

**10 Oct 1767 Thomas Wentworth to John Wentworth**

Dear Sir

I wrote to you a long letter lately and hope it will arrive safe to your hands. I send to a friend at Liverpool the plans of Mr. Paine which I heartily wish may be of any advantage or pleasure to you. He will send them by the first opportunity. Mr Paul Wentworth is now in London and we know nothing more of his peregrinations. Mr. Sam Wentworth is now here and seems a sedate sensible young man and by his account Studies much at Oxford. He desires his best respects to you.

Here in Yorkshire all are quiet about Elections as yet either for County or City and I don't hear that Ld. Rockingham promotes or endeavours to make any alterations as yet. 'tho it is thought that Sir George Armitage will not stand again for the City – Paul Wentworth has agreed with me not to trouble ourselves about these affairs. Many other Counties are advertising at present & promise much and mean little but for their own advantage. You'll hear that the Duke of York is dead perhaps before you receive this. We have had a very bad Shooting season and now we are beginning to hunt as usual. I shall be very glad to hear from you at the soonest and how you go on and as for myself, the same as you saw here and as such, if you will remember me, it will give great pleasure to

Dear Sir Your much obliged And Affectionate

Thos. Wentworth

Bretton Octr. 10th 1767

**16 Mar 1768 Thomas Wentworth to John Wentworth**

London, March 16th 1768

Dear Sir,

I had lately the pleasure of a letter from you by Mr. Livius, by which I find you had not received a letter from me then, but I hope you received it soon after.

Mr. Paul Wentworth left London March 1st for Holland and never to return to England as he thought then. We had the pleasure of his Company in Yorkshire last Summer he has fine Spirits and is a very good Companion and we travell'd about together in Post Chaise for he is the worst horseman of the name <wth> which he exhibited before me by falling off a quiet horse when upon a little canter without visible reason, but as he said that he lost one Stirrup, and he swears that it is very strange that we that know how to ride and can stick so fast on horseback yet can not teach him how to ride in half an hour.

Paul seem'd very sorry to leave England but business forced him to Holland. We dined together <Loring> Rogers &tc. &tc. and drank your health in a bumper. Last Hunting Season Mr. Saml. Wentworth was with me about a Month and I mounted him upon my grey Galloway and he rid a gallop very well, sticks close and is a good jockey

figure on Horseback, but durst not take a high leap, for even at a low leap he could not help seemingly to whisper in the ears of the Mare; he is sedate and studious and he does not vibrate his Tatler so much as other <...ths>. I intend to call upon him sometime at Oxford. I have not yet got the two pictures of yourself and sister from Mr Wilson, he says he has somewhat to do at 'em and will finish them soon, he is very idle, so I shall take them away with me into the Country soon, done or undone for he won't explain what he has to do with them, besides he told me that one picture of yourself of his drawing was intended for me also, and the other of his drawing for Ld. Rockm., they are both bad likenesses and ill done. I refused taking one, telling him he must be mistaken, as I was certainly to have that picture only done at Paris:-

So I have fixt with Mr. Coates to draw mine for your acceptance and remembrance, P. Wth. Is drawn very like by Mr Coates, which is intended for Ld. R.m- Capn. Loring says that he is going soon to make you a visit so I take this opportunity of talking to you by letter and to return you thanks for Seeds, Plants, Fruits, one squirrel, Monkey Raccoon &tc from you and Mr Nelson, some are alive, the <Con rond> flowered in perfection in my hot house but there were no seeds afterwards in the pods, so shall be particularly oblig'd to you for more seeds of that Flower as the imitation is so very exact and curious. I sent you Mr Paine's Plans of houses and bridges, which I shall be glad to hear are arrived safe – Alterations, Improvements and different buildings are the Spirit and Life of the Country and you have land enough to give employment and trial to a luxurious Fancy & lively taste to indulge which will be an agreeable relaxation from the more important and weighty Operations, Conversations, Levees, Promises, Performances, Honor and Glory of Government which must now greatly employ your time. – This year produces violent agitations in Mind and consumption in Purses over all England about elections, in which I am no ways concern'd, so only amuse myself with hearing of the Riots which others promote against all Laws, Sense and Honesty in this Country of so much boasted liberty. – Curious enough! for Lives lost, Houses demolish't, Heads, Legs Arms broke, all for the honor of a certain assembly who make the Laws and as Hudibras says, have the best right to break 'em; I should be glad to read the Laws and Rules of Government of your Town and adjacent Country and I don't doubt but you put them into Execution better than is done here. The County and City of York were never so quiet as yet in the memory of man to the great disappointment of many who wd. sell themselves to the Devil for a glass of Gin or wd. rather lye in the Streets dead drunk than go to bed sober. Sir George Saville and Mr. Lasulles have no opposition, for the County, Sir George Armitage and Mr. Lane decline standing for the city upon acct. of their bad health, many were applied to, who refused, at last Mr Charles Turner stands upon his own and friends Interests and when it was proposed to him to be a member of the Rock-m Club his answer was, viz.- He imagined that it is a party club, he meant to be of no Party, but that of doing his utmost to serve the City, that if they would change the Club to be an Independent one and give it such like appellation he would be one of the first to join it: - This speech highly displeased the Club. Lord R-m has proposed Lord John Cavendish but nothing is finish't yet, for this news came to me from York last night. Mr. Wilkes has no chance for the City of

London he is deserted by his Great Friends, which happens often. Perry Wth. is very busy at York with the Candidates and Company. How does Mick. like yr. Country or how does he employ his time. Your generosity and goodness will not hurry him much, except in giving him opportunity and consideration to express his gratitude in the amplest manner. My complts. to him. –

Last year and this I have planted and transplanted and sown some thousands, I shall always be plaguing you for something new, never seen before and not common, which gives a zest to most things either in garden or in bed.

<Camso> died last year of the Distemper, he was a very good natur'd dog. I should like one Dog Whelp of the large rough kind.

I din'd today at Mr Bosvilles's, they all join in Compts. to you – All Work and no Play. – so play with your pen which will always give pleasure to

Dear Sir Your Affecte. & most Obedt. Servant

T. Wentworth

I just received another letter from York, Lord John Cavendish and Charles Turner are nominated without opposition – Mr. Wilkes has little chance of being elected for the city of London – Mar: 22 – The Weymouth Pine is a beautiful Fir and has a particular smooth bark, I shall be glad to know if they grow common in any part of your Country, if they do I shall thank you for some seeds, and some seeds of wild flowers, which grow in the woods to embellish my Woods in the Park. I hope to be able to send you my Picture sometime this summer by some friends. I think it a great risque sending horses or mares to your Country.

