Merchants throng our Quays crowded by vessels owned by New Ship owners & consigned to New Brokers —! Navy —, even our Custom House is filled by New men having new faces new names & New Offices!!

Since you left us this town has increased astonishingly as well in Population as in ~~extent~~ wealth. We have added to our public buildings since you left this Country two One College — One new Chapel — one new Church, Two Seceeding Meeting Houses, one Methodist meeting House, and one New Old light Meeting House, to be built this year. One Lancastrian School House one Sunday School House. besides several small houses rented for similar purposes — by this statement you may perceive that if we go wrong it will not be for want of Spiritual or worldly instruction — By the Bye — the external observance of Religion is encreasing in an extraordinary degree but I much fear that the real Practical and valuable parts of it are very little attended to now than when you were here — one Fever Hospital — a House of Correction — Commercial Buildings which are immediately opposite Donegall Street & the Exchange and form a very fine and magnificent termination to Donegall Street, & believe me do great credit to the town — Though last not least in estimation or taste or beauty is the Belfast Gas Works built on a field of your friend Mr. Napiers on Coomack dock. The Cotton Manufactures of this town continue to encrease and have arrived at state of perfection scarcely to be credited — We now export to England and Scotland both Thread and Calico! you will no doubt be both surprized and pleased at this unexpected change, a change which in your time would have been considered as altogether Chymerical. But alas my friend, industry and its consequences seem to be confined entirely to the Sterile North — in the luxuriant soil of the South nothing but tares and weeds seem to thrive — man seems to forget his manhood and to have taken up the character of the beasts of Prey —!!. Religion — The mild Christian Religion — and Tythes — that curse of every country where they have ever for ~~merately~~ been established are

Greece, the land of the Brave, the abode of the wise, the habitation of the Free, once more — enjoys the rich and invigorating atmosphere of Liberty —!! How long alas! she will be permitted by the power of the haughty Turk — by the over=weening ambition of Russia or by the fears of the unhallowed alliance to enjoy this first of national blessings is very hard to say — In this holy cause Lord Byron is endeavouring to retrieve his lost character — That the — that they — may succeed to the utmost of their wishes must be the sincere wish of every man who ever had a country of his own to love —

Long confinement and hard labour is beginning at length to sap the foundation of my health that shortly cough which you may remember I had is fast gaining on me and unless Providence enables me soon to remove to a drier and warmer climate a very few years will number me with those "who have been" this however to yourself only —

Remember me in the old friendly way to every one of your family — tell Margaret I rejoice to hear that she is able to instruct the bold Commodore in his Latin grammar — and encourage him by every means in your power to acquire knowledge for knowledge is Power and in no country under the sun will this axiom be more truely exemplified in them than the rising States of North America, who promise at no very distant period to become the great arbiters of States.

Again my dear friend I beg you to remember me to your children — and be assured for your self that my best wishes for your health, happiness and comfort ever accompany you, that you may long live to enjoy that Domestic Comfort which you have so richly merited is the sincere wish of your friend

L. Byron