

19 Oct 1773 Edward Blackett to John Erasmus Blackett

Thorpe Lee 19th Oct 1773

Dear Brother

I hope this will find my Sisters better; This fine weather I hope will be of Service to us Invalids. I go into the Bathing tub every morning, & ride after breakfast; I think I am growing much better, & hope to come round again 'eer long; next week we have some thoughts of paying Mr Chiswell a visit in Essex.

I am much concerned to hear of the accident that is happened to poor Capt. Wilkinson; Every distress of that unfortunate Family gives me additional pain; remembering them once so happy, easy & such good neighbours.

Be so good as to make my comp[liment]s to Mr Simpson and let him know; that the Loss will be put up, at no more than I would take for them; that I could not well w[ith]draw part w[ith]out the whole: that the whole is at his Service for £16000 paying my share of the division.

I will consider & let you know something about Fallowfield in another letter.

My Bro[the]r Will is going to leave this place very soon; he goes up to Warwick, then to Chester for a week or 10 days, so on to Ripon; he proposes staying this Winter w[ith] my Mother; & then coming with us to Matfen in the Spring.

My Wife & all friends here join with me in their love & best wishes to yourself my Sister & the young Folks & I am

Dear Bro[the]r yrs Most affectionatly
E Blackett

Mrs Crawley has made application to sell her the <y.e h.> lot w[hic]h I could not agree to but gave answer that they would be all put up to sale. If Mr Simpson was to buy the whole he would sell that Lot to advantage to her.

[added to rear page in another hand, probably JEB's:]

In consignence of the Power given me by Sir Edward Blackett in this letter to sell John Simpson Esq. the said Sir Edw[ar]d Blacketts estate of Winlington for £16000 Mr Simpson agreeing to pay the s[ai]d Sir Edw[ar]d Blacketts share of the Expenses of the Division. John L Blackett accordingly sold the Estate to John Simpson Esq. on the above Condition & enter'd into Articles with the said John Simpson on monday the 25th Octr 1773.

Sir Ed. Blackett/ Oct 19th 1773/ with Power to sell/ Winlington Estate

1 Nov 1773 Edward Blackett to John Erasmus Blackett

[Note: Undated, but annotated in another hand 'Nov 1773']

Debden near Newport Essex

Dear Bro[the]r,

I have this moment rec'd the favour of yours; I am perfectly well Satisfied with the agreement with Mr Simpson and am much obliged to you; I wrote to you & Mr Fawcet on purpose to Impower you to make an agreement if it suited wth Mr Simpson as to Sr Thos Clavering I am very easy about him; he knows that he might have had it formerly if he pleased; but he depreciated the Estate; & now I know he will heartily repent his not getting it.

I wish Mr Simpson may make it worth £20000.

My Wife & <Teddy> & <Norbray> <I will see them in> their Lodge & Mr & Mrs Chirwell <drive their> we are come here for 10 days or a fortnight. This is one of the finest places I very <..> as to the Beauty of the country and the capability about it, & I am

D[ea]r Bror yrs most affectionately

E Blackett

[cover annotated in JEB's hand:] Sir Ed. Blackett Novr 1773

Approbation of the sale of Winlaton

4 Mar 1775 Edward Blackett to John Erasmus Blackett

Hollis Street March 4th 1775

Dear Brother

I Rec'd the favor of yours, & am very glad to find that you have settled my <news> to yr satisfaction.

We have been settled here for these ten days In a small, but convenient house, but it will do well enough for us for the little time we shall stay In Town.

Y[ou]r letter to Harry Sticks behind the glass, I dont know when Harry will come to take it down; Bro. Will who is in Town for a day or two, told me wednesday that his heavy baggage is arrived in Hungerford Market.

My Mother is very well, but I hear fatigued w[ith] the constant business carrying on at H.C. Her card purse went heavier from Egham, but has been much lighten'd at H.C.

Mrs Wise came to Town a few days since to lay in, & has been brought to bed of a girl.

I am very glad to hear that Mr Pearell is got better, you would have had a great loss of him.

I shall now take the liberty to give you a little trouble; there is an acquaintance of mine & my son's going to stand for a fellowship of Oriel College, a Mr Miller son to the Dean of Exeter, a very Ingenious deserving young man. There is a Doc[to]r Pemberton now settled at Newcastle a fellow of Oriel who has a vote & interests. I have not the honor of being known to him; If I had I should take the liberty to sollicite his votes & Interests for Mr Miller as you must probably be acquainted with him, I should take it as a favor if you woud sollicite his vote & Interests in behalf of Mr Miller; If he is not already engaged I am sure he can not disprove its to a more worthy young man & to one that will do more honor to his patronage be so good as to let me know as soon as you can of the success of your application. My Bro. Willm has sold his house & <Phaeton> , goes down in a new <Landolet> to settle at Plymouth: we have been at him a long while to part wth his <Phaeton> wch gave him many a cold. <Doc> Blackett is not come to town this <winter> Sr W Blackett is very ill, but I dont believe will be sorry when his time of waiting is over. The american affairs begin to wear a better face than they did. Ld North's motion its thought will contribute greatly to that end.

I have only this room left to join all our Love & Best Wishes to my sister & yself & to assure you that I am Dr Bro yrs most affectionately

E Blackett

8 Mar 1775 Edward Blackett to John Erasmus Blackett

Hollis Street Cavendish Square
8th March 1775

Dear Brother

Mr Cookson was wth me yesterday and brought with him the State of the groves, & the opinion of Foster, If he ask'd me my Sentiments In regard to it; I told him the most necessary thing In my opinion was to pay off the debts at the bank & till that was done I should listen to no proposal whatsoever; when the pay was made wch should be done as soon as possible, & the debt at the bank clear'd off; then I would consider of any new proposal in regard to the workings & mine, & granting a new lease, but I shall not certainly review the old one; as the fire engine & other extensive articles are to be laid aside: at least If they mean only to try the mine to the west, wch I take to be their design. I expect a good deal of difficulty will arise, before all the parties will pay their respective proportions of the debts. It was agreed my dues should be pd off wth the mony they rec'd, so cash must be taken less at the Bank to make the next ensuing pay.

The Bishop of Durham applyed to me the other day, for any papers that I had that could give any account of the tradicional Story of the Dragon at Sockburn , & of the antient tennure of that manor: I happened to have two old letters that were wrote to my G:father by a Mr [blank space left] a Herald at arms answering several questions put to him, wch I sent to the Bishop: but he shall want the form of words used when the Bishop comes, into the Bishoprick, & is met upon the Bridge, & the <Falchion> is put into his hand; you was so obliging as to perform that correctly for me when the

Bishop came wch if you can remember the words, or have the form by you I should be much obliged to you if you would send it me as soon as you can; It seems all this is for Mr Tennant who is now busy I suppose in writing to the account of that part of the Bishoprick of Durham.

Bro. Harry is I hear come to Hampton Court I fancy we shall see him there in five days. The fine weather has left us & is succeeding by rain: american affairs seem to go on pretty well, was it not for people this side the waters they would go <...>, My Wife & Nancy join wth me for our Love & best Wishes to yself & my Sister & I am Dear Brother yrs most affectionately
E Blackett.

27 Apr 1775 Edward Blackett to John Erasmus Blackett

Thorpe Lee 27th Apr 1775

Dear Brother

We are now all dispers'd again; My Mother at Warwick, Bro. Will at Plymouth, Harry upon the road to you, My Son at Oxford, My Daughter in Town: & we here; we left Town on Monday last, & altho it was the 24th Aprl there, we found it the middle of June here; I rode out yesterday upon the heath, found it so hot I was glad to return again soon; This day too is very hot but wth more wind; Thermometer at 67. If we have not rain soon there will be no grass. The corn all looks very well; & saw them sowing yesterday wch I thought very late.. as to news there was none of consequence stirring when we left Town, there was a ship from North America wch brought nothing new, there is not the least dependance to be made upon anything that is said of the North American affairs in the newspapers; almost all of the letters inserted in the papers as from N. America are wrote here; they would have been quiet in that part of the world some time ago, had it not been for the account Docr Franklin sent from hence; & the encouragement they have rec'd from our own people here. I think we have behaved very imprudently in regard to Doc F. we should have got Him over at 1st; If money & promises could have done it: but I can't have that bad opinion of Ld H to imagine that he woud have permitted the Docr to return to N. A. whout having properly secured him our and indeed their friend; there are times when individuals must be bribed to do what they ought to do; no time in wch it was so necessary as the present; a £100,000 properly laid out in N. A. woud save us millions. The funds are rising a little wch I am very glad to see & I rec'd a letter for Harry wch I shall return to Mr Bates in a frank; I was sorry to hear of the loss of Miss M Douglass, she was a very good sort of woman, I suppose Sr Thos [wil]l have inherited most of what she had; Sr W Blackett seems to be perfectly well, he says he shall not leave Town till after the Parl[iament] is up, But I hardly imagine you will see much of him in the North this Summer; I think it seldom happens that Sr W B & we spend the same summer in the North. I saw Mr Ridley at Ranelagh a few days ago, he is very well, and I suppose will be wth you ere long. I am very glad you like the Situation my nieces are in so well; Everybody speaks well of it.

