

## Letter 3: Background

It is now September 1682 and William Dunlop is on a trading voyage from Greenock, on the west coast of Scotland, to Spain via Plymouth, on the south coast of England.

The quality of his handwriting is showing signs of deterioration. Among the Italic and cursive letters are Secretary Hand versions of letters, such as *e*, *s*, and *b*. Note also the contemporary way of writing the arabic numeral 8.

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Letter 3: Image

Plummoth 15<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1682.

Loving father.

5 <sup>5</sup> Being arriv'd hwr (God be prais'd) y<sup>e</sup> last touday though  
 at my duty to acquaint you, we are not sure when we depart  
 from thus but still expecting y<sup>e</sup> Convey of a Merchant Shipp  
 of force laying hwr to goe along w<sup>th</sup> us which I thinck shall  
 not be clear this fourt night. Dear father I am for present  
 (God be thanck'd) in good holth who also wisches from my hert  
 to hwr y<sup>e</sup> like from you all but cannot expect any letters  
 10 from you hwr not being certain of our Departure but I  
 pray you dear father neglect not to write to Harls which  
 shall give my poor hert great Contentment to, I know y<sup>t</sup> you  
 are all in good holth I intend to write to you (God willing)  
 w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> next post more larg if we be not gone I have also  
 15 written to my Brother John who thincks I may have an  
 answer befor we depart from this I have not any  
 way dispost upon y<sup>e</sup> rest of my money but shall give a larg  
 account of all matters hwr y<sup>e</sup> next post which is all at  
 present wisching you all as my own life & having my love  
 20 & service hwr inclosed & presented to you my Loving  
 father to my dear & tender Mother to my Kind Brother  
 James to my Brother in law & my sister who longs to hwr  
 from hwr to my Breatheron Alexand<sup>r</sup> & Thomas & Archib:  
 to my sisters Eliz<sup>e</sup> & Margret to my dunt & also to my  
 25 kind Aunt M<sup>rs</sup> Cunningham to all y<sup>e</sup> rest of friends &  
 acquaintances I Rest

I<sup>r</sup> your loving & obedient  
 son to God & you.  
 W<sup>m</sup> Dunlop.

## Letter 3: Test

1. Plummoth 15 sept[ember] 1682
2. Loving father
3. S[i]r \_\_\_\_\_ (God be praised) the \_\_\_\_\_ thought
4. it my \_\_\_\_\_ to acquaint you we are not \_\_\_\_\_
5. from thus bot still expecting \_\_\_\_\_
6. of force laying hire \_\_\_\_\_ which I thinck shall
7. not be clear this fourtnight Dear father I am for present
8. \_\_\_\_\_ in good helth who \_\_\_\_\_
9. to hire the like from you all bot cannot expect any letters
10. being certain of our departure bot I
11. pray you dear father neglect not to write to you Kails which
12. shall give my pour hert great Contentment to knou th[a]t you
13. are all in good helth I intend to write to you (God willing)
14. w[i]t[h] \_\_\_\_\_ I have also
15. written to my Brother John who \_\_\_\_\_
16. \_\_\_\_\_ from this I have not any
17. way dispost upon the \_\_\_\_\_ as yet bot shall give you a lairg
18. \_\_\_\_\_ which is all at
19. present wisching you all \_\_\_\_\_ & having my Love
20. & \_\_\_\_\_ & presented to you my Loving
21. father to my dear & tender Mother to my \_\_\_\_\_
22. James to my Brother in Lau & my sister who longs to hire
23. from her to my \_\_\_\_\_
24. to my sisters \_\_\_\_\_ to my Aunt & also to my
25. kind Aunt Mrs \_\_\_\_\_ to all the rest of friends &
26. \_\_\_\_\_ I rest
27. S[i]r
28. your Loving & obedient
29. son to death
30. W[illia]m Dunlop

## Letter 3: Transcription

1. Plummoth 15 sept[ember] 1682
2. Loving father
3. S[i]r Being arrived here (God be praised) the last teusday thought
4. it my duty to acquaint you we are not sure when we depairt
5. from thus bot still expecting the Convoy of a Merchant shipp
6. of force laying here to goe along w[i]t[h] us which I thinck shall
7. not be clear this fournight Dear father I am for present
8. (God be thancked) in good helth who also wisches from my hert
9. to here the like from you all bot cannot expect any letters
10. being certain of our departure bot I
11. pray you dear father neglect not to write to you Kails which
12. shall give my pour hert great Contentment to knou th[a]t you
13. are all in good helth I intend to write to you (God willing)
14. w[i]t[h] the nixt post more lairg if we be not gone I have also
15. written to my Brother John who thincks I may have ane
16. ansuer befor we depairt from this I have not any
17. way dispost upon the rest of my mony as yet bot shall give you a lairg
18. account of all metters here the nixt post which is all at
19. present wisching you all as my oun Life & having my Love
20. & service here inclosed & presented to you my Loving
21. father to my dear & tender Mother to my Kind Brother
22. James to my Brother in Lau & my sister who longs to here
23. from her to my Brethren Alexand[e]r & Thomas & Archib[ald]
24. to my sisters Elis[abeth] & Margret to my Aunt & also to my
25. kind Aunt Mrs Cunningham to all the rest of friends &
26. acquaintance I rest
27. S[i]r
28. your Loving & obedient
29. son to death
30. W[illia]m Dunlop