I expect y. Chequer will be very nice the yarn is very good & nice
blue & white I saw Doctor Dryson lately we have allway a long chat
about you & y. family John Devil Shaw of Belfast is often
speaking of you you know there are two John Debit Shaws —
you say it wd be madness for you to leave America I hope
from that you are thinking about it & you know you are
a little addicted to several kinds of madness If you do not come
in a few years you will not be in time to see me I am so
much afflicted with Rhumatism & some other not goose
symptoms that it is more than likely I will be laid before 10 years wi
have some hopes Mrs Davison Jones & Bayley & her daughter
may be over with us this summer Mrs Jones has got most of her
houses lands &c. sold in Canada well — And the place she
left here near Ballymena is purchased for her at 950 L 8
Acres Cunningham measure at 1.14.12 pr. Acre & she must lay
out at least 2400 yd on the place they intend all to live
together Nelly has not yet got her lands sold but suppose
she soon will we hope they will sell for about 2500
& she has 1200 British pr y. Provisions are very cheap
here now Meal 10/6 potatoes 1/8 pr. 60 lb 112 wheat is up to 16/ —
from 12/ within this month I am obliged by y. offer for
a seat for a mile but my exercises about milling are
nearly over I was telling Anne that I had some thoughts
of going to America but she wd not hear of it by any
means I amuse my self very much with the garden we
have plenty of most sorts of common fruits now & plenty
of most useful things I keep about a dozen of sheep
& allways kill my own Beef which is still very good which
is very cheap here now 9/6 pr. Gallon 1.6.2 Davie & Wm Cunningham
still live with me & are doing well John Cunningham's wife
has had a child about three weeks ago doing well J. Birnie
has his wife home from Dublin about 6 weeks ago she was
Miss Smith a distant Cousin of his he seems to bear
matrimony well Sam Cunningham is doing very well
but his eldest Child Wm is still very weak in his legs &
thighs they have some hopes from Sea Bathing he was the better
of it last Summer I have got 80 from Mr Napier respecting
your Linens &c. — There is a man of mine James Wilson
who has been with me about 5 years who seems permanently
bent on going to America he is a
good substancial worker rather
crossgrained in the temper he has a wife
& five daughters the young est 2 Mon
the eldest 6½ years he has hardly money enough to transport
himself the wife is one of the best hay makers I ever
saw & the daughters are sure will be excellent workers
wd you speculate in helping to take them over he is
an independant spirited man & believes himself
as honest as common you may remember or see by my
letters I mentioned him to you before he ploughs by
himself can mow & thatch he has engaged for me
this year — Pray mention Hugh Reids family particularly
to me All my family join in kind remembrance to
Mrs Birnie & family with y. truely & sincerely David Birnie