

[18th Letter]

YORK, AUGUST 11TH, 1816.

My Dearest Brother

Mr. Hogan offers to forward letters to you by private hand. * * * I have not heard from you of the arrival of the Minerva Smith at her distant post whether that was London or Liverpool. The Governor says she is a Liverpool trader. It is now thirteen weeks since they sailed and I look with great anxiety to to-morrow's post. * * * I wrote you the last of the month by Mr. Crane who had offered to take letters of the Governor. * * * John goes the Western Circuit with the Chief Justice and by so doing gives room for a visitor, Miss Eliza Powell, for their "ruins" are too scanty to admit an addition to the family circle when he is at home. The claims for remuneration of losses are gone home and if they are granted he will be enabled to lodge his family more comfortably but the prevailing system of economy may perhaps interfere. Happily our fears of want are fading away, favourable weather and the promising appearance of the grain encourage the expectation of an abundant harvest and we may be indulged in good wheaten bread, a luxury we had scarcely dared to anticipate; the overflow of merchandise is here comparatively as great as with you, of course every description of British manufacture and every foreign article is cheaper than ever was known; and as the increase of importation exceeds that of population we shall experience a favorable difference in our expenses of living — and we have need of it.

If Mr. Powell does succeed in the object of his voyage we may look forward to a tolerable competence for our future lives, if he fails we have been so accustomed to suit our living to our circumstances that we may be as well content; the almost certain conviction that the government will never permit its faithful servants to suffer want will assist to support our spirits under the unavoidable infirmities of age.

Has Capt. Phelan paid the promised visit (at Norwich), by a change of regiments he may be stationed at this post * * * a romantic visionary character * * * he is too eccentric for a desirable neighbor, other ways * * * a pleasure to see the daughter of my sister.

[19th Letter]

YORK, AUGUST 20TH, 1816

My Dearest Brother

[Expressing much solicitude with regard to Mr. Murray's health] I do not know what other medical men