

9 Oct 1783 Charles Staples to John Erasmus Blackett

John Erasmus Blackett Esq, Newcastle

Sir

Should you have any thoughts of sending Sir Tho[mas] Blacketts Lead to London I beg leave to offer you my service to dispose of the same on commission.

I flatter myself it will be in my Power to render you such account of sales as will fully convince both you & Sir Thomas that it will be Greatly to his Intrest to dispose of his Lead in this manner in preference to selling it at Newcastle to the Agents of Lancaster Trueman & Preston. I apprehend the only objection either you or Sir Thomas can have to this mode of doing his business is the responsibility of the person to whom he consigns it On that Head I can fully satisfy you By giving you security to any amount you may think sufficient or by referring you to Houses of credit here. Mssrs Staples Baron Dimsdale & Sons & Co are my Bankers, indeed I am brother to the first Partner, who will satisfie you respecting me. It may not be amiss to inform you I shall have a person connected w[i]th me who is perfectly acquainted with the Lead trade him having been in it all his life & we have every conveniency to Land & ship Lead, the charges attending it will not be more than it costs the Houses here in the Lead Trade, & respecting the commisions I will do it on as reasonable Terms as possible to make it worth attending to Should you on making the necessary inquiries be inclinable to favour me with the selling Sir Thomas's Lead it may not be improper to mention to you that by having a stock here it will always be at a market and constantly going off for [if] it is not here [but] with you sold by Ten or Twenty Thousand Pigs at a time but goes off by 1,2 or 300 p[ie]ce[s] or more as orders come in except w[he]n a contract is made with the East India Company Then indeed they agreed for what they want for the Season in one Bargain this is necessary to convince you of the necessity of always having a supply here.

Your favoring me with a reply as convenients will oblige.

Sir your most Humble Ser[van]t

Chas Staples

Saint Mary Axe No. 41

P:S: By consigning all your Litharge to our House you will have the Market to yourself

London Oct 9th 83

[annotated in JEB's hand:] ans[wered] Nov 19 copy sent Sir Thomas Blackett 15th Oct 1783

21 Oct 1783 Charles Staples to John Erasmus Blackett

Sir,

Not having had the pleasure of receiving an ans[wer] to mine of the 9th Instant wherein I made you an offer to dispose of your Lead on comm[ission]; shou'd you be inclined to send it to this Market on Sir Tho[mas] Blackett's acc[ount]s, I can now only reiterate my former offer w[hi]ch I flatter myself will not be unworthy your notice, & shou'd you wish to make any enquiry respecting me I can refer you to most of the first Merchants and Bankers here to whom I am well known. I doubt not but in a little time you wou'd be sensible of the Advantage that wou'd accrue to Sir Thomas by this mode of doing business. There wou'd at first be some opposition made to it by the Lead Merch[an]ts that have got the lead into their own hands but that difficulty wou'd soon Overcome, Your great advantage to you wou'd be that by sending the Lead here as it is made it wou'd always be going off and you wou'd have no occasion to keep 10 or 20 Thousand Pigs on your Wharf (which I know is sometimes the case) waiting till the Agents with you have orders to buy. Keeping a large quantity by you on a falling Market is certainly a great Detriment and you must be very certain that had your Lead come to Market this Summer as it was made, and sold at a low Market Price it wou'd have saved Sir Thomas a considerable sum of money.

I had an offer made me from the West many Months since, but the Quantity of Lead they Proposed sending wou'd not make it an object worth my attention

I am Sir your most Humble Servant

Chas Staples

I shou'd wish if it is agreable to you that this Business be kept from the Agents to the Lead Merch[an]ts as much as possible.

I'm inclined to think I shall be connected at Xmas with the Head of a very Considerable House, who has Great intrest in this way besides the Gents mention'd in my Former Letter.

[annotated in JEB's hand:] ans[wered] 19th Nov

15 Nov 1783 Charles Staples to John Erasmus Blackett

John Erasmus Blackett, Newcastle

London Nov 15th 1783

Sir

I wrote you two letters but no ans[wer] have I rece[ive]d, I now take the liberty to trouble you with a third & shall be much obliged for your ans[wer] in the course of a few days for my future Government.

