keeping me alive now the Rheumatism makes me unfit but my spirits & health otherwise are nearly as good as ever provisions are very high that is oatmeal 26/6 pr C. flour 60/ potatoes 20/ per bushel beef 8d per lb. & pr lb pork but 4/6 pr lb you see fresh meat bears no proportion I had a very bad crop of wheat which is very general 2/3 gn oat crop barly 2/3 of Potatoes I think I will have abundance for my own use unless I may have occasion to purchase 2 boats of seed oats some time I build Castles & when in that mood I think it probable we may in course of a few years have a renovated Constitution in which case think you may be induced to return to Ireland for life — Jany the 13th — your Cunningham friends are all getting their full share of business & Thos. is coming on well we were all at the christening of his Daughter Isabella last night Thos is a very sensible kind companion to me I wd have more regret in parting with him than any man in the Kingdom all the friends are extremely pleased with his Wife Jane Shaw last week he laughed at least a quarter gn hour & held me by the hand all the time he talked much of you & your family I do not think he is quite so deaf as usual Adam M'Cean has houses untenanted to the amount of £1000 a year his health is bad for his brothers think I am very sorry for George Birnie is much taken notice of by Admiral Harvey whose Ship he is in at Barbadoes he has no doubt of being made full Surgeon soon the surgeons have died lately on that Station he has written a treatise on the yellow fever lately by which he has got a good deal of celebrity his brother has been manufacturing linens but that trade has been very indifferent of late & difficult to procure the stock lately He is industrious sober & true speaking & he has got a rich respectable man's daughter but not much money yet the Father of his wife is not quite reconciled to the match yet the Mother & rest of a large family are tolerably well pleased Sam. Cunningham's son is going considerably stronger in his limbs they have much hope he will in course of time be quite restored I spent most of a day with Mr. Napier family at their Country seat last Harvest they were most affectionately kind Mrs. N especially on had much talk of you & your concerns & many warm wishes to have you all with us that day — March 8th — Since I began this letter provisions have risen very considerably Oat Meal now 32/ first flour 62/ potatoes 2/6 pr lb beef 7d Mutton 8d pr lb pork 5/6 pr lb Mrs Jones is begun to make an addition to her house & gives wheat will cost I think between £50 & £600 the timber is very low just now say best Memel 3/2 per foot Sawmen 2/ Sam glad yr brother Hugh is to be with you remember me to him as well as all the rest of yr family Mrs Berfinch your Uncle Dempster went to the land of forgetfulness about 16 Months ago we miss his company very much Betty's home is here but she lives very much with sister Jones who says she will always offer she shall — Horses were very low some time back but are now probably 25 pr Ct — Milch Cows were very low but are up nearly as much as Horses — The weather has been very bad for many months past & hardly any Gardening or ploughing has been yet done yet — my oats have turned out better to the flail than I expected it would — Anne & all yr friends here join in affectionate regards with yours truly & sincerely David Birnie