as many of my sins, as a weak mind and heart would aid me in doing. with the assistance of him to whom we have all to look to for our salvation in the world to come, you will probably pause on reading such language, coming from one, who, to your own knowledge has led a sinful life, rather, I hope from folly, than a really depraved hart, in this my dear friend, I am serious, and in fact, it is all I have to depend on, and that through the mediation of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, for in my present state, I feel conscious and heavy burthen, at the same time you must not suppose I am making any outward show of religion, my unfortunate hearing prevents me it is true, of attending any place of public worship, still I have the holy scriptures as my guide to apply to at all seasonable times. with religious Books occasionally, and as I can have no society in company, I, for the most part spend my time at home, when freed from business.

My eldest Daughter is comfortably married to a Mr Wm Hunter, a Scotch Man, by which union, I am now a Grandfather, my eldest son John, is now in Charleston S.C, where he went for his health, Doctor Forsyth being rather alarmed about him, having lost my second Son Thomas a year since by Consumption, in the 18th year of his age, my Family are greatly reduced in number, having only three Children at home, out of ten, I can not say any thing positive about John until I hear from him again, he may settle in Charleston, should any thing flattering turn up, but it is my wish he should return, should it please God to remove me, he would be the only protection to his Mother, Sisters and Brother, for I have not been able to lay any thing up for their support, You will be pleased to learn that Belfast is improving in appearance and business, we have got several young Merchants unknown to you, all of whom seemes to be doing well, this is now, one of the greatest Corn Mart hels in Ireland, and will greatly increase when an intended communication takes place between Lough Neagh and Lough Erne, this is generally thought will commence in the coming Summer, having got the sanction of the Lord Lieutenant and the Irish Government. if one completed, it would open an extensive trade to the Counties of Monaghan, Tyrone, Cavan and Fermanagh, which we are now in a great measure excluded from, owing to expencive land carriage, if this Canal was opened, we would receive their Grain, Butter and Pork, and in return, it is to be presumed, they would take from this, Timber, Iron, Ashes and other heavy articles, in which they would stand in need of, the expence attending this new Canal, would be trifling, compared with the vast benefit it would be to Belfast in a few years hence, our Chamber of Commerce, the Lagan Navigation Co. and Land owners on the intended line, would subscribe largely, this, with the Government grants, would soon produce funds, fully equal to the expence to be incurred,

Our Banking System gets on more prosperously, it would appear, with us, than it does with you, John Sloan retires from the Northern Bank, on the 1st of May, taking out of that establishment, between £40 and £50,000, this, you must acknowledge has not been a bad business for master Sloan, and he is deserving of it all, He, and Sir Robert Beatson, with other moneed Men, intends to establish a fourth Bank, provided an Act of Parliament can be had, on this intended plan, which is, to have 150 Shares at £1000 each, no proprietor to hold more than 10 shares, the will not receive lodgments of money at Interest, and discount at 4 p Cent, this plan will materially effect the other three Banks, if go into, and nothing will stop it, if sanctioned by Parliament, In addition to other improvements, we have got a Commercial building of great beauty and magnitude, it commences at the Sugar House entry running into Bridge Street as far as the House of the late John E Grahams, we have in this building, fronting the Exchange, a very gracd reading or News Room, in the rear of the building, our Change is held, also the Corn Exchange, four days in the week, over the News Room, is a superb Assembly Room, besides an Hotel and several public Offices, Our Cotton trade is flourishing far beyond what you could have any conception of, new spining Concerns starting up, all round the Town and Neighbourhood, five additional Ones are spoken of this next Summer, One of which, now building by Thomas Mulholland & Co. on a larger scale than

I did expect some time since that Will Simms would have taken him as a Porter, who at that time was wanting one, at Jacks request I applied for the situation, but was told he was past his labour, however, Will gives him, now and again, a days work at loading or discharging berth, Still Jack, you would be sorry to see him want in his old days, his reply was, I would be sorry to be a burthen to my Master, for so he calls you, God bless him, and if I was going to write, to give his love to you and the family on which he left me, be assured my dear friend, I tell more on the occasion than I now wish to express, here is old age prepsing on a good and faithful servant, without friends to look after his wants, or in the hour of death, perhaps, to close his eyes, for I would suppose he has no family from his saying he lodged in Patrick Street, yet I trust that all seeing God, who searches every heart, will be to him a Father and protector, until it is his holy will to remove him to a better world,

The Ship General Hand, by which I had your letter, has been detained longer than it was intended, I therefore kept this open as long as I could, thinking perhaps, that something might occur which you would wish to know, the only think coming within my knowledge, worth mentioning, was the trial of Jack Vance for an assault on Frank Lepper, I had mentioned to you before that Vance had withdrawn from the Cotton Mill of Leppers & Co., in the winding up of the affairs of that concern, Lepper called Vance an Ass, for which the latter pulled the former's nose, Lepper, not wishing to return the compliment, took legal steps, and it was tried at the present Assizes before Baron McCleland and a Jury, who found Vance guilty, Lepper would have accepted of a private apology, nd says the Judge, if a public apology is not made in this court, I will commit the Prisoner to the body of the Jail for three months, and poor Jack was obliged to submit, how humiliating this must have been to the high minded Jack, really my friend, he has quite forgot himself, puffed up with pride and Vanity, he will scarcely acknowledge any of his first acquaintances, He is, I understand, to be a proprietor of ten shares in our new intended Bank at £1000 each, so much for the Cotton trade, it was in that business he made all his money, not being very successful as a Westindia Mercht.,

I have had a letter from my Son John, who I expect is on his way home from Charleston, not however, perfectly restored in his health, but I hope will be so, on his arrival, he says he has not yet got clear of cough, and gives as a reason that the weather has been uncommonly changable since he arrived out, the mornings generally are piercingly cold, with frost, while midday is intolerably hot,

You asked me in your former Letter, who was the American Consul here, I am Luke, son to our late friend James, has held that situation for some years past, He is [illegible] delicate, and should any thing happen to him, I would feel greatly obliged for your interest and influence, not in my behalf, but for my Son John, He is a proper well conducted young Man as any in Belfast, having a general knowledge of business, and a real Republican, I make no doubt he has made many Friends in South Carolina, as he has the good fortune to be generally liked every where he has been known, on this subject, I will not at present say more, only to impress on your mind if any alteration should take place, you will remember the Son of an old friend,

Having now given you two sheets, I will conclude with affectionate regards to Mrs Birnie, yourself and family,

Believe me always to remain
My dear Cholerworthy
Yours very Sincerely
John Shaw