in my former letters I will not trouble you with any more in them but will never give up the hopes of seeing the girls with me, for you know it is not in my power to go to see them — but you can let them come & see me — which would be the greatest gratification to their Grandmother & me that this World could bestow upon us — your friend Miss Binnie is in town at present, I spent an Evening with her lately at Mr. Napiers, she is very well & in very good spirits the rest of your friends down the country are all well — Miss Binnie Expects her Sisters from America in the course of the Summer, they have purchased a very neat place near Ballymena where they intend to go to live & Miss Binnie is to make that her home — your old friend Miss Getty was along with Betty B. the Evening I spent with her — I read them your letter, they enjoyed your remarks about your friends going to America very much — they both requested when I would write to be affectionately remembered to you my Sister and the family — —

I must now begin to give you some news about this Town which I am sorry to inform you is not very pleasant among the mercantile people at present — as we have had some very unexpected failures among some of the trading folks within this last fortnight — Mr. Park, Mr. McCann — and Mr. Greenlaw — have all failed in large sums and I am sorry to inform you that your old friend Matthew Peel has failed again in Liverpool — owing to his having speculated too far in West India produce — We had a very alarming fire broke out about two nights ago in the Smithfield Brewery — which burned with quite violence for three hours, the fire took place in the Malt Kill the grain that was lost is said to amount to 2000 pounds — the Proprietors of that concern at present — is Wright & Dobbin — the latter is Brother in law to Mr. Armstrong, I wrote the girls some time ago which letters I hope they have received before this — my mother bids me tell you that she is sorry her sight is getting so weak it will not permit her to write to you — but I thank God in every other respect she is wonderfully well for her time of life — as Betsy Napier writes to Margaret, I shall say nothing of their family — Mr. & Mrs. Johnson & family are well — and desire to be affectionately remembered to you all — I spent a day lately at Carrickmacross with my aunt Owens she was making many kind enquiries about you & my sister — and desires to be particularly remembered to you James Owens is building an Elegant new house at Holestone, I suppose you were not a little surprised at some of your old friends the Mr. Wilsons being both married so short a time after each other and also Hugh Cavement — the enclosed letter was given me by Miss B. to forward to you — please tell Hester that there is another Depot going from this shortly by which I will write to her — — my mother unites with me in affect love to you my Sister and all the family

Belfast May 13th 1816

and believe me to be your Ever affectionate Sister — Anne McNaughton —

Hoping you will excuse my incorrect letter — but there is one thing I have taken on your advice in & that is of not writing to feelingly — but I am sure I have given you plenty of it — I will Expect to hear from you soon — and please to tell Betsy to let me know if she got my letter by the Packet — &