Shou'd it be a concern worth your notice, & shou'd money be required to be advanced either now, or sometime hence I apprehend I can ans[wer] your Demands to your intire satisfaction.

I am Sir your mo[st] Hum[ble] S[ervant]

Chas Staples

[annotated in JEB's hand:] ans[wered] 19th Nov

20 Nov 1783 W Smith to John Erasmus Blackett

John Blacket Esq

Gadlis 20 Nov 1783

Sir,

Your favor of 12th Sept[ember] is now before me, my being from home for some time prevented my acknowliding it sooner.

I am much obliged to you for the information respecting the Prices of Lead at your Market & it will give me great pleasure to be honor'd with your Correspondence on that subject, as I think with you, it may be of benefit to both concerns.

Since mine to Mr Hunter of 24th Aug[ust] last considerable quant[itie}s of Lead has been sold by the different Smelters @ £16.15.- per ton, which seems now to be the standing Price as the Merchants don't offer less, nor attempt to beat it lower.

The Stocks of Lead with us at present are very small, the large Sales having taken off all the Old, & the greatest part of the New Lead that was on hand. - At the above price a proportion of Slag Lead is taken in the Quantity sold.

I am Sir with the greatest respect Your H[um]ble Serv[ant]

W. Smith

20c of 120lb &c

16 Jul 1792 Mark Skelton to John Erasmus Blackett

Birthwait Wakef[iel]d July 16 1792

Sir

Mr Bosville's arrived at Bretton yesterday afternoon & the will was read, Mr Beaumont has Bretton, Hexham & the Lead Mines &c, Mr Bosville Gunnerton etc, I will write to you fully in a few Days & get a Copy of the Will made out.

I am Sir yr. very Obt. Servt.

M. Skelton

Mr Blackett

16 Jul 1792 Mark Skelton to John Erasmus Blackett

[Note: no date given but letter from Blackett to Skelton dated 21 July 1792 (NRO 672/E/1E/5) refers to 'letters of the 16th inst, one inclosing an extract from the ... will']

Sir

Herewith I send you an Extract from Sir Thos. Blackett's Will so far as relates to the Real Estates & Mines etc by which you will know how to act for the present in conducting the Mines. The Lead got, Stock & Bal[an]ce of the Acct., up to the time of his death sh[oul]d be separated, & an inventory taken of the Implements of working etc vested in Trust in Mr Cockshutt for better securing the Payment of the Annuities.

I rem[ai]n Sir yr. very Obt. Servt.

M. Skelton

PS The Stewards will be obliged to you for as large a Remittance & as soon as convenient can be made – There will be upwards of 20,000£ wanted betwixt & next Candlemas

Mr Blackett

3 Aug 1792 Mark Skelton to John Erasmus Blackett

Birthwait Hall Augst. 3rd 1792

Sir

I am favoured with yours including the Copy of Letter from Mr Lawson. It is a little extraordinary to me that Mr Wescomb sho[ul]d not know his Rights better before he made a formal Claim as it appears from an Abstract of the Title to the Est[ate]s of the late Sir Wm Blackett that they were limited by his Will to divers Persons in Tail Male - consequently Sir Thos. Blackett hav[ing] levied Fines & suffered recoveries which I doubt not were regularly done – (pursuant to the Deeds to lead the Uses & make Tenants to the Precipes which I found, but not the Exemplifications) has barred the Rem[ainde]r to the Right Heirs of the will In Fee, & thereby became himself intitled to an Est[ate] in Fee - The Ans[we]r you gave to Mr Lawson & directions to Mr Bell are perfectly right & I have no doubt but you will take Care that every necessary step is taken to defend Mr Beaumont against this claim which if persisted in they must take the Burden of making out themselves as they cannot reasonably expect my assistance or – Information on that head from Mr Beaumont or his agents – I have sent a Copy of the Letter to Mr B. in London & if anything occurs in this or other Bus[ines]s you will please to inform me in his absence –

The <names> of the Gent[lem]en you have ment[ione]d for <Rings> shall be put upon the List.

I rem[ai]n Sir yr. very Obt. Servt.

