could dwell at any length, you have on that subject anticipated all I could say or think.

Please present my best respects to Miss Margaret & Sisters and assure them from me that there is not to be found in any country or any part of any country a more disagreeable — a harsher or more unpleasant sounding name tho' it is descended from the great Brian, than that of Birnie! and that I advise them most seriously to set about changing it for one more agreeable to themselves — The account you give me of your stock gives me much satisfaction — as I heard from several persons that sheep particularly did not thrive on the lands in your part of the Country, owing to the pasturage being burned up by the long continued heat of your generally unhealthy summer — I own hogs ought to tell well especially as you are well acquainted with the Irish mode of curing them — but their flesh I dare say like every other species of produce has fallen off, as well in price as in the quantity required for market — This at least has been the case in these countries for some time

Notwithstanding its extensive & increasing trade — notwithstanding the existance of Five Banking establishments Belfast has humbly rode out the desolating storm by which the trading world has been assailed — not one general Merchant has failed to meet his engagements!! It is true we have had several failures — but these were among a class of traders who too seldom possess real capital — and all of whom would have given way naturally, had trade received no shock whatever —

Alas! for the Greeks — Missolonghi, their strong pass into the western portion of Greece has fallen into the hands of their enemies — and, what is of far greater consequence the Proud Turk has buckled to the alliance [illegible] Czar — so that harmony if it can be so called is again restored between these rival Savages —

I am greatly pleased by your account of the young Commodore — & trust, that tho' he should persist in being a farmer that you will make him an educated one so that should things so happen he may one day set in the Congress of the Union without falling himself at a loss or reflecting discredit on his parents —

I had nearly forgotten to say that profiting by the disturbances in England, we had taken time by the forelock and provided employment for our unemployed Weavers. This has spared us a great deal of anxiety and saved us and them a great deal of trouble — You must excuse the unconnected structure of this letter as I have been from the date at the head to this date in writing it — Remember be affectionately to Mrs B — & on no acct. forget my old friend Wm Bryson — worthy as for yourself you know what I would say and what I feel — were you here. 31 May 1826