The Poll for Mr. Trecothick 2050, Mr Wilkes 836. Miss Bosville is going to be married to Sir Alexander Macdonald of the Isle of Sky. – I am no changeling [text missing here?...]

### **23 Aug 1768 Godfrey Bosville to John Wentworth**

Dear Sir,

Your letter gave me great pleasure and flatter'd my Vanity very much to find that I was remember'd at so great a distance, and especially by a Gentleman in your Station, and that your letter by the length of it is not merely a complimentary one, but I have really been some hours in your thoughts, notwithstanding the multiplicity of business that a person of your rank must be perpetually involved in. You should have heard from me sooner if I could have got what you wanted, for when I was in London it was out of my power to enquire after hounds; Since I came into the country I have endeavour'd to get some: if Foxhounds would be acceptable should hope to procure some young ones that might prove good: There are no Stag hounds but what belong to the King, they are in Nottinghamshire, and I think Lord Byron is master of the Stag hounds, a Gentleman with whom I have no sort of acquaintance nor with anybody that knows him, but I have wrote to a friend of mine in Nottinghamshire to try what he can

do to come at a whelp or two: Sir Thomas and I are using our best endeavours to get some, but Sportsmen will never part with their best dogs and we should be sorry to send such as do not deserve so long a carriage and would disgrace their country when they came there. You have probably heard that my daughter is married to Sir Alexander Macdonald, so that one of my family is very well disposed of. I was the other day at Lord Rockingham's where I met with a very agreeable reception: I am very sorry to say that matters are still in the same way between him and Sir Thomas Wentworth. Things are not worse and time may bring matters about. I think as it is that in a contested election Sir Thomas would not oppose my Lord. The Racoon is alive and hearty at Bretton, he is very tame. The monkey is dead. We now and then see some of your countrymen. Mr. Rogers has been in Yorkshire, Mr. Palmer is in Yorkshire, and we expect to see Mr. P. Wentworth, for Sr. Alexander Macdonald wrote me word from Edinburgh that he had had a letter from him and that he proposed being here. My son has been in Africk for his diversion in the King of Morocco's dominions he says he has been in the two most absolute countrys in the world, That, and the King of Prussias; but he thinks the Moors have more liberty, for though the King will massacre a whole village witht. distinction, they can go at liberty from one town to another whenever they please; but in Prussia they cannot stir from one town to another, scarce from one street to another without a pass. He says the multitude of inhabitants is amazing, and the ground produces two crops in a year, and wou'd supply all Europe, as Mr. Popham the consul informed him, with corn if there was property, but besides the Emperor's Troops Hords of Arabs come with th(ei)r horses and camels and stay upon a place without asking leave till they have eat up every thing: they live in tents made of camels hair, William says he saw above twenty thousand of them; one of their captains show'd him a great deal of civility: they have no other name for their Officers but Captain, of ten, fifty, or five hundred, the title is the same. The country is amazingly populous greatly beyond England, and by never killing lambs or calves they not only supply themselves but Spain with provisions, their fruit of all sorts is the finest in the world, but they make no other use of their grapes but to eat them as they make no wine, and when they shoot a wild boar, they leave him there: Their Partridges are much larger than ours, have red legs, are in great plenty and sit in palm trees. – William went with his old friend Major Hawke the Admirals son they were above a month in the country and went up till they saw the people go naked: They had some Soldiers of the Black Army for the Emperor does not trust the natives, and an Interpreter with them, except when they wou'd go to where the people are now in rebellion, they said they woud [sic] go if the King woud send 10,000 more, but not otherwise for the Rebells had but just massacred Bassa Hamet and his whole family and burnt his house. Yet they have such a respect to improvements that they wou'd not destroy his fine gardens. Here they had like to have suffered Martyrdom w(he)n they had no instructor, they knew the respect due to a Mosch [sic] and the ground about it, but they happen'd to get upon the ground of a Saint wch. is likewise so sacred that the Moors walk barefoot upon it. Mr. Hawke walk'd over in his boots wch. produced such a shower of stones, that had it not been for thr. nimbleness in mounting and the swiftness of their mules they had

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undergone the fate of St. Stephen, or if they had been cach'd perhaps worse. They claim no merit for their religious sufferings, but they are very angry at the Saint, they say he was a fool! So most Saints are; some indeed are knaves. A caravan from the inner parts of Africa had brought some Girls to be sold, they had Braceletts about thr. necks and arms wch. William lik'd and wanted to buy some, they ask'd a great price, but he wd. have pay'd it, had he not luckily espyd. Birmingham upon them. They had I suppose been exchang'd on the coast and then traffick'd farther up unto the country. At Lisbon Count La Lippe invited William to dinner upon seeing his Coldstream regimentals at a Review, he had formerly been in that regimt himself, Hawk was ill, he much entertain'd with his scheme of going to Morocco, and sd. he believ'd no body ever went there for their diversion before, that he knew Lord <....awley> and was sure he wou'd give him leave. They recd. many Civilitys too at Gibraltar both from the Governor and Garrison & made an excursion into Spain. They intended to have gone with the Tripoli Ambassador in the Aeolus frigate, Capt. Bennet, and at Portsmouth they met with many Civilitys from Commissioner Hughs and the officers there on Account of Sir Edward Hawke, but Trip. stayd so long till their Patience was tried and they went from Falmouth in the Packet and made the rock of Lisbon the 6th day and got in the 7th the shortest passage the Capt. Ever knew. But William pay'd for it in his return for when he left Mr. Hawke at Gibraltar he went in a leaky bad built ship, they were above 5 weeks at sea; Coll. Maxwell who set out 25 days after them got here long enough before them & reported they were lost. They were reduced to short allowance of water, first a quart, then a pint a day, and to mend the matter the crew mutinyd. and sometimes would not work the ship. The Capt. said that if it had not been for the passengers he verily believ'd they would have murdered him. The first news I heard of William was seeing him in a Post Chaise at the door. We have had prodigious floods in this country this summer. The water rose at Bradford three yards perpendicular in a very short time with but little rain there. It had fallen higher in the hills, it swept the streets and sev[era]l people walking there were drown'd and likewise in their houses: last week there was the same at Sheffield with the same effect. The Hospital is swept away entirely and ye old women in it are drown'd, sev[era]l houses too and sev[era]l persons: a Child was carry'd down in a cradle above six miles to Conningsborough, and taken out alive and well – My house has stood the winds, as to Rains, nothing but Noah's flood can reach us. We have finished our Kitchen Garden, we have lengthen'd our long walk, made a shady straight walk in the Oaks, let in the low lodging room window into the garden by removing the wall close above the back stairs and made a little terras from that window to the Oaks and we are now making a fish pond at the upper end of the <Jug> next the lane, we shall make another below the Alcove seat in the long walk. You desir'd to know what we were doing we intended to do. Sir Thomas Wentworth had got Wentworth of the Guards Ld. Straffords relation and his sister at Bretton, Wentworth is mightily taken with Prince and Billy Wood, he went with Prince to Harrowgate and is gone with Billy Wood upon Hepen Stall Moors beyond Hallifax. Mr. Spencer, Mr. Walker, Mr. Phipps, Mr. West and the rest of your neighbours are just in statu Quo as you left them; but poor Mrs. Wentworth at Bath is dead and we are

