

[John Blackett (1683-1750) was the third son of Sir Edward Blackett of Newby, and grandson of the first Sir William Blackett of Newcastle. He was therefore 25 when he moved to Rotterdam to become a merchant in 1708. This letter book came back for the Netherlands with him. It includes 6 or 7 loose-leaf insurance policies taken out in Amsterdam on some of the shipments in which he was concerned. Many of the letters give an exchange rate based on the 'pound Flemish', a common contemporary unit of account in Rotterdam. We are grateful to Professor Joost Jonker of the University of Amsterdam for this information. John Blackett's transactions show a fixed exchange rate of 6 guilders 'fl' to the pound Flemish, though he mostly quoted the sub-units of Flemish shillings (of which there were 20 to the pound, and the symbol for which is given here as <B> or <st>, similar to the Greek beta character) and groats (12 to the shilling). Lead prices also appear to have been quoted in flemish shillings, and would appear to have been the cost of a single piece, which were typically of 11st in weight from Newcastle by the early 1700s.]

**12 Nov 1708 John Blackett to John Wilkinson**

Rotterdam 12 Novembr 1708

Cousin Wilkinson

Sr,

I Recd yrs of the 22th Octobr by wch I perceive my Cousin is yet ill wch am mighty sorry to hear, this day the Lords of the Admiralty has given order that the Fleet shall sail next Thursday wind & weather permitting. The London fleet sails at the same time. They have 3 men of war with them as far as Orford Ness, & then one of the ships sees the London ships safe in the harbour & the other two sails Northwards. They say their orders are but to stay 4 or 5 days at Tinemouth Bar. Mr Pelsant told me 3 d agoe that he heard Mr All. made an agreement wth the Custom hous officers that seized the lead on board Bulman, & that he was to give f 1500 gl to get it clear, but most people are of opinion that wth the charges it will cost f 2000gl. He must run a great many goods to get that loss againe. The last French letters brought news of a ship of his (or at least went in his name) was taken & brought up to Duynkerque. Mr pelsant says All & some Scotch people here bought her & sent her for Scotland for dry'd Sammon. She was but a little ship & cost not much money. Her cargo was onions. In 2 or 3 posts shall send you three or four bills upon merchts in Newcastle for goods I have bought for them. pray my service to my Cousin & sisters

Lead 21 <B/ fl>

Exchange 2 usance

**16 Nov 1708 John Blackett to Cuthbert Burton**

Mr Cutht Burton

Rotterdam 16 Novmbr 1708

Sr my last to you was of the 13 past Since none from you, So this is chiefly to Send you bill of loading & Invoice of the above mentioned goods I hope they will prove to Content, if the Wind had continued Easterly the Ships had Sailed this Day but you may Expect they will Saile wth the first wind, flax keeps yet dear & will continue So as long as the fleet is here, flax is always cheapest when no Ships are here, when you order any goods, if it is the Same to you it would be much better I could draw on your friend in London, but in the least inconvenient will always draw payble in Newcastle

Sneet Lint 15 1/2gl

<Borstle> Tow f19gl

Twine 2 & 3 thread f19 the 100/<ll>

Writ the Same to Burdit Clayton

**20 Nov 1708 John Blackett to John Kelly**

Mr J Kelley

Rotterdam 20 Novmbr 1708

Sr this day I am favoured wth yrs of the 19ber your Stile, by wch I perceive you found the Acct of Bulmans Coales without Error & noted accordingly. I will do my endeavoir to Send you per this Convoy wch only waites for a fair wind, the Candle week you write for, but for the Shaving pleet will be impossible to get unless one was certain the fleet would Stay 5 or 6 days longer pleet is made only in one place in Holland, before one can write thier & have it come per boate hit[h]er very likely the Ships may be gone, Coales a perfect drug when they begin to Sell will bring the price down to 17 1/2gl, the price & charges of tobacco you have below Rape Seed is high in price one could make at present if very good 40gl a last the best comes from hull, the charges are as I am told wth Commission <is> about 15gl a Last, if you think any thing is to be had will willingly take a Share wth you, but than must come by the next Convoy in any other Sort of Seed no proffit

Muder Onberooft 17 1/2 a 20gl

Craps from 24:26 a 28gl

Flax from 24 1/2 to 26 1/2gl

Twine 2 or 3 <td> f19 100/<ll>

Canvas 23 3/4gl a Bolt

Tobacco best 9:10:

common Sort 5 1/2 or 6

worst - 4 or 4 1/2

1 <Stl> a <pondy> charges

**20 Nov 1708 John Blackett to A Shaftoe**

Mr A Shaftoe

Rotterdam Novmbr 20th 1708

Sr This is only to acquaint you that Coales is at present a Drug here are Several Masters that lays Loaden & cannot get any money bidden for them when they begin to Sell I believe will bring the price down to 17 or 17 1/2 gl a <hoodt>, I hope you have take no Ships on for this place trade is very bad, I cannot advice my friends to Send any Sort of Merchandise all things are So low in price, when I was in Newcastle your Brother was talking of buying books, if he pleases to let me know what he would have bought, will send them by the first Ships, Abram bosfield is loaden for your place wth flax Tow & Some Says the Ships are Sailed, but the wind being contrary I believe they will be forced to come back, we had no manner of news pray my Service to all friends, if am capale of doing you any Service please to command, the price of goods

Madder Onber 17 1/2 or 20gl

Craps -- 24:26 or 20gl

Flax -- 24 1/2 to 26 1/2 <..>

Twine 2 & 3 td f19 100/<.>

Canvas 23 3/4gl a bold

Dit[to]

Messrs Featherstone & Reay

writ to them onely the prices as I writ Mr Kelley

**23 Nov 1708 John Blackett to John Wilkinson**

Cousin Wilkinson

Rotterdam the 23 Novmbr 1708

Sr Since my last none from you, I mighty glad to read in our written News from London that the lady Mary Fenwick was dead & that Sr Wm Blackett got £2000 per Annum by her death, I hope I Shall have this good News confirmed the next post by Some of my friends, it has been often reported She was dead, but now I wish it may be true I do here inclosed Send you for your Acct 3 bills of Exchange on of £58 on Cuthbert Burton one of 48£ on Nathaniel Clayton & one of 45£ on Burdit Clayton, all at 2 usance, the Ships from Hull Newcast are Sailed last Saturday wth one Man of War, Some Says A Bosfield is left behind, I think he is as well here, they have had a contrary wind & bad weather ever since they Sailed, the London fleet Sailes wth 2 Men of War the first fair Wind, if Bosfield is left behind he will take that opportunity, lead is 21 <B/> I Sold yesterday 10 ps under wch I delivered 5 <gos S> & got 21 1/4 <B/> because it was Such a small quantity Mr <Povers> mistaken in telling me that Mr Allen had agreed wth the Custom house Officers, I have made inquiry & cannot hear any Such thing,

Bolman told me Yesterday that All had paid f500gl for the false Entry & yet the Leaser will not discharge the Ship, but pretends to have f500 more for un loading at night & without order, all this is besides what he is to give to get the lead clear, I hope my Cousin is now better, Pray my Service to her & all friends

Exchange 2 usance 35 <B/> these bills I remit you at 38 <B/3> wch is f1596:16:8

**23 Nov 1708 John Blackett to Cuthbert Burton**

Mr Cutht Burton

Rotterdam 23 Novmbr 1708

Sr this is onely to acquaint you that I have drawn on you this day a bill of £58 at 2 usance payable to Mr John Wilkinson or order the Exchange at 35 <B/3> wch is f613:7 for wch I make you Credit the Ships for Hull Newcastle Sailed last Saturday, but Abraham Bosfield is left behind, he says there was So little wind & the Tide So Strong that he could not get out, the Ships has had a contrary wind & bad Weather ever Since they Sailed So it may be yet he is better here wth them, the London Ships Sailes with 2 Men of War the first fair Wind, Bosfield designes to take that oppertunity there is little alteration in flax, it is rather cheaper Since the Ships Sailed, if I can Serve you in any thing please to Conm

**23 Nov 1708 John Blackett to Nathaniel Clayton**

Mr N Clayton

Rotterdam 23 Novmbr 1708

Sr this is onely to acquaint you that I have this day drawn on you at 2 usance a bill of Exchange of £48 payable to Mr John Wilkinson or Order, the Ships for hull & Newcastle Sailed last Saturday wth one Man of War but Abraham Bosfield is left behind, I think he is as well here, they had contrary Winds ever Since they Sailed a bad weather the London fleet Sails wth 2 Men of War by the first fair Wind & then Bosfield will take that oppertunity, the Exchange to London is 35 <B:5 R> but to Newcastle always 2 <%/st?> less than to London, So this bill is <35 B 3%> wch is f507:12 for wch I make you credit, please to tell your brother that I have drawn on him a bill at <2 usance> of 45£ payable to Mr Wilkinson or Order, I would have writ him but this will Save postidge I make him Credit <f475:17> at the Exchange as yours when you write please to Send the Acct of Mr Mores hook will Endeavoir to get what I possible can

Madder Onberooft 17 1/2 - 20 to 21gl

Craps 24 : 26 to 26gl

Flax 24 1/2 to 26 <Stl>

Twine 2 & 3 tde < f19 100/ >

Canvas 23 3/4gl a bolt  
Tobacco best 8:9.or 10Stl>  
Common Sort 5 1/2 or 6 1/2  
worst 4 1/2 or 4 1/2 <Stl>

**30 Nov 1708 John Blackett to John Wilkinson**

Cousin Wilkinson

Rotterdam 30 Novmbr 1708

Sr I Recd yours of the 8 past by wch I perceive you think Mr Allan was very much to blame to Speake to the broaker, can assure you it was true though I would not have you to take any notice of it, Robt Young is this day Safe arrived, I hear he has 1200 ps lead all for Mr Allan, I hope you will Some time think of me when oppertunity offers, the Greatest demand for lead is always in febry March & April & than I hope will give a better price, Last Wednesday we Recd the Joyfull news that the D of Malborough had past the Scheld in a mist, put the Enemy to flight taken 3000 prisoners 1000 Wagons & all their baggage, we have likewise News of the Elector of Bavaria had raised the Siege of Brussells leaving 21qts Cannon & Morters 2000 dead all their Wounded & 600 prisoners, the D of Mal & D Eugenius are now whole Masters of the field, therefore it is the opinion of most that Gent & Bridges will fall into our hands this Year, & than no question but lead will advance in price, I am very much obliged to you that you will Remember me amongst the rest of your friends, you may be assured will always mind your interest as my own, am very Sorry Cousin Wilkinson continues yet ill, pray give my Service to her & Cousin Simpson & you will oblige

Exchange 2 u[suance] 35 <B..4 <.>

Lead 21 <B/ 13?>

Coales 18 or 18 1/2gl it is thought upon this Victory they will rise

**30 Nov 1708 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

[Note: First name of Featherstone is unclear, but a Matthew Featherston, merchant was active at this time]

Mr Featerstone & Reay

Rotterdam 30 Novmbr 1708

yrs of the 9th past came Safe to hand, I have bought part of the flax & Twine & will Ship them aboard Robt bulman, I have been at all the Shops in towne & cannot find one Matt Rainsbr Tow, it is all bought up, Abram Bosfield is partly loaden wth it, wth much adoe I have found 2 Matts Bossell wch will Ship as above, & likewise the paper, it is a Strong good Ship carrys 8 Guns 14 men, So there is no danger of a Small privateer, She

sails by the first fair Wind, wth the London Convoy, all the flax wch Mr Allan Pelsant & Foster & others buys, are always bought by a Man Attendant of the Markett & than we allow them <1/2 Stl> a Stone & pay ready money but as you Say it is much cheaper doing So than buying in the Shops, and though I do pay Ready money yet I will not be too haesty drawing upon you

**7 Dec 1708 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Mr Featherstone & Reay

Rotterdm 7 Decembr 1708

My last to you was of the 30th past, Since has not been favoured wth yours, here inclosed I Send you Invoice & bill of loading of 6 Matts flax 20 Matts Rynsbs Tow 2 Matts Twine 3 Matts Bostle Tow & 3 Matt Paper, On board Robt Bulman; I hope you will find them all to Content, [~~struck out: 'I believe you will'~~] wth much difficulty I found 20 Matts Rynsbr Tow at 121/2gl but Bostle is very scarce [~~struck out: 'therefore has Sent you but 3 Matts'~~] I could but find 3 Matts in the city Papers here is a great quantity but the Merchant where I bought this Mat tells me he Could only give me these 20 Reams upon his word, & if the Ship was not gone in 5 or 6 days he would Sent to the Mills for that wch is good, I do not question but you will find the charges very Reasonable I Saved as much as possible of the Customs, & always will do what lay's in my Power for my friends, [~~struck out: 'Shoemakers Thread pays 4 times as much duty as Twine'~~], Robt Bulman went to Joyne the fleet at the Briel Yesterday, & was to Saile this day wth two Men of War for London, the Wind is very fair & a fresh gaile Therefore hopes he will get Safe, Mr Allan has now made an End wth the Customs house Officers, he paid f2200gl Bulman will tell you the particulars he was the man that had the Lead aboard, I have Sent per Bulman 2 Small baggs of chestnuts I desire Mrs Featherstone will be So kind as to accept of one & Mrs Reay the other my Service to all friends I am

Your Very humbe Servt

per Next Ship will Send you the Remainder of the paper  
Exchange 2 u[suance] 35:1 a 35:1 1/2gl or 35 <B 2 .>  
Lead 21 <B/ 13?> Coales 18gl

**7 Dec 1708 John Blackett to Burdett Clayton**

[Note: Burdett Clayton was a brother of Nathaniel Clayton (d.1755), children of James Clayton and Prudence Burdett]

Mr B Clayton

Rotterdm 7 Decembr 1708

Sr I Recd yours of the 9 October by wch I perceive you would not have me to Send any Sneet Lint, am Sorry Busfield was gone to the briel or otherwise would have taken it ashore here inclosed I Sent you Invoice & bill of loading of 10 Matts Rynsbr Tow & 20 Nests of Crusables on board R Bulman, Rynsbr Tow is very Scarce Could not find one Matt more in the Whole Towne, the 2 Standiyes are likewise aboard Bulman, who Sailes this day with 2 Men of War for London, here is another Ship wch belongs to Newcastle, if you please to have any goods loaded in her let me know per first will always mind your interest as my own, my Service to your Brother I am Sr your humbe Servt

**7 Dec 1708 John Blackett to John Kelly**

Mr J Kelley

Rotterdm the 7 Decembr 1708

Sr [struck out: 'In my Last I writ you the price of Rape'] I Refer my Self wholly to my Last, no Alteration is yet in the price of Rape Sold, here inclosed I Send you bill of loading & Invoice of 2 Matts Candle Weeke & 1 bagg Shaving <Pleet> a board Robt Bulman I am Dr Sr  
Exchange 35:11/2 or 35:2 at 2 usance

**11 Dec 1708 John Blackett to John Wilkinson**

Cousin Wilkinson

11 Ditto

Sr Since my last none from you, here inclosed I Send you the Acct of <350 qts> lead per Jacob frost, for wch I make you Credit for the ballance £2438:18 in 2 or 3 posts will Remit you the money my Service to all friends

Exchange 2 us[uance] <35 R:2 rs>  
Coales 18 a 181/2gl

**11 Dec 1708 John Blackett to Edward Blackett**

Sr Edw Blacket

Ditto

Mr Field has Sent me per your orders 2 Ankers Ale for wch I give you maney thanks, lead 21 1/4 <B> in March & April the Greatest demand is for that Commodity, here are a Sort of handkerchiefs wch we call Naples handkerchiefs if you please to have a dozin will Send them per first oppertunity

**18 Dec 1708 John Blackett to Nicholas Ridley**

[Note: Letter copied to Messrs William Sowerbey, Fletcher & Edward Anderson]

Messrs Ridley

Ditto the 18 1708

Since my last none from you, I make to trouble you wth a line to acquaint you how goods rules wth us, if I am capable of doing you any Service please to Command

Iron Potts & yetlings f6 1/4gl

Buttery f61gl

Twine 2 & 3 <tdc f19gl>

Canvas 23 3/4gl <d.> Bolt

Taback best 8:9 or 10 Stl

Common 5 1/2 or 6 1/2 Stl

Worst 4 or 4 1/2

Madder onberooft 18 or 22gl no madder has been at the Martket by reason our Rivers are froze, but when we have open Weather, will be cheaper

Common 10 or 14gl

Crapps 24 a 30gl

Candle Weck 25gl

Flax from 22 or 23 to 26 Stl

Borstle Tow f19

Rynsbr Tow 12 1/2 or 12 3/4gl

Lead 21 1/4<B>

Coales 18 1/2 or f19gl

Exchange 2 us[uance] <35 B/3..>

Mr Sowerbey

Rotterdm the 18 Decembr 1708

Writ him the prices of goods as I Have done Mr Ridley

Mr Fletcher

Ditto

Writ him the prices of goods as I Have done Mr Ridleys

Mr Ed Anderson

Ditto

Writ him the prices of goods as I Have done Mr Ridleys

**28 Dec 1708 John Blackett to John Wilkinson**

Cousin Wilkinson

Rotterdam the 28th Decembr 1708

Sr I have before me yours of the 23 9br & 3 Decembr by wch I perceive you had got my last three bills accepted, I See had rather have bills payable in London than in Your place, if I had know it before would not have Sent you the above mentioned bills, but indeed what I did was for the best, bills on Newcastle are always <2%> lower than on London, & when you buy bills there is brokeridge, I am Sorry you cannot get place in any of the Ships, I believe Old Allan is very deligent in getting Ships for his Son, Mr Allan may write his father what he pleases, but we all know hear that of the 1600 pcs wch was in the Ship there was onely 800pcs given upon the Generall, a Lighter may go aboard any Ship & take what goods the Masters pleases though no Entry is made as long as the Lighter does but Stay a board, Mr Allan had a Lighter wth 600pcs came the day before wch he got Safe, but the next day wch was the Second Lighter was Leased, I do not question but Bulman will tell you the truth, if he is not forbidden by Mr Allan, when the aforesaid Master came for his freight, Mr Allan Said he had paid f2100gl to get the Lead again, & that he must allow him f500 towards his Loss or otherwise he would Call Inn f2000gl wch he & his friends had upon his Ships, the Master coming to me Said he was undone if he could not find Some one that would Stand by him, Saying that Mr Allan [struck out: '<...er> & Some others have f2000gl up'] haveing f2000gl upon his Ship, would call it Inn if he would not allow him f500 towards his Loss, wch he would have been forced to doe, or Suffer his Ship to be rested, wch was then Loaden, & was to Saile 2 or 3 days after, I haveing loaden Some goods was unwilling the Ship Should Loose her Convoy & the Master ruined, Say'd I would [struck out: 'Lend'] pay Mr Allan off & take the Ship for my Security, wch when Mr Allan heard came in great haest to the Master [struck out: 'in great <speaking>'] Saying, he hoped, he taken no money of me, but that he would continue the money, wch I always thought he would do, for he has 14<%C> every Voyage the Ship makes, wch is more than my Conscience would Suffer me to take, Mr pelsant & foster durst not Ship till the day before the Ship Sailed any goods a board thinking Allan would rest the Ship, please to ask the Master he will tell you the Same, it may be he will deny it at first, but tell him I writ it you & he will not dare to deny it, the master Said here he would never take any goods again for Mr Allan, I am mighty glad Cousin Wilkinson is Somewhat better, I wish you, her, & whole family, a merry Christmass, happ new Year & many of them I am

Dear Sr your Humle Servt

28 Dec 1708 John Blackett to John Kelly

Mr John Kelley

Rotterdam 28 Decembr 1708

Dear Sr I have before me yours of the 7 Decembr am glad to hear that Bulman & Bosfield are arrived, we are afraid here that Dodman is foundered at Sea he Sailed from hence Some days before the other two Ships, God be Thanked I Shipt no Goods in him, I give you maney thanks for your letter to Mr Whitton, this post I designe to write him the prises of all Wollen goods, though I cannot advise him or you to Send any to this markt, If you Should I am afraid would be a looser, here under you have the prices, am Sorry you could not find any Good Rape Seed for 15 or 151/2£, right good would be 42£ if I writ you in my Last f45gl it was a mistake, I meant 41 pound Flemish, wch is f246gl the Insurance from Hull to this place is 3 wth or 6 wth out convoy, we always put wth or without Convoy in the police afraid the masters Should happen to run

28 Dec 1708 John Blackett to Henry Reay

[Note: forename not given but likely to have been Henry Reay, alderman and merchant (1671-1734), and in partnership with Matthew Featherstone]

Mr Reay

Rotterdam 28 Decembr 1708

Dear Sr I have before me yours of the 3 Decemr am glad to hear that Robt Bulman is arrived, we are here afraid that Dodman is foundered at Sea, he Sailed Some days before Bulman God be thanked I Shipt no goods in him, Last Week I went to Amsterdm & tooke Mrs Reays Napkin with me thinking to find the Same Sort, but could not find any thing like it, will take the Size & returne it first Ship wth the tapes & Baskett, Mrs Fromantle is very well, She desired me to give her Service to You, we did not onley drink your health once or twice but almost every Glass was Mr & Mrs Reays health, Mr Clarke where She Lodges was mighty Civil and gave me a very handsome Supper, he desire I would come to his house every day whilst I Stayd in towne, indeed my Stay was not long because I had nothing to do, but to waite upon the fair Lady, [struck out: 'I must beg of you to give her Service to Mr Fennick'] She desired I would give her Service to Mr Fenwick & all other friends, bur particularly to your good family, if you do not contradict your orders will Send the papers per first Ship I am

Iron potts & yetlings f6 1/4

Battery <f6.>

Canvas 23 3/4gl

Candle Weck 25gl

Coale no price

Lead 21 ¼ <B>

Madder onberooft 18 or 22gl

Common 10 or 14 in a Market day or two will be cheaper

Craps 24 or 30gl

Exchange <35.. 3 or 4 groat>

**28 Dec 1708 John Blackett to Henry Witton**

Mr Henry Witton

Rotterdam 28 Decembr 1708

Sr my very good friend Mr Kelley writ me the last post that he would be concerned with you in a parcel of mixt & white Kerseys if you would grant me the Commission here, wch you freely concentd too, for wch I give you maney thanks, when ever you are pleased to favour me with a Commission, Shall find that none will Serve you better or honester than I will doe, here under the prices though I cannot advise you to Send any at present, I will never Encourage anyone to Send goods when there is no prospect of advantage mixt Kerseys are mighty hard to be Sold, & Sometimes lays a year upon ones hands before they can meet with a chapman

I am

Bags of 50ll 32 1/2 or 33gl

D[itt]o 46 or 47ll f31 or 31 1/2gl

D[itt]o 42ll f26 or 27gl

D[itt]o 36ll f25 1/2gl

D[itt]o 30ll f20 or 20 1/2gl

D[itt]o 24ll f13 1/2 or 14 1/2gl

Whole kerseys 18 or 22gl

Small Cottons f5 or 6gl <per grs>

Long <ditto> 9 or 9 1/2 <... per Ell>

Londn Stuffe 14 or 16gl

4 Lood Bays 34 1/2 or 31gl

**28 Dec 1708 John Blackett to Edward Blackett**

[Note: No date given so assumed same date as previous letter.]