My Wife desires to join wth me in her Love & best Wishes to my Sister & yself I am
dear Bror yrs most affectionately
E Blackett

I never remember such plenty of nightingales we have them upon every tree.

10 Feb 1777 Edward Blackett to John Erasmus Blackett

Great Russell St Feby 10th 1777

Dear Brother

I came to Town this morning; I am sorry to tell you that I hear there is no hope of Sr
Walter Blackett recovery; I was at his house at three o clock, He sees nobody; Mrs
Darwin told me Sr John Pringle gave no hope this morning; Mr Darwin told me that he
had sent an Express to Sir John Trevelian; I told him I thought he should have sent one
likewise to Mr Trevelian, he sd he had consulted Sr Mattw Ridley and he thought there
was no occasion. I shall know what the Physicians think tonight. I am Dear Brother

yours most affectionately

E Blackett

I have just been at Mr Boswells, to acquaint them wth Sr Walter Blacketts Illness, as I
suspected that they knew nothing of it; they had not heard of it, & express'd themselves
much obliged to me; I told them if they had not been in Town I would have wrote to Sir
Thos Wentworth: for surely it is an attention that ought to be paid to him.

Ten o' clock Sr W is much the same

Sr J. T. is not come

11 Feb 1777 Edward Blackett to John Erasmus Blackett

Tuesday 3 o' clock

Dear Brother

I called at Sir Walter Blacketts this morning I am sorry to say that I found that the
Physicians had not the least hopes; Sr John Trevelian came whilst I was there; I asked
Mr Darwin if by my staying some days in Town I could be of any use whatever; he told
me none in the least; so I thought better to return to Thorpe Lee as my staying might
look as if I meant to interfere with Sr John T. If there was any Impropriety in not
sending an Express for Mr Trevelian; you must refer it intirely to Mr Darwin; who told
me there was no occasion; & that he had wrote to Mr Trevelian.

I am sorry to have had occasion to trouble you on this melancholy an occasion. I
saw Mr Ridley and Sr Mattw this morning & I am Dear Bror yrs most affec

E Blackett

14 Feb 1777 John Trevelyan to John Erasmus Blckett

[Note: NRO ZBL 232. Extract from a larger collection of letters from Trevelyan to JEB between 1777 and 1803]

Sir John Trevelyan

London Feby 14. 1777

With an Account of my valuable Friend Sir Walter Blckett's Death

London Feb: 14. 1777 Friday

Sir

This evening about ten o'clock, our friend Sir W. [William] Blckett made his exit; it came the more unexpected, as he was much better an hour or two before. Pray acquaint my Bror. with the above, the Recorder, Mr. <Mosely>, and his intimate friends.

I am Dear Sir Your friend & serv't

Jn. Trevelyan

20 Sep 1789 Edward Blckett to John Erasmus Blckett

[Note: the architect of Chertsey bridge referred to in this letter was James Paine, responsible for the design of many Northumberland houses, including Bywell, as well as Axwell Park, the home of the Claverings, as also mentioned in this letter. He died in France in 1789]

Thorp Lee 20 Sep 1789

Dear Brother

I told you in my last that I intended to trouble you to make some enquiries concerning the Gateside Quarry.

The Nature & Quality of the Stone, wth regard to

Its Hardness & Durability

If it can be recommended for building Bridges by bearing the incumbent weight

If it suffers much by the Frost

The expence per Fothr, Its carriage from the Quarry to the River

Its expence per Fothr, its carriage from the River to London

If a small specimen of the stone could be sent as a sample

These are the questions I was desired to ask; the reason is: we had a meeting about a fortnight ago to consider of the State of the bridge at Staines; wch is a wooden Bridge; It wants a good deal of repair at present; & indeed tho the annual expence of keeping it in repair is very great; in ten or a dozen years it will become bad; so the Trustees at the last meeting came to a resolution (with the consent of the Ld Chancellor, to whom we are to apply on all occasions, & w[ith]out who's consent we can do nothing of

consequence) to apply to Parlt for a Bill to increase the Toll of the Bridge wch is very low at present; & for power to raise about £12,000 by a <Petition>, the Interest of wch can be paid by the Toll. There is a very good stone bridge at Chertsey built about four years ago at the expence of the Two Counties, wch cost about £15,000; & where one Carriage goes over that Bridge, fifty go over Staines Bridge but that Bridge, as most County Bridges are was a job patronised by Ld Grantley, & undertaken by Payne, who was supposed to put two or three thousand pounds into his pocket. I hear somehow or other he is broke up, & gon abroad; our County can shew many handsome Inconvenient houses of his construction; I believe Sr Thos Claverings is the best.

Pray what stone was employ'd in the building of Newcastle Bridge?

Altho. I have troubled you wth so many questions, I dont think it can answer having the stone for our bridge from the Quarry at Gateside Fell; if there was any quarry very near the River perhaps it might; However I was desired by Mr Gandby who has already drawn two or three designs for a bridge to get the above questions answer'd.

I am very sorry to find that my niece does not get <grownd> faster; I hope this <lattest> bathing will have a quicker effect; the Faculty now recommends late bathing in the Season preferable to the early bathing; when they come into the South I hope we shall have the pleasure of seeing her here; This place is nearly in the way to Harrington; so when she comes to Town we can send the chaise to meet her.

I am very glad that any of the products of Matfen could prove agreeable & acceptable to you & your friends; If they wont offer themselves to us they make us amends by affording their fruits <...> our friends in our absence.

We are happy to hear that Sr Thos Clavering continues so well; when you see him be so good as to make all our Best comp[liment]s to him & L[ad]y Clavering & tell him we mean to play a few Rubbers wth him next Summer.

I can not think that Sr John Trevelyan pitch'd on the most eligiable time to make an expedition to France; however the recollection of a <Storm> may be more agreeable than the remembrance of fine weather. But altho the storm may be somewhat abated on the Continent I am apt to think that it will soon rage wth greater violence; The King, the nobility, the Clergy & the Parliament will never set down quietly & not take the oportunity to recover their loss, an army will be called in from some quarter or other; wch will open a more serious scene than has been exhibited yet.

Mrs P Stanley is got to Buxton, she bathed in some Salt Springs in her way there, to prepair her for the Buxton Baths, she means to finish wth Matlock.

The King is arrived at Windsor they say perfectly well; when People grow tired of seeing Him I will go & take a look. My Daughter & her children are well.

My Wife writes wth me her love & best wishes to you & yours & I am Dear Brother yrs most affectionately

E Blckett

9 Dec 1796 Edward Blckett to John Erasmus Blckett

Thorpe Lee 9th Decr 1796

Dear Brother

I Rec'd the favor of yours, I was very sorry to find that you was hurried away from an agreeable Set at Harrowgate, & just as you began to find that the waters agreed so well wth you, & you began to began to receive benefit from them. Mr & Mrs Ormsby are very good sort of People; she is a pleasant woman, & we lost exelent neighbours when they left us.

I am sorry my Bro. H does not take a greater liking to Newcastle; for if he will pass his Winters at Bolden; Newcastle would be an agreeable change now & then.

I find my Daughter does not mean to budge from Quarters this Winter, altho she finds no small difficulty in procuring a house in Newcastle; I should think that the house owners of Newcastle should be better pleased to let their houses at reasonable rates to those who come to defend them & their property; than be without them, & run the risk of having others come & take up free Quarters among them.

I have obey'd your directions & have desired Mr Cousts to buy as much Stock in the Consols in Capt. Cuthbert Collingwood of Morpeth's name as two thousand pounds will purchase; & to acquaint you when he had made the purchase. I must own for my part I was for a mortgage, or purchase of land as I have no great opinion of the Funds, The investing money in the Funds is I think like lending money to an extravagant Fellow, who's Estate is mortgaged to near its value, & who spends what he can get like a wanton spendthrift.

I am very sorry for poor Mrs Clavering's accident; the frost is now arrived, & has laid hold of us, & it is now a very hard frost indeed.

