I beg an acceptance & likewise the ????? which you

f47v

wrote for. I received all the things pr Captⁿ ??? safe & for which I am much obliged to you. Being rather hurried as the Frigate goes sooner than I expected you must excuse this scrawl. I shall write you more fully from Rio & with love to all I remain

Your affect. Son

Andrew Watson



Andrew Watson to his mother (Mrs Traill), from Rio de Janeiro, 6 Jan 1822

My Dear Mother

I had this pleasure last at B^a when I informed you of my departure for this place. I arrived safe on the 15th Ult^o after a pleasant passage of eight days. We left Bahia on the 7th but we got underway at daylight & stood out to sea & came in again about four in the afternoon. There were several young chaps on board to see Geoff who were highly delighted with the sail. I was rather sorry at leaving B^a & should not mind being there again among my old companions.

This place is very different from B^a. The dinner hour

f49v

here is ½ past two & go to work after dinner where you stay 'till 6 o'clock. The young man is always obliged to be in the house which we take turn about so that it comes very light ???? all.

There is very little society here among the young men. Scarcely a dozen in the place know one another which is not the case in B^a where we all used to meet every night. I am quite at home here knowing two of the clerks in the house who came down from B^a only a short time before me. Mr Gilfillan arrived from B^a a few days ago & his brother Mr A G intends shortly going to England.

This City is far preferable to Bahia – beautiful rides & walks. The river is about 1½ miles across and most beautiful ????? The houses are all very well built. We live in a very good house. The tops & walls of the houses are all [felt?] work

f50r

it formerly belonged to one of the directors of the bank who cheated Gov^t out of four hundred thousand m^{rs} & absconded to France.

I sent you several small articles from B^a under care of Mr Jas Watson which I hope will come safe.

TO BE COMPLETED

NLS MS 19334 f51r

Andrew Watson to his mother (Mrs Traill), from Demerary, Nov 1823

My dear Mother

It is a long time since I last had this pleasure but since I came down here it has been for want of time. Perhaps you are not yet aware of my removal from Berbice. I am now in the house of H O Seward & Co a very active live house in almost every branch of business. A nephew of Mr S's has gone up to Berbice to fill my situation there. He will no doubt live very comfortably there with Harry. He has already written down saying what a friendly reception he met with and that he is very much pleased with his situation. I like my situation here very well and after Mr S's departure for England, which will be early the next year I would not exchange for any other I know of in town. The terms are not yet agreed upon but I will leave that to Mr McDonald.

I believe I have not until now had

f51v

an opportunity of thanking you and other friends for letters pr Hector Clyde &c. The shirts pr Clyde I safely received and return you many thanks for them. Tell Ann who has been a most attentive correspondent that I shall positively write to her next. At present I have scarcely time to scribble off a few lines before going on guard. We are so much taken up with military affairs that we have scarcely time for anything. It is generally 7 o'clock before we dine and often later and as it is the custom of the place to retire about 8 o'clock you can easily suppose how much we enjoy our beds. I see Peter every day on parade. He makes a very good soldier and looks very well in his uniform. At present I am rigged by the Parish having borrowed about everything I have not been able to purchase accoutrements in town everything there being completely bought up. I write this for Capt'n

f52r

Hannay who was up at Berbice and will tell you all about Harry. I shall write to you either by the Clyde or Caledonia. Love to all friends both in and out of town and accept the same

My dear Mother

Your affectionate Son

Andrew Watson

NLS MS 19334 f53

Andrew Watson to his mother (Mrs Traill), from Berbice, 1 Aug 1824

My dear Mother

Peter will no doubt ere this have informed you of my departure from Demerara for this place where I am comfortably settled. My situation in Demerara became to me so uncomfortable & unpleasant in every respect through Mr Seward's disagreeable conduct that I was obliged to give it up. I know you will be rather astonished at my changing about so often but I believe I am now finally settled. I had excellent opportunity of gaining a knowledge of the American Trade which I was ???? which was the thing I most required.

We were much surprised at Keith Spence not coming out n the Hector and more so at the manner in which it was reported he set out for Ireland.

I have been expecting letters for some time but am disappointed. I received two from Robert

f53v

Robertson and Richd Hey??? the later of which mentions your attentions to him in a very handsome manner He will deliver this to you.

Mr Semple has been in expectation of seeing this mother and sister out here and was very much disappointed at their not arriving in the Guiana . . .

I had a letter from Peter yesterday, he is quite well.

Harry joins me in love to all friends in town & country. I am

My dear Mother

Your affectionate Son

A Watson

NLS MS 19334 f55

Andrew Watson to his mother (Mrs Traill), from Berbice, 30 Apr 1825

My dear Mother

I received you long and kind letter dated October yesterday by the Britannia which vessel unfortunately got aground on the coast of Wales.

I am happy to hear that you are so comfortably settled in the new house and shall long wish to join you in it.

I am much obliged by your attention my young friends all of whom mention your kindness in their letters to me but none more so than Rich Beyans with whom I have kept a regular correspondence since leaving you.

While writing I have received letters from both Harry and Peter and also from some of my old friends in Bahia which came by way of Demerara

f55v

in a vessel which Harry is loading.

You will see both Mr Fullarton and Mr McDonald b who this goes who will tell you every thing relating to us and my situation.

I have no doubt but I shall be very comfortable with Mr Cooper. I have not yet come to arrangements with him about salary. I intend waiting until the hurry of moving into the new House which we begin to do are ????? When I come to an agreement I will let you know the terms. I however hope to join Harry by and by when Mr Cooper is thoroughly acquainted with the customers and the prices of goods.

I received a letter from the Doctor a few days ago which I will answer

f56r

as soon as I have time as we are extremely bust at present.

You must make many apologies to my brothers and sisters for not writing to them as I am a great many letters in their debt, but I will write to them all when opportunity offers. Robert's hieroglyphics are very amusing.

The Semple's two daughters go home tomorrow in the Guiana for Glasgow. They are very fine children indeed. The quadrupeds attractions must be very great as one or two gentlemen mention her very feelingly in their letters to me.