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now in mourning for her; she had a second stroke of the palsey one morning after a good nights rest and died the next; her loss tho' it is what might very well be expected, is nevertheless lamented by all her acquaintance. Lord and Lady Strafford and Genl. Howard din'd here the other day: Perry Wentworth I met at Ld. Rockinghams. I thought you would like to hear what became of your acquaintance though I have no news to send them. Mrs. Bosville desires her best respects to you, as do's likewise Miss Julia who is the only chicken I have left here, for William is in London entertaining himself with Coalheavers, he has been quartered twice in an empty house in Wapping where Officers and Soldiers were lodg'd together in Straw; some of the Rioters are hang'd for the murders they have committed; Tommy is at Cheam School, and has just got over the Meazles which I am very glad of: Di is in Scotland much to the satisfaction of her friends; Sir Alexander Macdonald was in the Guards, he is a well made young man, taller and larger than William, very likely you may have seen him, for they were much acquainted, were in the same Regimt and he was sometimes at my house; his income is better than most private gentlemens in that kingdom and his Estates very improvable: his power is very great, for he is chief of one of the largest clans in Scotland, and his Ancestors were Kings of the Isles, but that I need not mention for Historys have told you of that: His brother Sir James died in Italy, and was buried in the Porch of St. Peters Church at Rome, a very unusual compliment to a Protestant, but he had a most unusual Character. I have just received a letter from Billy he says he was upon Guard when the King of Denmark arrived, and that he is very lively, boyish looking man. We have neither of the Miss Wentworths in Yorkshire, Miss Annabelle may be at Bretton the latter end of the year. Miss Wentworth wou'd have been here before this time had it not been for the death of her Aunt. The floods have entirely destroy'd the Navigation from Wakefield to Hallifax and I question whether the Proprietors will begin it again or no. You know Horbury Bridge that is taken down. My friends rise in the world. One a Governor and another Arch Bishop of Canterbury, Doctor Cornwallis I have been acquainted with ever since I had connexions in Staffordshire, and I much esteem him when he was Bishop of Lichfield his moderation to those he had power over, his generosity and many other good qualitys made his Public day a very very Public one indeed, and I make no question but in his present high station he will give as much satisfaction as any Arch Bishop that ever went before him. The seeds you was so kind as to send me are now fine plants, they will be a great ornament to the Oaks, I shall value them much both on account of their own beauty and likewise for the sake of the donor. We often drink your health and we are going to a place tomorrow where we shall be sure to remember you, to Bretton races.

I wonder whether you have the same alteration in your weather In America that we have in ours, it rains every day almost and we have no hot days, no summer feel, yet the crops are as good as they us'd to be and at the same time of the year. We have been so very fashionable as to have Oratorios in the West Riding, there was one at Hallifax on opening their new Organ. One afterwards at Wakefield, then one at Hanley, and this year one at Permiston, and those that understood music said that considering the disadvantages they had it was very well perform'd. It has had such an effect on them

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that the Parish have subscribed and bought an Organ, perhaps you may think it was my influence, but I assure you it was not, I neither made interest about it, nor was I the first that subscribed by a great many. Mr Allot was there I believe he has <sought> most of them, they had some hands from Manchester that they pay'd. Dick Allot his youngest son who used to sing so well has got a living of £300 a year wch. was given him by the Arch Bishop of Tuam who says he will provide still farther for him. The storm of Wilks & Liberty is greatly abated & fair weather seems to be coming on. People seem to be much more united than they us'd to be. I reflect upon our Acquaintance with great satisfaction and shall always esteem a letter from you as a singular favour to, Dear Sir

Your most Obedient Servant  
Godfrey Bosville

Gunthwaite, August 23rd 1768

Coln bridge, Cooper bridge, Salter hibble bridge, almost all the bridges are, a loaded cart was carry'd under Sheffield bridge and found standing under it w[he]n the waters settled. The Arch stood and ye abutments gave way. We have a Mr. Shaw from America at Mr. Cockshutts.

#### **20 May 1769 Thomas Wentworth to John Wentworth**

London, May 20th 1769.

Dear Sir,

I received your last favour at Bretton, which gave me double pleasure, finding by the contents that we had been equally busy and amused in buildings, cutting and planting, but you mention nothing of a garden, however I take for granted that you will have the pleasure in making a large one with walls to surprise and set an example of improvement in that article to the rest of your Countrymen.

In one letter (which I have not here) you mentioned some fruit trees, so when you are ready for them, only set down the sorts wanted or seeds and they shall be sent by a Liverpool ship and shall be managed by Mr. Perfect of Pomfret, who is I believe, very justly reckon'd as good a Gardiner [sic] as any in England; Do your pigs eat all your Artichocks [sic] or do you continue to eat them or have you persuaded any friends to like 'em? I must be silent about Lakes and Cascades, so must be a Ferdinando and do as I can do. I have built a little Gothic Temple at the end of my lake in an island where a dozen may be sociable, one wing is a little room with a couch for anyone inclined to rest or cool themselves upon occasion, t'other a Pantry and behind a little kitchen with a bed chamber over it and other Conveniency's and when it is quite finished I'll send you a plan, and I design to dedicate it to Venus and Bacchus and set the Statues of'em in front. My next work of consequence will be another Lake larger – I shall be very glad to hear how you go forwards in your new plantation (where you have land and water

enough to employ your genius at pleasure) which when finished I shall beg a map to ornament my Map Room, Paul Wth. has given me a drawing of Surinam, We are often together with other Americans & Messrs. Fisher and Nelson, who answer your description which makes us sorry to think of losing them so soon, and I think Paul is uncertain what to do, I cannot pretend to Politicks as I am of no Council nor in the House at Westminster, and I am sure that you will have a better Account from others, and if you read the newspapers, you'll find curious abuse on both sides, which serve no purpose.

