

19 Aug 1815 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Diana Beaumont

Geneva - 19th Augst. 1815

My dear Mother,

Being on the point of setting out for the valley of Chamorny situated at the foot of the Montblanc 18 leagues from hence I have only time to give you a few lines in order to assure you of my perfect health and safety – Judging from the number of stories, that are spread through this country of the dreadful state of affairs in France, and through the obscurity of which one has much difficulty in discovering the real, you no doubt feel some anxiety on my account, which I have done the utmost in my power to remove by the regularity of my letters. You have I trust received a letter from me dated from Florence and William sh[oul]d have received another from Milan. Paris appears to be much quieter than I could have hoped, and curiosity is emptying Switzerland very fast of English Travellers into that Capital – I shall take the road by Dijon which is the shortest and the most frequented, and intend to leave Geneva towards the end of the following week.

On my way from Milan I passed a day at the Boromean islands in the lac Majeur, which the Princess of Wales had visited only two days previous to my arrival, Her suite consisted entirely of Milanais, with the exception of her Chamberlain who is English; She is at present <making> the town of Piemont, from whence she means to return to Naples and after visiting Sicily to embark for Turkey, where she intends to reside until her new house on the banks of the lake de Como between Milan & the lac Majeur is finished; She has already spent an enormous sum of money on the building which appears to have hardly risen from its foundations.

The new road over the Mount Simplon was most interesting and may well be considered as the finest work of that wonderful man, whom everybody feared when he was at liberty and nobody knows what to do with when he is taken. He has little to fear on the score of immortality, and if he is loudly and deservedly cursed by the French, the Italians are as extravagant in his praise.

The Mountain is 28 miles long on the Italian side and upwards of 20 on the Swiss, forming the only entrance from one country to the other; Sixteen years ago the pass c[oul]d only be passed by mules and not without considerable danger to the Passengers. In six years a road between 3 <...> feet in breadth was cut upon the rock, where the steepness of the precipice threatened to put an end to the undertaking the perseverance of the workmen hollowed out a subterranean passage in six different places, of which the longest is upwards of 300 yards in length, and 20 feet in height and except the considerable delay occasioned by the steepness of the Mountain, <.....> is carried on with the same ease as in the Plain. I began the ascent at six in the morning, and did not arrive at the foot of the Mountain before 7 o clock in the evening. The scenery was most romantic and beautiful.

On account of the irregularity of the Italian Post which is proverbial and would not of course be out of <fashion> at present, I have not received a letter since I left

Zurich 10 weeks ago [page torn –word missing] shall find an answer to my last at Paris, when I shall lose no time in joining you in England.

Give my best love to my Father, Brothers and Sisters;

I remain, my Dear Mother, your affectionate Son,

T.W. Beaumont

17 Jul 1819 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Diana Beaumont

Scarborough. July 17. 1819.

My dear Mother,

I have heard this morning from Thomas that the sum asked for the Bywell estate is one hundred & Twenty thousand Pounds, excluding the Timber, the value of which is proposed to be fixed by two indifferent persons – He adds ‘I do not think this price very extravagant, but I think it may be bought for five or six thousand Pounds less on immediate payment of the Purchase Money. I cannot help considering this an object worthy of your attention’ – This is his opinion of it and is not very different from the information I have been able to procure from other sources – I have understood that the timber may be worth from twenty to thirty thousand Pounds. The whole estate might I think be had for a hundred & forty thousand Pounds. Hodson has at present no idea that we have any thought of it so that, if you do not think that price too extravagant, it would be right perhaps to instruct Thomas what he might offer – I am rather apprehensive that the Greys are thinking of it for their Nephew Mr. Payne, & he is under <age> & has a considerable Sum of Money to be laid out in the purchase of Land, but this had better not be taken notice of to any one.

Although the House is certainly ill situated from its proximity to the water, which however Thomas is of opinion might in a great measure be remedied, I should like very much to have Bywell – It is a most desirable residence for The Member for the County, being at a very convenient distance from every considerable Town, & in this respect it would certainly be preferable to Beaufront, which is too near Corbridge & Hexham. It is besides the most beautiful place in the County, and has an estate of about 4,000 acres of very good land adjoining the House, besides being very well stocked with <farms>. It is also not very far from my own estate at <Hilton> & <Fenwick Shield>, so that upon the whole I do not think there is a more eligible place within the County –

I hope to have a line from you before you leave Rokeby to give me your Opinion about it.

