Mr. Mc Ewen, of Billiclogh, who is considered a man of great abilities, it is impossible for me to give you an Idea of the anxiety that prevailed among some of your friends on this occasion, your friends Mr. Napier and Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Holiday, were all warm friends to Mr. Mc E, I saw them the week before the took the Ball – they could scarcely sleep for fear Mr. Mc Ewen, would not be chosen – and the ladies were just as anxious as the Gentlemen – what a pity it is that he is married for I think his fortune would be made by coming to Belfast – –

I suppose you have not heard of Mr. Gibsons death – which happened some time ago, he has left your friend Mr. Barnett, very handsomely it is thought he will get about Eight or nine thousand pounds, this I know you will be glad to hear of – his place called the Folly, he left to Mr. Gibsons youngest son who was named for his uncle, it is now to be let, he improved it very much before his death, I wish you could pack up your alls and come home and take it, and set yourself down neighbour to Mr. Napier, for you can have no notion how much the new Road has improved that part of the country, it is now thought the handsomest Entrance into this town – I must tell you of the death of a young man, who is very much lamented, I suppose you knew him, he was son to the late Mr. Nelson of this town he was a young man of the most shining abilities, and one of the first orators ever bred in Belfast – but owing to the pressure of the times he was obliged to go out to the Westindies, and there took a fever and died – there is a great Examination going on at present at the Institution, your little friend Joseph Napier, has been very successful, he has got four premiums, one in Greek two in Latin & one in History, he says he hopes his father, will allow him to be bred a counsellor, so you see the little fellow has a good heart, I saw your old friend Doctor Bryson a few days ago I asked him if he intended to write by this opportunity but he said not, but he requested of me to remember him affectionately to you and the family – I some time meet your old friend Mr. Atkinson he is still glad to hear of you and the family – but poor man he was robed some time ago and what was very strange it was done without the family knowing any thing of it till the next morning, though they were all in the house, but he still lives out in the Country & the got in by the Back Door and from that went into the Room where Mr. & Mrs. Atkinson lept and took out a large trunk that Mrs. A kept her clothes in, and also all the cloes she left off when she went to bed, and they never awoke & after that they went to the Kitchen and carried of all their dried meat, but all together, the girls told me lost about 40 pounds – as I know you are fond of hearing of any new improvement, I will tell you of a grate Dairy, that is established by a Major Hamilton, a retired Gentleman, who lives about two miles out of town, he keeps 80 Cows, and sends in the milk in a new way, he has nice little carts fixed on springs and on every cart is placed four churns with the lids locked down, & in every one a cock to draw of the milk, the are nicely painted, with the name of the Roseland Dairy, round every cask, and you may have any quantity, from half a pint to a gallon – and the way you know it is coming, the man who goes with the cart sings as Bell as he passes on – I am told at present he is making very handsomely by