I am glad to hear that you are all enjoying good health. With love to all I am
My dear Mother
Your very affect Son
A Watson

NLS MS 19334 f57r

Andrew Watson to his mother (Mrs Traill), from George Town, 15 Oct 1828

My dear mother

It is now sometime since I had displeasure, but to tell the truth the cause is that I always put it off until the vessel was on the point of sailing, and then something came in the way which prevented me. I hope that in future you will have no cause of complaint.

Harry had a letter from James a few days ago, he appears to like his new situation very much, and I have no doubt that he will succeed, as from the manner in which he writes his mind appears to be completely fixed in pursuit of his studies.

William was in town a few days ago. He is getting on very well and gives great satisfaction to his manager Mr Ross. He is getting very stout, nearly double the size he was when he came out.

About three weeks ago Harry was annoyed with intermittent fever which being about

f57v

about him for a fortnight. He is now quite well. Peter is just the same crabbed body he was at home, must have his own way in everything. He is quite well and I think a good deal stronger in constitution than he was twelve months ago.

I continue to enjoy very good health having never had a days sickness, until I had an attack of the Dandy fever, which allowed no one to escape, Black or White. However it was soon got over. You have ofter written to me about my situation and I have never given you any very great particulars. It

is a most comfortable one and the best as a clerk in Demerary. I am head clerk in the store and I have sole direction of the business during Harry or Mr McDonald's absence which often occurs from their being obliged to go to Berbice or the country on business. My salary is about £165 and you know found in everything except clothes, which come very expensive particularly shirts, which soon get very shabby from the very bad manner in which they wash here. Perhaps you may think that I run through my salary, but I do not. I lay by something for as soon as I get a little capital I intend to purchase some Cooper negroes, each of whom will bring

f58r

in here to the amount of £40 or £50 clear pr annum.

I took a trip to Berbice not long ago and had the pleasure of meeting Gilbert, he was then recovering from a rheumatic attack, he is now quite well. I often hear from him.

Under charge of Capt Gray I send you a small box of preserves which I beg you accept.

With love to all I remain

My dear Mother

Your very affect Son

A Watson

NLS MS 19334 f59r

Andrew Watson to his mother (Mrs Traill), from Kiltearn [Berbice], 16 May 1837

My dearest Mother,

I this day received your kind letter of the 15th March, and am glad to find that you are all enjoying good health, with the exception of yourself, and I have every hope that in this, that yours is reestablished.

I am happy to say that the health of my uncle is completely reestablished. He is still with William, and was so much better that he was able to come up with William, and dine with me, the day before yesterday, and was as merry as I ever saw him, in his very best state of health.

Dr Paton came here shortly after I received your letter, and breakfasted with me. I read that part of it to him, in which he was alluded to, and he considered it to be the highest compliment which was ever paid to him, and requested me to return his most respectful thanks. If you knew him, I am sure that he would be a great favorite. William, he and I are like brothers.

I have seen his sister Mrs Laurie several times, but they reside a long way from us, (about 20 miles)

f59v

She is a very nice woman, and Laurie is a man I have been acquainted with since I came to the colony.

I thought that you were aware that Mr Robertson had a daughter. The old man (as we call him) has been most particular as to her instruction in every way which he could afford and has been more strict with her than many fathers would be, ???ious of her colour. She attends to all my household affairs although at the same time I have servants who do not require to be told what to do. They are well known, and what is the greater blessing, ??? experienced in very few houses in this colony, that Silence reigns throughout the house. If a friend or two ????? unexpectedly they know what to prepare. I never order breakfast or dinners I know that they are fully capable. I pride myself more or less upon them, as there are none such upon the coast. Henry, who was Harry's body servant and butler when we lived in town, I purchased and made free. There is not a finer servant in the colony. His services are generally asked for when there is a party given on this coast and which I always grant. I carried him to Barbadoes with me.

???? although only about 4 miles distant I have not seen for about a month. He has borne his affliction well. He is giving every satisfaction

f60r

to his manager.

My marriage is broken off – no more about it. I shall write soon to both Lucy and Mary Eliza they may depend upon it.

Peter and William are well. I dined yesterday with William at [Leonora?].

With love to all

I remain

My dearest Mother

Your affectionate Son

A Watson

NLS MS 19334 f61r

Andrew Watson to his mother (Mrs Traill), from Kiltarn [Berbice], 16 June 1837

My dearest Mother,

Having written to Ann, Lucy and Mary Eliza, I have very little to say to you in the way of news, Peter and I being in good health, my uncle also, but weak from his recent sickness and William a little annoyed by intermittent fever, but nothing serious. There have been some cases of Yellow Fever in more closely populated parts of town, but it has not spread to the country, and if we only take care to keep ourselves free from bile, there is no great danger. That I believe is the principal thing.

I am sure that you will be delighted to see the ??? of this ????? Mr Rainy, who has at last made up his mind to go home. He will be able to give you all the information about us that you wish for.

I shall answer the Doctor's letter in a short time. I have employed an Indian to procure the poison which he wants, but which he may be some time getting, having to go a considerable

f61v

up the River for it.

My uncle is in good health but very weak. I sent a letter for Anne which please to forward as I do not know where they intend to reside.

You will most probably have a visit from Mr Fullarton who intends going home in the Parker.

With best love I remain

My dear Mother

Your ever affectionate Son

A Watson

Andrew Watson died 22 July 1837.

Letters of Peter Miller Watson

NLS MS 19334 f63r

Peter Watson to his mother (Mrs Traill), Demerara 4 Sep 1823

My Dear Mother,

I have received your pr Hector and am happy to observe that you were all well. The accounts of the Insurrection here will, no count, have, ere this, reached [sic] your ears, and have caused a great deal of uneasiness – but I am happy to say that it is now nearly, if not wholly, quelled. It appears all to have arisen from the base representations of the two Methodist missionaries here, who with the view of extorting money from the deluded Negroes, informed them of papers having come from the King directing that they should be immediately freed, and that if that was not the case, the only way was to take it by rising in a body and slaughtering all the white men. There has been several Negroes hung in Town and one poor ? while going up to the drop called out that “white man had brought him here not Negro’.

