Dear Sir

Baltimore 17th May 1865

I had the pleasure of your letter of the 17th ult. on the 25th ult. Mr Napier answers to you with respect to my queries concerning distilling appears to me to be full of misconception & errors. I will not suppose that an attorney & engineer should put such a number of questions to a Distiller, but I thought they could only be put to a person with whom the inquiries were intimate, or that some reasonable person should then have offered for the answers & not all at once, but on different occasions. I am readily led that manufacturers do not like to inform those in their neighbourhood of their art to create competition, but situated as we are with regard to Ireland our interests never could come into competition, I am sorry to learn that Ireland get much more information from Belfast on the Distilling business than what I have already acquired, but by getting an answer to some of my queries I would have been able to judge whether their models were better than ours.

Your Uncle continues in his usual state of health, John Scott is now here on his way to visit him. State the opportunity of Luke's return to unite you, he can give you any news that has lately occurred which would be interesting to you. Your dear Sister approving your business with diligence, without counting months or reputation is very proper, for we often disappointed even in our reasonable hopes, & feel it surely, when not

Mr. Alfy Birnie
Belfast
Ireland

Mr. Luke

Baltimore May 17th
E. Wright