

# LETTERS

ADDRESSED TO

## RALPH THORESBY

F.R.S.

PRINTED FROM THE ORIGINALS IN  
THE POSSESSION OF  
THE YORKSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

EDITED BY  
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PRIVATELY PRINTED FOR THE THORESBY SOCIETY.

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## PREFACE.

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IT may, perhaps, be thought that enough has already been written respecting Ralph Thoresby, the Leeds antiquary and author—and, indeed, there are few private citizens of his time of whom we know so much. An account of his life was published in the *Biographia Britannica*, 1763, pp. 3931–3943. In 1830, the late Rev. Joseph Hunter, the historian of South Yorkshire, printed two volumes of extracts from his diaries, and in 1832 the same able editor issued two volumes of letters addressed to Thoresby by various correspondents. In 1885, the late Mr. Daniel H. Atkinson published his “Ralph Thoresby the Topographer : His town and times”; and besides these more important works, there are numerous minor papers and references to him to be found in the publications of the Thoresby Society and elsewhere. The story of Ralph Thoresby’s life has thus been placed before us with considerable fulness.

But in 1908 the Yorkshire Archæological Society became possessed of a large collection of manuscripts by the bequest of the late Sir Thomas Brooke, and these included, besides the letters to Thoresby which had been edited by Mr. Hunter, a great number of other letters addressed to him which had not appeared in Mr. Hunter’s work. It seemed appropriate for the Thoresby Society to undertake the printing of some of these, and the Council of the Yorkshire Archæological Society having kindly given the necessary permission, the present volume is the result.

Many members of the Thoresby Society are no doubt well acquainted with the main facts of Thoresby’s life, but, for the benefit of those who are not, its leading points may be briefly stated.<sup>1</sup> He was born at Leeds on the 16th August, 1658, in a house in Kirkgate, which had been built by his grand-

<sup>1</sup> To those who desire more full information, Mr. Daniel Atkinson’s very interesting work, above referred to, may be commended. In compiling it, Mr. Atkinson had to rely mainly on the printed *Diary* and *Correspondence*. He had not the assistance of the present letters.

father; in that house he lived the whole of his life, and he ended his days there. His father was John Thoresby, a Leeds merchant, a man of dissenting principles, who had fought for the Parliament at Marston Moor, and was a prominent member of the congregation at Mill Hill Chapel. John Thoresby, who, like his son, had antiquarian tastes, died in 1679, leaving three children—two sons and a daughter—the survivors of a family of fifteen. John's wife had died several years previously, so that the cares of the family devolved upon Ralph, who was the eldest surviving son, then about 21 years of age. At this time Ralph seems to have been engaged in the cloth trade and, to some extent, in the linen trade, but there are indications that he was not very successful in these businesses. In 1685 he married Anna, daughter of Richard Sykes of Leeds, then resident at Ledsham Hall.<sup>1</sup> She proved an excellent wife, and bore him ten children, of whom, however, only three survived their childhood. In 1689 he, unfortunately, became engaged in the business of rape-seed oil making, in conjunction with Mr. Samuel Ibbetson, an ancestor of the Ibbetsons of Denton Hall. This partnership was an unhappy one for Thoresby; the business was not successful, and he ultimately incurred what was for him a heavy loss by it. In 1697 we find him communicating in the Church of England, though he still continued frequently to attend the services at Mill Hill, and to take a warm interest in dissent. He does not appear ever to have been a bigoted dissenter, and by this time his literary and numismatic tastes had brought him into contact with some prominent Churchmen, such as the Archbishop of York, the Archdeacon of Carlisle, Mr. Killingbeck the Vicar of Leeds, Richard Thornton its Recorder, and others, whose in-

<sup>1</sup> Before his marriage to Miss Sykes, Thoresby had made several attempts at matrimony, which had not been successful. As early as 1680 he states that to prevent his cousin, Susan Idle, marrying a suitor objectionable to the family, he had offered vainly to marry her himself. Then there were successive failures with two London ladies, named Hill and Denham, recorded in the *Diary* for 1683; and there is some reason to think that at one time he had the idea of offering himself to one of the Dyneleys of Bramhope. His most serious affair, however, was with the daughter of Richard Cholmley of Spruisty, the termination of which is recorded at page 15 *post*. A curious variant to all this was that in 1681 he received a letter from a lady, whom he merely designates as "Mrs. B. M.," and describes as a minister's daughter, a pious and personable young gentlewoman, and a good fortune, suggesting marriage; but he put the offer aside, and apparently a good deal of heat and feeling arose about the matter.



fluence no doubt worked upon him in favour of their religious views. Moreover, his connection with Mill Hill Chapel had been somewhat weakened by the fact that he had not been on good terms with Dr. Manlove, the minister there.

His literary career commenced in 1693, when he was applied to, and agreed, to be responsible for the revision of that part of Camden's *Britannia* which relates to the West Riding, for a new edition of that work then being prepared under the editorship of Edmund Gibson, afterwards Bishop of Lincoln. This literary engagement was no doubt largely owing to the fame of Thoresby's collection of coins, which had been begun by his father, and formed the nucleus of the Museum, to which reference will be made presently. The collection of coins can be traced back a good many years from the time we are now considering. Its foundation was laid by Dr. Stonehouse, Rector of Darfield 1631-1661, who, Hunter says, was one of the first Englishmen to make a collection of coins and medals. Dr. Stonehouse's collection was purchased after his death by Lord Fairfax, from whose executors it was acquired by John Thoresby. Both John Thoresby and his son made large additions to it, and the result appears in the list printed in the *Ducatus Leodiensis*, which extends over no less than 153 pages of that work. When that list was printed, the collection had become one of the finest in the country.

Thoresby's share in the *Britannia* was duly acknowledged by the editor in the preface, and he thus became a recognised figure in the antiquarian world. In 1696 he came out in a new literary line. He wrote a letter to Dr. Martin Lister, F.R.S., respecting some Roman remains in the neighbourhood of Leeds; this letter was read at a meeting of the Royal Society, and afterwards printed in their *Philosophical Transactions*. In the following year another letter from Thoresby to Dr. Lister was similarly read; this was in reference to two Roman altars in Northumberland, to which Thoresby's attention had been called by Dr. Cay of Newcastle (page 42 *post*), and the communication was printed in No. 231 of the *Transactions*. Shortly afterwards Thoresby was elected a fellow of the Royal Society, to which he continued to make occasional communications—in all about thirty. In the year 1697 also he was elected an "assistant" or Common Councilman for the Corporation

of Leeds. The choice was a natural one, as Thoresby was undoubtedly one of the leading townsmen ; but he never appears to have had much liking for the office, and withdrew from it in 1713. His tastes were those of the student, not of the practical man of affairs.

In 1697 his partner Ibbetson died, and early in the following century Thoresby succeeded in shaking himself free from the unfortunate oil business, which had brought upon him a loss of more than £1,000—a serious part of his whole means. Thenceforward he seems to have abstained from business—probably the wisest thing he could have done—and to have occupied himself altogether in his antiquarian, social, and literary pursuits. It is evident that towards the end of his life he had to subsist upon a very small income, and was often hard pressed for money.

For the first fifteen years of the eighteenth century he was chiefly engaged upon his principal work, the *Ducatus Leodiensis*, the design of which he had conceived still earlier. He made two or three journeys to London in connection with it, and his records in his Diary of his visits there are full of interest. He frequently when in town attended the meetings of the Royal Society, and became acquainted with many of the leading members ; and the list of the other prominent men to whom he became known (largely, it would seem, through his introducing himself) is rather a surprising one. After much trouble with the printers and engravers, the *Ducatus* made its appearance in 1715. Thereafter the only event of any importance in Thoresby's life was the publication of his other book, the *Vicaria Leodiensis*, in 1724. His wife, who had long remained constant to the dissenting principles in which she had been brought up, followed him in becoming an attendant at the Parish Church in 1722, and in the following year he was elected one of the trustees for the Advowson of the Vicarage. He had been chosen a "corresponding member" of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge in 1712, and took a warm interest in that Society, where he made many new friends. On his last visit to London in 1723, he occasionally attended at meetings of the Society of Antiquaries, though he never became a member. He lived to see his daughter comfortably married, and his elder son established in a Church of England living.



Troubles grew upon Thoresby in his last years. His health became bad; he remarks more than once in his Diary that he came of a short-lived family, and seems to have been under some surprise that his life had been so far prolonged. Many of his old friends were dead—Archbishop Sharp, Thornton, Plaxton, Kirk, Charles Townley, Stretton, Cay, Gyles, and others whose names appear in the following pages, all were gone. As before mentioned, it seems evident also that Thoresby's means were now much restricted. In 1708 he had told Archbishop Sharp that in some years his income did not exceed £30 or £40; this could only have been made to suffice by the very simple way in which the family lived, Thoresby's own diet, it seems, being largely bread and milk. In 1711 he writes to Mrs. Nicholson of York that he cannot afford to give his daughter (then at Mrs. Nicholson's school) a new dress for a visit to Sir Griffith Boynton. In 1721 he records that he was selling plate in order to buy his elder son a gown and cassock, and again in 1723 he was selling more plate to defray the expenses of his sons. There is some evidence that towards the end of his life he was seriously thinking of disposing of his coins, but he was reluctant to do this except to a purchaser of the collection as a whole, and they were still in his possession at his death. In October, 1624, he had a stroke, which affected his right side, and to a large extent terminated his capacity for work.<sup>1</sup> There is a melancholy picture of him in the last months of his life in the account of the Earl of Oxford's visit to Leeds and to Thoresby's Museum, in June, 1725<sup>2</sup>; the writer says, "I must not forget our visit to Mr. Thoresby before we left the town, an antiquary of some name among those virtuosi; but the poor man was now so old, so decayed, infirm, and decrepid, and, indeed, in a manner so superannuated, that he was the only piece of antiquity in the collection that one could have been contented not to have seen." In the following October he had a second stroke, and died on the 16th of that month. He was buried in the Parish Church at Leeds. His widow survived until 1742.

<sup>1</sup> There are a few entries in his calendar of letters received under date of November, 1724, but written in a very feeble and uneven hand.

<sup>2</sup> See Harley papers in the Hist. MSS. Commission's Report on the Portland MSS., vi, 141.

Any sketch, however slight, of Thoresby's life would be very imperfect without some reference to his religious observances. The printed *Diary* by no means shows the full sum of these. After he conformed to the established religion, it became his practice to attend prayers at Church twice a day unless prevented by important or unforeseen engagements—the most frequent of these being the calls made upon him to show his Museum to visitors, and he often breaks out into expressions of annoyance at the interruptions these caused to his attendances at Church. On Sunday, or, as he always writes it, *Dies Dom.*, he gave much more time to public worship.\* In his *Review*<sup>1</sup> for 1702, he mentions that at that time, after morning prayers at Church, he frequently heard two sermons at Chapel, and got back to the Parish Church at 4, afterwards repeating to his wife what he could remember of the sermons. In addition to this, he regularly made long abstracts of the sermons in his *Diary*; the greater part of these Mr. Hunter did not print. And the amount of time he spent in reading the Bible and various devotional works was very great. Between the date of his marriage in 1685 and 1723 he read the Bible, with various commentaries, nearly twenty times, and in addition he generally spent part of the day in reading some such work as Henry's *Annotations on the Prophetical Books*, Daubuz' *Commentary on the Revelation*, or Hammond's *Paraphrase and Annotations on the New Testament*—ponderous folios which probably few men of this age have ever seen. Apart from the record of his attendance at public service, the *Diary* contains numerous references to his private devotions, and to the religious works he read; and there are frequent self-reproaches and expressions of contrition for small failings,<sup>2</sup> such as omissions to attend service, and so on. It may be said that religion and religious duties had the attention and the time of Ralph Thoresby to an extent which is very unusual with laymen at the present day.

Next to religion, the chief interest of his ordinary life was in his Museum, a catalogue of the contents of which is printed

<sup>1</sup> A sort of abbreviated digest of his diaries, which exists in MS.

<sup>2</sup> Sometimes these are quaint enough; thus, in October, 1720, he writes in his *Diary*, "was concerned for a dream of an old manuscript delicately painted and gilded—not as though it was sinful in itself, but that it plainly argues that my mind is too much set upon these things, else why might it not have been of the Bible?"



in the *Ducatus*. The main feature of the Museum was the collection of coins and medals, to which reference has already been made. After the coins, the most notable contents of the Museum were perhaps the manuscripts and early printed books. Among the latter were more than twenty "fifteeners," including several Caxtons, and, as might have been expected, the collection of early printed Bibles was a fine one. Thoresby gives no account of his collection of later books, with the exception of a few special ones; but he must have possessed a very good general library. The catalogue of manuscripts extends to thirty pages of the *Ducatus*, and there is a separate account (it cannot be styled a catalogue) of "ancient writings." Unfortunately, Thoresby gives no details of the numerous early charters he possessed; these he intended to use in a proposed historical second part of the *Ducatus*, only a small portion of which was ever written. The Museum likewise contained a valuable collection of autographs.

The list of Roman antiquities, other than coins, fills about ten pages of the catalogue. The list of "natural curiosities" extends to about forty pages, and that of "artificial curiosities" to nearly thirty pages.

