

5 Apr 1793 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

John E Blackett Esq, Charlotte Square, Newcastle upon Tyne

Bretton, April 5th 1793

Dear Sir

I am sorry to trouble you so soon on the same Subject & before I could possibly have received an answer to my last, but I am apprehensive if measures are not speedily taken it will be too late, as my Sister Miss Louisa Wentworth is determined to marry Mr James Lee as soon as she can, therefore too much expedition cannot be used to place her under the Chancellors care, (if you judge that step a proper one) or any other precaution you think better to prevent her Marrying before she has sufficient knowledge of the World to form a judgment of what will most conduce to her future Happiness, Miss Louisa Wentworth has been a Month in London with Mr Lee's Family, & is at present with them at Leeds, I expect my Sister Mrs Wm Lee at Bretton next week, Mr Wm Lee has gone to Bath for his Health, - I informed Mrs Cotton yesterday that I had written to you on the Subject of Miss L Wentworth's Marriage, & read her the Copy of what I had sent you, she said Mr Cotton would Action any measures you thought necessary when you called on him to do so, - I shall be anxious for the pleasure of hearing from you -

believe me Dear Sir your Sincere Hble Servt
Diana Beaumont

will it not be proper to shew Mr Williamson that part of my Fathers Will which relates to Miss Louisa?

8 Mar 1794 John Mitford to Diana Beaumont

[Note: Handwritten legal opinion. See cover letter of 10 March 1794]

Opinion of Sir John Mitford Sol: Genl.: -

The Rent charge is given to Mr Cockshutt & his Heir, upon trust for Louisa Wentworth until she shall Marry & with the restriction mentioned in the Will, or for her Life, in case therefore she had not Married during her life, she would have been entitled during her life. If she had Married under the restriction mentioned in the Will; vizt. after having attained 21, or before that Age with the consent of Mr. Blackett & Mr. Cotton, & with a competent settlement previously made, she & her Husband would I think have been intitled for their lives & the life of [the] Survivor with limitations to her Issue as expressed with respect to the other Rent charge given to Mr. & Mrs Lee & their Children. But as she has Married under 21, without such consent & settlement as required by the Will, it seems to me that she is in the same situation as she would have been if not Married at all, & is intitled to the 3000£ a Year during her life; but as she has

not Married under & subject to the restrictions in the Will, it seems to me that her Husband & Children can take nothing in the rent charge as the Gift to them in only "when & so soon as she should Marry as aforesaid"; that is, I apprehend, if under 21, with previous consent & a previous settlement. I think however, that the Will is so obscurely penn'd that the construction is far from clear; altho' judging only from my own observations on the Will I think a Court ought to decide upon the Construction according to the Opinion w(hic)h I have given – With respect to the 10,000, it appears to me that Marriage after 21, or Marriage under 21 with such consent as stated in the Will, is a previous Condition; & that as that Condition has not been performed the Legacy is not payable, if it shall never become payable it will fall into the residue, & as such be the property of Mr Beaumont; or rather it will never be a charge to the property given to him. But if Mrs Stacpoole shall hereafter Marry; after having attain'd 21, or before 21 with the consent required by the Will, I incline to think she will on such second Marriage become intitled to the Legacy; I think under the circumstances neither Mr. Beaumont nor the Trustees can properly pay the Rent charge except under the direction of the Court, the Legacy being a charge on Mr Beaumonts property only, he may pay as he thinks proper; because if not due it will only be a present from him to his Sister in Law; & he may in like Manner if he shall think proper make her a present of the Annuity of the Rent charge during her life <leav[in]g> himself to a demand for payment of it over again if Mrs Stacpoole is intitled to it notwithstanding her Marriage, but he ought I think to require Mrs Stacpoole to make a competent settlement, having regard to the Fortune which Mr Beaumont will in that case give her, with the Accumulations which must have been considerable before the Marriage; considering the Youth of Mrs Stacpoole, & the large Income w[hic]h she had beyond what was necessary for her Maintenance I also think the Court should be call'd upon to adjust what ought to be allowed to Mr Stacpoole for Maintaining his Wife (if intitled to the Rent Charge) during the remainder of her Minority, unless a Competent Settlement shall be made under the direction of the Court – John Mitford Lincolns Inn – March 7th

Copy of the Opinion of Mr Mansfield.

I think the questions respecting the 10,000£ & the 3000£ a Year both doubtful according to the best Opinion w[hic]h I can form upon them. I think that the Lady has forfeited [the] 10,000£, or rather that the events on which it is made payable can never happen, & that the consequence of this will be that it will fall into the personal Estate & belong to Mr Beaumont, - that the 3000£ a Year is not forfeited & is payable to the Lady, but that Mrs Stacpoole, if she shall survive her, will not be entitled to it. – I think its by no means advisable for the Trustees or Mr Beaumont to pay anything to Mr or Mrs Stacpoole without the direction of the Court of Chancery, -

J: Mansfield

Temple March 8th 1794

the other Opinion on the other side, -

10 Mar 1794 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

[Note: Letter marked on the cover: "Mrs. Beaumonts letter of 10th March 1794 with Copies of the Opinions of the Solor. Genl. & Mr. Mansfield " (see letter from Mitford on 8 March 1794)]

Portman Square March 10th

Dear Sir

I enclose you Copies of the Opinions of the Solicitor General & Mr Mansfield, I have sent the same to Mr Cockshutt for him and Mr Beaumont (who is in Yorkshire) to consult upon, these Opinions agree with the Opinion given by the Attorney General to Mr Lee, some time since, Mr Wilson of Bartlets Buildings who stated the plain facts of the Elopement &c her hav[ing] been made a Ward of the Court of Chancery strongly recommended my giving general <retainers> to the Atty. Genl. for Mr Beaumont, & to the Sol. Genl. & Mr. Mansfield in the Name of Mr Cockshutt which I immediately did, the Sol: Gen: finds out a curious question respect[ing] a second Marriage she may hereafter make but I observe in the Will the Words "that she may first Marry with", as we have only a life Estate we must undoubtedly have these things well settled, & the sooner the better. Mrs Stacpoole had only 1200£ left I understand of the 4-500£ we have paid her since the Death of my Father; I shall be anxious to hear your opinion of the enclosed, & if I find it necessary to retain Council in [the] Name of Mr Cotton (if there is any chance of your being concerned of course it will) in that case I will retain the Ablest, Mr & Mrs Stacpoole appear quite easy & satisfied, tho' I understand from the little she has said they know of these forfeitures, if there should appear any chance of his being confined by the Chancellor I will endeavour to put him on his guard that he may escape to Ireland for I should be sorry to inconvenience them by his Imprisonment, & in that case it w[oul]d be better for them to remain quiet until she is of Age; - I am Dear Sir

Your Sincere Hble. Servt.

Diana Beaumont

14 Feb 1795 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

Portman Square Feby 14th

Dear Sir

In great haste I trouble you with a few lines to inform you of Mr Stacpoles most unaccountable conduct, he desired Mr Bosville to shew us a Paper Yesterday to the following effect as nearly as I can recollect,

"Mr Stacpole requires that Mr & Mrs Beaumonts Council admit that his Marriage was at their desire & request & that Mr Blackett was applied to for his Consent, who gave his approbation by doing nothing against it, & that Mr Blackett is the only Trustee who ever did act". I will Copy the exact words when I see Mr Bosville

& send them to you, but this is as near as possible now, My Dear Sir you know there is not one right Statement in this, for if he means his first Marriage in Scotland, we did not even know Mr Stacpole by Name, & the second we were equally ignorant of, for he had named to me he should not Marry Mrs <S> in England till she was of Age, & then the Chancellor could do Nothing, & I was much surprised when I heard by my Milliner that Mrs <S.> was Married two Days she named it to me before, & that Mr Bosville was the Father who <gave> her away, he called soon after & I asked him if it was true, when he gave an Account of the Marriage, & the Copy of your Letter to Mr James Lee which I have requested my Sister Mrs Wm Lee to send me by return of Post, for unfortunately I have left at Bretton the Copy you sent me, & I think that will shew you did not act as a Trustee as She was made a Ward of the Court, We desired Mr Bosville would request Mr Stacpole to write to you to know if you was asked by us to give your Consent to either their first or 2d Marriage previous to their taking place, or if you knew beforehand of the 1st or 2d Marriage – his Views are Evident – he is greatly in debt, & hardly dares stir out – Col B. unites in best Compts.

I am Dr Sir

Sincerely Yours Diana Beaumont

5 Aug 1795 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

[Note: Date not given but cover annotated by JEB 'Mrs Beaumont Tinmouth, Aug 5th 1795]

John E Blackett Esq Charlotte Square Newcastle upon Tyne

Tynemouth Tuesday

Dear Sir

I have been prevented by Indisposition calling on you at Newcastle; a Letter on Sunday from Col: Beaumont said every thing went on well, I expect more particulars by to Days Post & will let you know the results – I will be obliged to you to send by My Servant forty Guineas; - I expect Mrs Willm Lee on Friday – My youngest Boy is better than he has been –

I am Dear Sir Your Sincere Hble. Servt

D. Beaumont

19 Sep 1795 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

Bretton Sept 19th 1795

Dear Sir

I was favor'd with your Letter last Night & Col: Beaumont & myself are glad to find you are in hopes of raising the price of Lead to 17 – 10 – 0 pr Fodr & that you are endeavouring to get a quantity down to Blaydon before the Roads break up; Mr Bill & Mr Straker will have an unpleasant task in settling the Accounts &c of Mr Forster; I

hope Allanheads will be better conducted when it is under the control of Mr Crawhall; Col: Beaumont set off this Morning for London, he has more travelling than a Kings Messenger, it is only ten Days since he returned from Town, I am under very considerable anxiety on his Account, & am now in readiness to follow him to Town. Mr Collingwood is at Cannon Hall, he appears amused, tho' not very well pleased with the Old Admirals thoughts of Matrimony, I understand he offer'd 800£ per Ann Settlement & said if more was required he was ready to settle 1000£ per Ann, & to shew how disinterested his regard was he asked not for the Lady's Fortune, I have proposed several Ladies to Mr Collingwood as his Relation Admiral Rodham is shewing him so good an Example; -

The Weather here is uncommonly favourable for the Harvest & the Crops are very abundant, Many of our principal Farmers say they have not had so good a prospect of many Years, I hope this will make the Monopolizers of Grain suffer very Materially, one Person at Wakefield is expected to lose a thousand Pounds by what he intended to have made four Thousand, it is to be lamented those People were not discovered & severely punished; - Mr & Mrs Ord of Nunnikirk near Netherwitton are on a Visit at Mr Stanhopes; -

I hope you intend to put your plan in Execution of Visiting Harrowgate, & that we shall then have the pleasure of seeing you here, I hear they sit down above a Hundred to Dinner at the Dragon; - in London some talk of Peace now the French have crossed the Rhine, & the Stocks keep up, if Parliament meets as soon as is expected there will be no chance of a dissolution of Parliament this Year, My little Boys are quite well, your Godson improves daily, Tynemouth has been of great Service to him; - I am Dear Sir

Very Sincerely yr Obed. Servt
D. Beaumont

22 Nov 1795 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

John E Blackett Esq Charlotte Square Newcastle upon Tyne

Bretton. Novr. 22d 1795

Dear Sir

I was in hopes I should have had the pleasure of seeing you at Bretton before this time as you did talk of Visiting Harrowgate; but I think it is now too late in the Season; there is Company still at Buxton; Colonel Beaumont is so much Engaged with Parliamentary Business that he has not been able to leave London since he went to attend the Meeting of Parliament & as he finds there is no chance of his coming down, he is anxious for my going to him, that I propose setting off with my little Boys on the 30th of this Month; - You would be surprised to hear of the Sudden Death of your Acquaintance Lord Macdonald, I hear he has left 120,000£ to be divided amongst the Younger Children (that is the Boys) for he has left to Lady Sinclair only 5.000£ of the

Money, the present Lord has a clear Estate of 12,000£ per Ann: the Money was all saved by the late Lord; - Mr Bosville is in London, he was a Month at Thorp which was a longer Time than I expected he would remain there alone: - Mr Skelton wrote to Mr Straker last Week respecting an Article in the Bankers Accounts, & will be glad of an Answer, a Gentleman from London was here Yesterday who informed me that Lead was much Wanted, & he knew that 20£ per Fodder or upwards would be given for any quantity if it could be obtained, it will be fortunate for those who have kept up their Lead if this is really the case, but the Information one receives is not always to be relied on, I think you named having made a Sale at £17. 10. 0 & 18£, but as that is some Weeks since I hope others have been made at the higher price; if we have any quantity of Lead & could Sell at this advance of Price, & be able to deliver it (for I think there is the difficulty, from what you mention'd when we were last in Nothumberland) I hope we should then be able to have some Money beforehand & not always have Sums to raise to enable us to make our Pays, & by degrees I hope the Credit will be shortened, I don't like to see so many Thousands in the Bankers Books for which we are paying Interest at 5 pr Ct; in Colonel Beaumont's absence I am obliged to think of Business, & am very completely occupied in that way in Yorkshire, I hope I [shall] have the pleasure of hearing from you before I leave Bretton – I have promised to represent Old Mrs Rodham to-morrow Mornng. At Cannon Hall & answer for her <attention> to the Sixth Son, the Boy is 5 Weeks Old, Colonel Beaumont is to be one of the Godfathers & will be represented by Mr. Cockshutt – I beg my Compts to Mrs Collingwood

