

**12 Aug 1792 William Wentworth-Fitzwilliam to Thomas Richard Beaumont**

[Note: William Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, 4th Earl Fitzwilliam (1748-1833) was a leading British Whig statesman. In 1782 he inherited the estates of his uncle Charles Watson-Wentworth, 2nd Marquess of Rockingham, making him one of the richest people in Britain. He played a leading part in Whig politics until the 1820s. In his personal life he was a prominent member of the senior branch of the Yorkshire Wentworth clan to which TRB's father-in-law, Sir Thomas Wentworth Blackett, was related. Sir Thomas died on July 16 1792 and the distribution of memorial rings to important friends and family members of the deceased was a common practice at the time. In this case the giving of a ring, and its acceptance as acknowledged by this letter, was a significant symbolic gesture which the Beaumonts would have regarded as reinforcing their relationship to the Wentworths and thus their social status.]

Sir

I am exceedingly oblig'd to you for the ring you have sent me, which I shall wear as well in token of the regard I entertain'd for Sir Thomas Blackett on account of the general benevolence of his character, as in memory of our relationship, the continuance of which with his Representatives, I trust, you will permit the family of Wentworth to lay claim to \_

Lady Fitzwilliam begs you to present her compts to Mrs Beaumont, to which I desire to add mine: it will make us happy to hear that her health continues to improve

—

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servt.

Wentworth Fitzwilliam

Wentworth Aug: 12. 92

**4 Dec 1792 Walker & Co to Thomas Richard Beaumont**

[Note: Undated and unsigned, but appears to be the letter that JEB replied to on 15th December (NRO 672/E/1E/5) referring to 'your letter of 4th inst. with a Copy of yours to Mr Beaumont']

To Thomas Beaumont Esq.

Sir

Having good reason to suspect the impartiality of Mr Blackett in the distribution of the WB Lead, we beg leave to trouble you with a few remarks for your consideration, which we hope will convince you we do not deserve the treatment we have met with from Mr B., either as your Agent or as a private individual.

In the course of 7 Years we have taken WB Lead to the Amount of about £170,000.

If we had been put upon a footing with other buyers we would have taken three times the Quantity if we had been permitted so to do.

We have purchased of other people in the same time, to the Amount of £210,000, at & about N.Castle only.

In the Year 1791 we purchas'd Lead to the Amount of about £200,000. of various persons.

In that Year we could only obtain from Mr B. for the use of our Factory to the Amo[unt] of £4000; our London House indeed purchased to the Amount of about £17000 but this happen'd from other Houses having refused to purchase at the same price

We enlarged our Factory a Newcastle from time to time upon a certainty of having a full Supply of Lead from Mr B. and at first we were satisfied with the Quantity we obtained; but the Statement of what he has permitted us to have for the last six Years will shew that we are entirely excluded: viz in 1787 - 13640 pieces 1788 - 12740 do 1789 - 14594 do 1790 - 4580 pieces 1791 - 3200 do 1792 - 1400 do.

Mr B. has lately made a Sale of 16000 pieces, from a share of which we were totally excluded, and the reason assigned is: 'You would not have a Share of the last Sales.' Mr B., we believe, never did so by any house but ours.

Mr B. now refuses to let us have one single pig of Lead for our factory; nay, for 1000 ps of Lead we had in August last he charges us 7/6 pr fodder more than other people pay him, so that we are obliged to decline have any dealings with him for WB Lead.

Exclusive of Lead, our purchases of Litharge are very considerable.

Last Year we did more in the Lead Trade than any House in the World.

We were always punctual in our payments, particularly to Mr B.

We consider ourselves, both as to Fidelity, and General Characters as Tradesmen, superior to any of the Houses who have been favour'd in preference to ours.

By every friendly and honourable means, we have attempted to cultivate the good Opinion, and friendship of Mr B.; and we will acknowledge, in our Instance at least, that we evinced the most unbounded Opinion of his Friendship, and Integrity.

This Opinion leads us to suspect that he thinks he has good reasons for treating us as he does; but these reasons he cannot object to declare, and we call upon him to substantiate and facts against us that he may be acquainted with.

If he has Suspicions of us, in any point of View, we beg of him to declare them openly, and fully

**15 Mar 1793 Joseph Dickinson to Thomas Richard Beaumont**

Coalcleugh March 15th 1793

Sir

In my opinion a Division of the Commons in Hexhamshire and the Allandales, as it is only to be in part, can never injure the carriage of Ore and Lead from the Leadmines, as that part to be enclosed will be very improveable and enable the Carriers to keep a greater Stock of Galloways in a very few years, the remaining part by making it a Stinted Common, will give every Farmer a proportionable Share, so that a poor man that has not a sufficient quantity of Stock of his own will have the opportunity of enjoying his right, by letting his Stints, which is not the case at present, the Occupiers of the Land who are the best able to purchase Stock generally have a greater quantity of Stints upon the Common in the Summer Season, than they have any right to, and consequently injuring his poor Neighbour, who keeps a few carrier Gallows.

As to the making Waggon Ways from the Mines to the Lead Mills, I think can scarcely be practicable on account of the high Fells to go over; the cutting down Hills, together with the great expence of making Bridges over such a great number of deep hollow gills, and purchasing way leave through the enclosed Lands etc would create such a prodigious expence, (that even if a Waggon way can be made) I presume to say any advantage which could be gained by it would never be adequate to the great outlay.

I am, Sir Your most obedt h'ble Servt to Command  
Jo: Dickinson

**26 Mar 1793 Westgarth Forster to Thomas Richard Beaumont**

Allenheads March 26th 1793

Sir

I understand by Mr Alderman Blackett that you would like to have the Oppinion of your Agents how far the Division might effect you in the Allendales & Hexhamshire as Lord of the Manor in regard to your working your Leadmines & also the Carriage of the Ore from the Mines to the Mills. I have lookd as much as I can into the Matter & I cannot find in my Opinion that it will effect you in the least in working the Lead mines & also the Carriage of the Ore from the Mines to the Mills in the least no more than if there had never been a Division at all for so far as I can see every precaution has been taken in the Act for the preservation of the Lord of the Manors rights & properties as far as possible but dont doubt but you will have the Act by you & so far as I can see the Commissioners cannot point out more direct roads from the Mines to the Mills than is already pointed out & also there is a Close in the Act that they are Obliged to make the Roads so far as the Inclosures will extend before the Inclosures is made which will be taking of so much road which was repaired at the Lord of the Manors expence formerly nor can I see that ever the Ore can be cheaper Carried then by Galloways by any conveyance what ever from the Mountaineous part of the Country & so far as I can see from the Division that the Galloways will be better

Kept then before & more Able to Carry the Ore from the one part being Inclosed & the other part stinted which is all I can say at present about the Matter.

