

*Dear Brother and Sister*

*We received your welcome letter on the 27 October and were glad to hear of your safe arrival at Port Nelson. We are all well at present and we hope it will meet you the same, thank God for it. Catherine is married to Joseph Marsh and has got a son. They send their best respects to you. I was at Shields and they were glad to hear from you.*

*They send their kind love to you. We were sorry that you did not find New Zealand as good as reported. If you do not find things better to your expectations at present make your way to England and remain with us until you find work. Mary Grunner has had twins they are 11 months old one is dead. We have got another son his name is Thomas after your father. George is doing well. When he saw the letter he was drinking your healths all day. Mr Bucham is got married since you left. The wife is to be confined every day.....and fetched home for Death but he is the...way of recovery he is just as .....as ever. We wrote to Bedlington to your brother as soon as we received your letter. Mr Arthur has got a ship out at New Zealand but we do not know what port ....*

*We suppose you know the Capt he dined at Mr Arthur when you were there. They have lost one of there ships the Bunning Pout... The old woman is quite distressed about it there has been a great loss at sea this last month the country is in a bad stated as present. It is expected every day to be disturbances in Ireland. Daniel O'Connell and his son and four Bishops is under bail. Your Uncle Robert is quite well and sends his kind love to you. Write by the first post and let us know all particulars as you will be able to judge by that time the way of the Island.*

*I conclude Remaining your affectionate Brother and Sister John Dixon.*

Envelope bears 4 date-stamps:

*"Sunderland Nov 1843"*

*"Paid No 1843"*

*"London 14 Nov 1843"*

*"New Plymouth New Zealand Mar1843"*

Addressed to: *"William Douglas  
Blacksmith  
Port Nelson  
New Zealand"*

*To Mr William Douglas,  
Motueka  
Nelson  
New Zealand ..... returned for 8d postage*

*Bedlington penny post*

*Bedlington, March 26 1844*

*Dear Brother & Sister*

*I got your letter dated the 25 July 1843 on the 26 Feb 1844 and was glad to see you were both well and I hope as you have got a piece of land you will obtain the necessities of life in a better way I was sorry to hear of the awful sinis-sacker of your Governor and others but I hope you will soon have laws to protect the honest against the oppressor I would rejoice to hear that New Zealand is completely civilised moralized & Evangelised. I doubt not but you and theirs will be the means in the hand of God of bringing about that happy change I hope by this time you will have the glad tidings of sat.....preaching among you and the ..... of divine appointment disfrenced I am sorry that you can give me so little encouragment to come to you more for your sakes than my own tho times looks worse with me than formerly I have been much off work since I parted with you and no Better prospect as yet but I think trade in general is better than it has been in this country several railways is expected to be formed one between Edinburgh & Berwick & between there and Newcastle and is expected will come past here so it may be hope that some will be .... With as there are thousands beging about the country some have left here for London and is working at the railways stations they have better wadges from 30 shillings to 2 pounds per week Alexander has been working there about a month and likes it well Jack sent a letter to Sunderland to let them know about you & got another back they were very glad to hear from you they are in good health there work is about the same and sends there kind love to you & are anxious to know wither you got a letter they sent you. I hope you have got it before this but you had not time to get it before you sent the last to me the first you sent me was about 8 months in coming. I am shure I have got both your hand writing with the I have had a letter from Edgerstone they are all well & stops still and all other friends as far as he knows are well they all send their kind love to you. John Hastie Sams brother is doing well in Rushia he is carrying on couch making and imploys 140 men and victuals them all in his own house for the small sum of 6d. per month I think they must be very poorly fed I suppose they are mostly all slaves.*

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*I sent the particulars of your letter to North Shields to Adam M Kinsie & requested him to let Mrs Reid what you and that she might expect a letter he sent me another but I got nothing particular to ..t you but only sends his best respects to you he wishes to have a letter from you but I think he might satisfied to hear from you.*

