

*Letters transcribed from ZBL 226 comprise 3 sub-sections, 1, 2 and 5. They are presented here within each sub-section rather than in a single chronological sequence within the entire set. To ease identification the full piece reference is given as part of the header of each letter.*

**ZBL 226/1**

**ZBL 226/1 16 Apr 1781      Luke Noble to John Erasmus Blackett**

Bretton 16th April 1781

Sir

I received both your Letters and have one from Sir Thomas wherein he mentions having recd a Letter from you inclosing a Bill for £450. I shall send a Box of pine Apples to Ferrybridge on Thursday next to go by the Newcastle Coach so hope you will receive 'em on Friday Evening. they are but small as indeed they generally are at this Season of the year but you shall have the best. - I am glad to hear you will sell Lead at so good a price I wish you a Continuance of a great Demand. I am Sir, your most Obedt. Servant

Luke Noble

**ZBL 226/1 1 Nov 1783      John Erasmus Blackett to Bishop of Lincoln**

[Note: See a separate draft of this letter on the same date in ZBL 226/5]

Newcastle Nov 1 1783

My Lord,

I have the Honour of your letter of 27th inst [sic] & am sorry that I than [struck out: 'should'] has been any neglect in [struck out: 'remitting your Lordship'] making the usual remittance to Messrs Child for the half year Composition for the Tyth ore in Weardale due 14 Aug last from Sir T B to your Ldships. I have by this post remitted to Messr C a Bill for £157 10s being the Amt & I shall take care that it shall not be neglected for the future

I have the Honour to be My Lord yr most obed servt

JEB

**ZBL 226/1 24 Dec 1794      John Erasmus Blackett to Joseph Dickinson**

Newcastle 24 Dec 1794

Mr Joseph Dickinson

I have received a letter signed by upwards of 100 of the Miners of Coalcleugh & Allanheads & Allandale, complaining of the high price of Corn. I desire than you make it known to them that I am very sensible of the difficulties which they & their families are likely to labour under on that account if some Method is not taken to give them

relief, which it shall be my endeavour to do, & for that purpose I shall lay their Grievances before Colonel & Mrs Beaumont who I am confident will [be] compassionate [to] their case. But that no time may be lost in procuring for them a sufficient Supply of Rye at a more reasonable rate I have already contracted for a Quantity from the South which on its arrival shall be sent up to the Mines; I have likewise wrote to Hamburgh to purchase a larger quantity of Foreign Rye, but it is probable that may not arrive before the middle or end of February next. I have no doubt that Col & Mrs Beaumont will approve of these measures. It becomes very necessary that the Miners should be undeceived respecting the present scarcity & consequent high prices of Rye, and nor they have been led into by some evil disposed Persons). No ships with corn have during the course of this year been refused to enter & land their loadings at the Port of Newcastle. So far from being this case a number ships of this Port could not procure a loading of Corn at any rate owing to Prohibition which had taken place at Dantzick & other Ports in the East; The Great Importation of Rye at this Port in 1790 & 1791 reduced the Price so low as to discourage the growth of that article not only in this Country but in the Southern Counties, which instead of Growing Rye as formerly they now grow Turnips. The War in Poland has been a great impediment to the growth of Corn in that Country & the King of Prussia's Prohibition has put a total stop to the Exportation of all kinds of Grain from the Ports in his Dominions. These have been the sole Causes which occasions the present scarcity & high Price of Rye. The Complaint of the Miners respecting the Measure is [struck out: I believe] equally ill founded. The Winchester Bushel it is well known is the legal standard Measure, & what is termed the Hexham Bushall no long[er] in use is not so, but [struck out: it is normal for] the Farmers or other dealers in Corn regulate their price according to this Measure by which they sell. The Court Baron of the Manor of Hexham nor a corn jury appointed by that Court have no Power to regulate the price of Corn in that Market. In Case any Impositions have arose by the Dealers in Corn not giving the Miners the lawfull measure they are entitled to, that Matter shall be enquired into, & they shall be redressed: but The Rye is Purchased by the Winchester Bushel, & must be sold by the like Measure, & any Persons selling Corn within the Manor of Hexham by any other Measure [struck out: incurs a Penalty for so doing] are punishable for the same. On your receipt of the Rye I desire that it may be delivered out to the Workmen according to your Discretion in proportion to the number of their respective families taking care that they have the legal Measures and not imposed on by the Millers; I would recommend to them that they make use of a mixture of Potatoes with the Rye Flour agreeable to the enclosed Receipt, which makes wholesom good Bread. You will Communicate this to the agents at the other Mines as well as to the Workmen at Coalcleugh.

