

Cape Town 26th July, 1832

My dear Neices

Charlotte & Sarah

I received your favour of the 18th January which informed me of the death of your aunt – at the time I received your letter which was on the ninth of May last, your brother John was here spending a few days with me and which was the first time I had seen him these 7 years – I suppose he will be writing you from Algoa Bay by a vessel bound from thence to London in about a month from this time – I am extremely sorry that Phillis(?) should have turned out so very bad, however it appears there was no help for it. I hope she does not continue to annoy you. I cannot help thinking you must be mistaken by saying you have had no letters from me for the last 3 years.

I cannot call to mind exactly when I wrote you last because I never keep copies of letters, only on business.

I feel very much indebted to my very sincere friend Mr. Christopher Hill for the trouble he has taken and indeed I don't know what you would have done, had I not had such a friend, and you will feel very gratefule when I tell you that he has spoken very highly of your conduct generally.

I have now to inform you that your Brother and myself are of opinion (since your aunt's death) that you had better come out to this country and one of you could stop with your brother and the other with your aunt Sarah which plan I think you will both like as you will in that case be near us your only relations – your Brother and myself have there sent by this some conveyance our power of attorney to Mr. Christopher Hill for selling the house and all off. and you might perhaps take a passage out from Liverpool with Capt. Taylor or some other steady (?) person – or as there is a Capt. Dunn in London by this time I expect who is about to purchase a vessel to come out here to my consignment and as Capt. Dunn will bring his wife out with him this will be an excellent opportunity if he has not yet engaged all his passengers – all information respecting him may be had by applying to Walter Hawkins Esqr., Fawkes Buildings, Tower Street, London.

I think you may get a passage all for about £30 each as you would occupy only one berth. However Mr. Hill can best admin (?) about this. I don't mean to say that I insist on you coming out here and the house etc. to be sold but I am firmly of opinion it would be for your benefit and have every reason to suppose your brother has the same idea –

I shall therefore expect as soon as possible to have an answer to say what you think of it and if you like it don't hesitate a moment in making arrangements to come out sooner the better first taking Mr. Hill's advice and opinion on the subject for perhaps he may not be able to sell the house etc. immediately –

If you should come out with capt. Dunn I can settle the passage money here in case there is nothing done with regard to disposing of the house at the time.

I wrote to Mr. Hill to say that your passage might be paid out of the proceeds of what was sold off – however as the sale cannot always take place as soon as we wish perhaps (that) is a reason for saying I would pay the passage money here. If you come, you ought to have a good stock of linnen say for 3 months as there is no washing onboard ship.

Your aunt & cousin Sarah

Join me in kind love & remain

Your affectionate

Uncle

J Smith

PS – Your Brother has 3 children which I have not yet seen, his wife is a very clean and industrious woman and they are doing very well. I had forgot to say we have a very good catholic chaple here if you have been brought up in that persuasion, you Brother I think seems more of a dissenter (?) than a church man..

to: Miss's Charlotte and Sarah

Smith, 1 Castle Gate

Scarborough