& remain Dear Sir Your affectionate Hble. Servt

D. Beaumont

26 Nov 1795 John Erasmus Blackett to Diana Beaumont

November 26th 1795

Dear Madam,

I have the honour of your letter of ...22nd Inst. which I postponed answering that I may have it in my power to give you some account of the County Meeting at Morpeth yesterday, which I hope to do before I close my letter. I observe that you propose setting off for Town with your little Boys on the 30th Inst. as a frost is sett in. I hope that you may have a good journey and a happy meeting with Col. Beaumont. I wrote to him fully on the 21st and 23rd Inst. a copy of your letter. I inclose you The Bishop of Durham represented to Mr. Burbord "That your Miners were in a distressed state "earning only 3/-per week, and unassisted by the Proprietor Mr. B. "whom he is bound by every tie to protect; whereas the earnings of those men on an average is about £30per annum. some of them who have been the most clamorous make £60 per annum. They have been and continue to be supplied with corn all this year (unasked for) at a reduced price by which Mr. B. will be a sufferer of about £400 and exclusive of this they have their monthly subsistence money. Mr. B. subscribed in the Spring, £200 towards the supply of corn and the reduction of the price which certainly were the means of saving the

parishes of Stanhope and Wolsingham from infinite distress, the loss on the subscription was.....neither The Lord Lieutenant, the Church of Durham nor the Rector of Stanhope contributed one shilling. Is there is a tie on the Lessee(?) (whose profits from the mines are uncertain)to aid and protect the workmen employed by him? The obligation on the Lessor whose advantage arising from those mines is considerable and certain) should certainly be reciprocal. I believe what you say as to the sales of lead, as well as the present price, and the demand at the time that I sold 25,000 No. lead 2/3 ..@17.10....(?)at .6 months credit at was thought to be a very advantageous sale and it became necessary to make it for the purpose of the pay in the Spring. The Lead Company last Spring sold 20,000 ...of lead at the.... the heavy rains we have had has broke up the Lead Road, and will prevent the lead that is already sold being brought down to Blaydon till the end of next month,notwithstanding some advance on the carriage is given. I believe that £19 10d or possibly £20.... might be procured in case any quantity of lead was got down, but it cannot answer any good purpose to make a sale, with the appearance of a rising markitt, where I cannot deliver it.Mr. Straker has answered Mr. Skelton's letter. Lord Macdonald's sudden death as well as the large fortune which he has amassed surprised me; I looked on him to be rich, but not in such a degree.Mr. Biggs and his party have made use of every means to procure names to the petitions, after having them at a number of dirty Public Houses, he has been with them at the. Glass Houses,as several do the collieries...Haranguing the men, they even threatened some that were members of the Charitable Association and were dissenters that they should be excluded from both unless they signed the petitions. In consequence of orders having been issued by the Bailiffs of the Duke of Northumberland for all histenants and dependants to attend at the County Meeting at Morpeth. The Town Hall was taken possession of and few or none of the gentlemen at whose request the meeting was called could get admittance, the High Sheriff of course declined going to the Hall and opend the business of the meeting at Nelson's where an address ...was signed by the the magistrates,and present Mr. Thomas Bigge, andSir John Swinburne harangued those assembled in the hall for a considerable time, the latter had very hastily resigned his commission in the Northumberland Militia just before for the purpose (I suppose) of abusing and insulting the King and his Ministers with a better grace. I hear that Mr. W. Trevelyan was confined at home with the gout. My daughter joins with me in best compliments to you and I am

Dear Madam. Your affectionate and very humble servant.

J.E.Blackett

Mrs.Beaumont

13 Mar 1797 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

March 13th [cover annotated 13th March 1797]

Dear Sir,

Mr. Makepeace has finished all our Plate, he mentiond being now in our Debt by the Past Test of Silver being more than due to him, and as money will be very acceptable I should imagine to our concerns you will probably be so good as settle with Mr. Makepeace what credit do you give to the Refiners who purchase yr tests of silver? They say silver is much raised in price lately. I write in the greatest haste.

I remain Dear Sir Very sincerely yours, D. Beaumont

15 Nov 1797 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

John E. Blackett Esq.,
Green Dragon, Harrogate

Bretton. November 15th 1797

Dear Sir,

I yesterday received a letter from Mr. Bell enclosing the copy of one he had recd. from Miss Newton and which he informs me he had sent a copy of to you and also to Colonel Beaumont. By that letter it appears that Miss Newton has an idea that a contract had taken place, for she says 'my Father does not propose Mr. Stephenson going as an Architect generally but merely to inspect that part of the Works contracted for, the carpenter and joinering.' This idea must certainly proceed from Mr Newton's derangement and we certainly must not agree to any one carrying on the Buildings at the Abbey for Mr. Newton, or have anything more to do with him than to settle financially with him, after the terrible manner that everything has been conducted by him and his son. Mr. Teasdale is of opinion the only method to settle with him will be to have an account of all new wood brought to the Abbey by him, and if any of the old wood is sold or taken away, for Mr. Newton to be accountable for it (this I can hardly believe to have been the case, yet Mr. Teasdale says he understood that Mr. Newton had disposed of some of the old wood belonging to the Abbey). Mr. Newton had an equal right to have disposed of part of our Estate - also the joiners and carpenters to their time, to be settled with by Mr. Newton out of the money he has recd. by his Day Book.

I am glad to find there is an idea that Lead will escape the tax this year, I shall expect Col. Beaumont's return immediately after the Budget. I remain Dear Sir

Very Sincerely yr. most ... Diana Beaumont

On the other side I will copy part of Mr. Bell's letter.

'Hexham Abbey 12th November The Monday last Mr. David Stephenson came here to see in what state the carpenters work was, and to take an account of the timber used and not used. I asked him if Mr. Ebdon was coming to which he replied he did not expect him, not did he know anything do his being to come, for that he took a ride at Mr Newton's request to see how all matters were going on'.

26 Nov 1797 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

John E. Blackett Esq., Charlotte Square, Newcastle upon Tyne.

[cover note in JEB's hand:] Mrs. Beaumont, 26th Nov. 1797. With copy of Miss Newton's to J. Bell of 8 Decemb [not included]

Bretton November 26th 1797

Dear Sir,

I have deferred answering your letter in hopes of Colonel Beaumont's arrival from London, and by a letter from him this morning he will not be able to leave town before Tuesday or Wednesday, as you name your intention of being at Newcastle the beginning of the week, you will probably wish to hear from me respecting the Business at the Abbey. I have consulted Mr. Twedale and he is of the same opinion I mentioned in a former letter that the only method of settling will be have all the wood brought by Mr. Newton to the Abbey valued, and if any wood has been sold or taken away by him an account to be given of it, and those workmen employed by Mr. Newton to be settled with (by his Day Book) out of the money he has recd. and to have done with Mr. Newton entirely, everything has been conducted by him and his son in so improper a manner that we cannot consider anything on their parts to have been executed as Architects, they have done us much injury. I shall be anxious for tomorrow's Papers, on account of the Taxes, and particularly our Lead. Lord Hawke wanted to convince me the other day that our Lead ought never to be higher than 17£ per fodder, for when it was the German Mines open'd and undersold us considerably, I don't believe you are of his Lordship's opinion, or will consider his information on the subject very accurate. I beg my comp'ts to Mrs. Collingwood

I remain Dear Sir Very sincerely yr. most obedt.

Diana Beaumont

In whatever manner you and Mr. Ebdon will judge is the best method to settle Mr. Newton's accounts I am sure will be approved of by Col. Beaumont and myself.

27 Dec 1797 Thomas Richard Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

Decr 27th 1797

My dear Sir,

From a letter sent me with the bankers account I find you had paid £15,000 and upwards into their hands, as the Pays will be made in May I trust we shall be able to make some sales which will put us in cash, otherwise I fear we shall be in an awkward Dilemma, for if these assessed Taxes go forward Money I fear will be very scarce. I see by the paper that Mr Brandling has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds, & that his Son, has offered himself. I hope he will succeed. I have not heard any thing more about the Tax upon lead yet as these Taxes do not appear to meet with the general consent, and

such very strong objections are made, I think the minister will be obliged to adopt some fresh measures to raise the Wind. I am happy to say that Mrs Beaumont & the Children are very well. She unites with me in best respects, with the Compliments of the Season.

I am my dear Sir most sincerely yours

Tho. Rd. Beaumont

5 May 1798 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

[Note: undated – cover note in JEB's hand gives a date of 5th May 1798]

Dear Sir,

Col. Beaumont has shewn me your Letter & observes what you say respecting the Abbey, I expect we shall hear from Mr. Twedale tomorrow; when we were consulting at Hexham what place would be advisable for the Stables I recollect the Tithe Barn was then thought of & the objection was, hav[ing] the Stables so near the Town the Idle People w[ould] always be in them & we already find inconvenience on that head & a Brew House we don't require at present for we should prefer purchasing Malt Liquor, & a Laundry we don't require at the Abbey, for when we are at the Abbey we wish to employ as many of the Inhabitants as we can in working for us, these considerations induced us to think of continuing the Stables in the situation nearly that they are in at present - we hope to be in Northumberland about the latter end of June & propose after the Races at Newcastle to make some visits in Scotland & return to the Moorgame Shooting at Allenheads; I beg my Compts to Mrs Collingwood

I remain Dear Sir sincerely your Most Obedt

D. Beaumont

My Dear Sir,

Mrs Beaumont has answered that part of your letter respecting the Alterations at the Abby. I am very sorry to find that the Lead Trade falls off so much. I think it highly commendable in the Miners standing forwards so very handsomely on this occasion. I shall subscribe here, I think it a very happy release for Mr Newtons family as he was in such a deplorable situation. I have got a number of letters to write today & I will write to you more fully on Monday.

I am my dear Sir Most Sincerely Yours

Tho. Rd. Beaumont

23 Nov 1798 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

Bretton Nov 23d 1798

Dear Sir,

I was favord with your letter by the last Post & am sorry to find there is no chance of our having the pleasure of seeing you at Bretton. Co. Beaumont is not gone to

attend the Meeting of Parliament, as we propose setting out for London early in Decr he defer'd his Journey as he found his attendance was not necessary at the Opening of Parlia't . I am happy to hear that Lead is on the rise; & that on the whole our Mines are more promising. when we gain Stanhope Gill Mine much may be done. Mr Wood the Counsellor was with us a little time since on a Visit, he told us he was engaged against us by Lord Burfords Party, also Serjeant <Cockell> he said they informed him we had secured Mr Law on our side. - we very much approve of your Idea of a Stone Closet at the Abbey & shall certainly think of the best Method of having it done -- Col Beaumont desires I will mention the Collieries of St. John Lee & St. Oswald, he will be glad to know Sir Edward Blacketts determination as Mr Tulips Lease expires the 25th of December, & Mr Bell (in a Letter this mornng recd) wishes for Col. Beaumonts answer respecting them. - we are sorry Mr Blackett is come so late into Yorkshire, as we were in hopes he would favor us with a visit at Bretton , & our stay here is now very uncertain for altho' we talk of leavin g Bretton early in Decr. in case any thing in Parliat. was to be brought on before that time, of very particular consequence, we should set out instantly, after the accident in travelling up to Town last year I am unwilling to perform the Journey with four Young Children with[ou]t Col Beaumonts being with us. I beg you will tell Mr Blackett with my Compts there will be a very good Ball at Ferrybridge on the 3d of December, wch I wish he would attend to see if he likes any of our Yorkshire Beauties if we are not gone to London before that Day Col Beaumont intends being there & will be very happy if he will meet him, if we are not in the Country, Mr & Mrs Lee will certainly be there & I am certain will be very glad of his company -- Col Beaumont wishes with me in best Compts to yourself, Mrs Blackett & Mrs Collingwood. I remain Dear Sir very sincerely yr Hble Servt

Diana Beaumont

1 Dec 1798 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

Bretton Decr 1st 1798

Dear Sir,

Col. Beaumont has been obliged to give over Ferrybridge Ball, as we propose setting out for London if possible either on Tuesday or Wednesday next, but in case of its being necessary for Mr Blackett to be introduced by a Member of the Hunt I have wrote to inform Mr William Lee & my Sister that Mr B. will be there, & I am certain they will be happy to see him. - I beg my Compts to Mr Collingwood & I own it was a great omission on my part not giving him a chance for a Yorkshire Lady, but I am very desirous that Mr Blackett should make choice of a Wife, & was afraid as Mr Collingwood has shewn so much impatience on that subject he might interfere with your Nephew, to whom our best compts.

