

**12 Jun 1696 John Fenwick to Mary Fenwick**

[Note: Undated and unaddressed but clearly to his wife and written around the time of his capture and arrest trying to flee the country in June 1696. He was sent to the Tower a week later, eventually tried and executed for treason in January 1697. Another copy of this letter survives amongst miscellaneous Blackett of Matfen papers in NRO ZBL 260/2]

Copy of a paper in Sir John Fenwicks handwriting —

What I feared is at last happened; had I gone alone I had done it; but the other was betrayed from London; It is God's will, soe we must submitt; I know nothing can save my life, but my Lord Carlises going over to him backt by the rest of the family of the Howards; soe beg it, and offering that I will goe abroad all his time where I cannot hurt him & that I will never drawe my sword agt [against] him. I must leave it to you, what else to say; all friends must be made; my Ld. Devonshire may perhaps by my Lady, my Ld Pembroke, my Ld Godolphin by my Lady Montgomery; Mrs Nelson with the Bishop of Canterbury; my Lord Arran might engage his brother Selkirke to use his interest with Capell; I beleive if my Lord Carlisle would goe, it were best before my tryall, or else they may cutt me short for want of time, if he can prevaile with him for a pardon, he will promise it as soone before tryall as after; at least he may prevaile for a repreive 'till some can come over againe to him; my Ld alsoe will have an oportunity to engage Benting or gett my Ld of <Essex> to joyne with him; I cannot thinke what else to say; but the great care must be the Jury; if 2 or 3 can be gott that will starve the rest, that or nothing can save me; Money I know would doe it, but alas that is not to be had, nor shall I gett enough for counsell. I beg of you not to thinke of being shutt up with me; I know it will kill you & besides I have not such a freind as you to take care of my busines; though it would be at the comfort of my life, the little time that lasts, to have you with me & will make you easie. My dearest life greive not for me but resigne me to God almightier Will you will learn as soone as they bring me to towne where they putt me, & then I would have a servant or some body with me, and my Night Gowne sent me. I am in a sadd case with riding; that day I parted with you, I rided above 100 miles; but be not concerned, my health is well enough. I am interrupted, soe can say no more now. engage Sir John Lowther the new Lord who hath more interest than anybody; lett my Ld Scarsdale engage Germaine to engage Overkirke for me. Speake to my Lady Arlington if my tryall could be putt of till the K[ing] come back, there would be more oportunity to sollicite him.

**11 May 1699 Charles Montague to William Blackett**

Copy

To Sir Will. Blackett Bart

Windsor 11 may 1699

Sir,

You went out of Town so suddenly as prevented me from taking my leave of you. and discussing with you on some things which can not be so well explained in writing: But which I now write to you is by the King's Order and Comand, who is so extreamly pleased with your services to Him, and so well satisfied of your Abilitys and capacity to serve your Country, as makes him very desirous to bring you Publick Busnesse. He has Resolved to make you one of the Commissioners of the Treasury, and I hope you will have no reason to refuse the kindnesse He intends you, since 'tis a Post that will give you an opportunity of doing so much good to England, and 'tis a mark of Honour and Esteem from the King.

I can not give you a perfect account of the others, that the King designs for that Commission, because the King is not fully resolved of all of them, nor will not be 'till he has your answers; but as much as I know of his mind, I dare say, you will not dislike those that are to be joyned with you. If at present the posture of your private affairs requires your presence, I am ordered to tell you, your Company here will not be expected 'till all those things are adjusted, and if you will give leave to have your name put into the Commission, you may attend when 'tis convenient. Sir I can assure you the King has a mighty inclination to have you about him, I am sure you are Extream able to serve him, and I beg, that by the next Post you will let me tell the King, what will please him that you are willing to be Employ'd. This matter is yet very private and known to nobody but my Ld. Chancellor, but I am confident if they knew it all your friends would intreat you not to decline it, and I am sure nobody can more rejoyce than I do, that Sir Wm. Blackett should have all the favour and Honour that is due to Him, I shall Expect to hear from you with impatience. I am

