

[These extracts from part of the Lambton collection at Durham University Library's Archive and Special Collections include correspondence, mainly between Earl Grey and his son-in-law John Lambton, later 1st Earl of Durham, regarding the 1823-4 allegations by Beaumont about Lady Swinburne and Earl Grey, and to related Northumberland political manoeuvres in the 1820s. They are taken from the classifications A40/8-11, and grouped according to those sub-classes.]

JGL A40/8

[Letters from Grey to Lambton]

31 Aug 1823 Charles Grey to John Lambton

Tunbridge Wells Aug.t 31 1823

My dear Lambton

I have this morning had a most unexpected & extraordinary communication of the cause of the rupture between Sir John & Beaumont; in a letter from the latter. The man must be as mad as Bedlam. What do you think of his having told first his intended wife, & one of her sisters & then Edward Swinburne, that Lady S was a woman of most abandoned character & had had intrigues with me, the General & her Butler, & calling on me for a confirmation of the charge - the causes of this act, which in truth is proof enough of madness, are stated in a manner so strange & incoherent as to leave no doubt of the state of his Head. What appears almost as extraordinary as the conduct of Beaumont himself, is that young Edwd Swinburne should not have annihilated him on the spot. On the contrary he appears to have gone very quietly with him to Sir John, that he might repeat to him the same charge. Sir John with some feeling, flew into a <furie> , would hear nothing, & turned him out of the House. I will send you the letter, or a copy, but I cannot at present part with the letter & have not time to make a copy. In the mean time I send you my answer - I do not see how I could say less & it did not appear to me necessary to say more in answer to a Madman. To <verify> my own mind <herein> on this point, <which is the only doubtful one> I consulted Creavey who is here, under a strict injunction of secrecy & he confirmed my opinion. What is to come of this I don't know, but it is possible Beaumont may force me into a quarrel a link I cannot avoid, tho I do not think he can find a friend to consult, sufficiently foolish or <.....> not to tell him how infamous he must make himself by such a proceeding. This precious letter he sent express by his servant who will leave town by the Mail tonight with my answer. You will of course keep this perfectly secret.

I had just before received a letter from Ridley telling me he had heard that Beaumont meant to take the Chiltern Hundreds & urging me in that event, to bring Henry forward, of which success he thinks there can be no doubt. I certainly am anxious to get him into Parliament & this might be an easy way of getting him a seat. That I could not face a contest, & with this explanation I have written to Ridley to say if

it could be done without expense & was wished by our friends, I should be very glad to have Henry put up as a Candidate. Keep this also to yourself for the moment.

Yours &c
Grey

I did not perceive till I turned the leaf that I was writing on half a sheet of paper

[on verso:]

J G Lambton/ The Honble E. Petres/ Stapleton/ Ferrybridge

4 Sep 1823 Charles Grey to John Lambton

My dear Lambton

I cannot express to you how much I have been affected by your letter. <You> could not have written with more real warmth of kindness & affection & it is most gratifying to me to have such a proof of the feelings by which you are influenced. Believe that I am most grateful for it, & never can forget it.

I of course can have heard nothing yet from Beaumont nor can I, in all probability before Saturday. I am going to pass the interval at Cassiobury, from whence I can be reached if necessary in three or four hours. Nobody can calculate on the conduct of such a Man. Certainly the Swinburnes are, as we say in the North, first owers; but the young one has not shown much <di ...tion> to recent B's conduct as anybody else wd have done, & the matter now evidently rests on the manner in which he may take my letter. I think the probability is that I may have another long rigmarole from him, & tho' I shall delay any further correspondence if he takes the course of writing & does not come to Town, it is clear that the thing will go off. If he comes with a determination to proceed hostilely, there will not be time to send for you, & tho' it wd be a great comfort to me to have you here, it is perhaps better that you should be near Louisa, in case anything should happen to me. I have not yet spoken to anybody but Holland who is going out of Town & who would not do to build <operations>, tho as to every thing else his advice & judgement are excellent. If necessary, therefore, I shall send either the <Officer> I <....> probably the former as being the nearest. I am persuaded, however, that there will be no such necessity, tho' it is myself to look to its probability & to be prepared for it. If in the meantime B has written a similar to the General, I think the matter will be cut very short.

You may depend upon my writing the moment I have any thing to say, & in my concealing nothing from you. If I have time tonight, at Cassiobury, I will copy B's letter & send it to you by tomorrow's Post. I cannot part with the original whilst this business remains in <suspense>.

I rejoice at the continuance of your good fortune. Fortune seems to be running & will I hope have a victory soon. Dr Syntax

Yours &c

Grey.

I don't know whether I told you that I began reading B's letter to Lady G having no conception of what it was to contain, & could not stop. She therefore knows the whole and may probably have mentioned it to Louisa.

11 Sep 1823 Charles Grey to John Lambton

Hanover Sq Sept 11 1823

Mr Dear Lambton

I have obeyed your instruction most implicitly with respect to mentioning the name of Ellie; so much so that I obliterated it in your letter & even Lady Grey does not know who was quoted as his authority by Beaumont. If it be true that Ellice told him this story, or any thing like it, I must think the latter quite unpardonable, in <long .eived> old & obsolete <gossip> for which there never was the slightest foundation; & as I understood you to say that Beaumont had quoted Ellice, as his authority in his communication with young Swinburne, this calumny appears to come from a person so nearly connected with me, is very awkward. However, there is no remedy for this & I may not be supposed to be acquainted with this part of the story. That it has occurred to me that Beaumont, if not put under control, may not <improbably> apply to Ellice for a confirmation of what he says he heard from him, & as you will see E. at Cantley I wish you to consider how far it might be advisable for you to prepare him for what may happen. I have not said a word to Ellice, except what I write to you of the original version of the story, which I received from Sir John, & if you should say anything to him on the subject, don't let him know that I had been informed of his having been quoted; as my ignorance of the fact can be the only excuse for my not speaking <...> to him strongly about it.

I had this morning a letter from Sir John, telling me that as he heard that you had been at Bradley since Beaumont's dismissal he wished you to be acquainted with what he had written to me & he added that you were one of the persons against whom Beaumont, in speaking of you, always directed the most violent abuse. I suppose the foundation of this report must be William's having been mistaken for you.

I believe I before told you that I had communicated every thing to Sir W Gordon, as a friend both of Sir John's & mine, that he might explain to Sir John, if it should become necessary, every thing that had passed between me & Beaumont. I of course communicated to him also the result of William's interview with B. at Ferrybridge & by his advice have now sent a copy of Beaumont's letter & of my answer to Sir John.

Here I hope I may consider this most extraordinary & very unpleasant business as being terminated at least as far as I am concerned in it, & for its termination without further annoyance to me & my family. I shall always think myself under the greatest obligations to you & your Brother. But I shall be anxious to have any further accounts you may receive of Beaumont or of his intended future plans. His family ought to put

him under control, & it appears to me that Mr Bird, his tutor, who it is clear must have been informed of all he had done, & all he intends doing, must be nearly as bad as himself not to have taken immediate measures for that purpose.

I hear nothing of Spain but what will be in the papers or of any other news. I got your list this morning & am glad to see that your luck continues. You have never told me whether you have anything for the St Leger. Lady Fitzwilliam came yesterday : they leave town again on Saturday, you will probably see Ld F at Doncaster but not for the first day. We shall set out for Torquay the beginning of the week.

Your most affect. <....>

Grey

[on verso:] J G Lambton Esq
M. A. Taylor's Esq
Cantley /Doncaster

15 Sep 1823 Charles Grey to John Lambton

Hanover Sq Sept 15 1823

My dear Lambton

We are in all the misery of preparing for our departure tomorrow. Lady Grey & I stop till Friday at Lord <M> Spencer's. The young Ladies go separate to Torquay, to get the House ready for us & we hope to join them there on Sunday.

I told you that, by Gordon's advice, I had sent the correspondence between me & Beaumont to Sir Jno Swinburne. I had an answer from him this morning expressing in the strongest terms his entire satisfaction with every thing I had done & stating that he had shown the letters to Dr Fenwick's Brother & meant to do so to Thornton & Bigge & tho' he was anxious to communicate what had passed to some of his other friends he would not do so, without my permission. My answer of course is that having made the communication to him, as I felt myself bound to do, it was for him to judge what was the best use to make of it for himself & his family, but that I hoped he would take care that it was not made publick. I believe I told you that I consulted Creavey, there being nobody else at Tunbridge to whom I could apply, before I returned my answer, & knowing his intimacy with <Sefton>, I thought it as well to tell him what had passed myself, but under an injunction not to talk of it. However it cannot be expected to remain a secret.

I was much amused by <the Lady's> way of accounting for the rupture of the marriage. You did not say whether he reported B to have had a private Trial.

I am glad to hear there is a probability of <Beresuna's> winning. By this time it is over - I depend on your sending me bits.

Why did you say nothing of Mr <Trevor's> accident? I was very anxious to hear how he is going on. Tho' I fear from all the accounts that the case is nearly <.....>. It must have thrown a <cold damp> over your party.

I don't believe there is the slightest foundation for the report of Mr Fox & <Miss>.

If <Louisa> is with you give my best love to her, but in a letter <B...> received from her this morning there is no mention of her leaving Howick direct in future to Torquay.

Yrs. affect. Grey

1 Oct 1823 Charles Grey to John Lambton

Torquay Oct 1st 1823

My Dear Lambton

Many thanks for your letter. Before this you probably may have learned the results of Beaumont's supernatural intimation. By letters from Sir John S to my <Brother> & to Sir W. Gordon which have been sent to me, it appears that he astonished young Edward & the Boatman, by his sudden appearance at the Lake at Capheaton. & upon E.S.'s asking what he did there his answer was that he did not know, that he supposed God had sent him, but that he would go away if E.S. decide it, & <immediately> did so. E.S. then went to the House to prevent his getting there but in the mean time B met Emily Swinburne walking with Mr Ward, to whom you will have heard she is going to be married, stopped and looked at them, clasped his head with his hands, & without speaking a word, ran off to the south. Sir John has only properly communicated what passed on this occasion to a friend of B's family, who I hope will at last take the measures which they ought have taken long ago, but which are now become indispensable for his own safety, as well as that of others; & this I conclude must have been done, as Sir John says Mrs B had come to Bradley & that Mr Bird & his Brother were in pursuit of Beaumont.

I was much inclined at finding that Ellice had not by any inadvertence (as I never imputed any things since, but I thought this past possible) be <mised a. ma.....s> which B's madness had worked up into the strange history which he thought it proper to relate to Edward Swinburne.