I am Sir Your Humble Servant  
John E Blakett

I engaged for a Quantity of Rye from the South before the receipt of the letter from the Workmen or any other Intimation.

[annotated on cover:]

David Renwick ) Allanheads

Thos. Broadwood )

Joseph Whitesmith A. Town

Jno. Liddell Coalcleugh

**ZBL 226/1 19 Oct 1796 Benjamin Paget to John Erasmus Blackett**

Sir

inclosed is a Lottery Ticket and two Quarters the Ticket £11..13..0 the Two quarters £6..2..0 total £17..15..0 which you have my best wishes may prove successful; the Revd. Mr. Blacket has written to me and informed me of your late ill state of Health of which I hope you are perfectly recovered; we have waited on Col. Beaumont who behaved with the greatest Politeness and Civility promising to give a Bill of ours to Mr. Beaumont & to deal with us, for your kindness in which Business we beg to return our due Acknowledgements. Mr. <Lyon> desires to add his Respects to mine.

Your most Obedt. Servt.

Benj Paget

<France/Shonce> Oct 19th 1796

**ZBL 226/1 1 Dec 1796 Messrs Surtees Burdon to Thomas Richard Beaumont**

Newcastle Dec 1 1796

Sir

We enclose your Accounts.

The balance of the General Act. giving you Credit for bills not due till March is 4480..10..2 in your Favour. The balance of Cash is however 21,000 against you.

We are, with respect,

Sir your obed Ser

Surtees Burdon Co

Col Beaumont Bretton Wakefield

**ZBL 226/1 2 Sep 1797 Jonathan Shield to John Bell**

Sir

(Sep. 2 1797)

I deem it is a duty incumbent upon me to advise you of those litigious individuals who Opposed the late Assessm[en]t for the Relief of the Poor of the Parish of Allendale, and as it did sufficiently appear, that a great deal of their Venom was spit at Mr. Beaumont; notwithstanding the dayly advantages that accrued to them, in

consequence of their Tenants having dayly employment under the Lord of the Mannor as aforesaid, I must leave it to your Judgement whether it does not interfere with Justice and the Interest of Mr. Beaumont; to harbour such Vipours under him as he has it in his power to diminish the Value of their Estates 1/3 at least, by discharging them from his Works

(Principals).	(Tenants) to Robert Hornsby
Edward Robson	William Armstrong, John Smith
Robert Hornsby	Robert Middleton, Thomas Dent, John Gills,
John Coats.	William Ridley Jun. John Hutchinson, Thomas Walton, Jacob Robinson, John Pearson, Wilson Glensese, John Wallace

N.B. I Expect the Rate to be finished at a Vestry to be Held on on friday at two O'clock

I am Yours Respectfully

Jona. Shield &C

Mr John Bell, Hexham Abbey

**ZBL 226/1 29 Sep 1798      John Grey to John Erasmus Blackett**

Sir,

Enclosed you have an Account of the Workings & leading [missing word] Grand Lease & <...> to July 5th last, as likewise a description of [missing word] Seams of coal in the New Winning & a Report thereon, will here [missing] all times to give you any further information necessary & remain, Sir

your obd servt John [obscured, presume "Grey"]

Sh[iel]df[iel]d Newcastle Sep 29 1798

**ZBL 226/1 20 Mar 1799      Anthony Easterby to John Erasmus Blackett**

Mr Easterby, requests to know the lowest price Mr. Blackett wou'd charge for 500 or 600 Pieces of Common Lead for Exportation.