Rotterdam the

Sr Edw Blackett

I Recd a letter from Mr Jones dated the 30 Novembr last by wch I perceive [struck out: 'Capt Burton is advanced to a'] you will have one dozin of Naples handkerchiefs will be sure to Send them by Capt Burton or Some other carefull hand,

Lead is 21 ¼ <B> & I believe will rise, if you please to let Mr Mewburne Send me what lead you have now made by the first Ships wth Convoy, I will be sure to Remit you part of the money as Soon as I hear it is Shipt, none hear will be able to Sell against me because I have it without Commission, Mewburne must besure to get the freight as low as possible, pray let me know per first your thoughts of this, I have now money laying in Newcastle, if you would order any to be Send would draw upon them payle to you by the next post after it must be mentioned in the bills of loading to Sail wth Convoy because my Insurance will be made Soo, I would not have Mewburne to take any notice of it to Cousin Wilkinson I am Sure he may get the freight cheaper without his assistance, If you think fit will take all your lead & Remit you all or greatest part of the money when I hear it is Shipt, I think it will be much better for you than Selling it in Newcastle, when any is Shipt your Servant must let me know per next post that I may make Insurance, the bills I Send you Shall be at 2 usance payle in Newcastle, wch will be much better than in London, pray let me have a line per first opportunity, if you do not think fit to let me have any, must dispose of my money in Newcastle Some other way, am Sorry to hear of Sr Roger Beckwiths misfortune it is but what you expected yesterday 4 Expresses past through this place wth News that Gent was Capitulating the Antwerp News paper of this day Says that Gent was over & The French had left Bridges, I hope this will make all Commodities Rise, If you write to Mr Kelley he will let you know if any Ships are for this place it is very likely he may Send one himself

**28 Dec 1708 John Blackett to Christopher Blackett**

Dear Brother C

Ditto

I Recd both your letters of the 30 Novembr & 7 Decembr am glad to hear that you & my friends upon Ludgate hill are well, in your first you write for 5 or 6 Shirts, if you write me what price, will Endeavour to send them by Some carefull Man Pray deliver the Inclosed I am

**1 Jan 1709 John Blackett to Robert Shafto**

Mr Robt Shafto

Ditto

Sr I Recd your kind letter of the 19 Novembr by wch I perceive you had treated With Severall Masters about coming to this place wth coals indeed I was very glad to hear that none would Serve you at 12 and 13gl if you had Sent any you had certainly been a Looser, Coales was yesterday 18 1/2 or 18gl but having the news that Gent & Bridges are in our hands it is thought they will advance in price, this being New years day no Change is kept therefore cannot advise you the certain price, if any alteration is will acquaint you per next post, here under the price of corne pray let me know the

price of Rape Seed at your place, at present one could make 43 or 44£ a last, if one can have that wch is good, I believe there will be good advantage to be had

Exchange 35<.> 3 a 4 groot  
Lead 211/4 <.B / st>  
Corne from hull & their abouts the last  
White Wheat 140 oa160 gold Gl  
Red ditto 140 a 150 glgl  
Rie 100 a 112 ditto  
Barley £16 a 17  
Malt £15 a 20  
Rape Seed £42 a 44  
Oats £9 a 10

Corne from London & their abouts the last  
White Wheat 150 a 170 gold Gl  
Red ditto 140 a 160 glgl  
Rie 106 a 116 ditto  
Barley £16 a 17  
Malt £14 a 17  
Rape Seed £39 a 41 1/2  
Oats £8 a 9

**1 Jan 1709 John Blackett to John Kelly**

Mr John Kelly

Ditto

Sr my last to you was the 28 past Since have not been favoured wth yours yesterday we Recd the good news that Gent was Capitulating, & the Antwerp News paper of this day Says that Gent [Ghent] was over & the French had left Bridges [Bruges] wch had given Such a liveliness to corne, but particularly to Rape seed that it is advanced to 42 or 44£ if you can buy any wch is good at 17£ I will willingly have a part wth you, I hear there is now a Convoy at Tinemouth, if you could Send any by that Convoy it would turne to good accompt, or if you could Send any to Save the Convoy wch comes for the Duke of Malborough, I do not question but it will come to a good markt the price of corne Sent as above, if you buy any Seed let me know that I may Remit you the money & make Insurance, buy that wch is good & Rape <care> of the measure if you think any thing is to be had upon Seed at 171/2£ will take that Share wth you as will come to 200£ for my Name on <.> as you think fit, If I had any at present could make at least 45£ at <.....>they say it is higher

**4 Jan 1709    John Blackett to John Wilkinson**

Cousin Wilkinson

Rotterdam the 4th January 1708

Sr     the taking of Gent & Bridges has given Such a liveliness in the price of lead that Severall parcells has been Sold at 21 1/2 <p> & 100pcs at 21 3/4 I hope when you Send any, you will Remember me, when ever you are pleased to Send any lead & has no mind to be concerned wth the coals wch are generally in a Ship that comes wth lead, Pray let me know I will have that for my Acct & Remit you the money when I hear you designe to Ship any, Pray let me have a line from you & your thoughts of this    I am

Exchange 35 <B> 3 &4 groots  
Coales f19

**4 Jan 1709    John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Mr Featherstone & Reay

Ditto

S[ince] my last none from you, this is onely to acquaint you that since Gent & Bridges has been in our hands lead is much advanced, Severall parcells has been Sold at 21 1/2 <st> & 100pcs at 21 3/4 <st/B> it is the opinion of most that Coales will likewise advance in price, thought at present no more than f19, Jno Kitchinman took no Goods Inn from hence for your place, wch I was very Glad to read, if you do not contradict your orders will Send the paper wch you ordered Some time agoe

Exchange 35 <B> 3 &4 groots

**4 Jan 1709    John Blackett to Robert Fenwick**

[Note: No date given so assumed same date as previous letter. Unclear which of the Fenwicks the letter was addressed to, for both Nicholas and Robert were active merchants in Newcastle at the time. Robert was certainly dealing in leda with John Blackett's father so he is given here as the likely recipient]

Mr Fenwick

Ditto

Sr     I Rced your kind letter & give you maney thanks for your kind wishes, I do not question but you have heard of Gent & Bridges being in Our hands wch has given Such a liveliness in the price of lead that Severall parcells has been Sold at 21 1/2 & 100 pcs at 21 3/4 <B> it is thought that lead [sic: coal?] will likewise advance though the price is

now but f19, last Week I went to Waite upon Mrs Fromantle She desired when I writ to give her Service to you I am

**4 Jan 1709 John Blackett to Edward Blackett**

Sr Edw Blackett

Ditto

Thought I writ you last post yet the price of lead is Since advanced that I do here trouble you wth another letter Since Gent & Bridges are in our hands Severall parcells has been Sold at 21 1/2 a 21 3/4 <B?> I would have you by all means to Send all the lead that is made per first convoy, if you will not have it for your own acct will take it for mine, & Remit as I writ you by my last letter

**4 Jan 1709 John Blackett to Cuthbert Burton**

Mr C Burton

Rotterdm 4 Jann 1709

Sr This is to acquaint you that Severall Ships are here now for your place if you please to have any goods let me know by the first post; I am

**1 Feb 1709 John Blackett to John Kelly**

Mr John Kelley

Rotterdm the 1 Feby 1709

Sr yesterday I Recd yours of the 31 Decembr as likewise one from Mr Witton he writes me that a parcell of mixt Kerseys was gone for Hull and so for <Tergow> he Says the charges will be Less, but I believe he will find that will but differ very little, this post I designe to answer his letter, I will write you the Exact price here under, you may be very well assured I will do my best for my friends but particularly for my best friend Mr Kelley am glad you have bought 12 or 14 last Rape Seed, I wish you could find any oppertunity of Sending it, I think the best way will be to get a Ship, & what She wants besides the Rape Seed to load wth coales I will take ½ wth you, it is impossible to get a Ship at present from hence, because it will be So long before a Ship can get to Blith after it begins to Thaw, therefore will leave it wholly to your management, I do here Remit you for my Acct a bill at 2 usance of £95 upon Mr Featherstone & Reay, I hope you are not to pay ready money for the Seed, I do not know the Custom about you, pray let me know in the next & Shall always mind to have money ready hereafter, at London and Looses 10 pC by the measure, but at Stockton the measure is as large as ours, I cannot advise you the price of coals or hardly any thing Else, our Rivers has been frozen So hard & long time that no Merchendising in the least is Sturring, you write me that you

have had a great Consult, the Effects of wch hope may afford me a pair of the best Gloves, really I cannot tell what to think, I desire you would explaine yr Self a little more in your next, when you Ship the Seed there must be great care taken that it is put on board very dry, & if it chance to be long aboard the men must toss it about, & keep it from being hot wch Seed is very apt to be, Since the frost no manner of business is Sturring therefore no alteration in the price of Goods Severall people are of opinion that coales will Rise when the Ice is gone & others are of opinion another, therefore cannot tell how to advise my friend, but I would by all means have you to get a Ship to load the Rape Seed, & what is wanting to put coales or some other thing aboard, if it comes Safe & proves good I hope to make 43 or 44£ wch is the price at present, you must Ship it for this place it was a Amsterdm Broaker wch told me it was higher in price their than this place, but Since have made enquiry & finds it is always dearer here, I would not have you to buy any more Seed, till you hear further I do here inclosed Send you for my Acct a bill of 13£ 15 Shill on B Clayton

**1 Feb 1709 John Blackett to Burdit Clayton**

Mr B Clayton

Ditto

I have this day drawn on you a bill of 13£ 15Shillings payall to Mr John Kelley a 35  
<st?> 2 grot I make you debit for 1gl & 8Sll for letters and make you Credit for the bill  
f145-0.8

**1 Feb 1709 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Messrs Featherstone & Reay

Rotterdm the 1 Feby 1709

Yesterday I Recd of the 7 Janny we have had a very great frost for these 3 months that not one Ship has been able to get anchor In the Maese or Hellevoet Sluys, we had 7 mails at once from England, am mighty glad the flax proved as good as that wch my neighbours Sent, & will Endeavour to Send Some wch is not <fals> packt, here is a Ship wch belongs to your place, if he will bind himself to go wth Convoy Shall be Sure to Ship the goods you order, as likewise the paper wch you ordered in your last, if two Ships lays on for your place will Ship ½ in one & ½ in the other, I have this day drawn on you at 2 usance a bill at £95 at <35..> & the reason I did not draw on you before was because the Exchange has been very low all the frost the Exchange was 2 post agoe at 35 <Bst> Some people would have made their advantage at Such a time but I will never do any thing wch is a prejudice to any correspondent if it lays in my power to be help'd, the bill is payable to Mr John Kelley, Since the frost no merchandise is Sturring therefore no alteration in the price of goods I make you debit for 95£ a 35 & 2 f1002:5>

**1 Feb 1709 John Blackett to Henry Witton**

Mr H Wilton

Ditto

Sr I Recd yesterday yours of the 25th decembr the reason the letter has been So long a Comming is we have had a great frost that no Ships was able to come in to our ports, I perceive you have ordered the mixt [struck out: 'clothes'] Kerseys for Tergow, I believe you will find little difference in the charges, betwixt that place & Rotterdm, Since Gent & Bridges has been in our hands there is no alteration in the price of any Sort of goods, but Indeed the very day after we heard they were taken our Rivers was frose & has been ever Since & then you may Imagine that no Merchandise is Sturring because every thing is Sent by water, you may be Sure I will always Serve you to the utmost of my power, & never leave one Stone unturn'd, to Serve my friend, I will make it my business to Recommend you to all my acquaintance here, & if any one Should write to you in my name you may rely on them as good & Substantiall men, but old traders Seldom alters their Correspondent, wch I am very Sensible of, there are Severall in Newcastle wch promised me their Commission when I was in England, but now will not So much as answer my letters, in the Spring if Woolen goods gives any incouragement will take  $\frac{1}{4}$  part in a parcel, & I do not question but Mr Kelley will do the Same, the prises of goods are as I writ you last, but when the water is open & any alteration is will besure to advise you

Exchange to London 35 <..> 2 & 3 <rs>

**1 Feb 1709 John Blackett to John Wilkinson**

Mr Wilkinson

Ditto

Sr I Recd your letter of the Jann we had a great frost for these 3 weeks, wch has put a Stop to all trade, Since the frost there has been no Sort of Merchandise, for as you know very well every thing is Sent from Town to Town in Boats, I See you designe to Send very little if any lead these 3/m when ever you Send any I hope you will not forget me I will take the coales as I writ you before, I do here inclosed Send you a bill of £80 drawn by John Gascoyne upon Benja Gascoyne 2 usance at 35 <B> 2 groat wch is f844:- brokeridge f- 12 f844:12 though I have Remitted you the money yet  $\frac{1}{4}$  part is not pay'd, it is very hard to get money as long as the frost continues

Exchange 2 usance 35 <B> 2 & 2 1/2 groot

**1 Feb 1709 John Blackett to Edward Blackett**

Sr Edward Blackett

Ditto

Writ him that I had Sent the handkerchiefs by Mr Jackson of Leeds & cost f19:8, there are Severall of the Same colour though not So large & worse Silk but these are the best in holland

**5 Feb 1709 John Blackett to Thomas Brummell**

Mr Brommell

Rotterdm the 5 feby 1709

Dr Sr Yours of the 24 decembr came to hand the other day, the reason it was So long a comming is we have had Such a Great frost for this month that not one Ship, (not So much as a Pacquet) was able to get into the Maese or Hellevoet Sluys, though Severall times before the Landt & always forc'd to put back into English harbours, four days agoe we had a thaw wch brought 7 mails together from England, but now it freeses as hard as ever, when it begins to Thaw it will be at least one Month be fore our Rivers are free from Ice, am mightly glad that Mrs Brumel got the Linnen & Cambrick, hopes they proved as she desired [struck out: 'if I writ you they cost f26gl it was a mistake in the pen'], when I Sent them I did not know certainly what I was to pay, but Since has paid 13gl for the Cambrick & 11gl for the linnen wch is f24gl & not 26gl as you write, I shall never think it any trouble to Serve Mr or Mrs Brummell & Should take it very ill of your Wife if She Should Send to any other person to buy her any things as long as I am on this Side of the water, Cousin Wilkinson writ me his Wife was brought to bed of a Boy, I wish with all my heart you might write the Same of Mrs Brummell, & when it happens if you will accept of a younger Brother to be Godfather, you may find one at Rotterdm & Should take it as a great favour done him, Mr Wilkinson has Sent Several 100 ps [lead] to this place, Since I was Settled, though he has not Sent me 1 ps to me except the 350 ps wch he Shipt when I came over, but I need not tell you this, you know it as well as my Self, I dare not write my Sisters one word, I know they could not forbear telling him of it, he writ me that old Allan had got every Ship that he had Shipt any lead Inn, & I was told by another that allan always buys the coals of Mr Wilkinson, wch are generally put in the bottom of the Ship, & Sends them for his own Acct about 3 weeks agoe I writ Mr Wilkinson I would do the Same, that is take the Coales for my own Acct that are in the bottom of the Ship, his answer was that Since I would do that he would Send me Some lead, but it would be May first, because he had no lead in the Cellar but what he could Sell in Towne, I write you this, (inter nos) I cannot yet See any Signs of a peace, The French are makeing as great preparations as ever & brings all his Troops out of Savoy into Flanders, but when we Shall be So happy as to have a peace, Shall remember what you Said, but as you Say very well if we could keep our hands in use it would be very well; Since the frost no merchandise is Sturring, but when there is

open weather I believe Lead will give 21 3/4 or 22 <Bst> Pray give my Service to your Good Wife & Sisters I am Dr Sr Your most humble Servt J

Shall Send you the Coffy & plates per first Ship, if you could Send me the charges wch <£.> Brings in Acct for 100 ps lead it would be very desirable

**5 Feb 1709 John Blackett to John Field**

Mr John Field

Rotterdm the 5 feby 1709

Sr I Recd both your letters of the 17 Novembr & 29 Decembr, I would have answered the former long ago but was in hopes to have advised you the arrivall of the R Raven, your last letter onely came to hand the other day, we have had Such a great frost that not one Ship (not So much as a Pacquet was able to get into the maese or Hellevoet Sluys, though Severall times before the land but always forced back into England 3 or 4 days ago it began to Thaw very hard for 24 hours wch brought packquets over wth 7 mails but now it freses as hard as ever , & Some people Says it frose nigh 3 Inches Thick last night, there has not been Such a Winter these 20 Years, am very much obliged to you for the Shipping my anchor Ale a board Raven, hopes you will get the other Shipt before the Ship Sails, when ever there is any Incouragement for Hull I Shall make bold to give you the trouble of a Small Commission, Since the frost no Merchandising is Sturring, but the price is 21 3/4 <Bst?> I desire you will write me the price of Rape Seed, & if there is any Good to be bought, I wish you & your Lady a Happy New Year & maney of them I am

Exchange 35 <Bst?> 2

**19 Feb 1709 John Blackett to Robert Fenwick**

[Note: Letters also sent to Joseph Atkinson, Robert Shaftoe & John Kelley]

Mr Robt Fenwick

Rotterdm 19 feby 1709

Sr this is onely to acquaint you that the great Snows & hard frosts wch has been this year has Risen the prises of corn very considerably as you may See here under & it is the oppinion most people that it will yet be dearer

Exchange 35 <Bst?>

lead 21 3/4

W. Wheat 180 & 200 Ggl

RD 150 & 170

Rye            112 & 124  
barley        16 & 17£  
Malt          17 & 20£  
Oats          10 & 11£  
Rape Seed    44 & 47£

Mr Joseph Atkinson

Mr Robt Shafto

Mr John Kelley, writ him the prices of corne as above, & desired him to Send the R Seed as Soon as possible, let me know the Ship & masters name that I may make Insurance accordingly

**22 Feb 1709 John Blackett to Garforth**

Mr Garforth

Rotterdam 22 feby 1709

Sr I make bold to acquaint you that I am now Settled in this place wth a designe to follow merchandise, if I can Serve you in any thing here please to Command, we have had very hard frosts & great Snows all this Winter wch has risen the price of corne very Considerabley, & will yet be much dearer, it is thought the corne in the ground is all Spoilt, pray when you favour me wth a line let me know if any Rape Seed is to be had about what price & quantity & you will oblige

Exchange 2 us[uance] 35 <Bst?>

Lead 22 <Bst?>

Corn as above

**5 Mar 1709 John Blackett to Cuthbert Burton**

Mr C Burton

Rotterdam 5 March 1709

Sr I Recd yours of the 28 January wth orders to buy 4 Matts flax & 10 Matts Rynsbr Tow wch I Shall Ship the first oppertunity our Rivers has not been free from Ice these 2 months wch is the Reason that no flax has been brought to Market, but now it being a great Thaw I designe to buy your flax Next Market day though no Ships are as yet laid on for your place, but the Reason is, because most people thinks that flax will advance in price corne being So dear, therefore the country people will rather Sow their ground wth corne wch will turne to great proffit, but I hope to buy your flax for 21 &

22 Stl The farmers being at present much Straitned for money the frost continuing So long we always pay ready money for the goods we buy in the market, if you could conveniently order me to buy draw on your friend in London it would do me a great kindness I am

Exchange 35 <Bst?>  
W. Wheat 190 : 200 Ggl  
RD 185 : 200  
Rye 118 : 130  
Barley 18: 21£  
Malt 20 : 24  
R Seed 46 : 51£

**5 Mar 1709 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Messrs Featherstone & Reay

Ditto

Since my last none from you this is onely to acquaint you that it is the opinion of most people that flax will be much dearer, the reason is, because corne is mighty dear therefore the country people will much rather Sow their ground wth corne wch is thought will turne to great advantage

**12 Mar 1709 John Blackett to John Stephenson**

Mr C Jno Stephenson Junior a Newcastle

Rotterdm 12 March 1709

Sr I Recd your letter of the 4 Feby but last Sunday, the reason it has been So long a comming is, we have had Easterly Winds for these 3 Weeks it frezes here as yet as hard as ever, you may be assured when ever you order any Goods will Serve you to the utmost of my power, I have not as yet loaden any thing for Mr Reay our Rivers being froze no Goods can come to Markett, this day one Wm Mills is laid on for your place, if he will promise to take your goods & land them at Scheilds or at least keep them out of the way till you See him Shall put a board what you ordered, pray tell Mrs Reay I Shall buy the Callico She orders as likewise the Cannester, I have bought her a working basket wch Mr Reay desired me to buy & shall Send it per first