Arbitrary Power is certainly very clear and obsequiously supported by the present Possessor of the Loaves and Fishes. I have heard that good promises are made in favour of America. I thank you for the present of sweetmeats which were consigned to Mr. Fisher. I have not been able to get any right bred bantams, and as for mine they are now bastards, but I'll try to get some from Holland where the best breed is. My 3 Geese are alive. I have been out of luck with regard to the other fowles. Mr. Bosville & Family stay at Gunthwaite this year, except the Captn. who is here and desires his compts., so I am now in their house alone here. The two Messrs. Palmers and Rogers were at Bretton. Mr. Livins is in town. Mr & Mrs Fishers' Pictures are put up in my Library. The *<Con Rond>* produced no seed in the pods. I can't help thinking you must have many wild flowers with bulbous roots, in your Woods and fields & the water sides, which would bear carriage well. I design to have a flower garden to please the Misses. By your description of a Beauty, I could not rightly understand, whether you was going to take one for life or durante bene placito.

I suppose you'll scarce [sic] think of another voyage here till all is quiet, which I heartily wish soon, for these Party Squabbles do no side good, so wishing you health and success in all your undertakings –

I am, Dear Sir, Your Oblig'd. & Obed't. Servant  
T. Wentworth

I dined with Messrs. Trecothicks & *<Apthrop>* lately.

#### **20 Jul 1769 Thomas Wentworth to John Wentworth**

Bretton, July 20th 1769

Dear Sir

William Lambert, the Bearer, a Farmer served seven years apprenticeship [sic] near here, & follow'd the business for himself eleven years at York, aged 32 of a good constitution, and understands all the business of farming and will be glad to submit to any direction or order you shall think proper to give he is desirous of seeing a foreign country and would be glad to settle if possible, Mr Prince, who perhaps you may remember to have seen here, recommends him also, as having known him many years, - therefore if such a man can be of service to you in your New Plantation or Settlement it will give me great pleasure, that after a trial he may turn out well and to your

satisfaction. By your order I received some sweetmeats &tc. which were extremely good, for which many thanks, I saw in London and din'd several times with Messrs. Fisher and Nelson at Mr. Paul Wentworth's and at the club of Americans in St. Paul's Churchyard at the Queens Head, I liked their company very well and they seem very honest, chearfull [sic] and sensible men, and I have the pleasure to think that I have settled a correspondence with them to hear from them with the additional benefit to my Plantation from their kind promises and offers to send me more seeds, Roots &tc. from different Regions. I saw Mr. Livins who was in good health, I could persuade none of them to come into Yorkshire, being all engaged in business and politicks, however all seem quiet now, some run into Scotland to marry and great Folks marry, divorce and marry again with great tranquillity and little expence [sic], it gives me a years longing to try but Venus has been tolerably propitious otherwise as I hope she has proved to you, so no great matter lost.

This Summer I have taken of [sic] the Lead from the Roof of my House, the Lead being porous and let in water in many places, I have covered it again with Blue Slate, I shall be glad to know what covering you have put upon your own House. I go on planting, building & destroying. Last Monday was Lady Macdonals birthday which was celebrated at Gunthwaite and at night the little wood lighted up and musick and dancing &tc. and tomorrow Captn. Bosville & Miss Bosville's Birthday and the same intended, and next week I intend to set out for the Isle of Sky to visit Sr. Alexander and Lady Macdonald. Mr. Paul Wentworth intended to go into Holland, but whether he is gone I don't know. Mr. Mrs. & Miss Bosville and my sister Betty dined with me today, and we drunk your health and they desire their best respects.

I suppose you can not think of coming into England till all Public & private Disputes are settled, which I wish may be effectuated to mutual satisfaction. There are curious letters on both sides in the Public Papers which you no doubt have.

Lord Rockingham is in the Country.  
When you have a little time from business pray favour me with a line, which will greatly oblige  
Dear Sir Your very Sincere & Obedt. Servant  
T. Wentworth

Your late coachman is gone to London, but I don't know how he employs himself except in drinking. -

#### c. Feb 1771 Godfrey Bosville to John Wentworth

[Note: Letter is undated. Assuming the Nathaniel Rogers mentioned here was the Boston merchant victimised for opposing the 'tea party' tax revolt, the letter might be dated to 1771, the year after Rogers' death. This would fit with mention of his son William having been 'some time a Lieutenant', a rank he was promoted to in 1769. The

following letter of March 1772 refers to the sending of the stag hounds as having been over a year previously, so this letter can perhaps be dated to around February 1771.]

Dear Sir,

Your servants coming over was a lucky circumstance to me as it eas'd me of all that trouble of getting over [the] Stag hounds w[hic]h has hung so long upon my mind; I have sent you two couple, and I hope they will answer; I coud [sic] have sent them a year ago if I had known of anybody to trust them with. I desire likewise your acceptance of a new invented Machine to bleed horses; it appears to be very well contrived for [the] purpose. I am obliged to you for [the] map of New Hampshire in w[hic]h I soon discovered Gunthwait, it called it good land, it has not that title in Yorkshire; so [that] it has improv'd in its passage. I find by the papers you was so kind as to send me [that the] Anabaptists complain heavily ag[ain]st [the] Presbyterians, which shows [that the] Sectarys on your side of [the] water are not so quiet as they are here, for we have not [the] least complaint ab[ou]t Religion; Established and non-established all sides are easy. I enquired about my friend Mr. Rogers and was heartily sorry w[he]n your servant inform'd me he was dead. I had a letter from him last summer, and I wrote to him again desiring that we might correspond together.

Whether he got it before he died is now of little importance. Poor Nathaniel Rogers! He had a very honest look, and was a very honest man. In my last I think I told you of [the] reconciliation between Sir Thomas Wentworth and Lord Rockingham w[hic]h I was sure w[oul]d please you as it did me. The best news I co[ul]d tell you now wo[ul]d be [that] Ld. Rockingham had joyned [the] Ministry; but that at present is not in agitation; I wish it was. The Ministry have gather'd strength continually tho' [the] Peace has been made as much a handle ag[ain]st them as it co[ul]d be, it has signify'd very little.

