

[This document brings together a variety of newspaper reports drawn from various publications]

**7 Oct 1728    Anonymous**

[Note: Report in the Newcastle Courant issue of 12th October]

1728 Oct. 7. Monday. The corpse of Sir William Blackett, Bart., who had been one of the representatives in Parliament for the town of Newcastle upon Tyne since the year 1710, after lying in state for several days, was interred in St. Nicholas' church. His funeral was solemnized with great decency and order. First came the Charity scholars, who were supported by his liberality in the school of St. Andrew's parish, singing and new clothed in grey with black caps, who were followed by 26 mourners, among whom were 8 of his menial servants in deep mourning. After them 12 of his stewards. Next the Clergy of the Corporation, followed by the Vicar alone. Then the led horse, and after him the banners. Then the corpse, supported by 8 gentlemen. After them a number of clergy and gentry. Then came the Mayor and Aldermen in their robes, before whom the mace and sword were carried in deep mourning. After them followed the Common Council. Next upwards of 200 gentlemen to whom were given scarves and gloves. Then upwards of 2000 freemen, who had gloves; and the stewards of the companies were presented with rings. The procession was brought up with a great number of coaches : the first of which was his own, in mourning, drawn by 6 horses, and on the forehead of each was his crest most curiously emblazoned.

**6 Sep 1740    Thomas Westgarth**

[Note: Advertisement in the Newcastle Courant issue of that date]

On Lease for twenty one Years, or on Tack note for one year

The following LEAD MINES, or veins of LEAD ORE, in the liberty of Blanchland and County Durham, viz.

The South and North veins in Shildon Pasture, fell grove vein, Fell grove North vein, Burnhead Vein, Birkside North, South and Middle veins, Baybridge Pasture vein, Jeffries Vein at Stony Burnhead, Whiteheaps vein, Cooper-Linn Vein, Beldon Shields South, North and Middle Veins, Rough bank vein, Linnbank North Vein, Knuckturn Burn North and South Veins, and Round Island. Persons inclinable to take any of the above premisses, may apply to Coulson Skottowe, Esq at Great Ayton, in Cleveland, Yorkshire, Mr Henry Wilkinson, Attorney at Law in Gateshead, or to Mr Thomas Westgarth, of Allenton in the County of Northumberland, who will treat with them about the same.

N.B. Mr Westgarth will shew the premises.

**22 Feb 1755 Henry Richmond**

[Note: Advertisement in the Newcastle Courant issue of that date]

WHERAS TWELVE PIECES of LEAD, marked WB, belonging to Sir Walter Blackett, Bart. were stolen some time last year in the Carriage from Allanheads and Dukesfield Lead-mills to Blaydon. Notice is hereby given, that whoever shall give Information to Mr Joseph Richmond, of Newcastle, or Mr Isaac Hunter, of Dukesfield, of the Person or Persons that stole the same, so that he, the, or they, shall be convicted thereof, will be paid by the said Sir Walter Blackett, upon such Conviction, the Sum of twenty Guineas.

**9 Sep 1763 Henry Richmond**

[Note: Advertisement in the Newcastle Courant issue of that date]

WHERAS THREE PIECES of LEAD, which were marked WB, and were the property of Sir Walter Blackett, Bart. were stolen, some Time between the 1st Day of August last, and the 2d Day of this Month, from that Part of Crook Oak Common, in the Parish of Shotley, which adjoineth to the House of John Sidell, Lead carrier: Now, this is to give Notice, that whoever shall give Information to the said John Sidell, at Crook Oak aforesaid, or to Mr Henry Richmond, in Newcastle upon Tyne, of the Person or Persons that stole the said Lead, so that he, the, or they, can be convicted of the same, shall, on such Conviction, receive a Reward of TEN POUNDS from Sir Walter Blackett.  
Sept. 9, 1763

**7 Jun 1783 Ralph Heron**

[Note: Advertisement in the Newcastle Courant issue of that date]

STOLEN. Two pieces or Lumps of ROUGH SILVER, from the Smelt Mill belonging to Henry Errington, Esq. called Feldon Lead Mill, situate near Edmundbyers, in the county of Durham, each Piece or Lump weighing near 112 lb. and containing by computation about 50 oz. of fine Silver. – Whoever shall discover the offender or offenders, so as he or they be therof convicted, shall receive a Rewards of TENTY POUNDS to be paid upon conviction by Mr. Heron, Attorney at Law, Newcastle

Newcastle Courant, 7 June 1783

25 Dec 1793 Nicholas Walton

[Note: Notice in the Newcastle Courant late Dec 1793]

LEAD STOLEN

FOUR PIGS of Lead marked G H \_ L the property of the Commissioners and Governors of the Royal Hospital for Seamen, at Greenwich, in the County of Kent, having between the Evening of the 23rd, and Morning of the 24th Instant, been stolen from the Hospital's Lead Yard or Wharf, at Skinner Burn, - Notice is hereby given, that any Person or Persons making Information to Messrs Peters, Attornies, in Newcastle, of the Offender or Offenders, so as he, she, or they may be convicted of the said Offence, shall, on Conviction of one or more of them, be paid the Sum of TWENTY POUNDS, instead of Five Guineas offered by Mt Johnathan Airey, in a Hand-Bill, bearing Date the 24th Instant. - It is requested that all suspected Persons offering Lead for Sale, may be stopped, and Information given as above.

WALTON and TURNER

Farnacres, 25th December, 1793.

31 Aug 1823 Charles Grey to Thomas Wentworth Beaumont

[Note: The 3 letters from Grey dated between 31 Aug 1823 and 5 Feb 1824 as given here were appended to Robert Dillon Browne's letter of 15th December 1838 to the *Morning Advertiser*, submitted in evidence of TWB's character in the wake of TWB's case against John Somers in Paris. They are likely to have been taken from those published in the *Newcastle Courant* on 20th July 1826, and paraphrased along with TWB's letter to Grey of 29<sup>th</sup> Aug 1823 amongst the Johnson letters of 1821-8 given as part of Bell's thesis now in the Brotherton Library, Leeds.]

To T. W. Beaumont, Esq.

Tunbridge Wells, August 31, 1823

Sir,

I this moment received your most extraordinary letter, which has excited not only my surprise, but my indignation.

How you could justify to yourself the unwarrantable use you have made of my name I will not inquire. I feel it only necessary to say, that as far as relates to myself, the infamous allegation you have made against Lady Swinburne's character is totally false and unfounded.

I am, Sir, your obedient humble servant.

Grey

**19 Jan 1824 Charles Grey to Thomas Wentworth Beaumont**

To T. W. Beaumont, Esq.

Government House, Devonport, Jan 19, 1824

Sir,

In answer to your letter, which I have just received, I have only to acknowledge having stated, and particularly to your brother, that I considered your having been under a mental delusion as the only excuse that could be made for your conduct.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

Grey

P.S. I must decline all further correspondence, except such as may pass through Sir W. Gordon, whom I have requested to deliver this letter.

**5 Feb 1824 Charles Grey to Charles Carus Wilson**

Government House, Devonport, Feb 5, 1824

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 3d, informing me that Mr. Beaumont has given you instructions to bring an action against me, for having used and published certain libellous and malicious expressions, to the injury of his character, and which he believes me to have been aware were contrary to the fact. And also, that previously to carrying this intention into effect, he wishes to give me an opportunity of offering any explanation by which such a proceeding may be rendered unnecessary. Of this opportunity I have no desire to avail myself, and if Mr. Beaumont should be advised to institute the proceedings of which you have given me notice, I certainly shall be prepared, not to explain, but to justify.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Grey

Charles Carus Wilson, Esq.

(It is needless to say that no more was heard of the threatened prosecution)

[This postscript statement is presumably taken from the printed commentary which accompanied the letter when it was reproduced in the Newcastle Courant on 20 July 1826]

**13 Feb 1826 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont**

[Note: From the Newcastle Courant, 13 Feb 1826]

TO THE GENTLEMEN, CLERGY & FREEHOLDERS OF THE COUNTY OF  
NORTHUMBERLAND

GENTLEMEN, - As the present Candidates for your Favour are continuing to solicit the Promises of Support for the next General Election, it might appear disrespectful towards you, were I to delay following their Example. I have also Reason to fear that the Cause of my Silence might be mistaken, and instead of being attributed to a Confidence in your Justice, and an Adherence to my expressed Determination of again offering myself for the Honour of representing you, that it might be supposed to proceed from Indifference to that Honor, and a Wish to reveal my former Resolution. I therefore again pledge myself to stand a Contest, if necessary, at the next General Election for the County of Northumberland, and not to join directly or indirectly with any one.

My political Principles are well known to you. They are what are commonly called Anti-Ministerial. I shall feel it to be my Duty, if again returned to Parliament, to do all that lies in my Power for obtaining a Reform in the House of Commons, the total Extinction of Slavery, and for placing our Roman Catholic Fellow-Subjects on the same Footing with ourselves. There are other Subjects upon which you may wish for an explicit Declaration from me, but you will see that it is impossible for me to enter into much Detail within the Limits of this Address. At the proper Time I will answer the fair Questions of every Man.

There is one Subject, however, from which it would be unmanly to shrink - one Question that I shall anticipate: 'Why have you not been more regular in your Attendance in the House of Commons?' The Circumstances which have detained me from that Attendance, have been of an unusual Nature, and of an extraordinary Character, and he must be a bold Man, indeed, who would say, that in domestic Difficulties, such as have beset me over the last two Years, he would have been able to give up more Time than I gave done to public Duties.

As I have promised to answer, at a proper Time, all Questions that my Constituents have a Right to ask, I shall take my Leave of you for the present, by repeating my Assurance, that I shall offer myself for the Honor of representing you at the next General Election, as I think that Money cannot be spent more usefully and honourably, than in giving honest Men an Opportunity of showing themselves to their Country, and encouraging others by their Example. If I am defeated, I shall not consider a Defeat under these Circumstances disgraceful to me.

It is my Intention to avail myself of the first Opportunity that the Business of Parliament will allow, for personally paying my Respects to you, and soliciting the Continuance of your Support and Favour.

In the mean Time, believe me to remain, GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient humble Servant  
T. W. BEAUMONT

St. James's Place, London, February 13, 1826.

**1 Jul 1826    The Era Newspaper**

[Note: This account of the duel between John Lambton and TWBeaumont during the 1826 general election campaign was printed in The Era Sunday newspaper on 23rd December 1838 given the interest at the time in the case between Beaumont and Somers in Paris, the subject of other correspondence at the time and the court report, given elsewhere in Dukesfield Documents]

**THE EARL OF DURHAM AND MR. WENTWORTHH BEAUMIONT'S DUEL.**

The following extract will be interesting at the present moment. Mr. Beaumont is the gentleman whose quarrel with Mr. Somers is the subject of general conversation:- 'It may be safely affirmed that few public proceedings are more frequently the causes of duels than elections. The present position of one of the parties will render the following duel of more than common interest. In 1826, Lord Howick offered himself as a candidate for the representation of his native county, Northumberland. The election was severely and most expensively contested. The Earl of Durham, then Mr. Lambton, energetically supported by his personal exertions and influence the cause of Whiggery and his brother-in-law. On the tenth day of the election, Mr. Lambton was standing on the hustings at Alnwick, whilst Lord Howick was animadverting with great bitterness upon the singular coalition between two of his opponents, Mr. Wentworth Beaumont, a Radical, and Mr. Liddle, a Tory; when the former gentleman, who, during the whole of the election, had been greatly annoyed by the spirited freedom and censure of Lord Howick's remarks on his political career, and still more by the opposition of Mr. Lambton, accused Lord Durham of prompting his lordship. This Mr. Lambton unequivocally denied, and Mr. Beaumont retorted by giving him the lie. Mr. Lambton left the hustings, accompanied by the Honourable Charles, now Colonel Grey, and the efforts of his family to discover whither he had proceeded, were totally unavailing. The insult was offered in the hearing of Lady Louisa Lambton, who sat with her son in the window of a house adjoining the hustings, and the anxiety of the wife may be more easily believed than described. It was at length ascertained that Mr. Lambton, upon retiring, had dispatched a message to Mr. Beaumont, desiring that gentleman to hold a friend in readiness to receive a communication from General Sir H. Grey. The preliminaries of a meeting were arranged for next morning, and the Town Moor was appointed the place. Mr. Lambton reached the ground at the specified hour, and there received a communication that although Mr. Beaumont had, to avoid observance, left his lodgings by scrambling over the garden wall, yet he had been beset by a crowd, and

apprehended interruption. Mr. Beaumont, at last, however, reached the spot, the parties were placed, when a magistrate, attended by the police, arrived. Mr. Lambton made the best of his way to his carriage, while Mr. Beaumont followed on horseback. It is impossible to describe the state of anxiety which prevailed at Alnwick during the suspense that ensued. Fears were entertained for the safety of Mr. Lambton, as well on account of his own debilitated state of health, as the acknowledged skill of his adversary as a marksman. The progress of one, if not the most determined contests ever known in electioneering annals ceased for a few hours to be interesting, and the duel was the all-engrossing subject of thought and conversation. After various interruptions, the parties at length met on the sands at Bamburgh, during a heavy fall of rain, and having exchanged shots, the affair terminated.