I have written to thank <Morritt> for his invitation & to decline it upon this occasion.

As you have not told me [page torn; nearly 2 lines missing] of the <Duke’s> having put <you off> a few days, I am anxious to hear if you continue in the intention of going directly to L[or]d <Stewarts>. You will easily be able to amuse yourself for a

few days longer before you go to Dunkeld & perhaps you w[oul]d do well to see a little more of the lakes before you go there –

With best love to my Sisters,

I remain, my dear Mother, Your aff[ectiona]te Son

TW Beaumont

[Addressed:] care of Rokeby Castle, Greta Bridge

23 Jul 1819 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Diana Beaumont

My dear Mother,

I was very sorry to find from your letter of the 20th that the weather was so unfavourable during your stay at Rokeby – Miss Morrith told me last night that her Brother wd <feel> the disappointment much more than yourselves, as he has great pride in shewing the beautiful scenery in his neighbourhood.

You shall have all the details you wish for, upon my return to the North. I have been unable to ascertain the exact value of the estate for fear of discovering the least idea of my desire to purchase it – The rental is from the information I have been able to collect about 3,500 per ann[um]. Of course I have no wish to increase my income in asking you to make the purchase & am perfectly ready to give up a full equivalent in value to what I receive. <This> we shall have no difficulty in arranging - I do not suppose that it would be advisable to sell off any part of the Bywell property, as the estate is very compact; but then <wd have> objection in that case to disposing of something about Winlaton, & any other outlying estates in North[umberlan]d or Yorks – all this shall be talked over with Thomas.

<Bentley> has invited me to come to him on Sunday the 1st. that we may ride over to the meeting of the Com[itt]ee for repairing Barnsley Church on the following day, which I have accepted; & I leave Scarborough for Bretton on Thursday to pass two or three days with my Father before I go there – I shall pass Sophy on the road. I shall go to Northumberland on the 4th or 5th, when I will thank you to write to me at Dissington Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne.

I should like to have half a buck sent to me on Thursday the 18th and when I wish to <Rai..> about the <keeper>, which I shall do as soon as [page torn: 3 words obscured] Barnard Castle I will name it to him, or when I see him <at> Bretton. I was glad to hear so good an account of John <Cruddace> & hope he will suit.

I shall be delighted <.. ..> of you as soon as you have seen Perth & Dunkeld

With best love to my Sisters,

I remain my dear Mother, Your aff[ectiona]te Son

TW Beaumont

Scarborough July 23. 1819

[Addressed to:] Mrs Beaumont at His Grace the Duke of Atholl's, Dunkeld.

5 Aug 1819 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Diana Beaumont

[Note: Addressed to DB in Perth.]

Dissington Hall. Aug. 5. 1819.

My dear Mother,

I am anxious to receive a letter from you, by which I may know how and where you intend passing your time until you visit the Duke at Blair; you will probably have left L[or]d Kinnoull's before this reaches you as that is the last <house>, to which you have <.....> me.

When you are at Taymouth I hope you will not fail seeing the numerous waterfalls in the neighbourhood, which are the finest in Scotland.

I have seen Thomas & had some conversation with him respecting Bywell. I fear however Mr. Grey or Mr. <Cupwell> will anticipate us in the purchase. The former I know is very eager for it, & Mrs. <Cupwell> is I understand, using her influence with her husband, their place by the sea side being very bleak & dreary – The value of the estate according to Thomas's account is 4,000£ a year, & he is of opinion that it is a very <improvable> property. The timber will be about 10,000£ & certainly not exceed 15,000£- The price that is now asked is £120,000 (Not including the timber), of which he thinks they might be disposed to state 8 or 10,000£.

The Townley Family, will probably be disposed to purchase Winlaton, if L[or]d Strathmore or Sir T. <Liddell> are not so. There is a report that L[or]d <S.> has married in Town – That property might be worth 20,000£. There is no part of Bywell <detached>.

I believe these were the questions to which you wished to have an answer – If you are willing that Thomas & I should negotiate for the purchase I will thank you to mention it, when you write to me next, and I think no time sh[oul]d be lost, as Hodson may be inclined to raise the price if he finds that there are many competitors in the market.