I am with my best Compts to Mrs Beaumont & son & Sir your Most  
Obedt Westgarth Forster

**17 Apr 1793 John Erasmus Blackett to Thomas Richard Beaumont**

Newcastle 17th April 1793

Dear Sir

I am this day favoured with your letter of the 15th inst. & observe the Contents. I communicated a part of your letter to the Committee, as well as to the Bankers, who think themselves highly obliged to you for the kind & handsome manner in which you express yourself for the restoring the Credit & Confidence in the Country: I perfectly agree with you that postponing the Lead Pay for a Month will be very unpleasant, but I fear that it can not be avoided at this time, Circumstanced as the several banks are at present; I had some conversation with Mr Burdon on the subject who was of that opinion, & this day I mentioned the Business to Messrs. Aub. & J Surtees who are of the same sentiments & declare to me that it will not be in their power to issue any quantity of their Notes at the time that the Pay was intended to be made, & strongly recommend that it may be postponed for a month, against which time they have no doubt that credit & Confidence may be restored in the Country, & the minds of People made easy; they are of opinion that the Pay can not be made early next month but in Cash that is in Bank of England Notes would not at this time answer the purpose & as I apprehend there would be great difficulty if not an impossibility in procuring Cash for the amount of the Pay I do fear that you will be under the very disagreeable necessity of having the Pay postponed for a month, & that the Subsistence for the Workmen which with some payments for wood amounting in the whole to about £3000 .. \_ (w ch. was to be paid the 6th May) be sent to Hexham against that time, to meet the Lead Stewards; tho' I am satisfied that this Measure will be very unpleasant to you, & give you uneasiness, I really do not see how it can be avoided; your Lead Agents came down this day & Mr Bell is [to] be with me tomorrow when I was in hopes of acquainting them that the Pay would be made at the time fixed; but after the answer that I had from Messrs Surtees's & there being no positive assurance that the four Banks will be open to do business for a few days, I must postpone giving the Agents any positive answer until I hear from <you;> I have wrote to Sir John Trevelyan [short word missing] pay the £3000..-.- to your Bankers, [short word missing] that matter shall be explained to you when we meet.

The Committee have great hopes that the four Banks will be enabled to open on Saturday to do Business, but altho their notes are at present taken in payment for <Rent> it will require some little time before they pass currently & confidence is restored. I have no doubt that you have seen Mr Burdon since his return to Town, my

present Indisposition my attendance on the Committee on this very unpleasant Business gets the better of me & I am really very indifferent. I am with respect

Dear Sir Your Most Obedient Humble Servant  
John E. Blackett

**18 Apr 1793 John Erasmus Blackett to Thomas Richard Beaumont**

Newcastle 18th April 1793  
Thurs eveng 5 o Clock

Dear Sir

Since my letter to you of the 17th inst. I have had several Conversations with Mr. John Surtees with respect to the Lead Pay, he now says that he has not the least doubt that was the Pay postponed for a fortnight viz. to the 14, 15 & 16th of May that their Bank could furnish their Notes to the amount of £20,000 or £25000 .. – which with £12000.. – or £14,000 – in Cash & some Bank of England Notes to make up the Sum of £44000 .. .. – but at the time that the Pay was proposed to be made that they could not issue any part of it in their Notes & that in case the Pay is resolved on at that time, that the whole amount must be sent down in Cash & Bank of England Notes, the latter of which he had great doubts would not satisfy the People, & that we should at that time have great difficulty in prevailing with them to accept of any Paper whatever in Payment, he likewise told me that they could not expect any assistance from the other three Banks at this <Place>; I this morning had some Conversation with Mr Bell & your Lead Agents when I acquainted them with these particulars but they are of opinion that the delaying the Pay for a fortnight may be attended with many disagreeable consequences & have determined on stating the Matter to you & sending their letter by Express; this being the case I thought it necessary to state the matter to you for your consideration. There is no doubt but that it would be advisable that the Pay should be made at the time appointed on many accounts but in the situation that we are in at present I much fear that it cannot be done & that however unpleasant it may be to yourself & inconvenient to others, that we shall be under the necessity of putting off the Pay for a fortnight; you will doubtless Consult Mr Burdon as well as Messrs. Morland & Hammersley on this Business when you will please to favour me with your answer as soon as possible.

The four Banks will open on Saturday next & we are in hopes after the Measures which have been taken that there may not be any considerable run on them & that they may get forward very well.

I am with respect Dear Sir Your Most Obedient Humble Servant  
John E. Blackett

The Bills that I was to have from Doctor Hall for £10,000 .. – to be dated the 1st. inst. at 2. Mon[ths] I have not yet received altho' I have applied daily to him, for the same & have been as often promised that they should be sent <over>. I hope to get them

tomorrow when they shall be placed in the hands of Surtees & Burdon, they will be drawn on Lancaster, Bax, Ellill & <Co.>

**18 Apr 1793 William Armstrong to Thomas Richard Beaumont**

18th April 93

Dear Sir,

A friend of improvement and a well wisher of your Lordships desirous of Observing, a matter of Importance and hopes if your honour gives Attention the information will be found to be very advantageous as your works is so large and extensive..... I have been a workman for you, your Ancestors and different other masters in working and Manufacturing that Valuable Metal called Lead Ore, and by my own experience and seeing the different performances of other workmen, possitively knows that there is a larger improvement due to the works of your Lordship, as I have been Eye witness to many of the said works, Observe them to be carried on in the same construction as works used to be att different other places before the late Experimental Applycation, But as words from a workman unknown perhaps may be looked at to be thro disrespect of some agent or agents, and flater your self that there are men of superior knowledge in working and manufacturing Lead ore, while to the contrary we are sure they know no more or one that never seed works of the above Nature or at least has no better direction, which i shall prove by laying down a few instances worthy making inquiry into and after found to be real expects will be a full satisfaction of the mismanagement of your Works, 1st, I shall shew you the custom in working & manufacturing the Lead ore 2dly the produce of the same according to our latest improvement, and every Expence relying thereon till Laid down upon Newcastle Quay, & Lastly the Difference between your work and the Adventurer and Manufacturer where I have been employed

1st the custom in Alston moor is the proprietor or Lord of the Manor lets to lease a certain length of ground. Where a vain is discovered and likely to carry metal and for the Anuity receives every 1/5 Bing or 1/5 part the mine raises which upon an average last year would sold at £4 4s per Bing so for every 2000 Bing of ore your mines raises there should be a profit of £1680 found upstanding for being Lord of the Manor besides the profit should arise by being Adventurer and manufacturer as there can be no hazard in a ready won mine. Secondly I shall show you 2,000 Bing of Ore manufactured and every Expence relating the same till laid down upon Newcastle Quay. Observing Metal is not all of one Quality because there is difference both in lead and silver for Instance I have been present at Manufacturing metal from thirty different mines in one Year and my <branch> gave me such a prevelige that i was the only person at that place could be a judge of metal or the Value of Metal according to our latest improvement. But as the richest in Lead is little below 4 Bing to the Ton, the richest in silver is as little below 4 ½ first fire. But however one might take in hand to work 2000 bing of ore and give the Master 520 Ton of Lead and every expense should

only amount to £1040 so when Lead is at £19 per Ton you should have if Manufactured right £4 8s pr Bing for your Metal, which if you will peruse your accounts and paralel with this calculation, I am positive you will find several thousands of pounds thrown away Yearly, and intirely or mostly in the mismanagement of the Operation in Smelting &c &c

Lastly i shall Observe to you the Equality of your metal and the advantages you should in manufacturing, with other people for the Metal it is superior at Allenheads and Weardale, and Coal Clugh is just the same as many in Alston Moor being the same Vains and got in the same Sills they joins each other and for the Situation in working or Manufacturing of it you are Equally as well situated or Better, for the greatest Manufacturers i know of not being proprietors farms their Mill of you that is Allen Mills, [underlined in different pencil –by recipient?] a little below Allen Town which is a simple thing or your Agents to let her Because she stands in the direct road between Newcastle and Coal Clugh, has a constant supply of Water & fuel comes 1/3? Cheaper than any of your Mills your have in your own hand. Besides the more mills you keep going the fewer mills will go to one hearth or fire and where there is above 4 men to one fire the constant working raises such a substance of heat that it Evaporates the Metal and consumes it for want of drawing the hearth till she cool every hearth should be drawn once in 16 hours at your works they only draw once in 2 or 3 sometimes only once in 6 days this is one reason in defraying the Produce, so After Beging your pardon for the small hint which I mean for no persons ill but intirely for your good, I pray for God Almighty's sake do not discover my Name, the reason is I am only a workman Under such Masters and if discovered would be a means of making me lose my Bread so no more.