- United Service Journal.

**26 Jul 1827 Diana Beaumont to John Cradock**

[Note: extracted from court report in the London Morning Post, 8 April 1828, the full text of which is given elsewhere in this collection. Lord Howden was John Cradock (1759-1839)]

MY DEAR LORD

after a conversation I had with up your Lordship the other day in London, you will not be surprised to hear that Col. Beaumont and I have come to the resolution of removing Mr Horsington from our agency. Having been induced to place the management of Yorkshire property in his hands, chiefly from the confidence we put in your friend Sir G SHEE'S recommendation, by whom he had been previously employed, I think it but a proper attention to communicate to you the fact, and the immediate cause that led to it. His improper conduct with a girl, the daughter of one of our tenants, has become notorious, by his suffering her, with her child, to take up her lodgings at a short distance from the house. The duty I owe to me family and my tenantry renders it impossible to overlook an affair so disgraceful to him as a principal agent, and giving so much scandal to the neighbourhood. Mr HORSINGTON has had notice from our law agent to quit his agency at the termination of three months, and the farm that he holds under us at May-day next. (The letter concludes with some complimentary matters.)

I remain, my dear Lord, your's most faithfully,  
DIANA BEAUMONT.

Bretton hall, July 26, 1827.

**4 Aug 1827 John Cradock to Diana Beaumont**

[Note: extracted from court report in the London Morning Post, 8 April 1828, the full text of which is given elsewhere in this collection]

Grimstone Park, Tadcaster, Aug. 4, 1827.

MY DEAR MADAM

I had the honour of receiving your letter of the 26th Ult, and deferred answered it until I had seen Mr Horsington. I lament very much he should have given you any cause for displeasure by indiscretion with a woman. Saturated as the world is, and with so much of the same sort going on in every direction, amongst the very highest as well as those of an humble class, I cannot bring myself to consider it as an inexpiable offence; but had he done what you suspected that he had - brought and fixed the person in your village, as it may be said, at your very door- I should, as you did, have deemed it a crime and insult not to be pardoned - an act of insanity scarcely to be conceived. He utterly denies this, and avers in the most solemn manner that the person was then at her mother's house, naturally, as it may be thought, as a place of refuge, without his knowledge in any way. Whoever took up the story in this shape ought to have had the candour to state whether he ever visited her or not. It would be great presumption in me, my dear Madam, to advert to the many points whereon you signified your displeasure against Mr H., as they related solely to yourself and his general conduct in the transaction of your business; but there was one circumstance you mentioned that so intimately concerns me, who employ Mr Horsington, that I cannot divest my mind of the serious impression it made upon me; and which I conceived must be substantiated or cleared up for your interest, for mine, and his character, namely - 'That he had taken money from the tenants upon their leases;' which can have but one meaning - that he sacrificed your interest to benefit himself. If such be the case, he is unworthy of all confidence, and would justly forfeit the good opinion of every person. I have mentioned this supposition to M Horsington, who repeals the notion in the most sacred manner, and dares the whole body of your tenantry to adduce a single proof: as his reputation, and even existence as an agent, depend upon the truth of this denial, I cannot be surprised, and indeed it is my advice to him, to pursue his vindication to the utmost. I shall only, my dear Madam, take up your time longer, to say, that in my humble concerns I have ever found Mr Horsington faithful, disinterested, capable, and zealous in the most remarkable degree, and that no instance, in the course of fifteen years, have I discovered any fault. From all the observations that I have been enabled to make, I conceived he pursued the same active honest conduct throughout your extensive trial, and that he was ever devoted to your interest in no common degree; and I chiefly rested such opinion upon his late proceedings in Northumberland, where he evinced an assiduity of judgement worthy of the highest praise, and by indefatigable exertions produced something like order and effect in the payment of bills of the most unprecedented extortion ever known in the annals of election, originating in a recklessness of expence and the most incautious

profusion. Had he not persevered with devoted attention and spirit, in deviance of every obstacle, the absolute loss of many thousands must have been the consequence. This entirely devoted conduct doubtless made him many enemies, and possibly may have contributed to his present misfortune - your displeasure.

I have the honour to be, etc, etc.,

HOWDEN.

To Mrs Beaumont.

**8 Apr 1828 George Horsington to Diana Beaumont**

[Note: Account of court proceedings in the case brought by Horsington against Diana Beaumont, as given in the London Morning Post, 8 April 1828]

ASSIZE INTELLIGENCE NORTHERN CIRCUIT, YORK

DEFAMATION -HORSINGTON v BEAUMONT AND WIFE

This cause, which had excited great interest, came on at ten o'clock. The Court was excessively crowded in every part. Lord Howdon, who was one of the principal witnesses, sat on the Bench near the Judge.

Mr Brougham addressed the Jury. The Plaintiff was a Gentleman who had been land-agent of Colonel and Mrs Beaumont for the last fourteen years. When he entered upon his office, he found the situation of affairs a perfect chaos : he reduced them into order, cut off a number of exhorbitant charges which the tenants had been in the habit of making against the estate, and greatly increased the rent-roll of Colonel and Mrs Beaumont. This could not fail to excite the enmity of a great number of persons, whose unjust practices he had put a stop to. But though his professional business with Mrs Beaumont was confined to the Yorkshire estates, he had been employed by her upon a business of great difficulty and delicacy, - namely, to settle the bills for the Northumberland election. In this business he had to contend against the most gross and barefaced imposition; but he manifested so much zeal, activity, and ability in this business, as to save Mrs Beaumont many thousand pounds. These services, however beneficial to his employers, were productive of considerable unpopularity to himself; some of which, no doubt, would be transferred to his principals, who, though they were not unwilling to profit by his great zeal and activity, did not like to have any portion of the unpopularity - and, as it was the wish of the Beaumont family to preserve their influence in Northumberland, it was thought a good stroke of policy to make Mr Horsington the 'scape-goat, and he accordingly received notice of dismissal. Of this, however, the plaintiff would not have the right to complain. But, not content of depriving him of her agency, Mrs Beaumont took effectual care to blast all his prospects by slanders intimately connected with his profession, by charging him

with fraud and peculation in the discharge of his duty as her agent. The calumny was successful, and the consequence was that Mr Horsington lost his appointment as agent under Lord Howden. All his prospects were blasted, and he became a ruined man; and it was only by the verdict of a Jury that he could hope once more to lift up his head as a professional man. MR BROUGHAM then proceeded to state the nature of the following evidence:-

The appointment of Mr. HORSINGTON, under the hand and seal of Colonel and Mrs Beaumont, having been proved, and the fact of his acting as such established,

Lord HOWDEN, after stating his first knowledge of Mr Horsington, in 1811 said - On the 4th or 5th of July, 1827, I received a note from Mrs Beaumont, requesting that I would call upon her. I accordingly called upon her on the following day. I found her alone. Mrs Beaumont began a long conversation, reprobating the whole of Mr Horsington's conduct. I paid attention to what she was saying, though. I was not interested in it, as it did not affect me in any way whatever. She then came to some matters, which did interest me; for, at the close of her conversation, she said, 'What is worse than all, he has taken money of the tenants.' There may be a discrepancy between these words and those in my letter, but the words I have just stated are the precise words she used. I was so shocked at this, that I made no reply. I went down into Yorkshire the latter end of July or the beginning of August, and in a few days after I received a letter from Mrs Beaumont.

Lord HOWDEN produced the letter, which was read by the Clerk of the Court, and was as follows:-

'MY DEAR LORD - after a conversation I had with up your Lordship the other day in London, you will not be surprised to hear that Col. Beaumont and I have come to the resolution of removing Mr Horsington from our agency. Having been induced to place the management of Yorkshire property in his hands, chiefly from the confidence we put in your friend Sir G SHEE'S recommendation, by whom he had been previously employed, I think it but a proper attention to communicate to you the fact, and the immediate cause that led to it. His improper conduct with a girl, the daughter of one of our tenants, has become notorious, by his suffering her, with her child, to take up her lodgings at a short distance from the house. The duty I owe to me family and my tenantry renders it impossible to overlook an affair so disgraceful to him as a principal agent, and giving so much scandal to the neighbourhood. Mr HORSINGTON has had notice from our law agent to quit his agency at the termination of three months, and the farm that he holds under us at May-day next. (The letter concludes with some complimentary matters.)

I remain, my dear Lord, your's most faithfully,

DIANA BEAUMONT.

Bretton hall, July 26, 1827.'

To this letter I returned an answer, of which I have a copy. Mr WILLIAMS produced the original, which was read:-

'Grimstone Park, Tadcaster, Aug. 4, 1827.

'MY DEAR MADAM

I had the honour of receiving your letter of the 26th Ult, and deferred answered it until I had seen Mr Horsington. I lament very much he should have given you any cause for displeasure by indiscretion with a woman. Saturated as the world is, and with so much of the same sort going on in every direction, amongst the very highest as well as those of an humble class, I cannot bring myself to consider it as an inexpiable offence; but had he done what you suspected that he had - brought and fixed the person in your village, as it may be said, at your very door - I should, as you did, have deemed it a crime and insult not to be pardoned - an act of insanity scarcely to be conceived. He utterly denies this, and avers in the most solemn manner that the person was then at her mother's house, naturally, as it may be thought, as a place of refuge, without his knowledge in any way. Whoever took up the story in this shape ought to have had the candour to state whether he ever visited her or not. It would be great presumption in me, my dear Madam, to advert to the many points whereon you signified your displeasure against Mr H., as they related solely to yourself and his general conduct in the transaction of your business; but there was one circumstance you mentioned that so intimately concerns me, who employ Mr Horsington, that I cannot divest my mind of the serious impression it made upon me; and which I conceived must be substantiated or cleared up for your interest, for mine, and his character, namely - 'That he had taken money from the tenants upon their leases;' which can have but one meaning - that he sacrificed your interest to benefit himself. If such be the case, he is unworthy of all confidence, and would justly forfeit the good opinion of every person. I have mentioned this supposition to M Horsington, who repeals the notion in the most sacred manner, and dares the whole body of your tenantry to adduce a single proof: as his reputation, and even existence as an agent, depend upon the truth of this denial, I cannot be surprised, and indeed it is my advice to him, to pursue his vindication to the utmost. I shall only, my dear Madam, take up your time longer, to say, that in my humble concerns I have ever found Mr Horsington faithful, disinterested, capable, and zealous in the most remarkable degree, and that no instance, in the course of fifteen years, have I discovered any fault. From all the observations that I have been enabled to make, I conceived he pursued the same active honest conduct throughout your extensive trial, and that he was ever devoted to your interest in no common degree; and I chiefly rested such opinion upon his late proceedings in Northumberland, where he evinced an assiduity of judgement worthy of the highest praise, and by indefatigable exertions produced something like order and effect in the payment of bills of the most unprecedented extortion ever known in the annals of election, originating in a recklessness of expence and the most incautious profusion. Had he not persevered with devoted attention and spirit, in deviance of every obstacle, the absolute loss of many thousands must have been the consequence. This entirely devoted conduct doubtless made him many enemies, and possibly may have contributed to his present misfortune - your displeasure.

