

I was not permitted to photograph these letters so I was working from Photostats
marks words I wasn't sure about.

[78]

Montreal 6th June 1812

My Dear Sister,

I had none of your nor any of the families favours by the *Dunlop* which vessel arrived at Quebec all well on the 20th ult. And at this port on the 3rd instant the two small packages that you sent to me that ? to have come by the *Mary*, Captain Harvie I got yesterday shirts and marmalade, but which came by the *Neptune* Captain Neil I have not yet looked at them but have no doubt of everything being right~

Tho' I have written you since it last happened I again choose to mention to you that the *George Canning* my new ship was launched here on the 23 ulto. And that she not only made a beautiful but safe launch –Captain J. McEwan and part of his crew got up here on the 28th ulto. And the ship *Dunlop* with the rest arrived here on the 3rd current as did two other vessels consigned to me for cargos and which I am sorry to say will not easily be found in about

[page]

eight days I hope to send the brigantine *Christian* from here with a cargo of about 8,000 bushels of wheat for Greenock and the *Janet Dunlop* is very nearly loaded with chiefly flour and beef for Kingston, Jamaica she has too on board some staves, hoops and moulded candles ~

The *Dunlop* has not yet begun to unload but will on Monday the 8th current:- she fired a Royal salute here on the 4th at 1 PM in honour of His Majesties' birthday, the artillery fired 21 guns at noon: a Royal salute, and the troops in the garrison three volleys at each 7 guns being discharged I am yet uncertain where I am going to send the *Dunlop* after she is discharged I had a letter from Captain McKenzie dated St. Croix of the 20th April in forming me of the arrival there of the *James Dunlop* on the 15th and at St. Thomas on the 8th of that month. All well, and that he was to begin to load on the 26th so that

[page]

by this time I consider he is again on his way home I have by far more to do than I can well attend to but I enjoy the greatest good health – time does not allow me to look at what I have been writing as I have many letters to put up just now and the post home is come –Give my kind regards to all the family, Mrs E. Dunlop and her boys and due regards to all my other relations and friends _ I always am yours most affectionately James Dunlop

[79]

Montreal 20th June 1812

My Dear Sister,

I had not a letter from you or any of the family by the *Dunlop* – The *Janet Dunlop* left this on the 13th current for Quebec and Jamaica but had got to Quebec on the 18th at 4PM but I hope is there by this time. She has on board of mine 1,167 barrels flour, 150 barrels of beef, 58 barrels tar, 3 barrels and 4 kegs of hogs lard, 24 boxes moulded tallow candles, 12 boxes spermaceti candles, 15,853 staves and there may be put on board at Quebec about 8,000 more staves and 18,850 hoops. I have also taken 304 barrels beef on freight and some smaller articles and I get for the freight of the beef 20/ for each barrel and which is at least equal to 22/6 sterling at the present discount on bills – The

brigantine Captain Robertson, by who this is to go, has been loaded here by me and has on board 7,985 miniots wheat of the most prime quality and which if I do not get at the rate of 66/ to 70/ per boll of 240, I had better have sold the same here, for the price I was offered for it, 10/ or 2 dollars per minot, taken in my stove? without grumbling?

[page]

Grumbling and which with the diminution at least cost 71/2 per minot and which 10/ is equal at the present discount on bills to 12/6 or even 13/ freight 2/9 risk of heating? 1/ insurance say 3 guineas per cent when all these items are added together the amount will be about, the very least, 16/6 per bushel of 66 per boll of 240; I am only afraid I will be ? to ask too much for the wheat –I am just beginning to prepare another vessel to load wheat, the *Thetis*, Captain Abercrombie, and she if I load her ? with that article will just take about as much as the *Christian* – I am also at this time loading here the *Nestor* with timber for all of a Mr Allan of Leith and she will be ready to proceed on her voyage in about 8 days – I am also at this minute loading the Dunlop entirely on my own account for Lisbon and her cargo may be about 250 barrels of beef and about 3,350 barrels of flour which I am going to commit the sales of to Captain Abraham, the master of the *Dunlop* – I will when these vessels are all off my hands remain with my fine new ship the *George Canning* but which vessel will not be ready to begin to load for about 8 or 10 days: she will carry about 700

[page]

Measurement goods or as many tons deadweight. Her cargo will chiefly be lumber, as oak and pine logs and staves. So much for business and to show you how I am employed – I had a letter from Miss Janet Dunlop of the 11th instant dated London 29th March and which I owned on the 16th current, it was a very well written letter but wanting to justify the correctness of her having gone to London for her education but which is a thing I will never admit of when her mother was in Glasgow or Edinburgh in neither of which cities an education may be had just as ample and good as in the great city of London: I by no means however blame Miss Dunlop for what has happened in this respect –I have neither heard from Mr Rolent Dunlop nor her son Alexander this Spring; should they be offended at what I have written to them I write instantly allow them to come to themselves as the more I think of their conduct the more I reprehend it – I should write many letters at this time but cannot own the very thing that I ought to perform and here besides my own business I have different public duties to attend to –There is getting to be more the appearance of

[page]

War with America than there was, many of the sensible and distant people in New York look for nothing but accounts of War coming there by every post from Washington my time being just on the post here only admits me adding give my due respects to everybody and that I am always your affectionate brother James Dunlop

James McNair is well but is the most incorrigible lazy fellow I ever came across when ever there is anything to do if he can he puts himself out of the way: Andrew and Mr White are on the contrary all life, never can do ? I am sorry to speak of JM who has otherwise good qualities.

80]

Montreal 24th June 1815

My Dear Sister(s)

I received on the 22nd instant your favour of the 13th May and at the same time Mr Macnair's of the 21st April by whom I was pleased to find that you are all well. I have just time to say that by an express come in here this morning from Albany we have information of the United States having declared War against Great Britain and which must have happened about the 17th or 18th current; the date from Albany is the 21st instant at 1/2 past 3 o'clock PM I was on the field this morning with m Company of Artillery when I received the above information and an express is just going off to Quebec to give communication of the same to the Government.

Yours affectionately, with due respect to every body.

James Dunlop

Mrs Janet Macnair

[page 1]

[81]

Quebec 20th July 1812 4pm

My Dear Sister,

I left my home yesterday morning and have this instant got home, all well, but I find the # on all your and my business letters all with me; I mean however to run down to try to overtake them – I had not written you nor any of my relations or friends on the supposition I would have had time for that after coming here by the conveyance that left this yesterday or the day before;

I do not at the present moment know whether the *Dunlop* for Lisbon and the *Thetis* for Greenock have got down and gone with the fleet, but I expect Mr Lindsay any moment who will give me all the information that I want on these points –

I am in the most perfect health and spirits –

Say to Mr Tennant snr. that I have not time to write him but that I will write by the *George Canning* that will sail from here in about a month and when I write send him a power of attorney; indeed the power of attorney has been made for a considerable time past but what with the duties of a soldier, and the variety of matters that I have to attend to as a merchant, I have not lately had time to eat and sleep but in a hurry, things will all get quiet again when the Americans find that we are so well prepared

[page 2]

prepared to receive them should they dare to attempt coming into the Province

–

We have lately had about 800 British Troops and about 2,00 of the Militia arrive at Montreal and more will be sent there if it is found necessary; they are encamped about 7 miles about Montreal on the South side of the St. Lawrence at Lapaire, in short I have no more unease about myself or property than I would were I in London or Glasgow; at the time many people are alarmed in Montreal for their safety –

I have seen Mr Lindsay and find that the *Thetis* is with the # but that the *Dunlop* only got here this morning and she has yet to take from craft about 1100 Barrels flour so that it is not likely that she will sail with the

present Convoy and I am afraid that I will have to land 248 Barrels Beef and 37 Barrels pork these article being embargoed –

I am pleased I came here as I see there might be some trouble and which I think I might have it in my power to remedy rather than anyone could have done it for me, the chief intention of my coming here was to obtain a Letter of Marque for the *Dunlop* against the United States; she has, for more than ten years had Letters of Marque against our other enemies; -

I would like much to get # a British one or non American perhaps I may be obliged to send the *Dunlop* to Cork for to take orders ~

My time only admits me to say give my due respects to every bodies and that I am always am your most affectionate brother James Dunlop

[page 3]

James Macnair is well, but continues to be the most indolent young man I ever saw; many a # I give with an intention to make him more attentive #. it has no more effect on him than it would on a piece of wood. He at the same time is not only very # but has the very best dispositions; - never a complaint at anything I say to him:- He is at present a Militia Man which he seems very fond of ; much more so than attending to my business ~

Mr Andrew Shaw and Mr Whyte every thing and more than I could expect from young people –

I wrote Mrs R Dunlop a very short and not in such as will please her by this # in answer to what I call a most impertinent letter that I received from in answer to what I wrote her last Fall – I have confirmed that letter and said more on the same subject.

Yours again most affectionately

James Dunlop

I do not look over what I have been writing nor have I had time to put # # better order; this is written # # the back of # #

[page 4]

[82]

Quebec 29 July 1812

My Dear Sister,

I received Miss Jane's letter of the 30 or 31st May to which I have replied of 27 of this date ~

The *Dunlop* and *Courier* are just getting under way, noon, and the *Courier* tho bound out for Greenock may go with the *Dunlop* direct for Lisbon, she has 4000 minots of wheat and 402 barrels of flour of mine on board and the *Dunlop* has 3,352 barrels flour, 37 barrels of pork and 248 barrels beef with 5,272 staves and 100 planks, I hope to ,make considerably by these cargoes they have each a very warlike appearance.

I am well and propose leaving this for my home at Montreal on the 1st August – I have heard nothing of the *Janet Dunlop* since she sailed on the 30th June for Jamaica – The *Thetis* is loaded with wheat and flour for me for Clyde the *George Canning* is within about 5 leagues

[page 5]

five leagues off this; she has more than ¾ of ton cargo to take in here but I hope she will sail with the next fleet about 20th August for Clyde. I have yet heard nothing of the *Ann* coming to me from Greenock ~

With due regards to all of my relations and kind compliments to all friends, I
always am yours most affectionately.
James Dunlop

I have not had a moments time to visit any of my friends since coming here
being obliged to write several letters in this place and do many other things in
the line of my business.

Mrs Janet Macnair
[page 6]

[83]

Montreal 22nd August 1812

My Dear Sister,

I was at Quebec when the *George Canning* left this so that there is nothing in
her for you and I # to inform you at this early day that we are again like to have
no apples the present year.

This may be the last post which will overtake the *George Canning* and my time
only admits me saying that I enjoy good health and am under no apprehensions
from the Americans; they have yet come, in no force on the lines and before
they can I hope we will have more troops from Britain, -more to deter them
from ever daring to set their foot into this happy country ~

My time is considerable broke in on from being obliged to attend to my fine
showey Company of Artillery who I trust will destroy hundreds of Yankees should
they have the temerity to put afoot on our land.

Give my due regard to all relations and kind compliments to all friends.

You should go to Greenock and see

[page 7]

the *George Canning*; tho she has not such a fine cabin as the *Dunlop* or the
James Dunlop she is at least as good a ship as either of them, I have now at sea
the *Thetis*, *Courier*, *Janet Dunlop*, I presume? *Dunlop* for Lisbon and perhaps
James Dunlop and for all that I sleep as comfortably as any man can: I have
great hopes that all my outward cargoes will do well but I have made nothing
lately by my importations; Rum is just as bad an article as any
I remain your most affectionate brother James Dunlop.

Mrs Janet Macnair, Glasgow.

[page 8]

[84]

Montreal 29th August 1812

My Dear Sir,

This may yet be in time for the *George Canning* and tho I have little to say I
generally address one of the family by the last post that I consider will overtake
any vessel of my own about sailing ~

I have the pleasing satisfaction to inform you that we received the accounts here
on the 25th instant of the surrender of the American General Hull with the whole
of his army 2,500 men, 25 pieces of cannon with all the camp equipage to Major
General Brock on the 15th instant at or near to Detroit;

The army under General Brock consists only of about 700 Regulars of the 41st
Regiment [400 in superscript] and [300 in superscript] Militia with about 400 Indians,
making in all 1100 men; I have yet learned nothing whither the Americans made

any condition on becoming Prisoners of War but I presume not; they must either have been much in the want of provisions or sadly alarmed for the Indians to have caused 2,500 men to give up to 1100 and without a musket being fired or a drop of blood shed

[Written on left hand edge of this sheet:-

Give my due respects to all my relations and kind compliments to all friends ~ I am loading the Ann with about 270 barrels ashes and staves]

[page 9]

shed; I presume General Hull and some of his principal officers may be sent here and from this to Quebec and perhaps from thence to London –

The fort of Michilimackinac having been taken previous to General Hull, gives us the complete command of the whole Indian Country and which I hope we will now # retaining.