The Opposition are gone together by [the] ears, & are sunk to nothing, they are like losing Gamesters abusing one another, and in so doing they expose their own unwarrantable Actions, th[ei]r Airy Shewes too expensive to be executed, w[hi]ch require Funds to support [that] they are by no means possess'd of. Through all these turbulent times [the] Middling Gentry have uniformly adher'd to what has been reckon'd [the] King's Opinion; they have been much more unanimous upon these occasions than ever I knew them before. They are not of consequence enough to expect Preferment, and therefore act disinterestedly, w[hi]ch gives them an Interest with [the] Commons, and tho' they are not equal to Nobles Merchants or Lawyers, yet when united they are a very considerable body. I wo[ul]d willingly give you, w[hic]h I believe [the] rest of your friends here are desirous of doing, as much insight as I co[ul]d into how matters stand on this side of [the] water, more than the common Newspapers inform you of which indeed contradict themselves continually. An Oppostion to [the] Ministry there always was in my time and I believe always will be; but I remember that against Sir Robert Walpole increasing every year, now they visibly decline, and will more so if [the] King lets them have Masquerades and other Expensive entertainments to ease th[ei]r pockets of Election money. It often happens [that] such things are accounted deep strokes of Policy take their rise from nothing else but [the] Passions;

that have sometimes by wise men been properly directed and have sometimes succeeded by chance. The vanity of Lewis [sic] 14th performed for him what the profoundest Policy cou'd scarcely have done, as by how much it is more difficult to sustain through [the] length of a mans whole Life an Assumed character than a Real one, The pride and riches of [the] French Nobility involved them in Civil Wars and something very like rebellions in his Minority. His vanity prompted him to make carousals, build Palaces and exhibit [the] utmost Magnificence in every thing round him, it attracted [the] Gay from all Countrys, his Nobility dazzled with his Splendor imitated the Monarch, his very vices assisted his interest, his Mistresses [that] he made Duchesses and his Bastards [that] he made Princes of promoted [the] fashion and added to [the] extravagance of [the] times: The Nobility follow'd [the] Mode, and made themselves as poor as [the] most Politic Prince cou'd have wish'd them. His vanity prompted him to make war upon his neighbours, w[hi]ch cut out work for those turbulent spirits to whom quiet is a punishment and engaged the Nobility in his service greatly to [the] addition of his Power. By these means Lewis became Le Grand. Yet to see his character in private life from Madame < Caylies > and others, he was a Dupe to his Mistresses none of whom lov'd him except Fontange, and govern'd by a Crafty old one who even at last persuaded him to marry her. The very diversions of our Henry 5th while he was Prince were robbery and fighting; when he became King his gang was increased and he conquered France. I can never believe but [that] Oliver Cromwell was a real enthusiast; some people are so discerning as to suppose [that] he even intended being King when he was only a Captain of Horse; whereas he rose gradually by taking such advantages as happen'd to lie in his way w[hic]h a less sensible man w[oul]d have overlook'd as Fairfax did. It is pity Ld. Rockingham shou'd stick by a losing game when Wedderbourn Ld. Hardwick and so many of his old associates are getting to [the] prevailing side; I dare say he might have a very honourable post among [the] Ministrys. William who has been some time a Lieutenant in [the] Guards w[hic]h gives him [the] rank of Captain is now recruiting at Manchester, his next advance w[oul]d be a Company w[hic]h in the Guards gives [the] rank of Lieut. Coll. But he thinks that will be so long a coming [that] he w[oul]d have been glad to have seen you or any other Country with the denomination of Major to some new rais'd Corps if there had been a War; for my own part as I am perfectly satisfy'd with my Son and Heir, I am not desirous of having him such preferment and renown in such an exotic manner, the Guards have fighting enough, for commonly half their Officers are kill'd. Thomas I propose putting to Mr. Sampson in [the] City a considerable whole sale Upholsterer next year. Lady Macdonald has a second Daughter at th[eir] House in Cavendish Square. Julio is in Great Russell Street with Mrs. Bosville and me. I thought you might have [the] curiosity to know what was become of us all, we are well and I assure you that every part of [the] family desires th[eir] best compliments to you and your lady. After [the] last War there was a great many Highlanders settled in America, I know [the] Germans retain their own language, I wonder whether [the] Highlanders do. I wish they did, for otherwise [the] Old Celtic will in time be entirely lost. It remains but in one single town in Cornwall which belongs to Sir John Trevillian. English gains

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ground in the Highlands in Wales and in Ireland, and the French has drove it out from all but [the] Bas Bretagne. – Diodorus Siculus gives an Acct. of [the] Scythians breaking into [the] Median Empire in the [time] of Cyaxares, those [that] remain'd were destroy'd by a Treacherous Massacre like that of St. Bartholomew, but he says they still left [the] names of many things w[hic]h are yet called after their Language, particularly he mentions knives and other things w[hic]h they us'd in Sacrifice, which names are exactly [the] same they are at this hour call'd by in [the] Highlands w[hic]h proves th[ei]r Language Ersh [sic]. Sir A. Macdonald has got [the] letter of an Appeal against him in [the] House of Lords which was purchased in his minority: It lies between two of his Estates in Skye. You must have heard of Mons[ieu]r D'eon and his quarrel with [the] French Embass[ado]r Count De Guerche. It seems this Mons[ieu]r is a woman: She has been a Minister here , a Captain of the Dragoons, and she wears a <logix> de St Lois: Though this distinction is given as a mark of twenty service; She never serv'd at all, but having a commission young, she was taken out to be Secretary, and being continued in the post from time to time, she had [the] honor given her with [the] rest of [the] Officers whose commissions bore [the] same date, she was bred up as a boy by her Mother. This news I heard today and it is affirm'd to be true from several hands. Mr. Lane of Deans Street said he was afraid it w[oul]d get into [the] papers before he c[oul]d inform his friends and therefore he had wrote two letters last night. This winter has been remarkably severe, we had snow in our country, a deep one [the] beginning of November, the greatest floods ever known and a quantity of rain, and now we have a snow, not very usual at this time of [the] year. I hear but a bad account of Mr. Michael Wentworth, I knew but little of him, having never seen him above two or three times in my life, and never was in his company but once I din'd with him at Lord Straffords. There are some fine streets built from [the] Strand where Durham Yard stood, and there are Warehouses underneath them, there has been a quarrel between [the] City ab[ou]t [the] embanking of [the] Thames, in [the] papers it is called [the] finest River in [the] world; but what is [the] Thames compar'd to [the] Mississippi, [the] River Lawrence or several other Rivers in your Country. As we all speak [the] same language, and are many of mutually acquainted I hope [the] Animosities between the English of Europe and [the] English of America will come to an end. Please be so kind as to present my best respects to your Lady and be assur'd [that] I am,