Sir your most humble and most obedient servt  
Charles Montague

**27 May 1699 Charles Montague to William Blackett**

Sir

I have received the Honour of your Letter of the 19th instant, and have read it to the King, who I assure you was mightily concerned that you waved coming into busnesse, and was much affected and pleased with the handsomenesse of your expressions towards him and his Gooermt [Government]: He was unwilling to take your letter for a positive answer, and was very Desirous to have Me presse you to comply. but there no being time enough to have your answer till so near his going away that a new

Commission could not pass, He resolved on this Expedient (which may be a secret to other people) that He would keepe Sir Stephen Fox in the Commission, whom he had design'd to put out, that if in the winter upon Discoursing all matters wee can Encline you to come in, there may be no difficulty in making room for you. And pray let me advise you impartialy to consider How much good you may do to the Publicke and not obstinately refuse a King that is so much inclined to have you in His businesse.

The Treasury at present will be Mr. Montague, my Ld. Tankerville, Sir S. Fx., Mr Smith [John Smith], who will be Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Boyle [Henry Boyle]. The King would not let Me go out at present, 'tho I was very unwilling not to be quiet, and the Hopes of being in Commission with you made Me more readily comply with the Kings comands, and nothing can make one so easy as the prospect of being yet so happy. I am

your most humble and most Obedient servt

Charles Montague

**1 Oct 1752 Walter Blackett to Joseph Richmond**

Pay Richard Carr ten pounds a Year in quarterly payments, & pay six hundred pounds to the Greenland Company in Newca[stle] & five hundred pounds to the Alemouth Road, two hundred pounds to the Glenwelt Road, one hundred pounds more to the Ponteland Road, & one hundred pounds towards enlarging the Chappell in Weardale as the same shall be call'd for, & place the same to my Account – Octor. 1st 1752

You must also pay Mr Thos. Armstrong one hundred pounds on his giving a Bond for the repayment in 12 months with 4 per cent interest

Wr. Blackett

To Mr. Joseph Richmond

**15 Jun 1754 Walter Blackett to Joseph Richmond**

[Note: The Cocoa-Tree was a gentlemen's club, originally White's coffee house in Pall Mall]

Sunday morn: 15th June 1754

Sir

I have just received two letters from you, one giving me an account of great satisfaction to me relating to Walker Colliery not having received any letter from The Mayor or any notice of it before. The other is relating to the £1200, which I desire you will pay to the Corporation as desired. The Pine apples which you say are to arrive at Calverley on Wednesday I have ordered to be sent after me to London. On the 14th day

of July or the 21st at farthest I shall be here again, & if things relating to the Turnpike are then tolerably quiet here I will come into the north a month but must I perceive return to this place again the latter end of summer.

Pray settle my accounts with Mr. Gill whom I look upon now to be firmly & well established in Lord Windsor's service, He has to have £25 per ann from me & was paid at that rate to the <1st> of Oct 1753, & when you have settled that account, make him a present of fifty pounds as he is soon to enter into House keeping, however give him that sum.

Lady Blackett is gone and I am following, so your next will be directed to me at the Cocoa-Tree in London.

Yours

Wr. Blackett

**18 Jan 1757 Walter Blackett to Joseph Richmond**

You are to continue to pay the Revd. Mr Dawson & Mr John Cross forty pounds a year to each in half yearly Payments, you are to pay the Revd. Mr Wm Armstrong twenty Guineas a year for five years in half yearly Payments towards the Education of his Son, You must also pay Mr. Wm. Ward of Morpeth any Sum not exceeding Seventy Pounds towards repairing the Elsdon Turnpike, & the Treasurer of the Carlisle Road any sum he shall ask for, not exceeding two hundred Pounds to repair & finish the said Road, & you are to pay Mr Robert Sorsbie twenty Guineas      January 18th, 1757.

Wr. Blackett

[In Richmond's hand:] NB By Sir Walter's lre to Mr. Wm. Armstrong wch he shewed me this 4th April the money to be paid him.

**13 Sep 1766 Walter Blackett to Joseph Richmond**

13th Sepr. 1766

Mr. Richmond

Pay Dr. Sharp one hundred pounds for the augmentation of Birtley Chapel, & fifty pounds for rebuilding the Chancel at Lucker & place these Sums to my account ...