I hope you have heard a good account of Doc. Carlyle before this, he is a most valuable Member of Society. I am very glad that you have lately heard from Capt Collingwood that he was in good health; I fancy it will not be long before he is obliged to return home. Our Fleet will not be able to continue in those Seas, where there will not be a Port from whence they can draw provisions & other necessary Supplys. as to Corsica, when it was the opinion of Capt Collingwood that it must be given up, & that it was not worth keeping; the accounts from Sr Gilbert Elliot were that it was a place of great Importance to us, that it was perfectly safe, & in no hazard of being taken from us. I wish they had left him there for a reward for his good Intelligence.

I think the behaviour of Sr J Swinburne to Mr Brandling was very Illiberal, & I think the Duke of N could not be well pleased wth his representative.

I am very glad that Heathpool is likely to be so well advanced; I wish it could be advanced equall to <Coll: Sr P.> Estate; what a wonderful advance was that; hardly credible.

My Wife & my Son write wth me in their love & best wishes to yself & Mrs Collingwood & her little ones & I am Dear Brother yrs most faithfully

E Blakett

21 Dec 1796 Edward Blakett to John Erasmus Blakett

Thorpe Lee Decr 21st 1796

Dear Brother

We rec'd a letter from my Daughter this morning by wch we find that she wth her young folks set out from Tynemouth for this place last Sunday, & means to be here next Friday as the weather has not been bad for travellers, We hope & trust She will accomplish her journey according to he Intentions, & our wishes. She says in her letter that Capt Collingwood says that he expects to be att Portsmouth by Xmas, & that Mrs Collingwood means to set out for Portsmouth as soon as she hears that the Fleet is arrived there. I would desire that you let her know that my Wife & I think that she had much better come here; we shall be very happy to see her; & this place is in the direct road to Portsmouth & wthin fifty nine miles of it & I should think that Capt Collingwood would think it more convenient to come & meet you here than att Portsmouth; however that may be, he may come here, or you go to Portsmouth from here, any day that may be found convenient, we hope Mrs Collingwood will think of it; if it will prove convenient to her, it will much oblige us.

We are very glad to hear that Doc Carlyle is likely to do well again, It will rejoice his friends & all that know him.

I can say no more at present lest I lose this days post.

Our love & best wishes to yself Mrs Collingwood & her young folks & I am Dr
Brother most affectly
E Blckett

15 Mar 1797 John Erasmus Blckett to Edward Blckett

[Note: The naval victory referred to was the Battle of Cape St Vincent]

Newcastle 15th March 1797

Dear Brother

I hope that this may find Lady Blckett much better & that as the spring advances she may dayly recover from the effects of her fall.

Myself & Daughter are much obliged to you & Lady Blckett for your kind Congratulations on the late Victory gained over the Spanish Fleet, in which Capt. Collingwood had the good fortune to have a considerable share, and to escape unhurt, it happened at a very critical time, very fortunately for this Country; its probable that we may soon hear of another action, as the Spanish Fleet must endeavour to protect the Convoy that are expected from the Spanish settlements, & Sir J. Jervis's fleet will not let them pass quietly.

Genl Musgrave has been these three days past on an inspection of the Coast & has been fortunate in fine weather, I wrote to Mr W Trevelyan & Mr C Clavering who are well acquainted with that part of the coast to meet him, As Sir William Howe has quitted this District, we could not I believe have had a better man, nor one that would be more acceptable to the County than Genl Musgrave.

There was a County meeting at Durham on monday last, called by the High Sherriff, for the purpose of taking into consideration the Defence of the County when a Resolution was come to that an account should be taken of the number of Persons in each Parish capable of bearing arms that are willing to enrol themselves on an emergency to serve as infantry, Cavalry or Pioneers and that a Subscription be entered into for the purpose some other resolutions were likewise come to.

Col. Scott was so kind as to send us a view of the English & Spanish Fleets during the Action, he had it from a Capt of a Frigate who was present, we were much obliged to him for his attention; Mr Bates could not dispose of Col. Scott's Horses & they returned to Matfen, Major Atherton has since been enquiring about them, & he say'd that he would write to Col. Scott.

Our Banks are not yet fully opened in wch I think they judge very ill if they could possibly have done otherwise, as it has been a great inconvenience to the Country as well as the trade, & when they do open the Credit[or]s confidence in their notes will be much lessened. The temporary inconvenience that I mentioned in my last letter, I found after, would not be for more than £300 & that I can do without. I expect my Brother Harry tomorrow, as the days are lengthen'd he will probably stay dinner with us. My Daughter joins with me in Love & best wishes to Lady Blckett yourself & Mr Blckett

I am Dear Sir, Your most Affectionately
John E Blckett

I had a letter from Capt Collingwood by this days post dated Lagas 22d Feby he was very well & in a part of his letter says 'After I had driven the San Nicholas on board the San Joseph & left them on their <fire ceasing> to be taken possession of by some body behind, they fell on board my Good Friend the Commodore [Nelson] & as they had not surrendered he in his own little <active> person (for he cou'd almost go through an <Aldermans shrin bring>) at the head of his ships Company boarded them – and driving the Spaniards from Deck to Deck at the point of their swords & they at last both surrendered & the Commodore on the Quarter Deck of a Spanish first rate San Joseph received the swords of the officers of the two ships while a Johny one of the Sailors bundled them up with the same composure he wou'd have made a faggot & 22 sail of their line still within Gunshot we have had the Spanish Fleet off here to look at us since we came in, but I dare say they wou'd rather see us at a distance than near - The Spaniards always carry their Patron Saint to sea with them, I have given St Isidro a birth in my cabbin – the least I cou'd do for him after he had consign'd his Charge to me – it is a good Picture as you will see when he comes to Morpeth'

[addressed to:] Sir Edward Blckett / Thorp Lee/ Egham/ Surry

23 Sep 1798 John Erasmus Blckett to Edward Blckett

Newcastle 23d Sepr 1798

Dear Brother

Yesterday noon Col & Mrs Beaumont called on me for a few minutes (while they changd horses) in their way from Morpeth to Bywell; he gave me the enclosed letter which he desired that I would consider of & prepare an answer against wednesday when they are to be with me at the same time saying that Mr Errington was friendly to his Interest & that he would be sorry to disoblige him; I told him that what Mr Errington applied for, had been previously promised to you, & that I knew you expected it;

Mr Erringtons application is I think rather unhandsom, as he must know the use that it would be to you, & that you had made some application about it, I likewise think that Mr Tulip has not acted so open & handsom apart with you as you had good reason to expect from him; I enclose you Copy of such a letter as I would recommend Mr Beaumont to write to Mr Errington what alterations you may think necessary to be made in the letter, please to remark, & favor me with your answer & the inclosed by my servant.

The meeting at Morpeth proved better than was expected, several families came in, they <danced> 40 Couple the first night 30 the second, the ladies ordinary was well attended from 15 to 25 & Mrs Beaumont had 37 ladies & Gent. to tea on wednesday evening at my Daughters before the Ball. The weather today appears to be breaking up.

I am with Love & best wishes to Lady Blackett, yourself & fireside

Dear Brother Yours Most Affectionately

John E Blackett

The equinoctial Gales are coming on & I wish that Capn Collingwood was safe at home, it appears by the Papers that some ships are orderd out to join that fleet from which it is probable that he may be sent home - No news in the Papers of Nelsons fleet that can be depended on, but there is a strong probability that he has had an action with the French fleet & defeated them with some loss on his side & that Bonaparte made good his landing at Alexandria with little loss & was in possession of Grand Cairo, I dined with Genl Musgrave today & met Lord Mansfield a very handsome young Colonel & he seems to be a sensible well behaved Man.

I observe by Mr Bells rental that what Mr Errington terms Longage & Wall Fell Colliery is in the Rentall called St John Lee & St Oswald Collieries & rented solely by Henry Tulip at £36 p[er] an[num].

29 Sep 1798 John Erasmus Blackett to Edward Blackett

Newcastle 29th Sepr 1798

Dear Brother

I received your favour enclosing a letter for my brother Harry which I sealed & forwarded, Mr & Mrs Beaumont arrived at 12 o' clock on Wednesday & left in & about the same hour the day following; I got Mr & Mrs C Blackett & their daughter to meet them at Dinner on Wednesday.

Mr Beaumont answers Mr H Erringtons letter & refers him to me; I shall write him a letter to the purpose of that I enclosed you; at the same time acquainting him that to accommodate him Mr Beaumont is willing (with the consent of Sir Edward Blackett to whom a lease of both collieries was promised) to grant a Lease to him & Mr Tulip of Wall Fell Colliery. My Daughter & her little Girl has found great benefit from the Sea bathing which induces her to stay at Newbiggin a week longer notwithstanding the weather is broke up.