Dear Sir Your most Obedient Humble Servant

Godfrey Bosville

**16 Mar 1772 Godfrey Bosville to John Wentworth**

Great Russell St. 16th March 1772

Dear Sir

Not having heard of you of so long a time makes me doubtful whether my letters ever arrive. It is above a twelve month ago [that] I sent by your coachman some Stag hounds, and some new books in a box, which he promised to take particular care

of, and I was in hopes to have heard [that the] dogs were [the] sort you wished for, and likewise yr. opinion of [the] books. I have renew'd my lease of this house for 25 years longer. Mr. Paul Wentworth is at Amsterdam from whence I had a letter from him [the] other day, he is greatly concerned for Mr. De Bruiyn, a gentleman he bro[ugh]t with him here, who he says is going to dye. I heard he was going to be married, but that affair is of[f?], as I was told by his friend Mr. Hope, who call'd upon me this morning and who is they say a Partner in one of [the] greatest houses in [the] world. Sr. Thomas is still in Statu quo. but very well as to his health; both his sisters are in town, [the] eldest has left Bath entirely. William has rambled abroad ag[ai]n he is now at Naples and has been at Rome before he intended, for he was shipwreck'd in his passage from Marsiells [sic] to Naples near Civita Veccia. He has been twice up mount Vesuvius. The Duke of Gloucester [sic] is now at Naples, much better and in very good spirits. He says he has seen [the] most cruel custom [that] ever was invented. Opposite to [the] Palace there is a scaffold built on purpose, to w[hi]ch they had for several days before been nailing live ducks fowls pigs geese and other things by the wings and feet, at [the] time appointed [the] soldiers let [the] mob in who scramble, throw each other down and pull [the] creatures in pieces to carry of as much as they can – I only wish half a dozen hungry Lions were turned among these inhuman savages to pull them limb from limb alive; but I question whether [the] more merciful brute woud [sic] not kill them first with his paw. They keep good guard in Denmark, for no letters [that] contain any thing of news come out of that kingdom. The minds of [the] people here are very different from w[ha]t they were when you was in England, that violence w[hi]ch was ready to boil over is now subsided into a settled calm; even Ireland where Faction revived when it dies here is quiet, for [the] opposition are gone together by [the] ears. The mar[ria]ge Bill of [the] Royal family if it takes place will be disagreeable. We have a new entertainment the Pantheon in Oxford Street, it is [the] most elegant building I ever saw. The amusements are [the] same as Mr. Cornelys, there is such a crowd of coaches [that] some are broke down every night, w[he]n I was at [the] Pantheon there were above two thousand people. The account you read of Solway Moss is really true: It is said a most remarkable Phenomenon. The black earth is so impregnated with water [that] it runs down like [the] lava from Mount Vesuvius; One Mr. Graham has an Estate in [the] valley of a thousand pounds a year, above three hundred of which is covered by this travelling bog. Barns, Stables & Houses, England looks handsomer every year. Sr. Charles Hotham is beginning a house in Yorkshire w[hi]ch he tells me he proposes shall cost twenty thousand pounds, but as that is [the] Estimate of his Architect I will venture to say it will cost him more, for they always exceed th[ei]r Calculation. Sr. Alexander and Lady Macdonald are in town. When I was in Staffordshire where I spent most part of last summer on account of an Estate I had left there, I was surprised to see every cottage have a garden, w[hi]ch ours have not in Yorkshire, full of Beans, Peas and other Garden Stuff w[hi]ch is a great help to [the] poor people who have no trade and only work for [the] farmers, and finding these cottages under [the] hedges and sprinkled about makes [the] country exceeding pretty. Our land is barren, so [that] if they spar'd tillage for a Garden their Corn would be thin. In your country where you

have such plenty of wood and water what prodigious fine things you might make and I dare say will do. Mrs. Miss Bosville and Tommy joyn with me in our best respects to you and your lady.

I am My Dear Sir Your most Obedient Servant  
Godfrey Bosville

## 12 Jun 1772 Thomas Wentworth to John Wentworth

Dear Sir,

On the 29th May last I had the pleasure to receive your two letters, which also gave me the satisfaction to find that you enjoy'd good health and spirits, of which I heartily wish you a long continuance, and no doubt, matrimony will contribute with the subsequent blessings commonly called children, of which however you make no mention.

I was near two years in the country and am but lately come to town, remaining a Bachelor, as usual with no thoughts of changing. I was in France about 2 months and at Paris with Paul Wentworth (who is now at Amsterdam) I wish that the sea between us was less broad and less tempestuous, or that I could bear the sea better, for I would willingly make you a visit to see your Plantations.

The very next day after receiving your letters, my surprise about Lambert made me go into the City to enquire at the two American Coffee Houses for Captain Hensell, or any American gentlemen, but to no purpose. I wanted to have found some one that had seen this Lambert to have talk't and ask't questions about him for I neither recollect the man nor the name nor any person recommending such a one to me nor giving any letter to you and I didn't know of any of that name in Yorkshire, but I will make enquiry at my return, so that at present I can say nothing more about him, than that I am very sorry that you and others have been so deceived and cheated by him after so much kindness & generosity shown him undeserving. Your account of Mick W[entwor]th was very curious but did not surprise me, as I always thought him capable of the worst actions none of his family ever mentioned him to me, but I heard from others, that they were very well pleased, thinking that his marriage was to his advantage and credit; I met Mr. Palmer lately who told me that he believed that Mick would lose everything as he had many Lawsuits upon his hands, which gave me great pleasure.