This climate if we may judge from the plants which flourish out of doors, a& particularly from the Myrtles which are against almost all the Houses, often as high as the second windows, of the most luxuriant growth, notwithstanding the severity of last winter when in full bloom, must be extraordinary mild. But <.....> tho' the weather has been fine, it has been a good deal like our northern autumns. Lady Grey continues much the same, certainly not better.

Your good accounts of Louisa made us all very happy; give my best love to her.

Have you heard any thing from Wilson or of him. I have not had a line from London since I left it & know nothing of what is passing.

Ever most affect. Yours

Grey

Remember to send us bits from your races & an account of all your proceedings &, I sincerely hope, of no accidents, but Mr Trevor's makes me feel nervous about Gentlemen Riders. I never heard exactly how it happened.

[on verso:]

J.G.Lambton Esq. / Lambton Hall / Chester le Street / Durham

5 Oct 1823 Charles Grey to John Lambton

Torquay Oct 5th 1823

My Dear Lambton

I do not make out from your letter or Sir John's whether it was before or after his appearance at Capheaton that Beaumont wrote to William. I rather conjecture that it must have been before & in that case it is possible he may have slipped Mr Bird & his Brother, who were in pursuit of him, & proceeded in his journey to London. Mrs Beaumont had been at Capheaton but I do not know what passed in the interview but that she wished to have a copy of his letter to me which Sir John refused. What the object of this request could be I cannot imagine, as from Howick's letter, who wrote this account to me, I understand that Mrs B. acknowledged either that she already had a copy, or had seen one, what has passed has now been communicated to so many people that I suppose that it must by this time be pretty generally known.

The immediate object of Howick's letter to me was to tell me that Sir d. Smith (the Duke's agent!!!) had written to him to express an anxious wish that in the event of Beaumont's seat turning vacant he should offer himself to gain for the County. To this Howick answered that the same prudential reasons which had induced him to withdraw must still continue to influence him; but I do not think his refusal was so decided as to preclude a hope that if pressed by his friends & convinced of the necessity of his coming forward to prevent a contest or the more probable danger of the representation being thrown entirely into the hands of the Tories, he might be induced to recall it. It is clear from this that the Duke is already looking to the enforced vacancy & I think the offer to <stand> which must be considered as coming from him, tho' I do not think the manner of making it very judicious, a very handsome one. It probably has been dictated in a great measure by kind feeling towards Howick himself, & by a desire of avoiding any contest. But if Howick should positively & finally decline probably the same feelings would not influence the Duke with <respect> to any other person, & he would no doubt be pressed by his own Duty to bring forward a Candidate of their <.....>. Under these circumstances I have written to Howick expressing my firm opinion that he should stand & I hope the rest of our friends will see the advantage of his doing so, as strongly as I do. With respect to Henry, tho' I am very active to get him into Parliament. I should prefer very much any other seat, & in addition to the danger of an opposition his standing would be likely to provoke & the nature of which I could not encourage I do not think he would be a good candidate,

being so young & so little known in the County. However, things may change materially before the general election (& I do not know any means by which Beaumont's seat can be vacated sooner) & then if it is thought by our kind no better candidate be found & I have not been able in the meantime to find a more certain & quiet post for him, I shall have no objection to his coming forward always under the understanding that he must withdraw if threatened with the expense of a contest. Pray tell Brougham this, as I understand he is to be at Lambton Races, & I had mentioned to him that there was a chance of the County being opened to Henry.

We are all as usual. The dullness of our life is not to be described, & I look with melancholy to the prospect before us for the next six months. By Louisa's account our weather here must be much milder than it has been with you but I doubt whether any difference of climate can make up for so much discomfort, & I am persuaded if she could only have thought so, that Lady G wd have been better at Howick.

Yours Affect Grey.

7 Nov 1823 Charles Grey to John Lambton

Torquay Nov 5 1823

My Dear Lambton

As I learn Lady Grey wrote yesterday to London it is probable she told her of the unexpected visit we received the night before from Mr R[ichard] Beaumont. He came with a letter from his Brother, of which the following is a copy.

My Lord. Being convinced upon calm reflection, that my conduct towards your Lordship has been unacceptable I do not hesitate to offer your Lordship an apology for it.

I am

(signed TW Beaumont)

He also delivered a correspondence to the same effect with Sr J. Swinburne & his son. I merely said that I required no apology - that I regretted his having had the trouble of coming so far for such a purpose that nothing could be said in excuse of his Brother's conduct, but that it had been occasioned by mental delusion. That I was glad that he had recovered so far as to see what he had done in its true light, & to endeavour to make the only atonement for it now in his power; but that it wd be impossible for me to have any personal intercourse with him for the future. He answered that Beaumont certainly had been under a strong excitement but that he was now quite well & that it was his anxiety to offer the apology which he thought was required of him, that had made him take this journey, the trouble of which was nothing, & so after mutual

civilities we parted. This proceeding & the manner of it seems to me nearly as mad as all the rest.

You will have heard of course from & do not think she is in any respect so well as she was at this time last year. But we must live in hope. The climate is certainly wonderfully mild. I am now writing in a room without a fire, & rather too hot. Last week we had a tremendous storm & for two or three days it was cold, but it has since been very fair.

I desired Lady Grey to mention that the variations of walks here are very beautiful & that baths, which I think exceedingly handsome, a chimney pieces are to be had very cheap. The chimney pieces in bedrooms I think you would like & they might be sent at little expense to Sunderland as there is a constant communication by Ships going for coals which sail from here in ballast. If you wish for any thing of this sort, I will execute to the best of my <...> any communication you may give me.

Love to Louisa

Your most affect

Yours. Grey

[on verso:] J. G. Lambton Esq
Lambton Hall / Chester le Street / Durham

JGL A40/9

{This is principally a manuscript volume of fair copies of original correspondence, together with some loose leaves of other copied correspondence, all relating to the Beaumont-Swinburne-Grey affair of 1823-4. Markings on the copies indicate which parts were to be printed in a broadsheet and those letters and sections to be excluded. A copy of the broadsheet is also folded into the front of the volume. The collection was presumably drawn up by J.G.Lambton in the wake of the 1826 General Election campaign in Northumberland, and issued at its close, from where sections were picked up for republication in the press in July of that year.]

29 Aug 1823 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Charles Grey

To the Right Honourable Earl Grey.

Bradley, August 29 1823

Dear Lord Grey,

I cannot prevent this letter appearing to you very extraordinary, but its necessity has been brought on by Lady Swinburne's conduct.

Almost immediately after her daughter's acceptance of my proposals, in which she and Sir John seemed cordially to concur, I was struck by the unkindness of Lady Swinburne to me, and the continual endeavours she was making to hinder Elizabeth from giving her affections to me. This, will easily imagine. Alarmed me considerably,

for besides the usual respect of well-disposed children to their parents, I observed a confidence little short of idolatrous in Elizabeth toward Lady S. - The peculiarity of some of their habits and education has contrived this. I resolved instantly to give up all other considerations, and to use all the advantages which my familiarity with the family and approaching marriage afforded me, for investigating to the bottom, the cause of this unnatural behaviour.

Circumstances soon occurred to shew me, that Lady S had not much regard for her husband, for whom, however, she constantly expressed the strongest attachment. I may now pass over a variety of things which brought me to suppose that she had entertained, if she had not still, a passion for herself, which had at some time or other, probably many years ago been gratified. Having this idea, I went on to examine its truth by repeated conversations, which fully confirmed it.

Now, my Lord, I beg you will not consider that I took up this matter as my own, and would for my own sake have wounded the feelings of either yourself or Lady S.

I had opportunities of seeing General Grey with her, and was brought to a similar suspicion respecting him. Nor did it entirely stop here, so unbridled and unprincipled her conduct appeared to me. This gave sufficient ground for her conduct in all respects. For, seeing my affection for Elizabeth, if she could secure her daughter's blind devotion to herself, she had reason to believe that my eyes also might be shut. Luckily, I had too strong a conviction of her guilt, and too firm a reliance that such wickedness would not be allowed to be triumphant, for such a hope ever go be realised.

The first step I took (this was in London, a few weeks before their return to the country) was to expostulate with Lady S, upon her behaviour to me, in such general terms, as to leave no doubt in her mind of the full extent of my intention, without compromising myself by an explanation to a particular line of conduct. This language, however, was met on her part by reproaches, and an assurance that she was conscious of having done no wrong. Emily was by chance in the room during this conversation, and was at that time totally ignorant of what I meant. Her mother appeared to me to suspect that she knew it, and treated her with much cruelty in order to force from her, what, in fact, she did not know. It is needless, at this time, to go into further details.

Sir John was, at different times, induced to conduct himself towards me in a manner that could only be the result of great misrepresentation. Lady S's conduct upon my determination to take Elizabeth abroad immediately after our marriage, with, many other occurrences in London and at Capheaton, as well as what I have heard took place on the journey, gave me continual proofs that she could not be induced to give up her attempts to alienate her daughter from me.

In consequence of a quarrel with my mother, I found it necessary to think of retiring from the representations of the county, and consequently from residence in it, which I rather state, in order that I omit. I think of importance, which I recollect to have occurred in this singular affair, than from any precise bearing it appears to have upon the object of this letter. Still I had no idea of making my thoughts on this subject known to Sir John Swinburne, or his son Edward, although I had been compelled to acquaint

Elizabeth and Emily with them before they left London. From the uncommon excellence and purity of Elizabeth's mind, and her most amiable disposition, such an explanation seemed to me possible to be avoided. About ten days, however, after my arrival at Capheaton, our affairs took a new and extraordinary turn, which compelled me to a different conduct.

On Sunday the 10th instant, after some prayers had been read at home (it was a wet morning), selected from a book of Bishop Hoadley's, and in which, as well as in a sermon of Sydney Smith's, I was struck by the absence of all acknowledgment of the atonement of our Saviour, and the misrepresentation of the principal object of his coming upon earth, to die for the sins of mankind, I declared to Edward Swinburne my opinion respecting g his mother, and named yourself, General Grey, and her own butler.

I think it is also my duty to mention, that I felt myself urged to the course I took, by circumstances of an extraordinary character, which, after a most calm and dispassionate examination, I believe to be out of the usual source of events. Into a further account of these it appears to me totally unnecessary for me here to enter, as I do not rely upon them for my justification with your Lordship in troubling you with this letter.

After my conversation with Edward Swinburne, we went together to Sir John, to whom I was going to make the same communication, when he became out of temper and would hear nothing. I accordingly left him, and retired immediately with Mr Bird, who arrived almost at that moment from his living at Chollerton, to Bradley, where I have remained since that time.

