General Letter — Holograph of "Burns" from Thornhill Letter Book

Sir, The Commiss.rs having reason to suspect that from the present method of surveying & charging the duties upon printed linens & cottons, the revenue is not properly secured, nor the fair trader protected, have therefore ordered new copies of instructions to be printed & sent you for the government of your Supervisors & Officers which are agreable to the method of survey & mode of charging the duties in England.

Such officers as are found remiss in this materiel pa[illegible]
of their Duty must be reported by their supervisor
and if its discovered that he is negligent in his duty
both will incour the Boards highest Displeasure
— a Copy of this Letter to be intred in all your
General Letter Books ——

I am &c. Signed
John Thomson

Excise office Edin[illegible]