There had been a few days before the surrender of General Hull with the whole of his army etc., an engagement between a party of the 41st Regiment and an escort with provisions for Hull's army and where we were completely victorious:- I am intimately acquainted with General Brock, Colonel Proctor of the 41st and all the other fine fellows who have attained the above complete victory and with who I rejoice on the occasion.

The Americans had hopes that General Hull with his army would have conquered the country as they came along and been in Montreal by the end of next month;- they are a blustering insignificant people and should they dare to set afoot in this part of the country, I have not the smallest doubt

[page 10]

but that such Army will meet the same fate as Hull's has done ~

We have a Grand Review of about 300 Regulars and Militia on the 25th instant at the distance of about 6 leagues from here when they are encamped and where His Excellency the Governor was at the time the dispatch reached this city giving information of General Hulls surrender; three Americans were then taken up as spies and who were found taking down in cyphers the particulars strength of the different corps who composed the camp and who were reviewed that day;

Two of them have been dismissed in consequence, that the making of one an example will be sufficient but the third is retained and will be tried on the 31st instant by a Court Martial as a spy and I think the probability is that he will be found guilty but that mercy may be extended to him;-

I did not go over to the camp the day of the Review on account that I knew I was to be Captain of the day of this Garrison the day following and something might have happen in the weather then to have prevented me from getting across the river in time for the guard mounting at 8AM and you know it would not have done for the Captain

[page 11]

Captain of the Guard last to be at his post ~

His Excellency the Governor has been here for this sometime past and means to remain with us ~

My time is much broke in on at the present, as a merchant, from the military duties which I have to perform being Captain of a fine Artillery Company~

Your nephew Mr James Macnair belongs to the

Light Infantry Company where I am told by his Captain that he acquits himself handsomely; I wish I could say as much for him as a merchant but which I cannot do; He has fine dispositions but is the most lazy young man I ever came across and I begin to be afraid that I will never be able to make anything of him – my other two young men are ever ready and willing but it is needless to attempt moving James, only by commands.

I always am yours – James Dunlop

[Page 12]

[85]

Montreal 26th September 1812

My Dear Sister,

It is now a long time since I had the pleasure to hear from you or any of the family, or indeed from any person in Britain, my latest date from thence being 12th June while we at the same time have accounts from London till the 6th August

I doubt not but that you may have been uneasy on my account from the war being almost at my very door, but you hitherto have no occasion not withstanding all the vaunting you may see coming from the Americans, who are a vain, and insignificant people and who boast that they will do things which it is utterly impossible for them to perform; for instance General Hull with the army under his command thought they had nothing to do but to take possession of Upper Canada in consequence of a Proclamation that he set abroad, but mark the result, the whole of them we made prisoners of war 2500 men and without them even firing of a gun which was well for them, otherwise the Indians would have destroyed the whole of them; the General with one division of the prisoners, 350, arrived here about three weeks ago and there are yet about 140

[page 13]

140 more of their Regulars to arrive making in all 490 Regulars; - the rest being Militia were permitted to return them to their homes from Detroit, where they were taken on their parole, the first Division of the Regulars, 350, after resting a day here, went from here to Quebec in boats under a guard and they are now on board transports as prison ships laying at Quebec; General Hull and 8 more of his officers were permitted to go from here to their homes on parole ~

The Northern American Army consisting of about 6000 men under General Dearborn are laying at Plattsburg, on the west side of Lake Champlain, about 68 to 70 miles from here and who threaten invading this province but as we have an equal number at hand to oppose them I am under no apprehension for the result; if they make any attempt they will instantly be repelled or taken prisoners; they are badly clothed I understand while we have everything that is comfortable and well provided with all the implements of war; # # them to come on them have any dread about their coming ~

I am almost daily out as a soldier and often twice a day; it breaks in much on my time as a merchant but I do my duty most cheerfully, it comes to my turn with my Company of Artillery to mount guard about once in 8 days; I will not be

[page 14]

ordered from my home with my Company till the danger become greater James Macnair belongs to the Light Infantry and is a much better soldier than merchant, being the most lazy young man I think that I've fall in with~

I have shipped for you by the *Ann*, by which this goes, 1 barrel superfine flour and 1 canister Asian tea ~with which Messrs Alan Ker & co. will do the needful and send to you ~ It is just on the port # I have too much to attend to ~ with due respects to every body I always am your most affectionate brother
James Dunlop

It is seldom that I have time to look over what I wrote~

Mrs Janet Macnair

[Page 15]

[86]

Montreal 6th November 1812

My Dear Sister,

Your letter of the 12th August last of the *James Dunlop* reached me on the evening of the 26th ult. Where I ad the account of the great misfortune that befell that vessel;- that she was stranded on the island of Anticosti on the 3rd of October and will be next to a total loss;

[*Lloyds's List reports on the 8th December 1812 "The James Dunlop, Ferguson, from Quebec to Clyde, was lost in Anticosti 31st October. One man drowned"*

On 11th is added she was on her outward voyage]

She with what material belonging to her were to have been sold at Quebec on the 4th instant, as she lay or did lay at Anticosti on the 12th when she was finally abandoned by master and crew; I do not suppose that the whole will sell for £250 while that ship stands indebted to me for, at the least, ten thousand guineas ,£10,500 sterling: I know there was not one shilling insured on her



when she left Greenock nor do I much expect that any would be made on her and should such be the case, I have not the smallest blame to attach to any one being concerned, that Messrs' Alan Ker & co on that as well as all other occasions, have studied to the utmost of their power my interest;- they make note at the bottom of the last letter I had from them and which is by the *James Dunlop* of

[*edge of page: -14 November 1812 our post from Quebec is just come in 8pm and the mail is just about closing again – the James Dunlop was sold on the 4th Instant with all her materials as she and they may be found at Anticosti on the 4th Instant for to a Mr Charles Smith for £260 currency #..... James Macnair, who is well belongs to the same Brigade that I do but belongs to the Light Infantry Company, if we go I will take every pains for his comfort and show his every attention JD]*

[page 16]

of date 20th August to the following import "we may insure £5,000 to £6,000 on the *James Dunlop* we can get it done at what we consider of a premium".

Captain Ferguson the master of the *James Dunlop* informs me that he run on the island of Anticosti on the 3rd October in thick weather that a gale come on that evening and drove her father on and that the crew got to the island in safety but that on a boat coming back to the ship to look for something they wanted it was upset and one of the men drowned and what I was very sorry to learn, as I at first understood that no lives had been lost; I bear up # against the misfortune never repine at things that are not to be made but better when no blame can attach to any one ~

Notwithstanding the Americans have been twice, importantly defeated in the Upper Province, first at Detroit and then at Queenston about 8 miles from Niagara, they now threaten to attack this part of the country in different directions from C# about 50miles above this to T# about 60 miles below, their force is differently stated, 15,000 to 25,000 men which we have not more than 10,000 Regulars and Militia to oppose them; - yet I have no doubt
[page 17]

But that we will be completely victorious, the American Army being composed of the scum of the population while our troops fight from principle, their love of their country, King and Government~

The Brigade to which I am attached with my Artillery Company have been under orders since the 4th instant to hold ourselves in readiness at a moments notice and which I have been ever since, tho' a multiplicity of other matters to attend to ~

I have bought a few barrels of apples to send to you and other friends I see most distinctly that I will not be able to get them forwarded –

I have not heard of the *Janet Dunlop* since she sailed from Halifax, when she put in, neither from the *Dunlop* for Lisbon tho I had letters from thence last evening of date 1st September; nor of the *Courier*, *Thetis*, *Nestor*, for Leith but for Mr Allan, *George Canning* nor *Ann*, but all of which I hope to hear of in good time; the *Dunlop* is not yet out of time as I had a letter from Captain Abrahams of 5th August just before his leaving B#, I am sorry to notice by my letter of 1st September from Lisbon that flour was only worth 18 dollars a barrel, I expected to have got about 30 dollars a barrel for it; it is now worth more in Montreal when the rate of exchange is taken into consideration ~ The low price of flour at Lisbon

[page 18]

Arises from the amount of American vessels having arrived there with flour and who got protections against our cruisers; after the country had declared war against us;- most strange infatuation in our own Government who seem to have the foolish idea that the repealing of the Orders in Council were to make up the whole of the differences between the two Countries,

[envelope Mrs Janet Macnair No. 56 Buchanan Street Glasgow]

Mr Foster the British Minister who resided at Washington must surely have given the most highly improper accounts to His Government, respecting that of America ~ Till things become more certain, or for a few days, I decline ordering any thing for the next year ~ With due regards to every body I always am with this greatest affection, your most loving brother, James Dunlop

[page 19]

[87]

Montreal 14th November 1812

My Dear Miss Macnair,

This may be the last post that will overtake vessels going to Britain and I do not know when I may have it in my power to write again to you ~

I have just desired Mesrs Alan Ker & Co. to pay you one hundred guineas which dispose off as under on New Year's day:-

£25 Yourself, £25 Miss Jane, £25 Miss Ann, £7 Andrew, £7 James and £3 Dunlop youngest, £3 James Dunlop and give the other five to your Mother to give to John Martin or who she may choose ~

I have nothing particular new mention to you only that we were made easy on the 10th # being informed that the enemy were breaking up their Camp and retiring farther into # Country to go into Winter Quarters, it is now said they # say they will make good their Winter Quarters in this city –

before that happens I trust my Great Guns will make thousands of them sleep with their fathers -

I am the Captain of the day for the Garrison and just going out to visit my different Guards – God bless you all and I am convinced Heaven will take care of me. Give my due regards to every body –yours affectionately James Dunlop

Miss Macnair

[page 20]

It is needless to say anything to your respecting the effect the *James Dunlop* as that is not now to be helped – that ship which at least cost me 10,000 guineas sterling was sold on the 4th instant as she may be found stranded on the island of Anticosti with her materials for the small sum of £260 and the purchaser may find a very hard bargain of her –

Your cousin James Macnair is well and a fine young man got to be, He belongs to the Light Infantry who are in the same Brigade as my Artillery Company I will take as good care of him as in my power –Your again affectionately and you will attend that this letter is written equally to your sisters as yourself ~James Dunlop

[page 21]

[88]

Montreal 2nd January 1813

My Dear Sister,

I have long time without your or any of you family favours but I # lately from Miss # that you and all your family are well I have just come from my # # or rather returned # from it to say that I am as great a lord as # # # # #

I have been having a great Company to dine with me and who are just about as # as I am, the mail closes in five minutes time, otherwise I would never have attempted to have written and would # that I am quite or nearly drunk, and which never happens to me but when I entertain my friends as I have been doing to day # # # # # I have this day been having the # of the finest and most respectable ladies of the City;- They are all glad to come to see Mr Dunlop where they find everything that pleases them- I am the Captain of the day here this day and hence the command of the Garrison of Montreal, that is to day to report to the Commandant,

[page 22]

Commandant, here- as an individual when the rank of the Army is taking into consideration, I am as great a man as any in this City I am no wise and I are having # # # # #

I do not think it proper to # #, than respect that you will give my most kind regards to Mr Macnair, the young ladies # # my # # and your daughters and that I always am, your most affectionate brother
James Dunlop

I am far # to look what I have been writing;- Mr Macnair can do it – I think what I have been now writing is more than I can read being Royal as a Lord
I am most affectionately

James Dunlop as I often have occasion to sign myself Captain of Artillery
I think you will have a great deal of difficulty in reading this letter on account of my having sit so long at my table to day and where the Company yet remain and from who I have begged to abandon

[page 23

]

to write a few lines by post and # was granted to me – I find I got worse and worse at writing, the # of my # getting # them for I only # may you enjoy and your family many many happy returns of the Season and that I remain, your most affectionate brother

James Dunlop

Make my most kind compliments to Mrs A. Dunlop and # two fine boys; my brothers lady, Rolent, I can nothing about # they may # different principles; whether I am drunk of sober, am always the same regarding #
Yours and # most affectionately and with due respects to every body
James Dunlop

At Bacgamonion? # # # # # # # # she will be one of the most fine woman in the world, and I hope she will value herself as such The other young ladies # #
#

What I have written

James Dunlop

[page 24]

[89]

