

Back of the Hill or mains of Cromarty
15th Oct. 1836

To the Rev^d
Alex Stewart
Cromarty

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Sir

My wife has the charge
of John Ross at the Back of the Hill he is a
great Object, which I presume you are aware
of, My wife is only allowed 2/6^o per Week for his
board and washing with other disagreeable troubles
which I cannot here repeat. My wife considered
when she had taken charge of him she was
to receive 2/9^o per Week from what trouble she
has she consider it very low. if you grant
the 2/9^o please let me know otherways we
will give up the charge

Wishing to hear from you

I remain Sir

your obedient Servant

Hugh Ferguson

House of Logic Pub.
31st March 38.

Rev. Sir,

I beg to acknowledge
your favor of the 27th ult^o, & regret to
trouble you once more about Barbara
-24 Prof. I am happy to inform you
that some pecuniary arrangement has
been entered into for the sustenance
of her child, after the young man still
holds out as formerly, on the ground that
she has not proved true to him. Now
what his parents, at whose desire
I now write, would like to know & to
hear about is the woman's previous
moral character so far as you can
testify. Would you then be kind enough
at your earliest convenience, to write
me to that effect, & thereby oblige

Yours faithfully
Wm. H. W. H.

Rev^d Sir.

Aberdeen 25th May 1838

It is the greatest misfortune of
deaths makes me trouble you, and myself &
Family, has suffered very privately and distress for
more than two years; always expecting that my health
would get better and that I would get into some
employment, and that I would not have to apply to
you for relief. But my hopes have proved abortive, and
not a day passes but I either know or feel blood, besides
many other complaints. Dr. Chalmers has advised
me much kindness has advised me to apply to your brother
being born and having resided a great part of my life here,
in Cromarty - you will see by your Episcopate's list, that I
am now thirty five years of age, being born in the year 1803.
So I hope my sufferings are near an end, and if I should
please God, to restore me to any measure of health, I would
be sorry to trouble you or any other person, but having
John Chalmers, that can do nothing for themselves. Although
I expect one of them will be able to do something at this time,
(yet being destitute of food & clothing) I have you will understand
my case and grant me some relief - on receipt of this, if you
have the goodness to write me, you will please direct to the

Aberdeen 11th Decr: 1838. 4

Rev^d Sir

As the Managers for the Poor do not meet till the end of the Month, I proceed to answer yours of 28th ult. relative to Widow Ross.

You will recollect that in answer to a letter from you, of date 10th April last, I stated the circumstances under which Widow Ross left this Parish. ~~Wrote~~ that she was sent to Cromarty at her own earnest request after she had given the managers to understand that she had friends there through whose assistance & her own industry, she had the prospect of being able to support herself & family without further aid from the funds. We paid her passage accordingly by the Steam Boat, and placed it in the hands of the Steward to be given to her on her arrival at Cromarty. Understanding from the letter above referred to, that she was still unable to provide for herself & that she was intending to reside at Cromarty - we authorized your Kirk Session as the legal guardians of the poor within their bounds, to advance her

her such supplies on our account as her
circumstances might require - to deal with her,
in short, as one of your own paupers - of
course, so long only as she resides in your
parish & under your superintendance. We
fixed no allowance because you were obviously
best qualified to determine how much was
necessary. If she has managed to main-
tain herself hitherto, with the small assist-
ance you have given her the payment of
arrear since she left Aberdeen is entirely
out of the question - as in fact she never had a
stated allowance & therefore there can be no arrear.
The Managers here will allow her nothing except
through the hands & with the advice of the
Stk. Session within whose bounds she resides; -
and if this plan does not suit her, she can re-
turn to A.D. and the Parish will see her
provided for. -

Any advances that you may have made
or may find it necessary still to make for the
supply of her immediate wants, so long as she
remains with you, will be repaid by an order
upon the Commercial Bank at Cromarty
whenever you transmit the Account. When she
removes to Dingwall, her application must

be renewed through the North Session as before.

The system of maintaining paupers through the medium of other parishes certainly appears liable to the objections you mention and were it to become general - it would be productive of serious inconvenience. In fact, at this moment we pay stated allowances to between thirty & forty paupers belonging to other parishes & and several of these parishes do the same for paupers of ours. This renders the accounts very complicated - and, in my opinion, the system should be discouraged as much as possible. - At the same time you can readily conceive cases in which a rigid adherence to the usual plan would prove both a hardship ^{and} to the poor and a disadvantage to the parishes legally bound for their maintenance. It is unnecessary to quote examples - here they are almost of daily occurrence. We often find that paupers can be maintained more comfortably & at less expense by allowing them to live with their relatives at a distance than if we were to insist upon their remaining under our own immediate superintendance

Remain Dear

Your most obed. Servt.
A. Morgan, Sr. Sec. Poor
St. S. old Church

Wm Stewart }
Clermont }
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St Ann's School Aberdeen,
6th April 1840 - 3

Dear Sir

At a meeting of the Managers for the Poor in the South Division of Old Machar held here on the 28th ult. - appeared Margaret Gunn residing at Upper Canburn in this Parish & stated that her husband William Sutherlands, Pensioner, died last week in the Infirmary leaving her with three children aged respectively 8, 4 and 2 years.