Three weeks have now nearly elapsed, and although an offer has been made to me of forgiveness, if I would apologise to Lady S, which was of course rejected, I do not find that any steps have been taken by Sir John S. Last night, a note which I sent to Edward, at Ovingham, to ask what had been done, and enquire after the health of Elizabeth and Emily, was returned to me unopened, and my groom was desired to tell me, that after what passed, he could receive no letters from me.

I do not know, therefore, what it is his intention to do; - he is aware that I shall remain at Bradley, - and to be prepared for any thing, I have written by this morning's post, to request a friend, who is in Yorkshire, to come and pass a few days with me. I have had sufficient evidence of the hardness of Lady S to make me believe she would not hesitate to risk her son's life, if she thought to accomplish her own object by that means.

Your Lordship will do me the justice to believe me, when I say, that it has not been the least in my thoughts to screen myself from a duel by this letter, - but I look for your own acknowledgment to restore happiness to that of the family, which is most deserving of it, and to confound their most unworthy and abandoned mother.

I beg to be understood as not asking in this any favour for myself, although my happiness is so entirely involved in that of her daughter, that what affects one, must also affect the other.

During the whole of this affair, I have acted from a conscientious conviction of my duty, and I look for no recompense, but in the execution of it, for its own sake.

I remain, my dear Lord Grey,
T W Beaumont

PS To prevent the delay of this letter in London during Sunday I have sent it by my servant, who will wait for your Lordship's reply
[This postscript did not appear in the printed version.]

31 Aug 1823 Charles Grey to Thomas Wentworth Beaumont

To T.W.Beaumont Esq (Copy) answer

Tunbridge Wells Augt 31st 1823

Sir,

I this moment received your most extraordinary letter, which has excited not only my surprise, but my indignation.

How you could justify to yourself the unwarrantable use you have made of my name I will not inquire. I feel it only necessary to say, that as far as relates to myself, the infamous allegation you have made against Lady Swinburne's character is totally false and unfounded.

I am, Sir, your obedient humble servant.
Grey

3 Sep 1823 John Lambton to Charles Grey

[Note: Undated, but it was directed to Grey at the 'Earl of Essex's, Watford'. This was Cassiobury, to where Grey had informed Lambton on 4th Sept 1823 he was going to stay, and from where he had returned by 11th Sept. 3rd and 10th Sept were Wednesdays. Given other letters from Grey to Lambton the 10th would have been too late a date for news of Wm Lambton's meeting with Beaumont at Ferrybridge to have been reported to Grey, so 3rd Sept is assumed here.]

The Earl Grey
The Earl of Essex's Watford

Stapleton Wednesday Morning

My Dear Lord Grey

This Morning my brother William received a Letter from Beaumont to his great astonishment, saying that you were now his 'antagonist', wishing to have William for a second, and to see him at Ferrybridge at 3o'clock, but if, as was most natural, Willm objected to be concerned for him in any thing which had any reference to you, not to come. This was all he said except declining to tell him any thing of the Causes or reasons for this untill they met.

William came to me in great distress to show the letter. I thought it best, all things considered, to tell him what had taken place between you, the substance of Beaumont's letter, your answer and his general behaviour. I knew he must be acquainted with it in a few hours and thought it better that he should be prepared before he met Beaumont.

William said nothing on earth should make him act for Beaumont, but he thought from his previous intimacy with him, and former influence over his mind, if it was sane, he should be able to prevent his pursuing this Outrageous line of Conduct, by meeting him and endeavouring to argue with him, and prove to him that no man of honour in England could act as his second in any affair with you.

When we go to the Races W is to ride to the Inn at Ferrybridge and wait for him, if he cannot stop him, he is to order 4 horses for me, and I shall be on the Road to London and in Town an hour after him. I will keep this open until William returns that I may tell you the result, if indeed I do not see you before this could reach you.

Wednesday night

I am happy to say that William has settled every thing at least as far as any hostile intentions against you are concerned, because altho' nothing might have come of it from the want of a competent friend to authorise his proceedings, yet the probable result would have been very unpleasant and troublesome both as regards publicity and annoyance, if he had gone on.

William stayed with him 3 hours, heard all his story, read his letter to you, and told him fairly he thought he was mad, that no person of character or honor could assist him, that the only thing to redeem his character, or save it from farther obloquy and Exposure would be to keep quiet, and to go abroad for some Months.

Beaumont said quite seriously he did not think he was mad that he examined himself repeatedly, felt his own pulse (!!) and had even asked Bird his tutor, who thought him in full possession of his senses. He told W. a great number of long stories of Grievances against Lady Swinburne, of her asserting that he B was trying to be too intimate with a Sister of his intended Wife, which fact he said the Sister communicated to him - that Lady S's Conduct was repeatedly very indecent, latterly to two painters who were in the house (!!) so much so that he at one time entertained great notions of expostulating with the painters themselves. When pressed by William to say what authority he had for those assertions against Lady S with regard to you, the General and the Butler he said [dots given as written] had told him so!! and that he had told Edward Swinburne so. He said farther that he had no 'religious fury' in him and therefore could Not be mad. It was time he had questioned his intended as to her religious opinions about the Divinity of Christ and the Doctrine of Original Sin and certainly was not quite satisfied with her answers. That he felt it to be his painful Duty to reveal to her, her Mother's Conduct and that he was convinced she would be too happy to marry him even now. William after a great deal of Argument, and hearing a Mass of incoherent assertions and reasoning, at last prevailed on him to give up his journey to Town, whither he was hastening to arrange a Duel with you, and go to

Scarborough for a Week, and from thence go abroad for 5 or 6 Months. His manner he thought very strange, he seemed in high spirits, laughed repeatedly and was quite unconscious at first of all the Misery he had brought on one family by his unwarrantable behaviour and was endeavouring to bring on another without even the remotest shadow of a justification. He seemed to yield latterly to W's view of the Case, but I think left Ferrybridge with that delusion about Lady S. as strong on his mind as ever. He expressed himself as convinced of her being the most vicious of her sex. He must be as mad as bedlam. William begged me not to say that Beaumont had quoted as his authority, but I think it right to tell you, relying implicitly on your not making any Use of it, in any way. I am very happy that William was here at the time and was able to prevent him from going on. I believe no one but him could have effected it - and when I reflect the vexation and annoyance that his presence in Town, his attempts to persuade his friends to act for him, and even the mere correspondence on the subject would have created independent of the Chance of his Meeting some blackguard or other who would have rejoiced in nothing more than a row, without any reference to his honor or justice, I feel too happy that he has been prevented in his mad purpose and William, the person who was the means of effecting it.

It is altogether the most strange unaccountable business I ever heard of - No one ever went mad, I believe with less provocation, or gave fewer signs of the disease coming on - or had a more efficient fit when it did arrive.

Excuse this Scrawl - it is late at night, and I have been too nervous all day about this, to be quite cool even now. I hope you will think I acted properly and that the result, namely preventing B from any more Acts of Outrage, the best that could have been procured under existing circumstances.

Ever your affect.

J.G.L

I stay here until the 12th and then go to Cantley

29 Sep 1823 John Lambton to Charles Grey

The Earl Grey.

Lambton Hall Sept 29

My dear Lord Grey

William received a Week ago a Letter from B. Saying that he had a supernatural Intimation that Lady S had drowned herself that Morning - that in consequence he had set off for Bradley, in the full expectation of finding the fact confirmed - that if it did not turn out to be so, he could not expect William to believe his other assertions as they rested chiefly on the same foundation.

A few days afterwards he heard again from B who said 'I think it necessary to inform you that Lady S is alive and well. I can not therefore ask you to believe me again, for I will not acknowledge those things which I placed on the same footing, to be

false - I leave Bradley for London tomorrow.' William thinks he meant to have said now instead of not - for as it stands now is unintelligible - but what else can be expected from such a Madman.

We expect the Jerseys here today from Chillingham. She has been unwell.

I fear from the young Ladies account you did not find Torquay very comfortable, at all Events I hope Lady Grey's health is better for it.

My best love to her and all with you.

Yours ever affect.

J G L

26 Oct 1823 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Charles Grey

To Earl Grey from Mr Beaumont

Warrens Hotel Oct 26 1823

My Lord

Being convinced upon calm reflection that my Conduct towards your Lordship has been unjustifiable. I do not hesitate to offer your Lordship an apology for it.

I am, my Lord

Your Lordship's Obed. humble Servant

T. W. Beaumont

(This Letter was brought to Torquay and delivered to Ld G. there by Mr Beaumont's Brother who at the same time showed him the letters he had written to Sir John and Edward Swinburne, and their answers. (the answer of the first was excellent, that if Edward quite unfit both for the person and the occasion.) He said that he was sorry Mr B had had the trouble of coming so far, that he required no Apology, that he quite concurred in every thing Sir John had said, that he must view his Brother's Conduct as proceeding from mental Derangement which could be the only excuse for it and that he was glad to find that he had now so far recovered as to see the improperness of his Conduct and to make the only atonement for it in his power. But that like Sir John, must decline all further intercourse with him. Mr B acknowledged that his Brother had certainly been 'in a state of high excitement' but said that he now saw every thing in a proper light and was quite well. This is the substance of what passed after which Ld G. & Mr B parted with expressions of mutual civility.)

1 Nov 1823 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to John Swinburne

Copy from Mr W. Beaumont.

Queens Head - friday

Sir J Swinburne - received Nov 1st 1823

Sir John

Your Son's Letter which accompanies this will have informed you of my desire to make every amends in my power to yourself and your family for having uttered my suspicions to the Injury of Lady Swinburne without foundation, as well as of my intention to make a similar apology to Lord Grey. My Brother Richard who is with me will be happy to come to you and express my regret for the anxiety you have suffered through my Conduct and. Y hope that Lady Swinburn and yourself will accept my apology.

I remain Sir John

Your Obed Hble Servt

(signed) Thos W Beaumont

1 Nov 1823 John Swinburne to Richard Beaumont

To Richard Beaumont Esq.

Fallodon Nov 1st 1823

Sir

I have just received a Note from your Brother with an Apology for his Conduct towards me and my family; that Apology Lady S and myself can only accept of in consideration of our entire conviction that the accusation was made when Mr Beaumont was labouring under mental delusion, it is therefore quite unnecessary to give you the trouble of coming to this place, as Mr B's Conduct under these circumstances neither admits of nor requires any further explanation.

Will you be so good as communicate this to your Brother Mr W Beaumont with whom however I must decline all personal intercourse both now and hereafter. Allow me to offer you many thanks for your good Office and interference on this occasion. Believe me to remain

Sir your Obed hbl Servt

(Signed) J E Swinburne

7 Nov 1823 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Willoughby Gordon

(Received Friday Nov 7th 1823)

Warren's Hotel - Friday

Sir Willoughby Gordon

I am prompted by your former Kindness towards me, to offer in justice to myself, and lay before you Copies of my letters of apology to Lord Grey, and Sir John and Lady Swinburne, with their answers.