*I would like to know how you cultivate the ground with The spade or the plough with horses or oxen. I would like to hear of you having a complete farmers stock but I doubt it will Be ill to get in New Zealand. We have had a very moderate winter Here tho there has been a deal of snow and still lys white on the hills last harvest here there was a very abundant crop of grain but a complete failer of potatoes they are now very scarce about 12 shillings a load many of the farmers have their seed to buy. Peterie the miller here is a bankrupt he is back many thousands and has been all sold off but it is thought he will go on as brisk as ever. The land owners here are making great efforts to improve the soil by draining with tiles and artificial manure these drains are made by very narrow 2ft deep when a man is in one of them he cannot get one Foot past the other they have only 4d per rood for cutting them It is hard work to make 2 shillings per day when it is wet s wet weather they cannot work. There is a number of gentlemen trying to get a free trade in corn it is generally thought it would do much good to manufactory but it also meets with much opposition from the principle land proprietors there is much feud and faction for the most part every one is for there own benifet very few advocates for the good of the poor. We have just heard of a most horrible murder commited by an old penshoner by almost severing his wifes head from her body it is said they had an illicit distill for whisky and the wife had threatened inform on him but whoever he was found beside his murdered wife in state of insencibel drunkenness I believe the country abounds with as great wickedness as any other. Drunkenness is the prevailing evil with its most awful consiquencies a dreadful instance I may truly say a visible judgement on two pitmen the other week they had been drinking all the Saturday night and the sabeth also playing cards but their wickedness did not end with that but in a mocking manner took the Lords supper one of them striped himself naked and personated our savoir on the cross a ranter preacher happened to pass they forced him in and then called for a bottle of hells flames but were told they sold none of that than bring him one of damnation but the most wicked of the two became powerless of one of his arms and next became speechless and went out of one fit into another in terrible agony till his very eyes hung over his cheeks he was told to pray but he was without hope and dies in despair.*

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James Owen is another suffer he lost his work by drinking about 6 months since and poor man has also been in jail for poaching after lasting? His work he went to Alnwick him and some others went a poaching they were seen and followed Jamy was the only one known he was followed to North Sheilds & suffered the penalty of the law. I do not know if he has worked any since so his family must have suffered a great deal. There has been a great overturn in the church of Scotland about 600 ministers has left parish kirks the cause pater-nage the people are building chaples for that many which goes by the name of the free church many of the kirks is almost left disolate our little flock advances very slowly we want to build a chaple this summer but it will be difficult to rais as much monie as the chaples .....are built without gallaries they are built .....this time there is no work at the ironworks .....their Ingins machines and boilers I have Been working nearly 5 weeks and there is about another 4 weeks work for us there is only 8 of us working at the Boilers. My Robert is turned a very ingaging little fellow he has been about 3 monthis at school ho knows the letters pretty well and can say some little words.

Ann sends her best respects to you both I will be very Glad to have a letter from you and write very close every Thing I will be glad to know of that in any way concerns you I have a very anxious care about you ten thousand times more than ever I had about you when here and many prayers I offer up for your welfare and I shure you have set your hand to the plough and will not look back this leaves us in good health hoping and wishing it may find you the same and may the Almighty protect and bless you my very kindest love to you both so I remain your most Affectionate brother, Archie Brown.

Bedlington July 31 1845

Dear Brother and Sister

I received your letter about the beginning of June and I'm glad that you are in good health and doing well. You have soon got a large stock. I make out, I hope you will have to enlarge your barns and biers if you can but get it and enjoy it. I think I may enter to wish you long lasting enjoyment of being Father and Mother if it be the Lords will that you have a family in time they will be a great help. As you have got many smiths tools as will inable you to do work in that way you will perhaps have a machine for separating the chaff from the corn you might easily use them instead of bellows for blowing the fire very small fanners makes a very strong blast a wood box with an iron pipe into the true iron we have a pair droven with the ingene some of them anchors are made which weigh 5 tons.

They have hire the Government contrack for anchors and keeps them very busy. We have been very busy in the tailor line but are now rather slack. We have the locomotives that we know of nearly finished. We think that they have or expect an order because they are not willing to part with and of the men there is a good demand for labour at present in this country owing to the making of the railways the want of civilisation, I believe is great hindrance to improvement.

We have very unfavourable accounts given on our newspapers about New Zealand saying that the natives look on the settlers as intruders. I am afraid that you do not let me know the worst what would this country be is there were no laws to protect the helpless against the oppressor without doubt the rich will find friends in almost any country which the poor is often despised even of his neighbour. When O read or hear of the unhappy state of New Zealand it brings to mind times long gone by in Britons isles such as Cheavy chase and the like. Oh that these things which are behind may not be brought back. to mind such like deed but may be led to look for war with hope to that happy period when all these warlike instruments shall be turned into impliments of husbandry and surely it shall be when righteousness shall covert this world as the waters the channel of this great deep.

