

THOMAS M. ADIE LETTER BOOK from 23/3/1859 to 29/10/1881

1-4

Edinburgh  
March 23 1859

My Dear James,

I came here last week in consequence of being informed of the Death of Miss Hellen Thomson of Minto Street - determined that the family interest should not be neglected in this case, as it had been in others previously and I am happy to inform you that I have some reason to believe we will all get something, tho' the Widow of Mr Bill Brown & family. The Brown comes in as nearer of kin than we do and a doctor Gardner and his family and some five or six families come in on a level with us - but the old saying is better half an egg than a tume doup (*empty eggshell*). I expect to realise about £1000 for you and My Dear Brother, I rejoice in it for your sake - but it may be long before any decision is come to as 4 uncles and 2 aunts of Miss Thompson's must be accounted for and altho' there is no possibility of their ever turning up still as it might be a strict search will be made as if any of the Uncles descendants were turning up they would carry off every thing as we are only descended from Aunts - As the matter at present stands, Mrs Bill Brown & her sons are I learn (they now reside in Dumfries) inclined to litigate the matter and I am determined to pass it through the Court of Session before they carry off all with impunity - she has just come to Edinburgh but I have not seen her yet - we are to have a meeting with the Executor on the 25th but to catch the mail I must dispatch this tomorrow - I have been at Dunning today getting a Power of Attorney from our sisters and I now enclose one for you to sign and an agreement between you & me in respect to our individual rights - which will prove that we act in concert - the Moveable Estate is much larger than the Heritage and therefore I am having a Mutual agreement with our Sisters in conformity so that your interest in every respect shall be my care - all that bothers me is this, that if we succeed it will be well - if not I have no one to help me with the expense incurred which will be serious if carried into court and there it shall be before given up - you will see that the power of attorney is made out so as to enable me to take Right ground to begin on - it is easier to come down than get up - I get the deeds tomorrow & will then give you instructions as to the signing - get it done immediately and dispatched at once as no time is to be lost in taking our stand - register the letter - and for any sake keep it quiet from friends and foes on account of the position you are in with your creditors and as soon as I can make sure that anything will be got I can send you a letter to lay before your creditors from myself offering to pay so much per £ for your discharge - if we succeed the amount will be about what I state - if not I will more than likely lose £500 Litigation for us all - But I trust the hand of a merciful God is in it and will pursue it more especially for your sake my dear brother and that of our Sisters who may soon want the help of their Mother - If this succeeds you will once more be independent & in your new employment I trust will get on & be happy - I have no doubt I will be kept here three weeks yet - searching records and examining old men & women & trying to get proofs of Births & Deaths - it seems that our grandfather

James Adie was the youngest of four - a sister and two brothers and I am required to prove that they died leaving no issue - this is very difficult to get at as registration 90 to 120 years ago was very imperfect but I am determined to search it out - Thank god I have not lost my life about it - I came up in the "Matchless" - was 5 days and had fearful weather lost bulwarks, sails &c. &c.

I am of course no sailor but the stoutest heart on Board quailed under the violence of the weather - the Steamer lost a whole week in Shetland - we started with a fair wind & expected to be up in 30 hours - I am now two weeks from home & my Willa knows not yet whether she still has a husband - earnestly did I wish I had never [?] of the old hag or her means - but helped by God who spared my unworthy life and I hope all our family will be temporally benefited by it - I forgot to say that Miss T. willed away £14,000 in charities and but for her Lawyer all would have gone the same way - I feel no gratitude to Jade as even[?] contrary to her will she left the rest to be scrambled for - now do not loose any time in returning the papers addressed to me at Voe as I shall be there by that time if spared -

I have not yet heard word from you on the Park at Hamilton if the money came safe & if any thing has been done - hope to do so soon - now do not be too sanguine - but cheer up & be assured I will do my utmost & keep all quiet as far as you can - read the Deeds yourself but you have no need to read them to the witnesses they have only to witness your signature - get parties who write pretty well or the executor may consider their respectability doubtful. I have not the least doubt you will be surprised when you get this letter - I assure you I jumped when I saw it first in a newspaper that Miss T. was dead - some wondered I did not put on mournings - I purposely put on the lightest coloured warm clothes I had - she neither respected nor loved me & there was nothing lost between us - she told her Executor she hated all her relations especially the Panky creature Mrs. Brown & that fellow Tammy Adie Johnnie Adie's son at Shetland - If such were purported to spirits I believe she would be delighted if the whole kin spent it & all they had at Law about it.

I am now writing at 12 p.m. and all is quiet - I need not try to go to bed I cannot sleep for thinking of my family - The Shetland Mail was due here this evening at 8 p.m. and has not come - God knows how they all are - Willa is again in a weak state and cannot stand much and I fear her anxiety about me will knock her up altogether - I hope she will yet be able to laugh as heartily as she did when you fell off the chair at Voe when acting poor Maggy falling off the horse - they are all moving about at Dunning - .....love to you all

I am My Dear James  
Your ever afft. Brother  
Thos.M.Adie

NO WHERE, NO TIME forgive me for repeating that so often - but despatch is paramount to our success - and acting for all of us together makes the expenses lighter  
TMA

Edinburgh  
March 24, 1859

My Dear Brother,

The Shetland mail has just come in and Willa has sent me your letter of 26th ult. My proform letters must now be with you, by which you will see I had not been overlooking your necessities, and had borrowed money for the purpose and sent out £400 last month - perhaps you are right as to the size of the farm, and you will see by the enclosed that I have directed 300£ currency to be paid on it out of the 400£ sterling, and the rest you will manage as I wrote you about before - only the horrid 6 per cent.

I hate to think of such interest - but I trust the ..... now in hand will enable you to get clear of it alltogether by having the whole paid off and in your own hands - little did I think there was a prospect so near - yet it may be years before this matter of Miss Thomson's is cleared up and perhaps never in our favour - our only chance is by being bound firmly in a family bond to work it out together, if it can be done - it will take a year if even all should be favourable, which God grant it may - you will observe that all the Deeds are very stringent and particular - but they are just what the Law requires, whether the matter is of much or little import, the forms of how must be gone through. - The probability is now brought up that if all the heirs should agree among themselves that the Executor will require Bonds in security to refund if descendants of Miss Thomson's Uncles should turn up, and there are more unlikely things happen, then that they should do so - that security would prove as checkers - none of us could ever produce it - but we must hope for the best - till the worst overtakes us.

The Canadian mail leaves here tomorrow at 12 noon, and I must be ready for it.

March 25th - 11 a.m. I have just got the documents - Sign them in your usual way and write nothing on the Deeds but your name and the witness names and write the word witness after them in the Agreement. You and your witnesses sign above my signature - in the Factory, you sign at the marks, and write a separate note with the papers, giving the witnesses full name, their occupation and residence - now do be particular.

The Factory requires a 30/- stamp, but I will get that done on its coming home - if it is to be of any use - if not, that expense can be saved - I have heard this morning with great concern that the Browns intend to resist our right alltogether - but I am determined to write with the others, and dispute - it is the last chance - if the Browns do get all, it shall cost them money before they do so - no doubt human nature is human nature, and if they have the chance they will do it, but you can rely I will not leave a stone unturned, and if our family is shut out, it shall not be my fault.

Fondest love to you all,

I am, My dear James

Your ever affec. Brother,

Tho.M.Adie

I will again write you to go by next mail to Canada before I go home - God grant I may have good news - but I am in doubt - these .....

8/9/10

Milne's Temperance Hotel  
Greenside Street,  
Edinburgh. March 28

1859

Sir A. Nicolson of Nocolson, Baronet.

Dear Sir,

I beg to return herewith your note of proposed agreement regarding Papa. I have gone carefully over them and have considered them well.

To your first paragraph I make no objections from the knowledge that if things went right you do not contemplate a change even at the expiry of the three years.

To your 2nd note I would suggest that as there are poor old tenants and widows on your property who are sure to fall short - casualties are also sure to occur among such a number of tenants at any time, and from your kindly feeling towards your tenants you would invariably have to sympathize with them to the full extent of what you name, and seeing further duties I would have to attend to, you fix 5 per cent instead of 7 ½ which I have had - that taking the time together you hold me bound to pay you the rents at settlement less 10 per cent, thereby avoiding the discussion and doubts of the parties claims on your kindness and saving you a deal of trouble thereby - that where I saw it necessary, I should have the power of sequestrating either in my own or your name, as I having no means of recovery or security over them beyond that of ordinary debtors they could if the above cheat me out of their rents in many cases - they could even remove all their means from the Island before the rents were due, and I could not stop them and even when due before an ordinary process could be ripe for securing their means they could have them off - all this you will at once perceive are extremely probable results - with a worthless tenant -

To your 3rd note - I agree to the term of settlement - Paying balances in cash ( which I have always done not leaving a shilling due by me in the Island) but it is impossible for me to say that debts should not be due me at the expiry of the 3 years - from my advances to the people there might be very little to care about but it might be a very unfortunate fishing season and consequently a good deal of the rents due me - so that I could not agree to abandon these without liberty to try and recover them - it might prove a very serious loss to me.

To your 4th note - My mind has been made up for last 9 months to give up the sale of spirits at Papa as I was losing money by holding the licence. Under my licence at Voe I could supply my firm's men at the stations - I have many fishermen from the Mainland who go to Papa - These will not want it - and I would consequently require to keep a kettle or tins of spirits for them in case they needed it - but I pledge myself truly and faithfully that neither me nor any one employed by me shall sell a drop to a tenant of yours - neither would I keep a drop in the Island unless during the summer fishing and herring fishing.

To your 5th note - I agree very readily.

To your 6th note - I also agree.

To your 7th note - Referring to my remarks on your 2nd note - I agree to act in all respects as you require as to tenants and houses .. and that only on your written authority and to incur no expenses whatever without your sanction asked and obtained.

With these remarks on your notes I would respectfully suggest - that as the premises at Hamnavoe are really very bad and dangerous, and by no means what they should be in keeping with your property there, and as the balances due you in Papa are mostly hopeless, that you make over to me (except the balances on last year's rents) the debts due to you in Papa, which would make the Tenants clear with you and I would be bound by our agreement to keep them so - that I would at my own cost re-build more comfortably the house of Hamnavoe, taking chance of any thing I might recover of the balance so made over by worth or otherwise for a help with the expense of the house which on the plan I purpose would cost me from 40 to 50 £ - this would improve your property and would really be costing you nothing - Please to take these suggestions into your consideration, and I will do myself the pleasure of waiting on you tomorrow forenoon to know your mind in regard to the same - that our arrangements may be completed.

I remain,

Dear Sir,

Yours Very respectfully,

Tho.M.Adie.

11/12

Milne's Temperance Hotel  
Greenside Street,  
Edinburgh. March 29

1859

George Dalziel Esq. W.S. Edinburgh.

Dear Sir,

In terms of your suggestion yesterday I beg to lay before you a faithful & true account of the Family I represent in the deceased Miss Thomson's succession - as you will see by the

... their name I shall merely designate them in the way we did at home -

James - the oldest son is in bad circumstances with a wife & five children in Canada -

Eliza - is married to Robt. Mackay has a family of five to support in London on his pay of 80£ a year.

Margaret, Jean & Robina (Mrs Barron) and the two children of the latter are dependant entirely on their needle and my Mother's pensions in all about 70£, she is an old woman about 76 and her pensions die with her -

John Hicks (Jenetta's son) is in Australia & not fortunate by any means -

Emily Hicks (Janetta's daughter) is with her father who does a small business as a druggist in

Lerwick & who by a second marriage has Eight children to provide for -

Mary Ann Tulloch (George Ann's orphan child) is a poor weak minded thing - her parents

died when she was 4 years old - My Mother kept her till within the last 5 years when

she could no longer do so & I was obliged to take her tho' very unable for the burden - still she was my Sister's child & so weak in mind as not to be able to go among

strangers & I was obliged to try it - hers was an unfortunate marriage - and there are

no connections of her late husband's alive but two sisters married to fishermen in Shetland - so that the orphan must remain on my hands -

I may mention that my ?sister Margaret has been in bad health and has been able to do nothing for last two years - Jean is nearly worn out with incessant work - Of myself I need not say that in such a place as Shetland I have a fearful struggle to bear up under the weight of a family of Twelve children and a Wife utterly helpless with inflamitary Rheumatism for 3 to 4 months every year for the last 8 years - and my ability to provide for them is from a very precarious source (the Fishings)

Having laid these family matters before you I trust you will so all that in justice can be done for us. To none of the deceased lady's relatives would it be so needful and seeing that Miss T. could not have possibly intended one to get the whole or she would have named that one. I rest in hope of a favourable opinion to all being given -

If in Edin again in time I shall take the liberty of calling on you on Saturday - if not I will do so if spared on Monday forenoon as I suppose Mrs Alder will have advice from you to be in town by Monday-

I remain Dear Sir

Your much obliged & obt. servant

Thos.M.Adie.

13

Edinburgh.  
March 29

18859

Mr. Alex Ewanson  
Papa Stour. Shetland.  
Sir,

I have just parted with Sir Ar.Nicolson, and was instructed to write you to the

effect that on receipt hereof you call on every tenant on his property in Papa Stour and acquaint them and let them distinctly understand that in regard to the Biggins land which he contemplates re-adjusting among the tenants - there can be no change made before the crops are off the ground this season, but that it will then be proceeded with and that all matters of rents & etc stand on the terms of agreement entered into in 1856, for this season, as I told them all when settling last season - I may have instructions before leaving here about other matters to be done on the property this season - but land rents he says remain as set for agreement 1856 for this season, at least - give your careful attention to this or the Laird will be very ill pleased. -

I am, Sir,

Your obdt. serv.

Tho.M.Adie

Be prepared to meet Sir Ar. Nicolson at Lerwick when you get a letter from him or me as he wishes to impress your duties as ground officer better on you - see as to present errors.

T.M.A.

14

Edinburgh  
April 7, 1859.

The Bank of Montreal,  
Hamilton, Canada West.  
Sirs,

Your letter off 14th ult, I have just received, sent me here from Shetland - I regret exceedingly that you should hold the draft for £400 till you heard from me - but I trust that ere this reaches you, matters will be arranged in terms of my letter of 24th ult. sent through my brother - I beg now to say that I will leave the matter entirely to himself and if he employs the gentlemen you name, well, if not, you will please pay over the amount of the draft Four hundred pounds to James Mitchell Adie. I will recommend him to employ Messrs. Burton and Sadlier - but do not bind him to that.

I am, Sir,

Your most obd. Servant

I sent my brother's signature in a letter with second of exchanges.

15

Edin. April 7, 1859

My Dear James,

I am still here as you will see. I am happy to say that matters progress favourably, though it may be a year or more ere a wind up takes place - the only doubt in my mind is now the result of the advertisement for the missing relatives - I go home next week after being five weeks from home - I have not time to write you so fully as I could wish.

Willa has sent me the actual letter from the Bank at Hamilton and I sent at once a letter to them enclosed which will at once settle matters if that is not ere now done by my letter of 24th ult. enclosed to you - lose no time in getting matters put to rights so as to get on with cropping this season - and if you do not employ Messrs. Burton and Sadler, you cannot do without employing some respectable solicitor to see that all is right - I hope soon to have answer from you to my last - take care of the Bank letter as it is an acknowledgement of the money - but if matters are not settled ere this reaches you (which I hope they are) take the letter from the Bank also with you when you go to Hamilton, though the present prospect is before us, in money matters, still owing to your position with your creditors. It will be well that you do all in my name -

..... with kindest love to Eliza and the bairns,

I am, My Dear James,

Your affect. bro.

Tho.M.Adie

Do not delay writing and often to let me know how you get on and arrange all.

16

..... down to Voe for steamer tomorrow - if the turnip seed should not go till the following, it will not matter much - but the potatoes and early ..... and togo at once - I will be in Aberdeen ..... and will call

1 cwt best early potatoe seed.

¼ cwt. Purple topt yellow Balloch turnip seed.

¼ oz lettuce

1 oz Parsley

1 oz radish

1 oz onion

1 oz leeks

½ lb early carrot

½ “ Altringham carrot

¼ “ early white Dutch turnip

¼ “ “ yellow “ “

½ “ best yellow late Garden “

½ “ “ Swedish “

about 20 different 1d. worths of hardiest annual flowers

T.M.A.



17a

Edinburgh.  
April 13th 1859.

Messrs. Omsto and Peacock, London.

Gentlemen,

I have your favour of yesterday and shall make my arrangements for the removal of the hoops and then advise you.

This I may not be able to do before I return to Shetland but shall write you as soon as possible.

I am, Gentlemen

.....  
Tho.M.Adie.

17b

R.A.Stalker, Esq.

Dear Sir,

I have your favour of 11th inst.

I assure you I have not the least wish to change or I would not have written you on the 9th.

You will please therefore to send me a small cargo of best Fishing Salt, say 100 to 120 tons, all to be delivered at Voe, Delting, Shetland, and try to get as many days as possible for discharging as I have to convey some of it in boats from the vessel to out-stations.

As seamen's wages are very low at present, I hope you will be able to charter at the same freight as you did for me last year, viz. 9/- per ton.

There is getting so much competition amongst us in the North that we require every advantage to cope with it.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

The vessel to be chartered and dispatched so as the salt is with me not before 15 May or after 30th May.

18

Alex. Ewanson, Papa Stour.

Sir,

Your letter has been sent here to me.

As to the land the Peterson's had - Sir Ar. Nicolson is desirous to have fewer Tacks and as Gideon Henderson has the other half and he spoke to me for it - he will get that half also - you will therefore apply to his people - if however, Gideon has no one to take it and labour it, you can let it to any good tenant for the season at the 30/- as longer than that would not do as the Biggins lands will be turned over after the crops are off the ground - be particular about this.

Let all know that no pones or any ground is to be cut in the North ness under pain of being warned it will no longer be allowed.

As to your matter with Mr. Smith - you have great reason to be thankful for what has been got, as the account is prescribed long ago and you could not compel payment - but you can please yourself - I have not yet got the money from Mr. Smith and if you say a word about it, even that may be lost.

I am,

Your obdt. serv.

Tho.M.Adie.

Ground Officer Papa Stour.

19

Edinburgh.

April 18th 1859.

My Dear James,

Your letter of 16th March has been sent me here. I wrote you from here on the 23rd March & 7th inst. - the forms of which I hope is ere now in your possession - the last will soon be and will at once set you to rights regarding the appropriations of the money I sent out and all you have to do is to act cautiously & securely in making the arrangements necessary - I trust matters will be managed in good time for your crossing this season and that you will be able to make a good and comfortable home for yourself & dear family which is my earnest desire - Not liking to leave here till I could see how matters would turn, I have had to take William from his business & send him home to look after the preparations for the fishing as the Season is fast drawing on. Mrs Brown has been detained in Dumfries by her Daughter's bad health and consequently nothing has been got done - Summonses of what is termed multiple poinding are to be served on all and then the whole Heritable and movable estate Advertised for some time to try & find out representatives of the deceased's uncles. God forbid that they turn up or we are done, and I will have to pay the piper for all my expenses - the heritage falling among them (in the present view of matters) all must be sold as soon as the advertising ceases and for that purpose we must be prepared and I have therefore been obliged to get another power of Attorney prepared for your Signature so as to be ready to act at the moment - it is not ready yet but will be by Wednesday as on that day I go to Aberdeen on my way to Shetland and the Canadian Mails leave here on Friday morning - I shall leave this unclosed till the last - you will be particular about the Signing & giving the names & occupations of the Witnesses - & the Date of Signing - so that nothing is written on the

Deed but the "Names" & the word "Witness" after the Witnesses names - I considered it best to stamp the deed as it would save time after its return to Britain. I am in a sad puzzel to obtain proof of Grandfather's death - he died suddenly at Ayr when there on some business - but proofs are awanting and all the old people are dead and the Law takes nothing for Granted, all must be proved - they say he cannot possibly be alove now but he may have married again and left another family - I cannot describe the difficulties I am having to contend with but I hope perseverance will crown with success if these Thomson's do not turn up - perhaps from the very dregs of Society - but we might still hope - the expenses will be heavy but still I trust what will be a great blessing will be left - more than any relative of Miss Thomson's ever expected - as no connection ever looked for a penny after her - I have been and seen the Farm it is in a wretched state from her greedy dispositions the steading & house almost in ruins & all in a wreck but still it will yield something -

I had letters from home they were all moving - had letters also from John - he his wife & child are well - Mother & the bairns are well except Maggy poor thing, who will never be better in this world I suspect - I have seen Aunt Harriet several times since I came South they are well - I am wearying fearfully now for home - I never was so long apart from my family - Willa is in a sad state about it & women-like wishes I had never heard of Miss Thomson or her money. I only wish we may get a little of it - I will not give up easily - tho' if things do go with us I fear we will not touch a penny for 12 Months yet - but if we have a prospect then [?] if spared we must wait in patience for it to come -

Wednesday April 20th 1859 - 8 p.m. The weather has been fearful. Mrs Brown has not got to town, the Steamer has not got up from Shetland and I am getting perfectly Miserable holding on here and yet the executor advises me to delay another week. My affairs at home are I know going to confusion for want of my presence - I have now been six weeks here - I suppose I will have to stop another week till I see - I am only doubtful of the effect on Willa as she is not in a state to bear much anxiety and at present she is having rather too much of it. It seems three months since I left home - Well the Deed is prepared & will be sent herewith sign & get witnesses immediately and dispatch for home with the least possible delay - to save time you can put it under cover and address it as below and write me so at the same time - of course, not in same cover, but by same post, so as I know the deed has been sent - all I can do will be done for you and all the rest - and I pray God that it may prove successful - it will be the means of getting you underway respectably in your new calling - you have had many reverses - if it be the Will of God I trust they will now be over - My love to self Eliza & the Bairns and hoping soon to hear from you.

I am My Dear James

Your most afft. brother.

Tho.M.Adie

The Deed has not been stamped for fear of being lost as it takes a 30/- stamp - that will be done in Edin. when it arrives there - lose no time.

21A

Edin. April 20 1859

Mr. Bailey, Barking.

Dear Sir,

I have just received your favour of yesterday - I shall rely on your taking the hoops down either by your own vessel or by one of the others - I shall write Messrs Omsto & Peacock that you are to do so and will advise them when to forward the hoops to Barking. I shall therefore depend on your writing to Omsto & Co to let them know - perhaps you could take mine ( your friend Mr. Hoseason being interested) and part of the others ex "Gauntlet".

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

21b

Edin. April 20 1859

Messrs. Omsto & Peacock, London.

Gentlemen,

Mr Baillie, smack owner of Barking, is to take down the hoops to Shetland for me - it seems they must be sent to Barking for shipment, and I will feel obliged by your sending in the cheapest way.

Mr. Baillie is to advise you when the vessel will be ready.

I note below the quantity you will please ..... - the money shall be remitted on receipt of invoice or if on hearing from Mr. Baillie you prefer it by calling Messrs. Hugh Woods & Co, Minorities, London, they will pay the money - tho' I should prefer remitting direct. - I would have sent the money at once but that there seems to be some doubt on Mr Baillie's mind as to the vessel taking them - begging your attentions, I am, Gentlemen,

Yours very truly.

Tho.M.Adie.

12-thousand whole se Hoops

1 - " Half se "

22

Edin. April 20 1859

Messrs. Hugh Woods & Co. London.

Dear Sirs,

Mr. Baillie of Barking I expect will take down 12 m. Barrel hoops and 1 m. half Barrel hoops from Messrs. Omsto & Peacock of Bermondsey Wall - Mr. Baillie seems doubtful about it and therefore I have not remitted the money to Omsto & Co. I have written them that I shall remit at once or if they preferred it, desire them to call on you for payment - expect this likely - they do not know me and if you have to pay the money it

shall be at once remitted - the hoops, if taken, must be sent to Barking - Would you oblige me by seeing to it that I am not disappointed as to getting them from London. There is a considerable saving.

Your attention to this will oblige.

Dear Sir, Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

I am not sure if I go home this steamer. if you write me here and I am gone, it will be sent on after me.

Milne's Temperance Hotel, Greenside Street.

24

Edin. April 21st 1859

Mr. James Scott, Papa Stour.

Dear Sir,

I have completed my arrangements with Sir. Ar. Nicolson - by which the tenants have to account to me and so long as I am satisfied with them, there is no likelihood of their being ..... and as I promised I now write you about the curing for me at Papa.

You must be fully convinced that my interest has not at all times been espoused by you, and that I have had proof of since I came South, from your sister, to whom you have written complaining grossly of the manner you have been used by Hugh Hughson and on whom she poured a torrent of abuse in consequence - If Hugh is deserving of such at your hands it would be impossible for you to act under him and every man employed by me at Papa is under his entire control - whatever may be your opinion, I have found him an honest man and zealous for my interest and as such he will be needed by me - last year I gave order about the fish rigs that was not attended to, but cut at large for the people to carry away same as if I had never spoken of it - and even the old man I sent there to work was, I understand, ill used by the boys, you countenancing them or at least not checking them, and always discouraging them in their work by saying as much as you could against fish-curing as an employment - that you can cure fish, I know, and can do it well when you give your mind to it - but I wish my work of whatever kind, managed with peace and without grumbling or dissatisfaction - and the awkwardness displayed even to the men of my packet boat has been made the cause of complaint to me, and I had almost made up my mind that I must have another curer - but if you and Hugh talk the matter over in peace and quiet, and you agree to subscribe and adhere to the agreement, I shall make out and send for your signature, It is well I shall be quite willing you continue at the same wages - if not, I must seek another - now you must also bear in mind that I will stand no nonsense or abuse from any of the tenants as if that is begun their warnings will follow - every one shall have justice and fair play, but I must have the same - I expect to be home next steamer and you can write me whether I shall send the agreement or not.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly, Tho.M.Adie.

I brought a parcel from your sister which has been sent to Voe, and will be with you first chance - she was well when I saw her.

26a

Edin. April 21st 1859

My dear Neil, (Jamieson, Willa's brother)

I expect to be home next steamer - if Bruce (?) is determined to press you, give him the enclosed - but if it can be avoided, do not till I come home as I would need to have conversation with you before going farther than I have - try to have a correct state of your affairs to let me see when I come down. I do not expect you want me to lose so heavily - let me see that I am not in the dark - you can do that easily in ..... - in haste.

Your affec. Bro.,

Tho.M.Adie.

26b

Edin. April 21st 1859

F.G.Bruce Esq., Banker, Lerwick.

Dear Sir,

I expect to be home next trip of the steamer and shall subscribe the Bond for Mr. Neil Jamieson for two hundred pounds.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

27a

Edin. April 21st 1859

Messrs. J.L.A....., Lerwick

Dear Sirs,

I have your favour - will be down next steamer, if spared. You do not say the quantity of timber in the cargo you mention - I want part white - would prefer all white to all Re.... - the later splits so much - will go over the matter with you when I come down - but I would need the wood immediately, or at least in two to three weeks or I shall be short for want of it - write me fully in case I do not get home and give the letter to Mr. Rich - he will forward so as I have it early.

Dear Sirs, Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

27b

Edin. April 21st 1859

Mr. Peter Humphry,  
Dear Sir,

I will be down next steamer if spared - as to the meal for Families give the least that can possibly be managed with, as you know them, and say I ordered it so. - The price of the stock on hand will have to be 20/- a boll, I suppose - or 1/3 per peck - fish are not so good in the market this season as before - they may come up in Summer and if I can see my way I shall let you know, but at present, for spring ling 6/- is a full price if sold now and if kept to the end of the year, they may be damaged - but if you like to say 6d. more (on your own ..... as it must to them) I shall not mean you to seem as if you did it of your own accord. - in haste,

Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

Shall see about the contracts when I get home.

28

April 21st 1859

Milne's Temperance Hotel  
Greenside Street, Edinburgh.

Messrs J.P.Anderson & Co., Falkirk.  
Gentlemen,

I have been some time from home and your letter of 9th inst. has been sent me here - I shall be here a week yet.

I fear a large business could not be done in Shetland in horn and hoops - but I shall willingly try it - I am ignorant of the value of these articles and will therefore thank you to name rightful price you could give per cwt shipt F.O.B. at Voe, and I shall give it my best attention.

I could easily send you a nice quey in calf next month - the price would be from 80/- to 90/- F.O.B. at Lerwick - I have never paid much attention to the quantity of milk these animals give per day. Your servant girl would be better able to say as to that - I am in the habit of sending quantities of young cattle South and receiving orders for their purchase on commission at the cattle sales.

3 year-old stots and queys average about 50/- to 55/-

2 year-olds about 40/- in full of all charges till shipt.

If any one in your quarter require such, will feel obliged by your mentioning my name - I shall be glad to hear from you to the above address.

I am, Gentlemen, Yours very truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

29

Milne's Temperance Hotel  
Greenside Street, Edinburgh.

April 22, 1859.

Alf Sparked (?) Esq.,  
My Dear Sir,

I am still here, and will be for a week yet - please let me know when your vessel will be leaving for the fishing grounds - also Mr. Morge (?) and Mr McKenzie.

Mr. Bailie is doubtful of taking down the hoops for me from Messrs. Omsto and Peacock. Will you oblige me by seeing to it, as it is of consequence for me to get them forward in time - shall be glad to hear from you to the above address.

I am, Yours Very truly,

Tho. M. Adie.

I hope your good family is well.

30

Edinburgh. May 5th. 1859

Mrs Brown.  
My dear Madam,

I reached here on Tuesday night late enough. I did not see Mr. Dalziel till last night as he was from home. He professed himself as exceedingly sorry at the cause of your absence from the trying position you are placed in and felt as I do that every thing must be secondary to the tasks you have in hand - He is anxious you should be in town as soon as Mrs. Alden's state of health will permit you to leave her - He is to have all ready and quite approves of my suggestion as to your getting the house in Minto Street - without its being exposed to public sale.

I leave here for home today having from my interview with you the greatest confidence in your arrangements as to the fifteen thousand pounds you so handsomely and generously resolved to divide amongst the late Miss Thomson's other relatives - it shows to the world that your heart is in its right place. Mr. Dalziel says the expenses are very little as nothing has been done to incur expense. I beg to assure you that I am not one that is greedy for money. The circumstances of my family and the burdens I have had on me of my mother and sisters and the orphan bairns of the Tullochs - I have just been able to maintain them at home. To put my two girls (*Anne Innes and Janetta H Hicks*) to Glasgow for the last year I had to borrow £100 and my second son (*Wm. J.*) had saved £50 of his salary which he, poor fellow, gave to complete what was necessary for them - these are matters the world know not - the saying "to be poor, and to seem poor, is to be poor indeed", and I never could do that - I purposed to have told you this and much more when at Gatehouse, but I could not manage it - but you will see that my position with my large family is not one of comfort as far as pecuniary matters go, especially when my wife is always ailing, and for months at a time, confined to bed - I would therefore bring before you that natural standing that you and my family are from the same



family - that had matters in the sucession been as was anticipated at first - 5 of my father's family stand next to you while of all the others there were only 3 including Mr. Joh. Woodlaw - assuming therefore that you take that as the ground of your division without consideration of family connection to yourself, I would suppose that you would from your knowledge of circumstances divide again in the family as you divided ..... and in your doing so I have the utmost confidence.

Fogive my writing you thus, and with warmest regards to yourself, Mast. and Mrs Alden, who I trust to learn is speedily recovering,

I remain, My Dear Madam,

Yours sincerely

Tho.M.Adie.

32

Aberdeen April 6th., 1859.

Geo Dalzeil Esq., W.S.Edinburgh.

My Dear Sir,

I am about to embark for Shetland, but avail myself of a spare hour to express to you how grateful I feel for your kindness after bearing with me in troubling you so much as I have done - that your advice and opinion will have great weight with Mrs.Brown, I am well assured, but I would not wish the other relatives to suffer for me. It appears to me that as the relationship states 1 - my 4 sisters and self, say 5

Miss Gardner	1	
Mrs. Black	1	
Mr.John Woodlaw	<u>1</u>	8 all alive.

and if on account of more immediate family connections, one was added to my family for Emily Hicks and Mary Ann Tulloch (the latter is more or as much an object of sympathy as any of my sisters) that would give one, & Emily two, thirds of the sum Mrs B. divided, and then for the individuals in our family you and she would judge of the circumstances and position of each and give me note of same before paying me the money - I should not wish that matter were urged in my favour beyond what I have stated and therefore again beg to tender my sincere thanks and with the utmost confidence,

I remain, My Dear Sir,

Yours very respectfully,

Tho.M.Adie.

34

Voe.  
Delting.  
Shetland.

May 21st. 1859.

Messrs. T.E.Fald & Co., Bankers,  
Frankfurt-on-the-Maine.  
Gentlemen,

I duly received yours of 2nd inst. with prospectus of the New Austrian Lottery Loan of the year 1858 and of the 136 Frankfurt - Rize distribution and I beg to say that I have directed the Union Bank of Scotland, Edinbro. to forward you draft for Seventy pounds stg. on London for 13 shares of different series in the New Austrian, and a whole share for all six Class Drawings in the Frankfurt.

You will therefore on receipt, please to forward me the Official Tickets for the same - I doubt not this will be with you in good time for the 1st Drawing of the Frankfurt prizes on 1st and 3rd June.

I am, Gentlemen, Your most obdt. serv.

Tho.M.Adie.

addressed  
21 Villiers Street, Strand, London.

35a

Voe.  
Delting.  
Shetland.  
May 23rd.. 1859.

Messrs. Geo. W. Cranes (?) Edinburgh.

Dear Sir,

I wrote you on the 9th inst. with Power of Attorney, and agreement signed by my brother - registering the letter, and am surprised that you have not advised receipt thereof - please do so in course, and oblige.

Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

35b

Voe. May 23rd./59

John Wardlaw Esq., Portobello.

My Dear Sir,

I wrote you on 9th/16th inst., neither of which you acknowledge, and I am in doubt as to the safety of the Power of Attorney by my brother - Please to let me hear from you in course.

I am, Dear Sir, Yours very truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

36

Voe. June 6th 1859.

John Wardlaw Esq., Portobello.

Dear Sir,

I have your esteemed favour of 2nd inst., also petition for Service of heirs of Miss Thomson and letter from my brother.

I have signed the petition as you desire, and send it enclosed herewith.

I hope Mrs. Brown will come to Edin. soon, and decide soon - I am getting so timid about even mentioning her name that I almost tremble while I write. Well we will see what turns up for us - but I doubt we are too long hearing of others.

We all move about as usual here, and trust your good family do the same.

With kind regards to all,

I am, Dear Sir, Very truly yours,

Tho.M.Adie.

37

Voe, Delting.  
Shetland. June 6

1859.

Messrs. T.E.Fald & Co.,  
Gentlemen,

I duly received yours of 26th ult with 13 Austrian Share tickets and 1 Frankfurt Share. I have to say your favour ..... of .... £20 for these Shares.

I am, Gentlemen, Yours .....

Tho.M.Adie.

38

Voe, Delting.  
Shetland. June 13

1859.

Robert Dickson Esq., Architect,  
Broughton Place. Edinburgh.  
Sir,

As commissioner for James Mitchell Adie of ELORA Canada West, my brother, one of the heirs of the late Miss Helen Thomson of Westbarns Mains, I hereby nominate you as valuator on my brother's behalf, of the house No. 4 Minto Street, Newington, Edinbr., to fix a price thereon in conjunction with R.Paterson Esq., No 6 Hanover Street ( who has been named valuator on the part of Mrs. Brown, the intending purchaser ) and agree on the part of my brother to abide by your and Mr.Paterson's decision, or in the event of a difference of opinion, the decision of an umpire to be named by you and Mr.Paterson.

I am, Sir,

Your obdt. servt.,

Tho.M.Adie. Commisioner for James M. Adie.

Voe, Delting.  
Shetland. June 13

1859.

John Wardlaw Esq., Edinburgh.

Dear Sir,

I have your favour of 8th and 9th inst. I enclose the letter to Mr. Dickson, appointing him valuator of Miss Thomson's house on behalf of my brother.

I am glad to hear of Mrs. Brown's kindly feeling - be assured I shall leave all to Mr. Dalzeil who I am convinced feels kindly towards us all - I regret the cause of Mrs. Brown's annoyance, but as I said before, she would not have seen my papers had she not asked me to write her.

The Mail steamer was delayed last week by fog so that letters etc. would not have been delivered before Thursday night or Friday morning - the Petition was sent Registered so I doubt not it is safe with you - I am quite alive to the importance of attending to correspondence of whatever nature at once, and you can rest assured your communications will not be neglected nor trusted to private hands.

With kind regards to self and family.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

Tho. M. Adie.

Voe. Delting.  
Shetland. July 2nd

1859

Messrs N. P. Newman & Co. Conveyancers, etc.,

ELORA. ONT.

Gentlemen,

I have your favour of 4th ult. in regard to the balance of £200 STg. due on the farm purchased by me for my brother James M. Adie. You may please forward the mortgage for execution, and I being at liberty to pay the same up so soon as I choose to do so.

Have the goodness to forward the enclosed to my brother.

I am, Gentlemen,      Your ob. serv.      Tho. M. Adie.

Voe. July 2nd 1859.

My dear James,

I have a letter from Messrs. P. Newman about the mortgage on the property of ..... - I find I could not get the money without security and tho' I could get that at once I feel a delicacy in asking it as it might be construed into need for myself and be injurious - I have therefore desired the mortgage to be forwarded here for execution - I to pay up as soon as I choose.

I sent you the North British advertisement showing you the charge on the whole so far - you will see what a swarm there is - had Mrs. Brown been out of the way, our family would have got a large lump of it - as it is, we must just be content - matters go on as fast as they can, and I hope will end favourably.

We have a heavy ling fishing this season, and cod fishing at Faroe, but the home cod-fishing is doing nothing. Willa and baby (*Alfred Albert(?) b. 27 June 1859*) progress favourably. Wm. moving about again a little.

With love to you all, I am, My Dear James,

Your affect. bro.,

Tho.M.Adie.

42

Voe. Delting.

Shetland.

July 9th 1859

Messrs. G & R Cairns, Edinr.

Dear Sir,

I duly received your favour of 29th ult., with copy of business account amount £12-1-8, and I now enclose cheque on the Union Bank, Edin. for £12-1-8, of which please own receipt, at same time have the goodness to send me per return of mail the Agreement between my brother James and me and also the commission executed by him in my favour in August 1850 and which you have held since then in your possession - The 1/- remitted above the amount of your account is to pay postage and registration of the packet containing these deeds.

Your attention to this will oblige,

Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

43

Voe. Delting.

Shetland.

July 11th 1859

Mr. John Adie, Leith.

Dear Sir,

I have yours of 7th Inst., at which I feel a little surprised, as I was not aware you had any legal right or claim to ..... successions through my father -

The advertisement you allude to is a .... form in Law, and Mrs Brown being a degree nearer than my family to the deceased Miss Cranson, carries of the whole.

I spent both time and money representing the legitimate rights of my family, and got nothing - you are entitled to please yourself in the matter as I have spent enough for nothing already. If I had had a claim as well as I can have none I should have scouted the idea of heeding your implied threat of investigation and I thank you for letting me know what is in your ----- I am,

Yours truly, Tho.M.Adie.

44

Voe. Delting.

Shetland.

July 11th 1859

John Wardlaw Esq., Portobello.

Dear Sir,

I am without seeing ..... for last three weeks and feel anxious to know how matters got on in Miss Thomson's succession - who have ..... stand after ..... with Mrs. Brown.

With kind regards,  
I am, Dear Sir, Yours Very truly,  
Tho.M.Adie.

45

Voe. Delting.

Shetland.

July 18th 1859

John Wardlaw Esq., Portobello.

Dear Sir,

I have your favour of 14th inst.

The house at Minto Street is much below what we expected, but we must be content.

In regard to West barn mains, I hope £7,000 may be got for it, tho' I must say I am rather doubtful - still it does not do to make the upset price more as than is really expected - would it not be well in advertising not to mention the upset price in the early advertisements and add " If not previously sold by private bargain" - by this means parties desirous might be induced to come forward to ask about it and you would then see how the land lay - without closing a sale if you thought more could be realized by competition - For the farm looking well with crops on the ground, the sale should not be put off longer than end of August, I think. My mother, poor lady, is old to travel - but if needed I shall write her to try to get through - I hope with you that Mrs. Brown will do the generous and handsome now she has the ball at her foot.

With kind regards to all,  
I am, Dear Sir, Yours truly,  
Tho.M.Adie.

46

Voe. Delting.

Shetland.

July 18th 1859

Messrs. G. & D.Cairns, W.S., Edinburgh.

Dear Sir,

I have your favour of 14th inst. with minute of Agreement between my brother and me. - I observe what you say regarding the former commission(er) and shall see to look into the matter and advise you - it seems strange however what has become of the original Deed.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

47

Voe. Delting.

Shetland.

August 16th 1859

John Wardlaw Esq.,

My Dear Sir,

I have your favour of 11th inst. I am happy to find that matters are going on favourably as regards the heritable succession of the late Miss Thomson - Shall be glad how soon we know the £2,000 - when is the value of Mrs. Brown's house payable?

I regret exceedingly to hear of Mrs. Brown's indisposition and hope she will soon be quite restored again to health - it is really no wonder for she has been sorely taxed during Mrs. Alton's long illness - How is Mrs. Alton - I hope she is now quite strong?

I have been nearly upset myself with confinement after my absence - I cannot stand so much as I once could tho' I am not yet an old man - but I have had a hard fight with my large family - I hope your good family are well.

With kind regards,

I am, My dear Sir,

Your very truly, Tho.M.Adie.

I doubt not Mrs. Brown will do the right thing yet or I am much deceived in her. T.M.A.

48

Voe. Delting. Shetland.

August 18 1859

Messrs. W.P. Newman & Co.,

ELORA. CANADA WEST.

Dear Sirs,

I have just received your favour with accompanying documents and regret having given you so much trouble in this matter.

The rate of interest you charge in Canada staggers me completely as we can make out nothing like it in the old country and it goes sadly down with me to pay it anywhere.

I have therefore desired my banker to remit money to my brother so as he at once pays off for the property and gets the Titles completed.

I am, Dear Sirs,

Your mo. ob. Svt. Tho.M.Adie.

I have not returned the Deeds as being now of no use - the postage is saved by

retaining them. T.M.A. & S.

49

Voe. Delting. Shetland.  
August 18 1859.

My Dear James,

I have just received a letter from Messrs. W.P. Newman & Co. with their note for execution for the balance of £200 coming ..... on you farm - this deed I must have executed and sent me - last formality.

I have got a part of my fish sold ahead for export to Australia, and therefore can send the money to clear it at once as I cannot swallow your 6 per cent interest - 'tis a horrid drag that - If I am any thing fortunate with the herring fishing, I may be able to box through till your own can do your own .....

I have directed the Union Bank, Edin., of this date to send you Letter of Credit or Bill in £200 stg - Pay off the £200 owing on the farm and get the deeds all right and registered in the proper books, and with the balance help on your own house for the winter.

I am happy to say that the affairs of the late Miss Thomson progress favourably, and I hope twelve months will see all fully wound up - poor Mother was chag'd to Edin. to Court to be examined in the case, and documents and certificates and humbug, so that the Service of heirs was sanctioned by the Court. - The property has to be sold before it can divide and there will be a good deal of bother about that, but I hope all will be got well through with at last - I have had great thought and trouble about it.

I am anxious to know how you get ..... farm, What like your crops are and how Eliza and the bairns like it - let me hear as soon as you may. - we have a very thin house just now, Ann(*Innes b.1841*) and Maggy (*Margaret b.4/09/1845*) are off to Glasgow again, Harriet (*Janetta Harriet b.1808 ?*) stops home with her mother Hicks (?) ....., and Tommy (*TMAII b.1847*) and Jenny (*Janetta H.H. b. 1843 ?*) are at Lerwick at school - they are all well, and the little chap Alfred Albert shines very well tho' he is nursed entirely from a bottle - Willa has not a drop of milk - she moves about the house, but is far from being strong.

It is now nearly five months since I had a letter from John (*John Westile b. May 1837*) - I fear he is still the same thoughtless chap he was of yore. Poor Maggy is very low just now and I fear cannot hold long out - poor thing she has suffered a great deal - the rest of them are middling only, all later down at Learing(?) Dunning - They move into Perth at Martinmas first - your friends at Lerwick and Symbister are well -

Our kindest love to you all,

I am, My dear James, Your very Affect. Brother.

Tho.M.Adie.

Write soon and let me hear how you get on.

51

Voe. Delting. Shetland.



August 18 1859

My Dear James,

I have written you of this date care of Messrs. N.P. Newman & Co. .... advising that I had sent on from the Union Bank, Edin., £200 stg, that you might at once get the Bills charged to the farm and property .... and with the balance, help to build your winter house - had received the mortgage for signature but as the rate of interest is so very high now I had held part of my Bill and expect I could send you the money and try my best to manage without till we see how Miss Thomson's affairs get on and now expect all will go right.

I have arranged this .. .. in hopes it may come to hand soon to apprise you of what I have done - the Bank will address Care of N&P Newman & Co., ELORA, and register the letter so that if any thing is wrong you can enquire at the Post Office.

Love to you all,

Ever your aff. bro., Tho.M.Adie.

Mr. Jas. M.Adie, )  
North East Half )  
Lot No. 8, 3rd concession, )  
GARAPROX-- )  
County of Walkerston )  
Canana West )

send me your proper address. T.M.A.

52

Voe..

August 29 1859

John Wardlaw Esq., W.S., Musselburgh.

Dear Sir,

I have your favour with assignation for security over ..... - the needful is done, and I herewith return it.

The money please pay to my credit at the Union Bank of Scotland, Edin., sending me receipt which I shall acknowledge on stamp to you.

With best wishes to you and family, I am, Dear Sir, Yours very truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

Enclosed:- Deed - signed, and directions filled up.

55 / 56 (53/54 omitted)

Voe. Shetland. Sept. 17,

1859

Robert Cowie Esq., (*Author*)

Surgeon, Melbourne.

My Dear sir,

I duly received your kind favour by your Brother's hands - words fail me to express my feelings about my son - poor infatuated man - he little thinks what evils he is

storing up for himself and his hapless family - had not he married there would only have been himself to suffer - but his poor wife and child to be neglected, wrings my heart - I believe it would kill his poor mother to know how things are going on with him and still it is almost impossible for me to hide it from her - as he has let part of the property on lease, it will be the means of improving it and the rent may be a little help to them if he does not waste it - he has no power to sell - the purchase was made in September 1856 by William Westgarth Esq., Merchant. Melbourne, and the Crown grant was left in the hands of the Government until I gave positive orders for its delivery. I do not intend to sell, and I will feel obliged if you would call on Mr. Westgarth and assure him the fact that the Crown grant is still in safety, in keeping for me - as God help me, temptation and bad company may lead him to tamper with the Deed - yet that is too horrible to think of - my Boy, my Boy - I know not what to write - I feel completely bewildered about it - just please call on Mr. Westgarth for me, as I have said.

When I made the purchase for John's use, I thought it would be the means of his settling down and working actively and I thought when he got a wife he would have a tie to bind him to home - but all seemed to have been for the worst and I had better left him to fight his own way without doing any thing for him - the property cost £462. I sent out £600 and Mr. Westgarth handed him the difference £138 to help in improving it - thus started the matter and things might all have gone well if he would only have exerted himself and devoted his energies to benefiting his family.

I feel very grateful to you, his Mother-in-Law, and Miss Nicol, for apprising me of what was going on - I have never received a letter from him or his wife since the month of March - I was fully impressed with the opinion that some had all along been wrong from his carelessness in writing to his parents - Man or woman's heart is not right who neglects that - may God give him grace to amend his ways.