My Brother Richard, who returned this Morning from Torquay would be happy to wait upon you, for this purpose at any hour tomorrow you should appoint.

I remain Sir

Your obed Servt
(Signed). T.W Beaumont

Sir Willoughby Gordon Bt

7 Nov 1823 Willoughby Gordon to Thomas Wentworth Beaumont

Copy

Horse Guards Nov 7 1823

Sir

I have to acknowledge your Letter of this day, and can only say, in answer that I shall be ready to receive Mr Richard Beaumont whenever he may be pleased to call here between 1 and 4 but as I have already received from Sir John Swinburne Copies of your letter to him with his answer, I should be unwilling to give Mr Richard Beaumont the unnecessary trouble of calling upon me for that purpose.

I remain, Sir, Your obedient Servant
(Signed). J. W. Gordon

T.W.Beaumont Esq MP / Warrens Hotel

4 Jan 1824 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Charles Grey

The Right Honourable Earl Grey

Lyons, Jan. 4, 1824

My Lord,

By the conduct of most of the gentlemen whom I have met on the continent, though more particularly of the Whigs, towards me, as well as by general report, I have collected that it is intended, that upon my return to England I shall not be spoken to. Being conscious of having acted throughout this affair with the most pure intentions, - the strictest honour, - and in a manner that circumstances made necessary, - I shall, in my own defence, lay before the world in letters to several of my friends, the treatment I received from Lady Swinburne and Sir John, from the day on which their daughter accepted me, with all that has subsequently occurred. As I shall have occasion to make use of your Lordship's name, I think it right to inform your Lordship of my intention to do so.

I have the honour to remain My Lord
Your Lordship's Obed.t servt
T.W.Beaumont

[annotated in a different hand:] No answer was given to this letter

17 Jan 1824 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Charles Grey

The Right Honourable Earl Grey.

Warren's Hotel, Jan. 17, 1824

My Lord

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

I am, etc,
T.W.Beaumont

19 Jan 1824 Charles Grey to Thomas Wentworth Beaumont

T. W Beaumont Esq etc

Government House, Devonport, Jan, 19, 1824

Sir

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

I am, Sir, etc
Grey

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

21 Jan 1824 Willoughby Gordon to Charles Grey

The Earl Grey etc

Horse Guards, Jan, 21, 1824

My Dear Lord,

Your letter of the 19th, with its two enclosures, I received this morning, and having duly considered the subject, I wrote a letter to Mr Beaumont, of which the Inclosed is a copy and on delivering it in person to the Waiter of Warren's Hotel at 2 o'clock this day the Waiter informed me that Mr Beaumont was not in town and was not expected before next Sunday. I left the letter in the hands of the Waiter.

Yours faithfully
J. W. Gordon

I return your Duplicate

21 Jan 1824 Willoughby Gordon to Thomas Wentworth Beaumont

[Note: The enclosed letter being that of 19th Jan from Grey to Beaumont]

To T.W. Beaumont, Esq, etc

H. 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; and 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, and I have seen all the correspondence which has passed between yourself and those respectable individuals, my near connections, whom you have insulted; and 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 of a mental delusion as the only excuse that could be made for your conduct,'.

I think it is right also to inform you, that it was this conviction alone that prevented the respectable persons whom you have insulted from adopting the steps which might otherwise have suggested themselves; and 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 should be inconsistent with the previous determination, adopted upon full consideration of your whole conduct upon this occasion.

I have the Honour to be, etc

J. W. Gordon

22 Jan 1824 Willoughby Gordon to Charles Grey

H. Gds. January 22nd 1824

The Earl Grey Devonport.

My dear Lord

I find on looking over my papers that I omitted to make a Copy of your Letter to Mr. Beaumont - have the Goodness therefore to return the Duplicate and add the postscript to it.

I should be glad also that you would let me have the whole of the Correspondence of this man with your answers from first to last - also whatever Correspondence Swinburne may have sent to you.

Up to this moment 1/2 past 11 I have not heard any thing further of or from Mr Beaumont.

Yours faithfully

J. W. Gordon

[Marked 'not' to be included on the printed broadsheet]

24 Jan 1824 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Willoughby Gordon

To Sir Willoughby Gordon, Bart, etc

Doncaster, January 24, 1824

Sir Willoughby Gordon

I received your letter, with Earl Grey's enclosed, last night, and was far from having any desire of taking the notice of it that, in the conclusion of yours, 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 and confuting the many falsehoods which have been uttered concerning my conduct in this affair.

I am, etc,

T.W.Beaumont

26 Jan 1824 Willoughby Gordon to Charles Grey

[Note: The letter from Beaumont referred to is that of Jan 24th]

Private.

Horse Guards Jany 26 1824

The Earl Grey Government House Devonport.

My dear Lord

I have your letter of the 24th with its enclosures which shall all be duly returned to you as soon as I have copied them.

I am glad you are satisfied with the course I have taken and I assure you that in further reflection I am more convinced that the Conduct I at first adopted was the proper one, keeping in view the preservation of your honor, and my own rank and station in Life as an Officer and a Gentleman.

I now enclose a copy of a Letter I have just received from Mr Beaumont and to which I do not think it necessary at present to send any answer - you have told him your opinion of his conduct and I have repeated in words to him, the same as my own.

I have not seen Sir R Wilson and I am glad of it because altho' I have long had a personal regard for Wilson, I have always thought him most defective in the two qualities most necessary in the Conduct of such a business as this - Judgement and Discretion.

Ever yours most faithfully
J. W. Gordon

PS. I enclose also a Copy of my Letter to Swinburne. JWG

26 Jan 1824 Willoughby Gordon to John Swinburne

Sir John Swinburne Bt.

January 26 1824

Dear Swinburne

I enclose to you a Copy of a letter which I have received from Lord Grey, and also enclose Copy of a letter from me in consequence of it to Mr Beaumont.

In my proceeding in this Matter I beg that you will clearly understand, I do not presume to set myself up as the Guardian of the honor of your family, to which you, and your two Sons, are most fully competent, but connected as I am with you, and from that near Connection having been made acquainted with all that has passed relative to the Conduct of Mr Beaumont. I have thought of it as a Duty incumbent upon me, and from which I could not in any manner swerve to act in this business exactly as I have done.

Yours faithfully

Signed. JWG

PS I enclose a Copy of a letter which I have just received from Mr Bt and to which I do not at present think it necessary to send any answer. JWG

4 Jan 1824 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Emily Swinburne

Miss Emily Swinburne

Lyons Jany 4th 1824

Miss Emily

I am compelled by the situation in which I am placed, with whatever reluctance to declare to the World all that passed between Sir John and Lady Swinburne and myself from the time that your Sister accepted me. I am on the point of being excluded from the world & my sisters are to lose their protector, and I am to be overwhelmed with disgrace for having done that for which my conscience entirely acquits me, and which circumstances* that are well known to you left me no choice in adopting. In order to rescue myself from this state, I shall write to those among my friends who have taken the greatest interest in this affair, and state frankly the unkind Conduct I have continually received from your Mother, and at times from Sir John. It will be necessary for me to assure them that until the moment of my leaving Capheaton I had your concurrence in the opinion I entertained of your Mother's endeavours to thwart me in

gaining the confidence and entire affections of your Sister, and the propriety of the measures I took for resisting them. I have therefore to request of you that whenever you may be asked, you will mention candidly what you know of my Conduct and of your Mother.

The assistance** you gave me in obtaining Walks by ourselves in London, Lady S's flattery in order to remove any impression I had been able to make on your Sister's mind, my expostulations with Lady S in Grosvenor Place, in which I stated Sir John's Swinburne's conduct respecting the Settlements and your Mother's Conduct to you for some days after that Conversation, what passed at Chelsea and your Mother's conversations to you at Capheaton shortly before I left you - the Socinian Service on the last Sunday and her immediately removing the book from which the prayers were read - her making the Codicil to her Will, and the unwarrantable insinuations she expressed before your Sister in the Library. All these I have no doubt have made too deep an impression on your Mind to be forgot and in defence of my family and of myself, as well as to show that your Sister's affections were not placed upon a person unworthy of them, I ask you to declare the Truth. It must and shall be known, that punishment may fall on the Guilty. As I told you in Grosvenor Place, in this affair those will ultimately suffer and have cause to repent, who swerve from their Duty to God.

Believe me to be, Miss Emily,

Most truly yours,

(Signed). T. W. Beaumont

[Notes presumably added in a different hand to the original letter:]

* Emily recollects no circumstance that he can allude to except his telling her of the Dream and Vision that compelled him to act as he did.

** Emily never walked alone with him and Elizabeth in London except at Chelsea.

13 Jan 1824 Martin Morrison to John Swinburne

Copy from Mr Morrison of Newcastle - Mr.Beaumont's Agent to Sir J. Swinburne.

Newcastle 13th Jany 1824

Sir

I forwarded to Mr Beaumont the note* you enclosed to me with a Copy of your letter and I am directed to say in answer to you 'that he has fulfilled his Duty in informing your Daughter by the only means in his power of his continued attachment to her.' I am also directed by Mr Beaumont to inform you that 'in order to rescue his Character from the condemnation of the world, he has found it necessary to write to several of his friends a full account of all that has passed between Ly S, yourself and him, since your Daughter accepted him, having to reflect seriously on the Conduct of Ly S & yourself, he thinks it both manly and on every account proper, to make this known to you, as his object is to bring the Truth to light. He feels the subject is of so

delicate a nature that such a disclosure should if possible have been avoided but he owes it to his family and to himself to show the necessity of the Conduct he has pursued by declaring the circumstances which compel him to it, and to do all in his power to dispel the disgrace into which he has so unmeritedly fallen.'

In making this painful communication I have correctly transcribed that which Mr W. Beaumont directs me to transmit to you.

I have the Honor etc

(Signed) Martin Morrison

*. Mr W, Beaumont's letter to Elizabeth was returned unopened with a Declaration she would not have any thing more to say to him.

16 Jan 1824 John Swinburne to Martin Morrison

Sir John Swinburne's answer to Mr Morrison

Capheaton Janry 16th 1824

Dear Sir

I have to thank you for the communication from Mr W. Beaumont every part of whose Conduct more strongly marks his derangement and as you have intercourse with the family be pleased to inform him that my daughter Emily will return no answer to his letter to her nor have any intercourse with him whatsoever.

