

**Extract from letter by Elizabeth McDermott, Richmond Hill, Jamaica, to George Grant, Forres, 1800
(GB0232/D766/5/6/1/1)**

Richmond Hill May 1800,

My Dear Sir,

...I assure you sir I wait very impatiently to get a letter from you which is the only consolation left me for the absence of a Most Wordy Friend; I certainly would have wrote you long ere now; was it not owing to the hopes which I flatter'd myself with, of expecting your paying Jamaica a Vissit and indeed it was expected by every Other Person; the time is elapsed, and I now Dispair (too well), I know I am for forever bereft of that Happiness I long wished for, what shall I now think, when will I ever be so fortunate to meet again one like you; that I can trust or look to for Protection. (Can I venture) as you seems to be against my retiring to the Country my children resides in, surely you cannot imagine dear sir that my present situation can be anywere comfortable; I can write no more on this subject, for it only increases the tears in my Eyes and afford me a sad remembrance of past happinesses.

Mr Donald Davidson having purposed leaving this iland for the benefit of his Health, and as it has been my Perticular wish, that my last poor little girl should be with her sisters, and she herself are very desirous of going to her sisters and to learn her Education, Mr Davidson was very kind to offer to take charge of her; and as he has taken home one of his own little girls we agreed that he should pay the expences of the servent, as one servent could attend both children, he readily comply, as he thought it was advantageous to both, I theirfore hope it wil meet your approbation, I cannot but acknowledge how much I am satisfied (my good sir) for the Fatherly care you have Hitherto been pleased to show my little ones, a circumstance which I assure you dear sir that my heart will always be Deeply Imprinted with, a jest sence, of how very grateful I ought to be, and will ever endeavour to beheave myself to deserve your esteem and I hope they will have the most sincere feelings of Duty, Gratitude and affection and will ever remain Proud and happy to entrance so particular a Mark of your Friendship. It pains me to tel you little Ann had met with an accident in her hip, it now renders her very lame I apployed to the surgeon here, but they advise me it will be much better done, and with little danger, in England, I theirfore pray you to see if their can be any thing done for he; I have provide Cloaths and evry other necessary for Ann's Departure...