She stated that they came to this ^{Parish} in July 1838. Having then left Cromarty where they had previously lived about 5 years - 2 in Mr Reid's house & 3 in Widow Beattie's - and that she is now in very destitute circumstances and requires assistance from the Poor Funds. The Managers of the District confirmed the woman's statement and mentioned that the family have been in a state of great destitution for some time and that they had been obliged to bury the husband. Widow Sutherlands received a supply of 5/- for the relief of her immediate wants and I was directed to write to you for re-payment of the same - 14/- for funeral expenses and instructions as to the future maintenance of the family. An early answer will oblige

Res Sir

The Rev^d
Messrs Stewart }
Cromarty }

Your most Obed^t Serv^t
John Morgan

DUNDEE, 25th April 1844.

SIR,

I AM requested to apply to you about the Accounts between your Parish and this, and the respective Poor of each who are paid and received for.

The Session have demitted ; and, since the 1st February, all the business is under a Parish Committee, to whom I am Clerk.

There is also a Committee for winding up matters with the Session, for actings previous to the 1st February last, and to whom I am also Clerk.

I wish, therefore, you would furnish me with information on the following points.

1. On the state of the Accounts between your Parish and this, previous to 1st February last, showing how the money stands ; also the number of Paupers belonging to this Parish for whom you charge, and the number which you pay for resident in this Parish—giving the names.

2. On the state of Accounts since 1st February last, giving the number and names of the parties to be paid for to your Parish, and the number and names of those for whom you are willing to pay this Parish.

By the Books kept by the Kirk-Session, a balance of L. 3. 18. — appears against your Parish. *at 1 Feb last.*

It is desirable, for the good working of the system, that the fullest information should be given and received, and I am ready to furnish you with any information you may desire.

Your early answer will oblige.

I am,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

*Mr. David Watson
Supm Clerk
Cromarty*

J. Watson

Rev Adam Hall
Comarty

Edinburgh 21 St. David St.
10 July 1845

Sir
 I have just received a letter from
 John Carnack a poor person complaining
 of not receiving the relief from your Kirk Session
 and Ministers he is written to by law, and
 writing me to obtain their legal relief
 This duty I shall endeavour to perform, &
 I now intimate that unless you write me
~~the~~ ~~case~~ of what that on Sabbath first
 your Moderators of the Kirk Session will call
 a meeting Extraordinary from the pulpit of the
 Ministers & Kirk Session I will proceed with
 steps to get you removed by the Civil
 Court to do so must will necessarily
 occasion trouble & expense to the Parish. I am
 Sir
 Yours most obedt
 Charles Spence

Cromarty 14th July 1845

To the Auction & Court Session of the Parish of

Cromarty The humble Petition of John Murray
of the Parish of Cromarty.

Sheweth that your
Petitioner is in abject poverty confined to
a bed of sickness and is 84 years of age
and not having ~~no~~ prospect of being long in
this world, Prays that he may be allowed
the sum of one shilling p. week out of the
parochial funds and your Petitioner
shall ever pray.

+ John Murray

Mr John Cormack
Cromarty

21 St David Street
Edinburgh 19 Feby 1845

Sir

I have demanded from the
Heritors and Kirk-session of Cromarty the sum
of 3/6^d a week, for alimnt, house rent, fuel
and clothing, and you will let me know
whether they call a Meeting on Sunday first
to dispose of your case, which I have ordered
the session Clerk and Minister to do, and
what settlement they make with you. Before
you agree to any thing, it will be better
that you write me. I am Sir

Yours truly
Charles Spence

Dated 19 February 1845 10.

Unto the HERITORS and KIRK-SESSION of the Parish of Gromarty

THE PETITION OF John Cormack residing
in the said Parish

Humbly Sheweth,

That the petitioner is a pauper, and above seventy five years of age,
and has resided in this parish for the space of Forty years and upwards.

He is in the greatest want and destitution, and
has been confined to bed, without being
able to support himself.

The particular
number and age of
children dependent
on petitioner should
be stated here, or
any circumstances
about the petition-
er's necessities.

