Baltimore 26th April 1820

Dear Sir

Since my return to this city, I have resolved to return to Belfast. This change in my determination will probably surprise you. It proceeds not from any difficulties to which I might be exposed from want of money; for, were I to remain, I could now procure more than would be requisite for the object I contemplated. — I prefer the poverty of Ireland to the wealth of America. ~~Irish~~ American habits, & modes of thinking & acting are so different, in most parts in which I have been in this country, from those I value, that I should not wish to see any, more of my friends placed in a situation that might expose them to their influence. In Ireland I shall enjoy more happiness than I ever could in this country. There in the midst of my friends, & associated with men of warm feelings, I can be of more value to them & to society, than I can be here. To you who are still an Irishman I need not expatiate on the Irish character. I little thought it should ever be so high in my estimation as it is at present.

The many acts of kindness I experienced in your family will ever be impressed on my mind. I am sensible that

Bernard Esqr
Bear Branch
Long Town
Md

APR 27

Baltimore 26 Apl 1820
Bernard Lane