Wr. Blackett

**14 Sep 1766 Walter Blackett to Joseph Richmond**

[Note: Addressee not stated but context suggests it was to Joseph Richmond. William Nowell was Rector of Wolsingham 1754 -82 (The History of the Parish of Wolsingham by Brig. Gen Conyers Surtees, 1929)]

Sr.

On Tuesday or Wednesday I shall set out for the north & shall see Mr. Forster of Alnwick there & will execute & acknowledge the benefaction deed before him. The cook shall come to Newcastle on Wednesday or Thursday next. The cart comes in tomorrow for the <scr...dles> Glasses & Branches from London which must be carefully put into the cart with straw etc, he also brings some pots of moorgame which are to go by the fly on Wednesday, & a Blackcock & young <Grey> for Mr. Peareth. Pray give fifteen pounds to Mr. Nowell Vicar or Rector of Wolsingham for the use of the school there & place it to my account.

Yours Wr. Blackett

**15 Nov 1770 Walter Blackett to Fletcher Norton**

[Note: The text, apparently of a rare speech by Sir Walter Blackett in the House of Commons, in his own hand, presumably, given the postscript, copied out by him the following summer. It is annotated, presumably by one of the Trevelyans, within the scrapbook into which it is pasted 'Printed in Hodgsons History of Northumberland Pt 2 Vol 1, p 272']

15th Novr. 1770

Mr. Speaker

However particular, however unreasonable & uncalled for, what I am about to say, may seem to be, or whatever light of myself may appear, I must beg leave to open myself to the house upon a point which for some months hath greatly disturbed me; & the only apology I can offer for (then abruptly) troubling the House with a matter which merely concerns myself, is, that I am conscious although compelled to do it.

Diffident of myself, forsaking my own judgement & adopting the opinion of others, I voted, last sessions, that Mr. Wilkes was not incapacitated from sitting in this House during this Parliament, reconsidering that vote the night I had given it, & indeed ever since, hath occasioned the greatest uneasiness to me; & whilst I was abroad this summer at Spa and Paris ruminating upon what I had done, it appeared to me that the only satisfaction I could give to my mind, was, to acknowledge here the error, as I conceive, I had committed, & return to my own opinion, as now I do, that Mr. Wilkes is incapacitated, constitutionally incapacitated, from sitting in this House during this Parliament.

Having made this acknowledgement, as a man labouring under a malady willing to try the best remedy because I hope for the favourable instruction of the House: sensible at the same time that many gentlemen, for whom I have a great regard, are as conscientious of a different opinion.

There was a report at Calais that the House of Commons would be adjourned for some time, which was an additional inducement to me to get to the House as soon as I could: & to make this acknowledgement was the principle inducement which brought

me from France, for Sr. John Pringle & Mr. Middleton had advised me to stay abroad for a year or longer; & this resolution I determined upon one morning when I was walking alone in the Tuilleries.

Wr. Blackett

Newcastle July 23rd 1771

NB Executing the above did set my mind at ease.

### **23 Nov 1776 Walter Blackett to John Erasmus Blackett**

[Note: This and subsequent letters from Sir Walter to his agent John Erasmus Blackett (dated 27 Nov, 30 Nov, 6 Dec, 30 Dec) were probably among the last to be received by JEB, and so presumably handed over at some point by him or his executors to the Trevelyans at Wallington, where they are preserved in a scrapbook]

London Sat: 23d Novr. 1776

Dear Sr.

This morning Mr. Darwin brought the deeds which I signed, & I readily agree to accommodate Mr. Swinburne with the thousand pounds you mention. I am very sorry for the behaviour of the Lessees of Walker Colliery, certainly those proceedings are to be laid to the charge of the Principal, as well as leaving coals in waggons which carry more coals than by the lease they ought to do, indeed the character of the magistrates is very much at stake in these matters, & the whole proceeding for time past ought to be inquired into without loss of time, I own I was at first and all along uneasy that that colliery had not been let into other hands than any of our own Body, I had my fears of want of watching, & that ought not to be deferrd a bit longer, not to wait for a C C [Newcastle Common Council meeting?]: if there is a suspicion in any respect but the mayor & c to examine & measure.