That by the Law of Scotland, poor persons in the petitioner's circumstances are entitled to be alimeted, and the Heritors and Kirk-Session are obliged to provide such a sum as shall procure for them food, clothing, fuel, and a house or place of residence,—being all included in “needful sustentation,” to which the statutes respecting the poor entitle them.

That the petitioner has not received the aliment thus provided by Law, but has been almost entirely left to depend on such casual supplies as benevolent persons, who may hear of his distressed circumstances, may occasionally be inclined to bestow. These pittances are not only utterly insufficient, but also precarious and uncertain.

May it therefore please the Heritors and Kirk-Session to consider the petitioner's case, and to provide for it in such manner as the Law appoints, and to pay to the petitioner weekly a sum of Three Shillings and sixpence or such other sum as may be necessary to procure the necessaries of life, and to pay for food, house-rent, fuel, and clothing; and to declare the same to commence at and draw back to 1st January 1845 or to do otherwise as shall be called for by the exigency and circumstances of the case.

According to Justice.

(Signed)

Charles Spence S.S.C. for the
Petitioner

* If a former application was made, insert the date here, thus :—25 June, 1844, or whatever the date was, and say “when application was first made.” If this is the first application, insert the words, “this date.”

To
The Session Clerk of
Fromarty

21 St David Street
Edinburgh 19 Feby 1845

Sir

I enclose you a Petition
to the Heritors & Kirk-session of Fromarty for
John Cormack residing in that Parish. I request
you will get the Minister to convene by Edictal
Citation from the Pulpit on Sabbath first a
meeting of the Heritors and Kirk-session of the Parish
in order to consider this case; and I hereby
intimate to you that if this is not done,
and a copy of the minute of the meeting
immediately sent to me, the Heritors and
Kirk-session of the Parish will have themselves
to blame for the expense, which they will
unavoidably bring upon themselves by an
Appeal to the Civil Court being resorted
to, which will be done without any farther
notification to you or to the Minister, to
whom you will so good as show this
Letter. - I am Sir
Your most obed. St
Charles Spence S.S.C

21, ST DAVID STREET,
EDINBURGH, *14 May* 1845

TO THE SESSION-CLERK
OF THE PARISH OF *Cromarty*

SIR,

I beg to enclose a Petition for *Widow Ann McLean*

a Pauper

in your parish, which I request you will immediately lay before a meeting of the *Heritors and Kirk-Session*, and send me a copy of the Minute pronounced on it, granting or refusing relief. If this is not immediately done, I shall feel it my duty, and indeed have no other alternative, but to apply to the Civil Court to compel a meeting, which expensive measure I hope you will render unnecessary, by immediate compliance with my request,—the more especially, as the expense will fall upon the Heritors and Kirk-Session.

You will observe, it must be a meeting of the *Heritors and Kirk-Session*, and not merely the Kirk-Session. Such a joint meeting ought to be called edictally from the pulpit, on *Sabbath first*, to be held in the course of that week *or that following*.

I am,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

Charles Spence
S.S.C.

N.B.—If there be no Session-Clerk, the Minister, as *Moderator* of the Kirk-Session,—to whom, in that case, this will be delivered,—is requested to attend to the requisition, and to the certification made in this letter.

Dated 14th May 1845

Unto the HERITORS and KIRK-SESSION of the Parish of Granaroda

THE PETITION OF Widow Ann McLeenan
residing at Chalkhill near Dardroon in the Parish
of Granaroda

Humbly Sheweth,

That the petitioner is a pauper, and above _____ years of age,
and has resided in this parish for the space of twenty four years and upwards.

She is the Widow Mudge, McLeenan labourer. About 14 weeks ago, she had her leg broken by a fall and the bone not having been set, the dislocation has become irreparable and her pain excessive she being unable to move in bed without help. She would require two daughters to nurse her, who being a servant cannot do so without help from you. She lately got assistance of 4/- from the Kirk Session for food of meal.

The particular number and age of children dependent on petitioner should be stated here, or any circumstances about the petitioner's necessities.

That by the Law of Scotland, poor persons in the petitioner's circumstances are entitled to be alimanted, and the Heritors and Kirk-Session are obliged to provide such a sum as shall procure for them food, clothing, fuel, and a house or place of residence,—being all included in "needful sustentation," to which the statutes respecting the poor entitle them.

The Petitioner finding the help of her Daughter necessary must while that continues, crave more than she other ways would have done. Her daughter having left service to attend her

That the petitioner has not received the aliment thus provided by Law, but has been almost entirely left to depend on such casual supplies as benevolent persons, who may hear of *her* distressed circumstances, may occasionally be inclined to bestow. These pittances are not only utterly insufficient, but also precarious and uncertain.