M. Skelton

Mr Blackett

21 Mar 1793 Mark Skelton to John Erasmus Blackett

London March 21 1793

Dear Sir

Mr Beaumont being particularly engaged desires me to ansr. your Favor of the 12th Inst. which he recd. only yesterday. His Bankers have advised of the rect. of the Sums you mention but he observes that there is not by 13 or 14,000£ sufficient to make the next Lead pay withal which he understood was to be made the latter end of next Month & the last Bills sent are not due till May. He desires you will inform him by return of post when the rem[ainde]r of the Money will be remitted, which he hopes is to be in such Drafts as not to subject him to the Payment of a Discount. As the Turnpike Road to which Mr Beaumont subscribed will not be so beneficial to his Estate as originally it would have been youl please to withdraw 200£ from his subscription or the whole if you do not think as I now do that he may as well have a small Share in it to give him some Command at Meetings on any future occurrences – The post waiting, Mr B desires to join in Respects with Dr Sir yr. Servt.

M Skelton

25 Apr 1793 Mark Skelton to John Erasmus Blackett

London Apr 25th 1793

Dr Sir

Mr Beaumont desires me to inform you that part of the Cash will be sent down by this Nights Mail. Mr Beaumont sets off tomorrow with more so the rest will come by Tomorrow's mail, so that the whole may be expected to arrive next Sunday.

I hope you have got better of your cold & am Dr. Sir Yrs. Sinc.y

M Skelton

There will be 15,000£ in Cash

£15,000 – paid to Smith & Co

£15,000 – Mr Beaumont is bringing down

PS and the remaining £15,000 will be paid on the 15th May, as was mentioned: to Messrs Hammersley's

17 Jul 1793 Mark Skelton to John Erasmus Blackett

Birthwait Hall July 17th 1793

Dear Sir

I am favoured with yours of the 12th & apprehend that the account which you intend to send will answer our present purpose. The Language of the letter inclosed in yours is that of Trade in General I believe, & we must submit to the effect – I understand Silver is lower now than the price Mr Beaumonts was sold for & in respect

to Lead you are the best judge whether it will be right to sell to Messrs Walker upon the credit they wish for – I am sorry to hear your indisposition continues, I shall hope to find you better the beginning of next month when I intend to have the pleasure of being at Newcastle.

I shall be obliged by your letting me have the acct. before then & am

Dr. Sir Yr. most Obt. Serv.

M Skelton

Mr Blackett

11 May 1797 Middleton Hewitson to John Erasmus Blackett

Newcastle May 11th 1797

Dear Sir,

I have a letter from Messrs Lancaster & Co desiring me to buy for them - 100 casks Litharge; At your convenience - I will thank you to say - if you can supply this quantity and the price.

Have this day drawn the Ballance of the last 5,000 ps Lead and am oblig'd by the extra time allow'd in the Payment.

I am Dear Sir Yours most respectfully

Middleton Hewitson

19 Jun 1797 W Smith to John Erasmus Blackett

Gladllys, near Holywell Flints[hire] 19th June 1797

John Erasmus Blacket Esq.

Sir,

By a Letter from my Brother Thomas I understand you are disposed to sell me 100 Tons of Litharge deliverable at your Works at Blaydon 20C[wt] of 112lb pr C at £16 per ton provided it is not for the London Merchants.

I have consulted my friends, who say the price is too high to answer their purpose, therefore must decline it for the present.

The Lead Trade is exceeding dull here except what little has been done in the Litharge, which was sold at £16 to £16.5 per ton 120lb pr 20C per ton on Board. The Stocks of Lead are very considerable & increasing daily. £16 per ton may be called the Nominal Price.

I am Sir, your most Humble Servant

W Smith

John Erasmus Blacket Esq. at T.R.Beaumont Esqs office, west Gate St, Newcastle

27 Jul 1797 Mander & Bacon to John Erasmus Blackett

Mr Blackett W Hampton 27th July 1797

Sir,

Your address has been given us as preparer of Lytharge. that article is now becoming of considerable consumption among the potters of this county. We shall be glad of samples in a letter with your lowest Terms return of post we are known by correspondence to Messrs Hind & Walker & Mr Jos. Dunn of your place - am waiting your reply - remain Sir,