The two Methodist parsons are in Gaol and will no doubt meet with a reward suitable to their crime by being hung opposite to the chapel in which they formerly preached that Gospel which has brought so many hundreds to an untimely and disgraceful end.

The number of Prisoners now remaining to be tried is about 150 none of whom can hope to escape the rigour of the Law.

I heard from Berbice about two days ago. They are all well and the Negroes are quite quiet. You will please remember me to the Doctor, my brothers and sisters and all other friends. Uncle Gilbert is well at present. I saw him yesterday. I hope you will excuse all errors as I am much hurried.

Believe me

Your aff Son

P M Watson

NLS MS 19334 f65r

Peter Watson to his mother (Mrs Traill), Demerara 24 Dec 1823

My Dear Mother,

I have received your several kind letters by the Caledonia, Boode & Wm Wise which I would have answered sooner, but I assure you our time here is so much occupied with a Military Duty, that we have enough to do to get through with the business of the Store & Counting House. I am now acting as Book Keeper which in a concern like this is no easy Department but as yet, I flatter myself, I have satisfied by employers & that is all I want.

I have been enrolled in the Rifle Corps since September. We are out drilling every afternoon from 4 to 6 which makes the thing very tedious - and we have to keep guard on every seventh night but I understand that Martial Law is soon to be over on the 2nd of January 1824 which I hope may be the case, for I shall then be enabled to do my business with ease and will have no difficulty in keeping the Books up which at present is rather hard.

Andrew comes on very well in Mess. H O Seward & Co store. He is also in the Rifle Corps and makes a good soldier. I give him my best advice always and I am happy to say that he is really grown much more steady and seems to think a great deal more than he formerly used. With regard to my salary Mr Rainy has been very liberal. He has given me 1100 Guilders or about £80 stg for the first year, which is very fair, but on the other hand it is to be recollected that I did not come out here

f65v

a stranger to business for the little insight which I got in Mess Sandbach Tinne & Co office has enabled me to arrive in the short time I have been here, at the highest situation in the House.

I am sorry to see Wm & James (the former particularly) make so little progress in their writing for let me assure you that there is nothing of so much consequence to them, even if they are intended to follow some learned Profession, for there is no saying what may happen. I am sorry to hear that my grandmother has been so unwell but hope that by this time she is recovered. Please give my best love to her & Aunt Robertson. Uncle Gilbert will no doubt be arrived in London by this time - if you see him, or write him, offer my best regards & say that as soon as I hear of his arrival I will write him. He went home by way of Barbadoes & St Thomas in the Lady Pelham Packet Ship.

Tomorrow is Christmas Day an we are to be on Guard, very different indeed to the happy way in which we used to spend that & New years day at home.

I hope that my Brothers will excuse me not writing them at present. Please tell Miss Ann Sandbach that nothing but want of time prevents my answering her kind & long letter which was handed me by Mr Cha^s Parker. He is now in the Country at Coffee Grove collecting plants, birds etc & is quite

f66r

I wish you all a very merry Christmas (please say so to Mr Sandbach's family) and that you may spend New Years day with the usual mirth & glee.

I shall not be able to write for some time as December is always a very busy time with us.

Remember me to Mr & Mrs Munro & family. Also to Mary Martha & the other old standards.

I intend sending Tom a Parrot by the next of our vessels going to Liverpool, which tell him & don't let him forget me. I suppose he can read now.

I heard from Harry a few days ago, he is quite well.

Remember me most kindly to the Doctor & Miss Hogg. Also to Anne, Lucy & Mary Eliza & to Robert who I daresay is now grown a very big man.

Give my love to William & James.

Believe me

My Dear Mother

Your ever Affec son

P M Watson

Please excuse the writing. I am in haste. PMW

NLS MS 19334 f67r

Peter Watson to his mother (Mrs Traill), Demerara 11 Aug 1827 Received letter by William . . .

My dear Mother

Since my last to you I have had the pleasure of receiving your letter by William, as also that by the James McInroy. By the latter, I learn that the few Bottles I sent home pr Dee had arrived safely.

William is now fixed in the Country as overseer which line taking all circumstances into consideration we decided best and it was advised by Mr Rainy. The loss of his right thumb almost entirely unfits him for a mercantile situation, for altho' he writes a good hand considering his want, it would hardly do for a man of business. The Plantation life was at one time very dis-agreeable but since the new Slave Laws have been in force here, it is materially altered for the better and a young man has it in his power to live very comfortably, which I am sure William will do, as he still appears to be of that lively & kind disposition for which he was noted when I was at home. the mosquittos have been pretty severe upon him but he is now getting proof against them.

Harry & Andrew are both well – the latter, I know, gives you so much Demerary news that a repetition from me would be useless – particularly as Tom Spence is going to your part at this time. He gives, I believe, every satisfaction to his Captain.

Please remember me kindly to the Doctor & all the young folk in our family, Mrs Sandbach & family, also particularly to my aunt Miss Robertson. I hope her health is improving. I heard sometime ago she was very unwell

f67v

I hope you have made some arrangement regarding James. Harry is anxious to hear on that subject. Remember me to him.

I remain

My dear Mother

Most affectionately your

P M Watson

Peter Watson to his mother (Mrs Traill), Strathpeffer 30 Aug 1830

My Dear Mother

I arrived here on Saturday having come north through the Crinan & Caledonian canals. I was not a day in Glasgow before the Rheumatism attacked me more violently than while in Liverpool and Dr Rainy² advised me to try the effect of this spring, which I intend doing for one week. The place is crowded with Rheumatic subjects and some have derived very great benefit from the waters. The accommodations generally are miserable but I have been fortunate in getting the best lodgings in the place, as the Gentleman who had occupied them for the last few weeks left the day before I arrived. Rod^k Mackenzie, wife and sister in law are also here (the latter married) which makes the time pass agreeably. I mess with them to save me the trouble of housekeeping as every lodger has to provide for himself. We have also Mrs Gordon (Dr Rainy's mother in law) and one of her daughters and a Miss Aird – besides a number of young ladies whose names I have not yet learnt. We are well provided with clergymen, no less than nine, and one Catholic Priest.

