

Abercrombie Point, Pictou,
December 2nd, 1814.

Dear Children.—We received yours of date 15th August last, and are happy to understand that you and yours are well, after the long voyage. We have not heard from Alex since we wrote you last.

We are glad to hear that provisions of all sorts are not low with you, which is the same here at present. We have peace and plenty through Canada so far. We only hear rumors as you do.

We observed in your letter concerning the land that is granted to people that come to settle in this country. If you have to pay for the land, why should it be called a grant? When any person petitions for land to the Governor and Council, the latter will grant as many acres as they think proper and you will have to pay for your grant so much for every hundred acres. And as for the land we bought from Squire Mackay, we cleared a little on that, as it lies along the river nearly two miles below where we live, which is but half an acre of land, where a new town is beginning and where there are a few shops and tradesmen; yet we paid forty pounds currency for the land from Squire Mackay and it is on the bank of the river, and so is the lot where we live—house and shop—as the bearer of this can tell you or answer any question about us.

Call on Simon Fraser, who is to send another ship here next summer with passengers. We hope you will send the oldest of your daughters with him, and we will pay him for her passage, that is to say if there are neighbors coming from the place.

You were wishing to know whether we had any cows or horses, sheep or pigs. We have some sheep and we keep one pig, but we have no cow or horse, that would require a servant. A servant's wages here are from £30 to £50 per annum, and servant girls'