If Mr Blackett shou'd have none for sale, Mr E wou'd consider himself highly obliged in being informed, on what terms Mr. Blackett has sold similar quantities, & whether it would be agreable to him, to make an offer which Mr E may have an option in, for the delivery of 500 pieces in a Month or Six Weeks.      [The] Side 20th Mar. 1799

[Annotated at foot in JEBs hand:] Refused to sell or engage

**ZBL 226/1 19 Nov 1799      William Wilson to John Bell**

Dear Sir,

Wolsingham Nov: 19. 1799

A person of some respectability has lately informed me that he & some friends are ready to take a lead mine in the parish of Wolsingham upon the following terms which he desired me to mention & which I beg the favour of you to communicate to Col. Beaumont & Mr Alderman Blackett, if you think proper. If they can obtain a lease they will agree to give Col. Beaumont 1/6 of the produce clear of every expense & pay the Rectors tythe besides which would make the dues little short of 1/4. If these terms are complied with I have reason to suppose the many other adventurers would be ready to take other mines in the parish upon the same terms. This proposal seems to be extremely advantageous to Col. Beaumont & I have great reason to hope that the lead mines in this parish might hereafter raise him some thousands a year, without any risk or trouble whatsoever if so lett. Should Col. Beaumont give his consent the sooner it is signified the better because the sooner such adventurers will begin to pay him his dues, & the keener they will be of taking the mines on account of the high price of lead. I am told that in Derbyshire the Lord is well content with 1/4. Please therefore to inform me as soon as possible of the result of this very advantageous proposal & I shall refer Col. Beaumont to the persons who have applied to me. -- Soon after the last assizes at Durham, I desired Messrs. Parsons and Surtees to inform Mr Alderman Blackett that I begged leave to discontinue any further union with Col. B. in the business of Harehopegill lead mine; as I had reason to suppose that my opponents did not dispute my right to the tythe of lead ore upon the freehold, which would therefore make it unnecessary for me any longer to contend with them to prove the copy hold. I conceived I could very honourably withdraw myself, as I already fulfilled the voluntary promise I had before made of being at 1/4 of the expense of the action (the whole expence having been incurred at the last assizes, as if the action had been then finished.) and also as I had already by my personal exertions put Col. B. in possession of every information that might tend to bring the <Leasse> to a successful issue. But as I now find that our opponents do not admit my general right to the tythe of lead ore, I think it most advisable for me to renew my union with Col. B. I beg you will be so good as to signify such intention & that I am now willing to await the issue of the next assizes at Durham & to contribute 1/4 of the expense for that purpose as I have hitherto done. Col. B. and I being reunited, I beg leave to suggest some thing to you, in which you may be of much assistance to us. I have lately had strong reasons for supposing that Harehopegill lead mine has been formerly wrought under the Blackett family & am confirmed in that opinion by the evidence of an old man who says that 75 years ago, or thereabouts, he was employed by the agents of the Blackett family to carry lead ore from that mine to one of their smelt mills; & I am also confirmed in the same opinion by other evidence to the same purpose. I could wish therefore that you

yourself would have the goodness to make what search you may think necessary in Col. B' books to prove, whether this mine has been so wrought & at what time. As you may be considered as the confidential agent of Col. B. & have formerly been in Mr. Richmond's office, I know no person so proper as yourself; particularly as we have hitherto had so much <leger domain> work in the examination of account books. Please therefore to signify to Col. B. that I particularly request that you may be commissioned by him to make such search as you may think proper to ascertain whether Harehopegill has been ever wrought by any of the Blackett family or any preceding Moor masters? and I also request that Mr Allgood may be ordered to give you what assistance you may think necessary, & that he may receive a general order to act, & to give every aid I may at any time require in the business of Harehopegill as long as Col. B. and I remain united. With your assistance and that of Mr. Allgood in the search, I am confident we shall clearly prove that this mine was formerly wrought by the Blackett family. The sooner such search is made, the better for if a compromise is proposed, the more weight we can throw into Col. B.s scale, the better <terms> he may expect. Should you in consequence of such commission to search the books come into this neighbourhood, I shall be extremely happy to accommodate you in my house. Is it probable that Sir John Trevillian as the Executor of the late Sir Walter Blackett, may be possessed of any of the mining accounts? --

I am Dear Sir with best respects to Mrs Bell & family Your's very sincerely  
W. Wilson

**ZBL 226/1 1 Jun 1802      Bishop of Durham to Thomas Richard Beaumont**

[Note: Unsigned and undated, this letter is probably a copy sent, judging from the context of the collection and its contents, from the recipient to JEBlackett. Reference to Lot Ore indicates it was from the Bishop of Durham. Mention of Portman Square suggests the recipient was Col. Beaumont, and a letter from JEBlackett to Col Beaumont dated 19 June 1802 appears to refer to this matter. As JEB refers to "your letter of the 10th inst.. enclosing copy of the Bishops letter to you" we can be confident in dating this letter to early June 1802. "Mr Bernard of the Foundling" was Sir Thomas Bernard, treasurer of the Foundling Hospital, London, a friend of Bishop Shute Barrington of Durham.]