When we look through the catalogue of the Museum in the *Ducatus*—covering in all 295 folio pages—it is impossible not to feel a good deal of surprise that a private person of only middle-class standing and small means should have managed to bring such a collection together. It appears, as a matter of fact, to have been to a large extent done by persistent begging and no want of assurance in making application to the people Thoresby became acquainted with. In writing to his correspondents, he never seems to forget the interests of the Museum. He appears to have made up his mind that he must not be too nice about begging. "I should be ashamed of this boldness," he says in a request to Dr. Richardson of Bierley for some curiosity, "but that all the world knows that an antiquary and collector of curiosities must be a beggar, so that when the intrinsic value is not considerable I can do it without a blush." And certainly his efforts proved very successful. Mr. Hunter remarks in a note at p. 292 of the printed *Diary*, "who shall presume to say what his coins, medals, prints, manuscripts, books, and autographs would bring on a sale by auction at

the present day. Would £5,000 be too large a sum?" This was written in 1830, and whatever the value might have been then it would be much more in 1912. Thoresby bequeathed the contents of the Museum to his elder son, the Rev. Ralph Thoresby, and on 19th March, 1726, Dr. Richardson wrote to Thomas Hearne at Oxford, "a few days agoe I had a letter from Leedes which brings me an account that Mr. Thoresby's eldest son (who I presume has the disposall of the Museum and bookes) was then at Leedes, and packed them all in order to remove them into the south." This appears to refer to the books only, but the coins and manuscripts were also removed; a great number of the other collections were, however, left at Thoresby's house, where his widow continued to reside, and many of the contents of the Museum seem, sooner or later, to have been treated as rubbish, and thrown away or destroyed—which, it must be confessed, was possibly the best way of dealing with a number of the "curiosities" described in Thoresby's catalogue. There is a copy of the *Ducatus* in the Leeds Library annotated by Thomas Wilson and Lucas, the Leeds schoolmasters, contemporaries of Thoresby, the notes in which show to a large extent what became of the contents of the Museum; in these notes such expressions as "thrown away," "thrown on the dunghill," "all spoiled," and so forth, occur with a frequency enough to have made Thoresby turn in his grave. Mr. Daniel Atkinson gives in the last chapter of his book on Thoresby many extracts from this annotated copy, which may be consulted by those wishful to know more of the fate of the Museum.

Thomas Wilson, who seems to have been almost the only person in Leeds who cared for them, bought most of Thoresby's early charters (many of them relating to Kirkstall Abbey). Some of these he afterwards gave or sold to Richard Rawlinson, the great collector of books and manuscripts, at whose death they went to the Bodleian Library, where they may still be seen. Wilson, jointly with a bookseller called Swale, also bought many of the other "curiosities," a number of which were resold to Dr. John Burton of York, author of the *Monasticon Eboracense*.

The books, manuscripts, and coins which had been removed by Thoresby's son, appear to have remained with him—or at least a part of them—until his death in 1763, after which



they were sold by auction in 1764. There is in the library of the Thoresby Society a sale catalogue of the coins, manuscripts, and a few "curiosities." The coins were grouped in 227 lots, and the sale of them occupied two days. The list of the manuscripts does not by any means contain all those in the *Ducatus* catalogue. Horace Walpole was a purchaser at the sale. The printed books were disposed of separately to Payne, the London bookseller. This was the end of the "Museum Thoresbyanum."

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The letters from which the greater number of the selection contained in the present work have been copied are bound in eight volumes, which form Nos. M 6-M 10 and M 14-M 16 in the Yorkshire Archæological Society's collection of MSS. There are likewise two further volumes of letters, numbered M 2 and M 20, from which some copies have been made. All these letters, with the exception of those contained in M 2 and M 14, were apparently acquired by Sir Thomas Brooke from the library of the late Mr. James Crossley of Manchester. Three other volumes, M 11-M 13, are made up of the letters which were printed by Mr. Hunter; but I have repeatedly met with letters printed by him bound up in other volumes. There is a good index in M 10 to the writers of the letters in that and the previous four volumes.

It will be noticed that there are some large gaps in the years over which the correspondence extends. In the five volumes, M 6-M 10, there are no letters between July, 1688, and February, 1691; for 1691 there are only about half-a-dozen, and none for 1692. They then continue year by year, some years having few, others a greater number, until 31st December, 1710,—and after that the next letter is dated 6th January, 1714, which, however, I believe to be of 1714. The letters of 1715 and 1716 are numerous, but there are none between 24th December, 1716, and 22nd January, 1722. There are a few for the years 1722 and 1723, and one written in 1724. At the end of the fifth volume are a number undated or imperfectly dated.

In M 14 there are similar deficiencies for the same years. M 15 is entirely composed of letters from the Rev. George Plaxton; they commence in 1707, and practically end in Decem-

ber, 1710, there being only three or four of later date. M 16 contains only letters from the Rev. Richard Stretton; there are two prior to April, 1694, and the last one fully dated is in December, 1708. In M 2, except in one or two cases, letters for the above vacant years are similarly wanting. In M 20 there are only letters of the years 1700-1-2. With a very few exceptions, it may be said that there are similar deficiencies for those years in the letters printed by Mr. Hunter; and it is therefore evident that some of Thoresby's volumes of letters (for we know that he was in the habit of binding up his correspondence) became separated from the rest, and are still missing. It is to be hoped that they have not been destroyed, and may yet at some future time be discovered. In the meantime, we are not left entirely in the dark as to the correspondence of the missing years. Thoresby used to make an index to the letters he received and preserved, and that index is one of the Thoresby MSS. in the Yorkshire Archæological Society's collection. From it, it would appear that Thoresby kept very few letters received during the years 1688-1692. For the other vacant years we have full lists, which give not only the names of the writers, but short notes of the contents of the letters. The index is regularly continued to the end of 1723, but for 1724 there is only a list of the letters in the order of the dates, and no longer an alphabetically arranged list under the names of the writers, as in previous years. No doubt this 1724 list was made after Thoresby's first stroke; besides the difference in the mode of arrangement, the writing is much deteriorated, becoming almost illegible towards the end. It has been suggested that, in order to supply in some degree the gaps in the correspondence, the Thoresby Society might hereafter print the index for those years where the letters are missing.

It has already been remarked that one volume of the letters is exclusively composed of those received from the Rev. George Plaxton. This gentleman was appointed to the living of Barwick-in-Elmet in 1703, and appears to have made Thoresby's acquaintance almost immediately, and for some years his letters are very numerous. From them, as will be seen, a very liberal selection has been made for this work—possibly somewhat too liberal, but Mr. Plaxton's letters are written in a lively



style, which affords a not unwelcome relief to the rather heavy tone of some of the other letters received by Thoresby. Mr. Plaxton had some peculiarities, one of which was a habit of fixing nicknames on his friends in Leeds—which sometimes becomes a little annoying from the difficulty there occasionally is in identifying the persons referred to. He was a man of literary and antiquarian tastes; apparently a good classical scholar, and something of a versifier, and his acquaintance and correspondence must have been a source of great pleasure to Thoresby.

In preparing this work, I have ventured to differ from Mr. Hunter on one point. In printing the letters he modernised the spelling; this was perhaps in accordance with the ideas of eighty years ago, but the requirements of the present day are different, and I have retained the orthography of the writers. I have, however, not thought it necessary to print such words as "the" and "that" in the manner now usually represented by "ye," "yt," and a few other similar contractions where the meaning was beyond doubt have been extended. I have also supplied the punctuation—in default of which many passages would often be found obscure or almost unintelligible.

I have only to add the reminder that the letters here printed are only a selection from the correspondence. Anyone interested in the period during which they were written will find it well worth while to look through the whole contents of the volumes containing them.

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The view of Thoresby's Library and Museum prefixed to the present work is taken from a sketch in the Lansdowne MS., No. 914, British Museum, in which it is referred to as "Museum Thoresbyanum in Leeds." The original was probably made in 1719 by Samuel Buck the artist, who, with Warburton the herald, paid a visit to Thoresby in October of that year; in his Diary, under date of October 17th, Thoresby records, "had their (*i.e.* Warburton's and Buck's) company in my library; Mr. Buck took a prospect of it." This was not, however, the library in which the books and curiosities had originally been kept. Mr. Atkinson (*Ralph Thoresby*, ii, 305) prints a letter from Thoresby to Mr. Strype, dated 16 June, 1716, in which he mentions that he was then removing his

library and curiosities "to a more convenient retirement in the garden next the court behind the house where I live," and the sketch answers well to this description. It may be mentioned that Thoresby's house in Kirkgate occupied wholly or partly the site on which No. 17 in that street now stands. No part of the original building remains; but there is a sketch of the house, made about 1851, in the Thoresby Society's possession, which is believed to some extent to show the building as it was in Thoresby's time.

*Note.*—In the footnotes to this volume the words "*Diary*" and "*Correspondence*" refer to the works printed by Mr. Hunter.

# LETTERS TO RALPH THORESBY.

FROM THE REV. JOSEPH BOYSE.<sup>1</sup>

London, Sept: 14<sup>th</sup>, [16]80.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

I remember when I left London I gave you an account of my high presumption upon your goodness in taking up £10 of Mr. Dickinson to be repaid by you to Jos. Jackson. But neither hee nor I having had any letter from you made mee (now I have returned to visit my friends at London) to renew my apology for so high a trespass: which as I said before is only this, that the present exigency of my affairs forc't me to go so very far beyond my own first intentions: And besides I hope as you may reap the satisfaction of having done so great a kindness to your undeserved friend, so neither will your generosity be prejudiciall to you in the issue. As for what I did only conditionally promise relating to Mr. Ch., I'me so busily employ'd in matters of great necessity and importance that I know not whether I shall be in a capacity of answering your expectations

I suppose you have seen the 3 Answers to Dr Stillingfl. by Mr. Br., Dr O., and Mr. Alsop, of w<sup>ch</sup> the usuall character amongst the Con's<sup>2</sup> is that Mr. Br. has answered him like a peevish and catching disputant, Dr Owen like a gentleman, and Mr. Alsop like a Jack-pudding<sup>3</sup>: But I suppose they give these the most reproachfull titles that pinch them with the most severe and urgent arguments. Mr. Br. hath another discourse printing against Diocesan Prelacy; Hee is now so engag'd in the defence of his Nonconformity that hee will

<sup>1</sup> A dissenting minister, whose name occurs almost from the beginning of both the printed *Diary* and *Correspondence*. He was a son of Matthew Boyse of Leeds, and appears to have been a very early friend of Thoresby's, from whose house he was married in 1699. His letter requesting the loan of £10, above referred to, is printed in the *Correspondence*, i, 6; see also *Diary*, i, 48, etc. Mr. Boyse's complete works were published in two vols., folio, in 1728.

<sup>2</sup> Conformists.

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Stillingfleet had made an attack upon dissenters, to which these three gentlemen were replying. Dr. Owen and Mr. Alsop were prominent dissenting ministers. I do not know what name "Mr. Br." represents.



scarce leave the cause till his breath and pen fail. Dr. Stillingfl: 's discourse in vindication of his charge against the Noncon's is in a little time expected in print.

The D[uke] of Monmouth they say has great entertainment in the West, and entered into Exeter with no less than 10,000 attendants.<sup>1</sup>

I am well satisfied with my present disposall, have the converse of a person of whom I know not whether I should commend his learning or piety, or whether hee has more of the Divine or Christian.

My service to all my friends at Leeds.<sup>2</sup> My duty to my (? father)<sup>3</sup> and mother. I live in hopes of hearing from you, which is a thing my distance and solitude render so much more desirable. You may direct to mee at Mr. Jekyl's at the Golden Lion in Lawrence lane: my brother will take care of your letters to send. I am, in hast, Dear Sr,

Your obliged fr<sup>d</sup> and serv<sup>t</sup>,

J. BOYSE.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thorsby, In Leeds, Yorkshire.")

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FROM MRS. SARAH MARSDEN.<sup>4</sup>

S<sup>R</sup>,

You have herewith sent all the bookes desired that are in the studdy; Calum and the rest were gone before you sent,—you see by this the rates are abated, to encourage the buyer;—if Mr. Sharpe<sup>5</sup> please to have the sermons before Parl: 6 volumes, at 17s. (because to him), he is welcome, only it's desired I may have notice if he intend to have them.

I have sent the catalogues againe,—all that are razed are sold and gone; if any that incline to buy will please to give a competent price, and send a note of such bookes as they would, and rates they are willing to give, I am not bound uppe to the present rates, nor would I discourage any buyers.

<sup>1</sup> The Duke of Monmouth's progress through the western counties, August-October, 1680.

<sup>2</sup> "Partic. Mr. Sharp" written in the margin.

<sup>3</sup> The letter is torn here.

<sup>4</sup> Widow of the Rev. Gamaliel Marsden, and now disposing of his library (see *Diary*, i, 84, 93). The signature is not in the handwriting of the letter.

<sup>5</sup> The Rev. Thomas Sharp, minister at Mill Hill Chapel.

