reply was, how could I think of accepting money after being a burthen to him for three months from sickness, and on his leaving him, he gave me an order on Doctor White for 60 Dollars to bring me home, no part of which, I have been able to pay him since. I remonstrated with him by saying, that I was satisfied you did not, in the present instance, look for any remuneration, and to save his feelings, I would wait on Mr. Napier, and receive from him what ever money he paid to Jack, taking a receipt for the amount, and that it was not necessary for him to appear in the business, which money, if he had no occasion for, he might lodge in our saving Bank, and in the end leaving it to you and your Heirs, should he have no occasion for it, this proposal seemed rather to stagger him, but, with a degree of modesty, which would do credit to the first Man in Ireland, he requested leave to decline your kind donation, at least for six months longer, and then said, should I be overtaken with infirmity, I would greatly acknowledge my dear Masters kindness. then taking my hand, he desired his kind love to you and all your Family, parting with me in tears, believe me, my friend, my feelings were ill at ease on the occasion, such virtue, I have never before experienced, and till now, I never knew honest Jack Junkin, and while I live, I will keep a watchful eye over him.

I now find I have committed myself to an additional half sheet of paper, which I will certainly confine the present letter, written in a hurry in the midst of business, with frequent interruptions, which you will soon discover from the many inaccuracies contained therein, I must therefore pray your excuse, hoping my next respects will be more correct, I observe you have no alteration in your Family since you last wrote me, it would be pleasant for you and Mrs. Birnie if the Females were well and comfortably fixed no doubt, you should be satisfied however, and consider all for the best, you have no earthly wants, and your family circle must keep up good society,

My dear Friend

Belfast 10th March 1825

On the 3rd Inst. I was put in possession of your esteemed favour of the 20th January last, and shall forthwith attend to your request, respecting the Lady, your neighbour, whom you seem so much interested about, and will, perhaps be able, in the course of the summer to communicate something to her satisfaction, at any rate, nothing shall be wanting on my part, as I have many respectable acquaintances in, and about Monaghan, the result of which, you shall be put in possession, by the earliest opportunity, either from this or Liverpool,

It is strange I am still without any letters from my Brother, why he is so silent, I can not account for it, he must be well aware how anxious I am for his prosperity and happiness, however, on recollection, I think I was more than Seven years without hearing from him, when he was in the Army, perhaps he has not yet got properly settled in his new situation, and waits to ascertain how matters are likely to do with him, I know he has as much industry as any man living, but some how or other he has always began at the wrong end, as this is his last struggle in all probability, I trust in God, he may be able to support himself and numerous family, his wife is a very deserving Woman, and a great favourite of mine, and I am sure, with proper management his Son Grenville will prove a great treasure to him — My Son John returned here in August last from Charleston, by way of New York, where he staid better than six weeks with Wm Shaw on invitation, who wrote to him at Charleston for that purpose, thank God, he is perfectly restored to health, and now a partner in our firm, what I said to you in my last respecting the Connection, was in consequence of what you wrote to me in a former letter, asking who it was that held the situation in Belfast, saying that you had some Friends at Court, but to keep my mind to myself, which I did do

considering your remote situation, I am sorry to hear of the continuation of poor uptons affliction, it is the will of God perhaps that it should be so, bear with it then, as it is your duty, your other two Sons, I sincerely wish may be as prosperous as I wish them — My Family are in tolerable good health, without any alteration since my last, report has it, that my second daughter will soon leave me, if it takes place, the connection will be respectable, and I rather suspect it will be confirmed, my own health is only indifferent, I feel a gradual decline, as I approach old age, the joint stiffens and the step protracted, this, I may now expect and am satisfied, if I can only make provision for a future state, I only patiently wait the will of him that sent me,

I some times hear from our old friend Mr Steel, I am afraid he is too sanguin and rather inclined to vain boasting, previous to his late misfortune at Liverpool, he told me he was making money in handfuls, indeed, I would greatly rejoice at his prosperity, always considering him a worthy honest hearted fellow, and no better Woman can exist than his valuable wife, his Daughters, for so far are comfortably fixed, I mean those who are now from under his protection, the remainder, I most sincerely hope will be equally fortunate.

Are your not aware that Lord O'neill is grand Master of Orange Men in this unfortunate Country, you must also know that Sectarian Laws in [illegible] Country, why do you then ask how Wheneys [illegible] trade indeed, [illegible] at the Chamber of Commerce, and holds the post office still in Church St. in defiance of all the Mercantile interest in Belfast, however, let me here add, that the Catholic association is put down by act of Parliament, and with them, the Orange Men, notwithstanding, it is generally believed the long persecuted Catholics will be emancipated this session of Parliament.

True to my word I will now conclude by saying I am ever

Yours most sincerely

John Shaw