Montreal 14 January 1813

My Dear Sister,

I wrote you on the 2nd Current just on coming from my Dinner and when I was as Royal as a Lord in your Land and the same may be the # the present evening again as I am going to day to entertain with dinner and supper, the General who commands this district of the Country, Major General de Rotthenburg, his suite with the chief of the most respectable gentlemen of the City, officers commanding corps. Etc. etc. –

I find that my letter of the 2nd did not get to Quebec in time for the post that goes from thence to Halifax and the probability therefore is that that letter will go by the same Packet that this will, but as there is not the same frequency of opportunities to write now as there used to be and as you might be more anxious about our safety here than when we were at peace with the United States, I now think it proper to write you again although I have nothing very particular to mention to you –

I wrote Messrs Alan Ker & Co. as well as Messr Bell, Howard & R# letters o business, on the 12th current and when I desired Messrs Alan Ker & Co to say to you that I was in the most perfect good health as any time

[Edge writing:-I have drawn this day in favour of Mr James Henry on Messrs Alan Ker & Co. for £20 at 60 days ? and which I may not advise them of having nothing now to state to them in consequence of having written them on the 12th Instant JD

[page 25]

did not permit me to write you myself- In the letters I # the first and second of a Bill of Exchange for £2,000 sterling and have reason to suppose that Mr Lindsay of Quebec would # # for me about £1,000 sterling more and which Bills I get at 20% discount; that is to say I get in Bills £100 for every £80 sterling that I pay # I was obliged to draw myself # the last Summer and Fall at no less discount than 25 & 27% and that too for very considerable sums, I am now inclined to think that the exchange will soon get to 10 or thereabouts % net discount and from that circumstance I have now been # as much as has been in my power; perhaps I have made myself too bare of money as I even make a point of keeping a pretty good supply by me in case of any good bargain falling in the way, but in this time, there is little or no chance the present year in consequence of the small quantity of wheat and of corn the high price of that article, being no help at the present 13/4 and which, when the rate of exchange is taken into consideration makes 13/4 to be actually 16/8 or 15/- shillings sterling # minot of not above 58 to 60 ~ fine flour 16, is actually 20 dollars a barrel and which is I presume as high as you are paying for the same article in Britain, there is not the smallest chance of on # exporting a bushel of wheat or a barrel of flour

[Edge writing:- on Tuesday and Thursday our mail at the Post office is made up at ½ past 3 but on Saturday at this 2nd Instant was at 8 o'clock ~ I #####r]
[page 26]

flour during the year 1813 unless we should make Peace with America but which I do not see the most distant prospect of, I look for no Peace with that ungrateful Country, till a general Peace may take place in Europe and which from the warlike attitude Russia now stands in, it may not be long till that happy circumstance happen, it will not surprise me from the way that I see matters at present stand, should the whole of the French army now in Russia be slain or taken; I'm only afraid that the little vile wasp, Bonaparte continue to make his escape, but even should that happen, I hope vengeance will overtake him in France or where ever his flight may carry him. I am sorry to have occasion to state that I have no letter from you or any of your family or any of my relations for a very long time past; indeed the latest letter, I have from Messrs Alan Ker & co. is only dated 12th September and which I received so far back as the 17th ult., now four weeks, at the same time we have accounts from London till 5th November. At the present moment I have had nothing of the *Dunlop* Captain Abrahams for Lisbon, though that vessel sailed so long ago from Quebec as the 29th July; - only by an American newspaper I learn that a Prize* which she took from Philadelphia for Lisbon has arrived at Greenock on the 30th September; - I know nothing of the Prize Case but I hope in may be of considerable value and that I may be allowed to retain it, as the ship did not carry at the time she made the Prize Letters of

*(The vessel which had been taken was the American brig *Junius*, Anderson, however she carried a licence from Mr Foster the late British Ambassador to United States. Source Scottish Record Office CE60/1/46)

[page 27]

Letters of Marque against the United States, though you know that was not my fault, having gone for Quebec almost for the express purpose to procure the same for that ship, but when His Excellency the Governor could not then grant to me, I hope she, the Prize, may at least have 2000 barrels of flour and which would help to compensate for the loss that I sustained on my fine and good ship the *James Dunlop*, neither have I heard anything of the *George Canning* that sailed so far back as the 6th September nor the *Ann* that sailed shortly

[envelope]

after but I will daily now expect to learn of them having got to their destinations in safety; # I will soon hope to hear of the arrival of the *Ceres* in which I shipped a considerable quantity of ashes, I do not know what the # # are going to do with them *Janet Dunlop*; my new ship I suppose will be launched about the beginning of May; I have not yet fixed on a name for her. We are # just as quite as you are in Glasgow and nothing but gaily going on and in which state I hope we may continue

Due respects to everybody I always are your most affectionate brother.

James Dunlop

Mrs Janet Macnair

[page 28]

[90]

Montreal 30th March 1813

My Dear Sister,

Though our November and December mails by the way of Halifax marked this place on the 9th inst yet I continue without any of your favours nor have I any from anyone of your family but I had a letter from Miss Janet Dunlop of an old date and one from the Misses Shaws who I am often beholden to for information of date 28th November and then they notice that you and Mr Macnair with your family are all well ~ We have continued in this part of the country during the winter just as quiet, indeed I presume more so, as you are in Glasgow and the same usual gaiety has taken place as usually does ~ As the November roads will now soon break up we may expect to continue at Peace till some time in the month of May but when we may be again threatened by the enemy I understand that we are to have out early in the season three Regiments, but in place of three, we should at least have fifteen of 1000 men strong each when I would consider that the country would be perfectly safe; with a smaller number I have my doubts whether we will be able to retain it, as though our population is considerable yet too much should not be respected from the Militia

[Written along page edge:-

I do not expect to write you again till the opening of the navigation as it may be about 4 weeks before this gets to Halifax.]

[Page 29]

Militia who perhaps only find themselves valiant when they know they have the whole Regular forces to aid and protect them. The ships of the American Naval

force is at a place called Sackets Harbour on Lake Ontario and at the distance of about 40 miles from Kingston in the Upper Province;- had we attacked # # about the beginning of the middle of January we might easily have carried it and destroyed all their vessels and stores etc. there, but it was put off too late and when the enemy got so formidable that it was judged prudent not to have any thing to say to them there;-the attack on them was only # about the end of the 6th February I am much afraid that the enemy are stronger on Lake Ontario than we are and which may be of very great hurt to us here on the opening of the Navigation as it is from the Upper Province that we derive considerable part of our provisions, as flour and pork; would besides, should the Americans gain the ascendancy on the Lakes, hurt the commerce of the Country as a considerable part of our imports go to the Upper Province ~ Respecting myself I
[page 30]

I am happy in having it in my power to say that I never enjoyed better health than I have done lately but indeed I have always been blessed in that respect ~ My duty as a soldier has been very light having only to see my company drilled once a week and to mount guard with them once in four weeks and weeks which is no hardship to me as my business with that guard unless something more than ordinary # # always over by midnight and generally at 11 o'clock when the change of the guards till the morning is light with the subalterns, besides these duties I sometimes too sit on Court Martials ~ The Winter on the whole, tho' we have lately had many days of very coarse weather, has been fine and moderate:- On Sunday the 28th instant we had a very bad day but yesterday and to day, but from the quantity of snow that we have on the ground, are more like Summer than Winter Days and a few more such would sweep away the chief of the snow that we now have and which in some places we the streets is about 4 feet deep; the sun almost comes under the description of # to day. I am sorry to find my ashes by the *George Canning* were sold too soon but I have no doubt but that Messrs' A.Ker &co. # as they thought would be most for my interest they
[page 31]

The should at least have brought me £1000 more they will yield at the prices they have been sold at; # will go from this Country the present year that will cost # than 70 guineas per ton down in Britain and mine per *George Canning* were sold at £49 ~ Wheat now worth here? 13/4 to 14/2 for about 58 to 60? Ashes 42/- and 48/- might be got for a quantity and which 48/- is actually 60/- currency the Exchange continuing at 20% discount ~ Lee ward Island Rum 6/3 and Jamaican 7/6 per gallon. I will lose on
[Envelope]

the flour I sent to Jamaica on the *Janet Dunlop* about £2000 in place of gaining £3000 which I would have done had it been sold on its arriving in the market a difference of no less than about £5000 sterling ~ James Macnair, Andrew Shaw and every body about me are well:- I do not know what James is fit for , but I am sure not for a merchant.

Requesting that you will make my due respects to everybody I am always your most affectionate brother James Dunlop.

Mrs Janet Macnair.
[page 32]

[91]

Montreal 20th May 1813

My Dear Sister,

I this morning had the pleasure to receive letters from Messrs' Alan Ker & co. of dates 10th, 27th and 30th March per the *Hamilton* from Greenock but I have not had the satisfaction to receive any from you or from any of my other relations or friends in Glasgow. I find Messrs' Alan Ker & co. had in consequence of having hired the *Dunlop* and *George Canning* to go to the West Indies, chartered the brigantine *Neptune*, Captain Neil for me which they # to load on my account with materials for my # ships and other loads that I ordered the last Fall, tho' I'm sorry to observe that they are sending me but a very small portion of rum on the supposition from the high price it got to me in Britain and the low price that it was here this last Fall, that I would be a loser by it; - it has however since risen here and very considerably, Jamaican rum, now 2/6 per gallon ~ They have I find purchased for me 140 Pipes Red Spanish wine and which is coming
[page 33]

Coming out to me in the *Collingwood* from Greenock and I will also have a considerable value of goods out from London. Respecting the *Janet Dunlop* I learn from letters just now received from Messrs' Alan Ker & co. that she would go into Port of Porto Bello on the way from Cartagena for Kingston and what the Messrs Bogles & Co. would next make of her is more than I know; - whether they might send her here to me with rum or give her a freight to Britain. I am most highly dissatisfied regarding the sales of the cargoes which I sent to Jamaica the last Summer and I am still a little displeased at the *Janet Dunlop* having been hired to go to Cartagena as I find I will have to pay more for the insurance alone than I get for the hire of my vessel; they ask from 35 to 40 guineas per cent insurance on the risk but which I hope Messrs' Alan Ker & co. will never consent to pay; # I at home would rather take the risk myself than pay about 8 guineas per cent:- in place of gaining which I should have done at least £2000 sterling on the cargo which I sent to Jamaica last Summer I now lay my account to lose by it 3000 guineas, - the cause stated to me to arise from a number of Prizes having been sent in that had flour on board
[page 34]

board I was lead to expect by a letter I had from Jamaica that the JD arrived there that I might get £10 per barrel for my flour, about 1400 barrels, but in place of which I now find it will not net me above £3-10-0, 7 of Jamaican # per barrel ~ We had arrived at Quebec on the 5th instant 450 sailors with a proper number of officers who all passed through this city for the Upper Province on the 7th and 8th to go on board of the vessels which we have on the Lakes the command of which I hope we will soon # We also had arrive at Quebec on the 15th instant the 19th Regiment of Dragoons and 2nd Battalion of the 41st Foot which 41st are now on their way to this place or may be ordered further up the Country ~ I am sorry to notice to you from the Americans having a greater force on Lake Ontario than we had they came out with their whole fleet, having about 2500 soldiers on board and landed and attacked York, the capital of Upper Canada, and which they easily succeeded in taking and where they took £2500 pounds of Government paper money besides there carrying off a very considerable value in Government stores and destroying all the Public buildings and on which occasion we, ourselves, blew up a magazine in which were 200

barrels gunpowder and by which explosion the enemy lost about 300 men and we about 40; we
[page 35]

we also destroyed before the Americans got possession a fine ship we had building there about the size of one of our frigates as she was to have carried 32 guns, we lost in all about 60 to 70 men about 40 of who part of the Grenadiers of the 8th Regiment # # # # almost 500; they landed on the 26th or 27th and left York with their booty on the 2nd May ~
[envelope]

We have been quite time since the Fall and I hope we may remain so ~ Everything in the Provision line has got very dear here;- much more so than with you wheat for instance 15/- to 16/8 for about 58 to 60 and the exchange at 20% discount ~ I propone launching my new ship this evening but it will be about two hours after the port leaves this? With due respects to everybody I always am yours most affectionately ~ James Dunlop
[page 36]

[92]

Montreal 10th June 1813

My Dear Sister,

On the morning of the 8th instant I had the pleasure to receive not only your favour of the 1st April by the *Neptune* but also that of the 20th February via Halifax and by which gave me much satisfaction to find that you as well as all my other relations appeared to be well~ You intimately judge right when you suppose I would not leave this Country under the present circumstances tho' my individual aid can do but a very small way in its defence ~ I retain my situation as Captain of the Volunteer Artillery and which at present gives me but very little trouble, - Drill twice a week and mounting my guard now and then, - according we may have Regular Troops in the Garrison to the performance of which I am just as capable and feel as little inconvenience, as any man I dare say in the whole of my Company. Things have rather been going against us lately – we in the first instance we made an attack on Sacketts Harbour , the rendezvous of the enemy's shipping but they were all

