

24 Mar 1794 Joshua Straker to John Erasmus Blackett

Newcastle 24th March 1794

Sir

I am this day favoured with your letter and am glad to hear that you have received benefit from the country Air etc. I shall take care to have the Bills ready for payment about the time you mention and shall write to London respecting your Newspaper.

I saw Mr Hewitson To-day at 'change who tells me that he has Bought 2000 ps Lead of Mr Hopper for Lancaster & Co. half Refin'd & half Common at £15 p Fo[the]r and that Mr Fishwick has Bought 2000 ps Refin'd of the Baygill Co at £15 p Fo.r and that Mr Fishwick has Bought all Erringtons Lead but at what price I have not yet learn'd.

As those Sales have been made it will be a matter of consideration as to the Reduction of the Price of Lead for Exportation perhaps it might be adviseable to Reduce it 5/.p Fo.r but I shall not do anything in it untill I hear from you. I have had no applications for Lead since you went from home except Losh & Co who will want 230 ps Lead & 30 Casks of Litharge in weeks time. If you intend lowering the Price of Lead, please to say likewise if you lower the price of Litharge.

I am Sir your most Obed. Hble Servt.

Jos. Straker

John E Blackett Esqr.

[cover:] John E. Blackett Esq/ Capt. Collingwood's /Morpeth
[annotated in JEB's hand:] Jos. Straker /24th March 1794

5 Aug 1796 Joshua Straker to John Erasmus Blackett

Newcastle 5th Augt. 1796

Sir

Mr Wilson the Rector of Wolsingham is here and is very desirous of something being done respecting the Boundary of Harehope Gill Lead Mine and has employed Mr. Anthy. Surtees as his Attorney to go up with Mr. Heron who has agreed to go on the 22nd of this Month & they think it would be of great Service if you could make it convenient to go with them; Mr. Wilson says that he dined with the Bishop of Durham the other day and his Lordship promised to give every Assistance in his power to Ascertain the Boundary of the Copyhold & if it was necessary that Mr Pearson should attend for that purpose. Mr. Wilson afterwards mentioned this to Mr. Pearson who said that when he got his Lordships directions he would certainly attend to them. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Heron desire that you will be so good as to write to the Bishop of Durham to request that he will desire Mr. Pearson to attend and to give his Assistance in this business, & as soon as Mr. Heron is informed of your having written to the Bishop he will write to Mr. Pearson to inform him of the time that is fixed for the

Meeting; Mr. Wilson has got a Copy of the Surrender of the Copyhold part of Lord Burford's Estate and we had it compared with Mr. Bells Plan this morning and it perfectly corresponds as to the Boundary & will be of great service in ascertaining it.

The Inclosed letter from Mr. Bell I took the liberty of opening thinking it would contain something relating to the Office business; I have answered the first part of it, but could say nothing as to your Brother Sir Edwd. Blacketts coming into this Country.

I have not had a single order for Lead since you left home, the Stocks are increasing fast & I'm affraid that the Price will fall rapidly.

I am Sir Your most Obedt Hble Servt

Jos Straker

[cover:] John E. Blackett Esq/ Capt. Collingwood's /Morpeth
[annotated in JEB's hand:] Jos. Straker /5 Aug 1796

2 Sep 1797 Joshua Straker to John Erasmus Blackett

Newcastle 2nd Septem 1797

Sir

Mr. Fishwick called at our Office this Afternoon & said he was come to inform me that their London House would accept your Offer of the 10,000 Ps Lead & desired that I would give him a Tickett as he wished to Ship a part of it the ensuing week; I told him I could not give him a Tickett for that Quantity as I believed that you had come to a determination not to sell more than 5000 Ps to each House as you had made an Offer of of 5000 Ps to Mr. Hewitson the day before, on the same terms you had made to him, that your first intention was to Sell 40,000 Ps but when you recollected that there were Five Houses to have each a share instead of Four, you then came to a Resolution to Sell only 5000 Ps to each House. Mr. F. said they must leave the Matter entirely to you, that if you intended to Sell 40,000 Ps that would be 8,000Ps for each House & they would gladly take 16,000 Ps for their two Houses.

I gave him a Tickett for 5,000 Ps for their London House & the same for their Works & told him that if you thought proper to make them a larger Quantity that the Ticketts may be cancelled & others given, I hope that what I have done in this business may meet with your approbation & if its convenient I shall be glad to hear from you, but as you will be home in a short time, perhaps there is no necessity for giving a positive answer till you return.

I hope you got well to Musselburgh & found Mrs Collingwood the Young Ladies etc all well. - I am Sir. Your most Obed. Hble Servt.

Josa. Straker

John E Blackett. Esq

[cover:] John E Blackett Esq./ The Rev. Doctor Carlyle's/ Musselburgh/ near Edinburgh

[annotated in JEB's hand:] Jos. Straker/ 2nd Sept 1797

9 Sep 1797 Joshua Straker to John Erasmus Blackett

Newcastle 9th Septem. 1797

Sir

I wrote to you the 6 th inst. to which I beg leave to refer you, since that time Mr. C. Blackett called & informed me that his friends would accept of his Offer of 10,000 Ps Lead & 5,000 ps Slag instead of 1,000. Mr. Fishwick called him on Monday and told me they expected to have the 10,000 Ps Lead for their London house according to your Offer I told him I could say nothing to that, but when you came home he might talk to you on the subject. - Mr. Brandling still continues better & the Faculty say they hope he will be able to get home in the course of next week.

