Belfast 10th March 1819

My Dear Friend.

After a long & shameless silence — a silence, that from the same, bears likely to be come continued I again break ground and determine not to lose the good opinion of my friend — Were I good at vamping up a well coloured apology the temptation on the present occasion would be too great for resistance for I declare when I look at your unanswered letter of the 18th June 1818 I blush for myself & regret that you have not a more regular as well as a more entertaining correspondent. In truth when it was received I was not in a writing humour — suffering in common with my friends and neighbours in the Calamities of the times my mind was entirely engrossed with devising means for the reproduction of that which circumstances had torn from me — add to this the Calamities with which we were surrounded & which forced themselves upon our notice whether we would or not — Calamities, thank God, of a nature not frequently felt here & I hope seldom elsewhere — You rightly Characterize the unbounded Banking system as one of destruction — both private & public — as to it, in conjunction with other causes ~~as~~ may be attributed many of the miseries experienced here — Peace, happy Peace, dried up the source from which thousands had drank even to intoxication & disbarred again with the Prodigals hand the Banks with, sudden and ill judged Prudence curtailed their issues, which had previously been most unwarrantably profuse

a loss what to do with them Law — Physic — Surgery — Woolen Drapery — Grocery — in fact every avenue already overfilled !! My small Capital can do nothing for them — and, as for making Quill Drivers of them I would nearly as soon hang them —, but were that avenue is perseverance so much so, that Clerks who formerly had £50 are now well satisfied with £30 or £40 per annum — Could I live for ever & provide for their wants above their Salary it would do well enough — but this is out of the question — I do not consider myself as yet too old to hold the plough or sow the grain; for as to following my present or former employ = in America it is altogether out of the question. I know & feel my own defects well enough to guard me against such an absurdity — Besides, I am not too proud to use any Honest means of Rendering them Independent, Industrious & Honest — for so they must be or they never can be useful or good members of Society.

Birkbeck's Notes & Letters have made a great noise among our Farmers and I am sorry to say has turned many of their heads — who expect not toil, labor & perseverance in Industry but Fortune cast down by their hands His colouring I apprehend will be found too high & his expectations much too sanguine. He is in fact an Enthusiast, who examines but one side of the Picture — forgetful that he may mislead thousands & even as on many as he misleads — My paper is full — I have obeyed your injunction — and beg you to present my best wishes, to every individual of your family, for their health, happiness & comfort as for yourself I say nothing — but subscribe myself as usual

Your friend

Samuel Bryson