

May health & happiness attend you is the Sincere wish of all mine as well as Dear Robert that of your constant Friend

M^r Robert Nichol Merchant Queenston

Addressed: Strabane near Sandwich Jan^y 14th 1803. John Askin Sen^r to M^r Robert Nicholl Queenston (Coppy).

MISFORTUNES OF WILLIAM ROBERTSON³²

Queenston Feb^y 23^d, 1803

My Dear Grandfather I should be sorry to let this opportunity pass without informing you of some thing material received by M^r Clark respecting my Uncle William and to thank you in the kindest manner for the affection shown both William and me in your letter to M^r Nichol. I am sorry there should have been any cause to affect your Mind so sensibly and would fain hope that every thing may yet be for the best. Our Cargo small as it is will support us decently and should no unlucky circumstance occur think we may keep out of debt.

My brother left this on the third of Jan^y M^r Clark who arrived the day before bro^t us very distressing accounts of our Uncle William who had arrived in London in the month of August. He is fast vergeing towards his grave by his former ill habit and am afraid will hardly live to see my brother. On his passage home he made a new will, leaving his Daughter only £5000, a trifling legacy to a friend or two and the remainder of his fortune to an Irish Catholic Priest who had been sometime acquainted with him in Quebec and went in the same Vessel with him to England. This will was wrote by the Priest and dictated by himself. the Captⁿ and Mate witnessed it. it was from them his Sister received this information who happened accidentally to be on a visit to London from Scotland at the time they arrived. She used every means in her power to recover her brother from his sad state but in vain, after remaining a Month with him she was oblidged to return home her daughter and husband on her arrival set off for the same purpose they

³² From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.