I am Sir Your most Obed. Hble Servt.

Josa. Straker

[cover:] John E Blackett Esq./ Old Gate/ Morpeth/ pr favour of Mr. Singleton

[annotated in JEB's hand:] Jos. Straker/ 9th Sept 1797

22 Nov 1797 Joshua Straker to John Erasmus Blackett

Newcastle. 22nd Novr 1797

Sir

I was favoured with your letter of 17th inst. and communicated to Mr. Stephenson what you mention respecting the Work at Hexham Abbey, he has since seen Mr. Newton who is agreeable to have the business settled in the manner that Col. & Mrs Beaumont wishes and has chosen Mr. Stephenson on his part. Mr. S. informs me that Mr Newton is perfectly well in his intellects & that he is fully satisfied as to the Authority he has given him, so that it will be totally unnecessary to appoint any person, by law, to Act for him at present. As soon as you return this business may be settled provided it may be convenient for Mr. Ebdon to attend, probably you may have an opportunity of fixing with Mr. Ebdon as you return home for Mr Stephenson thinks that the sooner it is settled the better.

I am Sir Your most Ob. & Hble Servt

Josa. Straker

[cover:] John E. Blackett Esq./ Green Dragon/ Harrogate/ Yorkshire

[annotated in JEB's hand:] Jos. Straker/ 22. Novm. 1797

15 Jun 1798 Joshua Straker to John Erasmus Blackett

Rothbury 15th June 1798

Sir

I beg pardon for being so long in Writing to you, but I deferred it hoping to give you a favourable account of my health; I have drank the Goats Whey a Fortnight and tho' it agrees with me very well I get strength very slowly; indeed the Weather has been so changable that it has been very trying for Weak Constitutions, my Cough and Expectoration is very little lessened. I am very much obliged to Mr. C. Blackett for his letter to Coll. Farquhar and for his enquiry after my health since; I shall be much obliged (the first time you see him) if you will be so good as to return him my warmest Acknowledgements for his kindness & attention towards me.

The Coll. & his Brother have behaved to me with the greatest Civility & kindness. I have dined twice with them & frequently go and play a Game at Cards in the evening. I am sorry to hear, by Thos. Crawhall's letters, that you have no Demand for Lead, but from the present situation of Affairs few Orders can be expected. Ireland seems in a dismal situation, & as to the Distination of the Toulon Fleet it is still all conjecture, if Lord St. Vincent should fall in with them I have no doubt but he will give a good account of them. I shall be very glad have a few lines from you if you can find it convenient.

I hope yourself Mrs. Collingwood & the two young Ladies are well & I am Sir.
Your most Obedt. Hble Servant

Josa. Straker

J.E. Blackett Esq.

[cover:] John E. Blackett Esq./ Newcastle

[annotated in JEB's hand:] Jos. Straker /15th June 1798

4 Jul 1798 Joshua Straker to John Erasmus Blackett

Rothbury 4th July 1798

Sir

I was favoured with your kind Letter of 20th Ult. for which I am much obliged. I have continued the Goats Whey since I wrote you and I think myself a little stronger but my Strength increases so slowly that I'm affraid it will take some time to restore me to my usual Strength but as you have been so kind as to say that I may stay some time longer I mean to give this place a full trial provided my presence is not wanted at Newcastle. Coll. & Mrs Beaumont I suppose will be in this Country before now I wonder much you did not hear from them some time ago, but he is certainly very negligent in answering his letters.

Most of the Company that will be here this Season are now come. Doctor Fenwick of Morpeth is here. I have been frequently playing a Game at Whist with him in the evenings, he asked very kindly after you & Mrs Collingwood; Mrs Charlton of Heslside came a day or two ago & Mrs & Miss Colt arrived last night.

I am sorry the Lead Trade goes so poorly on I am affraid this will be one of the worst Years for it that you have seen for a long time. I hope that yourself Mrs Collingwood & the Young Ladies are all well.

I am Sir Your most Obed. Hble Servt.

Josa Straker

P.S. I shall be much obliged by a few lines when convenient.

[on cover, possibly in a different hand to Straker's, on either side of the address block:]
I am very anxious to hear how you got home. I fear you would be much wet, wch would increase your cold, and you would make me much easier to have Thomas with you. Write a line to say how you are and that you will return soon

John E. Blackett Esq./ Capt. Collingwoods./ Morpeth.

Pr Favor of Mr. Harrison

[annotated in JEB's hand:] Jos. Straker /4 July 1798

[each of the following names in a list JEB's hand is accompanied by a tick;]

J Straker

Mrs <Stand>

Doctr. Carlyle

Lord Adam Gordon

Col. Beaumont

Gilbert Meason [presumably the Scottish lead proprietor of that name]

Jo. Hunter

T Crawhall

Capt Collingwood