[page edge :-

I know nothing about the Janet Dunlop, the last time I heard of her was on her voyage from Cartagena for Kingston Jamaica; I have at least around £20,000 worth of different kinds# of goods – my news ship is again the James Dunlop]
[page 37]

all out on Lake Ontario and gone to fort George on Niagara with troops, but which from the wind failing and our Naval force not being able to cooperate with the troops that landed we were obliged to abandon and when the vessels with our troops returned to Kingston from where they were embarked; we lost a few valuable men on this occasion # killed and wounded but the enemy much greater number and # The enemy landed at Fort George, Niagara, on the 27th ulto with who after combating for a considerable time, our troops from there overwhelming numbers, about ten to one, were obliged to abandon the said fort and when the retracked about 40 miles and where they remained on the 3rd instant waiting for # , but I much fear that we have not sufficient to send so as to enable us to regain Fort George unless we can in the meantime defeat there

Naval force with ours on Lake Ontario and which I have every reason to think we are able to do; if we can only fall in with them. His Excellency Governor George Provost, was at the attack on Sackets

[edge of page :-

We have little to put on our ships the present year but lumber, say wood and staves, neither wheat nor flour]

[Page 38]

Harbour tho' he did not command the expedition; he only went there to encourage the troops but when he might just as easily have been slain as any of the other poor fellows who fell the grape and canister shot were flying about him to a great degree; I have always thought he did wrong to put himself in such danger General Vincent, a particular friend of mine, commanded at Fort George and when he and all his men behaved most gallantly ~ York the capital of Upper Canada was taken about the 27th April when all the Militia and a few troops became prisoners of war and will remain so till they are exchanged for as many of the enemy prisoners ~ We have remained perfectly quite in this part of the country and I hope we will continue to do so ~ We took on Lake Champlain this day week, only about 32 miles from this place, two of the enemy's sloops each about 100 tons and mounting eleven guns and having 50 men each; - they came down the Lake with an intention of taking some gun boats that we had near to the Isle aux noix, but in place of which they got taken themselves and with only two men slightly wounded on our part while they had one man killed and about 12 wounded; there prisoners as well as about 150 which we took at

[edge of page:-

You no doubt know that not only the Dunlop but the George Canning have gone on freight for Guadalupe #####]

[Page 39]

at Sackets Harbour went thro the is city the other day for Quebec for tho we were obliged to quite Sackets Harbour yet we were there completely victorious We have had arrived since the opening of the Navigation about 3,800 soldiers and about 450 seamen for the Lakes and we still expect about 3000 more troops, we should have had here by this time at least 15,000 additional soldiers, if it is meant that we retain this Country

[envelope]

I have got Mr Macnair's letter of the 27th March and pay due attention to it as will as Mr A. Dunlop's letter Miss Janet and Miss Andreas and A Dunlop jnr but I have no letter from Mrs R Dunlop nor Alexander but I have had one from Miss Dunlop not long since via Halifax, to all which I will reply in due time ~ I remain with due respects to everybody, your most affectionate brother James Dunlop

Mrs Janet Macnair

[page 40]

[93]

Quebec 1st September 1813

My Dear Sister,

I yet remain here contrary to what I expected but will leave this either today or tomorrow morning at 4 o'clock. Since coming here I have bought about 80 pipes 60 # 14 Port and 6 Madera wines as marked over them but tho I am out of Rum

and have been for a long time I cannot purchase from the high rate they hold it here; I besides daily expect a parcel for myself from Messrs' Alan Ker & Co. I know now that the *Janet Dunlop* sailed from Kingston for Clyde about 30th June and was sight all well by a vessel that has arrived here on 23rd July; She has 5 puncheons of rum and 50 Hgshds of sugar bound for me shipped by the Messrs Bogles & co to Messrs' Alan Ker & Co. they probably if it gets to hand in time may send it to me here, but I expect the *Dunlop* would be returned from Guadeloupe and dispatched with rum for me before the *JD* home and which I presume would be from the 15th to 20th August ~ I have nothing new to state to you

[page 41]

You ~ but we daily expect to hear of our making an attack on Fort George, Niagara, and when a general engagement may take place, I have every hope that we will be successful ~ We are just as quite here and at Montreal as if we were not at war with our neighbours ~ We are making a most bountiful harvest and I have heard that

[envelope]

Wheat which was held at Montreal at 21/8, that some of the new crop has been sold at 10/- and to 12/6 still there is no chance of our exporting any the present year as the country is ban of the article as well as flour [superscript unclear] forward the letter for Messrs' Alan Ker & Co. I am with due respects to everybody Yours etc. James Dunlop

[page 42]

[94]

Montreal 12th October 1813

My Dear Sister,

I am now for along while without any letter from Britain but which satisfaction I now daily hope for as I understand the *Dunlop* is nearly loaded with rum for me and I besides expect a vessel with provisions from Cork and a very considerable value in goods from London I am grieved to mention to you the whole loss of our Fleet, six armed vessels, on Lake Erie who besides their crews had about 400 soldiers from General Proctors army; by this loss we # command of Lake Erie and a stop is put to the communication between this and the South West part of the Upper province and which cuts us off in a great measure from the Indian Country:- the loss incalculable and might have been prevented had Britain shown that regard to our safety as her interest should have dictated to her; it will now take ten time the number to regain what we have lost that one tenth would have preserved:- Tho we have been completely defeated, the flag ship of the enemy had at one time struck to Captain Barclay of the Royal Navy and who commanded our ships on Lake Erie but was not strong enough # # # #

Commodore Perry commanded the American squadron

[page 43]

and who in his time became the vanquished, besides the loss sustained by Captain Barclay in this action he was originally very poorly manned and from which all our misfortunes have arisen. A Captain and two lieutenants of the Royal Navy have been killed and Captain Barclay and many others badly wounded an account of all which you will see or hear of in your papers ~

We have besides this lost on Lake Ontario from transports that had about 160 soldiers on board:- in short everything seems to be going wrong in the Upper Province and the same may soon be the case here and all which arises from the neglect that the Government of Britain has shown to this important Country of more use to her than Spain and Portugal when she is expending so much treasure and losing so many of her soldiers:- 15,000 men to have arrived early this season here would have caused to have continued during the season in perfect quietness but we have only got about 5600 and 2400 of them in two Foreign Regiments who require good men to watch their motions ~ We hardly have at this time any regular troops in this part of the Country ~ The Montreal Volunteers at the head of who I now am as Major Commanding are under orders to be in readiness at the shortest notice to march, since the 25th ulto I am receiving pay and rations the same as any Major of the Line ~ I hope by the time Mr James Macnair has got safely home and that he may find some [page 44]

Employment to suit his disposition but which I much fear from his innate idle, lazy and careless disposition I never fell in with such another young man:- He has the same time possess a good disposition and amended capable of learning anything:- I have often told him the only thing I asaw fit for him was being a lazy clergyman or school master ~ with a request of my due respects to everybody I always am your most affectionate brother James Dunlop

The last letters owned to me are those I wrote on the 9th February to A.Ker & co. now more than 7 calendar months; it is too bad I have not time to look over what I have written.
[page 45]

[95]

Montreal 31st October 1813

Dear Sister,

My last letter to you was I of date the 12th current to which # # I have just learned that this may be the last post that will be in time for the fleet to sail from Quebec on the 2nd instant and I # cannot think of allowing it to depart without answering you although I have had no letter from you since those that came out by the first ships in the Spring ~ I have now been expecting daily the ship *Dunlop* chiefly I presumed loaded with rum for about two months but hitherto I have no accounts of her and that we have accounts here from Britain till the 14th September I am sorry to say that my letters from Scotland only go down till the 10th July but I have one letter from London of date 30th August besides expecting the ship *Dunlop* I know of my # goods on board of three different vessels of London and I besides expect a vessel from Cork loaded with pork but unless they soon come in there will be no chance of these arriving the present season; indeed from the period that the season has got advanced to, I think it more than an equal chance they will not get to Quebec the present year and allowing that they get there it is doubtful whether the cargo may be got up before

[edge of page :-A great part of my time is occupied as a soldier, You must or get Mr Macnair to state all the news I may have written you to my friends not having either the time or inclination to repeat the same story over and over again had

James Macnair remained here to who give my kind compliments I

#####]

[page 46]

before the Navigation will close for the present season and should such be the case it will be a most heavy lost and great disappointment to me ~ I will entertain hopes for this least for some days yet to come we have had just now arrived at Quebec, indeed about 400 of them got here last evening by the steam boat, 1450 Marines and 150 of Royal Artillery, in all 1600 men which if they had come here in the Summer would have prevented all the loss and misfortunes that we have been sustaining in the Upper Province and besides which we are daily in hopes of receiving further at least two Regiments from Britain, but as regarding the ships *Dunlop* etc unless they come soon they will have to bear away for some port in Nova Scotia and endeavour to come over the snow and ice in the winter for and want yet at least 15,000 men more for the safety and protection of the two Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada besides all the troops we now have in the Country; 12 to 15,000 would have been sufficient # all with # we had in the Country the last Fall, had they arrived in the month of May or June but we have lost so much since, from an overpowering enemy that even with the number I have proposed 15,000 more besides the troops now in the Country, that we could hardly hope to regain what we have lost and been obliged to give up and abandon # # than double the extent

[edge of page: -I have had at no time # #business than since am being at War with America but that arises from having many # orders from the Government to execute ~ I have been much hurt on the account of the want of Rum the present year having had none since the month of June or beginning of July and which has always been an important article with me.]

[page 47]

extent of all Great Britain has been lost to her for the want of the support which the Government should have granted to us ~ Until lately we have remained in Peace and quietness in this part of the Country, but within these few days the enemy have attempted to invade this part of the Country having had the temerity to come within our lines and attack the piquet but when they met with such a warm reception that I understand they are seeking their way back to their own country again;- this army was under the command of a General Hampton and consisted of about 7,500 men and when about 1000 of them came on, we the 26th current to within about 30 miles of this place, but when as I have said they met with such a warm reception as caused them to be glad to get off; we lost on this occasion 5 men killed, 17 wounded and 4 others missing;- the loss of the enemy not correctly ascertained but above 20 dead and were found where the action took place ; at Chaleaugay not quite 30 miles from this city they, the enemy, have besides Sackets Harbour, an army of about 12,000 men and with which they have been threatening to attack Kingston in the Upper Province at the distance of about 180 to 200 miles from this place, but which situation I understand is so powerful, strong, that I hope they will make no impression on it;- they have besides a considerable army at Fort George on Niagara and a large one at A# or M# near to Detroit from whence General Proctor with his

[page 48]

his # little army were obliged to retreat in consequence of the complete loss of our fleet, six vessels of war on Lake Erie;- General Proctor with what men he could bring with him are now at and nearer here than Burlington Heights on Lake Ontario~ In my last, I believe I mentioned having obtained promotion as a soldier, being now Major and commanding the Volunteer Companies of Montreal who have been now under orders for some time to hold themselves in readiness to march at the shortest notice, but if the

[envelope]

enemy have gone off we may be allowed to remain at our homes and which you may be assured I would much prefer to fighting with a set of vagabonds and which I consider the whole of the American Army to be ~ This letter would # to be addressed to James than you but who I have no doubt will see it, and you may tell Miss Andrea that I have again bought some apples to send home per the *Dunlop* gets in and away again.

With due respects to all the relations and friends and acquaintances.