I have the honour to be, etc, etc.,

HOWDEN.

'To Mrs Beaumont.'

The terms which I used in my letter, continued his Lordship, were the meaning I affixed to the words at the time Mrs Beaumont used them. I conceived that she intended to insinuate that Mr Horsington had been bribed by the tenants to give them advantageous leases, prejudicial to her interest. This was the meaning I attached to the words. I remained in the country over November, and I never received from Mrs Beaumont any letter in answer to mine, nor any communication from her of any sort. I was in hopes every day of receiving from her an explanation of what she had said to me, but I received none, and I concluded that she persisted in her original declaration. I waited until the expiration of Mr Horsington's agency with Mrs Beaumont before I took any steps respecting him. His agency expired in the month of October, and on the 13th of November I dismissed Mr Horsington from my service - it being impossible for me to retain a person lying under such an imputation, until he cleared himself.

His Lordship was cross-examined by Mr WILLIAMS. Was not the great thing of which Mrs Beaumont complained in Mr Horsington's conduct, his seduction of a tenant's daughter, sixteen years of age? - I am not sure that she said that the girl was the daughter of her tenant; but I am sure that she did not mention her age, nor was the word 'seduced' used.

Witness said, that Mrs Beaumont mentioned it, as a great aggravation of Mr Horsington's offence, that he had brought the woman within a mile of her house at Bretton. When Mrs Beaumont had done making this statement, said his Lordship, I told her that such things were of common occurrence, and that among ladies in high life too, and that she knew that as well as I did. I endeavoured to persuade her out of her notion that she was a perfect saint. I did not say to Mrs Beaumont that I would not turn Mr Horsington away if he had a mistress in every village in the country. It was a jocular conversation in my part. Mrs Beaumont seemed very vehement about the girl. His Lordship said, he considered the letter he had received from Mrs Beaumont as releasing from his promise not to mention the conversation which she had with him in London. His Lordship was asked whether, in parting with Mrs Beaumont, he had not shaken hands with her; he replied, 'I dare say I did; ladies in London are fond of shaking hands.' Mr Williams pressed His Lordship whether he did not intend to have a steward again; he at last said he did intend it, but he had not then made up his mind who it was to be.

Witness, in re-examination by Mr BROUGHAM, said, the small talk was before Mrs Beaumont made the great charge against Mr Horsington; witness was afraid that what Mrs Beaumont said about the delinquency of Mr Horsington in respect to the girl, had not made the impression it ought to have done upon his mind; and, he added, he did not pretend to be a saint; on which Mr WILLIAMS said, he was sure he did not intend to throw out any such imputation against his Lordship. His Lordship, in conclusion,

said, 'When Mrs Beaumont stated that Mr Horsington took money from the tenants, I was so shocked that I cut short the conversation and came away.'

Mr Crawhorne [sic; Crawhall] is the manager of Mrs Beaumont's lead concerns in Northumberland. He spoke to a conversation with Mrs Beaumont, in which she had said that Mr Horsington kept two rentals, one of which he had not given up.

Mr Raine, the house-steward of Mrs Beaumont, proved that upon one occasion she called Mr Horsington a profligate, dishonest agent.

Matthew Mason was farmer-bailiff at Bretton. Mrs Beaumont said to him that Horsington had defrauded her of sums of money; that he had a balance of 550l in his hands, and which ought to have been a great deal more; but that he refused to pay over, and that he had not given up his accounts and papers.

Robert Morris was in the service of Mrs Beaumont until last Tuesday, in the capacity of groom of the chamber; Mrs Beaumont said to him when she returned home, she had to prosecute her agent for the embezzlement of sums of money. Witness had been discharged in consequence of his having mentioned this conversation.

This finished the case on the part of the Plaintiff.

Mr WILLIAMS addressed the Jury at considerable length; his principal object was to show that the great thing of which Mrs Beaumont had complained to Lord Howden, in respect to the conduct of Mr Horsington, was his treatment of the daughter of a tenant of Mrs Beaumont; and that the other matter was only incidentally mentioned at the close of a long conversation.

The Jury retired for 20 minutes, and on their return into Court, found a verdict for the Plaintiff - Damages 1,700l.

## **20 Jan 1837 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Robert King**

[Note: The letter as given here was appended to Robert Dillon Browne's letter of 15th December 1838 to the Morning Advertiser, submitted in evidence of TWB's character in the wake of TWB's case against John Somers in Paris. Robert King (1804-69) was MP for Mayo 1826-30, whose biography is given in the online History of Parliament.]

Dublin, January 20, 1837

Sir

Being on the eve of quitting Ireland on my return to England, I feel anxious, when my conduct cannot be open to misconstruction, to make every reparation in human power for any injury which I have inflicted upon anyone whose hospitality and kindness I have experienced. It is to you alone that any reparation is due; and it is extraordinary, that before my arrival in your country I have always considered myself as the most attached of your friends. Have the kindness to take trouble of reading this letter to the end. I did not place my signature on the outside, not knowing if a communication from me would be at once rejected. When it is no longer possible for me to receive your fire, I offer the most entire and unreserved apology for my strange

conduct. While I thought it possible, and indeed desired that you should meet me, in order to show you how anxious I was to give you all the satisfaction possible, I insisted against the recommendation of my friends, on my tendering the cold and formal apology which you had the generosity to accept on the ground. Had I escaped your fire, I should have, as I informed Martin, discharged my pistol in the air, and declared how totally false and unfounded was every imputation contained in that abominable letter, which I wrote in a state of excitement bordering upon frenzy, in Craig House, on the sudden receipt of yours. Such feelings were never known to be [me?] before; the consequence has been as unaccountable as unpardonable. I have now nothing to add. I have lost the esteem of one whom I esteemed, and probably the kind feelings of yourself, for whom I have long entertained the sincerest regard. The whole affair is unaccountable to me, and on my side is nothing but regret and repentance. The activities of a political, and perhaps it has now become an ambitious life, may give my mind ample distraction; but the loss of a friend under such circumstances leaves a chasm difficult to be supplied. I have relieve the oppression of my feelings in the only manner within my reach, and I beg permission to subscribe myself

Sir, &c. &c. &c.

T. W. Beaumont

The Hon. Robert King, Craig House, Sligo

(This letter was in answer to one previously addressed to Mr. King, in which Mr. Beaumont reproached Mrs. King with having encouraged his impure addresses.)

## **2 Nov 1838 John Somers to Thomas Wentworth Beaumont**

[Note: This letter is set out as part of the long letter of December 15th from Robert Dillon Browne to the *Morning Advertiser* and published on Jan 3rd 1839. This preceded the assault by Somers on Beaumont in Paris on November 13th.]

To Thomas Wentworth Beaumont Esq.

Long's Hotel, Nov 2, 1838

Sir,

I have just been informed by Mr. Dillon Browne, who communicated with you on my part, that you have refused to retract expression used in a letter to Mr. White, and reflecting upon me, and declared that I am unworthy of having further intercourse held with me. I therefore intend to seek a personal interview with you, when I may have an opportunity of convincing you that you were in error; but before I do so, I think it just to remind you of certain facts connected with your own life, which may lead you to a rational re-consideration of the decision you have to respecting me, and guide you in an estimation of your own position, both as to your assumption of superiority over others, and as to the safety of your trifling any farther with your reputation.

When first I had the honour of your acquaintance, you had withdrawn your name from Brooke's Club, and had withdrawn from you the acquaintance of your nearest friends. Under those circumstances you had sought my assistance, that satisfaction which you deny to me having been refused to you by Earl Grey and Mr. Swinburne, for reasons not depending, as your's are, upon a full determination of public opinion! This allusion puts you in possession of yourself without entering into further details, which I shall be willing to submit to you whenever your memory or honour require it; and I shall only ask in conclusion, is it reconcilable to those feelings over which time can have no control in the breast of any man of honour, your having sought at one period as an humble ally a man who you refuse to recognise at another as an honourable opponent? Does that timidity which induced you to seek the friendship of a stranger – because you knew him to be a man of firmness – now deter you knowing him still to be the same, from encountering his hostility?

I have the honour to be your very obedient servant

J.P.Somers

**4 Nov 1838 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to John Somers**

[Note: The letter as given here was appended to Robert Dillon Browne's letter of 15th December 1838 to the *Morning Advertiser*, submitted in evidence of TWB's character in the wake of TWB's case against John Somers in Paris (see JSTOR Primary Sources 01-01-1830, Eugene Roch, of 4th Dec 1838 for transcript of the court report). Date of this letter is not given, but assuming the chronology given by Dillon Browne is correct it must have been Sunday 4th November. Sunday 11th is likely to have been too late for all parties to have subsequently left London for Paris in time for the assault in the Tuilleries on Tuesday 13th.]

Sunday Morning, Half-past Seven o'Clock.

My Dear Sir,

I write in the most perfect good humour to express a hope, for Somers's sake, that he will be satisfied with the offer I have made of being on the same terms with him as before. I have no vindictiveness in my nature, and desire in my heart only the welfare of all, be they who they may. Should he seek to annoy me he may rest assured that the punishment of every effort will be upon his head, and his alone. He does me an injustice if he supposes that from the first moment we became acquainted at the table of the old rogue, Ward, in the Shakespeare Tavern, where John Walton (now in India, and who went thither with my money, having spent all his mother's) brought me. I did see that he was a wild young Irishman, devoted to pleasure, and for that I took him up as companion, as I was in want of company, from the singular and wonderful circumstances that I slightly sketched yesterday, and which were sufficiently before the public at the time. J. Walton, Sackville Taylor, and Barker, were all our associates I believe at the time; and many scandalous and disgraceful orgies I do remember at the

large square table at the end of the saloon, while I beated the wine with which I was inundating my constitution.

My friends knew me not, though I knew them; but they may, if they choose, now know me as I then was in heart. Circumstances have changed.

I can have no selfish view in writing thus towards any one.

Write of me frankly to the Martins; they know me well, and I respect them greatly – sincerely yours

T. W. Beaumont

R.D. Browne, Esq., & c.

#### **14 Dec 1838 John Somers**

[Note: This letter was sent by Somers to the *Morning Chronicle* and published in their edition of 15th December 1838 following the Parisian court case in which he was found guilty of assault. Robert King (1804-69) was MP for Mayo 1826-30, whose biography is given in the online History of Parliament.]

MR. SOMERS AND MR. BEAUMONT.

To THE EDITOR OF THE MORNING CHRONICLE.

