

**Transcription of the letter from Robert Stewart to Hector McDonald Buchanan regarding a planned 'jolly' on board the Scottish Excise Cutter 'Atalanta'.**

Dear (Hector)

I wrote you a few lines from Rothesay on Sunday last mentioning that after the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> I would be able to give you a cruize.

I now beg leave to send you copy of a letter I have just rec<sup>d</sup> from the Board which I fear will put a stop to our plans at least for the present, unless that it made little difference to you where you went, and that our being emp<sup>d</sup> on special service might not be disagreeable –

*“Sir*

*The Service of the Cutter under your command being wanted at the close of the ensuing Round in execution of a special order on the coast of Argyle – The Commissioners direct that you report when you will be at liberty to attend to this special duty.*

*Excise Office*

*Signed Geo (Paper)*

*Edin'. 28<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1824”*

You see from this that the Cutter is wanted, but how long I cannot tell, please drop me a line to Oban to say if it would answer some time after this – Yours in haste

Most Respectfully

Robert Stewart

Atalanta

Oban 2<sup>d</sup> Sep<sup>t</sup> 1824

Hector Mc Donald Buchanan Esq.

Transcriber's note: The 'name' used in the first line is unclear, the capital letter does not match any used in the correspondence. Likewise the surname of the signatory in the Edinburgh Excise Office is unclear.