I am etc

(Signed). J. E. Swinburne

27 Jan 1824 Willoughby Gordon to Charles Grey

The Earl Grey.

H. Guards. Janry 27 1824

My dear Lord

I have yours of the 25th and join the whole I think it as well that I had not the cooperation of any other person.

I have a letter from your brother, the General, and have this day told him what has passed.

I return all the papers from 1-7 having kept copies of the whole.

I declare also the whole of the recent correspondence which I have corrected of such part as should not go beyond you and me, and which you can send to your friends as you please. I have shown it some of mine, there is not the slightest shade of difference of opinion upon the Case.

I am prepared to have a Demand made upon me either by Mr Beaumont or his friends (and I am surprized that it has not been made) for my reasons for my opinion of his mental delusion, and when this comes, he shall have it thick and threefold.

A Man may be of a very malignant, mischievous disposition and of a very ungovernable temper and very wrong headed, but for all that I have no right to proclaim him and treat him as a madman; he may say that my temper etc etc etc is similar to his own.

But if any Man professes to act under the influence of a Vision or a Dream that instant he places his Conduct beyond my reach or comprehension and one of us must be mad and which the World will duly judge. Super human agency is not admitted as a reason for worldly conduct.

This is my anchor in this Sea of confusion, and it is the only one on which I can safely trust. I feel that I have this unhappy man fast in my Gripe, and I shall not fail to pinch him if he attempts to become dangerous.

At the same time as I said to Swinburne, I do not set myself up as the Guardian of his family. It is much too broad a position to lay down, that because a man is once under a mental delusion upon a particular point, that he is to be so upon all others, or always even upon that point, and therefore I think it becomes Sir John and his sons to be cautious of him and themselves.

I enclose a letter which I received some days since from Sir John - why did he open the letter from Mr B? Why not return it as he did the first? Why not caution Mr B against a repetition of these intrusions?

These are points which a Man careful of his honor should look to.

To sit down, and moan, and be pitied at even by a Madman will not do: and involved as the business now is, it becomes Sir J to display the utmost temper and the most decided resolution.

It was in this feeling that I wrote my letter to him yesterday and I could not with propriety say more.

I suppose you made your Son Charles acquainted with all those things: it will do him no harm, and he may be useful in copying.

Ever yours with the highest respect and regard
JWG

PS I cannot complete the recent correspondence before tomorrow JWG

28 Jan 1824 Willoughby Gordon to Charles Grey

(Confidential).

Horse Gds Janry 28 1824

Mr dear Lord

I now enclose the Copies of the recent Correspondence which I have corrected for such circulation as you may chuse to give to it: my letter to Sir John need not form a component part of this matter. Have the goodness to read the whole carefully over.

I did not mention this business to the Duke before this morning when I laid before him and he read attentively these vary papers - and he expressed himself in high terms of respect personally to you and fully approved of all I had done and the manner of doing it.

I have shown your correspondence to my friends in this Building - to Lord Exeter, Mr Bennet and I shall mention it at my discretion.

I have written to your Brother and by this Post I shall send a Duplicate of these papers for the perusal of the Duke of Northumberland.

Ever yours

J W G

The Earl Grey

3 Feb 1824 Charles Carus Wilson to Charles Grey

The Right Honourable Earl Grey

My Lord

I am directed by Mr Beaumont to inform your Lordship, that he has given me Instructions to bring an action against your lordship, for having used and published certain libellous and malicious expressions, to the injury of his character, and which he believes your lordship to have been aware contrary to the fact. Previously you my carrying this intention into effect, he wishes to give your lordship an opportunity of offering any explanation by which such a proceeding may be rendered unnecessary.

I have the honour to be, etc

Chas. Carus Wilson

Furnival's Inn, 3rd Feb 1824

5 Feb 1824 Charles Grey to Charles Carus Wilson

Charles C Wilson Esq

Government House, Devonport , Feb 5, 1824

Sir

I have received your letter of the 3rd, informing me that Mr B has given you instructions to bring an action against me for having used and published certain libellous and malicious expressions to the injury of his character, and which he believes me to have been aware were contrary to the fact. And also, that previously to carrying

this intention into effect, he wishes to give me an opportunity offering any explanation by which such a proceeding may be rendered unnecessary. Of this opportunity I have no desire to avail myself, and if Mr B should be advised to institute the proceeding, of which you have given me notice, I certainly shall be prepared not to explain, but to justify.

I am, Sir, etc,
Grey

7 Feb 1824 John Swinburne to Willoughby Gordon

(Copy).

Febry 7th 1824

Dear Gordon

I presume you have seen Bts Statement in the Morning Post of the 4th Febry - the Report of his Marriage was very prevalent but we paid little attention to it and I don't think I ever mentioned it in any of my letters, but there is something like the soreness of Guilt in the way he notices it.

Lord Grey should see it, and pray be kind enough to convey to him the following extracts from 2 letters I received last Night from Losh.

'Bts Solicitor has sent me a General Retainer (which he says in his 2d letter explains what I said of his intention to prosecute Lord Grey. My Opinion is he will soon be so much worse as to put an End to the business etc. I am clear no legal measures will ever be attempted. they could be of no importance to Lord Grey and would utterly ruin Bt. I don't know certainly that Dr Willis has been consulted but I collected from Mr Bird that some such measure was in agitation etc. Mr Bird called upon me yesterday, I certainly did not receive him very graciously for I told him at once I had a very opinion of him, however after a long conversation during which he showed me several letters confirming what he asserted I certainly am inclined to think that he has acted sincerely in endeavouring to keep Bt abroad and to put a stop to his wild proceedings. He (Bird) seemed to be very much agitated and very anxious to do the best he could and I advised him to go immediately to London and consult with any friends of the family as to any Steps to be taken and this he promised to do immediately. He deprecated in the strongest way any thought on the part of Mr Bt to bring forward your daughter Emily etc. I certainly think you should not do any thing which might look like haste in going to Town or giving the least importance to the Charges of a Man who is beyond all question deranged etc.

I put no trust or faith in any assertion of Bird's but he has now allowed that Bt is at present in a state of of Mind to require the interference of his friends and the advice of a Mad Doctor.

He, Bt, has quarrelled with William Lambton (to his great satisfaction) and told him he has done with him and is heartily disgusted with and sick of the Whigs - this will amuse Lord Grey.

My Cousin Bedingfield will I fancy call upon you, pray show him what you think requisite to put him au fait of the business.

You will observe that the whole of Bts Manouvres and behaviour to the Girls, I was ignorant of till after he was gone. There is good reason to believe that till this moment Bird has always asserted that Beaumont was in perfect sound Mind, and that when he and the brother were sent by Mrs B in pursuit of him, they went to the same Inn that Bt had just left and did not even pretend to look after him, and it is supposed that Bird knew he was coming here the day he appeared at the Lake. I therefore put no faith in him or his promises to go to London and look after him now. I would again express how much and deeply I have been distressed and concerned that Ld Grey's most valuable Life should have been exposed to the most distant risque from such a Mad Villain, on our Account, and that it was not is owing to your Manly, prudent and judicious Conduct.

Believe me / Most truly yours
(Signed). J.E. Swinburne

What is the Sunday paper Statement Bt alludes to

19 Feb 1824 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to James Losh

[Note: Sent on to Grey by Losh with a covering letter on 21st Feb]

To James Losh, Esq

14, Conduit Street, Feb 19 1824

My Dear Sir,

Before the writ against Lord Grey is issued, I wish to give him another opportunity of preventing the disclosure which must inevitably be made if the matter is brought into court. If it is once there, no consideration shall induce me to withhold any statement or evidence that I may think necessary to put the jury and the country in possession of all the facts which can conduce to their coming to a fair and just decision.

You must now be satisfied that I am not seeking revenge, which would urge me to take the most public method of effecting my purpose, when I make the following offer to you, as Lord Grey's friend.

If his Lordship will authorise me to inform you that he was mistaken in imputing to me mental delusion, I will desist from all further proceedings both against himself and the Swinburnes. - Less, I think you must in candour allow, I could not ask for; - you may be assured that my reason for making this offer is to save an exposure to the two

families alluded to, if I can obtain without it what I consider necessary for my own character. - Hoping to receive an early answer from you,

I remain, etc

T. W. Beaumont

[postscript excluded from printed version:]

PS Allow me to take this opportunity of asking you if Emily is to be married to Mr Ward and what has so long delayed the marriage, which before I went abroad it was reported was to take place in a few days.

T W B

21 Feb 1824 James Losh to Charles Grey

[Note: See letter from Beaumont to Losh of 19th Feb. The only part included in the printed version is from the opening sentence, viz. 'I have this moment received the letter which I enclose - and it seems to me best to forward it at once to yourself without mentioning it to anyone']

[Text added at head of copy letter and which appeared in the printed version:]

Extract from a letter from J Losh Esq to Earl Grey

The Earl Grey

Government House. Plymouth

My dear Lord Grey

To my great surprize I have this moment received the letter which I enclose - and it seems to me best to forward it at once to yourself without mentioning it to anyone.

Mr Beaumont has thought proper of late to write to me very frequently and I have without reserve given him my opinion upon every part of his Conduct. I need scarcely add that he has not followed my advice in any one respect.

It has given me sincere pleasure to hear favorable accounts of Lady Grey's health. Sir, J Swinburne tells me that you find a difference of 8 degrees of temperature between Howick and Plymouth- are your observations correctly made at both places? The difference is much greater than I had reason to expect, from my own experience, and what I have heard from others.

Believe me always

most truly yours

James Losh

Newcastle Tyne Feby 21st 1824

25 Feb 1824 Charles Grey to James Losh

Extract from Lord Grey's Answer to Mr Losh,

In answer to the communication which Mr B has desired to be made to me through you, I beg that you will inform him that he must not expect me to retract an iota of the opinion I have expressed with regard to his conduct, and that if he shall be so ill-advised as to persevere in his threatened action, it is neither by Sir John Swinburne's family, nor by myself, that the disclosures which must be made are to be apprehended. The first witness I shall have to call, will probably, be yourself and some of his nearest connections.

Febry 25th 1824

19 Jan 1824 Charles Grey to Willoughby Gordon

Extract of a Letter from Earl Grey to Sir W. Gordon dated,

Govt House, Devonport, Jan 19. 1824

My dear Sir

This man seems determined to bring matters to an issue with me, and for the reasons I gave you in my last letter, viz. that his family deny his Insanity & that he is received into Society - I think the shortest and the best way will be to indulge him if he persists in what appears to be his present intuition. But I put myself into your Hands with the most implicit confidence that you will be scrupulously careful of my honor.