At this time in this country here is a mighty movement towards that grand .....sending Mishonarys to every quarter of the globe with glad tidings of great joy to them that believe but it is lamentable to know that those who bear the precious seed so oft go forth even weeping as they sow our earnest prayer ought be that they may have a reaping time of joy.

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*The Scots Free Church of Scotland is working wonders it is striking its root deep and spreading its branshs far and wide. We have got our chaple nearly finished. It will be opened in about 2 months time. We have given a Minister a call. It is likely he will be ordained at the same time. I would be glad to hear of you having a place of publick worship. God loves the gates of Zion more than the dwelling of Jacob.*

*As soon as I got your letter I sent it inclosed to Sunderland They sent me a few lines to let you know that they are all well excepting distressed owing to the death of their son Nickless. Catherin has 2 children. Mr Buckam married casher Robsons daughter. That is all I have got from Marys brother.*

*I have also got a few lines from Scotland. Samuel Hastie says Margaret and him are going very fast down the hill. I beleave they will nearly 100 years between them. Sarah is at service near Edgerston. The rest of the family is at home. They have a cow this year. They all send their kind love to you. Janet has left Ancrum and gone to the Newton. Robert is still at Lillisleaf. Uncle Tom is now very frail and stupid he is laden with years. His daughter Filis husband has got his leg brock by a fall from his horse. It is but little information I can give you about your friends and acquaintances being at a distance from all of them. The last account I had from Adam McKenzie he was working at Hawthorns Newcastle.*

*You were misled in thinking that the letter was opened all for not being paid when posted. I paid 1s.3d. the postmaster told us that every care would be taken for its safety. I care little about the letters being opened provided you get them and whoever you are that brakes open this letter if you have feelings of man you will do your best to pass it onwards to its righteous owner.*

*I intend for the future to write to you every 3 months and at the same time to send you a newspaper. I am very glad to know that you will bet them with little trouble or expense. I hope you will also be punctual in writing every 3 months.*

*The last winter had been moderately mild. This summer we have had a great deal of cold and wet weather with very little heat in conciquance of which the corn is high in price the flour has risen within this few weeks it is now 2s.4d. per st. The potatoes ...to be fair average crop owing to the wet there is plentiful crops of hay.*

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*We have all enjoyed tolerable good health this long time. Ann still keeps my house. Robert is improving very well in body and mind. He has been a year and ½ at school and reads parts of the testament most beautiful. He also has a very retaining memory he promises very well for his years. I do what I can to bring him up in the fear future and admonition of the Lord. Paul may plant and water but God only gives the increase. Old Grandmother is sometimes here and is wonderful well for her years.*

*If you have any desires to return to this country I will do what I can to help you tho you give me not the least reason to believe that you are dissatisfied still I cannot think you are in a place of safety. I think you have nothing to depend on but the good providence of God. May you and I ever look cheafly to that tho his arms be strong to smite it is also strong to save.*

*Ann Robert and myself send our kind love to you and I remain your affectionate Brother Archibald Brown.*

Bedlington November 19 1845

Saturday

Dear Brother and Sister

I hope you have got the letter and newspaper that I sent in the beginning of August last. If you have you will know that I wish to keep up regular correspondence by writing every 3 months.

You will observe I am a month behind my time because we have been working often to 8 o'clock at night we are very busy here at present there's more work going on here than at any former time. The railways are the principle cause they are commenced with one between Newcastle with Berwick. On that account farm servants are getting great wadges as high as £10 & £11 for the winter half year. Machanich wadges are from £1 to £2 per week. They want the work faster done than they can get hands to do it but I suppose it is against the natural course of things to continue any length of time.

The consumption of iron must be very great. I cannot imagine the number of tons that are manufactured ere weekly but there..... and a rolling mill on night and day and all other places are alike busy they have built an iron house here the roof is 55ft. span supported upon iron arches its intended for a very large forge. It is a patten the hammer is worked by strain the sillander is perpendicular above the hammer and the piston and is fastened to the hammer and of course moves up and down with the piston rod. The hammer will be about 3 ton. Which can come with all its weight or that lightly so it will not crack a nut. They will can make shafts as thick and as long as the largest trees that grows in this country. Man was indeed made upright but he has found out many inventions.

I can give you no particulars about your old acquaintances in this neighbourhood. I sent a letter the other week to Scotland but I have not yet an answer. We have had a very wet summer - in conciquance the potatoe crops is nearly a total falur it is said it will cause great privation in Ireland owing to them feeding so many swine and the principle food of the inhabitant too. The continual wet have discussed the potatoe and caused them to rot. In that bad state they are selling at 8s. per load. In the spring of the year it is thought they will be a great deal higher. The turnip crop is said to be inferior, the corn and the hay has turned out a good average crop. The newspaper will give you the price of various commodities.

