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Dunfermline June 3rd 1842

Dear brother and sister this comes to let you know we are all well and hopes to find you all the same. I am very sorry to think that there only 2 brothers of us and so little correspondence betwixt us and so easy we might get regular word from each other. I have six of a family now, 2 sons and 4 daughters and I have been working in Dunfermline this 6 years now and have been always been well employed but things are looking very bad at present. I never saw them looking so bad. I have a great desire to come to you if I could get as much as fetch me out but so many of my children grown up and cannot get anything to do for them things being so dull, I heard from my father about 3 weeks ago and they were all well and both my sisters and their families. I am very sorry of having so little time for I did not know of this opportunity but this night. This lad has wrought next shop to me this 6 year, but though he was always talking about going to America thought it a jest till this night. He is a cooper and if you could have any interest in getting work for him it would oblige me. It is a constant talk between Elizabeth and the bairns about their uncle James some of them that never saw you speaks most about you, I am certain that if you cared as much for us as we do for you, you would send word and I think you might take the trouble of writing one letter to your only brother and if you do, if you would send a statement about your place and how you are coming on and you would give me any encouragement to come to you for it is like to be a hard struggle to live here though a person should have constant employment. All things is so dear and wages so small and if you would send how many of a family you have. Agnes has 6 and Helen has 3 sons William Curror is in a small farm that keeps 4 cows. Helen's husband is working away this season, your aunt Helen and her daughter is well and fighting with a cow for a livelihood she has her compliments to you. If you write me not write to the care of Mr James Hogg, Priory Lane Street, no 9 Dunfermline. No more at present, but remains your affectionate brother.  
John Reid.

Letters From Scotland to James Reid 1833 - 1868

#9 John Reid, brother, June 3, 1840

Transcribed by Lorna Paterson and Glynis Aritake, September 2014