This house is extremely comfortable, and I look forward with much pleasure to <receiving you all> here upon your return –

I am just going to start for Alnwick Castle, this being I believe the last of the <Duke's> public days – The <Powys's> & the <Wynnes> <have> been staying there –

With best love to my Sisters,

I remain. My dear Mother, Your aff[ectiona]te Son

TW Beaumont.

[On front:] Morpeth Augt five

Mrs Beaumont, The Earl of Kinnoull, Dupplin Castle, Perth, N.B.

8 Aug 1819 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Diana Beaumont

My dear Mother,

Upon my return from church this morning at Ryal I found your note of the 6th upon my table and am extremely obliged to you, whatever may be the result, for your consenting to allow Thomas & me to make Hodgson an offer –

I am disposed to hear from some conversation that I had with William Grey the other day that he has gone too far to <retreat> altogether without making Hodgson some offer for the estate – If they do not agree, I shall avail myself of their negotiation to know exactly the price that he will take, for you may depend upon my using every <exertion> to have it as cheap as possible. I will see Grey again tomorrow – I shall send a full account of what <Bird> Thinks of <Swifts> then, & his reasons for his <opinion> when we meet. I expect Edward & him to dinner on Thursday the 19th <& to> stay a couple of days before I go to the Moors – I go up to Allenheads on Saturday the 21st. I shall probably remain there the greatest part of the following week. You may then direct to me Allenheads, Hexham -.

I heard yesterday from <Witham>, who <gives Cruddah> a very good character, and I wish accordingly <to direct> him to go to Bretton as soon he could - He will be there, I hope, about the 22nd. I sent the note to <Raine> with directions to pay off Croft, which I think was what you wished to be done.

I am delighted that you have found your tour so agreeable, & shall be glad to receive a more detailed account of your wanderings when you have more time – Marianne talks of you going to Staffa, if so, although I can not recommend it, you will find the advantage of taking in a good stock of provisions. <You will of> course touch at <Mull> -

With best love to my Sisters

I am, my dear Mother Your aff[ectiona]te Son

TW Beaumont

Dissington Hall Aug. 8. 1819

[on front:] Newcastle Augt nine

Mrs Beaumont, Post Office, Iverary, N.B.

T W Beaumont

[annotated at top in another hand, possibly DB's:] Aug 8th 1819 T.W.B

7 Sep 1819 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Diana Beaumont

Morpeth Sept. 7. 1819

My dear Mother,

I shall be delighted to see you at Dissington on the 20th or any day after that which may suit you. A few friends William Grey, <Bell> &c are coming to me on Thursday the 16th, who will probably leave me on Saturday or Sunday; If Sir William Scott stays in the North till that time he has also promised to see the inside of a Bachelor's House, as he has paid a visit to most of the married Men in the neighbourhood of Newcastle and <he> dines with me on Thursday upon a Turtle that a <N.> Shields friend has sent me – You will I should think be glad to be alone & quiet until you go to Allenheads. As soon as you have determined when you will be with me, I shall be glad to hear from you, and if you write before Monday next, I will thank you to direct to me at Sir Hedworth Williamson, Whitburn, when I am going to pass a few days at the races here. Being one of the Stewards upon this occasion I am no less at present upon duty than amusement; a full meeting is expected.

William Grey having a promise of the refusal of Bywell from Hodgson, I do not intend to make any offer until he decides upon taking or giving it up, when he will let me know what he has offered & Hodgson <requested>. It appears at present a fighting purchase between Grey & myself would inevitably be the result, & one or the other of us would throw away 10 or 20,000£ to the benefit of the Parson - We have therefore come to an explanation upon it; I should understandably be sorry to lose it, but should prefer that to <throwing away> a considerable sum of money beyond the value of the estate. I expect to have again <....> in the course of a week or ten days. I have said nothing to Thomas, as the few people there are in a secret the better –

<De Lisle> has let Acton and is going into the Army to economise. His friends have endeavoured to <dissuade> him from such a scheme, in which <.. ... very soon> incur <....> debts, but to no <....> [page torn: 1-2 words missing] I hear rather <m.....ups> the idea as the best thing that can be <adopted> at present – he is to have 16 or 1800 a year –

I met the <.....> yesterday at Gosforth who saw you at <kilim> and followed you to Staffa. I heard from them that you reached the <Continent> again the same evening, for which I give you much <credit> an account of your good management no less than your good <judgement> as the accommodations in the islands except at the Chiefs House are wretched beyond description. The Dr. was much disgusted with them – With best love to my Sisters

I remain, my dear Mother Y[ou]r aff[ectiona]te Son
TW Beaumont.

