I am as you must perceive a very indifferent collector and a little worse retailer of news - and I lament this the more, as the stirring scenes through which we have passed here offered a wide & fruitful field - to he who is able to reap the Harvest -

I have from time to time had opportunities of hearing of you and your family & every account gave me additional satisfaction - long may you live in the bosom of a loving family ..... For several years past I have altogether abandoned Politics - They are in truth a profitless & useless study in these countries in yours I dare say they continue to be useful to the body Politic - Remember me in the most respectful terms to Mrs Birnie ..... and in the most affectionate manner to dispel Marg.t & her lively Sisters I had hopes at one time that circumstances might have brought our families closer together. It is now impossible My two younger sons being so settled that they in all human probability will never leave these countries. They are both doing as well as I could expect and [illegible] very fair - My old Wife (for to tell you a secret we are both now) deserves to be remembered to you & to your Wife - Hominy & Pumpkin Pye have made no change upon your Irish heart - God Bless you - may the God of our Fathers Bless & preserve you & yours & keep you from the evil with which you are surrounded - I this moment learn that the widow of the late Robert White is no more being carried off by an Apoplectic attack in her 87th year -

Your sincere friend

Samuel Bryson

P.S. I send you a few News Letters - by Mr Magarrell, to which am my a few winter evenings

SB

Belfast 4th October 1837

My very dear & highly valued old friend, I have on several occasions written you - & on several others I have forwarded to you files of Newspapers - knowing that there could scarcely be anything more acceptable than papers which would bring you in imagination at least once more amongst your old friends & recall to your memory times and scenes long gone by - and might convey to you some idea of the changes continually brought about by old and never tiring time. Many times have I in the wakeness of my own imagination brought you across the Atlantic and placed you in some of our newly built Streets - & requested you to convey me home - this to you as it has been to myself was nearly impossible without making frequent enquiry - This town now contains 70 thousand inhabitants and the house you occupied in Shankhill is now within Police Jurisdiction. In every direction new Streets - new public Edifices are starting as if by magic into existence. Our Manufactures & our Commerce keep pace with our improvements Flax spinning Mills are rising in all directions & several of our Cotton spinning Mills have been converted into Flax Mills - John Dunbar has excavated a very fine Dock partly on the Point fields and partly on ground reclaimed from the river - This has proved a very valuable addition to our Quayage and receives all the Timber laden vessels whose cargoes can now be unladen there & conveyed directly into a Timber pond immediately adjoining & belonging to the same gentleman - There has not any thing of importance in the commercial way been done in Ballymacarrett - however there have been erected - One Episcopalian - One Presbyterian Church, one Methodist Church and a Roman catholic Chapel - all commodious and neat