Dear Sir,

I presume Mr Blackett, has addressed himself to you, some time ago, respecting the Application wch Mr. Mowbray, by my direction made to him on the subject of the Weardale Mines; & of the compensation to me for the Lot Ore thereof. I have received satisfactory information that the annual payment of £925- bears no proportion whatsoever to the Value of the Bishop's Ninth? I have, however, deferred taking any Steps in the Business, till Mr. Blackett could inform you of the Ground in which I am advised the agreement must be set aside; & I am anxious that such measures may be





Letter a Copy of which I have sent you on the other half Sheet and the Original I have forwarded to Cl Beaumont by this Post

Should you write me from Harrogate I will thank you for an order for Fourteen Pieces of Lead for the Abbey as it will very soon be wanted for the Roof the Slater having finished the South side of the South Wing and is now begun to slate the North Side -- I am

Sir Your most obed. Servt  
Jno Bell.

**ZBL 226/2 14 Nov 1797     David Stephenson to John Erasmus Blackett**

Sir

On Saturday Evening Nov. 4th. I was informed by Miss Newton that her Father was so much recovered as to have a hope that he would be able in the Spring to attend to his professional engagements. As I purposed going to Hexham Abbey on the Sunday, she requested that I would see Mr. Newton before I went as he had expressed a strong desire to that purpose. I accordingly waited upon him when he mentioned to me his wish that I would undertake the Conducting the work he had contracted for Executing for Col. Beaumont till he had strength to do it himself.

To this proposal I consented provided it met with the wishes of Col. Beaumont. Miss Newton desired me to acquaint you with this. I also mentioned it to Mr. Bell when at the abbey. I was extremely sorry that I had it not in my power to see you on this business before you left Ncastle.

I remain with the greatest  
Respect your very observ.  
Dav. Stephenson.

Newcastle Nov. 14. 1797

**ZBL 226/2 8 Dec 1797     Dorothy Newton to John Erasmus Blackett**

[Note: Another copy of this letter is held within the same small collection (NRO ZBL 226/2) but not additionally included here]

As it is Coll. Beaumonts determination to take the Carpenters Work at Hexham Abbey out of my father William Newton's hands & as my Farher is willing to think that the work could be proceeded in as he has engaged, but as Coll. Beaumont will not come into any proposal he has made for carrying on & completing the said work, my Father in such case, can only give his approbation to Col. Beaumont's own plan of concluding it - under such certain circumstances as my Father has desired me to specify. -



Two skilful Men are by Col. Beaumonts desire to meet, survey & value the Carpenters work already done, one of these Men is to be sent by Col. Beaumont, the other by my Father, in addition to the work done, they must also value such materials as are provided by my Father, for carrying on the abovementioned work -- My Father states he was to be paid in advance certain sums of money for carrying on the work, a part of which he has received, -- the work already done, may, or may not, be equal to the money advanced but Mr. Ebdon & Mr. Stephenson will be judges of that -- My Father further adds he received the abovementioned sums of money, for a certainty, that he was to give in exchange Carpenters work and materials & such exchange he is willing and engaged to make, therefore whatever if any defect there is, he stands engaged to complete the sum received in work, abiding by the same Judges, to point out what part of the work he ought to finish. His bill for plans, Estimates, attendance & plastering materials, Mr. Stephenson will be provided with, he submits himself to the judgement of the abovementioned Architects most willingly, but to Col. Beaumonts determination with reluctance - ill health has long prevented his personal attendance at Hexham Abbey, as Architect he could not go on, but as Carpenter he always thought himself secure. ---

Dorothy Newton

Mr. David Stephenson Architect appointed by me will communicate this to Mr. Blackett for the inspection of Col. Beaumont to the contents of it I will abide.

William Newton

Newcastle Decr. 8th 1797

### **ZBL 226/5**

*This collection contains eight letters in total. Two are given here. The other six are copies of letters also found in other collections transcribed within the Dukesfield Documents archive.*

### **ZBL 226/5 1 Nov 1783      John Erasmus Blackett to Bishop of Lincoln**

[Note: Letter draft and recipient not stated; context indicates it was addressed to Revd Dr Thomas Thurlow who at this time was both the Bishop of Lincoln and the Rector of Stanhope and therefore entitled to the composition payment in lieu of tithe on lead ore, the value of which rarely induced the Rectors to give up the post when given another elsewhere. He became Bishop of Durham in 1787, a rich enough living in its own right, and was succeeded at Stanhope that year by Henry Hardinge.]