Your honourable svt Wm Armstrong

Catten ny Allen Town

## **22 Apr 1793 John Erasmus Blackett to Thomas Richard Beaumont**

[Note: This letter is identical to the copy included in the Agent Out letters (NRO 672/E/1E/5) apart from the last paragraph which was omitted from the copied version and offers a vivid insight into the perils of travelling with large quantities of cash in the 18th century.]

Newcastle 22nd April 1793

Dear Sir

I wrote to you the 20th inst, to which I refer you ; I this day received your favour of the 20th & I observe what you are pleased to say respecting the Lead Pay & that you think it absolutely necessary that it should be made at the time appointed in which I perfectly agree with you; your Agents will be at this place on Sunday the 29th to go the Dukesfield the 30th & and make the pay the day following 1st May, they will go to Allendheads that evening and make that pay & Coaleheugh the 2nd May & the

Weardale pay on friday the 3rd the usual times of making the Lead Pays have been the last week in April: There has not been any run this day on the several Banks & Mr Burdon told me that he now had not the least doubt of their being able to supply you with £20,000/-/- in their Notes which will pass Currantly & about £10,000/-/- in Cash which with sum that you may bring down in cash & Bank of England Notes the pay amounting to about £13,300, I think there is now doubt of Mr Halls Bills for £10,000 being duely accepted by Messrs Lancaster & Co & that they will give you the necessary satisfaction respecting the Payment for the 9500 Pieces of Lead the last <quarter> by Mr Hall for Messrs Lancaster & Co. I wrote to Messrs Ransom Morland & Hammersley on that Business yesterday in which I desired they would immediately communicate to you; Mr Hall has left two sons who are in the Business and may probably carry on that branch of the Lead commissions from Lancaster & Co in which case it may be advisable to have a Guarantee from Lancaster & Co for the Purchases of Lead that they may make. It is not in my Power at present to give you so full information as I could wish as to the enclosed paper which you had from Sir John Trevelyan: The sum of money which he alludes to was the surplus upon the Sale of a part of the Estate which was vested in Chancery & could not be disposed of untill the death of the late Sire Walter Blackett the Interest of which till that time Sir John Trevelyan in entitled to, & from that period the Principal & Interest was the Property of the late Sir Thomas Blackett & now of course devolves to you; it is a matter of Law in which I cannot give you that full information that you desired; the late Mr Wilson & Mr Heron were frequently consulted by Sir Thomas Blackett as to that matter & there was some delay in the Law Proceedings which I am not acquainted with, & which I hope that Mr Herron will give you the necessary information when you see him. Messrs Ransom & Co would inform you of Mr Burdon being attacked on the road down three miles north of Bugdon by three foot Pads & rob'd of his watch & upwards of 20 Guins but he escaped unhurt and with the Cash he was bringing down, he wounded two of them in the men with a <Hanger> very severely one of whom got into the Carriage after having pulled his Servant out & used him very ill: Mr Burdon was covered almost over with the blood of the Man that he wounded, & has indeed had a narrow escape; I mention this to you that you may be very well armed &c and to be cautious how you travel late at night &c. I wish you safe & well & am with respect

Dear Sir your most obedient Humble Servant  
John E Blackett

PS. Monday Eveng past got back I have this moment seen Mr Burdon who promised us to supply you with £30,000 in Cash & Notes <can to yare> half you bringing down the remainder viz Thirteen Thousand Pounds in Gold & 300 in Silver.

30,000

13,300

43,300

**4 May 1793 John Erasmus Blackett to Thomas Richard Beaumont**

Newcastle 4th May 1793

Dear Sir

I hope that this may find you well after your journey. The Pay was made at Dukesfield on wednesday to the Great satisfaction of the workmen as well as the Country in General; the great sum in Cash was very pleasing to them at this time, it gave them confidence and not the least objection was made Notis; Mr Straker returned this evening after making the pays for Allenheads, Coaleheugh & Weardale Miners & he gives me the like account; Mr C Blackett returned with me from Dukesfield on Thursday, I am with respect

Dear Sir your most obedient and Humble Servant  
John E. Blackett

Thomas B Beaumont Esq

**8 Oct 1793 Ransom, Morland & Hammersley to Mark Skelton**

[Note: Although addressed to Robert Skelton it is assumed this is a mistake on the part of the correspondents as it was Mark Skelton who was Beaumont's agent at Birthwait in 1793]

London 8th. Octo 1793

Sir

We are this day favoured with your letter of the 5th. Inst. And in reply We can only express our earnest desire on every occasion to meet Mr Beaumont's wishes; and we hope that in the present instance nothing will deprive us of that Satisfaction: We could not however in such times of difficulty in all money matters (more particularly that of calling in old Loans) speak positively to a period so distant, but in the mean time we shall have the pleasure to decide with more Certainty as to the arrangements we can make & write you fully on the Subject, unless we have the pleasure of seeing you in Town.

In this interval we should be obliged if you could estimate the amount of the remittances to be made in time for the first payments & from thence the further supply that is likely to be wanted & for what period.

We last week advised Mr Beaumont of a payment by Mr Bryan of £1500 to his Credit.

We are very truly & sincerely Sir Your most Hble. Sts.  
Ransom Morland & Hammersley

Robt. Skelton Esqr. Birthwait

**24 Oct 1793 Ransom, Morland & Hammersley to Thomas Richard Beaumont**

London 24th Octor 1793

Sir

Mr. Skelton communicated to us your intention of withholding for a Season your Lead Sales, in order to relieve the market. And that in Consequence, it would be necessary you had the Certainty of about £60,000 to Complete the payments of next Spring, in case it should still continue advisable to defer your Sales. We promised that Gentleman to give the subject a very serious Consideration, and we were not without great hopes of being able to meet your wishes in this Instance as fully as we are desirous to do on every occasion: but the late events seem so decidedly to indicate a continuation of the war & consequent heavy calls on the public, that there is too much reason to fear the ensuing Spring will bring with an unusual Scarcity of money in this Capital. Should this be the case, we shall not be able to count with Certainty on the repayment of such Loans as would enable us to meet your demand with Convenience to ourselves – We presume that your proposed arrangements require a positive engagement for, and a certain assurance that all the money should be forthcoming when called for; and under that impression we feel it our duty to state candidly the obstacles it is likely to meet with –

Some favorable change of Circumstances (which we earnestly hope for) may yet operate in favour of this business; and we beg to assure you that it will give us the most Sincere pleasure if we find ourselves enabled to meet your wishes –

We have just received a letter from Messrs. Surtees & Co remitting three bills on your Account £2040-18- 5 – and directing us to pay their Bankers here £2300 for so much advanced by them to your Agents - which we shall do Accordingly; and remain with sincere respect

Sir Your most Hble Sts

Ransom Morland & Hammersley

Thos. R, Beaumont Esqr. Bretton Hall

**21 Mar 1794 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blckett**

[Note: Letter marked on reverse side 'Mrs Beaumonts letter of 21st March 1794 with Copy of Mr Lloyds Opinion']