I had not another faire writ catalogue, else should have sent one unrazed. You will please to excuse the trouble from

Sr,

Your much obliged friend and servant,

SARAH MARSDEN.

14<sup>th</sup> Novr, [16]81.

	s.	d.
D <sup>r</sup> Tho. Taylor workes .	6	0
Zanchii de tribus Elohim	1	8
Aristotle Politicks . .		6
Lactantius Firmiani . .		10
Willet on Dan <sup>ll</sup> . . .	4	0
Walker phrases . . .	1	4
	<hr/>	
	14	4
	<hr/>	

(Addressed "These for Mr. Thoresby at Leedes.")

FROM THE REV. RICHARD STRETTON.<sup>1</sup>

Lon[don], Jan. 5, 1682.<sup>2</sup>

GOOD SIR,

I having occasion to send by the carrier and not knowing a direct way of conveyance to Sherburn, I chose to salute you by the way and to give you the trouble of conveyance. Yesterday your cousin Stubbs<sup>3</sup> was at our house; he brought her and her nurse, and they dined with us. She is allmost quite mopish. He is the old man, both for dissembling and, I feare, for villany. He had a design to gett me to helpe him to an hundred pound of some freind, and tryed all his

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Stretton was a nonconformist minister, who became minister at Mill Hill Chapel for several years after 1671. He was on intimate terms with both Thoresby and his father. After leaving Leeds he was minister of a congregation in London, and resided there until his death in 1712. There is a memoir of him in the Thoresby Society's *Miscellanea*, vol. xi, p. 322. Many letters from him have appeared previously in the printed *Correspondence*. His signature is in Thoresby's album, with the motto "non est mortale quod opto."

<sup>2</sup> Probably 1682<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> Thoresby's cousin Susan, *née* Idle. She had married, much against the wishes of her friends, a certain Samuel Stubbs, whose character is indicated above.

tricks (save that of paying his just debt, which he hath forgotten) and promised great reformation, but I neither see nor hear of any: my wife was afraid he had a designe to have left his wife with us and ran away, but he took her with him. I pity her with my soule, but that and praying for her is all that I can do. Pray will you gett the enclosed conveyed to Mr. Duffield by the first opportunity; Mr. Scot will direct you how to do it. I have sent you a catalogue, which you may peruse. Though I disguise my person, and must my name,<sup>1</sup> yet I am oblidged to attend that auction; if there be any little things you desire, if you send your number and the price you will give, or leave it to mee (if it will come reasonably) I shall take care of it. Here is also sent you the proposalls to a second volume of Mr. Charnock's<sup>2</sup>: if you or any others will subscribe (if you be not otherwise engaged) I shall thankfully returne them to you with the first. Mr. Poole's<sup>3</sup> will not be out before Lady day: let me but know whether you will have it bound, and how, or in quires, and it shall come with the first. Mr. Heywood<sup>4</sup> gave me an account of your welfare and other freinds, which I was glad to heare of. I blesse God we are pretty well. Mine and my wife's hearty love and service to you and to all freinds. I committ you to God, and rest

Your assured friend and sert,

RICH. STRETTON.

(Addressed "These for his worthy freind Mr. Ralph Thoresby, at his house in Leeds—with a small parcel.")

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SR, FROM DR. NATHANIEL JOHNSTON.<sup>5</sup>

When I gott home I mett with a letter about the mony I writ to you concerning, the truth is I was so intent upon

<sup>1</sup> To avoid arrest; Mr. Stretton shortly afterwards spent some months in Newgate for refusing to take the oath against taking arms against the King, or endeavouring to subvert the Government.

<sup>2</sup> Stephen Charnock, a dissenting minister, several works by whom were issued after his death in 1680. There is a memoir of him in Calamy.

<sup>3</sup> Matthew Poole, author of the *Synopsis Criticorum Sacrae Scripturae* and other works.

<sup>4</sup> The Rev. Oliver Heywood.

<sup>5</sup> A physician at Pontefract, and a well-known antiquary of the period. There is a sketch of the little that is known as to his history in the *Diary*, i. 39, and repeated references to him occur in that work and the *Correspondence*.



the view of your coynes<sup>1</sup> and Mr. Dixon coming in, I forgot to speake to you of it. I intreate you therefore as soone as you can heare of any friend of yours that hath any to let out, let me have notice, and I intreate you use your best interest concerning it for it will be a kindness.<sup>2</sup> I pray you at your best leisure make an exact catalogue of your coynes, with a description of the impression of the face and revers and the circumscriptions, both Roman, Saxon, and English, Scotch, Greeke, and modern coynes. I cannot get so much time as to catalogue mine, as yet, therefor I would gladly peruse your catalogue, and desire the loane of Occo and the MSS. of Mr. Stonehouse<sup>3</sup> and all the volume of Golzius except his life of Julius Cæsar. Thus with my due acknowledgment for your kinde favour I remesne, Sr, Your very faithful friend and servant,

N. JOHNSTON.

Jan. 25,

168<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>.

(Addressed "For his very worthy friend Mr. Ralph Thoresby, at his house in Leedes near the Vicarage, these. Post payed to Leedes.")

---

FROM DR. NATHANIEL JOHNSTON.

WORTHY S<sup>R</sup>,

Mr. Long, whose father is an Alderman in our town, and is fellow of Magdalen College in Oxford and Chaplain to our Archb<sup>pp</sup>., comes to Pontefract the next Saturday and begins his journey towards Oxford upon Monday next. If you please to enclose all your Saxon coynes in a letter to me,

Thoresby remarks on the 26th March, 1680, that he was a great part of the day with Dr. Johnston, who gave him much advice and encouragement, and "was pleased to adopt me as his son as to antiquities"; but the Doctor's ideas as to this relationship seem to have been that he should get as much as possible out of Thoresby without giving any particular equivalent in return. At a later period of his life Dr. Johnston fell upon evil days; he removed to London, and had to live in great retirement there. He died in 1705. A number of volumes of his large collections respecting the history and topography of Yorkshire are in the library at Campsall Hall.

<sup>1</sup> Thoresby records in his diary on 23 January, 1683 "with Dr Johnston of Pontefract, perusing some books and coins."

<sup>2</sup> See the printed *Correspondence*, i, 20. The proposal was that Thoresby should lend or obtain for the Doctor's brother £150.

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Stonehouse, Rector of Darfield, by whom the collection of coins which ultimately became Thoresby's was commenced.

and deliver them to Mr. White, your and our Recorder,<sup>1</sup> he will send them carefully to me by my brother for Wakefield, and I shall be as carefull as of my own and engage to restore them very faithfully againe. I pray, Sir, omitt not this opportunity; I shall acquaint Mr. Walker<sup>2</sup> who you are, that you may be mentioned in his booke.

I was sorry you were not at home when I was last at Leedes. I pray when ever your occasions draw you to Pontefract let me have the favour to see you.

I pray let Mr. Henry Atkinson that lives in Briggate know that I much desire to hear how he doth. Thus with all due respects, I remaine, Sr,

Your very faithful friend and servant,

April 16,

N. JOHNSTON.<sup>3</sup>

1683.

(Addressed "For his very worthy friend Mr. Ralph Thoresby these, at his house in Leedes.")

#### FROM MR. MICHAEL IDLE.<sup>4</sup>

COSEN THORESBY,

I hope this will fynd you and all our relations in good health. My request is that you will please to write me per the very next post where Mr. Reason dwells, for I cannot meet with him, and order your letter to be keep't att the Post Office whilst called for. Here is great searching for plotters,<sup>5</sup> and the Assossiation found subscribed by divers in Citty and

<sup>1</sup> Francis White. There is a pedigree of his family at page 257 of the *Ducatus*.

<sup>2</sup> Obadiah Walker; see page 31 *post*. In 1678, he had edited the *Life of King Alfred* compiled by Sir John Spelman many years before, and the coins were wanted in anticipation of a second edition of this work. "Writing to Pontefract to Dr Johnston, and sending the Saxon coins to University College in Oxford, whence after a full perusal and inscriptions taken to be inserted in King Alfred's Life, they are promised to be faithfully returned to me by Mr. Walker." (*Diary*, 18 April, 1683.)

<sup>3</sup> Below the signature is a note in Thoresby's writing: "Upon this I transmitted all my Saxon coyns to Oxford, w<sup>ch</sup> were accordingly inserted in King Alfred's life, but without any mention of my hon<sup>rd</sup> father's name, Dr Johnston being alone mentioned, tho' many years after I rec<sup>d</sup> a letter, an acknowledgm<sup>t</sup> from Mr. O. Walker upon the reprinting of Camden's Brit<sup>a</sup>."

<sup>4</sup> Thoresby's uncle, Mayor of Leeds in 1690.

<sup>5</sup> This was the year of the Rye House plot.

Contrie. Mr. Dickeson<sup>1</sup> believes their (*sic*) must be much in it, in regard they flie and are foond hid. A great Romanist told me this day wee should now quicklie see who murdered Sir Edmond Beriigodfrey (*sic*)<sup>2</sup>; lett them which deserves it (in the name of God) sufer; it will make well for the goalers (*sic*) all England over. You will have the printed newes, so will not troble you with it. Remember my kind love to Mr. Hickson, Downes, and all freinds. Here is an order from King and Councell, publish'd the 13<sup>th</sup> Instant, that no man shall transport cloths or other wollen manufactures into Germany or any of the Seventeen Provinces of the Netherlands, except freemen of the Hambrough Company.<sup>3</sup> I shall bring it downe with me, but would have done much harm to clothdressers if wee had not been in the Merchant Company. I intend to sett forward towards Leeds about Thursday; pray be lookeing att our family sometymes.

I am,

Your affec: unckle,

London,

MICHAELL IDLE.

the 28<sup>th</sup> June, 1683.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby in Leeds, Yorkshire, per post.")

FROM MRS. KATHERINE DOCKWRAY.<sup>4</sup>

MR. THORSBY,

Being requested by Mrs. Ramsden<sup>5</sup> to inquire amongst the marchants in Leeds if any there can returne<sup>6</sup> her 200<sup>ll</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John Dickinson, of London, their relation. Thoresby was staying with him when the *Diary* was commenced in 1677.

<sup>2</sup> Sir Edmund Berry Godfrey, whose murder caused such a sensation in 1678.

<sup>3</sup> The Society of Merchant Adventurers trading to Hamburg, of which apparently Mr. Idle was a member. Thoresby took up the freedom of the Company in the following year.

<sup>4</sup> On a letter from this lady, written in 1703, Thoresby has endorsed—"Madam Catherine Dockwray, relict of the Rev<sup>d</sup> Dr Dockwray, who was chaplain to the Earl of Sandwich and perished in the same ship with him in the Dutch wars."

<sup>5</sup> Against this name Thoresby has written "since Marchioness of Winchester." The lady was therefore Frances, daughter of William Ramsden of Byram and Longley Hall, afterwards the second wife of Charles Paulet, Marquis of Winchester and, later, Duke of Bolton. She and her sister, with "Madame Dawkrey," visited the Museum on 2nd July, 1682.

<sup>6</sup> Remit or provide her with bills on.



to London, within 23 or 4 weeks, and not knowing who beside your self that I could make my address to for this favour, and that I may with confidence hope for assistance from, is the reason I give you this trouble, and doe intreat you will inquire for me if perhaps Alderman Sikes, Mr. Hickson, Mr. Comby or Mr. Rookes can with their convenienc help me, and if you will please to lett me know, it shall ever be own'd by

Your humble servant,

KA: DOCKWRAY.

July 3<sup>d</sup>, 1683,

Longle Hall, nere Hudersfeild.

(Addressed "For Mr. Thorsby att his house in Kirgate in Leeds, these.")

---

FROM MR. JOHN THORESBY.<sup>1</sup>

Bramwith, July the 7<sup>th</sup>, [16]83.

DEARE COUSIN,

My poore condition att this time, and beeing in a straite, puts me upon writing these lines to you to request the favour of you to lend me eight or tenn pounds, which I doe assure you whenever God shall inable mee shall be repade with many thanks, and I hope eare long; for thought (*sic*) I lost all that I had to live on, which was £450, by brother Ricard,<sup>2</sup> who died sundainely (*sic*) and left all things in such a confusion, that boath I and others are like to loose without redress, yet God soe pleased that has not left me without freinds, for there is one Sir Tho. Hodgson,<sup>3</sup> of Bramwith, who is my very great friend tho' a strainger to me, has promist me to get me into the (? guards)<sup>4</sup> or some other good place, which I question not

<sup>1</sup> This was Thoresby's cousin, John Thoresby, the son of his uncle, Joseph Thoresby of Sykehouse. John appears to have been a "waster"; the *Diary* records that his extravagance ruined his widowed mother, and the estate at Sykehouse left by his father had to be sold. The postscript to the above letter indicates that this was not the first time Thoresby had been called upon to help his relation.

<sup>2</sup> The pedigree records that John Thoresby married Mary, daughter of John Ricard of Heck, Esq.

<sup>3</sup> See Hunter's *South Yorkshire*, i, 184.