I always am your most affectionate brother . James Dunlop

[page 49]

[96]

Montreal 18th November 1813

My Dear Sister,

I only returned today, with the Battalion I have the honour of Commanding, Montreal Volunteers from a campaign of eleven days ~ The enemy who thought they could swallow us up after having got a small # about 80 miles from here have thought proper to get on their own side of the St. Lawrence and I am convince they will retire to their homes:- His excellency our General and Commander in Chief must think so too, Otherwise we would not this day (I did not at one time expect being here till the end of the month.) have got to our homes:- we were first ordered out and we had been favoured by being the first allowed to return home -There are many gentlemen in the Corps and who stand sentries as common soldiers and which I am often # at, to find people while on their posts people of equal respectability as myself presenting their arms to me on coming near or passing them while on their posts ~ I had the misfortune on the 13th instant when making my Grand Rounds as Field Officer of the day of about 5 miles distance to be thrown from my horse when I got a little hurt but had the good fortune to come off with that "little hurt", when I might have had my bones broken, the night was as dark as you can imagine and I happened to be riding a borrowed horse having lost my own:- I mention this, that if you have heard

[page 50]

heard of the misfortune , of my having been thrown from my horse, you may have no uneasiness, as I am quite well in health though a little sore from the heavy fall I got, a day or two will make me quite at ease again. I have a most bitter dislike to the vile Americans and would wish to see the country sunk from the face of the earth a people of better principles to occupy it ~ I have your letter and all the others by the Dunlop but to more of which can I at present reply – I have sent you some apples and to some of my other relations and friends by the Dunlop which Messrs Alan Ker & co will forward to you I have desired Alan Ker & co to send to you the letter I write this evening and which

letter I request you to show to John Tennentt esq sen, and then again return it to Alan Ker & co.

I must refer you to the newspapers for the general news:- Where I was, only about 12 miles above this on the same day of this river Upper La~, and saw none of the enemy; in place of them swallowing us up as they boasted and would instantly either have destroyed or taken them had they dared to come on;- but this may not always be the case, as people who are not soldiers may not always be inclined to turn out as such, notwithstanding the law instantly requires it, when we are called on;- we at the very least want 15,000 more troops of the line early in the Spring # this Country, if Britain means that she should retain #

Give my due regards to Mrs E Dunlop and her two
[page 51]

two boys as well as all my other relations, who may #, and friends – Mr James Macnair is ## this I hope at home – He was not at the pains to write me by the Pilot who carried down the ships but at what I am not surprised from a person of his apathy ~

I shipped in the E# which vessel sailed under convoy the other day for London 300 Barrels Ashes and I am now shipping via the *Dunlop* 506 barrels more with staves but I yet know nothing of the quantity I at present have about in craft loaded for me from the *Dunlop*, *Britannia* & *Collingwood* from Clyde the *Rising Hope* and R# from London being 750 to 800 tons of goods and worth here including the duties about £50,000 – Still I have no fear of my property I can only add – that I always am your most affection brother James Dunlop

I have got Mr Macnair's letter respecting the C# but neither it nor yours or any other can I at present look at~ Mr Shaw and Mr Whyte continue to give me every satisfaction and I have been much beholden to Mr Whyte at present for his attention as he was the only one about my House allowed to stay at home; the town has nearly been without male inhabitants for many days past and I have had double the business to attend to in receiving goods.

Mrs Janet Macnair –Glasgow
[page 52
]

goods than perhaps # ## at any time before the season too is so far advanced that no goods should be afloat – Mr John Whithman has also been of infinite use to me at present; He is above the age required to go out and which I caused him to take the # that he might attend to my business; He hates the Americans as much as I do and so every one that knows them must.

[envelope]
[page 53]

[97]

Montreal 29th November 1813

My Dear Sister,

I wrote # on the evening of the 18th current being the date of my having returned from a campaign eleven days during which period I enjoyed equal good health as if I had been at my home and found every thing very comfortable I have even been of the opinion that the enemy would attack us more to

advantage in the Winter, on the snow, then at any other time in the year and therefore it is possible that they may again attempt invasion before the Winter is over; hitherto we have had nothing but mild and moderate weather and without any snow to lay, but to morrow being St. Andrew's Day, we often have a very heavy snow storm on it, I have known two feet and upwards fall from night till the next morning ~ I hardly have had time to look about me since my return home in consequence of the multiplicity of matters that I have had to attend to; I have unladen since my return about 600 tons of goods I very muddy and dirty roads, I have yet one vessel with about 80 to 100 tons of goods to arrive from Quebec and I have about £700 value of goods in the Magd# from London, not yet arrived Quebec and the probability now is that she will not get in the present year:- the worst of all is I have had one of the craft that was loaded for me at Quebec, #, and which vessel had of mine on board 24 hgshds 18 Mur# & 6 refined sugars, 2 hgds shoe, 17 pipes port wine 24 hampers cheese and 2 cases pins the whole worth about £3,400 sterling – the whole of the sugars are totally lost, but all of the wine has been picked up floating at different parts of.

[page 54]

of the region but about 6 of the pipes nearly empty, the greatest part of the Cheese, 2 hgds shoes and the 2 cases of pins have been found but in such a state that they are not worth much;- there are no helping such misfortunes and I submit to what has happened without murmuring ~ I have till now been so engaged in receiving goods that people who have come wanting to buy I have been obliged to turn away until my goods were stored, - got under cover. The loss I sustained from the late arrival of my goods is incalculable:-the whole that I have had arrive within these few days should sell for about £50,000 sterling~ on reflecting it was you that I wrote on the 18th and Mr Macnair on the 20th current~ I have sold all of the Osnaburgs and Scotch and Russian shirting's that I have imported at this time to Government and of which articles I have ordered pretty largely for the next Spring as well as of 27² and 3 point blankets; most other goods I have so many of that I decline ordering any till I see how sales may go but which I have every hope and expectation that they will do well and I may therefore at a subsequent day order largely for the next Spring of many goods not yet asked for by me ~ I am quite uncertain whether this will be in time for any vessel, but just give it # it is the last letter that I write to go by the St. Lawrence direct from Quebec the present year.

You will apply on my account to Messrs Alan Ker & co for

[page 55]

for one hundred guineas which give in New Year gifts for me , 3guineas each to Alexander Dunlop and James Dunlop, 90 guineas to your daughters and Mr James as you may see proper and the remaining 4 guineas to John Martin and any other person you choose ~ I shipped your 6 barrels apples via the Dunlop and there was one shipped for Mrs Stewart which I have since knowing of her being no more, ordered the ticket to be taken off and sent to you; they were pomme Frise as are the barrels No. 1 & 4 and the 2other barrels No. 5 & 6 are pomm de Nise, or snow apples:- I shipped in all by the Dunlop Captain Abrams 35 barrels apples list of which and for who I sent to Messrs' Alan Ker & co. to forward as addressed;- The snow apples should be used immediately – Mrs Elizabeth Dunlop's barrel No. 34 is [blot] also snow apples; The shipment is as marked [blot] the names, Mrs Macnarin 6, Miss Mcgregor1, Mrs G. Hamilton 1,

Mrs A Hamilton 1, Mrs James Smith, Mrs Stewart 1, John Tennent Se. Esq. 1 & 2, Rolent Brown esq, 1 & 2, J & D Shaw 1, John Dunlop 2, ? Collector, Adam Johnson 1 esq 2, Alan Ker esq 3, John Denniston 3 ? 2, (No.20 to A. Ker and No. 23 to J Denniston) are pomme d Nisse or snow apples, Captain Ramsay Leith 3, these last three I only forward as well as the 5 following, Quentin Leith 2, James Pinkerton 1, William Shaw 1 and James & David Shaw 1, ~ Mrs Elizabeth Dunlop 3, and Mr Alexander Wilson 1, in all 35 barrels~ Make my kind regards to Mrs Elizabeth Dunlop as with as to all of my relations and kind compliments to all friends acquaintances I.
[page 56]

I have a letter for Mr Macnair of the 8th Regiment which I will forward by the very first opportunity, He is I believe at Kingston or Burlington Heights ~ I hope Mr James is long # # this safely with you. ~ I always am your most affectionate brother

James Dunlop
[envelope]

I will want next Spring a few pieces linen for table cloths or rather table cloths of different sizes which Mr Macnair may be able to # A. Ker & co. who to apply to for them to get on good terms. I hope I hope Mr Macnair did not you # to Mr Tennent to do any thing respecting? the Cloben on my account.

Yours faithfully James Dunlop
[page 57]

[98]

Montreal 2nd April 1814

My Dear Sir,

Your highly respected favour of the 29th November with a letter on the same sheet from Miss Jane reached me on the 28th ulto and by which I am happy to find that it appears you and your family were then all well ~ I what you say regarding the proposed Co. ships with Mr Tennent but I am much better pleased to have no such concern and which never could take place without my having sanctioned such a thing in a very different way to what I # I have not heard a word from Mr Tennent on that head for many months past ~ I notice that the two Mr Hamiltons and Mr John Tennent Jun., after having been it appeared to you ay great variance, have entered into a new Co. ship under the old firm of Dunlop, Hamilton & Co. but have, without Alexander Dunlop being also con# I cannot comprehend, they should assume such a firm; I # when the last Co. ship was about fixing that the same misunderstanding was shown between the two Mr Hamiltons and Mr Tennent, each of who complained of the other to me but which afterwards # at the time, appeared to be a piece of deceit to answer some purpose that I never could comprehend unless it was to cause me to say something disrespectful of # complained of as to talent and capacity as merchants and which I did pretty poorly:- I wish them every success tho I have no reason to applaud their generosity or condon as merchants ~ I note what you say regarding my insuring my

[edge writing]
[page 58]

property and that you consider that I run too great risks;- in this however you are mistaken as I would always in time of War wish to insure my property going

beyond seas when a fair and reasonable premium for such insurance only asked and a fair time elapsed, that such insurance should be made; I always would give thrice weeks to a vessel going from this Country for Clyde before making any insurance on her, # after which time I would insure if the premium required was one a fair one~ I hope the Dunlop Captain Abrams would also arrive without any insurance having been made on that ship or any part of the cargo; She had been out 32 days from Quebec at the # date I have from Messr Alan Ker & Co. 23 December have not the least uneasiness about her and expect by the very next account to learn of her having gained her destination in the most perfect safety and comfort as several gentlemen and ladies were passengers in her.

I note what you say regarding our success on the continent but I would be much better pleased if our Government would send about 15,000 British troops for the protection of this Country and which number is by no means too many and without such a force coming to our assistance in the Spring it is hard to say what may be the consequences:- it is # the Militia have turned out very readily and in general done their duty as faithful subjects;- all which in my opinion should not be counted too much, as some # # # may cause a very great change in the [edge writing:- I have about equal to £30,000, thirty thousand pounds sterling laying by me at present in Army Bills but which I do not propose remitting till our Navigation opens #####]
[page 59]

the minds of the natives who are more than 20 to one in point of population~ We have got a Government tho just like Britain, that does not in my opinion trust the people and were it in my power there should be no such branch of it as a House of Assembly or Commons, as they do nothing in general but hatch mischief; that body have lately been dismissed after them having been about 10 to 12 weeks in session during which time they have been chiefly employed in drawing articles of impeachment against the Chief Justice of the Province and the Chief Justice for this district of the Country [blot] I consider to be two as worthy capable and good men as we sat on a B# the true history of the business is this , the House of Assembly is composed as apart degree of lawyers and Notaries and the Chief Justices have taken pains in their respective courts to lay down such rules of practice as far as possible to prevent these vermin of lawyers picking their clients pockets:- the whole complaints arise from personal pique in hellish minded persons, as I do not consider that justice is administered in any part of the British Dominions in greater purity than in this Province:- the Legislative Council have been drawn a long string of Resolves in direct opposition to the House of Assembly, the conduct of which last branch of the Legislature would have been very different had we had a Sir James Henry Craig as out Governor General but the present person administering the Government, Sir George Prevost, has heaped favours on all the offenders during [edge writing :-Wheat 15/ to 16/8 per bushel of about 60### Low and Island Rum 8/4 and Jamacia of # per gallon Ashes or lumber now at market]
[page 60]

during the administration of Sir J. H. Craig, # of who found it proper to throw into prison for seditious practice and who our present Government has rewarded with # actions honour and profit: # # our present Governor will have a most

difficult game to play from his silly improper conduct ~ We have been having # these few days some skirmishing with the enemy on our lines and # which tho we drove them and have lost about 11 men killed and 40 to 50 wounded: it will not surprise me if the whole # of their present appearance on our lines here have, #

[Envelope]

a serious attempt they are about to make to # Niagara and thereby prevent our sending troops from # # protection. I have done more good business since the war began than I ever before did in the same space of time but also have been more bold in my speculations than any other person or company in the Province. I am sorry to observe that Mr Hugh Tennant has been unfortunate. Give my due regards to my sister and the rest of your family and my other relations and kind compliments to all friends. I remain, with esteem and regards your # # servant James Dunlop

Andrew Macnair esq. (husband of his sister Janet)
[page 61]

[99]

Montreal 17th May 1814

My Dear Sister,

It is so far back as the 19th ult that I received your and Mr Macnair's letters on the same # od date, by the post Office mark 29th January by which I was much pleased to learn that you and your family were all in good health and which I hope you may have maintained since; there was no date to either of your letters ~ Mr Macnair seems to be surprised what I was going to do with all the goods which I had on the communication about the middle of November, about 700 to 800 tons, but I am pleased to have it in my power to say that a great part of them are now sold and at handsome prices; I never in the same space of time have gained so much money as I have done from the 1st May 1813 till the 1st current; at the same time I yet remain with a vast value of goods on hand the 1st day of this month, say per inventory, £38,586-3-3 currency and on which from the present appearance of Peace in consequence of the Armistice entered into between the Allied Powers and France on the 5th of March last, such information as received here yesterday, I may lose very considerably on the
[edge writing:- I am pleased to find that # # does not appear that I have anything to do regarding the C#; I have not heard for a great while from Mr Tennant]

[page 62]

the value of my property; but let what # happen, I will contentedly submit to ~ The articles that constitute a great part of the value of goods remaining are Rum, Wines Tea, Leaf Tobacco, Butter, Rice, Marked Candles, Iron, Pot Ash #, Salt, Shoes, Stockings, Muslins, Cloths, Linens, etc.