I understand from Mr Williamson that he intends waiting on you the 14th Octr. if business does not prevent me I will be with you the day following & come out in the Carlisle Coach.

I am with Love & best wishes to Lady Blackett, yourself & Mrs Blackett

Dear Brother Yrs most Affectly John E Blackett

18 Oct 1798 John Erasmus Blackett to Edward Blackett

Newcastle 18th Octr 1798

Dear Brother

I have had a letter from Mr Donkin in answer to that I wrote to Mr H Errington (a copy of which I enclose you) I have acquainted him that your obtaining a Lease of Longage Colliery is for your own convenience and not for the purpose of accomodating the Mr Tulips, nor any other persons as uncandidly has been represented to Mr Errington; this I hope will satisfie Mr Errington; I have for some time past thought that Mr Tulip had not been so open, fair & <explicit> with you in this matter as he ought to have been, & which you had so just a claim to expect from him, for he most certainly knew that it was your intention to apply for a Lease of that Colliery, & that you had taken steps towards it.

No news in the papers by this days post, but I there are letters from Liverpool with an account that Sir John B Warren had fallen in with the French fleet that two of their ships of War had struck to him & that he was engaging the rest when the ship left them; a Gentleman from Liverpool past through this town who corroborates this account with the addition of the whole fleet being captured; I wish that it may prove true. My Daughter unites with me in affectionate regards to Lady Blackett, yourself & fireside I am Dear Brother Your Most Affectionately

John E Blackett

Those named as Commissrs for the Sale of the Land Tax in this place have not received an answer to the letter we wrote.

As I know you are in want of Snuff & that good news will be acceptable to you, I send this by W Lorain the Corporation News Carrier who in the case of the late Sir Chas Lorain having no Sons would have inherited the Estate & title.

24 Oct 1798 John Erasmus Blakett to Edward Blakett

Newcastle 24th Octr 1798

Dear Brother

I yesterday received a letter from Mr Bell, a copy of which I enclose you for your consideration; as Mr H Errington & Mr Tulip know very well that you was desirous of having a lease of Longish Colliery mearly for your own convenience & that you had made application for that purpose, their interfering in the business is I think very unhandsom, & rather than you should succeed in obtaining a Lease Mr H Errington offers an advance of rent of £164 per an[num], but I am inclined to think that his Steward Mr Donkin & this Mr Robert Hodgson have got a lease of Mr H Erringtons Colliery which is their inducement for offering this advance supposing that Mr Tulip will decline being concerned at that rent. I am

Dear Brother Your most Affectionately

John E Blakett

The Lease of Longish & Wall Fell collieries expire 25th Decr next

Friday 26th Octr. I have had some conversations with Mr Bates respecting the offer made by Mr Donkin for Longish Colliery, he is much surprised at it & we are both of opinion that it is a most unhandsom proceeding in Mr Errington especially after he had said that

‘In case of Sir Edward Blacketts engaging & pursuing it for his own use Mr Errington would not scruple to wish him all manner of success’;

The Colliery even at the advanced rent would certainly be of more benefit to you than it can be to Mr Errington, for without it Fallofield Colliery must lay dead, but should you not consent to give this advanced rent I would on no account have you allow Mr Errington or any other person to have any benefit whatever from the Level in case of its being carried up.

This day is the worst & most gloomy we have had for a considerable time, which with the Fair will break up the roads. Horses sell at a very high price.

My Daughter & her little Girls are very well & she desires to be kindly remembered to Lady Blakett & yourself & Mr Blakett.

8 Nov 1798 John Erasmus Blakett to Edward Blakett

[Note: date torn, but assumed here to be 1798; there was other correspondence with Errington that autumn, regarding the Wall Fell Colliery lease, and in that year November 12th was on a Monday.]

Newcastle 8th No [missing]

Dear Brother

I was favoured with yours of the 4th inst. & desired that you will not think [of] going to another Inn, but accept of beds at my house [which] will be ready for you, it will not be attended with the least trouble to us; I meet the Lead Agents at Hexham on Monday the 12th inst & return home the next day at Noon; on Thursday the 15th Mr Collingwood of Chirton & I propose going to Harrogate. I have the Rheumatism in my head & stomach & was confined to the house yesterday, business obliges me to go out this morning but I shall decline going to the Anniversary Meeting of the <Recorders> Club this day. Inclosed is a letter that I received yesterday from Mr H Errington.

My Daughter joins with me in Love & best wishes to Lady Blackett, yourself & Mr Blackett, I am Dear Brother Yours very Affectionately
John E Blackett

What dreadful weather and little prospect of its amendment

19 Jan 1800 Edward Blackett to John Erasmus Blackett

Thorpe Lee Jan 19 1800

Dear Brother

Every one has paid tribute to the late very sever weather; we have had our colds & coughs here, I hear the same from Bath, where my Son is att present, & likewise from Town; I am very glad to hear that your young folks have escaped them, we have no right to expect it.

We were in hopes of seeing Admiral Collingwood & Mrs Collingwood here, & if the Admiral's Ship had been order'd to Portsmouth instead of Plymouth, we should have had that pleasure; But I am affraid those hopes are blown over, as the A will probably soon be order'd to join our Fleet off Brest. I believe most people on each side of the Water are heartily tired of the War & think there has been blood & treasure enough expended, in increasing the calamity of Mankind; & when the War is over, we probably shall find that it would have been better, & easier settled for all Parties, at the 1st flush of the business than it will be hereafter; I have no doubt if the danger; difficulties & expence of the war; had fell equally on those who promoted it; but we should have had a Peace long since. Whether the late offers of Bonaparte was according to the exact Etiquette I cant pretend to say, but I am sure they open a door that an able & willing Minister might find a way thro, to obtain an honorable Peace.

I was much concerned to see by the Newcastle Papers, of the great loss of Shiping & indeed wch is of more consequence, of the Crews, on the N. Eastern coasts; Sr H

Vincent had a narrow Escape, the vessel he was on board, was the last wch got safe to the Continent before violent Storms.

We were much obliged to you for Supplying Mr Bates with some Rye; everything that can be done for the Poor, is now doing thro:out the Kingdom; except by some few, who ought to do the most, Soup is giving away here, which most of our Poor do not like so well, as a distribution of Money, which they can carry to Ale House, or the Gin Shop.

Col & Mrs Beaumont may stay or go where they please, They will not be much esteemed any where; the Folly of one, & the basity of the other will always mislead them; they lose the advantage of an opulent fortune & will not stoop to pick up, the Credit & Respect, wch is generally offer'd to those who possess such affluence.

Mr Scott still continues Athlone, Disciplining the different Corps wch are sent to him, as soon as one body of troops are brought into good discipline they are sent off, & another Body, but of raw men, are sent to replace them, to be brought into as good discipline as those which they succeeded; so I fancy he has a disagreeable time enough of it, & I hope & trust that Ld Cornwallis will see that something handsome is done for him; was it not for Ld Cornwallis; I dare say he would get nothing but his trouble for his Pains.

My Wife writes wth me in her Love & best wishes, wth those of the late season to yself, Mrs Collingwood & her young Folks & I am Dr Bror yours Most faithfully

E Blackett

All friends att Thorpe desire to be remember'd to you

29 Sep 1801 John Erasmus Blackett to Edward Blackett

Ryhope 29th Sepr 1801

Dear Brother

I hope this may find you & Lady Blackett perfectly well after your return from Worthing, that you enjoyed the fine Weather on the Pleasant Coast, & left Mr & Mrs Blackett very well, that they are very Happy in each other I have not the least doubt, & that you both are equally so in your Daughter, who every one speaks highly of, my Daughter Stead is quite delighted with her; I fear that my Daughter Collingwood will not have the Pleasure of waiting on Mrs Blackett before her return to the North; her Husbands short stay & confinement at Portsmouth detains her there till his departure, at which time the lateness of the Season will hasten her home & possibly prevent her paying her respects to Lady Blackett & you, should you not be returned to Thorp Lee; her Daughter Sarah is gone with her Aunt to Wadley, a more agreeable place for her than Portsmouth, after having seen her Father & I imagine in the course of a week or ten days that he will rejoin the Channel Fleet & possibly remain on that station the greatest part of the Winter. I came with my Grand Daughter to this place on the 22d that she may have a few dips in the Sea before Winter, I am satisfied with dry bathing