Yo[urs] Mander & Bacon

If under 1oz & marked on samples postage will be only double

Mr Blackett, Colonel Beaumont's Lead Works, Newcastle upon Tyne

14 Jul 1798 Christopher Blackett to John Erasmus Blackett

[Note: includes letter from Geo Burnett on reverse dated 15 July]

Newcastle 14 July 1798

Dear Sir

Mr Preston accepts your offer of 500 of WBLEad half Refined and half Common at £14.10 - pay in 6Ms. and I am much surprized that I have not had an Ansr. from Mr Locke to day, but I make no doubt of hearing from him to Morrow - the delay I hope will not be inconvenient or disagreeable to You -

If my Friends should wish to take an extra qty of Slag, perhaps you will have no objection to letting them have 1 or 200p[iecs]s?

Mr Walton has sold Mr Fishwick 6 or 700 of Refined at £14.10. - 6/ms.

I have inclosed five Bills at a month in payment of the Balance due, being £2637.13.1- and am with best Respects to Mrs. Collingwood

Dear Sir Yr much obliged and obed Sert.

Chrisr Blackett

JE Blackett Esq.

15 Jul 1798 George Burnett to John Erasmus Blackett

[Note: on reverse of letter of 14 July 1798. Burnett was evidently C Blackett's clerk]

Sunday 15 Noon

Sir

Mr Blakett ordered me to keep this Letter open in hopes of receiving a Letter of this Days post from Mr Locke.

I have just reced one & Mssrs Locke & Co agree to accept your Offer of 500 ps Lead 1/2 Ref & 1/2 Common @£14.10.0 payable in 6Months.

Mr Blakett will write you more particularly in apost or two, in the interim if you will have the Goodness to forward the Tickets you will oblige him

I am Sir Yr very obedt Servt
for Mr Chris Blakett
Geo Burnett

28 Dec 1798 Christopher Blakett to John Erasmus Blakett

Dear Sir

I have by this day's Post received a Letter from Messrs. Preston & Sons, directing me to apply to you for 5000 p[ie]ce[s] of Lead and expressing a Hope that you will not reject their application which will put them on a footing with the other Houses who have made similar purchases.

I wo[ul]d have waited upon you on this Business had I not been apprehensive that the Hour might be inconvenient to you, but will call upon you at the Office to morrow morning.

I am Dr Sir Yr much obligd hble Sev.

28 Dec. 98
Mosley Street 3 oClock

Chrisr. Blakett

[annotated in JEB's hand:] sold 5000 p Lead <1/4 H> P £17 p F[other] 6 Mon
Credit

27 Apr 1799 W Treston to John Erasmus Blakett

London 27 April 1799

My Dear Sir

I beg you will acquaint Mr J.E.B. that it was not before this day I could obtain any informations as to the situation & character of Mr Nicholas De Lacroix <...> wich to rely upon - I now have heard via the channel of persons well acquainted with him; that he is at the head of his department in the office, as Comptroller of the cash, to which respectable situation he has progressively advanced during a long service of nearly forty years - He is represented to me, as a Gentleman of known honour & integrity, & as his appointment is very lucrative he is generally reputed to be worth some considerable property, tho he has ample occasion for it, in providing for a numerous

family. His residence is at a village in the environs of London, where I understand he moves in a genteel & respectable society. (This is his general character in the work & if Mr JEB wishes any further inquiry as to any particular point, I will with pleasure do my best to procure him the necessary information - As I undertook this business I have taken the liability of addressing you in my own name judging it to be less formal, hoping it will not be less satisfactory - Requesting my kindest remembrance to Mrs <& Miss> B[lackett] and all your Family

I remain my Dear Sir, Your very much oblig'd & sincere Friend

W Treston

P.S. Your letters of the 20,22 & 24 inst were rece[ive]d in due course - the invoices shall be examined the earliest opportunity & your acc[oun]t be credited accordingly.

29 Jan 1802 Lancelot Allgood to John Erasmus Blackett

I write to give you the earliest Intimation of my having accepted an appointment so much more advantagious than what I hold under Col. Beaumont that I cod. not consistent with my own Interest refuse it and to say that on Monday the first February I shall transmit to Newhouse such Documents belonging to the Col. as are in my Possession, the urgency of my Presence at my new avocation does not allow me to continue it longer in Weardale and therefore you will be pleased to give such Directions as you may think expedient.