12 Mar 1709 John Blackett to John Kelly

Mr John Kelley

Rotterdam 12 March 1709

Sr last Sunday I Recd both yours of the 5th & 14 feby yr Stile, there was five mails delivered out at once, & I have got 2 Mails due, it freezes here as hard as ever, I hope by this time you have got a Ship for the Seed, it I think it will be as well if you Send for the Seed to Newcastle by land & then Ship it for this place, it will not be very hard to get Insurance made from Blyth, the Broaker tells me I need not be uneasy though the Seed does not come this Month, it is his opinion that it will keep its price, when Capt John Binkes arrives I will Sell the Coales the highest price possible I cannot next write you the price [~~of Coales~~] The Maese has been froze for these 2 months & none has been Sold, if no great quantity comes I hope to make 22gl a hood if not more, but if maney Ships comes the price will be about 20gl, we have delivered a Request to the States that all French Coales may be counter Band & not Suffered to be brought into Flanders, this is the reason that coales has been So low all this Winter, Ryssel Gent Bridges etc has all been Supplied from france, but if our Request takes Effect Coales will be 24 & 25gl all Summer, I Recd a letter last post from Mr Wilton wth bills loading as likewise Samples of the Mixt Kerseys, at their arrival will Sell them to your most advantage, I wish the mixt Kerseys had come before the Winter, the country people are now mostly provided, I cannot tell how to advise you whether to Inssure or not, the Insurance at present is 39 <st? f10 ...> the Ships where your goods are loaden are all goods Ships & the Masters has used this place maney Years, but you know very well we have generally very blowing Weather this Month the last letters brought advice of Severall Ships being Stranded In Yarmouth Roades, [~~one of them~~] is Oliver Wall is from Newcastle, therefore Shall waite your further orders whether I Shall make Insurance or not, Indeed I do not hear that maney Privateers are out, but when the Ice is gone I fancy we Shall of Severall putting to Sea, The french always knows as well as our Selves when the fleet is expected, I will dispose of your goods assoon as can find a good Market, because I perceive you designe to Send a Ship for the East Country, when your friends draws on me their bills Shall be duly honoured, I am very glad my father has writ you a letter wth an Invitation to Newby, I hope you will be So kind as to go & Stay 14 days, am Sure you will be heartly welcome, if it was but onely upon my Account, am Sure I am more obliged to you than any one in Newcastle, am Sorry to hear that your Mother is out of order, the house is mighty Damp & certainly that is the Reason my Sisters will have a mighty great loss, by the first Ships will Send you what you write for there is no proffit to be had in butter, but if you could Send hides they would turn to good Acct but must first inquire if they are allowed to be brought out of England, the best comes from Sheilds

Hides 55 & 60 <ll> 131/2 & 141/2gl

65 & 70 <ll> 143/4 & 16gl

Lead 22 <Bst?>

The Broakers cannot tell me the price White & Mixt Kerseys till the See them  
there are all Sort of prices

**12 Mar 1709 John Blackett to Henry Witton**

Mr Henry Wilton

Rotterdam 12 feby March 1708/9

Sr I Recd yours of the 9 feby yr Stile wth bills of loading of 7 packs & Samples of the Mixt Kersey last Sunday, we had 5 Mails delivered out all at once & has yet 2 Mails due, when the Ships arrives will dispose of the Goods to your most advantage, I wish the Mixt Kerseys had come before the frost, the Country people are now mostly provided, I perceive in No 2 you have Sent 10 ps Small Kerseys I do not question but to give you good encouragement to send goods to this market, the Insurance is wth Convoy from Hull < qts > of the Ships where your goods is loaden are all good Ships & the masters used this trade maney Years but you know this month is always very Stormy, Indeed I cannot hear that maney privateers are at Sea but I fancy when the Ice is gone we Shall hear of Severall putting to Sea, therefore Shall waite your orders if Insurance must be made or not, Mr Sykes has given no more for freight than has been given all this War, [struck out: 'Mr Kelley & my Self'] Rape Seed is here 50£ though I cannot See any advantage < if > we must 20£

**12 Mar 1709 John Blackett to Thomas Vazie**

Mr Tho Vazie

Rotterdam the 12 feby March 1709

Sr last Sunday I Recd yours of the 4th feby , we had 5 mails delivered out at once & has yet 2 due, I perceive you have a mind to make a triall of me, when ever you order any goods Shall find nothing but honesty by me, Indeed I have had letters from other people who has complained of L:A: I have inquired for Edm Quash of the Olive Branch of Lynn but finds he has not been here these 10 Months, it may be he may come the first Convoy, if he does you may be assured I Shall what you ordered & does not question but Shall give you good content, Capt John Binkes of the Lidle is consigned to me, if he is not come from your place you may Speak to him to take your Goods, pray let me know in your next if Quash does not come whether or no I shall put your Goods in any other Ship, there is one Wm Mills of Plymouth ladeon for your place

**12 Mar 1709 John Blackett to Ralph Hall**

Mr Ralph Hall

Ditto

Sr

I Recd yours of the 8 feby though not before last Sunday, when we had 5 mails delivered out at once & there are 2 yet due, the frost continnes here as hard as ever, when you are pleased to order any Goods Shall find nothing but Honesty by me, French Cork there is none in Towne, but Severall parcells Expected the last was Sold for 14gl, bottle Corke you may have the best Sort 15Stl Second Sort 9Stl Third Sort 6Stl here is a Man in towne that Sells great quantities of bottle Corke, I do not question but you know that Corke is forbidden to be brought into England from Holland but what ever you order Shall be punctually Sent by

Flax from 21 to 23Stl a Stone

I cannot believe it will be cheaper than it is at present corne being So dear it is the opinion of most people that Instead of Sowing flax the country people will Sow corne, the reason it is So cheap is we have had a very hard winter & the farmers wants money, but if we have a Good Summer & the flax upon the Ground in a fair way I believe it may be Something cheaper Rynsbr Tows 123/4 & 13 gl <Bors> Tow 19gl, our Rivers has been frose these 2 months, therefore cannot well advise you the price of Coales, none has been Sold Since the frost began, if no great quantities come the price will be 22gl a hoodt but if maney Ships comes the price about 20gl I write you as it is the opinion here bottles 24 & 25 Stl

**18 Mar 1709 John Blackett to James Morton**

Mr James Morton

Rotterdm the 18 March 1709

Sr I am favoured wth yours of the 25th feby per Stile, by wch I perceive you load the Liddell John Binks wth a Bulk of Good Coales you may be assured I will do my utmost endeavour to Sell them at the highest price but at present here is no demand, we have had a very hard winter & our Rivers being froze no Coales could be Sent to any place the coales wch was lade up are all yet unsold, I cannot write you any price, but when our Rivers are cleare of Ice wch will be in 8 or 10 days I hope there will be a demand, but if maney Ships comes together I am afraid there will be but little if any proffit, we Shall find it very difficult to get boats to take the coales out, most of ours being prest for the States Service assoon as the Ship arrives will go to all the Brewers houses in town & will get them Sold if possible, we have delivered a Request to our Deputies of State wch are gone to Ryssel to prohibit all coales from france to come into flanders if this takes Effect coales will give a good price but I would not have you Send any more till you hear further from me [struck out: 'I think you give to'] I have no

Inclination to take a Share in the loading, if Mr Allan has price Ships of his own to dispose of, but I hear that when Robt Paine ships wch came last from your place will be Sold assoon as he arrives, I believe Allan has a Share, there is one unthank wch will be at your place in a Short time will be Sold & Old Allan is to have the direction over her in 6 Weeks time Severall English Ships will be Sold in this place, there are none of yours yet arrived, assoon as I hear their <bigness> Shall write you, Just now Mr Cowenburgh tells me in 3 Months time he expects 3 or 4 Ships wch he designes to Sell they are from 100 to 300 tuns, Mr Allan likewise tells me that <R>pairs Ship is to be Sold, I am

**22 Mar 1709 John Blackett to John Guinneys**

Mr John Guinneys of Plymouth

Rotterdm the 22 March 1709

Sr This is to acquaint you that I am now Settled in this place wth a designe to follow Merchandise, if I can Serve you in any thing please to Command, I have Severall times inquired after you of Masters of Ships & others, & now I hear you are Married, I wish you & your Lady Health, long life & all other happiness you can Sells desire, we have had a very great frost this Winter the Maese has been froze over these two Months, the Ladys instead of Riding in the <Bonkjies> came all in their coatches upon the Maese, wch has not been done these 16 years, but God be thanked the frost is gone & our Rivers partly clear of Ice I am

**29 Mar 1709 John Blackett to Henry Witton**

Mr Hen Witton

Rotterdm 29 March 1709

Sr Since my last I have Recd yours of the 2 March by wch I perceive you have Sent 4 last of Rape Seed for Hull, I wish it may come time enough to save the Fleet, but if it Should come too late it is not much matter, it is the opinion of alle here that the price will rather advance than fall, Mr Kelley has bought Some time agoe 14 or 16 last Each concerned ½ for 16£ if it comes Safe there will be a good penny got Thos Procter, Richard Ellis Robt Hunter are all arrived wth the Dutch Man of War but the rest Stay'd for the 2 English Men of War wch would Saile in 2 or 3 days after, if the Ships Should get any misfortune (wch God forbid ) the masters will be much blamed for not Sailing wth the Dutch Convoy I am Sr

Lead 22 <Bst?>

Rape Seed from 46 to 50£

Exchange 35 <Bst?> & 1

**29 Mar 1709 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Messrs Featherstone & Reay

Rotterdam the 29 March 1709

I Recd both yours of the 4 feby & 8 March, by the former See you had accepted my bill of £95, you may be assured I will forbear drawing on you on long as I can, Edmd . Quash is this day Safe arrived & designes to load for your place, I will Ship most or all your goods a board of him the fleet will Sail in 14 days, the corne contrary to all Expectations has recd no damidge by the frost (except Rape Seed) therefore flax will not be dearer as was thought I have bought for Mrs Reay the Tapes, thread & a basket wch will Send via Ed Quash & desire his care

**29 Mar 1709 John Blackett to John Feild**

Mr John Feild

Ditto

Sr I Recd both yours of the 16 feby & 8 March, am Sorry you had So much trouble in Shipping my ale, This day Tho Procter Robt Hunter, Richd Ellis are all Safe arrived, wth the Dutch Convoy, I hope we Shall have the Rest of the Ships in one or two days, if they chance to get any Misfortune the Masters will be blamed for not Sailing wth the Dutch Man of War, when the Season is for Rape Seed pray acquaint me wth the price, I have a friend in Newcastle who will always be concerned wth me in any thing where there is a prospect of a penny to be got, I will Send you pr Raikes one pound of Bohea Tea & 6lb of Wafers no larger than that wch you Sealed your letter with Messrs Straalman & Sons has not Sent me bill of loading of the 50 piggs Lead wch makes me believe they will keep them for their own Acct, if it had happened would have writ them the lead was for my order & for my account, we have great talks of a peace but cannot think it is so nigh as people imagine but wishes wth all my heart that we may have an honourable & lasting peace & than I hope we Shall be Serviceble to one another

**5 Apr 1709 John Blackett to Nathaniel Clayton**

Mr N Clayton

Rotterdam 5 April 1709

Sr here above I Send you Invoice of 16 Bolts Canvas 8qts Bouselar & 6qts Hemlin Shipt on board the Jonathan Wm Mills Master wch I hope will prove to Content, you have likewise Inclosed bill of loading of the same, the Master is with his Ship at the Brile & Sails wth 2 Men of War for Yarmouth Roads per first fair Wind, we have had a very hard Winter all our Rivers was frose for Some Months that not one Ship could

Saile In or out, there is great talks of a peace, but I cannot think we Shall have one So Soon as is expected, if your Wife wants any thing to be bought here please to Command me, I have Such Intrest wth most of the Masters that I know they will take care of what I give them, we have 2 or 3 Ships in loading for your place, pray acquaint your Brother Mr Alexius Clayton to accept my bill when I draw on him though it will not be yet this Month

**5 Apr 1709 John Blackett to Cuthbert Burton**

Mr Cuth Burton

Rotterdm 5 April 1709

Sr I Recd yours of the 5 March as likewise one from Mr John Hester who wrotes he will accept my Bill of £40 for your Acct when I draw on him, wch is very well, here above you have Invoice of 4 Matts flax & 10 of Rynsbn Tows wch I hope will come Safe & prove to content, the Master is wth his Ship at the briel onely waiting a good Wind, he Sails wth 2 English Men of War for Yarmouth Roads, I desire you not to let Mr Reay know I Shipt you any goods I have had his orders Some Months but Rynsbn Tows being mighty Scarce could not get the quantity he desires therefore Shipt no Sort of Goods for him, when this Ship arrives am afraid Shall have a Scolding letter from him we have 2 or 3 Ships in loading for your place, my Service to all friends I am

**5 Apr 1709 John Blackett to John Kelly**

Mr John Kelley

Ditto

Sr Since my last none from you this is onely to Send accompt & bill of loading of 1 Matt Candle Week wch you ordered Some time agoe pray let me know whether this or the last proves best I bought them of two different men, Wm Mills Sails per first fair Wind wth 2 Men of war for Yarmouth Roades he has promised to take care of the <Iornlafe Tea> but the Mercht Tiles & paper is left behind Ships are arrived from Hull but none that you are concerned Inn, there are about 9 or 10 Ships wch Stayed for the 2 English Men of War, these 3 came wth the Dutch Convoy, there is no danger of privateers, they say most of the Merchts wch was concerned in priveter lives at Lile this place being in our hands few or no Ships are fitted out of Duynkerque, I hope you have Shipt the Seed it keeps up in price the best Sort 50 & 51£ worst Sort 46£ I am

Coales

Lead 22 <Bst?>

Taback best 8:9:10

Common Sort 5 1/2 & 7Stl

Worst Sort 4 & 4 1/2 Stl

**8 Apr 1709 John Blackett to Ralph Hall**

Mr R Hall

Rotterdam 8 April 1709

Sr I Recd yours of 11 March, wth bill of loading of 527 doz bottles on board Robt Bulman at his arrivall will Sell them at the highest price possible, you order me for the neet <pr.decd> of the bottles but Rynsbn Tow onely 5 Matt Bostle Tow, I have had orders these 5 Months from Mr Reay for 30 Matts Rynsbn Tow but cannot get half the quantity, I writ to harlem to enquire if any was to be bought, there answer was that only 10 Matts was in the whole Towne & would have 13 1/4gl besides Freight & to this place wch would come here to at least 13 1/2gl wch I durst not bestow, if 20 or 30 Matts was to be had for 13gl here, I would willingly have bought them now for you, though I had been a Month out of pocket for my money, I will always do as much for my friend as for my Self, pray in your next let me know (if I cannot get the quantity of Rynsbn Tow as you desire, though you may be assured I will do all that lays in my power) if I Shall Send more than the 5 Matts Flax you write for, if I can Serve you in any thing pray command and you will oblige

Coales 22gl but when the fleet arrives will be I believe about 20 1/2 or 21gl

Lead 22

Bottles

[Struck out: 'Coffy']

Grindstons

QuickSilver is much Sent from hence to your place

Flax 20 to 22 Stl the Stone

Borstle Tow 19gl Scarce

Rynsbn Tow 13gl little or none to be had

**16 Apr 1709 John Blackett to John Kelly**

[Note: Blackett's insurance certificate for the f390 of goods insured upon George Huntington's ship, dated 17th April, is filed with the letter book in which this copy letter is found]

Mr J Kelley

Rotterdam 16 April 1709

Sr

I Recd yours of the 18 March by wch I perceive the Ships was not Sailed from your place, we have had very uncertain weather, the Wind goes Round the Compass almost Every day, am Sorry the R Seed Comes So much Short of our Expectation, here is a

friend of mine who bought 60 last and Remitted money for the Same, but Since it has got to So high a price, the farmers Says they have not half the quantity they thought they had, my friend is now in law wth the farmers but Since you Say you think we have the whole parcel, we must be content, I wish you had brought the seed by land to Newcastle & than Shipt it for Rotterdm, am informed Severall Ships are taken betwixt Blyth & Tinmouth, you do not write if any place was taken in a Ship for the Seed or whether or no you designed it Should come wth the convoy that was ready pray advise in time the name of Ship & Master, & from whence the Seed is Shipt, if it is Shipt from Blyth I Shall not know well how to make Insurance, because the convoy does not come directly from thence, the Master must be sure to take Sailing orders, if he Should chance to be taken & have none, the Insurers will Says he has no convoy, (we have an Example of this at present) am Sorry must advise you the Hull Ships are not arrived, the last letters brings News that was come to the two Men of War not to Stir, because the Admiralty had intelligence of the Duynkerque Squadron being out, if I thought it was So would make Insurance for you, we have letters from all parts of france twice a Week, & no letters makes mention of a fleet being out, but indeed we have advice that a Fleet is fitting out of Duynkerque & is to take 6 or 7 Regiments aboard, if So I cannot think they have any designe upon our Merchant Men, there is a talke as if they would attempt another landing in Schotland other Says in Ireland, per first post Shall Expect positive orders if Insurance must be made or not, I wish could tell how to advise you for the best, but you know in this point it is very difficult, am afraid the Kerseys will come to a bad Market, the country people are now all provided, it will be a long time before I Shall be able to dispose of them, there is never any demand for Woolen Goods in the Summer, in your next acquaint me if here is any goods wch you could dispose off for any profit, as likewise what prohihed goods wch would lay in little room & turne to good profit you have not as yet writ me the price of hides as likewise if they are allowed to be Sent, the best comes from Shields next post will write my Sister Althea

This day I hear that Tho Wallis is very deep as also when the Fleet was last at Sea & forced back by contrary winds yet he Sprang a leak therefore will write this Evening to amsterdm to have f1100gl Insured upon goods in him I Should not have ventered to have Insured but being you left it to me to Insure or not I do it for the best & hopes it will be to your mind

Just before I Sent my letter to Amsterdm to make Insurance as I writ on the other Side, I Recd yours of the 28 March & will according to your order get Insurance made as follows

f1110 upon Goods in Tho Wallis  
490 upon Goods in St Wood  
390 upon Goods in Huntington

we have no good Insurers in this place am very Glad you have freighted a Ship wth Coales & to take our Seed it will come to a Good Market I have writ to my friend to get 1500gl Insured upon Goods in Tho Grainger I hope the Insurers will have no more

<premy> though Grainger Sails without convoy from Blyth to Newcastle, I give you maney thanks for Speaking to Mr Shaftoe & wish it was in my power to Serve you

**16 Apr 1709 John Blckett to Henry Witton**

Mr H Witton

Rotterdm the 16 April 1709

Sr I am favoured wth yours of the 16 March by wch perceive you have bought 14 last Rape Seed wch am mighty glad to hear the price you have here under & will be I believe Some what higher, but if you can get 23£ would advise you to Sell it all you have then a certain profit, there is Generally 10 perC lost by the measure, unless you buy at Stockton & there the measure is as large as here, am Sorry must advise you the Hull Ships are not yet arrived, the last letters brought News that the [struck out: 'Duyunkerque Squadron'] two Convoys was Stopt because the Admiralty had Intelligence of the Duyunkerque Squadron being out, we have twice a Week letters from all parts of france & none makes mention of any Fleet being out , but indeed we have advice from Brest & Duyunkerque that Severall Men of War are fitting out & are to take 6 or 7 Regiments aboard, if So I cannot think they have any designe upon our Mercht Men, there is a talke as if they would attempt another landing in Schotland, others Says Ireland, Mr Kelley has left it to me whether to Insure or not, I did not designe to have made any Insurance, but hearing by the last letters from Hull that Tho Wallis was very deep as likewise when the Ships was last at Sea & forced back by contrary Winds that he Sprang a leak, therefore has this day Insured for his accompt f1100gl upon Goods aboard Tho Wallis. this Evening I Recd yours of the 30 March I cannot advise you to Send any leather here in the Summer time, but against next Winter if you please will be concerned 1/3 or 1/2 on a parcel wth you, I do not know any thing that a penny may be got by Since corne is So very dear in England if we have a good harvest you will find it fall in price as fast as it has now risen, you will Stand very well wth your R Seed I hope your 10 last will Save the Fleet wch is now at Hull, this Seed has Suffered much more by the frost than any other Sort therefore will keep up in price, Mr Kelley writes me that the farmer of whom he bought our Seed Says there is will be but 8 or 9 last, we have every post complaints of that here is a friend of mine who bought 60 last R Seed Some months ago & Remitted money at the Same time, now Seed being got up to So high a price the farmers Says they have but 16 lasts wch is a very great loss, here is another Mercht Served the same trick but he is gone to Law wth them

writ him the price of corne as I have Mr Kelley on the other side

Uper leather 7 & 7 1/4

Sole '' 7 1/2 8 1/4

Calf Skins 12 & 13Stl

dt not curried but tanned 6 1/2 & 7 1/2

Exchange 35 <B?>

**19 Apr 1709 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Messrs Featherstone & Reay

Rotterdam 19 April 1709

here inclosed I Send bills of loading of Goods Shipt onboard the Olive branch Wm Quash Mt & the consent George paine Mt for wch I make you Debter f1913:1 if I was to buy the flax now Should be obliged to give 1 1/2 or 2 Stl [stuivers?] more Rynsbn & Borstle Tow are very Scarce I have had much adoe Send the quantity you ordered, you will find my Rynsbn Tow the best in the whole Fleet, there is not one false packt, the Matts Markt R/H are haerlams Son when you write let me know if they are not better than the rest R/H is yet finer, I hope you will find the paper and Shaving plet So Content, here is no paper at present of 80 or 82 Stl R/H is a Mat haerlam Borstle Tow there was no more to be had, we had a very hard Winter wch hindered the poorer people to Work & now harvest coming on they are other ways imployed wch is the reason Tow is So Scarce, I have Sent per G paine the Basket, Tapes, Thread, & the Napkin wch I brought over wth me, but has taken the length & Bredth of it, by next Ships will Send Mr Whitefield 6 doz in of Span Water, Quash & paine waits onely for a Fair Wind, this day I have drawn a bill on you at 2 usance of 100£ when you have accepted it & under writ where paymt is to be found in London please to Send it me back I have paid for your flax & plet above 2 Months agoe when I am capabe of doing you any manner of Service please to command & you will oblige