The Country about here is very beautiful but pedestrian excursions are so fatiguing and conveyances so very scarce that I fear I shall see little of it. I intend however before I return to visit Ardully & Kiltarn as I shall only be a few miles from them. I find Colin McKenzie of Mountgerald returned about 14 days ago, so that the report

f69v

which I had heard of him was untrue. He gave his vote at the Tain election. I was at Inverness on the day of Election for that County. It was gained by Mr Grant.

I had a letter before leaving Glasgow from Mr Davidson dated the 5th July. He mentioned that Harry, Andrew & William were well and that the former had made uphill mind to come home in the Sandbach. William had been unwell, but was quite recovered at that time. The heavy rains continued which was severely felt as it will make the crop very short.

I spent 5 or 5 days in Glasgow with Henry Sandbach and would have enjoyed myself very much had the climate been at all moderate. It is positively the most abominable place for cold that I ever visited. Henry and I were at Helensburgh (opposite Greenock) on Sunday week and were very kindly entertained by Mr & Mrs James Eccles. They have a very fine family.

I intend leaving this in the 6th Septem^r and shall travel south by coach to Edinburgh, shall remain there 2 or 3 days, in Glasgow 2 days, Greenock 1 day, at Fairlie 3 or 4 days and then by steam to

² Harry Rainy, brother of George Rainy. Dr Rainy had by this time built up a medical practice in Glasgow.

Liverpool, where I shall begin about three weeks, by which time I presume you will be at home, and James will be down from London.

If you think of writing to me you had better address care of McInroy Parker & Co, Glasgow.

Remember me kindly to all friends
And believe me ever
Your Aff^d Son
P M Watson

To Mrs Traill
Post Office
Cheltenham

If not called for in 10 days to be forwarded to 22 St Ann Street Liverpool

NLS MS 19334 f71r
Peter Watson to his mother (Mrs Traill), Demerara 11 Jan 1832

My Dear Mother

I cannot let the Sandbach sail without a few lines to let you know that we are all well I regret to state that on Sunday last a serious accident happened at the Brothers. During an unusually heavy squall from the South the dwelling house (which for years has been in a disgracefully ruinous state) fell, and my uncle who was reclining at the time on a sofa was buried in the ruins. Every exertion was made to extricate him but half an hour elapsed before that was accomplished and he was discovered with a large beam of wood across his breast. The sofa however did not entirely give way and saved his life. Though much injured no bones are broken and the medical Gentlemen appear to think it a muscular hurt. I was up seeing hi yesterday afternoon. He was at that time suffering considerable pain tho' much easier than before and I am in hopes that a short time will restore him. I give you these details as I know what anxiety

f71v
you will be under and this account you can of course rely on.

I remain
Your very affectionate Son
Peter M Watson

NLS MS 19334 f73r

Black edged latter

Peter Watson to his mother (Mrs Traill), Demerara 20 Aug 1837

My Dear Mother

I would have communicated with you sooner on the melancholy subject of this letter, had I possessed words to express my great grief at our being unexpectedly deprived of another member of our family. My uncle was kind enough to write to the Doctor detailing the circumstances attending poor Andrew's last illness, and from having been almost constantly with him, is much more capable to do it than I was. It was only about four days before he breathed his last that I was sent for and informed that his symptoms were rather of a serious character and I immediately went to see him and found him better. The following morning Dr Watt visited him and considered him convalescent. I returned to town resting satisfied with the opinion of the medical men, but alas how deceiving are appearances for I was sent for express in less than two days and only arrived in time to see him breathe his last. He was quite sensible to the last and recognised me immediately on going to his bedside.

He had it appears been annoyed for 2 or 3 weeks with a slight fever which left him very weak, and as far as I can learn the Doctors consider his last complaint to have been ??? an accumulation of water in his chest. To all the family and you in particular this must prove a most severe and trying affliction following so soon after the last, but I trust that Christian fortitude which has already assisted you intakes of distress may enable you to bear up against this calamity. Indeed we, I regret to say, are not the only family who have case to mourn. With the last few months many, very many, who had but recently arrived in the Colony in the prime of health have been cut off. The ravages of the disease have been confined to new comers and to put your mind at ease I am happy to say it has almost entirely disappeared.

I shall not extend this letter on so dismal a subject but take an early opportunity of writing you again. William is quite well and my uncle who is now in Town with melas well as can be expected.

With affectionate regards to all

Believe me

Your ever afft Son

Peter M Watson

NLS MS 19334 f75r

Black edged

Peter Watson to Dr Traill, City of George Town, Demerary 16 Apr 1843

My dear Father

I have many apologies to offer for not replying at an earlier period to your esteemed letter of 31 December last and considering the good work you therein describe I fear it may have been retarded by my apparent neglect, but I assure you that the pressure of the times frequently causes people for a time to overlook what should otherwise be first inter minds, and this must plead my apology.

In accordance with your request I beg to mention the I originally left England on the 9th November 1822 (having sailed the previous day but sent back by stress of weather) and arrived here on the 19 Decem if the same year. I left the Colony on the 31 May 1830 and arrived in Liverpool on the 7th July and again embarked for the Colony about the 4th of March 1831 and arrived here in the April. I last of all left the Colony on the 10th May 1840 & visiting the West Indian islands crossed over to the State of Virginia & having visited several Parts of America sailed from New York on the 1st & arrived at London on the 13th August. I sailed again from Liverpool on the 27th September and arrived here on the 31 Oct 1841. I hope this information which you desired may still reach you in time.

