very wealthy Man enabled me to put up
one of the first Soap Works in Liverpool the
Buildings and Utensials of which cost upwards
of Seven Thousand Pounds I have a very large
and Capital House connected to my Soap works
I dont make Candles nothing but Soap nor do I
keep a Shop Sells all wholesale and mostly in the
south of England which is done by my Traveler
I Manufacture on an average these 20 Months past
about 22 Tons of Soap weekly which is about 8
Tons p week more than any other House in the
Trade here, and can sell much more and I make
it. I get the best of payments I need I sell for nothing
but mostly Banker Bills on London 2 2 Mos I have
a very fine Counting House with two offices I keep
two Clerks and a Traveler my Son Edward who is as
fine a Lad as in England is my Cash & Book Keeper
I keep 4 Horses and you will search Credit me when
I say that I have much the finest Team in Liverpool
two fine Blacks one of which has frequently brought
me in four Tons ashes besides the Cart 27 Hundred I never
I never knew what pleasure was in Business before
for altho I do an enmuch of Business it is done
in that wholesale regular way that I have nothing
to do but look over my Works and purchase my
Tallow &c which of course must be done in large
Quantities also, I pay about £800 duties every six weeks
which is done by an accepted Check on my Bankers at
Sight I have not so much Cash in my Bank to ask them
for any advances but all the Bills I put in is put to my
Credit no matter of what Description, there is no such thing
as any accomodation pa per here or one Merchant Drawing
on another, for Instance I purchase £500 worth of Tallow I am
not called on for 2 Months, I then give good Bills such as I
receive for goods at Two Months on London so that I am under
no Discounts for any payments but my duties I accept no
Bills nor do I draw any for all the Soap I sell or make
This my Dear Bernie I have given you an Idea of the way
I do ~~[illegible]~~ or carry on my Business. I have just to inform
you that I am making plenty of money I commenced
Manufacturing Soap 20th March 1814 and up to 31 Dec last
on taking Stock and settling every thing by a proper a-
count I had made £3236 out of which my House
Expence was £482 this year I expect will be rather
better. so that the Gobbans have proved my best Friends
for I never should have been here had it not been for them
Mr McFarlane will no doubt inform you the sad
Unfortunate place Belfast have been of Late
I may be thankfull to God that I left it the
time I did yet my Heart warms when I think
of Belfast or hear it name. I never thru any
days that I count see people from there on Change
there is two regular Packets Established between here and
and all this Summer we seldom sit down to Dinner
unless having one or more from Belfast with us. I have
now given you a fairly good Idea how I live and am
doing, therefore I will expect a Long Letter from you
informing me how many Acres of Land you have or
within five or two Hundred how many Servants Cattle and
Swine and any other thing you please, you and I have
had our ups through life but now I hope in our
old age we will be more Fortunate and happy
I have still an Idea that I will yet see Ireland
not that I will live there but stop a few months to see
my Friends & the Country if you do I will pay you a visit
for Ten days at least. you know you are due me a good many
Dinners Mrs Steele is often speaking of you She begs to
be most kindly remembered to Mrs Barney your self and
I remain with my Dear Sir your ever most
Sincere Friend and well wisher Matthew Steele

my Son Edward Steele
in the Mess Studio Cross St Hatton Garden London