Belfast 15th March 1824

Dear Clotworthy

I received you very welcom letter of the 5th Jany last on the 26th Ult., I really thought you had forgotten me, or droped me as a correspondant, I wrote to you on the 27th Feby 1822, which it now appears you never received, I am sorry for it, as it contained all the news I had at that time to communicate, chiefly domestic, however, I will endeavour to make up for its loss in this letter, I will first notice the visit you had from my unfortunate brother, He came here from Liverpool a few years since, (much indeed against my advice) and commenced business as a Commission Merchant, in which, as I expected, he was unfortunate, He left this early in Septr. last, but not the Country, I believe for two months after, I knew nothing of his affairs or intention, untill after he sailed for New York from Liverpool, when his Wife told me in confidence, he was gon to America, where she intended to follow him, she, poor Woman, was then far advanced in pregnancy, and must have been delivered on the passage, as it appears by a letter from Wm Shaw of New York to his brother James here, that she came to his House, with six Children, but here, her sufferings did not terminate, as the Ship she went in, was wrecked on Long Island, and she and her helpless Family escaped only, with what Clothes they had on, as I understand the Vessel sunk in deep water, she has not written to any person here, to my knowledge, nor neither has Richard, perhaps, the next arrival from New York, looked for in this month, will bring a letter from her to my Wife — God only knowes what sort of a fight he will make in your Country, be that as it may, no Man can be more industrious than he is, what I would most dread, he has at all times so many wild schemes in his head that I fear he will never be brought to any degree of steadiness

I will now give you some account of myself and family, I feel old age fast approaching, with a shattered constitution, brought on by the folly and vices of my youth, and if not too late, should it be the will of God to grant me longer days, I would gladly endeavour to wipe away any in Ireland, Jack Vance, who is now out of Leppers Mill, is about to build a new concern, so is James Boomer & Co. and two others mentioned by Manchester People, Irish Calliccos and Cotton Yarn, are now articles of regular exportation to Manchester and Glasgow, since the duty has been taken off, this is turning the tables wonderfully since you and Tom McCabe were working at it, but so it is, and large fortunes has been made in the Cotton trade, would you believe it, that James Boomer died worth 170,000, and even here, our prosperity is not likely to stop, as an Irish Mining Co. has been very lately formed, and Mr Spring Rice, the member for Limerick, has given notice for leave to bring in a Bill this session of Parliament to embody this Company, and all the shares are bought up by English and Irish Capitalists, and now at a premium of 25 p Cent, as it is now made to appear, that this Country abounds in Gold, Silver, Copper, Coals, Iron, stones of all kind, even Diamonds, all this lookes well on paper, time only will prove it, at all events a general search will forthwith commence, and most sincerely do I wish them every success,

No doubt you some times see our Irish news Papers, from which, you will learn how we get on in Politics, as well as domestic matters, I fear our unfortunate and ill governed Country will be forever left a prey to faction, the favoured Orange have endeavoured to evade the act brought in by Mr Plunket last sessions of Parliament, which prohibited all secret societies bound by oath from meeting, even the poor Masons were included, these Orange Ruffians have so altered their constitution, that it is now only necessary to come before a Magestrate, and take the oath of allegiance, which makes the act a farce, they are also using the greatest industry and exertions to make new converts, in which it appears they are too successful, and who have the for their Grand Master — why Lord O'Neill, here is one of our Post Masters General, holding a most lucrative situation under Government, and, in the very face of the Kings parting Letter to his Irish Subjects, does this drunken Ruffian come forward and avows his situation openly, the consequence is, that in many Fairs and Markets in Ulster, humanity is shocked by the frequent murders committed by this Orange banditti, and notwithstanding the fact is clearly brought home against them, the punishment is only, perhaps a few months imprisonment, why, even in the last week, a Church of England Clergiman and his Son were tried at Armagh for heading a set of these Vagabonds on the 12th July last, and shooting a poor unfortunate Man, who was of no party, by which shot he lost his life, for which they were acquitted, in fact no Armagh Jury can be got to capitally convict an Orange Man, then look to the South, where the insurrection act is in force, you will hear of many brave Fellows transported for 7 years, for being out of their Houses between sun set and Sunrise, I must admit however, that many horrid Murders have been committed in the Counties of Cork, Limerick &c., for which the greater part have been justly punished with death, at the same time, I am satisfied, were these deluded People governed as they should be, we would seldom here of those heart rending cruelties,

The Catholics are now bestiring themselves, and will make one more effort at Emancipation by petition this Sessions, should it fail, as I have no doubt it will, it is thought they will then join the Reformers of England, Ireland & Scotland, this is what the Catholics should have done years since, and if shortly accomplished, it would strike more terror into the hearts of Government, than any thing yet attempted, we know that our Parliament will never reform themselves, and, until that takes place, the Catholics will never be emancipated, this the now see and are begining to feel it, They hold weekly meetings in Dublin, speaking bold and firm language, and are now a powerful body, computed at 7,000,000 souls,

I have seen your old Servant Jack Junkin with some difficulty, not knowing where he lived, He, poor fellow lookes old, and stiff in appearance, I fear he is not so well provided for as you would wish, but his extreme modesty prevented him from saying much, he told me he was doing as well as he could, sometimes getting a day or half a days work as he could find it,

SHIP LETTER
MAY 12

Mr Clotworthy Pinnie
Ballymoneck
per Ship
General Stewart
Stewartstown

Belfast 15th March 1824
Mr Shaw's Letter