Remember me very kindly to your sister, in which Mrs. Adie would join if she knew I was writing - and I hope you will drop me a few lines after seeing Mr. Westgarth, and wishing you every prosperity and happiness,

I remain, My Dear Sir, Yours sincerely, Tho.M.Adie.

57

Voe. Shetland. Sept. 19

1859.

Mr John Adie, Leith.

Dear Sir,

I have just received your letter of 14th inst. - Sorry to hear you have been ill - shall hope you may be able to be North, and shall be glad to see you.

When I wrote you last I told you that I had nothing to do with the late Miss Thomson's estate as Mrs. Brown a nearer relative carried all off, but you do not seem satisfied with that - in respect of your claim I am still of the same opinion as I was, e.g. , that you could have had none even if my Father's family by his marriage had had a claim - any lawyer will tell you that who has common sense - you may also, for ought I know be my father's oldest son, but that owing to the circumstances of your birth would have been of no avail - If, when you come North, you can show me that my Father committed bigamy, and was married to your Mother before he was married to mine, which I have

ample prove of before even he saw Shetland, I shall give you the respect and advice due to the Head of the Family. .... and shall never spend a 1d more on it.

Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

58

Voe. Shetland. Sept. 26

1859.

John Wardlaw Esq., W.S. Edinburgh.

My Dear Sir,

I have your favour - the Deeds are returned - signed and registered in a separate envelope - but they cannot be in time for the sale at ..... on Wednesday that of course we were aware of. I hope it will fetch a good price as it is contiguous to some large properties.

I regret exceedingly to hear of Mrs.Brown's illness - I trust she will soon get better again - I am not very well - my herring fishing has been a complete failure and it is annoying me much as I will lose heavily (for me) by it - The rest of my family are well and hope yourself and family are well.

With kind regards to all,

I am, Dear Sir, Yours very truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

59

Voe. Shetland. Oct. 3rd.

1859.

John J. Wardlaw Esq., W.S. Edinburgh.

My Dear Sir,

I have just received your letter of 29th ult. with enclosures, which (Part of them) have not a little surprised me - I enclose you copy of a letter I wrote him last in reply to one of his, and I thought that would settle him - but thank God that can be done- My Father was never in Shetland (of which this man at Leith is a native) till after he was married - I do not know the date of his coming to Shetland first, as he was (*away?*) before he came to reside with his family, but I have written my mother (at 21 Athol Street, Perth) to let you know that if she can and you write her for it - I would wish her spared as much on the subject as possible - he says he can prove he is my father's oldest son - doubtless he may as I have written him - now perhaps the shortest way would be to let the man exhibit what he has to show - and there I should think the matter would be ended. To my knowledge my father never ever acknowledged him as his son - but in that I may have been mis-informed - that he is illegitimate, all Shetland knows.

As to the money for Blackness - £600 of it are now in my brother's possession, or will be soon, and it will be no sooner there than away - The rest is with me and shall remain till I hear from you that Mr.Dalzeil and yourself are satisfied in this matter - which will soon be the case.

I enclose note to Mr.Scott - I am glad he and Mr.Gardner were in Edinr. at the

time Westbarn Mains was exposed - I saw the property myself and tho' I am only a poor judge in these matters tho' I hoped otherwise found it would not fetch the price anticipated - I am quite satisfied with the arrangements you proposed and am equally satisfied that with Mr.Dalzeil, you will ..... right - we cannot get more than its value.

I can scarcely get from home just now but if you consider it necessary, I will do my utmost to come in two weeks tho' I cannot see what I could do - I hope to hear from you in course. With best regards, I am, My Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,  
Tho.M.Adie.

60

Voe. Shetland. Oct. 3rd.

1859.

Mr.Scott,  
Dear Sir,

In reply to your favour of 29th ult. I regret I cannot get South at present - and I cannot see that we could do more than follow Mr.Wardlaw's proposal of the reduced upset price of Westbarn Mains. I feared it would not bring the price we anticipated - I, with you, and Mr.Gardner, place full confidence in Mr.Wardlaw - I hope I may yet see you in Edinburgh.

I am, Dear Sir, Yours truly, Tho.M.Adie.  
Portobello.

61

Voe Oct. 2 (?) 1859

Mr. Wardlaw.  
My Dear Sir,

In my communications with you and other friends I have tried my utmost to keep hid the errors of my Parent who whatever he was was still my Parent - now it must out - God only knows what I have gone through on that account and had I not striven with all my might to rise above it for the sake of my family they must have been miserably off indeed - I explained some things to Dr.Garden who fully sympathised with me and my poor Mother - how I have tried to guard her from her troubles she can tell - I have had it all to do there was none else who could - and while my father lived at home my presence in the house as all that made it supportable from the excited state of his mind at times - I have seen him at my mother's feet imploring her forgiveness & still he went on sinning and moved South with a worthless woman and died at Penycuick in 1845 and is burried there - the small Property of Northbanks there I wrenched out of the hands of the woman (for my Brother) - who wanted to keep it for an illegitimate son of hers - he is since dead.

This fellow at Leith who calls himself John Adie was some time as a farm servant in the house when I was young - but was never acknowledged as a Heir or occupied any other place - he must have been 15 or 16 years old when he came to the house as such & that was the first I knew of him and I suspect his ideas of benefiting himself arise from a

report that was circulated in 1833 to try & injure My father starting with some of the families he attended as medical adviser that he and my mother have never married - that was keenly felt by him and called forth the making of a will of which I enclose an attested copy for you to peruse - that deed no mortal should have seen but for the circumstances at present brought forward - you will see how he refers to my mother's name as his widow with earnestness and the whole deed may shew you the state of his feelings at the time - he went away afterwards to keep the affairs of the family from being made more public than they were. I supported my mother & sisters till his death (I then had not a large family) - his property after his death fetched after burying expenses under £100 which My Brother got & he left £40 in the Commercial Bank which was divided amongst the others and before any stop could be put to it the woman who was with him cleared the house of furniture and everything else.

My heart is full of this and has been for long - if you have to communicate with my poor old mother do it so as to wound her as little as possible as after what she has gone through at her age she will not be able to bear much.

That my kind & respected friend Mr.Dalziel and me will be soon satisfied by the fellow exhibiting his proofs I am quite sure - all I feel is at the exposure & for my Mother & sisters - my own family are not now children - thank God they have not to blush for their own father or hide their heads on his account as my poor Mother's family have had to do - bear with me this almost unnerves me - I thought when the grave received my Father it was all over - but I must .....to the trials laid for me in this world -

I am, My dear Sir, Yours very truly,  
Tho.M.Adie.

63

Voe, Oct. 10 1859.

Mr Wardlaw W.S.

My Dear Sir,

I have your valued favour of 6 inst. for which I feel much obliged - I shall attend pointedly to what you say regarding the money in my hands &c. and shall do my best to answer the questions you put should such be necessary - some time after my father's Marriage on 25 April 1803 & in the same year he went to Edin & Falkirk to see his friends, leaving my Mother in London - he then went to Shetland & this man's Mother was a servant in the lodging house he occupied in Lerwick - and John Adie at Leith was born in 1804 - his object is to try to screw money out of me - nothing else - but he will certainly be satisfied when he sees the Documents you hold.

In regard to West Barns Mains - I do think it is well rented and for a rent of £200 more that £5000 cannot be expected as the value of the property unless it had been forced up by contending vertiginous proprietors - and I leave it to the judgement of you & Mr.Dalziel.

With kind assurance of regard, I am my Dear Sir  
Yours very sincerely, Tho.M.Adie.

Edin.

64

Voe, Oct. 10 1859.

Mr. Adam Adie, Leith.

Dear Sir,

Your singular letter is to hand, and if you call on John Wardlaw Esq., Sasine Office, Register Office, Edinburgh, he will be able to give you the proof you want, without any expense to you - write your father to call rather here, and I shall be better able to satisfy him regarding those matters than by writing.

I am, Yours truly, Tho.M.Adie.

65/6

Voe, Oct. 29 1859.

John Wardlaw Esq. C.S. Edin.

My Dear Sir,

I duly received your valued favour by last mail but the steamer having been delayed by coarse weather in coming to Shetland had only a short time to stop & I could not overtake writing in course, I am really getting out of patience by being bullied by the cannon shot and cannot stand it much longer whatever exposure is made - the fellow might have tried to hide his mother's shame.

I enclose letter from his son Adam which will at once show you what is wanted mainly to frighten me into what he wants - he was never acknowledged in my father's life time and never shall be by me. I wrote him (Adam) to advise his father to call me in the hope he might drop something that I could lay hold on but he has never appeared - From the slovenly state that many records were kept at the time of my Father's marriage I resolved to make inquiry about it & wrote to London for that purpose. I enclose certificates for me. Mr Adams letter please take care of and if they choose they may make all the inquiries they please or go to the crown? as they say - This man's mother is alive and residing in a wretched hovel in the parish of Walls - her son was born at Ulsta, island of Yell, November 1804 - was never registered - I feel at making inquiries about ....but fearing any matters might be delayed I caused a person to call & see her and she then said she was willing to give her signature to the fact of John being illegitimate & her never having been married and I sent a trustworthy person today to obtain such - but the weather is so fearful just now & the distance 18 miles (equal to 200 in the South in respect to time) that I fear he will not reach here today, so if I can I shall add something on Monday morning if spared - unless the poor old creature fancies that any evil is to coming at her son she will do what is wanted - It seems he has not treated her well or taken much notice of her lately at least so report says - I shall not write to Cannon Street till I hear from you again when I cannot refrain from writing my mind plainly to a man

who has been acting so.

I hope ere now your sale of the WestBarn Mains property has taken place & that it has gone off better than was anticipated - With best wishes to self & family

I remain dear Sir      Yours very truly

Tho.M.Adie.

The mother of this man calling himself John Adie is Charlotte Ramsay.  
I feel gratified by knowing that Mr.Dalziel did not doubt my statements.

66

Voe, Oct. 10 1859.

My Dear Sir,

The Messenger I sent (a Mr. John Thompson a very respectable Shf. Officer) has just returned and brought the accompanying certificate from Charlotte Ramsay - which will surely be satisfactory and end this fellows botherations - she read it over herself for fear anything was wrong in it & then made her mark - she could write once but now cannot owing to a severe injury to the right arm - there was another man present but Thomson thought one withness was sufficient.

Yours in haste,

My Dear Sir,

Yours very truly

Tho.M.Adie.

*An attempt to transcribe letter No. 67*

67

Voe, November 7/59

John Wardlaw Esq. W.S., Edinr.

My Dear Sir,

I duly received your favour of .. .. and regret to find that West Barn Mains did not sell - might not an advertisement be inserted saying that offers would be received for it.

I enclose copies of all the letters I have written John Adie ..... or his family on the subject of Mrs Thomson's succession and his letters in reply ... his father ..... - but it was the cause .. .. - .. ..

I shall keep you advised of any thing that may occur - John is sailing as steward in one of the Shetland to Leith traders - I hear that he has said to some of his companions that he had .. good(?) by right to the rest, and if he had, ..... had the .... as his .... ne ..... v ..... er received - which at once .. ..

The object is to extract money from me on that ground - but thank God - no doubt .. .. on that score.

With kind regards to self- and family,  
I am, My Dear Sir, Yours sincerely,  
Tho. M. Adie.

68

Voe Shetland.  
November 14, 1859.

Messrs. T.P. Fald & Co., London.  
Gentlemen,

I have yours of 20th ult, by which it appears I have still been unfortunate. I enclose the Share No. 6323 for collection.

I also return the two new shares you sent as my means will not warrant the propriety of my risking so far. If however, I make up my loss on the whole, and the 7 shares I have is right, I will try a spec again and of which you can give me particulars when you advise the next of the results of the first ..... of the 137.

I am, gentlemen,  
Yours ... ..... Tho.M.Adie.

69

Voe Shetland.  
November 14, 1859.

John Wardlaw, Esq., W.S.  
My dear Sir,

I have your favour of 10th inst and I herewith send the Disposition signed - I do not understand the clauses to free Mrs.Brown of all casualties of Public burdens. I presume that is up to the date of her taking possession as it would not do to have annual burdens tied round our necks - please let me know as to this.

In repect to John Adie, Leith, I am, of course, ready and willing for any thing that is deemed necessary under the circumstances - and suspect it may be necessary to bring him to court to wipe out any appearance of evil - tho' actually there is no cause - of course Mr.Dalzeil is the best judge and knows all the circumstances, and I leave the matter with you and ..... - assured of it being right -

I am, My Dear Sir,  
Yours sincerely, Tho.M.Adie.

70

Voe Shetland.  
November 28, 1859.

John Wardlaw esq., W.S.  
My dear Sir,

I have expected to hear from you by last two mails - I hope all your family are well.

I am terribly annoyed just now at the failure of a brother-in-law of mine who was



in business at Lerwick and he will drag me to the brink of the gap along with him but such is the uncertainty of all things in this life - Thank God I still have health and will to struggle for the loved ones depending on me - but it is a bad look out with so many.

I am , My Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely, Tho.M.Adie.

Edin.

71

Voe Shetland.

Dec.5. 1859.

John Wardlaw esq., W.S. Edinburgh.

My Dear Sir,

I have your favour of 30th ult and I now return herewith the disposition of Minto Street house in favour of Mrs.Brown, and which I have signed - the two parties signing as witnesses were shopmen of mine during the fishing season - one of them, I have had to part with as I cannot afford keeping him & must work hard myself to make up - There is no business place here but my own.

In respect to the money for Minto Street house I of course am in Mr.Dalziel's hands in the matter and what he thinks right I am willing for -

Has anything been done regarding the other house property?

I am, My Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

72

Voe Shetland.

Dec.31. 1859.

John Wardlaw esq., W.S. Edinburgh.

My Dear Sir,

I duly received your favour of 22nd inst., with copies of letters closing the sale of West Barn Mains - I believe it is the best that could have been done as I do not think it would have brought more.

I hope the purchaser will choose the mode of paying soon.

I shall be glad how soon Mr.Dalzeil considers it prudent to pay me the money for the Minto Street house - I mean my brother's share.

When you next write will you please say how matters get on with Mrs.Brown - I hope she will soon speak her mind now and that her words will be agreeable to all concerned.

The steamer has now ceased to run so that our mails are uncertain. If you write me on any subject requiring immediate attention, please address care of the Hicks, Lerwick and he will send an express .... the letter as otherwise I might not be able to reply in course.

I should expect that the botheration by John Adie, Cannon Street is now laid on

the shelf - the absurdity of it was surely apparent to every one who heard of it.

I hope your family are all well - we move about here in the old way.

With kind regards and best wishes of the season for you and yours.

I am, My Dear Sir,

Yours Very truly, Tho.M.Adie.

Edinburgh.

73

Voe Shetland.

Dec.31. 1859.

My dear James,

1860 will soon be here, and I must therefore begin with wishing you, Eliza, and your dear family very many happy returns in which all here sincerely join - Your letter came safe to hand, and should have been answered ere now - but I have scarcely had a moment to myself for the last two months and am not now through as I have yet to go to Skerries and the weather has been such that I could not venture.

I wrote you some time ago about the bother John Adie of Greenland had been giving me in Miss Thomson's affairs - of course it all ends in smoke, but still it has created such a feeling in the executor's mind that he will not pay over money for a specified time as deemed in law - the £2,000 bond was raised on the house in Minto Street, is sold, and Westbarn Mains has been sold to be paid in May next - the other houses in Edinburgh will be exposed soon - whether they sell or not immediately is hard to say, as property is not paying very well just now but of that we must take chance.

I purpose going to Edin. about beginning of February, if spared, and will then see personally if matters can be got settled, and will write you from there how I get on - meantime the matters are all right, tho' delayed.

Another thing - parties here having heard of this windfall have been dunning me about your debts to them and I believe, my dear James, that the upright honest course should be taken of paying every one what is due them - you will have peace and contentment of mind in reflecting that no one has lost money by you and your name will be spoken of with respect - write me fully as to this or any other subject that I require to be informed on as I would wish to act right to all your creditors in this matter - those in America who have already given you discharge are of course cleared off - but those who have not, should be paid if possible also - Shall I write you Brother-in-law on the subject - I think he wrote me his claim on you near about £700 - that is heavy - but he has been your friend and I doubt not that he would voluntarily throw off some of it to you if I wrote him - will you leave it to me .....

*(letter not completed)*

74

Voe Shetland.

Jany. 2nd 1859.??

Noon.

John Wardlaw esq., W.S. Edinburgh.

My dear Sir,

I have just received your favour of 29th ult., and have signed the deeds and now return them in a separate registered postage all of which I hope will come safe to hand and in haste and hoping to hear good news from you some of Mrs.Brown's ultimatum.

I am, My dear Sir,

Edinr.

Yours very truly, Tho.M.Adie

75

Voe Shetland.

Jany.19. 1860.

John Wardlaw esq., W.S.

My Dear Sir,

I duly received your favour just as I was starting for a distant island where I have been kept for 10 days with bad weather and just escaped with my life coming out.

Mrs.Brown has ambushed me - I did not expect it and God only knows I had need with my family yet she has done her pleasure and of course I believe followed her convictions of what was right as from what I saw of her I cannot believe she would have done otherwise - I feel very grateful for what she has done for my mother and sisters - do you think I should write and thank her for her kindness to them ? By the by (*sentence at page foot lost*) to Mrs.Brown - I find it quite the opposite, £200 to my mother, and £500 to Mrs. Barron

As to my brother's affairs - I really cannot see why there should be delay in his share being paid over to me more than the others - The absurd fashery of that man at Leith I thought was due to be set aside by his mother certifying that he was illegitimate.

With kind regards to self and family,

I am, My Dear Sir, Yours very truly, Tho.M.Adie.

76

Voe Shetland.

Jany.19. 1860.

.Dear Sir,

I have received your .... favours, and now enclose the proposals which I hope are correctly filled as required - I am aware that the sum ssured is only payable at the death of the longest liver - in all human probability my son will outlive me and while he does so his young brothers and sisters I feel will not want.

William will be in Lerwick next week, and Dr.Cowie said he could report for me, having seen me lately and examined me so often - but I shall appear before your Lordship when I come to town - the extracts will follow on from here for William - mine have to come from Edinr.

Yours in haste, and I am, Dear Sir, Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

Agent, City of Glasgow Insurance Company,  
Lerwick.

77

Voe Shetland.  
Jany. 31st. 1860.

John Wardlaw Esq., W.S. Edinburgh.  
My dear Sir,

The weather has been so very unsettled lately that our mails have been retarded in transit and your letters of 19th and 26th are only this moment to hand, also the Deed from Mr.Strachan, which I have signed as marked and return herewith to you. The purchaser seems to have got a good bargain of that property unless it is like all ragmen's quarters, out of repair.

I have not advice from the Union Bank, Edinr. of the payment you have made but I enclose receipt and you may please send me the Bank receipt that I may have hold on them for the money - I shall be happy to hear from you whether you think I should write Mrs.Brown to thank her for her kindness to my mother and sisters - I can do so without letting my own feelings of disappointment come to the surface - of course she had no ..... but to act as she pleased.

With best wishes, I am, My Dear Sir,

Yours very truly, Tho.M.Adie.

Edinburgh.

78

Voe Shetland.  
Jany 31st.. 1860.

My dear Eliza, (*Scott, m. Robert Mackay*)

Received yours some time ago and yours of 19th inst. this day, and it is too true that I have lost heavily with Neil Jamieson, but I do not wish it spoken of as it might tend to injure me more if the parties I do business with had a shadow of doubt of my stability but I hope to get over it, if spared - vexations seldom come single, and I regret to have to tell you the result of our hopes from Mrs.Brown - she has spoken out at last and has not given you or me or many more a shilling - I cannot tell you how it has damped me - from her manner to me I expected £1,000 from her for myself alone - but we cannot help it - we had no claims to it and the only thing to be regretted is that even she led us to suppose that we might expect any thing - but this is a world of disappointments and I trust will help to prepare us for that ..... where no disappointment can ever enter.

I assure you I am very unable at this moment to send you money but I have sent enclosed cheque for £6 and you must remit it to me if Robert is spared to return - God knows I would not like to know any of my family in distress if I could help it.

Willa is very poorly just now and confined to bed for a week, scarcely able to move. I have not time to say more just now but thanks for your Australia news and with kindest love to you all,

I am, Your affec. bro., Tho.M.Adie.

Voe, Feby 29, 1860.

Dear Flora,

I have received yours of 17th inst., with enclosures - the tone of your letter somewhat surprises me - the Doctor's account I never heard of - you certainly told me you had given Mary Ann (*Mary Ann Hicks b.1837 or ? Tulloch b.c. 1843*) some things and I asked you about them and you told me you had a letter from Mr. Peploe about Mary Ann and an allusion which he made fully impressed on my mind that you had not told him I had paid £10 for the time Mary Ann was with you - judge for yourself, he says "even this last time had she strived and behaved we would have kept her and given her a wage altho' she did not get wages when with us, she got far more things from Flora than her wages could buy." - From what I have seen of Mr. Peploe, I feel a very great respect for his manly openness and I must therefore in justice to myself let him understand the true nature of my position in regard to that unfortunate deluded girl. The conviction I was brought to by the passage from Mr. P's letter which I have quoted, prevented me writing again - and as you still seem to keep him in the dark and then darken my character in the eyes of a man I respect, I must write and clear myself to him - this however I shall not do till I hear from you again - as to the ..... they quite escaped my memory not I assure you from any fear of Mr. Peploe not paying for them - honour is stamped on his features. I am glad your little boy thrives - I shall expect to hear from you in direct course of post. Meanwhile,

I am, your affect. Uncle, Tho.M.Adie

Voe, Shetland  
March 6th 1860.

John F. Wardlaw, Esq., W.S. Edinr.

My Dear Sir,

Your favour of 23rd ult. with accompanying documents for signature came too late to overtake returning in course.

I now return them signed as marked this day Witness are both my shopmen.

I may have the pleasure of seeing you next week, having occasion to be South.

Meantime, With kind regards, I am, My Dear Sir,

Yours Very truly, Tho.M.Adie.

Voe, Shetland  
March 8th 1860.

My dear James (*Mitchell Adie*)

I have just received yours of 2nd ult., and we are all happy to learn that you and the family are well - may you all long be so - I leave tomorrow for Edinr. - and have so much to do that I cannot fully enter into particulars just now - meantime I hope the affairs

of the late Miss Thomson will soon be terminated and I will be able to send you accounts when they will speak for themselves. My impression is that your share will come to a little over £2000 - there has been ever more exaggerated statements about the matter in Shetland - but that is always the case - the Debts you left due in your books are entirely gone, a few well pulled up, and some that the accounts were incorrect or that they were paid, and it was no use going on with them, as it was only throwing away good money for bad. The money realized for South Bank just paid 7/6 per pound of the Debts you left list of, and the rest stands as none would give a discharge. I have receipts for all I have paid, and vouchers for all I have got - I of course do not want to interfere in your affairs more than you consider for your advantage, and Mr. Newman may as you say manage better with your creditors in Canada, but it will be well to get arrangements made so that you cannot see farther troubles - I am sorry your crop has turned out so poorly - but trust another season will be better - I wrote you lately informing you of the death of our dear sister Margaret. Mother is very poorly and I fear will soon follow her - I have not been well lately and have been much bothered about the failure of Neil Jamieson which has given me a shake, but nothing can be decided about his affairs yet.

I must now say good bye for the present, and with kindest love to you, Eliza, and the bairns, in which Willa and all here unite.

I am, My Dear James,  
Your ever affec. brother,  
Tho.M.Adie.

82

Voe, Shetland  
April 9, 1860.

Henry Cheyne, Esq., of Tangwick. W.S.  
Edinburgh.  
Dear Sir,

I have thought much about the house I spoke of getting built here and am really puzzled about it - my large family keeping me tight and other matters adding materially to it - but a house in some way I would need for them, or the consequences on their health will be bad - I must therefore try to build if you will sanction it by agreeing to repay me value at end of my lease - the house I would need with other conveniences about it, could not be raised under from £400 to £500, and if you will please give the matter your consideration and send me draft of the most reasonable terms you could enter into with me about it, I would feel much obliged, as if any thing is to done, I would like to be at it, and you have no idea how we are packed together in the uncomfortable place we occupy.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain, Dear Sir,  
Yours truly, Tho.M.Adie.

83

Voe, Shetland  
April 9/60

Harry Cheyne Esq., of Tangwick.

Dear Sir,

I beg you will not take it amiss my writing you about this place - I know you could sell it if you would - it would straiten me to buy, but I would get help somehow and I would not mind pasture right if I had liberty to take in a piece of the peat moor that is near - I have struggled hard for my large family, and it would be a consolation to me to feel that if I was taken from them they had a house at least to live in - and think of this - you have a family of your own and can feel my situation - I feel I was shut in as I have described, I could in no way be troublesome or annoying to the rest of the property. Walking I dislike, and my conduct fitting I think can bear me out in what I say. I do hope you will think of this and let me hear from you.

I am respectfully, Dear Sir,

Yours truly, Tho.M.Adie.

84

Voe, Shetland  
April 23, 1860.

Robert Cowie, Esq., Melbourne.

My Dear Sir,

I have just returned home from the South, and found your favour. I cannot realize the matter, it seems so bad - My poor deluded boy - what is to become of his wife and children, God only knows.

I will prepare and if possible forward next month to you as Power of Attorney to act for me in this distressing matter. Mean time - please to make enquiries after the Grant - it was left in the hands of the Government Officer till I authorized its delivery - do not let him be complicated in any way, only learn the position of affairs - If he has raised money on it - if even he has forged my name, keep him from the effects of the law - his wife writes home that he is going to New Zealand, what to do - idleness will do little for him there, no more than at Australia or any where else - she says that John told her it would take £75 a year to pay the burdens on the property - ascertain what he has raised on it - the value of it now, and how it is disposed off now he is absent. His wife says he has let it for 7 years at 1/- p. acre except what the house is on, that is only let for 2 years. - I will write you fully next mail. Mean time I can scarcely do anything - very kind regards to self and Mrs.Cowie, also your sister, in which Mrs Adie writes, and I am,

My dear Sir, Yours sincerely,

Tho.M.Adie.

85 Water damaged and largely undecipherable.

Charles G.Duncan esq., Lerwick.

My Dear Sir,

In September 1856, I purchased 462 acres of land in the  
Parish .. ..... Australia ..... farming ..... was in my  
name but .. was left in the hands of the Government ..... I demanded it  
- ..... which has been the home of my boy all I could do ... stillsticks to  
him

He has left all and gone off with his family to New Zealand and I have reason to doubt  
the property is not as it should be - I have ..... been corresponding with my old friend  
Robert Cowie, and have resolved to .... a Power of Attorney in his favour to act for  
me in the management of the land and do what is necessary for my interest. Would you  
please prepare scroll of the Power of Attorney till I get to Lerwick which I hope I will be  
in health to manage next week and would like a little conversation with you ere  
completing it. The above is all the particulars I can give of the purchase.

I am, My Dear Sir,

Yours very truly

Tho.M.Adie

86

Voe, April 30th 1860.

Henry Cheyne Esq., of Tangwick, W.S. Edinburgh.

Dear Sir,

I have just received your esteemed favour of 25th inst. and have to thank you for  
your attention to the matter I had written you on and if any thing is to be done, I would  
need to be at it.

I agree that the value of the new house to be paid by the proprietor at the end of  
the lease may not exceed £400 and if I am foolish enough to go to far on it, I must just  
suffer - I am also willing that the position site of the plan be approved of by you or a  
party authorized by you - thus far we quite agree - As to repairing the present house .. ..  
de..... .. being made on that account. I really think you are too hard on us - You will have  
some recollection of what it was many years ago and since year 1827 all that Busta has  
recovered on it is £16 ! Since commencement of my present lease, I have had to fritter  
away money year after year on it so as to *(be)* able to exist in it at all, to the amount now  
of nearly £100 and the great evil is that it is nothing better - the walls being the great  
cause of all, part of which now hang 10 inches over the plumb and so as to keep it  
standing at all had to get a wood roof for lightness - during the continuance of my lease I  
will do my utmost to keep it habitable, and it will take no trifle to do that even providing  
that the walls stand so long, and as to its being useless afterwards - if it can be maintained  
in existence as a house it is absolutely necessary for any person as well as for me with the  
sort of business I have as we must have servants of all works about us and there is no  
place for them to live in since the North side of Olnafirth was laid to grass - I do hope  
that you will reconsider that part of your letter and depart from it as in reality the  
valuation now is only on the money which I have lately laid out on it to put a sort of skin  
on for appearance and to keep out the wind. Were it examined by judges just now it



would be, I doubt not, condemned as dangerous - I feel assured that when you look over the whole matter and consider what money I have laid out on the property, you will be inclined to do what is really fair towards me - and if to remove the date of valuation for the house you so inclined, I would propose that you extend the existing lease to any reasonable term you thought proper - what more can I say - do not ..... on the money I have laid out rising up to be paid over again by me - nothing but necessity would cause me to enter into such an outlay at all and that you will doubtless believe - the present dwelling will be occupied and fired and of service as long as it can be kept up with patching and props.

Please let me have a note from you in course as I should like to engage some hands whom I may soon be disappointed in getting.

I remain, Dear Sir, Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

The floors in the present house in many places are worn to less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, and we have to lay straw under the carpets to keep the youngsters from tumbling over the upturned edges of the bands - the stairs are also giving way from the same cause and being nailed down and patched with new pieces every now and then. TMA

88

Voe, April 30th 1860

Messrs. Peterson & Co., Glasgow,

Dear Sirs,

I have your favour of 26th inst., I am better but not altogether right yet - but must have patience.

I am bothered with letters about my cure of fish of all sorts this season. The hope that you and I might come to terms may be leading me to lose uncertainty for hope - last years terms have not turned out to my satisfaction nor would they I think to any person who had had such, so really it is not very much more promising for another season - for it seems as if the practice (quite new) of paying a price and bonus had been by your friends at Leith ..... resorted to in the end of the season purposely to do away the chance of my getting the bonus my agreement clearly entitled me to, as I distinctly remember. That I was just as fairly entitled to the 20/- bonus as I was to the price - but to end the matter I subjoin note of what I will take to close that account if you accept it in course of post. Mr.Reid's letter amounts to very little - in his journal he gives the price of herrings at 27/- F.O.B. See what he makes it now, and for spent herrings. I have his printed supplement saying they were 22/-. what they came to latterly has nothing to do with the matter.

In respect to this season's fish, I want to sell my whole ling, tusk, cod, and saithe

I am, Dear Sirs, Yours truly,  
Tho.M.Adie.

90a

Voe, Shetland  
May 7th 1860.

My Dear Sir,

I hope all matters will be got easily over since there is no further word from America, and I do not expect there will, as I wrote my brother to see to the affair at once.

I shall be happy to hear from you again - I have a letter from Mr.Scott saying he is to be in Edinr. and writing me to be there - but I fear I will not manage that part of it.

With kind regards to all, I am, My Dear Sir,  
Yours very truly, Tho M.Adie.

90b

Voe, Shetland  
May 7th 1860.

Henry Cheyne Esq., W.S., of Tangwick,  
Edinburgh.

Dear Sir,

I have your favour of 3rd inst., and note contents.

Will you please say in course how the valuation of the old house is to be



matters - May the Lord give him grace to see the folly of his ways ere it be too late - on receipt hereof, will you have the goodness to write me particularly where they have gone to and what prospect there is of their being able to live - yet I need not ask - If he will not work they cannot live - please also to let me know all particulars about the farm - I straitened myself very much to send the money to buy it - God knows what he has done - I cannot fancy how he could raise money on it & the Property in my name - the Crown Grant never yet taken up out of the hands of the Government official - Let me know all and how the place is now occupied - God forbid he has added crime to folly - If I knew where to find him I would write - I will enclose a few lines in this to him - Our united kind regards to Mrs Fowler & family.

I am, Dear Sir, Yours truly,  
Tho.M.Adie.

I am also writing our mutual friend Dr.Cowie - perhaps you would confer with him.

93

Voe, May 11th 1860.

My Dear John,

I have learned a great deal of your affairs, tho' not from your pen - deception is now useless, and you have too long given yourself up to deceiving your parents - your wife, your helpless babes and O' my boy, your own soul - my first two children God took in infancy, then he sent us you - strong and healthy - how hearts of your parents danced with joy, how they idolized you, how they pressed you to their hearts - how I was incited to work that I might provide for and educate my boy, God only knows - is it possible that my child sends now a dagger to the hearts that loved him so much and that with all his many, many, follies loves him still - O God support us and enable us to place our hopes not in created comforts - yet my son I would implore you not to trample all the ties of our poor human nature under foot - your wife, your children - work for them - never leave them - is any society preferable to your own family - make a clean breast with me all you have done or tried to do about the property - it may be the means of saving you from the hands of Justice as how can I know what to do while I am in ignorance of the facts - as I must look after the property by sending out a Power of Attorney in favour of some lawyer - you having deserted it - give me names, addresses, dates, sums, and let me know how you have managed to raise money on property in name. Do not falsify any thing now or the consequences may be serious to your liberty as it will unfit me to provide for that. - write me all - and if hereafter I can learn that you act as you ought ( not from your own pen), that your wife and children are cared for and provided for as they ought - then your poor broken-hearted Father and Mother will forgive you all - tho' they never in this world can know happiness again - but this world with them will soon close -

Your affectionate, distressed father,  
Tho.M.Adie.

94/5

Voe, May 11th 1860

Robert Cowie Esq., Surgeon, Melbourne.

My Dear Sir,

I had ordered a Power of Attorney to be prepared - but on consulting my legal friend, Mr.Duncan, he told me he could not do so for want of particulars - the names of their Parish, County etc., detail of which I am imperfect in - from John's statements, he advised that I should send you a letter authorizing you to make the necessary enquiries as to the particulars necessary for completing the Power of Attorney and try to ascertain the position of affairs, and on hearing from you again, to complete the Deed as John having done all he could do things could not get worse by the delay - God knows whether such may be the case, but I have taken his advice and enclose my letter of authority to you to ascertain matters for me - I have written Mr. Fowler today and requested him to confer with you, and you may get information from him - I have enclosed to him a note to my unhappy boy urging him to tell me all and keep nothing back, whatever it may be - any thing about him and his poor wife and children you can learn, let me know - the Crown Grant I feel sure was never taken out of the hands of the Government - and how money could be raised without my name, I cannot fathom - try to know who has given money and what sort of securities they hold, and for what sums - how and to whom, at what rate and for what terms the lands are now held and if it will be advantageous that they remain so - get some idea of the present value of the place, and any information you think would enable me to judge what would be best for me to request you to do when I send the Power of Attorney - this will give you a great deal of trouble but I feel assured you will not grudge it to your old friends - both now nearly heart broken - I could not keep it from Mrs.Adie any longer, and she has been very ill indeed.

It is the greatest trial we have endured - God help us to trust in him and to pray him that our boy be not lost for ever.

I cannot write you news - my heart sickens at it - forgive me Cowie - I feel almost childless.

Mrs.Adie writes with me in kindest regards to Mrs.Cowie, your sister, and self, and sincere wishes for your happiness, and trusting soon again to hear from you.

I am, My Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely, Tho.M.Adie.

Whatever John may have done his personal safety in the matter must be sacred - should the whole value of the property be gone - by my hand he suffered not - he is now suffering enough, I fear - if he can feel. T.M.A.

95

Voe, May 11th 1860

Robert Cowie Esq., Surgeon, Melbourne.

My Dear Sir,

I hereby authorize and empower you to call on the proper parties in Melbourne from whom in September 1846, 462 acres of land were bought for me by Wm. Westgarth, Esq., - lying, I understand in Lancefield, Rochford - the Crown Grant was left in the hands of the Government Agents - please see if it is in safe keeping still - Ascertain if my son has

in any way raised money on the property - from whom - how much - and the terms. Ascertain the state of the place, the sort of tenants on it, and the terms - and what could be got for the property if sold now - and any thing and every thing you consider it necessary for me to know, I empower you to ascertain and search for, for me.

I am, My Dear Sir, Yours sincerely, Tho.M.Adie.

96

Voe, May 14th 1860

Dear Agnes,

I have yours of 7th inst., I got home nicely and found all well but have since been laid up myself - I am sorry to hear of so much sickness in your family and I hasten to send you cheque for £5-5/- which I think completes the payment for the time I agreed for Mary Ann afterwards she must do for herself or take the consequences as I cannot go on with her ingratitude and indolence any longer - I would not have sent the whole just now but that my house has to come down about my ears this season and fairly be scattered. It might escape my memory - I think the account stands as under for Mary - please own receipt of this and say if she is trying to do any better so as to be able to work for herself.

Kind regards to all,

I am, Dear Agnes,

Yours truly, Tho.M.Adie.

Mary came to you about 20th may 1859, and to 20th Sept./60 as 69 weeks @ 5/- is £17-5-0

as 8 .....	you got for .....	Mr.Bain	£2-0-0
Aug 13	£4	(£2 of which for clothes)	2-0-0
Sept 15 - 2,	Nov. 3rd 2,	Jan 26/60 - 2	6-0-0
Apr./60	per myself		2-0-0
Cheque now enclosed			<u>5-5-0</u>
			£17-5-0

Tho.M.Adie.

98

Voe, May 14/60

John T. Wardlaw Esq. W S Edinburgh.

My Dear Sir,

I am today without any of your favours. I wrote you mail with receipt for cash in January last.

I have gone over the papers and find all correct in accounts. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. The only thing I cannot rightly understand is the accounts regarding the Minto St house which do not seem to agree in the entries. I may be mistaken, and shall go over it carefully and advise you next mail. Meantime I hope all is going on well toward the final settlement.

with kind regards,

I am, My Dear Sir, Yours very truly, Tho.M. Adie.

99a

Voe. May 20/60

John T. Wardlaw Esq.. W. S. Edinburgh

My Dear Sir,

I have your esteemed favour with receipts. I have much pleasure in enclosing a letter I have got from my brother with one from his brother - in - law Mr. Walter Henderson from Quebec which will settle that matter, and the business will not be intangible.

In haste, my dear Sir,

Yours sincerely Tho. M. Adie.

Please return the enclosures.

99 b

Voe, May 21/6 0

Henry Cheyne Esq. of Tangwick,

Dear Sir,

I have both your favours, and shall at once communicate with Mr Gifford and get on with the valuation - in haste.

I am Dear Sir

Yours truly, Tho.. M. Adie.

100a

Voe, May 28/60

John Wardlaw Esq. W. S.

My dear Sir,

I am without any of your favours.

My mother is very poorly and altho' I have great difficulty in getting from home, if next mail brings me no better account of her, I must see her if I can once more in this world - If I come South, I will come to Edinburgh and shall be glad if matters can then be fully settled - if you have any papers requiring signature please send them by the mail as I may not be South and in which case they would be returned in course - in haste,

I am, My Dear Sir, Yours very truly, Tho..M. Adie.

100b

Voe, May 28/60

My dear Eliza, (Scott Mackay)

I have your letter and am glad to find you are all well - our dear Mother seems very ill just now and I fear will not be long with us.

As to our brother James, I rejoice at his good fortune but it will only leave him (if it even does that) in clear possession of his farm, after paying his debts which are the first

claim on him or any honest man - I act as Manager for him, and knowing the state of matters I would not hint at such a thing to him - thank God he will be placed so as he can, with hard labour provide for his family - I beg you will not mention such a thing to Mother in her present state - she would not write without asking me and it is too much for her even to think about just now in her weak state - we must not grieve because Jas. has got a little - he needed it more than any of us - they were in sad want - and he being the oldest male, he was legally the heir - in haste, with kindest love to you all,

I am, your affect. bro. Tho. M. Adie

101

Voe, 2nd. June 2nd 1860

Henry Cheyne Esq. of Tangwick

Dear Sir,

On Tuesday last, Messrs Stout and Hunter came here and examined the house and offices and made a report and valuation which they sent to Mr Gifford - he was to send it to you.

I was very doubtful of the house before, but their report makes me doubt very much another winter in it - they both told me that for its appearance it might stand two or three years or it might tumble before so many months had passed - my first building must be to butt supports to it, or place wood to the worst places.

Seeing the state I am in and the necessity for immediate action, I begin on Monday to prepare materials for the new house so as to get on without delay - my byres etc became useless and walls etc and it will take more money than I dreamt of - the £400 you named will leave me a long way short at the expiry of the lease - I am virtually now houseless - and I do entreat of you to add another hundred pounds to your ultimatum on the valuation of the new house - I will have it put up a good house on plans approved by you and which I hope to be able to submit sketches of next mail - do not be in a hurry saying no to my entreaty.

I am, Dear Sir, Yours truly, Tho.. M. Adie.

102a

Voe, Shetland June 4th/60

John Wardlaw Esq., W. S., Edinburgh.

My Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your esteemed favour - have subscribed the disposition and it is now enclosed herewith - I am glad matters are so near a settlement - I will try if I can get by this mail -..... see you before time to post for Shetland, (if I get) if not any communication you send shall be expedited and I may be next week, if I do not get away this week - however if I am not in Edinr. this week in time, write per mail and I will get it before starting -

I have no communication from my brother about the price of West Barns Mains - all the letters I have had are of the same sort as the one you ..... remarks on any thing.

In haste, with kind regards to your good family,



I am, My Dear Sir, Yours very truly,

Tho.M. Adie.

103

Voe, Shetland, June 4/60

John Thomas Scott Esq., Edinburgh.

Dear Sir,

I have your esteemed favour of 31st ult.. I am very desirous that some token of our regard should be shown to Mr Wardlaw and am quite prepared to go along with you and Dr Gardner in it. The disposition re West Barns Mains is signed and off today - perhaps I may get off today and so I will see you and if not will endeavour to be next week - meantime

I am, Dear Sir, Yours truly, Tho. M. Adie.  
Excuse haste to overtake the mail.

104

Voe, June 4th 1860

Miss Turnbull, Glasgow.

Dear Madam,

I have your favour with account, and now enclose cheque for amount £28 - 15 - 6 stg. I am not aware of having arranged with you about my daughters - I certainly said that they must go to school again - but at present I cannot make up my mind about them going back to Glasgow - Maggie it seems has not been well for months now, yet been taking her food well - I purposed having them a while with my Mother in Perth - but Maggie must come home as I fear from what I can learn, her health has been too long over looked -

With kind regards to self- and Miss Agnes, I am, Dear Madame,  
Yours respectfully, Tho. M. Adie.

105

Voe, June 21st 1860

Dear Neil,

I have yours of yesterday and note contents. I enclose Four Pounds which I shall be glad how soon you repay - as one way or other I shall need my prices this year and as I now have partners in my business, the money is at once passed to my debit in the books -

With much greater pleasure would I have helped you to go South to get a situation befitting you and your family - for to think of a man with your abilities prostrating himself and son at the side of a carpenter's bench in Shetland is I consider quite degrading to you at least when the way was open for your doing some good for yourself and family - if Shetland was a place where large contracts could be got, you could do well, I believe - but is it that ? I discourage you in it - God grant you may succeed in it

better than any fancy pictures you fasten.

With love to all,

I am, Yours affect.

Tho.M.Adie.

Please acknowledge receipt of the £4 - I now must get Ann's acct.send it soon.

I wish to make up state of the Trust Estate to submit to all concerned in it. T.M.A.

106-108

Voe June 22nd 1860

My Dear James, (*James Mitchell Adie*)

I returned from Edinr. on Monday last, having had again to appear at Edinr about Miss Thomson's succession and have now much pleasure in acquainting you that matters are settled excepting the last years rent of Westbarns mains and which the tenant is not bound to pay till 12 months after the year in terms of his Lease - that may realize you still about £40 stg.

Meantime the net sum that will fall to you is £2100 - it may be a pound or two more or less as I have not yet had time to go particularly into the account after being so much from home at this busy season of the year - I enclose herewith Letter of Credit on the Bank of Montreal for £900 and shall prepare account to send you as soon as I can get at it - I need not say any thing to you as to your debts in Canada as that you will be able to attend to without my advice - yet I cannot help expressing my regret that you did not permit me to arrange with them all as I wrote you last year - it would now have been better for you - Sir Ar. Nicolson and some others have laid arrestments in my hands (not one of them would give discharge after getting the 7/6 per £ which the money for South Bank house realized) - Your old account due me was £1168-12/- on that I got 7/6 per £, or £43-14-6 and £20 for your watch left £52-17-6 which as I wrote you before should never be charged you - The cash you had on leaving, £35 and goods etc. 10-13-4 with Interest, would now be £68-10-0 - (the balance due your other creditors as left in my hands would be £71-13-6 and interest 35-16-9) = 68-10-0

Mrs. Elder 5% and Int. 2-10/-

£115-0-3

Cash from Mother May 8th/44 £200 and Interest £160

= 360-0-0

Total due by you in Shetland, with Interest

£543-10-3

Now in respect to these accounts, those who have not interfered may perhaps accept of the original balance without interest and I shall do my utmost to manage that for you - the like of Mrs.Elder should get it - she is now a helpless and very poor widow with her family in Edinburgh - the account to Mother is the heaviest - she is now, poor body, near her end and I have had to send my Annie (*Ann Innes* ?) South to Perth to nurse and care her, as Jean (*Jean Mary Susannah* ?) is quite cripple and there seems to be every likelihood of her losing her leg - then Robina with her two orphans are dependant entirely on Mother just now and she is in utter distress about what is to become of them as her pension dies with her and they have no support - with my large family and failing health (which latter has obliged to divide my business with my son William and Wm.Smith who has been with me for five years and which greatly curtails my returns for

the year). I shall find stiff managing in the face of the heavy losses I have lately met £559 with Neil Jamieson and the £600 I sent John to buy his farm, is gone and my poor boy, through folly, fast following it, I fear - All these circumstances combined place poor Mother so that she must look to you for this money - to be a sort of support for these helpless ones who are dependent on her - but if I can see that she can yield any thing on the charge I shall not fail to use my influence with her for that purpose - I do not expect she can see another year - she has passed through much and now she thanks God that you are in a position to keep your family - Your Power of Attorney last year, and when you left, fully empowers me to discharge all your debts, but I have made up my mind to pay none till I hear from you, and therefore shall look for your cheerful and hearty assent to doing the best I can in the matter and if any balance, to remit it to you - be assured, my dear James, it is the best course to pay off your debts like a man, and have no stain on your name - God has sent you the means for a good purpose.

Then as to the farm - if you wish it at once transferred to your own name, send home the necessary Deeds for me to sign for that purpose - or if you prefer having it as it is and send a deed to certify that my Bros. have no right to the property and are bound to give you titles to it if I should die before you, or to your heirs when demanded. I shall sign such if you think it could protect the property to your family in case you were to be unfortunate again - In any way you think best for yourself and family, I am willing to do and you can determine on it when you and Eliza consult together about the matter - do not act hastily in any thing and weigh matters well - and the less you communicate of your affairs either to your own or your wife's friends, the better - let her be your confidante and her only - you lately wrote Cap.G.D.Henderson of your prospects - he saw Eliza McKay and went over the whole matter with her and I have had several very annoying letters from her insisting on me to write you for something to your sisters - I told her if you paid your debts you might have your farm clear and that would be all and she seems determined to write you herself for all I can say to her.

Gideon's writing or speaking much on these matters only raises a gossip about falsehoods ultimately.

Do not take it ill my writing you as I have done for I mean it well as I feel that you would think writing or telling to your friends of your unexpected good fortune would be gratifying to them. No doubt it is so - but you see how things turn out troublesome - Eliza is constantly at me for money - yet with finances - herself and husband they could be comfortable just now.