Portman Square. March 21st 1794

Dear Sir,

I enclose you Mr. Lloyds Opinion which was taken by Mr Cockshutt, who was employed by him when Mrs Stacpoole was made a Ward of Chancery, it was certainly advisable to know on what grounds he could act with safety, & discharge his Trust properly; Mr & Mrs Stacpoole have been twice <asked> in St George's Church (& as

they informed me) they don't intend to be Married till she is Age, which he says will set the other Marriage aside that took place in Scotland, the Chancellor must decide on those Points, I sincerely wish Mrs Stacpoole will not live to repent her Rashness & Ill Conduct; Mr Beaumont is still in Yorkshire recruiting he has very great success, & I hope will soon return to Town; - the Report of a Riot in Paris has been believed here, but is not confirmed, I hope they will not pay us a Visit during the Summer, if they do, we shall be well prepared to receive them - Lady Ridley is recovering extremely well, the Child only lived 2 Days, - I beg my Compts to Mrs Collingwood. Wentworth is quite well, & begins to be a very Riotous little Fellow, he can say anything; -

I am Dear Sir Yr affecte Hble Servt

Diana Beaumont

**6 Apr 1794 Thomas Richard Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett**

Wakef.d April 6th 1794

Dear Sir,

I purpose doing myself the pleasure of being at Newcastle on Tuesday to beat up for Light Dragoons. I will be much obliged to you to make it known in the Town, that when I do come the men may be on the look out. I have sent you some hand Bills & will thank you to let them be put up, one at Turner's and the others where you think best

I am Dear Sir, your most Ob.d Servant

Tho Rd Beaumont

**29 Apr 1794 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett**

Portman Square. April 29th

Dear Sir

Your Ward Mrs Stacpoole was Married at Battersea Church last Thursday, I was infinitely surprised when I was informed of it, as Mr Stacpoole told me a short time since that he should set the Guardians, Trustees & Chancellor at defiance for he would not Marry in England until Mrs Stacpoole was of age & he knew the Scotland marriage was not legal, I am ignorant of the reasons for this change; they were <asked> twice in St. Georges Church, the Clergyman refused the third time on finding the Lady was a Ward of the Court of Chancery, they were then <asked> at Battersea & succeeded; -

Colonel Beaumont is still with his Regiment which will be inspected by General Grant next Monday, & I expect him in Town very soon after the Inspection has taken place - Mr Hammersley the Banker has just left me, I am sorry to find there is some difficulty attending the Supply of so large a Sum as our Pays require this Year, but measures are taken that everything will be ready at the time appointed, but as a large

Sum must be <carried> on Mr Beaumonts personal Security, it may make things easier is you will have the goodness to send up any Bills that you may have, tho' at a distant date it will be some security; -

I hope we shall be able to pass some time to pass some time [sic] in Northumberland during the Summer – I beg my Compts to Mrs Collingwood - & am Dear Sir

Yr Sincere Hble Sert  
Diana Beaumont

I write in the greatest haste as I am afraid of losing this Post -

**29 Jul 1794 John Erasmus Blackett to Thomas Richard Beaumont**

Newcastle 29th July 1794

Dear Sir

I was about writing to you this day when I was favoured with your letter of 25th ins[tan]t. I am sorry to tell you that there is scarce any demand for Lead at present, we have about 14,000 pieces at Blaydon ready for sale 12000 for refining, besides what is on the road, & at the several Mills; the drought has not only stopt the Mills very runs etc, but some of the lower workings for want of Water for the Engines, as well as for wasting the Ore; The last Lead sold at this place for the London Market was at £14.14 p[er] Fod[de]r we sold small quantities at £15 for refined & Litharge at £15.10 p[er] Ton, it is reputed to be lower; & I am sorry to say that I have every reason to think that this Years Sale will fall much short of the last; The Mines are much in the same state they were when you was last in the North; The Lead & Mine Stewards have been with me this morning for Subsistence for the Workmen,

Poor Mr Hunter of Dukesfield has been dangerously ill. He is now something better; & I hope may do well . Mr Forster of Allanheads has had a fall from his Horse & broke two ribs.

There has been a stop amongst the Keelmen for three weeks & they have committed great excesses. They have endeavoured to compel the colliers & smiths at Crowleys wroks as well as other labouring People to join them but without success. It was reported that a large body of them had gone to the Lead Mines for that purpose but there was not the least truth in it for the Stewards assured me that the workmen were very quiet nor had they made the smallest complaint. about 70 of Lord Darlington's Rangers & 120 of Col Leighs Lancashire Light Dragoons were ordered here by Genl Grant & have been on this duty for some days with the Magistrates of the three Counties; this morning the Keelmen have returned Peaceably to their work & are I think likely to continue so in which case the Horse will return to their former quarters.

I am with respect Dear Sir your most obedient & faithfull Humb. Servt

John E Blackett

Tues evening. We have now a heavy rain the first for this two months

Thomas R Beaumont Esq

**21 Sep 1794 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett**

Thorpe Sepr. 21st 1794

Dear Sir

I beg to offer my best thanks for your & Mrs Collingwoods kind Congratulations on the birth of my Second Son who is as well as possible, Colonel Beaumont & myself shall with pleasure Accept the obliging offer you made of standing Godfather when Wentworth was born, either for him or at any future time, & will request you to do my little William the favour of answering for him, Col. B- will be your Proxy; - if you have thoughts of visiting Harrowgate this Season I hope we shall have the pleasure of seeing you at Bretton where we shall remain till we go to Town for the Winter; Mr Bosville & Colonel Beaumont unite with me in best Compliments & am Dear Sir

Your affectionate Hble Sert

Diana Beaumont

**21 Jan 1795 John Sparke to Thomas Richard Beaumont**

January 21 1795

Dear Sir

I most humbly beg leave to give you the trouble of this Paper as there hath been a prevailing defect for many years past in the Management of one part of your Lead Works not far from the Neighbourhood of Hexham – And it's a great pity that there hath not allready been a due Remidy Introduced to remove this Defect – there is many Bystanders which have observed this deficiency in Management – But few are able to point out the due Merits of this Business with any degree of Propriety – Therefore the Business continues under a profuse and Imperfect Direction – now Sir/ If you should incline to have this Business carried on to perfection, According to the present knowledge of Times – By new modeling the Government of one Branch of your Works – you may Absolutely save Two Thousand Pounds yearly – you may perhaps, look upon this Expression as as a Vague report and that I wish to raise Jealousy and mistrust in your Works in General – (not so my Good Sir) my Motive is very far contrary to any such Insinuating Intentions – I am not wishing to Intermeddle with your Works in General. it is only one part of your Lead Works which falls under the Sphere of my Certain knowledge – And I can point out Two concise Propositions or Circumstances that will clearly prove the above Annual saveing beyond the shaddow of any doubt – And to make it appear clearly to all demonstration – I shall prove it from the Yearly Accts which hath in course been send to Newcastle - and by Investigating these Accts

year by year for two 7 years past – the Weight of your Pay Bills will clearly shew a loss of £2000 Annually But I don't wish to point out my propositions Explicitly at present least it should not meet with your Approbation – but if you think the above an object worth your Notice – Through the Assistance of Providence, and by your leave, I can make the above Manifestly appear as sure as God made Man – But I wish this to yourself only because I have a particular Relation which makes a little Bread in your works – And if your Agent should know that I have pointed out any matter of reform – My Friend would perhaps loss his Bread in that line of Business – As it is Natural to suppose your Agent that hath the Government of this Business would not wish for any great reform or Improvement. Because it would discover a Vast deficiency in years past – If any thing herein contain'd be to your likeing you may be positively Informed respecting the same By applying to me – I am just now Refining Lead for his Grace the Duke of Athold at his Smelt Mill in the Isle of Mann – If I had the opportunity of speaking a few words upon this subject, I could clearly shew you what way this Annual saving would Arise – And if you should consult your Agent for 24 hours together, he is not able to discover to you the true Merits of this Business – But Im afraid you will blame my Imprudent Conduct in this Affair – But as I have pointed out this hint through a good Intention for your future Interest – I trust your Candour will excuse my Abruptness And permit me to Subscribe myself, with all due respect & well wishing to your Undertakings in General, Dear Sir, Your most obedient Humble Servant

