is obliged to throw her goods into our market — while the consumption in this Country is lessened by nearly one half — owing to the enormous weight of Taxes — and failing Commerce For the last three months there has not a yard of Cotton yarn been spun within sixteen miles of this Town — You who know something of its former extent, can easily conceive the distress and want that has of necessity arisen from want of employment to so many families. The Linen trade is not altogether in so bad a state — but to say the truth it is I fear lost to this Country — for owing to the weight of Taxes internal and external we can no longer meet the Continental States in market. Now these things may terminate is hard to say — but this must one may with safety conjecture — that National Bankruptcy, must take place in a very few years either partial or total.

Your old friend Hugh Chambers has removed to Strangford where he is now Procollector of Customs, He desired me when I wrote you to remember him to you —

A new discovery it is said has been made in England in the use of Steam, by which machinery is put in motion by an Horizontal ~~motion~~ instead of a Perpendicular ~~motion~~ which removes the necessity of Clumsy fly wheels & enormous beams — thus realizing the dreams of Phylosophic Mathematicians concerning self moving machines. By this discovery — not only vessells on water but carriages on land can be so constructed as to move by their own impulse and with a celerity not to be equalled even by the Elephant or Camel. Should this discovery be turned to the destruction of poor man its effects are not to be calculated though they must be deplored by every well disposed mind.

Washing Machines, worked by water Steam, wind, or Cattle are very much in use at present amongst the wealthy Country gentry and in England, even Reaping and Mowing ones have made their appearance — thus shewing what man would do — what he is capable of, provided he was encouraged by adequate rewards —

The Thrashing Machine I would suppose extremely useful in your country where the great difficulty is in want of hands for agricultural labours — owing to the wide and scattered population —

The Thrashing Machine — wrought by Horses, costs I understand from 40 — to 70 Guineas — that at 40 worth nothing —

What would you think of a ploughing, sowing & Harrowing Machine wrought by Steam — ? — The thing is not impossible.

What depth is the soil generally in your neighbourhood — ?

The Mangel Wurzel, the seed of which you will observe, Puffed and Lindsay, is the Red Beet — with which you are no doubt as well acquainted as he —

You have seen Bally scullion House, built by the Earl of Bristol — it now stands directly opposite my shop — & is converted from a Bishops Palace into a Chapel of ease — it is a beautiful structure — By the by I forgot to say that I had removed to a part of the late Mr. C[illegible] house — next door to Mr. Marshalls, Grandson Anderson — and have no reason to regret the change —

On the 6th instant a murder was perpetrated on the body of Thomas Kennedy — brother of Mr. Kennedy of Baltic, who has been Agent for your favourite Lord Templeton for the last year — He was returning to Belfast from Templepatrick late on Saturday night with money — the Amount not known — He was waylaid & murdered by a family called Saunders — or Saundersson — you know them I dare say. They lived a little on the Belfast side of the turn off to Templepatrick, where if you recollect there are three Lime kilns — A Pedlar, on his way to Bally mena — fortunately was near enough to the fatal transaction The Particulars however have not as yet transpired —

I must end this long letter by wishing you every comfort and happiness you can wish — Mrs Bryson begs to be remembered to you & Mrs. Bryson.

Your friend J Bryson

Belfast Sunday 28th May 1815