P.S. I can assure you that I have <neither forgot> my Father in Letters or <.....>

[on front:] Morpeth Sept seven
Mrs Beaumont Post Office Edinburgh
T W Beaumont

[annotated at top in another hand, possibly DB's:] Sept 7 1819 T.W.B

22 Sep 1819 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Diana Beaumont

[Note: Undated and apparently incomplete, lacking an ending. It appears to fall in sequence between TWB's letters of the 7th and 30th September, given the state of the Bywell purchase, and his letter of 30th can be interpreted as a response to his mother's reply to this letter. 30 Sept 1819 was a Thursday, so the latest Wednesday night on which this letter could have been written was the 22nd, hence the date assigned to it here.]

Dissington. Wednesday night.

My dear Mother,

You will already have heard from Thomas the answer that he received from Mr. Hodson on Monday – When his letter reached me on Tuesday with the information, you will imagine that I was very far from being pleased, & had left Bywell without a positive acceptance <or refusal> - Hodson had in fact gained his object if the <matter> was <allowed> to remain in the <state> Thomas had left it, as he could then sell the estate for 120,000 £ if he could not get more from any one else – I instantly therefore mounted my horse (it was past two o Clock) galloped to Bywell, where I found Mr. & Mrs. Hodson just setting out for Styford - After the most <civil> salutations & enquiries on his part, I asked him what answer he had to make to the offer: he then lamented that he was so unfortunately situated that he could not give me an answer and asked till Thursday – This <however> I told him was totally impossible, and I was determined to withdraw the offer altogether – When he saw that nothing would change this determination he consulted with Mrs. Hodson and consented to the sale of the estate – he instantly dispatched a <messenger> to Mr. Pearson. It was then near 5 o Clock, and as I had company at home, I was obliged to return – I have been there today, and <have seen the House> with him – We had a good deal of conversation respecting the Title deeds which are in the possession of Mr. <Pusey who> has a mortgage on the estate of 12,000 £. Mr. <P> has refused to accept the money, or give up the Deeds until the expiration of his <term> at the end of four years – An abstract therefore must be taken of them, <which> he will allow, subject to the approval of Counsel – Mr. <Burnhope> made his <purchase> a few years ago of the <Trewton Hall> farm <with> similar title. Hodson will give directions to Mr. <Brydges> his Solicitor in London to draw out the Articles, which will be sent down to Mr. Pearson – Nearly half the purchase money can be left <in trust> upon the estate until it will be convenient to pay it off. I have desired <Barden> to meet Thomas tomorrow (Thursday) in Newcastle at 2 o Clock to <fix> with him upon two <factors> qualified to value the Timber –

Hodson now shows every disposition to have the whole business as amicably & speedily arranged as possible –

If I had <lost> a day in seeing Hodson, the estate would in all probability have been lost, as he was inclined to consider himself bound by Mr. Pearson's <promise> of the refusal to Mr. <Crepach> [End of page and surviving letter]

30 Sep 1819 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Diana Beaumont

[Note: undated but annotated on the cover, possibly in Diana's hand, 'Sep 30th 1819 T Wenwth Beaumont respecting Bywell']

I have now to thank you for allowing me to act according to my own discretion in this purchase - <In> reflecting upon past circumstances I feel convinced that the estate c[oul]d not have been purchased for a less sum, & I do not think that it could have been obtained even at that price in any other manner <than> that which was most fortunately <adopted> - It is the general opinion that <Cusack> w[oul]d not have hesitated to have paid what Hodson asked.

I shall be glad to hear when I may expect you here, as we shall have many things to talk over - If you like to mention any day for meeting here at Bywell, I will <tell>them, & <we can> come here to a <late dinner>.