John Sparke

**1 Feb 1795 William Armstrong to Thomas Richard Beaumont**

Dear Sir,

I Understand from some words droped by the present Lessees of Allen Mill that they are much afraid your Lordship, shall take her into your own hand, which information agreeable to the purport of my former letter encourages me to make a second Adress. Praying that your Lordship will excuse my boldness take notice of my letters and compare them with your mill Accounts and by such examination you will find there is great improvement due to your Smelt Mill works and many of the most principal Errors would be rem[ed]ied by taking the above named Mill into your own hand one Instance. I remember i repeated it to you in my former Adress some time ago. At your Mills a Ore hearth is only extinguished ones or twice in Six days has Six or Eight workmen to one hearth which will not allow the hearth to lie Idle, otherwise that Number of Men would not have time to complete as much work as would make them suffi[ci]ent wages. Now at some mills where workmen is tied to their produce they never have above four men to one Hearth works as this, two starts and works 13 or 14 Hours then draws the harth and lets her stand and cool about 10 or 11 hours, by which means she is the same every day for the first two men completes their work in 3 days and the Hearth is standing of on the 4th day in the Morning, ready for the last two men

Only. Consider the difference between four men to one hearth and six or eight, giving you to Understand a Hearth never begins to consume her metal till she grows hot and if you had more hearths and fewer men to one hearth it would remedy that Error, also where there is s many men to one hearth that they cannot put out the fire every change they cannot weigh the metal to them or yet Understand which man works honestly and which not, and if there is a fault the Agent is at a loss who to correct, Now if you had only four men to one hearth and work as aforesaid a man would not suffer a hearth to waste her metal or Else he would lose his character and be in a hazard of loosing his work. Nay i could mention many & many an Error your Mills labour under that would be partly rem[ed]ied by taking Allen Mill into your own hand, for you are to Observe you have as many Hearths at every mill now in hand as the Water will drive. Now this mill has a constant supply of water, not above three miles distant from Cole and lime and Adjoins the great road between Allendale Town and Newcastle and within eight miles of Coal Clugh or Wallop lead mines and even in the direct road, so as would be a great saving in carriage from any other of your Mills. Nay in short she is every way well situated for the Buisness, and I can see so far as to know she will be many a hundred pound Yearly saving to you Occupying her yourself. Now as I am nearly at the bottom of my paper I cannot add but if you wish to have the Advantages more fully Opened Order your Clark to form a correspondence with me & I will shew every particular also be proud in being your Lordships Most Obedient Hble Svt.

Wm Armstrong, Catten

February 1st 1795

Near Allen Town Northumberland

Col Beaumont

### **10 Feb 1796 John Bell to Thomas Richard Beaumont**

[Note: recipient not stated but assumed to be Col Beaumont as it was found amongst other letters to Beaumont or Skelton]

Hexham Abbey 10th Februy. 1796

Sir

It is expected the proposed Canal from Sea to Sea will be very productive of Profits to the Adventurers when finished. This Business I am sorry to say is rather got into Party – It was intended at first to bring the Line of Canal up the South Side of the River and so to Hexham by Mr. <Dods> who first started the Idea of a Canal from the East to the West Sea but Mr. Chapman who is a native of England but has been in Ireland constructing a canal there was wrote for as I believe merely out of opposition to consider of this Business and he has taken his Line from N[ew]castle up the North Side of the River North of Hexham Brewr . along that Hill Side and so does not touch at Hexham and gives for a Reason that there will be no occasion for a Lock in that Distance I mean from N[ew]castle opposite to Hexham and adds that if the Canal go up

the South Side of the River it never can be any part of the great Line of Communication between the two Seas

At Hexham we are not at all satisfied with M r. Chapman's assertion and he has brought no Proof for what he asserts

I will either hand your Letter to Mr Thompson or speak to him about your Business the first time I see him in Town. At present he is laid up with a sore Leg – I am

Sir Your most obedt. Servt.

J Bell

**17 Jul 1797 Joshua Straker to Thomas Richard Beaumont**

Newcastle 17th July 1797

Sir

Inclosed I send you a Statement of the Lead Mines &c. for this Year 1796 which I hope will be satisfactory to you; I beg leave to congratulate Mrs Beaumont and yourself in the Charge of Allenheads Lead Mines which has made a Profit instead of Losing a considerable Sum on Money which they have done for several years before.

I am Sir Your most Obedt. Hble Servt

Josuae Straker

**12 May 1799 John Bell to Diana Beaumont**

Hexham Abbey 12th. May 1799

Madam

The Masons are beginning to take the Slates from off the East Side of the Quadrangle here in order to have the great Room and the other Rooms on that Side repaired and Mr. Johnson and Smith desire to have your Direction whether you will have the North End of that Side kept as proposed in the Drawing sent or let it be made a common upright Gable as at present- Be pleased to return the Drawing with your Determination as soon as you can

We have bad Weather here – the Corn cannot be got sown the Land is so wet and Grain is rising in Price every Market Day

In going to the Pays we rode through Drifts of Snow upwards of four feet in Thickness –

I am Madam Your Faithful and obedt. Servt.

J Bell

**22 Nov 1801 John Bell to Diana Beaumont**

Hexham Abbey 22nd. Novem. 1801

Madam

I was much surprised this last Week by Mr. Fleming's coming to the Abbey to enquire if the Painter was at work because I remember it was fixed that Stephenson should not begin painting till March besides should there be a new Parliament after the Christmas Recess as is not only reported but expected you will have to come down into this Country much sooner than you expected and if the Painting is begun now it appears to me you will not be able to bear the smell of it but if it is your Wish that the Painting should be begun now it shall be set about immediately notwithstanding the shortness of the Days.

The Gardener's Wife complains that for want of Chimney Boards to the Fire Places in the Rooms the soot blows down the Chimnies and spoils the Room Floors and the Furniture and asked me if you had spoken to me about any Chimney Boards being made to which I replied in the negative – Be pleased to say whether I must get Chimney Boards made and if you would have them made in any particular Mode I request you will point it out.

Have Colel. Beaumont and you come to any Determination respecting taking a Mortgage of Mr. <Leekes> Allotments at Allendale Common and letting the Colliery in the Township of Wall as these People are desirous of having an Answer to their Proposal.

As Christmas is approaching be pleased to say whether I am to distribute £20 to the Poor of Hexham as has been done for some Years past 'till last Year that the Money was Added to your Benefaction to the Subscription towards purchasing Corn seeing there is no Subscription entered into this Year for that Purpose – I will be glad to hear Master Beaumont and the other Children are all well and I am  
Madam Your Faithful and  
obed. Servt.