It must have been very sooting to you to have enjoyed the society of George & Anne & their Children, altho' I can well believe that other object must have

f75v

recalled to your recollection former days. I trust that the society of Mary Eliza and Tom and Robert may prove soothing & a comfort to you.

I have understood that Robert was in a Writers office. I doubt not he will diligently apply himself, as he is studying a profession in which a man of talent and energy may get on in most parts of the world. I was extremely sorry to learn than Tom's bad state of health had obliged him to relinquish his situation in London, but I trust as (I rejoice to hear) he has quite recovered, he may not long be without employment. Pray offer my kind regards to all of them.

My brother William is well but I have not seen him for some weeks. I intend going to the part of the country in which he resides tomorrow.

Believe me to remain

My dear Father

Yours very affectionately

Peter W Watson

I have requested Mr Sandbach to forward to you a Package of genuine Indian poison.

MS 19334 f77r

Peter Miller Watson to (his brother) William, from Demerara 2 November 1845

Dear William

I wrote you this day week by the Parker & have since received your 2 notes by the Packit [sic]. The one referring to a letter you state to have written to me in full, by the Packit, which has not come to hand – and requesting a remittance – altho' I have not a sixpence of yours in my hands' – and the sales of the Pony & gig I think about £166 are insufficient to pay the [Gourlays?] Claim if correct. I sent you £20 by Captⁿ R???? – but I know that Mr Munro so clearly laid down the state in which you left your affairs, that you must look to providing for yourself. Today the boy Henry came to Town. What am I to do with him? Not having been down stairs for some days I have not seen the Boy!

f77v

With regard to you enquiring into the prospects existing here for a Gentleman who has been practically brought up (I mean to work) I daresay there is an opening as we have only 2 or 3 of any note in the Colony - but any such person should make his arrangements with Proprietors at home, otherwise he can I fear do little against the influence of our old hands.

Your affecty

Peter M Watson

MS 19334 f79r

Peter Miller Watson to his half-sister Anne, from Demerara 18 November 1850

My dear Anne,

I am much grieved to hear of the death of poor Lucy, an event which must have proved a great shock to all of you, and particularly to your Father. I heard from W^m Sandbach that he was at Liverpool in good health and recovering his spirits.

I sent by the Mahica which sailed last month 2 Jars of Tamarinds addressed to George, care of T O Hunter Esq, Greenock³ – but stupidly omitted to write a note by the vessel. As I have understood that Mr Hunter was occasionally doing some business with George, I hope he would receive and forward the Jars.

I was just dispatching for Greenock a vessel called the Francis & send you a small Box containing some ginger & ???????, which I address as above and trust they may reach you safely.

William is now very well but doing nothing. In fact his memory is so much impaired that I hardly expect him ever again to be fit to have charge of an estate, and as I wrote to you after my arrival, I think

f79v

he would be better at home – but has no desire to go. I will see about it in the beginning of the year.

I hope all friends at Fairlie & Edinburgh are well, and beg you to offer them my kind regards.

I remain

My dear Anne

Your affectionate Brother

Peter M Watson

MS 19334 f81r

Peter Miller Watson to (his brother) William, from No 99 Picadilly, London, 12 Mar 1855

Dear William,

I have received yours of 9th and am sorry to hear you have had the Influenza, which seems to have been very prevalent this winter. I heard from Tom last week – he said his Father had been laid up with an attack but was better which I am very happy to hear. I believe it is a hard complaint when it attacks old People. When at Liverpool 6 weeks ago Henry Sandbach showed me a statement of the affairs of our late Aunt Robertson, which I presume was all right. For my own part I regret very much that the old lady did not make the will she intended.

If you are recommended to take a change why don't you do so? I am not aware of anything to prevent you.

³ Thos O Hunter, merchant, Greenock.

I am glad to hear that George Parker's house is let. It is a pity it should remain untenanted. From what Tom says I expect his health (as well as that of the Family) is not good in Canada where I understand the winter is dreadful. It is a pity he could not wind up and come home. I only hear from Liverpool occasionally on business & have no idea of what is going on in the Family Circle.

James wrote me by the last mail that Fleming was giving up his Estate to the mortgagees, or people whom he is indebted, on getting a clearance from them. I wonder what the poor fellow is to do now.

I have not heard from Mr [Lucan?] for a week. He must be very busy I suppose.

f81v

It continued snowing here on Friday night & the fall since has been very heavy. I was in hopes from the few fine days we had previously that the rigour of winter had passed. I wish it was over. I have not been clear of cough & cold since November & don't expect to be until there is a fixed change in the weather. When it regularly takes up I intend going North.

I send you the Despatch occasionally as it contains plenty of news tho' I don't admire its principles. Sometimes on a Saturday Evening I can't get one so eagerly is the vile print picked up by the rabble I suppose.

Yrs truly

Peter M Watson

I go every week to Harrow to see Mr Fraser. He has been very ill & not expected to recover but is getting better slowly. Poor old man. His cane trashing days are over.

I met James before I went to Liverpool. It was with great trouble I found him out at length at a Tavern in Chancery Lane. He said that was a place where Lawyers met their Clients!! I did something for him on that occasion & since I am asked to pay him his share from Miss Robertson's Estate I offered to keep it and pay him in instalments, but that did not suit him & I paid him the whole. I have not since seen him. He does not know & I do not wish him to know my address. When I paid him the money he said something about getting married – I pity the woman whoever she may be.

MS 19334 f83 Photographed 15 Nov 2021

Has bought 29 Rutland Square for Traill to occupy.

MS 19334 f85 Photographed 15 Nov 2021

Black edged

Peter Miller Watson to Mr Omond, Edinburgh, 2 Aug 1862

On Traill's death.

MS 19334 f86r

Black edged

Peter Miller Watson to his half-sister Anne, from Weylea, 29 Sep 1862

My Dear Anne,

Having been some days absent from home, I only received your kind note of 23rd on my return last night. I was glad to hear from Dr Omond that you with Ada & her Husband⁴ had reached this Country. I regret it was not in your power to come here sooner, but it was the will of Providence that your father and you should not again meet. He had lived to a mature age such as is permitted to a very few. It was a source of great satisfaction to me that I was able to contribute in a small degree to his comfort during his last days and I only regret I was not in a position to do sort an earlier period. Let me assure you that I never have forgotten and never can forget what was due to him from myself and all my brothers – for his most disinterested kindness to us at a time when we were left helpless orphans.