I have heard from <Diana>, that they arrived in good time on Monday & lodged in <Hunters> House - I forward several letters for you with the three last Newspapers -

Believe me, my dear Mother

Your aff[ectiona]te Son

TW Beaumont

[on front:] Newcastle Sep thirty 1819

Mrs Beaumont Allenheads Hexham, to be forwarded by the first opportunity to Allendale

11 Oct 1819 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Diana Beaumont

Dissington. Oct. 11. 1819

My dear Mother,

As I find that Hardy has taken up the case of the workhouse that Horsington pulled down at Wybsey, I should be very glad to see his letter to you upon the subject as well as Mr. Wilson's. I believe that is the name of Miss <Curren's> relation -

Will you enclose them to me as soon as you have time, for I <fear H.>, of whose discretion I have a very low opinion, has led you into a scrape - I will write to you again as soon as I have seen them

It will be quite soon enough to think about an architect when the best mode of keeping out the water is ascertained - I have not the least idea that it will be necessary to pull down the dam - This I suppose you have heard from Hunter, as well as the <story> about Mr. <Cupwell's/ Cupack's> having no intentions of purchasing the estate

The buck & <Pines> arrived safe and were very good in spite of the maltreatment the venison experienced from Mrs. Thompson's cook – The Gowns shall be brought to Bretton, you may rely upon it not being my intention to increase my rental by the purchase of Bywell; the necessary arrangements shall be made <when> the time arrives of receiving the rents –

I am glad that you intend speaking to Mr. Bird about <West Allen Chapel> - He will be able to explain to you the <nat...> In our wishing to purchase the ancient <site>

I hope to hear of your safe arrival soon at Bretton –

With best love to my Father & Sisters

I am my dear Mother Your aff[ectiona]te Mother [sic]

TW Beaumont

19 Oct 1819 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Diana Beaumont

Blagdon. Oct 19. 1819 –

My dear Mother,

Although I have not yet received Mr. Wilson's letter, Horsington's affords sufficient ground for enquiry into the circumstances attending the pulling down the workhouse at Whibsey. Does not it appear to you very <singular>, that he should never have thought of touching it until it was so near being <c...d> in, that if he delayed a single day, you would have no longer had the power of doing so, <and> by his own statement lost a <point> of your right?

This shews great neglect of your interest – He ought to have objected to the erection of it at the commencement – It is however extremely <impracticable> that the <trustees> would <undertake> to do anything which might subject them to such conduct, and it is much more likely that they spoke to Horsington upon the subject before the building was begun. It will be important to ascertain whether they had any communication with him and what was his answer – If he had any, and expressed his dissent he ought not to have allowed them to proceed at all – Of course he would be much more culpable if he said anything, which implied a willingness to accede – The only other view is, that he did not know what was going on, which as he states the other freeholders considered it unalarming [2 words illegible] I cannot help at present <doubting>, for they most likely <know his> readiness to assert his rights and would be too happy to take the earliest opportunity of <putting> him in possession of the circumstances.

It will also be very material to know his reasons for taking the step so suddenly, as he might perhaps have some cause to be offended with the trustees on some other account & take this method of retaliation - It is however too important an occurrence not to immediately & strictly enquired into; for as the character of Horsington <..> has employed <will> suffer, it would be as well that the <blame> should be when it is deserved, & you would find it, I should think advisable, to <disavow> having authorised the transaction – I do not much like asking any of the Tenants to buy <Cutch> either for you or me; if they purchased <any> for themselves at the same terms

they could not be expected to select the best for you, and it would be giving good <less> opening <for> a job – we had much better desire Thomas to commission some person to make the purchase you want, as he must be acquainted with many well qualified for it - <Raine> should enclose a note to him with the exact description of the sort of <parts> you want – The <St. Luke> fair is on the 26th or 27th of this Month.

I do not think I shall be able to leave the North before the <9th> of Nov[embe]r, I intend making up for the shortness of my stay with you at that time by a longer residence at Christmas – The valuation of the Timber at Bywell is going on <superbly>; it is expected to fall considerably short of <Hudson's> estimate, <Rickworth> & his hand - <tiles> are not worth your notice – With best love to my Father & Sisters, I am

My dear Mother

<Your affect[ionat]e> son TW Beaumont.

24 Oct 1819 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Diana Beaumont

Dissington Hall. Oct- 24 – 1819

My dear Mother,

I have now to acknowledge the receipt of three letters from you, that arrived I think by successive Posts – I am sorry that Horsington has has [sic] been able to convince you of his own propriety of conduct – Mr. Wilsons assertion that your consent, by which of course he means your Agent's, was asked is certainly a sufficient ground for you to have an enquiry made of the trustees by whose direction the <barn> was erected, if application for leave was not made to Horsington <.. what h.. ... ever was> You might very easily request of the trustees <..... ..> to you, which if they consider themselves ill used, would be very readily complied with - <For if H.> finds you so ready to believe him in the right, I much fear he will be found equally ready to <keep> himself in the wrong – The whole affair should be examined as if the dispute had <arisen> between yourself and <any> indifferent persons, for I am inclined to apprehend that the <very> circumstance of the Law <is not> to bring a party in it rather precludes a dispassionate investigation – at least by the <tenor> of the letter which I returned to you. I am sure it has had that effect upon him –