JW Bell

## **2 May 1802 John Erasmus Blackett to Diana Beaumont**

Newcastle 2nd. May 1802

Dear Madam

I have the favour of your letter of the 28th ulto. & observe what you say respecting a dissolution of Parliament; you may be assured that I shall not mention the circumstance tho I am of opinion that that [sic] it will scarce take place so soon as spoke of; I have not heard the least hint of any Opposition being intended for the County of N[orthumberlan]d, nor has Mr. C Blackett who was at Morpeth Sessions on Thursday last; neither have I heard any report of a third Person being to start for the County of Durham nor do I give any credit to it, but I am quite of your & Col. Beaumonts opinion, to keep disengaged from any Promise (except to your Friend Sir Ralph Milbank) for the reason that you mention. I have no idea that you can command nigh the number of Votes that you mention but it certainly will be advisable that Mr. Emerson should be informed of your Wish in that Matter, which shall be done tomorrow when he & the

other Stewards come down for Subsistence Money for the Workmen, & to bring their Pay Bills for examination. The <Hawk> Packet is expected to arrive tomorrow when your directions shall be strictly followed with respect to the three Boxes or Packages.

May 3rd. I kept my letter open until I had seen your Mine Stewards that I may give you some information respecting the state of them; the Workings in Weardale except Breckonsike & Puddingthorn are in general Poor as you may observe by the reduced quantity of Ore wrought the last year & I fear the present prospect does not improve, Coalcleugh is in general poor, & will fall short at least 1000 Bin[g]s of the former year; Allenheads I hope will improve, a few days since another <Flood> of Ore was discovered to the East of the former which is very promising the most so of any yet found & I hope it may produce a considerable quantity of Ore & a strong leading Vein in fresh ground.

I have had some discourse with Mr. Emerson on the subject before mentioned & given him the necessary caution respecting the Voters.

I now ask £27 per Fod. for refined Lead.

General & Mrs. Murray desire their best respects to you & Colonel Beaumont. My Daughter Collingwood unites with me in best respects to you both & I am Dear Madam Your Faithfull & most Obedient Servant

John E. Blakett

If Col. Beaumont has Mrs. Forsters Bond (on wch. £520. – besides the Interest remains due) he will please to send it me; I thought that he had left it with Mr. Bell, but he denies ever having had it.

Instead of an Illumination on account of the Peace there has been a Collection from House to House to be applied to the Publick Charities, I have taken the liberty to subscribe two Guineas for Col Beaumont for the House & Offices.

**18 Feb 1803 John Bell to Thomas Richard Beaumont**

Hexham Abbey 18th Fbry 1803

Sir

on Tuesday last I had an Interview with Mr. Raines the Slate Merchant who furnished the Slates for the Abbey and I have settled with him for the Slates and Slaters Work to be done at the Chancel of Hexham Church at 6s -10d the Square Yard if you come to a Resolution of putting a Slate Roof upon it instead of a Lead one

Lord and lady Winchester in a little time will have to wait upon you and Mrs. Beaumont I believe, as Lord and Lady of the Regality of Hexham for you to take a Surrender of an Estate in Wall from them in which Lady Winchester's late Father was interested in as Mortgagee

I only mention this Matter to you to appraise you such a Thing is to be done lest they should come upon you unawares but my Son William will come along with them

when the Business is to be transacted as he alone in London is acquainted with the  
Mode of transacting it I am Sir Your Faithful and obed.Sert.

John Bell

**30 Jun 1803 Surtees, Burdon & Brandling**

[Note: Handwritten abstract of a published notice, possibly by Diana Beaumont]

30th June 1803.

Mess. Surtees, Burdon & Brandling respectfully inform the Public that they find themselves obliged to request the indulgence of the holders of their Notes and sureties for a short period for the purpose of making effectual arrangements for the discharge of the demands upon them, of which due notice will be given.

**5 Jul 1803 Surtees, Burdon & Brandling**

[Note: Handwritten abstract of a published notice, possibly by Diana Beaumont]

Augt. 5th. 1803

Mess S. B. & B. & Mess S. B. B. & E. respectfully inform the Public that they have committed the arrangement of their affairs into the hands of the Gentln . mentioned below, in whose Honour & knowledge of business they repose and they trust their Creditors will repose the utmost confidence and who, for the more complete security of the Creditors will immediately be invested with all their business effects and as ample a proportion of their separate property as may appear to be requisite to effect the perfect and speedy liquidation of their engagements to the Public.

C. J. Brandling Esq.

Wm. Ord Esq

Walter Trevelyan Esq

Wm. Grieve Esq

Wm. Russell Esq

Thos Harrison Esq

Thos. Emers[on] Headlam Esq

Mr. Geo. Riddel, Berwick

Nathl. Clayton Esq

Auby. Hood Esq

John G. Clarke Esq

Robt. Ranken Esq

Wm. Lloyd Esq

**9 Jul 1803 Surtees, Burdon & Brandling**

[Note: Handwritten abstract of a published notice, possibly by Diana Beaumont]

9th. July 1803

Mess. S, B & B by the advice of their friends are to decline the business of Bankers in N. Castle. They will devote their time to making such arrangements as will enable them to discharge all demands upon their House with as little delay as possible; They have also the satisfaction to state with confidence to the Public, the ultimate stability of their funds and that as soon as the necessary measures shall be arranged, they are assured of the concurrence and assistance of all the other Banks in N. Castle, to carry them into the most effectual execution.

**29 Jul 1803 Surtees, Burdon & Brandling**

[Note: Handwritten abstract of a published notice, possibly by Diana Beaumont]

29th July 1803.

The Proprietors of the Exchange Bank at <N.C.> & of the Bank of Berwick having determined to decline entirely the business of Banking beg leave to assure the Public whose forbearance they have taken the liberty respectively [sic] to request, that they are about to lay their Accounts before Gentlm. of the first respectability, who, they are satisfied will soon be enabled to give a correct and satisfactory statement of their affairs to the Creditors at large. Independently of the various securities Bills &c. belonging to their Banks at N.C. & B the respective Partners have very ample property, equal to more than the liquidation of the Debts of the two establishments, of which the circulation in promissory Notes to bearer will be found much less than has been generally represented. – Persons therefore holding the Notes of the said Banks are requested upon no account to part with them for less than their full Value. - <Mess. S.B.& B & Mess. S.B.B.E.> anxious to prevent loss to the Holders of their Notes & other Bank Debts from the suspension of their paymts. engage to allow legal Interest, on all such Notes & Debts from the 1st. July Instant to the time of giving Notice for their Discharge. -

**3 Oct 1803 Bolam to Thomas Richard Beaumont**

Sir

Mr Bulmer has desired the Gentlemen who compose the Committee of the Exchange Bank to communicate to you the arrangements made on Saturday last relative to the Tyne Iron Co. Engagements and to state their opinion of them

I am directed to assure you that they have the Gentlemen's approbation and that Mr Bulmer's conduct on the trying occasion appears to them to be strictly proper and deserving of the forbearance of the Creditors

Mr Bulmer has become the Purchaser of all his Partners Interest in the Works in the Condition of his obtaining a Letter of Licence from the Creditors

I have the honour to be

Your most Obedt Servt

<P> Bolam <Sec.y>

Newcastle on Tyne

3d Octb. 1803

T R Beaumont Esqr

**3 Oct 1803 Peter Bulman to Thomas Richard Beaumont**

Sir

NewCastle 3rd Oct. 1803

As the most efficient means of giving relief to the Creditors of the Tyne Iron Co. I am recommended to become the Sole Proprietor of the works and for this purpose an arrangement is now making for my taking an assignment from my Patrons Mess. A & I Surtees Fishwick & Gibson of the whole concern and likewise taking upon me the responsibility of the payment of all the Debts, grounded upon a Dissolution of partnership which will appear in the Gazette on Saturday next, this most important concern so suddenly imposed upon me will require me to ask some indulgence from you, to enable me to fulfill the payment of all the Bills, but as I intend to be in London this week for the express purpose of making propositions to the Creditors, beginning with an immediate payment, which I am enabled to make by the kindness of Friends whose endeavours have been exerted in the highest manner possible to assist me in performing an Act of Justice. I trust I shall experience from you that tenderness for my situation which it is thought so peculiarly to deserve

I am Your mo: ObServ.