<sup>4</sup> An alteration in the writing makes this word somewhat uncertain; but it is probably "guards," as John Thoresby is recorded to have "died in the Irish wars in 1690."

but he can, he being mighty intimate with my L<sup>d</sup> Hallifax and other great persons att Corte. Deare Coz., I would have waited on you myselfe but that I have a little truble upon me, so I earnestly request that you would lend me the above mentioned sum; if you please eather to send it by the bearer or let me know when I shall waite of you I shall not faile, and shall ever thinke myselfe, Sir,

Your obliged kinsman and servant,

JO: THORESBY.

My wife's and my service is presented to yourselfe and all friends with you, with thanks for your last kindness.

(The address-sheet is wanting. Thoresby has endorsed the letter "Coz. John Thoresby, 7 July.")

FROM DR. NATHANIEL JOHNSTON.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I was in hopes ere this either Mr. Milner<sup>1</sup> or you had writt to Mr. Milner in Holland about my son who, I perceive, hath had very hard dealing from him, for he promis'd him 105 gilders for £10 sterling to be payed here, but when it came to the receiving the mony allowed him but 100 gilders, and he findes by other returns one Mr. Nicholson that is with him hath from London 34 Flemish shillings for every pound sterling payed here. You know a Dutch gilder is but 20<sup>d</sup> of our mony, and I could not but expect from Mr. Milner and you that in point of friendship, my son, being a stranger and ignorant of the way of returns,<sup>2</sup> might have had so small a courtesy as to have received ful mony there according to sterling account, and for such a small sum no advantage would have been taken of his ignorance, but now he understands the true value of sterling money and finds that Dutchmen allow 34 Flemish shillings for every pound sterling. If therefor you will favour me so much as to get Mr. Milner to write to his son to allow my son the overplus, I shall take it as a kindnesse, and if you

<sup>1</sup> This was Mr. William Milner, merchant, of Leeds, father of the William Milner who purchased Nun Appleton. His sons, Joseph and Benjamin Milner, were both merchants in Holland, at Rotterdam and Amsterdam respectively.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Johnston seems to use the word "return" in the modern sense of "remittance."



will send me a bill by the post upon Wednesday for the payment of so many gilders as at 20<sup>d</sup> a piece will make £12, I will pay the £12 to your cousin Wildman upon the receipt of the bill from him, or order 34 Flemish shillings for every 20<sup>s</sup> sterling, and if you will have any small thing for the return of it as you know we can return mony for 3<sup>d</sup> a pound to London when the returns are highest, I will pay with the £12 what you appoint for the return, so as he may have £12 payed there upon sight, after the rate of 20<sup>d</sup> a gilder. If you grant me a bill, my son's name is Charles. If you cannot do this, I pray send me to your cousin Wildman a bill for £12 to be payed to my son Nathaniel Johnston at the signe of the Tobacco Roll in Watling Streete, London, and I will pay the mony to Mr. Wildman and the advance for return when he gives me the bill. Thus, desiring your answer by the very next post, I remaine, Your very faithfull friend and servant,

N. JOHNSTON.

Jan. 7, '83.  
84.

As I compute it, at 20<sup>d</sup> a gilder £12 comes to 138 gilders (*sic*).

I perceive by my son's letter that the merchant in Leyden who payed my son the 105 gilders for the £10 I payed you here told him that if he had any Letter of Credit he would anytime allow him at least 110 gilders, and my son believes he would have allowed him more, and it is very hard that a stranger should be willing to allow more than an English man, and so I hope you will not let my son lose so much of the last bill, and I propose the paying of the mony when I receive your bill that it may be no obstruction but my son may receive what I now pay, upon sight, to the full value of sterling money, and what you will have for the return of it I will pay here, that we may receive 134 gilders (*sic*) there.

If you think not fitt to send the bill to have the mony payed to Mr. Wildman, if you give me notice I shall send the mony to Wakefield on Thursday next, for I must send the bill away on Saturday at furthest.

(Addressed "For his very worthy friend Mr. Ralph Thoresby these, in Leedes, or in his absence for Mr. Milner, merchant, at his house near Leedes bridge. Post payed to Leedes.")

FROM MR. ABRAHAM SHARP.<sup>1</sup>S<sup>R</sup>,

In order to the discharge of the obligation your desires (intimated to me by my brother) impos'd upon me, have this week procur'd for you and sent per John Booth the two globes you desir'd, of 15 inches diameter, made by the best and honestest workman I know in town, chosen with all the care and caution my scantling of skill could prompt, the newest and of the latest rectification extant, the price as low as any will sell. I disburs't for the globes and appurtenances £3 . 9 . 6, boxes and porteridge 5<sup>s</sup> 6<sup>d</sup>, in all £3 . 15 . 0,—he protests lower than he hath sold any, and upon tryall I know lower then (than) any other would sell; but I have been a not despicable customer to him, and in former dealings experienc't his honesty and ingenuity.

Have oblig'd the carrier to all the care possible in their conveyance that they recieve no injury. They are design'd to be with you the next week; shall be glad to hear they are come safe to hand, and in every respect answer your expectation, which I shall esteem a compensation commensurate to my labour and care. If in anything I be in a capacity to doe you

<sup>1</sup> Abraham Sharp, the astronomer of Horton. There is a long notice of him in James' *History of Bradford*, and a Life, by W. Cudworth, published in 1889. When this letter was written he was in the service of Flamsteed, the Astronomer Royal at Greenwich.

The brother he refers to was the Rev. Thomas Sharp, minister at Mill Hill.

The globes mentioned above became the cause of a very unpleasant scene in 1698 or 1699 between Thoresby and his pastor, Dr. Manlove, to whom Thoresby had sold them for the use of some young gentlemen under the Doctor's care. By the carelessness of a servant they were damaged in the removal, and Manlove lost his temper and went down to Thoresby's house, as Thoresby narrates "in such a fury as surprized my wife and family, and finding me in my library, after a few expressions of his resentment, heaved his cane, and with fury added, 'I do solemnly declare before the Great God that from henceforth I will have nothing to do with you, either for soul or body.' I had the courage to call him back, and beg of him not to give Satan advantage by so exorbitant a passion as had disfigured him to that degree that he could not be known by his countenance, and wish'd that some evil spirit was not nigher him than he apprehended; he was startled at the matter, confess'd his error, and desired to conclude with prayer, after which that I might not be behind hand with him I willingly forgave the guiney that he tendered for the damage, and took my globes again."

The real reason at the bottom of Dr. Manlove's wrath was not the damaged globes, but the gradual loosening of Thoresby's connection with the dissenting body at Mill Hill.



further service, shall gladly embrace the opportunity, and ever endeavour to approve my selfe, S<sup>r</sup>,

Your serv<sup>t</sup> intirely at command,

ABRA: SHARP.

Hen and Chickens, in the Strand,

London, April the 19<sup>th</sup>, 1684.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby, in Kirkgate in Leeds, Yorkshire.")

FROM MRS. FRANCES FRANKLAND.<sup>1</sup>

4 August, 1684.

S<sup>R</sup>,

In discharge of the trust reposed in mee, together with my unfained respects to your selfe and sister, canot bee silent but disclose my feres. I need not tell you your sister's free temper which may expose her to inconveniences if not timly prevented: not to detain you any longer from what I here intend, ther is a gentleman who pretends a kindness to your sister, but wheather reall or pretence only the sequell will make appeare. I confess I am apt to suspect the worst, which is most safe considering the generall praktis of such in our age; shee is young and a litle too free of both company and discorse. I have given my advise to her as to this busines, and have had fair promises from her, but do not find them at all binding, nor doth shee incline to her worke. To denie her to walk as the rest would make it publickly noted and so reflect on her as too forward, and the company that she might bee intrusted with shee declines, nor can I spare my daughter often as is nesessary for ther walking. If I should denie her walking as usiall it would be interpreted by him, and so shee would be exposed to the discorse of the whole clubb of the loose company: shee hath gotten acquaintance with some ordinary persons that dwell in the rode of the gentlewomen's usiall walk wher it is impossible for mee to prevent her meeting of him, hee tabls with an Aunt in town hath an estate of too

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Frankland was the proprietress of a ladies' school in Manchester, where Thoresby had placed his sister Abigail, who was born in 1668. Perhaps Thoresby's visit to his sister recorded in the *Diary*, i, 176, was in connection with the affair alluded to in this letter.



hundred the yere within some few mils of the town ; if he be reall as I tell her hee may apply himselfe to you. I have said nothing to her of a remove, but do beleve it nessessary and for her advantage and creditt too, wheather hee be reall or not, nor dare I say anythinge of a remove either for her owne sake or mine, and desir you will be very cautious of speking for the world was ever apt and too much inclinde to ill interpretacions. Mr. Wadsworth was here this day your good friend. I with a tie to secresie discorsed him my thoughts ; he is of my judgment, a remove is safest in all respects, and so the gentleman may be disapointed if not reall,<sup>1</sup> and shee come of [off] with creditt, though myself with losse both in respect of her company in which I have delight and aduantage, which is the greater at this time now lying vnder the persecuting hand of my enemies, with good Mr. Newcome, and I am like to be made the first example of the kind of any of my imployment in England,<sup>2</sup> ther threats are most cruell, and one adversary hath the advantage of many frinds now: yett I blese God I am not cast down, knowing whom I trust ; the Lord Omnipotent raigns who limmitts ther (? bowe). Hee hath heatherto disapointed them, and if not wholly keep of (off) the strook yett make it more easie than they intend or would have it. I desire with holy David to submitt and resign my selfe to what seems good in His one (own) eyes, but shall not detaine you any longer than with my respects to conclud,

Your obliged Serv<sup>t</sup>,

FRANCES FRANKLAND.

Mrs. Wadsworth was so out of order with her outbreack that both Doctor and myselfe thought good to chang the air. All our Leeds gentlewomen<sup>3</sup> are well, thanks be to God ; my respects to ther parents. Your sister hath bene my bedfellow this 3 weeks, she knows nothing of this.

(Addressed " These to Mr. Ralfe Thorsby at his house in Leeds.")

<sup>1</sup> Apparently the gentleman was not " reall," as Miss Abigail Thoresby was married the following year to Mr. Benjamin Briggs, of " Bridgate," Leeds, a goldsmith, whom Thoresby calls " a lovely, modest, sweet-humoured gentleman." He died of a fever a few months after his marriage, and his widow afterwards married the Rev. Richard Idle, of whom hereafter.

<sup>2</sup> This refers to the proceedings then being taken against Dissenters. The Rev. Henry Newcome, of Manchester, was an ejected minister. He died in 1695.

<sup>3</sup> *i.e.* pupils.

FROM THE REV. JOSEPH BOYSE.

Dublin, Sept 20, [16]84.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

After long expectation to hear from Leeds, I had a line or two from you at the bottom of Mrs. Halliday's note, which was dated indeed June 17<sup>th</sup>, but was till the end of October<sup>1</sup> in travelling to mee. I was glad to hear of your health and the rest of my friends. You had received an answer from mee before this if a messenger or two on whom I depended had not fail'd mee. Most of these three last weeks I have been in the country, and being now return'd to town I resolv'd rather to putt you to the charges of a post-letter than incurr again so hard a censure as was pas't on my former delay. And yet I am almost averse to give you the trouble of a scribble wherein I have little to write but that I am well. For the Mons.,<sup>2</sup> I am asham'd I can still give you no better account: my own eyes will not serve mee at the usuall distance of inscript[ions]. The gent. of whom I beg'd the favour told mee hee would as soon as hee had copied them legibly and added some others to them he would (*sic*) bring them, but I have not since mett him nor know whether hee be at present in town or no, but have ever since expected his promise. I have not travell'd far enough into the country to give you any account of it. Of the towns here in Leinster (excepting those that are cittys or county-towns, which are not equall to most of our country markett towns) I can give you no better description then (than) that they are made up of a castle with a few cabins surrounding it. The master of the former almost everywhere an English gent.; the inhabitants of the latter most Irish, whose livelyhood do's almost wholly depend on a cove and potato-bed. The castles (mostly ruin'd) are so numerous that one would think the people formerly liv'd in Hobbs' state of warr, no man of estate thinking himself secure that had not a castle over his head. But, not to abuse your time with trifles, I have enquir'd of the historys written of this country and find none that are not usuall in England. Here came out lately the History of the Councell of Trent, written by Mounsieur Jurien, a French divine

<sup>1</sup> Surely there is some mistake here; Mr. Boyse could hardly be referring to a note which had reached him nearly eleven months previously. Perhaps for "October" we should read "August."

<sup>2</sup> Monuments.



I saw at Rotterdam. 'Tis, if I mistake not, the epitome of Padre Paolo, and, as farr as I could judge upon an hasty perusall, very well done . . . . .<sup>1</sup>

Sr,

Your affect. obliged fr<sup>d</sup> and serv<sup>t</sup>,

J. BOYSE.

(The address-sheet has been detached.)