I remain Dear Sir very sincerely yours

D Beaumont

22 Sep 1799 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

Bretton, Sepr 22d 1799

Dear Sir,

I am confident you will not guess of half Hour the Name of the Gentleman who has honor'd Colonel Beaumont & myself with a Three Hours Visit to Day & who has most completely Bored us; Yesterday when we were on Horseback Mr Wilson the Rector of Wolsingham's servant brought a Note from that Gentleman to say he proposed visiting on us this Morning, accordingly we received him; he produced various Letters & Papers the particulars of which are not worth mentioning, we were very civil to him; & silently heard what he had to say, we informed him that we were perfectly satisfied with the Conduct of our Friend Mr Blackett in whose judgment we placed the greatest confidence; as also in the Gentlemen of the Law and others who acted for us in the North. we requested he would Dine with us, which he declined but he was so obliging as to hear both the first and second Dinner Bell ring without appearing inclined to allow us to eat our Dinner; I repeated Col. Beaumonts Invitation several times as a hint, & he lamented he was detaining us without ordering his Chaise. Towards the conclusion of his Visit he named his intention of now withdrawing all Pecuniary assistance from us, but would continue to aid us with his personal services. Col: Beaumont bowed & observed to Mr Wilson, he should not take that as any official notice or attempt to interfere with you, & the Gentlemen who acted for him, & who knew what was proper to be done; he gave us to understand that he had lately discover'd he could claim of Lord Burford even if it was Freehold the same that he could of us if we succeeded, & therefore it was exactly the same to him whether Lord Burford or Col: Beaumont possessed the Harehope Gill Mine, yet he assured us we had his best wishes, but since this discovery he had determined not to pay a fourth of our Expences; - Col: Beaumont & I imagine you will be of a different opinion, for we make no doubt you have a Letter of Mr Wilsons or agreement to that purpose ; & having agreed to pay one fourth Mr Wilson cannot when he chooses decline his Aid, before the Law suit is brought to a conclusion; I don't believe he was much satisfied with his Visit, tho we let him talk without giving ourselves the trouble to Contradict him, only when he was out of Breath we took that opportunity of repeating, that we had every reason to be satisfied with those that acted for us, I think I never saw a Man more Mortified & disappointed his abuse of Mr Emerson Junr we treated in the same manner, for tho' we may have reason to be dissatisfied with that Young Man's conduct in some things we would not pay attention to what Mr Wilson said, who was very severe on Young Emerson, talked much of his being so constantly Intoxicated &c. ---- On that subject Col: Beaumont & I spoke to Mr Emerson Junr. when we were at Allenheads, & also respecting his Conduct at Durham & Newcastle; I was sorry I own to receive so bad a defence from him; Mr Crawhall was present at the time, however he promised better behaviour in future; -- Amongst other things Mr Wilson said, I have forgot to mention that he assured us he knew a Party of Gentlemen who would engage

to take some of our Mines in the Parish of Wolsingham , & work them under the directions of our Agents paying us one clear fourth, Mr Wilson was thinking of his own Interest no doubt.

In a Letter from Mr Bell he names Sir E. Blackett & Mr Tulip having begun the working of the Colliery, & wishes to know the terms wch Col: Beaumont will thank you to inform him Mr Bell the particulars of, as he has left his Letters concerning that Business in London. -----

I ought to apologise for tormenting you with this long Letter, but it is nothing in comparison to what we have suffered this mornng from a 3 Hours conversation, we go early tomorrow to Mr Wrightsons to attend the Races at Doncaster; it will require a Weeks Gaiety to take the sound of Mr Wilsons Voice out of my Ears, he wished us to send some Money to a Miner whom he said Mr Emerson had injured, on account of his giving Information, of course we would not do it -- we have not made any Verjuice since my fathers Death; but have order'd the Butler to search the [word missing] tomorrow, & if there is any it shall be sent to you, we don't make any use of it. - last Winter we fed our Deer in a different manner, & I never saw one Venison so good, if this wet weather continues they will soon go off, that I hope you will fix an early day for our sending you some; -- Col: Beaumont unites with me in best compts to yourself & Mrs Collingwood he is engaged with Regimental Letters, & desired I would write to you - I remain Dear Sir very sincerely yours

D Beaumont.

29 Sep 1799 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

Bretton, September 29th 1799

Dear Sir,

I am this morning favored with your letter, and beg you will not give yourself the least trouble respecting anything that strange creature Mr. Wilson has said. I mention what he choose to say about the working of the mines in your parish of Wolsingham that you might be acquainted with the reason that induced him to torment us here. Col. Beaumont and I are fully convinced he is not quite right in his <senses> or he could not have acted in the manner he has done. I am glad we have done with the Knight, and hope the next Durham Assizes to make a conclusion with the Rector. We passed a pleasant week at Doncaster Races, we were at Cusworth with Mr. and Mrs. Wrightson. The last day was clouded by the melancholy account from Holland. Mr. Neville recd. a letter when he was on the Stand to inform him that one of his sons (a Captain in the Guards) had died of his wounds, another son was dangerously wounded, everyone felt for his situation.

I hope you will excuse my taking the liberty of requesting you would send Mr. T. Crawhall to the Northumberland warehouse to inform them all the glass is arrived except the 6 cans wh. they mention being sent in a seperate Box, but am sorry to inform them Col. Beaumont and I think them extremely ill done. It is not possible to

know what the crest is intended for, and the Arms were equally bad. We particularly requested the Clerk would write to let us know when the glasses and decanters were all ready to be engraved that we might have them examined before they were engraved to see if they were right wh. he omitted to do. Col Beaumont desired the lesser sized wine glasses (of which there are 5 Dozen) might be larger than the pattern they shewed us and they have made them smaller, they are only a proper size for liqueur glasses, that we shall keep 2 Dozn. for that purpose and return yr. remaining 3 Dozn. wh. can be of no use to us and they are too short to be put in the wine coolers for they do not touch the bottom of the wine coolers wh. they ought to do when resting on the side of the wine cooler. Col. Beaumont desires they will make 4 Dozn. of wine glasses a size larger than the 3 Dozn. wh. we shall return and also a little longer in the stalk, they must have the Crest and answer to the others, and when they are blown, we will be obliged to you if you will allow your Butler to see if they are right and of equal size, neither the Decanters or any of the glasses or goblets are of equal sizes or thickness of glass, the incorporating cruet was broke at ye bottom, the 6 cans are arrived since I began this letter.

Col Beaumont writes with me in comp'ts. to yourself and Mrs. Collingwood, I remain Dear Sir, Very sincerely yours D. Beaumont.

22 Oct 1800 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

Bretton, October 22nd 1800

Dear Sir,

I enclose you by Colonel Beaumont's desire part of a letter he has recd. from Mr. Bell, he will be obliged to you to give directions respecting the St. John Lee, St. Oswald and ye Stublock Colliery's the latter from Mr. Cockshutt's report (which Col. B. will bring with him to Newcastle) we think may be worked to our advantage we requested Mr. Bell would offer the other collieries to Mr. Errington, but he now declines them and we are at a loss to know what is best to do with them.

We hope you received the venison safe, it was the first Buck we had killed we lost 40 head of Deer last winter. Col. Beaumont joins with me in best comp'ts. I am

Dear Sir

Yr. sincere Hble Servt
Diana Beaumont

Turn over

Some tables & other Furniture is sent by sea to Newcastle for Hexham, when they arrive I will thank mr T Crawhall to send them to the Abbey with care

12 Dec 1800 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

John E Blackett Esq. Charlotte Square, Newcastle upon Tyne 12th Dec 1800

I found all the Children perfectly well, and Wentworth has had no return of Illness, I send Mr Deakin for him to Day and he will be with me on the 20th – I shall be glad to know how the new Gunpowder is liked when they have tried it, 500£ of saving in one Article is a consideration if it answers, tho' I feel sorry that Contract should be taken from Mr C Blackett, if you could give him any other I shall be obliged to you. – I observe all Letters that are put in at Gateshead for Col. Beaumont At [missing word] I receive free, if they are addressed for him & put in at Newcastle they are then by his order forwarded to Ireland, but I receive 5 or 6 daily from London <and> other places directed for him here, wh[ich] if they were sent to Ireland w[oul]d be troublesome & very expensive, they are often for the Servants, & constantly petitions of one kind or other arrive by the Post, out of 30 Letters not one have I open'd that was necessary to send after him, & they all came free here of course, - I am going to Dine at Cannon Hall & take a Bed, & the next Day to Wentworth Castle, - I beg my best compli[men]ts to yourself & Mrs Collingwood, I shall be glad to hear Mrs <Milbank> is perfectly recovered, I feel much interested for her –

I write in the utmost haste, wh[ich] you will excuse –

I am Dear Sir Your faithful Hble Servt

D Beaumont

27 Dec 1800 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

John E. Blackett Esq. Charlotte Square, Newcastle upon Tyne

27th De[em]b[e]r

Dear Sir

I am favor'd with your Letter of the 24th - & as it would occasion some delay my writing to Col. Beaumont, & waiting his answer from Limerick, I must beg you will immediately accept the offer made by Mr C. Blackett for Messrs Pigon & Andrews supplying our Mines with Gunpowder on the same terms which are offer'd to us by Mr Wakefield, & to give the whole of the Contract as I mention'd at Newcastle to Mr C Blackett, it was with very great reluctance that we thought of altering the mode of supplying our Mines with Gunpowder, but the offer was too advantageous to our Workmen to be refused by <us>, & must also make a considerable difference to us, I shall be happy to hear from you after you have met with the Lead Stewards, as I am anxious to know that all goes on well at the Mines, & promising, & if the different regulations are carried into effect, will this Russia Business affect the Sale of Lead, I believe they have Mines in Russia but which they have never worked, I hope they will not now be induced to open them, is Lead likely to continue its present price? pray have the Halls been able to complete their Sale?

Col. Beaumont desires that I will transact all his Business for him in his absence as it might occasion great inconvenience waiting his answers from Ireland, he arrived

at Dublin on the 20th Lord Cornwallis received him in his private Apartment was extremely civil, & said he should ask a Party to meet him at Dinner the next Day, he has given Col. Beaumont the Command at Limerick where he will have about 3000 Men under his Command, & the whole of his Regt Will be there, this attention of the Lord Lieutenant appears to give great satisfaction to my Colonel, but it does not give me the same pleasure for it [missing – possibly 'is no'] compensation to me for his absence from his Family, & I fear this will be a bar to his returning so soon as he proposed, which distresses me extremely – Mr T. Crawhall Made the Frank too heavy, they wrote on it at the Post Office 1 oz above Privilege, & charged Accordingly, if it is a Grain above one Ounce they charge the Frank. Mr & Mrs Lee are at present with me & beg to unite with me in best Comp[limen]ts to yourself Mrs Collingwood & Mrs Stead – I am Dear Sir

Yr. sincere Hble Servt
D. Beaumont

Wentworth arrived safe on the 21st & is in high Health & Spirits

4 Oct 1801 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

Hexham Abbey Oct 4th 1801.

Dear Sir,

In Consequence of the Conversation that Coln. Beaumont and I have had with you on the Subject of the Chapel in Weardale, we determined not to leave the Country without visiting the place where the Bishop of Durham proposed to build the said Chapel, being much inclined to give our Consent, if it perfectly agreed with the Representations of Mr. Mowbray, notwithstanding the very serious Inconvenience it would be to our Concerns, which you are well convinced of, yet we should have had the highest Gratification in promoting any Plan of his Lordships for so humane and benevolent a Purpose as that instituting a Chapel and School; Col[onel] Beaumont was prevented going to Weardale by the Meeting at Hexham for the Defence of the Country; but my Son being infinitely better, I resolved to mount my Horse on Tuesday last to be convinced of the Propriety of agreeing to the Measure, I was absent five Days, and had time to view and fully consider the Situation pointed out by Mr. Mowbray and I must say from my own Observation of the Place, a more improper one in that Country could hardly have been proposed, & his Representations are extremely incorrect and quite different from the actual State of the Case & I am convinced if the Bishop of Durham was to see the Situation himself he would be of my Opinion, for no one sees or judges more clearly than his Lordship or would be unwilling to adopt an oppressive & injurious Measure which this would certainly be, and could not have the desired Effect, for where the Chapel is proposed to be built there are very few Dwellings at any Distance & the Congregation would be extremely limited, the

meeting Houses are a very considerable Distance from thence and their frequenters would not be prevented attending them as usual, for the new Chapel would be at too great a Distance to draw them from the Paths of Error & Delusion & by such a Measure I am persuaded not one Person would be brought from a State of Ignorance, to feel the benign Blessing of Christianity, so much the wish and benevolent Design of the Bishop of Durham; & I should truly lament if that devine Intention was frustrated by the Misrepresentations of others; there is an excellent Situation near Burtry ford upwards of two Miles nearer to the Meeting Houses, & in a far more populous part of the Country where hundreds might profit by the instituting a Chapel and School, and in all probability would be drawn from the Meeting Houses, and the few above where Mr. Mowbray proposes the Situation could with Ease come down to the Chapel when the more numerous part from below would not be induced to go to a Distance when they could attend the Meeting Houses so near to them, there is also another Situation at a little Distance from Burtry ford which would be extremely advantageous & not attended with the very very great Inconvenience which in every point view the other must be considered by all unprejudiced Persons. I am Dear Sir

Your Sincere Hbl Servt.

Diana Beaumont

Your Letter to Mr. Mowbray I think fully explained the Detriment it would be to our Concern in Weardale were his Proposals carried fully into Execution.

8 Feb 1802 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blckett

Bretton Feb[ruar]y the 8th 1802

Dear Sir

You will have rec'd Mr Brown's Letter respecting the Leases of Kilhope & Welhope, it is necessary to be very cautious, for if anything was done irregular, I think my Friend the Bishop would not hesitate to take advantage of it, Mr Emm ought to have made the Leases out in a proper manner according to my Fathers Will – Mr Algoods Letter is very unhandsome, but we agree with you in opinion that we shall not have any loss, & hope you will be able to find an Agent to succeed him who will be of more use to us than he has ever been, we approve of the Candles being divided as you name, I am sorry to observe that we are still so much on the wrong side of the Bankers Books, & I fear Lead will not long continue at 26 pr Fod. We shall be happy to hear you have made the Sale you mention at that price, when Ld. Darlington was here we had a great deal of conversation about Lead & Silver etc, his Lordship appears to understand more of Mines than I expected from a Fox Hunter, - I had occasion to write to Mr Bell, & in my Letter I observed that we were going to have our Estates Valued, which was not a prelude to the change of Tenants, as we had 6 years since had all our Yorkshire Estates Valued, and had not changed one Tenant.