but I enjoy the Sea air & the Walks about this place which are very pleasant, the Village is three miles south of Sunderland, very neat & clean, the roads good, the House an excellent one, it belonged to a Mr Carr who the late Dr Hall of Newcastle ruined in Mining & the Hotel very well conducted, by very civil People, & we are fortunate in meeting some very Pleasant Agreeable People, Doctor & Mrs Prosser Bart of Gateshead her Sister, Miss Wigg, & two Miss Davidsons from Nottingham & we have a party at Whist every evening & spend our time very pleasantly, Sir Ralph Millbanks resides at Seaham two miles from hence where I dine on thursday with Doctor & Mrs Prosser; Sir Ralph is unpleasantly circumstanced at present by Mr Burdons declaration of withdrawing himself from Parliament, as he may possibly be drawn into a Contest, but I do not apprehend that it will be the case, for altho Sir H. Vane Tempest is not Popular in the County & that he should come in for the County & his Brother in law & Mrs Taylor for the City does not go well down; but it does not appear that there is anyone likely to oppose Sir H. V. Tempest; Lord Eldons Son has been named, but it is likely that his Father would support him in an expensive Contest, when he is scarce known in the County; Sir J Eden or Sir Thomas Liddle might have come in without any Contest, Sir H.V. Tempest would not have opposed either of them, but they both declined it, I am rather surprised at the latter, as its said that he has Views to the County hereafter; he certainly might come in without opposition & in case of his supporting Ministry it is far from being improbable that he might succeed to the Title of his Great Uncle Ld Ravensworth.

It is said that Mr Burdon having given his support to Mr Russell at the late Election for the City of Durham contrary to his promise of standing Mentor, had caused the Gentlemen of the other Party to unite against him, & thou they might not have have thrown him out, they would have caused him considerable expense; this, with his inclination for a more quiet retired life is said to have induced him to retire from Parliament; he is a man of business & attended to his duty & I think that the County will not exchange for the better.

About a fortnight ago I spent a couple of days with the Beaumonts at Hexham Abbey, their little Boy was recovering fast & I imagine that if they have not already left the Abbey for Bretton that they are about it; I went with Mrs Beaumont one morn[in]g to Matfen, she walked about the Gardens & seem'd much pleased with the place which look'd very well indeed, my Brother Harry & self are much obliged to Lady Blakett & you for some very fine fruit, I would have sent some to Mr & Mrs Williamson had they been in Newcastle & when Dobson sent some for them they were so far gone I br<ought> in the Carriage that they could not be used.

My Brother Harry has had a bowelly complaint <wch> been very prevalent, but he thought that his was some thing <Gouty>, he is now much better, we shall sleep with him on friday & return home the next morning as I am obliged to be at the Election of the new Mayor on the Monday following, Wednesday 30th. This morning was very Pleasant by the Seaside the wind had come about to the NW & I counted at one time above 100 Vessels going to the Southward, the Weather changed at noon to rain with a fog & I fear that we may now take leave of the fine weather.

Mary <Patience> desires to write with me in Love & best wishes to Lady Blackett & yourself & I am Dear Brother Yours Most Affectionately
John E Blackett

I hope that you may find Mrs Scott & family very well, our affectionate regards to them

28 Feb 1803 Edward Blackett to John Erasmus Blackett

[Note: Sir Edward's handwriting appears much more frail than in earlier letters]

Thorpe Lee 28th Febr 1803

Dear Brother

I rec'd yr favor of the 22nd Inst. But I was sorry to find that you gave but a poor account of yrself. The next day I rec'd a letter from My Bro. H who says, that he saw you a few days ago, that you look'd extreamly well, & that you thought to be one of the best looking Gentlemen in the Kingdom of your Age, & a credit to the Family, as well as, to the Corporation you belong to. So it ill becomes you, who never speak ill of others, to speak ill of yrself: Perhaps it may be thought a little Extraordinary that two Gentlemen who are reputed to have no small share of medical knowledge, & who long have been great Practitioners both on themselves & others should so widely difer in opinions, but in all ages it has been said; that Doctors defer.

I am very sorry to find by your Letter, & also by Mrs Steads, that Mr Stead & Mr <Isard> are likely to be so great Suffering by the Villany & Rascality of Messrs Bird & Savage; Some of those agents are great Rogues, & acquire great Fortunes; Mr Blake an acquaintance of mine, supposed to have by much the greatest property of any person in Carolina, transacts all his own business & wont trust any Agents. However I shall be very ready to Join My Bro in accomaditing Mr Stead, & consenting to his disposal of Ryal; but att the same time, your Daughters Jointure must be secured to her. Perhaps Mr & Mrs Stead may soon be in want of some cash, till their next Remittances arrive, we shall be ready to advance them a thousand pounds whenever they please, I think you judged right in consulting Mr Williamson about it; He is a Safe, Sensible, liberal minded Man, & a more proper Spoken Person can not be Employ'd.

My Son & Daughter are now wth us, But leave us tomorrow for Town; Their little Boy is realy a fine child & very well; But I don't think he will change for the better; by changing this place for Harley St. My Daughter Scott too wh her young Folks leave Thorpe for Brighton, friday next, on Sunday they set sail for the Continent; neither do I think they will better themselves, by change of Place. Our Love & best wishes attend you, the Admiral & Mrs Collingwood, & My Bro. & I am yrs most faithfully

E Blackett

(turn over)

after you are well informed of the full value of Ryal; I think you should offer it 1st to Mrs Beaumont, it joins on the Estate that will come to her family, & she ought to give a very good price for it, or should it not be put up for auction?

20 Apr 1803 John Erasmus Blckett to Edward Blckett

Newcastle 20th April 1803

Dear Brother

I went to Morpeth soon after I wrote to you & spent a week there very agreeably with the Admiral & my Daughter, the weather was very fine, too much so for the season, we were out most of the day till drove into the house by the heat, the Admiral <...ssing> with his ax & spade & all of us employed, there was a great change in the weather on Saturday, since which it has been severely cold with high winds at W & SW & frequent heavy showers of hail & frost at night which has already done infinite harm to the Gardens, cut of the blossoms & even the <..> berrys are destroyed; I intended staying a few longer but was called away by the illness of my Brother Harry who I found on tuesday evening very much indisposed indeed with the influenza, his incessant cough distracted his head, which with a sickness, want of rest, & apetite, almost wore him out; I found him very low, & reduced, but his cough something abated, & he had two much better nights than he had for some time before; I took an airing with him in the Chaise yesterday noon which did him good, & Mr Ingham called upon him in the afternoon & sent him some thing to relieve the cough, the Blister on his back had answered very well, the opiates that he had taken had bound him too much & made it necessary for some opening medicine & he was about applying a warm Plaster to his breast by the advice of Mr Ingham; he is much shook with this complaint; & it will I fear be some little time before he is quite free from the cough & his rest & apetite was improving, on the whole I left him much better this morning & I hope & that you may soon have a better account from himself.

My Grand Daughters have not received that improvement from the School or this place that their Parents expected, so they are taken from it, & are at present at home under the instruction of their Fathers Mother untill such time as they can meet with well qualified proper Person well recommended as a Governess for them which they are inquiring about, & is attended with some difficulty. Some inquiries have been made about Mr Steads Ryal estate, but no offers are yet made. A fortnight ago Thos Bates your tenant at Halton being at the Morpeth market dined at Admiral Collingwoods & produced a Ring which I understand was found on removing some Stones at the part where it is supposed there had been a Roman Encampment near Halton, which (as the Admiral at that time dayly expected to be called to Town) T. Bates requested that he would take with him to be delivered to you, it was then almost covered with the earth & not known to be Gold till he brought it to Morpeth. I cleaned it with soap & water & a tooth brush, it is in very good Preservation the workmanship creditable to an artist of the present time, the weight 8 pennyweight to 15 Gras. a small blue stone with the

impression of a Man I think in the Consular Robe if intended for a Ring is for a very small finger possibly for the Empress Fostina [Faustina], it is certainly a very great curiosity & had your Friend Owen Brereton being living he would have gone many miles for the sight of it; I delayed acquainting you with it in expectation of seeing T. Bates that I might have informed you precisely of the place & manner of finding it, you will please to let me know if I am to keep it till you or Mrs Blackett come down, or to send it by the first safe hand to the care of Mr <Co....> <Barker>, at present it is not likely that Admiral Collingwood will have a call & it is to be hoped the matters in dispute may soon be settled.