Perhaps you may remember Miss Augusta Wentworth, only daughter of Mr. W[entwor]th of Dorchester and sister to Captn. Wth. of the Guards, who are next heirs to Lord Strafford, she married lately, unknown to us, to Mr. Hatfield Kaye of Stanley near Wakefield, a man of no family, was an attorney without business, but has near £200 per Ann. and expectance of about as much at the death of an Old Woman, and he has five or six Brothers and Sisters to keep and is greatly in debt. I don't know what fortune the father gives her, tho' the marriage was with his approbation. I don't suppose that Ld. and Lady Strafford will take any notice of them in the country – I

forget the sum I paid before for the Dog, but I paid nothing for this, which is stand-by according to your description. Captn. Hensell wrote me word that the other died: the sugar is very good, and I shall be glad to know out of curiosity whether you can make it as cheap from those Maple Trees to serve yourselves and Country, as buying it from the Islands. We have many Maple trees in Yorkshire but I am afraid they are of a different sort, of a very slow growth, and good for nothing, however next year I will have some trees tap't and boil the juice for sugar, so I shall be very glad if I can promote these trees or others upon my Plantation, and if possible pray send me the seeds of the Con rond and of the Bachelor Tree, both which grow very well in the Hot House, but gave no seed. – I have not had time to try the gun. It will be best and <gainest> to direct anything for Mr. Bosville and me to the care of Mr. Wilson, Merchant in Liverpool for there are many ships from thence go to America. I desire to know how the Box Machine for winnowing corn answers, they are much used now in England to very great advantage. I have bought the new invented Plow, with four wheels of Mr. Moore, perhaps you may have read a description of it in the newspapers. I try'd in first in my Park and it is much preferable to the old ones, where there are few stones, pray what sort of Plough is made use of in your grounds and what sort of ground in general? I have ordered another new Plough for draining wet Lands. Have you got any of these in your country, for where Labor is dear, they must be of very great advantage.

There are Liverpool ships which go to Newfoundland, therefore when I want more I can get a dog directly from thence. This Stand-by has his ears cut off which disfigures him sadly.

You do great honor in transporting to your country the name of my seat where if you enjoy'd anything worth remembrance, it was only due to your name, character and chearfull good company.

I shall be glad to know what sort of gardens you have, and whether you plant trees against walls, and what sort of fruit trees, for I have bought for my own gardens a new invented watering pot with a long tin tube to wash the walls and the trees and to water the garden beds & a new invented bellows to blow the smoke of tobacco upon the trees, which will destroy the vermin and worms upon the leaves, so if they will be of use to you I will send them as soon as I hear from you again, here inclosed you have the description.

The House of Lords and Commons have had a great and steady majority this sessions, and have acted as they pleased with a sort of Absolute Power, and have spent much time about a Marriage Bill and the Thirty nine Articles, which might have been better employ'd in Essentials for the Benefit of the country in general –

Lord Rockingham has been long very ill and attended by above six Physitians [sic] but is now better and rides out, he is at his house at Wimbledon near London, we have renew'd our acquaintance about two years ago, and he has been at Bretton.

Mr. Hugh Wentworth is now in London, and pretty well, and Perry Wth. goes on as usual with his running horses, and as I am not in the secret, its impossible to know

whether he wins or loses, he lives mostly at Bramham with his wife. Now my best respects to Mrs. Wentworth and I am

Dear Sir Your most sincere and Much Oblig'd. Obedt. Servant  
T. Wentworth

London, June 12th 1772

**27 Mar 1778 Godfrey Bosville to John Wentworth**

Thorp near Malton March 27th 1778.

Dear Sir,

We are happy to hear of your safe arrival among your friends in England, though we are sorry for the disagreeable occasion of it, that the Rebellion is so formidable in America as to drive our Governors from thence, and that we can no longer with propriety call them our fellow subjects, who speak the same language in another hemisphere. Their former enemy's, and now their good friends the French, may teach them a better system of Morality than we have done. They forget the time when Monsieur Montealm was coming to give them a few of his instructions; but it is a pleasure to see some of the best of that country, that think it no disgrace to be reckon'd among the friends to Old England. You will scarce know my family again; some that were children when you was here are now grown up; I have Grandchildren in Scotland of a tolerable size, and I think you will be surprised at the bigness of Thomas, and recollect what he was when you left him. My old habitation of Gunthw[ai]t where you now and then favor'd me with a friendly visit, you can go to see me no more at. Mr. Drummond, second son to the late Arch Bishop of York, nephew to Lord Kinmoul, has liv'd there these years and keeps the old place exceedingly neat. This, my new residence; I am busy making some additions to, which has prevented our coming to London this Winter. I wish you and your Lady may come to Scharborough [sic] in the summer, and then we shall hope to have you both here, to see what we are doing; I should be glad of some inducement to bring you this way. Your very sincere friend Paul Wentworth I was once disappointed of getting here, but I hope it will not be always so. You will find in Great Russell Street a house full of your friends and relations, and one that has seen you since I did. This day I have got some of my new neighbourhood to dine with me, and drink Sir Thomas Blacketts health, to which we shall add yours; It is Sir Thomas's birthday and we have always then some little joviality among us. Mrs. And Miss Bosville desire their best respects to you and your Lady, & shall be glad to renew their old acquaintance. If you go into the West Riding, let me remind you to look at the new front of Lord Strafford's house, You know that I am not a Sportsman, and I admire the Improvem[en]ts Ld. Strafford has made, much more than those who have field avocations. I have as you know attempted some imitations of that kind myself; and tho' my Oaks at Gunthwait may have pleased no body else, they have pleas'd me, and that is sufficient. His taste he has shown in a place

in Northamptonshire where there is Wood and Water, and when I us'd to pass by it in my infancy to Westminster School, there was but little of the one & I thought none at all of the other, but now he has made Bolton a very pretty place.

My Compliments to your Lady: I had but a very small share of her company when she was in Yorkshire, for she was then in the care of Ld. Rockington. and Sir Thos. Wentworth; so coud [sic] not expect that much of her company wou'd be conferred upon Dear Sir

Your most Obedient Servant  
Godfrey Bosville

### **26 Dec 1778 Thomas Blackett to John Wentworth**

[Note: By now Thomas Wentworth had changed his name to Blackett, in order to inherit the Northumberland estates following the death of Sir Walter Blackett, under the terms of the will of Sir William Blackett III (d.1728) his uncle]

Bretton, Decr. 26th 1778

Dear Sir,

I can only return you my cordial thanks for the trouble you have taken in sending me news, dispatches and American Papers for it is out of my power & Yorkshire to furnish anything like them. Fate and time will certainly produce some good, and some bad, but our Ministers & Co: are bewitched to promote only the latter.

It may be uncommon now a days to mention a wife to a Husband, but excuse me for once; when I desire you to make my best respects to her with ten thousand thanks for her comp[limen]ts and elegant, Eloquent, grateful and affect[iona]te expressions, comprehending all of you, therefore do me the honor to suppose the same in the group as my pen can not make better and as your bumpers increased daily, you will have a merry house soon, so I shall be glad to partake with you, the first opportunity, I am oblig'd to you for y[ou]r enquiry about lead but you may save yourself any further trouble for Mr. Blackett my principal Agent has been here and tells me that he sells all in Newcastle.