Our Butler sent some time since a pattern Glass to the Northumberland Warehouse as they desired & we have not rec'd the Glasses w[hi]ch were ordered, I will thank you to give the enclosed note to Mr T. Crawhall, it is to desire he will go down to the North'd Warehouse, & see the Glasses, & if they are of equal sizes, the quantity they sent two years since were very uneven, & 6 Doz[e]n of Wine Glasses so small they can only be used for Liqueur Glasses, & the Crest & Arms were Ill executed, I hope these will be better done, we shall not now want them till our return from London, but if we don't enquire about them we may not have them till next year, they will be sent by Sea I imagine, & wish Mr T. Crawhall wd. inform us when they are sent from Newcastle, & by what conveyance - I rec'd a letter a few days since from Mr. Bosville, he asks if I would advise him to oppose Mr. Wilberforce for Yorkshire that would be an event w[hi]ch w[oul]d astonish all his Friends, for I don't think any power on Earth would induce him to be in Parliament, before the last Election the People at Malton wrote to desire he w[oul]d let them bring him in for that Borough, his answer was his Groom Will Ashton could bear late Hours, & he could not, that he thought they had better make choice of him, - we continue our intention of setting out on the 15th for London - Col. Beaumont unites with me in best Comp[limen]ts - I am Dear Sir

Very Sincerely Yours

D. Beaumont

2 Apr 1802 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

J.E. Blackett Esq, Charlotte Square, Newcastle upon Tyne London, April 2d 1802

Dear Sir

I enclose you a description of the Weighing Machine, & the Drawing of it wch I have this Day rec'd from Mr. Cockshutt, he promised it to Mr Mulcaster some time since and is sorry he has not been able to send it sooner- I think he will be in Town soon, I am favor'd with yours of the 28th, I was too Ill to attend to any Business at the time the case was sent down to Mr Williamson, that I was ignorant of it I am now [short word missing] as I must expect to be for a little time, I like your Niece better every time I see her, she has done me the favor to accept my Opera Box for to-morrow Night, I wished to have prevail'd on her to go with me to the Opera on Tuesday last but she was prevented by Indisposition, & also from Dining with me on Monday, I tell Mrs Blackett I cannot pity her, tho' I have a fellow-feeling for her, I have this Moment rec'd a Letter from Sir Edward wrote in his usual Spirits - Col. Beaumont has this Morning seen Lord Cornwallis, he arrived Yesterday, & is looking extremely well - Mr Paris & Mr Warre Dined with us lately, they have great concerns in Russia, they said they had last week given 29 £ a Fod. for Lead to send to Russia, & expected it wd soon be above 30 £, I suppose they purchase of the London House, I imagine you are all pleased at the repeal of the Income Tax wch will take place on Monday next - I hope you don't hear of any opposition for the County being expected, we imagine & hope all

will be quiet, Col. B. Unites with me in best Comp[limen]ts to yourself & Mrs Collingwood I am Dear Sir

Yours very sincerely D. Beaumont

22 May 1802 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

[Undated. Appears to be a response to JEB's letter to Col Beaumont of 18 May 1802 (TWAM DF/HUG/149). Son Edward Blackett Beaumont was born at Bretton 2nd May 1802, so 'not yet 3 weeks old' on Sat 22nd May, the day of the week on which Diana indicates she was writing.]

Dear Sir

I have only time to say the Bishop's conduct surprised me greatly, I deferr'd writing to you as I was informed he wd be in Town Yesterday, & I had written a Note to request he wd be with me this Morning as my Son is not 3 weeks old I could not wait upon him, & also I wrote to desire Mr R Wilson would come to me an Hour earlier & be present at our meeting, & I determined precisely to say the words you recommended, & decline all discussion on the Subject, & giving the answer from Col. Beaumont as his positive determination, for it will be some Days before Col. Beau't returns from Cheltenham, he has rec'd so much benefit, but he requests I will open all Letters from you, & the Abbey & Bretton, Yours I forwarded instantly to him, w[hic]h by his Letter to Day astonished him greatly, just when I was going to send my Note to the Bishop, I heard he was not to arrive until the 4th June & that not positively fixed, he is at Mongewell, so I did not send either my Note to him, or to Mr R Wilson, as it was of no use sending to him unless I could have seen the Bishop, Col. B & I should wish you to do what you think is best in this Business, & to convey to the Bishop any answer from Colonel B that you think advisable, if you think right so to do, might it not be as well to say you was desired by Col. B and me (if it is necessary my name should be added) to acquaint his Lordship with the purport contained in your Letter to Col. B – in as strong and determined Language as possible to resist the <Claim> etc, or if you wish to have a letter from Col. B – to you, intended for you to send to the Bishop, he will write it as soon as he returns, but I should imagine your conveying our determination wd be equally well, your statement of the case is uncommonly well done, & we much consider ourselves infinitely obliged to Mr Williamson for his very kind and Friendly behaviour, his name shall never be named – wd it not be right for Col. B at his return to write him a Letter of Thanks, there is no legal opinion I should have the same reliance on, if Col B had attempted to break his Engagement with the Bishop, his Conduct wd have been considered ungentlemanlike & disgraceful, but I suppose the Bishop thinks he is privileged to act dishonourably, & to add falsehood to it is vile indeed, by saying you gave a solemn assurance, Mr Blackett's word would be sooner taken, and relied on, than many Peoples Oath, I will not except the Bishop's on this occasion, what passed last Year ab't the Chapel in Weardale, was a positive falsehood, - excuse this scrawl written with my little Babe at his Dinner, & he lives upon me, but I

was determined not to lose this Post, as tomorrow is Sunday - & be assured what you do we shall think right – I am Dr Sir Sincerely Mrs D Beaumont

6 Apr 1803 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

Bretton April 6th 1803

Dear Sir

I was this mornng favor'd with your Letter of the 3rd, by some mistake the Wakefield Postmaster had alter'd the direction & sent it to London, & it was returned from there, he thought we had no right to be absent from London I suppose, we arrived here on Monday, & shall remain till the 20th, it is a short stay for so long a journey, but we are very busy with the Alterations going forward, & I have an Architect from London, - Colonel Beaumont & I do with pleasure agree to Mr C. Blackett's proposal, & are happy that it is in our power to accommodate him, it can be no inconvenience at this time to us, to let the Sum you mention remain in his Hands for a few Months at 5 pr Ct, wch is the same interest we should have from our Bankers if it was in theirs, we will thank you to give our best Compts to Mr C Blackett,

I have by this Post wrote to Mr Hall to request he will send the plans you Name of Mr Bosville's Estate to Mr Thomas, Mr Bosville does not like to Write Letters , & requested I would write to Mr Bell to inform him that he had appointed Mr Thomas to be his Land Agent, which I did, & that I would also inform Mr Thomas of his Appointment, which I did by the same Post, I shall be sorry if there is any mistake, & if it would not be giving you too much trouble, I should be infinitely obliged to yourself if you would have the goodness to inform Mr Thomas that Mr Bosville has given him the Appointment of his Land Agent in Northumberland, & has requested Mr J Bell to give up to him all Papers etc relating to his Estate, - I will desire Mr Bowns to inform Mr Thomas of Mr Halls address <for> when he wishes to correspond with him on Mr Bosville's Business, - I have a Letter from Mr John Bell, he says "Mr Heron Died on the 13th April 1801 at Night, & Mr Walter Heron has been paid the Bailiffs Salary & enjoyed the other Emoluments of the office ever since that time, I cannot tell you the date of his Appointment, havg never seen it here, but I presume it would be dated so as to cover all the profits of the office from the Death of his Father"

We have rec'd Mr Herons Appointment from you & observe it is dated 15th May 1801, wch is a Month after his Fathers Death –

Col Beaumont unites with me in best Compts

I am Dear Sir Yours very sincerely

Diana Beaumont

26 May 1803 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

Portman Square May 26th 1803

Dear Sir

Col. Beaumont desires I will say he will attend to your Letter respecting the Young Man, he says he is much obliged to you & I for saving him some trouble, now he has so much parliamentary Business on his Hands, the House of Commons sat very late on Monday & Tuesday, the latter Day he did not get Home till past 5 o'clock in the Morning & was much fatigued by the heat & crowd, all hope of Peace I think are at an end, a Rich Indiaman is taken, & many lesser Prizes, if Admiral Collingwood passes thro' London, we hope he will do us the favour of calling in Portman Square, - whatever you think proper should be done respecting Mr Bell, Colonel Beaumont & I shall with pleasure Acquiesce in, we are very happy to find he conducted himself so well to Mr Bowns & Mr Thomas, & gave them every assistance in his power, we have rec'd from Mr Thomas an Abstract of the particulars & estimated annual value of our Estates that have been Survey'd & valued by Mr Bates & Let by Mr Bowns & Mr Thomas, from what we can observe of Mr Thomas Abilities & attention to our concerns, I think we shall have every reason to be satisfied with him, our Estates will be much improved under his Management & something will be made of our Collieries, - we approve of your proposal in regard to the Church at Hexham, & I desired Mr Bowns to inform Mr Thomas when he was at Hexham, to keep an exact account of all Expenses incurr'd by us in repairing the Church, & to have the Old Materials valued & to inform us of the amount of the overplus wch Col. Beaumont wd inform the Archbishop of, & ask leave to lay it out in repairing or improving the Chancel - I am glad you think the price of Lead will keep up for the present - we are to meet all our Council this Eve'g at Chancery Chambers to consider on the propriety of refusing the Bishop's proposal in regard to an examination of our Books, the Death of Mr Bells Wife prevented the last Meeting taking place, I hope we may soon think of letting Harehope Gill & Pikestone, will not better terms be obtain'd now from the high price of Lead, I will inform you to-morrow of the result of our meeting this Eve'g- I had an Assembly on the 20th Mrs Barrington came, & said if the Bishop ever went to Assemblys, it would have been to mine, she confirmed with me some time I had about 800 during the course of the Eve'g -

Col. Beaumont has written our Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Trevelyan,

I am Dear Sir yours very sincerely

D Beaumont

3 Jul 1803 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

Cheltenham July 3rd 1803

Dear Sir

I am afraid you will think I am not so regular a correspondent in the country as I am in London, but I really suffer so much from the heat of the Weather, that I have hardly the power left of holding my Pen, I hope in the North you don't find the heat so excessive, - the Post has this Moment brought Col. Beaumont a Letter that alarms us

greatly, the Copy of which I enclose, Mr Burdon knew we were at Cheltenham, & it is strange he should direct his Letter to Bretton, wch he did, & it was forwarded to us here, this looks as if he only did it to delay time to suit his own convenience, & prevent our taking any Steps, Col. Beaumont & I must beg the favour of you to act according to your own judgment, & as you think the urgency of the case requires, we rely on you most implicitly, & shall approve of every[thing] you do, & entreat you will act as you would for yourself, we are very angry indeed at Burdon, to-morrow you shall have a copy of our answer to him, & trust we shall hear from you to-morrow, we were disappointed at not hear'g from you to Day, as it convinces us they have not informed you of this sad Business, we beg you will stop the Payments of Bill or take any violent measures you judge right, we are under great & serious alarm, Col. B- is writing immediately to Mr Bowns to desire he will set out immediately for Newcastle if he thinks he can be of any service, but I don't apprehend he will think it necessary, we have requested him to give us an order to draw on his Banker for the present - Sr Th. Milbank puts this Letter into the Post at Birmingham as I think you will get it sooner by the means, he is on his way to Seaham –

I am Dear Dir Yours very sincerely
D Beaumont

Direct to Cheltenham we continue here till the 12th I write in gt. haste

6 Jul 1803 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

Cheltenham July 6th 1803

Dear Sir

Colonel Beaumont sent you Yesterday the Copy of Mr Burdons second Letter to him & I now enclose a copy of Mr Morlands Letter wch Col. B. Has this morn'g rec'd, it is in answer to a Letter he wrote him to ask if he could give him any information respect'g Surtees & Burdons House, if the deputation should receive a favorable answer from the Minister I think you will not recommend our continuing that Bank, as usual, without putting any more Bills into their Hands we might by degrees draw out what we now have in their House, for certainly the Surtees's ought to have given you very particular & immediate information, which they don't appear to have done, as you don't name hav'g rec'd any Letter only the Hand Bill giving notice, & that not till the 30th June, when Mr Burdon's Letter to us is dated June 27th, & we think purposely sent round by Bretton to occasion delay, we are anxious to know if you have thought it right & expedient to stop the Payment of any of our Bills that are not due, but that they may have in circulation, we can never more place confidence in a Bank that has acted towards us in the Manner they have done, & the sooner we are rid of them the better, I hope Easterbys are not much in our debt – Mr Bowns informs us the Dr[ra]ft for 1500 £ for the Payment of Mr & Mrs Stacpooles half Years Annuity has been returned to him, wch Col. B. Has this Morn'g informed Mr Burdon of, we hope that to Mr Lee has been

paid for it was due on the 24th June, we always pay Mr Stacpooles on the 24th July, - I don't know what Mr Burdon means when he names his settled & unsettled Estates amounting to 200,000£ for I conclude his settled Estates can be of no use to the Bank, it has long been the opinion that House has speculated too deeply & it now appears to have been the case, - the Post from London comes in here at 11 o'clock in the Morning & goes out at ½ past 3 o'clock. the North Post don't come in till 5 o'clock in the Afternoon, - we leave Cheltenham on Thursday next the 12th & shall arrive the next Day in London – We are amused with Mr Burdon naming the Health of his Wife & Children so particularly at this moment, & in his official Letters on such urgent Business, I requested Col. Beaumont would not in his answer Mention my Name unless it was in the way of Business, the Health or whims of Mrs Burdon is at this time is of no consequence to us –