Sir-

On the 24th of January, 1824, Mr. T. W. Beaumont, in an address to the 'Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Northumberland,' stated that he found reports concerning him had gained credit which rendered him unfit for acting as their representative. He adds, 'I must, therefore, decline any further attendance in the House of Commons until I am able to repel the infamous allegations which have been urged against me.' I can quite sympathise with the feelings to which Mr. Beaumont gives expression in this letter, although it happens that, in fact, he never afterwards did see fit to endeavour, in any way whatsoever, 'to repel the infamous allegations urged against him.' I cannot put myself in his position altogether, for I will not affect to believe that his infamous allegation with respect to me has gained any credit; on the contrary, I find that with regard to my conduct there is but one opinion amongst my friends, my constituents, and all those with whom a gentleman's good name is dear, yet I feel that an explanation of the transaction as between me and Mr. Beaumont should be given. The circumstance of my having been obliged to resort to personal chastisement lends it a prominence in the whole affair which it does not deserve, and of which Mr. Beaumont's French counsel skilfully, though not very honourably, availed himself. No English gentleman practising at the bar would have stated a case to which there was no defence, as the Frenchman did - no English judge would have permitted an advocate who had to deal with a mere assault to indulge in a tirade of abuse against an Individual for the motives which the beaten person, with his back still raw, chose to

impute to him. The truth is, that my part in this last affair of Mr. Beaumont's respecting the fair sex, and the character of Ladies with or without 'supernatural interference' (he still maintains he was so favoured in the case of Lady Swinburne), is a very brief one. I came in only at the end: first, as a mediator; and then, being myself infamously assailed, and finding it impossible to get either retractation, apology, or satisfaction, as an avenger-so far, at least, as lashing a mere slanderer's back can entitle me to the appellation. This has not yet appeared to the public, and I am well aware that the delay in the promised publication of my case, for other reasons as well as that to which I now allude, must tend to unsettle men's minds with regard to the refutation of the calumnies against me, which I have pledged myself to meet. My friend, Mr. Dillon Browne to whom I entrusted all my papers, and who went for me to Paris, has not yet returned. I am unable to account for his prolonged absence. In all cases in which character is involved time is precious. Slander soon, for the multitude, becomes history. I am therefore anxious to put forth an outline of my case, in respect to Mr. Beaumont, with a simple reference to the contents of documents, which I pledge myself to publish in their entirety upon Mr. Browne's return. The affidavit made by the Honourable Mr. King will form the best introduction to my statement. I have only a copy near me, in which there are blanks for dates. These were filled up in the original. by reference to documents:-

The Honourable Robert King, of York-place, Port man-square, in the county of Middlesex, maketh oath and saith, that he is the eldest son of Lord Viscount Lorton, a peer of the Imperial Parliament. That this deponent is married to Anne Gore, the daughter of the late and sister of the present Sir Gore Booth, Baronet, and was formerly a member of Parliament for the county of Roscommon, and was well acquainted with Thomas Wentworth Beaumont, Esq., then member of the Imperial Parliament for the county of Northumberland, and that he had been intimately acquainted with the said Thomas Wentworth Beaumont for some years. That in the month of [space left], in the year one thousand eight hundred and [space left], the said Thomas Wentworth Beaumont was in Ireland, and that deponent met him in the borough of Sligo, near which this deponent then resided. That meeting the said Thomas Wentworth Beaumont, as an old friend, in a strange country, deponent forthwith invited him to his house, where during the space of [space left] he entertained the said Thomas Wentworth Beaumont hospitably. That the said Thomas Wentworth Beaumont, after he had been a few days in this deponent's house, proposed to lend this deponent the sum of £10,000 sterling, which the said Thomas Wentworth Beaumont stated he had then lying idly at his banker's, and that the said deponent declined receiving the aforesaid proffered loan. And this deponent further saith, that having ascertained from his wife that the said Thomas Wentworth Beaumont had made dishonourable proposals, this deponent ordered him to leave his house, and forthwith sent him a hostile message, but that no meeting thereupon could be arranged. And this deponent saith, that the said Thomas Wentworth Beaumont made an ample apology to this deponent for his misconduct, and subsequently wrote a letter to this deponent, now produced to this deponent at the time of swearing this his affidavit, and marked with

the letter A. And this deponent further saith, that after having received this letter he considered the affair between him and the said Thomas Wentworth Beaumont at an end, but this deponent subsequently learned that the said Thomas Wentworth Beaumont had, in various societies and in the presence of many people, after lie had made such apologies to this deponent as aforesaid, cast imputations upon the character of this deponent's wife, and stated that he, the said Thomas Wentworth Beaumont, had received encouragement from this deponent's wife, which induced the said Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to act in the manner he had done towards her. And this deponent further saith, that upon satisfying himself that the said Thomas Wentworth Beaumont had actually spoken of this deponent's wife to the effect above stated, he addressed a letter to John Patrick Somers, Esq., member of the Imperial Parliament, with whom he had been for many, at least fifteen, years on terms of intimacy and confidential friendship, requesting him to obtain an immediate meeting with the said Thomas Wentworth Beaumont. And this deponent most solemnly and positively saith, that he never did in any sort, shape or way whatsoever, authorise the said John Patrick Somers to enter into any compromise of the affair of honour committed to his charge; nor did this deponent authorize the said John Patrick Somers, or any other person or persons whomsoever, to intimate to the said Thomas Wentworth Beaumont, or any other person or persons whomsoever, that in reference to the said matter any question of money could be contemplated, or under any circumstances or in any way whatever entertained.'

This affidavit sets forth the cause of quarrel between Mr. King and Mr. Beaumont. My involuntary participation in the affair lies in a nutshell. Mr. King wrote to me as an old friend to call upon Mr. Beaumont to obtain from him either a retraction of his imputation against Mrs. King, or an immediate meeting. Being well acquainted with both parties I undertook the task, having little doubt that the written denial of a man's own utter baseness might be easily procured, and that the affair might be at once brought to a satisfactory conclusion. I sought Mr. Beaumont in Yorkshire. He had left for Cowes. Thither I followed him, and put Mr. King's letter into his hands. First he denied having spoken lightly of Mrs. King, but when I told him I was aware that Mr. King was well informed on the subject, and upon indisputable authority, he acknowledged that he had 'in confidence' talked about Mrs. King to Mr. Fitz-Stephen French, Captain White, and one or two others, and he made some vehement declamation to me in the same strain. I explained to him that he must either again retract and apologise, as he had done before his last slanders were uttered, in a letter to Mr. King (which I will publish on Mr. Browne's return), or he must give him a meeting. He would not do either. I remonstrated with him for a determination which was quite inconsistent with his own conduct and Mr. King's station in life, and entreated him to authorise some friend to act for him in the matter. I told him the affair must get publicity, and put to him how strange it must seem that a gentleman charged with the vilest offence of which a gentleman could be guilty (even supposing what he stated to be true) would neither deny the infamous conduct imputed to him, nor, avowing it, give the gentleman whose hospitality he abused, and whose name he sought to tarnish,

satisfaction. I added, how infamous it must appear to every honourable man that he should have offered to lend a large sum of money to his host at the time that under his roof he was endeavouring to seduce, or, according to his own story, trying to manage an intrigue with, Mr. King's wife! On leaving me Mr. Beaumont agreed to appoint a friend. Capt. White called on me, but I ascertained he had no power either to retract the scandal or to give Mr. King, a meeting. Unwilling to press Mr. Beaumont in a case in which I trusted the dictates of common sense would eventually prevail, I said I would give him ten days to consult his friends and make up his mind what he would do. We both started much about the same time for London. I had not been long there when I learned from Captain White that Mr. Beaumont had written to him, that I, upon the part of Mr. King, offered to compromise the affair of honour if he (Mr. Beaumont) would lend Mr. King a sum of money. I wrote directly to Mr. Beaumont, requesting either a denial or retractation of this stupid and infamous falsehood, or gentlemanly satisfaction. To make the matter short, I could get neither; Mr. Beaumont admitted that he might have mistaken the nature of my allusion to the loan from him to Mr. King, but he would not apologise- he would not explain-he would not fight. He went to Paris – I followed him - I flogged him. That I admit, and will put him to no trouble of the proof. I have already, through the press, proclaimed him to be a coward, a slanderer, and a liar. Let him bring his action in this country if he dare, where before an impartial I judge and twelve honest Englishmen I can justify, and I pledge myself I will justify, and let shame rest on me, and not on him, if I cannot. The documents to which I have alluded shall, I repeat, be put before the public the moment they reach my hand.

I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN P. SOMERS.

St. James's Hotel, St. James's-street, Dec. 14.

### **15 Dec 1838 Robert Dillon Browne**

[Note: Printed in the *Morning Advertiser* on 3rd Jan 1839. Browne (1811-50) had been an MP in Mayo for two years at the time of his involvement in this affair.]

MR SOMERS MP AND MR T. W. BEAUMONT. LETTER OF MR R. DILLON BROWNE.

To the Editor of the Sligo Champion.

Feuillade's Hotel, Dec 15, 1838

Sir,

I beg to call the attention of the public to the circumstances connected with the late misunderstanding between Mr. Beaumont and Mr. Sanders, and to submit the following statement, which is supported by facts of which I am either myself cognizant or which are established by documentary evidence in my possession. The matter to which I refer has obtained an unenviable notoriety; but that feeling, based on the consciousness of the purity of Mr. Somers's conduct, which has induced me to come to

his assistance in the vindication of his honour, when it was first impeached by Mr. Beaumont, has now grown into an obligation of duty which forbids me to shrink from the ordeal of a public vindication, though by coming forward (this matter resting altogether upon the assertion of two gentlemen) the painful task devolves upon me of proving how far the word of either the one or the other is entitled to honourable estimation. I should have wished that my knowledge respecting this matter had appeared in evidence on the record of a court of justice, but this opportunity has been denied me: in the first place by Mr. Beaumont declining to appeal to a tribunal in this country, which would have been perfectly competent to adjudicate the case without detriment to the plaintiff; and in the second place, by the system of French jurisprudence, which in criminal matters deprives the accused, when not present, of the opportunity of defence, and which deterred Mr. Somers from appearing, in consequence of entailing, as the minimum of punishment, for the offence of having given a premeditated blow, imprisonment for two years. I therefore submit this statement, which I trust is entitled to respect even from Mr. Beaumont, as he expressed to me in letters, the last of which I received after the late trial in Paris, that my conduct in this affair has been peaceable, conciliatory, and highly honourable, which terms would be flattering if they could be reciprocated.

A few weeks ago Mr. Somers sought my advice, and having acquainted me with the preliminaries connected with the affair, placed in my hands a letter addressed by Mr. Beaumont to Mr. White, an officer in the British service, and a member of the Union Club, in which Mr. Beaumont stated that Mr. Somers had offered, on the part of the Hon. Mr. King, to compromise an affair of honour for a pecuniary consideration, of which compromise Mr. King must have been aware. I advised Mr. Somers to send to Mr. Beaumont to demand a retraction, and was deputed to wait on that gentleman. I saw Mr. Beaumont at the Union Club, where he refused to retract, refused to give any satisfaction, and aggravated the original offence by acknowledging (a matter with which he erroneously supposed I was acquainted) that he had written to a near relative of mine, residing in a province in Ireland – where Mr. Somers was at that time seeking the representation of the borough of Sligo – that Mr. Somers was engaged in gambling speculations, and that he had a distinct interest in a celebrated gaming-house in St. James's-street. I returned to Mr. Somers, communicating to him the result of the interview with Mr. Beaumont, and stated to him at the same time that his character was most vitally affected; that the calumny had been in all probability circulated throughout one of the most fashionable clubs of London, and that he must seek a public justification of his conduct, either by a retraction from Mr. Beaumont, which it would be necessary to publish, or by forcing that gentleman to bring the matter before the public. Mr. Somers adopted by advice with an alacrity little indicative of a consciousness of guilt, and addressed the following letter to Mr. Beaumont.

