

Turkey Islands Oct. 23 1774

Dear Sir

your's of the 21<sup>th</sup> July last came safe to hand by Capt. Turner  
 and <sup>am</sup> much Obliged to you for your Friendship towards me as well  
 as to my Family whos constant Prayers ought to be for you  
 weefore, my Brother John is at Present and has been for these  
 three months past in Providence with his wife who is as I suppose  
 by this time got a little one, for the first after being married, one  
 11 years. he is doing ~~very~~ well in the world and gets ahead.  
 I shal hold the place of <sup>Deputy</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of the Bahama Islands</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~island~~ <sup>island</sup>  
 (Mantance), I keep Bachelors Hall where I have my two boys  
 to wait on me and a Girl to wash my Linen, Breakfast at Home  
 and ~~chiefly~~ chiefly dine out, I have now by me which I intend for  
 you and had agreed with the Capt by whom this comes for the freight  
 who is bound to Alexandria, a Bhd. of excellent Glass  
 and the Devil would have it, a man of war came in the Road  
 this morning from Providence, and made so thick a search on  
 board the Vessels that he since has refused to carry it. I hope I shall  
 have an opportunity before long to Maryland when I shall send that

we were a new Government appointed for the Bahama's one - Humphreys Major, Gov. which is applied for tomorrow  
 and I am not certain but that I shall go to that Island with Mr. Stanley in care who will give me my place there

together with some other things for my mother and Sisters and your little ones  
I have a present for all of them I'll beaverly, I think she might have  
wrote to me when her Broth. Sammy and Sister Nancy did I'll remember  
her, she has forgot her old butter, we have lost Jack Wootton and then  
very foolishly for after Drinking freely in Company when there was 8 or 10  
of us he threw off his coat went out in the night air before he took  
Cold a fever ensued and that day three weeks he was buried in New Providence  
where he intended for the Benefit of his Health but died the morning before the  
Vessel got in, he has lost a pretty Intrest for some of his Friends, when  
first I came to this Island, which was in March 1769, when had a Club  
consisting 12 Members where we used to meet once a week in order to pass  
away the evening, and divert our selves at Cards, I am at Present the  
only one now alive out of whole 12 Men and, <sup>long</sup> I have to remain being  
Heaven only knows, I thank God I am extremely <sup>well</sup> in Health at this time and  
have enjoyed ~~my~~ it ever since I have been in the West Indies, do let me hear  
from <sup>you</sup> by all <sup>Opportunities</sup> I have nothing more to say at this time <sup>but</sup> want much <sup>to hear</sup>  
has been done relative to the Meeting of the Congress at Philad.  
I am just going on board the St. John to Dinner so my Duty to my Mother  
Love to Sisters and Children all Uncles Aunts Cousins &c  
in the mean time believe me to be with Real truth D. S. <sup>your most</sup>  
Sincerely Yours  
James Baldwin

1802

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 I am just going on board the  
 love to Sisters and Children as  
 in the mean time believe me

you must excise manuscript writing as I am almost ruined out of my life  
 God bless you all Good bye

Dear Sir

yours of the 2<sup>d</sup>  
 am  
 and much obliged  
 as to my Father  
 welfare, my  
 three months past  
 by this time of  
 11 years, he is  
 fast, I shall be  
 Mantance, I  
 to wait on the  
 and ~~by~~ <sup>by</sup> ~~the~~  
 you and had a  
 as he is bound to  
 and, the Devis  
 this morning for  
 board the vessel  
 have an opportunity

we have a new Governor appointed for the Bahama's one  
 Mumford Brown, his Charity is applied for Jamaica  
 and I am not certain but that I shall go to that Island with Mr. Dudley in case he will give me my leave now  
 I have heard from the one I now hold, his offer helps a great deal for me, and I shall be glad to see him  
 his father's only aid for the arrival of Mr. Brown whom I shall know what it is who shall go or stay

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

*[Vertical handwritten text on the right margin, possibly a date or reference.]*

*Sample Page 10*