

J. Fraser

16<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>r</sup>. 1791.

Mr Fraser

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Tobermory Isle of Mull  
16<sup>th</sup> August 1791

Sir

I beg leave to take the liberty  
of reminding you from this distant place  
that there is such a person as your humble  
servant. I have had a most pleasant  
and interesting tour with Lord Breadal  
bane and have great hope that something  
will result from it that may be bene-  
ficial to this part of the Kingdom and  
to the public. The ~~devoicing~~ evil of  
emigration has become so general as

to threaten universal depopulation to  
this part of the Kingdom and thereby to  
deprive the nation of a hardy race of brave  
men who have fought its battles and con-  
quered its enemies in every part of the  
globe. Lord Breadalbane and I  
went aboard one vessell where 300 of these  
wretched people were crowded together in  
a small vessell not above 250 Tons burden.  
By his Lordships humane and generous offers  
some were induced to abandon their design

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and we found that it was entirely owing to necessity and not to any wanton disposition of trying their fortunes in America that these poor people were leaving their native country. The unfeeling proprietors are everywhere letting their lands in large Sheep farms where one man occupies what formerly afforded subsistence to hundreds forgetting at the same time that they must always derive their consequence above not from their incomes but from the number of men they can command upon any emergency.

I am collecting materials for a memorial on this subject which on my return I

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shall beg you to submit to the consideration  
of his royal highness humbly hoping  
that he may be graciously pleased to  
interpose in behalf of a neglected people  
who are truly attached to his royal high-  
ness and family. I have all along  
kept my attention upon the means of im-  
proving Dartmoor and have the satis-  
faction to have discovered much usefull  
information respecting the means of  
improving a mountainous country and  
by the fine weather we have had here

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to be able to return in full time to  
arrange every thing respecting that business  
and to prepare that country for the  
reception of some of those industrious  
people in whose happiness his royal  
highness has already been pleased  
to interest himself.

With the highest sense of my  
obligations to you I beg leave to subscribe  
myself  
your most obedient  
and very humble servant

J. Paine Esqr

By Fraser

*[Faint, mirrored handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is illegible due to fading and mirroring.]*