My Lord

Newcastle Nov. 1st 1783

I have the Honour of your letter of 27th inst. & am sorry that there has been any neglect in making the usual remittance to Messrs. Childs for our half year composition for the Tyth due in Weardale on 14th Aug. last from Sir TB to your LdShip.

I have by this post remitted to Messrs C a Bill for £157.10 – being the am[oun]t & I shall take care that it shall not be neglected for the future.

I have the Honour to be My Lord Yr most Obed Humb Servt  
JEB

**ZBL 226/5 24 Dec 1794     John Erasmus Blackett to Joseph Dickinson**

[Note: Grain shortages inflated the price of corn for miners and their families at Coalcleugh, Allenheads and Allendale causing significant disquiet. In this letter JEB outlines the measures he is taking to relieve the situation, describes the causes of the shortages and instructs his agent on how to deal with the situation locally.]

Mr Joseph Dickinson

Newcastle 24th Decr. 1794

I have received a letter signed by upwards of 100 of the Miners of Coalcleugh, Allanheads & Allendale, complaining of the high price of Corn. I desire that you will make it known to them that I am very sensible of the difficulties which they and their families are likely to labour under on that account if some method is not taken to give them relief which it shall be my endeavour to do, and for that purpose I shall lay their Grievance before Colonel & Mrs Beaumont who I am confident will be compassionate to their case. But that nothing may be lost in procuring for them a sufficient Supply of Rye at a more reasonable rate I have already contracted for a Quantity from the South, which on its arrival shall be sent up to the Mines. I have likewise wrote to Hamburgh to purchase a large quantity of Foreign Rye but it is probable that may not arrive before the middle or end of February next & I have no doubt that Col. & Mrs Beaumont will approve of the Measure. It becomes very necessary that the Miners should be undeceived respecting the present scarcity & consequent high price of Rye, an Error they have been led into by some ill disposed Persons. No Ships with Corn have during the course of this year been refused to enter & land their loadings at the Port of Newcastle. So far from this being the case a number of Ships of this Port could not procure a loading of Corn at any rate owing to a Prohibition which had taken place at Dantzick & at her Ports in the East; The Great Importation of Rye at this Port in 1790 & 1791 reduced the Price so low as to discourage the growth of that article not only in this Country but in the Southern Countries, where instead of Growing Rye as formerly they now grow Turnips. The War in Poland has been a great impediment to the growth of Corn in that Country & the King of Prussia's Prohibition has put a total stop to the Exportation of all kinds of Grain from their Ports in his Dominions. These have been the sole causes which occasions the present scarcity & high Price of Rye. The Complaint of the Miners respecting the Measure is greatly ill founded. The Winchester Bushel it is well known is the legal standard Measure, & what is termed the Hexham <Bushel> altho long in use is not so. But the Farmers or other dealers in Corn regulate their price according to the Measure by which they sell. The Court Baron of the Manor of Hexham nor a Corn jury appointed by that Court have no Power to regulate the price of Corn in

that Market. In Case any Impositions have arose by the Dealers in Corn not giving the Miners the lawful Measure they are intitled to, that matter shall be inquired into, & they shall be redressed: but The Rye is Purchased by the Winchester Bushel & must be sold by the like Measure, & any Persons selling Corn within the Manor of Hexham by any other Measure are punishable for the same.

On your receipt of the Rye I desire that it may be delivered out the Workmen according to your Discretion in proportion to the Numbers of their respective Families taking care that they have the legal Measure & are not imposed on by the Millers; I would recommend to them that they make use of a mixture of Potatoes with the Rye Flour agreeable to the enclosed Receipt, which makes wholesome good Bread. You will communicate this to the Agents at the other Mines as well as to the Workmen at Coalcleugh.

I am Sir Your Humbl. Servt.

John E Blackett

I engaged for a Quantity of Rye from the South before the receipt of the letter from the Workmen or any other Intimation.

[Annotated:] Copy of Letter to Jos. Dickinson Ld. Agent 24th Dec r. 1794