£100 at 34 <B?> 10<.> f1045  
for brokeridge -- 15  
1044: 5

this is the highest Course Given This day Exchange will yet be lower, the reason is the taback Merchts in London draws for Vast Sums of money every post, the Merchts does not care to buy bills wch must be first Sent into the country for acceptance, they will not take the trouble as likewise be at the charge of postidge of letters therefore has made the bill to my order

**19 Apr 1709 John Blackett to John Stephenson**

Mr John Stephenson Junr at Mr Wm Turners in the Great Market

Ditto

Sr here inclosed I Send bill of loading of 4 qts linnen Shipt as above, I hope they will prove to content my friend at Amsterdm writes me they are good of the Sort I would have Sent Mrs Reay a qts of Callico but hears She is gone to the Bath, therefore

thinks best to Stay till her returne pray advise Mr Robt Stephenson to accept my bill when I draw on him for your Acct

Coales 22gl but will fall when the Fleet arrives  
Bottles 24Stl great parcels Expected  
Lead 21 1/2 & 3/4  
Grindstones 16 & 18gl

**19 Apr 1709 John Blackett to Thomas Vazie**

Mr Tho Vazie at Mr Tho Salkeld

Ditto

Sr I Recd yours of 15 March wth bill of loading of 102 dozin bottles per Abram bosfield, when he arrives Shall dispose of them to your most advantage, who ever writ bottles was at 26Stl informed you wrong, one may buy at 25Stl at present, when the Fleet arrives the price will fall great quantities is Expected, here inclosed you have bill of loading of 19 qts linnen & ½ qts of Satin for a Lining I have the Callicos & the other qts Cloth ready but in your last letter Said Mrs Shadforth was to have them Wm Quash has promised to take care of them, will Send the Coffy by Mr Shadforth

**17 May 1709 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Mr Featherstone & Reay

Rotterdam 17 May 1709

I Recd your letter 19 April wth the inclosed bill of 100£ accepted, I hope Quash & Paine are well arrived long before this, the Goods a board them does not question but will prove to content, I cannot well tell how to advise you when the best time is to buy Flax & Tows, it is generally much dearer towards Winter, we Expect the Newcastle Fleet to Morrow it is a question whether we Shall have the oppertunity of Shipping after this Fleet is gone till Winter, and then flax is always dearer indeed the New Crop is very likely to prove Good, if it continues dry Weather, but if there is a good Crop I cannot think it will be anything cheaper, because corne is So mighty dear, therefore the country people will rather Sow Corne (wch turns to So great advantage at present) than flax, the price is as I writ you before but if maney orders is Given to Ship in Next Ships it may be will rise ½ or 1 Stiver a Stone, when ever you want paper can furnish you as well as any, here is a Young Man my Next Neighbour who lived wth a paper Mercht who has promised me always to Send to the Mills him self, but then must pay him ready money wch Shall not Scruple to doe, I have this day drawn on you a bill of £86 at 2 usance payable in London wch do here inclose when accepted please to Send it me back, am very Sorry the Exchange is So much to your prejudice, if you please to inquire will find that 34 <BIz> 10 <.> was the highest wch was given this day for London you

may be assured I will not wrong you one farthing in the Exchange I make you Credit for £86 at 34 <BIZ> 10 <.> f898:14 & Debit for brokeridge when I Sell the bill f-12, really it is my opinion that it is now the best time to buy Flax & Tow, the flax Men wch keeps Shops here buys what they can every Market day if you would have any bought please to let me know per first post afraid the Ships Should be gone

**21 May 1709 John Blackett to Ralph Hall**

Mr R Hall

Rotterdam 21 May 1709

Sr I Recd your letter the 12 April & would have answered it long agoe, but I have been very ill for these 3 Weeks & not able to write one line, am now God be thanked much better, the Fleet from Harwich arrived Safe in this port last Saturday, as likewise Robt Bulman and the rest of the Newcastle Ships, will Ship the flax & Tow aboard of him as you ordered, and take care it is of a Good Colour & Good Harte, I have done my Endeavour to Sell your bottles at their Arrivall but could not get them disposed off, when I Spoke to any one to buy them, they Said great quantities was Shipt & would rather Stay till the Fleet arrived, Mr Henry Wolfe dyed about 3 Months ago, there was no money found by him, but one Guiney & 16 Duch Schellings, he kept no Books there was Severall Loose papers wch are arrested by one of the Creditors, am informed he owed for Flax, Paper, & other things wch was Sent to Newcastle (as people thinks) betwixt 4 & f5000gl I hope you are no Looser by him, if you are please to let me know, & will do my best to find out to whom he Sent Flax too at Newcastle that you may get your money of them, it is thought he must have money of Severall at Newcastle, but it will be very difficult to find out who they are, because nothing was found but a few papers, Some Say one book was found, but none can make anything of it, if am Capable of doing you any Service in this or any other thing please to command & you will oblige, I

**21 May 1709 John Blackett to Alexius Clayton**

Mr Alexius Clayton a London at Mr John Cottons in Cutlers Hall

Rotterdam 21 May 1709

Sr this is to acquaint you that this day I have drawn on you for your Brother N Claytons Acct £39:7:1 I do not question but you have orders from your Brother to accept it, I have had orders to draw upon you these 3 Months, the bill is at 2 usance to the order of Joseph Holride, in a post or two I Shall draw another Small bill upon you, for the Acct as before if I can Serve you here please to command I am

**21 May 1709 John Blackett to Nathaniel Clayton**

Mr N Clayton

Ditto

Sr In Some time I have not had the favour of a line from you I hope Malls is arrived long agoe at your place, & does not question but will find the Canvas to Content, I have this day drawn on your Brother at Mr John Cottons in Cutlers Hall £39 :7 :1 at 34.9 for wch make you Credit f410:5 am Sorry the Exchange falls out So bad, but if you please to Inquire will find no higher was given than 34<B>9<.> & Severall bills was Sold at 81/2 <.> the Newcastle Ships are all arrived if you please to order any thing pray let me know per first post because afraid the Ships Should be gone here is great talke of a peace but I cannot think we Shall have one So Soon as most people Expects, if am Capabe of doing you any Service please to Command I am

Flax from f21 to 23Stl

Borst Tow f19

Rynsbr Tow 13gl please to let your brother know these prices

Paper London Arms 66Stl

fine Amsterdm Arms f4 1/4

pray acquaint your brother when I draw upon him for the remainder for what you are indebted to me to accept my bill, it may be Shall draw in a post or two if Exchange advances, but if it continues as it is will Stay 14 days to See if it will not rise Something, I always Stay as long as I can before I draw on my friends & then would have them have the advantage of the Exchange if it was possible

**21 May 1709 John Blackett to Cuthbert Burton**

Mr Cuth Burton

Ditto

Sr Since my last none from you this only to advise you that the Newcastle Fleet are all arrived, if you please to have any goods Sent pray pray let me know afraid the Ships Should be Gone I have not yet drawn on Mr Hester because the Exchange is so mighty low it has been 8:9 & 10 groat this Month or more I would have you to get as much as possible by the Exchange, this day it was but 34 <B> 8 1/2 and 34 9 if it does not advance a little Shall draw afraid it Should fall, but if it does fall I hope you will not take it ill because I did it for the best

Flax from 21 to 23Stl

Borst Tow f19

Ryn Tow f13gl

**21 May 1709 John Blackett to John Kelly**

Mr John Kelley

Ditto

Writ him that Grainger was arrived as likewise Binks, but that Coales was very low in price f16gl, that I had Sold the seed at £72 a last

**28 May 1709 John Blackett to Henry Witton**

Mr Henry Witton

Rotterdam 28 May 1709

Sr Since my last am favd wth yours of the 7th Inst, I hope you have Sent your Seed to Hull, But must be Sure to give Mr Sykes Orders not to Ship it before he is assured the day when the Men of War are to Saile, it happened very well you did not Send the Seed by the last convoy, Indeed it was Sold to good proffit what ever was the fleet, but now I hope to make at least £84 or 86£ if it is but as good as the parcell Mr Kelley Shipt, wch is Safe arrived & Sold at £72, if I had but kept it but 2 or 3 days longer Should have made £80 but I thought that good proffit was got at that price, therefore would run no hassard, if you had time I think it would not be amiss if you put the Seed in Sacks, & it keeps it from heating & you have no Loss, but then the Master must put deal boards or a cloth under the Sacks afraid the rats Should make holes in the Sacks & the Seed run out, I have had one Customer for the White Kerseys he Says they are too high in price for him though I hope in little time to dispose of them, there has been like wise one to See the Mixt Kerseys but he Offered less than they cost you, No 5 I opened first & found 10 ps all Mouldy & So hot that one could not bear their hand upon them the rest are all well conditioned, they Say they have not been very dry when first packt up, & laying So long aboard has been the reason their Moulding & heating I have ordered a man to Air & brush them well, & than hopes they will not be much worse

Exchange to London 2 usd 34 & 8

**28 May 1709 John Blackett to John Hester**

Mr John Hester a London

Ditto

Sr I Recd your letter of the 8 March last, and has this day drawn on you for Mr Cuthbert Burtons Accompt £40 to the order of Mr John Davison at 2 usance wch I do not question but you will accept & pay when due if I can Serve you please to Command

**28 May 1709 John Blackett to James Morton**

Mr James Morton

Ditto

Sr I am favd wth yours of 29 April, I desired Mr Kelley to acquaint you that John Binks was arrived here is great talks of a peace wch has brought the price of Coales to Nothing in Comparison, the Sugar Bakers & Brewers will buy none will Stay a little & then Shall buy Coales for f13gl I wish could dispose of Bink's loading for 15 1/2gl but am afraid Shall not make So much, am heartly Sorry you are Concerned in any Coales this Voyage, John Binks has Sent 5 boats from hellevoet Sluys wth Coales I will do my utmost Endeavoir to dispose of them because you know Lighter hire is very dear  
Exchange 34:8  
Lead 21 1/2

**28 May 1709 John Blackett to John Wilkinson**

Cousin Wilkinson

Rotterdm 28 May 1709

Sr This is only to acquaint you that we are now in great hopes of a peace, here is a report that the preliminaries are agreed & Signed, the talks of peace has brought coales very low the price is 15 1/2 or f16gl at utmost but none will buy the Brewers & others Says they Shall buy Coales in little time for f13gl if you Should Send me any Lead this summer I desire you to Send no Coales for any Account, for one would loose more by the coales than get by the Commission Abram Bosfield is Safe arrived when I am Capabe of doing you any manner of Service please to Command

Lead 21 1/2 <p>  
Exchange 2 uso 34:8

**28 May 1709 John Blackett to John Kelly**

Mr John Kelley

Ditto

Since my last none from you, as I write you before coales are not to be Sold, I wish there was not So great a talke of peace wch is the reason the price is So low, I wish I had f15 1/2gl for Binks Loading but here are no buyers the Sugar Bakers & Brewers Says they Shall have Coales in little time for f13gl therefore will rather Stay, grainger comes every day to me to have a Lighter, there are no buyers therefore if Should Send a Lighter must pay 4 or 5gl day for the hire, but will take care he is clear in 15 days time, John Binks has Sent 5 boats wth Coales from hellevoet Sluys I will Sell them first

because boate hire is very dear, if I had kept our Seed 3 or 4 days longer Should have made £80 I thought £72 was very well a good proffit got at that price therefore would run no hazard, pray let me know if there is any old butter the price as likewise of the new butter, am very Sorry must advise you that we Shall be forced to pay the 8 per C. for Insurance grainger & the Mate Signed a paper that they came wth convoy, but the Insurers will have them to Signe a paper that they came wth convoy & furnisht wth good Sailing orders from their Convoy wch they cannot doe grainger tells me he has order an old Sailing order wch he tooke Blyth but did not Saile in a Month after, I dare not offer this to the Insurers afraid they Should find it out & I being a young Mercht they would never believe me more therefore am forced to let it drop

**28 May 1709 John Blackett to Cuthbert Burton**

Mr C Burton

Ditto

I have this day drawn on Mr John Hester for your Acct £4 at 34:8 for wch made you Credit of f416 am Sorry the Exchange falls out to your Loss I Sold the bill without any bronker wch Saved 6 pence

**31 May 1709 John Blackett to Robert Stephenson**

Mr Robt Stephenson

Rotterdm 31st May 1709

Sr Some time agoe I had orders to draw upon you for what goods I bought for Mr John Stephenson Junr of Newcastle I do not question but you have his orders before this I have this day drawn on you 2 bills one for £15:5:1 to the order Anthony Barlow at 2 usance & one of £6 the order Chris Blackett, if you have no orders to accept my bills pray Send the person that comes wth the bill of £15:5:1 to Christopher Blackett at the Signe of the White Hart on bread Street hill, & he will accept it for I would not willingly have a bill of mine come back protested

**31 May 1709 John Blackett to Christopher Blackett**

Mr Christo Blackett

Ditto

I do here inclose Send you 2 bills of Exchange wch I desire you will Receive & keep the money in your hands till further order, they will be both paid you on Sight one of £5 pound upon Mrs Robinson & one of 12£ upon Mrs Daswood, here is likewise a third bill upon Mr Robt Stephenson £6 pound this bill he must accept & pay you two Months hence, but you must be Sure to go for the money when it is due, on the other Side you

have a letter for Mr Stephenson wch you may read & then deliver it him Sealed, you must ask him if he has not orders to accept my bills, if he Says not, desire him to Send the Man who comes wth a bill of £15:5:1 to you & do you accept it for me I Shall take care you Shall have money in your hand to pay the bill, if you Should accept it you must write accepted for the honour of the drawer & your name under it at the Signe of White hart on bread Street hill though I do not question but you will find he has orders to accept, pray let me know the charge of this letter for I will not have you to Loose money by doing me a kindness, pray let me have a line from you & let me know if the £12 & 5 pound bills are paid you on Sight as likewise if Mr Stephenson accepts my bill

**11 Jun 1709 John Blackett to John Kelly**

Mr John Kelley

Rotterdam 11 June 1709

Sr Since my last none from you, this is onely to acquaint you that all the Coales are Sold out John Binks, & will Send the Acct per next post as likewise of Graingers loading, I am afraid the Coales in binks will hardly pay charges here, they are Sold for 15 : 15 1/2 & 16gl a hoodt, I hope in a post or two Shall have a line from you, I long to hear the price of butter, the price is here from 8 to 10gl a firkin, if you See any advantage may Send 200 firkins if you will be 1/2 concerned or otherwise Send but 100 wch Shall take for my own Acct but pray load them in a Ship that comes wth convoy, pray tell Mr Brumell I have Sent him per J Binks one pound Tea wch cost with Canester f10:10 butter pays here great Custom pray let me know per first post how much my part will come too that may Remit you the money, when you write let me know if Shall Remit you the money for the Seed to London or Newcastle

Exchange 34:10 R Seed 70£

**11 Jun 1709 John Blackett to Ralph Hall**

Mr Ralph Hall

Rotterdam 11 June 1709

Sr I Recd both yours of the 9 & 20 May, here above you have Invoice of Eleven Matts Flax Five Matts Rynsbn Tow & 5 Matts Borb Tow Shipt on board the providence Abram Bosfield Master, Robt Bulman has met wth Some trouble here therefore is left behind, am very Sorry could not get more Rynsbn Tow, if the Ships had Stayd but one day longer Should had a parcell out of the country, I have Shipt 4 Matts Flax more than would have done, if could have got Tow enough, hope it will prove to Content, there is one Matt Borb Tow <Bo> wch cost but f16 there are a great quantity of that Sort Sent to England therefore Sends this for a triall, Abram Bosfield is to Saile this day God Send him a Good Voyage, pray will you Send me per first good Ship in Basketts 600 doz in of

the Same Sort of Bottles as you Sent per Bulman if they was Something larger would be the better but pray loade them in a Ship that does not draw above 10 or 10 1/2 foot Water, when you put them in large Ships they are obliged to lighten wch Occassions much loss, I have Sent per Jefferson one pint Bottle pray Send me per first Ship 200 dozin of the Same Sort as nigh as possible, because they are bespooke, your Bottles per Bulman are all Sold at 24 Stl I Should have got a better price but a Ship arrived in the Same Fleet from Bristol wch brought a great maney thousand dozin & you know likewise that great quantities was Sent from Newcastle, you have a Vast maney bottles Broak, the Master & Men tells me the reason is the Ship is a great Ship & was obliged to put into Hellevaet and there was forced to lighten & then must hoice the Basketts upon Deck wch broak 10 bottles for one that was broak at Sea, I had a 100 dozen Sent me by a friend in a little Ship where there was but one & Sometimes 2 bottles broake in a basket, in a post or two will Send you the Acct as likewise bills for the bottles I now order pray remember you load in a Ship that does but draw 10 or 10 1/2 foot water, if you would have any Rynsbr Tow bought pray let me know per first post & Shall buy what you want against the Ships arrives, Kendel Cottons are Sold from 5 to 8gl a piece at present there is no great demand for them, I will never Encourage my friends to Send Goods when I do not See a prospect of disposing of them in little time but if you Send any may be assured will do all that lays in my power to get the highest Market price, I am very Glad you Sent no Coales most was Sold for 15 & 16gl wch will turne to very bad account, now the Ships are gone the price is f17gl when we have a peace I hope we Shall be Serviceble to one another, pray when you Ship any Goods to me load them always in Ships that comes wth Convoy

**11 Jun 1709 John Blackett to Whitefield**

Mr Whitefield

Ditto

Sr Mr Kelley writ me to Send you 6lb of Tea & 6 dosin flasks of Spar Water The Tea is Sent by the following Masters 2 pound by Abram Bosfield 2 pound by John Binks & 2 pound by Young Ubanks they have all promised to deliver them Safe, it is of the Same Sort as my Sisters but I think Something better I could not get 6 dozin of flasks of Spar Water unless I gave 7 Stl a flask & being I was to Send 6 dozin to Mr Tho Salkeld chose rather to Send a basket wch you have much cheaper it is Ship on board Abram Bosfield who Sailes this day & the other two yesterday I have Sent by John Binks 12 flasks of a Good Claret wch I desire you will be So kind as to drink wth the Gentlemen here under written, after you have drunk it let me know how it proved

6lb at 10 f60

6 Canse at f3

½ basket 22 Spar Water

Custom 5-10 / 86:10

Sr Wm Blackett  
Mr Davison  
Mr Featherstone & Reay  
Mr Shaftoe  
Mr Ridley  
Mr Kelley  
Mr N Clayton  
Mr R Hall  
Mr Bewick if in towne

**11 Jun 1709 John Blackett to Thomas Vazie**

Mr Tho Vazie Rotterdam 11 June 1709

Sr here on the other Side you have Invoice of 2 qts linnen 1 qts laice & 1/2 basket Spar Water for wch make you D[ebto]r f141:19, I designed to have Sent you 6 doz in of Spar Waters as you ordered but could not get them but must pay <7> Stl a <qts> & being I was to Send 6 doz in to Mr Whitefield thought it was better to buy a basket wch is cheaper & you can devide them betwixt you, I did not know if you would have Mr Whitefield know you Sent for any Spar Water therefore has writ him they are for Mr Tho Salkeld Mr Goddard nor Bosfield would take the Callicoes or Cloves they Said would take care of the linnen, but durst not meddle wth any thing that was Confiscable it would Indanger Their Ships, the bottles were all Sold for 24 Stl there has been none yet Sold higher you write me there was 100 dosin in 5 baskets but only 85 doz in & 4 bottles came out of the Ship there was not one doz in broak, I acquainted Mr Bosfield wth it, Indeed all the Cords was about the baskets therefore Cannot think the Men has taken them away, there was 5 large baskets & one not half So large where there was about 5 or 6 doz in Inn, Mr Boscastle told me they was the Same baskets you Sent aboad, but there must be a Mistake Somewhere, I hope the laice will prove to content, I brought it at a Great Shop wch will not Cut therefore was forced to take 9 ells they would not abate one farthing of f4:10 Bosfield went away very Suddenly, I had not time to measure the laice but tooke it upon their words, when you receive it let me know if there is the full mesure

**14 Jun 1709 John Blackett to John Kelly**

Mr John Kelley Rotterdam 14 June 1709

Sr My last to you was of the 11 past, Since am favoured wth yours of 24th May, here on the other Side you have the Acct of Mr Graingers loading for wch make you Credit f1609:15:8 <If> cannot Sell the sacks <Will> Sell yours per first Ship to Newcastle,

on the other Side you have likewise the Acct of Coales per John Binks am mighty Sorry you loose So much by them, can assure you I have not one farthing by the Coales, Mr Rykevorsel has the 2PC as Mr Binks can acquaint you, if can get 200 firkins new butter at 13 or old butter at 9 1/2 Shillings

