

27 Jan 1807 Charles Grey to Thomas Richard Beaumont

[Note: GRE/B6/13/3. The then Lord Howick was Charles Grey, 1764-1845, and Foreign Secretary at the time of writing]

Private.

Downing St. Jany. 27th. 1807

Dear Sir,

I yesterday recd. a letter from the Lord Advocate of Scotland to whom I had communicated the letter written by the Clerk of the Peace of Northumberland in consequence of the resolutions of the Magistrates at the Quarter Sessions stating that he would take the inconvenience complained of into immediate consideration, and concert the measures necessary for remedying it, with the Attorney and Solicitor Genl. This answer I have communicated to Mr. Davidson.

I am Dear Sir your very obedt. Humble servt
Howick

T.R.Beaumont Esq.

15 Jan 1824 Charles Grey to Robert Wilson

[Note: GRE/B60/4/136. Sir Robert Wilson (1777-1849) was MP for Southwark between 1818-31 and a friend of Grey. He was described by Grey as 'one of the ablest men in Europe', an opinion not widely shared. Grey spent the winter at Devonport between 1823-6 for the sake of his wife's health. 'Radical Jack' Lambton of County Durham was Grey's son-in-law. The background to the Lambton affair referred to in this letter was as follows 'On 7 Jan. 1824 Lambton, who had been 'bilious and nervous' lately, got into a furious row with one Thomas Pemberton, a 'blackguard' under prosecution for excise fraud, at a meeting of the River Wear commissioners. His friends talked him out of the folly of fighting a duel with such a reprobate.' D.R.Fisher, 'LAMBTON, John George (1792-1840)', in *The History of Parliament: the House of Commons 1820-1832*, ed. D.R. Fisher, 2009]

Gov. House/ Devonport. Jan 19 1824

My Dear Wilson

I received your letter this morning and return the enclosed copy of your letter to Lambton. I had already given him exactly the same opinion on both points, & it is extremely gratifying to me to find that we so completely agree. I have only in addition expressed my regret that we should have suffered <myself> to be drawn into a personal altercation with such a fellow.

I have an affair of the same kind on my hands with that villain & Madman Beaumont for he is both. I thought I should have heard no more of him after his sending me, previously to his going abroad, a written apology for the most outrageous

and unjustifiable conduct of which one Man was ever guilty to another. That I have received this morning a letter from him, which again shows a determination to bring matters to a hostile <issue>, & have sent my answer to Sr. W. Gordon into whose hand I had before put myself. The story is too long to tell, but Gordon is in possession of the whole correspondence, & of everything there has passed, & I have directed him to make you acquainted with it. I certainly feel that he has no claim to be treated as a gentleman, but as his family think proper to deny his insanity, and he is still received in Society, I don't like to take that ground. I have, however, left it entirely to Gordon to act for me as he thinks best, and if he consults you I am sure you will <relate> your regard for my <integrity>, to outweigh that of my honour. The thing I am most anxious to prevent is any alarm to Lady Grey.

I feel with you fully confident that Lambton's affair will have no further consequence, the good one may follow from it if it teaches him to exert a little more command over himself on similar occasions. I see the correspondence has appeared in the Papers, so I suppose Capt Cochrane & Sir H. Williamson must have considered Mr. Pemberton's refusal of the <satisfaction> which we had demanded as final. I have not yet heard from Lambton since the day before yesterday, when I received the first communication of this unpleasant affair, & I shall be very curious to hear what occurred to occasion the Publication.

I think Lady Grey rather better. She desires to be most <readily> remembered to you
<ever> yours/ Grey

19 Jan 1824 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Charles Grey

[Note: GRE/B60/4/136A. Copy of original letter handed by Grey to Willoughby Gordon to handle on his behalf]

Copy

Warren's Hotel Jan 19: 1824

My Lord

Having heard that yr Ldship has asserted that I have been mad or and words to that effect, I am sure that yr Ldship cannot refuse to inform me, if you ever made use of such an expression.