By the bye, if you wish to have your watch again it is of course ready to be sent you as you direct - I shall hope to hear from you soon with your opinions on various matters -

My kindest love to yourself, dear Eliza, and all the bairns, in which Willa and all here write,

I am My Dear James,

Your very affec. bro.,

Tho.M.Adie.

If Willa can manage it, she will write Eliza.

Yours of 2nd inst. just to hand, and I write in haste to say that on 22nd ult. I wrote you fully with Letter of Credit for £900 and at same time gave you freely my opinion of our ..... and friends - Eliza know nothing of your affairs but what she guesses at and makes up the rest and affirms all for truth, out of aggravation of spirit because she has got nothing ... .. to me .. really very provoking but I cannot help it - the property was sold in December last but not settleable till May and I consider it very fortunate that it was settled in June - the lawyers I have employed have done everything that men could do. The gross amount of your share before expenses came off would be about £2500 - I hope you have my letter ere now and that you will be able to set matters to rights with your creditors - I shall send on your watch as you wish next mail and along with it a token of my remembrance - I am so hurried to catch the mail that I cannot write much - but will do so when I hear from you again - Mother, poor body, is having to creep about again, but is very feeble - Willa is writing Eliza .. .... time will be ... .... - kindest love to you all,  
and I am, My Dear James,  
Your very affec. bro. Tho.M.Adie.

110

Voe. August 6th 1860

My Dear Neil,

I have yours of 4th and note all you say - I assure you I wish Robert Scollay had never left a penny - I believe it would have been better for all concerned - or at all events I had never heard of it - I know your situation and circumstances - Have I brought you to it? You force me to speak plainly - you cannot see the consistence of my refusing to advancing these funds on perishable security - there certainly seems inconsistency in your remarks - you have broken faith with me regarding that trust - when I signed the Bond of .....tion you promised not to use that money in any way without my consent (tho' certainly you gave the promise willing and with grace as your letter before me shews) well - you were to get £100 and another £100 was expended, then you were to give a policy of Insurance as security of the advance of the money Mr.Spence had - you never did that but got the money .... too soon and ....at the time it was payable without saying anything about it - these are matters gone by - ..... unless a man were worse than an ass he cannot forget them and immerse himself farther - I will not advance that money without proper security - it must be at Bank Interest ..... - But if it can relieve you and Mr.Ian Hunter, I will .... on him at 2 months for £50 and endorse it to him to discount after ... he has accepted it and between you and him you can sell so as to meet it when due.

Your affect. bro.  
Tho.M.Adie.

111

State of account James M. Adie, Canada with Tho.M.Adie, Shetland.

1859

Sept.2nd	By share realized from Miss Thomson's Estate				
1860		for Heritable Bond.	net	£462-12-9	
Jan 26th	" do	House at Minto Street	net	252- 1- 4	
"	" do	House at No. 30 Cowgate	net	74-11-2	
"	" do	House at No. 32 do	net	77- 1-7	
"	" do	House St. Patrick Square	net	54-18-5	
March 29	" do	House High Street	net	110- 8-6	
June 12	" do	West Barns Mains	net	<u>1169- 5-3</u>	
				2200-18-10	
less share of General Expenses				<u>58 - 5 -7</u>	
Share net sum realized				£ 2142	

-13-3

1859	To cash and goods on leaving Shetland	£ 45-13-4	
July 18	To Bill and charges	400- 8 -5	
Aug 19	“ do do	200- 2- 4	
1860			
June 13	“ Letter of Credit and charges	902- 6- 0	
	“ Gold watch forwarded per Rev Middlemas	20- 0- 0	
Aug 29	“ Difference of Interest to date	<u>20-15- 4</u>	£ 1589- 5- 5
	.... credit of T.M.Adie		£ 553- 7-10
	E & O.E.		
	Voe, Shetland.		
	August 29th 1860 Tho.M.Adie.		

112

Voe, Augt. 29 1860

My Dear James,

I have forwarded your watch in a small box and hold the Rev. Mr.Middelemas' receipt for the same - I put in a photograph of a lot of us taken in 1853 - also and ..... guard and key as a token of my remembrance - .... to help you in making your calculations, I send enclosed state of account as it now stands showing the balance at your credit just now to be £553-7-10 - There will yet be about £50 to get from last rent of West Barn Mains but it will be some time yet as it is payable according to the tenant's lease - I regret to say that the Court declared Miss Thomson's whole moveable estate to

belong to Mrs. Brown so that no one else was entitled to any thing - it was a sad reverse to all our expectations - I feel much at the allusion you make to the £200 due to Mother - The money was not mine - how could I possibly say it was never to be asked - the other £400 of that debt I had to pay up principle and Interest to the last penny - now in her state, when any day may leave those dependent on her without a shelter, she would need this money to support them, or help to do it for I can not do more than is weighing upon me - your two last Powers of Attorney certainly only related to Miss Thomson's affairs - but that when you left Shetland embraced the payment of your debts from your means at any time, and but for me the means now put into your hands would in all probability never have been heard of or known to you.

I shall try to get all to forego the interest on their accounts, and doubt not may manage that with the most of them - and if I did that would still leave a balance due you, of a service to any man.

I shall also if you wish it, send out from Edinr. the goods you mention or any other thing - indeed I would have sent them ere now - but doubted I might do wrong and could hardly settle my mind to think about it from what you write of the need of your dear family - no doubt my dear brother you will have hard work and your family to ... but I thank God that you are able to keep them beside you and the prospect before you of providing for them and which I dare say you would scarcely have managed if you had not got the Farm - and seeing that you all keep your health and there is room to improve, I trust it will one day pay you with more ease - of course I shall let matters rest till I hear from you - tho' every week I am .....with letters about your accounts - and my name is bandied about as conniving with you to cheat them - so I am suffering in that way for a time - I shall be glad how soon the whole can be wound up when the balance due you shall be remitted - and I shall send out anything you want.

We are all moving about here just now - Harriet and Maggy have gone to school again, so we miss them very much - the old house here has been condemned and the Trustee on Busta is building me a new one which has made a great deal of bother here about this season - the walls are not half up yet -

I shall hope to hear from you soon, and with kindest love to you all in which Willa and all the bairns write.

I am, my Dear James,  
Your ever aff. Brother,  
Tho.M.Adie.

Mother is a little better - Jean the same as she was - able to do nothing with her knee and back. TMA

114a

Voe, Sept. 17, 1860

Mrs. Henderson, Bardister,  
My Dear Madam,

I have your favour of 13th inst, and I now enclose cheque for £9 as payment of my brother's order of which please send me receipt.

Please sign your name as I have it in the draft. I have sent Mrs.Elder money also. J's other creditors, I fear, will not be so fortunate, as they seem to be very hard on him in America.

We are all moving about, and unite in kind regards to you.

I remain, My Dear Madam, Yours sincerely,

Tho.M.Adie.

presently at Edinr.

114b

Voe, Sept. 17, 1860

Mrs. Elder, Edin.

My Dear Madam,

At my Brother's request received today I have much pleasure in enclosing cheque on Union Bank, Edin., for £7-10/- in payment of loan of £5 to him by Mr.Elder, with interest at 5 per cent. Have the goodness to send me receipt for the same, and with kind regards to self and children in which Mrs.Adie joins me.

I am, My Dear Madam,

Yours sincerely, Tho.M.Adie.

115a

Voe, Oct. 15. 1860

Sir,

On the 17th ult, I sent a cheque to Mrs Elder, Edinr. for £7-10/- and one to Mrs.Margt. Henderson for £9, Neither of which for some cause, have been acknowledged. Will you please have the goodness to acquaint me if these drafts have been presented for payment and if by the ladies themselves.

I am, Sir, Your obt. s. Tho.M.Adie.

The Manager of

The Union Bank of Scotland,  
Edinburgh.

115b

Voe, Oct 15, 1860

Mrs Elder, Edinr.

Dear Madam,

I wrote you on the 17th ult. enclosing cheque on the Union Bank, Edinr., for £7-10/- being for principal and Interest due by my brother James M.Adie to the deceased Mr.Elder - I also wrote Mrs. Henderson of Bardister same date addressed to your house enclosing cheque for £9 my brother was due her and I have waited mail after mail expecting that at least receipt of the money would be acknowledged, and I will feel obliged by your doing so in course of post, and if Mrs.Henderson is still with you please request her to send me receipt.

I remain, Dear Madam,  
Your most obt. serv., Tho.M.Adie.  
I write this date to the Bank to know if the cheques are paid.

116

Voe, Oct 24, 1860

Mr. James Goudy, Lerwick.  
Dear Sir,

Understanding that Mr.Duncan was your agent, I considered it advisable to request

Mr Sievewright to see the preparing Bond and examining the discharges of the other securities you purpose discharging - I have been led to understand that £250 is all you wanted to raise on the property - but I have requested Mr.S. to prepare the Bond for whatever sum he considered it prudent for me to advance - House property, wherever situated is perishable and must deteriorate in value according to times, but I will go to any sum between £250 and £300 that Mr.Sievewright considers prudent for me to advance as he knows the property and all about which I do not.

Please call on Mr.S. and he will go on with the matter in conjunction with Mr.Duncan as your agent.

I am, Dear Sir, Yours truly,  
Tho.M.Adie.

I visited to speak with you before leaving town, but you were from home. TMA.

118

Voe, Oct 24, 1860

Wm. Sievewright Esq., Writer, Lerwick.  
Dear Sir,

Respecting the advance to Mr. James Goudy on his property, I have desired him to call on you to supply the needful in making out the Bond. I leave it to you to determine the amount I should advance varying from £250 to £300 as you deem prudent - the money being in trust, I must have full and ample security and Mr.G. needs to get it as soon as possible - please to see that my intentions are fully carried out and which are to make the advance on the whole of his property all other burdens being cleared off - so that there is no encumbrance on it at all but the house for my advance - please also to stipulate that the premises are insured against Fire, and Interest paid half-yearly.

I am, Dear Sir,  
Yours truly, Tho.M.Adie.

119

Voe, October 24 1860

Charles O. Duncan Esq., Master, Lerwick.  
My Dear Sir,

I purpose making an advance to Mr James Goudy on his property - he clearing off all former burdens debts and understanding from him that you were his agent, I have



requested Mr Sievewright to arrange matters and prepare the Bond so as Mr.G. gets the money when he needs it - I have left Mr S. to make the sum to be advanced what he thinks prudent, from £250 to £300 - as the money in the funds of Scollay's Trust (De'il take it)

I must have full and ample security as you know - I hope you will further Mr S. in what is necessary to make him to act -

I am, My Dear Sir,

Yours Very truly, Tho M. Adie

120

Voe, Shetland. Nov. 11th 1860

John T. Wardlaw Esq., W.S., Edinr.

My dear Sir,

I still have a balance to remit to my brother - but before closing finally, I wish to have a full discharge for all my intromissions and acts in regard to Miss Thomson's succession - will you please prepare such in a legal form and (if necessary) on a proper stamp, and forwarded to me to be sent for his signature - It is not necessary to particularize matters - just a legal General Discharge and receipt.

I should have liked Mr Kelly's rent had been paid that I could have sent it also, but I suppose that cannot be, even under the 3 months discount -

With kind regards to all your good family and my friend Mr Alden,

I am, Yours Very truly,

Tho. M Adie.

121

Voe, January 1st 1861

My Dear James,

I shall begin with wishing you and all your dear family many happy returns of the season - I wrote you hurriedly lately that I was having a discharge prepared to send for your signature - it is now enclosed - you will sign at the foot of every page where your name is pencilled and at the place above my signature - and send a note of the date of signing and the occupations of the two witnesses who must be males above 14 years of age - so soon as I receive the discharge I shall remit the balance of your money which lies in Bank at Interest - I sent you State of Account on 29 Augt. showing £553 - 7 - 10 due you from which has to be deducted £200 to Mother, your order to Mrs Henderson, Mrs Elder, and Eliza and the balance to Sir Art. Nicholson which I have had to pay or wages in court - the other creditors I shall pay nothing to since you do not approve of my doing so - by the time the discharge comes back, I may have got the rent due on West Barns Mains when the whole will be remitted at once - you can also say if you wish any goods sent out for your family and I shall order them to be made up and sent from Glasgow and

the invoice with them by which means you would have the advantage of the lowest wholesale prices - the Papars criminated with this business are bulking and I fear would go wrong but I am ready to send all you wish and when you wish - say also about the Property - if you wish it transferred to your own name - we have had very course weather and all hands laid up - poor Mother is very unwell at present - and Eliza has to contend with a man almost mad.

Kindest loves to you all and I can remain

Your affect. brother,

Tho. M. Adie

122a

Voe, Jany 24th/61

Mr Jas Goudy, Lerwick.

Dear Sir,

When I was in town I got from Mr Sievewright draft of Bond to examine, and I have to say..... this - under the encumbrances I cannot see my way to advance above £260 on the property - there is no likelihood of the money being needed for some years - but should it be otherwise the advance must be such that the Bond would be readily taken up by another party to avoid the other disagreeable alternative - I am sorry if this disappoints you but cannot help it - please call on Mr Sievewright and instruct him as to going on, as the money is all ready.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly, Tho. M Adie

122b

Voe January 24/61

Wm. Sievewright Esq., Writer, Lerwick.

Dear Sir,

I herewith return my draft of Bond by Mr Jas. Goudy on my favour - I of course leave to you framing the security as it out to be -

I have today written Goudy that I will advance £260 on the property and to call on you with instructions to proceed - so soon as you have every thing to your mind (the former Bonds cleared off) the money shall be paid.

I am, Dear Sir,  
Yours truly,  
Tho.M Adie

I do not think you have included any clause binding Goudy to insure his property against fire.

123

Voe, Jany. 26/61

Wm. Sievewright Esq., Writer, Lerwick  
Dear Sir,

I wrote Mr Goudy, as I mentioned to you and today he called on me here - I have agreed to advance the £300 on his property and you will please prepare the Bond accordingly - of this sum he is to repay yearly for four years £10 a year so as at the end of the four years to leave £260 of debt in the property and the house and you will arrange the security accordingly - with .. a separate..... to that effect and the £40 then to be entered on the Bond as repaid or to engross the whole purpose and making of the arrangement in the Bond - of course you will understand better how to make the matter legal than I do, and I therefore leave it in your hand only. The £300 in the meantime rests on the property.

I am, Dear Sir,  
Yours truly, Tho. M Adie

124

Voe, Jany 28/61

John T Wardlaw Esq. W S, Edinr.  
My dear Sir,

I have signed the receipt and now return it enclosed - I am glad that rent will be paid soon so as I can settle the whole matter with my brother at once. Please send me separate accounts of charges against my brother's matters showing Bal.due him, and before paying such Bal. is to my credit at the Union Bank, please detail your charges for contract of co-partnery and sending me account of same.

My best thanks for your kind sympathies. (*Mary Ann Westile Adie died 2/1/1861 in Perth aged c.78 years*)

With offer of kind regards to your family,

I am my Dear Sir,  
Yours very truly,  
Tho. M Adie.

125

Voe, Delting, Shetland

Feb. 4th 1861

Sir,

I take the liberty of addressing you on behalf of my sisters.

My Father John Adie was a surgeon in H.M.'s Navy & died Jany. 25 1845 - since which time his widow Mary Ann Adie has had a pension from the Admiralty of £40 a year - she died on 2nd January at Perth where she has resided for some time with her two daughters - & who are now reduced so as scarcely to *(be)* able to live in consequence of their mother's death - the eldest (Jean) has been long in bad health and incapable of making any exertion - the younger (Robina) is a widow with a son and daughter of 6 & 4 respectively.

I have thought it right to lay their case before you and to pray you if at all consistant with Law or Rules to continue their mother's pension to them - I am the more impressive that you will consider my prayer favourable so that the children of an officer who risked his life in the service of his country should not be destitute on the cold charity of the world.

I have the honour to remain Sir

Your obdt. humble servant,

Tho.M.Adie.

The Secretary of the Admiralty

126

Voe, Delting, Shetland

Feb. 4th 1861

Sir,

I duly received your valued favour of Jany, addressed to me at Perth. I thank you sincerely for letter and enclosure - I wish to make all statements correctly to a shilling and therefore put off forwarding the application to the compassionate Branch till my Mother's little furniture is disposed of -

Meantime, I remain,

Sir,

Yours very respectfully,

Tho.M.Adie.

George Scott Esq.,  
Secretary, N.M.S. Friends,  
Greenwich Hospital,  
London.

127

Voe, Delting, Shetland

Feb. 4th 1861

My dear Sisters,

Your letters have come, and I am glad (to) see are all moving and hope Robina

will soon be quite well again - I write in a great hurry as I must send off on the night with my letters.

I have letters from London from Jeannie and Mr.Crockford - it seems matters are in a very bad state there - McKay has turned to beat them till they are black and blue - they urge me to come London - I am not fit to go or I would save my poor sister from the brute however wrongly she may have acted - they want me to take her home and Jean and Mary Ann will try to work for their living - My home is full and soon my boys and their tutor will be back - If I can manage no other way, will you take the poor wretched woman and her child (*to*) live (*with*) you till I see what can be done - I will see that her share is paid - of course you must keep the house according to bargain - to advertise might throw you houseless as you observe and which would not do - do not ask Mr. .... a favour - the rent shall be paid him - I know not what I write,

Your affec. bro.

Tho.M.Adie

Our papers for the ..... came and hope and Rex and Portsmouth

128/9

Voe, Delting, Shetland

Feb. 4th 1861

Mr Crockford, 27 Burton Street,

Dear Sir,

I have this moment received your letter of 31st ult. - You are rightly informed that I would give my poor sister and family every assistance in my power and I sincerely thank you for what you have done for them - since I returned home from the internment of my Mother, I have been laid up yet did not let my sister know as she had enough to try her - I am no more fit to go to London just now than to fly there - my needs are small and I have a large family - but God knows I would do everything I could for them - I know no-one in London I could ask to act for me but from your great friendship to them I would ask you to do what is necessary for their safety - Mr McKay's mind is evidently wrong - all that has ever surprised me is how he keeps his situation at the docks - my niece Jeanie has suggested her Mother coming to me and her and Mary Ann trying what they can do for themselves - Well, my house as they know is full and scarcely habitable just now, - but I have set to work to arrange in some way or other - What I would suggest is this - the first time he uses violence that you will be good enough to hand him over to the authorities for it - his sanity will then be questioned and if he is set at large he will be bound to find surety for keeping the peace to his family - my sister can sell the furniture the same as her husband could and she would then move to some other part of London till I make some arrangement for her - I do not know any thing else that can be done under the circumstances - and if you are by this measure bid to expense I shall remit the money but hope you will manage as economically as you can - This is asking too much of you - a total stranger, but here I am, unable to come to them - what can I do but ask you who have already been so friendly to them - I have enclosed this to my sister that she may see what I have said and consult with you on the propriety of the course to

be pursued - I feel quite sick at heart with this dreadful business - Thank God my poor Mother did not know of this before she died - it would have distressed her so much.

Now, Dear Sir, I leave this matter to you - I will try that my sister is looked after if well away from her Unnatural husband - but he is evidently practising a deep game from the way he acts - that is to say if he has his senses, which seems very doubtful indeed.

I remain, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

Tho. M Adie.

I hope you will write me again. T.M.A.

130

Voe, Delting. Shetland. Feby 16/61

John Gillespie Esq. W.S., Edinr.

Sir,

Mr Wardlaw has sent me your letter to him of 2nd inst. with copy of his answer and I beg to state that I am perfectly prepared to give you every information respecting Miss Thomson's Succession and my brother's interests therein as well as to authorise the same by Mr Wardlaw, my Agent under my Power of Attorney, yet I do not consider it my duty to do so without his (my brother's) written authority as he has been furnished already with statements which he can exhibit to his creditors if he chooses or finds it necessary to do so.

I remain, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

Tho. M Adie

131

Voe, Feby. 16/61

John T. Wardlaw Esq. W S Edinr.

My Dear Sir,

I have received your favour of 7th inst. - our mails at this season make communications tardy - I hope Mr Kelly will have paid his rent ere I get the discharge back from my brother so that I get settled and done with it.

I enclose letter for Mr Gillespie which, if you approve of, please close and forward - if not (legally right) please write him to convey what I mean - I am glad you wrote as you did - I am sure the charges have all been my mandate as far as I can judge of these matters.

I fear I shall have to be in London soon - it seems my brother-in-law there has become quite insane and is treating his family in a very fearful way - and they all poor things hang their troubles round my neck, and I cannot shake them off - but must just stand by them, should I have to follow them into the ditch.

I hope your family are well.

I am, My Dear Sir,

Yours Very truly,      Tho. M Adie.

132

Particulars of money's received by Thomas M. Adie. from Miss Thomson's Succession under Power of Attorney by James M. Adie, Canada West.

1859	Sept. 2nd	Net realized for Heritable Bond	£ 9215- 5- 6
1860	Jany 26th	do. do. House, Minto Street	506- 2- 8
	" "	do. do. House, 30 Cowgate	149- 2- 3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
	" "	do. do. House, 32 Cowgate	154- 3- 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
	" "	do. do. House, St. Patrick Square	109- 16- 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
	March 28	do. do. House, High Street	220- 16- 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
	June 12	do. do. Farm West Barns Mains	
		and rents and interests on other subjects	<u>2338- 10- 6 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub></u>
			4421- 17- 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
		less General Individual expenses in the business	<u>116- 11- 2</u>
			4285- 6- 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
		Sept. 19th. Net for Half-year's Interest of West Barns	
		Mains due 12th Augt. last	<u>50- 0- 0</u>
			4335- 6- 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
		Mr. James Adie's Half per agreement	£ 2167- 13- 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
		Thos. M. Adie's Half per agreement	<u>2167- 13- 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub></u>
			<u>£ 4335- 6- 3 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub></u>

E & O.E.

Tho. M. Adie.

Voe, Shetland.

Feby. 16 1861.

133

Particulars of General Settlement of the late Miss Thomson's Heritable Succession.

Amount of Heritable Bond	£ 2000- 0- 0
House in Minto Street sold for	1050- 0- 0
do. 30 Cowgate price and rent	302- 14- 14
do. 32 do. do.	313- 4- 7
do. St. Patrick Square do.	228- 3- 9
do. High Street do.	454- 17- 7
West Barns Mains and Interest	5008- 7- 1
Rent and Interest on Bond and to June 12/60	171- 12- 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Rent West Barns Mains per Sept. 19/60	<u>50- 0- 0</u>
	£ 9578- 19- 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
less general expenses by Agents, Succession duties, stamps	

taxes and publicc ..... , etc.

675- 5- 4 ½  
£ 8903-14- 7

Shared Dr James Gardner £ 2225-18- 7 ½  
do. Mr. John Thomas Scott 2225-18- 7 ½  
do. James and Thomas Adie 4451-17- 3 ½

£ 8903-14- 7

E.& O.E.  
Voe, Feby. 16/61  
Tho.M.Adie.

From the above sum of £ 4451-17- 3 ½ has to be deducted  
the amount of Individual expenses being £ 116-11- 2 stg.  
T.M.Adie.

134

Particulars of Mr.James M.Adie's Nett shares of  
Miss Thompson's Succession as realized --

1859	Sept. 2nd	By share of Heritable Bond	£ 462-12- 9
1860	Jany. 26	“ do. House Minto Street	252- 1- 4
	“ “	do. do. No. 30 Cowgate	74-11- 2
	“ “	do. do. No. 32 do.	77- 1- 7
	“ “	do. do. St Patrick Square	54-18- 2
	March 28	“ do. do. High Street	110- 8- 6
	June 12	“ do. West Barns Mains halfterm	<u>25- 0- 0</u>
			£ 2225-18- 9
		less share of individual expenses of business	<u>58- 5- 7</u>

Mr. Jas. M.Adie's net share £ 2167-13- 2

E. & O.E.

A half-year's rent of West Barns Mains is still due to the .... but has not yet been  
realized and from which Mr.Wardlaw the Agent will have some small deduction to make  
for business. T.M.Adie

Voe, Feby. 16/61

135

Dr. Mr James M.Adie, Canada West.  
In a/c with Thos.M.Adie.

1859

To cash and goods for expenses on leaving  
Shetland for America's

£ 45-13- 4



July 8 To Bill and charges for Union Bank Edinr.	400- 8- 5
Aug 19 To do. do.	200- 2- 4
1860	
June 13 To Letter of Credit for do. ....	902- 6- 0
Gold watch forwarded per Rev. Middlemas	20- 0- 0
Augt. 29 " difference of Interest to date	<u>20-15- 4</u>
	£1589- 5- 5
By nett realized from Miss Thomson's	
Succession up to June 12, 1860	<u>£2142-13- 2</u>
Bal due Mr.J.M.A. as shown by statement forwarded 29 Augt.	553- 7- 9
By share of reant West Barns Mains ..... Sept. 19/60	25- 0- 0
" Interest on account to July 16/61 at 2 ½ %	<u>5-15- 0</u>
1860	£ 584- 2- 9
Sept 17 To cash per order to Mrs.J. Henderson	9- 0- 0
" " do. do. Mrs Elder	7-10- 0
Oct.15 " do. do. Mrs. Mary Ann Adie	200- 0- 0
Nov.12 " do. per Sir Ar. Nicolson	7-10- 0
Dec. 14 " do. per ... to Mrs. R.C. McKay	<u>6- 0- 0</u>
	<u>£ 230- 0- 0</u>
Balance due	£ 354- 2- 9

Mr Jas. M. Adie

E. & O.E.

Feby 16 1861

Tho.M.Adie

136

Voe Shetland. Feby. 16 1861

My Dear James,

I have just received your letter of 10th ult., and am surprised that you have not got my letter as I have written you several times and always expected an acknowledgement of mine of 20th August with account - However I now enclose herewith statement showing the balance due you £354 - 2 - 9 and as I expected payment of the half-years rent due on West Barns Mains yet in course of a week or so I shall delay remitting you till I can send all at once and in course of a week or two I hope also to hear from you again - The accounts of the business are in my possession and ready to send you the originals or copies at any time you wish them.

I am glad you got your watch safe - you think Willa and I look better than when you left - if you saw the originals now you would not think that - what you have was done seven years ago - and we have seen many trials since then to alter our appearances but thank God for life.

With kind love to you all,

I am, My Dear James, You're ever affect. brother

Tho. M Adie

Voe, Feby. 16th, 1861

My Dear James,

I wrote you from Perth intimating the death of our beloved mother on the 2nd ult.. What a loss I feel although for many years she has been as it were guided by me yet I feel now as if I were alone no one earthly to look up to - but God's will be done - I had before then known of the state Eliza was in with her husband - but at the time I was South did not think that matters were so bad and I came home to my family several of whom were laid up with whooping cough - I left Jean and Robina in Perth as they were bound with the house till Martinmas - they must be supported there till then - how I may manage with them after that God only knows - Mr Rose, a young man I got for a low salary to teach their bairns has to go to Aberdeen to attend college and we sent Tom and James with him and sent provisions with them - thinking it would be the cheapest way so as they did not lose in his absence as there is no school here now at all - they have both been laid up and the doctor attending them. Jimmy was a little better when we last heard but Tom poor boy was very ill and has been blistered every day for the last week for inflammation of the lungs, so that we are in a very trying state of anxiety about him. The same mail brought me letters from London confirming McKay's insanity from a gentleman named Crockford, and from Dr Copland urging my immediate presence in London to take measures for the safety of poor Eliza and her children and for McKay's committal to a lunatic asylum.

The steamer had been detained and on getting to Shetland, was off before I could reach her but I have made ready to go by her, first trip - Heaven knows how all may be by this time - he had beaten them dreadfully, especially Mary Ann and was destroying and giving up every thing for drink so that they are now in a low lodging house - This is the greatest trial of any - how I am to manage to support them all almost drives me to madness - yet God knows they may not now be in existence as their lives seems what he was bent on destroying - Robert Stewart and John Mackay are both at sea and I must look to them should it begger me -

Often have I wished that when I left the house on one occasion with Willa after I married I had then gone to some new country far from my friends on both sides - but God willed it otherwise and perhaps for some good end - while I live I will not cease to toil for them to my utmost and perhaps some hand may be held out to my many helpless ones when I am gone and which cannot be long with my incipient bit of bother, body and mind - people think, no doubt you hear, that I am well-to-do - I am kind to my friends - I cannot say them nay when in distress-I am doing my utmost for my boys and girls to fit them to do for themselves and I cannot make a poor mouth as some can for if my struggle becomes known my business was done and my family ruined - my wife even does not know about them as it would only distress her more than she is already by the misconduct of our oldest son but from whom we have not heard for the last 15 months - he has sold and destroyed his farm and gone to New Zealand with his wife and two children ashamed I suppose to write home again. To all appearance we will never here from or see him again in this world - May God give him grace to see the error of his ways - William has been storm-stayed in Skerries for last 10 days where he went to settle with the people as I

could not have come - I felt so poorly and bairns all ill - If the steamer gets down I shall have to leave them all in the hands of God and go to the help of those who are in the hand of a lunatic - Willa is moving about but far from well she has so much to do now that the bairns are ill - if she can manage it she will write you or Eliza, to be enclosed with this - All here write with me in the kindest love to you all, and I am,

My Dear James,

Your ever affect brother,      Tho. M Adie.

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PRIVATE

My Dear James,

I thought it best to send you two statements showing the same result either of which you can lay before your creditors that you think best - I wish .. was due a little now as you and Gould be well off indeed - but £3,000 at this moment would not pay what I owe and added to that I have been obliged to build a house here or be buried in the ruins of the old one as it had been examined and condemned so that we could not venture to pass the winter in it till buttresses were built to it - and for that I cannot be paid till the end of my lease or my creditors sell the lease for me and drive me from it - I never would have built on any terms had I known where to go to - but every place is so filt up and so much opposition now in every thing that a man in the decline of life has a poor chance by moving - God bless you all - write me soon.

Your affect. brother

Tho. M Adie.

141

Voe, Shetland.    Feby 16 1861.

My Dear James,

I have received your letter and now send you Statements of Accounts - you seem to have forgotten the agreement entered into between you and me in Spring 1859 and which was sent out for your signature and is now registered in the archives by which you and I agreed to halve all that was realised for either of us from Miss Thomson's Estate - and as I wrote you Mrs Brown went off with the whole movable Estate therefore there was nothing but the Heritables to divide - and I assure you I have had a sad fight and as great sacrifices to my business for my share and on which amount our sisters will fast reduce me by supporting them - but aside from that, had the matter not been legally arranged by our agreement on stamped paper, I could only have claimed my agency and a loss of time, from you - but every thing considered I think the matter is fair that we should both be alike - The only difference is I have done the business and taken the risks and you have not been troubled - if you want a copy of this agreement I shall send you one taken by a Notary - tho' I need not say that for you surely kept copies of the agreements and Powers of Attorney you signed, and must just have forgotten the nature of them - had matters turned out as I had expected we would have been better off - but the Law did not move so - the Heritable Estate turned out much better than I expected.

I had a letter from Mr Wardlaw, our agent, enclosing a letter he had received from Mr John Gillespie of Gillespie and Chalmers, Edinbr., wanting information about your succession - they also called on Mr W. and just said they sought the information for you - then for a correspondent in Quebec by your authority - I wrote them a note stating tho' perfectly prepared to give any information, or to authorize Mr Wardlaw to do so, I did not consider myself justified in replying to their demand without your written authority - Of course I cannot tell whether it is you or Mr Henderson or any other - but I do not think there is need for expenses, as you have all the information and even Mr Wardlaw writing me about it costs money. I cannot believe it is an act of yours, or by your authority or knowledge - I should be glad if you let me know about this as I feel at it, as this is now the second time these Lawyers have made the same request - Mr Henderson explained the first, and from his note I should not have fancied he would have done the same again - I shall say no more on the subject till I hear from you again - All that is now to realise is a half-year's rent of West Barns Mains, and that I expect next week, when if I have not heard from you with the discharges, I shall remit you some of the money due you as you are urgent for it.

I am, My Dear James,  
Your affect brother,  
Tho. M Adie .

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Voe. Feby 28, 1861.

Wm. Sieviewright, Esq. Writer, Lerwick

Dear Sir,

I have your favours of 25th. and 27th. inst., and feel obliged by your attention and am glad matters are getting arranged so as Mr Jas. Goudy gets the money - The sum I am advancing is a large (one) under the circumstances and I must therefore be fully secured - I enclose cheque on the Union Bank, Lerwick, for £300, so as you may have it at hand to have the money when needed - but the advance must not be made at all unless along with the Bond, the Disposition infavour of Mr Angus and the Disposition and assignation in favour of Mr Goudy, and Sasine thereon be also deposited with me, to be held along with the Bond as farther security - this seems absolutely necessary when Mr Goudy's own agent says that he holds a lien over his Title Deeds - These must be clear of every thing else but my loan, and can only after what has transpired be proved to be so by being deposited in my keeping - To effect this Mr Goudy will doubtless authorise the payment of Mr Duncan's amount out of the Money and of course your own account for the whole professional charges and correspondence in this matter has to be paid by Mr Goudy -

Please own receipt of cheques and oblige.

Dear Sir, Yours truly,  
Tho. M Adie

144

Voe, Feby 28, 1861

Wm. Sieviewright Esq. Writer, Lerwick

Dear Sir,

I wrote the accompanying so that if necessary, you would show it either to Duncan or Goudy - you are certainly right and I feel obliged by your suggestion - the money of Scollay's Trust is in Edinburgh, but so as to cause no loss by commission at the Bank - I gave the cheque on my account at Lerwick and can draw the same amount from that account in the South - of course all the expenses of Bond and correspondence, etc, has to be paid by Goudy - and I depend on your getting the deeds in possession for me, and the Bond completed in Legal form and registered.

I am, Dear Sir, Yours truly,

Tho. M Adie.

145

Voe, Shetland March 2nd 1861

Messrs Jas. & J. Miller, Writers, Perth..

Dear Sir,

Herewith I enclose Last Will and Testament by my Mother, and Inventory of her Estate, attested in the way you wanted them - they were sworn to at Mossbank, Shetland on Feby 20th 1861, before James Henderson Esq., J. P. and I hope it has been correctly done.

I shall be glad how soon you can conveniently get the matters arranged - it will be necessary that I have the £200 of Railway Debenture Stocks in some way transferred to my own name.

I am, Dear Sirs,

Yours truly Tho. M Adie

146

Voe, Shetland. March 3/1861

My Dear Margaret, (*Margaret Barrie Jamieson, sister to Wilhelmina, T.M.Adie's wife. married to Rev. William Foster*)

Your letter came duly to hand and would have been answered by me long ago had I known how to do it - Willa would have written (and will do so I hope soon) but everyone in the house, Annie and all, are laid up with whooping cough and I fear Willa will soon be beside them - Joan has been with us for five or six weeks, and Ann (*Innes Baumeister, sister to Wilhelmina*) came out last week after the sale of her furniture was over - I am distressed about Ann, poor thing, and I know not how matters are to be mended - as to the plan you propose, it might do if started by any one but a relative - I would beg for a stranger, but not for my sister-in-law, for her I would work if I could and will with pleasure do what lies in my power for Ann - but so much for the worse, that is not much - My own family is somehow or other a very heavy one to keep up and educate and I have lately had extra burdens laid on me which I cannot shake off - Mary Ann Tulloch has been costing me £15 a year - My sisters in Perth have to be helped yearly to double that amount and now my sister in London is in a state of destitution from the

intemperance and consequent insanity of her husband whom it is thought advisable to confine in a Lunatic asylum, so you see I have a pretty share of burdens already - Ann would not have been put to what she has, had it not been her brother's family whom she has been feeding for the last year and since Martinmas all of them have been in her house earning nothing - so really she was under the necessity of giving up ere she was compelled to it.

What is to become of Niel (*Niel Jamieson, brother to Wilhelmina*) and his family, God only knows, for help them more, I neither can nor will - for he is as much a man to provide decently for his family as I am, if he only went right to work about it - but he can never manage with them as a joiner in Lerwick - I have long intended to send you statement of the Scollay Trust Funds, but have been prevented doing so as Niel will not give me a few simple statements connected with Ann's account to enable me to do so - but I hope it may be got soon unless he intends to sever the last remaining links between his family and mine - Aunt Scollay (*Aunt Anne Innes Scollay*) is with him just now, but I fear I shall not be able to let her remain as she cannot be fed as she ought, and where she is to go in that case, I know not - So really things are not looking nice in our family matters on either my wife's side or mine - I have not felt that ..... I would wish to speak to Ann about the matter in my own house - she might think it a hint to hurry her away - but it may come round soon, and then I shall write you again - Johan might get a situation as a nursery governess which would at all events provide food and raiment for her, but neither her nor her Mother have minds to put up with dependent positions and there is nothing else before them and consequently they feel the more puzzled - but I shall write you again.

Meantime with love to all, in which all here unite,

I am, My Dear Margaret,

Your aff. Brother,

Tho.M.Adie.

148

Voe. Shetland. March 4th

1861

John T. Wardlaw esq., W.S. Edinburgh.

My Dear Sir,

I have your favour with ..et.ng which I shall examine and write you next mail.

Meantime I may mention that the amount from account of the heirs to my brother's credit should I think be £95 instead of £85 and you have omitted, to credit the error on the account interest the Minto Street house which I spoke to you of, and which you said should now be adjusted - I shall write you fully next mail -

Meantime, with kind regards,

I am, My Dear Sir, Yours Very truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

149/150

Voe, Delting. Shetland. March 4th

1861

Robert Cowie Esq.,

My Dear Sir,

In November, I received your letter of 26th Sept. last - I really was so shocked by the contents that I could not write on the subject and I expected again to hear from you with farther information - even now when I take up the letter with intention of writing you it makes me feel as I cannot describe - my poor thoughtless boy, he has well nigh killed his poor mother - and now we hear not a word from him, tho' I wrote him and enclosed it to his Father-in-law entreating him to write - but I dare say he will never do that again - at least there is little chance of it unless he gives his heart to God and leads a different life.

I will write him to the care of his Father-in-law again, and hope he may be moved to communicate with us.

I fear the land will have been sold - doubtless it is worth double the money paid for it but how to interfere to save it, I know not, for fear of bringing him into trouble - If you could suggest any way I could do, if it is not already sold, I would be glad to save it, always keeping in view the safety of my imprudent son - as whatever I may suffer, I must not be the means of depriving him of his freedom, and which he has so seriously risked - Little did I think my boy was ever to come to that. Lord grant, it may make the necessary impression on his mind, and lead him to bethink himself for the sake of himself and family here and hereafter - what a change it has made. When he is spoken of in the house it is in whispers - even the youngest feels there is something wrong, tho' none know any thing of it but Mrs. Adie and William - and I feel keenly that I have injured him by doing too much for him - had I left him to fight his way, little doubt he now feels the opportunity of being comfortable and independent which he has so culpably wrest from him and his family - Let me know all and you will oblige me-

I have had various trials and struggles in one way or another. I lost my dear Mother on the 2nd of January last and my sisters are now almost dependent upon me - I do not feel so able for my business as I was and my son William, and a son of Arthur Smith's who has been with me for five years now, have shares with me - and my family to keep and educate is very expensive, so many of them - yet God spare their lives and all will be well - they are all laid up just now with whooping cough - All old friends here about are much the same as they were except that they are occasionally dropping off - Sandy and Jo Anderson hold out yet - Your brother called here a day or two ago on his way to Mossbank - he and family were well.

I am joined by my old wife in kindest regards to yourself, Mrs. Cowie, and your sister, and I trust I shall soon hear from you again, and if you can get any news of my boy - please try.

I am, My Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

Tho. M. Adie.

I hope you will have some influence on Willy Anderson in getting him to send home some money - he has not done right to his family and they really deserve better treatment and so do I, at his hand.

151a

Voe, Shetland. March 4, 1861

Mr.Fowler, Melbourne.

Dear Sir,

I expected ere now to have heard from you about my poor deluded son and his family, but have not done so - I cannot tell you what anxiety it is costing us - as whatever his errors, they are all very dear to us and will ever be so - by a letter from Dr.Cowie of 25 Sept., we heard they were well and bless God for it - I again enclose a letter for John which please send him as I could not, if I knew his address, post a letter for him for fear of the consequences to him - how he has erred - how he has disowned parents whose life was bound up in him, God only knows - still he is our son and we love him still as such - entreat him not to spurn the bonds of affection that exist between us, but write. I can forgive him all tho' he has almost crushed us - his mother will soon know a good day again - let him write us - tell him how I am sacrificing all to save him from the consequences of his own actions and are acting with extreme caution for his safety. May God enable him to seek earnestly his safety at the Throne of Grace - I feel sincerely for you, Mrs.Fowler, and family, and pray that this matter may teach us all more perfectly our duty to our God - I am punished, for my children have occupied all my heart, leaving no place for other affections - If you learn any thing of my children will you write me fully for I fear they will not write - yet they need not do that - anger burns not in my breast - pity for their state here and here after alone occupies that place - Perhaps you may be able to give me any farther particulars about my property - I would try to save it yet, were it worth doing so with the debts on it - however I hope between you and Dr.Cowie you will be able to give me full particulars - I trust to hear soon from you, and with kind regards to all from myself and family,

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly, Tho.M.Adie.

151b/152b

Voe, March 4th 1861

My Dear Son,

Many months ago I wrote you and expected you would write again - as yet I have no word from you and you cannot conceive how distressing it is to your dear Mother, myself, and all that you do not write - you have acted wrong my son, very very wrong - still you are our son, as dear to our hearts as ever - we deprecate your follies and your crimes and pray our Gracious God to give you Grace and strength to reform, but these crimes do not alter our love for you and yours - when they are yours, they are ours, and dear to us as our own children - figure to yourself - if your child acts wrong should you withdraw your countenance from him - you would correct him and try with your love to bring him back to God and you. Your own acts, my son, have bought this punishment which will alas long, long, hang over your head - you have destroyed our means and our desire to help you, but our love, however you have returned it, cannot change while life



holds out. - I now know nearly all that shortly after the property was bought you began to bond it, and went on from one slip to another - using my name getting the Government Grant and ultimately Bonding..... and even that is not nearly..... Yet bad as all this is to your parents and all the family - I have acted with great caution so as to keep you from the hands of Justice - Oh my son, what a risk you have run, and at this distance, and not knowing what you have done, I might have acted so as to have them on your track without knowing that I was exposing my own son - John, my boy, my son, I am sacrificing all to save you in this world - but there is another world for which the Blood of Jesus Christ can alone cleanse you and save you - Resolve through the strength of God to give your heart to him and however you may be reduced in this world, make some worth for the next - let your prayers and grounds for Mercy ascend to the Throne of God for your self and family whom you are bound to cherish, and be assured, if you are sincere, He will not cast you off - this course alone can teach you your duty as a man, a husband, a father, and a Christian - our prayers are daily .... .. for you - may God answer them in Mercy and give you peace of mind and joy in the Holy Ghost through believing

I have had a very trying time lately - My beloved Mother died at Perth. on the 2nd of January and now your Aunts are almost entirely dependent on me for support. Your Aunt in London will have to separate from her husband through his intemperance - then the family will be on me - Mrs Baumeister has had to sell off and she and Joan are here on me. Neil Johnson failed about 18 months ago, and I lost nearly £700 through him -. Thomas and James are at Aberdeen at School and have been very ill, Tommy so much so that the Professor of the College has been attending him and at home here, all from Annie and down are very ill indeed with whooping cough, so much so that I fear for their lives - the two youngest, Eliza and Alfred particularly, as they are not able to stand it - so you see, my son, I have my trials at home also, I am failing from pushing in business as I could once, and as your brother could not stop longer here on a salary, and I could not manage, I was obliged to give him and William Smith, who has been with me for five years, a share of the business and which leaves the less for me to meet all my burdens with - but thank God we still live - Your dear Mother is almost bowed to the grave with sorrow, and nothing can ever restore her now accept letters from you, and a change in you - withhold it not, my son, as you value our lives and our peace - kiss you're dear wife and children for us - they are yours - they are ours -

May the Lord help you, my son, and whatever may be your position and prospects now, let me know them minutely - Ma and your brothers and sisters unite with me in kindest love to you all.

I am, My Dear John, Your ever affect Father, Tho. M Adie  
Harriet and Margaret are at school in Perth, and are all well.  
154/5

Voe, March 9th 1861

My Dear Neil, (*Jamieson, brother in law*)

I think it right to let you know particulars as far as I can regarding Mrs Baumeister transactions with the late Mr L. D. Hunter, so as you may lay it before the court in defending her against a new charge for the account I settled.

By the accompanying extract discharges, you will see I paid Mr.Hunter in Oct.

1851 as therein stated - the object of the Bill at one day's date was to protect Mrs.B. from her other creditors who were threatening to carry off her means to the prejudice of the others, and for that purpose, Mr.Hunter acted a very friendly part to her - and with the others, accepted 5/- per £ of his debt, the expenses being paid in full - he having neglected to enter this settlement into his books, and in Augt/53, having forgotten the circumstances, demanded a settlement from Mrs.B - She wrote me of it, and the original discharge having been lost, I applied for, and got, the accompanying extract to satisfy him and I told him my mind very freely about it when I let him see the document when he turned up and found my cheque for the amount paid him, at the Bank - he apologized both to Mrs.B and me, and said it should be arranged in his books at once as at that date, Oct/'53, she did not owe him a penny and I am prepared to swear to his words - well with his usual appalling (*lethargy* ?) in these matters it seems never to have been done and I had no right to ask the man for a second discharge of the same debt, nor did I think it was needed or I should have stood over him till I could see it squared in his book. I should be sorry to say one word that would take a penny from his widow and children, and in that feeling, settled my own accounts in his books, and which I would never have done in the same way had friend Hunter been alive - indeed you are well aware of what bickerings we had at every settlement and his books will show the charges against myself which had to be shared out - but which I felt for Mrs.Hunter, is my own matter - It is quite a different thing when a ... widow, more destitute than she, comes to be made the victim of these irregularities in keeping accounts and it must not be allowed - perhaps the better way is to get the aid of a professional gentleman to attend the court - Mr.Sieviewright or if he cannot, Mr.Henry. That done, I have no doubt about the result as the matter is so clear and even ..... not .... as the account is prescribed and had it not been so surely none of those employed in Mr.H's business would have gone the length of making affidavit to it - he could not have done it had the account only been a year old had he been ..... himself - did I not know better than any friend he had, how these things were, I could not have spoken so freely but when one is pressed up in a corner they are compelled to speak.

I am, my dear Niel,

Your affect. brother, Tho.M.Adie.

Mrs.;B. never had an acct. handed by Mr.H. messages on notes of the amount - and now the account as handed shew items she never had. TMA.

156

Voe, Shetland. March 13th /61

Mrs.Mitchell, Leith.

Dear Madam,

I have just received yours of 8th inst. - it had been mis-sent to Northmavine so I did not get it in time to reply in course of post - I feel much obliged by your writing me about Mary Ann Tulloch- I know not what to think or say about her - in my house there is not room for ourselves and all my children are very ill with whooping cough - yet I feel I cannot desert the offspring of my unfortunate sister and have already done as much for her as I possibly could - I paid John Adie in Edinr. a pound a month for her while she was with them but my anxiety was to try if she could learn to earn housekeeping in some way

for herself - If she is spared to recover and get out of the hospital, could you farther oblige me by trying to get some lodging for her with some respectable tho' poor person, and I will pay the same as I did in Edinr. for her for a few months till we see if her health gets any better - when if she does not get round so as to be able to do something for herself, I must try to arrange otherwise for her, poor thing - if she could or would have learnt very light work such as sewing, she would have done better - but she would never lay her hand to that - perhaps she may now.