Yesterday Mr. Fisin came to me with a letter of Recommendation from Mrs, Ord referring me also to Doctor Burney, I gave him such reception as I ought, but waved entering into even the least encouragement, he said he was given to understand that ten pounds a year would be added to the present salary of forty to the Organist; I intend to see Dr. Burney that justice may be done to Mr. Fisin's character that it may be properly mention'd & laid before the Common Council; I observe Mr. Widdrington's opinion of Mr. Howden.

I can not but observe that I hear nothing from Mr. Gibson about the purchase of Mr. Clayton's land, nor nothing from Mr. Heron about the purchase of a bit of land near Wallington Mill, pray let Mr. Bell inquire about these two particulars.

There are two articles relating to the Corporation's affairs which ought to be pushed on, the first is a case of opinion relating to removing the stones near the entrance of the River, Mr. <Vazey's> affair, I am really bound to bring that matter to a crisis, let the opinion prove as it may, if it should be against the claim of the Corporation & shall be

at all unwilling to share it so to the Corporation & proceed accordingly. The other is an additional supply of water from Mr. Anderson or Mr. Hodson or from both to the common pants, & I must recommend these articles to your good offices, that they may be pushed on. I will pass over Coal Cleugh and go to the Flat at Allanheads, I know a flat is very precarious, but be that as it may, all hands possible ought to be got into that spot, to get it above ground as fast as possible, & to leave any other work in order to work there, & I doubt not but Mr. Forster will open the ground out so as to get as many hands in as possible either in front, on flank or both, for I am near entering into my 70th year, & I should be glad to dig a grave there, big enough to bury my debts in; but that's only a vain thought. It is uneasy to me to write for the finger next to my little finger is still much inflamed & sore. However I thought I ought to endeavour to mention these matters to you, I can not yet go downstairs; nor could I hold either gun or fishing rod.

The report of news from America is good, you'll see some in the papers, & perhaps in the Gazette.

Yours Wr. Blackett

My compliments to the Mayor Mr. Morley & all friends.

I must desire a bill for three hundred pounds, payable a month or six weeks hence.

**27 Nov 1776 John Bell to Walter Blackett**

Newcastle 27th Novemr. 1776

Hond. Sir

I have inclosed you herewith a List of the Arrears due from the Wallington Tenants and also a List of the principal notes paid for Work \_ as to the Arrears those due from Mark Thompson William Liddell and others wou'd have been settled and paid before now if Rev. Forster had sent in any accot. But as it is not probable that he will send in any I have desired Mr. Turner to settle them in the best way he can and directed him not to bar you from making any further Claim when you can support it but to give a Receipt on Accot. Of Money due to you and when he pays the Labourers Bills he will take care to get Thompson and Liddell's Arrears and also Codlings and Hymers' which last are only each one half Years Rent and then he will send me them here - Clarkes of Newhouse tho' still more than half a Year behind the other Tenants are getting better than formerly - I expect William Lisle's Ex.ors in about Ten days to pay some part of what remains due from them \_ With respect to George Richardson as Mr. Blackett wrote you from Wallington on Monday Evening concerning him I shall only now add that Mr Ladler thinks the best Way for you wou'd be to continue him upon the Farm 'till Mayday allowing him to keep his stock 'till that Time he agreeing now to quit then and the Farm may be let now which he says will be better than having to distrain on Richardson's Goods and to have the Farm to let at Mayday there being more likelihood of getting a Good Tenant at this time of the year than at Mayday because a good

substantial Tenant never has a Farm to look out for when he shou'd go to it and he says if you approve of this and it can be got done you will not he thinks lose anything by Richardson as the Way-going Crop will be sown and left on the Ground – As to William Hutchinson's Arrears he says he will pay it very soon – he called upon me last Saturday night between Eight and nine o'clock and paid me £60 – 10 – 0 which cleared off what remained due of the former half years Rent and paid £37 – 10 – 0 in part of the Rent due at Mayday last \_ he said he has been waiting upon some Butchers all day and was disappointed in their not paying him the whole of what they owed him but as soon as he got his Money he would call upon me and pay up his Rent – The amount of the whole Receipt at Wallington was £2037 – 0 – 8¼ But the payments and the Allowances made the Tenants for leadings and divers other things with the money paid Mr Turner to make him to carry on the Business there amounts to £976 – 9 – 1¾ so that I only brought home £1060 – 11- 6½ tho' this sum is more by about £280 than I brought home last year at this Season.