I this morning received the letter of which the enclosed is a Copy. [annotated: '(See pg 27 for Copy.)' which refers to the letter of 17 Jan from TWB to Grey]

To this the enclosed [annotated: '(see pg 28)' which refers to the letter of 19 Jan from Grey to TWB] is the only answer I can give, which I have to request you to take upon yourself the office of delivering.

[This letter was not included in the printed broadsheet]

24 Jan 1824 Charles Grey to Willoughby Gordon

Extract Lord Grey to Sir W. Gordon

Govt. House, Devonport Jan 24 1824

My dear Sir

I have received your letters of 21 and 22nd: the first inclosing a Copy of that with which you had accompanied mine to Mr Beaumont.

I must in the first place thank you for the kindness with which you have acted on this occasion, tho' I confess my feeling, for the reasons I had before given you, was rather in favour of answering any call this man might have been induced to make upon

me, as if he had furnished no reason for declining it: I feel quite satisfied with the course you have taken after due consideration, having the greatest confidence in your judgement, and being convinced, that you would not leave my conduct to be questioned on any ground that could be considered as even doubtful by my bitterest Enemy.

Grey

[This letter was not included in the printed broadsheet]

23 Mar 1824 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Charles Grey

[Note: Loose leaf letter filed inside the volume of copy letters]

Sir

In consideration of the favour you have expressed towards me, I think it right to give you information respecting my intention of coming forward again to represent the County, reports having been very generally in circulation of my wish to take the first opportunity of withdrawing myself from it altogether. I must first candidly state to you that about a fortnight ago this was my wish, & it was coupled with another, of leaving a Country where I have experienced so much affliction, as well as unkindness, where I had reason to expect the contrary. Mr Hedley Colburne induced me not to accept the Chiltern Hundreds, for which I had applied. The latter I have overcome & having resolved to remain in England, I shall withdraw myself from no public station whatever, that can give an idea of my feeling myself less fit for its duties, than I have hitherto shown myself to be. That I have incurred the censure of the world, (tho' only for a private transaction) those who know the world & its grounds of censure and praise, will impute as a demerit to me in proportion to the value they set upon its judgement & integrity. As for those who do not even pretend to think for themselves it is of course immaterial to me what are their opinions. You I am sure, will have formed yours (for it would be mere affectation in me to suppose you have not heard the accounts circulated of the transaction I allude to) or even upon those accounts, and upon your knowledge of my character, & such other grounds as are independent & candid man thinks it fair & right to consider. I shall not state my justification, or the causes which drove me to what I cannot but deeply lament to have been necessary except where an attack upon me, should any be made, render it indispensable. But to the purpose of my letter, I wish to say, that it is my determination to offer myself at the next Election, as Member for the County, whatever opposition shall be formed against me. I am afraid of no inquiry, & that course which is most likely to bring one on, will, as far as my Honour is concerned, be the most agreeable to me. My Whig friends, I have much reason to think, will abandon me, but I feel myself by that circumstance only forced to do what has been often in my thoughts, And for which late Affairs have much contributed to brace my mind & give me adequate nerves. I mean to take a line

of public conduct totally unconnected with Party. I know the difficulty & feel that I may be perhaps accused of presumption for I throw myself not on the passions of the Multitude but on the good sense of honest men. In a corrupt & Nefarious country, such an assertion & <interetion> would meet with more ridicule than applause from our Public Men. The times however are such as to make people know in spite sometimes of their conscience for they will begin to discover that it is the best policy & therefore their interest.

This is not intended as a canvassing letter, though I should be very uncandid if I were not to express the anxiety I have, that you may think my cause and <my ...> deserving of your support. I thought it necessary & right and indeed only a proper return for your favour, to inform you of my intention with regard to the County, & I have found it impossible to avoid entering shortly into the grounds on which I shall come forward & stating frankly by the effect which late circumstances have had upon my views. I believe there to be very considerable Independence in Northumberland, but I am rather apprehensive that old prejudices & habits with a want of Election discipline may present great obstacles to my success the first time but this would not deter me from the attempt, and so many accidents are continually arriving in favour of any conduct thoroughly honest, that I am far from despairing of the issue. After Easter it is my intention to attend the House of Commons.

I am Sir your obt Servt.

Thos. Beaumont

PS. My direction will be 14 Conduit Street until the 1st April when I leave town to pass ten days or a fortnight at Bywell Hall near Newcastle.

Worthing March 23 1824

Copy of a letter from Thos Beaumont Esq to <J> Grey

30 Jun 1826 Charles Bacon Grey to Thomas Wentworth Beaumont

[Note: Loose leaf insert within the volume of copy letters. Date not given, but presumably refers to the challenge prior to the duel at Bamburgh in 1826, and the hustings referred to must have been those of 30th June that day, a Friday.]

Copy

Sir

In consequence of the language used to Mr Lambton on the hustings I am requested by him to desire that you will name a Gentleman on your part to meet General Grey on his behalf.

Yrs etc

Charles Bacon Grey

Capt 9th Lancers

Friday 1/2 past 5 / T.W. Beaumont Esq

20 Jul 1826 John Lambton

[Note: The printed header of the broadsheet containing extracts of correspondence relating to TWB's 'madness' in 1823-4, and assumed to have been assembled by Lambton. The broadsheet is undated but was republished in the Newcastle Courant on Sat 22 July 1826, shortly after the conclusion of the 1826 General Election campaign, so a date of 20th July is used here.]

Correct Copy of Correspondence between MR BEAUMONT and Earl GREY
FROM some observations which Mr Beaumont made in his Speech at the final Close of the Poll, it has been thought proper to give publicity to the following Correspondence:-

[at foot]: Fordyce, Printer, 29, Sandhill [Newcastle]

JGL A40/10

[Original letters from Earl Grey to John Lambton]

19 Jan 1824 Charles Grey to John Lambton

Govt House. Jan 19 1824

My Dear Lambton

I this morning received from Wilson a copy of the Opinion he has given you on the affair of Pemburton & was much gratified in finding that that we so perfectly agreed, not that I had the slightest doubt upon my mind, but it was a great satisfaction to me to have the view I had taken of the case, so fully confirmed by a Man of approved honor & your sincere Mind.

I see in the Globe & Morning Chronicle the whole statement & correspondence; but I have not yet heard what gave rise to the publication & from your last letter it did not seem that you intended to give it to the world unless something new occurred. At all counts the publication appears to prove that the business is not likely to have any factual consequences, & this has me feeling happy, as you have shown a proper spirit and resolution in maintaining your honour, & Mr Pemburton's prudence has proved its being <attended with> any personal risk. I shall be cautious to bear everything that has hapd since you last wrote - Louisa wants now of course be informed of it, but we have been careful that no hint of it should escape us, as you may perhaps have kept the papers from her.

It is curious enough that Beaumont should just at this moment be running a hostile disruption with me. I enclose Copies of a letter which I received from him this morning & of my answer, which I have desired Sir William Gordon to deliver & have put myself entirely into his Hands. Lady Grey knows of the letter from Lyons, but I have concealed this correspondence from her, as well as from the girls, & shall not let them know anything of the matter til it is over. My greatest fear is that this Scoundrel may be coming here, & doing something to alarm her.

Most affect. Yours
Grey.

[on verso:]

J G Lambton Esq / Lambton Hall
Chester - le - Street / Durham

29 Jan 1824 Charles Grey to John Lambton

Govt House Jan 29 1824

My Dear Lambton

I sent Wilson the concluding part of the correspondence with Beaumont & desired him to give the answer which he had written to J.W. Gordon to you. As it was too long a story to tell in writing, I shall be obliged to you to inform Wilson of all that had previously passed.

The matter seems now at an end as far as I am concerned, & as Beaumont's family do not choose to put him under a wholesome restraint, I hope Sir J Swinburne will be advised to take firm & decisive measures to secure not only himself & his family, but Society also, from the future annoyances of this madman. I have now told Lady G all that has passed, & she is quite at ease about it.

This I hope will find you safe & well in Town. I have seen Mr Burn's publication, & cannot think that it requires any further measure on your part. Whether Capt Cochrane may think it necessary to contradict him, if he is confident in his recollection that Burn expressed his disapprobation of Pemberton's refusal, is another matter. There is a long black <paid> article in the Newcastle Courant, which I suppose was sent to me for that reason, as I do not take it in. It evidently comes from Pemberton, sufficiently stamps his character, if that were doubtful, & is entirely beneath your notice. But I should not be sorry to see a contradiction of his falsehoods, with respect to what passed at the meeting, from somebody who was present, but not an anonymous one. His call upon you to write any thing against his character is quite sufficiently answered by the list of convictions, & the statement of the prosecution now depending, which have appeared in the papers.

There does not seem much likelihood of a very active proceedings in Parliament & we sincerely hope that you & Louisa may be able to take a trip to see us. If you do

pray bring William with you. Give our best love to Louisa & believe me ever my dr
Lambton.

most affect. yours

Grey.

13 Mar 1824 Charles Grey to John Lambton

March 13 1824

My Dear Lambton

I cannot help in the first place expressing our continued & <...ing> regret at having lost you & dear Louisa & are anxious to hear that your journey has been prosperously accomplished.

I have letters today from Ridley and Ellice. The former to explain that neither M nor those with whom he acted, intended that the filling up of Beaumont's net should in any manner depend on the Duke; but that without previously having his disposition, they could not propose Howick without expecting both him & the <..oes> to the <... vacant> situation of bringing him forward, without being able to give him <unnatural> support. He also communicates what had passed with Beaumont with whom it appears there has been a farther correspondence. The best way of explaining my sentiments in all this, is to send you my answer to Ridley which I have therefore got Georgiana to copy & I enclose it in another cover. Pray confirm all I say in it of my conviction of his friendly intentions, & of my gratitude for them; in this I am perfectly sincere tho' I think his judgement has been very defective. I hope also in your own communications with him may of our friend that you will not express too strongly your disaffectation of their conduct; nor my disapprobation without a cordial acknowledgment of their good intentions.

I leave it entirely to your determination and <Ellices> to send both for Henry & me whenever you may think it necessary but not without a certainty of our not being placed in a situation to look like fools on our arrival.

We have a letter today from <Charles> who arrived on the 20 ult at Cadiz, after a rough passage of 12 days, & was to sail the next day for Gibraltar, if the wind permitted.

Our weather has continued blasting & disagreeable but not cold & we have continued our daily walks. Lady G has not been well & is in sadly low spirits, which I attribute in a great degree to her parting with Louisa give our best love to her, & believe we are

Most sincerely Yours

Grey

If the present chance of bringing Howick in for Northumberland fails, & I <get neither> seat for him, I shall not feel myself pledged by what has now passed, to offer him as a candidate either at a general election or any other opportunity; & this I shall think it

necessary to declare when the right time comes, but not at present. To <seeing> that I have sent you a Copy of my letter to <the ...> & <...> it for me - the first time you go to the House of Commons, pray desire the H of Lords papers to be sent to me from the beginning of <the session & in future> as they are printed. You may also add any from the H of C that you think worth sending.