I was not aware that you were married - I hope you are comfortable and happy and that all your friends are well.

I am, Dear Madam,

Yours truly, Tho.M.Adie

I am aware that Ann's mistress has been very kind to her. I sent her a pound lately to help to get mournings for her grandmother - please ask if it came safe.

157

Voe, March 15th 1861

Mr. Wm.B.Tulloch, Lerwick.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Niel Jamieson wishes me to guarantee his rent of £18-10/- to you from Whitsunday 1861 to Whitsunday 1862 - It has been arranged that Miss Scollay shall Bond with Mr.Jamieson and I promise that from Whitsunday first I shall hold payment of Miss S's Bond in my hands termly, while she remains with Mr.J's, till I know that the rent has been paid you - so that by your letting me know if the payments of rent have not been regularly made when due, I shall at once remit it to you so long as Miss S. is with the Jamiesons.

I remain, Dear Sirs, Yours truly

Tho.M.Adie

158

Voe, March 15th 1861

My Dear Neil,

I enclose the notes you want to Mr Tulloch and am glad you are to keep the house still. But I have no word from Mr Sievewright - but if needed, altho' I have been ill getting from house, shall come down if it can save Ann, poor thing - I am sorry for James Hunter about that Bill. I cannot advise noting it now, if not paid. I have heard nothing of the Jamaica money for some months now and cannot understand what is the cause of delay.

Ann has told me two other times since she came out that you were to make out her account with the Scollay Estate and send it - it comes not - for as often as it has been asked and promised - it is really using me anything but well - and about a matter that should

not occupy quarters of an hour - it cannot hurt me, but Ann it can, as if even that Estate is wound up - it is hard to say who it may be by, and she may have difficulty then of legally

proving what should be at her credit, and the amount against her as taken from your general account is very large indeed.

I am, My Dear Neil, Yours affectionately,  
Tho.M.Adie

159

Voe, Shetland. April 1st. 1861 .

Messrs J. & J. Miller, Solicitors, Perth..

Dear Sir,

I have your favour with enclosure, and now return the document signed - (all signed this day and at this place). The draft on London is easily negotiated here, so I retain it.

Shall be glad to hear from you when the business is completed - is there a transfer made of the £200 debenture stock in my favour in the Company's books, or does that matter - surely not, as an act between my sisters and self?

I am, Dear Sirs, Yours truly,  
Tho. M Adie

160

Voe, Shetland. April 15th 1861

Henry Cheyne Esq., of Tangwick, W.S., Edinr.,

Dear Sir,

Having been informed that you hold the sum of £500 or thereby for the behoof of Mr Samuel Henry's creditors, I take the liberty of handing herewith statements of accounts due by them to the Trust Estate of the late Mr Robert Scollay amounting in all to £783 - 18 - 10 1/2 .

These accounts are vouched by Mr Neil Jamieson,..... .. Factor on the Estate - I will feel obliged by you informing me when the Estate will be divided and how much per £ you expect it to pay.

I remain, Dear Sir, Yours truly,  
Tho. M Adie

161

Voe, April 15th 1861

My Dear Neil,

I enclose letter for Mr Cheyne - it is all that is necessary till I hear from him - but you cannot send this mail as you will require to make a ..... to the accounts - indeed so much time having elapsed it would be better to get Mr Henry to sign the accounts also before sending them - and you can get all that done for next mail - The accounts

numbered 1, 2, & 3, I think are those needed and right, however if they are not Mr.C. will soon put us to rights and it is better to come down than have to get up - Keep exact copies of what you send, and try to get all ready to go next mail.

I think Willa is writing.

With love to all, Yours affetly,

Tho.M.Adie.

162/3/4

Voe, April 16th 1861.

My Dear Margaret, (*Margt. Barrie Jamieson, m.s. Foster*)

Your letter of 4th inst. came duly to to hand and Willa will write you herself - I am rather puzzled at the style of your letter as such a production has not fallen to my share from your pen before - and have had so much experience of correspondence that I easily perceive when the feelings shine through covert expressions - I should regret indeed if any misunderstanding arose that I can avoid - but if they are for and on me I shall not shrink from them and so by placing your former and the present letters before you as ..... then. I shall await to hear whether I am wrong or not - You say "I am very much obliged for information and acc.." Poor Ann, it is not the first time she has suffered for others - has she suffered for me or mine? If she has I am not aware of it. - The Jamaica money has not yet come so Mr Duncan has not got it - but as it has nothing to do with the Scollay Trust, it will of course be divided and you had better give Stamped Mandate for some one to receive your share which may be about £50 - you now have all the information I can give you whether indeed I had any right to reply to your orders so decidedly given respecting it, more especially when accompanied with the threat that you shall not be such a fool in this matter as you have been, meaning, no doubt, that I may look out if I do not attend. Of course I will do that where I see it necessary.

If you write that way from regret at having given your sanction to Neil's getting the money he did, I can only say that you have not much cause as you only sanctioned his getting money which may now be yours as Miss Scollay may will it away as the drain on the Estate does more than swallow it up were she to dispose it in that way, but which is not likely - your loss consequently is an imaginary one as you never possessed and never might have possessed what is gone - whereas I lost £200 of my own hard earnings - the means of the Estate is all at interest in the Bank till now - I have put £300 in Heritable Security since it came into my hands and as soon as matters are arranged I shall give you state of the affairs - meantime I have offered to Ann and to Neil that if they will give the security to free me from all responsibility connected with the Scollay Estate, I will deliver up all Money Bonds Land etc and give a letter signed by Willa and myself that our share, whatever it might ultimately (*be*) shall never be asked and could be divided among you - and now I make the same offer to you - so you see I have no money ambitions of the trust resting in my hands - but would be glad to be clear of it as I have no time to put off in such a thankless office - I wish I had never heard of it for it has been more bother and more cause of heartburn and ill feeling than the whole of it is worth - but if you and Ann and Neil can make me out uncontested security for my own safety, you

shall have it all - but as long as it is in my hand I must see that Miss Scollay does not starve while it lasts - one word more and I shall, as the sailors say, put about on this "tack". I presume you have not tried the plan of having subscriptions for Ann as you take no notice of my remarks on that subject - tho' you thought I was such a fool as to make myself a byword in mouth of my acquaintances and friends by starting such a thing - it will be dire necessity that makes me a beggar for myself or my nearest friends - I was quite sure you would not try it, tho' you seem riled because you were disappointed in not finding me fool enough to do it - I assure you though, you will not find a green spot on my eye as yet -

With Maggy I see also a little of your usual self shining through when you mistake your bairns and mine and I hope also I shall hear that your letters No.1 and No. 2 have been written without thinking how they might hit a touchy customer like your brother- in -law and that... may be it .... again when I hope to see you if I get the knights of Manchester - when that may be I cannot say.

I hope your little girl will be better soon so as to give you more rest - Willa has held out bravely this winter - she is getting stronger and I am an old steer - in fact can stand nothing - but it is not to be wondered at I am almost used up and will soon be like our old horse in the way of every body.

With kind love to you all      I am, My Dear Margaret,  
Your affect. brother,      Tho. M Adie

You see I can write my mind empty out all the bad stuff and be the same as ever in hopes of finding you slide back into the same channel.

165

Voe, Shetland, April 29, 1861

Robert Cowie, Esq., Melbourne.

My Dear Sir,

I have this moment received your esteemed favour of 20th February - I cannot say much about it being short as this will be short - I write in haste to overtake the mail.

Many thanks for the great deal of trouble I have put you to - I know you sympathise with us in this trying affair of my poor deluded son or I could not have applied to you as I do

I should like if you could ascertain the value (present value) of the property also the rate of interest payable to Mr Monteray so as I could be able to judge of the propriety of incommoding myself to the extent required to clear the land - you might also get some notion of whether the place is likely to become more valuable - and when I hear from you I would at once decide to act one way or other - I do not see that it would be necessary for my son to..... me as the property must be still in my name seeing that John Bonded it in my name it is all very trying to think of - but you will be able to give me all particulars necessary for me to know - Thank God they are all well - how are they living ? I have written him often enclosed to Mr Fowler but I have never a word unless from yourself - I am happy to hear of the good health of yourself Mrs C. J. Daly also of your wife and family - we are all moving about here - but have had a bad time with whooping cough. - Mrs. Adie unites with me in kind regards to all and in haste,

I remaiin, My Dear Sir,  
Yours Sincerely, Tho.M.Adie.

Nothing new here. Lowry (?) plowing to me today, as canty as ever.

166

Voe, Shetland. April 29th/61

My Dear James,

I wrote you from here on 1st Jany. 1861 and on 16th with accounts (Registered), and from Perth at the time of our beloved Mother's death, to none of which I have had a reply and feel very much at your taking no notice of the sad bereavement which you could surely have done, without alluding to business matters since you find it advisable to appoint agents to look after me - as I have advice today from Mr.Wardlaw that your written authority has been handed him for forming statements to Messrs. Gillespie and Chalmers and I have advised him to do so at once - you will then see whether I have sent you correct statements - You do not seem inclined to discharge me from my responsibility. There is, I think, little fear, of my sending the money when I got the discharge - but if you doubt that - you could send it throught the Bank so as to be delivered when I paid the money -

We are all moving about - but I need not say anything of family trials, as you take no notice of them - Mine write in kind love to you all,

and I am, My Dear James,

Your ever affec. brother,

Tho.M.Adie.

167

Voe, Shetland. April 29th/61

John T.Wardlaw Esq., W.S. Edinr.

My Dear Sir,

I have your favour - I had quite neglected the accounts this week but shall attend to it by next mail - Meantime I shall be glad the Mr.Gillespie gets the fullest information since my brother so wills it and of course when they get that from you I have nothing farther to add to these accounts, only some personal expenses which I can furnish if Mr G. wants it -

With kind wishes for all,

I am, My Dear Sir, Yours Very truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

Voe, Shetland. April 29th 1861

Dear Margaret,

I have yours of 25th inst. When I wrote you last I was doubtful that Mary Ann was up to some folly - no one who is not conversant with it can imagine the arrogance and vexation I suffered from that poor foolish girl - and after the way she wrote me of her usage in Edinr. while she remains there, I will do nothing for her - if they keep her they must do it for her own sake, not for my money - I will therefore feel obliged by your retaining the few shillings you have till she is again set adrift which I suppose will not be long, and then use it for her if she will do what is right by stopping contentedly with Mrs. Robertson till she is able for a place again - she wrote me that they had not room for her in the Infirmary. She is easily led to her own loss or she might have been far otherwise today. Please write me if any change is -

With best wishes,

I am, dear Margt., Yours truly, Tho.M.Adie

Margt. Adie (*wife of John Adie, illegit son ?*) Edinr. got £3 sent her after Mary Ann's leaving them - they will still keep her till that is used up - but we will see. TMA

Voe, May 4th 1861

John T. Wardlaw Esq., W.S., Edinr.

My Dear Sir,

I have looked over the accounts about the Minto Street House.

In your account No. 2., you have my brother's net share of that property set down at £522-9/-, and by your account No. 1. by which you settled, it is given at £504-2-2 - I am at a loss to reconcile the one with the other as the deductions in No. 2 do not correspond with any of those in No. 1 - I had seen the thing before and I felt at a loss about it, but you will be able to put me to rights as to these charges, as you mentioned to me, having discovered the error.

I shall be glad to hear from you at convenience and with kind regards to all,

I am, My Dear Sir,

Yours Very truly,      Tho.M.Adie.

Messrs. H. &amp; G. Cairns, Solicitors, Edinr.

Dear Sir,

As you or Mr. Moffat will doubtless still have your books of 1850, I will feel obliged by your sending me by return of post, a copy of your account current as handed



me for the business and sale of South Bank House - please to give me it as explicit as possible and say your charge which shall be at once remitted - I may have to get your assistance in other matters soon, and will advise. Meantime waiting to hear from you with the copy of account.

I am, Dear sir,

Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

171

Voe, May 6th 1861

Dear John,

I have your letter and am glad Mary Ann is alive - and that you have opened your door to her - I wrote Margt. on receipt of your letter and have been wondering .... heard from her again - I hope she will soon be better (Robin Stewart is out at Melbourne just now) - I have written Mary Ann and kept the letter open for you to read - If you can keep her it will be well for her to stop as long as the three pounds Margt. borrowed from me can pay for her and ere then I hope she will be fit to go to service again - with my large family of girls I am really unable to do more for her than I have done - I trust she will soon be able to do for herself again - Remember me to Agnes and the rest of the family,

I am, Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

172

Voe, May 6th 1861

Dear Mary Ann, (*Tulloch*)

I have your letter and one from your uncle (?) and I really am sick of your folly - at one time this one deceives you and then another - you have complaints ..... and praises alternately just as your temper moves or some one does an accidental act of kindness or gives necessary reproof - your uncle says your clothes are gone and you had plenty when you left them - what has become of them and the matters of your wages and the pound I sent you - you say you are anxious to do what you can for yourself - I shall be glad to .... it ..... for any few shillings that may be after of the two pounds I sent for your use to help you to get some article of clothing and with the family I have and other relatives depending on me almost entirely, I can do no more.

Your affec. Uncle,

Tho.M.Adie.

Voe, May 7th 1861

My Dear James,

I wrote you hurriedly on 29th ult. and yesterday I received yours of 10th ult. with enclosure - I shall not remark much on the style of your letter, only that in many former letters, you expressed your regret that you were unable sufficiently to show the gratitude you felt for what I had done for you - but this denial of your own act seems to present a favourable opportunity for you doing so and these feelings of gratitude you spoke of prevent you to take advantage of it before you know what you are doing as you seem to have forgotten - where the memory is short one would be wise to reflect before acting - take the case of the advance you got from our now sainted Mother - I may have fancied the debt never would have been paid as there was no earthly prospect of it - but you wrote her - (which letter I found among her papers with the book she had entered the advance in at the time and which if you wish I can send to you as it is now no use to me since she has gone) by me when I was in Papa about the settlement of the "Industry's" affairs, telling her how happy you were that matter was settled and asking her to make the advance to you - yet you wrote and distressed her mind by saying that when I was down settling about the "Industry", I pledged myself that money should never be sought from you, and that in presence of Mr. Henderson - had I been insane enough to have said so was it likely that every person who heard it would not have thought me a fool to speak that way of my mother's means, and that too, nearly two months before you got the advance - this matter gave me great thought as my beloved mother .... can ..... my care and my pride to do for her what I could - but your letter set her mind at rest, and she ....-

You say you are dissatisfied with the accounts - but you do not say in what particular - and I think the searching investigation you have instituted will not make the amounts realized any larger - but I sincerely wish it may - all that seems to dissatisfy you in reality is the agreement, it would appear, and I enclose you a copy of it - I am unable, from bad health to go to Lerwick or I should have had the copy certified, but if I can venture before Monday when the mail leaves for the South, I will get it done and you will then be satisfied that the document is genuine. If I am not able to go by that time I shall as soon as I am able get another copy certified and send you as I will not send the Deed from my possession.

I have read over the Bond of Transfer about the Farm and would have signed it at once (and) returned it now, but you must be aware that suspicion begets suspicion and I at any rate require to get the deed explained as I cannot understand the motive for buying at £500 currency and entering the transfer from me as at £600 Sterling, unless it is to be used to shew that I have been well paid for Bonding my business to raise money for the first purchase by getting such a handsome return. I am quite prepared to sign the Deed, but I want a separate letter relating only to that, stating the reason of the difference of prices of the property - this I hope you will not consider wrong - as to settling, I am prepared to settle as I expected my brother was with me - and if you are now resolved to sever our connection let me at all events entreat of you to be advised into such a step by no one till you have taken opinion of eminent counsel on the agreement as it stands - For I think apart as we are, it would not be right that you should rush hastily into litigation

without a sure object in view - that the Estate has been accounted for as returned to me, I take God to Witness and I possess all the accounts from Mr. Wardlaw the Agent - and he can give no other to your Agent than copies of them - You seem also to doubt the rectitude of my account about the South Bank matter - I have written to the Agents for particular account of the whole matter to send you and you will be able to judge for yourself when you get it - it is one thing a property selling for £300, and another thing - the balance that may remain after a litigation in the Court of Session and their having to compromise matters to settle the affair - I felt thankful that any thing was left - and about that matter and this, I have surely had enough of trouble without what is now unnecessary - I have lain nearly three months away from my business about Miss Thomson's affairs, pull and tack - My time has been taken up at home about correspondence and about silencing that man who wanted to make us all appear illegitimate as well as himself, but all seems to be of no avail - had I not a family to look for and work for, of a larger number than you and in as dependent a position as you - for you are now much more so than I am - in a thriving country, a good climate and none to disturb you - for years I have not been over six hours in bed in the *(night)* and consistently at work, or my family must have suffered and which they will now do as my health is giving way - but I need not speak or rather write on that unimportant matter - Mr. Anderson wrote me in 1858 that all your creditors had been paid in full but himself and your debt to him was £700 to 800 £ currency so you will also be clear of debt - I wish I could say the same.

I shall send you from the Bank £200 by Bill ..... to account - the balance still due you will now have to remain till I see if it is need to defend me in this foolish quarrel -

I have no doubt all the "sifting to the matter" that is now necessary is got at when you get the accompanying copy of agreement and weigh well the value of the document before you throw away more money than you distrust of me has already led you to do - Lawyers with small practice are glad of work but they look for their pay whatever way the case goes.

As to the circumstances of Jean, Robina, others, McKay and family, I could tell you all as it does stand - I doubt I would not be believed so I forbear - I need not be dissatisfied with my John - he has only treated me with fearful ingratitude as all my relatives have done except my now dead Mother - but still I mind it not - if my life is spared and I can do them a good turn, I will.

I regret to hear that your dear boy is so poorly and trust he is ere now restored to good health and that you are all well which I pray God may long be the case - Margaret will find Quebec a great change from the farm - I hope she will soon get better.

All here unite in kind love to you all

I am my dear James,

Your Affec. brother

Tho.M. Adie

Jean is here just now in very bad health, and Willa is confined to bed for last fortnight.

Voe, May 13th 1861

My Dear Eliza,

I have your letter of 9th inst. I have no letter from McKay, and no communication from James as to you - What I could help you to do - I cannot see on what you could turn your hand to - you forget that Robert Stewart's wages could not be left to you, much less to me at least - so you wrote me, and as to repayment, you know the £6 he was to return me when he came home, you wrote me he said I was better able to want it than him, so there it rested - Last month I sent you £3, and I now enclose cheque for £3 - get Jeannie sent to Perth for her health and need when you get the money - on 1st June I shall send you £2 a month till we see what word comes from Robert Stewart - this is really a trying matter - my health is sinking fast - my family in daily need and hence I must ..... them to help the family of a man who is so far in his senses as to be able to hold a clerkship at a fair salary in a Public Office - What does he live on himself or does he not take his food at home and if so is there no more than serves him and you dare not touch it - could you not apply at the Docks and get some of his wages there.

I am not able to write more as I can scarcely stand at my desk - With love to you all,

Your affec. brother,

Tho.M.Adie.

Does Mary Ann get nothing in her employment yet ? TMA

Voe, May 14, 1861

My Dear Neil,

I have yours of yesterday and I am quite surprised at Mr Cheyne's reply to your letter - he did not write me at all - I shall be glad you find the letter you allude to - it will at all events show the state of matters then - What does Henry say about it? He ought to know.

Regarding Aunty Scollay's Board - you to know the income from the Estate, and it would be advisable to keep as near that as possible - this year (I mean 12 months from investing the £300 on Goudy's property) the whole will be about £20 to clear or thereby - next year it will not be so much as the tenant is leaving Scotland and another is not like to take it - I would like that the allowance for board, clothes etc would be as much for you as possible - and therefore under the circumstances I shall be glad to hear from you what you will charge or expect for her in full of all so as to pay you pretty well - you must not misunderstand me - ... ..... suppose aunt to be as well boarded and comfortable as she ought and as I have no doubt Mary and you will make her to the utmost of your powers - at the same time you know the circumstances of the Funds require economy as far as we possibly can - so soon as I hear from you I shall send you cheque of the quarter - I return Mr Cheyne's letter -

I am, My Dear Neil,

Your affect. brother

Tho. M Adie

Voe, May 20th 1861

John T Wardlaw Esq., W S,  
My dear Sir,

I have your favour of 16th inst. and shall by next mail, send you the copies you require as I could not overtake this mail with them. You were Agent for Miss Thomson's heirs, and Agent for me and my brother's Attorney, therefore no responsibility rests on you in this matter whatever - only I regret that I did not confide to you the circumstances and you would not now have felt uneasy in the matter. I have kept the matter from all - as I am now supporting my own and wife's relations at nearly the expense of my own family and have difficulty enough with them ..... their having any farther pretext for..... me - If there had been a chance for it, I would not have led you into liability should I have been without a shirt -

As soon as I came to Edinburgh on Miss Thomson's affairs, Messrs Cairns drew up the Power of Attorney, and an agreement, all on stamp, and in regular legal form, which were sent to my brother together, and signed and witnessed and returned by him - This document he now says does not exist and writes me for a copy of it which I sent him and I shall send you a copy next mail - certified if I can move from home to get it done as at Lerwick. I am not well or fit to travel - this deed of agreement is a perfectly legal one as you will see, and Mr Gillespie will soon hear from my brother about it - he seems to have forgot or rather, I should suppose, wishes to deny, as he could not forget - I have sent him accounts of all, except the £15 last received from you, which I put off till final settlement - with the cash he had sent him and his orders which I have paid, he has got the whole of his half except about £150 which I am prepared to send him when he sends me discharge and which I advised him to send through the Bank if he would not trust it to me - as to expending £20 in purchasing a gold watch, such a statement can throw some light on my position and the..... that would be made of me - some years before he left Shetland I had helped him and kept..... .. him asked till I .. ..... .. - he then asked me to advance him £20 on his gold watch, instructing me not to part with it as it had been his father's - I made the advance and had kept the watch till last year when he wrote me to send it to him and I have his acknowledgement of its safe arrival and as a matter of course, when he got his watch, I was entitled to the money I had advanced him - that is the £20 said to be expended. May I beg of you at my cost to call on Mr Gillespie and read him this letter and request him not to move in this matter till he gets further instructions from my brother as it will only be leading him into expense for no end..... of the agreement I will .. .. if it is not mentioned for the reason .. .. unless my brother ..... it..... .. - you shall hear from me next mail.

I am, My Dear Sir, Yours sincerely

Tho. M Adie.

Voe May 20th 1861

My Dear Neil,

I received yours of Saturday and did not expect you to say less than the sum you name - I enclose cheque for the quarter £6 - 5/-

I am sure Aunt will be made as comfortable as you and Mary can manage and I should be glad indeed if her being with you can be any little help.

We are all glad to know that poor little..... is improving - when I saw her, she certainly had room for filling upon - We all move about in the old way, and unite in love to you all,

I am, My Dear Neil,

Yours affectly.

Tho. M. Adie.

William said you wanted to see the price list of slates I had I enclose it - 'twas got last year but they are 25 per cent higher than you, and some in Leith are charging even more advanced than that. T.M Adie & S.

182/183

Voe, May 22nd 1861

My Dear McKay,

I acknowledged receipt of your letter last mail as at the time could not manage more - I have since carefully read over your letter and am really puzzled to know how to reply.

If my poor Eliza has acted as you state, she is of all women the most infatuated and blinded to the interest and comfort of herself and family -

She may have been minded and may have acted wrong (God knows it pains me to judge her) yet still my brother, for the love that once existed between you, and for the well being of you all in time and in Eternity you must strive to do what you're own conscience will not reproach you for, and what the world will not reproach or blame you for -

I acknowledge the right of many of the demands you make, and I know that your salary must have been carefully managed to have kept you..... as I have seen it - the circumstances been as you state them, I am surprised that there should be any wish to bring Miss Allen into your house again for an additional burden on your small income and can only be accounted for by their taking a wrong view of their duty - be assured in all my communications I have carefully laid their duty before them and as get them to the performance - I will write my sister and entreat her to pursue a right course towards her husband and children and I entreat you Mackay if possible to bury the past for ever and try seriously to be reconciled to them all again - the Lord is kind and things will mend for your circumstances and you may all yet be happy - How earnestly my heart desires it is known to God alone - for my mind has been on the rack for long on account of the discord in your family - a family that might have been happy in themselves and bear all in all in this world to each other even tho' the times should have been pressing occasionally, love should have bourne up against all.

I enclose the papers you sent with your letter and I shall be glad to hear from you

again - God grant I may hear better accounts. Could I have got from home just now, I would have come to London to see you, but I cannot leave - I may perhaps get away a short time in July and if I can I will take a run up were it only for a day.

May God bless you all and with kind love to you all in which Willa and the bairns unite, I am , My dear Mackay,

Your affect. Brother, Tho. M Adie

184

Voe, May 24th 1861

John T Wardlaw Esq., W.S, Edinr..

My Dear Sir,

I now enclose copy of the account you wanted - If you require any thing farther please let me know and I shall try to get it for you -

I also enclose copy of Agreement 'tween my brother and me relative to the succession of the late Miss Thomson. I sent a copy to my brother and will feel obliged by your showing it to Mr Gillespie - I have already told you the reason of my note confiding to you the existence of this agreement and I regret it exceedingly seeing it gave you annoyance and must have made you , till the matter was explained, think badly of me - you will see by the Agreement that the personal possession of Miss Thomson was considered doubtful when the Deed was sent off which was done previous to the opinion of Counsel having been obtained on the matter I shall be glad to hear from you and remain,

My Dear Sir,

Yours very truly , Tho. M Adie

187

Voe, May 24th 1861

My Dear James,

I wrote you on 7th inst. (which I hope will soon be with you ) concerning copy of account of Business and sum realized from South Bank Property - and copy of our Agreement relative to Miss Thomson's succession - I was so unwell at the time I could not travel to Lerwick to get it certified - I feel a little better and I have sent for a gig to try and get to town tomorrow and if I do I shall enclose in this a certified copy so as to give you full satisfaction since you did not keep copies of the documents you signed - I think you have rather gone too far to give me a bad name. Mr,Gillespie has informed Mr.Wardlaw that you have only got £1550 - besides that, I charge you £20 I had expended in Buying a Gold watch - - Goodness, how could you say so - I gave you years ago £20 on your watch - when you got it again was I entitled to that money or not - that is the question - I bought no gold watch nor can I afford to do so - but I need say little more - when you see again copy of the agreement you signed, all will be satisfactory ..... and your brother perhaps not be so badly judged - With love to all in which all here unite and hoping Margaret and little Tom are better,

I am, My Dear James,

Your affec. Bro.      Tho.M.Adie.

188

Voe, May 30th 1861

My Dear Jennie,(Jeannie?)

I received your letter from London and am glad to find you are now at Perth and are already feeling better, at least your Mother says so - she wrote me when you left that you had got present of..... and various other things so that she was thankful you did not go unprovided - she now writes me she had a letter from you, and your communication carries this wording to your mother "I had a letter from Jennie- she feels a little better already, but poor girl she wishes she was where no one knew her, Barrie (?) and your girls are so very grandly dressed to what they used to be - that she is not fit to be seen with them - she fancies they are ashamed of her."

I cannot understand the drift of such a statement from you - but I quite understand your mother - as I have done all along tho' she fancies I do not - but she forces me to tell her that my eyes are open and while your health will I trust be restored by your sojourn at Perth. - she thinks a double purpose may be served by you acting the spy on or connected with you and communicating the same to be subverted and twisted to her purpose - I regret writing thus to you - but be assured, Jeannie, if you act so, my countenance to you whom I have always... .. is withdrawn      for ever - Stick to truth, whatever it is, and the evils that have befallen      your unhappy mother, will never befall you - My girls grand dress is a coburgh frock they got when their grandmother died, and have worn every day since, till now they had to get another cheap one - as I can't afford to dress them as I could wish, and I flatter myself they have more sense than to expect more than I can do - I have sent your Aunt a pound to buy you a frock the same as my girls wear - I assure you if either your Aunt or your cousins shew any degree of shyness to you it is not on account of your dress as neither of the three will feel that way towards a relative if all else is right - but I know the instructions you were likely to receive before coming to Perth., and I put them on their guard - your Aunt, poor thing has a heavy and laborious time struggling single handed for herself and children, and if she has a room furnished fit for a Lord, it is to attract some one to lodge in the house, by which she can make bread for her orphans - Now, dear Jeannie, take my advice - my dear sister is your mother, and as her child, I love you as I ought to do, and am desirous for your welfare - your mother, most properly, is dear to you, but from the way I have seen you and Mary Ann stop her..... .. statements, assures me that you know her failings - love her and respect her as your Mother, but for God's sake practice not the falsehood and dissimulation that has been her ruin - God forbid that I should estrange you from her who gave you birth, and had I not being well aware that you knew I never would have wounded your heart by repeating what I have - I only let you know that I was aware of all that long, long, ago.

I hope to hear that you are mending fast and find all agreeable to you - write me and tell me all - if your heart is laid open to me I will know better what hold I have on the affection of my niece. Your Aunt and all here write in kindest love to you,



and I am,      My Dear Jenny,      Your affect. Uncle,  
Tho. M Adie.

*Letters 190 and 191 have been cut out*

192/3/4

Voe 31st, 1861

My Dear James,

When I wrote you last I did not think I should say any thing about our family matters as I might have wrongly judged as to it.

I however consider it my duty to you to let you know some - Of my own pecuniary embarrassment with my own relatives and my wife's, I shall not trouble you - to what I allude is our sister Eliza - she is a sore tax on my mind as well as my means - Read the accompanying long letter I have from Mackay - he is no more mad than you or I - or he never could write as he does or help his situation - he is a man - try or I could, I never could feel towards (him) as a brother - that he drinks to excess sometimes and acts otherwise wrong, I am aware, and I also believe many statements in his letter are not correct - at the same time I know a great deal of it is as proved to me by Eliza's own letters to him and which you will see I had to return - and I know that system of deception and falsehood that has been practised towards him by our deluded sister ever since they met and which she can no longer hide, would almost have destroyed the brain of any man - neither could her hands be kept? And two or three times she has narrowly escaped being in the hands of Justice

McKay's salary is 40/- a week and I believe that at times little of it comes to them - but who has made it so?

..She has been in great state of her own gradual making - but whatever the causes, I could not know her intent while I had a..... She has wronged me in several ways and plans to help her and the girls to commence a small business (and said you had promised to do it, and was to write me to that effect) I would not listen to it as I knew the result was either loss without any permanent good to them even if I could have done it - I have helped her with money £3 to £6 at a time till she fairly wore me out, and then I wrote her I would send her two pounds a month to help with McK's salary till Robert Stewart comes home when she is to be all right, but I fear she be will then be all wrong - Jeanie McKay was unwell and ordered to get from London - I send money to take her to Perth, and am feeding and clothing her since, as her mother kept her clothes scarce so that I would have to give her some - but that I knew, and was sure Eliza would do - but added to that, Jeanie is as a spy for her to report and magnify every thing she sees and hears and her Mother again twists and enlarges to suit to purpose - so you will doubtless be getting a re-modelled version of the doings at Perth. Eliza and her daughter at Perth. is a drag on me for a tune of £4 a month, and if she had £500 this moment, in 6 or 8 months she would be as needful - she must be from hand to mouth or it goes in folly from woman/.....

*The first 5 1/2 lines of Page 194 are very faint and undecipherable by the*

*transcriber.*

..... who did provide heartily for his family till driven almost to desperation and drink. She wrote me Jeannie wished herself somewhere that no one knew her, as Robina and my the girls were so grandly dressed she fancied they were ashamed of her (a ruse to get a frock for Jeannie, which she got). Robina stands as much for the maintenance of the orphans as any woman ever I knew, yet it falls short as she cannot always get lodgers - she has her mournings she bought when her husband died, and that is her best -

My girls grand dress is coburgh frocks at 9d per yard they got when my sainted lamented Mother died and have worn every day since, Sunday and Saturday. Eliza and many others make too many calls on me for to afford to dress my girls grandly, and thanks be to God, the grudge to express a..... they have, until it is absolute.

The meaning of my writing you this is to let you know all, and then act or do for Eliza as seems to you good, and I have written this in confidence to you as I should not like she for a moment suppose I would injure her- but I have written her very plainly as you will see from the enclosed copies of my letter to her, she forces me to deal plainly with her tho' it wrings my heart knowing that she has suffered tho' herself the cause - May the Lord change her heart and enable her to do right

Jean feels a little better since she came here,

I yesterday paid your order to Miss Henderson for three pounds -

Willa was out of bed today and would have written Eliza but I thought it best she should not till I heard again from you. She with the rest join me in kindest love to you all, and I am,

My Dear James,                      Your very affect. brother

Tho. M Adie

I was glad to learn from Miss Henderson that you were all well - God grant you may long continue so

196

Voe, Shetland. June 3, 1861

Miss Mary K. Allan, London  
Madam,

I have just received yours of 24th ult. So much as the(*worse*) there are few secrets in Mr McKay's letter to me - neither is there any thing you could take hold of against him - but had there been you surely cannot fancy I would be (*ingrate*) enough to have acted against my brother-in-law and his family. It seems to me however, that your presence is not agreeable to Mr. McKay and since (as I understand) you and my nephew Robert Stewart are to be married on his return, would it not be the wisest course for you to return to your friends till then, or take a place in London where none of them know of you till Stewart's return - It certainly would be the most independent prudent course - you being constantly in contact with his family irritates him and (*that*) should not be - all his ..... if you ..... about - but really with my sister I cannot ..... - she suffers much, I know - but had the (*truth*) in all its bearings been laid before me instead a statement this (*letter*) something (*else*) next, I could better have judged what would be necessary - of this I am aware that 11/12 of all the (*evils*) seems to be on account of the

interest they have in you in defiance of (*him*) who is (*prime*) supporter and (*earner*) till now -

Wishing you well, I am, Madam,  
Yours truly, Tho.M.Adie.

197

Voe, Shetland. June 3, 1861

J.T.Wardlaw Esq., W.S. Edinr.

My Dear Sir,

I have your favour of 30th ult.

Mr Gillespie is of course welcome to a copy of the agreement if he wants it.

I was aware at the time the agreement was made that my brother could not pay 20/- a £ of his debts, but the whole amount would not have amounted to half the sum he gets under the agreement - therefore he did not compromise the interests of his creditors by it - I had an account against him for money advanced him to take him to America years ago and which he was to pay me back when he could. That I have now charged him and I consider I have not done anything unfair or illegal. I shall be glad to hear Mr. Gillespie's notion of matters after seeing the agreement.

I am, My Dear Sir,

Yours Very truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

198

Voe, Shetland. June 10th,

1861

My Dear Jeannie,

I have very little time and yet I must answer your letter - do not suppose I wish you to love your mother less than your old friends ... may ..... more ..... of your love - and everything I write you or her is from the best of ..... - It ..... be with you gets a situation where you had not to write so much - but know your mother's mind fast, and if she wishes you to London again you must not go till you are quite well - ... mind ..... -

I am sure my girls will love you dearly and hope you do the same to them - If you fancy that from any motive but love I wrote either you or your mother, you are very much mistaken -

In haste with kind love to you from all,

I am, your affect. Uncle,

Tho.M.Adie.

If your mother thinks it best for you to go to London - then when you are quite well, I shall send you money to take you there - If she approves of it, look out for a place.

TMA.

199

Voe ,Shetland. June 10th,

1861

My Dear Eliza,

I have both your letters - I need not mention the subjects farther than to say that I only gave McKay's statement .... due - I know him and I know what you have suffered and if you have acted wrong, it was with the best intentions for your children - but you do me great wrong when you add that 'tis because you are poor and I make you feel it - I think my letter ..... had born no spirit of that sort and I do not think you should throw it back in my face - God who knows all things, knows only how dear to me is everyone of my blood - so for my sake, never write that way again - I have told Jeannie she must not leave Perth till she is quite well, and then I will send her the means of travelling - I enclose cheque for two pounds to help - is there any word from Robert, and how does McKay get on now since I wrote him?

With love to you all and sincerest affectionate wishes for you being again restored to happiness, I am, My dear Eliza,

Your affect bro.

Tho.M.Adie

200

Voe ,Shetland. June 10th,

1861

My Dear Margaret,

I have yours of 6th inst. - I know not what would have become of Mary Ann if everyone had treated her as she deserved. Since she is no better I must try to do for her a while yet - I enclose cheque for two pounds - I hope she will be better soon - I know you cannot afford to keep her gratis and I do not wish it - however it may press upon me - but the girl really acts so foolishly I know not what to think of her at all -

I write in haste to overtake the mail.

Remember me to all and let me hear how she gets on.

Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

201

Voe, July 1st 1861

John T.Wardlaw., W.S. Edinr.

My Dear Sir,

I have your favour of 27th ult. and I now enclose the original Deed of Agreement with my brother - I shall register the letter to ensure its safety, and you will

please reserve it in your own possession till I reclaim it - Of course Mr.Gillespie can see it - it was dispatched from Edinburgh on 24th March 1859 - I enclose my brother's letters of 16th March, 13 April, and 12 May - that of 13 April covered the Power of Attorney and Agreement, signed, and you see he does not allude to either - the slip with note of Witnesses and date of signing was sent to Messrs Cairns - they may have it yet. My brother must have the letters I wrote him with the deeds - I distinctly recollect referring to the agreement so as to make our interests the same - the particular words I do not remember - please own receipt of the deed of agreement and letter and oblige,

My Dear Sir,

Yours truly, Tho.M.Adie.

The letter referred a good deal to a farm I (*bought*) for my brother - I mention this in case it might be supposed (*to be*) alluding to other matters. T.M.A.

202

Voe, July 1st 1861

Messrs. G.& R. (*Cairns* ?)

Solicitors, Edinr.

Dear Sir,

If you have in your possession .....about my brother James M.Adie from Canada - giving dates and designations of witnesses signing the Power of Attorney in my favour and the Agreement between us, and which I sent you in May 16/59 with the deed for completion, will you have the goodness to send it on receipt to John Wardlaw Esq., W.S. at 6 George Street, Edinr. My brother seems now to deny the agreement altogether and I may have to get your aid in the matter - please keep a copy of the slip sent to Mr.Wardlaw and oblige,

Dear Sirs, Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

202a

Voe, July 22nd 1861

Wm. Sieviewright Esq., Writer, Lerwick.

Dear Sir,

I have your favour of 11th inst.

If Mr Duncan agreed to your proposal regarding title Deeds of Ian Goudy's property, I am perfectly willing but would need a legal copy of receipt to sign for them, as I am green to these matters.

I am, Dear Sirs,

Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

203

Voe, July 24th 1861

Mr Wm. Pole Jr., Greenbank

Dear Sir,

I have reflected much on the conversation I had with you the morning you left hence - the happiness and comfort of my children is all important to me - I am not to say that little would be awaiting for my child as your wife - still I feel that I would not be doing my duty as her father to give my consent to her union with a person almost entirely a stranger to me - besides she is too young to reflect sufficiently on the responsibilities and duties attending such a step.

I have therefore after mature consideration become convinced that for the welfare and happiness of you both, you remain as strangers for two years - but if you are then of the same mind you can write me when I shall question my daughter on the subject ( I have never yet mentioned it to her) and if you have her consent and I am then satisfied with the propriety of the steps, a father's blessing on you both shall not be withheld -

Meantime I remain, Dear Sir,

Yours truly, Tho.M.Adie.

204

Voe, July 23rd. 1861

Wm. Pole Esq., Greenbank

Dear Sir,

I have to apologize for not writing you last mail and hope my negligence will not have caused you any inconvenience -

I shall be willing to let the four room house I at present occupy with liberty for one poney in the park and use of what standing he needs in the stable close to the house at £10 a year rent, I keeping the roof of the house (which is wood and felt) in repair - I expect to remove from it by end of September but I find that I must arrange matters with the proprietor or rather the Trustree on this property, before I can close with you and that I shall not be able to do before end of September - I fear therefore if it should suit you as to time it might not do for you to be so long in uncertainty as to it - you may please drop me a note as to this and I shall not fail to communicate with you after having arranged matters with the Trustee -

With best wishes, I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly, Tho. M.Adie.

205

Voe, July 27th. 1861

Miss Hepburn, Perth.

My Dear Madam,

I am extremely sorry to learn that you have been poorly and hope ere now are again quite well - My girls can tell me very little about the accounts, only that - the particulars are correct - the amounts seem to differ a little with your statement and I do

not .... in case any mistake has occurred - I enclose the accounts as below amount to £15-1-6 ½ Your accounts (.....) shews the amount £17-8-2 ½ and perhaps some account has been omitted to be sent - as soon as I hear from you which way is right I shall immediately send the money - meantime Mrs. Adie and the girls join me in kind regards to self and Miss Jane, and

I am, My Dear Madam,

Yours sincerely,

Tho.M.Adie

Acct. M.McLarin	£ 0-2-4
Neven & Spenser	9-5-0 ½
Robe Gentle	14-8
Wm. Larrol	2 -0-0
Mary Thomson	6-0
Morton & Mitchies	1- 5-6
Wm. M.Farney	<u>1 -8-0</u>
	£15-1-6 ½
Miss Hepburn shews	<u>17-8-2 ½</u>
difference	£ 2- 6-8

206 / 7

Voe, August 1st. 1861

My Dear McKay

I intended writing you last mail, but could not overtake it - after writing you last I expected to have heard from you again and I now feel truly grieved at heart to write you as I do. Your poor wife and family have suffered so much lately that it is a wonder they are alive - and I cannot fancy what has possessed you to use them so - to say that notwithstanding the bad treatment they receive at your hands, you will at actually withhold the necessities of life - Jeannie, I suppose, would never have been in..... if I had not removed her and kept her at Perth. till she recovered and with your salary tho' not able to live finely you said they could live comfortably and happy - such ... is derogatory to your dignity as a man ..... none can see and know that better than yourself. You say now you are not in the Dock Company's works - I am perfectly aware that you still are, and earning more than you did previously, and if you do not supply your family with what is necessary, I shall feel it my duty if they are not fed and clothed as your salary can do, and properly treated, to lay the matter before your employer and you will see what the result will be - I have sent money to keep your wife and children from starvation while you destroyed what should have supported them - till I can do it no longer and matters must come to a... .. Human nature can stand it no longer -

Now I entreat of you to bethink yourself - you are a man - physically and mentally a man - you are a husband and a father - why act such in authority .... towards those who in the sight of both God and man you are bound to protect and provide for - if any of

them at any time has done wrong they have suffered heavily for it and as we all have faults, we should forgive - take them to your bosom and I need not tell you your duty for you know it as well as any man alive - now as my brother give over this folly associate not with those who would lead your soul and body to destruction - there is a world hereafter where all will have to account for their deeds.

Let me hear from you and do not imagine I write with any desire to... a misunderstanding between you and them but merely for the sake of both you and yours.

I am, My Dear McKay,

Yours affectly.

Thos. M Adie.

208 to 212

Voe, Shetland. Augt. 9th 1861

My Dear James,

I have received your letter of 15th ult., by last mail - you write kindly enough - but the allegation you make is very much escalated to excite one's temper and call forth a spirit of retaliation - however I shall try to keep down these risings as much as possible and for that end have not written you on the spur of the moment -

I shall deal with the more important part of your letter first - as to what I said your share would be (you say £2,500), my letter reads from £2,000 to £2,500 and that it did not reach the larger sum was that the property could not realize what was at first expected from it - then you go on to say - "regarding this alleged agreement" (what a pleasant mouthful to swallow from a brother) - ("you know very well that in no letter whatever have you asked me to share the succession with you, and I am prepared to swear that I never had such a document. I never showed the document to Mr. Newman and Mr. Clark and they both say that they never saw such a thing in your letter that accompanied the Power of Attorney and the Agreement that I did sign.")

I say and maintain that what you generously style an alleged agreement is as genuine a deed as ever was executed - signed by you and witnessed by Mr. Newman and Mr. Clark that you may be able to swear that you did not read it, I have no power of denying as I was not with you, but I think I requested you to read them carefully - but I trust in God - you have not the hardihood to perjure yourself before your God by swearing that you did not sign it - Mr Newman, and Mr. Clark are I should hope respectable parties and may have forgotten about the deed, but will know the value of an oath on the subject - you own you signed an agreement - the substance of the matter then is - this must be the Deed you signed or I must have forged your signature and that of the witnesses - If that is what you intend to carry forward I can see no way of your doing so but by you and the witnesses coming to Edinburgh to swear that the signatures are false - I am quite aware of the Law and the penalties for the crime of forgery and if you and the gentlemen who were the witnesses can convict me of such, I must take the consequences of being transported for it - but I defy mortal breathing to bring such a charge against me and establish it without committing perjury, and if ever you were so far left as to commit such an act, I shall be able to prove that you have perjured yourself when you will have to



change places with your brother and take the transportation instead of him - Of this charge my character must be cleared as it is as vile a calumny as possibly could be invented.

I need not say what I have written you seems to have read as forgot or mistrustful or I know not what - the idea of such ..... is perfectly maddening had it been a stranger let alone my own brother - when that deed was sent off I was fully in expectation that my share would equal if not exceed your own legally under the estate - the Law decided otherwise ..... my share .... young or you had no share at all by descendents of Miss Thomson's uncles coming forward as claimants, as was at one time feared. I suppose you would have then remembered that the agreement entitled you to half of my share - then our sisters entered into agreement to the effect that if it was found necessary for your interest .. heritage to be collected with theirs in Personal Estate, you should in no way be the loser by that - and binding them to pay me expenses if nothing was got - nothing was got and the expense they could not repay me a penny so I lost that. Now you say you cannot calmly submit to sacrifice the interests of your family in this way. That is just the position you place me in. In the interests of my family you entreat me to sacrifice as to all intents and purposes the amount realized from Miss Thomson's Estates was under the agreement as much mine as yours, in fact my lawful right, and surely I have paid well for it one way or other already whatever ..... you think proper to both - me - I have acted with my brother - I had to. I ought to have acted as with a stranger, less would now have had to be said, but enough of that - As to your creditors in Canada - I am well aware that the agreement did not compromise their rights as you have already had more money than could clear them, had you applied it for that purpose - had your agreement done otherwise they could have resisted, but that is not the case - you seem to ignore the existence of your creditors in this country altogether. The last penny of your debts could have been paid off here and in Canada with £1100 or less - Then in regard to these old affairs - I know all of them may cost. Mr. Manson got And. Duncan to write me - another told me he knew from first it was a bad case and wished I had continued to keep my money so as he had had a few more letters about it - that was settled on 14th March 1844 - I enclose a copy of your letter to our Mother - I cannot surely have forged all that. When she answered you. I know not or whether she wrote you on the subject but you moved to Voe on the 8th of May following - When Mother signed an order on me in your favour for £200 which was then placed to your credit with me and the balance you got goods for and signed the account in my ledger where it still stands - what you say carries folly on the face of it - at £50 has been had in advances and expenses on the (*Honesty?*) and your debt to me was between £180 and 190£ - Mr. Henderson never would have asked such an unanswerable question as me to discharge the accounts and pay him £60 besides. Supposing the whole sum covered on the vessel had been recovered, which was £200 and only £120 of that recovered with a great deal of trouble - and I, for insuring the vessel so that her value was recovered, was much in the loss and trouble, - indeed I think in a way I have tried to help any friend belonging to me. I have been made the victim of my reciprocity affections - I told you in my last I should send you your letter to Mother but in the present shape of matters and as executor for my Mother, I fear what may yet turn out of these old and now complicated affairs - now if you reflect how positively you

say in your letter of 15th Oct. (just giving me ..... at once and perhaps as a younger brother, I should be content with that ) “You may have found a letter from me thanking Mother for allowing this to be done - but you cannot find a letter wherein I asked her to allow it to be done” - you will not wonder that the uncalled-for stigma you would put on my name, acting as you evidently are either from want of memory or designedly to hit me in the tenderest part - my character, which thank God, I can defy man to tarnish - You wind up the business part of your letter by saying “Far be it from me to wish to sever the tie that ought to exist between us, but would gladly settle in anything like a reasonable way.” - What am I to understand from that after the rest of your letter - I have had nothing from you but imputations on my character and veracity - but I forget that our loved and loving Mother bore us and therefore shall be prepared to hear from you in course what under all the encumbrances you consider any thing like a reasonable settlement you have to propose - My time, my business, my health, my family, have all suffered by this affair and now I am worried to death and my character tried to be blackened as my reward - what is it you want me to do - say in words and figures and that as speedily as possible for my soul is weary of this work.