I am Sir with Respect Your Obedt. Servt.

Lanct Allgood

Durham Jany 29. 1802.

20 Sep 1802 Lord Mulgrave to Thomas Richard Beaumont

[Note: see letter from Allgood of same date]

My dear Sir,

I have communicated the contents of your Letter to Mr. Allgood to which he has returned a written Statement of the Transactions at the time of his quitting your employment which I enclose. He is willing to attend you immediately to explain anything you may require in the Confidence that he can do so, to your Satisfaction and his own Credit. He assures me that he has not any Paper or Plans whatever relating to the Concerns in which he was employed by you the Pay day at my Works is on Monday the 4th of October he can set of on the day following and wait upon you if you wish it.

Lady Mulgrave begs to unite her best Compt. with mine to Mrs Beaumont and yourself

I have the Honour to be My Dear Sir with great regard

Your most Obedient and very faithful Servant

(sign'd) Mulgrave

Copy

20 Sep 1802 Lancelot Allgood to Thomas Richard Beaumont

[Note: see covering letter from Lord Mulgrave of same date]

Sandsend September 20th 1802

In or about the year 1776 - I became concerned for the late Sir Walter Blackett then the owner of the Weardale Lead mines which now belong Colonel Beaumont as second Agent in his Lead mines in Weardale.

At that time Mr Maughan was the principal agent, after I had been concerned for about five Years Mr Maugham died and Mr Emerson succeeded him in the appointment and continued it until the Year 1801 when Mr Emerson died -- a short time before his death Mr. Beaumont by his application appointed his son to succeed him.

The Business of the principal Agent is to keep all the Accounts and papers and to receive and pay all the monies and at all times when he thought necessary to inspect the working of the Mines the Business of the second Agent is to view the Mines at particular times to measure of the work, to see that the Lead Ore is properly dressed and to assist in making up the Accounts, and from time to time when in the Discharge of his Duty to take Plans of the working of the Mines the better to direct the workmen - but the Books and Plans were always with the principal Agent, the Plans and Copies being delivered into his Office as soon as they were taken to enable him to judge of the working and to give directions in the proceedings, the principal Agent had two Clerks to enable him to carry on the Business and to keep the accounts etc. when I left the employment in Feby. 1802 I gave to Mr. Emerson an Account of the Quantity of Ore then delivered and every paper and thing that belonged to Colonel Beaumont with which Mr. Emerson seemed perfectly satisfied. On the death of Mr Emerson I thought having served faithfully for 26 Years that then I ought to have succeeded to the principal Agency, on finding that not to be the Case I was determined at a proper time to quit the employ, and so I told the Col's other Agents Mr. Bell of Hexham one of the Col's principal Agents at Hexham Mr Dickinson and Mr I Hunter and when I informed some of my Friends that I should like to undertake an agency and if I could not meet with one I would take a Farm being resolved to quit the Col's service for the reasons before given - One of my Friends whom I had named the matter to having made it known to a Gentleman who wrote Mr. Gregson of Durham that Lord Mulgrave wanted an Agent at his Allum Works Mr Gregson informed me and with him I applied to Lord Mulgrave stating that I could shortly enter to his Lordships service considering the information before alluded to sufficient, and knowing that the Col had other Agents who were well acquainted with the Conums and who would be moved forward into the one I held which was the Case -- On Lord Mulgrave acceding to my proposal I

wrote Mr. Blakett of Newcastle and soon after I waited upon him who was very friendly and seemed very well pleased that I had succeeded to a Situation so that I thought and do think I left the Col's employ in as open and Candid a manner as it was possible to do and as pleasantly with every agent the Colonel had

Although there is four Months Salary due I recd. all that was then in the course of payment the other I expect to receive about May 1803 - the usual time for paying the Salarys and Workmen for the preceeding Year.

Having delivered up every paper and Account I had to the Satisfaction of Col Beaumont's agent and quitted the Service apparently with pleasure to all concerned I cannot conceive the Col has any Claim upon me as to assisting the Mine Agents to make up their Accounts which is all that can be wanted

(Signed) Lancelot Allgood

Copy