

Brother Robert Prims 18 June 93

I have been out in the town this morning & on my return found Paddy with your letter - since my last appearance all went worse - I have been conversing with McBotter one of my intimate friends settled in the American Business when Brother Keiper their store at Alexandria in Virginia - he does not think but I may do very well in either line - Cultivation or Mercantile - however I shall have every assistance from him I can have & his brother will give me more ideas when I get there if ever I should.

McKimpney's two sons (who were sufferers in the late Prots) sail'd from England 28 March, stay'd 5 days in Boston before they wrote - & their letters reach'd hither the 13 Inst - They give every account they could in so short a time & speak favourably of the Country & things they had seen in the time.

I shall have a Minister at my house in a few days who has resided here many years & lately come over from him I shall no doubt have further Information - I think you should not go to America with a stranger (but perhaps he is not so) provided I & my family go, but certainly if you go before me I shall hope to hear your own account before I start - I have thoughts of fixing in or near the New City if I find I can do so - Their lands will rise as its population increases & I have no doubt in my own mind it will be a good situation - The Kimpneys make the tour of all America & have a great number of Quakers sent with them to report to from their own observations - I am winding my affairs up close every day. I suppose if I should strike a bargain with any house here as a Stone Dealer I shall readily turn all my

stock into money — if I do not, I must take it  
in a finished state with me — I dare say a  
trade is & may be carry'd on from America to China  
& all the East Indies & probably to great advantage  
but it is at a greater Risque than I need put  
myself to at present, & I trust you do not go with  
that Intention, nevertheless a small Risque as  
a trial might not be amiss if you attend your  
property as Supercargo & Trader — because you  
then take out what you please & bring back what  
you like to take in Exchange — I do not think  
I can go before September or next Spring, but  
if you should go I shall like to procure you  
a letter or two if possible & then if you chose  
to make a purchase it would be agreeable to  
me to take to it — Especially if I settle in  
Cultivation — but I do not think if I go before  
I lay out any money, I should purchase anywhere  
till I had seen various parts of the Country —  
— my boys are coming up daily now, & I hope  
to settle them some how so that their minds  
may expand themselves & learn with others to  
be happy in any Country where peace Liberty  
& Plenty is found — I am by various  
accounts led to think Kentucky is a thriving place  
but it's a great way up the Country — Mr Porter  
says that money taken over now will find a  
great Value & no doubt it will — I wish  
you to get & read Inlay's account of the Western  
Territories of America with Colonel Boon's account  
of its first settling at the end of it — it has a  
map of Kentucky, — & the Western parts particularly & you  
may know you have the right by a plan it has in it of the  
Rapids of the River Ohio, — by which Kentucky is bounded  
you will like it, & I mention this as there is a different publication

which is not near so good as this, - Morse's Geography of America  
added to this (both which you should take with you to read as you are  
on the voyage) will give you tolerable Ideas of the Country, its manners  
Customs, living, &c. - as I was out last night, I call'd on ~~the~~  
~~my~~ Mr. Martin Smith - he has now a Mr. Perry of New York over  
with his nephew - the air he gives is every way pleasing, he says  
at this day he buys in the Market of New York, a goose for 1/8 1/3  
pair ducks 10 & a shilling, a pair Chickens for 8. - & all other things  
in proportion, fish is very cheap - that the best Denmark  
puts on his table perhaps 6 or 7 dishes - don't cost more than 10/-  
when he has his friends about him - beer is the worst article  
the brewers make it very bad & their best drink of Mutt all  
comes from England bottled - but Rum wine & cyder is very  
cheap - at half the price here - house Rent is high - upon the  
whole says Mr. Smith - had I trade to such, I should certainly go  
myself, & could I part with my Childrens I should advise  
them to go as it will be undoubtedly the greatest nation  
upon Earth in time to come - I have no doubt a family  
of 6 live Casually as well there for 1000 per year, as in  
any other for 2500 - how this may be - time must show -  
- Mr. Cooper paid for 12 people going out 12 Guineas per head  
in the bubble, & find themselves & I suppose I can go for that or  
near it also - Mr. M. has no objection to my trying & seeing  
the Country, as I shall certainly never settle comfortably again  
now until I am satisfied - I intend being in London  
on Wednesday the 26. Inst - & on Thursday if you call on Mr. Smith  
or I will call at Mr. C. Hatfield's & then we shall meet - I shall  
not be able to stay many days, as I have some bills due the  
6 July & I do not know if I can provide for them unless  
I come down again first, but this I shall know when I  
see Mr. Smith - should it so happen that I cannot  
get off to London by anything particularly happening  
I will write again on Saturday next - unless then  
or I see you I remain affectionately yours for

Matt

Letter IA transcribed

From William Mott to his half-brother Robert  
18th June 1793  
Birmingham to 41 Middle Street Brighton

Brother Robert--

I have been out in the town this morning and on my return found Patty with your letter --since my last appearances are..... I have been consulting with Mr. Foster one of my Intimate friends settled in the American Business whose Brother keeps their store at Alexandria in Virginia--He does not think but I may do very well in either Lines, in Cultivation or Mercantile--. However, I shall have every assistance I can have and his brother when I get there, if ever I should.