I heard from Hodson on Friday, who talked of a deposit of 4,000£ - I spoke to Williamson upon the subject, who said that such a thing was never heard of at a private sale, and I have sent him that answer – He asked me also, as he understood it to be your wish that a part of the purchase money should remain in mortgage, if you would have any objection to pay 20,000£ upon my being <sent> into actual possession, upon which I promised to consult you immediately. As soon as I hear from you, I will send your answer; <In> he says that the agreement shall be sent to Mr. Pearson in a very few days, in which it will be <communicated> that the abstract of the Title shall be delivered within fourteen days after the agreement is signed – I do not think it right for us to be the first to talk of the expense of taking the abstract as that of course will fall

upon him – Both the agreement & the abstract of the Title should be submitted to Mr. Williamson as soon as they come down. –

I mentioned in my last that I expected to be able to leave the North on the 5th and it is quite impossible that I can do so earlier - I am engaged to dine at the Mansion House on that day, and <with going on to Durham> after dinner to be able to reach Bretton on Saturday evening, if possible to dinner, but I hope you will not wait for me – I should be very glad to meet Fawkes any time in the following week – This district however is in so <distracted> a state that it is not impossible, though I trust not probable, that I may be detained longer – The concessions which have been somewhat imprudently made to the Keelmen by the Coal owners have given the Mayor & Magistrates reasons to apprehend that the <Pitmen are going back in their turn>; they amount to upwards of 10,000 and <.. would> much more formidable opponents than the others – It would not be quite correct for me to leave the County to amuse myself in Yorkshire, if disturbances were going on here – Lady Liddle’s ball is put off in consequence of <the state of the County> - She was certainly <wrong> in selecting this moment for her gaieties, for you know they are as much in the midst of <collieries> as if they were in the Pit. – but in putting it off, she has been very ill advised to <avow> publicly her reasons for doing so. Sir Thomas who is very much alarmed talks of raising a corps of Yeomanry and giving the command to his Son – The evil I think is much exaggerated, as the <terror> that is spread about Newcastle is very considerable, but it is at all events desirable that all gentlemen of property & influence should remain upon the spot as long as possible – I am much obliged to you for your offer of a <bed> in Portman Square, but as I wish to be near the House, I have written for apartments in <Warren’s> Hotel, Regent St. I hope that I have now nearly answered all your letters. I have only to regret that <Dremby shd have turned out so ill after <promising much> – I shall be able to meet with a couple of Ponies and a <low carriage> for you in London –

The cranberries shall be purchased for you tomorrow – Richards acct with my Sisters was 9£. There can be no objection to the Poacher who cut Ridleys face being taken <to work> if Crawhall thinks he can be relied upon, and if he will make a recompense to Ridley so much the better – I will speak to Crawhall about this when I see him for I intend going up to Allenheads before I leave the County - <We> must not be surprised if we hear of another disturbance among the Miners for there are several itinerant radicals <who are busily> employed everywhere in creating <discontent> where it does not already exist, and encouraging it whenever it can be found –

With best love to my Father & Sisters

I am, my dear Mother Your aff[ectiona]te Son

T W Beaumont

31 Oct 1819 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Diana Beaumont

Dissington Hall. Oct. 31. 1819

My dear Mother,

I have received from Fenwick, to whom it was sent by Mr. Pearson, the heads of the agreement as proposed by Hodson - There is hardly a clause in it which is not liable to an objection, or which will not require an explanation - I have referred that part of it which regards the land to Thomas, & that which respects the forms of law to Fenwick; When I have their answers & seen them both at Newcastle, which I propose doing on Friday next, Fenwick will have occasion to write to Mr. Bridges, Hodsons solicitor, in London - He has shown in the agreement an anxiety to obtain every possible advantage, but in his letters he seems conscious of the attempt, and assures me of his desire not to do anything unusual; so that there will probably be some difficulty, but with care I think we shall have our own way at last.