[see letter from Somers to Beaumont, 2 Nov 1838]

This letter elicited an answer from Mr. Beaumont, in which he acknowledges the misfortune and dishonour of his early life – circumstances to which, as the character of Mr. Somers is staked against Mr. Beaumont's, and as the matter depends upon the relative credibility of either gentleman, I am forced to allude. In this letter Mr. Beaumont states that he had been compelled to withdraw his name from Brooke's Club, and had withdrawn from him the acquaintance of his nearest friends; that he had on a former occasion accused Lady Swinburne of infidelity to her husband, grounding his accusation on facts received through a supernatural agency; and that though he was firmly convince of Mr. Somers's intention, in alluding to money at Cowes, that he had drawn his deduction as to that intention from an unconcluded sentence. This letter was accompanied by another to me, of a conciliatory tone, in which Mr. Beaumont entreated me to procure an amicable meeting betwixt himself and Mr. Somers. Supposing that Mr. Beaumont would not have made such a request unless the tenacity of his memory had relaxed as to his recollection of the dishonourable charges against Mr. Somers, I again waited on that gentleman, when he refused to make the required concessions, but proffered the hand of friendship to Mr. Somers, provided he did not seek satisfaction. On the following day I received a letter from Mr. Beaumont, stating that he was just starting for Paris, and expressed a wish 'that Somers and he should be upon the same terms as before,' they having been in early life on terms of the most friendly intercourse.

I would have submitted Mr. Beaumont's letters in full to the consideration of the public, only they are so voluminous, so unseemly, of so erratic a nature, and betray so many aberrations of intellect, that in charity to him and my readers, I am induced to withhold them. In these letters he confesses that he is unworthy of belief; one of the few declarations of his to which I do not hesitate to give credit. Two of those I subjoin; they will be found under (D) [letter from TWB to Robert King, 20 Jan 1837] and (E) [TWB to R.Dillon Browne, 4 Nov 1838].

Mr. Somers and I then followed Mr. Beaumont to Paris, where I had a third interviews with Mr. Beaumont, at my own hotel, as 'expressly' appointed by that gentleman. At this interview Mr. Beaumont distinctly stated that he was 'doubtful as to the point' of Mr. Somers's expressions in allusions to money at Cowes, which induced him to write the letter complained of, and that he was 'uncertain whether Mr. Somers meant to demand from him a future loan for Mr. King' (which is set down in the affidavit of that gentleman), at a period when he was contemplating the dishonour of his wife. After this admission I called Mr. Beaumont's attention to the infirmity of his recollection, and again implored him to retract. I even requested him to refer me to some gentleman who I might consult, pledging myself, that if that gentleman declared I ought not to seek an apology I would abide by his decision, provided Mr. Beaumont bound himself to abide by a contrary determination if resolved upon. Mr. Beaumont has affirmed upon oath, that during this interview I told him to prepare for some indignity, meaning 'violence'. I solemnly pledge myself I did not use such terms, or any bearing a similar construction, and that Mr. Beaumont has written to me in explanation, that he has sworn to my expressions, and deducted my meaning, 'not

having heard me distinctly'. Can any man be so ignorant (for I must attribute it to ignorance) of the sacred obligations of an oath as to acknowledge that, as a sworn witness in a court of justice, he permitted, in giving his evidence, his imagination to assist his memory? Immediately after this interview Mr. Beaumont and Mr. Somers came into collision in the Tuilleries gardens, and I returned with the latter gentleman to London, after having remained two days in Paris, expecting to hear from Mr.

Beaumont

After this Mr. Beaumont instituted his 'court of honour' (etymologically curious as is the term), composed of Colonel Gallois and some other obscure persons – Colonel Gallois, who had been previously unacquainted with Mr. Beaumont, and who, though he saw him unassisted by the advice of an English gentleman, rallied round him with all the disinterested promptitude of Swiss sympathy, and had the good taste and courage to dishonour an Englishman, a senator of that country, and a stranger, in his eagerness to serve the kind friend of yesterday. Of course it would not serve the purpose of this 'court' to advise Mr. Beaumont to fight – a 'court' which was organised at a most untimely moment, which ought to have been created before Mr. Beaumont received the indignity, to decide whether he should give satisfaction or not – a 'court' which, considering Mr. Beaumont was an Englishman, was composed of most extraordinary materials – and a 'court' whose conduct throughout was of the most doubtful character.

I arrived again in Paris, in order to give my evidence at the trial, and immediately after my arrival was accosted by an individual of the name of O'Brien, whom I had formerly known, and the honour of whose acquaintance I had some years abandoned, for reasons unnecessary to mention. It will be recollected that assertions injurious to Mr. Somers's reputation, proceeding from that gentleman, had been repeated by a Colonel Gallois, in evidence upon the trial.

On meeting Mr. O'Brien, he stated to me that 'he had no intention of giving evidence against Mr. Somers, that he had no evidence to give, and that his object in mingling in this matter was to procure money from Mr. Beaumont.' Whatever might have been my estimation of Mr. O'Brien's conduct after this admission, I thought it prudent to abstain from the expression of my opinion; and Mr. O'Brien having told me that Mr. Beaumont had made some admission favourable to Mr. Somers, I called upon Mr. O'Brien on the following day, when he again stated that his sole object was to seek money from Mr. Beaumont, and produced in corroboration of his assertion a check of Mr. Beaumont's for £50, which he declared he had received with other moneys in consideration of anticipated services. Mr. O'Brien also told me upon this occasion that Mr. Beaumont had submitted the facts connected with this case to Sir Henry Hardinge, who advised him in reply that he ought 'to fight'.

There is another circumstance to which I beg to allude – it is the evidence of the witness Conti. He stated upon the trial that he was induced to give Mr. Somers credit for wine on Mr. Somers's promise of procuring for him the patronage of Mr. Beaumont. I beg to remark that I was in Mr. Somers's lodgings in Regent-street, accompanied by several other gentlemen, who are ready to come forward in evidence as to the fact

which I state, when Mr. Somers had his first interview with Conti, who came to solicit for an order for wine; and on this occasion there was no allusion made to the name of Mr. Beaumont. This fact would be unworthy of notice, only it assists to prove that the case against Mr. Somers has been maintained by the most honourable means, which trust will not be assimilated by the uncharitable to suborning to perjury.

Before I conclude, I beg to express my opinion (which I was precluded from expressing in the French journals) respecting the conduct of Colonel Gallois and Mr. Ledreu. They both have exceeded, in my humble opinion, the duty of the gentleman and the advocate, and in their persons have bowed down the noble and disinterested character of French gallantry before the idol of British gold. Considering that the former gentleman, on an acquaintance only contemporaneous with the insult Mr. Beaumont received from Mr. Somers, identified himself with Mr. Beaumont in a manner which evinced a total disregard for the feelings of the stranger and the absent, proving that some sinister motives influenced him, and that the latter gentleman dissipated Mr. Beaumont's money with a profusion unprecedented at the French bar. I do not hesitate to pronounce as shamelessly venal the sword of the one and the toga of the other.

This comprises all, and I feel confident that if this letter and the documents subjoined, are read, no doubt will be left in the mind of the public as to the highly honourable conduct of Mr. Somers throughout the whole proceeding. Mr. King's affidavit proves the object of Mr. Somers's original mission to Mr. Beaumont. Mr. Beaumont's admissions to me prove how doubtful he has been in his own mind as to the justness of the charges against Mr. Somers. Mr. Beaumont's letters to me prove that he sought to be on terms of friendship with Mr. Somers, notwithstanding the charge preferred – leaving the world to conclude (supposing he thought the charges to be true) how careful he was in the selection of his associates; and, lastly, Lord Grey's letters to Mr. Beaumont, and Mr. Beaumont's to Mr. King, prove what a confidence is to be placed in Mr. Beaumont's honour, and that he has not on this occasion appeared as a Neophyte in the ranks of slander.

I have now done; I leave the characters of the respective parties connected with the affair in the possession of the public. My opinion respecting Mr. Somers is evident from the part I have cheerfully taken in this business; as to Mr. Beaumont, I don't wish to judge him, but take the liberty of subjoining letters, containing the opinion of a high authority respecting the credit that should be attached to the assertions of that gentleman.

I have the honour to remain your very obedient servant  
R. Dillon Browne.

[The subjoined letters referred to, all given elsewhere in DD under the original date, are  
Grey to Beaumont, 31 Aug 1823 – subjoined letter (A)  
Grey to Beaumont, 19 Jan 1824 – (B)  
Grey to Carus Wilson, 5 Feb 1824 – (C)  
Beaumont to King, 20 Jan 1837 – (D)]

Beaumont to Dillon Browne, 4 Nov 1838 – (E) ]

**18 Dec 1838 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont**

[Note: This letter appeared in the Morning Chronicle of 21st Dec 1838]

To the Editor of the Morning Chronicle

Sir,

I have seen in your paper of the 15th Inst. a letter from Mr.Somers, to which I shall make a brief reply. In commenting on my conduct in the year 1823 towards Lord Grey, it is attempted in that letter to throw obloquy or ridicule upon me, for my belief in a 'supernatural influence'. I distinctly acknowledge the JUSTICE OF THAT IMPUTATION.

Respecting the other charges they are false, and shall be proved so, at my leisure.

I am, sir, your obedient humble servant.

T. WENTWORTH BEAUMONT

Hotel Bristol, Paris, Dec 18, 1838

**18 Dec 1838 Charles Ledru**

[Note: This letter, sent on TWB's behalf by his Parisian lawyer, was published in the *Morning Chronicle* edition of 9th Jan 1839]

Advertisement. MR. T. W. BBAUMONT AND MR. J. P SOMERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF GALIGNANI'S MESSENGER. Sir Mr. Beaumont being on the point of leaving Paris, has requested me to transmit to you the accompanying letter from him, in answer to that which Mr. Somers has sent to several of the London newspapers, and which you published this morning. Permit me, sir, to take advantage on this occasion to repel the unjust attack which Mr. Somers has thought fit to make in his letter against the magistrates who have condemned him, as well as against the advocate who called for this condemnation. We allow in France every unsuccessful litigant (plandeur) 'twenty-four hours to curse his judges:' Mr. Somers has conceived himself authorised, by the distance at which he has placed himself from them, to extend the term of this privilege to a fortnight. Be It so. But when, instead of uttering his curses in an undertone, he accuses aloud both the tribunal and the advocate, he should at least have some plausible pretext, or be subject to the blame of every honourable and impartial man. Of what does Mr. Somers complain? That tie advocate

of his accuser has spoken against a man who was not present to defend himself? – that the judges have tolerated such a violation of all consideration towards a member of Parliament? Mr. Somers says, ‘No English gentleman practising at the bar would have stated a case to which there was no defence, as the Frenchman did. No English judge would have permitted an advocate, who had to deal with a mere assault, to indulge in a tirade of abuse, &c.’ I know not whether it be admissible in England for a man labouring under a prosecution to take post and withdraw himself from the penalties he may have incurred, or whether justice will consent to remain dormant until it shall be his pleasure to present himself before her. If it be so this jurisprudence must be highly lauded by malefactors, both great and small; but in truth I can scarcely believe that such a state of things can exist in any part of the civilized world. At all events, neither the tribunal nor myself can be reproached with having created an axiom (which, in our humble France, is considered by all to be founded on good sense) that an accused man, by refusing to appear in the presence of justice, cannot thereby suspend that arm which she always raises to strike those who violate their laws, wherever they may conceal themselves. If this be barbarism all French lawyers, including the honourable advocate whom Mr. Somers must have consulted, are incorrigible barbarians; for most assuredly they will never become civilised to the ideas of Mr. Somers.

‘Barbarus his ego sum quia non intelligor illis.’