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FROM MR. RICHARD CHOLMLEY.<sup>2</sup>

DEARE SIR,

I being from home when yours came, could not make you that quick returne you desired. I should be glad to waite on you and Mr. Gunter, but I forsee the difficulty, Mr. Gunter being a man of business, and if I should sett a time to goe to his house it's ten to one he will be abroad, and so I should put you and myself to trouble, without obtaining our end: therefore, Sir, if you will please to writte alone to him that he would sett his owne time that he will lett us enjoy his company—either at his owne house or at Whetherby, which place I rather wish to meet him at—I would endeavour to observe his appointment. Sir, I hope you and I shall always so sympathise one

<sup>1</sup> The remainder of the letter is merely a request to Thoresby to pay out small sums of money to two or three persons.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Cholmley was the father of the young lady Thoresby at this time had been anxious to marry (*Diary*, i, 176; *Corr.*, i, 64). Thoresby apparently had not taken the very broad hint conveyed in Cholmley's letter to him, dated the 25th October previously (see *Correspondence*, i, 64), but had made further efforts in his suit. However, the letter printed above ended the matter, as appears from Thoresby's reply, a copy of which is endorsed on it, and which runs as follows:—

“HON<sup>d</sup> SIR,

The tart conclusion of yours of the 6th Ins<sup>t</sup> explicates the former part, and the event of a Weatherby meeting may thence easily be prognosticated, so that I judge it needless to give yourself and Mr. Gunter (who is a man, as you write, of much business) any further trouble about the concern, and though I once desired it above anything in the world, yet am now resolved to submit to your counsell, which had been more acceptable had it been given more seasonably before things had been brought to so great a height. I desire you would, by the bearer, send the imperfect account so hastily taken from him who is truly sorry to observe so tart and causeless reflections drop from the pen whence nothing but candour was expected by

Your humble servant,

R. T.

My service pray to your whole family, especially to your lovely daughter. If Mr. Str[etton] was misinformed, it was not by me or any by my order, either directly or indirectly, but whether your smart expressions (not to say

with the other that neither pittie shall be awanting when we know each other's troubles nor joy for the prosperity that is granted to us,—and truly, Sir, my disapointment doth call for some compation when so good a friend as Mr. Streton judges me for to occation that the mouths of men should be opened to speake evil of me or my profession, when I know nothing but my paternal care can cause it, and my wrong information from ———.<sup>1</sup> I confess as for yourselfe the more I knew you I was the more satisfied of the good I had heard of you: but, Sir, its pettie if you should bring yourself into the condition that you cannot avoid either too much carefulness or suffer for want of what your condition calleth for, presuposeing you to have a wife and litle silver with her and many children by her. Therefore lett my counsel be acceptable and take your two thousand pound Mrs.: for assure yourself, Sir, money was alwayes the saffest way and soonest to read (rid) ones selfe from the tormenting paines of that purgatory you mention. I need not tel you these lines come two heastily from

Your humble servant,

RI: CHOLMLEY.

I desire that my service may be given to Mr. Wilson.

Sprustie, the 6<sup>th</sup> Decr, 1684.

(Addressed "These to Mr. Ralph Thursby, merchant, at his house in Leeds.")

taunts) be a comment upon the Scripture (to the afflicted compassion should be shown) I leave you to judge."

Thoresby was apparently nettled at Mr. Cholmley's remark about a "two thousand pound Mrs.," in a letter to the Rev. John Gunter (named in Cholmley's communication above) reporting the result of the affair, he declares that he never mentioned "a two thousand pound Mrs." He admits, however, that his friend, Mr. Thomas Wilson of Leeds, who accompanied him on a visit to Spruisty, might have done so with reference to his (Wilson's) sister-in-law, Anna Sykes, who, in Thoresby's words, "might be worth that, and as much again if her father please, and I think indeed he hinted to Mrs. Cholmley that both hee and his father had desired such a thing; but I never had the presumption to mention above a thousand pounds, and I would hope it is not impossible to obtain it." Thoresby fell in with Mr. Wilson's suggestion, and married Miss Anna Sykes in the February following. Mr. Gunter was Lord Wharton's Agent at Healaugh, and he seems to have acted as intermediary in the proposed Cholmley match. Mr. Stretton had strongly recommended Thoresby to Mr. Cholmley.

In a note subsequently endorsed on Mr. Cholmley's letter, Thoresby gives a characteristic explanation of the termination of the Spruisty affair—"the bottom of the matter was [that] a gentleman of a greater estate presented his service (a Justice of Peace and, I think, Parliament man) who married her, but she, poor unhappy lady, had but a short and uncomfortable life with him."

<sup>1</sup> Sic in the letter.



FROM MR. JOHN DICKONSON.<sup>1</sup>

DEARE COZEN,

Yours received. I have bought cloth for your suit, silk to lyne it, a beaver blak hat, cravatt, periywig, stockings, etc.—sent them in with your suit made up to Mrs. Wright's lodging on Thursday night that the[y] might be carefully pack't up with the things she bought for your Mrs., to send away in one box, as you directed, on Fryday morning, which I doubt not but shee has done and given you notice by whom the[y] are sent. Your letter should a' come to my hands on Munday, but it was Tusday noone ere I received it. As soone as I received it I communicated the contents to my wife and sister,<sup>2</sup> who weare mighty glad to heare of this affaire like to issue soe well with you. I said surely these things could not be done this week, but my sister was soe taken with the buissines as if it had beene her owne child shee cold not [have] beene more glad. Imediatly she goes to Mrs. Wright; when she came their (there), the gentlewoman was just goeing to buy the silk for the gowne and pettycoat, etc. My sister went with her to her owne house without Ludgate, which is lett to a mercer. She came home, and enquiring by the way for Mr. Dorington, he was gone to a fuenerall to Hackney, and would not be in towne while next morning. Said I, "then it cannot be done this week." "Yes," sayes she, "it must be done and shall be done, for Mrs. Wrigh (*sic*) send away her things on Fryday." It was Wedensday noone ere Mr. D. came home: meane time I had beene att the draper's and pitch't on the cloth, which I am assured is as good as any in England. Sister bought the same silk to lyne it your Mrs.' gowne is of, and the one suits the other mighty well, and I doubt not but coller

<sup>1</sup> This letter is not dated, but Thoresby has written on the back "Mr. John Dickonson, Jan."; and lower down, "1685" is written. Thoresby was married in February, 1684, and there can be little doubt that he had employed Mr. Dickonson (or Dickinson—it is spelt both ways in the *Ducatus*) to purchase his wedding suit in London. This letter enables us to picture him as he came out of Ledsham Church with his bride, in the hat which was "big enough," the silk stockings without clocks, muslin cravat, cuffs, and periwig.

As previously mentioned, Mr. John Dickonson was the relation with whom Thoresby was staying in London when his diary was commenced in 1677 (see *Diary*, i, page 1).

<sup>2</sup> No doubt Mr. Dickinson's sister-in-law, Mrs. Madox, mother of Thomas Madox, the Historiographer Royal, author of the *History and Antiquities of the Exchequer*, etc.

(colour) will please you. When Mr. Dorington came home, sister told him our circumstances, and strait said he "it shall be done, and well done, and in time, or I will have as many workmen more than I have." The bla[ck] beaver hatt I hope is a good one, and will fitt, tho' you gave me noe directions for widenes, but I bought it big enough, I thing (*sic*), that if it be a little too big you may putt a linnen (lining) in it. I delivered Mr. Dor. the measure; he sayes it agrees with his owne, onely the shoulders is made broder then (than) Coz. Collins', which I am sure yours is not soe, in that he followed his own measure, and not his from the country. The stockings suits very well; collered clocks and tops of stockings are out of fashon, soe that these are all of a collar, but the[y] are long ones to roule as those that have collered tops. Mr. Dor. did not buy gold buttons, but frost buttons, that he assures me are more fashionable: all things are very grave and genteele, and I hope will please. I bought the periwig of Mr. Clak in our street; he sayes he has used me very well. I bought the beaver of a young man Mr. Dor. caryed me too (to). I told him if he would bee faithfull to me and use me well he should have my custome. Mr. Dor. sayes he is very honest. I told him if he had cheated me he wronged himselfe more than me. The hatband and cravatt ribin sister bought of Mr. Pelcome. I shalbe glad to heare the[y] come safe to your hands. I shall not intertaine you att this time with any more lynes from me to tell you how glad I am you have obtained your desire, and I hope God has gone a long with you in it, because I have onely roome below to sett downe the particullers what I have disburs't for you, which is (*viz.*):

For 2 y <sup>ds</sup> and $\frac{1}{2}$ an $\frac{1}{2}$ q <sup>tr</sup> at 18 <sup>s</sup> per y <sup>d</sup>	02 : 07 : 00
For 6 y <sup>ds</sup> silk for lynning at 7 <sup>s</sup> 6 <sup>d</sup> per y <sup>d</sup>	02 : 05 : 00
For a bla[ck] beaver . . . . .	02 : 11 : 00
For hat band and cravatt knot . . . . .	00 : 10 : 00
For muslin cravatt and cuffs . . . . .	00 : 7 : 03
For a pair silk stocking, 12 <sup>s</sup> 6 <sup>d</sup> : thrid sto. <sup>3s</sup>	00 : 15 : 06
For a periwig, 28 <sup>s</sup> . . . . .	01 : 08 : 00
Mr. Dorington's bill inclosed . . . . .	03 : 18 : 00

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14 : 01 : 09

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I have not yett seen Mr. Sle to shew him what you writ to me in the two last letters, nor can I give you any account about the Marter<sup>1</sup> book. Mr. Dorington sayes cloks (? cloaks) are not much ussed, but if anything of that nature its a large shoulder coat with sleves as long as coat, but being toward summer he advisses me lett it alone. You may please to pay the money I have disburs't for you to Rev. Jos. Jackson. Pray cutt off[f] the bottom of Mr. D. bill, and deliver what I have their (there) writ to Jos. Jackson. What I have of newes you have in what I have writ to him.

I am,

Yours,

JOHN DICKONSON.

(The address-sheet is wanting.)

FROM MR. HENRY GYLES.<sup>2</sup>

22<sup>nd</sup> of March, [16]8<sup>6</sup>.

MR. THERISBY,

I have sent you your armes which I hope will please you, and when you place them up in your window give your glazier a caution not to lay any oyle or plaister upon them. Am your very humble servant,

H. GYLES.

The armes . . . 00 : 10 : 00

The box . . . 00 : 00 : 06

which be pleasd to order to me at your conveniency.

(The address sheet is detached.)

FROM MRS. FRANCES FRANKLAND.

17 March, [16]8<sup>7</sup>.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I just now received yours, but can give no incorigment to the Lady as to the musick of the gittar which shee desirs her daughter may be further instructed in that musick, we have

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* Martyr.

<sup>2</sup> A noted glass-painter of York. In his later years he fell into poverty and ill-health, and there are some piteous letters from him in the second volume of the *Correspondence*, and later in the present work. There is a portrait of him in Horace Walpole's "Anecdotes of Painting."

none in town only those that teach viole or harpssicall that belongs to the church, though I have of late given very little incorigment to the learning, either to singing or musick, though a most fine accomplishment for a young Lady; I have mett with so few that had a genious that way that it hath left mee often under great dissattisfaction at the losse of time and mony, for it is not to be attained in a short time to bee an artist at any musick, and too often parents would not allow time for it, being discorигed at the hazard they run after all wheather ever attain'd or no. For dancing, I do beileue no schole in Ingland makes more good dancers, both for good grownding or fashion: for I have a very sober man to the master, takes much pains and delights in the improvement of his scholers: and for verietу of worke either needle or phansies for clossetts what is to bee had not only in Ingland I have but from other places. They have ther teaching to worke into ther borde<sup>1</sup> all but wax work, Japan, and sweetmeats, as poynt gumwork, fillagreen both boxes and pickturs of severall sorts, glaseworke both boxes and pickturs, arbors, garden of all sorts of work in them, and many other things too teadious to name, imbroydery both stays, sleves and petticots. Ther bording is ten pound the year if they stay a whole year, or if part of the year, as 6 or 9 months, then after the rate of elleuen pound the yeare: learning to dance is a crown entrance and a crown a month. They bring one pair of sheets and 3 or 4 napkins for ther one (own) use, and take them back at ther return. I am sorry and much concerned for the occasion that gives the lady the thoughts of a remove from one contrey to another: I was in hope it had not been so in any part of England, for wee have not any apearance of any in all this large parish, so that wee are unacquainted with what others see and suffer; but I have been too tedious and shall conclude with the being

Your obliged serv<sup>t</sup>,

FRANCES FRANKLAND.<sup>2</sup>

Sir, my converse is so litle with the male sex that I fear it will not lie in my pow<sup>r</sup> to be seruisable in what you mention

<sup>1</sup> i.e. the boarding terms included "teaching to worke."

<sup>2</sup> This letter is interesting as descriptive of the work and terms of a girls' boarding-school of the seventeenth century. It may be compared with the letter from Mr. George Lumley, of York, dated 6th June, 1710, *post*.



in yours, but if any oportunity it shall bee improved for your seruiss. My seruiss I pray to your sister.

(The address sheet is wanting.)

FROM MR. RICHARD THORNTON.<sup>1</sup>

5 Feb., 169<sup>g</sup>.

S<sup>R</sup>,

With my hearty thanks, I return your Somner,<sup>2</sup> and desire you would looke in your Camden's *Brit:* for a stone in Dewsbury churchyard in this Rideing, inscribed "Paulinus hic primus prædicavit,"<sup>3</sup> and send me an account thereof, and alsoe by the bearer Weaver's *Funeral Monuments*, which shall be gratefully return'd by, Sir,

Your obliged serv<sup>t</sup>,

RIC. THORNTON.