I am Dear Sir Yours very sincerely
D. Beaumont

7 Jul 1803 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

Cheltenham July 7th 1803

Dear Sir

You will by this time have rec'd our several Letters, with Copies of Mr Burdons Letters & Mr Morlands, yours of July 2nd we rec'd yesterday with the state of our accounts with Surtees & Co - & also our Accts. With Easterbys House, it is terrible to think of with so large a Sum, & to be distressed is indeed hard, the Conduct of our Bankers in this Business towards us has been most dishonourable to themselves, the Day Mr. Burdons Letter to inform us was written, the Surtees should have made the communication to you, & that was on the 27th of June, Col. Beaumont is again writing to Mr Burdon in very strong terms, you will perceive by the Copy of his last Letter how lightly he treats it, our Letters will shew him how serious we consider it, & the Indignation we feel at receiv'g such treatment from him & his Partners, & if possible rouse them to exert themselves, what can they expect from the Minister? will the Bank of England lend their Assistance to a House whose Idle Speculations have brought them into difficulties? the London Post has not brought us any Letters that we conclude Mr Morland had nothing satisfactory to send, or indeed nothing new to communicate, Col. Beaumont has written to thank Mr Morland for his offer of letting us draw on their House for our personal Expenses for the present, we don't like to be under Obligations to any one, but if we are in want of Money to take us from hence, we must Submit to it, we hope the Surtees's have come forward with some Proposition & that we may have some relief, we shall be glad to receive your opinion respect'g what Bank you wd recommend us to employ in future, & you may rely on Secrecy on our part, as you might not choose to have it said you determin'd on what Bank or Bankers we should use, & as we are equally intimate with all Parties there can be no offence, when you wish for Mr Bowns's assistance, we are certain he will with pleasure set out for

Newcastle at your desire – it would distress us extremely to inconvenience Mr Chris[tophe]r Blackett by [1 word missing: ‘asking’?] if he could let us at this time have the 4.000£ but know’g how we must be circumstanced if it is possible to do it, we hope he will come forward with the offer of it to you – do you think it would have a good effect on quieting the Minds of our Workmen if Col. B. was to write a Letter to Mr Emmerson, Mr Crawhall & Mr Dickinson to say he & I greatly lament this unfortunate Business, & hope they will rely on us, that every justice & satisfaction they will receive from us etc – or something to this effect, I am Dear Sir

very sincerely yours
D. Beaumont

10 Jul 1803 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

J.E. Blackett Esq, Newcastle upon Tyne

July 10th 1803

My dear Sir

[in Col Beaumont’s hand:] Enclosed I send you the copy of a letter from Mr Burdon which came Yesterday, [in Diana’s hand from now on:] I am just come from Church, & Col. B- desires I will go on with his Letter, as he wishes to write to Mr Burdon, Mr Morland & Mr Bown, by this Post, he has copied Mr Morlands Letter on the back of Mr Burdons Copy, we think it was strange Mr Burdon should ask Morlands House to send down 2000£ in small Bills on our Account, after his Letter of the 8th, I think it will explain the matter better to you if I enclose a Copy of Col. Beaumonts Letter which he is writing to Burdon at Newcastle, I really think if the Bank was to be insolvent we could make Mr Burdon accountable for the 11,000£ we allowed to remain at his express desire, but I trust there will be no occasion to bring this to Issue, as Mr Burdon gives us the Strongest assurance of their Solvency, this unpleasant Business causes Col. Beaumont & myself much anxiety & uneasiness, & I hope you are convinced we <[wod obscured: ‘shall’?] do everything in our power to relieve you, Mr Bowns expressed a wish that Colon’l Beaumont would go to Newcastle, but he has answer’d he don’t think there can be any occasion for his presence, as his affairs are in such good hands as yours & his, we shall be in town on the 13th & remain in Portman Sq- till the 1st of August – Col. B. unites me in best regards – I am Dear Sir

very sincerely Yours
D. Beaumont

7 Aug 1803 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

Worthing Sussex August 7th 1803

Dear Sir

Colonel Beaumont & I arrived here on Wednesday last with our Six Children all in good health, we propose continuing here 5 weeks, Col. B. is in daily expectation of receiv'g orders from the Duke of York as he offer'd his Services in any manner they chose to employ him, immediately on the declaration of War; - I am favor'd with your Letter of the 1st August, with the account of Easterbys & Co, it does indeed appear a very fallacious Statement, they can expect no mercy from their Creditors, & if we can by their effects, & the fixtures in their Mines etc, contrive for every one to be paid little thought will be taken to what will become of them; - we hope our Miners will be satisfied with the £2-/-/- every two Months, they must be unreasonable to expect more know'g the situation of the Banks etc – Col. Beaumont has recd a Letter from Messrs Ransom Morland & Co. informg him they have recd a Bill from you of 2000£ wch will be due Sept 4th, I make no doubt but Mr Bowns is anxious at this time to have all the Money he can in the London House, for if the other Banks at Newcastle were to be under the necessity of stopping Payments for a Short time on account of the constant drain, tho' no actual run on them, we should indeed be great sufferers, & it wd be inexcusable in us not to use every precaution in our power for you know our Estates are strictly entail'd, in London many entertain the opinion the other Banks will be under the necessity of stopping Pay'ts for a short time, but this we only name in confidence, what destruction Surtees & Burdon have been the occasion of is Melancholy to think of, we imagine this has occasioned the failure of <Lock Lubberns> & Co who are in our debt £1600 – the Family of the Surtees's can surely never bear to remain in a County where they have been the cause of so much ruin, & the Halls can never more hold up their Heads – Colonel Beaumont has this morning recd a Letter from Mr Bowns, he says in consequence of the uneasiness he observed we felt on your account, & our anxiety to relieve you as much as possible from the fatigue wh must now press very hard upon you, he had been induced to propose you havg the Assistance of any Gentleman that would be agreeable to you in the Management of our concerns, & from the conversation that passed on the occasion, we are happy to find you named Mr C. Blackett, we have a very high opinion of him, & have not a doubt from the great respect & sincere regard he has at all times expressed for you, that he will with pleasure agree to any proposal we shall make him, which we shall be very happy to do, when we are favor'd with your answer, if you will have the goodness to point out what you would wish us to propose to him, & the Salary you think we should make the offer of to him, or if you would prefer mentioning the Subjects to him yourself we beg it may be in any manner most agreeable to you, & beg to assure you we shall with pleasure do anything that will contribute to your ease & Comfort; Col. Beaumont unites with me in best regards to yourself & Mrs Collingwood –

I am Dear Sir very sincerely Yours

Diana Beaumont

14 Aug 1803 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

J.E. Blackett Esq. Newcastle upon Tyne

Worthing Sussex Augt. 14th 1803

Dear Sir

Colonel Beaumont & I approve of what you recommend respect[ing] the Subsistence Money etc for the Miners, & are obliged to you for what you have done, we are glad to find the Workmen behaved in so orderly a manner, they must know the inconvenience they have suffer'd was owing to Suretees & Burdon's Bank, & not to ourselves, it is strange those Gentlemen don't come forward with any propositions, I observe by the Newcastle Papers Mr Burdon has taken care to have his Relations on the Committee, Mr C. Brandling, Wm. Ord etc, will the Public be satisfied much longer if something is not Brought forward? would you advise our writing to Mr Burdon to enquire when we may expect to hear from them, the Public shew infinite patience, & perhaps if they don't press the matter the Bankers will try their patience still further, we are anxious to hear how Easterby & Hall's affairs turn out, surely they cannot be selling their Lead to carry on their <Workers>, - Col. Beaumont rec'd by express on Thursday Night a Letter from the High Sheriff & the address from the County of Northumberland, he instantly set out for London to present it, & return'd from thence last Night, I return the Letter you enclosed from Mr C. Blackett's Friend, whatever you find expedient to do in this regard to the Sales of Lead, we shall be convinced this for the best - I write in the utmost haste, & this hot weather destroys me-

I am Dear Sir Yours very sincerely

D. Beaumont

18 Aug 1803 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

Worthing Sussex Augt 18th 1803

Dear Sir

Colonel Beaumont will be obliged to you if you could inform us what time will be most <convenient> for you & Mr C Blackett to receive a <Buck> which we wish to send, there is a very fine one now ready, w[hic]h we will order to be killed when we receive your answer, you will give time sufficient to allow of our orders going to Bretton, we hope you have recd some Moor game w[hic]h we desired might be sent - you will see by the Gazette that Col. Beaumont presented the Address sent him by Mr Craster from the County of Northumberland, a Box of Moorgame arrived last Night in such good order from Allenheads that we have sent a Servant with it this Morn[ing] to Brighton to the Prince of Wales, I don't recollect if your Brother's Moors are well supplied with Game, if any would be acceptable at Matfen from ours, we shall be very happy to send some to Mr & Mrs Blackett, I am afraid we have no fruits at the Abbey to offer them, - in regard to the leave to be given to Mr Richardson of Ninebanks, we shall be happy to do whatever you & Mr Williamson think it right for us to agree to, Mr Richardson has I believe in many instances not conducted himself properly to-wards us, but that is no reason why <!> we should refuse our consent to what is reasonable,

Mr Bell's Idea was I fancy, that when the Church once became possessed of Property, it could not be again Sold, & the Lord of the Manor could derive no further benefits from it, - the Colours w[hic]h I presented to the Hexham Infantry are now at the Abbey, should I not request Mr Thomas would call on Captn Carr (who is now their Commander) & ask when they would wish to have their Colours? & they should be delivered to them, -- we feel anxious to know what will be done in the Affairs of the Halls, at any rate I hope they will no longer have any concern with the Lead Trade, they have done it much mischief already, for they did not care what price they promised <as> they were indifferent if they could pay or not, surely Surtees & Burdon must soon have their accounts ready for Public Inspection, their Conduct is highly reprehensible, it appears to me the Committee of Gentlemen fixed on are their near Relations & particular Friends, & not those most interested in the Affairs of the Bank being soon settled, -- we are indeed sorry there is such a stagnation in the Lead Trade, I hope it proceeds from the Idea that the Stocks of Lead the Halls have on hand must soon be Brought to Market at any price, it was only in April last Mr Burdon told us he knew it was the intention of the Halls to pay us the 5000£ they owed us from their last Bankruptcy, & on my express[in]g my doubts he asked if I would then take a Hundred Pounds for it from him, & he w[oul]d give it – Col. Beaumont unites with me in best regards to yourself & Mrs Collingwood –

I am Dear Sir Sincerely Yours

D. Beaumont

23 Aug 1803 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

Worthing Augt 23rd 1803

Dear Sir

Col. Beaumont left me Yesterday to attend the Duke of York's Levée, & receive a final answer to his offers, he then goes to Bretton to see what is to be done in Yorkshire, & will then proceed to Newcastle, he appears very uneasy at the Duke of York's keep[in]g him in this uncertain state when he ought to be employ'd, - Mr Burdon has wrote to say he hopes we will <receive &> accept Security for the greatest part of our demands on their Bank, he surely can never do anything of the Kind, the Money we must have with others, & I will agree to no offers of the kind after being so Ill used by them, I have wrote the same to Col. Beau[mon]t by this Post, to beg he will agree nothing without consulting you, they wish to impose on us, as they have done – I write in g[rea]t haste – I remain here with my Children till the 7th Sep[tembe]r –

I am Dear Sir Sincerely Yours

D Beaumont

You may direct under cover to Col. B. here, for I open his Letters

26 Aug 1803 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

Worthing Augt 26th 1803

Dear Sir

I was yesterday favor'd with your Letter of the 21st & by this Post have rec'd yours of the 22nd w[hic]h with this I forward to Col. Beaumont, & he will enclose this to you, in consequence of your think[in]g a Letter to Mr Burdon might be a Spur, I wrote him my Sentiments Yesterday very fully, w[hic]h I think may be of use, & neither Col. Beaumont or you can be implicated as I am alone here, I have this Day sent Col. B- a Copy of the Letter I wrote to Mr Burdon, we must feel his Conduct to us disrespectful, not to give it a harsher term, he has rely'd on our easy good humour & thinks we are ignorant of Business & shall agree to anything, I cannot bear to be imposed upon, & Mr Burdon has done it to us most completely, surely a Friend of ours should have been Named on the Committee, if the Colonel was not himself, but from the names of the Gentlemen it appears to me a Nominal Committee who will agree to what they themselves propose to them, Mr Burdon & the Surtees's might as well have formed the Committee alone; Mr Brandling a Gentleman of honour & one I highly respect, but is Brother in Law to Mr Burdon, & no Man of Business, Mr Ord, the same, & Nephew, Mr <E--> Clarke, the same to the Surtees's, & Mr Russell I believe connected with Burdon, Mr Trevelyan certainly only Nominal, the others I am not I believe acquainted with, Mr Burdon's Letter to Col. B. is as extraordinary as his others, & I consider it an insulting one to impose on our Understand[in]g to say he is glad to inform us the report of the Arkendale Mines is favorable & in my answer I have given him my opinion on that Subject as well as others, & now hope they will not venture to ask us to accept Security for as he says "at least a Considerable part of our demand" his next will be to ask us to advance more I suppose; -