I am happy to hear that your affairs are in a satisfactory position – and hope it may not be long before you get all finally arranged, the only bar being I suppose the understandings in Canada where I hear collections are difficult. You have

f86v

In Dr Omond a most excellent friend and Counsellor, whose advice I would recommend you to follow. I hope I need not say that if my services can be of any use to you they are at your command.

⁴ Anne (Mrs Parker), her daughter Ada Parker and Ada's husband John Arthur Corbett had been in Jamaica and New York.

It will give me very great pleasure to meet you again – and I hope that maybe soon – but if you are to winter in Scotland I am afraid I cannot go that length for some time. If [Ada?] & her Husband or to be in London they might pay me a visit with great ease, and I can only say I will be most happy to see them.

I had some intention of going out to Demerary to look after my business – intending to remain there about 4 weeks – and have not yet given up the idea if I find my presence there necessary.

With love to Ada Believe me ever

Your very affectionate

Brother

Peter M Watson

Please offer my compliments to Mr Charles

MS 19334 f88r

Black edged

Peter Miller Watson to his half-sister Anne, from Weylea, 6 Feb 1863

My Dear Anne,

I have received your and favour of 3rd & 4th – the latter enclosing a song of Burns in the handwriting if I mistake not of our late aunt Robertson. At all events it has all the character of what hers must have been – but what I want is his Likeness executed by my Father on the back, if I remember well, of a playing card – in pencil of some sort. I hope my Brother William did not take it when he took my Father's likeness away from Fairlie. As regards the 2 Violins & Telescope – are of course of no use to me – but I certainly do not wish them sold at auction. I wrote William that I resigned all clean to them – but as I fear he is not a person who would hesitate (without consideration) to part with them I would be very glad that they remained with some branch of our family. As to the silver my impression is that I have no claim to it. However if Dr Omond and yourself & Mary Eliza otherwise, it may be reserved and perhaps Mary Eliza will take care of it till I next visit Edinburgh.

I am glad to hear that others, besides 2 Gentleman named in Dr Omand's note to me of 3rd Inst who had examined & declined, have been looking at the house and hope a purchaser may turn up, as it is anything but good property on an investment.

f88v

I have of course heard of Mr Rainy's illness and have only been prevented by indisposition, which has confined me to my house almost all the time since the end of December, from going up to see him according to his wish. I was somewhat better than I am now about a fortnight back & went up to see him. I met Chas Parker there. I observed Mr Rainy was that day extremely feeble & did not articulate well. I have seen him frequently for some months past as I have been assisting him a little with his West India business – and have observed he was gradually becoming more feeble – which, at his time of life & considering the many years he spent in the Tropics, is not surprising. Of course you will not repeat what I write.

I will conclude by assuring you that altho' we had not corresponded for the many years of your absence from this Country, none of your Relatives can have entertained a deeper sympathy for you than I did in the troubles & distresses with which you have been visited. I see you have had accounts of Ada. It is satisfactory to hear she was better after having had a sore throat. Being a delicate person she must be subject to that more or less in any climate – but I understand that of Algiers is extremely mild. Kindest regards to all

I remain

Your afft brother

Peter M Watson

MS 19334 f90r

Peter Miller Watson to his half-sister Anne, from Weylea, Guildford, 16 June 1864

My Dear Anne

The receipt last week of your very kind note of 7th Inst, reminded me that I had omitted to write an answer to one I received from you some months back – a time when I was very unwell – but I hope you will excuse my neglect.

We do not forget your invitation to visit you at Fairlie, which will give me great pleasure if I can accomplish it, but my health is very uncertain, and it is hardly prudent on my part to undertake long journeys. I had hoped the warm weather might have quite set me up, but such has not proved the case, as within the last fortnight I have experienced a rather severe attack, but I am now comparatively well. I do not trouble my friends with my ailments, and therefore beg you will say nothing about them.

I heard with sincere regret that your sorrows had been added to by the death of your son-in-law. I had not the pleasure of his acquaintance, but can readily imagine the excellence of his Character

f90v

from you appreciation of it.

I have not heard from Edinburgh for some time. Dr Omond has been silent longer than usual. He has generally given me the family news about once a month, I am glad to hear they were all well by your last accounts, and also that your poor Boy Charlie was pretty well.

It must be a pleasure to you to have such kind friends as the Darrochs so near. I was not aware of the marriage of the elder son, until William informed me. Dr Morgan is fortunate in getting so fine and amiable a person for his wife as I hear Miss Louisa is. I wish them happiness.

I hope if you come to England you will not feel to pay me a visit. Altho' a Bachelor I have managed to entertain some ladies in my "Box".

Believe me

Your vary affectionate Brother

Peter M Watson

MS 19334 f91r

Peter Miller Watson to his sister Anne, from Weylea, 8 Dec 1864

My Dear Anne

I am sadly in your debt on the score of letters – last viewers having reached me ten days back – but you know I was not at any time a good correspondent. I heard thru' Dr Omond of the addition to your previous trials in the loss of your poor boy Charlie – from the tone of your note I am happy to think you are comforted in your reflections. The death of Major Darroch came on me with surprise as I was not aware he was even complaining – altho' I remember observing a great change in his appearance when I last saw him at the funeral of Mr Rainy. Pleased to offer my kind regards & condolence to Mrs & Miss Darroch – I feel deep sympathy.

I have not been much here lately & I am going away again today – probably to the South Coast. I had wished one of my servants who is been with me about 4 years to take charge of my cottage during winter but she declines to stay unless I return the other, so I suppose I must shut it up, as I

find I cannot keep well here at this season. I was in the south of France, at Vichy, for some weeks during autumn, did not find the benefit I expected, but it is time for

f91v

me to remember that I am getting old, and that I lived between 30 & 40 years in the tropics.