I am with Love & best wishes to Lady Blackett & yourself, Dear Brother Yours
most Affectionately
John E Blackett

I shall be happy to hear that Mrs Scott & her family are returned in health to this Country

26 Jul 1803 John Erasmus Blackett to Edward Blackett

Morpeth 26th July 1803

Dear Brother

Your letter of the 4th inst pased mine of the 3d on the road (wch has frequently been the case with our letters; I should sooner have replied to it had not this distressing business of the Stop of the Bank of Surtees & Burdon with the consequencies attending it engaged my whole time for some days. I am not personally affected by it materially but the Beaumonts are to a considerable degree, having at the present time a sum locked up as I may say by this event amounting to upwards of £80,000 – and in the end must be considerable sufferers; notwithstanding which I have placed in the Bank of Sir Wm Loraine Baker, Pearson & Co upwards of £10,000 .. for the carrying of their Lead Concerns, & provided for the future; It is a great satisfaction to me that I had not only warned the Beaumonts against having so very large a sum in the Bank of Surtees & Burdon, but I disapproved of the very extensive speculations of the Surtees's who are connected in trade with Easterby & the Halls, and the means which they used by buying up a very large quantity of Lead to raise the price to a degree which I was confident the trade could not long support, the event has shown it to have been the case, & the B[eaumont]s when too late are now sensible of it, Mr Burdon brought down with him from Town an able Accountant who has been busseyly employed arranging their affairs, which at present is laid before a set of Gent[leme]n who have undertaken to go through the same & to communicate the result to the Publick.

Mr Burdon is really to be pittied, (although he has often been warned of the fatal event) for he had no Concern in the extensive Speculations in Lead & Mines, Iron Works & yet by his Connection with the Surtees's in the Bank he ultimately subjected himself & his estate to the deficiencing, as well as to the several extents which have

been granted for the Government money; he told me that his Father had originally brought a sum of money to that Bank which with the Profits for 35 years & that of the Berwick Bank he expected to be about £60,000 would be all sunk, exclusive of a part of his own property this certainly is a hard loss.

This very unpleasant business has so far engaged my attention & distressed my mind, that I found it necessary for a little ease & quit [sic], to come to my daughter (who wanted my advice) for a few days & shall return the 29th. Mr & Mrs Blackett came to me in Charlotte Square on Friday to Dinner, I was very much pleased with my Neice, she answers the character & description that you gave of her, she & Mr Blackett favours us with their Company the Assise week, my Daughter meets her & makes her a visit at Matfen the week after & hopes for the pleasure of their Company at Morpeth when convenient to them. The detention of Coll Scott & his Family in Franc[e] is certainly a very unfortunate circumstance particularly at this time, but it is very happy that they have so far met with so Civil treatment, I fear that he will not be permitted to come over on his Parole. We are concerned to find that Lady Blackett's complaint in her leg confines her, & prevents her using exercise at present, & us the Pleasure of seeing you both down in the North this summer; from Mr P Stanley's letter to Mr Blackett I was apprehensive that Mr Pope had not treated this case properly, & before I left home I took the liberty of consulting Mr Ingham in whom I have a very high opinion from a similar case of Sir J Trevelyans in exactly the like quartr who had been badly treated in Town & he perfectly <...> Mr Ingham told me that the warm Poultices & <fo...> were certainly very proper to reduce the inflam[ation] & to remove the Core & to give her ease, but that it <...> require a little time & to heal the part, that it is necessary it was to be kept perfectly quiet & at rest, I ask your pardon for taking this step, which I hope that you & Lady Blackett will excuse, Mr Ingham desires his best respects.

I delivered to Mr Blacketts charge the Norman Ring of the Empress Sabina with my account of it.

The Publick Affairs have certainly a most alarming aspect at the present time when all of the Kingdom are called to Arms; you & I have had our share in 1745 and for three years after from 1759 so that younger men must stand forth & take their share at this alarming crises.

My Daughter & her Girls write with me in Love & best wishes to Lady Blackett & yourself.

I am My Dear Sir Yours very Affectionately
John E Blackett

Our last letter from Admiral Collingwood was dated the 10th inst. he was then laying off the Black Rock at the entrance of Brest Harbour with three Ships of the line & two Frigates, narrowly watching the Motions of the French. He says 'as it requires alertness to keep our eyes open at all times I have bid adieu to snug beds & comfortable knaps at night only lying down with my cloths on'; he is in good health but rather fatigued.

[addressed to:] Sir Edward Blackett Bart/ Thorpe Lee/ Egham/ Surrey

Single sheet

4 Sep 1803 **John Erasmus Blakett to Edward Blakett**

Newbiggin 4th Sepr 1803

Dear Brother

I am much obliged to you for your kind letter of the 21st ult. & we were happy to hear that Lady Blakett was so much better. As the weather of late has been cooler I hope that she has benifited by going out a little in the Carriage. Brother Harry & I spent a few days at Matfen very agreeably, the weather was very pleasant and the Place & Country about it looked vastly well; We were kindly entertained & the more we are acquainted with our Niece the more she must be <esteemed>, my Daughter Collingwood being advised by Mr Ingham to Sea bathing was obliged to postpone her visit, but about the end of this month she hopes for that Pleasure, & it is probable that my Brother Harry & myself may make them another visit. The death of Lady Fran. Percy has prevented Mr & Mrs Blakett making a Visit at Alnwick Castle at present but they intend it as soon as the Duke & Duchess see Company: the Young Lady death was owing to Water in the head, for which there is no remedy. I had a couple of teeth drawn the other day which had tormented me much & owing to a small artery being opened it bled very much for several hours & occasioned a violent swelled face which with the loss of blood relaxed me a good deal & Ingham recommended the Sea air, on tuesday when the swelling had subsided. I came down to my Daughter at this place who I had the pleasure of finding with her two little Girls going on very well with their bathing. I shall return home on Wednesday; the weather has been very favourable for the Parties at the Sea side, as well as for the Harvest which is in great forwardness in this Country. I was glad to hear from my Daughter Stead the favourable account which Mr Isard gives of Mrs Scott & her family of their health & quiet, but as to the Colonels obtaining to come over on his Parole I fear there is little Prospect of it. I observe that you have had Miss Delhair for a Correspondent lately. I am glad that you did refer her to me, I believe that I offended her & her Father for not taking up their cause against the Beaumonts which I excused myself from doing. Mrs Beaumont & her family are at Worthing in Sussex the Colonel is at present in Yorkshire attending the several Voluntier Hustings & I expect him in Newcastle next week, he very foolishly made an offer to the Duke of York at the beginning of the armiment which no notice has been taken of until the other day when no men can be got; I have not heard the nature of his offer, but I think that the treatment he met with about his late Regiment would have been a sufficient lesson to him, no men can be got in this Country at present for the Army of Reserve under £40 at least, & Mr H Tulip told me this morning that 52 Guins each was given to two men at Hexham last week. The Conduct of Government respecting the Volunteer offers has been very extraordinary, a short time ago they exhorted the Country to Arm, & no sooner had that <.....> taken place, than they endeavour to think it as much as possible by refusing the offers made in different parts

of the Country & curtailing others, which gives great dissatisfaction; Sir John Swinburn had a number of his tenants & neighbours trained & having taken abundance of pains, his offer has not been accepted of, it has likewise been the case with Mr Brandling at Newcastle & I believe with Lord Strathmore, this has thrown a damp on the Spirits of the People; a Corps of Volunteers at Hexham & other inland Towns have been accepted of, whilst others on the Sea Coast have not: the Force in these parts at present is very small; two Militia Regts & few hundred of the Army of Reserve just raised & three Troops of Dragoons, very few Artillery of any kind. It is thought that the Duke of Northumberland will make some stay in the North in which Case Mr & Mrs Blckett will make their visit at Alnwick Castle; & its probable that I may go with them.