(Written on a small slip of paper, no address.)

FROM MR. RICHARD THORNTON.

7 Feb., 1690.<sup>4</sup>

S<sup>R</sup>,

Your very ingeniouise letter had received my thanks with Alfred<sup>5</sup> if I had not been engaged all yesterday. I would gladly know how the Latin Cambden represents the inscription,<sup>6</sup> for I beleive your critical observations concerning diphthongs to be very true. I heard Mr. Peables say he saw the inscription and tooke care to preserve it, but when I have forgot.

<sup>1</sup> Thoresby's great friend, a lawyer, afterwards Recorder of Leeds. He lived at Red Hall, Upperhead Row. His name occurs very frequently in the *Diary*, and his pedigree appears at page 22 of the *Ducatus*.

<sup>2</sup> Somner's *Antiquities of Canterbury*.

<sup>3</sup> Paulinus, first Bishop of York, is traditionally reputed to have visited Dewsbury, and it is said that a stone cross formerly existed there bearing the inscription "Paulinus hic prædicavit et celebravit." Thoresby mentions that he made a special visit to Dewsbury to search for the inscription, but without success.

<sup>4</sup> 169<sup>g</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> *The Life of King Alfred*, which Thoresby had asked the loan of.

<sup>6</sup> This no doubt refers to the alleged inscription on the stone (stated to have been the successor to the original stone set up about the time of Paulinus) in Dewsbury churchyard (see the previous letter). Mr. Peebles was a prominent lawyer of the period at Dewsbury, and the statement that he saw the inscription is of some value.

As to Somner's opinion of arches, I beleive with you that it is generally true, allowing some few exceptions (that at York for one), but I desire you to consult your B. (Bede [2] lib. cap. 14) upon the same place and you will find these words—"preparatis ergo fundamentis in gyro prioris oratorii per quadrum coepit ædificare basilicam." Now, I think the true English must be that he began to encompass the former oratory with a square, for *per quadrum* can never signifie with squared stone. I think the difference between your MS. and the printed Bede<sup>1</sup> adds very much to the authority of your MS., especially if the affectation of using Greek instead of Latin words was not fashionable in Bede's time, but has crept in since. I thank you heartily for the loane of Weever, and desire the pleasure and advantage of a frequent convers with you. I am just takeing horse, else would have enlarged.

I am, Sr,

Your obliged serv<sup>t</sup>,

RIC. THORNTON.

(Addressed "For Mr. Thoresby, this.")

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FROM ARCHDEACON NICOLSON.<sup>2</sup>


S<sup>R</sup>,

I am very much indebted to you for your so readily excusing my late neglect, and I hope now to make some atone-

<sup>1</sup> Thoresby's MS. of Bede's works is No. 10 in his catalogue of his folio MSS. (*Ducatus*, 515). The following extract from Thoresby's copy of his reply to Mr. Thornton explains the difference mentioned by the latter: "Bede, 2 lib. 14 cap., saith expressly that K. Edwin 'curavit, docente eodem Paulino, majorem ipso in loco et augustiorem de lapide fabricare basilicam' as the printed book has it, with which my ancient MS. Bede agrees verbally, save the last word, which is *ecclesiam* in the manuscript, but, as learned Selden, in his *Titles of Honor*, well observes, the monks of the later ages began to fancy the Greek, and prefer *basileus* far before the Latin *rex*, and some of the Saxon kings were stiled *Anglorum Basileus*, which makes me conjecture that in some late transcripts of Bede *basilicam* slip't in for *ecclesiam*."

<sup>2</sup> William Nicolson, Archdeacon and afterwards Bishop of Carlisle. He was a very frequent correspondent of Thoresby; many of his letters appear in the printed *Correspondence*. Thoresby calls him "the glory of my correspondents about antiquity." He visited the Museum in 1701, and wrote his name in Thoresby's Album, with the motto "non nobis sed Deo et patriæ." Dr. Nicolson was the author of the "English Historical Library," published 1696-9; the "Scotch Historical Library," published in 1702; and the "Irish Historical Library," published in 1724. Thomas Hearne, who was no friend to Nicolson, finds great fault with his books, and says that when at College



ment. Mr. Wilkinson<sup>1</sup> brings back all your curiosities, save onely the [impression of]<sup>2</sup> the seal of St John of Beverley, for which I thank you. I cannot read that of Kirkstall; the onely thing to me discernable in it being the pourtraicture of the Virgin Mary with our Saviour in her arms. The small glass seal (which you believe to be Saxon) is thus inscribed , which I take to be the old cypher for JESUS CHRISTUS. The rest are all Roman, and pretty common. The brass seal you have doubtless read very right, and you would oblige me if you would send me your thoughts on that of St John of Beverley, which I am (I confess) puzzell'd with. I have given you my thoughts of your coins, which (especially on that with the Runic characters) I hope will be grateful. I have also made some few remarks on your own excellent collections, and have sent you rude draughts of some Roman and Runic monuments, which will be new to you. I have ventur'd to write my readings of the several inscriptions in your father's book on the opposite (or the same) page with every monument. Onely that in your own custody I cannot yet thoroughly explain, but as soon as I am able will give you some account of it. Mr. Wilkinson and I have not rightly understood one another in the discourse we had about Leeds. I told him I could shew it was once the residence of some of our Saxon Monarchs. All this you know, and more than I can tell you. If any thing herewith sent you be acceptable to you, I hope it will prevail with you to furnish me with a catalogue and the inscriptions of your other Saxon coins; then (*sic*) which nothing can be more grateful to

Sr,

Your most oblig'd and faithful servant,

WILL: NICOLSON.

Salkeld, Sep: 9, 1691.

(No address on the address-sheet.)

he "had the reputation, and not undeservedly, of a drinking fellow and boon companion." But Hearne was too prejudiced to be a reliable witness as to anyone opposed to him in politics or religion. The above is the missing letter alluded to in Mr. Atkinson's *Ralph Thoresby*, i, 331.

<sup>1</sup> "Up early, writing to the Archdeacon of Carlisle about antiquities per parson W. of A., by whom sent some coins and inscriptions" (*Diary*, i, 209). The parson in question was the Rev. Christopher Wilkinson, of Armley.

<sup>2</sup> Interlined by Thoresby.



FROM ARCHDEACON NICOLSON.

S<sup>R</sup>,

The ill state of health which both myself and all my poor family have been lately in has made me trespass upon a great many of my friends. Among others, you might justly have expected an earlier acknowledgement of the receipt of your kind letter and token by Mr. Wilkinson; but an unmannerly ague kept me from the payment of that and many other debts of the like kind. The distemper is now so much over with me that I resolve (God willing) to be at Leeds soon after our Assizes are done, about the middle of next month, which I hope will be a time when I may meet with you at home. I had lately a letter from an ingenious gentleman in Oxford (Mr. Lloyd),<sup>1</sup> who is about to publish a Discourse concerning Formed Stones.<sup>2</sup> He desires me to furnish him with some of the several bones (especially the teeth and vertebræ of the back) of the wolf-fish, which is taken very plentifully on your Eastern coasts, but rarely mett with in our Western seas. If you have any correspondence at Hull or other places of that coast, I would beg the favour to procure me some of these bones, against the time I purpose to wait on you. Old Mr. Obadiah Walker<sup>3</sup> has lately publish'd a little book in 8<sup>vo</sup> intitul'd "The Greek and Roman History illustrated by coins and meddals, etc.," which, I am well assur'd you will think very well worth your perusal. There is not (perhaps) a nimbler man in England at explaining of the Greek and Roman coins than this old gentleman; and he has in this small piece reveal'd a great deal of his skill. You will please to give my service to Mr. Thornton, and all Mr. Wilkinson's family. How the time mention'd will suit with your convenience be pleas'd also to signify in a line to,<sup>4</sup>

S<sup>r</sup>,Your most affect. and faithful serv<sup>t</sup>,

WILL : NICOLSON.

Salkeld, Jul. 9, 1692.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house in Leeds in Yorkshire. Post p<sup>d</sup>.")

<sup>1</sup> Edward Lluyd or Lloyd, the Welsh antiquary. Thoresby was not able to obtain bones of the "wolf-fish," and in a subsequent letter the Archdeacon suggests that it was perhaps identical with the catfish.

<sup>2</sup> Fossils.

<sup>3</sup> See *post*, p. 31.

<sup>4</sup> The Archdeacon did not pay the promised visit, owing to the illness of one of his children (see the *Correspondence*, i, 123).

FROM DR. NATHANIEL JOHNSTON to .....<sup>1</sup>  
 S<sup>R</sup>,

I pray give my kindest respect to my worthy friend Mr. Thoresby, and let him know that the troubles I have had and yet continue upon me render me unable to finish my *Antiquities*<sup>2</sup> so soon as I wished; but I am every day doing something, but cannot get time, without disordering other matters, to collect any particulars till the method of my proceeding bring me in cours to it. Let him likewise know that there is a learned friend of mine who hath a manuscript in Latin of the same author's doing who writt the quarto booke *De Hominio*,<sup>3</sup> which he once lent me to be perused by a Scotch nobleman, and this gentleman is desirous to print it with this other manuscript. Therefore, I make it my earnest request that he will lend it for so good an use, and it may be sent to Mr. Ross, who may take security for its restoring safely, with all imaginable thanks and a printed booke likewise. I pray desire him not to deny me this request, and to send it as soon as he can. Thus with my kindest respects to yourself and Mr. Thoresby and your cousin, I remaine, Sir,

Your very faithfull freind and servant,  
 N. JOHNSTON.

February 11<sup>th</sup>, 1692<sup>3</sup>.

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FROM LORD WHARTON.<sup>4</sup>

9 June, 1693.

There is two boxes this day sent by this carryer with eighty Bibles and Assemplye's catechisms and eight books of Alleyne's and eight Ley's catechisms and twenty shillings and eight shillings in silver.

<sup>1</sup> This letter was not written to Thoresby, but as it relates almost wholly to him, it is inserted here. The address-sheet is detached, and there is nothing to show to whom the letter was written.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Johnston had the design—never fulfilled—of writing the history of Yorkshire.

<sup>3</sup> This was No. 134 of Thoresby's MSS., as calendared in the *Ducatus*, page 533. At the same page Thoresby remarks that the work was translated into English, and printed in 1693, with the title of "Scotland's Sovereignty Asserted."

<sup>4</sup> Philip, 4th Lord Wharton. From the year 1690 he caused a yearly distribution of Bibles, etc., to be made to deserving children in Leeds and other places, and, under his will, this was continued by his Trustees after his death. Thoresby acted as a distributor of the books in Leeds.



I desire you to deliver each of the Assemblies catechisms about the second or third Tuesday in July unto the children you intend them for, and let them and their parents know that if they do in some good measure learn to say their said catechisms or as much thereof as they can betwixt this and October following, they shall then each of them have a Bible given to them.

Your loving frend,

P. WHARTON.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thursby att Leades, with two boxes each number 40.")

FROM MESSRS. CHURCHILL AND SWALL, PUBLISHERS,  
LONDON.<sup>1</sup>

S<sup>R</sup>, June 29, 1693.

Yours of the 26<sup>th</sup> came safe to our hands, for which we are extremely oblig'd to you. We presently imparted it to Mr. Walker,<sup>2</sup> late of University Coll., Oxon., who takes care of that part of Camden which relates to the coins. He sayes your father was so obliging formerly, upon putting out K. Alfred's Life, to lend him some coins, some of which he had ingraved, which are now in that work.<sup>3</sup> Upon his instigation, we are to desire you to favour us with a sight of yours, which if you please to send up to any freind in London we will give security for their safe and unprejudic'd return to your hands, with all thanks imaginable due for so generous a favour which we are the more bold to ask since you have in a manner promis'd it to us already. On the reverse of this letter<sup>4</sup> you will see our design not only as to . . . .<sup>5</sup> of coins but the carrying on of the rest of the work, to which, with submission, we refer you. We should be extremely glad if the inscription of your altar<sup>6</sup> could be taken, which we would endeavour to

<sup>1</sup> They were the publishers of the new edition of Camden's *Britannia*, then being prepared under the editorship of Edmund Gibson. Thoresby's assistance had been requested in the preparation of the work, and he became a large contributor.

<sup>2</sup> Obadiah Walker, who has been previously named (page 6 *ante*; see also p. 31 *post*). He was now old, and in poor circumstances.

<sup>3</sup> See *ante*, p. 6.

<sup>4</sup> The sheet referred to has been detached.

<sup>5</sup> Part of this word torn off; the first letters are "ma."