An advertisement appeared in last Saturdays papers desiring a meeting of the Proprietors of Acomb Common at the Golden Lion in Hexham on Tuesday the 3rd of next Month to consider of a Division – I shall attend and write you the Result \_ Mr. Darwin last week \_ wrote me you were better than you had been I hope you are now got well and am

Hond. Sir Your most obedt. & hble Servt.

Jno Bell

**30 Nov 1776 Walter Blackett to John Erasmus Blackett**

London 30th Novr. 1776

Dear Sir

I am obliged to you for all the trouble you have so punctually taken in respect to the purchases, & receiving the rents, & the account you have given me of several tenants, I cannot now enter into any minute discussion of the several points but I am resolved to lay aside the Mill at Sweethope, whether the House may do for a cottager or herd to the Land I know not, but I would have notice given to the Miller to quit at Mayday I suppose. Before I had the gout I had almost determined to come into the Country at Christmas, but now I have resolved to go to Bath, & to Mrs Gordon's, & also to Sr. John Trevelyan's when all his sons will be with him, for some plan of education ought, without loss of time, be entered upon for those several boys, I fear too much time hath been in some degree, lost only just to send him Mrs. Ords recommendation & opinion of Mr. Fisin as also Doctor Burney's character of him. Dr. Burney made me a visit about a week since, I observe too in yours of the 3d. Inst. & also in another of yours an extraordinary good character of Mr. Hawden (from whom I have received a letter). So that I do not suppose but either of those Gentlemen will be a proper person, but I cannot pretend to give a particular opinion of my own, I hope no Discord will arise upon the matter, & I must beg to leave this affair in this manner. Mr. Darwin tells me



he has received the several sums as mentioned in your letter of the 23d. Inst. I want much to have the dispute about the suit to Hexham Mills Judicially determined, that, if possible, no further or future trouble may arise upon that head, & indeed other matters relating to Hexham & Mr. Heron's Bills which are to be brought in are articles of trouble to me & I wonder the persons who can settle them or bring them to an Issue, will not do it; pray mention these articles to Mr. Bell. How go the Flats at Allanheads? A poor prospect at Coal Cleugh. I am sure it is not right or prudent for me to venture to Newcastle & Wallington in the winter so soon after (if it can be called quite after) a fit of gout. If any news comes before ten o'clock I shall add it, if not no more than

Affectionately yours  
Wr. Blackett

PS. I have this moment received your two letters of the 27th Inst; I am ignorant as to their respective merits, but if Mr. Hawden is really equal to Mr. Fisin I think he is intitled to the preference to move tonight.

**6 Dec 1776 Walter Blackett to John Erasmus Blackett**

London Fri.6 Decr. 1776

Dear Sir

The Duchess of Northumberland died last night, I have not heard any particulars about it.

I was in hopes to have been tolerably well by this time, but last Tuesday evening the gout seized in my left ankle so violently that I was obliged to be wheeled to bed & tho' this day it is something better yet I cannot walk upon it or put on a cloth shoe as I had done for some few days before last Tuesday.: my fingers too are very sore & still swelled and inflamed, the little finger of my left hand is full as thick again as that of my right, & this relapse really makes me afraid of going anywhere out of town, I must be much better before I dare go. Mr George Headlam who was clerk to Mr. Shaftoe of Hexham has bought an Ensigns Commission in the 59th Regt. I promised to give him one hundred pound towards the purchase, which sum you will please to pay him or his order & place it to my account, I have given some more presents to Relations & others who I thought had claim upon me, which has reduced my cash so, that unless I get a good prize in the lottery I must soon desire a further remittance from you, & shall give you a draught upon The Flatt. I observe what you say about the Allgoods, Father & Son, at Allanheads, I do think in Justice to myself & no injustice to the Father that he ought to be removed & he & his wife to have an annuity of thirty pounds a year for their joint lives, & twenty pounds a year to the survivor; & the son either to have six months notice & then leave my service, or to have half a years salary given to him & be discharged discreetly, but before this is done two proper persons should be found to be put into their places; but Westgarth Forster's Brother ought not to be one of them, in the first place he certainly is by no means fit to be an Agent or under steward, his