6 Apr 1824 Charles Grey to John Lambton

[Note: Excerpt concerning Beaumont taken from a longer letter in Grey's scrawled hand]

Govt House Apr 6. 1824

My Dear Lambton

...

I enclose a copy of a letter which Grey of <Millfield> has sent me, from Beaumont, another proof of the imprudence of Mr Colbourne's interference. It looks as if he would make some sport in the H of C after Easter. I <... like be ill met in the measures of mere serious annoyance> He has also written to a Mr. Smart, another friend of <wine>, to say that he is determined to stand, that he has ample funds independent of his Father & Mother, & no disposition to spare them. This was also communicated to me by Mr Grey, to whom I <...> had written rather indicating a disposition to <...fect> Beaumont, from the fear that some Tory might step in. I have told Grey that nothing could be so discreditable to the County as to return Beaumont, whatever might be the alternative & have given him authority to hold a general language without committing me or <.....ing> me to any particular conduct under circumstances different from the present, that Henry may be expected to offer himself upon the first vacancy, or at a general election. This I thought necessary that my friends might be but otherwise <...ed> not to embarrass themselves by any kind of engagement with <.....> or implied. Grey affects the expediency of procuring an invitation to Henry from those who are the most zealous supporters of the Independent Interest. This I have told him would, in my opinion be a very fit measure at the proper time, & certainly the <pleasantest> way to me, of having Henry brought forward, but that <at present>, it wd be <premature>.

Pray show Beaumont's letter to Tankerville (I think it might be as well if he were to give a <beat> to his Tenants to help them <also .isca.....>) to Ridley & to Swinburne if you have an opportunity & keep it for <.. ...> return to Town.

6 Apr 1824 Charles Grey to John Lambton

[Note: Unsigned note in Grey's hand, postmarked from Devonport]

In a letter received by <Bell> this Monday from Eliza, she says ' all the family entered into a conspiracy against poor Mrs Beaumont and refused to go out with her unless she agreed on paper approving of all Mr Beaumont had done & was going to do. Lord Dudley (who told me of it) was called in as <umpire> between the parties. He encouraged Mrs B to <resist> & the young Ladies & the other <son> were obliged to make a kind of compromise with her.' What the compromise was she does not say, but the whole family seems to be as mad as Beaumont himself.

[on verso:]

J.G.Lambton / Cleveland Row / London

[annotated:] April 6 1824

JGL A40/11

[Politics in Northumberland]

7 Feb 1820 Charles Brandling to Charles Monck

[Note: Neither dated or signed but the initials and context suggest this was written in the wake of Monck's decision on 4th Feb 1820 to stand down from his Northumberland seat in advance of that year's election. Monday 7th Feb used here]

My dear M

It is with extreme regret that your friends hear of your determination to resign your Seat from the County. Confident as I feel that the whole opposition is directed against Beaumont is it possible to persuade you to postpone your declaration being made public till we can have an opportunity of proving that your interest is much stronger than you are aware of. Indeed nobody feels stronger than Mr Smith and allows me to assure you that all the influence he has will be divided between us and I need scarce say the gratification it will give me to hear that you acquiesce. Mr Smith was in hopes he had given you a sufficient hint when you last met.

Yrs Dr Sir Most sincerely

C B

9 Feb 1820 Charles Monck to Charles Brandling

[Note: Apparently a reply to the message possibly from Brandling to Monck given date of 7th Feb]

My dear B

Your Message has overtaken me and I have gone into Mrs Cole's farm house to write this answer. 1st I thank you for all your kind wishes and pray thank Mr Smith from me over again for his kind expressions to me on Thursday which I have no doubt come from his heart actuated by the best intentions in all regards. But I could not reverse my determination to withdraw myself now from the representation of the County upon the assurance which you send me. I came forward upon the independent interest and must return the representation to the County such as I received it. My determination to withdraw was taken some days before Thursday but I could not then tell Mr Smith because I was on my way to take the opinion of an old and experienced friend before I took so important a step. The cause of my retirement is the prospect of a repetition of the same sacrifices of domestic comfort by a long separation from my wife and family which I have borne with patience in hopes of better times. I must if I continued in the representation of the County embrace those evils again or breach my promise to the County of diligent attendance on my parliamentary duties. The last is impossible to me and the first I shrink from I hope not too early; so I have determined to withdraw.

Yours very truly
C. M

13 Mar 1824 Charles Grey to Matthew Ridley

March 13 1824

My Dear Ridley

I received your letter this morning. Where I can have no doubt of the existence of the very best intentions & feel so strong a sense of personal obligation for all the kindness I have experienced from you, it is extremely painful to me to express any difference of opinion with respect to the conduct that has been pursued; with a view to the vacancy which is expected to take place in consequence of Beaumont's retirement from the representation of the County.

But I should not deal sincerely with you if I were to attempt to conceal from you that in my opinion, any mode of previous application to the Duke was injudicious - you say that the filling up of any vacancy that might occur, was not to depend upon him, but practically that surely must have been in your view, unless you were determined, notwithstanding any <..fient> or indisposition which he might manifest, to propose a Candidate on the Independent Interest. If such was your determination I cannot help thinking it would have been much better on all accounts, & on none more

than for the purpose of procuring the best chances of success, to have made a proper application to him as one of the greatest, or if you will the greatest interest of the County, in favour of a Candidate [underlined: 'already determined upon']. If this was not your resolution the alternative necessarily must have been to allow your conduct to be regulated by the result of the communication you had desired to be made. I certainly have said from the beginning and I must continue to say, that I could not take upon myself the expense of a contest. But in this declaration I have meant to imply that if the Duke attempted to fill the seat, which ought to belong to the Independent Interest, we ought to submit. What I said of insuring to my son, or whoever may be the Whig candidate, an [underlined: 'effectual support'], must <tend> that my meaning was directly the contrary. If any of our friends had been selected I was prepared to take my share in any expense & exertion which might be required to support him. Of course I should not be more backward in the cause of my son. What happened in 1774 in Northumberland & what has happened more recently in other counties, proves how much may be done by zeal, spirit & resolution at a comparatively trifling expense. So this kind of exertion I looked in the event of the duties urging a pretension which the Independence & character of the County required should be <united> if made but I did not urge this more strongly in my letters, feeling that if this was not a spontaneous disposition to make such an effort no attempt to excite it was likely to be successful. The course therefore that should have been taken, according to my views of this matter, was to disclose a Candidate with a determination to fight the battle, if necessary in the way I have stated; & if this had been done, I am persuaded that at this moment no difficulty could have <existed>.

If this could not be done then the only alternative was to abandon the representation of the County to its fate & indeed if you will consider the situation in which you are now placed I am convinced you will see that my opinion is not a very erroneous one. You probably will have no decisive answer from the Duke. In that case will you proceed to disclose a Candidate? If you do I think you are honor bound to go to the Poll & at least give the County an opportunity of asserting its independence & thus the very difficulty which you have wished to avoid is only delayed but not prevented. It grieves me to add that if I think the course you have taken with respect to the declaration of a Candidate objectionable I must still more strongly disapprove of the communication that has taken place with Beaumont. I had understood from you that it was by an application to Luckington that his appointment to the C Hundreds had been suspended. This I did not think very prudent but being done, it was useless to object to it & I thought Beaumont's resignation was complete & might be acted on at any moment. I never was more surprised, therefore, than when I heard that there had been a communication directly with him & even a correspondence with respect to the Persons who might offer themselves as Candidates for his seat. If he is sane his conduct has deprived him of the character of a Gentleman & all communication with him was improper. It was obviously no less so in the entire supposition of his being out of his senses & the result is that you are involved in an embarrassment from which I do not see how you will extricate yourselves. Will you desire him to renew his

application telling him that you have at last found a Candidate? This will be a further admission that he is entitled still to be communicated with as a person of sane mind & even as one to whom you can lay yourselves under some obligation? Or will you leave matters in their present uncertainty? This obviously will be very disadvantageous with a view to the Independent Interest & the Peace of the County. The result probably will be that if he hears that Howick is to be the Candidate, he will not resign the seat, the County will be entire unrepresented, or most disgracefully represented for the remainder of the Parliament & what confusion may be produced at a general election cannot easily be foreseen or guarded against. How far this state of things can now be remedied I am not prepared to say. If it can be remedied the most prompt measures ought to be taken for that purpose & I am prepared as I have always been to do what I can. At all events nothing can be worse than this continuance of a state of suspense & uncertainty. I am sure you will not take amiss this free expression of my opinions & feelings on the whole of what has passed, under the conviction that I can have no feeling or opinion however we may differ in judgement that is incompatible with the utmost confidence in the honorable independence of your character & the kind disposition which you have all along manifested personally towards myself. I am ready to admit too, that it is possible my views might in some respects perhaps have been liable to alteration, if I had been at hand to communicate personally with you & the rest of our friends, tho' in substance I do not think they could have admitted of any material change. I am with the truest regard, my dear Ridley,

Most sincerely yours

(Signed) Grey

22 Sep 1825 Charles Monck to Charles Grey

Wheatley 22nd Sept 1825

My dear Lord

Your letter has been forwarded to me from Belsay & came here yesterday morning.

Under the same qualifications which you mention I have told Lord Howick that he shall have my best wishes & all the support which I can give him when he offers his services to the County.

Recollecting the jealousy which Lambton's presence at that meeting at Blagdon last winter excited in me & the determination which I formed respecting it, I have pressed upon your son my advice to keep Lambton entirely out of sight & declared to him that if Lambton comes into Northumberland to take a personal part beyond giving his vote, which is one unattached to any real interest amongst us, I shall be, most probably, converted from a friend into an enemy. The Duke has shown no disposition to invade the independence of the County but, on the contrary, rather to set an example in respecting it; he is entitled in return to our respect. I hope, my dear Lord, that your great experience in general & particular knowledge of the feelings of the County will save us from all difficulties & distresses in this regard.

&c. Charles Monck

30 Sep 1825 Hugh Percy to Willoughby Gordon

[Note: Annotated 'copy'. Undated, but possibly from September 1825 when a Parliamentary dissolution had been expected]

The D of Northumberland to Mr W Gordon

I return you herewith Lord Grey's letter & request you will take an opportunity of thanking him for the communication. As we are so soon to have the pleasure of seeing you in the North & the ideas of a Dissolution are suspended for the present, I shall abstain from offering any remarks on the subject; except to assure you that I consider no person more fit to offer himself for the representation of this County than the eldest son of Lord Grey. Under the impression that the Dissolution would have taken place in the course of this month I had signified my determination not to interfere in the selection the County might feel disposed to make.