Mr. Humphrey's two sons (who were sufferers in the late riots) sailed from England 28 March, stayed 5 days in Boston before they wrote--and their letters reached hither the 13 Inst--They give every account they could in so short a time and speak favorably of the Country and things they had seen in the time.

I shall have a Minister at my house in a few days who has resided there many years and lately come over. From him I shall no doubt have further Information. I think you should not go to America with a stranger (but perhaps he is not so) provided I and my family go. But certainly if you go before me I shall hope to hear your own account before I start--I have thoughts of fixing in or near the New City [New York ?] if I find I can do so--Their lands will rise as the population Increases, and I have no doubt in my own mind it will be a good situation. The Humphreys made the tour of all America and have a great number of Remarks out with them to reply to from their own observation.

I am winding my affairs up closer every day. I suppose if I should strike a Bargain with any house here as a store keeper I shall readily turn all my stock into money. If I do not, I must take it in a finished state with me. I dare say a trade is and may be carried on from America to China and all the East Indies and probably to great advantage but it is at a greater risk than I need put myself at present. And I trust you do not go with that Intention, nevertheless a small risk as a trial might not be amiss if you attend your property as Supercargo and Trader--because you then take out what you please and bring back what you like to take in Exchange. I do not think I can go before September or next Spring, but if you go I shall like to procure you a Letter or two if possible and then if you choose to make a purchase it would be agreeable to me to take to it. Especially if I settle in Cultivation. But I do not think if I go before I lay out any money, I should purchase anywhere till I have seen various parts of the Country.

My boys are coming up daily now and I hope to settle them somehow so that their minds may Expand themselves and learn with others to be happy in any Country where peace, Liberty, and plenty is found.

I am by various accounts led to think Kentucky is a thriving place but its a great way up the Country. Mr. Foster says that money taken over now will find a great Value and no doubt it will. I wish you to get and read Imlay's account of the Western Territories of America with Colonel Boon's account of its first settling at the end of it--it has a map of Kentucky--and the Western parts particularly and you may know you have the right by a plan it has in it of the Rapids of the River Ohio--by which Kentucky is bounded. You will like it, and I mention this as there is a different publication which is not near as good as this--Morse's Geography of America added to this (both which you should take with you to read as you are on the voyage) will give you a tolerable idea of the Country, its manners, Customs, , living Etc.

I was out last night and I called on my old Master Frith (?)--he has now a Buny (?) of New York over with his nephew. The account he gives is every way pleasing. He says in this day he buys in the Market of New York, a goose for one shilling and a third [1s 4d], a pair of ducks 10d and a shilling, a pair of chickens for 8d. and all the things in proportion, fish is very cheap. That the last dinner he puts on his table perhaps 6 or 7 dishes--don't cost more than 10/- (ten shillings) when he has his friends about him. Beer is the worst article. The brewers make it very bad, and the best drink of malt all comes from England bottled--but their wine and cyder is very cheap at half the price here. House rent is high. Upon the whole says Mr. Frith (?) Truth (?), had I trade to such I should certainly go myself, and could I part with my Children I should advise them to go as it will be undoubtedly the greatest nation upon earth in time... (?) I have no doubt a family may live Equally as well there for £100 as in England for £250. How this may be time must show.

Mr. ...(?) paid for 14 people going over 12 Guineas per head in the cabin and find themselves. I suppose I can go for that or near it also. Mrs. M. has no objection to, trying and seeing the Country as I shall certainly never settle comfortably again now until I am satisfied. *lmy*

I intend being in London on Wednesday the 26 Inst. and on Thursday if you call on Mr. Smith or I will call at Mr. Chatfield's and then we shall meet. I shall not be able to stay many days, as I have some bills due the 6 July and I do not know if I can provide for them until I come down again first, but this I shall know when I see Mr. Smith. Should it so happen that I cannot get off to London by anything particularly happening I will write again on Saturday next--until then or I'm ( with ?) you I remain affectionately \*

William Mott

Note\* Father reads the final word of the letter as "yours"--I remain affectionately yours. Lou tells me it was common practice to add "pro" or "per" to demonstrate that the letter had been dictated, perhaps to an office clerk or a professional letter writer. I think this would make sense in this case and perhaps for other "copperplate" letters here.

Father includes his reading of part of this letter pp. 54-55  
PORTRAIT OF A FAMILY E.A.M.