Peter John Bulman

P.S. I feel confident that I shall have the satisfaction to bring with me the approbation of the Bankers in this Country of the terms of my proposals to the Creditors & the consent of Surtees Bardon & Brandling for their endorsement to remain unprejudiced-

My address in London  
York Hotel at Bridge Street

Tho. Rich. Beaumont Esqr.

**3 Oct 1803    Thomas Crawhall to Charles Bowns**

[Note: the letters referred to are those to Beaumont from Bolam on 3rd Oct and from Bulman on 3rd and 4th Oct]

Newcastle 13th Oct. 1803

Dr. Sir

The inclosed three letters on the subject of the Tyne IronCo. I have reced from Mr. Blackett to inclose for your approbation as the only Bill we hold of theirs, is the one for £1,500 which was left here by you some time ago. The Tyne Iron Co. not being able to carry their former engagement into execution, it has been thought adviseable by many of the Creditors to agree to the proposals of Mr. Bulman, though less advantageous to them than the former ones

I remain Your Most Obed. Very HbleSer  
Thomas Crawhall

Two of Bp. Durham's Agents were at this place yesterday, on the Inspection of Weardale Mine Accd. in compliance with the Order of Court for that purpose. I am sorry I have it not in my power to say that Mr Blackett has yet made any further sales of lead.

Chas Bowns Esq

**4 Oct 1803    Peter Bulman to Thomas Richard Beaumont**

Sir

Having this Day completed the Arrangement of the Tyne Iron Co's. Affairs which I mentioned in my Letter of yesterday by the Parties having signed a Dissolution of Partnership and expected an Assignment of their Shares in the Iron Works.

I hope I shall succeed in asking your Indulgence to the following Proposals, viz, to pay immediately on the Creditors agreeing to my Letters of Licence 5/ in the £ 5/ more the 5th April 5/ the 5th July & 5/ the 5th October.

As this first payment is made intirely by the kind Assistance of my Friends lending me £20,000 which is at this time raised by considerable Exertions on Condition that I can procure my Letter of Licence. I hope I shall not ask in vain your Support, particularly as I can assure you I was ready to fullfill my Part of our late Proposals the failure of my Partners in which has obliged me to take the whole Concern upon myself.

I am authorised to inform you that if I am so happy as to obtain the general Assent of the Creditors, I am promised further Assistance to a considerable Extent which will only be advanced as well as the first 20,000£ on Condition that the Creditors will accept

my Proposals as I shall commence paying in London instantly upon receiving their Acceptance to my Proposals

I hope you will favour me with your early reply directing me where to pay the Money in London and I shall ever esteem myself

Sir, Your most grateful and obliged Serv.

Peter John Bulman

Newcastle Oct. 4 1803

PS I go to London tomorrow morning I request the favor of your addressing me at the York Hotel Bridge Street Bl'k Friars

**3 Nov 1803 Surtees, Burdon & Brandling**

[Note: Handwritten abstract of a published notice, possibly by Diana Beaumont]

Newcastle Nov. 3rd. 1803

The Gentln. who form the Committee for the management of the affairs of S. B. & B. and also of S. B. B. & E. being anxious to wind up the extensive concerns of those Houses with all proper speed, request the Debtors of those parties to liquidate their accounts immediately as they have already experienced much forbearance, and as they must be sensible that any further delay on their part will materially impede the arrangements which the Committee are earnestly pursuing for the purpose of bringing the affairs of those Houses to a speedy settlement.

**17 Jan 1804 John Erasmus Blakett to Diana Beaumont**

Newcastle 17th. Jany. 1804

Dear Madam

I have the favour of your letter of the 13th. inst. & observe the contents.

I shall in the name of Col. Beaumont & yourself make application to the Committee for the conducting the affairs of Surtees Burdon & Co to know what sum you may depend on being paid you on or before the middle of May next; I fear little or none: the first payments they make I imagine will be the taking up of their Notes which are at 5 p Ct. interest from July last. I shall however represent to them the very great inconvenience which must naturally attend your Concerns, in case a considerable payment be not made before your Lead Pay. Mr. Burdons interest in the Cotton Works at Durham lately destroyed by Fire I am told amounted to £14,000.. - - & £3000 – only being Insured in the <Phoenix> Fire Office, so he must be a great sufferer, <Mr.&> Mrs.Burdon at present reside at the House of <Mrs.> W Surtees's in Saville Place see little or no company & make no Visits. The Lead Houses in London have used every

endeavour to reduce the price of Lead, & as they know that you only had a large Stock, they stood off in hopes of putting you under a necessity of selling at a reduced price: for this purpose Mess[r]s Walkers & Co. made purchases of a quantity of Welsh Lead at Chester & have been offering it at 27 p Ct. about £28. 7. 6 the Foder. sheet Lead & that in proportion: they have frequently made me offers at a much reduced price, & assured me that they could purchase a quantity at Hull at £28 the Foder. The Welsh Lead is of very inferior quality & will not answer for the White Lead Works; on Saturday last Messrs. Walkers & Co. made me an offer of £30 p. Foder. for Refined & Com.n which I declined accepting of, yesterday I agreed with them for 5000 Ps. one half refined with the usual quantity of Slag at £30. 10s p Fod payable in Bills due in six months, I am inclined to think that they will take 10,000 Ps. as they wished to know if I was willing to sell them that quantity, which as a matter of Favour I consented to do; I have no doubt that the other London Houses will follow their example & that in a few days I may advise you of having sold 15 or 20,000 Ps. more on the same terms which is 10s p Foder. more than the Lead Company sold for, & I shall be happy should it meet with your approbation; with the very large Stock of Lead that you have at Market I thought that it was highly advisable to accept the offer; should the French on making any attempts meet with a Repulse? (which I trust in God they may) we may expect a brisk demand for Lead in the Spring, & of course an advanced price; I shall be anxious to know how far you & Col. Beaumont approve of the Sale that I have made & etc.