You write of our sister Eliza - she has been foolish indeed but she suffers now from her own natural husband - I am supporting her with a little monthly, - but fear I shall have to remove her and her children, and know not where to - My son has never written me for 21 months - God help him better forget himself altogether - can I wonder at his forgetting us? I am truly glad Margaret is better of her sojourn at Quebec and that you are all well. With kind love to you all, in which Willa and the children unite.

I am, My Dear James,  
Your affect. brother,  
Tho.M.Adie.

LETTER NO. 214 IS UNDECIPHERABLE

215

Voe, Augt. 12th 1861.

My dear James,

In my last, I did not ..... To the farm and your enclosure for .... .. A  
wish all matters so that all  
..... *Almost illegible*.....

216

Voe, Augt, 13, 1861

Wm.Pole,  
Greenbank.  
Dear Sir,

I duly received your favour - so soon as my arrangements with the Trustee on the Busta Estate are completed, I shall not fail to communicate with you - it is not of particular moment whether you ..... possession of the house at Martinmas .. .. January, only the place would be the better of firing to keep it comfortable for ... .. in the winter

the Shetland climate being so damp - however that could be managed.

With best wishes,

I am, Dear Sir, Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

Please offer my regards to your brother, and say I shall try to write him next ..... If I do not manage it this post. TMA

217

Voe, Sept 6th 1861

My Dear Sir, (*Robert Mackay or Eliza ?*)

I have your letter - little ..... as I have and tormented as I am on all hands, I would have written you last mail - but ..... your letter and your enclosures, which I am glad to have as it helps as new evidence ..... quite staggered me. I shall not ..... You all seem to be impressed with the fabulous wealth I am possessed of. I have toiled hard to keep my family and since I do not .... them a begging instead of borrowing what ..... for my relations. I am ..... done as much for his friends as I have, he will be getting ..... - If you write to Miss Thomson's Executor George Dalzeil Esq., of Messrs Gibson, Gray Dalzeil and Brodie, W.S., Edinburgh, he will be able to tell you whether you or any of us get any thing of it. .... arrangement between ... and me (and which no one has any thing to do with ) what has now .... to ... I only a ..... of what I have since I was as less .... on me. I promised you two pounds a month till Robert Stewart came home. If he is not to be home till January I shall .... it till then - I feel sincerely for you and yours and I have tried to do all I can ... ..... and ..... them in justice to my family I would, and if that is dealing hard ..... you..... the ..... to stay - but who I can ..... state of ruin, who is to help ..... or provide it my sisters or my brother? I am enclosing you cheque on ..... for two pounds and I regret from my heart to have it forced on me to say that if I get any more such letters to embitter my existence ..... is already ..... by my relatives.

I shall write no more - human nature cannot stand it and preserves reason from quarters which the .... reverse is the proper course - whatever may be your opinion I am not in a position to do more for you than I am doing. - Your sister poor thing I have enough of it to do - Jean is now in Edinr. Trying to get a situation ..... .. servant girl in Perth has to ..... than Robina for the support of herself and family.

I am, you affect brother,

Tho.M.Adie.

I told you plainly enough that the expectants of Miss Thomson's personal estate got nothing except Mrs. Brown, who got it all and my own affairs ... .. has any business with, and Eliza's Statements to you and any valuables to me - doubtless has now... ..... the better for my particulars. TMA.

220a

Voe, Sept.23/61

Dear Margt.,

I have your letter and I am .... .. Union Bank, Edinr. for four pounds to account

..... .. Mary Ann - I feel ..... about her - My health is far from good and I am almost cripple with rheumatism, but we must submit to the Will of God - My (sister) will see her occasionally while in Edinr. - I know not how long she may do - remember me to the family.

I am, Dear Margt.,

Yours truly,

Miss Mgt. Adie.  
Edinr.

Tho.M.Adie.

220

Voe, Sept 25, 1861

Mr. Wm.Pole Snr., Greenbank.

Dear Sir,

I think by your favour of 18th inst. which I duly received that you mistake the meaning of my allusion to you in my last letter to your son William. As a father myself I did expect you to write otherwise as to (*sons?*) and I fully believe you are not carried away by affection in what you say, and from what I have learnt from other sources. - Since they both wish it, I shall not stand in their way of their correspondence for the present.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

221

Voe Sept 25/61

Mr.Wm.Pole Jnr., Greenbank.

Dear Sir,

I have your favour of 18th inst.

I fully believe all you say regarding your attachment to my child and since it is also her wish, I shall not stand in the way of your corresponding occasionally,(say once a month which should ensure all the purpose, I should suppose), for the present, tho' I cannot say I am much ..... on the subject referred to your Father - but more of that in good time - all I can say is that the disappointment will be the more keenly felt by both if ultimately I could not sanction your desire - but at present we shall hope otherwise and that your good senses will show you that business must be pushed ahead in these times of opposition and competition to secure success as well as love affairs.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,  
Tho.M.Adie.

222

Voe Sept. 27 1861

Mrs. Foster, Cambridgeshire.  
My Dear Margaret,

I have spent some time at a very busy season of the year to give you state of accounts connected with the late Mr.Scollay's Trust - I have often regretted that he ever had money to leave, but since such a misfortune happened, we must make the best of it - the accounts you will see are plain and speak for themselves - £300 of the money in the Bank has since Dec'60 been lent on Bond over James Goudy's property in Lerwick, which is good security at 5 per cent Interest - There is still £96-10-1 in the Bank, not mixed with my affairs, but in a distinct account, and the 20/4 of cash with me has more than gone now in charges in Yell on the land of Scollands - the Bond you will observe is in my own name and the account is entirely at my disposal so there is the security, whatever you may think of it - for your acct., Ann's and Neil's, you will judge of the security also -

Now as you say, you or Mr.Foster will relieve me of farther bother - I am glad of the chance provided - it can be carried through - but the bother might be got over with much more I have had .... whatever your opinion may be of the security of safety of the means under my lock and key - I require ..... as well as you and I am prepared to give up cash, assign Bond and every thing if you can produce a cautioner whom the Court will accept in my stead - and it is the more needful as my health is far from good and I may be among the first called home - leaving a long toil with hungry mouths behind me. Therefore the sooner it is done the better - We all move about and are glad you are well, and with love to you all,

I am, My Dear Margaret,  
Your affect. brother,  
Tho.M.Adie.

postscript undecipherable)

223/4/5

Voe. Sept. 27 1861

Robert Cowie Esq., ....., Melbourne.  
My Dear Sir,

I have at last got the Power of Attorney complete in your favour, and I now enclose it.

Could I have spared the money I would have sent out what could have paid off the Bond, but I cannot do that - I should have liked still to have held the property as it is undoubtedly increasing in value, but you can alone manage that for me.

I would like if you could get the money to pay off the debt to Mr.Mowbray and as soon as you have the Bond in your possession and the Crown grant to give a Legal Bond as my Attorney for the money, but this would have to be very quietly done, as Mowbray would need to be got quit of first for fear of the consequences - The interest is enormous and you might get better terms - The Lease to Martin Ryan and to Harcus and Morrison I fully recognize as if my own act and if you could manage in the way I have stated - These amounts together £32-15/- would go towards paying interest, and the house and garden, and about 200 acres of the land are not leased you might be able to lease them advantageously so as the whole lease expired at one time and these rents might go far towards paying the Interest of the money -

If you could manage in this way a new Bond for £800 might do the whole as on 2 Nov. next. two years interest will be due to Mowbray (not 3 years as you mentioned) as he only gave his money on 2nd Nov./59 - that would make his claim £750 instead of £825 as you mentioned -

Perhaps Mowbray might even be inclined to sell his mortgage with a sacrifice of Interest owing to his position and you might try that - "that the young man's father would buy up his mortgages" - This I leave for your own good judgement and that of the business man you may employ, and if anything can be done in that way it will be so far well - I think you will be able to manage this matter so as not presently to sell the property, as at the end of these leases it will be much more valuable and the unoccupied land let .. improving lease parties bound to clear ... fences it would be a great advantage - Of course the Power of Attorney empowers you to sell but I would like to avoid that if it possibly can be - I am told that at present it might realize £8 per acre and when these leases are up it might be worth £10 an acre. If even it has to be sold it must be with the existing two leases on it, and that would be a drawback as the portion held by Martin Ryan only pays 5/- a year - but I doubt not your managing without selling, and as soon as these deeds to Mowbray come into your hands, send them to me - in all you do, keep in mind the personal safety of my son. You will have two years Rent now to get from Harcus and Morrison and Ryan also - enquire continually into that in case he may have been tempted farther to use my name in giving orders to receive these rents in any way ..... have been paid, them, and if my name is not the authority - one of the parties must pay again - I need not say more on the subject as circumstances must guide you - get hold of the Crown grant, and then the property is safe - get hold of any deed he has put my name to and send me as I can know no peace till I have them in my possession - to peace of mind I and his poor mother are now strangers, and by the acts of our boy. Yet still he is our son - hurt not an hair on his head - he has done evil enough to himself and his poor family without us increasing that evil - write me all you can learn of him and his family - God help them. I can do no more for them - yet I hope matters are not so bad as Mrs.Foster represents - that he would beat his wife - too dreadful to contemplate - I have written him often - his mother has written, and the letters been sent to Mrs.Foster to forward - they do not write even to say if the letters came - but .... my son, he takes no notice -

Well, I shall hear from you on receipt and again as soon as you do anything - the blank on the deed and certificates were torn off to save postage - please put a cover on

the deed to preserve it and keep account against me of all esxpenses -

Mrs Adie unites with me in kindest regards to self, Mrs.Cowie, and Friends, and

I am, My Dear Sir, Yours very truly, Tho.M.Adie.

Have you seen Mr.Anderson of ..... lately - try to send some money to his poor wife and children - a very bad fishing this season and ..... also poor. TMA.

226

Voe. Delting. Shetland. Sept.30th

1861.

Gentlemen,

Mr.Robert Clark McKay, who has been for some years a Clerk in your employ, is my Brother-in-law and I regret exceedingly having to lay before you the state of that family which nothing but absolute necessity would compel me to do - He has of late neglected to provide any thing for them and has used them so ill that for fear of their lives they were compelled to flee his house - I write in hope that you will be kind enough to reserve something from his pay for his family (wife and three daughters) and if you can do so I will write how it can be got to them as they are afraid to let Mr.McKay know where they are - I have helped them till I can do it no longer reather than expose him - He was a kind husband and affectionate father till lately and I sorrow deeply over his misfortune which it evidently must have (been) to him as well as his family.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours most respectfully,

Tho.M.Adie.

The Directors

East India Dock Company,

London.

227 to 229

Voe, Oct.14, 1861

My dear Margaret,

I have received your letter of 8th inst., but had not time to write you to catch the mail - I am glad you have any prospect of doing any thing for Ann and her daughter, and at any time it is in my power I shall be happy indeed to help her, poor thing, and I earnestly pray that your endeavours may be successful in establishing her at Rothsay - I can give no more news about the Jamaica money - it sticks fast for want of information from Neil. They have written him to see Mr Duncan about it and give the necessary information and the matter would have been settled some time ago - he is at Scalloway yet and has never answered me so I do not know any thing further about it. Neither do I know any thing about the Portland Estate - Neil can give you the necessary information and I think you should write him as I need not again - As to the account against yourself

with the Trust Estate of Mr Scollay - I did not even know that you had got anything or how much except by your brother's attempt, and if any thing is wrong he can explain it to you - Neil, poor fellow, has abused the Trust committed to him but I am far from thinking he had any intention to do so - though you seem to think we would all have wanted to give away in presents, money that was not our own - I wonder how you could form such a notion - tho' your soul abhors debt be assured that this matter will not press you till if the funds ever come to be divided and you have a share it is either deducted or paid up then - you see I write anew the supposition that Miss Scollay can if she likes, will the whole of it away as it is all and more hers. On the other hand, if she has her due - 'tis not likely she will ever do so however.

I regret that the state of matters in connection with the Scollay Trust has not given you entire satisfaction seeing that if you had directed the investment, it would still have been at random interest instead of 5 per cent - all I can say as to that is that the investment is good - James Goudy may fail as he has done before and still it is good and if you can only give me security to the court to make me free of it altogether. I can sell the Bond tomorrow and send you the money, so do not let any consideration of that sort cause you to abandon your plans - neither need you twit me about it going as the rest has done, as this I know, that had it not been for me then would more of it been left to go any way -

Thank you for your advice. I need it much for I fear I am a great sinner but the way you .... it ... fails to do good to one so hardened in sin - in your former letter you demanded to know the security for the funds if Niel or I were called off. in a week or two you are satisfied with my substance and advise me to .... no thought as mine will never be left hungry - well I hope they will not - but since I do not..... she thinks I (am) fabulously rich - the Lord has ..... the work of my hands for my family - .... could easily have made it otherwise with all I could do - but I surely need not have expected these blessings without endeavouring for them. I have seen so many instances of people coming to want, for indolence of body and mind that soon it may tire of life.

I think it would not do well to make them ..... - tho' you place this conduct vividly before me - would that I could serve my God as I ought and see my family do likewise, and I shall be grateful for your advice at all times, but for my sake never mix (if you wish or intend it to do any good) such matters up with reproaches -..... reproaches or twits at anything of the sort as I am very thin skinned and could not face man, woman, or child when I knew it was wrong or not deserved - because, Maggy, I wish to feel towards you and yours as I ought and your disposition being perhaps something of the same sort, just ask yourself how you would feel, I forgave your Brother all I lost of my own money with him and yet you hold him up as an example to me - here comes the inference - "you neglect your business and idle away your time and kindly defend your creditors and beggar your family and ... will feel for you and for them as Christians because the Lord has chastened you" Neil seems to have... me altogether and will not answer a letter I write him on any subject though that subject interests himself and so it must be since he wills it thus. My children write them and they ..... reply - they go to see... and what else can they do - We have not heard from them for months, and I suppose all that could bring us together for a week-end or so would be my throwing away more money - that neither I nor mine can afford and so the matter stands.



I shall be happy hear form you at any time, and with love to yourselves,  
I am, My Dear Margt.,  
Your very affect. bro.  
Tho.M.Adie.

230

Voe Oct. 21st 1861

John T.Wardlaw Esq., W.S. Edinr.

My Dear Sir,

I have your esteemed favour of 17th inst., and observe contents.

I have not a doubt on my mind as to the issue of the case between my Brother and me as his debts altogether did not amount to £1,500 and he has already had more money than could have Pd. than a fall - No one can on reading my letters to him fail to form a correct idea as to the motives intended for his good and now made a hash of against me - Doubtless my Brother has sent Mr Gillespie my last letter to him at least if he has not, he should, as it would have further enlightened him. - I have suffered much since. In eighteen years and pages in pecuniary matters with my Brother and now he would have me risk my means and spend months from my business and then try to ignore his own act. - I suppose had his movable succession gone as was at the time expected, my Brother would have been quite pleased or had some one descended from Miss Thomson's branch stepped in and carried off the heritable, he would have then half the movable, had it fallen to me - Be that all that as it may I wrote my Brother nearly nine months ago to know what he had to propose, and what it was he wanted and if consistent with any degree of fair play to me, then I was willing to go into it as if the case was brought into Court it must necessarily damage our relations as Brother's more than it had already done - and God knows I have no wish for that. 'Tho he has tried to blacken me to all our connections and friends.

In short, I am just tired of the whole matter and request that you will know from Mr Gillespie what he would propose, as if it is reasonable or I will rather to some extent sacrifice my family's interest than the longer held ( as they say in Shetland) in "lig - lag" about it - after submitting to my Brother's imposition and robbing my family to please him (for his creditors could all have.....), I must just try to provide for my youngsters ..... which he with .... everywhere and had not learnt from me has seemed unable to do - all this I have long felt he was my only brother - the son of my much revered Mother - he is still the same and I therefore am prepared to settle if it is possible to do so and to raise money on a Life Policy I hold, if nothing better can be done - for my soul a... .. without me about it (they must all have been dead or dispersed if I had not borrowed money to send out to them) - I shall receive Mr Gillespie's proposal without prejudice in the slightest degree to his chant if it is such as I cannot enter into it and I hope he will put it in such shape as the matter may be at once agreed - I shall (tho' time is short) look to have a few lines from you in course of post as to the proposal, and I shall reply immediately - and unless you see any reason to the contrary you may show Mr G

this letter.

I remain,  
My Dear Sir,  
Yours truly,  
Tho. M. Adie.

232 CONFIDENTIAL

Voe, Oct. 21 1861

John T. Wardlaw Esq., W. S. Edinr..

My Dear Sir,

If Mr G's proposal is such that I cannot accept, of course I must propose to meet him - but I am very desirous to have done with it now rather than go on any farther with..... to paying my Brother more for the..... of one half as... .. our agreement -... .. view of the matter may be, he proposed to go into it... .. and it may be therefore better if he names a figure in addition to it including the Balance as shewn by my account sent out in a letter... a sum to be paid as a settlement.....

You will I am sure do your best to effect this reasonable settlement as I would rather have that course than go into court having the .. .. affair.

I am, My Dear Sir,  
Very sincerely  
Tho. M. Adie.

*LETTER NO. 233 HAS BEEN TORN OUT.*

234

Voe, Oct. 28 /61

John T. Wardlaw Esq., W.S. Edinr.

My dear Sir,

I have your favour of 24th inst.

I wrote you fully on 21st inst., but the weather was very coarse and kept the steamer back, so that you would not get my letter before Thursday afternoon - I wrote you agreeing to settle the matter and wishing to know Mr.Gillespie's proposal which I hope will be reasonable so as I can have a chance of accepting it - in haste to catch the mail.

I am, My Dear Sir,  
Yours Very truly,  
Tho.M.Adie.

I am very badly used by my brother, but it is not a new thing with him.

235

Voe, Oct. 28 /61

Robert Cowie Esq.,

..... Melbourne.

My Dear Sir,

I have just received your favour of 24th Augt. and hasten to say that on 27th ult. I registered a letter for you enclosing a Power of Attorney to act for me in this important matter, which seems to be getting more complicated - My letter of 27th ult. was full and explicit - Of course I must protect my son - tho' at a great cost - I would not like the property to be sold if it can be avoided - and perhaps Mr. Ryan and Mr Mowbray may be induced to ..... up all my son's signatures on a ..... of Ryan's claim. If I had these in my hands I would (be) satisfied if you could grant a legal bond to raise money for them - I have no doubt the property will become valuable and 'tis not unlikely that at present it would fetch £2,000 so I would like to have it preserved as it is - in haste, with kindest regards,

I am, My Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely, Tho M. Adie.

I will write you soon again.

I forgot to see that my letter of 27 Oct. was addressed to ..... Street .....

236

Voe, Nov. 20th 1861.

My Dear McKay,

I duly received your letter of 11th inst. I have read and re-read your letter - you say the conduct of my sister and Mary Ann is such a ...ight as makes my blood run cold to contemplate - you think I have been advising her against you - far from it - I have all along pointed out her duty to her husband and family as far I am concerned and my family I fear nothing as whether ..... may be, I am clear of it - many parts in your letter are very offensive but that I heed not - if I have been ..... be assured you are deceived in supposing me conniving at any acts that could come ..... I was writing Dr Copland and others to see to the protection of my sister, as she was in danger from her husband and I have so far as I could tried to keep out of the matter - I will be in London if spared, but not for a while as my duties and the health of my family are such that cannot leave - and .... almost cripple with rheumatism - I am bewildered with what you write me and what Eliza writes - but rely on it, as soon as I can with safety move I will sail to London - May the Lord grant that I may be able to do something or anything that can set ..... sad affair to rights - ..... time I can only add that which I advise - my sister also - Pray for strength from on high to guide you aright - If you choose you may shew this letter to the Secretary of the Company.

I am, My Dear McKay,

Your affec. Bro., Tho. M. Adie.

237/8/9

Voe, Dec. 12th 1861

My Dear James,

Your letter of 27 October came here last week while I was from home and in consequence could not be replied to in course as you wished -

I am so far satisfied by your letter that you now admit the legality of the Agreement you in a former letter were ready to swear you had never seen - as to the case of paying there is little need saying more about it and that I could not retract any thing I have said - as to your exposing me I have nothing to fear in that way - you may try to blacken my character but that I am aware is not a new thing since the Partnership between us was dissolved - and which your wife follows up by her friendly letter to Eliza MacKay which was made use of by her to try and extract more from me than what I am already paying for her support - You had the offer to remain here and I go, or you go and I would remain. You chose to go and was I to blame for your choice - if you erred in that choice it was not my advice but that of the family you went to, and who was the first to blame me for it - however, I have got blamed an ..... by all my friends. I have been sacrificed over and over again for their good but still it matters not - I seem to be blameworthy at their hands still -

But to business - I have not heard word from your brother-in-law since he wrote three years ago that all your debts were paid except £700 currency due to himself - I am quite aware that while you were insolvent your creditors could set aside any agreements you made to their prejudice - but only to the extent of their claims, and should you have gone in debt for living it surely did not come above £1,000 in course of 6 mths. and that was all the time from the Henderson's letter till the date of your signing the agreement and for debts after that date no creditor could control your act - so that you have had more money already than could have squared all your debts - that is the real position of the matter - if you have applied the money you have got to other purposes it is quite a different thing altogether.

Of course I have no means of accounting the merits of the case without employing a lawyer in Canada which I have no wish to do and as you formerly write me that you would arrange on any reasonable terms. When I was applied to by your Edinr. Agent, I wished to know the extent of your desires and if I could go into it, I would, so as to have done with the affair which I wish from my soul I had never known of. I have not now money as I was relieved of £650 by my dear friend Neil Jamieson, £600 by my poor infatuated son in Australia and the rest of my share was sunk in building a house and premises here and for which I get the value at the end of my lease so that the only course I have open to me is to raise money on Life Assurances I had ..... that my helpless ones should not want if I was taken from them - so you can see how .... thing works while I gratuitously sent you the means to preserve your assured for your youngsters - by your urgent demand you deprived mine of that benefit - but enough, - I await to learn your proposal for the reasonable settlement and I have determined on the sacrifice of my Policies as it is better my children want after I am gone than whilst I am with them - the matter is now before you - judge and act either direct or through your agent, but whatever proposal you make let it be a legal one sanctioned by your creditors and bear in mind in making it that I have had a great deal to do and a great loss of time in this matter - If the proposal is such as I can understand so as to have done with this cursed strife between us, it is well - if not, I must, in defence of my family while I live, employ an agent in Canada to examine into the nature of your creditor's claims, whatever that may cost me - I still have the remainder of your share of the money in the Bank - My insurances are only for

£200, £300, and £500 and I know not what might be got raised on them - perhaps not even one half, but it must have a trial - McKay is bad - and sister not good - still she is my sister and I hence send her a monthly allowance to keep her and her children from starving - this case is one I should not like brought into court - Mary Ann Tulloch is a confirmed lunatic in Edinr. at a cost to me of £200 a year

*(The letter ends abruptly here, and was possibly never sent, the following letter No. 240 being substituted)*

240/1/2

Voe, Dec.12 1861

My Dear Brother,

Your letter of 27th ult. came here while I was storm staid at Papa Stour - consequently I could not answer you sooner - as I mentioned in my letter to Margaret - I can pass no man's taunts without telling my mind - The Documents you refer to seem to have come from an angel for the satisfaction they have given you -- and I suppose you will allow that I may. Should he jest(?) before he is generous - and when I was borrowing money for myself I had little to give to others for messages or any thing else - you say you would help now if you could - so would I if I could ..... - it seems to have been a family for moving a coal-mine however was all taken out of me by my father-in-law before he died so I consider my wedding charges were paid - you wish me to write in a different strain and let you have no letter about justice and so on - I generally try to write as prompted by the letter I reply to, and certainly your mode altering my strain is a very strange one - and one I would surely adopt to an inferior in station much less one in the same family - I shall however, restrain my feelings as it does little good - but be assured I shall not readily forget the dictatorial tone of your composition in this letter - my ..... may have annoyed you and Margaret - hers and yours are equally annoying and more so - as mine were only replies to affairs as expressions - yours the formenting material - having said thus far, I am willing that here it drops but if there is any sprinkling of such again, I cease to write on any subject however much the venture may cost me to carry through -

I am willing heart and hand to do every thing in my power for Ann and her Daughter - If Johann could get as a Nursery governess (which would be as little strain (to) her eyes as teaching in a school) I would insist on Ann making my house her home as long as I had one - or if that cannot be managed, I will give ten Pounds a year from myself towards their support elsewhere - The Rothesay House might do but how is the money to be raised to get it underway - less than £200 could not do - then perhaps it might not do if even tried and would have to be abandoned - the fact is I would not like that sort of thing for Ann - I would rather Johann were teaching and Ann here with her sister - As to the money from Jamaica I have not heard a word about it, and Neil will not write me - however, by this mail I have written Mr.Mason urging him to settle the matter at once on the plan she proposed - giving Miss Scollay the lion's share since nothing less will do and that would (give) little to each and Miss S's could be invested at interest - The

Interest at present cannot pay her board with Neil so that the Principal is yearly decreasing - I mean the available Interest. If Ann again took to houskeeping anywhere, Miss S. might (want?) her with her - but then what is to become of Neil

That I may say is all their support, and I fear what is to become of them this winter as they have nothing to do the whole affair is indeed very trying to contemplate and unless to put my own family in the same state I could not do more than I have stated - I will be in Lerwick soon, and will then see Neil and Mr. Duncan and will hear from Mr. Mason again when I shall write you. - Meantime if Joan could get placed, the plan of her Mother coming here would be the best - suppose she should only get what could buy her clothes - she would be indepenedent and might succeed better at another time - I may, when the snow opened up, have to (?) her in London and I could then take Ann home with me - but I am almost in doubt of facing you and Maggy, you seem so formidable.

We are all moving about tho' some of us far from well - The thought of her sister's and brother's situation is destroying Willa's health altogether.

I am,                      Your affec. Bro.,                      Tho.M.Adie.

243/4

Voe, Dec. 13th 1861

My Dear Jean,

I was storm staid at Papa when the last mail left so I could not write you - I am glad however to see by your note that you are nothing worse - I have been so extremely busied with ..... and one thing and another that I have not been able fully to go into the accounts connected with our dear deceased Mothe's Trust Disposition. I think you have all along been under a wrong impression regarding it and I now enclose you copy of the Will that you may see for yourself - that the means is not at your disposal and only held in trust for your support as far as it can go both principal and interest at the discretion of the acting executor - so that while I have been sending you money as I have done, I have really been doing what my conscience has condemned me for, as if the little means is now through, what position does it leave you my dear Sister, in, I cannot say to a few shillings, but there may be between £40 to £50 of the cash in my hands, and that, with the £200 Railway Debenture stocks, is all that is, and what could that do - that I heartily and sincerely rejoice to see your devotion to your Sister and her children, I hope you do not doubt - but you are not strong to labour and

therefore this money must be taken care of for your own use and you can easily see that the expenditure will require to be a moderate one to make it go any length at the rate we have been going as it would be finished in five years, and then ..... Our dear sister Robina is placed with a heavy charge, but thank God she has some means, and if part of the principal, should be used at times with the interest for her support and that of her children. Her means are still sufficient to carry her son to man's estate to be able to do for both himself and her - she is bound to do all she can for her children but not to sacrifice herself saving money for them - if spared. they will be abler to earn than her to save for them - and for their education if Douglas' inclinations point him to the profession of a Minister - he can secure his University education as thousands have done, by teaching - so you must not take so .....thought for the Lord has not left either you or

them without a little support - but that support must be used with discretion for the benefit of all - (raising) a brood is not for you in your (infirm) state of health and I would strongly advise you from it. If what you are now going to try cannot answer, I would recommend your return to Perth and submit yourself to the hands of our only guide, the Lord, Son of God - We are all moving about and unite in kind love to you and Mary Ann, and I am, My Dear Jean

Your ever affec. Bro.,                      Tho.M.Adie

245    *(postscript to No. 243 to "Jean" ?)*

You will see by the Will that if I was dead, Robert Hicks would take up the Trust, and failing him, my son William - at present any remainder that might be, you can will away to whom you please and then in event of your death it must be paid over as you have appointed - but in event of you getting married your power over it ceases and then at your death the remainder would be paid to the parties named in Mother's will - so that she has thus provided that if it was necessary you should have support from it at the discretion of her executor even after you were married and if in need before your death - Should I survive you and you having been married the remainder have to be divided among the parties named in Mother's Will My share should go not to me but to the children of our deceased sisters Harriet and Ann - They were dear to us in life and had I seen my lamented Mother again in life I would have urged on her to alter that clause to take out my name and enter both of theirs - God saw it best to be otherwise and I could not write her about it as she might have misunderstood my meaning and it might have vexed her which I would not have done for any light matter. T.M.A.

246

Voe, January 9th

1862.

My Dear Robert, *(Stewart)*

I received yours of 26th ult. and I was glad that you are well and again near home - as you requested I have sent the account of money advanced your mother - she has had a bad time - I also enclose Mr McKay's letters - one may spin yarn - I have not, but the whole is summed up in what you have - it passes my comprehension to judge of the matter as you will see he urges me to come to London as much as even your Mother did, indeed more, for he uses stronger language than she poor thing, could - I would have gone to London but always expected you home and you were the right person to see justice done to your mother and sisters - now that you have come, I will try to get to London for a day or two in case I may be in any way able to help to get some arrangement made - If the matter could be arranged in quiet for a settlement for her it would be much better than going to court as that might throw him out of his situation and then he had nothing to settle on her - any way, act prudently and certainly do not let your temper get the better of your judgement or your case is lost and you may be mauled in consequence.

We are all moving about here - tho' I have been far from well for a long time -  
With best wishes of the Season and kind love to all,





248b

Voe, January 9th 1862.

Mr.And. Harcuson, Mid-Yell.

Dear Sir,

I have been from home and yours of 20th ult. has been too long overlooked - I enclose a note to Thos.Sinclair as I do not know where he has moved to and I expect he will at once clear the premises of his father - please close and forward to him.

I am, Dear Sir,

Your obd. serv.

Tho.M.Adie.

249

Voe, Shetland. Feby 10th

1862.

John T.Wardlaw Esq., W.S. Edinr.

My Dear Sir,

I have your favour of 6th inst.- My brother seems to have taken time to reflect and do his ..... well. I shall make no remark on it (only to express my astonishment at the figures you give as they seem to point at the intention to extinguish my..... off the ..... if possible) as I am so ..... you the matter is very unsettled and I have not been very well for some months - but if I can be able to travel at all I will be by (*first*) boat - If Mr.Gillespie sends you the statement and figures you requested please send me copy of it by return of mail as I cannot think that my Brother is serious in what he proposes, as his Brother-in-law would advise him to crush me if he could.

I am, My dear Sir,

Yours truly, Tho.M.Adie.

250

DR.

Mr James Adie, Canada in a/c with Tho.M.Adie, Shetland.

1860

Augt. 29

By Balance per acct. ....

£

553- 7- 9

Sep. 17	To cash pd. Mrs. Jas.G.Henderson	9- 0- 0	
" "	" " " Mrs. Elder	7-10- 0	
" 19	By " share of rent per WestBarnsMains		25- 0- 0
Oct. 15	To " paid Mrs.Adie Snr., his mother	200- 0- 0	
Nov. 12	To " pd Sir A.Nicolson	7-10- 0	
Dec.14	" " pd Mrs Eliza McKay	6- 0- 0	
1861			
Feby 16	By " Share of balance .....		14-13- 7
March 4	To " pd Mrs. Eliza McKay	5- 0- 0	
May 7	To " sent Jas.M.Adie and charges	200- 1- 0	
" 29	" " pd. Miss Eliza Henderson	3- 0- 0	
1862			
Feby 16	By difference of interest to date at Bank		10- 6- 0
" "	To Balance	<u>165- 6- 4</u>	
	O&E&E	£ <u>603- 7- 4</u>	£ 603- 7- 4
	By balance brought down	£	165- 6- 4

Cash paid for and to Mr.Jas.M.Adie by Tho.M.Adie since 29 Augt. 1860

1860			
Augt 17	To pd. Mr Jas.C.Henderson	£ 9- 0- 0	
" "	" " Mrs Elder	7-10- 0	
Oct 15	" " Mrs.Adie Snr. (his Mother)	200- 0- 0	
Nov. 12	" " Sir A.Nicolson	7-10- 0	
Dec. 14	" " Mrs.Eliza McKay	6- 0- 0	
1861			
Mar. 4	" " Mrs. Eliza McKay	5- 0- 0	
May 7	" " Letter credit to Bank & charges	200- 1- 0	
" 29	" " Miss Eliza Henderson	<u>3- 0- 0</u>	
		£ 438- 1- 0	

251

DR. Mr.James M.Adie, Canada in a/c with Thos.M.Adie, Shetland.

1850

March 30	To amountof account ..... this date	£ 116-12- 0
July 31	" goods for outfit for America per account	10-13- 4
Aug. 12	" cash at Lerwick £5 Letter of Credit on Mr.Adie, Edin. £30	35- 0- 0

1851

Aug. 12	By share realized from Estate at 7/6 on £116-12/-	43-14- 6
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1857

Jan 29	To cash sent him	10- 0- 0
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1858

Jan 26	To cash sent him	20- 0- 0
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1859

Febby 8	To sale in London & charges	400- 8- 5
Sept. 21	" interest to date 5 per cent	71- 0- 0
" "	By balance col, down	619-19- 3
		<u>£ 663-13- 9    663-13- 9</u>

1859

Sept. 21	To balance brought down	£ 619-19- 3
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1860

Augt. 19	" cash £200-2-4 (June13/60)do.do.£902-6-0.	1102- 8- 4
" "	" Gold watch left with TMA for a ... to ..... 31 .../49 £20. To interest on do. £10	30- 0- 0
	By amount realized from MissThomson's succession - his share	2182- 6- 9
Sept 17	To pd. MrHenderson £9 do.Mrs Elder £7-10/-	16-10- 0
Oct. 15	" pd Mrs.Adie £200, (Nov 12) do.Sir A.Nicolson £7-10/-	207-10- 0
Dec.14	" pd Mrs.McKay £6,(Mar 4/61) so. Mrs McKay £5	11- 0- 0

1861

May 7	" L.C. Self £200-1/-, (29)pd Miss Henderson £3	203- 1- 0
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1862

Febby 16	By difference of Interest amount at 2 1/2%	5-11 - 0
" "	" balance	2-10- 10
		<u>£ 2190- 8- 7    £ 2190- 8-</u>

7

1862

Feby. 16      To balance brought down due T.M.Adie      £ 2-10-10

252

Interest account.

1859

Sept 21      on £460 to Feby 16/62 at 2 1/2 %      28- 9- 2

1860

Jany 26      on £458 to do " " "      23- 7- 5

May 29      " £110 to do " " "      4-13-11

June 13      " £1169 to do " " "      48-14- 2

Sept 29      " £25 to do " " "      0-17- 3

1861

Feby 16      " £15 to do " " "      7- 6

£ 106- 9- 5

1/2 Realized      2182- 6- 9

2288-16- 2

less due T.M.Adie      2-10-10

£ 2286 - 5 - 4

253/4/5

Edinr. March 1st 1862

My Dear James,

I received your letter of 27 January just as I was leaving for Edin. to try and settle these matters between us - as for setting the agreement aside on the ground of fraud is absurd - if you were insolvent I am aware you could not enter into an agreement by which your creditors could not be paid - I know you could have paid all your debts under the agreement but that statements can be made to suit the purpose, I doubt not, and I understand that you are prepared to swear that you did not know what you were doing! These matters combined have made me resolve not to litigate the matter and have this day executed a Bill of Sale on my business and effects to raise the money and which is today lodged in the joint names of your Agent and mine, pending the settlement and which is only delayed till you return me the voucher for my just ..... - as for my trouble of body and mind and loss of my business, I suppose I must rest content with what is allowed to me and not dictate terms on instructions I presume has been given your Agent - Satisfied I cannot be with any thing short of my agreement, and that by your finding, is done - My brother, you little know what you have sacrificed, but when all is settled I shall be able to exonerate myself from all your charges.

The items in the enclosed statement have not been made known to Mr. Gillespie, and he requires your signature to it - you will on receipt therefore copy the account in your own handwriting and sign it before witnesses, over the stamp. I enclose, just in the form it is, printing the amount in figures also on the stamp with your name and the Date and Place of your signing it you had better go at once to your Man of business and let him examine, to see if my statements are correct, so as no time is lost for the sooner the matter is ended the sooner will you ... ..

I have sent a list of your debts on leaving Shetland and statement shewing how the same are entered into the vouchers so as to satisfy you as to how the money for South Bank went. - The little difference was taken up in expenses and carefully managed or it would have been more - The interest due to Mother had to be paid under her will in favour of her poor helpless daughter Jean who can neither earn nor want and a poor provision for her if she lives over six years and if you have the heart to throw her on the Parish of her sister by quibbling about it I leave it to yourself and as to the debts due by you here, They are as justly entitled to be paid in full as in America, at least so say the Lawyers here, and if you dispute these, they will arrest the money before it can get to you as it cannot be transferred till my Agent is satisfied as well as yours, and gives his signature to raising the same from the City of Glasgow Bank where it is lodged - I have not charged the £10 I sent you in 1857 as it was not asked from me, and therefore I have no claim for it - but many other items entered in the acct. is just and fair debt - This voucher must be returned without the least delay as I am paying the party to whom I have granted Bill of Sale 5% interest - and Mr. G. has made up a claim of £276-17/- for interest at 5% against me - while even on the whole estate the difference of interest at 5 per cent is now £60 to £70 - This voucher enables me get back the money I have ..... in excess of the amount due you and you will immediately thereafter - sign the discharge I sent you a year ago - let Mr. Henderson sign it and every creditor you were or are, due, above £50 to, and - forward it to your Edinr. Agent so as he can hand it over to me as until a legal discharge is laid before my Agent, the Money you had to get will remain in the Bank as it is.

I have shewn you sight Mother's Will and the conformation thereon is the Court at Perth on 15 March 1861 to shew that the debts were legal and the claims legal and be sustained - one half the amount, say (£400) till I laid before him the acct. signed by you so that I am at this moment paying interest on my own money and I hope you will not long consider to find out that that is neither fair nor honourable as in a business transaction. -

I have little further to add - only I think you should let Mr. Newman, your Agent, see this letter which will help him to understand the matter if you have any hesitations about it yourself - the Transfer Bond about the Farm shall be sent as soon as this matter is settled - I do not want to hold it - tell them you cannot blame me returning it - so the promptness of your own actions will the sooner settle all concerned.

I had to go to London since I came South - I hoped to get matter made up between Eliza and her awful husband, but failed - I had not means to prosecute him to bring her an aliment so she and her youngest child are in the work-houses as I could not support them longer - I had kept them in London for last 12 months - God of his Mercy help her - poor

wretched woman - Jean is very poorly - Robina and her children are well-

With love to you all,

Your affec. Bro.

Tho.M.Adie.

If you wish it, I shall send you your letter to Mother of 1844.

256

Voe, Delting. Shetland. March 24

1862.

Messrs. Bradribb, Crisp, and Lewis.

Solicitors, Chancery Lane, Melbourne.

Dear Sirs,

I have just received your favour of 25th January regarding the state of matters in which my land in Rochford is now involved.

I am most desirous to retain the land and to recover it out of the hands of Messrs Mowbray and Ross as I am aware it is at present worth nearly, if not fully, the double the value Mr.M seems to have sold it for -

I have never legally adopted any of my son's acts, either as regards Mortgages or Leases - but perish the evil, my son's personal safety must be secured beyond doubt if I should lose it all in consequence- I am willing that the Bond to Mr.Mowbray should be paid if nothing less than that will do - tho' the £840 he has got is more than his claim would amount to, with Interest even at the sweet tune of 12% - then these leases if my son has used my name at them also, I will sustain them as the terms would soon run now and if the parties cleared and cultivated as they are bound I understand the property would be improved - you can at once see how I am placed - my poor infatuated son must not get into the hands of his enemies (made by himself), by any act of mine - yet if any sort of compromise can be effected (and it seems to me that might be managed for a consideration, rather than he parties lose all), I am most desirous to retain the property - I write this in haste to overtake the mail and hope soon to hear farther from you when I will write more particularly, meantime I remain, Dear Sirs,

Your most obt. serv., Tho.M.Adie.

257

Voe, April 19, 1862

My Dear Mary, (*Margt.?*) (*wife of Neil Jamieson?*)

I received your letter and have put off from day to day replying to as I really was at a loss how to write you - as you say the circumstances are extreme - and serious enough as God knows - fain would I help every commitment I have, if I could - but when I look on my group here and reflect how soon I may be taken from them and them left to the tender mercies of this cold world, I ..... and I feel, and feel justly, that every risk I run is robbing them of the means of life - this you must be aware, is serious to any one with such a family as I have while I feel within me that I cannot hold long to the anxiety of

Your affec bro.                      Tho.M.Adie.

I am, Your affect. Bro.,  
Tho.M.Adie.

With kind love to you from all.

Your affec. Uncle  
Tho.M.Adie.

260

Voe, Shetland. April 22nd 1862

Henry Cheyne Esq., of Tangwick.W.S. Edinr.

Dear Sir,

I hope you will excuse me for again writing you about the house I built here -  
The 8th Article in the Minute of Agreement was not in the copy you sent to Shetland and when you read it over to me I was so agitated about the amount of money I was so hopelessly to lose that I did not observe the words "That when the erection of the said house had been wholly or nearly completed, Mr.Adie called on Mr.Cheyne and represented that the cost would greatly exceed the estimated amount etc." - now all our correspondence or interviews on the subject had been previous to my seeing you on 7th June 1860 on which day the conversation alluded to, took place, and at that time only 4 men had wrought 3 days at quarrying stones - in fact I set them to work before leaving home on Monday morning, and I saw you on Thursday the same week - and since which time the subject of the allowance to be made me has never been mentioned by me by letter or had I seen you personally till last month - I was South in January 1861 but was no farther South than Perth - you will at once see the correctness of my statement. Another favour I would request of you is to give me a letter from your hand explaining the error in that clause as clearly as I know you can - for in other hands that might be used to my prejudice - (that expression I mean) -

I remain, Dear Sir, Yours truly,  
Tho.M.Adie.

261/2/3

Voe, Shetland. 5th May 1862.

John T.Wardlaw Esq., W.S. Edinr.

My Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your favour of 1st inst., annexing copies of letters from Mr.Gillespie of date 23rd and 26th ult. That I am surprised at the information sent Mr.G from Canada, is saying very little - and I therefore write this that you may lay it before Mr.G. as I have not time to forward particulars and over-take the mail for the South tonight at the distance I live from the port -

Mr.Gillespie can rest perfectly satisfied that when I made up my mind and accepted his proposal and Bonded my business to raise the money deposited in the City of Glasgow Bank when I was South - My mind was fully made up to settle accordingly since I had waived my rightful claims under the Agreement with my Brother and I have no wish to practice any trifling to delay the settlement - At the same time however, that I heartily wish it was done - I am surely entitled to fair play at the settlement and there is no chance of that but by a distinct statement and explanation being sent to Mr.Henderson



- as he has evidently not been particularly informed by my Brother as is shewn by the reference to the gold watch which was sent out by the Rev.Mr.Middlemas and which I hold my Brother's letter of acknowledgement for - This statement and explanation I shall have prepared for next mail for to go to Mr.Henderson, and shall send it to Mr. Pottersfield to examine ere it goes as I have every confidence in him that as a gentleman and a man of business he intends that I should have Justice extended to me as well as Judgement pronounced on me - I feel more for my poor helpless sister under her rights than I can well express, was her health so that she could work, it would not matter so much - but she cannot - As to the old debts due neutral parties, if my Brother thinks it right to with hold payment from them, I shall not object, nor trouble his Brother-in-law, named in the matter - his own statement of these debts we have and - the ample means he left were proceeds of a small property he inherited after his Father, and his Ledger with Balances due by fishermen and others after he had collected all that could be got. - The property paid 7/6 per £ of the debts and the Ledger lies as it was as after bringing in a few of the parties into court and realizing nothing - it would have been madness to have thrown away money on them.

Now the matter is so far secured by cash out of my hands and as my agent I authorize you to unite with Mr.Gillespie in drawing say £1300 or £1200 which Mr.G. can send out the rest £300 or £400 as you choose still to lie till returns come from Quebec - my business is crippled with the £1600 now as it is but when returns come from "Qubec", if that does not set the matter to rest, I will pay the other £100 should I sell my hide to raise it - my mind is distinctly made up to the settlement and it shall be done whatever I sacrifice - This needs to be borne in mind that from my Brother's letters, over and over again repeated, that his creditors intended to raise an action against me - certainly makes it appear that something more was necessary for my final discharge than my Brother's sanction - at same time I believe Mr.Walter Henderson was his principle creditor and his authority, with any others having claims to the amount of £50, I should say is absolutely necessary in the circumstances, as I must have a valid discharge when it comes - I think it seems rather a hard matter in the case that I should stand the half of the expense of discharge - has MrGillespie seen the one that was prepared and sent out would not it have done if my Brother had agreed it and Mr.Henderson and others, and forwarded to Mr.Gillespie to deliver as I wrote him when I was in Edinburgh that could have saved both them and me expense - but if that cannot do I suppose I must submit to that also.

I enclose draft that was sent me to sign about my Brother's Farm - I am perfectly willing to do so as soon as it is corrected - The purchase was made for £500 currency of Canada and my Brother has entered in the deed that he paid the £600 st. for it - now that is inconsistent - the conveyance should bear the same sum as it was purchased for - Mr.C, as James'Agent may perhaps prepare a copy of the deed as it stands with that alteration when I shall sign it at once - or if that cannot be done, it would have to be sent to Canada again or some clause added to it certifying the correct amount, as Mr.G. may approve - Meantime you shall hear from me again next mail with the particulars I mention, and as the money is safe in the Bank from my touching it, surely the short delay is reasonable in the circumstances - I hold some of my Brother's orders which he entirely overlooks.

I am,      My Dear Sir,      Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

264

Voe, Shetland. May 10th

1862.

Walter C. Henderson, Quebec.

Dear Sir,

As I am aware that my Brother James M.Adie in his affair with me has submitted the whole into your hands, I consider it right to lay before you some matters connected with our settlement which from the intimation I have from his Agent Mr.Gillespie appears not to have been clearly represented to you. I last week communicated to Mr.G. my intention do so - and to send the whole for his perusal, to be posted at Edinr.

As to the standing of matters with the agreement with my Brother, I do not mean to say anything since I had made up my mind to settle the affair as my Brother would have it - but when I acceded to that and closed with Mr.G's proposal, I certainly expected justice to be done me under the new arrangement - I think you will give me justice, and for that purpose have sent you all the documents that can help you to see the matters as they are, thus in reality putting myself in your hands.