We have now for some time past, looking for vessels from Britain but hitherto none have come in that we hear yet known of ~ We have # been perfectly quite since last Fall # the Enemy made an attempt early in the season at Rive La Colle to invade the Province in which they were defeated with some loss and when they thought proper to retire and since when, 30th March last, we have had no trouble with them ~ La Cole is about 40 miles from this City ~ At Oswego in the Upper Province we have attacked the enemy where we were completely

successful having dismantled the fort there and brought off several heavy guns with a quantity of other stores and some prisoners on which occasion we lost 91? Men in killed and wounded, but the whole of these matters you will see detailed in the newspapers~ on the 20th ult I enclosed to Messrs Bill Howard & Bill the first of a bill of exchange for £32,500, thirty two thousand five hundred pounds sterling,

[edge writing :- Mr Andrew Shaw and Mr Whyte are both well, they are two fine young lads, Mr Shaw's time is just out with me as well as Mr Whyte's # they both remain with me at present JD]

[page 63

]

the second of which will go by the same conveyance this does and may get to hand sooner than the first as it went via Halifax whilst this is to go direct by a vessel from Quebec for Britain and which is the first since the opening of our Navigation, mean to remit father at this time a Bill for £3,000 Sterling. We have had more than a dozen of vessel from Halifax, chiefly loaded with rum, sugar, coffee and flour and one with 200 puncheons of rum from the island of Grenada and which arrivals have lowered the value of the different articles which they have brought to our market, particularly in the article of rum and flour ~ Rum that not long since was at 8/4 is now 6/6 and flour that was worth 18 to 20 dollars per barrel of 196 n# would not now bring 14 dollars and wheat of # has lowered in an equal proportion with #, say from 15/ to 16/ to 11/8 at 12/6 per bushel of about 160 ~ I have hitherto by some means or other omitted to mention to you that the Honourable James McGill, a distant relation of your friend Robert Craig esq., died here on 19th December last after a short illness leaving in property of different kinds 90 to £100,000, one hundred thousand pounds, he has left to the Royal Infirmary of Glasgow £200, to the [blank] £200, and to Agnes Craig, an elderly woman either £20 or £25 per annum while she

[edge writing:- arrived here in 31 days from # # # # # # # # # Entered Paris on the 30th March that Lord Wellington was in possession of Bonaparte, that no armistice had taken place and that # part of the people in France wished to # Louis the 18th on the throne of his ancestors ~ We wish a confirmation of all this from Britain when we have yet no arrivals and our Post of this day is in from Quebec ~ Yours most affectionately – James Dunlop]

[Page 64]

while she may live. He has left several other legacies here # £10,000 for the endowing of a college to be called McGills College and the rest of his fortune he has given to his step son, Mr Des~ the son of Mrs McGill's a former husband:- if a charter is not obtained for the college in ten years, the £10,000 is also to go to # # # # # # Des~ the residual legatee> Mr McGill having died so risk arises in # degree from his having

[envelope]

The properties of his two brothers, John and Andrew, who both died in this city and without leaving any children He might have acquired by them £30,000 to £40,000 and on when a considerable term for interest has accumulated. I am, thank God, and have been in the most perfect good health~ With a request you will make my due respects to Mr Macnair, the rest of your family and other relations and friends compliment to all friends, I always am, your most affectionately

James Dunlop

Mrs Janet Macnair

[page 65]

[100]

Montreal 13th June 1814

My Dear Sister,

I wrote you on the 17th ult when I owned having received your and Mr Macnair's letter without dates on the 19th April but which from the post office mark I considered that had been 29th January: since then I am without any of your favours tho two or three vessels have arrived at Quebec from Clyde but I'm sorry to say the *Jess and Flora* in which are all my goods from Scotland has not yet got in neither have I been able to learn anything of her tho she sailed from Cork with the *Sir Edward Pellew* and *Ayrshire* that have been at Quebec, the former about a fortnight and the latter eight days.

The earliest I have from Messrs Alan Ker & co. is 12th March but I some days since had letters from Liverpool till 15th April ~ The *Magdaline* in which I had some goods that should have come out last full from London arrived at Quebec some time since and the goods by her came hand this morning.

I have had also arrived at Quebec this Spring 4 packages per the *Alexander*, 4 packages per the *Margaret* and 29 trunks dry goods and 32 hampers cheese per the

[page 66]

Commerce all from Liverpool, but no part of these three parcels have yet reached me here I am sorry to add that I understood that my ship shipment from Liverpool was to have been made on board of a vessel named the *Belise* and I know that that vessel has been taken by the American privateer Fox all the valuable goods taken out of her and the *Belise* burnt; the Fox had got safely into Portsmouth in New England the ship of my goods from London and on board of the *Ewinettea* but none of the fleet that she sailed with have yet got in but we now daily look for them arriving I note that all kinds of British manufacture have got much higher than they were but which I'm not sorry for; on the contrary I am pleased to find that the different # are so well rewarded for their industry as it is them, the Nation at large, who pay all the taxes for carrying on the war we are engaged in. Here we remain just as much at Peace as you do in Glasgow and which I hope we may continue to do the

[page 67]

The Americans will I dare say be glad to make Peace on such terms as we may dictate but I hope we will never allow the boundary line again to be the middle of the Lakes Ontario and Erie nor allow them to trade direct with our own territories in the East; I would be glad at this time to see them most completely humbled and I consider we have in our power to do it: - they have acted a most ungenerous and ungrateful part towards the United Kingdom in their declaring war against us ~ The termination of the war in Europe and the downfall of Bonaparte, causes Britain to stand high as a nation and which dignified state I hope she will # retaining.

With a request that you will offer my due respects to everybody I always am yours most affectionately

James Dunlop

I had a visit the other day from a young man of the 49th Regiment of the name of McLaughlin who stated to me he was intimate in your family through a relation near your place of the name of Newman I think.

[page 68]

[101]

Montreal 12th July 1814

My Dear Sister,

I much surprised seeing that we have had so many arrivals from the Clyde that I have not yet, since the opening of the Navigation, had a letter from you or any of my other relations or friends, but one from Robert Brown jnr. Esq. and which I got yesterday~ It is now some time since I received my letters by the *Jess & Flora* a vessel from Clyde that was nearly loaded on my account and which vessel has now been at this port for about a fortnight, her cargo consisted singly of Rum and which I have nearly sold but chiefly at the low rate of 5/9 per gallon and which will # barely pay for itself even when the discount on the Bills, 195, is taken into consideration, I have been induced to sell at the low rate I have done in consequence of much more than usual having come to market and on account of the high price it cost in Britain; I save myself in the present case, it is just as much as I expect;- another reason for selling is my expecting another cargo in the Fall and which I think will be bought lower in Britain than that now # last Fall and Winter I got 7/6 per gallon for the same quality

[page 69]

quality of Rum and which cost me in Britain considerably less than that now # and which of course left me a most handsome profit as did most of the other goods that I imported last year. Such of the other goods that I have imported this year from London and Liverpool have, so far as I have sold, done well, but never expect making anything like in one year that I did from 1st May 1813 till 1st May of the present year; I count my profits during that span at not less than twenty thousand pounds, £20,000 sterling ~

I am sorry to have occasion to mention to you that we have been # with a loss of # men in the Upper Province, at or near Fort Erie; as many as 24 of our officers have been killed and wounded but the number of privates I have not yet learned, but I dare say not less than 400 or 500; all this I consider arisen from a low minded jealousy in our Commander in Chief, Sir George Prevost, for fear that General Drummond who commands in the Upper Province should gain too much credit and thereby # his, Sir George's consequences; General Drummond has # and # written asking for more troops, yet none have been sent

[page 70]

sent # this morning that we have about 5000 to 8000 soldiers in camp and quite # at Cha#, about 15 miles from here:- It was General Drummond who # the taking of Niagara tho Sir George Prevost wished to take the credit of it while he had no more hand in it than I had:- the only thing that he was at, was the attempt in the Summer of 1813 on Sackets Harbour and which most assembly would at that time have fallen to us had he not been there;- The enemy # # # carrying out that plan, that they attempted burning their vessels and had articles of capitulation drawn up to surrender by where our troops were called off and

from which in circumstance have not only lost many valuable life since but also a most important territory:- I have such a bad opinion of Sir George that I will be glad how soon he is removed from the Government of this Country; I consider him to be a poor silly body, - indeed I have written him to that effect and which correspondence I may some day when I find time, send to you; my letters to him I had put into the News Papers. With a request that you will make my due respects

[page 71]

To your family and other relations and friends, I always remain your most affectionate brother.

James Dunlop

Give my best respects to Mr Brown to who, if you choose, you may show this and tell him that I have got his letter of 15th April to which I will soon reply.

[envelope]

[page 72]

[102]

Montreal 16th August 1814

My Dear Sister,

My last letter to you was I think of date 12th ult and I wrote Mr Macnair of the 18th at which last date I have not received # letter from any of the family ~ I have now however to own having received on the 19th ult Mr Macnair's letter but without a date by Mrs Jones accompanied by letters from Mrs Elizabeth Dunlop, A Dunlop Tennant and James Dunlop on the 19th ult your of the 8th April only came to hand on the 21st July, Mr James letter of the 7th March via Halifax I only got on the 10th instant, the gentleman that # # it by must have taken too good a care of it by pulling it in the bottom of his chest and perhaps to deliver with his own having Mr James's letter of 9th April also came to hand the same day that yours did 21st ult, the content of all which I have attended to ~ I note what you remark of Logan who I hold in such contempt that I would be ashamed to take notice of and the chief of the gentlemen here excoriate his conduct and character;- that Court Martial has given me much consequence in the Country
[edge written:- We had a Grand Ball and Supper here on the 12th Current in honour of the Prince Regent's birthday when I was selected for the Head of the Table there were about 110 Ladies and gentlemen at Supper and where I introduced twenty one toasts, # of the occasion, "Royal # # #" I believe every individual was most highly pleased on this occasion; it was broad day, near 5 O'clock when I got to my bed]

[page 73]

Country ~ I note how the 100 guineas was disposed off and which is all very well: should any poor person at any time apply to you for assistant who I may have known be liberal to them and I will amply reimburse you; it is nothing for me to give £5 to £20 to any individual in distress from misfortune:- it is only the other day that I gave 50 dollars to an officers widow who was killed at the battle near Niagara on the 25th Ult and there seldom a week s but I am applied to for charity; do not # allow such a person as John Martin to suffer ~ I am sorry to learn of the death of Mrs Govan but she had arrived at a pretty advanced age ~ I observe that you had been having trouble in your family but am happy to find

that you had all got well again and in which state I hope hoe you may continue:-
No man ever enjoyed the same good health that I have and continue to possess
And fro which I am truly thankful to the Almighty ~ It please me to find that the
apples got to hand in good order, but the quality, Snow Apples I observed that
Mr James Macnair has got into a respectable House in
[page 74]

Glasgow as I have # considered him a young man of capacity and fine
disposition; otherwise than by being most honestly lazy and I would just about
as soon see the old boy, as an indolent person about me. I # that Mr Rolent
Macnair has become a preacher and is esteemed in that line and which I am
pleased to learn is the case, I am much obliged to Mr McKindlay for his kind
enquiry after me ~ Mrs Jones with her daughter have now been here since the
evening of the 18th and are enjoying good health~ Mt W scott? Died in D# [2in
superscript] last after a very short illness but which I omitted to mention to you at
the time and which I have often been surprised at; He left a very handsome
fortune; perhaps about £90,000 – I note the very severe Winter that you seem
to have had; the degree of cold in Scotland to me is nothing but the always
constant rains and damp weather that you have causes me to dislike your
climate and that is because I know a far presentable one “when I now # “ I am
pleased to find that your family and Mrs E. Dunlop live on such great terms on
intimacy and which I hope will always continue ~ I am loading of the *Jess and
Flora* for Clyde:- the whole of her cargo will consist.
[page 75]

Consist of timber and staves, but about 200 barrels of Ashes;- she got on the
ground here yesterday on account of the Pilots not knowing his duty and gives
me a great deal of trouble and will put the ship to very considerable expense;-
one craft is unloading from her and I am afraid that I must get another it may
be three weeks before she got me her full loading at Quebec
[envelope]

I will expect the Dunlop out the present year and chiefly loaded with Rum; I long
ago ordered a cargo of flour and another of wheat but which I now wish may
not come to me as each of these articles have fallen very much since I ordered
them which now only work here about 9/- and flour 6/1; they were one at 16/-
and 90/- with due respects to everybody I always am your most affectionate
brother. John Dunlop
[page 76]

[103]

Montreal 10th September 1814

My Dear Sister,

It is past the frost # but as this may be the last Port that will overtake the *Jess
and Flora*; which vessel I have loaded with lumber and 200 barrels Ashes, I just
inform you that I am and have been in the most perfect good health ~ We at
present have an army of about 9000 Regular Troops at Platsbury which we look
from the enemy on the 7th instant retired to a Fort about 3 miles and when they
yet remain; we are waiting for some heavy guns getting up and our Fleet to
bombard it.