character is by no means good as to knowledge or ability or manner of life, indeed if you was to see him you would think him the very Emblem of meat, Drink, sloth, & Dullness, but this to yourself, besides it would be construed that the Allgoods were removed at the instance of Westgarth Forster to make room for his Brother; to be sure upon Richard Allgood's removal the advantage (but why should there be an advantage?) of the Gin: Horses as usual I suppose, must be given to Wentgarth Forster, this plan requires discretion to execute & need not be hurried till the whole is settled & proper persons found by some of my stewards or agents to fill up the vacancies immediately, I know & think there should soon be a general view of Allanheads by all the agents, as there seems to be somewhat extraordinary in the prospects. I think the late Lord Darlington had an extraordinary Flatt or Float at The Grass about thirty years since, but this about a general view I only throws out, do not insist upon it. I did hear that the Bute family were not pleased with Lady Windsor's Will. I think a <Gramonar> will be too nice an undertaking for Philip's Brother, however I am pleased with the account you give of his preaching, & the reception he met with & the cash he carried off fairly! I own I am sorry they don't catch R. Forster & put him into Jail, it is only justice to the Public that he should suffer as farr as the law will allow, or no robbery or treaching or villany ought to be punished, I allways think there's a want of inclination in some to punish such sort of rogues as are very mildly said to be only guilty of a breach of trust. As to the Organist, I hope you will chuse the best, for no consideration, in my opinion, should carry it for the second best, if the best could be clearly distinguished. Mr. Nich: Ridley made me a visit this morning & I was apprehensive from his conversation that Mr. Ridley & Sr. Matthew might set out for London before the Christmas = Common Council.

Now I think it's time to have done & I will burn all your letters which at present are before me. My compliments to all Friends.

Yours sincerely

Wr. Blakett

The numbers are

56365

50939

47865

I'm sorry I could not get no. 4 for the sake of the four of hearts!

Certainly nothing from America. I think it probable the ship of advice from General Hove may be taken by some Provincial Privateers.

P:S: Upon a review, too long.

[annotated at foot in JEB's hand;} Hospital Place/ <Logg is itdon>

**30 Dec 1776 Walter Blckett to John Erasmus Blckett**

London Abbot's Leigh Mon: 30th Decr. 1776

Dear Sr.

PS. The Bond is dated 20th May 1771.

The weather has been so cold & I fear you had or have had snow also, so as to make your journey to Allanheads very bad & almost dangerous if you could go at all. This morning I spoke to Mrs. Gordon about the interest due to her upon the £2,500. She tells me that on the 20th of next May the Interest then due will be three hundred and fifty pounds & she desires that that interest may then commence to be capital together with one hundred & fifty pounds more which she has now paid into my hands, which added to the £2,500 will make the principal sum three thousand; she also has desired me to take one thousand pounds as soon as I return to London, for which she does not desire any interest should commence till the 20th of next May, & then I am to give her either a new bond for £4,000 or a bond for the additional £1,500; & in consequence of this agreement with my Aunt I have wrote to Mr. Simpson at Bath to let him know that the £1,000 will be paid to him according to the first notice but I don't know when that is, but I shall see him in about ten days. On Thursday next I set out for Sr. John Trevelyan's shall be there six or seven days, then go to Bath for a few days, & so to London on the 18th, 19th, or 20th of next month. I'll not write upon anything more.

Not quite well of the gout but near it.

So your's sincerely

Wr. Blckett