May it therefore please the Heritors and Kirk-Session to consider the petitioner's case, and to provide for it in such manner as the Law appoints, and to pay to the petitioner weekly a sum of five shillings or such other sum as may be necessary to procure the necessaries of life, and to pay for food, house-rent, fuel, and clothing; and to declare the same to commence at 1st May 1845 and draw back to that date *
or to do otherwise as shall be called for by the exigency and circumstances of the case.

According to Justice.
(Signed) Charles Spence McLeenan

* If a former application was made, insert the date here, thus:—25 June, 1844, or whatever the date was, and say "when application was first made." If this is the first application, insert the words, "this date."

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Edin 21 St Andrew Street 4

The Session Clerk of the parish of

16th May 1845

Fromarty

Sir

I am surprised to learn that the small pittance of $\frac{2}{6}$ a week allowed John Formack has been taken from him, - and that the poor man is consequently in danger of starvation - how such conduct as this will not do, and I have therefore to intimate to you as Clerk for the Session & Kirk Session of Fromarty, that if an allowance of at least $\frac{3}{6}$ or $\frac{3}{6}$ is not immediately given to the poor man, - I shall take such steps, by means of the law, which will be both disagreeable & expensive to the parish, to compel them to afford needful sustentation to the present applicant - Such proceedings the parish may easily render unnecessary, as they have it in their power to alimant the pauper, - and I shall be glad to hear that they do this without force of law - I am Sir

Yours obed^t Serv^t
Charles Spence

Northern Infirmary,
Inverness, 23 June 1846

SIR,

I have been requested by the Committee of Management of the Northern Infirmary, to transmit the enclosed Account, amounting to £ 11/8 for the ~~Maintenance of~~ *General Expenses of* patient, a ~~patient~~, recommended by ~~you~~ *The Rev. A. Hall*. As the Funds of the Infirmary are at present in a very depressed state, I am requested to beg that you will direct payment of the same to be made to the Treasurer of the Institution with your earliest convenience.

I am,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN J. MACKINTOSH, M.D.,
House Surgeon.

The S. C. Bromley

21, ST DAVID STREET,
EDINBURGH, 21 Aug 1845

TO THE SESSION-CLERK
OF THE PARISH OF Cromarty

SIR,

I beg to enclose a Petition for Thomas Rob. Davidson
a *Pauper* in your parish, which I request you will immediately lay before a meeting of the *Heritors and Kirk-Session*, and send me a copy of the Minute pronounced on it, granting or refusing relief. If this is not immediately done, I shall have no alternative but to apply to the Civil Court to compel a meeting, which expensive measure I hope you will render unnecessary, by immediate compliance with my request,—the more especially, as the expense will fall upon the *Heritors and Kirk-Session*.

You will observe, it must be a meeting of the *Heritors and Kirk-Session*, and not merely the *Kirk-Session*. Such a joint meeting ought to be called edictally from the pulpit, on *Sabbath first*, to be held within fourteen days.

I am,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,
Charles Speice S.M.
Saucesplich

N.B.—If there be no *Session-Clerk*, the *Minister*, as *Moderator* of the *Kirk-Session*, to whom, in that case, this will be delivered,—is requested to attend to the requisition, and to the certification made in this letter.

Dated 21 Aug 1845 17

Unto the HERITORS and KIRK-SESSION of the Parish of Fromarty

THE PETITION OF

Thomas Roy residing at Dardiston

Humbly Sheweth,

That the petitioner has resided in this parish for the space of six years and upwards, and is now, by reason of poverty, obliged to apply for parochial support.

He is aged 47 years, and is quite lame & p[ar]alytic, and consequently is un-able to work for his own support & he has no one able to support him

The particular number and age of children dependent on petitioner should be stated here, and any circumstances as to the petitioner's necessities.

That by the Law of Scotland, persons in the petitioner's circumstances are entitled to be alimanted, and the Heritors and Kirk-Session are obliged to provide such a weekly sum as shall procure for them food, clothing, fuel, and a house or place of residence,—being all included in "needful sustentation," to which the statutes respecting the poor entitle them.

He only receives 2/- a week from your parish which is not sufficient for his support

May it therefore please the Heritors and Kirk-Session to consider the petitioner's case, and to provide for it in such manner as the Law appoints, and to pay to the petitioner weekly a sum of three shillings or such other sum as may be requisite to procure the necessaries of life, and to pay for food, house-rent, fuel, and clothing; and to declare the same to commence at this date

or to do otherwise as shall be called for by the exigency and circumstances of the case.