Hodson proposes that 60,000£ including Mr. <Puseys> mortgage of 12,000£ which will expire in three years, should be left on mortgage - the remainder of the money to be paid upon the 12th of May, when we are to be part into possession. He has entirely given up the idea of having it completed in next Month

In case he succeeds in giving us full & legal possession at that time would it be convenient to you to advance so large a part of the purchase money - The funds are in a most melancholy condition at this moment, but it is to be hoped that they will <rise> considerably upon the Spring - I will bring the agreement with me to Bretton, for it will be some time before the necessary information can be obtained from Thomas respecting the <farms> in signing it -

I saw Hutchinson today, who requested me to drop the prosecution of his Brothers if they returned from America & offered me a bond of 100£ for each of them for their future good conduct, which of course I accepted -

We will have some further conversation respecting <Dytch> when I come to Bretton - I am very far from being anxious to keep him if he can procure a decent livelihood elsewhere.

I have your letter of the 24th before me, & will take an opportunity, if possible, of enquiring how your <Account> is kept with Reeds, before I leave the County -

I was rather astonished to see Worthington's salary stated at 360£ besides his other perquisites, & gave permission for him to <manage> Sir J. Cradocks <now> I suppose L[or]d Howden's estates. A very radical reform, I should think, was necessary there -

I have sent you a <Cask of Grey> 2 Moorcocks, 6 couple of snipes & 2 p. of Partridges. <Mr W. Lee> will I hope have sent you some <grouse> -

I am going to Allenheads tomorrow as soon as it is light, and if it is fine, I shall breakfast at the Hermitage - <We> had a meeting of the Deputy Lieut[enan]ts & Magist[ra]tes at the Castle on Friday & came to some very <moderate> resolutions, unanimously passed - Both Whigs & Tories, Dukes & Anti-Dukes were present -

With best love to my Father & Sisters

I am my Dear Mother Your very aff[ectiona]te Son

TW Beaumont

P.S. I had nearly forgot to mention that the Son of Mrs. Thompson the present rector of <Warden> is very far indeed from being a respectable Man.

[addressed to:] Mrs Beaumont, Bretton Hall, Wakefield

26 Nov 1819 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Diana Beaumont

<Warrens> Hotel. Nov. 26. 1819

My dear Mother

I enclose you the draft of the Ag[reemen]t just rec[eive]d from Fenwick, of which I entirely <approve>, with the conditions <these> secure, it w[oul]d be very advisable that 4,000£ <sh[oul]d> paid at the signing of the Ag[reemen]t if you can make it convenient to do so. The whole am[oun]t of the sum to be paid on the 12th Jany, <wch> to the value <of> the wood probably from 12 to <15>,000£ & 44, 000£ <...nlated> in the Ag[reemen]t – Much stress has been laid <in conformity> with my letter to Fenwick upon the validity of a <marketable> title being made soon to me – All the objectionable facts in the <former> agr[eemen]t are struck out – As soon as you have read it & have had to make some observations upon it, I shall be glad to hear from you, & have the Draft again - Fenwick informs me also that it has been <referred> to & approved by Mr. Williamson – I am quite recovered from my indisposition & ready to attend the business of Parl[iamen]t which leaves me no time for anything else-

With best love to all at home I remain

My dear Mother Your very aff[ectiona]te Son

TW Beaumont

8 Dec 1819 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Diana Beaumont

<Warrens> Hotel. Decr. 8. 1819

My dear Mother,

This is the first moment that <my other engagement have afforded me to answer your two letters of the 2d. & 5th. for it was previously necessary to examine the Draft relative to the objections you have raised – I think <however> that as the most material, it will be right in the first place to reply to the subject of your last letter-

I cannot imagine what ground you can have for supposing that it was <ever> my desire that you should exhaust all your <funded property> in completing the purchase of Bywell – I shall be <perfectly> satisfied with possession of it subject to the mortgage that will remain after the payment of the 44,000£. I must adhere to my former intention of not accepting it under any other condition than that which I mentioned in my last letter which was not written in so much haste, that I had not previously considered the <different> circumstances you <alluded> to –