Dr. Perkins and Mr. Thomas came here on St Thomas day. I said nothing to them of your Acc[oun]t supposing them sufficiently informed of every thing.

We were 26 at dinner but not all Thomas's – Fine open weather for hunting, my hounds killed 3 hares one morning.

Lord Strafford will be in town soon.

I am, Dear Sir, Your Most Obedt. Humble Servant  
T. Blackett

### **3 Jul 1779 Thomas Blackett to John Wentworth**

Bretton, July 3rd 1779

Dear Sir,

I am much oblig'd to you for your news, which it is and will be always more satisfactory to me than the public papers.

If our ships do not keep the enemy from our coasts, we shall have some entertainment upon Land and then the Coxheath & *<Warley>* Gentlemen &c will have different business than hitherto with visits from Ladys of all qualities.

The picture is arrived safe for which you have my thousand thanks, and I shall hang it in the picture room at the end of the gallery, where I think it will be admired. We can not find out as yet if it be any particular Antique Philosophick Head. I wonder that the Italian did not give it a name as they are often subject to bombast descriptions and deceptions.

You don't mention Paul W[entwor]th but I hope he is very well & my Comp[limen]ts to him, neither do you give a hint what you both design to do with yourselves this summer or whether we shall have the pleasure of your Company this summer. My best comp[limen]ts to Mrs. Wth. and I think that change of Air & travelling would agree with her better than London – 140 Militia, Lord Percy's North[umberlan]d men are gone to guard Burlington & they are very busy in getting their Cannon and guns in order. Mr Bosvilles family have been here & I shall follow them to Throp near Burlington next week for about 10 days – Ld. Strafford is come home & Ld. Rockingham is expected, but perhaps something particular may detain him in London, as there must be great Agitations amongst those in place & out of place at this time. – Sir George Saville is still in town & his West Riding Division is arrived at Liverpool – It is talk't on and feared that there will be some trouble about this new Militia Act. – We have had hot weather and it now rains –

I am, Dear Sir Your most Obedt. Servt.

T. Blackett

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**13 Jan 1791 R. Bentincks to John Wentworth**

Dear Sir,

Not having had the pleasure of finding you at home the other morning when I called upon Mrs. Wentworth, I can not defer [sic] any longer to return you personally my most sincere thanks for your kindness and friendship in allowing my son John to go with you to Nova Scotia – I owe this to your friendship to William, and I hope John will make himself worthy of it by his behaviour and by paying the strictest attention to you. –

The obligation I think myself under I can not express. I was much perplexed how to dispose of him in a way satisfactory to myself, and to his advantage which you have entirely removed

I am with the truest regard Your obliged and Sincere Humble Servt.

R. Bentincks

<Parry> Garden Jany. 13th 1791

**10 Aug 1791 Thomas Blackett to John Wentworth**

Hexham, Augst.10th 1791

Dear Sir,

I recd. your letter dated July 18th after a long time at Ediningburgh [sic] where I had been travelling and visiting about in the neighbourhood at several towns and friends houses, so that I could not give you an Answer directly as I could not be determin'd upon the time of my return. However now, after the Newcastle Assizes and my own business in this country are finished, I hope to return to Bretton the first week in September, when I shall be very glad of the pleasure of your company & Mrs Wentworth & Son and I will certainly write a letter to you upon my return home and shall be extremely glad that it will be convenient to you to leave London about that time, and I take for granted that Government will never pretend to interfere with your sentiments or amusements after acknowledged Approb[atio]n – Miss Wentworth presents her best compts to you and Mrs Wentworth and will be very happy to see you at Bretton – She has been all the journey with me and will conclude with the dancing Assembys at Newcastle about the end of the month. You may have been inform'd that Mr and Mrs Beaumont are either upon Sea or at Lisbon or Oporto or Gibraltar, for we have not heard from her since she was at Falmouth. I have no news to send you from this country so wish you would write me a letter by the return of the Post directed to Hexham Abbey in Northumberland and you will oblige,

Dear Sir, Your Most Obedt. Servant

T. Blackett

If you see Mrs Bosville give my Love to her and tell her some contents of this letter -

**18 Jan 1792 Thomas Blackett to John Wentworth**

Dear Sir,

I wish you both a happy & Merry new year and many of them and I heartily congratulate you for having the respectable benefit and honor of the Province of N. Scotia and wish you long to enjoy them, if a better does not offer, and as for your being obliged to return to N.S. I hope that voyage may be delay'd some time, that I may have the pleasure of returning your kind visit and serving you in London this year, but it has been generally known in England & other countrys that persons have been appointed to Governments and Places & Pensions, without ever or little attending, seeing or transacting any business appertaining or belonging thereunto, so that I hope that you may have your own will & pleasure to choose which country you like to live in best.

Such is often the boasted freedom of the Noble Constitution of England where if you settle, you may easily manage to have an honourable seat in the House of Commons and then you may expect the honor of a visit from Mr Pitt, to consult the best manner to diminish the enormous debts of the Nation, which must be fine amusement and then to be made a Lord, so upon second thoughts what fine ideas to induce a man to live in England. Sophia sends her Compts to you both & is in great expectation of the Budget. I return you many thanks for the seeds, which I have given to my gardner with your directions for managing and planting –

By reading the public papers, it seems as is a real peace was settled in France & Germany, so that we may expect to be quiet in England, except in the two spacious houses in Westminster, which I suppose, you will attend now and then and I wish you would give me some descriptions of the Orators and their debates and I hope, some new members will begin to harangue, for I am tired of the old ones.

The D[uche]ss of York has promoted so much conversation, that every body must wish to see every little thing about her. We have the size of her shoe here – in paint and Paper. - Mr & Mrs Beaumont were very well at Naples and intended going to Rome for the winter. – I am obliged to you for your kind enquiries about my health, which is much better, so that I have company and ride out almost every day and dine in the hunting room below, which is warmer than the Saloon this cold changeable weather and now the Lakes are frozen. I expect next week Ld Macdonal & Sr. I. Sinclair who leaves his wife to attend the Nursery – My Compts. to Charles – If you see Mr. Bosville you may tell him that I have expected to see him here daily. Since a friend told me that he was coming soon – Mr John Milnes sends his Compts. and will call upon you soon in London – Miss Woods compts.

I am, Dear Sir, Your most Obedt. Humble Servant  
T. Blackett

Bretton Jany. 18th 1792