I am obliged to you for desiring Mr Thomas to order our Keeper to send Game to Matfen, I wrote to him to the same purpose a few Days since - - Mr Bell wrote to me respect[in]g the Black Book of Hexham being shewn by him to Mr Walton, & I said in this instance it could be no injury to us, but he said he never Acknowledged hav[in]g it in his Possession, & should never shew it to anyone but by an express order from us, w[hic]h I wrote him, & requested he would shew the part to Mr Walton w[hic]h he desired to see, but nor to part with it out of his own possession, - You make your Sales of Lead so judiciously that we are perfectly satisfied that the best that is possible will be done for our Interest -

I write in haste & am Dear Sir

very sincerely Yours

D Beaumont

1 Sep 1803 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

Worthing Sep[tembe]r 1st 1803

Dear Sir

I rec'd yesterday the Statement of the Arkendale Mines, w[hic]h I am glad to find so favorable, & immediately forwarded them to Col. Beaumont at Bretton, I hope there will be no difficulty in carrying on the Works conformable with the Lease, until all the Creditors are paid with Interest, & then I hope we shall never have any more transactions with them of any kind whatsoever, they have no Principles of Honesty in their dealings, & we must all be on our guard – since I began this Letter I am favor'd with yours of the 28th, also the Letter signed by you enclosing the resolutions of the Committee on the affairs of Easterby & Co. w[hic]h I will forward by the Post to Col. Beaumont, what is done by the Committee appears to me very judicious, I hope Mr Walton may not prove too Sanguine, I am only afraid of their deceiving us in some thing or other, which I fear they will do if they can, we have once been taken in by them & they will never more have my Confidence – I am really concerned to find you have been so much Indisposed, & hope a little quiet at Newbiggen with Mrs Collingwood's kind care will be of great Service, I fear the hurry of Business of some Weeks past has dwelt too much on your Mind, as well as mine, I am not so Stout as I usually am in my present Situation, & shall be very glad to find myself in Portman Square with my Six Children on Wednesday next the 7th, I have this Morn'g rec'd a Letter from Col. Beaumont from Bretton, he says the Buck will be sent to you & Mr C. Blackett at the time you mention, & I hope it will prove a good one, you will have heard from the Colonel, since his arrival, by his Letter to Day I think he don't intend going to Newcastle until he hears from you when it will be necessary he should be there – I am very glad the Duke of York has not not [sic] accepted Col. Beaumonts offers, & think from the answer he rec'd last when he was in Town, he has no intentions of employing him, I believe Ministers are at this moment much puzzled, they don't know what to do with the Force they have call'd forth, it is said all the Regiments of the Army of Reserve are not yet disposed of, & perhaps they may intend to offer one of them to the Colonel, but I would prefer his hav[ing] nothing to do with them; - I have open'd a Letter this Morn'g of Mr Waltons to Col. Bt & have sent a Copy of part of it to Mr Bell that no time may be lost, as he appears very anxious to have some Extracts or Copies from the Black Book before the 5th Sep[tembe]r & says Mr Bell does not think himself at liberty to let him have extracts or Copies, tho' he has leave to Show it him, I forward his Letter to Col B- by this Post, & have requested Mr Bell will furnish Mr Walton with the Extracts he desires, unless he knows it will be prejudicial to our interests, w[hic]h he must be better Acquainted with than we can be; - I have this Day rec'd a Letter from Mr Burdon, w[hic]h I have sent to Col: B- & he will shew it you when his is in the North, it is no more satisfactory that his others to us, & he treats us very Cavalierly indeed, I plainly see he expects us to do every thing that he desires, & that we have not the power to object to anything, he shall see the difference – I am Dear Sir

Very Sincerely Yours D Beaumont

14 Sep 1803 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

J. E. Blackett Esq. Newcastle upon Tyne

Portman Square Sep[tembe]r 14th

Dear Sir

Colonel Beaumont arrived here on Monday & requests I will say he was Yesterday favor'd with your Letter of Sep[tembe]r 10th –

Mr C. Blackett call'd upon us early this Morn[ing] & found Col. Beaumont & myself at Home, he told us he was authorized by the London Houses to make a proposal to you respecting a Sale of Lead, we informed him that we should be perfectly satisfied with anything you thought proper to do on the occasion; - Colonel B. & I beg to assure you that we have that reliance on your judgment, & confidence in you, that we hope you will feel yourself perfectly at liberty to do what you think best for our interest at this time, & without consulting us on this occasion, we must make up our minds I fear to a very considerable reduction in the Price, but we must not forget we have known the price of Lead under 20£ per Fod[der] & were much satisfied when we first got it above the price my Father ever sold at, & were delighted when you had made a Sale at 26£ per Fod; w[hic]h I think was the time I urged the paying off my Fathers debts amounting to 20,000£, that weight is no longer on my Mind, & we must expect to suffer with others the pressure of the times, & to bear it without Complaining;

You will not name what I am now going to relate as Mr Davison who informed me of it this Morn[ing] may not wish it to be known that he has had any conversation with me on the Subject, Mr Burdon waited on him on Saturday last along with Mr Morland, he offer'd him the Fishery at Berwick, (w[hic]h he, Mr B, bought not in the handsomest manner after Mr Davison had agreed on the purchase), however Mr D. has purchased it of him for 12,000£, w[hic]h he told him should be paid the Day he deliver'd the Title Deeds of the Fishery to him, Mr Burdon then asked Mr Davison to lend him 10,000£, he enquired what security he could give, if Mr Morland would agree to accept the Bill & pay it that Day 6 Months he would lend him the Money; but that Mr Morland did not agree to do, Mr Burdon named Mr Brandling but Mr Davison said he did not know how that Gentleman was circumstanced, his Estate might be entail'd, & he knew he had no Son, & when he lent Money he must have it on the Day fixed, Burdon was to be with him again tomorrow, & when Mr Davison was here, Mr Burdon call'd on us, but he was refused, as we had said we were not at Home he left word he should call again this afternoon & if not so fortunate as to find us at Home, he will call to-morrow, I am determind he shall not be disappointed & will remain in the House tho' Col. B- is obliged to go out, & perhaps a Conversation with me may be as effectual, for I shall not hesitate to give him my opinion, & feel that we have been treated so Ill by him that I am not inclined to grant him any indulgence, w[hic]h I doubt not he is coming to ask; when the interview has taken place you shall hear from me; - Mr Burdon I find expects the Arkendale Mines are to repay him every thing that he loses by the Surtees's, there can be little chance of that, we must take care Easterby & Halls don't deceive us, & watch them closely, those Mines must be worked for the advantage

of the Creditors, for Profit, that we may be paid, & not for the advantage of the Mines, we must of course allow no Dead work or trials, but win the best of the Lead, & then leave them to find a Capital as they can to carry them on after we are all paid the amounts of our demands with Interest, but after the Conduct of the Halls on their last Bankruptcy, & the false assurances they gave to Mr Bowns, I can conceive no Villany they will not attempt, & we must be on our guard,

I shall be glad if we can remove them from the Lead Markets, for with Men of their principles, it is a disgrace to have anything to do with, & if they would at a future period offer us 50£ pr Fod: I would [not] hesitate to decline it, - Col, Beaumont unites with me in best regards to yourself & Mrs Collingwood – I am Dear Sir

very Sincerely Yours D. Beaumont

17 Sep 1803 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

Portman Square Sep[tembe]r 17th 1803

Dear Sir

As Col. Beaumont & I have seen Mr Burdon I think it right to inform you what we have been able to collect from his Conversation on Thursday, he call'd when I was out, & sat an Hour with Col. B- & left him the Statement of the Bank Acct signed by Black, for us to look over, & return to him when he w[oul]d call the Next Day at Eleven, w[hic]h he did, & we had much Conversation on the Subject, what I say to you is in confidence & you will draw your own Conclusions from it, Mr Burdon appears completely puzzled, very easy ab[ou]t the inconvenience arising to us, & the other Creditors, & not by any means prepared to give an answer to anything, Col. B. requested he w[oul]d send him a Copy of Blacks Account, & if you have not seen it we will send it to you, we enquired of him explanations of different things in the Account, & on asking what was meant by the following

Viz by Suspended Acct Messrs Salvin & Co: Old Acct	46,306	10	8
Manchester Concerns with Salvin Co	21,702	6	5
Salvins Brother <...> £41,237-1s-8d abt	26,537	1	8
	£94,545	18	9

Mr Burdon answer'd the above Acct was the only part he was blamable for, their Mother being Sister to his Mother he had been Engaged with them in a Manufactory, & there was no chance of any part of that Sum being ever recover'd, he spoke of the enormous Sum of Ninety Four Thousand with as much coolness as I should Ninety Pound, I merely mention this to give you some Idea of what we are to expect, & he don't appear to me to have an Idea of disposing of his Estates or raising money on them, he said he wished I would assist him in Selling his House in Grosvenor Sq- & I wrote to a Gentleman Yesterday who is in want of a House, & his Brother has just left him 200,000£, he said there were 3 applications for it, & named he should dispose of

outlaying Property to satisfy Government Extents, such as his House in Town & the Fishery, but not one word of his Estates for other Creditors, Col: B. then told him that Money we must have by our next great Pay, & as soon as the Committee were ready to lay their Proposals before the Creditors, Mr Bown would come down to Assist you, & we must then see what could be done, but something decisive must, the Bank had rec'd our Money, our Estates were Entail'd, our Miners could not Starve, & Money we were determin'd to have, this appear'd to startle him & rouse him a little, he said he did not know how it was possible they could get in any of their debts by that time, but he w[oul]d name it to the Committee, & even talked of 3 years before we could be paid, we said it was useless naming 3 years to us, & asked when their own Notes w[oul]d be paid, he said they intended receiv[ing] them from those that were in their debt, we answer'd it must be general when they did for we should expect the Notes we had in our possession to be paid at the same time, & we were not in their debt; he again talked of us being so much obliged to the Halls for raising the price of Lead, & that he knew from themselves they were selling at 33 <per> Fod: & 34 – we then told Mr Burdon our opinion fully of the Halls, & were sorry he suffer'd himself to be so deceived by them who had shewn themselves so devoid of every principle of Honour & honesty, that we knew what they then assured him was false, & we requested never to hear their names mention'd, he said the Halls objected to our Mine Agents being of the Committee to examine their Mines, as they knew their mines were carried on in so superior a Manner to ours, & they should continue to be of use to the Trade by keep[ing] up the Price of Lead, we assured him of the contrary, & were certain they had brought it into the uncertain state it was in, & the greatest benefit to the Trade w[oul]d be to unite & Sweep the Halls from the Market, he hoped not, as the only expectation he had of being paid by the Surtees's was, the flourishing State of those Mines after their Creditors were paid in 21 Months, & also the Iron Foundery, & I think they also expect the Bank Creditors to wait those Events also – I hope the Committee will be prepared to offer something more satisfactory when they come forward, otherwise surely the best method will be to make them Bankrupts; we told Mr Burdon the Accounts we then saw were very different from his positive assurances in his Letters etc – Col: Beaumont unites with me in best comp[limen]ts – I am Dear Sir

very Sincerely Yours

D Beaumont

I purchased a Lottery Ticket a few Days since & think we have nearly as good a chance of 20,000£ by that as by Mr Burdon, if I may judge from himself -

21 Sep 1803 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

J.E. Blackett Esq. Newcastle upon Tyne

Portman Square Sep[tembe]r 21st

Dear Sir

We are favor'd with yours of the 17th & are perfectly satisfied with your reasons for acting as you have done, possibly at this moment they are depended on our being in want of Money; - it has been represented to us that Mr Ellill is not supposed to be a Man of fair Character, he was a Friend of Astlett who is now in Newgate, & it is said Astlett & Hall met at Ellills office 3 times a Week regularly, all these are suspicious circumstances, & it is believed by some that Ellill has some connection in Business with the Halls, he has now in his possession a large quantity of their Sheet Lead, he is at this moment much distressed for Money, & must Sell at any price; - -

we have sent to Mr Bowns the Accounts of Surtees & Burdons Bank w[hic]h Mr Black sent us last Night, & have requested he will meet Mr Burdon at Doncaster w[hic]h Mr Burdon has promised to let us know when he will be there, he talked of leav[ing] Town soon, we have desired Mr Bowns to talk to Mr Burdon about giving us good <Landed> Security, the Accounts of the Bank are so much worse than we had any Idea of, that we wish we had good Security & Interest, for if you make a Sale to cover our Pay in May, we may wait for Burdons, indeed we fear we must wait at any rate; do you hear that it is fear'd some Creditors will not wait Mr Burdons pleasure, & it is thought they will soon be made Bankrupts, this has been reported to us - we will thank you to let T. Crawhall make out a Statement of what you think will be wanted till 1st January for Subsistence & other demands on us, & also what you expect to receive by that time, & the Sums in Loraines Bank etc, - we will write to Mr Thomas to-morrow ab[ou]t the Hexham Colours - Col: Beaumont unites with me in best Com[plimen]ts - I am Dear Sir

very Sincerely Yours
D. Beaumont

21 Sep 1803 John Erasmus Blackett to Diana Beaumont

Newcastle 21st Sept. 1803

Dear Madam

I wrote to you the <18th > Inst. to which I beg leave to refer you. I have since been favoured with your letter of the 17th Inst. & I observe the discourse which you & Col: Beaumont had with Mr Burdon on the affairs of the Bank, which I am concerned to find is in a worse situation than had at first been represented, with little prospect of their being soon settled; it is astonishing to me that Mr Burdon is so bewitched with the Halls, they and John Surtees have been the occasion of bringing all this distress on themselves, your concerns, & the Country. At the same time they have the assurance (I may say impudence) to speak of your obligations to them for raising the price of Lead, which at the time they made the purchase of you they must have been sensible that they could not pay for: & that it must be attended with considerable loss and inconvenience to you; It was at the joint request of the Creditors & themselves that I consented that two of your Mine Agents should with Mr Walton etc take a View of the Arkendale Mines, & make their Report on the state of them, Mr Burdon saying that the

Halls objected to your Mine Agents being of the Committee to examine their Mines; as they knew their Mines were carried on in so superior a manner to yours, is a false assertion; had they made such objection for the reason they assigned it would have been the height of presumption, and being sensible at the same time that improvements for which they gave themselves so much Credit were made at the enormous expense of other people. I am glad that you and Col. Beaumont delivered your sentiments in the manner you did.