Due respects to everbody –yours affectionately James Dunlop

I cannot look for want of time on what I write.

Mrs Janet Macnair
[page 77]

[104]

Montreal 8th November 1814

My Dear Sister,

I last evening got you favour of the 13th and 15th August and Mr Macnair's of the 18th July along with a great number of other letters the contents of which I mark an attend to ~ Both the Janet Dunlop and the James Dunlop have arrived in safety at Quebec and are now on their way from there to this port but the wind at present is unfavourable for them. I am now unloading the two last of eleven craft that have lately arrived here for me~

It is late in the season for vessels to be arriving here that mean to return to Europe the present season; I have know at this day of the year, or about it, the Navigation to be stopped between this and Quebec and the climate is much more severe before that, than we have it here. My time only admits me saying that I continue to enjoy unbounded good health and to request that you make my due respects to every body~ I always remain your most affectionate brother James Dunlop

Mrs Janet Macnair.
[page 78]

[105]

Montreal 12th November 1814

Dear Sir,

I had the pleasure to receive on the 7th instant, and which I owned to Mr Macnair's on the 8th, your respected favour of the 18th July the contents of which I mark and attend to ~ Your observations respecting my gains or profits, as they go abroad # the Tontine Coffee House are perfectly correct and just as it is quite common for any person who makes money that common report generally about #; that to vain minds would be flattering but on me I hope has not the smallest effect as I consider I can enjoy or bear with prosperity without showy arrogance or vanity, - and adversely without murmuring or complaining ~ I attend particularly to what you say regarding Bleaching and will willingly go into anything you may see prosperous on that account to keep your machinery agoing at the same time you must permit me to observe that in all such business we ought to conform to the mode and or practice of the day:- You however may be right in your idea that they will revert to the former
[page 79]

former practice or mode of Bleaching That would it not suit you equally well Bleach Cotton-Shirtings as Linen for # use; of it # I would take any quantity from you direct handsomely at 14 to # per yard but I would much prefer at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of three fourths the whole at the lowest price or even at 12d if such goods are made; they should be $\frac{7}{8}$ and $\frac{4}{4}$ wide if this does not suit, the linens # wanted are from 2/ to 4/ but the great proportion under 3/ per yard and for this article there is not now the demand or consumption as formerly in consequence of the Cotton Shirtings that is used; # Cotton Shirting is judiciously bought, well

Bleached and handsomely put up I could force off against deal at Public Sales,
#

The Linens I must depend on vending for my own stores~ Any thing you can do, you my make # whole risk on my account or if you prefer it, it may # certainly on # own or in short, in a way that you may choose , only understand
[edge writing;- 4PM Wind continues unfavourable for my ships but as we had new moon yesterday I will hope soon for a wind that will bring them up JD]
[page 80]

understand that it is requisite to buy with judgement to be able to sell to advantage and which of you do not do, # are # of others who understand that well, that send goods to this Country, I # you on the 31st October to request that you should pass to Miss Agnes Craig £20 sterling as her first Annuity in consequence of the Will of the late Honourable James McGill and also a debit of about £25 due to Mr James Young; Likewise on New Year's day 100 guineas as marked # them names, Miss Macnair 20, Miss James Macnair 20, Miss Ann Macnair 20, Mr James Macnair 10, Miss Andrea Macnair 20, Alexander Dunlop 5 youngest, and James Dunlop, making together as above one hundred guineas and the whole, therefor, may amount to about £150 sterling but whatever the sum is you may apply to Messrs Alan Ker & co. for it ~ I have been writing to Mr Brown of 10th. At this state and to him I refer you for any news we have – I remain, in haste with due respects to every body, yours with great regard and respect James Dunlop
[page 81]

At the time I received my cargo of flour per the *Dunlop*, 3063 barrels from the account I received of Irish Flour? I would willingly agreed to have lost as many guineas on it but on its getting here I have found it of such # generally that I am selling it very readily for about what it cost me # down at this place say 15/2 and 16 dollars per barrel; I have sold near 1000 barrels of it at the above rates ~ I had bought for me a few days
[envelope]

ago at Quebec the fine East Indiaman, *Earl St. Vincent* of 868 registered tons and for which paid £5,500 in Bills of Exchange at 5% discount, the present rate, is £5210-10-6 sterling; The *Earl St. Vincent* was in the transport service and having met with some misfortune the last Winter she was sold for account of the Underwriters; I understand that I have got a great bargain of her but she will cost me £2000 to £3000 more before she can be sent to sea; she is represented to me as # the finest ship that # was in this Country ### James Dunlop
[page 82]

[106]

Montreal 19th January 1815

My Dear Sister,

It is now some time since I addressed you or any of the family owing to be constantly employed during this day I have now to own having received Miss Jane's letter of date 28th September, but what I know should be 28th October, on the 5th current, and by which I was pleased to find that all the family were well at the time it was written; this is the only letter that I have had from any of the family for a very long time notwithstanding that Miss Jane informs me in that

one or other of you write to me frequently, You must give an improper # to your letters; that for instance which Miss Jane's states that you wrote expressing a wish to taste some of some of the nice brandy that I had been getting has never come to hand, neither the other letter mentioned at the same time Miss Jane's letter is the first communication that I have of the death of Mr John Martin and respecting his funeral expenses you may arrange regarding them as you may see proper with Mr Millan and whatever expense is incurred # if you see proper be

[edge writing:- Miss Jane # # # # # #an answer to his letter of 28th October which I received by the November mail to Halifax]

[page 83]

paid by me – by who, or by what conveyance could these two letters have been sent as # # of them have reached me nor is it likely now that they ever will ~ Miss ~ and all her communications are here and as far as I have # learned are pleased with this situation here, I have never heard them express any desire or wish to return to Britain. I was pleased to learn that the families by the two Mrs Dunlop's were well ~ We are just as much at peace as you are in Glasgow altho at only the distance of about 45 miles to the enemy's Country:- the disgraceful 11th September closed the latest campaign in this part of the Country and which will be an indelible stain on our arms for ever and ever. I sold my Rum by the Janet Dunlop and the James Dunlop too soon from an idea that more was coming to the Country than would be requisite; at present I could get

[edge writing:- I had nearly forgot to say that Rolent Macnair was taken by the enemy last Fall at or near Fort Erie and is now a Prisoner]

[page 84]

at least £10 per puncheon more than I do at # by the two vessels I had about 450 puncheons of this article; but there is no foreseeing what is to happen. The two JD's are laying snug at Boucherville, about 9 miles from this place and must lay there until the river opens again; I am quite uncertain yet when I may send them in the Spring but they must both come up here again to be differently loaded to what they now are, as they were only loaded so as they might go to sea with safety but the Winter set in so very suddenly that I was obliged to detain them here, much, very much, not only against my interest but # ~ Had I had them unloaded at Quebec then cargoes would now be lying there ; they arrived by far too late at Quebec~ Last night was the #night Ball at this city and where there was about 80 ladies and at least four times as many gentlemen owing to the number of Officers quartered in and near the town; it would

[edge writing:- #####]

of credit the other day for 200 dollars on a gentleman in Albany we are of his being in want of money and what I have no doubt but that he will receive on applying for the same. Yours JD]

[page 85]

would have been a perfect treat for # # ladies to have been at it ~ I got home from # about 1 o'clock but many of the company stand till past abot 3 in the morning~

I continue, thank God, to enjoy the most unbounded good health and what I pray may be the case with you and all your family

[envelope]

As well as that of my other relations: as this is the first time that I have written you the present year allow me to wish you and them many, many happy New Years and that each may be so than the preceding ~
With due respects to everybody, I remain, and always am, your most affectionate brother James Dunlop

Mrs Janet Macnair
[page 86]

[107]

Montreal 11th March 1815

My Dear Sister,

My last letter to you was of date the 19th January when I owned having received on the 5th of that month Miss Jane's letter of the 28th October and which letter continues to be the latest date I, at this time, have from Britain; it went by the way of Halifax, but this is going by way of New York and which is the first opportunity that I have had to write by that route since we went to War with the United States or rather since that Country declared War against us.

The last thing wrote to Messrs Alan Ker & Co. , of the 25 February, I desired them to have the goodness to send on to you as I had not time at that instant to write to you. In consequence of the Peace having come on me so unexpectedly I have goods of one kind and another besides my five ships amounting to about what cost me £50,000 but in

[page 87]

in consequence of the # I count on these being reduced in value at least £15,000 but for which there is no help; at the same time & regret it much not only in a National and Political point of view but on account of my interest being so # # , as I consider we will never again have the same good opportunity to chastise and bring the Americans to our own terms:- should Britain be again under the necessity of going to War with any of the European powers I am persuaded that the United States will just act the part they did in June 1812:- Declare War against Great Britain for the purpose and in the hopes of making a conquest of the Canadas :- I wish I had sold all off during the Winter at whatever my property would have brought but it is now too late to think of any such thing – on the

[page 88]

article of Flour that I have remaining on hand, about 2000 barrels imported last Fall in the *Dunlop* from Cork in Ireland, I lay my account to lose upwards of £3,000 and it may go to £4000 ~ I this day sold 3 single barrels at 10 dollars each and for which I used to get 16 dollars per barrel when selling 100 barrels at a time:- I will also lose largely on about 200 Firkin of Butter from Ireland and on the Soap, Candles and shoes that I have remaining on hand quantities of each of which having all ready come into this place from the States and on the ships I own I will lose more than on any # [tear] I have not yet heard any thing of Lieutenant Macnair* of the 8th Kings' Regiment who was a prisoner in the States but I daily expect to see him at this place. I continue, thank God, to enjoy the most unbounded good health and which I hope you and all your family may also do.

With due respects to every body I remain your most affectionate brother –
James Dunlop

Mrs Janet Macnair

* (He was captured, 17 September 1814, by the forces of General Brown at Fort Erie. He was held at Stockbridge POW 9218)

Source: https://www.1812privateers.org/Great_Britain/prisoners.html
[page 89]

[108]

Montreal 27 March 1815

My Dear Sister,

My last letter to you was of the 11th instant, sent by the way of New York and same when I have none of your favours neither of the mails by either the December or January Packets having reached us nor indeed have we yet heard to them having got to Halifax and which we generally do as much as a fortnight before the letters come on. We however have accounts from Britain down till about the middle of January when there seems to be nothing very interesting occurring~ I am pleased at last to find that Sir George Prevost is ordered home there to stand a trial for his misdeeds in this Country and which are many and great; the charges that are first to come against him he says are laid by Sir James Lucas Yeo who commands our Navies on the Lakes and who is now on his way to Britain by way of New York; Sir George

[page 90]

George Prevost leaves Quebec on the 30th current to proceed for Halifax and England where I hope he may receive such a sentence as I consider his demerits justly # him to :- He is equally unqualified for being a military commander as that as a civil Governor and I hope the Government of Britain will never again put such a poor silly body as I consider him to be, at the head of the Government of this Country. I wrote my friend Mr Tennant very fully respecting the qualities possessed by Sir G.P., on the 16th July when I also had occasion to write a very long letter on the same head and respecting the Government of this Country to Mr Canning, but which letters I find were destroyed by the master of the vessel they were in, the *Salus** for Liverpool, on his being captured by an American Privateer, this respecting the letter to Mr Tennant I only noticed to day when looking over my Letter Book at that time and which may be the cause of my not having had any letter from Mr Tennant in the course of the last Fall

[page 91]

till the 17th current the Spring season to be coming gradually on us but on that day we had a most heavy fall of snow and which has given us a kind of new Winter, it is however again going off and we are like to have the River open about the usual time, 10th April ~ The brig *Janet Dunlop* and the ship *James Dunlop* lay at Boucherville but will come up here on the opening of our Navigation to complete their loading but I have not yet absolutely made up my mind where I will send them to but I # the probability is that it will be # I will have difficulty in finding loading for them as we have neither Ashes nor Lumber at the market:- I had just loaded them in ballast trim last Fall in the hopes of having got them sent away but the Winter set in all at once and I was glad to get them sent to a place of safety.