I have the honor to remain my Lord

Yr. Lordship's obdt. Serv

(signed) T.W.Beaumont

The Rt Honbl Earl Grey

19 Jan 1824 Charles Grey to Thomas Wentworth Beaumont

[Note: GRE/B60/4/136A. Copy of Grey's reply to Beaumont, followed by Willoughby Gordon's longer covering letter to Beaumont]

Gov. House Devonport. Jan 19 1824

Sir

In answer to your letter which I have just received, I have only to acknowledge having stated, & particularly to your Brother, that I considered your having been under a mental delusion, as the only excuse that could be made for your conduct. -

I am Sir Yr obd Serv.

(signed). Grey

T.W.Beaumont Esq.

P.S. I must decline all further correspondence, except such as may pass through Sir Willoby Gordon, whom I have requested to deliver this letter.

Lord Grey's letter was left at Warren's Hotel by Sir W. Gordon enclosed in the following, addressed by him to Mr. Beaumont -

Copy

Horse Guards. Jan 21. 1824

Sir,

The enclosed letter addressed to you by the Earl Grey, having been this day received by me, I lose no time in transmitting it to you, & his Lordship having also sent to me a copy of it, I think it my duty to acquaint you, that I have been informed of all the circumstances of your conduct, & I have seen all the correspondence which has passed between yourself and those respectable Individuals, my near connections whom you have insulted; & that it is quite impossible that such proceedings on your part should not have produced in my mind, the very same conviction which Lord Grey has pronounced, of your having been under a mental delusion, as the only excuse that could be made for your 'conduct'.

I think it right also to inform you that it was this conviction alone which prevented the respectable persons, whom you have insulted, from adopting the steps which might otherwise have suggested themselves, & under all these circumstances, I have considered it my bounden duty, not only to the Individuals themselves, but to the interests of society at large, now to interpose most decidedly against such course of action as would be inconsistent with the previous determination adopted, upon full consideration of your whole conduct upon this occasion.

I have the honor to be Sir Yr. obedt. Serv.

(signed). W. Gordon

T.W.Beaumont Esq,

24 Jan 1824 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Willoughby Gordon

[Note: GRE/B60/4/136B. Copy found amongst related correspondence dated 19-21 Jan.]

Copy

Doncaster January 24th 1824

Sir Willoughby Gordon

I received your letter with Earl Grey's enclosed, last night, & was far from having any desire of taking the notice of it, that in the conclusion of your's you appear to apprehend - I shall only observe by the way, that the idea of my having been under a mental delusion did not at first suggest itself to Lord Grey, for his conduct was entirely at variance with such an idea.

It is my intention upon my return to London to take measures for vindicating my character, & confuting the many falsehoods which have been uttered concerning my conduct in this affair.

I have the honor to be Sir Yr obedt Servant
(signed). T W Beaumont

Sir W Gordon Bart.

28 Jan 1824 Charles Grey to Robert Wilson

[Note: GRE/B60/4/139. The copy correspondence referred to is evidently the sequence of letters between Grey, Beaumont and Gordon dated between 19th and 24th January 1824.]

Gov. House Jan 28 1824

Dear Wilson

Many many thanks for your letter and for the kind and friendly expressions it contains.

I suppose Gordon expected you to call on him, or he might perhaps have private reasons for not <sending>. But as the matter seems now at rest for the present, it is needless to say more about it.

I send enclosed a copy of the latter correspondence which produced my letter to you; with one of a letter from Gordon to Beaumont with which he accompanied mine, with Beaumont's answer. Pray give the latter to Lambton, as he has seen every thing else, & will be anxious to see the conclusion, when he arrives in town on Saturday. - He will give you an account of all that proceeded which is much too long to be written.

I am sincerely grieved to hear that any thing has occurred to give you so much <anxiety> that you express in your last letter. Whatever it may be, I trust it has passed away and left no more regret behind it. Be assured you have not met a friend who feels

a <more active> interest about all that concerns you, than myself, or who would do more to avert any evil with which you may be occasioned.

