

taking Place betwixt us and the French, Lord Mamlisbury is at present in Paris endeavouring to effect the same, it is most ardently wished for both by the lower order of People in France and likewise by us, but we cannot determine how it will be decided. Mr Pitt proposes raising a large body of men in addition to what we already have for the defence of this Country should the French refuse our terms. It is generally believed that an Invasion will be attempted on some part of the Coast this Winter, god preserve us from such an evil for how many poor wretches must fall before the proper measures could be put in practice to quell the panic which would naturally prevail amongst the common people.

The Packet sails tomorrow and I was conscious you would get no news from us by the Winter Express did I not avail myself of this opportunity, which determined me to write at all events, and I have pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of three very long letters from the Family which I received the 15th of Last Month, the day after my arrival here, Mr Lowrie⁹⁷ did not pay the Postage of the letters as you mentioned having requested him to do I know not from what reason.

My children are in perfect health Ann has lost the advantage of a School as I cannot meet with such a good one here as I could wish to send her to, however, I keep her up in her reading, and her dear papa intends amusing himself by teaching her to write. David does not much perplex his head with learning, he begins to say his Alphabet, they are nice children and my dear M does not a little admire them, I only wish you could see them that you might be a judge.

I have no pleasant news to communicate, you will be sorry to hear that Colonel and Mr^s England with many of the 24th Regt and some Artillery officers were taken by the French soon after leaving Quebec, General Simcoe and Family were more fortunate as they arrived safe in England,

⁹⁷ Probably Peter Lowrie (Laurie) of London, merchant. When William and David Robertson dissolved partnership in Detroit in 1795, a notice thereof was sent to Peter Lowrie, indicating that the firm had had dealings with him. In 1803 Peter Lowrie was named by William Robertson as one of the trustees of a trust fund established for the benefit of his daughter. See William Robertson papers (mss.)