So much for principles. As to the facts of the case, let me inquire whether Mr. Somers is warranted in hurling his thunderbolts against us in particular, as he has against the French magistracy in general? It was on the 13th. November that Mr. Somers committed the offence of which Mr. Beaumont complained. The accused was summoned to appear on the 20th of the same month before the Tribunal Correctionnel. We should have been fully warranted in exposing, on that very day, the wrongs of which Mr. Beaumont had to complain. We did not avail ourselves of his absence; but, from a feeling which in men of education is stronger than the law, we used a privilege the law grants, but does not enjoin, and applied to the tribunal for a postponement of the hearing. We gave, as the grounds of our request, that Mr. Somers, being a foreigner, and probably ignorant of the rules of the French courts, we felt it our duty to give him notice that we had an accusation of the most serious nature to urge against him and that we had a repugnance to enter upon it without his being present, and consequently we prayed the tribunal to grant to our absent adversary a suitable delay. The tribunal having mentioned a week, we observed that this, perhaps, was not sufficient; and, on our demand, the magistrates granted a fortnight for the defaulter to appear. We observed on this occasion, and the French and English journals repeated, that the public reports of this hearing would be an actual, if not a formal notice to Mr. Somers, and that, whether he were present or absent, we should be obliged to bring forward our accusation. This is what Mr. Somers calls very skilfully though not very honourably, done. When December the 4th arrived, Mr. Somers made default, as he had done on the 20th of November. One of two things must have been the reason: either he wanted further time to prepare for the combat, and this he might have done either in person or by his attorney, and even now he had the faculty of pleading in

arrest of judgment, or of appealing against the sentence; or Mr. Somers, who has taken care to announce through the English journals that he could not expose his constituents to be deprived of his services In the House of Commons, must have determined not to run the risk of a prosecution, which might have ended in fixing his abode for a few years in St. Pelagie, for had he come forward, the magistrates charged with the repression of offences against the public, or private individuals could not out of consideration for the electors of Sligo, grant an impunity to their representative which they could not without forfeiture accord to any French citizen, however elevated might be his rank. This is what Mr. Somers ought to know, and undoubtedly does know, because, although the honourable legislator does not appear disposed to make us more than very short visits, I cannot but suppose him to be sufficiently versed in French law, and in the forms of our courts. Without that, he being a foreigner would not have reproved with so much dignified assumption the magistrates of a nation like France, and an advocate pleading with the advice and approbation of two such men as M. Odillon Barrot and M. Dupin. I can venture to affirm that among all the deputies of France, there is not one who would have thus treated either the judges or the counsel of any court of England. However this may be, as the advocates of Mr. Beaumont, that is, the interpreters of his thoughts, we at the hearing exposed all the motives on which his conduct was grounded, and which indeed he had previously explained satisfactorily to what we may call a court of honour. This we had not only an undoubted right, but were in every respect bound by our duty to do. It is certain if Mr. Somers had no other object In view than to obtain a considerable sum of money - and if, as stated by one of the witnesses, 'the whole affair was a dirty affair of money,' - Mr. Beaumont and his counsel had no other course to follow than that which they adopted. Has Mr. Somers been calumniated? If so it has most assuredly not been either by the tribunal which condemned him, or by the plaintiff's counsel. The calumny must consist in the evidence of M. Conte who possesses the entire confidence of Mr. Somers, not only as his wine merchant, but as the friend to whom he thought proper, on the 14th of November, to relate in confidence the result of his expedition of the 13th. Again, the calumny must lie in Mr. White's declaration, made in presence of Colonels Belli and Gallois; in that of Mr. O'Brien, who, since the proceedings at which from accident he was not present, has written to attest the accuracy of the serious facts reported by him to Colonel Gallois, communicated by the latter to the tribunal. In short, the complaint has been merely the conscientious though, perhaps, not able summary of the evidence stated by the witnesses and by Mr. Beaumont. The judges listened with attention, and then decided. In fine, I am, in the eyes of Mr. Somers, guilty of having gained my cause - a crime not provided for by any article of the penal code of France, nor, I imagine, by the criminal law of England. After all, I confess I feel one single regret - that of not having had to meet before the tribunal the adversary I expected, and whom I called forth with all my power; because I am sure that If Mr. Somers, whose language is said to be so full of suavity and good taste, when he keeps the attention of Parliament rivetted on his eloquence, would not have forgotten, as he has in his letter, certain observances, which,

among gentlemen of all nations are of common right, and therefore never dispensed with by them.

I am, &c, CHARLES LEDRU.  
December 18.

[Mr. Beaumont's letter to the editor of the Morning Chronicle of the 18th of December which followed, has already appeared.]

### **10 May 1839 Martin Lynch**

[Note: Report in the Newcastle Courant issue of that date]

The fourth meeting of the Popular Lecture and Musical Entertainment Society, was held on Saturday evening last. The musical part of the entertainment gave great satisfaction. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Lynch, 'on the prevention of those diseases to which artizans in lead are subject.' The lecturer introduced his subject by shewing the difference that exists between the agricultural labourer, enjoying the pure air of heaven during his labour, and the artizans in towns, working in confined rooms, in an impure atmosphere. He proceeded then to show that persons working in lead manufactories that are not sufficiently careful, are at the commencement of disease attacked with slight and intermitting pain; they then lose their appetite; the disease increases, producing lead fever; this is afterwards succeeded by paralysis, and such persons generally die of apoplexy. Persons that work in white lead manufactories, he stated, are the most subject to suffer from the lead; after them, those that manufacture red lead, litharge, &c., lead miners and smelters, painters, plumbers, lead pipe makers, shot makers, &c.; and potters and glass makers, who use preparations of lead. To prevent diseases amongst those connected with the lead manufacture, he pointed out the following rules to be attended to:- 1st, cleanliness; 2nd, to avoid every thing that would tend to weaken the body or enervate the mind. Here he showed the necessity of using the most nutritive diet, and of avoiding intemperance of every kind. He stated that those persons that are temperate almost invariably escape disease, while those that use strong drink injure their constitutions, induce disease, and are great sufferers. He then showed the necessity of living in pleasant airy houses, and of frequently bathing. 3rd, The rules of the manufactory. The factory to be pleasantly situated, and the rooms airy; the men to relieve each other at the most unhealthy operations, and as many of the unhealthy operations as possible to be performed amongst water. This, he observed, is generally done in Newcastle; where, also, as ought to be the case everywhere, a medical man is now attached to each lead manufactory. He then concluded by showing the necessity of persons applying, on the slightest attack of disease, to a medical man.

**23 Dec 1848 Newcastle Journal**

[Note: From the Newcastle Journal of 23rd Dec 1848. When repeated in the Bradford Observer's edition of 28 December '(by his own hand)' was added after 'untimely death', a claim not repeated elsewhere, nor substantiated by his death certificate.]

DEATH of T. W. BEAUMONT, ESQ. - The Newcastle Journal records the untimely death (by his own hand), in Hampshire, yesterday week, of Thomas Wentworth Beaumont, Esq., of Bretton Hall, Yorkshire, and Bywell Hall, Northumberland. Mr. Beaumont, by means of his vast possessions in land and minerals, took his rank amongst the most wealthy commoners of England, and was, in all respects, a man of mark and consideration. He represented the county of Northumberland in parliament for several years, and was engaged in more than one electioneering contest, the character and circumstances of which will not be readily forgotten by the present generation. The deceased was a man of high spirit and intelligence, of great frankness of manners, and of a munificence and generosity of disposition which always won the respect and admiration of opponents as well as friends. Mr. Beaumont is succeeded in his estates by his son, Mr. Blackett Beaumont, who is nearly of age, and an undergraduate of St. John's College, Cambridge. The remains of Mr. Beaumont have been brought back to Yorkshire for interment. The body arrived at the Wakefield station on Sunday evening.

**11 Apr 1850 Newcastle Courant**

[Note: from the Newcastle Courant issue of 19 April 1850]

CELEBRATION OF THE MAJORITY W. W. BEAUMONT, ESQ

Wentworth Blackett Beaumont, Esq., of Bywell Hall in Northumberland, and Bretton Park, in the county of York, attained his majority on Thursday the 11th of April, 1850, when great rejoicings took place in the mining districts belonging to that gentleman. The extent of country over which the several mines and works are situated, and the number of workmen and boys employed approaching nearly to three thousand, prevented any dinner or other festivities being limited to one place, and arrangements were therefore made by Mr Sopwith, the chief mining agent, by which the celebration of this happy event was held in the three principal mining districts on three separate days, commencing in East Allendale, on Thursday the 11th, and being continued in West Allendale and Weardale in the two following days.

Excellent dinners were provided in such parts of the several dales, as best suited the convenience of the workmen residing in them, while tea and other refreshments were provided for the younger boys. In East Allendale eight hundred and seventy miners and smelters dined; in West Allendale five hundred and six; and in Weardale twelve

hundred and fifty five; being in all two thousand six hundred and thirty-one workmen who dined. The number of younger boys employed in the works, and of other young persons who were entertained, amounted to three hundred and three; making in the aggregate two thousand nine hundred and thirty-four persons who partook of Mr Beaumont's hospitality on this occasion. In addition to substantial joints of meat, pies, and abundance of rich plum pudding, all which were served hot and in a manner reflecting the greatest credit on the several parties who prepared the dinners; each guest had an ample allowance of ale and hot punch, which afforded the means of hearty rejoicing, without trenching on the borders of that dissipation and excess which sometimes mar the pleasure of festivities on similar occasions. It is gratifying to state that while this numerous body of workmen displayed the greatest enthusiasm, and entered most heartily into the various rejoicings, the utmost order prevailed, and the whole of the festivities passed off in a way which afforded satisfaction to all.

Each of these three districts possesses an excellent band of music, formed entirely of miners, and their able and willing services added much to the liveliness of the proceedings. In each dale also, a battery of twenty-one guns sent forth repeated salutes - a great number of flags and other decorations also imparted gaiety to the scene, and the weather fortunately proved highly favourable during the three days on which the rejoicings took place.

At sunrise on the 11th, a royal salute was fired from the battery at Allenheads - the band having breakfasted at the residence of Mr. Sopwith, proceeded to the new school, founded by the late T. W. Beaumont, Esq. and maintained by his son the present lord of the manor, who has presented a field adjoining the school, as a playground for the use of the children to whom, after the usual morning prayers, followed by the national anthem, formal possession of this generous gift was given, and the children made hill and dale resound with hearty cheers in honour of the liberal donor. The foundation of a new building intended to receive part of the hydraulic machinery, now in course of erection by Messrs W. G. Armstrong and Co, was laid by Mrs. Sopwith, amidst a large concourse of miners and other spectators, music and the firing of cannons during this and other proceedings of the day were accompanied by the most enthusiastic cheering.

At each of the dinners, after a due observance of the accustomed loyal toasts, 'Good health, long life, and happiness to Mr. Beaumont,' was responded to with almost deafening cheers, as was also the health of Mrs Beaumont and family, and of J. G. Atkinson, Esq., Mr Sopwith and the local agents.

At Allendale Town the workmen employed in the smelt mills walked in procession, and partook of a hearty dinner. At night the whole town was brilliantly illuminated, the band paraded the streets, bonfires blazed from the neighbouring hills. The new school at Allenheads was also illuminated, and dancing and other festivities were kept up to a late hour.

In West Allendale on Friday morning, the local agents, with the resident clergymen and other friends, headed a procession of nearly 600 persons, consisting of the entire body of workmen, who met Mr Sopwith on the road from East Allendale, and accompanied him to the residence of Mr Nevin, where, having been drawn up in a

body, Mr Sopwith addressed them at considerable length, and thanked them for the respectful compliment they had paid to their employer, in the person of his representative. The orderly and respectable appearance of the workmen in this procession, who walked three abreast, and stretched nearly a quarter of a mile in length, headed by a band of music and flags, etc, presented a scene of no ordinary interest, and will, doubtless, long be remembered with the other festivities of the occasion. Morning prayers at Carr Shield Chapel, were attended by a large number of the miners, and the local choir, who possess great ability in chanting, sung the national anthem, 'God save the Queen.' Dinners were given at Carr Shield, Coalcleugh and Ninebanks, and the utmost good feelings and enthusiasm were evinced by all present. Dancing, bonfires, illuminations, and other rejoicings continued during the whole of the evening.