My daughter Collingwood writes with me in Love & best Wishes to Lady Blckett & yourself & I am Dear Brother Yours Most Affectiony

John E Blckett

We beg to be kindly remembered to Mrs P Stanley

My Daughter had a letter two days ago from the Admiral dated the 22d ult. when he remained in the same fatiguing & perilous station of the mouth of Brest Harbour, but he was in good health. The Bank of Surtees, Burdon & Co have not yet taken up their Notes nor will they I expect for some time, as to their other concerns, I don't know when they will be settled, Mrs Beaumont is very angry with Mr Burdon & indeed with some reason, he writes to her that he hopes in a short time to give them Securities for the greater part of their debt, it is Money they want to carry forward their Mining concerns &c

23 Jan 1804 William Blckett to John Erasmus Blckett

[Note: Sir Edward Blckett died 3rd February 1804. General Scott going to Verdun indicates he was one of many sent to the Verdun fortress as an English prisoner-of-War]

Thorpe Lee Jany 23 1804

My Dear Sir

I should have answered your kind letter before but was in hopes to have given you a better account of my Father by waiting some days, I am sorry to say that I fear there is now very little hopes, he is growing weaker every day, & in the state he is now it would be a happy release for him when it pleases God to take him from this world. He has for some days been quite insensible, but this morn is more collected than he was yesterday, but is too weak to be taken out of bed & put into a great Chair which has frequently been done of late, his back is now very bad, but the bottom of the back, there is a large hole the size of an egg which increases every day, & is very deep, & they say the Mortification shall probably spread there, & the <Bark> which he now takes again has lost its effect he has taken it so long in such large quantities, it is really a very

shocking situation to be in & very distressing for us all to see him suffer so much, every thing has been done for him that can be done, but nature seems now to be quite exhausted & the food he now takes is very trifling, nothing but liquids; am very glad to find my Mother is better than we could expect & seems to be quite aware of the danger he is in, Mrs Chiswick will I hope be here in a few days, & will we hope when the events take place take my Mother with her to Debden & keep her there for some time; My Father has never once Mentioned where he would wish to be sent, but conclude to Ripon & he probably mentions it in his will which he made about ten or twenty years ago & who the Executors are I don't know; but rather think my Uncle Harry is one. We had a letter yesterday from General Scott from Verdun where he is sent with many English, my Sister & family stay at Versailles, he says he is very well treated there & about a dozen of them mess together & he passes his time tolerably well; My Sisters situation is I think very unpleasant as she has no one to protect her, & her two English Men Servants are sent with the General to Verdun. I have written letters to them with an account of my poor Fathers illness, but when the General wrote which was the 26th of December they had not received any of them, therefore the shock to my Sister will be very great when she hears the account of his dangerous State. In my Uncle Harry's last letter he says if he is well enough he will set out for this place the beginning of Feby but in the present state of things think it impossible my Father can last all that time. All here join me in affect[ionate] regards to yourself Mrs Collingwood & family & I remain
Dr Sir your very affectionately
W Blackett

[Annotated in JEB's hand on envelope:] William Blackett Esq. 23 Jan 1804

9 Feb 1804 William Blackett to John Erasmus Blackett

Thorpe Lee Feby 9th 1804

My Dear Sir

I wrote to you a very short letter some days ago with an account of the Melancholy event which took place here on Friday last; we have now settled every thing with regard to the Funeral, I sent for a man from Town who is much in that way of business & it is to set out from hence for Ripon on Saturday Morn. Early; I have written to the Dean who will be kind enough to order preparation to be made there; The Coachmen & the Butler will go from hence with it, & Mr Bates will be at Ripon a day or two before they arrive they propose travelling about thirty miles a day, there will be six horses to each carriage & eight men on horseback but the undertaker goes down himself with it I hope everything will be well conducted as I should wish to pay every proper respect to the memory of so worthy a good man, & I hope my Uncle Harry will be kind enough to let me know what is proper to be put upon the Monument, which by & by maybe made at York; The contents of the Will I dare say as much surprise you as <they do> us; <I ...> had not been so often assured by my Father himself that the estate would come to us at

his death I should not have been so much hurt; I fear my Wife's family will have reason to be much displeas'd as when he <... ...> my Father frequently told Mr Keane that we should <have> an Income of near ten thousand a year at his death, whereas <now we are> left quite <dependant> upon my Mother, with only five & twenty hundred a year, the Yorkshire & Durham estate, out of which in <six> Months I must raise five thousand pounds to pay part of my Sisters fortune, my Mother says on account of her Daughter <Nancy> she cannot give up the estate to me as she thinks she should have been left much more therefore she will live here on a <crust & scrape every thing> for Mrs Scott; My Mother who is perfectly well may live this ten years; & I am now at that time of life I should wish to enjoy the estate, ten years hence my plans of life will be formed, I shall probably take a small place in the South, & the North which we have looked forward to with much pleasure & which my Wife is particularly fond of will be deserted <she may> not then like to move, If my Uncle Harry was to write to my Mother, it might perhaps bring her to reason, I shall never ask her for any thing, it is a subject I cannot mention to her, & indeed she has behaved so very ill to my Wife since we have been here that I shall be very glad to get out of the house; Since we have been here which is more than three Months she has never once mentioned or once enquired after our dear little boy & never once thanked my Wife for coming up night & day to my poor Father, however we have nothing to reproach ourselves, & we have very great satisfaction in thinking that we contributed much to the comfort of his latter days, he was continually sending for my Wife & he kept her for hours together by his bedside talking to her, when <from> his Situation poor man it was at that time very unpleasant. My Mother says she wishes to see none but Mrs Scott & she intends sending money over for her to come if possible, she says when she is at Thorpe she can consult her upon all occasions & she told us her being there would keep other people from this house; so that when we go on Monday we cannot come here again <with haste>. We found a copy of the Will the drawer of my Fathers writing table where he kept his pens & paper which was unsealed rather dirty & <seemed to have been often looked at.

I am very sorry to give you so much trouble about these affairs but I cannot help being much vexed & hurt; we have now been here more than three months & have hardly been out of the House & <now receive no> thanks for it; Mr Chiswell came here yesterday and will probably stay a couple of months; Mary Anne says she never quitted this place without regret before, my poor Father was always so kind to her & was always so glad to see her. You will be kind enough in future to direct to <Harley St>; & Mary Anne joins with me in kind love to Mrs Collingwood whose letter received this morn - & believe me Dear Sir from your very Affect. nephew

W Blckett

1 Dec 1804 Sir William Blckett to John Erasmus Blckett

[Note: original damaged in places. Undated, but annotated later '04'. Context suggests it came before the letter annotated Dec 04 as it appears to refer to an earlier stage in Blackett's interest in buying the Ryal estate.]

My Dear Sir

<While> all here very sorry to find you had been so very ill, hope you have consulted Mr Ingham & this change of weather for the better will I'm <..> no doubt be of service to you, <we were> very apprehensive that you got cold in going from hence so very early in the morning without breakfast, Mr Thomas whom I like very much brings me your letter he seems to be a very clever understanding man <..> much to the purpose. I could not prevail with him either to dine or take a bed here he went from hence to Halton to look at Tom Bates farm <...> which <...> made there, & I hope he will convince him that he has a most excellent farm & would be most comfortably settled he would but be satisfied <..> intended with what he has, but I believe his Mother puts these things into his head & persuades him to get all he can & make the best bargain before he leaves the Country.

Mr Thomas said he should prefer going <..> to Fallowfield in the Spring in May or June when he should be better able <...> his opinion upon the Farm he seem'd much surprised at the present rent, the <skill likewise> that great <part> of Tom Bates Farm was worth forty shillings <an acre>, and yet this young man pretends to be much displeas'd & dissatisfied with his Farm.

I wrote a few days ago to Mr & Mrs Bates the[y] sent me word that Mr Bates Farm at Ryal the term expires at old May day 1805 the[y] cannot hold it any longer than the Term agreed for. Therefore it may be rented at the expiration of this Term. I have no sort of objection to Mr Pearson being the Attorney, & am much obliged to Mr Williamson for his kind offer of looking over the title for me. I conclude you will hear from Mr Stead on the subject, he is or was in Town <w...> last time. We propose setting out from hence on Thursday Morn next & hope to get to Darlington to sleep, we shall I hope have frosty weather for the Journey; I shall leave all the Party in Cambridge<shire> & go th<en> directly to Town as I rec'd a letter from the landlord Col Parker to say we must turn out of his home as it is to be sold the 1st of Feby; I fully expected he should have had it for six months longer. I shall loose no time in getting another house, as we have no time to spare, the trouble of moving at this time is very unpleasant. I have inclosed you Mr Williamsons letter as <promised> with many thanks to him.

Hope this will find you much better, Mary Anne & Miss <H> desire to join me in kind love to yourself, Mrs Collingwood etc believe me Dear Sir yours very Affectionately

Wm Blackett

Matfen Saturday <Eve.g>

I <was at> Wallington this Morn. :Mrs T has gone over to Newcastle, they stay quietly there all the winter.

15 Dec 1804 William Blckett to John Erasmus Blckett

[Note: undated but annotated 'Dec 04' in a later hand. Given a date of mid-December here]

My Dear Sir

Since I wrote to you I have this morn recd a letter from Mr Stead: the purchase of Ryal is now concluded; I am to give him £20,000 for it £10,000 of which to be paid next May & the other £10,000 the May following & pay any interest for the latter sum. I should be glad to know if Mr Bates tenant for the South Farm has had notice to quit at next May, if he has not had notice he will stay another year at the same rent at six months notice <. be> necessary.