14 Oct 1825 Charles Grey to Charles Monck

Govt House Oct 14th 1825

My dear Monck

I received your letter of the 22nd Sept from Wheatley in due course. The postponement of the dissolution seems to render any further dissension on that subject unnecessary for the present.

But there are two points in your letter on which I am anxious to prevent any further misunderstanding between us.

In the first place with respect to Lambton I really was not aware that his presence at Blagdon had excited your jealousy. Sure I am that he gave no cause for it as I perfectly remember how carefully he abstained from putting himself forward in the discussion which took place there. I do not recollect that you expressed any such feeling at the time; your dissatisfaction was stated on quite a different ground & I really cannot conceal my surprise at the objection you have now started, remembering that when Lambton really did take an active part in the Queen's business both at London where the resolutions & requisition were drawn up & at the meeting which was subsequently held at Morpeth, you never stated a doubt as to the propriety of his interference.

Legally & constitutionally Lambton has as good a right as any of us to use his best exertions to promote the election in the Cty of Northd of the candidate he may prefer. He stands in no situation in which he can be regarded with reasonable Jealousy as invading the privileges of the County; it is natural that he should be anxious & being anxious that he should exert himself to support so near a connection as Howick, & I am

too sensible of the value of his advice & assistance, on such an occasion to forego them in consequence of objections which appear to me so untenable.

In the next place, with respect to the Duke. You speak of the disposition he has shown not to invade the independence of the County; of his title in return to our respect; & you express a hope that 'I will save you from all difficulties and distresses in this regard.'

I really do not very well understand to what this points. I feel as well disposed as any man, to show the Duke all the respect to which he is entitled, & I shall therefore as soon as the proper time for that purpose appears to me to have arrived, communicate with him directly on Howick's offering himself as a Candidate for the County.

This is an attention which I think he has a right to expect & this I will certainly be anxious to pay him in the most conciliatory manner; but I have no connection with him, personal or political, which would authorise me to do more. So far then I hope there is no difference between us, as to which would be the proper conduct with respect to the Duke. But if you mean in the event of his objecting to Howick or proposing another Candidate that Howick should withdraw, I must frankly tell you is neither my feeling nor intention. I have not formed my resolution lightly & having formed it if he takes my advice he will offer himself, let what will happen at the meeting which I conclude will be held as a matter of course for a nomination; & is certainly if the sense of that meeting shall be favourable to him, proceed to a Poll.

Grey

18 Oct 1825 Charles Monck to Charles Grey

Belsay 18th Oct 1825

My dear Lord

From your letter which is come by this evening's post, I find, with great pain, that the caution that I took the Liberty to offer you about the personal appearance of Lambton at the approaching Election, excites your displeasure and is not likely to serve my purpose, which was twofold - first, to save you from a false step which I think most likely, if taken, to be fatal to your purpose, next myself from the distress of a choice between the side of duty & the side of my friends placed in opposition with each other. It is not now, I can assure you my dear Lord, that, I first disclose the jealousy which Lambton's presence at the Blagdon meeting excited in me. I declared it, & as much as accompanied the declaration of it in my late letter to you, to our friend, Bigge & to Ridley the next morning. (I was gone before you was up) & to Sir John Swinburne the first time we spoke together afterwards about the meeting; and I did so because I believed them, the two former at least, to be in such communication with you about the election as, in my situation, I could not be & hoped that through them it would become known to you; but it was the manner in which my advice lately upon the subject appeared to be entertained by Lord Howick which made me feel it necessary to explain myself directly to you upon it at this time. I admit that Lambton has as good a legal

right (his constitutional right I would say much against) as any of us to interfere in the Election. It is the prudence of examining it personally & in the manner in which I think it likely to be exercised that I <impayn>.

I trust my dear Lord you will see after this explanation from me, that what I said to you about Lambton is not a thing fairly started & then no doubt that you will believe my anxiety to be as great as you own to avoid everything which might cause a separation our interests or diminution of our friendship.

Chas Monck.

[annotated on outer fold:]

October 1825

Correspondence between Ld Grey & Mr Charles Monck respecting the Northumberland Election.

6 Dec 1825 John Swinburne to Charles Grey

[Note: This letter and Grey's reply of 11th Dec are in the same hand, so were apparently copied out, and presumably for Lambton's benefit as they are amongst his papers.]

Capheaton Dec 6th 1825

My Dr Ld Grey

Having seen your correspondence with Ridley, with whose sentiments I entirely coincide, as to the measure you had in contemplation, I cannot refrain from troubling you with a few lines, dictated by the most friendly motives, and an anxious desire, to place the subject in a different point of view from that which you happen to have taken of it, particularly with respect to our friend Monck whose conduct has I fear been much misrepresented. I am much persuaded he has not been intriguing in any way, & as to what passed with Beaumont, I am perfectly sure, he had no intimation of the proposal made to him from Beaumont, till he received the letter containing it, & his answer was consistent with what he has all along said on the subject. You may rest assured there is a very general feeling throughout the County in his favour, and he will not I believe be abandoned by his old friends, nor has what has passed as to Beaumont excited any jealousy against him, that I know of, the common language held is this, 'We are anxious to have Sir Charles Monck again for our Representative not only on account of his respectable private character, but also, from our previous knowledge and experience of the very upright, zealous & satisfactory manner in which he transacted our business, we shall besides get rid of Beaumont without a struggle, & we are anxious to avoid the Distraction & turmoil of a contested Election, that appears to have no public or political Question on which it can be grounded, & why therefore should the County be thrown into Confusion when the means of keeping it quiet are so palpable.' In spite of the Duke's very proper and civil message to you, do you think he will prefer Lord Howick to Monck? I would not rely upon that, I assure you. The

Disunion of the Whig party in this County, that must cease, if the two Candidates of that party come forward, will I am afraid destroy whatever weight it may now possess. I trust you will excuse the freedom with which I have stated my sentiments, I have always done so for a great many years, whenever I conceived your welfare & interests were at stake, which ever have been & ever will be an object of great solicitude to me.

11 Dec 1825 Charles Grey to John Swinburne

Govt House. Dec 11th 1825

Dear Sir John

I have this morning received your letter of the 6th & have no doubt that it has been dictated by the friendly regard I have always experienced from you, however mortifying it may be to me, in the opinion you have felt yourself bound to express. It cannot be necessary for me to call to [your] recollection etc what has passed respecting the North'd Election. You know how ready I was to offer my support to Monck, or to concur in any measure what might be thought most effectual for <exerting> the Whig Interest to rescue the County from the disgrace of being represented by Beaumont. It was not till after repeated offers to this effect had been made & declined, in consequence of our indecision that an opportunity had been lost of getting rid of Beaumont without difficulty, that I at last, when a Dissolution was almost hourly expected determined to take upon myself the whole risk & announced to my friends that Ld Howick would offer himself at the approaching Election.

Having taken this step, under the circumstances which I have thus shortly described, it cannot, I think, be reasonably expected that Howick should withdraw his pretensions because Monck may now find it convenient to come forward, & Beaumont, as is quite evident, feels that he is unable to make any resistance. Ld Howick, therefore, will certainly be put in nomination, come what come may, & if upon a full statement of all the circumstances which have induced him to form, & to persevere in this resolution, the feelings of the Freeholders shall appear favourable to him, he will as certainly go to a Poll. If this should divide the Whig Interest I may lament but I cannot help it. I shall console myself with the reflection that it cannot be imputed to deny fault on my part & to say the truth, if that interest can be divided under such circumstances, I do not feel that its union is much worth preserving.

I do not pretend to decide what is proper for others. Every man is the best judge of what is due to his own character & honor. But I can have no hesitation in declaring that if any proposition had been made to me, directly or indirectly, from such a man as Beaumont, I should have thought myself disgraced for listening to it for a moment; much more for appearing to tolerate the idea, that he who had rendered himself unfit to represent the County, should be allowed to stipulate for the person who was to succeed him. I am always desirous of putting the most favourable construction on the conduct of those whom I have long known and esteemed. I am willing therefore to

believe that Monck himself has not been a party to the communications that have been going on, to induce Beaumont to withdraw. But it is quite clear that the matter has been chiefly managed by the intervention of some Tory Squires who, it seems, are now to have the selection of the candidate by whom the Whig Interest is to be represented. I have answered you with the frankness of which you have set me the example, & from which I shall always be obliged to you, even when one's views may differ as much as they unfortunately appear to do, the present occasion.

25 Jun 1826 Wallace

[Note: Undated, but allegations of an alliance between the Tory Liddell and claimed radical Beaumont flew during the election campaign in the spring of 1826. Reference to the booths suggests the election was by this time underway, towards the end of June. 25th June used here, a day after Beaumont was thought to be catching Howick after the poll in Hexham.]

To the Freeholders of Northumberland
Liddell's & Beaumont's Coalition

This odious & unnatural Coalition has roused the just indignation of the whole County. The facts now betraying it are of themselves sufficient to excite & reprobation of every honest man. But much more remains behind the scenes which must be laid bare. It is now quite clear that an understanding between Mrs Beaumont & Lord Ravensworth has long existed & that all pecuniary difficulties have been smoothed by the wealth & lavish expenditure of the Sd Lady. This arrangement, tho' often suspected, has hitherto been successfully concealed from the public eye, but the mask has at length fallen off & the original deformity of this monster is now presented to the view of all Northumberland.

Men of all parties who wish well to your County's Independence, & your Country's Welfare, come forward & prevent the Accomplishment of this scandalous job. What is it we now behold? Ultra Tories & ultra Radicals combined. Clennell, the Marmiot, & Mitchell the Tyne Mercury radical arm in arm & Leaton the Whickham fugitive embracing the Town Moor Chairman, all exchanging their colours & each giving their second vote against their pledged political principles! Well did the pettifogging chairman of the Quarter Sessions deserve the spirited rebuke he met with from the honest & straightforward Matthew Bell, in the booths this morning. That he will repent is not to be expected- that he was filled with shame was evident to all beholders - and that he will be punished by the contempt of his former political friends & the scorn of the honest portion of the community is certain.

Once more I call on all the Freeholders to come forward and vote for the two independent candidates Mr Bell & Lord Howick. If they hesitate the Independence of

the County is lost, & Northumberland will be reduced to the rank of a Rotten Borough,
the nomination of which will be vested in the Leaden hands of Mrs Beaumont.

Wallace