I continue to enjoy the most perfect good health which I hope you, Mr Macnair and all your family and my other friends may do also I
[page 92]

I had a letter the other day, on the 23rd instant of date 17th February from Lieutenant Rolent Macnair who was then well and shortly expecting being liberated and to proceed for this Country. Mr William Dunlop, assistant surgeon to the 89th Regiment, nephew of Miss Graham of Garbred? Is now # and well, he expects that the Regiments is
[envelope]

to go to Britain in the Spring or Summer he is a fine stout young man; He dined with me yesterday with my due respects to your family as well as to all my relations and friends I always am your most affectionate brother James Dunlop

Mrs Janet Macnair

*Lloyd's List Friday 26th August 1814: 18th August 1814 the brig *Salus* of and for Liverpool, Tucker, from Quebec, given up off Cape Clear, to prisoners and arrived at Liverpool on Monday –taken by Mammoth American schooner privateer of 14 guns and 140 men.

[page 93]

[109]

Montreal 31st March 1815

My Dear Sister,

I wrote you so late as the 27th current by the way of New York as this is likewise to go, but as it may go by a different vessel I again address you chiefly for the # of letting you know that I continue to enjoy the most perfect good health and to express my hopes that you, Mr Macnair and your family and my other relations and friends may do the same I yet remain without any of your favours or # from any one in Britain, of a later date than that from Miss Jane Macnair of 28th October, but as the December mail has got to Halifax and which we expect here about the 12th April, I will then expect to have the pleasure of hearing from some of the family and also from my other correspondents as at the present moment my latest date respecting my general business

[edge writing:- I at this time order from Messrs Alan Ker & Co a considerable quantity of liquors, refined sugar and leaf tobacco ~]

[page 94]

business is the 17th October 1814 ~ I have understood that Ashes of which I had about 1000 barrels at the Glasgow and London markets were about the end of November and beginning of December at about £100 per ton but which price I presume would very soon change on account of the Peace that took place so very shortly after, from this consideration alone you may be assured that I am anxious to receive a letter that I may be able to ascertain whether my # were fortunate enough to sell at the time that, that article bore such a great price and which if they did it will compensate me in some measure from the great loss I sustain on account of the vast stock of goods that I now have remaining on hand and which is to not # value than what have cost me fifty thousand pounds, £50,000 and from which I have made next to no sales since we had the first account of the Peace on the 14th February

[page 95]

14th February and its satisfaction by Mr Madison on the 25th of the same month. In mine of the 27th instant I informed you that I had a letter from Lieutenat Rolent Macnair of date 17th February at which time he was well and in consequence of the Peace soon expected to get to this Country but which has not yet taken place; I however expect him daily as the Regiment to which he belongs, 8th or Kings are now laying in this City. His letter is dated from Stockbridge in the Massachusetts Government. My two vessels the *Janet Dunlop* and the *James Dunlop* lay about 3 leagues, 9 miles from here, at Boucherville, but they will both have to come up here again to get differently loaded from what they now are as the *Janet Dunlop* alone can take in the whole that both of them have on board I have not yet made up my mind where I will send them to # I think the probability is that

[page 96]

it will be to Greenock tho I would much prefer to # the *James Dunlop* as well as my very fine ship the *Earl St. Vincent* to Government for Transports, but which I am afraid that I will not be able to do, as I consider they already have sufficient tonnage in this Country of shipping to carry home any troops

[envelope]

that may be going to leave it or any army kind of stores ~ With request that you will make my due respects to every body, I ever remain your most affectionate brother James Dunlop

Mrs Janet Macnair – Glasgow

[page 97]

[110]

Montreal 19th April 1815

Dear Sir,

On the 15th instant I had the pleasure to receive your respective favour of the 1st December and by which I have great satisfaction to find that you and all your family as well as my other relations appeared to maintain good health, which I am happy to state to you that I also do in a most high degree and for which, the most choice of all other blessings; I trust that I am dully thankful. I had not received before a letter from Britain since, the 5th January when I got that from Miss Jane of the 28th October per the November Packet to Halifax by which # your letter has also come. In the course of about a fortnight or three weeks we may expect arrival direct from Britain to Quebec so that in all probability we will receive accounts from there till the end of March or beginning of April before we may get the letters that are coming by the January Packet; it is a very tedious route or communication by the way of Halifax but as we have now again got a regular Post that goes from here to Ney York or Boston or any other part of the United States we will have more early intelligence form our friends, but which circumstance, the Peace having taken place, I not only most highly #

[page 98]

in an interested but also in a political point of view;- I am # # at least what cost me in goods as now in my stores here to the value of £50,000 and which will be determined from the said Peace at least £15,000 or as many guineas, so that you was pretty correct in your idea when you replied to the folks about the Tontine Coffee Room on the gains I was making:- in a political point of view we

can never again go to War with the United States on the same favourable terms or situation as we stood at the time which the Peace was made and when you added to this our great misfortune at New Orleans and disgrace, from the pusillanimity and imbecility with the loss of our whole fleet on the Lake Champlain, - I could curse the little mean dirty body who was the cause of the said disgrace and misfortune at Plattsburg for a month at # I can never think of it, but my blood boils with indignation: - perhaps I have never before mentioned it to you, but it is as true as any verse in the Bible, some of the Misses of Regiments # they returned from Plattsburg made a rule that whoever should use the word, "Plattsburg" during the time the officers were together, should be fined a bottle of wine;- I cannot imagine when or how you should have learnt that the disasters at said Plattsburg were not so great as at first reported [page 99]

Reported, as the very contrary was actually and certainly the case;- we for days after heard regularly of new misfortunes and disgraces' and to such a degree and extent that I do not consider there is a parallel in the whole British history; besides the loss of our whole fleet and the crews in them all lost a vast number of men from desertion, "besides the killed and wounded that we had on the occasion", from the precipitate and disgraceful retreat that was made:- I stated at the time the affair happened that the dammed expedition had at least cost half a million of money £500,000, but I now believe that it cost at least a whole million – Sir George is now dismissed from the Government of the Country and is gone to stand trial for his misdeeds or part of them, - I do not hesitate to say that hanging is far too good for him and that ten thousand such lives as his would not compensate for the mischief, misfortunes and loss of many, many most valuable lives that he has been the vile cause of in this Country:- You must pay but little regard to his letters or general orders as they have in general been a series of misrepresentations an lies,- His very general order on striking from Plattsburg, you would suppose of you had only it to guide you in forming an opinion, that he had gained a victory over our enemies – you by this time and every Briton should know the result and the consequences that have followed and will follow; it is my own opinion that the later [page 100]

later Peace took place from our disgrace and misfortune at Plattsburg and if you only hear and see the conduct of the Americans on the occasion, and others that Mr Prevost directed you might almost become ashamed of the Country that you belong to, - the presumption, vain boasting and haughtiness of the Americans is almost beyond bearing – The business of Sacketts Harbour in May 1813 when Mr Prevost who was, was equally bad as Plattsburg and if he had had justice then done to them, he would no longer have remained at the head of the Army,- and as to his being the Civil Governor of such a Province as this, he is equally unfit, as to being Commander in Chief of the Forces in British North America:- but I leave such a poor creation as I consider Mr Prevost to be to his fate, in the hopes that the Government of Britain will see the impropriety of having visited him with such authority and be more careful in their subsequent appointment to such important situations – General Sir George Drummond who Commanded in Upper Canada and who distinguished himself so much at the head of the Army there has now become Commander in Chief of the forces of the Canadas and he has also by Commission from the Prince Regent when Sir George Prevost's was

revoked, been appointed to administer the Government of the Canadas and which has given great satisfaction to the British settlers in the Province but which is sufficient cause the British being satisfied that the Canadians will be displeased tho they will not presume to show it.

[page 101]

?

The articles that I have remaining on hand by which I will sustain the greatest loss are Flour about 1900 barrels imported the last Fall by the *Dunlop*, Soup, Candles, Muslin, Nork? And Russian Shirtings, East India white cottons, Teas, Pepper, Blankets of which I have about 2000. Pans imported on # last year for the Military and none sold, from the Government importing their own, Military cloth, Shoes and Stockings, about 50 Puncheons Rum, nearly as much French Brandy, 12 Pipes Madeira a few Pipes Port and about 30 Pipes Spanish Wine and about 30 Puncheons of Holland Gin etc etc. in short from the Peace that has now taken place, as I have stated, I consider the property that I have in goods reduced in value, at least fifteen thousand pounds or as many guineas, but for which there is no help as such an event at the time it happened, Peace, could not be foreseen or contemplated – I will also lose most highly on the value of my shipping being to the great extent of 21 to 2,200 Registered Tons.

The *Janet Dunlop* and the *James Dunlop* are both still at Boucherville but the ice having just all gone, I must endeavour to get something done with them as well as the *Earl St. Vincent* that

[page 102]

that now lays at Quebec and for which 2 last Fall paid £5,500 and gave Bills for the same at 10% discount so that the sum becomes exactly Sterling and which vessel will at least cost me more before she can go to sea £2,500 sterling making a sum of £8,000 sterling; she is a very fine ship as perhaps ever was built and Registers 868 Tons – The *Janet Dunlop* I will find difficulty to procure a loading for in Staves and about 120 barrels Ashes but the other two ships, cargoes for them will not be so easily procured, nor indeed is there any thing that will pay a freight to Britain that can be obtained in this Country and for which reason I offered them to the Government as Transports and till yesterday had full expectations to have got them into that service but when I received information from the Quarter-Master General that his instructions from Britain are such as he could not accept the offer I had made as any Transports for such troops as would be sent home would come out in the Spring from Britain. The *Janet Dunlop* I hope to be able to get away about the middle of May but I can fix on no time for the departure of the two ships; ships are troublesome and unpredictable property when immediate and good employ cannot

[edge writing:- Lieutenant Macnair has with great exactness returned to me 100 dollars that he drew in the States in consequence of a letter of credit that I sent to him]

[Page 103]

be had for them. We are now having Public V# almost daily and sometimes two or three on the same day of almost every kind of property and when many kinds of British manufactures are sold at half the price that they are charged by the manufacturers, particularly Muslins and all other Cottons goods and of which I have a very great value on hand;- I hope from this # that you may send me no Cotton Shirtings in the Spring or Summer. I note that you say respecting Mr

Scott but will leave you and Mr C# to manage in that matter as you may see most fit with # you whatever you may do therein, the same will meet my certain approbation, - observing, at the same time when my brother Rolent was # rather had the management of that property that Mr Scott opposed his getting anything for the same, saying, that he would do it without making any change ~ I regret much to learn from you that Mr Tennant as factor for the estate of my late worthy brother, Rolent, and Mrs Dunlop's family, should be having any difficulty which I never heard of before and further that the estate should not in general have been so well managed as it might have been and my concern is increased when you intimate to me that Mr Alexander spends more money [page 104]

money than he should do, I hope he may soon see his error in this respect and better his conduct; from the way you express yourself and Mrs R. Dunlop and Misses Dunlops being at Cloden, I would suppose that there is little intimacy exists between the two families, but in this I may be mistaken. It is a long since I hear of the death of Mr John Martin your relation

[envelope – Andrew Macnair 50 Buchanan Street, Glasgow]

(These last few lines are very faded)

~ Lieutenant Rolent Macnair returned here from captivity on the 14th current and the same day he dined with me and again on the 16th and I dined at their Mess today, he seems a fine young man, has met with no misfortune from War and seems much respected by the gentlemen of the Regiment. You may be sure of every assistance from me on account of your son James – With due respects to every body I always am your etc James Dunlop