* If a former application was made, insert the date here, thus:—25 June, 1844, or whatever the date was, and say "when application was first made." If this is the first application, insert the words, "this date."

According to Justice.

(Signature)

Charles Speece M.
for Petitioner
James P. Mack

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To The Heritors and Kirk Session
of the Parish of Cromarty

Gentlemen

Our Sister Isabella Murray
Widow of late John Fraser Labourer is suf-
-fering under Mental distress so that she
is not able to provide for herself or
Child for the last five Months —

We are unable any longer to provide for
her wants and request that the Heritors
and Kirk Session take her under their
Charge or make somebeck of allowing
for her support and that of her Child

We Remain Gentlemen

your Obedient Servts

for Elizabeth and Helen Murray

Penkiles of Neilston

5 Sept 1845

The above statement is to My
Knowledge, correct, G. W. Donald

Society Hall Dec 5 Nov 840

Rev & Co.

I have received your letter of 30 Uls informing me that D. McDonald has ceased teaching the school at Davidston for some weeks past and still declines to do so - I have written to him by this post, that his discontinuing to teach the school must arise from his having left the established Church and thereby become disqualified from longer continuing the service of the Society, and in that event the school may be considered vacant.

This will bring out from him whether he has joined the free church on which point he has been any thing but silent in his answers to the Society -

Have you ascertained whether in the event of McDonald leaving the school, the houses and other accommodations will be continued to the Society. I am

Rev Sir

Yours faithfully

M. Galloway

Rev George Ruffel
Chairman

To the Reverend George Russell Minister of
the Parish of Bromley and to the members
of Session of said Parish; being Trustees of the
Funds for erecting a Sessional School.

The Petition of Walter Buchanan
Parochial Schoolmaster humbly sheweth.

That the present Parochial School
is situated in the lowest and worst part of the
Town - That the light and ventilation are defective,
and that it is otherwise inconvenient, so that
it has come to the knowledge of your Petitioner that
parents object to send their children to the Parish
School on account of its alleged inconvenience
and unwholesomeness. Your Petitioner would therefore
pray that steps may be taken by you and the Kirk
Session in conjunction with the Writers for

Amalgamating said Regional School with a
New Parochial School, under the joint trusteeship
of the Parish & Heritors. The master of the Paris
School for the time being, to be Schoolmaster of said joint
School, with all the rights & privileges as Parochial Schoolmaster
and to be elected by the Minister of the Parish and Heritors,
as heretofore - or that said Funds be applied
conjointly with a sum or sums to be raised by the
Heritors for the purpose of building a New Parochial
School house & dwelling house, which shall be the
Parish School as heretofore - That Your Petitioner
Prays that legal steps be taken for accomplishing
such Amalgamation, by Consulting Counsel, or otherwise
as the Trustees and Heritors may see fit in order
that a School house and dwelling house

suitable to the importance of the Parish
may be speedily erected.

And Your Petitioner will Ever Pray.

(Signed) Matt. Buchanan

The Rev. George Russell

Copy of the Petition of Mr. Walter Buchanan Parochial Schoolmaster
of the parish of Leromarty Addressed to the Kirk Session of Leromarty 21.

To,

The Reverend George Russell Minister of the parish of Leromarty
and to the Members of Session of said parish, being Trustees of the Funds
for erecting a Sessional School.

The petition of Walter Buchanan parochial
Schoolmaster humbly sheweth

That the present parochial School is
situated in the lowest and worst part of the town. That the light
and Ventilation are defective and that it is otherwise inconvenient
so that it has come to the Knowledge of your petitioners that parents
object to send their children to the parish School on account of its
alleged inconvenience and unhealthiness. your petitioners would
therefore pray that steps may be taken by you and the Kirk Session in
Conjunction with the heritors for Amalgamating said Sessional with
a new parochial School under the joint Trusteeship of the Kirk Session
and heritors the Master of the parish school for the time being to be School-
=Master of the said joint School with all the rights and privileges parochial
Schoolmaster and to be elected by the Ministers of the parish and heritors as
heretofore or that said Funds be applied conjointly with a sum or sums
to be raised by the heritors for the purpose of Building a new parochial School -
=house and dwelling house, which shall be the parish school as heretofore

That your petitioners pray that legal steps be taken for accomplishing
such amalgamation by consulting Counsel or other wise as the heritors and
heritors may see fit in order that a school house and dwelling house
suitable to the importance of the parish may be speedily erected

And your petitioners will ever pray

Signed

The Rev^d George Russell

Walter Buchanan

Extracted from the Records of Session parish of Leromarty, on the second
day of March 1854

By John Fraser Session Clerk