On the account amounting to £694-18-6, independent of interest - Mr.G. says that he is instanced to admit £200-1/- cash sent on May 7/61 and of £100 to my Mother's estate, that being the amount in the confirmation by me as her Executor - making together £300-1/- .

I shall take the items in the order they stand in the account - I enclose as Account No.14, last of accounts standing open due by my Brother at the time of his closing his business at Papa - made out by himself except the debts in his Ledger to Papa fishermen - in this list you will see debt to the ..... £116-12/-. When my Brother left all his means had been converted by himself except Balance remaining in his Papa Ledger which he could not get and when he was away not a 1c. could I get tho' I had several of them in court -

The property of South Bank was sold for £300 - The case had been in court for nearly two years - the opposing party held the deeds and would not give them up - a compromise had to be made as the whole value would have been swallowed up then in the search for incumbrances - a Bond for £150 on the property 50 years before had not been discharged and a premium of £20 had to be paid to a responsible party to tame on the Risk of that, so that at settlement only about £85 remained - I sent my Brother the account in May 1861 and it could only pay 7/6d per £ of the debts - the Balance of £72-17-6 is surely then a legal debt debt to me -

The next three entries with their vouchers speak for themselves and truly cannot be set aside.

The £200 to Mother is certainly clearly paid and understood by my Brother to be paid - When I completed the confirmation at my Mother's death, I could not give in more than remained of the money - you see by my Mother's letter that she was getting money from me and uneasy about the state of her account - The Balance of one Hundred Pounds had been sent her short before her death, the other £100 remained in my hands - After his

authority to pay is over, I to pay part out of my own pocket -£100 was pd my Mother, the other £100 is now out of my hands to .... with paying her accounts funeral charges, Doctors. Expenses of executor and my sister's living - and besides all that the documents sent you prove that this debt was against James and fell to be paid - and I am sure that as you are a man of business you will see the thing clearly - often these family matters are not in that Legal shape they should be - but these to an unbiased mind, the whole statement must at once appear clear as .... day.

The £7-10/- under arrestment by Sir A.Nicolson I was compelled to pay into court.

The orders to Mrs.McKay and Miss Henderson prove themselves and the cash sent out is acknowledged.

The sum of £164 for Interest is legally due for behoof of my sister Jean to whom my Mother left everything she had and reflect if it is not hard to deprive her of it when she is in such a state of health as to be unfit to do anything for herself - a poor helpless woman should surely get her rights.

As to the debts due by my Brother (when he stopped business in Papa) to various parties in the South and in Shetland and which amounts, after deducting 7/6 per £ paid them and adding interest, to £92-16-6. I leave him to judge of the propriety and justice of paying them as it does not concern me or mine and therefore I have not entered them in the account.

I sent my Brother particular statements from Edinburgh two months ago which will at once be reconcilable with the list left by him and now sent to you -

I last week communicated to Mr.Gillespie through my Agent that my mind was fully made up to settle these matters finally so soon as I heard from you in terms of the arrangement made with him.

The matter has tied me up in debt to raise the money as that I held as mine has been laid out in a manner it never would have been but for that reason - but that must now be borne as best it may - but amidst it all I look for and expect from you justice in the winding up.

I understand that my Brother has sent a Power of Attorney to Mr.Gillespie empowering him to grant me discharge - but from the representations made to me of the state of his affairs from time to time, I consider that more is needed, and a letter signed by you as his principal creditor and by a few others to whom he was owing, confirming the Power of Attorney, would be necessary - I will feel obliged by your giving this matter your early attention and writing me by return of mail as also finally instructing Mr.Gillespie as to this account, that the business may at once be ended.

I would also feel obliged by your returning me the 14 vouchers sent herewith.

I remain, Dear Sir,

Your mo.obt. serv.,

Tho.M.Adie.

John T. Wardlaw Esq., W.S. Edinr.

Dear Sir,

I have your favour of 8th inst.

Conform to my intention ..... in my last, I prepared the statement to send to Mr. Henderson, and enclose it - today I have the enclosed letter from my Brother which shows me that while he forwards by Quebec through Mr. Henderson - the whole is in Mr. Gillespie's hands and I am better satisfied to confer with him than that there should be delay by sending to Quebec and I feel satisfied that Mr. G. looking at the matter in which they stand as family transactions, that altho' some of the points may not stand up to the forms required in Law, that the claims I advance are really just ones - If Mr G. will just be kind enough to go carefully over the whole as I have arranged them and the letter I had written to Mr. Henderson - he will then see distinctly how the matter stands - I am glad to see for the sake of my poor sister that without farther information, he sees the justice in confirming the payment of £200 - She is residing in Perth at present with her Sister - and I cannot communicate with (her) so speedily - shall therefore put off sending the receipt for her signature till I hear Mr. G's final resolve of the claim for interest for her, was it only a portion of it - but all he wants he shall get, either receipts or whatever when he has finally resolved as I leave myself in his hands - I have a very large family and in my sister's dependent state am unable to do more for her or any of them than I have done. The Bill Mr. G. alludes to had nothing to do with my Brother's or Sister's affairs, simply for my Brother's debt to me of which £116-12/- remained due and so as to end that I send Mr. G. the Bill, also another protected Bill for £50. Surely he will see I want nothing but what is fair as so help me God I wanted nothing from just .... the agreement between my Brother and self, and now under the new mode of settlement I feel that Mr. G. will do me justice since the whole is in his hands - The money lodged in the Bank is now the right sum as the case stands it with Mr. G. .... £200 sent Jas. May 1861

and £200 to my Mother " "

Being £400 off the £2,000

The ..... from my Brother of course speak for themselves and in letter No. 7 now sent, you will observe that while my Brother, knowing his old debts, purposes to pay the neutrals 2/6d pr £, he says "as to your own acct., I leave it to yourself" - Now I have given up Bills which I might have kept out of sight till I had settled with Mr. G. if I had wanted any thing unfair and I therefore submit it to him whether I should get that balance or whether it would be right to keep it off me.

Mr. G. knows my wish and determination to settle since it has come to this - but as a man of honour, I do not expect he is (*out to*) crush me because I have agreed to all his proposals so as to keep peace with my Brother.

I shall expect to hear from you so as if Mr. G. still considers ..... by my sister necessary it may get it for him - explain to Mr. G. that the Deed by my Mother is leaving her little means in Trust for behoof of my sister Jean - who has it in her power to leave it in event of her death to any one she pleases - she has arranged that in event of her death, if any thing remains or whatever remains, shall go to her widow sister Mrs Barron or her children - I get none of it, which none of it - would gladly be clear of the trust if I was sure it would .... to carry out my beloved Mother's intentions for her helpless child -

now you will please go carefully over the documents in order then place them in order again for Mr.Gillespie's perusal - you will have formed your own opinion of who is right and will then be better able form an honest conviction to speak with Mr.G. and decide the matter between you-

I am, My Dear Sir,      Yours truly,      Tho.M.Adie.

270

Voe, May 26th 1862

John T. Wardlaw Esq., W.S.Edinr.

My Sear Sir,

I have your favour with copy of letter ... Mr.Gillespie.

I wish you had shown Mr.G., my letter of 12th inst. I have no wish to refer to Mr.Henderson, seeing Mr.G. has the full power to settle matters - My mind has been so long harrassed about it that I wish it was done - I stated in my last that I left myself in Mr.G.'s hands and preferred that to sending to Quebec - God only knows whether I have from the age of 7 years deserved such treatment from James - but of that I will not now speak - If Mr.G., seeing my Brother's own letter and ..... considers it right to keep the amount off me and refuse to sustain what Jas. has actually got - let it be so - Jas. poor man, will get through it - settle the matter for God's sake and let my mind have peace for I fear the effect of this incessant goading of me - that it is unfitting me for my every day toil were it not for my poor helpless ones I ..... have soon the earth covered me - settle and get discharge in full of every thing in every way - in any way that my transactions with Brother is at an end for ever -- -- lay my letters before Mr.G.

I want nothing hid no secrets between him and me in the matter - let all be known and let him act as his conscience dictates as fair to me, but settle if he refuses to deduct - as whatever befalls me it will be with strangers sent having the tender mercies of my only Brother to fear - they will trust me as an honest man as they have ever found me - him I have often saved from starvation and jail, but he forgets that when it suits his purpose.

I am,    My Dear Sir,  
                 Yours Very truly,  
                                 Tho.M.Adie.

271

Voe, May 26th 1862

Messrs Bradribb, Crisp and Lewis,  
                 Melbourne.

Dear Sirs,

I had this pleasure on 24th March in reply to yours of 2 Jany. - I expected again to have heard from you -

I am most desirous not to sell the property - and you will therefore please resort to every expedient except any thing that could endanger the personal safety of my son - that must be sacred.

The property I am informed is worth £3,000 - some has been let to tenants lately

at 11/6 per acre and in a year or two will be worth 20/- an acre - £110 of Rents are due by the old tenants just now - money could be raised legally by Dr.Cowie to pay Mr.Ross and the Interest could be paid from the rents and would leave a balance yearly which I would give instructions about so soon as I heard explicitly how all stood - I will write you next mail -

in haste, I am, Dear Sirs,

Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

272

Voe, May 26th 1862

Robert Cowie Esq., Melbourne.

My Dear Sir,

I have just received your esteemed favour - God knows your communication about my Son cut deep into our hearts - yet I thank you for hiding nothing from me - and I write this hurried note so that it may catch the mail -

I enclose letter to the Solicitors and do hope my property may be saved as I have a letter about it today from Miles Creek stating that it is worth £3,000 - that some has been let at 11/6 per acre, and in 2 years all will be worth 20/- an acre - do not lose it if it can be saved - raise the money legally to pay the debt after it is brought as low as possible - the rents will pay the interest and leave a fair something for John's helpless wife and children -

I will write next mail - I shall attend to your request about stocking fish and cod.

In haste, with sincere good wishes and kind regards for Mrs.Cowie, self and baby, and friends,

I am, My Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

Tho.M.Adie.

273

Voe, Delting.Shetland.

*(undated, but between letters dated 26th & 30th May*

*1862)*

Mr.George Fanden (?)

Rochford.

Dear Sir,

I have your favour of 5th March, and feel much obliged for the interest you have taken in my affairs and of my poor son's family - Poor deluded man - he might have done well - I do not intend to part with the property if I can avoid it - no one can give a title to it but myself - I have sent out a Power of Attorney that matters may be arranged and I

hope all will be settled soon and I will feel much obliged if you will write me particulars of whatever you may hear that transpires in respect to the property - I have a reason for managing as I have done or your former kind letter would have been answered - first oblige me by writing me all you know about such or my son's matter - and if any alterations are made - what they are - by whom they are made and if any rents have yet been demanded from the tenants -

I write in haste to overtake the mail and remain with thanks for your kindness,

Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

274

Voe, Shetland. May 30th 1862.

Messrs. Broadrib, Crisp, and Lewis. Melbourne.

Dear Sirs,

I wrote you on 24th, enclosed, to Dr.Cowie, as this also is - I have little farther to add - beyond repeating my very earnest desire not to part with the property as I have a notion that it must soon become much more valuable than it even is now and I understand it is now worth £3,000. You will of course if matters have got settled, see into the state of the rents due - Some portion I am told has been let to a tenant for 11/6 an acre - I suppose by Mr.Ross - so that the place would soon pay well indeed from letters I have had from a man who was once on the place.

I feel assured that it is (in) my interest to hold it - keeping in view the safety of my boy in so doing - forget not that - I shall hope soon to hear from you with all particulars regarding the business -

Meantime, I remain, Dear Sirs,

Yours truly, Tho.M.Adie.

275

Voe, Shetland. May 31st. 1862.

Robert Cowie Esq.,

My Dear Sir,

I have this day sent off in two boxes - not too light - but strong ones, secured with hoop iron -

1 cwt Tusk

1cwt Ling

6 pairs good sox

6 pairs Lady's hoze

and as I had a spare copy of the Zetland Directory I put it in the box also.

The worsted I did not have, but will send a little to catch Mr. Peterson before he sails from Liverpool - I am sure you will be pleased with the socks and hosiery - The fish I have sent are very nice but I am doubtful of their keeping - Spring fish does not keep so well as those caught in June - but I shall hope they will and that you may be able to send the "Great Britain" for a cargo of fish and hozey.

I have written Mr. Peterson requesting him to place the boxes in as low a part of the ship as possible - They are marked RM and addressed to Mr. Peterson - The hosiery and such are in No. 1 with the Tusk -

Your old friends Lucy and Jo Anderson hang out yet - but both much the worse off ....

- .... says " 'pon my soul .. .... i'm gaen to ..... noo." Jo is regularly employed by me every year running with a packet boat between here and Lerwick and Papa - The tear and wear is telling on me now too - if it was not (for) William who is now a partner with me, I would not manage at all - he is very steady and thoughtful about the business .....

*(The letter ends thus)*

276

Voe, May 31/62

My Dear McKay

I have received your several letters .... not know what to say to you in reply as I fairly expected that some ..... would have ..... that you and your wife ..... could ..... ..

*(The rest of the letter becomes too faint to read)*

277

*No addressee (but contents suggest Dr. Robt Cowie)*

*(No place or date given)*

I have written the solicitors as you will see by the enclosed letter to them. I can say nothing farther to them or to you - hold the property at all hazzards except the personal safety of my unfortunate deluded son - it must take my life to commit him - tho' perhaps the best for bringing him to his senses would be handing him over to justice yet it can never be done by a Father's hand - God help him poor fellow. He might have done well - There are rents due and the rents altogether from the .... would do more than pay the interest on money legally raised to pay off the .... which he brought to see the position ... - The probability is that my poor boy will not long stand the course he is pursuing and it is only while he ..... would make any compromise or acknowledge his acts but what he has put my name to I must hold so as to preserve him -

We are all moving about here - and your friends are well - this affair of our boy has told more on Mrs. Adie and me than all the rest of the ups and downs of life have done. She and my young folks unite with me in kind regards to Mrs. Cowie and self and your sister - I know not her name.

I remain, My Dear Sir,



Yours sincerely,  
Tho.M. Adie.

As soon as I hear how matters go on and how affairs stand - I will give instructions for the future. T.M.A.

*(This appears to be a further letter to Robert Cowie, to follow on letter No.272)*

278

Voe, June 7/62

Dear Margaret,

I duly received yours of 29th ult, but had not time to reply in course - I feel at a loss how to reply to your strange letter - Tho' my pocket is far from heavy I am inclined to the utmost to pay my engagements - to the fullest extent.

I have done so in the case of Mary Ann Tulloch - this you can at once see if you go into figures with it and not jump at conclusions - you seem however to think I should pay you 10/6 for Mary Ann yet - I therefore enclose cheque for a pound to pay that and the 9/6 for any expenses I may have myself unwittingly have put your family to - believe me I do not like being much obligated and now I hope we will be with square accounts - as I will not again pay anything for Mary Ann Tulloch. I think I may be at liberty to feel as little gratitude by my friends for my position as you can - I have nothing but what I have wrought well for with bare hands and my friends have not been guilty of increasing it for me. - independence of mind is often of more value than means and I shall die at a stranger's door ere I burden anyone or seek favours from them -

I hope my poor sister Mrs.McKay may improve now - she writes me more hopefully than she did a while ago.

I remain, Yours truly,  
Tho.M.Adie.

279

Voe. June 9th 1862.

My Dear Foster, *(B.-in-law)*

I duly received your letter but had nothing to write about till now - you need not be alarmed in respect to Neil's getting money.

I have intended to give him of Scollay's funds - that has been decided enough - I only mentioned it to show how I was minded and you seem to think it is all right because I built a house and did not get in debt for it - so I shall leave all friends in possession of their good opinions of my wealth.

I have a notice about the Insurance premium for Ann's Policy - £7-6-9 payable next month - it must be arranged or lost - I have written to Ann about it today and suggested that either you or I pay her the office value of the Policy (about £21) to help her at present - that is regularly conveyed to me, my heirs and successors (or .... as the case may be) that I should pay the premiums and keep account of all - that in event of Johann surviving her Mother, that the whole amount of policy shall be paid less the amt. against it - but I would not pay any thing to any other representative of Ann after running

the risk and expense - this would give her a little just now and secure the end she had originally intended by the Insurance - Let me hear from you on receipt as to this - and if you take the matter on the terms I have stated you are welcome as I have no fancy for it - but it is the only distinct way of doing it - it must be done by one of us - that is clear - I had the letter from Mr.Mason - he is hopeful - I have very little hope in his punctuality - we will see - some of the others are visiting.

With love to all,

Your affec. Bro.,

Tho.M.Adie

The ..... matter is an affair of a sailor's .... in England.

280

Voe. June 9th 1862.

My dear Ann,

I am happy to hear that Johann is gaining strength and that her eyes are no worse. I hope they will yet be restored to sight - I was in Lerwick last week and Niel handed me this Notice for the renewal of your Insurance premium - he said the office had valued it at I think £21 - now what I would propose is this, and I have written Mr.Foster so that if (he) wishes to do it, he is welcome -I will pay you the office value of the Policy at present - and you will legally convey it to me and my heirs - I will pay the premiums and keep account of all, then in event of Johann surviving you, she shall be paid by me or my heirs the whole amount less the account against the policy - If she should not survive you I would not pay any thing (to) your other ..... - This would make sure of the purpose you intended the policy for originally and help you in the meantime - let me hear from you as to this and when I get answer from Mr.Foster I will write you again - have you the Policy and all the receipts ?

With kind love to you both,

I am, My Dear Ann,

Your affec. Bro.,        Tho.M.Adie.

(Jamaica)

Mr.Mason says now that the money he hopes will soon be ready for payment -

281a

Voe. June 9th 1862.

My dear Jean,

Sign the enclosed receipt over the stamp, and enclose it in the envelope addressed to Mr.Wardlaw. I hope this will end the matter.

The bairns are writing about Robina's movements and Peter will come off for her at Lerwick.

In haste, with love to all.

Your affec. Bro.,      Tho.M.Adie.

281

Perth. June 12th 1862

I acknowledge to have received from James M.Adie of Canada by the hands of Thomas M.Adie of Shetland the sum of Two Hundred Pounds Sterling being received by me as full payment of Two Hundred Pounds borrowed by him from my Mother Mrs.Mary Ann Adie in 1844 and of Interest thereon and as in full of all demands on the said James M.Adie in every manner of way and on every account.

282

Voe. June 9th 1862.

John T.Wardlaw esq., W.S. Edinr.

My Dear Sir,

I have your favour and now return the conveyance to (*Garapaxe* ?) signed as required.

I shall send receipt to my sister to sign and forward to you - you do not say if Mr.Gillespie acts to sustain my Brother's ..... now with you - I hope such an errant thing will not be hesitated about - but if it is, he must have his way - thank God my Brother's transactions and mine will come to an end - never to be entered into again - whether for his benefit or not, remains with me - I shall die by a roadside ere I place confidence in a man who has so often deceived me as my poor brother has -

I am, My dear Sir,

Yours truly,      Tho.M.Adie.

283

Voe. June 9th 1862.

John T.Wardlaw,Esq., W.S. Edir.

My dear Sir,

On reading your letter again you say Mr.G. wants my sister's receipt for the £200 and Interest. I have therefore sent two for her to sign - she will send you both - use what is needed - I hope the Lord has opened Mr.G.'s heart to the necessity of my poor helpless sister.

My Dear Sir,

Yours truly,      Tho.M.Adie

284a

Voe. June 9th 1862.

My dear Jean,

Sign this receipt also and enclose in the letter to Mr. Wardlaw and he will use either he thinks will suit the purpose best, returning the other - in haste,

Your affec. bro.,

Tho.M.Adie.

2 P/ks

I have to send an extra ..... with this to catch the steamer.

284b

Perth. June 12 1862.

£364 stg.

Received from James M.Adie of Elora Canada, by the hands of Thomas M.Adie of Shetland, the sum of Three Hundred and Sixty-Four Pounds being repayment of the Prinipal sum of Two Hundred Pounds borrowed from my Mother in May 1844 by the said James M.Adie and Interest thereon to 16th October 1860 of which all and every other claim I grant this receipt in full of all demands.

285

Voe. June 16 1862.

My Dear Ann,

I have your letter of 12th inst., and note that you like my proposal - as to the Insurance Compy., they will not give you a penny more than the value according to their tables - and the expenses with administration in England by parties resident in Scotland is very great, often amounting to 20 or 25 per cent off the policies when they have a claim -

As to the conveyance, it must be legally done - it will not be left by the office to alter your will or mine - I shall write Mr.Campbell to do it - I would have ..... it this week but must hear from Mr.Foster for if he will take it up .....(*rest of paragraph undecipherable*)

I however enclose cheque for three pounds to help you in the meantime and will write you again more fully next mail - I suppose Niel will have the receipts that are awanting.

With kind love to you and Johann from us all,

I am, My Dear Ann,

Your affec. Bro.,

Tho.M.Adie.

Voe, June 16 1862

John T. Wardlaw Esq., W.S. Edinr.

My Dear Sir,

I have yours of 12th inst. with copies of mutual discharge which I have signed and now return enclosed for completion - how is one on a 5/- stamp and the other 35/- let me have the legal one - some bits of the document are really not right - I do not care whether my Brother pays his other debts or no - it is all the same to me - and I think the discharge to me is not quite so explicit as from me - perhaps it is all right - you know best - my sister sent you a receipt but not a right one as I see from the Deed of Discharge, so you will get another this week and please send me that one she sent you last week, and also all the papers I have from time to time sent you about this matter -

My Dear Sir, I assure you I feel grateful for the extent you have taken this matter and you must make allowance for my position under the aggravating circumstances - you did not mention to me that Mr.G. had seen the letters and from the way he was asking I could not fancy he would have done so after seeing them - It is done now, thank God - I shall have a brother who must henceforward be to me as a stranger.

I am, My Dear Sir,

Yours very truly, Tho.M.Adie.

288b

Voe, June 23 1862

My Dear Ann,

I have today a letter from Mr.Foster - saying the Policy had better stand over for a time and if I cant advance the premuim, he must - as I have written him to do so, and that at once or it will be too late as it is payable on 18 July - I have not time at present for more.

With love to you and Johann,

Your affe. Bro., Tho.M.Adie.

288a

Voe, June 23 1862

Dear Brother,

I have yours of 12th inst - I referred to Ann's Policy seeing that you suppose there is no risk in advancing the premium and the matter stand as it is. I am more than willing that you should have the benefit of the investment - the last day the premium will be raised is on 18th July so you will require to send it to Niel on receipt £7-4-4

I sent Ann £10 through you and last week I sent her £3 on her policy , in all £13, so she would only have had some £8 to get, but still I am better pleased to be clear of it all - but I know not how she is to get along without money she has borrowed. ... from a friend ..... to keep their ..... in - The mail is just going off so I have not time for more.

With love to all,  
Your affec Bro.            Tho.M.Adie.

289

Voe, June 30/62

John T.Wardlaw Esq., W.S. Edinr.  
My Dear Sir,

I am without any of your favours per last two mails - I signed the discharge and sent it on two weeks ago - I have received the enclosed from my sister - please send me down the receipt she ..... to do so. I can certify her that I have only got the £200 - money is rightly named as the root of all evil - this money has given me pain more ..... than all my work for last 30 years and that has not been little - When you send the discharge please make up my account so as I know the extent of my suffering at once -

With kind regards,

I am, My Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,            Tho.M.Adie.

290

Voe, June 30 1862

Robert Cowie Esq., ..... Melbourne.  
My Dear Sir,

I write you this hurried note to say that last week I had a visit from Mr.Ross from Melbourne, the party who purchased my property from Mr.Mowbray - he seems desirous to have it and would pay more money than he has done - but would give up all on payment of the full sum he paid - he seems in the fidgets about it and I think will be brought to terms - he says that his agent was not to make any arrangements till he heard from him, only to defend - he had the government grant in Shetland with him - at cost, so he said. I did not see it - It may perhaps be as well to let matters go smoothly till we see, as from the way Mr.R. speaks he is afraid of losing all - he says the agents had offered him £300 to £600 for to deliver up and he would not think of doing that - he is a peaceable sort of man and conducts himself very quietly - he has not mentioned the matter to any one in Shetland but to myself - he is not to leave Scotland for six months - please let me hear first mail particularly what has been done and how matters stand in course - I may be able to transact with him here - If he had all the Bonds and mortgages with him -- I believe I could have settled.

In haste, I am,

My Dear Sir, Yours sincerely,            Tho.M.Adie

Mr.Peterson paid 7/6 charge on your boxes to Liverpool - which I shall send to his wife.

291

June 30th 1862

\_\_\_\_ Kennedy Esq.,  
Solicitor, 26 Chancery Lane, London.

Sir,

At my desire, my sister Mrs.McKay called on you in April last and explained matters regarding the treatment of her husband, Mr.Robert Clark Mackay, Clerk, West India Dock Company's Warehouse, Fenchurch Street, London - His conduct towards her and his children has been such as to compel them repeatedly to leave him and now they have been obliged to come to Edinr. to be out of his way - Hard drinking I believe has been the cause of all - tho' in business hours, owing to his iron constitution he has been able to perform his duty same as ever - If necessary, I can send you a list of parties who will give evidence in the matter as to the miserable unhappy life they have for some time endured - I have a very large family and am not able to supply what they need if even it was right for him to be relieved - I enclose acct. of sums I have advanced his wife to save their lives and I beg you will at once summon him and lay an arrestment in his employers hands - and if he possibly can be brought to terms or compelled to contribute towards the support of his wife and youngest child (only 7 or 8 years of age). I hope you will do your utmost - it pains me much to proceed against him but I can do no other for he would wear out the patience of any mortal by his nonsensical insinuations and abuse -

Please to write me as to your plan and intentions in this matter and if nothing should be recovered from Mr.McKay - your business shall be pointedly and immediately paid.

I remain, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

Tho.M.Adie.

292a

Voe, July 7/62

My dear Jean,

I have your note and have just got a letter from Mr.Wardlaw enclosing the unused receipt for £300 which I now enclose to you - I shall try if possible to let you know how matters stand by next mail - meantime with kind love to you and the bairns, in great haste,

Your ever affect. Bro.,      Tho.M.Adie.

Robina will write you the news.

292b

Voe, July 7/62

Thos. Kennedy Esq, London.

Sir,

I write in haste to overtake the mail, and will do so fully next mail - meantime please to understand that I do not care so much about the recovery of the money I have paid as for Mr.McKay now doing something for his wife and youngest child - but will give you fully what I would propose in my next, - Meantime,

I remain,      Yours respectfully,

Tho.M.Adie.

(Full name) Thomas Mountford Adie.

293

Voe, July 7/62

My Dear Eliza,

I have a letter from Mr.Kennedy today - in which he says - the money may be recovered if expended for you, but if paid to you he is in doubt - ..... security for to try in Court for McKay's expenses in case I should not succeed as he will be entitled to demand that - I do not care about that money - it is well gone - if he could be got to do any thing now - for you and Eliza.

I shall be glad if you can manage any thing about your small annuity - but I fear it much - ..... stand it is me that is losing it not you as I regularly every half-year ..... 60/- to the old advances I made and there is still some £15 to £20 due me on that - had you agreed to total it half-yearly from me I still would have been obliged to give it but you would have a lot of money at a time in fact sold it - you see how these things tell at last - but if you can ..... it,

I shall be glad as it (is) only a matter of writing figures down with me -

Willa is a little better - William will not be in London - hope your rheumatism is better.

With love to you all,

Your affec. Bro.

Tho.M.Adie.

Robina is not very well.

294

Voe, July 9 1862

My Dear Niel,

I have yours of yesterday - I will be in Lerwick on Monday and I hope by that time I will see Mr.Foster's money with you or hear of its having come - He puzzles me with his zeal in speaking and sloth in action, He seems a first rate hand at finding out what others are out to do.

Regarding your own matter of guarantee as Inspector of the poor of Lerwick - I have no idea that you would ever realize the money passing through your hands - still I regret I could not be of service to you as I am completely tied up by the nature of my contract with my sons and Mr.Foster, which binds us in the Eight Article to the effect that none of the partners shall become security for any individual either by Bill, Bond, Letter of Guarantee or in any manner of way whatever - when I put my name to the Bill to Mr.Jas.Hunter in Augt. 1860 for £52 it was with consent of both by a written document that the amount should pass to my ..... at once and remain there till we knew of a certainty that the Bill was paid - I have never heard that it has, and think it stands in our books against me to this day - so you see I have not it in my power to help you with my means.



Willa and the bairns join me in love to you all,  
I am, My dear Niel,  
Yours affect., Tho.M.Adie.

295 / 6

Voe July 14, 1862.

My Dear Brother, (*Rev. Foster*)

Ann has sent me your note of 2nd Inst. - You say I said nothing about the Policy as you state - "you said in your letter of 12th ult. ( in reply to mine about the Policy my proposal about it myself or if you would take it up yourself on the same principle I was willing to do it alone ) - I think the settlement in reference to the Policy had better remain until we see where Ann is finally to settle - I had a ..... ing to her - If you can undertake the money for this year I shall be glad - if not, I must . There is no risk in the matter - This is where you and I differ from dear bought experiences. I know there is risk in laying out money for other people in that base sort of way and hence my proposal regarding the policy either for your safety or mine -

You know very well that once Ann settled down and the best arrangement made for her that possibly could be made with every thing turning up as to money matters as we hoped and scarcely could expect, she could not pay that yearly premium - you or I go on paying it, what is the result? Either your family or mine come in with other creditors for perhaps 1/- per Pound on what we have paid for Premiums for years - I would not do it - I am quite willing that either you or I buy the Policy and go on as proposed in my first letter on the subject „, that you pay the money on the loose footing I have named and therefore as there is not time to hear from you again before the money must be paid, I shall take up the receipt on your account, charging you with the money in terms of your letter - till you make up your mind as to the right mode of disposing of this matter by remitting me the money - I am quite willing to do what I can to help Johanna and her Mother, but not to throw away money for the benefit of creditors after her death - that would be rather green enough, I think -

You say you have helped what you could - I doubt it not - never did - but you add "I don't see why you should not help too for a little while" - I meant not to allude to it, but since you fancy I have done nothing, I can only say that since Ann left my house, she has had more from me than could have paid their board while with you - They were again asked to my house, but it could not suit - rely upon it, I feel -- desirous to help Ann as you possibly know - but I have other obligations as well as that - I dare say Mr.Duncan's father will soon tire of keeping them there, and what is to be done then, for there is (whatever Mr.Mason writes) as little appearance of settlement in that quarter as ever. -- Ann is averse to having Miss Scollay with ..... on Niel's account - and wites her sister so.

We are all moving about here, and with fond love to you all,

Your affec.Bro.            Tho.M.Adie.

Voe. July 16/62

Mr.R.S.McKay, London.

Sir,

I have yours of 5 Inst., and note contents. I need not allude to any of your remarks - ask your own heart if your wife could live in safety with a man who before the Master and me takes God to witness that he would ..... his hands in his Stepson's blood - and was there any prospect of peace to her from the previous attitude you presented to her when I saw you together - just think of this - I do not care a mite about your money and want none of it - you offered to pay me for keeping Eliza - send her to the school her sister is teacher in, where she will be educated and cared for - I must store away my own family - and give a pittance to your wife - she won't need it long - Send her something, she is now at 37 George Street, Edinr. - Just now I am returning them the gilt Geneva watch you gave Jeannie for a gold one - They had sent it to me to see if I would advance them something on it - I have sent a little to save from starvation but would not give 20/- for the watch so it is returned to them.

They have a first rate house ... and coals free for showing and opening doors to the society - but no wages-, for food or raiment - now just take a ..... of these matters as you ought - help them for a little and you may all come together and be happy yet if all these heart-burnings and prejudices are removed and I pray God they may and of which I shall be glad to hear from you - .....,

Tho.M.Adie.

Voe. July 16th 1862

My Dear Eliza,

I have yours - also Jeannie's watch - which I return in the same box again. I never had it in my hands till now - but it is of no use - 'tis a German watch with silver case plated with gold - I do not think you could get 20/- on it - but you can try - I have sent you cheque for 40/- and you may get cash by selling the watch but it is not worth keeping, neither for Jeannie or me - There is a very good ..... of her and Father and like the rest of his acts.

Say if you saw to every thing about the lost annuity I shall write you again with acct. of how that matter stands as soon as I have time - Mr Kennedy, I fear is not at the top of the tree in his profession - and I fear the ..... of the money advanced will fail and the law of England is that security is lodged for the dependent's costs in case the suit is not established - no doubt parties would advance goods to you on my guarantee - but I shall try Mr.McKay once more ere we went to that step.

With love to you all,

Your affec. Bro.

Tho.M.Adie.

Have you written to James lately - he could send you money now if he liked - but he need not say .. ..... on me - he refused to pay his two former orders T.M.A.

299a

Voe. July 18 1862

My Dear Niel,

It was .... the morning ere I was done with Harrison so am late to come in and I must off at 5 1/2 in the morning - Mr.R. I hope to (see) me on the subject of dividend from your Estate - I wrote him the same I told you - that he could pay you any thing farther to be distributed on my own proper acct. amount £489-11-2, but on my claim for Scollay's trust £629-3-3, I must be paid the dividend - so he will settle with you for the dividend on the former sum and I shall discharge him for all.

I fear we will not get to town this week.

With love to all .....

Yours affect., Tho.M.Adie.

299b

Voe. July 18, 1862

Mr John Robertson, Lerwick.

Dear Sir,

I had not an opportunity of speaking with Mr.Jamieson before leaving Lerwick as to the dividend from his Estate - I now write him as to it - My proposal was to have returned him the proportion falling on my own business advanced to him which was £489-11-2, but was the short on Scollay's Trust amounting to £629-3-3. I must be paid same as other creditors - I think I am write (?) in those figures but you will see from the vouched account lodged with you as ..... this tell how the .... is at hand - please settle with Mr Jamieson for me - the dividend to be paid on the £489-11-2 - on the £629-3-3 you will retain to be paid to myself.

I am, Dear Sir, in haste,

and Yours truly, Tho.M.Adie.

*There is no letter No. 300.*

301

Voe. July 18, 1862.

John T. Wardlaw, W.S., Edinr.

My Dear Sir,

I duly received your packet of papers with discharged Power of Attorney and the account with Balance due by me of £11-16-6. This shall be at once paid when you send me the Minutes of Agreement between my brother and me which was sent you and which you have forgotten to return.

I feel satisfied you have done your utmost in this matter but your concluding remarks "that there is no reason for so great complaint" seems sorry sympathy from one's Agent when dragged to the brink of ruin by one's own brother - for whom I had done so much.

I am, My Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

Please also to return to me the Notarial copy of Agreement which you also have.

302

Dr	The Late Mrs.Mary Ann Adie in a/c with Thomas M.Adie	Cr.
1857		
Dec. 30	To balance per account rendered	£6-17-11 1/2
"	" Bill ..... per Aberdeen in July last, 11/-	
1858	by due discounted	11-00
0-11-00		
Feb'y 5	" P.O. order 90/- (12) Masonic Funds 30/-	
	Trades a .....	6-12-00
April 22	" Cash at ..... for .... 42/- per Davy for .... 18/2	3-00-02
May 24	" " for Bank Order 80/- (....) .... 11/-	4-11-00
1859		
July 18	"do for do 40/-(FOM) By Masonic & Trades 72/-	2-00-00
Sep. 19	" do " do £10 (Nov.3) ... 42/-(... ).....4/-	12-06-00
1860		
Feb'y 12	" By Masonic & Trades 72/- (23) .... Bank order £10	10-00-00
April 1	" Cash paid for 2 .... cloth 36/10	1-16-10
May 7	" " for Bank Order	6-00-00
June	" do. per J. .... to come up to Perth 37/-	
	do. for Jan 9/-	2-06-04
11	" " to Jean. 7/6 cash for her at Edin. £4	4-07-06
"	" do .. for ..... 20/10 (Jly16) ..	
	Bank Order to Jan	7-00-19
Aug 6	"do Mr.Ployen for ... 6/- Do ... 39/-	2-05-00
20	" " for Bank order £4 (21) Do for 2 veils 5/-	
	22 cuts..... 3/4	4-08-10
Nov 12	" " " Bank " £6 (Dec.17) do for do £6	12-00-00
"	" Masonic Funds	1-10-0
1861		
Jany 14	" Difference of Interest to Date	2-10-07
"	By balance to Debit of Trust Estate	- - -
<u>66-05-001/2</u>		
	£ 82-2-01/2	£

82-2-001/2

----- E & O.E.  
July 21st 1862  
Tho.M.Adie

303

Dr	Miss Jean Adie in a/c with Thomas M.Adie, Voe.	Cr
1860		
Oct.5	To 2 yards. union black cloth @ 11/-	£ 0-8-0      £
Jan'y 14	" cash per inventory in house at Perth:	
	..... not delivered	5-0-0
" "	" Mother's wearing apparel .....	5-0-0
" "	" cash per Bank ....£30 (17) do. £10 (Mar 22) as £5	45-0-0
April 1	" do. £3 (Feb.27) cash at Voe £4, per .... 2/6	7-2-6
June 6	By cash £( (Sept.9), Bank draft £5	5-0-0      9-0-0
Oct 14	To Bank draft to Mrs..... £20 (Nov.30).Cr. Self £12	32-0-0
" "	" cash per Advertising in London Paper	
	76/1 do. .... 15/3	4-11-4
1862		
Feb'y 21	" Difference of Interest to date	5-5-0
"	By cheque .... Mrs. Adie's Trust Estate	<u>100-6-10</u>
	E. & O.E.	£109-6-19      £ <u>109-6-10</u>
	Voe. July 21st 1862      Tho.M.Adie	

Account of Trust Estate of the Deceased Mrs.Mary Ann Adie.

1861

Jan'y 14	By cash £5 ..... in house per .....£5,		
	To cash Doctor .... 30/-	£ 1-10-0	£ 10-0-0
"	To cash per miss miller for duties £15,		
	Bal ..... acct. £66-5/-	81-5-0	
April 1	By cash ..... £12-4-5, ..... apparel £5		17-4-5
"	" " Debenture Stock Scottish ..... price		200-0-0
June 28	To cash ..... business acct. 71/10 (Aug 21)		
	By ..... 3-16-8	3-11-10	3-16-8
Oct 31	By Interest D.Stock 3-17-0 (May21/62)		
	Interest D. Stock 3--17-0		7-14-0
1862			
July 21	By cash per jas.M.Adie for debt of £200 due his mother		200-0-0
"	To Miss Jean Adie's account above	100-6-10	
"	" Difference of Interest to Date	4 -1 -5	
"	" Balance value of estate	<u>248-0 -0</u>	
	E. & O.E.      Tho.M.Adie.		
	Voe. july 21/62		

By ... Debenture Stock £200 & cash in T.M.A's hands      £48

304

Voe. July 21st 1862

My Dear Jean,

Having now come to a certainty about the money I was due our beloved Mother - I am enabled to make out the accounts and I now enclose them for your satisfaction - The acct. against Mother is up to the date of the Death - Your own account comprises all sums paid into your hands and the vouchers I hold shew how you laid it out to a great extent - it also includes the Balance of cash in Bruce and Waring apparel as credited in the Inventory - and I am truly happy to see that they are as they are for I did not think there was any of the money after now instead of which there is £48 in my hands - besides the Debenture Stock - The Interest on the £48 will just now be about 24/- a year, so that, added to the Income from the Debenture Stock, you will easily know what you have to come and go upon - The Receipt you sent me is of no earthly use to me or to any, as it only represents a hope not a reality - the provision our Mother made for you will never be injured by my business what ever befalls it - I will take care of that - so you need be under no apprehension on that head - I could get clear of the Trust just now - but only by paying into the hands of the Hicks or my son, (neither of whom would touch it) and failing of them into the court as the deed would not admit of it any other way - and if the will was set aside ( which it could not be), then the whole means would belong to the whole children and grand-children of the deceased - last is better as it is. Willa and Harriet I am obliged to send South for the latter is so ill and worn I do not know what to think of her - With kind love to you and the bairns

I am, My Dear Jean, Your affec. Bro., Tho.M.Adie.

305

Voe. July 25, 1862

My Dear Eliza,

I promised you I should send you a statement of all accounts for your satisfaction, and I now do so. You will see the amount I am out of pocket through McKay's misconduct is £116-12/-. My money would have accumulated more interest had it been in Bank - now suppose you deduct the lost annuity for ..... - £48 less £5 which you got, it would have still (been) £71-12/- - I send this to shew you the state - I do not care about it if the wretched man would only do every thing now - to help you and the children - could John have left nothing to you or are all the males of the same stamp -

I think Mary Ann might get a paying place in a shop in Edinburgh since what she is at, is not likely to pay - I think she should try that for I fear much there is no chance of getting any thing out of McKay.

Harriet is very poorly, and has been for last 10 months - I fear she is consumptive and I am sending her by first steamer to Aberdeen to be with a ..... there for a while - I suppose her Mother will have to go with her - all the rest are moving about - Robina is better but far from well yet - With love to you all from all,

I am, My dear Eliza,

Your affec. Bro.,  
Tho.M.Adie.

306

Voe, July 28/62

John T.Wardlaw Esq., W.S., Edinr.  
My Dear Sir,

I have your note with agreement and copy returned and I now enclose cheque on the Union Bank, Edinr. for £11-16-6 to square our account - receipt of which please acknowledge.

Mrs. McKay is certainly in very necessitous circumstances. She and family have cost me within last two years £117 and I am still helping her as I can.

I am, Yours truly,  
Tho.M.Adie.

Enclose cheque £11-16-6

307

Voe. Augt. 11/62

My Dear Eliza,

I have no word from you since I saw you in Edinr. I was vexed when I saw you at the ideas you entertained regarding me and others of your family and would gladly do anything in my power to prove to you that it is altogether an erroneous belief that you have been either ill used or deceived or your interests neglected in any way - you know very well that I have striven to do all in my power for you and yours and while none other belonging to you have been able to do it - Your Brother Jas. was, but you see he would not - ..... I was to ... them when my business was pried into too - your doing so having a tendency to make people think I was doing nothing for you when I was doing more than I was fit for - Think of my family of 20 every day and 7 of these still to educate and consider if I am in a position to do much -

Mrs.Brown deduced that what she gave was not to be made known to any one - She is as queer a woman as I supposed and as my own family have found her and you can tell her I said so -

I enclose you a cheque for 40/- to help you a little and for God's sake banish from your mind the foolish notions that seem to be taking such hold of your mind.

With kind love to you all,  
Your affect. Brother,

Tho.M.Adie

Willa and others much the same as they were.

Voe. Shetland, Dec 9 1862

My Dear James,

So heart-stricken and exhausted have I been of late in my struggles to keep out of the grave you had so honourably and affectionately tried to dig for me that I have not had heart for anything, yet I consider it my duty now to tell you what I wrote you I should - once you and I were severed in business matters for ever - and to begin I have to inform you that in and through Miss Thomson's succession I am the loser of £471-16/- over and above the half of the Heritable Succession justly mine by a true valid legal, and by you well understood, agreement -

you may think this a singular statement and wonder how I could lose that money - I will tell you - For long the thought that my lamented Mother's friends might be discovered, had haunted me - but knowing that I could not afford money for the searches had always kept me from entering into it - Miss Thomson's affairs and the endless searching I had among deeds and registers both in Edinr. and wherever a relative of hers had been, revived in me the desire to discover my Mother's relatives - I went to Perth - learnt from her all she could tell me and her proper name was not Westile but Watherall - that for some reason her Father had changed his name on going to India - Well, I set to work and got such a clue as led to believe the search was worth more than mere desire to find relatives and I spared neither my body, mind, or means to follow it up in the fond hope that ere the grave closed on my Mother, all would be set to rights - that was not so decreed by God - for long before you settled on your plan - I foresaw what you were after - that you were quite prepared to kill the goose that laid the golden eggs so as to get them all at once and it made me equally resolve on my course tho' to the blasting of all the hopes that had been raised in me by the discovery of my Mother's friends and the huge property they held belonging to her - My Mother alas died - I was only a second son and I resolved if you acted as you ought according to agreement, in Miss Thomson's affairs, I would propose that same arrangement in the case of my Mother's relatives

- your actions have given me fully to realize what I had to expect under any arrangement with a man who would read and sign a deed before witnesses and then swear he had never seen it - and I determined that no mortal should know what I had discovered and I would struggle on as I had done before - Providence is all wise and should heirs male of mine survive heirs male of you, they may inherit - I trust for both you and yours that is far in the future - but had honour and honesty settled the late affairs which I wish to God I had never heard of - we could both of us have been at ease and our familys with us - now each fight on his course of labour as he best can - my failing health will not long stand to it - but it must stand as long as it can - I hope your wife is now satisfied as well as you and she will have occasion again to write such an honest truthful letter as she wrote to our sister Eliza McKay again -

It seems your agent has not taken much trouble to pay your Shetland creditors after all - did you fancy I was to go trotting after Mr.Budge and James Henderson about them - no - if you choose to cheat them, do so - Shall I send your ..... to Mr.Gillespie or to Mr.Henderson or Mr.Budge - It will be safer in their keeping no doubt - one thing in



our affair puzzled me very much - you instructed your agent not to sustain your own orders to your sister Eliza - Mrs. and Miss Henderson and Mrs. Elder - but you had likely never seen them - Well, all these matters are now ended - you are my brother still - the son of my Mother - I shall while I live be glad to hear of the welfare and prosperity of you and yours, and remain

Your affec. Brother,  
Tho.M.Adie.

310/1

Voe, Feby. 21st 1863

Robert Cowie Esq., New Zealand.

My Dear Sir,

I have both your letters of 17th October and 10th November, by same mail and am happy to find that you, the Guid wife and bairns are all well, and I hope the change from Australia will be for your benefit in every respect - I shall set about getting your goods as quick as possible - but as many of the articles have to be got made on purpose, it will take a little time - I hope, however, they will be with you for the winter - I feel much obliged to your kind enquiries after my son and family - I had a letter from him lately, and he disired me to address to the Post Office, ..... but did not tell me what he was employed at - It relieves my mind to find that it was for his Hotel Bill he was in confinement as I pictured to myself something worse - I hope you may see him, but under existing circumstances it would be better not to advertse for him - I have written to the solicitors at Melbourne that if Mr. Ross will pay the £1,000, I will make over the land to him. Of course, the Power of Attorney sent you enables you to appoint an other if needed - Meantime I have given the solicitors instructions to press Ross for a settlement by purchase at once or deliver up the Deeds as it will not do to let him walk off with the land as he has it at present.

I note what you say as to Dunedin being a likely place for the sale of fish and hosiery - I should suppose it more suited for that than millionaires and I shall feel obliged by your opinion, at same time giving me the address of an Agent suitable and in every way trust worthy as I could not afford to run risks of bad agents - and doubtless there are some of those to be fallen in with. A good active trust worthy agent is of very great importance - I shall like to hear from you as to this as soon as you can manage it -

I am sorry to inform you of the death of my dear friend Robert Hicks - he died last week - he had been ailing for last 18 months - your friends in Lerwick are all well - the Doctor kept very busy - whether the money comes freely in or not is hard to say - things are not bright in Shetland just now - crops were bad and fishings bad last year -

Some old acquaintances here still hold out - Sandy getting very feeble but he had a wind fall lately in the death of a Brother of his wife's by which he got £123 - it will, if used, put him under the sod -

Jo Anderson is also wearing to the bone - he is little worth, poor fellow - Well, I must stop - My kind regards to Mrs. Cowie and all, and hoping soon to hear from you again.

I am, My Dear Sir,      Yours sincerely,  
   Tho.M.Adie.

