

Letter to William Campbell from his son John (Misc 314)

Baildon 22nd January 1816

Dear Father,

You must excuse the delay that has occurred since I last wrote as it is from no want of fraternal affection. I had the pleasure of seeing two friends on their way home which I knew would give you no unfavourable account of me, which would make you more at ease. I had a letter from brother which gave me an account of his proceedings, and as he will be at home sometime soon I do not intend writing him until I know where to direct afterwards. Money is more scarce here at present than ever it has been of late. There has been again a demand for worsted and cotton goods but very little alteration in price. The same materials keep so high that the manufacturer cannot do any good.

I have entered upon a concern now, which will take paid money, but if trade should revive I could soon free myself of all debts and have something ?son. Instead of a lodger I am now become master of this house . I have bought all the furniture as it stands which is pretty considerable: bedding and bedclothes, then are quilty sheets ?bland and lead ? numerous, 4 mahogany tables, 3 ? 16 do chairs, hair bottoms – 3 feather beds and mattress for same, carpets and lace curtains and 3 or 4 looking glasses, crystal bottles and glass, etc. You will almost think I am mad, but as the master intended to give up housekeeping I could find no paid to such and as I got a cheap bargain I thought proper to take it. I hope to keep an old woman for laundry if Agnes like to come. I shall keep her, or she may take as much as she can carry away. There are sets of ?shoes for her or a silver jug or she may have a tea vase to hold the water upon the table or some juice if she likes.

I had Dr Cannan and Johnstone week before last. Johnstone was married three days before he left the wife – he intends residing in Yorkshire if he can meet work and situation, but it is a very bad time for any young man to come. I saw John McTurk last Sunday. He is quite well. Tell Jenny to bring a packet full of letters and a ?bracing full of news – she will soon be neither. If you all agree and Jane likes to come herself – that is if she is not worth sweat and clothes. I should like well enough she would come here after some time , provided she learned to make beds, dress sore fingers, make up medicines and make puddings. As for sister Sarah she is of too much use at home and as James intends taking Jane for his housekeeper he may have her as soon as I get wed, in case my wife and her do not agree. Of these things say not a word. You can consider upon it when you see James.

Your affect. son

John Campbell

Compliments to friends.