<sup>6</sup> See *Ducatus*, p. 556.



have solv'd, but desire also its figure and measure, as also the inscriptions of the other three. We are very much oblig'd to severall gentlemen who have imparted their judicious collections and observations to us, from all parts of England, to all whom we shall take care to do justice, and will not spare for any cost or charge to render the book equall to our Proposals, if it doe not exceed them. We have one favour more to beg, which is that if you hear of any other of your neighbouring gentlemen that have any thing may be of use or advantage to our undertaking, you would please to use your interest for their imparting it,—which will considerably add to the obligations you have already laid upon, Sr,

Your very humble servants,

A. CHURCHILL & ABEL SWALL.

(Addressed "For the much honoured Ralph Thoresby, Esq<sup>re</sup>, at Leedes, Yorkshire.")

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FROM THE REV. JOSEPH BOYSE.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

I received yours, and as to what you propose shall return you this short answer—I heartily thank you for your good opinion of mee, which must be farr above what I deserve, when you propose such a thing to mee as succeeding so excellent a person as Mr. Sharp<sup>1</sup>; but I must peremptorily desire you to suppress any further mention of it, for the reasons I shall now subjoyn. I am here fix't with a people to whom I am link't by affection and obligation,<sup>2</sup>—I could not so much as come over without acquainting 'em with the design of it, and this would be downright murder. Besides, here I am sure my labours have found undeserved acceptance and some success (tho' that 'tis no greater is my shame and trouble bec[ause], I fear, my fault), I have no ground to expect it elsewhere. My way of preaching was never yet lik't by any till they were habituated to it, and if I should come over to be rejected I should buy the experiment of a change very dear. I remember our Lord's observation what respect a Prophet must expect in his own countrey. But to tell you the main reason, I have

<sup>1</sup> The Rev. Thomas Sharp, minister at Mill Hill, died in the previous August.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Boyse had been appointed one of the ministers of a chapel in Wood Street, Dublin.

no prospect of doing that service any where else that I have here. My generall acquaintance and conversation, the joynt care of our young candidates with the rest of the ministers here, and many other circumstances, give me that opportunity of usefullness here which I cannot propose elsewhere. And indeed, should I attempt a removall, I must resist downright force and violence, for little less would bee used by my friends here. And I fear I am like to have some new and unpleasant work cutt out, for Dr. King, now Bishop of Derry, has newly publish't a Discourse concerning the Inventions of Men in the worship of God, from the charg whereof hee endeavours to clear the Establish't Church, retorting it with great severity on the Dissenters, especially those of his own Diocese, to whom in the conclusion hee particularly addresses himself, both ministers and people: and in that address he advises 'em to warn the people against the Independent principles layd down in the late writings of Mr. Baxter, Dr Owen, Mr. Humphreys, Mr. Lob, Mr. Boyse, Mr. Alsop, and Mr. Clarkson<sup>1</sup>: I give you 'em in his own order, so that you see I am honour'd with excellent company. The answering the book belongs to the Ministers in the North, but I reckon a postscript will be expected from mee, so farr as I am concern'd. Hee has indeed manag'd the subject with all the advantage that witt and language can give it, but truth will be too hard for any man. My service to all friends.

I am, Sir,

Your affectionate humble servant,

Dublin,

J. BOYSE.

Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>, [16]9<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby, at his house in Leeds, Yorkshire.")

FROM THE REV. OLIVER HEYWOOD.<sup>2</sup>

Jan: 29, [16]9<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>.

HONOURED AND DEAR SIR,

Once at last I restore to you your manuscript of Memoirs and worthy collections, with a thousand thanks for

<sup>1</sup> All prominent dissenting ministers of the period.

<sup>2</sup> It is not necessary to write much respecting this celebrated seventeenth century minister. He was an old friend both of Thoresby and Thoresby's father. His *Diary* has been published in four volumes, under the editorship of Mr. Horsfall Turner. He died in 1702.



the loan of it. Your ingenious care and industry is highly to be commended. I wish all gentlemen would so improve their time: it's fit persons of honour, piety, and learning should have their names transmitted to posterity. I have read most of them, but transcribed only the Yorkshire ministers, and being busy otherways have kept it longer than I intended, for which I beg your pardon—*hanc veniam damus petimusque vicissim*. Good Sir, hasten what depends on your part for Cambden's *Brittannia*; I hear some gentlemen travel through Engl[and] to make further collections. Is there nothing of the truly Reverend Mr. Sharp's Remains fit for the presse?<sup>1</sup> God Almighty bless you and yours and supply your publick vacancies. My humble service given to your double self, worthy father,<sup>2</sup> mother Sykes, etc.

Your obliged friend,

OL. HEYWOOD.

(Addressed "These for his worthy friend Mr. Ralph Thorsby, at his house in Leeds.")

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FROM MR. THOMAS JACKSON.<sup>3</sup>

HONOURED S<sup>R</sup>,

Since my last, I received a letter from Mr. Stretton, intimating that you had written to him to send mee £3, which he has done already. I humbly thank you for so great a testimoniall of your love, which put me into a better capacity to take my degree, which I did on Thursday last, which I know is sooner than they take itt in England, yet is not refused here to any who have passed through a course of Philosophy and upon examination are found competently quallify'd, if their misdeamenours exclude them not. The ships I mentioned in my last,<sup>4</sup> with the forces designed for Flanders, are not yet sail'd, but lye in the Firth; there will be about 54 or 55 of them, but after they are gone their (*sic*) goes another fleet shortly after. The easterly wind that has been this 8 or 10

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Thomas Sharp, late minister at Mill Hill.

<sup>2</sup> Thoresby's father-in-law, Richard Sykes.

<sup>3</sup> A young divinity student whom Thoresby had befriended. He was a nephew of the Rev. Joseph Boyse.

<sup>4</sup> Doubtless the letter printed in the *Correspondence*, i, 158.



days detains them. Last Sabbath they were for sailing, the men-of-war and the Castle firing their guns severall times, but the wind turned easterly again. They have on board Lesly's, Hamilton's, Brewer's, Buchan's, and Strathnaver's regiments of foot, besides a great many recruits: it's thought in all they will be above 8,000 men. Since my last, also, the Bass (a rock in the sea over against Dunbar, which used to be a sort of prison) was surrender'd. It was seized by some of those that were prisoners, about two years since, and has been kept by them since for K. James' interest: there are a good many arms brought out of itt, and put into the Castle. In hopes, Sir, of having the honour of a line from you, with my humblest thanks for all your undeserved favours conferr'd upon mee, I am, Sr,

Your humblest and most obliged servant,

THO. JACKSON.

Edenbro, Aprill the 28<sup>th</sup>, 1694.

(The address-sheet is wanting.)

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FROM THE REV. RICHARD STRETTON.

London, May 5, 1694.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

I received yours, and must desire you to pay these following summs to the persons named and gett them [to] send acquittances in the old form for so much money received from the Trustees of the Honbl<sup>e</sup> Lady Armine deceased<sup>1</sup>; viz. Mr. Dawson £2, Mr. Johnson £1, Mr. Hawdon £1 10 0, Mr. Denton £1 10 0. The £3 in Mr. Jackson's hands (which he also told me of) may go towards part, and the rest I will take care to convey it to you. I am glad to hear that Mr. Manlove is resolved to settle with you.<sup>2</sup> It's said the M[arquis] of Carmarthen hath chosen to be Duke of Leeds, but how much that will honor or advantage your town I know not, but I hope and beleieve the former will do both. As for the busines of registring, no statute law ordained it, but it was a good ecclesiasticall constitution made by Cromwell when Vicar Generall, in Hen. 8's

<sup>1</sup> See *Diary*, i, 308.

<sup>2</sup> As successor to Mr. Sharp at Mill Hill.

time<sup>1</sup>: so that the common nor statute law doth not enforce them to it: But the honest lawyers say they are madde that they cannot persecute Dissenters as formerly, and putt them to all the trouble they can, and will still shew their teeth though they cannot bite. But they advise the Dissenters to gett Registers of their own, and gett the registering attested by some good witnesses present at the baptizme, and it will be enough. And as for the buriall of your dead, if they will not do it as was customarie, you may gett burying places of your own, and never trouble them; you have a good one allreadie by your chappell. If they demaund their fees they will trouble you in their Courts if you do not give them. Honest Mr. Fleming of Rotterdam, the worthy author of that excellent necessarie and usefull book stiled *The fulfilling of the Scriptures*, hath been with me this houre, and he hath some of them of a third impression, good paper and print, to putt off, and I have promised him to take off one hundred of them; I guesse they will be, bound, about 2<sup>s</sup> a booke; there are 36 sheets in a booke. If you thinke your parts would take off one score of them, I shall take care to send them. The wind is so crosse our King can't gett over. He is verie uneasie in his stay: he hath been free of his honors at his going: there is the Duke of Bedford, the D[uke] of Devonshire, the E[arl] of Clare, Duke of Newcastle, etc. My heartie love and service to you and yours and to all freinds. I commend you to God, and rest

Your assured freind and serv<sup>t</sup>,

RICH: STRETTON.

(The sheet with the address has disappeared.)

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FROM THE REV. OBADIAH WALKER.<sup>2</sup>

S<sup>R</sup>,

I know not how to bee sufficiently thankfull to you for your great civility in communicating to us part of that great treasure of antiquities in your hands, whereof we have

<sup>1</sup> The registration of baptisms, marriages, and burials.

<sup>2</sup> This man has been immortalised by Macaulay in the 6th chapter of his History. He was born in 1616. In 1676 he became Master of University College, Oxford, and he there put Romish practices openly into use during the reign of James II. Soon after the Revolution he was deprived of the Mastership, and sent to the Tower for a time. He died in poverty in 1699.



made such use as we have thought necessary or convenient to our busines. But I feare we shall have need of your candor if we have not returned exactly all and every one of your owne; for amongst so great confusion and multitude it is possible some have been changed. But could we know wherein we have failed, either by the weakness of decaying memory or eiesight, or any other way, I shall endeavour to recover your owne, or to satisfy you with something equivalent.<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, I am not satisfied with your leathern coine, which indeed is cut out of an old-fashioned covering of a booke. The coine you conceive to bee of Alexander Pyrrhi f[i]lius I think indeed to be an ancient Greek coine; I dare not particularize it, but it rather looks like Alexander Cassandri f[i]lius. Your Canutus doth not seem neer so ancient as his time, but rather to have been made after his death, how long I know not. That Rodbertus is of Robert son of Will<sup>m</sup> the Conqueror; the other is Robert Bruce of Scotland. What I had to say concerning the rest, you will finde in the Declaration, wherein is also an acknowledgment of your kindenes, tho' not according to your worth, for which also I must entreat your pardon; the reason was because the distance between us hath rend'ed you too much a stranger to us, and I dare not say anything but what I can justify. Wishing to you all health and happines, I take leave and remain, S<sup>r</sup>,

Your humble servant,

J. WILLIAMS, *alias* WALKER.<sup>2</sup>

May 12, 1694.

(The sheet is not addressed.)

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FROM MR. THOMAS RAYNER.<sup>3</sup>

DEAR BROTHER,

Yours I received lait yesternight, otherwise would imediatly [have] sent back a messenger. You tell mee your resolution is much the same as when I was at Leeds. You then

<sup>1</sup> This apology relates to the coins which Thoresby had lent for the purposes of the new Camden, the whole of which were never returned to him. Mr. Walker was responsible for the numismatic portion of the book.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Walker had been living under an assumed name. See *Diary*, i, 297.

<sup>3</sup> Thoresby's brother-in-law, husband of his wife's sister Mary.



to mee seemed steadily fixed for a voyage into Ireland,<sup>1</sup> in order to which my intension is to bee with you (if the Lord give leive) tomorrow after noon. I am sory that any person should have soe litle consideration in them as to labor to administer occasion of terror to sister<sup>2</sup> from what if duly considered hath not the least austerity in its countenance. The passaige is soe short from Holy head to Dublin that I was told by Will: Thorpe who was with me yesterday, that if wee have clear weather wee may at once discover both shores; and how impossible it is for a Privateare to bee soe much better sailer than the packet boat that wee should be able to reach neither shore before they can come up to us youre selfe or any person of honor shall bee judge. Besides that, consider how littell it will answer their paines and time to wait theare onely for the takeing a few passengers whome they are obliged to exchange without further ransome. I could multiply rationall arguments for the confutation of the suposed danger had I leasure or the time seasonable; but shall wee of all persons scruple committing the protecktion of our bodies to Him with [w]home we intrust the juells that they incloase. Know wee not that all the hairs of our heads are number'd; shall not a sparrow fall to the ground without our Father's permission, are we not of more vawew than many sparrows? It is my purpose (if the Lord please) to see Ireland; I am now partly ready, thearfore cannot but think it the most convenient time. Pray let me have your resolve.

I am,

Your truly loveing bro :

THO. RAYNER.

24 June, [16]94.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby this.")

<sup>1</sup> Thoresby's father-in-law, Richard Sykes, had died recently. His estate included some property at Wexford, which was bequeathed to Thomas Rayner's wife,—hence Mr. Rayner's desire to visit Ireland. At a later date serious disputes arose between Mr. Rayner and Thoresby respecting Mr. Sykes' estate, and Thoresby complains bitterly of the treatment he received from his brother-in-law.