**18 Jun 1709 John Blackett to John Kelly**

Mr J Kelley

Rotterdm 18 June 1709

Sr my last to you was the 14 past Since am favoured wth yours of 31th May, I would not have you concerned as partner wth Mr Witton for the Seed he has, unless for a very reasonable rate we have had very fine Weather these 14 days, wch has occasioned the price of corne to fall considerably, as likewise Rape seed, & you will find when the Greenland Ships arrives this Commodity will fall much more, last post I Recd bill of loading at Thirty Eight quarters of R Seed Shipt by Mr Sykes for the Acct of Mr Witton am afraid Shall not make So much as did for ours, in my last did write you if would be concerned in butter to Send 200 firkins New at 13s and old at 9 1/2s I think have given the price of old too high unless it is very good 8 1/2 or most 9s is enough for old butter here is an friend of mine who has ordered a parcel of Butter at Stockton New at 13s & old at 8s & Says is very well assured Shall have it at that price, if you will not be concerned Send only 100 firkins, but pray load them in a Ship that comes wth convoy, the peace is wholly Broak off & yet coales does not advance lead is very low here & dear at your place Mr Wilkinson writes me he has Sold a great quantity 10<sg> dearer than did before the talke of peace, it is my opinion that it will certainly fall againe in little time

**21 Jun 1709 John Blackett to John Kelly**

Mr John Kelley

Rotterdm 21 June 1709

Sr this is to acquaint you that in 14 days time Bordeaux Brandy has risen very Considerably it was but 24 Stl a Stoop & now has got up to 38 & 40 Stl, I think there is no danger of its falling, I do here inclose Send you for my Acct a bill of £100 on Mr Abraham Hungerford in London at 2 usance, I hope you have bought & Shipt the butter I ordered pray take care the firkins are Tight wch preserves the butter very much, if you have not Shipt the Butter I think it will be much better to Ship 100 in one Ship & the other 100 in another but pray let the Ships come wth Convoy, & not to draw above 10 or 11 foot water, if Mr R Hall Should have occasion for £40 let him have it, let me know the price of hides I am yrs

**21 Jun 1709 John Blackett to Ralph Hall**

Mr R Hall

Ditto

Sr Since my last none from you this is to advise you that I have this day drawn on you for your Acct a bill of £46 at 2 usance at 34 <BIz> 10 <..> to the order Mr Michael Hardcastle & here inclosed Send you for my Acct a bill at 2 usance upon Mr James Church in London what I am more indebted to you has given Mr J Kelley orders to pay I make you Credit for the bill of £46 a 34:10 f480:14 & Dr for £25 for my Acct

**28 Jun 1709 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Mr R Featherstone & Reay

Rotterdm 28 June 1709

I Recd yours of the 20 May wth the bill of £86 accepted, am mighty Sorry the flax I Sent last proves So bad indeed I must confess the best goods are much the cheapest considering the goodness the Reason I Sent of So low prises was because Mr Allen Shipt a good quantity wch Cost 19 & 20 Stl, Shall take care next time to Send of the middling Sort, we Expect in a day or two to hear of a Battle the french are very Strongly Intrenched but the D of Malborough & prince Eugenins are resolved to deliver them Battle, Some Say they are retired under the guns of Valeniyne, corne yet very Dear in france and if they get none from france it will yet be dearer, the last Winters frost has ruined all the Vineyards wch makes wyn & brandy rise Considerably, about one Month ago brandy was Sold for 24 Stivers a Stoop & now is got to 40 Stivers, Mr Shadforth told me had bought Some odd things for Mr Featherstone to the value of about f100 & had orders to take it of me, wch has paid him & has his Receipt for the money

**28 Jun 1709 John Blackett to Henry Witton**

Re Mr Henry Witton

Rotterdm 28 June 1709

Sr Since my last I Recd yours of the 1 June, I See butter was Sold from 10 to 12s a firkin I had Some thoughts of ordering a Small quantity but wth this fine Weather it is mightly fallen here as likewise all Sort of Seed, we Expect in a little time to hear if the Greenland fishers has had a good year or not, there are Severall Sorts of Commodities wch hangs upon it, if they have not had a good year there will be money got by old butter if any is to be had wch pray inquire, the Hull fleet arrived Safe in this port last Wednesday, I have been aboard to See your R Seed but finds it mightly hot & all moulded it would have been much better if you had put it into Sacks, I believe Mr Sykes did his best, but it is put in a close place where no Air could come to it the

Master ought to have put it in a place where they could have turned it, the Men tells me it was a little Mouldy when it came aboard, & the lighter Men wch brought it aboard told them it Stunck Sadly wch really it does, but if the Seed had been turned when Ships layd at Harridge would have done it much good, for these two days we have had nothing but raine but if it is fair to morrow Shall take it ashore & Sell it to your most advantage

**2 Jul 1709    John Blackett to John Kelly**

Mr J Kelley

Rotterdm 2 July 1709

Sr     my last to you was the 21 June wth a bill inclosed for my Acct on Mr Abraham Hungerfood of £100 at 2 usance, here inclosed Send for your Acct a bill drawn by John Davison on Jeremy Hunter of your place of £78 a 34<B> 8 1/2 Dutch money f813:3

**12 Jul 1709    John Blackett to John Kelly**

[Note: date as given cannot be right given mention of Kelly's letter of 8<sup>th</sup> July, and the next letter is dated 12<sup>th</sup> July]

Mr J Kelley

2 July 1709

Sr     Since my last am favd wth yours of the 8 July I See you have paid Mr Hall £40 wch is very well, I do here Inclose Send you for your Acct a bill at one usance on Mr George Hedlam of £50 a 35 1 f526.5 the last bill I Remitted you of 70£ a 34 81/2 do make you Dr f812:2:8 & not f813:3 wch was a mistake, there is much Butter Expected therefore will not be concerned in a parcel, if Mr Whitfield gives you a bill of £17:2 please to Send it to Mr Witton, this post I write for Ostend to know the price of Butter & Bottles, Grindstones gives not much proffit & at present no demand for them Coales <f15> when I Receive the Sample Silk Shall See what is to be done Mr Witton orders me to make Insurance for you & him

**12 Jul 1709    John Blackett to Mr Whitefield**

Mr Whitfield

Ditto 12 July 1709

Sr

I Recd yours of the 3 June & according to your Order has Sent by Jacob Frost

6lb Bohea Tea N1:2 a f13    f26

N:3:4:5:6:/16 f64

6 Canesters 3  
93

There are two Sorts of the 16gl a pound one Sort is called White pointed Tea & the other Bohea Geurigh you have 2lb of each N1:2 is likewise of a good Sort, they are directed for Mrs Crosby in South Sheels

**12 Jul 1709 John Blackett to Henry Witton**

Mr Henry Witton

Rotterdam the 12 July 1709

Sr Since my last am favoured wth yours of the 18 June, by wch Sea you was offered 300 firkins for 13<sg>6 but Since has a letter from Mr Kelley that you had bought the said 300 firkins for 13 wch is very well, when R Seed was at the highest good Butter would have Given here 12 1/2 & 13gl but Since that Commodity is fallen Butter is come too f11gl though it is the opinion of most people here that 6 Weeks hence it will certainly give a good price, Butter is always at the cheapest this time of the year I hear there is a Ship loaden wth Butter at Stockton & great part of the loading cost 14 1/2 & 15 there was Never Such hopes of Butters rising as at present, I believe ours will cost nigh 13.6 before it is Shipt, I do here Inclosed Send you for my Acct a bill of £20 at Sight, when I hear what my part comes too Shall remit you, wth much ado has Sold your R Seed for £40 a last, must declare I never Saw Such Stuf in my life, I wonder Mr Sykes would put it aboard in that condition, the Men tells me it was all white wth Mould before came aboard, there is one Mr John Feild Mercht In Hull who I have been very much obliged too, I would beg the favour of you to let him have the Shipping of 150 or 200 firkins I do not question but you will find he will Serve us well as Mr Sykes Exchange 34 <B> 11<..>

**12 Jul 1709 John Blackett to Thomas Vazie**

Mr Vazie

Ditto

Sr In Some time I have not had a letter from you this is onely to Send you the Acct of Bottles per Bosfield I hope the laice & other things got Safe

**22 Jul 1709 John Blackett to Henry Witton**

Mr Witton

Ditto 22 July

Sr here inclosed Send you for my Acct a bill at one usance on Mr Jaques de Wit in Hull, am now in haest but next post Shall write you

**22 Jul 1709 John Blackett to Ralph Hall**

Mr R Hall

Ditto

Sr Richd Jefferson wth your 7 packs of Marchandise is well arrived & Shall dispose of them to your most advantage, Shall Ship the goods you ordered in him

I am Yrs

**2 Aug 1709 John Blackett to Henry Witton**

Mr Henry Witton

Rotterdm 2 Augt 1709

Sr I Recd yours of the 6 July & See you had the 300 firkins butter to Mr Sykes I hope they will come time enough to Save the Fleet when I hear they are Shipt Shall make Insurance for you & Mr Kelley in my last Send you a bill at one usance on Mr Jaques de Wit in hull for my Acct & now Send you a bill for your Acct drawn by Mr Benjn Crane on Sr Robt Dunckley for brokeridge of this bill f-11 Stl & now letters wch Sent for Arch Angle <61>gl its yet too Soon to buy Calf Skins in Winter we <loose> 12gl & Summer 15 & Sometimes 17 <gl> by the weight

£70 a 34:10 f731:10

**6 Aug 1709 John Blackett to John Wilkinson**

[Note: The corresponding policy, dated 7th August, is filed with the original copy letter book]

Cousin Wilkinson

Rotterdm 6 Augt 1709

Sr last night late I Recd yours of the 19 July wth bill of loading of 1100 qts lead in Jacob Frost, this evening I write to Amsterdm to get f3700 Insured, here is not one Substantial Insurer in Towne you may be assured Shall consult your Interest as own Lead is at present very low in price, & no demand, there is a great quantity Expected from Hull & Stockton

Led 21 <B?>

Exchange 34 <B?> 10 <..>

**13 Aug 1709 John Blackett to John Wilkinson**

[Note: No date given but from context clearly later than 6th August, the date of his his previous letter to Wilkinson. Next dated letter was of 20th Aug, so 13th given here, ie. a wek before]

Cousin Wilkinson

Rotterdm

Sr my last to you was of the 6 past, Since none from you, this is onely to acquaint you that the London, Hull & Yarmouth Fleet are all this day Safe arrived though not yet come to this place, I do not question but Jacob frost is wth the Hull or Yarmouth Convoy

Lead 21 <.>

Exchange a 2 us[uance] 34 <.> 11 <.>

**13 Aug 1709 John Blackett to John Hall**

[Note: Same date as previous, so given here as 13th Aug]

Mr John Hall a Newcastle at Mr George Halls in Gateside

Ditto

Sr I Recd yours of the 19 & 26 July by the first had bill of loading of 400 Doz of bottles Shipt on board James Harrison this day the hull fleet arrived in our River, though not yet come to this place, James Harrison & others from Newcastle are among them, Shall dispose of your bottles to your most advantage & Send the Goods you order by the Same Ship, when ever you Send or order any Goods Shall besure to mind your Interest as own, pray acquaint Mr R Hall that Harrison is Safe arrived

**20 Aug 1709 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Mr Featherstone & Reay

Rotterdm 20 Augt 1709

I Recd yours of the 1 & 15 July, here inclosed Send you bill of loading of the goods above mentioned for wch make you Dr f834:16 am Sorry cannot get more Rynsbr Tow & Bortle Tow last Week I went round the Country where Rynsbr Tow is most made, but could not find any will get what I can against bosfield Sails, I give you maney thanks for recommending me to your friend Mr Rendshaw, per Bosfield Shall Send the Baskets for Mrs Ridleys, the basket I Sent your Wife desire She will be So kind as accept, the Rynsbr Tow I Sent last marked RH there is not 100 made in a whole year

but will Endeavour to get Some against Bosfield Sails, Jefferson Sails next Thursday  
wind & weather permitting flax 21 1/2 to 24 Stl

**20 Aug 1709 John Blackett to John Kelly**

Mr Kelley

Ditto

Sr I Recd yours of the 26 & 29 July by the former See Mr Whitefield had accepted  
my bill & that you had Sent it to Mr Witton wch is well I perceive Mr Whaley has writ a  
letter to his friends advising the price of barley & other corne, can assure you that all  
Sort of corne is mightly fallen here, & wth this fine Weather wch we have now will fall  
lower here under you have the price, can assure you does not know athing where we  
can get a penny, I Insured f2000 on our butter & 3 days after both Ships came Safe into  
our River Butter pays here at least 50 Stl a firkin duty but these 328 onely belonging to  
you Mr Witton & Self therefore agreed wth a man here to run it all for 26 Stl a firkin, &  
if taken by the Custom house Officers Should pay me for the butter, wch he did & has  
got it all Safe in his packhouse, am now in great haest but per next post Shall write you  
further I have got Insured on Wm Ruinsbeck for Bridges wth Convoy 2 3/4 & without 6  
<pc?> tomorrow Shall have the police [ie.policy] from Amsterdm & next post advise  
you how much make you Dr I am

**20 Aug 1709 John Blackett to Ralph Hall**

Mr R Hall

Ditto

Sr I Recd yours of the 26 July wth bill of loading of one pack Cottons & a barrel of  
Strong bear, I have taested of the Bear for wch give you maney thanks, it proves very  
good here above you have Invoice & inclosed bill of loading of 6 Matts flax Ship on  
board the blessing of Birdlington Richd Jefferson Master, Rynsbr & Borstle Tow is  
mighty Scarce & hardly to be found, if Jefferson or Robt North Stays two days longer  
Shall Ship the borstl Tow & Rynsbr Tow tis now the fair where Rynsbr Tow is made &  
cannot get any till its over I cannot yet dispose of the Cottons, you may always rely on  
me, Shall do for you as for Self

**23 Aug 1709 John Blackett to Edward Anderson**

Ed.Anderson a Newcastle

Rotterdm 23 Augt 1709

Sr last post I writ you if the Ships did not Saile that day would Ship the Goods you  
ordered, here above is Invoice & Inclosed Bill of loading of 6 Matts flax Shipt on board

the Providence Robt North Mr wch I hope will prove to content, would have Sent you the Rynsbr Tow but it being the fair where it is made & Ships to Saile 2 days after I Recd your letter could not get any time enough, but Shall Send it by Bosfield, when ever you order any Goods tis best to order them before the Ship Sailes from Newcastle, when the Ships arrives here every one is buying at once wch rises the Market Rynsbr Tow very Scarce hardly to be found

**23 Aug 1709 John Blackett to Nathaniel Clayton**

Mr N Clayton

Ditto

Sr last post I writ you that Just then I Recd yours of the 2d August & would Send your Goods in Robt North if the Ships Stayd but one day longer here above you have Invoice of 30 Bolts Canvas & Inclosed bill of loading Shipt in the providence Robt North, wch hope will prove to content, I perceive in the last Acct I had Set 22 3/4gl, but can assure you it was a mistake in the pen & must have been 23 3/4gl if you please Shall Send you a Note under the Mans hand I brought them off that I gave him 23 3/4gl or otherwise if you please to desire any friend to Inquire of him, his name is Hermanus Heemskerck liveing in the Newhaven Rotterdm am very glad the Wine proved good Please to acquaint your Brother that Rysbr & Bortl Tow are both mighty Scarce & hardly to be found, New flax they begin to pull there will be a great quantity though very little fine, Canvas is much dearer had much ado to get these 30 bolts at the price above, here is great talks of a peace & this day more than ever, Robt North went down the River Yesterday Morning but believe is not yet Sailed, Bosfield is here & will Saile in 3 or 4 Weeks time if not before

**23 Aug 1709 John Blackett to Ralph Hall**

Mr R Hall

Ditto

Sr my last to you was the 20 past here inclosed Send you bill of loading of 4 Matts Bortl Tow in Robt North for wch make you Dr <f8..>

**6 Sep 1709 John Blackett to John Wilkinson**

Mr Wilkinson

Rotterdm 6 Sept 1709

Sr Since my last none from you this is onely to advise you that I have Sold 150 ps lead for 20 3/4 <B?> can assure you that Hull & Stockton lead is Sold for 20 1/4 & 20 1/2

<B> Shall continue to Sell till has your order it Shall Sell at price Cour.t or keep it in hopes of a better price, wch I See as yet no prospect off

Exchange 34: 11

Coales 141/2 Bosfield has no more

**6 Sep 1709 John Blackett to John Kelly**

[Note: The policy covering Marmaduke Swanston's ship, the 'Vineyard of Stocton', dated 4th Sept, is filed with the original letterbook]

Mr J Kelley

Rotterdm 6 Sept 1709

Sr Since my last am favod wth yours of 9 & 16 Augt, you order to make Insurance upon Goods in Swanston from the Downs or Noare the broker told me was willing to make Insurance as I thought fit but thought it a great hazard, if Swanston by chance met wth Convoy before came to the Noare or Downs & Should be taken afterwards, the Insurers would not pay one farthing of the Loss because the Police run from the Downs or Noare, & another reason the broaker gave was, if the Master came Safe into the Downs or Noare & by Misfortune Should afterwards be lost & all the Men drowned how could we make it appear that he ever came into the Downs, for you know very the Insurers uppon a Loss will make a dispute if possible, therefore thought it most convenient to Insure f1600 upon Goods in Swanston from Newcastle to Bridges or Ostend 3 <pc?> with &6 <pc?> without, Raisbeek I got for 2 3/4 with & 6 without, this evening Shall write to Amsterdm to know why the Insurance is risen, we have not one Good Insurer in this plaice, & though the Insurance is made at Amsterdm is no more charge than if made here, if Rainsbeek & Swanston Sails from the Downs or any other place wth Convoy & arrives Safe at Oostend, though Sailed from Newcastle without Convoy, they may Send me a Note Signed by Master & Mate that Sailed with Convoy, & will do my best to get the money returned as if Sailed wth Convoy, this Evening Shall write to Bridges to know if either of Sd Masters are arrived, when you Send any Ships to Ostend or Bridges let me know who you consigne them too, & then Shall know how to write to the Masters our Butter proves pritty good & has made a begin to Sell them yesterday Sold 75 at 10 1/2gl but I hope to make f10:5 & 11gl in 14 days time upon receipt of your letter went to most of the glasiers in towne to buy their broaken glass if could get it for 12 Stl may it could have had it for 13 or 14 Stl Should have ventured to have given it, but would not take anything under 22 Stl, Indeed by 2 or 3 glasiers could have had 4 or 5 barrels for 20 Stl but durst not bestow So much, your order not being 12 Stl the glasiers has seldom above 1 or 2 barrels at a time, & than brings it to a Dutchman who gives them 22 Stl a barrel & when has a good quantity Sends it to france, if you would have me do So Shall buy what can, the barrels must returne againe, the glass is put in the bottom of the Ship for ballast, when harrison

arrives Shall get the Silk & Send 4 or 5 qts for a triall & be ½ concerned when J Frost comes back to this place Shall give him 2 qts but must direct them for my Sisters he Says he will carry any thing over for them, Rape Seed is 74£ & will be more if can get any as good as last for 20 or 24£ will be concerned to the value of 100£ my Share, if you have none about you, may write to Mr Witton but must be better than the Small parcel he Sent for his own Acct if can get no Seed will be concerned in anything you See any advantage In, Mr Whaley did not do well to write his friend yet Barley was Scarce & likely to be very Dear you may See here to the contrary

W Wheat 270 to 310gl  
R ditto 260 to 300  
Rye 180 to 200gl  
Barley 17 19 to 23gl  
Coales 14 1/2gl  
Grind Stones 17gl  
Exchange 34 <B> 11 <.>

**6 Sep 1709 John Blackett to John Field**

Mr J Field

Rotterdm 06 Sept 1709

Sr I Recd yours of 20 July, am very Sorry my letter came too late to my friend or otherwise he writes would have Sent all the Butter to you, Mr Sikes Shipt it part in S Wood & part in <Bagwell> wch came Safe, I desire you to buy me 100 firkins of good New Butter & Send it per first Convoy, pray take care it is very good, would willingly allow a Man Something to taest Each firkin, Ship it in Some carefull Man but the Ship must not draw above 10 or 10 1/2 foot water, must tell the Master to lay before the head of Schiedam, & Shall be their my Self to tell him what must do, when hear you have brought Shall remit you, pray tell the Master to besure to lay before Schiedam, if you cannot Send it by the Ships wch are now in loading for this place & comes per first convoy would not have you to buy any, I am

**6 Sep 1709 John Blackett to Nathaniel Clayton**

Mr N Clayton

Ditto

Sr This day has drawn on you to the order A bosfield £60 a 35<st> 1<g> for wch make you Credit f631:10

**10 Sep 1709 John Blackett to Edward Anderson**

Mr Ed Anderson

Rotterdam 10 Sept 1709

Sr Inclosed Send you bill of loading of 3 Matts & Rynsbr Tow for Abram Bosfield for wch make you Dr f42:3 & this day has drawn on you payable in Newcastle to the order Mr Benja Bently £40 at 2 usance a 34<st> 10<.> for wch make you Credit f418

**10 Sep 1709 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Mr Featherstone & Reay

Ditto

Here inclosed Send you bill of loading of 10 Matts flax 2 Matts hemp & 11 Matts B:Tow, please to let me know when can get no other Sort but Camper if Shall Send you of that Sort, this day has drawn on for your Acct a bill of £92 payable in Newcastle to the order John <Bukey> a 34:10<.> for wch make you Credit f961:8