Similar hospitalities and rejoice were resumed in Weardale, on the 13th; dinners were given at Newhouse, Short Thorns, Cornhill, St. John's Chapel, Westgate and Rookhope; the firing of cannons, music, and a procession of workmen, with various other manifestations of enthusiastic rejoicing afforded the numerous body of workmen employed by Mr Beaumont, an opportunity of showing their attachment; and it is only just to say of the entire body of miners, throughout the whole of the proceedings that they appreciated the high character, and generous disposition of the excellent young gentleman, whose majority they were met to celebrate, and to whom no greater compliment could have been paid, than by the good order, respectable appearance, and highly creditable proceedings of this large number of workmen.

We understand the celebration of Mr Beaumont's majority by the tenantry of his landed estates, will take place on a future occasion, in the course of the summer, when it is expected he will himself be present.

## **12 Jul 1850 Newcastle Courant**

[Note: from the Newcastle Courant issue of 19 April 1850, referring back to the celebration of July 12th, the date given here.]

### **CELEBRATION OF THE MAJORITY OF WENTWORTH B. BEAUMONT Esq.**

On Friday last, the celebration of the majority of W. B. Beaumont, Esq., of Bywell Hall, Northumberland, and Bretton Hall, Yorkshire, took place at Bywell, under circumstances of great joy and festivity. This event, which had been postponed in consequence of the indisposition of the worthy gentleman, had given time to parties to make every suitable demonstration, and this, together with the favourable period of the year chosen, rendered the occasion one of considerable interest and enjoyment.

The estate of Bywell, it is well known, has long been admired for its rich and imposing scenery, and has often furnished the materials for the canvas of the artist, who, from the natural resources which environ it, independent of what man has

achieved besides, has occasionally enabled him to produce some of the most lovely and effective scenes of rural life. Here the eye can discern the beauties of nature in all its external grandeur, while an additional charm is thrown over it by the objects raised by the art of man, the whole being effectively interspersed as to fill the mind with feelings of the highest admiration. Among the most prominent objects of attraction in this well-known village is the splendid new bridge which crosses the river Tyne a short way below Bywell Castle, and which, some years ago, was erected by the father of the present Mr Beaumont, at a cost of £15,000; and, although, presented in the most handsome manner to the county, yet, for some reason or other, the gift was not accepted. A more substantial and beautiful bridge is seldom to be met with, and the public have long reaped the accommodation it afforded them in travelling that part of the country. A few yards above this structure stands the well-known Castle of Bywell, with its ancient turrets appearing above the wide-spreading foliage of the numerous trees which surround it, while on its highest tower floated proudly the white flag of the Beaumonts. This castle, it is stated, was once the seat of the Neville family, so celebrated in the border warfares, and it is a fine Norman edifice. Beyond is the salmon lock - the dam - the mill - and the hospitable and well-known inn, so long inhabited by the Trotters; while adjacent are situated the ancient churches of St. Peter's and St. Andrew - two buildings hoary with age, and venerated not only for the purposes for which they are consecrated, but for the sacred associations connected with them. Travelling westward we enter the pleasure grounds of Bywell Hall - a beautiful and wide spreading lawn, abounding with favoured walks and adorned with the chestnut, the beech and other trees- the hall itself, which is a light and elegant mansion, chastely ornamented - stands conspicuously in the centre, and forms, of course, the most prominent object of as fine a landscape as the eye of man could desire to rest upon. From the extensive lawn - the gentle slope, the rising hill, the woody eminence is seen radiating from the centre, stretching out before the wondering sight a splendid and gorgeous amphitheatre of nature's own and peerless formation.

A few yards front of Bywell Hall was selected as the scene of the festivities to be celebrated, for here was erected a splendid and costly marquee, decorated with externally with Marryatt's gay code of signals - the Union Jack floating over all the emblem of England's maritime prowess. Internally the arrangements were more complete and effective, the marquee being decorated in such a costly and magnificent style as to present the beau ideal of some Grecian temple, or fairy pavilion of olden time. Beauteous wreaths, composed of flowers, evergreens, and variegated holly and box were profusely spread over the marquee from its centre to its circumference, and from its aerial ceiling were suspended banners and flags of various hues - two of the latter formed conspicuous objects, from their bearing the following inscriptions, in large gilt letters: - 'SUCCESS TO THE LEAD TRADE', and 'SPEED THE PLOUGH'. In the area of the marquee, tables were judiciously arranged longitudinally west and east, and at both ends were erected cross tables on an elevation, which were covered with crimson cloth. Immediately behind the seat of the chairman was a large painting of the arms of Beaumont; and at the opposite end, behind the vice chair were

emblazoned, in ornamental characters - 'HEALTH AND PROSPERITY TO WENTWORTH BLACKETT BEAUMONT, Esq.' In addition to all, a splendid gallery, covered with crimson cloth, was erected at the northern portion, while another opposite to this, was appropriated to the use of the Allendale band.

The marquee was from Mt John Buckham's sail-cloth manufactory; the paintings and banners were executed by Mr Laidler, and the decorations, etc. by Messrs Hutton and Rhind, of this town; while the general arrangements were under the superintendence of Mr T. Nixon, aided by Messrs Arkles, joiners.

With this brief description, we next notice the proceedings in the village. At early dawn, the commencement of the auspicious day was announced by the firing of cannon. In a short time, the villagers were up and doing, and, as the morning advanced, hundreds poured in from the neighbouring districts, some of whom were dressed in 'spic and span' new dresses in honour of the occasion. In order, also, that all should be welcome, several casks of England's home brew'd ale were placed near the market cross, so that all who chose to partake might return the salutations of the day, whether he were tenant, peasant, or wayfaring traveller. All who came were freely invited, and many a rough joke passed current, as group after group drank to the future prosperity of the House of Beaumont. Nor were the children of the different schools forgotten in the general manifestation of joy, for tea and cake were prepared in great plenty, both for themselves and parents, besides any one who were desirous to join them.

About 2 o'clock, the numerous tenantry having assembled at Mr Trotter's hotel, they were met by Mr T. Nixon and Mr T.R.Nixon, land agents to Mr Beaumont, who, after forming into possession, headed them, and being preceded by the Allendale band, they marched to the hall, where they were severally greeted by Mr Beaumont as they passed. They afterwards formed into line, and greeted their young and future landlord with several hearty British cheers, which reverberated from the distant hills with fine effect.

## THE DINNER

A short time before 3 o'clock, the dinner, which had been prepared in the hall, and served up in the marquee under the superintendence of Miss Nixon, was announced to be ready, when upwards of three hundred gentleman sat down to as sumptuous an entertainment as could well be desired by the most fastidious epicure, and it might be justly said that, on this occasion, 'the tables groaned under their load.' The pavilion at this period of the festivities presented a most imposing and animating spectacle. Every countenance present seemed to beam with delight on witnessing the young heir of the immense domains of Bywell presiding for the first time over them; - while the ladies too, who filled the gallery, added their quota to the brilliancy of the scene by honouring the occasion with their presence and their favours.

On the right of the chairman was the Rev. Charles Lee, of St John-lee; the Rev. Joseph Hudson of Hexham Abbey; and Jasper Gibson, Esq. of Hexham; on the left, James Losh, Esq., Newcastle; the Rev. Joseph Jacques, vicar of St Andrew, Bywell; and Thomas Sopwith, Esq. Allenheads. The vice-chair was occupied by J.G. Atkinson, Esq., who was supported by the Rev. B.E. Dwarris, vicar of St Peter, Bywell; Richard Gibson, Esq. Hexham; Captain Bell. Hexham; G.W. Stable, Esq. Newcastle; the Rev. Walton, Allenheads; and Henry Heath, Esq., Newcastle. At the termination of the dinner a splendid and costly dessert was served up with the most liberal profusion.

The CHAIRMAN, in brief terms, proposed the health of her Majesty, the Queen, which was drank with the usual honours, the band at the same time playing the national anthem, and the cannon pouring forth a royal salute.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed 'Prince Albert and the rest of the Royal Family', which was responded to by similar honours.

The CHAIRMAN next gave 'The Army and Navy', which was responded to by Mr Heath: after which he gave 'The Bishop and Clergy of the diocese', which was also responded to by the Rev. Joseph Jacques.

The REV. JOSEPH JACQUES, after the lapse of a few minutes again rose, and said that he felt much flattered in being associated with the numerous gentlemen around him, and he was also exceedingly gratified that the honour had been entrusted to him of proposing what must be termed as the toast of the day. (Applause.) He freely admitted that the feelings he experienced on that occasion were those of great gratification although he felt unworthy of the position he then occupied, yet, at the same time, he could not do otherwise than come forward readily and willingly to propose the health of one in whose welfare he, as well as all present, were deeply interested. (Loud applause.) But when he said he felt feelings of great pleasure, he must also say that they were mingled with that of regret, because the toast had been entrusted to him rather than to more able hands; for it was known to all that the task should have devolved upon a reverend gentleman whose talents were not only well known to that county, he might also add, to the country, but on account of indisposition he had been prevented from doing so. That much esteemed gentleman would have done ample justice to the toast; but notwithstanding that, he (Mr Jacques) would endeavour to do his best in the discharge of his duty. (Applause.) The toast, then, which had been entrusted to him, was none other than the health of a gentleman in whose welfare, he might say, that every individual present felt the greatest possible interest- and that was the future health and prosperity of their worthy chairman. (Loud applause.) From the hearty applause with which they had received that announcement he felt conscious they all participated in one common feeling, and that they were all glad to see him presiding there on the present occasion. (Applause.) Their much esteemed chairman had passed through the dangers of infancy and childhood - had sprung up through the perils of youth - had completed his collegiate career, and had now attained to his majority. (Loud applause.) Was it not then, he repeated, a subject of inexpressible delight, that he was assembled among them that say in perfect health and strength - he, whom they lately looked upon as a youth of great promise and

expectation, now had arrived at that period of manhood when he was invested with all his rights, and placed in possession of his great wealth and estates, by which he at once stood in a position of great wealth and importance. (Applause.) A great and noble career, he trusted, lay before him; although there was a time - and he hoped they would excuse him if he alluded to it - and that only recently, when the hearts of the entire district beat with great anxiety on his account, and trembled for the safety of his life, but when the information spread which infused hope for the future then they felt as if they could breathe again, and offer thanks to God for his happy deliverance. (Loud applause.) Might they not even look at that painful circumstance as a token for good on the part of the Divine Providence, in preserving him for great and important scenes in after-life. (Applause.). He (the rev. gentleman) therefore had no doubt but a bright and brilliant career lay before their young and honoured chairman, and if he had one wish greater than another, it was that he hoped to see the day when Wentworth Blackett Beaumont would take his place in the senate house of his country. (Loud and long continued cheers accompanied this sentence, the company at the same time rising). When then their chairman was permitted to share in the councils of his sovereign, and devote his talents and energies in his country's cause, he knew they would be devoted in promoting its welfare, for its future interests and prosperity he was well aware his esteemed friend had at heart. (Loud cheers.) That object he felt conscious was a pleasing anticipation to them all, and he knew that they would join them in wishing their chairman every possible happiness and honour in the world. But still there was another point to which he must refer as a minister of the gospel, and as one of the chairman's own pastors. Give me leave, sir, to address you personally - (here the rev. gentleman turned to the chairman) for I am reminded of the words of a celebrated divine belonging our country, a very great man, and eminent for his piety and great learning - and who, when called upon to pay his respects to a friend just entering into the holy hands of matrimony, - (an honourable state of life, I trust not far distant from yourself - loud applause and laughter) - addressed his friend in language to this effect: - 'Sir, your friends wish you much happiness, nay, every happiness the world can give you, but I wish you something better still, and that is the blessing of God! - I wish that your heart may be imbued with right and sound principles - I mean religious principles- and that a large measure of divine grace may be bestowed upon you, for if so, you will possess pleasures which the world can neither give nor take away.' (Loud applause). With these sentiments, he (Mr Jacques) cordially responded, and he also prayed that a large measure of divine grace should rest upon their chairman; that he should be in full possession of that religion which would carry him to heaven when he died, and that the divine spirit of God would guide him in all his proceedings in life. If, therefore, their honoured chairman possessed the divine blessing, he would, indeed, possess a happiness which exceeded all that the world could confer - a happiness which would endure through and to the end of his life, and which would never leave him, for it would exist after death itself, and even beyond that period, when the angel should pronounce that time shall be no more. (Loud applause.). He (Mr Jacques) could not express any wishes higher or nobler than these,

but if there was, then he could desire they should be the happy experience of him whom they had met that day to do homage and honour. (Loud cheers.) Therefore, with these brief remarks, he proposed the health and future prosperity of Wentworth Blackett Beaumont, Esq., with nine times nine. The company rose, en masse, drank the toast amidst immense cheering, the ladies on the platform wearing their handkerchiefs, the cannon roaring forth a continuous firing of several minutes, and the band striking up the tune of 'the White Cockade.'

