

79, West Regent Street.

Glasgow 23rd March 1877

P. J. Harrington Esq

Dear Sir, I have your note of 1st inst: and at once called on some of the makers of shale oil (with some of whom - especially with Young the original maker - I am on intimate terms) in the hope of being able to answer your queries from their information.

I am sorry to say however that they would not enlighten me, declining as they said, to assist Canada to accomplish their own ruin -

We have been for years
 deluged with American ^{well} oil

& if you begin to distil shales
goodness knows how our men
can exist.

Bathgate & West Calder are
the principal seats of this
manufacture in Scotland.

I am very sorry that I
cant in any way assist you
- it is probable you will get
the same answer from all
our makers.

Pray remember me to Mr
Drummond - also to Mr Bell of
your survey staff, & believe
me

Yours truly
Alfred Brown

Alfred Brown
Froggers
March 28/77
Bathgate Works