I hope if you can see my son you will urge on him to write and let me know all -  
and what in this unfortunate affair he would wish me to do. TMA

312

Voe, Delting, Shetland. Feby 21st 1863

Messrs. B....., Crisp, and Lewis,  
Solicitors, Melbourne.

Dear Sirs,

I duly received your favour of 25th Augt. last, and have put off from time to time expecting that Mr.Ross would reply to a proposal made to him by my Agent at Lerwick, Shetland, to sell him the property on his paying me £1000 which I understand is scarcely half its value - he called on me here and told me he had the Crown Grant with him but no other documents but he did not seem inclined to take less than the money he had paid for his illegal possession - now I wish you to make this proposal to him again - that I will sell him the property on his paying me the £1000 and delivering up the Deeds and Bonds he holds or I will pay him £200 or 300£ and keep the property, he delivering up the Crown Grant and all Bonds and writings - You will please deliver the same caution in treating as hitherto - The property I will not give up as I am informed that at this moment it is worth over £2000 - Please write me so soon as you have done what can be done to effect a settlement as I have stated - I am sorry Mr.Ross should lose money but it is not my fault and cannot be bound for his loss -

I am, Dear Sirs,  
Yours truly,  
Tho.M.Adie.

313

Voe, March 16 1863

My Dear Jean,

I did not manage to write you last mail as I intended - you know how little time I have and just now I am very busy winding up the business of my old friends Grierson and John Anderson who are like to get into law suits between themselves about the winding up - to begin then I am sorry I cannot get the goods you want for Mrs Scott - there is no wool left now in the islands to make the things and I have tried all over to get them to buy but they are not to be had to suit, either in town or country -

The most important thing I have to write you about is in regard to the Trust Estate of our deceased beloved Mother - I am sorry, my dear Sister, that you took offence at my not sending the money to Robina - God knows I would do all in my power for Robina and I rejoice to see your love and affection for her and hers - but you mistake the nature of this fund altogether - you have a copy of the Will and why then put me in this disagreeable position - I can, if I see it necessary, expend the whole in a year for your benefit but you have no farther control over it than to Will it away at your death - You are now earning a lively-hood for yourself - had you been with your sister or not, doing so I must have used the means left for your support - now from your delicate state of health

you may not long be able to do for yourself and then what is the result if these means are used - where is your support to come from - I want not a penny of it and I wish to God our beloved Mother had left the Trust in the hands of some other person - Will it away my sister to whom you please and in event of your death before it is used up, the remainder will be paid as you direct - but I must follow the spirit of the Deed since I accepted the Trust at all - Robert Hicks was named in event of my death - then my son - Hicks has gone before me and William declares he will not have any thing to do with it and I dead - so that if I was dead the Court must appoint a Trustee - you have said that you have full confidence in me that all will be right in respect to the Trust but that the money might all be lost through contingent misfortune in my business - there is no fear of that as far as man is capable of judging, that unforeseen circumstances transpired to crush many a healthy business man (and which I am not), cannot be denied - but there is a possibility guarding against that in this way - name a responsible person who will be willing to act for you along with me and I will at once invest the little means in our joint names as "Trust Funds" so

that they cannot be touched without the signature of us both - but that individual would require to be one you have full confidence in to carry out the Trust in event of my death - now my Dear Sister, you must not come to hasty conclusions - weigh the matter well and I think if you were to ask Cap.Scott's advice in the matter he would give you a disinterested opinion to act on - you know very well that Robina and her children are better provided for than you are, were you not able to work for yourself and she has ample means to bring them to the age of maturity and to educate them, and if the principal as well as interest goes for that, they still have youth and health before them to depend to which is better for them than a few Pounds - and they must earn for themselves as well as others - look at all the bearing of the matter and with Mr.Scott's advice, I am sure you will see that I am right -

Mary is far from well yet - the rest move about as usual and united in kindest love to you and prayers for your welfare, and I am,

My Dear Sister,

Your very affect. Bro.,Tho.M.Adie.

315

Voe, April 3rd 1863

(Private)

Charles G.Duncan, Esq., Writer,Lerwick.

My Dear Sir,

I expect to hear from you per bearer in answer to my last - meantime William has had a note from Major Cameron as to his rent for the current year from Wm.Gray and he has replied that it shall be attended to.

The present is regarding a matter costing me much more anxiety - you will recollect my requesting you to write to Mr.Jas.Ross, Banchory, by Aberdeen, as to my property in Australia - he cannot have got the letter as contrary to his plan, he has not yet left Scotland for Australia and I had a note from him by last mail requesting me to meet

him in Lerwick next week as he would be there during the week to see a friend - I have no wish to see him - will you see him for me and treat with him in this matter - I will feel much obliged if you will and if I hear from you in course that you will do so, I shall write you fully as to the matter - As you are aware, I have mentioned this matter to you only, and I hope you will help me with your assistance, as through your friendship it might be ended -

I am, My Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,      Tho.M.Adie.

316

Voe, April 3 / 63

My Dear James,

I duly received your letter of 26 Dec. last. There is no use of adverting to many of your remarks as they (are) much the same as ever - you have your ideas of justice which differ from the common order and since you have got what you wanted, those matters must now rest - and since money matters are ended between us we may be as brothers for our short time in this world.

I am happy to know that Wilhelmina is better, and that all the rest are well - you would have got intimation of poor Robert Hick's death - I fear his family is not too well left - Robina has been very ill this winter and not like to get strong - Jean is at service at Portsmouth and is pretty well tho' ill able for the work - Eliza and her youngest child live in Edinr. on me - my own family are middling - Harriet (?) has been long ill and is not like to get strong - I do not know of any thing farther that might interest you - your wife's friends are, I believe, well -

I shall at all times be happy to hear of your welfare and prosperity,

With love to all from all,

Your affect. Brother,

Tho.M.Adie.

One remark in your letter seems a strange one - you say you left means in Shetland that should have paid all your debts - what was it? You have already got vouched accts. of what South Bank cleared - all your other means was a ledger full of accts. for which a £ could not be got. -

317/8

Voe, April 6th 1863

Charles G.Duncan Esq., Lerwick.

My Dear Sir,

I have your favour of 4th inst., and was much obliged by your readiness to help me in this Australian case - I explained to you that I had bought some land and some how this land had been mortgaged to a person of the name of Mowbray and it seems my name was used - Mowbray sold the mortgage to Mr.Jas.Ross who now holds the Crown Grant for the land and said martgages - I think Ross paid some 750£ to Mowbray for it - that's how the matter stands - I have been informed that the property is worth over £2000 now -

but as you know, I was and am prepared to sell it to Mr.Ross for £1.000, he delivering up to me all deeds bearing my name - I never signed any deeds and gave authority to no one to sign them, so I am not bound to acknowledge them - at this price Mr.Ross would have a great bargain of the land.

I would give him a clear title - on the other hand if Mr.Ross is not inclined to buy, so as to be free of litigation to establish my right and compel him to deliver up the Crown Grant, I would pay him from £300 to £400 on his delivering up to me the Grant and all the Deeds, Bonds, etc., as I have stated above - but these Mortgage Bonds I must have - You know the matter demeans, and sanction is necessary - and if you can come to a conclusion in either of the above ways - fix it finally and irrevocably on stamps at once - it is making me very miserable - I have written Mr.R. that I am not feeling well (which is really the case) and that he would confer with you in the matter - now if anything else or any other arrangement seems likely to you, do not hesitate to send an express to me about it - I think Mr.Ross might be brought to one of these plans - perhaps you might begin with charging more for the property as I had got such accounts of its increased value or on the other hand begin with offering him £200, and come up after shewing him that he had no legal ground to take possession of the place - I know that I could make him give up without paying him any thing - but I must get it done smoothly - Ross is not very bright - he was a house carpenter and made a little money in Australia - I have little doubt you will be able to work on him to bring matters to an end - I pray God you may - and hoping to hear from you by post or express,

I am, My Dear Sir,

Your very truly,

Tho.M.Adie

319/20

Voe, April 9th 1863

Charles G.Duncan Esq.,

My Dear Sir,

I have your favour and observe the poor result of your interview with Mr.Ross - no doubt it is a sorry thing for any man to lose money - but Mr.Ross knows very well that he cannot maintain his hold of the property and as to bringing my son forward as an evidence - I wish I knew where he was or whether dead or alive - I was North at the Roup of Gray's --Auction stuff and am today just able to creep about with Rheumatism and tho' I might hang on to the saddle I am afraid to by the ride to Gott or I would have been happy to converse with you about this unfortunate business - I can fancy Ross seeming determined as he does - but I am quite sure he is fidgetty as to the result - and perhaps it would be the best as the case for you to see him again and say that as he was here I considered it better to give him my alternatives - to sell at £1000 or to pay him £400 so as I was put in possession of the mortgages and Crown Grant if he agreed a deed to subscribe to that effect, and an express could come here with it for my signature - if he did not, that I withdrew all my proposals and the case rested on its own merits - I need not harry him then as he cannot sell, not being able to give a title and he will go on

improving and I will ultimately have the benefit of that - tho' I sacrifice rent in the meantime - but I may, I know, wrest it out of his hands at any time - and if he had it in his power to injure my son, I suspect he would be better with £400 than that brought about - if it could be - I know not how

I have expressed myself on legal phrases - but I think you will understand me - this business has been the bane of my life, but I have more to think of than one, and many of them helpless things - If I feel that I can venture on the Ride I may see you at Gott yet - I would not like to come to Lerwick - I can do no good and might speak unguardedly, so must leave that part entirely to you - unless the prospect of ultimate loss has any effect on Mr. Ross - nothing else will, I fear.

I am, My Dear Sir, Yours sincerely, Tho.M.Adie.  
I have paid the woman 3/- for her freight.

321

Voe, Shetland. June 26, 1863

Mr.R.C.McKay, London.

Sir,

I cannot do other than address you as you do me. I have received your letter and thought not to answer it. I shall say but little to you - you say I have tried to extort capital out of you - that is .... - if keeping your wife and family alive from my own pocket can be called that you may say so - you still seem to entertain the same ideas - all I can say is if you have these wealthy friends - it will scarcely be just to throw away their money in such a hopeless action as you contemplate - you say I have defamed your character !! - all I can say as to that is that if you enter on this absurd Law suit it, will be the means of giving the true overturning to it for the satisfaction of your friends for their money.

I remain, Sir, Your ..... Tho.M.Adie

322/3

Voe, Oct.3. 1863

My Dear James,

..... mail I received your note of Sept 4th and am ..... are better after your severe illness - I trust in God you will soon be ..... to health - thanks for your likeness enclosed - it shows plainly that you have been unwell, indeed we could scarcely have recognized it as your likeness - I enclose herewith my own in return - time tells on us both, you and me - the last two years of my life has done more to make me an old man than ten before had done - There was nothing in my letter of any importance - I mean that which has been destroyed in the packet - We are all happy to find that your family are

well and pray God such may long be the case - We are middling, my wife ..... well - but my daughter Harriet's health gives me great thought - she has been very near death and I fear will never agin be well - God only knows what my poor son John is about, I never hear from him now - he is in New Zealand with his wife and two (? *three*) children - but he is too changeable to do any good for himself, I fear - If he does no evil, I must be content -

You say you wrote Mr.Wardlaw to correspond with me - that was very singular - I meant no more to do with lawyers, I have had enough of them - I never heard from him however - indeed I do not know whether he is about or not - the good of all connected with me has been a source of struggle and that to me since I was a man , aye, and before that - My health has suffered and my family suffered and still it is the same - They are not satisfied - never will be unless they see me and mine sold out and brought to begging - then I would be a kind brother and friend by some and by others its his own fault, he should have taken better care - I can live, and my family will, and that is all I meant - and I pray God no friend of mine may ever leave me money as I think there is no real comfort except with what one works for themselves -

When I was once resolved that your money matter should be settled just as you had resolved on - I had to apply to friends to get help on my business - to do that I laid the whole before them and I have not had chance to regret I did so - and I not only got the money I needed but was asked if I could work my business with more capital and which was placed at my command to the extent of £5000 - having that to draw on if needed has enabled me to enter into many transactions I would not have dreamt of before - but I am getting worn out in it and my Dear Son William is not healthy and cannot stand the Rough as I have done - and now my Dear Brother I wish to live in peace with you and all my friends - and I see only one way of it from my dear bought experience - I have been suspected and reviled wrongfully by all - when I could take my God to witness I was doing all I could for them - If God spares my life and I am in a position with my large family to help any of my friends I will do so as readily as ever, and you know I can have heart to that - but where money is concerned, no bargains, no agreements, shall ever again be entered into by me with any relative I have - my experience tells me it would only be to again more than ever unbalance my days. - write no more on the subject - In our family affairs I shall ever be happy to exchange an affectionate letter with you - May God bless you all and with kind love,

I am, My Dear James,

Your affec. Bro.

Tho.M.Adie.

Dear Sirs,

I have received your favour of 25th July - I did not decline to see Mr.Ross - I had no need to do so - but I was unwell and I could not travel to Lerwick, and he would not come here - I therefore wrote my Agent to sell him my property right off, he paying me down £1000 and delivering up all deeds he held or give him £400 on his delivering all up - Mr.Ross said he had the Crown Grant with him in Shetland - Should you go the other £50 as you say, I shall not object - Meantime I suppose Mr.Ross has been getting rents and it will be necessary as you say to put a stop to that - I am still as anxious as ever to keep the matter out of court - but I think if the tenants are prevented paying to Mr.R., it may have a good effect on him by inducing him to settle - some of the tenants have not paid to Mr.R. Some have - and I know that the place is getting of more value than it was and will command good rent in course of a year when the present leases are out.

I shall be impatient to hear from you what is done after Mr.R. gets out again to Melbourne where he must now be if he left in June last.

I am, Dear Sir, Yours Very truly,  
Tho.M.Adie.

325/6

Voe. Shetland Oct. 7th 1863

Robert Cowie Esq., Dunedin.

My Dear Sir,

I have much pleasure in owning receipt of your letter of 18 July. - I am happy to hear that you and Mrs.Cowie and family are well - and trust that ere now you have your hosiery - it will do for another winter - but I suppose the cold weather is now over with you. I enclose you B. of C. to shew you the .... freight charged for the box - I assure you I am happy to know of your success and hope it will always ..... - Thank God to hear that my dear tho' erring son is well - May he be led to see the necessity of doing right - I am glad you suggested to him the change and I shall act on it - How my heart longs to see him ere my eyes be closed in death - that I fear never will be realized - God's will be done - I enclose a letter for him which be kind enough to forward to him and urge him to write to us - he might give us that comfort - his wife writes us a letter when they are under any ..... but never at any other time - What sort of woman is she? Do you think he is happy in his marriage ? I often fear it and that that has driven my boy to wilfulness and carelessness more than he might have come to. -

I had a letter last mail from the Solicitor in Melbourne - nothing done yet - Mr.Ross has been again in Shetland and I offered to give him £400, he delivering up all to me, or I would well him the property right out, he paying me down £1,000 - he would do neither and I suppose he is by this time in Melbourne again - I have written the Solicitors to instruct the tenants to pay no more rents to Mr.Ross and that may have some effect in bringing him to terms - it is a bad business - I hope my boy will keep out of the way - tho' I believe if he could manage with prudence, Mr.Ross could not compel him to give evidence in the matter unless he liked - Poor fellow, he is kind-hearted but alas too easily led as I know by many circumstances - he cannot say no ..... to it or he would



make a man of it yet - I trust if you see him you will not fail to impress upon him the course he ought to pursue to regain his own self-respect and enable him to do his duty to his family and I beg that you will urge him to write us - I know he is ashamed to do it - I feel assured that is the reason - but he must smother that feeling and remember his duty to us - what can he expect his own children to do if they are spared, when they see him neglect his duty to his Parents and friends - Have you seen his children - poor things they will grow up in ignorance - My God, that it should be so - Would that I was younger I should be in New Zealand \_ but alas it may not be - God does all things well - perhaps what I deplore may be for the best - I will not weary you longer and I hope you will forgive me for trespassing on your time so far - but I know I may ... .. on you.

Mrs Adie and all my family join me in kindest regards to you, Mrs. Cowie, and the bairns.

I remain,            My Dear Sir,  
                                 Yours sincerely,            Tho.M.Adie.

327a

Voe, Nov. 2nd 1863

Robert Cowie Esq., New Zealand.

My Dear Sir,

I have your kind favour with letter per my son, and thanks a thousand times for you sending it to me - it shews me my boy's heart is in its right place yet - he never wrote so to me - I write in haste - assure him that I shall beg before I injure a hair of his head - no - no - my son is safe with me - I pray God he may not forget what he has suffered - I enclose letter for him. God bless you and yours.

Yours very sincerely,  
                                 Tho.M.Adie.

I will write again soon.

327b

Voe. Shetland. Nov. 2nd 1863.

Messrs. Bradribb, Crisp, and Lewis,  
Melbourne.

Dear Sirs,

I wrote you on 7th Oct., which I suppose will soon be with you - I now write to say that matters must not be pressed too hard - I must hold out to try and get terms with Mr. Ross, and when you have done your utmost to screw him down, try to get from him a note saying the lowest he will take and then advise me and I will consider what is best on receipt of your advice.

I am, Dear Sirs,  
                                 Yours truly,            Tho.M.Adie.

I had a letter from Dr. Cowie by last mail.

328

Voe. Nov. 2nd 1863

My Dear, Dear, Son,

I have just received your letter and one from Dr.Cowie enclosing your letter to him - Thanks be to God he sent it me for it proves to me, my son, that you are sincerely sorry for what is past - I have not time to write much to catch the mail, but I hurry this off to assure you that your regret for the past decides me - you shall not be brought into trouble by your fond father, should I beg - no, my son, you might have known me better - try to keep up - I will do my utmost to get matters right, and shall let you know how I succeed - take care of your health, and try to cheer up - seek God to guide you, and learn to say - no - to any & every temptation and then all will be right - May Almighty God bless you and your dear wife and children - kiss them all for you from Mother and me and with kindest love to you all from us all.

I am ever,

My Dear John,

Your affect. and loving Father,  
Tho.M.Adie.

Write us my son  
as you need more to do  
- you know not how  
it would cheer our hearts.

329

Voe. Feby 24, 1864

My Dear James,

I wrote you last in October, since which I have not heard from you - I hope you are all keeping well - Jean is well, and still in the same place - Robina has been very poorly but is now a little better so that she is able to move about as usual - Eliza still in Edinr - has been very poorly, but is also better - Some of my family have been ill, but I am thankful to say they are all moving just now - ..... and Jean are at school in Lerwick, the rest are home with the exception of William who is in London on some business matter - There is nothing new here - .... just living in the same way as before. We have had altogether a very coarse season - the crops very bad and little keep for cattle, so that I fear a number will die for want of fodder - the want of meal is much felt - many who have not bought for years have never tried to thrash their corn it is so bad - so I doubt it will make a bad year, but we must do the best we can - you will see by the papers the fearful loss of life and property at sea this winter - It is something dreadful to contemplate

- I need not add much more of this as it cannot be interesting to you or anyone, and I shall close with kind love to you all - I shall expect a few lines from you if only to say how you all are, and I am, My Dear James,

Your affect. Brother,

Tho.M.Adie.

330

Voe. Feby. 24, 1864

My Dear Robina,

I had not time to answer your letter by last mail - It was kind of James to send you the order for £10 and you should retain it till you see.

Mr.Gillespie alludes to an agreement made - I wonder who he made it with - I have now nothing to do with these affairs. I delivered up Jas' books to his order to Mr.Budge and no doubt Mr.G. knows that ..... it is always convenient for lawyers to hold money in their hands - but I shall write Mr.Budge as to it and also Mr.Gillespie and that is the whole I can do in the matter - In respect to the rest of your letter, I thought not to notice it - as that matter I have done with - you cannot understand the attempts that have been made to blacken my character ... therefore all that and I feel the same towards my Brother as ever and I must do him the justice to say that he feels the same towards me. I believe tho' his wife ..... to trust me enough in the dark - I have thrown away enough of money in the matter you allude to and for my family I would be worse than a .... to go on, and without .... nothing could be done - ..... of such a ..... it only right .... as it has ..... drive me to earn a living in the way God has opened up to us - I made Jean an offer to use the means left at the rate of £20 a year and I would secure her the continuance of the same as long as she lived when that was done - If that cannot do she must please herself. God bless you and yours and with kindest love to all,  
Your ever affect. Bro.,

Tho.M.Adie.

331a

Voe. Shetland. Feby 24, 1864

John Gillespie, Esq., W.S. Edinr.

Sir,

I observe by your letter to my sister Mrs.Barron that you object to pay her £10 on my Brother Jas's order till you hear from me that certain alleged claims against my Brother before he left Shetland, are paid -

I gave you to understand that if my Brother refused to pay these ... .., it does not matter to me whether he does or not - To my Brother's order, I delivered up such

books as he left with me, to his Brother-in-law, Mr. John Budge, Seafield, ....., Shetland, and if you are to pay these debts, you should correspond with .... hold the money still and I say they are paid, for I have nothing to do with it.

I am, Sir, Your obd. serv.,  
Tho.M.Adie.

331b

Voe, Feby. 24th 1864.

John Budge Esq, Seafield.

Dear Sir,

I have a letter from Mrs. Barron saying that Jas. had sent her an order on his Agent Mr. John Gillespie W.S., Edin. for £10 and which he refused to pay till he heard from me that the debts I said Jas was due in Shetland were paid and that he held the whole money in his hands till then - that is convenient for lawyers to do .... - and I have written Mr. G. that I have nothing .. and that you had authority to act in the matter and would doubtless let him know as to the debts by sending him such as you ..... and ..... to be paid.

I am, Dear Sir. Yours truly, Tho.M.Adie.

332a

Voe March 27th 1864

My Dear Ann,

I have been thinking on your affairs - The Zetland Hotel will not do - it would take £400 to £500 to furnish it, and it could never pay the rent. I consider that if you could get your ..... sold now and that cleared off, it would be much better as it makes the whole too complicated and mixed up - I will advance you to the extent of £100 to buy furniture if you come to need that much - but I think you had better at once ... St. Andrew's and resolve on a course of action - then you could get your furniture sold and the house off your hands at once and there will be farther loss by the ..... of furniture in strange hands and we must see things clear before us so as to keep right - Kind love to you both,

Your affec. Bro.,  
Tho.M.Adie.

I enclose cheque 40/- to take you to see Andrew and Bach.(?)

332b

Voe March 27th 1864

My Dear Eliza,

I was sorry to find by Mary Ann's letter that you had taken such an expensive house - but being done, it cannot be helped - what you have to pay is £22 .... - Well to help you along I shall pay that for a year for you - but if it is not like to do you will have to take a smaller house afterwards - I could not say any thing as to sending my Girls - that is quite another thing and I do not think it would suit -

With kindest love to you all, in haste,

By last mail I have your favour of 18th.... - I wrote you in ..... I am enclosing a Budget for my son - I am happy to learn that your family are all well and liking New Zealand and prospering in it - also that the stuff I sent you came safe - I had by this mail a letter from my son - he gives me a full narrative of his proceedings since he came to New Zealand - poor fellow, God help him to keep right - he seems to feel that he had done wrong and I hope that will lead to improvement - I fear his constitution is not so good as it was - I sent yet to your care (freight and charges paid) a box for John containing some hosiery for himself and family. I hope it may come safe - I have a letter from the Solicitors in Melbourne - they have little to communicate but are hopeful of succeeding to some extent with Mr. Ross - he is a hard customer to work with - I do not see that you would be needed at Melbourne about that business, having put the matter in the hands of business men - Hosea Anderson will keep you amused with all his puff and blow - a good many Shetlanders are now in New Zealand - I wish I was 20 years younger and out also - but my glass is getting run now and I feel the tear and wear tell - I enclose a letter for

John - in the letter I had from him he says he had not seen our paper for 12 months - I cannot fancy how that is - has he ever been in Dunedin and got any of our letters enclosed to you or do you send them up -

We have had very unsettled weather of late and our "Voars" are far behind and the cattle dying for want of food - your friends are well at Lerwick - we are middling here but hope the good weather will set all right - Jo Anderson and Lucy still live, the latter very feeble now except with she tougher and the hands can carry up the glass yet -

Does there seem no prospect of John getting out of his present position of hard work - write me what you think -

Mrs Adie and my young folks unite in kindest regards to yu , Mrs.Cowie, and family, and I am,

My Dear Sir, Yours sincerely,  
Tho.M.Adie.

335b/336

Voe, April 7th/64

My Dear, Dear, Son,

I have just received your letter if 1st Jany. and we all unite in thanking God that you are well also dear Mary and the Bairns - I am quite surprised to think that you have not had letters from us for 12 months - I have written many and enclosed them to Dr.Cowie - I send this by post - but I will also enclose one to Dr.Cowie of this date -

My dear Son - I have read your letter over and over again - you seem to have hid nothing from us - your dear wife and little ones have certainly suffered much - but since God has been pleased to open your eyes to see the consequences of evil ways I trust he will enable you to steer clear of those quicksands in all time coming - I am glad you have written me all - would to God you had done so from first - but that is over now and my son you must *(have)* God before you - let his .... and love *(reign)* ever after in the rule of your life *(or)* everything else fails - teach your dear ones to trust in him and altho' you may be far from the means of Public Worship - My son, forget not your God - and let not your children do it either - I trust things will come round with you and a year or two where you are will let you see some way (of) doing better - a steady perservering way is the best - men who have money get on as you mention - but it is by the old tale that money makes money - now if you are really useful to your employer, he may induce your money with him for a small share and that might increase - so if you perservere steadily you may do well, yet my boy - I feel very thoughtful about your dear bairns - how are they to get education where they are ? Is there any school near? or how do you manage. Write me all about that - I have no word from Melbourne of importance - but I shall let you know when I have - and now, dear John, adieu for the present - God bless you and with kindest love to you, Mary, and the children, from us all here, I am,

Your ever affect. Father,  
Tho.M.Adie.

337

Voe. April 7/64

My Dear, Dear, Son,

I have today written you and enclosed other letters all of which are addressed to yourself, per post, to be at the Post Office, Dunedin till called for - this I enclose to the mutual friend Dr.Cowie with some others from Ma and etc. - Your letter has comforted us much notwithstanding the sad folly you have gone thro' - we are comforted by the hope that since you lay it all open before us, a change for the better has taken place and that neither you nor your dear wife and children will ever again endure the hardships you have had to go through - may God help you all to do right to God and to each other - I shall not say much as the sum of the losses will unite -

William has been South and is not well since he came home - poor fellow, he is not strong as he once promised to be and is so dull and low-spirited. I fear the worst for him - yet it keeps us all very anxious on his account - I hope you are feeling better, my dear John - take care of your health - if you lose that, what then? - May God help you all.

With kindest love to all,

I am, My Dear John,

Your ever aff. Father,

Tho.M.Adie.

338

Voe, April 11th 1864

My Dear Joanne,

Thanks for your letter ... poor Mrs Baumeister - I will do all I can for - but if she loses heart it is done - I do not think Miss Scollay will live another year, and she would not move, and cannot be compelled - then Thom. and Jas. could not do with a woman - They are with a Master and he has difficulty .... the same destination to them to be under .. guidance were they little .... it would do very well - I have written her and advised her to take the house, and she must just furnish plainly, for a great expense of furniture never can pay -- it is all very well where people can afford it - I do hope Jean will stop at home if she comes down -

With kindest love to you all,

in haste, your affec. Bro.,

Tho.M.Adie

339

Voe., April 11/64

My Dear Ann,

I have Joanne's letter and note what she says - Robina writes me about a house, and was to write you - I am sorry to find that £100 cannot furnish as I cannot

advance more - that is my own money - not the Scollay Trust funds - they are all out at 5% Int. and cannot be got, and if they could, I could not advance of them without Mr.Foster's written authority as I know what he says, and how he may fix me if he can - I will write him as to it - but I do not think that did he agree to give it, you should furnish very well a moderate house for £100 - not stylishly of course, but comfortably and to suit the purpose wanted - the most I think of is about your house and furniture at Pr.D..t.y - who can look after it and realize money from it - all that must be paid for or done badly by friends and you must run about after it at expense for travelling - my conviction is this, that if you take the house at St.Andrew's (and which I would advise - that you sell furniture and all and try to get something for the house, should it be little - and what you saved over paying the debt on the furniture you have, could be a help at St.Andrews - You might preserve beds and bedding and things of that sort - or if you prefer taking chances where you are - I will agree to pay the yearly rent of the house for you till we see how things turn up -

With kindest love to you both,

Your affec.Bro.,

Tho.M.Adie.

Don't lose heart - what you do, do well with all your heart. TMA

340

Voe, April 11/64

The Rev. Mr.Foster,

Dear Brother,

It is long since I wrote you - Ann is done again and also the means - she can do nothing where she is - there is a prospect of her living by keeping boarders at St.Andrews -

and she wishes to try it - I have promised to advance her from myself £100 to buy furniture - it cannot do and I can advance no more - can you help her to a £50 note (or send me a written authority on stamp and I will advance her £50 from Scollay's Trust - tho' I have the money all out at 5 percent - possibly that might be a help stopping with Ann, but then Neil and his family could not live - I could do without him here, but pay him £60 a year and free house and will not let him get me ..... in debt off the whole hog - and if he came here it is to be misery - so you see how all things are and I shall be glad to hear from you - If Ann is to chance she must do so at once -

I hope you are all well. We are all middling and unite in kindest love to you all,

Your affec. Bro.,

Tho.M.Adie

341

Voe Shetland Dec. 2/65

My dear Mary,

I have just received your letter of 24th Sept. with the likeness enclosed of yourself and children and your Brother - Tom I think is very like Alfie and Polly is like Barbra - we all long to see the originals and I trust that will some day not far distant be



realized - I had a letter from Dr.Cowie when you left Otago - I am fairly heartsore and distressed at the circumstances you and Dr.Cowie write me and really know not what to advise - tho' John is my son, it becomes a serious matter to meddle in family affairs - I would gladly take the dear children to me and educate and do for them as my own - but I could not say that till I gave John a chance of doing his duty. I have written to him today, care of Dr.Cowie, and I have urged him to write me at once and to send money to you and his children - If he does not I will take on myself the bringing up of the dear little ones as you will have enough to do for yourself as you say - my children are growing up and we could manage very well with them here now - Meantime I am glad Tom has gone to school and that you are all in the enjoyment of good health - John's Mother is in great distress about the state of matters with you - I enclose a letter from her, and will write you as soon as I hear from Dr.Cowie if I should not hear from John - Remember me kindly to your Father and Mother and thank them for me for their kindness - write me often how you all are and if you get any news from John and with kind love to you and the dear children.

I am, My Dear Mary,  
Your affec. Father,  
Tho.M.Adie.

It can do you no good to expose John - that will not make him better and would show a bad spirit in you - we are not told by God to send evil for evil, even to an enemy !-

342 & 344

Voe, Dec. 2nd 1865

My Dear, Dear, John,

A short time ago I had a letter from Dr.Cowie acquainting me that he had been out seeing your wife and children off for Melbourne - that they had no means of support - that they had not heard from you for months or did you promise any means of support for them - I have now a letter from Mary saying she is with her Father with the children and writing me to say what is to be done for them as she must try to get a situation to make a help for them but of course that cannot be a provision for them all and I suppose her parents are not very able at least I suppose so - now, my son, what is the meaning of all this - why have you deserted your wife and children? I am at a loss to account for that, for with all your follies I had hoped you never would do that - is there a cause for it? If so, it must be a very serious one before you could be excusable for throwing off your wife and children - I would write and take the children here, but I cannot move in the matter till I hear from you - write me fully as to the circumstances which have induced you to act so - or what is better, come home at once and lay your troubles where they should come, on the bosom of your parents and arrange with them

for the future of your wife and children - do not delay for in the sight of God and Man it is a serious matter and before you start for here, if you have means about you, send something to them - as you value your peace here and hereafter, do what is right, my son - I need not say farther - I enclose a letter from your dear Mother - if you saw her distress it would stir you to action, I am sure - We are all moving about - some home, some away - Ann and Harriet and their husbands are well - Jenny (*McKay?*) is at school near London - Neil is with Mrs.B.at Bvue and a Governess is here with the others -

May God bless you and guide you, my son, to do what is right and to come home at once and see what is to be done - surely you do not intend to throw aside your manhood and act wrong to your own flesh and blood for any foolish companions who may advise - shake them off at once and return to the path of duty which is the only path of peace here or in the world to come -

With kindest love from all, My Dear John,

Your ever affect. Father, Tho.M.Adie.

Write immediately and let me know what vessel you are to come by, and when she will leave Otago.

343

Voe. Shetland. Nov. 30 1866

Robert Cowie Esq., Dunedin.

My Dear Sir,

I duly received your letter of 18th Augt. the contents of which pierce me to the heart - still I feel grateful to you for candidly writing me as you have done - you know that even with my son it is a delicate matter to meddle in family affairs as it were between man and wife - I have written to his wife in reply to a letter I have from her and have told her that on hearing from John that I am willing to take the children home here and to be on myself the burden of them - I have enclosed a letter for John which please forward to him and have requested him to come home at once and let me know all and try to arrange for the future - will you write him and urge that course on him - if as you say, he would come home even for a short time, it might do him great good - I know how easily he is led astray for want of firmness of character and know he must be suffering misery of mind in consequence - I need not add more. Thanks a thousand times for what you have done and I pray God you may now feel the sorrow about a child I and my poor wife have - but we will forgive him all and plan our best for the future if he will only come home and turn over a new leaf for the better - he could make a living here by steady industry and have peace of mind which he must long have been a stranger to - I will arrange all for him if he writes by mail saying the vessel he is to come by - urge on him, my dear friend, to come - This distress is crushing my wife fast into her grave - God grant he may end it all by coming to us and if he remained here his wife and children could be brought home here -- I fear there is some serious misunderstanding between John and his wife - but that is no excuse for his neglect either in the sight of God or Man - I will await your letter with great anxiety, you may be sure -

I am glad to hear that your own family and friends are well - I saw your Brother

this week - they were well - I am happy to say my family are also as their usual, and my married Daughters and their Husbands are well - Lucy and Jo Anderson still hold out but neither of them are much worth now - both, especially Lucy, getting very feeble. Mrs.Adie writes with me in kindest regards to you, Mrs.Cowie, and family, and I am, My Dear Sir,

Yours very truly, Tho.M.Adie.  
Willie Andrew never leaves house - his family are very ill off - and no .....

345/6

Voe. April 14/66

My Dear James,

I duly received your letter of 20th Feby. and was glad to find that you and your family are well - All here had a great deal of sickness this winter - I have been laid up for three weeks and Willa has been ill since December - often the Doctor walks over - William, Tom, in fact almost every one has had a share, so that the house has been like our hospital for months - all are however better - thanks be to God - but my wife is very feeble and tormented with pain every day - she could not go over to be with Harriet during her confinement so we have had Harry here - she was safely delivered of a son 26th ult - Baby is doing well, but Harry is fearfully distressed with her breasts -

No doubt you have very hard work - but the farm seems to answer better than any thing you have tried since you went to Canada - I trust prices will be good so as to pay you - Breadstuffs are getting very dear in Britain - and we are very scarce of it in Shetland. I have had in 500 bolls meal already and almost all gone - Our winter has been very severe and a great many shipwrecks - we have had a large Norse ..... ship load with 2000 tuns of timber in the Voe here all winter fitting out and repairing damages - she only got away three months ago - I could not get any vessel or the steamer to carry down a mast for her - it was so large and she had to go to Liverpool under jury mizzen mast - but they are there, safe and well - We have ..... kept clear of the "Rinderpest" as yet and I hope we will come through. The price of pork here has been 35/- to 40/- per cwt for the carcase, head and feet and .. no such ..... as ..... at 2% ... ..

I doubt not that Canada will get on as well after at time without the commercial treaty with the United States - and the Yankees will not like to embroil themselves in a foreign war on account of the Germans - I hope therefore these will not be allowed to go too far with their nonsense till the war ..... checks them as it --

My son - John seems misled wrong - I know not where he is - I write almost every month and send his letters enclosed to Dr.Robert Cowie, Otago. New Zealand - he gets them all, sometimes a dozen at a time - he has cost us many an anxious hour and days -

My Brother - I am surprised at the way you write - what are the reasonable terms you mean - me to sacrifice and risk all as usual - you talk of "spite" - that is a curious word to use because I will not (venture?) to be deceived again or place you in a position ready to swear against your own signature - possibly my wife, like other women, might do many foolish things when they meddle with what they know nothing about - but she is not in the habit of speaking to any one on matters of importance as she does not

understand and charging others with the very cause of what they deserved - you write against your conscience -" you say you were shoved off to Papa with little or no money" - you were offered to remain here - I would look out in a necessity for myself - you would not. Your wife would and if you wanted, your friends at Papa would not let you - and what was I left with ? A load of debt, nearly £2000 that ground me to earth for years and years, and what value had I for that - a stock of trash that made me worse every year - my act of folly was that I could not complain and laid my trials before all my friends - had I gone to jail a time or two for these debts - they would have felt for me - but I determined to overcome it and I did and the struggles it cost me made me ..... better after I was clear - in all these years of my struggles with old debts - did I not help and bolster you up at Papa and all would not do - my Brother, how can you write so - lay not on me the blame of your own ..... of business knowledge and consequent want of success -

We all unite in kind love to you, Eliza, and the family,

and I am, My Dear James,

Your ever affectionate tho' misjudged and ill-used Brother,

Tho.M.Adie.

Eliza and ..... and Robina are .....

347 & 349

Voe. April 14/66

My Dearest Son,

Many months of waiting on a letter from you brought us none - and if you knew the effect and felt the effect of your heartless conduct, surely surely you would change your course - you may waive all these considerations while you have youth and strength, but, my son, a day will come when a bed of sickness and old age with no loving hand near you will bring all these acts of carelessness like daggers to your heart - could I be near you I would beseech you on my knees to break off from all your evil associates and be a man in the true sense of the word - I cannot be near you - the sands of my Glass are fast running out - all I can do is to pray God to change your heart to himself and to those you right now do cherish and are in ..... - your dear Mother has been confined to bed for last three months and for the most part two Doctors attending her - but enduring all suffering and hanging us on the brink of eternity, all her lament was for her son - I have been assured by the Doctors that she never can recover - that she may hold out for some time but for the way her heart is effected death may take place at any moment - could you not come home that you may see her once more in life that she could look once more on the face of her closest alive?

I need not say much to you, my son - I wrote you fully as to your wife and children - I am hoping to take the children here and do my best for them - your poor wife - has she acted wrong ? I cannot think she could and still to love and struggle for your children - do her justice in the sight of God and men as you shall have to answer at the

great day of account -

- I would have sent to bring the children here but did not think I would be acting right to do so without your knowledge - you are their Father - and while alive should decide - will you let them perish for food or education by neglecting to write me as to them ?

May 1st - this day - the anniversary of your birth - brings the past strongly before me and I snatch a moment to say God spare and preserve my son and restore his heart to himself - I wrote as on the other side and was taken from it by search for mercurial aid for your dear Brother William and William Pole who have both been very seriously and dangerously ill - Harriet was over here also beside us as Ma could not go to her during her confinement and I am thankful to say she is getting on very well and her little son is thriving - I shall not send this off for a day or two till I see how they all progress -

May 26th Such a time, my son, as we have had - both Mr. and Mrs. Pole got a relapse from their going to work too soon and exposing themselves and have just escaped with the life - They have been so helpless for last three weeks that they could not turn in the bed and Ma is just alive from working about them - I have sat up with William most of the night watching by his bedside till I know not what I am about - thanks be to God - They are now, I trust, out of danger and I hope will get better if it please God. - as yet William cannot use his hands and has to be fed by his poor Mother - I never had so much sickness and trial in my house since I had one put to cover me of my own.

I enclose this to Dr.Cowie as I know not where to write to you - write me for any sake and say what is to be done about your children - you cannot let them perish - my God, such a thought - it makes me shudder to think of it - and my son the principal actor in the matter. -

All here unite in kindest love to you, and I am,

My Dearest Son,

Your ever affectionate tho' disturbed Father,

Tho.M.Adie.

348

Voe, May 26th/66

My Dear Sir, (*Robert Cowie*)

I write this note in haste to enclose one for my son, if he is still alive, and you can trace him - I am in distress about his children and he will not write - I would take them here as their Mother wished but he, their Father, is still alive, and should advise - my poor lost son - God help him and his parents whom he has so sorely tried - yet we would think of nothing if he did his duty to children and his wife whom both the ..... of God and Man .... to .... to and ..... for - I hope your family are keeping in the enjoyment of good health - this has been a fearful year of sickness in Shetland such as I ever remember and the Doctors have been used to - Your Brother has been very ill indeed and has got a sad shake from which he will take long to recover, and many more in the Islands - My son William and William Pole have been near death but thank God they are both spared and

are mending tho' very slowly - they have been for three weeks perfectly helpless - about two months my Daughter Harriet was safely delivered to a son - she was in our house as Mrs.Adie was not able to go to Mossbank to her - My poor wife will never be well again and her distress about John is never ending - Jo Anderson and Lucy still live but they are not much worth now - ..... is very feeble and his wife is just dying - sad changes always taking place - but these things must be.

Will you please write me any news you can learn of my son - with kindest regards to self, Mrs.Cowie, and family, in which Mrs.Adie unites. I am, My Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely, Tho.M.Adie

I hear that Mr.Ross has again sold my property for £3,000 - what do you think I should do? - advise me !

350

Voe. Shetland July 2nd

Mr. John Fender,  
Care Mr.Wm.White, .....  
Dear Sir,

I have received both your letters and I thank you heartily for your kind attention.

I have written to my Law Agents Messrs. Bradribb, Crisp, and Lewis, Melbourne to act for me in the matter as they see necessary, and again thanking you,

I am, Yours truly,  
Tho.M.Adie.

351

Voe. Shetland July 2nd 1866.

Messrs. Bradribb, Crisp and Lewis,  
Solicitors, Melbourne.  
Dear Sirs,

It is long now since I heard from you or wrote you - I enclose two letters I have lately received as to my property - I will feel obliged by your enquiring into the matter as it cannot do to lose it and I leave it in your hands to take such steps as you consider necessary for that purpose - This Mr.John Fender is unknown to me personally, but I have written him repeatedly and answered him as to the property - My friend Dr.Cowie, having my Power of Attorney may perhaps have to empower you - but I think not in the present case - ..... you with power .... ascertain the truth of what Fender says, and if necessary stop it if true - I hope you will act on receipt for the protection of the property that it pass not away altogether from me -

Expecting to hear from you, I am,  
Dear Sirs, Yours truly  
Tho.M.Adie.

352

(PRIVATE)

Voe, Decr.7, 1866.

Charles G.Duncan Esq.,  
My Dear Sir,

Dr.Robert Cowie has removed from Melbourne and cannot act for me about my property there - You ..... have .... said any thing .. as to that unfortunate purchase - It is necessary that I send by first mail a Power of Attorney in name of my solicitors in Melbourne, "Messrs. Crisp and Lewis, solicitors, 51 Chancery Lane, Melbourne."

I want copy of the Power, etc., sent to Dr.Cowie - I wish it the same in every respect, except the power to appoint others as Attorneys, so it involves just the change of names, keeping out that clause as to appointing others - Will you please strain a point to get it done tomorrow and post so as I get it by Monday morning - and I will return it so as you could fill up the ..... clause and post for Melbourne on Monday evening - I beg you will do all you can to manage this - I will tell you when I come to town how matters progress as to the Property - perhaps it may be necessary to cancel the former deed in (favour of) this one.

My Dear Sir, Yours sincerely,

Tho.M.Adie

Please return me the copies.

353

Voe. Shetland. Decr.10, 1866

Messrs. Crisp & Lewis,  
51 Chancery Lane, Melbourne.  
Dear Sirs,

I have your favour of 26th Sept. last and take note of all you say - It cannot do for me to loose sight of the property at same time you know already how desirous I am to take matters calmly if possible - The original Bond was for £600 - now if (as I think) Mr.Mowbray also got that Bond (and) could only sell the Bond, would not the best course be to go back to that Bond and try to compromise on it or if the worst came to the worst, hold it as a debt on the property with the interest attaching to it, that would be a considerable sum now - but I think that when it came to the test, the parties would rather compromise and deliver up the Crown Grant and all the Bonds rather than lose all - of course in the first place the delivery of the certificates must be legally put a stop to, and I am having a Power of Attorney prepared to send you - I may not get this ready for the present mail but it shall follow immediately - I thus come to leave the preperty and my dearest interests in your hands - I would not wish the property to be sold till I hear what is done or how matters are likely to be arranged and if you could give me an idea of the value of the Property - you see what that man Fender said that it was worth £4000 - I do hope you may be able so to manage as to keep matters from taking the course I have so much dreaded if even half the value of the land should have to go - but I feel satisfied

from what my friend Dr.Cowie wrote me of you, that you will do what is right, knowing as you do all the circumstances -

Hoping you will on receipt write me and keep me advised of all that transpires - I wish I was nearer you, but that cannot be.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

355a

Voe. Shetland. Decr. 10 1866

Messrs Crisp and Lewis, Melbourne.

Dear Sirs,

I now enclose herewith Power of Attorney in your favour to enable you to act for me in respect to my property for my interest - and I leave the matter in your hands to do what you deem right and necessary in the circumstances - you will please keep me advised every mail how things progress and

I remain, Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

355b

Voe Dec 10 1866

My Dear Mary,

I have received your letter also one from your father, and have only time to say that I arranged with Mr.Peterson, Chief Officer of the "Great Britain" to call on you, and if you agreed to send the dear children to me, he was to take charge of them - I know him from boyhood, and can fully trust him - so I have no doubt of their being looked well to on the long dreary voyage - May God comfort you and enable me to do my duty to them - this shall not be wanting while I live - but I am getting old and Ma is now able for very little - but we must trust in God who does all things for all.

With kind love to you and them, in haste

Your affect. Father,

Tho.M.Adie.

I will write .....

356

Voe, March 30th 1867.

Dr,Cowie

My Dear Sir,

I duly received your welcome letter covering one from my son to you - you may be sure it was a great relief to us all to see his writing again for we thought he could not be alive - I would have written you sooner - but have been trying to get the things made which you want and I hope to have them ready for the "Great Britain" when she goes out again - I hope she is in Liverpool now - and what do you think - I had written for John's children to be sent home to me and Mr.Gilbert Peterson was to take charge of them and by last mail I was informed that John was with them - I can scarcely



write or do anything - I cannot settle my mind to work - the joyful prospect of again seeing my long lost prodigal son - dear, vey dear to me, even with all his follies and faults, has quite unhinged me and the first news of it nearly upset my poor wife altogether - blessed be God who has inclined his heart to see us once more - I know not what the end of it may be - he has doubtless thought of it on getting our last letter - very likely you would see him when he went to Melbourne, and may have known his intention - your friendship in these very great trials about our son, I and Mrs.Adie can never forget -

I miss my dear old friend your Brother, very much - I had such confidence in him when any thing was the matter and our minds on many subjects were open to each other - but such is life, and we must submit to our God - my folks are just middling - some of them not over strong - the bairns are rather delicate - Mrs Adie has been since she was South under the treatment of Dr.Begbie in ..... last year - but she ..... things move here about in the old way - Jo Anderson still holds out as also Lucy but neither of them are able for much now and the ..... of their glass by the course of nature ..... he has down - old folks are dropping off, and young ones also, so that I should say if you were to drop down in Shetland some day you would be surprised at the change -

Mrs.Adie joins me in kind regards to you, Mrs.Cowie, and family, and I am,

My Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,        Tho.M.Adie.