I will be glad if you would have the goodness to ask Mr Williamson if any paper is to be drawn up for me to sign & he can do it <....>. I should be glad if he would look over the Title Deeds of the Estate – My reason for purchasing Ryal is, it will add to this estate for my eldest Son, & as <he hall> prospect of another he will have the Yorkshire & Durham Estates.

Mr Coutts has been very <kind> <Hands> me great part of the money or I should not have been able to have made the purchase.

We think of setting out on Wednesday or Thursday in next week. All here join me in kind love to yourself, Mrs Collingwood etc.

believe me yours very affectly

Wm Blckett

Tuesday Morn.

7 Jan 1807 William Blckett to John Erasmus Blckett

My Dear Sir

Many happy returns of this season to yourself Lady Collingwood & Family which has been the mildest I ever remember till within these few days we have had roses showing in the open ground. We have only just covered the Myrtles which were full of buds & would have <flown> if the frost had not come on which has been rather sharp for these three days – little Patience is out every day in the Garden & grows very much; Edward is so great a favourite at <Westoe> with his uncles & aunts that they cannot part with him yet. It is to long since I have heard from Mr Bates & I have written him several letters that I fear he is unwell: I sent a Lease down a little time ago by the Coach; which you will have the goodness to give to any of the farmers who may come to Market and they will forward it to him. I hope you have got quit of your

Rhumatism, Exercise & warm clothing is I believe the best remedy. I heard of the Steads the other day from our Neighbours the <Izards>they say <Crowfield> is so <wet> in winter & the roads so very bad that they cannot go much out, & <... tis> a very gay neighbourhood, whoever takes a place in the Country should look at it in the midst of winter, <even> this which is so dry a Country, has been very wet this winter. I hope the report of the recapture of Buenos Ayres is not true, but the reinforcement were so long detained after they had embarked that many people are apprehensive of it & the present ministry seem to be very slow in their operations very undecided, Ld Collingwood is right in <detaining> Sir J Duckworth at the Spaniards may probably make an effort to come out. I fear you have not been able to persuade my uncle Harry to come over often to Newcastle, I wish we had him here with us. Mr <Hughton> & Mr Grant is very pleasant this house full of young people who are very musical. Mr Bates has found out an assistant whom he wishes to take, he is Son to Ridley one of our Tenants in the west, I had rather he had come from the North parts of the County, & I fear he will be too young & the labourers at Matfen will <not> think him, I am to give him forty pounds a year & a house, an older person who has had more experience & from a distance I should have liked much better, but Mr Bates seems to have a partiality for this Ridley. I hear Mrs Beaumont says no one can live like a Gentleman under six & thirty thousand a year, she told Ld Tankerville Son in conversation a little time ago; this young one which is coming is probably a mixed Breed perhaps a cross with <M.P. Andrews.>

Mary Anne joins with me in kind love to yourself & Lady Collingwood & young people wishing you all many happy New Years believe me Dear Sir very affectionately yours

Wm Blakett

Thorpe Lee Jany 7th 1807

John Eras. Blakett Esq. Newcastle on Tyne

11 Apr 1807 William Blakett to John Erasmus Blakett

Cumberland Place Saturday
April 11th 1807

My Dear Sir

Your letter which I rec'd this morning has indeed given us very great concern; at my uncles advanced age so very severe an illness must reduce him very much & I greatly fear if he gets over this attack it will be long before he recovers his strength again, however we hope as he is rather better, that this mild heat here will be of service to him, & that we may all meet again this Spring in the north, very few people here have escaped a violent cold attended with a <Boweley> complaint, & it has been fatal to many young people, thank god we have been tolerably well; Mary Anne has had a bad

cold for some time, but is much better, & the wind being now got to the west we may hope for some mild warm weather. I think you are right on not returning in <Wm> Scotts Gig he has not yet had sufficient practise to make an experienced <Ship>, & those high Gigs are easily upset on hard roads, he is certainly much improved & seems to be a steady young man; I wish his Father <could go home>, but I fear there is no chance of it til a peace takes place & that if Austria does not now come forward is I fear far distant. Ld Collingwood is am sure welcome to any Trees we have at Matfen & I desire you will send to the Gardiner for any thing of that sort you may want from thence; the late Gardiner was so idle a fellow that our stock of young trees may now be rather short, but we shall have plenty soon & I have a very good opinion of the new Gardiner he is very industrious, & a hard working man & I hope will get the plantations & Garden in good order. Mary Anne intended writing to Lady Collingwood by this post but as she must now be much engaged by the illness of Miss Collingwood she will defer it for a few days. We hope soon to hear a better account of my Uncle Harry we are <.....> greatly obliged to Mr Ingham for his kind care & attention. I have not seen nor <met> the Beaumonts any while since I have been in Town, her Pride will I trust have a fall, & whatever mortification she may experience she deserves it <all none> will pity her. A dissolution of Parliament will I hope not take place as his Majesty is most decidedly against it & many Members who like to keep their places will <grow> to the present Ministry. Will you have the goodness to send us a line as we are very anxious to know how my uncle Harry goes on, with our love & best wishes to yourself & Lady Collingwood & young people believe me Dear Sir very affectionately yours

Wm Blakett

24 Apr 1807 William Blakett to John Erasmus Blakett

My Dear Sir

Many thanks to you for your kind letter which has given us much pleasure. Ingham must have treated my Uncle Harry with judgments & has been indeed very attentive but after so very serious illness it must be some time before he recovers his strength & usual state of health. Admiral Collingwoods letter was very satisfactory no intelligence having come from that quarter for some time, owing to the vessel with the dispatches having been taken, It seems now however that the Turks have made a more formidable resistance than was expected.

I dont hear of any meeting for an address from the County of North[umberlan]d, & as most of the people of property are now in Town it would originate here, hope nothing of the kind will be proposed, it is troublesome & can answer no very good purpose & as most of the leading men in the County are of the other side the question hope it will not take place. A dissolution of Parl[iamen]t is I fear inevitable either about the month of June or in the Autumn & if Ld Grey stands there will be a contest. I am much out of luck as I fully expected this wont be a quiet year & it has now the appearance of being quite otherwise, hope I shall not be <turned> down before the end

of May, little Patience was inoculated only yesterday & the change of <air> & the journey about that time will do her good, but for her she could not venture on so long a journey, she will I hope have it <favourably>.

Am glad to hear from Mr Coulson that he has quite done at Matfen, the house will be quite ready for us in a short time, you will have much for him to do at Chirton, I should think the smell of paint would be troublesome this summer when you return from the South you will I hope pass your time between us & Morpeth. The road is now very tolerable by <B.lsh> Castle. Lady Collingwood must leave Morpeth with regret the walks about it are so charming & the Terrace walk above the river in the Garden must be admired by everyone. The weather is now mild & charming, hope it will continue so for your journey South, fear we shall not meet as we shall probably set out from hence during your stay at <Crowfield>. Mary Anne joins with me in love & best wishes to yourself, Lady Collingwood & young people & believe me Dear Sir yours very affectionately

Wm Blckett

Cumberland Place April 24th 1807

28 Apr 1807 William Blckett to John Erasmus Blckett

My Dear Sir

This very sudden dissolution of Parl[iamen]t at this time is most inconvenient to me as I shall most probably be obliged to set out for the North in a very few days. Mr Miggison tells me there is no occasion for my being at Newcastle before the middle of next week & I hope all will be quiet, if Ld Percy does not stand there will be no opposition if he should offer himself perhaps it may be necessary for me as Sheriff to engage <to w'hold> & in that case will you be so good as to secure Mr Williamson. If every thing goes on quietly if I am at Newcastle the day before the Election takes place perhaps that may be time enough I conclude any presence will be necessary; & in this case the under Sheriff cannot act for me. The <Writ> will I believe be sent down to Mr P Fenwick in a day or two, I saw Beaumont yesterday before he set out, he seemed very confident of success. Little Patience at this time under inoculation Lady B & the family will not be able to set out till the end of May, I must therefore return here as soon as the election is over to prepare for the journey as we must carry down some additional Horses & Servants. If you should hear that it is necessary for me to come down before the middle of next week pray let me know, or if you should hear that my presence can with propriety be dispensed with you will have the goodness to inform me.

Will you send to Mr Fenwick & desire him to do everything that is proper, & of any advertisement is to be put into the paper for a nomination he will put it in & sign my <name> to it. I hope my Uncle Harry goes on mending. The Weather is now here very hot – with kind love & best wishes to Lady Collingwood & her young people, believe me

Dear Sir yours most affectionately
Wm Blckett

Cambridge Place Tuesday April 28th

[Addressed to:] John Eras Blckett Esq / Newcastle on Tyne / Single