The CHAIRMAN, on rising, was greeted with deafening cheers, which lasted some time. He observed that if he affirmed that he hoped - or dared to expect - that his health would have been received and drunk in the manner it had, and should have felt so much overpowered by their kindness as to make it impossible for him to express adequately his thanks, he assured them that he would have felt much inclined to ask some person to assist him to do so. (Applause.). If, he repeated, that he had anticipated anything regarding his health being drunk, that had been more than ten-fold realized by the very cordial and enthusiastic way they had drunk to his future prosperity. (Loud applause.). He must be allowed, in the first place, to advert to the able manner his health had been proposed by the reverend gentleman sitting on his left hand; for he certainly did not expect that he would have given utterance to views similar to his own, and which, by the frequent cheers of all assembled, informed him that they also held the same in common with himself. (Applause.). He could assure all present that he gave them a most hearty welcome, and he thanked them most sincerely in honouring him with their presence that day, for it was not only a great pleasure to see them, but it gave him also an opportunity of knowing them personally, and thus strengthening and cementing that good feeling which ought always to exist between the landlord and his tenantry. (Loud applause.). He well remembered the high position a relative dear to him enjoyed among them, and although he could not expect to attain the same point as he did, yet he hoped they would be extend a measure of the same kindness and good feeling towards him; and he could assure them that if he could do anything to promote their welfare, or that of the poorer classes around him, he would do it with all his heart. (Loud applause.) He would, however, humbly submit that he felt the great responsibility of property, and he would venture to add, that large and respectable as it was, yet the responsibilities attending it were ten-fold increased at what he had lately witnessed in the sister country; for having had occasion to travel through the county of Galway, in Ireland, he had seen such scenes of misery and distress as none could adequately describe. (Hear, hear.) Every Cottage he saw was unroofed; and every house without a door; while every person he met was almost in rags, and beggars. (Hear, hear.) Such a state of things was lamentable; and he hardly knew how to express the feelings of melancholy which then pervaded his mind when he beheld such scenes in the west of Ireland. Whence, he asked himself, had arisen such a wretched state of things! Why, he was persuaded it arose from the landlords not knowing the position they ought to hold towards their tenants, in associating and becoming resident proprietors of their estates, a duty which he trusted he should be

able to do on his own. (Loud cheers.) Indeed, had he expressed previously any views favourable to landlords residing on their estates, they would have been confirmed into a strong resolve by the exceedingly kind manner they had received and drunk his health that day. (Cheers.). It was, therefore, not only requisite for the landlord to do so, but he believed that the welfare of the district was greatly increased by resident proprietors. (Cheers.). He congratulated them all on their appearance that day; while at the same time he was sorry to think that if they had witnessed the state of the counties of Galway and Clare, it would be impossible to gather such an assemblage of agricultural tenantry as that before him. Among the varied subjects in which they were all interested there was one he would rather have avoided noticing, but as he had been led to understand that several expected him to say something concerning it, notwithstanding the uncertainty of the times and the uncertainty of the policy which might be adopted by ministers, he would offer a few remarks. That subject was free trade. It would, he knew, be presumptuous in him to pronounce any decided opinion on this subject, when the greatest statesmen of the day differed on it. It could not either be denied that there was great distress existing especially amongst the agricultural classes, and although it was impossible to say how matters could be remedied, whether, for instance, the opinion of the lamented statesman who promoted free trade, and who anticipated that things would gradually work round, would be realized, or that the government would be obliged to do something in the way of proposing a fixed duty, a sliding scale, or some other expedient. These, indeed, were questions which time alone would solve; and although they were points which admitted of great doubt, yet he would freely declare, that whatever policy government might pursue, he would be most happy in all exigencies to meet the desire of his tenantry according to the times. (Loud and protracted cheering.) He would, however, merely add that any person who considered the effects of class legislation could not do anything but condemn it. For himself he decried it. It was a policy always questionable; for no one could say whether it would work well for any other party in the state. One thing, however, might be said, that the late free trade policy, while it apparently had not worked well for the interests of agriculture, had done so for other parties in the state. The much-lamented statesman, who was the author of that policy, declared that he advocated it, because he was impressed with the conviction that it would be good for the community; and even Lord Stanley, the talented protectionist leader, in a recent communication to his party, stated that while he condemned the free trade policy, and advocated protection, on the ground that it was conducive to the good of his country, still he believed that those who supported free trade were actuated by the same motives. (Hear, hear.) It therefore could not be expected that all parties would be unanimous on a subject like free trade; and that being so, they must manfully grapple with circumstances as they arise. (Applause.) With these remarks he would next refer to the education of the poorer classes, (Cheers) - and he felt conscious by their cheers that their feelings were in accordance with his own on that subject. (Renewed cheers.) He would at once inform them that he was most anxious to promote the education of all classes of the community, but especially the labouring classes. (Cheers.) The

question he knew was a most important one, and although he had not given so much attention to it as it deserved, yet he felt most deeply the necessity of extending knowledge. Perhaps he might refer with pleasure to a school erected under the direction of his friend Mr Sopwith, the success attending which had been greater than any one anticipated. That school was commenced by the direction of his lamented father, who not only saw the importance of education, but impressed it upon him, and he hoped, with their assistance, he should be able to carry the views of his parent fully out. (Loud cheers.) With regard to the education of the people there were a great many opinions, and parties were divided on religious topics; and although he was then surrounded by several reverend gentlemen connected with the established church, yet he trusted they would permit him to say that he was as anxious to see dissenters educated as those who supported the church. He, therefore, would educate all denominations without reference to their religious opinions. (Renewed cheers.) Many of those reverend gentlemen present he looked to for their assistance, for it would be to them he would appeal for advice in erecting schools and carrying into operation his plans. (Cheers.) He now begged to conclude by again thanking them for the kind and enthusiastic way they drank his health, and for the anxiety they had manifested for his future welfare. He again repeated that he was glad to see them - that he hoped he would mingle with them in similar meetings like the present, and thus have more frequent opportunities of promoting their welfare and happiness, and also the prosperity of the county in which they resided. (Cheers.) But above all he looked to them to aid him in carrying out his views on education, for whenever the schools were erected, the great objects of them would fail if they used not their exertions to promote their success. (Mr Beaumont then sat down amidst several rounds of hearty cheers.)

The Rev. Mr LEE, in proposing the health of Mrs Beaumont, Mrs Atkinson and the family, observed that it was then about 37 years since he, along with many other gentlemen, celebrated the majority of the late Mr Beaumont; and he (Mr Lee) must say that he was proud of his acquaintance, for he not only knew his worth, but had experienced it. (Applause.) He might also add, that as far as he had become acquainted with his honoured son, who then presided over them, he perceived that he inherited the good qualities of his father. (Renewed applause.) His friend, Mr Jacques, in proposing their chairman's health, had alluded to some of the amiable points of his character, but he (Mr Lee) was in possession of the particulars of an act which conferred on their chairman infinite credit, and on his own responsibility would he speak of it hereafter to his honour. (Applause.) He had now been at two occasions like the present, but, in the ordinary course of nature he could not expect to see another, for before another representative of the House of Beaumont rose into being, more than another course of 21 years would revolve. Be that as it might, he sincerely hoped that the present Mrs Beaumont might have as much satisfaction in a grand-son as she had in that son in whose honour they had assembled that day. (Applause.) The reverend gentleman, after paying a well-merited compliment to Mrs Beaumont and Mrs Atkinson, concluded by proposing their healths. Drank with three times three.

The CHAIRMAN responded to the toast, and said that nothing would be more gratifying to his mother than to have been present to witness that assembly; and he knew that it would be most grateful to her feelings to know that she had been remembered by them. (Applause.)

The VICE-CHAIRMAN also acknowledged the toast on behalf of Mrs Atkinson, who, during her residence at Bywell, had made many sincere friends. He knew it was a matter of great pleasure to her that she had been permitted to witness the honours paid to her grand-son; and if he had a wish to express, it was, that when anyone present reached the age that she had done they might enjoy the same degree of good health and be as much respected (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN next proposed the Lord Lieutenant and the Magistrates of the County.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN responded: and concluded by proposing 'The Health of the Duke of Northumberland, and success to Agriculture.' The Vice-chairman paid a warm eulogium to his grace, and said that it was a bright era when he came into possession of his estates in that county, for he was one of those eminent individuals who thought it neither beneath his rank or his talents to live among and associate himself with his tenantry, and thus personally, as it were, become acquainted with their position and grievances - look over their separate lands - and cultivate their acquaintance and friendship. (Loud applause.) While he was proud to speak thus of the character of his grace, still at the same time he felt free to say that Mr Beaumont would follow his example. (Applause.) He knew that his relative had a great stake in the county, and it would be his duty as well as pleasure to look over his estates, and mingle with the people, in order that they might go hand in hand in the cultivation of the soil, and in the improvement of property. (Applause.) The toast was then drank with 3 times 3.

Mr LOSH, in a highly complimentary speech, proposed the health of their vice-chairman - Mr Atkinson.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN briefly acknowledged the honour done him, and said that since his management of these estates had been now transferred into the hands of the rightful heir, his intercourse with the tenantry would naturally cease; but if there was one thing which would delight him more than another, it was the thought that he was kindly remembered by them. (Loud applause.)

The CHAIRMAN then gave 'The Tenantry assembled on that occasion,' to which Mr HARBOTTLE of Anick Grange, responded in suitable terms.

The Rev. Mr HUDSON proposed the health of Mr Nixon, and paid a great compliment to the uniform kindness of manner which characterised his conduct on all occasions. (Applause.)

The VICE-CHAIRMAN, previous to the toast being responses to, begged in the interim, as a similar festivity was going on at Bretton Hall, to give 'The Health of Mr Edward Beaumont and the Yorkshire Tenantry.' Drank with 3 times 3.

Mr NIXON , Jun., in the temporary absence of his father, briefly acknowledged the honour done him, and concluded by proposing 'Success to the fairest flowers - the Ladies.' (Loud applause).

The following toasts were then given in quick succession: - 'The vicars of St Peter and St Andrew's, Bywell;' 'The Workmen and Labourers employed on Mr Beaumont 's estates;' 'Messrs Hodgson and Sopwith;' 'Mr Losh and the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway;' and lastly, 'The next merry meeting.'

At the termination of the entertainment, preparations were immediately commenced in the pavilion for the ball in the evening, which was attended by upwards of six hundred ladies and gentlemen. About 9 o'clock the ball was led off in a country dance by Mr Beaumont and Miss Nixon, to the tune 'Because he was a bonny lad,' etc. Dancing was afterwards kept up in the true old English style until the grey streak of morn heralded the approach of the God of Day; and thus ended one of the most joyous festivals ever witnessed in the district. It is, however, but due to add, that the free and unostentatious conduct which characterised the deportment of the wealthy owner of Bywell estates throughout the day's proceedings won the golden opinions of all present, and his future career is looked forward to as one of great promise and usefulness.