When the Committee are prepared to lay the state of the Bank before the Creditors with the proposition, I shall acquaint Mr Bowns.

The India Co. make their Contract for Lead this day, after which I expect that the London Houses must come to market, tho' I do not imagine they will at present purchase a large quantity for the home consumption. It will become necessary that I should make a considerable Sale in the course of a Month & I wish that I may have it in my power to obtain the present price of £32 & £33 pr Fd. But I doubt it.

I am with best Compliments etc

John E Blackett

23 Sep 1803 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

Portman Square Sep[tembe]r 23rd 1803

Dear Sir

Colonel Beaumont has been in the City, & was informed of some particulars which we think it right to communicate to you in confidence, & you will draw your own conclusions, Mr Ellill has been playing a deep Game, he has offer'd Lead to the India Company at so much lower a price than any others, that his offer was of course accepted, it was under £25 pr Fodr w[hic]h will in a short time be to him upwards of 50,000 £, it is imagin'd the greatest part of this Lead is Easterby & Halls for which <it> is known he is to pay the same price you make your next Sale to the London Houses, & he now thinks he has fixed the price of Lead, & that you will be obliged to Sell at a still lower price that he has done, w[hic]h will ascertain the price he is to pay for the Lead of Easterby & Halls, & he exults no doubt at having as he thinks duped every one, & disappointed the London Houses of making the Sale to the India Company, he has played them so many tricks it is concluded they will very justly be greatly exasperated at this Conduct, & that in a short time you will receive proposals to make a Sale to them at you own Price as usual, & it is thought whatever Price you think proper to ask will be complied with by them, w[hic]h will be a very proper return to such a Man as Mr Ellill, he will then have to pay the Committee of Easterby & Hall the Price you Sell at, even if that should be 32 & 33, for it is not for Mr Ellill to fix the Price for you, it is too evident what he has done it for, & utter Ruin must be his fate for his Friend Mr Astlett may be hanged by that time, & cannot now assist either Ellill or the Halls with his Bills, it is not imagined you will be asked by the London Houses for a large quantity of Lead at this time as it is thought if this does take place, it will be with the intention of

throw[in]g him entirely out of the Market, & that immediately afterwards Lead must lower very considerably, but it may be advisable for us to Sell as large quantities as we can at that time, & wait the Event after, & as it must now be known that Ellill will soon be in possession of this large Sum of Money from the India Company (as they pay ready Money), if any of it can be got by the Committee, it may be advisable for them to make the trial, as it is probable Ellill may be in debt to the Halls for Sheet Lead, & other things that may not depend on the Sale you make to the London Houses, or he may be induced to pay part of the sum for the Lead on Account, when he receives 50- or 60,000£ from the India Company, & the remainder when you have made a Sale, w[hic]h he expects will be at a lower price than he has now done: - we shall soon see what the results will be, & as it can only be conjecture what Col: B has been informed of, we must keep the information to ourselves, & give no hint to any one of it, a little time will show: - who is to advance the Money for the Arkendale Mines? I hope not the Creditors, for the Halls are more than a Match for honest Men, & will play us some trick at last I fear, Astlett, Ellill & the Halls w[oul]d puzzle Buonaparte himself & Cheat him too, they have not had such frequent Meetings at Ellills for nothing: - Col: Beaumont unites with me in best Comp[limen]ts I am Dear Sir very Sincerely Yours
D. Beaumont

24 Sep 1803 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

J. E. Blackett Esq, Newcastle upon Tyne

Portman Square Sep[tembe]r 24th

Dear Sir

I am this Day favor'd with yours of the 21st, in the mean time you will have rec'd my Letter with the Account of Mr Ellills famous transactions, which in a short time I do hope will be defeated; I think the Eyes of the Committee will be opened to the Conduct of the Halls and their Confederates, Ellills offer[in]g Lead at £24 19s pr Fod: w[hic]h we now find was the Price proves his Motive, as these particulars were disclosed to us in Confidence we should not wish them to come to light thro' our means - Mr Walton will I think be enraged when he finds the part that has been played by Ellill; - when you see Mr Thomas, we will be much obliged to you if you will have the goodness to inform him that we approve of what he proposes doing to bring the Hexham Gardeners to terms, & when he goes to Hexham Col: Beaumont request he will inform Captn Carr that he shall subscribe 20 Guineas towards the Clothing of the Hexham Volunteer Corps; we sent Mr Thomas the Keys of Col: Beaumonts Wardrobe Yesterday where he w[oul]d find the Colours -

I enclose a Letter Col: Beaumont rec'd from Allenheads this Mornng, those kind of Letters are Seldom worth attending to, yet we think it right to let you see what is said, & you will take notice, or not, as you think proper, we shall not, or ever do give Answers to those kind of Letters, if we did we should receive Complaints by every Post

Mr Burdon call'd Yesterday at 3 o'clock, an hour he perfectly well knew there was little chance of finding us at Home, he left word he had been Ill or should have call'd sooner, & not a word of his leav[in]g Town, I don't find he has Sold his House, he appears to rely on Mr Morland for assistance and advice, I find he accompanies him when he has any business to do, & what appears to me strange, Burdon has since made an application to Mr Davison to lend Mr Morland 10,000£, Ransom & Morlands is not thought a Rich House, when we have any Money we can spare for only a short time, I think it w[oul]d be advisable to buy exchequer Bills, w[hic]h will be Money to us [missing word starting 'a'] Day, & Mr Davison has in a very friendly manner offer'd to purchase them for us without trouble or expense to us, & also in the most handsome manner offer'd us any Sum of Money at any time, these things he wished not to be known, Mr Bosville has offer'd us 4,000£ he now has in Morlands Hands w[hic]h of course we would not accept, but he has requested we will have that Sum laid out in Exchequer Bills for him the first purchase that we find it convenient to make for own <scheme>

Col: Beaumont unites with me in best Comp[limen]ts –

I am Dear Sir sincerely Yours

D. Beaumont

24 Sep 1803 John Erasmus Blackett to Diana Beaumont

Newcastle 24th Sep[tembe]r 1803

Dear Madam

I am favoured with your Letters of the 21st Inst. & am happy to find that you are satisfied with my Reasons for declining the Proposition made to me.

You have no doubt heard that Mr Ellills Offer of 2000 Tons of Lead to the India Compy. at £24,19, ,, the London Fother equal to £26, 17, 6 the Newcastle For. was accepted of; another Company agreed with the India Company for the remaining Quantity 300 Tons at the same Price; had I come into the Proposals you would not have got with the Freight Insurance the 5 P cent to the London Houses above £25 p Fother of Newcastle. –

I have now the Pleasure to inform you that on Thursday last I made a Sale to Walkers, Maltby & Co. of 1000 ps. Comp. Lead at £32 the For. and 500 ps. Refined at 33 the For. besides some few Hundreds to others at the same Price; the other London Houses I have no Doubt will follow their Example, though I should suppose not for a large Quantity at present, however the Combinations amongst the London Buyers is defeated, & your Situation will be very different to that, in Case I had closed with the Terms proposed to me. I observe what you say of Mr Ellill; for some time past I have not had the most favourable Opinion of that Gentleman, being informed of the Circumstances that you mention.

I agree with you that the State of the Bank Affairs have not so promising an Aspect as we were at first led to believe; the Creditors begin to be very uneasy but I

have not heard any Reports of their being made Bankrupts, the Event of which would be the Loss of any future Benefit arising to the Creditors from the Arkendale Mines.

Mr Easterby proposed to me (as a Convenience to you) to give me their Notes (payable in London) for the Amount of the first Instalment due the end of December, which he said the Committee approved of, & that Ransom & Moreland would discount the same; I had my doubts of their doing it, & considering that it would make an Alteration in the Claim etc, I declined the Offer.

I enclose you the Statement that you desire (a Copy of which I shall send Mr Bowns) but you will please to observe that the Sales of Lead which I may make from this day will answer the Payments in March etc.

I am with best Respects to yourself and Coln. Beaumont.

Dear Madam Your Hbl. Servt.

Jno. E. Blackett

11 Oct 1803 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

J.E. Blackett Esq, Newcastle upon Tyne

Portman Square Octr. 11th

Dear Sir

I am much obliged by your kind enquiries after myself & little Girl, we are both as well as can be expected; -

Mr Davison has been here this Morn[ing] & left a Mem[orandum] wh[ic]h Col: Beaumont will enclose you a Copy with this Letter, & will send another to Mr Bowns, we will be glad to receive your opinion, & will then do as was mentioned in a former Letter with Mr Morland & open our Account immediately with Davisons Bank, he said this agreement was only for one Year from this time, as this was a particular time, & Money difficult to be had, & a <better> Agreement for us in future might be then made; Davison begs this transaction may not be mentioned to any one; - I am Dear Sir very sincerely Yours

Diana Beaumont

Col: B will write to that troublesome Man John Lees to-morrow; I hope & Trust a good large Sale of Lead will soon take place -

14 Oct 1803 John Erasmus Blackett to Diana Beaumont

Copy of Letter to Mrs Beaumont

Morpeth 14 Octr. 1803

Dear Madam

I have been favoured with your letter of the 11th inst. enclosing the Mem[orandum] from Mr Davidson, in which I think that he has too far consulted the

interest of his bank; In case we make a considerable sale of Lead during the remainder of the Year. I do not at present see that it will be necessary for Mr D's Bank to advance £50,000 or near one half that amount for the sum which they possibly may advance they will I suppose receive 5 p ct. I should be of opinion that the sum of £5000 as a Balance to remain in their hands very ample and many Banking Houses would consider (with the other advantages) as fully sufficient. It certainly becomes necessary that some arrangement should be made with a bank at Newcastle & such an arrangement has already been made by Mr Bowns with the Bank of Sir Wm Lorrain & Co, as I informed Col. Beaumont in my last letter. I do not see that by Mr Davidsons arrangement I should be in the least relieved of Multiplied accounts nor do I think that the former arrangement made with the Bank of Surtees Burdon & Co should be the least guide or rule for this with Davidson & Co the former one was much too favourable to that bank but I was not privy to it.

Mr & Mrs Blackett & My Daughter unite with me in respects & best wishes to yourself & Col. Beaumont & I am

Dear Madam Your most Obedient & Faithfull Humb. Sevt.

John E. Blackett

15 Oct 1803 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

J.E. Blackett Esq. Newcastle upon Tyne

Portman Square Octr. 15th 1803

Dear Sir

Col: Beaumont & I have this Mornng. had an Interview with Mr Morland, preparatory [single word missing] intended to closing our Account with them, provided you & Mr Bowns approved of the terms proposed to us in the Mem[orandum] given us by Mr Davison, but which Mr Bowns in a Letter this Mornng recd does not think favorable to us, he wrote only a few lines in haste, & said we should hear fully from him by the next Post, I am of Mr Bowns' opinion, in fact Mr Davisons proposal is offer[ing] us no Interest at all; for anything above 10,000£ we shall not certainly allow to remain at 4 per ct. In their Bank when we can make more Interest by purchase of Exchequer Bills, but until we receive your opinion of their proposal we shall come to no decision, & perhaps then it may be better to let Mr Bowns correspond with them on the Subject; we wish if we do leave Morlands to quit them handsomely, & told him we would not deceive him & L[ord] Kinnaird, we believed we might want a large Sum in May & fancied a much larger Sum than I trust we shall have any occasion for, for we said from 50,000£ to 60,000£ expect[ing] instantly a refusal, but Mr Morland beg'd a few Days to consult Lord Kinnaird, & will then let us know; he told us they had advanced 62,000£ & he appeared to think favorably of their (Burtons) Bank, he said the circulation of their Notes was 170,000£ & so many had been paid, he said they were now reduced to 60,000£ we said you held we believed 3000£ of their Notes, he said you might get them paid whenever you chose; we asked how that was possible, he

answer'd by Contrivance w[hic]h you could do, I am sure you will be glad to have them paid with the Interest from the 1st July if that can be paid, Morland said every one that owed Money to the Bank could pay that in their Notes, & I suppose he meant that we might negotiate with some one who was in their debt, but of this you will be the best informed –