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*I have sent for the Newcastle Chronicle which I expect tonight with the carrier. I am informed that letters are shipped on the 7<sup>th</sup> of every month from London but 12000 miles is a long making your night our day. I understand it is your spring now the weather at present is very mild for the season. I think New Zealand must be much warmer than here and is far more favourable for the human frame and I suppose the natives are not so as in this country.*

*We expect to have on Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. A Methodist Missionary visiting our minister. The presbyterian is to be a speaker in some measure Christina unity exists .....I have put off finishing this letter till after the meeting expecting to hear something of New Zealand but have been completely disappointed but was much gratified in hearing of the great good that have been done and is likely to be affected through the instrumentality of the Methodists. The name is now renowned throughout the habitable globe.*

*All friends are in good health as far as I know. I send the Newcastle Guardian Newspaper which is both loyal and liberal. I now close by wishing this a swift and safe passage. I thought also to let you know that Robert is a very good learner a very sharp intelligent boy for his years.*

*So I remain your affectionate brother A. Brown.*

Envelope addressed: "Mr William Douglas  
Motueka  
New Zealand

Date stamped: June 16 1846

Bedlington Sep. 24 1847

Dear Brother and Sister

You have reason to think me very careless in not fulfilling my promise but is neither carelessness nor neglect it is nearly 1 year since you wrote the last letter I received: but it so happened that I had sent a letter a few days before I got it. I am glad to know that you have been blessed with a daughter in which I wish you great and lasting joy.

I rejoice to know that you are so well in worldly affairs and that you have likewise the means of grace and this we trust to be a blessing of the greatest worth and most assuredly Godlyness is profitable to all things not only having the promise of the life that now is but also of that which is to come. We have too much reason to believe that religion in this country is becoming less and less powerful, The Sabbath is by millions glaringly disregarded. Sometimes a greater number of Locomotives run on the Sabbath than on other days and so misspending the Lord's day one party for pleasure the other for profit.

They have in this country a most abundant harvest nearly all safe. In consequence the markets have declined from 4s.4d. to 2s.2d. per stone, flour and other grain in proportion potatoes is rather a scanty crop owing to a very droughty season. The manufacture of Locomotive Engines and railways making is the principle work in this country and likely to be for some time to come.

The magazine of the present month informs me of a plan of the Scotch free church in tending to for a Colony in New Zealand called the Otago consisting 14400 acres of Land. The village land of Otago and such al lone are included in this sales are divided into small properties suitable to small capitals. The cost of one property of 60 acres is £120.10s. All the other expenses connected with stocking cultivating & seed 200. The owner himself being a working man without requiring any outlay for hire thus outlay for one year £320.10s. which includes the passage of 2 adults. I suppose by this time you will be well qualified to judge of the income.

So we must trust that the brave sons of Britons isle be the means of civilising christianing and evangelising New Zealand. I cannot inform you how your friends are as I have not had any word from them but last I heard they were all well. I know something of the want of youth. The grinders are few and those that look out at the window are becoming dim. I am now in my 48 year. So old age brings on many infirmities.

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*We are very busy at present working for the most part 1 day ¼. The old factories are getting enlarged and new ones building larger then the old ones. I have got the Newspaper the first thing I cast my eyes upon was New Zealand and we are very dory to see the lamentable account given there of the distruction of human life by war and all its attendant calamities which is most ashuredly mutch easier to ..... and my ernest prayer is that the almighty disposer of all events may bring it to speedy and final conciliation. I expect long before you receive this you will have sent a letter to me. I feel far more concerned about your wellbeing now than ever I did formerly and not without reason I may be that ... is far away from you.....for I have no idea but ... brought by blood must be maintained....by blood.*

*In this county there's great preparation making war. It is said that America is the opponent and is a very powerful country it is but the race is not always to the swift nor the battle to the strong. We are all in good health excepting Grandmother. She is here and is very poorly. Robert.....and learns very easily. He charges me not to forget to write for a day and to send it on Monday. I hope you will be punctual in writing.*

*We all send our kindest love to Mary and yourself so I remain your affectionate brother Archi'd. Brown.*

Envelope addressed: "Mr William Douglas  
Motueka  
Near Nelson  
New Zealand  
Received 18 May 1848.