**19 Sep 1709 John Blackett to Ralph Hall**

Mr Ralph Hall

Ditto 19

Sent him Invoice bill of loading of 4 Matts R Tow in A Bosfield

**19 Sep 1709 John Blackett to Nicholas Ridley**

Mr Nichols & Richd Ridley

Rotterdam 19 Septembr 1709

In my last Sent you bill of loading & now on the other Side Send Invoice of 10 Matts flax Ship on board Abram Bosfield who Sailed from hence last Munday wth the herring Busses under Convoy of 7 Men of War, I hope he is wth you Eare this, does not question but the goods will prove to Content, N10: you have a Sample of New flax wch cost 32<stl> a Stone in a Week or two will be Sold for 26 & 27 Stl Inclosed Send you a bill of £93 wch has drawn on you to me or my order, please to underwrite where Shall be paid in London & Send it me back £93 a 34<B> 11<.> f1974.3 for wch make you Ct & Dr for f - 14 for brokeridge when I Sell the bill

**19 Sep 1709 John Blackett to Cuthbert Burton**

Mr C Burton

Ditto

This day have drawn on you at 2 Usance to the order Wm Harrison £14 at 34<B> 11<.> wch make you Credit f146:13

**19 Sep 1709 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Mr Featherstone & Reay Ditto

This day drawn on you at 2 Uso to the order Wm Harrison a bill of 100 a 34<B> 11<.> f1047:10

**24 Sep 1709 John Blackett to John Wilkinson**

Cousin Wilkinson Ditto 24 Sept 1709

Sr Since my last am favoured wth yours of 30 Augt & See you had Shipt in Nichl Topclife for this place 700 ps lead according to your Order has got Insured f2200

Exchange 35<.>& 34<.>11<.>

**27 Sep 1709 John Blackett to Ralph Hall**

Mr R Hall Ditto 27 Sept 1709

Sr Since my last none from you, this is onely to desire you to Ship per first opportunity 400 Dossin of good Bottles 3 to a Sloop these are besides the Bottles I formerly writ you for, asson as hear you have bought them Shall remit you, cannot yet dispose of the Cottons, before you Sent them I writ of the 11 June that there was no demand for Such Sort of goods, Pray faile not to Send me the above mentioned bottles assoon as possible, Now flax fall very bad Couloured, there has been little or none as yet brought to Markett

**5 Oct 1709 John Blackett to Thomas Hall**

Mr Tho Hall Ditto the 5 Octobr 1709

Sr am favod wth yours of the 13 Sept wth a bill inclosed on Mr Onesiph Rood of f1000 upon Receipt of yours went to Mr Rykevorsells who told me the Sd gentleman came to Towne on Thursday last & went away the Next day for Hellevoet Stays to go for England wth the Packguet Boate, the Wind has blown very fresh these 6 or 8 days &

believes the packguet boate is not Sailed therefore writes this Evening to Mr Rood & Sends him them Inclosed, you do not write me what to do wth the bill if it was not paid, to protest it or not, therefore thought it most convenient to Note the bill wch cost onely 12 Stl & Shall keep the bill by me till further Orders, Wm Whillington is not yet arrived but is Expected every day, Shall Ship you 10 or 12000 Pan Tyles without faile

**7 Oct 1709 John Blackett to John Field**

Mr John Field

Rotterdm the 7 Octobr 1709

Sr I Recd yours of the 10 Sept I See you had not bought any butter but was in hopes to Effect my Order before the fleet Sailed, when I writ you thought the prices would not have been So high, but Since it is So must do as well as I can, here inclosed Send you a bill of £50 at one usance on Mr Elias Pawson in Yorke, but payable in Hull, this is the onely bill could get at usance, If can get another next post Shall remit you, I hope you have told the Master to lay off Schiedam Head

**7 Oct 1709 John Blackett to Christopher Blackett**

Mr Ch Blackett

Ditto

Dr BroI Recd yours & See you had Recd the money of Mrs L Daswood, I give you maney thanks for the trouble you have taken, here inclosed Send you a bill on Mr <Lowen> of £18:2:6 wch beg you will Receive you must inquire for him at Young Mans Coffy house nigh Chearing Cross in the Strand, I believe he is lodged their privately, if he does not pay the bill you need not protest it.

**8 Oct 1709 John Blackett to John Wilkinson**

[Note: The original insurance policy dated 8th October, covering Jacob Frost's ship the 'Josua of Shields' is filed with the original letterbook, ie. not J Croft as written in the copy letter]

Cousin Wilkinson

Rotterdm the 8 Octobr 1709

Sr Since my last am favord wth yours of the 20 Septembr wth bill of loading of 1232 ps in J croft has writ to Amsterdm to get Insured 3850gl but am afraid Shall be forced to give 3 or 6 <pC> has already given the Same from Hull, Inclosed do Send you a bill of £60:15:11 at 2 Usance, drawn by John Cossart on Tho Sharp at 35 <Bst> for wch make you Dr f680:7

**8 Oct 1709 John Blackett to Nicholas Ridley**

Mr N & R Ridley

Ditto

Writ them Sold Ship 50 Iron potts from 40ll to 50ll & likewise 10 Matts old flax Rynsbr  
Tow f14gl

**8 Oct 1709 John Blackett to John Kelly**

Mr Kelley

Ditto

Writ him would be concerned wth him in a parcell of Barley if he thought any proffit

**11 Oct 1709 John Blackett to John Field**

Mr John Field

Ditto the 11 Octobr 1709

Sr my last to you was of the 1 Instant wth a bill of £50 at one Usance drawn by Mr  
Paige on Mr Elias Pawson & now here Inclosed Send you a bill of £39:4:9 at one Usance  
drawn by Ditto Paige on John Stephenson in Yorke, would have Sent you bills at Sight  
but was not to be had, pray advise the price of barley & calf Skins

**25 Oct 1709 John Blackett to Nicholas Ridley**

Mr N & R Ridley

Rotterdm 25 Octobr 1709

Inclosed Sent you Invoice of Goods Sent <per> P harrison for your Acct have Sold your  
Corne per Jefferson for 38 <B> Sack these <B> are 8 Stivers Each its within a very little  
f3.. f316gl as I writ you before will take 1/3 or 1/2 in 1 or 2 Ships loading Coales pray let  
them be good

**25 Oct 1709 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Mr Featherstone & Reay

Ditto

here Inclosed Send you Invoice of goods in P Harrison who Sailes to Morrow Mor as  
also Ed Butler hope both will arrive Safe & goods prove to Content

**5 Nov 1709 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Mr Featherstone & Reay

Rotterdam 5 Novr 1709

This day have drawn on you a bill of £60 at a 2 usance to the order John Davison payable in Newcastle at 35 <B> wch make you Cr f630gl

**5 Nov 1709 John Blackett to Henry Witton**

Mr Henry Witton

Ditto

According to your order has given Mr Booth & Barnardiston leave to draw 500RD on me for your Acct

**22 Nov 1709 John Blackett to Marshall**

Mr Marshall

Rotterdam 22 Novr 1709

Sr my brother Ch writes me you would know the price of lead this time of the year tis generally cheapest New lead 20 1/2 & 20 3/4 Stockton 20 3/4 & 21 great Hull 20 1/4 & 20 1/2 Small Ditto 20 1/2 & 3/4

**22 Nov 1709 John Blackett to Christopher Blackett**

here inclosed Send you a bill on Mr Graham Woolen Drapr in the Strand by Bedford Buildings of £6 pound

**20 Dec 1709 John Blackett to John Wilkinson**

Mr Wilkinson

Decembr 20 1709

Inclosed Send you a bill of £70 drawn by B Crow on on Rd & Arden Carleton for your Acct or 34<B>.6> for wch make you Dt f724:10 & for Brokeridge 12

**20 Dec 1709 John Blackett to Nicholas Ridley**

Mr N & R Ridley

Ditto

Inclosed Send you Invoice of 12 Matts flax in Bosfield & Wetherill for wch make you Dr f838:5 Wetherill has ½ a ps of Callicoe as also one Quarter of a pound thread but Says will give the last to Bosfields care

**11 Mar 1710 John Blackett**

[Note: After the letter of 20 Dec 1709 to Messrs Ridley, there are blank pages. Letters of later date are copied in from the other end of the book, with this note of an address change given on the fly leaf. It is dated here to the same as the first letter given in the far end of the book.]

Mr Wm forster at Mr Childs in love Lane Billingsgate London now in George lane nigh pudding lane

**11 Mar 1710 John Blackett to John Kelly**

Mr Kelley

Rotterdam 11 March 1710

Inclosed Remit you for your Acct a bill on Mr Feartherstone & Reay of £70 a 34<B>11 f733:5 Shall Send per Harrison or Some other Master the goods you writ for, according to Mr Gibson order has made no Insurance on Goods in the Jane of Montross David Gentleman Master

**11 Mar 1710 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Mr Featherstone & Reay

Ditto

have this day drawn on you a bill of £70 at 2 usance to the order of Mr John Kelley or 34<B> 11 f733 Shall Send you per first Ship 2 Matts flax at 17 or 18 Stl 400 CandleWeek 10 Matts Ryn & 8 Matts Bors Ton please to let me know if will take the Bos Tow for your Acct because you Never writ for any Severall writ me for what could get but being Scarce Sends all to you I am

**18 Mar 1710 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Mr Featherstone & Reay

18 Ditto

Inclosed Send bill of loading & on the other Side Invoice of goods in P Harrison, hope all will prove to content, if could give me orders to draw on your friend in London would be much conveniener for me I lost by the last bill of £100 to my order f7:10 flax continues from 18 to 22 1/2 the best

**18 Mar 1710 John Blackett to Edward Anderson**

Mr Edward Anderson

Ditto

Sr Inclosed bill of loading & above Invoice of Goods in Philip Harrison, looking over my books finds have charged f1:10 too Much for Custom in my last therefore makes you Dr for So much less, if could give orders to draw on your friend in London would be much more conveniener for me <W> flax is 2 1/2 or 3 Stl cheapr than 4 M Agoe

**18 Mar 1710 John Blackett to Nathaniel Clayton**

Mr N Clayton

Rotterdm 18 March 1710

Sr Inclosed bill of loading & above Invoice of 20 Rolls of Canvas in P Harrison the qts of linnen & Tea Shall Send per Mr <Tower> as also one doz in of claret who promises to deliver all Safe flax from 18 to 22 Rynsbr Tow 14 1/4 if could give me orders to draw on your brother in London would be much conveniener for me

**18 Mar 1710 John Blackett to Anthony Smith**

Mr Anthony Smith at Hartinpool [Hartlepool]

Ditto

Sr Inclosed bill & Invoice of Goods in Gibson as also Send the bill of £20 back or d[ebi]t gibson would not have you to be angry he is really concerned because cannot pay it, if reason is he has been here so long, pray let me know on whom Shall draw in London for the Acct bills on Newcastle & other places in the North are Seldom wanted here, the Thread is aboard the person of whom I bought it is out of Town Shall Send the Acct per Gibson have Sent 50 Weinschot boards more than you writ for the person would Sell them all or none because was one parcell

**25 Mar 1710 John Blackett to Henry Witton**

Mr Henry Witton  
at Mr Groves Winchester Street, London

Rotterdam 25 Ditto

Sr Since my last none from you, ad advised you before have accepted both your bills of £150 & £100 & Shall be paid when due, there are about 50 W Kerseys & great part of the Mixt yet unsold, & what have sold have not Recd f1000 therefore desire you to Remit me £100 or Else let me know on whom I may draw against your bill of £100 is due, was drawn the 17 febn your Stile at 2 usance, please to advise me if Curling is safe arrived wth you

**4 Apr 1710 John Blackett to Thomas Vazie**

Mr Tho Vazie

Ditto 4 April 1710

Since my last none from you, here above Invoice of 2 ps linnen per Lilly he promised me to put them out of the way here to Save the Custom, as likewise do the Same wth you, inclosed a Note under his hand that he has Recd them the Calicoes he would not take charge off

**4 Apr 1710 John Blackett to John Hall**

Mr John Hall Gateside

Rotterdam 4 April 1710

Sr on the other Side Invoice of 2 qts linnen per Harrison as also Acct of Bottles arrived per Dt Harrison, he will tell you what a quantity he had broake, have Sent you a 2 Stoop Bottle Markt H wch desire to accept in a post or two Shall Send you a bill for the ballance of your Acct, the Thread & Net was bought but Shall keep it till another oportunity offers, because in the last you write not to Send them if not bought, I am

**7 Apr 1710 John Blackett to John Hall**

Mr John Hall

Ditto

Sr Inclosed bill of loading of 4 Matts flax in P Harrison who Sailed Yesterday the reason the bill of loading is to my Order, because Severall here are very desirous to know for whom I Ship, desire you to Send my Acct & Send no more bottles for my Acct the Vintage in france being bad no demand for bottles, have not yet Sold to the Value of

£200 of your Cottons therefore Next post Shall draw on you £50 to the order Mr John Kelley one usance Shall regulate the Exchange as tis when draw on you

**23 Apr 1710 John Blackett to Cuthbert Burton**

Mr C Burton

Rotterdam 23 April 1710

Sr Inclosed Invoice of 4 Matts flax Ship in James Lidle for your Acct who Sailes to Morrow if the Wind is fair, Shall draw on you payable in Newcastle

**3 May 1710 John Blackett to John Van de Wall**

Mr John Vande Wall

Rotterdam 3 May 1710

Sr have this day drawn on you at 10 days Sight by the order of Mr Anthony Smith & for his Acct £60 to the order of Mr Jacob <Sensert> & Son, D[e]bto[r] Smith of Harlinpool writ me the 11 April that had given you order to accept my bill, therefore does not question but will do my bill due honour I am

**3 May 1710 John Blackett to Alexius Clayton**

Mr Alexius Clayton in Cutlers Hall

Ditto

Sr this day have drawn on you for the Acct of your Brother N Clayton £50 at 2 Usance to the order Mr Roeloff & Anthony <Eclbo>, I do not question but you have had orders Some time ago to accept my bill your Brother writ me the 21 March last to draw on you, do not question but you will do due honour to my bill, I am

**6 May 1710 John Blackett to John Kelly**

[Note: The insurance policy mentioned is filed with the original letter book, covering the 'Thomas and Elizabeth' skipper Wm Oxley]

Mr J Kelley

Rotterdam 6 May 1710

Sr I Recd yours of the 7 April, wth orders to Insure £300 on Goods in the Tho & Eliz William Oxley Mastr from Findhorn In Murray Frith to your place, on Receipt of yours I writ to Amsterdm but none of the Insurers will Insure any thing, because you do not write if the Ship was Sailed whenever you order any Insurance must always write wth

letters of Such a date the Ship was not Sailed, this Evening Shall write againe to get the Insurance made if possible & acquaint you per Next post, have acquainted the Insurers that my orders came from Newcastle April 7 & does not believe the Said Ship was Sailed when you gave orders to Insure may be assured Shall do all that lays in my power to get Insurance made to Morrow, am really at a loss about this Insurance I believe the Ship was not Sailed when you writ me, but not being certain of it could not Ingage it to the Insurers for if by chance was Sailed before & by Misfortune taken, the Insurers would not pay one farthing, & could not answer it to you & the rest in England Shall write againe this Evening to Amsterdm

**10 Jun 1710 John Blackett to Edward Anderson**

Mr Ed Anderson

Rotterdm the 10 June 1710

Sr above have Invoices Inclosed bill of loading of 4 Matts flax & 4 Matts Bor Tow Shipt in the Willing mind Tho Robotham Mastr for wch make you D[ebto]r f [spaceleft blank for amount] he Sailes to Morrow wind & Weather permitting, Mr Roger Wilson has the Handkerchiefs we have often drank your health, he goes Over in Robotham. Bor Tow is very hard to be got one can seldom get above 4 or 6 Matts at a time unless have timely Notice, this B Tow is made in Town am certaine tis the best that is made here none being false packt

**10 Jun 1710 John Blackett to John Kelly**

Mr John Kelley

Rotterdm 10 June 1710

Sr Since my last am favd wth yours of 16 & 19 May at the same post 3 Mails before being wanting, have done my Endeavoir to finish the Insurance of Oxley but cannot get any more than f2300 Insured, when Ever you order any further Insurance must advise if Sailed or not hope the Ship will arrive Safe, I perceive Mr Witton Says am Indebted to him about £ 300 I wonder he can tell you any Such thing, he has drawn on me £250 upon the Acct of the Wollen goods & upon my Word has not Recd So much in Cash, the White Kerseys are Sold but am afraid will turne to a bad Acct no paymt is so bad as the Wollen goods, if we get our money in 8 or 10 Months after the Goods are Sold think is Good paymt, if Mr Witton is at Wakefield would advise you to write him when he drew writ me to accept his bills & if money for the W goods was not in Cash Should take care to remit me money against the bills was due, in answer to his letter writ him that so much money was not in Cash & desired him to remit me £100 but have not heard from him Since onely his letter wch Inclosed in yours this Evening will write him what the W goods will amt too cannot tell, but you may be assured Shall part wth no money of his till I hear from you, tis true I have made him no Remittance for his part,

but he has drawn £250 St (wch is paid) wch is the Same thing, on the other Side you have Invoice of 3 Matts R Tow & 5 M B Tow in Tho Robotham Mr Wilson Says as yet there is no demand for flax wth you wch is the reason has not Sent any per Next Ship wch believe will be about a Month hence will Ship for your & my Acct may hope then to get it Something cheaper

**11 Jul 1710 John Blackett to John Field**

Mr John Field

Rotterdm 11 July 1710

Sr Inclosed Send you a bill wch is already fallen due of £25 on Mr Tho Myers at Allerthorp near Yorke, I desire you to Order your friend at York to Receive the money, but if Refused to protest it & Send it me back by first post, now the fleet is Sailed for london fansy butter is fallen, if you can buy 50 or 60 firkins at 14 or 14 1/2 Shillings may do it, but must buy what is good, though no Ship ready to Saile if the butter will keep may buy it, & keep it in a cellar till oppertunity Offers, we have had Raine these 14 days here wch will make Grass grow very much, & consequently butter fall, pray let me have your opinion of Butter

**11 Jul 1710 John Blackett to Thomas Vazie**

Mr Tho Vazie

Ditto

Sr According to your Order has Shipt you one basket Spaw water, you may See as above has been Shipt Some time, would have Sent you Invoice before but was in hopes the Mastr would have come up wth his Ship from the briel, (for has been their ever Since Shipt your Water waiting a Good Wind) & than would have packt you the goods you writ for but the wind being now fair will certainly Saile, Mr Reay is gone for Ostend or otherwise would have taken care of your Spices, Bottles & Grindstones gives no price

**11 Jul 1710 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Mr Featherstone & Reay

Rotterdm 11 July 1710

Messrs Featherstone & Reay

I Recd yours of the 6 June Inclosed bill of loading of 2 Matts Steel Hemp in Robotham it has been Shipt Some time, Should have Sent you Invoice before but was in hopes of getting Some Small Tow, but the Wind is come fair the Ships will Sail this day, for these

10 days or more we have had nothing but Raine if you have had the Same wth you am afraid the corne & Hay will Suffer much, the country people complains much of the New flax, the price is from 18 to 22, if this bad Weather continues will certainly be dearer

Exchange 34<B> 4<..2> usance

Lead 19 1/4 & 19 1/2 <B>

**11 Jul 1710 John Blackett to Robert Sutton**

Mr Robt Sutton

Ditto

Sr This is to advise you that has put on board Tho Robotham one dossin bottles of Claret wch desire you to Accept off, hope you will get them Safe, Shall Endeavour to dispose of your Grindstones per Robotham & Watson, at present no demand, for 14 days we have had Nothing but Raine if you have had so much wth you am afraid will do much damidge to Corne

Flax from 18 to 22 Stl

<abercosde> 16 to 21

<Gemeen> 10 to 12

<Krap> - 26 to 28

<Mull> 2 to 4

**11 Jul 1710 John Blackett to John Kelly**

Mr John Kelley

Ditto

Sr Inclosed bill of loading & above Invoice of 19 Matts Tow Shipt in Robotham for your & my Acct would have Sent the Invoice before but had Some thoughts of Shipping our flax but Mr Reay & Wilson telling me there will be no demand for any these 2 Months at least has put it off till the next Ships Shall Send no more Tow the haerlem 8 & <Cumy.> Tow is f1gl lower in price than Sent them to others 2 Months agoe, if butter comes to 14 or 14 1/2 Shillings will be concerned wth you 1 or 200 firkins Shall part wth no Money of H:W though he draws on me, cannot tell the Insurance of Oxley till has his Note Inclosed Send you a bill of £3 on

**22 Jul 1710 John Blackett to Nicholas Ridley**

Mr N & R Ridley

Rotterdam 22 July 1710

Since my last am not favd wth yours this is to advise you that this day have drawn on you at 2 usance a bill of £56:4 for wch make you Credit f576:17:8 you may think it Something Strange that the Exchange is so low, but if you will please to Inquire will find that has one groot more because gave a bill for a <Neat> Summ, the Exchange was no more than 34<..> 3<..> Should not have drawn if any likelihood of Rising, tis thought will come to 34 5, tis payable in London to the Order of Mr John Coats, hope Robotham is wth you before this & goods prove to Content

Butter f11

**15 Aug 1710 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Messrs Featherstone & Reay

Rotterdam 15 August 1710

Gentlemen

Last post advised you that had Shipt part of your goods in James Lidle Enclosing bill of loading & on the Other Side Invoice of 15 Matts flax Shipt as before the rest of the flax tow & candle week are ready I Shall Shipt them the first oppertunity wch will be in little time Shall Endeavour to get 10 Matts right Harlem Bossell Tow is also 5 or 600<lb> good Steel hemp have bought 23 matts swoll B: Tow butt will be 14 days before will be here J Lidle is Sailed in the brill onely awaiting for a good wind, has 2 English men of war for Convoy hope will be with you in short time & the goods prove to content I believe flax will not be Cheaper till after Christmas till that time the Country people brings little or no flax to markets there is but little old flax left the new will be fine but short