I enclose you the state of Coalcleugh Mines that of Weardale shall be sent to you when I get it. I am with best respects to you & Col. Beaumont

Dear Madam Your most Obedient & Faithfull Humb. Servant

John E. Blackett

Mr.Gray of the <South> has got the Vacant Stall in the Church of Durham – another is likely to be Vacant soon for Doctor Clark left this day at noon Doct. Bathurst very dangerously ill. The Bishop I have no doubt will give it to a <stranger> as has been his usual practice for takes no notice of the Clergy of his Diocese

**4 Apr 1804    John Erasmus Blackett to Diana Beaumont**

Newcastle April 4th. 1804

Dear Madam

The Commissioners for carrying into execution the Property Tax etct for Darlington Ward have lately given us infinite trouble by peremptorily insisting on a return being made to them of the Profits arising from the mines in Weardale, alleging that the return we had made was not in compliance with the Act and was unfair; which illiberal measure I look upon is owing to Mr. Mowbray one of the Commissioners. we have accordingly prepared a return, but by the advice of Mr.Heron who is Clerk to the Commissioners at this place have postponed sending it until he has an answer from the

Board of Taxes respecting the Grand offices for their Collieries, they being in a similar situation.

I observe by your letter of the 31st. that you expect to have some conversation with Mr. Davidson respecting the Lead Pay, and that he does not appear pleased that we should continue to have any Acct. with a Newcastle Bank. In a former letter I acquainted you that the Money resting in that Bank with payments we expected to receive for Lead, would barely answer to make the Pay for the Lead, the Subsistence due this Month, the Income Tax and other payments, and that from this time all payments for Lead should be remitted to Mr. Davidson in Bills of as short date as I can procure. Had I remitted the amount to Mr. Davidson I must have drawn upon him at the same time when three Bills payable became due. The Account of payments for Lead shall be sent you in a post or two with the amount of the Lead Pay as near as we can calculate. I understood the Sums that Mr. Thomas might receive were to be remitted to you or your Bankers in London, but should you think proper that it should come into my account, I shall procure for it a Bill and remit it to Messrs. Davidson & Co. on your Account.

It certainly will be more convenient for the Country that the Pays should be made on the 16th. 17th. & 18th. of May or the Week following. the reason I mentioned the 29 30th. & 31st. was for the purpose of accommodating Messrs. Davidson & Co. As we cannot expect much Gold for the Pay it will be very necessary that we should have a good supply of Silver, I wish you would mention this to Mr. Davidson. We should have from 300 to 500£ in Dollars & small silver.

Since I wrote you last we have sold from 2 to 3000 Ps. Lead @ £30 & 31£ and I have no doubt that the Buyers must apply to purchase in the course of a fortnight as the London Market is bare, very little in Scotland and at Stockton and none at Hull.

The Lead Co. had no concern with Easterby Hall & Co. but the Greenwich Hospital & Messrs. Hopper & Co. have both supplied their Works on the like terms that you have.

Your Account with the Bank of Messrs. Ransom Morland & Hammersley was sent to Mr. Skelton and I presume will be in the hands of Mr. Bowns, when we discontinued keeping an Account with that Bank the business was done thro' the House of Surtees Burdon. they have been desired to make out their Account with Messrs. Hammersley & Co. during that period, which when I have obtained shall be sent you.

I am with best respects to yourself and Col. Beaumont Dear Madam Your most Obedient and Faithful Servant

John E. Blackett

We have had stormy weather for these ten days past with frost at night, a very <bad Seed> time, & a number of Sheep & Lambs have been lost.

Mrs. Beaumont

**1 May 1804 Surtees, Burdon & Brandling**

[Note: Handwritten abstract of a published notice, possibly by Diana Beaumont]

Newcastle 1st. May 1804

The Committee for managing the affairs of Mess S. B. & B. & of Mess. S. B. B. & E. are anxious to state to the Public, the progress they have made in the discharge of their Duty. The very large Debt to Government has been entirely provided for; many considerable accounts with persons holding pledged sureties have been liquidated; and nearly two thirds of the circulating Notes issued by those Banks, have been extinguished by their having been received in discharge of Debts due to them – these measures have brought the affairs into a much narrower compass and present to the Committee the satisfying prospect of winding them up with full satisfaction to all the Creditors – The liberal as well as the prudent forbearance the Committee have hitherto experienced from the Public, has been attended with most beneficial effects, and what further indulgence may be required, the Committee pledge themselves to use for the best advantage of the Creditors.

**2 Jan 1806 Surtees, Burdon & Brandling**

[Note: Handwritten abstract of a published notice, possibly by Diana Beaumont]

January 2nd. 1806

Mess. S. B. & B. & Mess. S. B. B. & E of Berwick are sensible of the great confidence given by the Crs. To their efforts under the direction of their Committee to liquidate their very extensive and complicated concerns and can with great truth and satisfaction assure them that much benefit and security will be found to have arisen from the forbearance already shown – The Concerns being now relieved from a great proportion of the Material incumbrances and much of the amount of their circulating Notes on demand being extinguished by their Acct. in payment from the Drs. Of the two Houses, they under the direction of their Committee in order to ascertain with accuracy the Debts of every description, and especially those due on circulating Notes, respectfully and earnestly request, that all the Crs. of the two Houses, will immediately send under Cover to R. Burdon Esq. N. Castle Tyne a full and accurate statement of their demands of whatever kind on the two Houses, distinguishing each firm, with a particular specification of the Dates and Numbers of the circulating Notes which they hold -

**11 Mar 1808 Royal Institution to Diana Beaumont**

[Note: Printed notice confirming Diana Beaumont's election as a Proprietor of The Royal Institution of Great Britain]

THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN [Insignia]  
NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION AS A PROPRIETOR OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTION

At a meeting of the Managers of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, held at the House of the institution, on the 7 of March 1808, Mrs. Diana Beaumont was elected a PROPRIETOR of the said Institution.

Extract from the Minutes  
[signed] Willm. Savage, Clerk.

Royal Institution, The 11 of March 1808  
Tickets of Admission may be had at the House of the Institution

Extract from the Bye-Laws of the Royal Institute of Great Britain

SECT. VIII. Art. 1. The number of the Proprietors of the Institution shall be limited to Four Hundred: and, for all new elected Proprietors, the qualification shall be Two Hundred Guineas.

Art. 4. Every Proprietor shall have notice of his Election: and Tickets of Admission, with a Book of the Bye-Laws, shall be delivered to him.

Art. 5. If any Person elected as a Proprietor, (not being in the place of a deceased Proprietor, or a Proprietor transferring his share) shall neglect or refuse to pay the sum required for his qualification within two Kalender Months after the day of his Election, such Election shall void.

The following Bankers have been appointed to receive all such Sums as are, or may become due, to the Institution from Proprietors and Subscribers.

Messrs. Praeds, Digby. Box, Bernard and Co. Fleet Street,

Messrs. Hammersley and Co. Pall Mall

Messrs. Herries, Farquhar, and Co. St. James's Street,

Messrs. Hoare, Fleet Street,

Messrs. Pybus, Call, Grant, and Hale, Bond Street,

Messrs. Ransom, Morland, and Co. Pall Mall

And by Mr. Savage, Steward to the Institution, under the authority of the Treasurer.  
Savage and Easingwood, Printers to the Royal Institution, Bedford Bury.

**16 Sep 1818 William Cavendish to Diana Beaumont**

[Note: William George Spencer Cavendish (1790-1858) was the 6<sup>th</sup> Duke of Devonshire]

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Chatsworth September 16th 1818

My Dear Madam

It is with great regret that I must submit to the disappointment of not going into Yorkshire, so many of my family are coming to this place immediately that it will be impossible for me to leave them, and even of Doncaster races I have a very faint hope, should I be able to come it will give me great pleasure to drive with you

With my best compliments to the Miss[e]s Beaumonts & to Mrs Leighton and the Miss[e]s Leightons I have the honor to be, my dear Madam

Yr sincere and obliged humble servt.

Devonshire