

Baltimore 25th Decem^r 1776
Dear Brother
Accidently hearing of our Brother Billys death
in October last, occasiond my sailing for Philadelphia to look into
some little connections between us, where I arrived the 12th of Nov^r
and expected to have found some one of the family in charge
of his Affairs, but was much disapointed therein, and found a
Certain Mr Collins had on behalf of Mess^{rs} Amorys and Taylor
of Boston administered to his Estate, and had received Orders from
those Gentlemen to keep in his possession all the goods which
remains on Hand, tho at that ~~time~~ time they would have sold
to a very great Proffit and turnd out much to the advantage
of the Estate, whereas they are in a very fair way now of being
lost, which most certainly will be the Case should the English
take possession of Philadelphia, which at present there is two
much reason to fear will be the Case soon, as they are now
reported to be very near the City. I had no desire to be made a
Prisoner, and as the season was far advanced and all Communica-
tion between the Northern Provinces Cut off, I was obliged to
retreat to this Place, I wrote our Brother Joe twice since I
arrived at Philadelphia, and desired he would send me a Power
from the family Jointly to take the Administration into my
hands

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Hands, which if it had been done I doubt not I should have been able to have managed to great advantage, and doubt not but it may still be done should the English be [crossed out] disappointed in their scheme of taking Philadelphia, but should they succeed the Estate will be forever lost.

I have now to request you would use your influence with the family and send me a Joint Power with all Possible dispatch, that I may try and save an Estate from Ruin which would have turned out to a very pretty advantage to the family had it been timely looked into and managed properly, however something still may be saved.

I hope you and your family enjoy every Happiness and Blessing this life can afford, pray my sincere love to your Wife and Children and believe me to be with strict truth. Dear Brother

Yours Most affectionally
Theo Barrell
I recd a letter a few days ago from my Maria she desires her most affectionate love to you, your spouse & family

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To
Mr Nathaniel Barrell

Old York