**15 Aug 1710 John Blackett to Anthony Smith**

Mr Anthony Smith

Rotterdam 15 August 1710

Sr have not been favd wth yours for Sometime This is to desire you upon receipt of this letter to buy for me 40 last of good Rape Seed if can get it for 101/2 or £11 but if must give £11:5 than 25 last & Ship it in as good Ship for this place by the first oppertunity must beg of you to be expeditious in the buying this Seed & that tis of a good Sort as also that the measure is good when I hear you have bought any Shall remit you bills on London must give timely advice of the Master & Ships name that may make Insurance accordingly Shall expect the Answer by the first post we are likely

to have a good crop of flax it will be fine but Short Blow flax from 17 to 22 Stl white flax from 25 to 30 Stl Rynbr Tow f141/4 when you write lett me know if the wanschot Boards & Threed proved to Content I believe there will be more orders given for Seed at Stockton Hull & other places therefore must loose no time but on receipt of this to buy as above, will Say no more but hope you will do for me as your self whenever I am Capable of Serving here Command

Exchange 2 usance 34 10<.>

Lead 18 8/9 a 19 <.>

**15 Aug 1710 John Blackett to Nathaniel Clayton**

Mr N Clayton

Rotterdm 15 Augt 1710

Writ him that had Sent per Liddle 23 Bolts Canvas I had drawn on his Brother Alexius for £50 at 2 usance at 34<.> 10<.> the 7 <...> ticking for Wastcoat & Bretches cost f4

**19 Aug 1710 John Blackett to Anthony Smith**

Mr Anthony Smith

Rotterdm 19 Augt 1710

Sr my last to you was of the 15 past, when gave you Orders to buy for Mr John Van Meel & my Self 40 last Rape Seed if could get it for £10 1/2 or £11 at £11:5 then but 25 last, I desire you to take no Notice of my letter of the 15 but refer your Self to this I now write, wch is to buy for Mr Van Meel & my Self 60 last Good Rape Seed if can get it at £12 free of all charges aboard, but if must give £13 free of all charges aboard than but 40 last, & if must give £13:10 free of all charges aboard than but 25 last, I fancy nowno Custom is to be paid for Rape Seed, but if any thing is to be paid or not it can Ship for the above mentioned prices, or Under, pray loose no oppertunity, I know Mr fierly & Mr John Cook has Orders likewise, therefore desire you to be Expeditious, if you buy any Ship it by first Conveniency wth Convoy for this place & give timely advice of Masters & Ships Name that may make Insurance Accordingly, assoon hears you have bought any Shall remit you by the Next post, must beg of you once more to be Expeditious & take care of the Measure Butter f11

the bill of loading must be made in Mr John Van Meels name, I believe you will get mine of 15 & this at the Same post I am

¾ John Van Meel

¼ My Self

**19 Aug 1710 John Blackett to Iveson**

Mr Iveson

Ditto

Writ him the price of Seed £35 – I Bagwell had not Signed bill of loading for the water he has 2 qts of linnen Wood Chery brandy & 1 pound Tea Watson 1 pound Tea & Cravats

Mr Ridley Writ him the price of Butter f11 & R Seed £35

Mr Wilkinson

**30 Sep 1710 John Blackett to John Hall**

Mr John Hall Senr

Rotterdm 30 Sepr 1710

Sr have drawn a bill on you of £26:5 at 35<.> wch is 5<.> more than the London Exchange, f275:12, must desire you not to accept the bill till you hear from me, Mr John Rumford is a Mastr of a Ship to whose order the bill is drawn & has given me a Note on his broaker who Says will pay me in 12 or 14 days time, but however beg you not to accept the bill till I write you I am

**30 Sep 1710 John Blackett to Edward Anderson**

Mr Ed Anderson

Ditto

Sr above Invoice of 5 Matts B Tow per Robothan have this day drawn on you a bill of £50 at 35<.> f525 wch is 5 groat more than the Exchange is to london have write him the same not to accept my bill till hears from me

**30 Sep 1710 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Mr Featherstone & Reay

Ditto

on the other Side Invoice of goods in Bosfield & Robothan for wch make you Dr f1252:16 have drawn on you two bills at 2 usance

£ 50 John Louvens

85:15 John Jackson

£135:15 for wch make you D[ebto]r at 35<.> f1425:7:8 wch is 5 groat more than the Exchange writ him the Same not to accept my bill till hears from me

**30 Sep 1710 John Blackett to Wass**

Mr Wass  
above Invoice of 4 Matts flax f283:18

Ditto

**30 Sep 1710 John Blackett to Ralph Reed**

Mr R Reed  
Invoice of 150 potts & 1 Matt paper a dispute of a pott if came too Short in the weight Should make it him good

Ditto

**30 Sep 1710 John Blackett to Nicholas Ridley**

Mr N & R Ridley  
Invoice of 14 Matts Tow, flax too dear therefore would not buy any

Ditto

**3 Oct 1710 John Blackett to Ralph Reed**

Mr Ralph Reed

Rotterm 3 Octobr 1710

Sr have drawn a bill on you dated 1 Octobr at 2 Usance to the order Tho Simpson of £50 at 35 f525; Must beg of you not to accept the bill till you hear from me that the money is paid, Mr Simpson is a Mastr of a Ship & onely given me a Note on his broaker who Say will pay it in 10 or 12 days time

**3 Oct 1710 John Blackett to Thomas Vazie**

Mr Tho Vazie  
Sr have drawn a bill on you of £15 at 2 Usance to the order Tho Simpson at 35 <.> f157gl writ him as above not to pay it till hear from me

Ditto

**14 Oct 1710 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Messrs Featherstone & Reay

Rotterdam 14 October 1710

Gentlemen Since my last am not favoured wth yours the two bills wch draw on you are both paid therefore desire you to accept them, have this day drawn a bill of £43 at usance to the order Thomas Frost at 35<.> for wch make upon Credit f451:10 could have bought bills this day for London at 2 usance for 34<.> 5<.> Same Sort of flax as Sent you per Robathan could buy now for 25 or 26 Stl & in a week or two shall buy it for one or two Stuiv: Lower P Harrison layes here in hopes to gett a full Ship assoon as flax is Cheaper & present no news from Spain here is a report that the Pretender designs to make another Landing in Schotland but cannot believe The French has any troop to Spare must beg of you not to accept this bill wch have this day drawn on you I hear from me & the money is paid have agreed wth the master that Should not be accepted till the money was paid here if I am capable of Serving you here command I am your humble Servant

John Blacket

**14 Oct 1710 John Blackett to John Hall**

Mr John Hall

Rotterdam 14 october 1710

Sr Since you left Rotterdam have not heard from you hop'd you are arrived long ere this on the other Side have Invoice of goods bought when you was in town but what you bought of Mr Parwell over <against> the <doyt ....> cannot get his acct is at present out of town, but Shall Send it in a post or two when Shall Send your acct currt have this day drawn on you at one usance to the order Wm George foster £57 at 35 for wch make you Credit f598:10 had first drawn it at two usance but Mr <Clorf> had given at one for the Same price therefore was forced to alter it have agreed wth Mr foster that you Should not accept the bill till you heard the bill was paid <here> there beg you not to accept it till you hear from me may tell the bearer to let Mr Leavens & Jackson that their bills are pd & Couwenbergh promises to pay Mr Rumford & Simpsons in a day or two new flax is fallen about a Ste [stuiver] or two but in a week or two hope to buy good Sort for 23 or 24 Ste pray my Service to Mr Leighton Shall write him next post if am at any time capable of Serv. You Command I am Sr your humble Servt John Blacket

Exchange to London 2 usance 34<.> 6<.>

**14 Oct 1710 John Blackett to John Kelly**

Mr John Kelly

Rotterdam 14 october 1710

my father has not writ you to Ship me 100 ps lead wch is in his Cellar pray Ship it by first opportunity in Tho Robathan or Some other carefull master wth Convoy & let me

know masters & Ships name in a post or two shall Send you the acct of white Carseys & shall let you know if has any money of H Witton in my hands & how much would have Sent Flax by Robothan but was very dear is at least 3 Stl fallen since left this place had orders from Mr Ridley but durst not buy any P Harrison Stays for new flax shall Ship 10 Matts for you & my acct here is great demand for R Tow tis Scarce & mean am glad we was not concerned in Rape Seed the price is here from £27 to 30£ the best, wth not great likelyhood of rising much we expect great quantity of corn from England am affraid many people will Lose by it bread falls every day as yet no Certain price of corn I am now a drinking your health wth Mr George Foster who tells me by this time you are married I wish you both all the happiness you can wish for your Selfs & believe Dear Sir to be  
your humble Servt John Blacket

Exchange to London 2 usance 34<.> 6<.>

**14 Oct 1710 John Blackett to William Leighton**

Mr Wm Leighton

Rotterdam 14 october 1710

Sr Since my last am not favoured wth yours on the other Side Invoice of goods per Robothan hope is arrived wth you & goods <prove> to Content here is no old flax Left they begin to bring new to the market the Same Sort as the Sample wch Sent you could buy now for 25 & 26 Stl in a week or two will be lower P Harrison Stays for new flax if would have 2 or 3 more matts for a tryal please to let me know I am when ever am Capable of Serving your Commands

Sr your Humble Servt  
John Blackett

**2 Dec 1710 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Mr Featherstone & Reay

Rotterdm 2 decemr 1710

Make Dr for goods f2062:12

Since my last none from you, on the other Side Invoice of goods In P Harrison John Lilly & Richd Jefferson, they all Sailed last Thursday or Fryday, hope were so wise as stay for the Yarmouth Convoy wch Sailed Fryday last, but here is a report in Towne that the above mentioned Masters wth 12 or 14 more Sailed without Convoy, cannot write with any certainty, for tis but a report, but does not question but are all Safe arrived In Yarmouth Roads, flax continues <as dear> will not be cheapr till cold Weather begins, wch generally is about Christmas, the Country people wants money at

that time and are obliged to Sell their flax, tis always cheapest about that time, if would have any bought when at cheapest please to advise me, Rynsbr Tow very ordinary & Extravagantly dear f15 <100/ll> have writ Severall to Swoll for the Tow I bought but cannot get an Answer, tis now dearer wch believe is the reason tis not Sent, Shall write againe to know the reason the last post Exchange was 35<.> & in ½ hour rises to 35<.> 6<.> this day was 35<.> 7<.> & hope will continue so, if you give me orders to draw on your friend in London will be much for your advantage at present, here are no Colliars therefore no Occasion for bills on Newcastle

**2 Dec 1710 John Blackett to Edward Anderson**

Mr Ed Anderson

Ditto

Make Dr for flax f305:8

Sr Since my last none from you, above Invoice of 4 Matts in Philip Harrison hope will be wth you Soon he Sailed Thursday or fryday last, Suppose wth the Yarmouth Convoy, flax continues dear, will not be cheapr till about Christmass when our cold Weather Generally begins & then the country people brings most of their flax to Market, about that time is always cheapest, Rynsbr Tow dear f15 have Sent per Harrison for you & C Burton Each 2 Stoop of Brandy tis in one Jugg, if you give me orders to draw on your friend in London would be much for your advantage at present the Exchange is 35<.> 8<.> but does not know for how long will continue so here are no Colliars therefore no Occasion for bills on Newcastle

**2 Dec 1710 John Blackett to Cuthbert Burton**

Mr C Burton

Ditto

Make him Dr f305:8

Writ him as above as also Sent Invoice <49n> flax in <Harrison>

**2 Dec 1710 John Blackett to Robert Sutton**

Mr Robert Sutton

Rotterdam the 2 Decmbr 1710

Sr on the other Side Invoice of goods Shipd in the P Harrison who Sailed from here some days agoe flax continues dear & as writ you before will not be Cheaper before Christmass the country people want money about that time flax is always Cheaper latter end of Decbr & Janry have made inquiry about <Madr> tis the opinion of all people it will be dearer could not get any <arekil>, wich is made here at present not a

barrel in town the light barrils Sent came from London but could not dispose of it here, my friend <kerk> desired me to Send them to newcastle & Shall be Contented wth wt you think they are worth if could give me orders to draw on your friend in London would be mch to your advantage the exchange has not been So high these 12 months 35<.> 8<.> & here are no colliars therefore cannot draw on newcastle, Rynb tow very Scarce & bad the extravaganly dear the Six Sent you are the best in the Ship not false packt haerlems tow none to be had there is not 20 matts made in a year have Sent 2 matts Right good Rotterd B tow

**2 Dec 1710 John Blackett to Burdett Clayton**

[Note: No name stated but receipted deduced from letter of 9 Jan 1711 to Alexius Clayton.]

Rotterdam 2 decembr 1710

Sr above invoice of the flax in harrison who I hope is wth you had Sent the Crusibles long ago if So been had but none has been in town these 6 or 8 months have writ your brother the Sudden rising of the exchange if you give me orders to draw on your bro Alexius will be much to your advantage at present no colliars cannot draw on Newcastle flax continues dear till could weather wch generaly is about Christmas the country people wants money about that time it is cheaper in Decbr Janry Febry if would have any bought advise me Rynbr tow very Scarce & bad & dear f15 <100/ll> whenever would have any write 2 or 3 weeks before the Ships Sails or else is bought up  
Sr Yr Humble Servt J B

Exchange to London 2 Usance 35<.> 8<.>  
Wheat from the north of Engl f140:170ggl  
Old Rye f110:118ggl  
Ditto new f100:115ggl  
Barley f18 : 21£  
Rape Seed f31 : 32 1/2£

**2 Dec 1710 John Blackett to Nathaniel Clayton**

Mr Nathan Clayton

Rotterdam the 2 Decemr 1710

Sr above invoice of 20 bolts Canvas wch hope will prove to content Harrison Sailed Some days ago had mch trouble wth bill wich was protested know very well was by mistake but you know bills must be pd or protested upon the day when due in my next Shall advise you the Charges have draw on your Bro the 22 Novembr a bill of £40 at 2 usance at 35<.> wch make you Credit f420 whenever am capable of Serving you

Command there is a great demand for Swoll tow from newcastle will write to the place where it is made & Send by the next Ship if it is to be had the last post bills was sold for 35<.> at the beginning of the Change but upon the arrivall of the letters rise to 35<.> 8<.> & <comnn> think will continue  
Yr Humble Servt J B

**2 Dec 1710 John Blackett to William Leighton**

Mr Wm Leighton

Rotterdam the 2 Decembr 1710

Sr Since my last none from you, above invoice of 3 matts flax in John lilly who Sailed from hence Some days agoe Rd Jefferson left this place after I recd Mr J Balls letter therefore the Silk came to late Tho Robathan will be here Shortly am certain will take care of them or any thing else you Shall order flax continues dear will not be cheaper till cold weather wch is abt Christmass the country people at that time want and are obliged to Sell their goods flax is always Cheaper at the latter end of Decembr Janry

**2 Dec 1710 John Blackett to John Kelly**

Kelley

Rotterdam the 2 Decembr 1710

Sr above invoice of goods Shipt in Ph Harrison who Sailed 2 or 3 days ago I recd yours of 10 – 9bre wth bill of loading of my lead & corn in Tho Robathan at his arrival Shall dispose of it to your best advantage & place that to acct the rest to Mr <hedersons> Ph Harrison have Sent you one matt wth 48 Riems paper also a matt of Same quantity in Jno lilly w desired to dispose of most advantage my friend Mr Augstine to recommend to one in Newcastle had Some hops to Send if Should order may Safely deal wth him at present no colliars here therefore cannot advise the price the last was Sold for f14 Some time for f11 have Some Sent me from hull but cannot Sell them must beg of your lady to except of Some cups & dishes basen teapot Ph Harrison promisd to call but forgot are packt up in a box but Shall Send by the first Ships am now writing your acct of kerseys in a post or two a particular acct of insurance pray <my>Servis to you know when She want any thing to be bought let me know your bro Jos is now here have pd him in money & for goods wch bought f203 wch please to Credit my acct

**9 Dec 1710 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Mr Featherstone & Reay

Rotterdm 9 Decemr 1710

This to advise you that this day have drawn on you payable in London a bill of £60 35<.> 8<.> to the order Mr Joel Walton for wch make you Credit f642gl

**9 Dec 1710 John Blackett to Robert Sutton**

Mr Robert Sutton

Ditto

have this day drawn a bill at 2 usance payable in London to the order Mr Joel Walton of £60 at 35<.> 8<.> f642 when accept the bill must write what house will be pd in Londn

**12 Dec 1710 John Blackett to John Kelly**

Mr John Kelley

Ditto 12 Decembr 1710

Sr In my last forgot to Send bills of loading of your potts & my paper the Crusibles cost f8:10 Robothan Safe arrived but corne come to a bad Market here are nigh 200 Ships loaden wth malt & Barley wch has lowered the prices much, coals 17 to 17 1/2 gl. Shall dispose your corne to Morrow if possible will certainly be lower. a bill of £2:11:6 on Andr Browne given me by Heemskerck

Flax 23 to 25 Stl

R Tow f15gl

W Wheat 160:175

R Ditto 140:160

Rye 100:114

<Bigg> 13 15 1/2£

Barley --

Malt Yarm.th 15:17:19

Ditto Hull 21:23

R Seed 31:32£

**12 Dec 1710 John Blackett to Nicholas Ridley**

Messrs N & R Ridley

Rotterdm 12 Decembr 1710

I Recd yours of 14 9br wth bill of loading of four last Bigg in Tho Robothan, who is Safe arrived, here are at least 170 or 200 Ships all loaden wth Malt & barley wch has lowered the prices, Shall dispose of yours to Morrow if possible will be lower, Shall Ship your flax potts Twine etc in Robothan or Some other Ship that Sails first for your place

**26 Dec 1710 John Blackett to Ralph Reed**

Mr R Reed

26 Dr 1710

Sr Inclosed bill of loading of 2 Matts flax in Wm Witton who Sailed Yesterday  
f169:10

**2 Jan 1711 John Blackett to Nicholas Ridley**

Mr N & R Ridley

Rotterdm 2 Jann 1711

Inclosed bill of loading & Invoice of goods per Tho Robothan for wch make you Dr  
f1049:10 the Master waites only for a Good Wind, flax will not be cheapr the reason is  
the country people are mistaken in their quantity Some 300 & Some 400 Stone less than  
immagined, another Reason the people here are now forced to heckle this country flax  
who before made use of East Country Rynsbr Tow f15, your corne have Sold for £13 1/2  
Shall Send Acct per Next

**2 Jan 1711 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Mr Featherstone & Reay

Ditto

Inclosed bill of loading & on the other Side Invoice of 5 Matts flax & 13 Matts Tow,  
being Holiday time could get no more but if the Ships Stay till Tuesday Shall Ship 5  
Matts flax more, Tow was Shipt for Mr Anderson & Burton but you writeing have Sent  
it you knowing tis good pray when land let them not See your Mark, please to write if  
will give 16gl for Swoll Tow, last post drew on Mr James Lune for your Acct a bill of  
£100 2 Usance at 35<..> 5<..> for wch make you Credit

**6 Jan 1711 John Blackett to Anthony Smith**

Mr Anthony Smith

Rotterdam 6 January 1711

Sr according to your order have Shipt 80 boards <Wanschob> on board Lilley  
<Cair> who Sailed this day wth the London Convoy Inclosed invoice of your former  
goods per Gibson, here has been at least 200 Ships wth barley & malt wch has brought  
the price very low & does not any likelyhood of being dearer can't advise you to Send  
here unless can't dispose of it wth your flax from 22 to 26 Stl, Rynb Tow f151/9 brandy  
is got 40 & 42 the <Stuy> have made inquiry but do not the mercury galley is arrived I

perceive there are Some who are Concerned in the galley who has insured at London £12:10 & here gave 20 p Cent wch you think is very high please to Consider that 20 p Cent is much cheaper than £12:10 at London if by mischance the Ship is lost the Insurers at London never give more 80 or 84 & here always 96 or 97 p Cent but wch is great difERENCE

John Blackett

**6 Jan 1711 John Blackett to Robert Sutton**

Mr Robt Sutton

Rotterdam 6 Janry 1711

Sr inclosed Send you invoice of goods in Robothan & Liddle am Sorry Harrison did not take better care of the wine as also of the Quick Silver had not given So many had not promised to deliver you the <pin> & quick Silver Safe everyone complains of him when any other Ship is here will find it difficult to get any goods flax is every market day dearer the Country men was mistaken in there Crop Somes had 200 others 300 Stone less than they imagined wch is one reason keeps So high in price another Reason no East Country flax comes the little townes hereabout used to heckle that Sort but none to be had but much take <uso> of use this <Contrey> if great demand comes it is my opinion that flax will Sarce & dearer before Easter, I wonder Should write me that never pd for the hogs heads whoever bought Madder for you before though did not Charge you for the empty hogshhead has made it up Some way or other <Eighty> by the weight or price for tis the Custom here to pay for the empty hogheads & if you be placed to be Satisfied will Send note by a Sworn broaker

**9 Jan 1711 John Blackett to Alexius Clayton**

Mr A Clayton

Rotterdam 9 Ditto

Sr by your Brother Burdits Order have drawn on you a bill of £40 at one Usance to the order Mr Daniel Van Keerbergon

**11 Mar 1711 John Blackett to William Leighton**

Mr W Leighton

11 March 1711

a bill of £60 to the ordr J Davison <34.....>

**11 Apr 1711 John Blackett to Nicholas Ridley**

Mr Ridley 11 April  
a bill of £70 < 35> to the order

**11 Apr 1711 John Blackett to Edward Anderson**

Mr Ed Anderson  
a bill of £40 to the order <a 35...>

**11 Apr 1711 John Blackett to Cuthbert Burton**

Mr C Burton  
a bill of £40 to the order <a 35...>

**5 May 1711 John Blackett to Robert Fenwick**

Mr Robt Fenwick Rotterdam 5 May 1711

Since my last am not favoured wth yours This to advise you that have drawn this day a bill on you of £60 at 2 usance to Mr <Van der wall> or order at 34<..> 11<..> & wch is the <highest> the Exchange for wch make you Credit f628:10 hope <Barton> is wth you & goods prove to content flax is very Scarce Lead is Sold for 18 a <C> & lower <Carrot seed> will advance 1/3 or 1/2 at most these 4 or 5 month there's little demand & never was holland So wet & Stokt wth as now many people are obliged to Sell to pay bills wch keeps the price down at present no news but may expect to hear some Shortly our army being marchd your Sons <are> wed, if Capable to Servd Command.

the prince of Conti is dead of the Smallpox & the duke of Berry Sick of the Same, king Charles will Certainly be Chose King of the Romans & Consequently Emperour.