I enclose you another of John Lee's Letters, I ought to apologize for send[ing] it but [short word missing] it in case you wish to make any use of it [short word missing] him – he enclosed your Letter to us, w[hic]h we very much approved of – excuse this Letter written in great haste, & a little fatigued with our Airing for the first time, & a Conversation with Mr Morland etc. – I am Dr. Sir

sincerely Yours

D Beaumont

31 Oct 1803 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

J.E. Blackett Esq. Newcastle upon Tyne

Portman Square Oct. 31st 1803

Dear Sir

My little Infant has been so much Indisposed that my time has been completely occupied attending on her both Day & Night, w[hic]h is the reason of my not being so punctual as I hope you have in general found me to be in the Answering of Letters, & Col: Beaumont has every Day defer'd writing in hopes his Child would be better & that I should have leisure, she is now recovering & my Mind is more easy about her; I enclose a Copy Col: Beau't has taken of the Memorandum of Terms agreed to upon our opening an Account with the House of Davison Noel & Co- w[hic]h we hope you will approve, the Day you favor'd us with your Sentiments respect[ing] Mr Davisons proposal we recd the same objections from Mr Bowns, he thought the terms not such that we ought to agree to, w[hic]h we informed them we could not do, & they offer'd to make an alteration of w[hic]h we informed Mr Bowns of the particulars, & desired he would draw up a regular agreement, w[hic]h he did, & sent to us & was agreed to by Col: B. & the Bank of Davison & Co; in consequence of w[hic]h we lodged 9,000£ in their House on the 26th of October, 5,000£ was our own Money that we took out of Morlands House on that Day when we closed our account finally with them, & the other 4,000£ was lent us by Mr Bosville, at his own express desire, & in the most handsome manner, he said we should do him a favour if we would take care of it for him for a few Weeks, or Months, till he wanted it, & let it remain quite without interest, for it had done the same for many Months in Morlands House, & wd continue so, if we had it not, therefore should Accept no Interest from us, on these terms we Accepted it, as it may be of some use to us, & can be no loss to him; I ought first to have told you Col: B. & I had an Interview with Mr Morland at Mr Bowns recommendation to ask on what terms they would make a Loan to us, or indeed if they wd make one at all, this I have before named to you I believe, & not receiv[ing] any answer Col: B- wrote to

request their decision, when he rec[eive]d the enclosed Note, w[hic]h induced us to close our Account with them, & open one with Messrs Davison & Co., Mr Davison assured us if we should want 40,000£ they would not hesitate to advance it, & we are not to maintain the deposit of 5,000£ when we have it not in their Hands, but we are not to receive 4 per ct. for any Sum under that - - Mr Bowns thinks these are better terms than we could at this time have got probably from any other House, for we could not suppose Loraines House w[oul]d be will[in]g to advance us so large a Sum, & if two Houses did the Business each w[oul]d require a deposit, this Agreement is only for a Year, & when no advance is required, better terms may be enter'd into with Davison, his House is very popular and supposed very strong, the number of People that his Name & Influence has drawn from Morlands & the other Houses they say is very great, Mr Davison said he should write to Sir Wm. Loraines House, & say in making the Arrangement with his House, we had particularly requested & insisted on their open[in]g an Account with the House of Loraine & Baker, for all our Business to be transacted with them, this we hope will prove satisfactory to them, we have requested Mr Davison will let us have a Monthly State[men]t of our Accounts with them, & have desired that Mr Thomas will pay our Rents into the Bank of Loraine to be placed to the credit of Davison & Co on our Account - I shall now feel satisfied on Account of our Money concerns, w[hic]h I have been very uneasy about, know[in]g the consequences to our Mines, & very much feeling Mr Burdons Conduct & Ingratitude, not to say worse, I fear my little Girl has been the sufferer, for I suffer'd so much anxiety after receiv[in]g Mr Burdons Letter that I have not from that time been well one Day, & lost my Zest entirely; - surely the Bank Committee must soon come forward with proposals, the Creditors cannot wait much longer, Morlands House will want their 62,000£ w[hic]h he said they were in advance, but it is supposed they are in advance to a larger Amount -

Mr Mowbray may well be ashamed of his Conduct, nothing can be so base, & bringing so vile a Wretch as Algood forwards shews how infamous & ungentlemanlike have been their transactions, if it comes to a trial our Lawyers must be informed of their underhand transaction, to set forth the Conduct of the Bishop & his Agents in its true light, I suppose their examination of our Books is finished, Algood never adhered to truth, that any Assertions of his must be well examin'd -

As my little Girl is so much better we propose setting out on Monday next the 7th for Bretton, change of Air is advised for her & me, as she lives entirely upon me; & we have so many alterations going forwards there that we shall be glad to go there for 3 Weeks & shall return in time for any Business com[in]g forwards in Parliament, we don't take all our Family, only the 3 Youngest Children that are never from under my own Eye, & take no Servants but those we shall immediately want to attend on us -

I am sorry the Lead Buyers don't come forward, I think they imagine they can take advantage of our Situation, & that Money we must soon be in want of, but I trust the Arrangement we have made with Messrs Davison & Co. will prevent us from that inconvenience - I think Mr Bosville will have his Northumberland Rents go thru' Davisons Bank after Xmas-

Col: B. unites with me in best Comp[limen]ts
I am Dear Sir very Sincerely Yours
D Beaumont

I enclose the Copy of Mr Morlands Letter & Memorandum of Terms with the Bank under another Cover as they w[oul]d make my Letter too heavy –

16 Nov 1803 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

Bretton Nov[embe]r 16th 1803

Dear Sir

We left London on the 7th & arrived here on the 9th without taking Colds, or hav[ing] any accidents; our 3 Young Travellers did not suffer in the least, & as my little Girl improves in Health, I do the same in Strength, I was favor'd with your Letter of the 6th on our arrival here, I am very glad you will employ an Amanuensis & beg you will not fatigue your Eyes with writing in this dark foggy Weather, it always gives us pleasure to hear from you in any manner, I am anxious particularly at this time to know if your Family escapes the Fever which the Account of in the Newcastle Paper has alarmed me extremely, I trust it is not so bad;

We have not seen Mr Bowns for more than a few Minutes yet, since we came down, but he is to come to us on Sunday next, Mr Cockshutt has passed a Day with us, he read us his observations at the Mines, & the Letter he addressed to the Workmen, which does him much Credit, I can perceive he thinks it highly necessary a principal Agent for Coalcleugh should be found to take Mr Dickinsons Situation, he has long wished to resign, I wish we could hear of an Agent that was likely to suit, we will be much obliged to you if you would point out to us any manner that we could set about enquiring for one, & beg you will have the goodness to enquire where you think it is probable to meet with one, perhaps your Friends at the Scotch Mines might recommend one, Mr Cockshutt says he will enquire in Derbyshire. – Coalcleugh was once very flourishing & may be again under an Agent who is able to look after the Concern – we have not heard from Messrs Davison Noel & Co, therefore hope they have been able to make the Arrangement with Sir Wm Loraines House, we shall be in Town by the 2nd of December, & shall hear then what has been done; relying as I do on your Judgement I feel little anxiety on Account of our next Sale of Lead, now we have secured Money for our great Lead Pay, & shall think ourselves fortunate if you can sell on better terms than the Lead Company; I observe the form of Adverstisement is alter'd in regard to Burdons Affairs, I am afraid it may be changed many times yet before we are all paid, Mr Burdons aim was to take in his Friends, which he has done, the Surtees's, the Public; w[hic]h they have done; -

Mr Cockshutt gave me the enclosed Paper w[hic]h he said was given to him when he was in the North, if the Money has not been rec'd, I hope it can be got, all Sums will be of use this Year, it is a Copy of the Paper I send, & the N. Bonback of the

Paper had a line drawn thro' it, but w[hic]h we could easily make out, & Mr Cockshutt copied it all, I hope we shall prevail on Mr Cockshutt to pass some Months with us at Hexham Abbey next Year, he has almost promised to do so, there is no chance of Bretton being able to receive us, tho' everything has been done with more expedition than we could have expected, & uncommonly well indeed, under the Inspection of our House Steward Mr Wood who is a very valuable Man to us; Mr Cockshutt told us he heard that Mr Thomas was at Sheffield, & he wrote to a Friend of his to request we might see him at Bretton, w[hic]h I hope we shall –

we will thank you to desire T. Crawhall will order a Cask of Red Fume to be sent to Bretton & a small quantity of Lead, Mr Wood says about the same quantity that has been usually sent, & it may be of the worst quality, the Red Fume is to paint Cart Wheels, it may be powder'd, but he wishes it to be ground & mixed with Oil, or it then becomes so hard it cannot be used – I offer you 34£ the Fod: for the Lead, prompt Payment, I wish you may have offers at the same rate for your next Sale. – I write in haste, w[hic]h you will excuse –

I am Dear Sir very Sincerely Yours

D Beaumont

21 Nov 1803 Diana Beaumont to John Erasmus Blackett

J. E. Blackett Esq. Newcastle upon Tyne

Bretton Nov[embe]r 21st 1803

Dear Sir

It gives us much concern to hear of the Indisposition of Sir Edward Blackett, I have by this Post wrote to Mrs Blackett to beg she will have the goodness to let me know how he is; - I am very glad to find the account of the Fever was so much exaggerated, such a report was very mischievous –

we have not heard from Mr Davison since we came here, therefore conclude that the Business with Sir Wm Loraines House is arranged, Col. Beaumont & I did not properly understand Mr Bowns Meaning when we objected to the part of his Letter to you w[hic]h named your Drawing upon Messrs Davison & Co from time to time by Bills at one Month's date, he was with us Yesterday and explain'd it to us, & we see the propriety of it, & advantage to us when it can be done, as by that means we gain a Months interest, & Bills on London at a Month's date is often a great convenience, & may be consider'd as ready Money, & when our finances are in such a State to allow of our paying ready Money for Gunpowder etc they will be glad to deduct 5 per ct. & take the Bill on London at a Month; Mr Davison has I know been of great service to Sir Wm Loraines House, when the Stopping of Burdons Bank took place, & a Run on other Banks apprehended, Davison went instantly to Mr Baker, & offer'd him 10,000£, to send down directly, Mr Baker accepted 5,000£ & took it himself to Newcastle, & when they found they did not want it, & return'd it, he would not suffer them to make him

any recompense, we had this from Mr Baker, & also from Mr Davison, you will if you please not name it to anyone; -

we have not rec'd the Valuation of the Wood on Mr Hunters Estate at Steel Hall, w[hic]h we shall be glad to have, Mr Bowns has the Valuation of the Land, w[hic]h we sent him from London, I have the Old Valuation they gave us in 1800, & in that the Rental was taken at 264£ per Ann: tho' at that time it was only Let at 131£ per Ann: & the Wood valued at 1916..10s..0 , since which time it has been much weeded, whatever the Land & Wood is now Valued at we conclude we are obliged to Purchase, as we acceded to Mr Hunters proposal, of his naming one Person, & ourselves and thee; it appears to us 28 years Purchase is very high to rate Land at, at this time, & the Annual Value they state at 216£ - but as Mr Wm Bates on our part has agreed, we can have no recourse I fear, he must as well as Mr Donkin have taken it into consideration that the Estate was of consequence to us, which was not right to do so; it would have been better if we had not acted so kindly to Mr Hunter in excusing him Interest on the 900£ for so many Years previous to 1800, w[hic]h we did under the Idea that he would offer us his Estate at a fair price, & give us Security for the 900£ from that time; we will thank you to let T. Crawhall make out for us the Year the Debt commenced, & we shall then see what Sum we gave him; - the late Mr Heron's Negligence has I fear occasion'd many losses to my late Father & ourselves, & if we find his Son continues to do the same, he will oblige us to make a change when our Scandalous suit with the Bishop is concluded; if you think it could be of any use for T. Crawhall to write at our desire to any of the Partners & send them a Copy of the Paper we shall be glad to have it done, perhaps it may be worth making the trial what a civil application from ourselves may produce; I am afraid our Account with Mr Newtons (the Architect) Family has never been settled, all those little things are better to be soon settled, or they are forgot; I wrote to Mr Thomas to get an Account of the transaction with Mr Errington from Mr Ball & have it settled; we are getting in all our small debts in this County, & shall be glad to do the same in Northumberland; has Mrs Foster paid the sum that remain'd for Interest on her Bond? when she paid the principal I recollect there was something remain'd unpaid, w[hic]h should be got, could we not give her Son an order on his Mother for part of his Salary? Excuse my naming these things, but it would be better for all these trifles to be applied for & settled, w[hic]h can easily be done by T. Crawhall; - I am sorry you have not had any application yet for Lead, when you do make a Sale, we hope it will be at a Good price, I think the Lead buyers imagine we shall be obliged to Sell, they depend on our necessities this Year bringing us to lower our price, but they will find themselves mistaken; I enclose you a Copy of a Letter from Mr Burdon, they don't appear to consider the inconvenience they occasion their Friends & Creditors; - I am afraid it will be troublesome to you reading so long a Letter, it is rarely my little Girl gives me half an Hour of leisure, that I have now taken advantage of it -

our best Comp[limen]ts attend you & Mrs Collingwood -

I am Dear Sir very Sincerely Yours D Beaumont

28 Nov 1804 Diana Beaumont to William Blackett

[Note: Most probably Sir William Blackett of Matfen, 5th baronet, nephew of John Erasmus Blackett]

Hexham Abbey Nov. 28th 1804

Dear Sir William,

Colonel Beaumont and I are aware the active part our worthy friend Mr. Blackett takes in the management of our concerns which he attended with considerable fatigue to him, and we cannot leave this County without expressing to you how sensible we are of his intention to our interest, yet we are afraid the difficulties that have already arisen must require still greater exertion which it will be very fanciful to see to burthen him with our intentions are when he finds the Business too harrowing for his health to instead as a favour conferred on ourselves that the salary he now receives may be settled on him for Life

I am Dear Sir Your sincere H[um]ble Serv[an]t

Diana Beaumont