I am much obliged to you for dear Harry's letter, written in his affectionate style. As to the picture of Burns I am in no hurry for it. If you see anyone bound for London who would leave it with Mr R Daniel, 2 King St, Covent Garden, it would find me. Perhaps William might like the seal. I'm surprised he has not visited you lately. He writes me tolerably often. He says he was at the Omonds in Edinburgh for some little time not long ago. I am glad to hear Mary Eliza & her daughter Jane looked well when you saw them. As I have no correspondence with Liverpool except occasionally on business, I did not hear that Mrs S S P had presented her Husband with a son. It must be a great gratification to the Grandparents.

I called in Mr Sandbach about a fortnight back. His wife seemed a great invalid at that time, while he looked very well. You wrote me you had purchased Fairlie, but am sorry to hear there is a prospect of it being cut up by a Railway, which if carried out must I fear render it an undesirable residence for you. Not long since I had

f92r

notice served of the intention of a company to pass through the very centre of this place – indeed they surveyed and marked out the land – but I hear they found so much valuable land in the projected line that it has been abandoned for another.

I remember T???? your servant very well. She has indeed been a faithful one. How few of that kind are to be found among her class. I would like you to offer her my compliments.

If you come south during next summer I may have the pleasure of seeing you here.

Believe me ever
My Dear Anne
Your afft Brother
Peter M Watson

MS 19334 f93r

Peter Miller Watson to his sister Anne, from Weylea near Guilford, 29 August 1865

My Dear Anne

I am much obliged to you for sending me the picture of Burns, by my Father, which is to me of great value and reached me yesterday. I would of course have preferred it in the original frame, but you may perhaps hear of some one coming to London who would take charge of and leave it for me at the Winchester Club, 11 St James Square S W.

Mary Eliza, Dr O & Lucy seem to enjoy the visit to the South very much. We were all yesterday at Brighton and today that have gone to

f93v

the City to see some of the sights there. On the whole they have been fortunate in the weather.

I hardly expect to visit Scotland next year, as I am most likely to be going to the Continent. I have that in contemplation, tho' I have not hitherto mentioned it. I am however much obliged by your invitation to Fairlie.

Believe me

My Dear Anne

Your afft Brother

Peter M Watson

MS 19334 f95r

Peter Miller Watson to his half-sister Anne, from Weylea, 13 April 1868

My Dear Anne,

I am really sorry to find from your nose of 8th Inst that I was not to have the pleasure of seeing you in England this spring – which I had expected as William told me that you contemplated a visit to Mr & Mrs Cardwell⁵ – but as you are not quite well I daresay, like me, you find home the best place – I trust nothing serious ails you

⁵ Edward Cardwell and Ann Parker, daughter of Charles Stewart Parker.

I would if I could be most happy to accept your invitation to Fairlie – but am afraid I cannot look forward to it – unless indeed things change with me. Altho' not confined, I have for sometime been unable to leave home except to go to the length of London & back.

I shall be happy to see Dr Rainy. If you think proper you might inform him that my place is on the London Road, about 2 miles from Guildford and just inside the Green Man Toll Gate. I he drives up in Mr Cardwell's carriage

f95v

the servant me have some difficulty in finding the place. I think I know what the Dr wishes to see me about. I heard from Mr Parker of the intended marriage of Alfred to one of the Tinnés.⁶ I believe I saw her 2 or 3 years ago at Mr Sandbach's. She appeared to be a fine young woman. I am sorry to hear her mother is so very unwell. I heard some time back that she suffered very much from Rheumatism.

I heard from Dr Omond on Saturday. He is a capital friend for giving news. He mentions having spent a day with William at Innerleithen, and that he (William) was then on a visit at Charlotte Square.

We have had such warm weather in March, the vegetation has come on rather too rapidly. Altho' my garden cannot yet boast of many flowers, the fruit trees such as Peaches, Apricot, Plums & Pears are in full bloom – in fact it is beginning to fall off many – and soon the apple blossoms are bursting – but I fear

f96r

we may not have a good fruit season as there have been strong frosts almost every night during the present month. I have already has some asparagus, which is tolerable early. The hedges are all green and I expect the oaks to do the same before the week is out.

Believe me

My Dear Anne

Your affectionate Brother

Peter M Watson

⁶ Alfred Traill Parker and Harriet Wilhelmina Tinné married 12 May 1868.

MS 19334 f97r

Peter Miller Watson to his sister Anne, from Weylea, 20 April 1868

My Dear Anne,

I received yours of 15th. When I wrote you two days previously, I had not heard of the death of Margaret Tinné, which must be a sad blow her Husband and all his relatives.⁷

I had a short visit from Dr Rainy the middle of last week, and heard what he wish to see me about. He was accompanied by his Daughter and Mr & Mrs Cardwell. Mrs C kindly asked me to dine with them, but I am compelled to avoid visiting, I drove down to Ealing Park yesterday and lunched with them. Post Town is Godalming. Ealing Park is about 7 miles from the place. It is a fine park, but the view from dining room did not strike me as anything particular. I met Mrs Darroch there. I had not seen her or Mrs C for years. They were lamenting they could not inclined you to pay them a visit. Dr & Miss Rainy have been fortunate in

f97v

weather all last week, but there has been a great change since Saturday. Heavy rains have fallen, and it has been blowing a gale all last night.

I really do wish you was living in this fine neighbourhood. It would indeed be pleasant to have the opportunity of meeting frequently.

I remain always

Yr affectionate Brother

Peter M Watson

MS 19334 f99r

Black edged

Peter Miller Watson to his half-sister Anne, from Weylea, 30 Oct 1868

My Dear Anne

I have received your note of 28th this morning, but the sad tidings had been communicated to me by Sandbach Parker, who added some particulars as to the nature of the illness of his late father. Altho' he had reached a number of years far beyond the average, I little thought considering how well he

⁷ Margaret Sandbach, wife of John Abraham Tinné.

was, that he was so soon to be removed from amongst us. We have all lost a warmhearted and sincere friend.

