

Portpatrick 13. Sept. 1803.

My dear Sir,

After a very long interval, will you be surprized if an old friend look in upon you, and enquire how you are, and what you are doing. I am informed that you have been very successful, and I observe, in the register, that you are established as Astronomer in Calcutta. Accept my congratulations upon your good fortune, and my best wishes for the continuance of your health, a circumstance which, in your climate, and indeed in all climates, is so very necessary to the comfortable enjoyment of every thing.

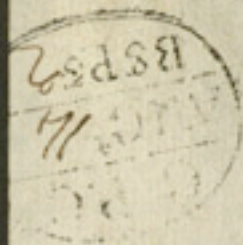
Allow me now, my good old friend, to put in a word relating to myself, which I am sure, if I know you right, that you will attend to if you can. I have a son in India, in the military line, in the service of the company, under the Bombay presidency. His name is John Mackenzie, and he is Lieutenant in the Bombay Regiment of European infantry. The pay of a Lieutenant, as you know, is but scanty. There are several little things which he might have, if he had a friend to recommend him, and which would

assist

The Rev Doctor  
Mackenzie  
Minister of  
Port Patrick  
Date 13<sup>th</sup> Sep 1803  
Recd 16 August  
1804

Doctor Dinwiddie  
Professor at  
Calcutta  
to be left at  
the India-house

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assist his pay much, and enable him to live with more comfort — such as the place of Adjutant to the Regiment, or Quartermaster, or Paymaster, &c. &c. There is also the place of Fort-Major in their forts, Aid-de-camp to the General or Governor &c. &c.

Now, my good friend, it strikes me that, as you have been long in India, though not at Bombay, yet yet you may have formed acquaintance with some of the public characters there, or you may know people in your own Presidency who are connected with the Bombay people, and who could recommend him to them. — If you could, for the sake of old acquaintance, recommend my son, by these means, to any person at Bombay who could be of use to him, I would take it as a very great favour.

If your time allow, I should also be much gratified to have a letter from you now and then, with all your news, and your history since

you left us. Accept my best wishes, and believe me to be, with much regard, my dear sir,

Your friend, and  
most obed. Servant

John Mackenzie

Excuse your answer — To the Reverend  
Doctor Mackenzie, Portpatrick, N. B.  
by ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ friend.