W Wheat 110 to 134 <gg1>  
R Dt 100 to 132  
Rye 90 to 105  
Barley  
malt 20 to 22£ Bigg 12 to 18£  
Rape Seed 26 to 28£

**5 May 1711 John Blackett to Ralph Reed**

Mr Ralph Reed

Rotterdam the 5 May 1711

Sr Since my last am not fav'd wth yours this is to advise you that cant get any Spanish Iron on[e] inch Square or Cast have writ to Amsdm: but none to be had have a friend that the price of £5 7/8 but of one inch if would have any pleased to advise believe could other Spanish Iron £5 1/2 none to be had under 22 or 23 1/2 hope Gilers goods, of Serving Command

in little may Expect to hear some news.

Late this Evening Recd yours & shall send the 100 potts & shall & take Care & are 30 or 40lb not to Send any Coals or Grindstones the first f15 but lower the price is abt 14 a Chadron there's nothing to be got by them.

**5 May 1711 John Blackett to Robert Sutton**

Mr Sutton

Rotterdm 5 May 1711

Sr for Some time have desird writing in hope to have of a person <who> to cutt whale bone & would have been willing to go to Newcastle have made it my bussiness to inquire for Such a one but cannot find any wch will go they say that when have been a year or two will be <turned> away & will not hear of going however Shall make it my business to inquire Flax is very Scarce from 23 to 23 1/2 Send no Coals at present no encouragement to Send any goods Lead, 18 1/2 never was so full & many are to Sell to Pay bills wch keep down the price when am Capable of Serving Command

**5 May 1711 John Blackett to John Kelly**

Mr John Kelley

Ditto

Sr above you have a Copy of the Acct wch Sent you wth your Acct Currt of Corne there was one Maile thrown over board the packet being chased by a privateer but cannot yet learne if was the Maile when writ you, however above copy of the Flax & per Next Copy of your Acct Currt Cannot yet get the Acct of Coales from Mr Rykevorste all was Sold at f14 Excepting dobbins wch got f15 they complaine of the badness of the coals, but I think is good Enough for this market, all made out pritty well wch will help a little but yet will be a looser, Shall Send the Acct as are delivered to me, Mr <Hall> & Starky will tell you that none was Sold above what you have, Never Send Coales when a fleet of 80 or 100 Ships are for this place the price is always low, here are but 6 or 8 Saile & yet the price is but f15 if maney Ships arrives will be lower have Sent the two Inclosed & given them orders to draw no me for what good

they buy for you, have writ to draw to your most advantage payable in amsterdm or this place their bills Should find due Honour, Mr Booth & Barnardistan has drawn Severall bills on me for goods they bought for Mr Witton, Mr Barnardistan is now in Engld please to advise Mr Samuall Spragg to Accept my bills when drawn for your Acct pray advise if must make Insurance for your goods & if the Ship comes wth or wth out convoy

**5 May 1711 John Blackett to Christopher Blackett**

[Note: Date assumed to be as above. Recipient unclear but other commercial letters from John went to his brother Christopher in London]

Dr Brother

Ditto

Inclosed a bill of £10 on Mr Wm Robinson wch pd his Son hence have drawn a bill at 1M of £30 to the order Mr John Van de Wull

**12 May 1711 John Blackett to John Hall**

Mr J Hall

Ditto 12 1711

Sr above Invoice find Inclosed bill of loading of 6 Matts flax Shipt in Michiel Burn who Sailes to Morrow Wind & Weather permitting, hope you got Safe to Newcastle, Coale f15 if a fleet arrives will be lower pray tell Mr Leighton that when Robotham Arrives Shall Send a Thick Rich piece Silk

**12 May 1711 John Blackett to Ralph Reed**

Mr Ralph Reed

Rotterdm 12 May 1711

Sr above Invoice & Inclosed bill of loading of 100 Iron potts per Michiel Burne who Sailes to Morrow Wind & Weather permitting, he Sailes wth the Scotch Convoy who Sees the Ships in Tinemouth hope will arrive Safe & potts prove to Content are  $\frac{1}{4}$  dearer than the last, had much adoe to get them at 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  gl flax from 23 to 25 & 26 the greatest reason flax keeps up in price the Scotch takes great quantities who Never took any till about 12 Mon agoe

**12 May 1711 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Messrs Featherstone & Reay

Ditto

above Invoice & Inclosed bill of loading of one Matt Steel Hemp per Mich Burne who Sailes to Morrow Wind & Weather permitting wth the Scotch Fleet who is to See the Ships in Tinemouth hope will arrive Safe, have now Shipt for that place Some flax but none und 23 Stl all under is not of a very Good colour the Greatest Reason flax keeps So Dear the Scotch takes great quantities who Never took any till about these 12 Months

**26 Jun 1711 John Blackett to John Hall**

Mr John Hall

Rotterdm 26 June 1711

Sr this to advise you that have drawn on you at 2 usa to the order Mr oliver Coats a bill of £70 at 35<.> for wth maks you Creditor f735 in a post or 2 Shall send you the acct Currtt Pray my Servi to Mr Tompson & all friends I am Sr Yr humble Sert J.B.

Coales f14 1/2  
Bottles f22 Stl  
Flax 24 to 26

I Shall write you in a post or 2 & send the acct currtt pray acquaint Mr Regd Wilson that have drawn on him to the order oliver Coat

Sr J.B.

**26 Jun 1711 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Mr Featherstone & Reay

Rotterdm the 26 June 1711

Since my Last am favd wth yours of 22 May Inclosed bill of loading & invoice of goods in john Kitchingman have Shipt no flax could not any under 23 1/2 but whn the Ships are gone Shall buy up at Lowest prices the New Crop was very fine but not having rain has spoilt the Crop have made great inquiry & am Informed that most the new Crop in Zeeland were the most flax grows is spoilt, what is left will be short have now Shipt for Mr Wm Leighton & Mr Rt Sutton & others but none under 24 1/2 & 25 1/2 Stl whn is Landed may Se how it for the Price that may be assured shall do for you more than any in Newcastle have drawn on you at 2 usance to the order of Mr C Harley £45 at 35<.> for wch Credit you f432:10 I am

Shall be advising

J.B.

**26 Jun 1711 John Blackett to Ralph Reed**

Mr R Reed

Rottm 26 June 1711

Sr Inclosed bill of Loading for 100 Iron potts if was to buy them now must have given 7 Gilders was offered by one that must have Sold them again 6 7/8 but would not do any Such thing wn has bought them for my friend. am Sorry could not get any master of a Ship to take a doz Claret for you wch could ingage any master wth you when comes to take a doz but that are generally So Stockt that always makes one accuse or other however Shall get Some or other to take them have drawn on you at 2 usance to the ordr of Mr Wm Hill £40 a 35<.> for wch Credit you f420 flax is Still dearer. the new Crop being Spoilt for want of rain if am capable of Serving you Command I am J.B.

Flax 24 to 26 Stl

**26 Jun 1711 John Blackett to Cuthbert Burton**

Mr C Burton

Rotterdam 26 June 1711

Sr Inclosed a bill of Loading 6 matts Flax John Kitchingman do not question but will prove well for the prices I bought of a friend if was to buy them on the market as is usuall must given more be Assured flax will not be Cheaper Likely to be dear the Crop wich Stood fine is Spoilt for want of rain little comes to market pray See the flax wch comes in the Ship And See the diff have drawn on you at 2 usance to the order Mr Oliver Coats £30 at 35<.> for wch Credit you f315 when am of Serving Commd I am J.B.

**26 Jun 1711 John Blackett to William Leighton**

Wm Leighton

Rotterdam 26 June 1711

Sr Inclosed bill of Loading of 9 matts flax does not Question but will be good if had bought on the market must given more but bought of a friend Pray see the flax that comes in the Same Ship if you know the Prices will See the difference flax will be dearer The new Crop is partly Spoilt for want of rain , it will be short, have Sent by Kitchingman ½ ps Linnen & 12 handke but for the Silk could not perswade him however Shall engage Shall engage Some Master to take it Shall be adviseing advising the Prices of flax every post have drawn on you at 2 usance a bill to the order John Harley at <39.> for wch Credit you f660 if can Serve you Command

J. Blackett

**10 Jul 1711 John Blackett to John Wilkinson**

Cousin Wilkinson

Rotterdm 10 July 1711

According to your order have taken money for the Remainder of the Lead at 5 <pC> & do here Inclose Remit 10 bills as follows

2 bills £200 drawn the 3 past by John Gascoyne on Benjm Gascoyne  
2 bills £230 drawn this day by John Gascoyne on Henry Osley  
2 bills £200 drawn this day by Benj.n Crow on Samuel Clarke  
1 bill £100 drawn this day by Benj.n Crow on Sr Robt Duncley  
1 bill £120 drawn this day by Wm Spencer on Samuel Clarke  
1 bill £ 60 drawn this day by ferrand Whaley on John Greenwell  
910 payable London  
1 bill 300 drawn this day by Samuel Green on George Woodford  
£1050 at 2 usance 34<...>7 for wch make you Dt f10475:15

**18 Nov 1712 John Blackett to John Hall**

Mr John Hall Senir

Rotterdm 18 Novembr 1712

Have drawn on him at Sight £15:2 at f10:13 Stl per <Pound wch is f160:16

**1 Mar 1713 John Blackett to John Marshall**

Mr John Marshall

Newby the 1 March 1712/3

Sr Am God be Thanked Safe arrived at my Fathers, & busy In Makeing Up my Accounts wth my Friends at Newcastle wch in little time will be Compleated, & than Shall Send you your Acct, wth bills for the ballance Pray my Service to your Spouse, & returne you Maney thanks for all your Favours I am

**5 Mar 1713 John Blackett to Robert Sutton**

Mr R Sutton

Newby the 5 March 1712/3

Sr above you have your Acct Currt wch I desire you will please to peruse, & if any Mistake Shall be Rectified must Confess has been for Some time past very Neglectfull

in my business am now Setting Streight wth Every one, Shall be at Newcastle Shortly to give you & my friends maney thanks for all their kindnesses to me & wish was in my power to Serve you or any of my Friends, & ½ qts Muslin does not know what cost but Shall Settle that when Sees you, pray when you write let me know what have done wth the 8 barrels Archill, my Father is very Uneasy till my Accts are Settled, therefore beg of you to let me know how you find this Acct by the first post, will be a Greater kindness to me than you can Imagine I am

**5 Mar 1713 John Blackett to Nathaniel Clayton**

Mr N Clayton

Ditto

This day I Recd yours & give you maney thanks for all your kindnesses my Father has been Very much Concerned that I Neglected my business So long but will not let me Stir till have made up my Acct I know the Good's Sent are all well but am Satisfied that am [struck out: 'Satisfied'] mistaken on bills drawn therefore Sends this Acct as in my books and desires what is amiss to Set it down & Send this againe, all the bills that drew has on a paper the Same but does not Stand upon whom was drawn therefore desire to know what bills have drawn & whose order

**7 Mar 1713 John Blackett to Cuthbert Burton**

Mr Cuthbert Burton

Newby 7 March 1712/3

Sr I am got now to my Fathers & Shortly desires to See you at Newcastle, when Shall besure Waite on you & Returne you Maney thanks for all your Civilities to me when at Rotterdm, Inclosed Send your Acct Currt wch please to peruse & if any Mistake Shall be Rectified I am

**9 Mar 1713 John Blackett to Thomas Vazie**

Mr Thomas Vazie

Newby the 9 March 1712/3

Sr Am now got to my Fathers, & busy in Makeing up my Accts above your Acct Currt wch please to peruse, it may be that have a mistake, for has been Very Neglecting in my business for Some time, however if any mistake Shall be Immediately rectified, when have drawn a bill instead of Entring in my book made only a Memorandum on a Sheet of Paper but did not write on whom drew it, therefore if any Mistake let me know by the first post, when my books are Set right, designs to See you at Newcastle, to give you & all other friends maney thanks for Civilities pray write per first

**12 Mar 1713 John Blackett to Nathaniel Clayton**

Mr Nathaniel Clayton

Newby the 12 March 1712/3

Dear Friend I recd yours of the 7 past & has noted accordingly the £60 & £40 wch have found out but you will find you are mistaken in the 494:7 as you will See by my Letter of Advice dated the 18 March 1710 As also invoice if you please shall send you the third bill of loading, I send you a Cobby of that letter when ordered the 20 bolts as also a Cobby of another letter dated the 25th April when you write that Harrison was detained at Whitby by Six French men of war I do not Question but you will find the mistake out tis true in your Acct Currt tis the 1st of march suppose bought them that time, but did not Ship them till the 18th as you will find when you Looke your bills of Loading over please to send the Acct wch sent you last back & shall send you another, my father would gladly have all things set right before comes to Newcastle

**12 Mar 1713 John Blackett to John Hull**

Mr John Hull

Newby the 12 March 1712/3

Dr Sr I am got to my father house, & Busy in making up my Accts Inclosed your Acct Currt wch please to peruse & if any mistake shall be immediately rectified as you know very well have been for some time very Negligent so a mistake may happen but if any either on your Side or mine pray let me know as for the small things wch I bought shall Settle that when Sees you at Newcastle wch will be shortly, but my father is uneasy till my books be made up, & will not let me come till all be settled therefore pray let me have a line per first. I give you many thanks for all your Civilities

**12 Mar 1713 John Blackett to Ralph Reed**

Mr Ralph Reed

Newby 12 march 1712/3

Dr Friend I recd yours of the 2 past for wch gives you many thanks tis very true I drew a bill on you the 6th November 1711 payabe to Mr John Williamson for £30 at 35 Sr 6<Sr> 6<..> wch is 319:10 so wch have noted accordingly as for the bill of Loading dost not Question but shall find it out when comes to Newcastle either by bosfield or by the Custom house I give you maney thanks for your kind wishes & wish that may ever Lay in my power to serve you or any that belongs you

**12 Mar 1713 John Blckett to Nicholas Fenwick**

Mr Nichs Fenwick

Newby the 12 March 1712/3

Sr I recd yours of 10 march & was very much surprised to see that I had forgot to give your father Credit for £100 paid me by Mr Charles Burton if you please to look over the Acct will find otherwise or please to read the letter your father write me the 24th April 1711, & will find he writes that is Surprised that Mr Burton only left f100 but did not think would have left Less than 1000 or 1200, Suppose the Mistake is made £ instead of f & the reason why did not place it to your Father Acct was because C Burton ordered me to place it to Mr J Reed Acct when comes to Newcastle Shall Settle that matter, however pray let me have a line from you by the first post

**13 Mar 1713 John Blckett to John Marshall**

Mr John Marshall

Newby the 13 March 1712/3

Sr since my last to you when advised my Arrivall at Newby am not favoured wth yours Inclosed send you Acct of the 16 hogsheads of Allam arrived at Rotterdm same sente the Amount is as <lactur /s>1440:12 which shall remet you Assoon as gets to Newcastle wch will be shortly would have been there before now but severall has write me that they was just going their Western Journey (as they call it) & desires would stay till come back but the first thing too after gets to Newcastle shall be to remit your money hope to see you shortly at London or in Yorkshire when shall give you maney thanks for your kindmess as also the Civilities wch you designed to do me as my sisters tells me if had stayed at Rotterdm if you please may write to any one at Rotterdm to Inquire of Mr Colebrant what he gave me for the Allam

**16 Mar 1713 John Blckett to Heron**

Mr Heron

Newby the 16 March 1712/3

Sr have been about three Weeks in Yorkshire & now Settling my books, above your Acct Currt pray let me know if agrees, I think I Sent you Some trifills as Shirts & wch have not Set down in my book desire will let me know what they were, or Otherwise Shall be forced to look all your letters over. Expect a line from you per first post

**16 Mar 1713 John Blackett to John Kelly**

Mr John Kelley

Ditto

Sr Since my last am not favd wth yours Inclosed Send your Acct Currt wch please to persue, I do not know any thing that is wanting Excepting the Kerseys, wch Shall Send the Acct off by the Next post, & place what is due to your Credit, pray Send my Acct Currt assoon as possible, if any thing is amiss Either to my prejudice or your Self let me know & Shall be immediately rectified pray let me have a line by the first post & will very much oblige

**19 Mar 1713 John Blackett to John Dagnia**

Mr Dagnia

Newby the 19 march

Sr Inclosed send you Acct of Bottles Kelp & Stockens as for the Kelp I believe is sold very well am certain now could not make above 16 gilders at present at Rotterdm the Stockens was Miserabley eat by the moth could not sell them at any Shop keeper never was bid above 3 1/2 & 4g but by chance met with Mr Harmaniver Van Lumpen who as going to a foreign Voyage & gave me 6 but told must first have all Stockens mended & then dyed or otherwise could not Dispose of them I am certain the Bottles & the Kelp cost me above f300 Gilder in Warehouse room thought I charge you but a tryfle the Glasses are yet unsold & a great maney brock you know Harrison Sold Two Chests for the rest shall allow you the first cost onely a bute what you think proper for breakidge please to look your Acct Currt over & let me know by the first post if agrees for am now Setting my Accts with all my friends at Newcastle pray let me have a line from you by the first post I am Sr your  
Direct

**26 Mar 1713 John Blackett to John Wilkinson**

Cousin Wilkinson

Newby 26 March 1712/3

Sr Inclosed Send you the Acct of lead as also your Acct Currt wch please to peruse & let me know assoon as possible how you find it, for my father is uneasy till all is done & the 200 <last ps> Mr V Meel Sold have writ to him to know what he pd me out of them but I think was 180 or 200 gl at most, am Certain have lost above 300 gl my Self in Warehouse hire for was forced to keep 2 Warehouse when Mr V Meel first took the lead into his hands & was obliged to keep them the year out, pray if you find any Mistake let me know for would willingly Set my books right

**26 Mar 1713 John Blackett to Nathaniel Clayton**

Mr Natha Clayton

Newby 26 March 1713

I Inclosed Send your Acct Currt which pleas to peruse & find right, Pray remit the money In bills on London my father will not let me Stir til have recd & pd all what is due Shall not go to Rotterdam again & however when have done my business designs for Newcastle to give my friends thanks for all their favours but particularly your Self who has been & believe would Still have been my Good friend Inclosed a note of Charges of the bill wch was protested at London I Send it that might See what paid wch is £21:13 my father orders me to give his Service to your Spouce & Self pray favour me wth a line

Sr If you please to give me order & advise your Brother Alexius Shall draw on him for £100 at 1m or Six weeks as you Shall think Convenient wch pray let me know we often drunk your health at Rotterdam

**4 Apr 1713 John Blackett to John Hall**

Mr John Hall

Newby 4 April 1713

Sr the bearer hereof is my fathers Steward Mr Joshua Curtis has given him all my Accts & is to receive what moneys is Due to me pray Dispatch in Looking over the Accts as soon as possible & what moneys & Bills you give him on my Acct has receipt will be Sufficient I hope there will be no mistake if there should shew it him & will be allowed I am Dr Sr

when all my Accts is Settled designs for your place to give you many thanks for your Civilities

[Names below added at the end of this letter]

Write the same to Mr Cuthbert Burton Mr Richd & Nicht Ridley Mr John Kelley  
Likewise to Mr Edward Anderson

Mr R Sutton

Mr Nicht Fenwick Junr

Mr R Reed

Mr Dagnia

Mr N Clayton

Mr H Reay

Mr Vazie

**19 Apr 1713 John Blackett to Matthew Featherstone**

Messrs Featherstone & Reay

Newby the 19 April 1713

Messieurs Since my last am not favd wth yours this to desire you to pay the Ballance of my Acct to Mr James Mewburn or send me a bill for the same & shall send you a receipt pray my service to all friends

I am Gentlemen your Humble Servant

My father servant tells me of the Mistake which to be sure must be abated

**30 Apr 1713 John Blackett to Nicholas Fenwick**

Mr Nich Fenwick

Newby the 30 April 1713

Sr since am not favoured with yours this to desire you to pay the Ballance of my acct to Mr James Mewburn my father steward at seaton Dalavall or send me a bill for the same the Ballance is f199:16 may Regulate the exchange as comes off my service to your Brother I am Sr your Humble Servant

**30 Apr 1713 John Blackett to John Hall**

Mr John Hall

Newby the 30 April 1713

Sr since my last am not favd with yours this is to desire you to pay the Ballance of my acct to Mr James Mewburn or send me a bill for the same

**1 May 1713 John Blackett to Henry Witton**

Newby May the 1 1713

Sr some time ago I sent your son Mr Henry Witton his Acct Currt but recd no answer from him therefore takes the freedom to Inclose it to you & desire your Son will examine the Acct & if he thinks there is any Mistake please to let me know what time will be most proper & shall come over & bring wth me his Letters & Bills wch he drew on me as also the bills drawn on me by Messrs Booth & Barnardiston of Koningsbergh by his order I desire you will order your Son to send me my Acct am sure there is no

mistake in mine for have all his Letters & bills to Produce under his own hand & I do not in the least doubt but you will do me Justice, pray let me have your Answer which will very much Oblige Sr your Humble Servant

John Blckett

Pray Direct for me at Sr Edward Blackets at Newby Nigh Borrowbridge