Your affc Brother
Peter M Watson

MS 19334 f101r

Peter Miller Watson to his half-sister Anne, from Weylea, 4 Jan 1869

My Dear Anne

I must cordially respond to the good wishes expressed in your note of 31 December, and sincerely hope you may be spared to see many returns of the New Year and to enjoy health. You name the loss recently of a neighbour. When one reflects a little the blanks that have occurred during the year among relatives, friends and acquaintances are brought to mind. I have lost many friends

I had a note this morning from William at Edinburgh, he sees they are all well. This is a beautiful day, but quite an exception, as for the last two months we have had almost continual wet weather. I have been very little out of my house for 6 or 7 weeks past

f101v

I cannot shake off a bronchial affection which has troubled me since October. I am besides otherwise not very well. I hope "spring" may produce a change. The winter never agrees with me.

Believe me
My Dear Anne
Your affectionate Brother
Peter M Watson

Letters of William Watson

MS 19334 f103r

William Robertson Watson to his mother (Mrs Traill, Liverpool) from Demerara, 27 Sept 1828

My dearest Mother

Some time has elapsed since I did myself the pleasure of addressing you and nothing but been [being] so very much occupied with my business has prevented my performing the agreeable duty of writing you.

I have nothing much in the shape of news to communicate, living so very retired and seldom seeing any strangers owing to the distance from Town.

It is near two months since I saw any of my Brothers, but heard from Peter two or three days ago – all are well.

I know how anxious you are to have even a few lines from any of us today all are well – it is ore on that account I now write than anything else.

How are Aunt, R & S. Has Aunt recovered from her illness yet – offer my best love and duty to her & Mrs Sandbach

f103v

both of whose kindness and affection towards me I always remember with gratitude. How are all my old friends – Rogers – Reays – Blundells – Pulfords – Mrs Yule & Hardy, Wilson – Tinné – Gladstone, Fosters, Rathbones – Swainsons – Hoskins – Whitleys – Greenall – Batesons – Buchanan and many of my other friends whose kindness to me I can never forget. Does Miss Clegg adorn the opposite window yet? I was shocked to hear of Mr Parkers sudden death. I imagine it will cause Mr & Mrs C S P to leave you and reside in Scotland. You will all, if that is the case, miss their delightful society. I have not heard of H Sandbach for a length of time – what is he about – as well as John Tinné. Where is my old friend Mr Tinné?

I hope James is getting on well in London. He must feel very thankful for all

f104r

that Harry has done for him.

I was astonished to hear of Alan McDonald's marriage. I hope he may be happy.

I like this country very much. I never was in such good health in England as I enjoy here now. Have never been sick for a moment – nor been obliged ever to take a doze of salts.

What has become of ??? Spence also R Manson & Wm Crombie. How is my dear and kind father. I hope he enjoys good health – a few lines from him would give great pleasure to his and your

Most affectionate Son

W R Watson

God bless you all

Note that 106 and 106 are missing

MS 19334 f107r

William Robertson Watson to Dr Traill, from Demerary, 28 June 1842

My dear Father

The intelligence of my beloved mothers death reached me by last packet. Unlooked for as it was, I could scarcely at first reconcile myself to the belief that the event was real. However, the newspapers received by the same opportunity confirmed it. I am almost at a loss for words to express to you my feelings. From the affectionate intercourse that has subsisted between between the deceased and myself from childhood to the present time, it has caused me to feel the blow of her separation more than I can now express. After myself, I feel for you. In her was concentrated all your early happiness. Often have I pictured to myself the happiness which I remember always to have subsisted between you. In fact, I never in the corse of the many years I lived under your roof remember hearing any word of harshness or unkindness escape from either. It is a source f great consolation for us here to know that her end was peace, and that she died in the full hope of the intercession of her Redeemer, after having fulfilled her duties as a wife and a mother.

If it is of any consolation to you to know it, I have it

f107v

to say that her virtues and hospitality were well known on this side of the Atlantic, and I have received many letters of condolence from several who had visited her from this colony.

I have oe great consolation in knowing that the strength of mind you possess will enable you to support your trials by the reliance on the Supreme Being from whom alone you can receive support.

I have also great consolation from knowing that her mind was prepared for the change She was as sincere a Christian as ever I met with, tho' her acceptance of the word did not suit modern ideas.

I wrote you at some length lately by the Sandbach. In it, I think I stated my continued state of good health. I am thankful to say it has continued so. I may mention that circumstances have rendered it necessary for me to again take charge of Tuschen de Vriend??? I am now of writing from that Estate. When I write again I will enter into the particulars.

I am glad to hear that the residents of the family were present on the late occasion

f108r

May God bless and support you in this severe trial! and with sincere affection Believe me always

Your most affectionate son

W R Robertson

MS 19334 f109

Appointment of WRW as quartermaster sergeant [in militia] 26 Apr 1836

Letters of James Watson

MS 19334 f111 Photographed 15 Nov 2021

James Watson to Dr Traill, from Lincoln's Inn, 10 June 1832

Regarding support for Traill's Edinburgh appointment.

MS 19334 f113 Photographed 15 Nov 2021

James Watson to Dr Traill, from Lincoln's Inn, 23 Aug 1832

MS 19334 f115 Photographed 15 Nov 2021

James Watson to Dr Traill, from Lincoln's Inn, 24 Aug 1832

MS 19334 f117 Photographed 15 Nov 2021

James Watson to Dr Traill, from Lincoln's Inn, 1 May 1842

Refers to his recent marriage

MS 19334 f119 Photographed 15 Nov 2021

James Watson to his sister Anne, from Lincoln's Inn, 7 May 1842

Reference to his wife

MS 19334 f121 Photographed 15 Nov 2021

James Watson to his sister Anne, from Lincoln's Inn, 3 Oct 1842

Refers to bible which belonged to his uncle William Watson in Dumfries