Dunedin.

358

Voe. March 30/67

My Dear James,

Your letter of 8 Jany. came to hand in due course, and we were all happy to find you and the family were well and pray God such may long be the case - I sent on the P.O. Order to Jas. and Frazer - he wanted me ..... you again but I told him I would do no more - my young father (*Wm.Pole Jr. m. to Janetta Harriet, T.M's daughter, and ? living in old shepherd's house of Voe?*) thinks your house a little paradise, we have no photographer here or I would send you some home views to remind you of the old places.

I am sorry to hear your crops have been so bad - ..... what comes across us - I have lost very heavily this season with the Petersons of ..... and at my age can not now expect to make it up to my family - but while they can .... I am content and will work on.

I had some unexpected news by last mail - I had written to John to send his two children home that I might see to get some education for them and be in ..... with them - I had not expected to see his face again - thanks be (to) God I have now that prospect - we are all moving about tho' Jane is not well by any means - I sent for the Doctor to some of the young folk this morning - Jean has been with me for last 9 months - she is now at Bardister seeing Mrs.Henderson.

I shall be happy to hear from you and hope you will not neglect writing - all here unite with me in kindest love to you all and John.

My Dear James,

Your ever affec. Bro.

Tho.MAdie.

359/360

Voe, Shetland April 13th 1867

Mr. Robert Hoseason, New Zealand.

Dear Sir,

Before this time you will doubtless have heard of your Father's death - my son John has returned, and tells me that he thinks you will prefer stopping in New Zealand to returning to Shetland - I therefore write to say that if such is the case and you have no objections, I shall readily take charge of your property for you and remit the rents yearly as you may wish or if you are inclined to sell - I will buy the whole off you and remit the value as soon as the legal transfer could be completed - If you should decide on appointing me as Factor and Commissioner for you - you would require to get a Power of Attorney out by a lawyer describing the property generally as belonging to you, situated in the Island of Yell and in the Parish of Delting, County and Sheriffdom of Orkney and Shetland, Great Britain and authorizing me to demand and recover from your Father's Executor all deeds and writings and to settle your affairs with them - If you decide to sell the property you would require to send me a legal document made out by a lawyer empowering me to demand the titles and other writings to enable me have the transfers completed - the Power of Attorney to act as Factor and Commissioner for you would do for this purpose, accompanied by a letter offering me the whole property at a given price and authorizing me to prepare the deeds of transfer for your signature without delay, when these and the money should be sent out with the utmost despatch - The property in Yell which belonged to your Father and the half of Mossbank is yours - I understand that all the property which your Father has himself bought, has been left to Charles, William, and the younger children and Mrs.Hoseason in Life rent, reverting to your Heirs on their death - they are all young and any advantage to you personally is never to be expected from that - you came to manhood ere you left home and must recollect all about the property and its value and rents - one thought you will please keep in mind (if you determined to sell) is naming a price - that the public burdens on property have, is nearly doubled since you left and cuts down the rents very much - the Poor Rate alone in Yell is 5/- a £ of Rate, and in Delting 2/4 with every prospect of their being more - none whatever of their being less - Then a new Church and Manse have to be built in Delting immediately which will tell on the Rental of the Parish and swallow it up for two years to come - so if you sell you must price so as a man can live - If, on the other hand, you appoint me as your Factor and Commissioner, I shall do my utmost for your interest as if it were my own - the Personal estate is left about one third to Mrs.Hoseason and the rest among the other children except yourself - I understand some trifle is left you - but it is of no consequence, merely to show you were not forgotten - my impression is that each of the children of both marriages (exclusive of yourself) may have about £1000 to get, and if your Brother Arthur sends me a Power of Attorney to settle his interest with the Trustees, I shall do so and remit the money as he may direct - he would thus avoid lawyer's expenses which always run high on these things, when they are appointed to look into them -

I need add no more than that I shall be happy to hear from you, and remain,

Dear Sir,,

Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

I may add - that if you do not come home, what you do, should be done very promptly.  
TMA.

361/2

Voe, Shetland. April 13th 1867

Robert Cowie Esq., Dunedin.

My Dear Sir,

Mr Hoseason of Mossbank died in Feby last and from what John tells me of (his son Robert), I do not think it is likely he will come to Shetland again, and I should like to get charge of his property for him or I would buy it if we could agree as to price - if he was inclined to sell - I enclose a letter for him which you can read and close down again - then if you would advertise for him in all the papers (for he is sure to be in the province of Canterbury), requesting Ralph Clifford "to send his address to you as you had news of great importance to him from home", I think that would bring him forward - and if he could then be brought to your house, you could, and would, I am sure, use your influence with him to either appoint me as his Factor and Commissioner or to sell the property off at once as I have described in the letter to him - my impression is that the property he now comes in to should be valued at £1500 or, including the reversion of the places left in Life Rent to others, £300 more - it would be long ere any one could get any benefit from that part of it - in fact he might be inclined to take even less money, as I daresay a moderate sum would last as long with him as a large one - but if he stood out I would rather go to £2000 for the whole reversion and all, than want the place, as my son-in-law is there just now - yet it might not be advisable to allude to that to him, as I know not what sort of man he is at all.

That part you will know how to manage and if managed to my advantage I shall be happy to remit you a fair commission either way he may decide - meantime the expense of advertising I shall repay you , whether successful or not. -

If I had that place I might manage to keep more of my family about me while I live and that is my greatest enjoyment - of course if Hoseason' sends deeds for either the one purpose or the other, they will require to be drawn up by a lawyer and securely done - most would do well to take no notice of this matter to any Shetlander or speak or write of it in any way till the whole was arranged - were any thing happening to Robert Hoseason, the whole would go to bits. Daughter in Melbourne and he could do nothing to prevent it - for while he could sell, he could not will it past his child - possibly he may wish it to continue as it is for his benenfit. I do not think Mr.Hoseason would buy and none of his other brothers will have so much as to enable them to make the purchase and it is well that he understands the whole matter - I shall add nothing more as to this till I hear from you again -

I wrote you on 30th ult. and on Sunday the 7th inst., John and his two children reached here. I need not try to describe our feelings at seeing him once more and how

thankful we feel to Almighty God for his unexpected mercy - he is greatly changed yet he is kind and affectionate as ever - Thoughtlessness and indolence I believe have led him in to all his errors - and I fear he will never do much good for I doubt if he ever settles down quietly any where - I am much pleased with the dear bairns -

With kind wishes for you, Mrs.Cowie and the children, in which Mrs.Adie joins me,

I am, My Dear Sir, Yours very truly.

Tho.M.Adie.

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Voe, Shetland. April 13th, 1867.

My Dear Mary,

John and the two children arrived here safely on Sunday last the 7th inst. I need not tell you how rejoiced we were to see them all - John is of course much changed to what he was - but he is still the same kind hearted affectionate fellow he was - thoughtlessness and indolence has been the cause of all his errors, not badness of heart - and I thank God it is so - the children I am much pleased with and so are all here - they have set to work in earnest to their Books - for the future much cannot be said as yet - we are casting about us to see what John could do here and I trust something will be hit on before the "Great Britain" goes out again so as we can write you fully - but it needs a short time to make out whether John can settle down, for without that nothing can be done - but I have good hopes that all will be right and then we can write you to come home with the steamer, so you must cheer up and I shall do what I can to bring about that desirable object so as to have you all near us - my family is however a very large one and requires consideration in regard to what is done - but my heart's desire is to have you here with us - John will write and perhaps some of the others if they can manage it -

Meantime, with kindest love to you from all, I am, Dear Mary,

Your affec. Father,

Tho.M.Adie.

364/5

Voe, Shetland. June 10,

1867.

Messrs. Crisp and Lewis,  
51 Chancery Lane, Melbourne.

Dear Sirs,

I have your letter of 25th Feby, and must say I am very much disappointed to find that while you were wasting my interests and knew the law and the advantages that a party such as Ross was would be likely to take of it that you quietly allowed a certificate of debits to be obtained by Lyall - you had my remittance for your former account at which time I wrote you to watch my interest and replied previous to date of the certificate that you would do so.

Now as I said before my son's name must not be handled at all and I do not see the need for it as I think it is pretty clear Ross or Ross and Lyall have committed themselves so far as to be chargeable with fraud and its consequences and they will be ..... fist - Your plea is that the documents are forged in my name - but by whom we have nothing to .. - in fact if Ross brings forward that the deeds are forged, he

then acknowledges that he committed a fraud on Lyall, and if Lyall knew then he is actor with Ross in the fraud, I should suppose - more from the circumstances I do think they have complicated their position so that they would be afraid to do anything against my son and our position must be to maintain the forgery of the signatures, but not to know by whom - in this way you will please put them to the test at once for I think they will readily come to terms, and if favourable terms can be obtained I will sell the property over to them - I expect they will be easily brought on now, tho' they have got the certificate - and in making an arrangement, unless you see that you can shut them up in a corner - they must be allowed what will keep them quiet - as we can only set them at defiance by having the signatures in my possession - If any thing farther occurs to me I shall write again at once - Meantime I leave the matter in your hands with what I have said, and shall look for a letter from you on every occasion to know how matters progress.

I am, Dear Sirs,

Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

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Voe, Shetland. Aug. 6th,

1867.

Messrs. Crisp and Lewis,  
Solicitors, 51 Chancery Lane, Melbourne.

Dear Sirs,

I am favoured with your letter of 27th May with enclosure and am obliged by the steps you have taken to secure my title to my land in Lancefield - and for your granting the necessary security in the action of Ejectment against Mr.Lyall - I cannot see that they can possibly succeed retaining the property from me or certainly there is no justice in the Law - Your Draft was presented for acceptance - but I had to return it - at this season of the year the means of Merchants in this quarter who are like me are pretty largely engaged in the Fishings, come to be locked up in the produce of the islands - and as the object was to keep you safe under the obligation you had incurred, i have requested the union Bank of scotland, edinburgh, to arrange the matter with their correspondents in melbourne so that the £250 or any less sum required under your guarantee shall be paid over to you if it is that such will not be the case -

I have also desired Letter of Credit to be sent you for £50 which please pass to credit of charges in the case, in the meantime - I am particularly anxious that you should be kept safe from loss in the matter - more especially seeing you have taken up my interests so zealously - You will receive from the Bank by this mail the Letter of Credit for £50 and Letter of Security as to the guaranteed £250 so as to keep you right - I feel thankful for your coming forward in that way or the "game must have been up !"

The facts of the case are these:-

In June 1856 I sent out £600 to William Westgarth Esq. of Melbourne to purchase the land for me - he bought Crown portion 14 Parish of Rockford containing 462 acres for me at 20/- per acre, paying £462 for it, leaving a balance of my money of £138 - and

at my request Mr. Westgarth left the Crown Grant in the hands of the Government Officers until I should demand it or give authority for its delivery - how it was delivered, I know not - I was informed that the grant was in the hands of Mr. Thos. Mowbray and that a mortgage had been given him by some one on the land - that Mowbray afterwards sold the mortgage to Mr. Ross - who was well aware of the position he occupied in respect to the land before he left Australia for Scotland and came home for the purpose of treating with me about it and I was informed of his intention by a man named "Fendon" who resided near the property - Fendon wrote me about the same time, letting me know how matters were going on - Mr. Ross says when he came to Scotland in the early part of 1862 "he then for the first time heard that his title was questioned" !! - who told him so in Scotland ? or knew anything of the matter at all - and why did he, knowing nothing, bring the Crown Grant with him to Scotland, if he had not known before he left, and when he intended to return to Australia so soon? Mr. Ross did not ask me if I intended to claim the land - but I told him he had got possession of my land and that rather than have any trouble I would be willing to pay him something to deliver up the Crown Grant - that I was sorry he should lose money but it was not my fault - he told me he had the Deeds, etc., with him and would deliver them to me on payment of the money he had paid Mr. Mowbray - that I would not do - he told me how long he was to be in Scotland and I said I expected to be South and might see him if he was inclined to arrange matters - I never told him that my son had turned out very bad - nor did I say that I had sent him money to buy the land, for I did not send the money to him, but to Mr. Westgarth and my son was only to occupy and improve the land, for which I was to charge him a rent - I had no occasion to go South and therefore did not see Mr. Ross, who again came to Shetland and wrote me to meet him at Lerwick - I was rather unwell at the time and requested the Law Agent there - Charles G. Duncan Esq., to call on Mr. Ross and arrange with him if possible, by paying him some £100 to deliver up my Crown Grant - but he would not unless he got the whole sum he had paid Mr. Mowbray - this ended all my intercourse with him - I think you can shew that Mr. Ross been interfered with by you since 1863 - and Mr. Ross evidently made the sale to Mr. Lyall knowing his title to the Property was bad or rather, worthless.

Now, if from the circumstances which will come before you - you consider that for my interest the actions should be proceeded with and if a commission is issued to secure my evidence - please let it be done in Edinr. before Adam Gifford Esq., Advocate, Shf. Principal of this County and I will go there to have it done - rather than have it done in Shetland. Henry Cheyne Esq., Edinr. would act as Agent - but as he might be absent, perhaps better leave the Agent to be appointed - if a fair compromise could be effected and all documents delivered up, it would doubtless be best - the property evidently seems to be valuable from the prices they have been selling at - I hope the plea they set up would incapacitate them from taking any other steps unaided. Ross by his own admission seems to have placed himself in as bad a position by not explaining matters to Lyall and I should fancy he (Ross) would feel rather tender on the subject - be that as it may - you know my wish and tho' certainly the news they advance makes me feel easier - yet still I feel queer on it - I think however that from the state of matters they will make proposal of some sort and if I cannot escape without paying something - I must do so -

the Property from various reports I have had, is well worth £6000 - Mowbray it seems, advanced £600 on it - If that sum was paid no one has suffered loss but through either their own fault or foolishness - I shall feel anxious till I hear from you again - I feel satisfied you will protect my interests to the utmost of your power and I must therefore as I have said before, leave the matter in your hands - possibly Mr.Russel may make overtures for purchasing the land since he has a fancy for the place - I would rather not sell just now but must arrange any way that can, and have best sacrifice of my just rights -

I remain, Dear Sirs,  
Yours truly, Tho.M.Adie.

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( private)

Charles G.Duncan Esq.,

Voe, Augt. 6, 1867

My Dear Sir,

I was to have left the letter and papers I had from Messrs Crisp and Lewis, with you to go over at leisure, but I quite forgot to do so - I now enclose them and my letter to these gentlemen - Please go over the whole, giving it your best attention, which will much oblige me - my letter is, I dare say, rather rambling, but I do not pretend to be a good letter writer unless it is about fish - this is the first .. .. I ever happened and I am likely to have, enough of bother about it - If you think my letter should be differently expressed, have the goodness to make me copy of what I should write - I am sorry to ask this as it has to be done by your own hands, but what can I do - please keep a note of charges - tho' I would not like them entered into your business books - I would need to send off my letter on Monday first or, I dare say, by Thursday's mail might do - so I would require to hear from you at latest by Monday's mail from Lerwick, as if I have to write again, and take pains on it!, I will need a little time - please return me at same time also the three enclosures now sent - your kind attention to this will much oblige,

My Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

Tho. M. Adie

Perhaps some of my statements may show my knowledge of my son's acts - I wish to avoid making it appear that I know he did it - you will know best if I am wrong and the legal bearing of the matter, TMA.

Writer, Leog House, Lerwick.

371 to 375

Voe, Augt. 14, 1867

The Rev. Wm. Foster,

Peterborough.

Dear Brother,

Although I have little time for it, and less inclination for writing long letters, especially when they are of a disagreeable sort - I am, in justice to myself, obliged to do

so at this time - and shall premise that I have to say by expressing my satisfaction that you have " thrown down the gauntlet", and come out as you feel.

I answered your letter of 17th ult., copy of which I have - your letter of 24th ult. contained a suggestion on which I acted, leaving the letter to Ann open for you to read, having put it under cover to you - copy of that letter I also have, and of all letters sent to you touching family matters and your replies are preserved also.

In reply to yours of 7th inst., I am truly sorry to find that Johan has had (to) leave the place she was in - that my letter to Ann above alluded to (meet?) your proposal in case that should happen and a feel satisfied that as you suggested I did my duty -

No one can regret or has reason to regret more than I do, that Neil Jamieson never got any of Mr Scollay's Trust Funds into his business or even had anything to do with them, but all his friends put implicit faith in his integrity and agreed that he shall get the money - all was in his hands and no accounts could be got from him - if they could, it would have been seen that he had expended over £200 of the money before he got the £400 from Mr.Spence to go in his business - when he failed I took possession whether he would or not or I dare say you would not have had a statement yet, or heard of it till it was all done - that money by general consent was advanced him - so we can (have?) none of his complain about it - however much we regret it.

You're ideas of justice and honesty to our creditors seems to me somewhat peculiar and in my mind "as evidence of great want of consideration" in Mrs Baumeister's case - I do think that with such views you were the proper person to come forward and defend her, for I could not honestly have followed out your theory of dealing with those matters - In 1851, Ann's creditors then discharged her for 5/- a £, which money was advanced to her by Mr Jamieson, from the Scollay funds - contrary to all reason and common sense, she broke up her establishment in Lerwick - having been brought to straits by keeping her Brother and his family when she could very ill manage to keep herself - that was her kindness of heart that led her into that imprudent step and she, I suppose, felt that she could shake it off in no way but by leaving the place - instead of by firmly refusing to be victimised by a man that could have done well for himself if he had chosen to exert himself and take care what he was about - well she sold off all and could pay her creditors in full - would it have been honest to give them less? or do you suppose they were such fools as to take less? - While she was South and what way Johann's money was laid out, I know not - one thing I know that the furniture for Rothesay house was taken from Mr.McKerron in Ann's name - all was done in her name, and who could control it? could you? If so you should have tried - In her mind breaking up I have had my share and paid for it - giving my money like a blinded fool notwithstanding all the examples of mismanagement - because Ann was my wife's sister - and for the same reason I gave her the whole share falling to her from the Jamaican legacy when she determined to South last year - that I suppose is all gone - who could help it? I asked her to stop with us - she preferred to try and get a place for herself and you know all that has since transpired in her and Johann's affairs better than I do -

Then as to what you please to designate as "a kind of respectful notice held out that the money may all be swallowed up" - I think if you looked to the matter as you ought you would come to that conclusion - all the available means of the Trust Estate is



short of £400 value of the land in Yell and... - the rest is composed of debts by Neil Jamieson, Mrs Baumeister and Mrs Foster - and you can judge what I can make of those - well Neil gets £25 a year for teaching and clothing Miss Scollay, and no one here in Shetland would do it for that - but if you will do it for less and thus save a little money to the Estate, I shall try to send her on to you - seeing that the available income from the Estate cannot produce £25 a year - that sum has to be made up from the principal as a matter of course, and lessens it every year - your last remarks therefore as to that might have been saved by a little reflection - for I assure you they are thrown away on me and I wish you to understand that - You go on to say "You and Neil have had the money - you have really done as you like with it - Now you must take the care and responsibility of Ann and Johan - these things belong to you and not to me," - My reply to that as it deserves would not look very seemly on paper - and I am pleased you had not the chance of saying so to my face - Neil destroyed the money - that I had no control over it - and he also destroyed a great deal of my hard earned means - but that is gone, over, and almost forgotten by me - but since I had it in my hands - not a 6th of it has gone but what is explained to you except public Horse taxes and I repel your insinuation that I am using the money or doing what I like with it - I wonder you have not more sense than to use such an expression or what follows the care and responsibility of Ann and her daughter is not more mine than yours and if you think so you are welcome to try - but I will not have "must" said to me about any thing and submit to it unless it be the law of the land.

-The law does not bind you or me to take care of either Ann or her daughter - but I am willing to do my share with you, but not to be told "I must do all," - I have been rather too guilty of that sort of thing and give my relatives an "ill use" - and well has it been followed up - but there is such a thing as putting the screw on too tight for the last time -

You say I "seem to take matters so easily etc.," - you are quite mistaken - I have the easy side of the matter to take - None left me to take - Neil has never since his failure had a 6th if the Trust Funds from me but Miss Scollay's Bond - he has had money of my own and is in debt to me - I suppose as a matter of course - but whether I had the power as you say, legally or morally - he has had none of these "cursed Funds" - a curse they have been to that family from first and it does not seem to cease overall I suppose while a penny remains - you are very indulgent in saying - you leave enquiry into my acts with this "blessed Fund" till time comes for it - hear me - I challenge you and all the lawyers in Britain to find a fault with what I have done with these moneys unless it be my own stupidity in ever having any thing to do with it - that I feel has been a grave error on my part - no man in my position has suffered more than I have done in pecuniary matters than I have for last 12 months and my connections seem those who tender me their peculiar sort of sympathy unsparingly as you have done - but I need not have expected anything else - it seems to be human nature to try to put your own burdens on other people's shoulders - now I wish you to keep your mind easy as to these "Precious Trust Funds", so valuable in your eyes and now offer you again - that on your giving me ample security so as to clear me of responsibility - I will account to you for the Estate since it came into my hands and pay over the money to you - and then in the Name of God to whom we must all account - take Neil and his family - Miss Scollay, Ann and Johann, and then you will be pleased, I hope, when you have both them and the money - and I

will still pay you yearly as long as I am able, a proportion for the board of Ann and Her daughter - that is if Ann does not come here - I think it right also to inform you farther - that I have accounts of all I have lost by Mr. Jamieson, Neil and Ann - that my wife's share of these funds shall go to the credit of these debts (if even she has any share to get) that if a balance remains, not needed to clear these losses, I shall divide it amongst you - not one penny rests here - I could not let a child of mine eat bread bought with it for fear it should prove fatal to their lives as it has to my ..... own family comfort - It would all have been destroyed but for me and the gratitude I received for my labours and responsibility, is passed off in such letters as yours of 7th inst.

I remain, Yours truly

Tho.M.Adie.

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Voe, Augt. 31/67

Dear Brother,

I have received your letters of 20th and 22nd inst., and was inclined to throw them in the fire and cease writing so as not again to "throw any dust in your eyes" - I have done nothing in regard to Scollay's Trust that requires the dust removed from it to your eyes - and to end the matter as to that Estate - I beg to tell you that when you write again on the subject you had better address yourself to my legal Agents Messre. W. and W. Sievewright, Lerwick, for I will hear no more of your insults did you wear Ten Black Coats at one time -

Miss Scollay's share of the Jamaica money was the same as yours £56-19-6 - and that is her private property - has nothing to do with her Father's Trust Estate - would you use that without the consent of the poor woman ? - Neil, I cannot support his family as it is - you wish him to keep Miss S. on his arrears and get in debt to me farther than he is? - No, I thank you - I have enough of that - The Fund shall be kept secure except what is need(ed) for Miss Scollay and that will be paid - ..... she with Ann - is £25 a year to pay rent and clothe and feed 3 of them ? As for them earning any thing, I would like to see a sample of it - then how is this house to be furnished? Put them in a house in that way - they must again get into debt - unless you take a house and furnish it with your wife's share of the Jamaica money to balance against my wife's share, already spent in their last failure - You should have come forward and stood their champion under an examination before the Court under sequestration and claimed for

Johann - I shall never cheat creditors on a plain if I had the chance - which I could not - You made a reasonable proposal first - that you would keep Johan and her mother come to me - I acted on that at once - no other proposal that can be made will do - for I will not pay one penny to furnish a house again - or if you prefer it, keep them both and I will pay a proportion of their board - in this matter you need not say to "throw dust in my eyes", for I can read you "like a book", you want to get them both into two rooms in Shetland and then I "may look out" - You are in as good a position to provide for your small family as I can for my large one, and in this matter I will go shares with you for all I have lost - either I take Ann and you Johan - or you keep both and I pay share - indeed it would be quite fair that you kept till my loss was made up so that we were equal, or as you

suggested Neil - keep them on the arrears - your style of writing raises every notion of fair play you see and does no good for I will knock under for no man breathing while I am in the right -

You have my attention as to Ann and her daughter and I shall be glad if it satisfies you as it should any reasonable man -

Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

I have a letter from Ann's Trustee in St.Andrew's asking me to pay £2-16/- to settle Mr.Black's account, and which I have refused to do. T.M.A.

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Voe, Sept 11 1867

The Rev. Wm.Foster,

Dear Brother

Yours of 5th inst is to hand - I am sorry to find you consider you are badly treated in being asked to contribute to the support of your wife's friend - what may I ... - .. you wish to ..... in the whole ! - The so-called Scollay Trust is for a special purpose, if a Trust - would you have any man to knowingly appropriate that means for any other purpose - but matters having come to this, I shall, if there is any more about it, throw the money into Court for .... there to take care of for Miss Scollay - for it is hers but it never belonged to Robert Scollay but to Ann Scollay after her uncle - Mr.Jamieson got her share - and .... if it had been Robert Scollay's - by his settlement it is now Miss Scollay's as a whole, and it would not pay half the debt due to her for short payment of annuity of £60 a year she was entitled to - your letter has taught me a lesson to run my head into no more of the nooses made for the special benefit of me and mine and I thank you for it - you proposed Ann to come here and Johan to stop with you - I at once agreed to it - now my answer to you is - keep Johan and I will take her mother - or you keep both and I will pay my share of their board to you out of my own pocket - not out of the means for Miss Scollay's support - and if you want her she can come to you also - This is all I can say and if it is not to your mind you may take any course you please - your word falls harmless on me.

Yours truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

379

Voe, Shetland. Sept. 12 1867,

Robert Cowie, Esq., Dunedin.

My Dear Sir,

I have received your letter of 5 July. I am happy to find that you and yours are well.

John is still with us but I fear he is not to settle down - he is the same kind hearted fellow he was - but as thoughtless as ever - that he may remain - but here there is no room

for so many families and I half begin to fear that it would not do - was William to take a wife, he has the first right - he has stuck to the business here and never deserted it, and works hard at it - but in a short time now will settle how things must be - John's wife is on the way to Shetland from Melbourne.

Thanks for what you are doing to discover Mr. Robert Hoseason - I hope you may succeed - Canterbury is the most likely place an advertisement in a paper there for a while might have some effect. If you fall in with him, I am sure you will advise him right ..... to come forward ..... into all his property or I will take charge of it for him if he sends me a Power of Attorney - If he does - he would require to frame it so as to enable me to look after his interests in his Father's succession - there is £100 left to him only - but it seems there is an Heritable Bond for £2000 which is not clearly conveyed so that it can go into the Movable Estate ..... Mr. R. H. as oldest son never intended him to ..... that, but it is quite clear that he must get it - unless he chooses to give it up - If he authorizes me, I shall see that everything is done for his interest and the money is remitted as he may wish or invested at home for him - I know they are all anxious for him to come home but I fear he would not like to settle down at Mossbank now - this has been a very bad year in Shetland - prices of..... Much down - but we must take it as it comes and be content - Old Mr Sievewright, Mr George Hay, Harry Cheyne... .. A. White, and Mr Ballantyne are the trustees - Cheyne the Law Agent in Edinr. and young Mr Sievewright in Shetland - lawyers at both ends will take a part of .. ..

I do not think any movement whatever has been made to try and find Hoseason - for what reason I cannot say - I enclose letter for him from Mr. Hoseason and his sister Mary in hopes he may turn up - were anything happening to him his daughter in Melbourne would come in for the property - should he not return to Shetland and put his affairs into my hands by a Factory and Commission, I can give him security for my intromissions if he wants it - that is to say if he will not sell - If he sells and fixes his price so that I can buy it fair and worth the money, I can pay it down to him at once - you will see how he wishes to act - by the by, you might (write) to "Mr Thomas Gunnell, Butcher, Christchurch, Canterbury" - John says he is the only man who is likely to fall in with Hoseason and he would desire him to wait on you at once.

Your Brother - My dearest friend out of my own family - is a sad miss to me - he was about two years my senior - Robert has settled in Lerwick and I think will get on well - he is clever and seems to have a good and agreeable way with the people -

Jo Anderson and Lucy still live - Jo is in my Packet Boat yet - tho' for little use, poor fellow.

I am sorry to say your box of hosiery was only dispatched two weeks ago - Gill Peterson left the "Great Britain" and I could not get the small hose till I got them made in Lerwick by Peter Sinclair & Co. Milligan Smith was going south and I got him to take the box and forward (it). - as soon as he returns I will write you how he sent it and I hope it will come safe and prove useful tho' late. We are all moving and write in kindest regards to you, Mrs Cowie and family, and I am,

My Dear Sir, Very Sincerely Yours,

Tho. M Adie

Poor Ian Hicks died at Bombay in July last a sad blow to his Mother.

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Voe, Sept. 12, 1867

Messrs Crisp and Lewis, Solicitors, Melbourne.

Dear Sirs,

Referring to my letter of 6th ult., I am sorry to find that there has (been) a "jumble" in the arrangements I contemplated, into the remittance of £50 and Guarantee for the £250 referred to in that letter and which has crept in through the negligence of the Bank, and to show you that it is not my fault, I enclose copies of the whole correspondence - after writing the bank as I intended, I waited patiently expecting their reply till I could do so no longer when I wrote them as you see and at last the needful was done, tho' still not in the way I wished - but I hope all will be right and satisfactory to you as was my wish - it did not matter my sending the whole £500, only the sale of produce is this season exceedingly dull and money ill to get bit of it and much needed by holding on stocks for an improvement in price.

I shall be glad to hear that all comes safe to your hand - I trust every thing will go on as we hope and wish, for it will be a d...l of a job if I lose money in addition to the loss of the property - but I cannot fancy such a thing as likely to occur or there is neither justice not fairplay in the law.

Waiting to hear farther from you,

I am, Dear Sir, Yours very truly,

Tho.M.Adie.

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Voe, Shetland. Oct. 21st. 1867

Messrs. Crisp and Lewis,  
Solicitors, Melbourne.

Dear Sirs,

I wrote you on 12th ult. to which I refer - since which I am without any of your favours - I was at Edinr. two weeks ago and wrote Mr.Ross that I would be in Aberdeen on Friday 11th inst at the "Lemon Tree Hotel", and would see him there in case he had any overtures to make - I enclose a note I have from him since I came home - you will see what he says - and from which it appears he is not disposed to move, and throw the matter entirely on Mr.Lyall's hands - I think Mr.Ross's act is little short of fraud - selling ..... as he knew the title was not clear? - I am pressed for time to say, but I think it will to ..... you as to Ross and his letter.

I hear that the mail via "Panama" was intercepted by the Indians and blown up - I doubt the Letter of Guarantee by the Union Bank would not reach you - and this will explain the same - you are however, quite safe.

I await anxiously to hear from you and hope you may be able to compromise matters - I would not hesitate to go back to Mr.Mowbray's Bond for £600 and have a fair accounting - pay Int. and get credit for P.. up to this date - I think that no one could

refuse - but I leave it with you to do your best for me.

I am, Dear Sirs, Yours very truly,  
Tho.M.Adie.

When Mr.Ross was here, he offered to give up Crown Grant, Bonds etc., for the sum he had paid Mowbray - he had all these with him, he told me.

383

Voe, Oct 21/67

My Dear Sir, (Dr Robert Cowie)

I now enclose particulars of your box hosiery and trust it will reach you safe and be useful - no word of Mr.R.H. yet - I fear if he turns up soon - I am writing in haste to catch the mail - John is at Liverpool to meet his wife and bring her here - I hope you are all well as this leaves us -

The matter of my property is into Court now how it may turn out I know not - it is now worth £4000 and .. ... to give it up for nothing. Mr.Ross had sold it to a Mr.Lyall for £2000 and Lyall sold to Mr.Donald for £3000 and then the ..... stopt by Crisp and Lewis - so the matter stands now.

I have not time to give you any news - kindest regards to you, Mrs.Cowie, and the family, and I am, My Dear Sir,

Very Sincerely Yours, Tho.M.Adie.

I hope R.H. may turn up trumps - his folks are anxious to have him home so as to try to get him not to claim his rights according to Law! T.M.A.

384

Voe, Shetland. Feby. 8th,

1868

Robert Cowie, Esq., Dunedin

My Dear Sir,

I have just got the news papers .... (9 lines are indecipherable - too faint) .....  
- the same sort of thing would do changing the name, and it might make him move if you added "Father Dead" - of course I need not add more - I am entirely to blame for the error - I hope he may turn up soon - I trust you have got the box of hosiery .....(2 lines indecipherable)

John's wife reached here in November last - she seems a very decent creature - I know not how they are to do here - he is not good nor ever will be good at my business. There is no house here for them - really I am puzzled how to act - he would gladly stop at home now - but he must make that home for himself as I have a large family to look for, and he knows and sees it, poor fellow -

We have fearful weather no crops ..... (the remaining 10 lines are indecipherable).

Voe, Shetland Feby.. 8th 1868

Messrs Crisp and Lewis

51 Chancery Lane, Melbourne.

Dear Sir,

your letters of 26th Oct. and 27th Nov. last have most unaccountably turned up by one mail - how that has happened, I know not, but it is not of much consequence - I am surprised at what you want - the guarantee of the Union Bank of Scotland which was sent you for £250 was surely good, and you now double the sum - I cannot understand it - you hold my Power of Attorney by which you are quite secure over the property and if your legal opinion of the case renders that of no value it would be wrong to bind me into litigation on the matter - you surely see the force of this - I should be very sorry indeed that you incurred any loss - and certainly from first to last I have shown that - but the matter from the way you write assumes an aspect which I cannot judge of while you consider my case good and having full power over a property worth £3000 to £4000 and yet you want £500 lodged by me in Melbourne - The matter would need more consideration than I am capable of giving it from the information I have or my ability to form an opinion - I have therefore thought it proper to write to a very old and worthy friend of mine in Melbourne - "Mr Andrew Fordyce," from Shetland - I have requested him to call on you and consult with you to as to the necessary mode of arrangement and procedure and I have every confidence in what Mr F. may suggest as best to be done - Mr Ross never came near me - a compromise could surely be effected - it is their intent as well as my wish, to settle in that way -

If I had been a younger man than I am, I should not have thought much of coming out to Melbourne myself to see about it - but I suspect that cannot be - and therefore between you and my friend Mr Fordyce, I hope you will be able to make such arrangements that I may get something considerable out of my property without the case having to go into court - or if it has to go there, of being satisfied that the matter gives ample security for all intromissions or expenses at any rate - a small sum but to give me satisfaction I do not think of, but to say that £500 more has to go seems rather hard lines for a man with 14 of a family!

I am, Dear

Yours Very truly

Tho.M.Adie

387 to 390

(Private)

Voe, Shetland, Feby. 8th 1868

Andrew Fordyce Esq., Melbourne.

My Dear Sir,

I have heard from time to time of your success and the welfare of your family in your adopted country and I assure you it has given me no small pleasure - for your activity and perseverance deserved and entitled you and yours to it.

I have a matter of business in Australia which has annoyed me very much - last week I consulted Mr.C.G.Duncan as to it - but he was at a loss at such a distance to have to advise and suggested that I should write you, for he said you "were as good as any lawyer" - that is certainly a compliment from a professional man, but at the suggestion I determined to act on it from my own knowledge of your clear head and from the readiness with which I felt sure you would do anything for me - Well here goes -

In 1856 I sent out £600 to a Mr Westgarth to buy a piece of land for me in Australia which was to be occupied by my son, John - he bought 462 acres for £462 and handed the rest of the money to my son to help him to put up a house etc, on the property - The Government grant was in my name (Thomas Mountford Adie) all things went well for a time - my poor boy got into idle habits, threw away money - neglected his work and finally mortgaged the place (using my name) to a Mr Mowbray for £600 - John then left all and went to New Zealand, and in 1861, Mowbray sold the land to a Mr James Ross for £850 - Ross came to Shetland to try and arrange with me, but he would not give up the Crown grant unless he was paid down the sum he had paid Mowbray viz. £800 - that I could not do - but I offered to give him £100 to sell the property, he paying me £1000 - he would do neither and went off again to Australia - in March 1865 Ross sold the land to a Mr Andr.Lyall for £2000 without telling him that his own title had even been questioned and Lyall again sold it to a Mr Thos. Russell in January 1866 for £3,000 ! and I am informed it is now worth fully £4000 - Thus the matter stands - I sent a Power of Attorney to Messrs Crisp and Lewis, Solicitors, Chancery Lane, Melbourne and these gentlemen have been doing what they could in the matter by lodging a "Caviat" consistent with the Register of Land to stop the transfer and have raised two actions in court, one of ejectment, the other of Damages against Mr Lyall. - In May last, they wrote me fully, sending me the defences of Ross and Lyall and intimating that they had passed a Draft on me at 14 Days for £300 to indemnify them against loss in a Bond of Security they had to give in court for £250 - I being out of the jurisdiction of the court and for payment of costs they had sustained - It was not convenient for me to pay the £300 as I had laid money out largely in buying fish from English vessels and had got such a nip with the Peterson's - so I returned their Draft and wrote them fully, sending them out £50 cash for expenses and a letter of guarantee from the Union Bank of Edinr. for the £250 to be paid by them for my account if the security was lost or came to that sum - for from their opinion of my case, there was no chance of our having to pay opponent's expenses - any way, Messrs. Crisp and Lewis were secured - I now get letters from them shewing they are much displeased and saying that I must make arrangements for placing £500 at their disposal in the Bank of New South Wales, Melbourne, and they will do nothing in the matter but merely what is needed to keep my interests safe till that is done - now this makes the thing assume rather a serious aspect - If my case is so bad that while they hold full power over my property of £3000 to £4000 value, they require that I should place other £500 at their disposal - I am in doubt what to do in the matter - no doubt it may be



the usual Legal course, but it is a hard one and one I can scarcely cope with - hence Mr Duncan's suggestion that I should write you, and request you look after my interests for me and if possible get a compromise made with legal rather than run into thoughtless costs in a Land Court - as you, my old friend will feel, my anxiety has been from first to keep my son clear of the criminal consequences of his act in using my name to the mortgage - Ross saw me - but has in a measure put it out of their power to proceed criminally - as to preserve their title, they will, I believe, bringing forward a plea that the Land was bought and paid for by my son in his own right and not as my agent and that he adopted and passed under my name where he was in the calumny - now that is wrong, every word of it - for it was well known in the district that the land was mine and not my son's - and I have letters from people in the district who knew all about it - I think, however, that a compromise may be managed - Lyall has it received £1600 of the purchase money from Russell - Ross has committed himself by making a fraudulent sale to Lyal in as much as he did not let him know the state of matters as to the title being questioned by me - now you know all the circumstances - will you act for and direct for me in the matter - I will be satisfied with whatever you do or sanction to be done and I have written to Messrs Crisp and Lewis to that effect and said that I would request you to call on them about it - where you would learn all the minor particulars of the case - this would take up too much of your time to undertake without charging me for it - and I shall (be) both ready and willing to pay you what you consider right - if you will agree to give me your friendly aid on the matter. Messrs Crisp and Lewis are, I believe, highly honourable men of business - but because they do not know me and personally I do not know them - but you being on the spot, I am quite satisfied could manage to get the matter settled - it is a bad job - but you see they are better to compromise than risk a suit in which they must fail and by any attempt to incriminate my son, they would lose all, which they will not readily risk - the original sum that Ross paid Mowbray should satisfy them from me - but I would rather half the value than go farther with it - but of course as I have already said I leave it to you and shall be satisfied with what you and the Law Agents agree to, either more or less -

Of course I shall be glad how favourable the arrangement can be for me and I have no doubt you will do all for me that lies in your power - I wish I was out of Shetland - like you I am getting tired of it but I fear I have taken too long about feeling that way - as I now feel that age is creeping on fast with its infirmities and I still have a lot of "pirrie tings" about me to bring up. - My Daughter Harriet has been very poorly for last three months - no life expected for her - she is rather better now but so weak she cannot turn in the bed without help - Shetland news you will get plenty of from your Lerwick friends so I need not attempt .... - suffice to say that we have bad crops - bad prices for fish ..... a ... in prospect for the poor for their succour - and those who have means feel that as you know - I shall look for a letter from you soon - my trust is placed in you - Mrs. Adie and all here join in kindest regards for you, Mrs. Fordyce, and family, and I am, My Dear Sir,  
Very truly Yours.

Tho.M.Adie

Voe, Feby 8/68

My Dear Fordyce,

I have written the accompanying so as if necessary you could shew it to Messrs. Crisp and Lewis and they would the more readily enter into our plans - I believe they will do their utmost for me - but I am staggered about the £500 - a compromise is the most likely thing for all - only arrange that my poor boy can get into no trouble - which I do not think they could now manage, and it would be against their interest to attempt.

Yours very truly, Tho.M.Adie.

The property is the parcel of Land being portion 14 (fourteen) of the Parish of Rockford in the County of Bourke Colony of Victoria.

It is some 30 or 40 miles out of Melbourne.

T.M.Adie Voe, Feby 8/68

392/3

Voe, Augt. 26 1869

My Dear Sir,

I should have written to ere now - but it passed from time to time till you're letter to Mrs Adie made me see my promise to you was not fulfilled -

To begin then - I believe you are Sincerely attached to Minnie, and if you were both agreed, I should not raise an obstacle to her happiness or yours - but there is more needed than that - a wife brings expenses and I suspect your income cannot stand it - the business you are in lost money last year and I fear it will not make much this one - (of course I must write plainly ) and at present you must be living on your capital - that could not last long, and what then? - again there is no certainty how your Brother may do regarding his property and you might be without a house to live in near your business - Money has been made in Mossbank and will be again, I hope - tho' it cannot now yield such profits as before as there are charges now in Shetland, on commercial men that were not dreamt of a few years ago - you must think over all this, and if you do, I am sure you will see the force of what I have said - If the usual Balance had come round and things were looking better, there would be more hope of an improvement in future and give more warrant for you're taking burdens on you of a family nature - and something might by that time be known also of your Brother's intentions - I do not look for a large income - that is not to be relied on for happiness - but I could not consent to my daughter's marriage with you or any one unless there was a fair and reasonable prospect of a tolerably comfortable provision for her - All I desire in this world now is to know my children (are) happy and comfortable - I have no reason to object to you as a son-in-law, and I shall make no hindrance to your loving each other or seeing each other and as soon as things looked a little brighter for the future and trusting in the blessing and guidance of our Heavenly Father that it would be for the best for you both, I should not object to your union - with every good wish,

I am, My Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely, Tho. M.Adie

Mr.Charles Hoseason,  
Mossbank.

Voe, July 26th 1879

There is ..... to ... how it can be .. ..... off by hand so as to ..... carrying  
a ..... now I am to Edinr.

Tho.M.Adie.

Voe, Sept. 21 1881

My Dear Neil, (*his son aged 26 years in 1855*)

I have waited long, expecting to hear from you about your affairs, but you have not taken any notice - I cannot understand - .. .. you were ashamed to write - which well may be if what I hear is true -

I am told "you're son Neil has to all appearances enjoyed excellent health since he came to Canada has had no sickness worth mentioning - his wife is in poor health but that has not increased and she drives about a good deal as they keep a fine horse and phaeton, and seem to enjoy life - he seems to have been for long in a perfect muddle of debt - runs accts. and borrows money from every man who will lend (to) him, and never pays until compelled - now living in Guelph, doing nothing and giving his wife's illness as a reason - but while she can drive so much about they could have gone from the farm every day to see the Doctor, if needed - but they are content to drive round about and enjoy life in their own way - even when he was working the farm he did little or nothing himself or looked after his interests as any man should do but just smoked and drove round about -

He was paid 850\$ Insure a week after the fire - and may with his ...ted thoughtlessness have run thro' most of that - we never heard that he drank or kept bad company."

That is well, certainly - It does not matter who has informed me - but you see I now know all -

Now, my son, it seems that Indolence and Thoughtlessness is at the bottom of all.

You would not work the farm and ..... the outlay of so much money for a house(?) and a small ..... got out of all. - but as it is - your living in the farm house and getting the rent and everything pertaining so cheap you could have got along even without working, without getting into debt - what can you mean? what is to be the end of all this ? How are you and yours to live without earning anything - my conviction is that Annie's illness is more from her mind than her body - she seemed to me a thoughtful woman, and any one of such must think of their position and the consequences of doing nothing or trying to do nothing for a man who will not live within the means in her ..... must cut up the constitution of any thoughtful woman - and your boy to grow up with such an example before him - my son, my son, what is to be done? I have done a great deal for you - put you in a position to earn an honest living and you throw all aside - you ..... on the farm - if you were not equal to the hard labour, there was plenty in ..... the ..... of a man for his own sake can work his hands at any time to make the best of every thing - you thought Tom did nothing on the Farm, and you started fair the first year

- but for want of steadyness of purpose, all went to the dogs - amusement and idleness has done its work for your ruin - now what is to be said about these buildings - If they have been got up (by?) the man, you must pay - I assume that you have already given him the 50 Dollars and that he has 600 more to get - but it is only assumption for you ignore writing about any thing - for God's sake, awaken up to your true position and go on in this way no longer - I would rather hear of you breaking road metal on the roads than living the aimless enervating life you are leading.

Have you ever seen example of indolent apathy in me? If that had been my misfortune, all my family would have been grovelling in poverty - even my best endeavours are unsuccessful at times - this year our fishings are the worst I ever knew and as a consequence all our labour and work is lost and I shall have hard work getting thro' this year - but I need not say - I am now an old man - my health and energies are gone and cannot return and if my children will not do as they ought, they will suffer for it - for I am now past work and if I was not they are able for life's battle (more) than I am - now, my son, I entreat of you - for the son you once were to your now almost helpless Father and Mother - to think well and change your mode of action, ere bitter destruction come to you.

Fond love to you all,  
Your afflicted but loving Father,  
Tho.M.Adie.

*Letter 396 is undecipherable - It is a copy of No.397, which is more clear -*

397

Voe, Oct.31st 1881

My Dear Neil,

After writing you on 21st inst. .... letter of 15th inst., and put off writing again till you should have time to reply to my letter so as I had full information as to all .... you have not done ..... you have had ample time. - I have just received a letter from Armstrong Wilson in which they say the contract was 1450 Dollars and that you afterwards agreed to pay them 50 Dollars more (a most unusual thing) that you had paid them 500 Dollars, leaving 1,000 Dollars due them besides 101 D..... you owed them besides, and requesting me to send the money to your Father-in-law or the Bank - now you state the Buildings to cost 2,500 Dollars - while the Barn only costs 1450 and the Implement house ..... and fence round yard will rake 200 Dollars to replace before things are as they were and you make it 850 Dollars more - What is the meaning of this? Have you no more of the Insurance money to pay on the work - drop this ..... for if you want to make a fool of yourself, my name must not be dragged in the Court in .... way and you must now write me the truth about the whole affair as I must employ a lawyer to get at it, for this conduct from my son, treated as you have been, is shameful - .... your family seeing .... by your own son, if he is spared to manhood.

Love to you all, Your afflicted but loving Father,  
Tho.M.Adie.

398a

*(Undated and not addressed - presumably to Neil)*

My son, my son, would to God you knew and could realize how my heart is afflicted about you and the thought of what is to become of you and your family haunts me night and day - for there seems nothing but destitution before you - I entreat of you to turn over a new leaf - you quarrel with Mr.Hood because he advises you right, and surely you now see that you had better follow his advice actively and care is what has given him means above some others, and he was therefore the fittest man to counsel you right.

T.M.Adie

398b

Voe, Shetland Oct. 29, 1881

Messrs. Armstrong & Wilson,  
Box 410, P.O., Guelph.  
Gentlemen,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 10th inst. I note all you say.

I have written to my son Neil for full particulars - on receipt of which I shall again write you and hope all may be rightly understood and settled.

I am, gentlemen,

Your mo.obt. serv.,

Tho.M.Adie.

*There are no further letters in this book.*