Mr. Williamson's intention having been particularly directed to the circumstance of the death of Mr. F's elder Brother never having been regularly certified, not only

upon this occasion but at other times, and especially at the sale of the <Heaston> Hall Farm to Mr. <Bainbridge> for 19,000£, I cannot see any <patent doubt> that it is safe to rely upon what he <may> consider a good & marketable Title – I have always understood you to place confidence in Mr. W's opinion, and upon this occasion, when he has been consulted before upon the same point, I cannot perceive what ground there is for doubting his judgement – he certainly can have no interest or wish to leave us with a mistake. The <articles> that regard the Farms, <.....>, House, outgoing &c I can <assure> were respectively considered by Fenwick, Thomas and myself before the Draft was submitted to Mr. Williamson –

It is only reasonable that Interest should be considered due upon the purchase money from the 12th May, when the Estate will be regarded as <virtually>, even if to all intents & purposes practically given up – All rents, <providing> of course for the usual <1/2> years <arrears> allowed to the Farmers by the Custom of the County, will be due to me from that time –

It may perhaps be satisfactory for Mr. Bird to see this letter –

I <remove> on Saturday to No. 108 Pall Mall which I have taken until the end of July. Parliament is not expected to adjourn until the 10th of Jan[uar]y – I shall then be delighted to join you in the County, as <such> long <vacations> do not altogether agree with me – If possible, I shall pass a fortnight in Northumberland at that time –

As soon as you are able to make up your mind to <acquiesce> in the Draft remaining in its present form, I shall be very glad to hear from you, as the more delay occurs at present, the less likelihood there is that all the formalities of the <Sale> can be complied with before the 1st of May – If you do not continue to retain your objection to its being made out in my name, I do not think that anything would be gained by making any difficulties in agreeing to the other clauses –

With best love to my Father & Sisters

I am, my dear Mother, Your aff[ectiona]te Son

TW Beaumont

25 Oct 1820 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Diana Beaumont

[Note: This appears to be the outer and therefore final leaf of a letter with prior page or pages missing. The letter was franked in Cambridge. The cover of the letter is annotated (not in TWB's hand) 'Octr. - 25th – 1820 / T.W. Beaumont / Bywell Clause / Mr. Williamson opin[i]o[n].']

Hodson was to meet Fenwick last week for the purpose of signing the Deeds-

I have introduced Edward to his principal Tutors at St. Johns, we dined yesterday with Mr. <Calvert>, who now holds in <Coll.> the situation formerly held by Dr. <Hood>, which he resigned on becoming Master – I then had a good deal of conversation with his Tutor Mr. <Jephson>, who is disposed to take great pains with him & pay great attention to his studies & conduct. Ed. has <assumed> his cap & gown

& seems much pleased with what he has seen, & promises to exert himself, of which I <trust> he sees the importance –

I am going instantly to return to London, which I do not expect to leave before Xmas –

The Trial will be concluded this week, as <Denman> began to sum up yesterday

I am anxious to hear <from> my Father in <case after <.... T.... answer - I fear these accumulated annoyances must occasion considerable <uneasiness>, but I hope you will not think <more> of them than they deserve & require – on my account you need give yourself no concern, for in whatever <state> I may at any time <p....> your affairs, I shall <.een> to for a moment otherwise then contracted with <..... f.. to & be equally assured that you can at all times <.....> yourself to place your family in an honourable situation. I sincerely wish that I c[oul]d persuade you to relax your exertions on account of your health – In another <cover> I return you <Philpotts & Morrisons> letters –

Believe me My dear Mother, Your aff[ectiona]te Son
TW Beaumont.

[addressed to:] Mrs Beaumont, Bretton Hall, Wakefield

26 Oct 1825 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Diana Beaumont

Clarendon Hotel

Oct 26

My dear Mother,

I have received this morning the enclosed, and tho' the request is <very complicated> from Hexham, I do not see anything objectionable in it. The consideration of promoting idleness I should not think worthy of attention, for it is always better that an Open & ostensible mode of employing idle & leisure hours to <have> than the secret means which are always more prejudicial to the fortune & character of the Individual.

Other considerations of Policy may also induce you to grant the ground, as during <our> absence opportunities seldom occur of sustaining our <influence> in the Town – I think therefore that you should write & request me to write a civil letter to the Committee <complying> with the request & stating your pleasure in contributing to promote the amusement of the Gentlemen of Hexham, for whom you always entertain much regard

I remain, my dear Mother Your affectionate Son
TW Beaumont

[addressed to:] Mrs Beaumont Bretton Hall Wakefield

[cover annotated, in another hand:] Octr 26th 1825 / TW Beaumont Esqr/ Clarendon London/ News from Hexham'