I have not time for another word - <> Your's
Grey.

30 Nov 1826 Thomas Scott

[Note: GRE/D1/3. Thomas Hobbes Scott (1783-1860) was Anglican archdeacon in Sydney between 1824 and 1829. He returned to England having resigned in some frustration at not having been able to impose Anglican control over education in New South Wales, and spent the rest of his life as rector of Whitfield. Recipient unknown, but the letter is in the papers of General Charles Grey, amongst correspondence with his brother Frederick Grey in Therapia/Istanbul. Both were sons of Lord Grey, and brothers of the younger brother mentioned in the letter as having died.]

[annotated in a different hand:] Archdeacon Scott.

Sydney Nov 30 1826

My Dear Sir

It is with deep concern I have recd. some intelligence of a melancholy nature to Grey's family & perhaps you will have the goodness to break it to him in such a way as you may think proper. The following is an extract from the letter of my brother in law Mr. Ord dated July 1st from Northumberland.

'I staid at Howick missing the first week of the election and I went daily to Alnwick - after we came away Beaumont and Lambton got to some high words & B gave L the lie - a duel was the consequence, they exchanged shots & happily without injury when the seconds put an end to it but think of poor Lady Louisa hearing that lie given from the window where she sat & knowing what must be the result and being in suspense for 30 hours for they had a difficulty in meeting without the chance of interruption & at last effected it by going to Bamboro wh(ich) is in the Co(ounty) of Durham. Lambton showed great coolness & presence of mind for after B. had given him the lie he (Lambton) made a long speech from the hustings on other matters. Just at the conclusion of all poor Ld Grey was sent for to attend the dangerous illness of one of his son near Leeds, a fine lad of 17. He is since dead of a brain fever.'

This is all that is said on the subject - if Grey would like to write a ship sets sail in ten days & I am sure he may post the letter into the Governor's bag.

Your's very sincerely
T.H. Scott

P.S. Perhaps it may be some alleviation to him the following account of his brother L Howick 'He did very well in the hustings, was ready, manly, spirited & strait forward & he has gained great credit by it'

14 Jul 1832 Wladyslaw Zamoiski to Charles Grey

[Note: GRE/B60/13/1 translated from French. Year not given but the letter is found amongst other correspondence dating from 1832. Zamoiski was a Polish exile in London who championed the cause of Polish independence from Russia, a cause taken up by Thos Wentworth Beaumont (amongst others) to the extent that his youngest son, christened in 1836, had Zamoiski as a middle name. The uncle mentioned was Prince Czartobiski, President of the Polish National Government during the uprising against Russia in 1830]

14 July, 16 Wilton Street

My dear Lord Grey

Evidence of interest from your part in favour of Poland is truly of the greatest price in my eyes so that I cannot prevent myself from renewing the request to urge your presence at Stafford House tomorrow morning. Your appearance if only for a moment would be a great favour for which all those who support Poland will be very appreciative.

I could count in this number my uncle to whom I would be so proud to be able to announce it and I flatter myself that you would not be unaffected by the gratitude which he would feel.

Forgive me, for bothering you on this matter - and, pray, dear Lord Grey, see there a sign of my sincere respect.

L. Zamoiski

7 Nov 1832 Wladyslaw Zamoiski to Charles Grey

[Note: GRE/B60/13/2/1 translated from the very formal and impersonal diplomatic French]

London 7 November 1832

The Baron of <Suglend & Sywith> was saddened to return to the <Treforesie> without having the honour of paying his respects to My Lord Grey, when he learnt that the time of His Excellency's stay in the countryside was uncertain. Consequently the Baron of Suglend dares to hope that His Excellency would like to indicate to him a time which would be most convenient to him for this purpose.

He has the honour of repeating to My Lord Grey the assurance of his very high esteem.