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.* Mrs. Thoresby. Thoresby records in his diary that he "had some inclinations" to go to Ireland, but that he "was solicited to forbear the journey for fear of pirates." The remonstrances of his friends and the tears of his wife determined him to give up the idea. Apparently he was again contemplating accompanying Mr. Rayner to Ireland two years later, but he wrote to Mr. Joseph Boyse on 6 June, 1696, that on the importunity of his wife and friends he had again abandoned the idea because of his natural propensity to apoplexy, which Dr. Manlove had told him was "mightily increased by the sea."

FROM THE REV. JOHN MILNER.<sup>1</sup>

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

All that can be heard of concerning L<sup>d</sup> Fairfax is that he gave 50 p<sup>ds</sup> to the New building, besides that which every Fellow-commoner is wont to give, viz. a Plate; which Plate was sent to Oxford to K. Charles the First. I am glad that you are about that essay; if I live till you have finish'd it, I shall be more glad to be so happy as to peruse it. Because you are pleas'd to make it your suit, I have sent you an account of the papers that have been made publick.<sup>2</sup> They allow'd me so few copies of the last that I had not to give to my friends as I desir'd. Please to present mine and my daughter's respects to your good Lady and all friends & to accept of them yourself. I am

Your most affectionate friend and servant,

JO. MILNER.

These are the words in the Commemoration Catalogue:—  
“Honoratissimus Dom. Thomas Fairfax, Baro de Cameron, dedit 50<sup>lib.</sup>”

Conjectanea in Jsa: 9, 1-2, item in Parallela quedam Veteris et Noui Testamenti. A.D. 1673.

A Collection of the Church History of Palestine from the Birth of Christ to the beginning of the Empire of Dioclesian. '87.

A short Dissertation concerning the four last Kings of Judah. '89.

De Nethinim sive Nethinæis & de iis qui se Corban Deo nominabant apud Josephum. '90.

A defence of Archb<sup>p</sup> Usher against Dr Cary & Dr Isaac Vossius. '94.

<sup>3</sup>A discourse of Conscience, with reflections upon the Author of Christianity Not Mysterious. '97.

(Addressed: “For Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house in Leeds, Yorkshire. Post p<sup>d</sup> at Cambridge.” Seal, a lion rampant. The letter is not dated, but Thoresby has written on the back “Aug<sup>t</sup> or Sept<sup>r</sup>, 1694.”)

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Milner had been Vicar of Leeds, but retired after the Revolution, feeling unable to take the oaths to the new Government. He afterwards resided at Cambridge (see the *Vicaria Leodiensis*, p. 113).

<sup>2</sup> i.e. Mr. Milner's writings.

<sup>3</sup> This item is added in Thoresby's writing.



FROM THE REV. RICHARD FRANKLAND.<sup>1</sup>

Rathmell, Aug : 23, [16]94.

HON<sup>D</sup> DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

I can now give and shall give you such further information about the family at Threapland as I have rec<sup>d</sup> from a very honest friend, who hath used his utmost endeavour for to inform us aright. He writes that Mr. Salkeld<sup>2</sup> is a very honest morall man, one who formerly writ sermons and kept up family duty, but he hears that that is now layd aside. That he hath many children and it's thought much debt; that the young gentleman his eldest son is reported to be wild. That his estate is seaven score pounds per annum, but of that about 30<sup>li</sup> per annum is lease held under the Dean and Chapter. Thus I have given you that account I had from my friend, much w<sup>t</sup> in his own words.

Dear S<sup>r</sup>, I am much obliged to you for that great respect you ever had to my dear son<sup>3</sup> since you were first acquainted with him, and which you still have for preserving his memory. I am not onely willing but also very desireous to comply with your motion in doing something of what you mention before I dye, if the Lord give opportunity, though perhaps the work might better be performed by another free from my passions. If I could pitch on a person qualified for such work and who knew my son well I shall consider of it. Thus with very best respects and service to honoured M<sup>tris</sup> Sykes (your mother) with yourself and wife, Mr. Wilson & his wife, I take leave, who am, S<sup>r</sup>,

Your most affectionate friend and Servant,

R<sup>I</sup> : FRANKLAND.Y<sup>r</sup> nephew is very well.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Frankland was at the head of a large and well-known dissenting school at Rathmell. There is a memoir of him in Calamy, and his portrait is in Dr. Williams' Library, London.

<sup>2</sup> This part of the letter relates to the Salkelds of Threapland, in Cumberland. Mr. Salkeld's eldest son had been proposed as a suitor for Deborah Sykes, Thoresby's sister-in-law, and Thoresby had apparently requested Mr. Frankland to make some enquiries respecting the family. Thoresby and Thomas Rayner, who had married another sister-in-law, undertook a journey into Cumberland, described at great length in the *Diary* for September, 1694, to investigate the matter. The marriage did not take place.

<sup>3</sup> See *Correspondence*, i, 76.

<sup>4</sup> Under the word "nephew" Thoresby has written "Wilson." A son of Thomas Wilson, Thoresby's brother-in-law.



(Addressed "For the truly Honoured Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house in Leeds, with care deliver." The heraldic seal bears a dolphin and, on a chief, two saltires, which seems to indicate that Mr. Frankland was, or considered himself to be, connected with the Franklands of Thirkleby. He does not appear in the elaborate pedigree of that family which has been prepared by Sir Ralph Payne-Gallwey.

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FROM MR. BRIAN DIXON.<sup>1</sup>

MR. THORESBY,

I rec'd a Letter this afternoon that the Hollon (Holland) Greenland fleet is come in and brought 104 whales, beside severall other ships beside (*sic*) that are loaded alsoe, that it's beleev'd it will bringe downe the price of rape; I thought good to intymate this to you, that if you thinke it advizable to forbear any bargone for rape till you heare further.

Your affec. freind,

B. DIXON.

This in hast, from Hunslet, 11<sup>th</sup> instant Sept., [16]94.

(The address is partly cut away; it reads: "For Mr. Ralph Th . . . in Kirgate, these.")

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FROM ARCHDEACON NICOLSON.

Oct. 20, [16]94.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

I have hardly ever been at home since your kind letter acquainted me that you were safely return'd to Leedes. Nothing you met with here could, I am very sensible, deserve the acknowledgements you are pleas'd to make. I heartily wish our countrey had afforded anything truly delightful to you. If it had, your good nature and ready parts would (I am sure) have set us off with so much advantage to your fair sister-in-law that my friend needed not have languish'd under

<sup>1</sup> An old friend of Thoresby's, mentioned repeatedly in the *Ducatus and Diary*. He lived in Hunslet Lane. This letter was a hint to Thoresby with reference to the unlucky seed-crushing business he had started in conjunction with Samuel Ibbetson.

his present disappointment.<sup>1</sup> Your brother Reyner<sup>2</sup> (to whom my humble service) is too discerning a spy to be sent into a countrey of so much nakedness as ours. And yet, methinks, I should have argued quite otherwise upon the discoveries he made. If our estates are not rightly managed nor improved to the heighth, certainly (should dull I conclude) they are more valuable then (than) we are aware off. What a plentiful fortune would a little of Mr. Reyner's skill in husbandry raise out of a neglected corner of one of our demesns! But he does not intend us either of the two great blessings we fondly promis'd ourselves—his sister's person and his own good instructions. I am at the end of my allowance of time. The next return you may expect to hear (upon the old subject of antiquities) from, S<sup>r</sup>,

Yours,

W. NICOLSON.

(The address-sheet has been detached.)

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FROM MR. JONATHAN PRIESTLEY, JUNR.<sup>3</sup>

October the 27<sup>th</sup>, 1694.

S<sup>r</sup>,

The occasion of these lines is to request the favour from you to borrow Strada's *History of the Low Countrys*, which the bearer, A.L., will safely convey to me, and I will assure you it shall be carefully taken care of by me and return'd in a few weeks. At the same time I crave this courtesy of you I had intended to have gratify'd your curiosity with a small quantity of wheat, reported to be rain'd in severall places in Derbyshire, which I made it my buisnesse to procure, but though this was not only strongly reported but firmly beleived

<sup>1</sup> This relates to the proposed marriage of Deborah Sykes, Thoresby's sister-in-law; see page, 35 *ante*. The Archdeacon (whom Thoresby had visited during his journey into Cumberland) had strongly advocated the match.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Rayner, who had accompanied Thoresby on his visit to Cumberland.

<sup>3</sup> A frequent correspondent of Thoresby's and a subscriber to the *Ducatus*. Several letters from him are in the *Correspondence*. He was the eldest son of the Jonathan Priestley who wrote the account of the Priestley family printed by the Surtees Society, vol. lxxvii.



by men (and that not a few) of the best quality, yet lately travelling into those parts I find upon diligent search there was no such thing, and the true cause of the report was this,—the wheat supposed to be rained from above was only found in some select places, as upon the leads of churches and fallen down from thence, and under thick hedges, places where a sort of birds called martins and other birds also did resort, and thither they brought some quantitys of ivy berries, which after they had eaten the outermost part there remained a small seed (as hereafter upon tryall you may find) not unlike a grain of wheat, which was gathered and sent far and near, which only was the cause of that report and nothing else.<sup>1</sup> I shall not further enlarge. When I have returned Strada, it will add to those obligations you have already given mee if I may have the perusall of S<sup>r</sup> Samuel Morland's *History of Piedmont*. With my best respects and service to your selfe, I rest,

S<sup>r</sup>, Yours to serve you in what I may,

JONATHAN PRIESTLEY, Jun<sup>r</sup>.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby in Leeds these are." The seal bears a merchant's mark and I.P.)

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FROM MR. THOMAS JACKSON.<sup>2</sup>

HONOURED S<sup>R</sup>,

My designed removall hence, concurring with my own condition and the obligation I lye under of satisfying you in anything I can attain unto, puts mee upon this present troubling

<sup>1</sup> See *Ducatus*, p. 447.

<sup>2</sup> On the back of this letter Thoresby has written the following:—  
"Measures of Leedes streets."

From the Mill to Bore lane . . .	240 yards.
From Bore lane to Kirkgate . . .	160 dit.
Kirkgate to Upperhead row . . .	220 dit.
Upperhead row . . .	140 dit.
From Bar to the cistern . . .	105 dit.
From Church to Cawl Lane . . .	260 dit.
Cowlane to Briggate . . .	230 dit.
Call lane . . .	365 dit.
Nether headrow . . .	160 dit.
New Street . . .	087 dit.
Bore Lane . . .	300 dit.
Part of Mil hill . . .	094 dit.

of you, which I hope your goodness will excuse. As to what relates to your last letter to mee about coyns, I shall endeavour to get the newest if you please to suggest as much to mee. Here has been no money yet coyned since the Queen's death, nor will bee till the stamps be altered, which probably will be shortly. As for pictures, probably I may get some of the most significant of the present as well as late Nobility, such as S<sup>r</sup> George McKenzie, the late E. of Argile, the late D. of Hamilton, my L<sup>d</sup> Stairs, President of the Colledge of Justice, etc. As for Ecc<sup>l</sup> persons, I never see any of their pictures save D<sup>r</sup> Sharp's of S<sup>t</sup> Andrews. If you have a design to have any of the pictures mention'd or any other you may fancy, if you please to let mee know I shall use my utmost dilligence to get them or any other thing I can. For Historys, I could never yet see any of any moment printed lately in Scotland, the most remarkeable pieces wee have coming either from Holland or London. I see lately the 1<sup>st</sup> vol: of a book entitled Theatrum Scociæ, in fol[io], by J. Sleezer, giving an acc<sup>t</sup> of the most remarkable places in Scotland & likewise draughts of the places, but itt was printed att London, so that I doubt not but itt may bee had near as cheap again as here. Here is likewise come forth 2 pieces of D<sup>r</sup> Leighton's of Glasco, both printed att York if I mistake not. There is little encouragement here for printing, which is probably one main reason why so little is printed here. I was informed that there is a design of reprinting Buchanan History of Scotland with additions till these present times, which is undertaken by a Regent of this Colledge, and when accomplish'd will bee printed in Holland. I doubt not but if itt bee well done itt may bee a work acceptable, but I despair of seeing itt during my residence here. As for myself, I should not now have offer'd again to bee further troublesom to you, beeing conscious of my former engagements to you, far beyond expectation, did not my removall hence which, God willing, will be sometime in Aprill, put mee under a necessity of beeing more troublesom then (*sic*) willingly I would. If you please to send anything you may return itt as formerly, which if you do pray do it as soon as convenience will permitt. And as for the other things, I would bee glad that you would signifye your pleasure to mee about them, either som time in

Feb. or March at the utmost. I fear I have enlarged to (too) much already, I shall therefore presume to subscribe myself,

S<sup>r</sup>,

Y<sup>r</sup> ever obliged & most troublesom serv<sup>t</sup>,

THO. JACKSON.

Edinb: Jan. the 31, 1695.

You may direct for mee in the Colledge which I hope you will do.  
(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby in Kirkgate in Leeds, Yorkshire. P. p<sup>d</sup> to Ferry Bridge.")

FROM MR. JAMES TORRE.<sup>1</sup>

York, 18 Febr., 1695.

HON<sup>D</sup> S<sup>R</sup>,

I am now troubled with a great pain in my side, yet I hope to be so well by Monday next as not to fail Mr. Parker at Leedes towards the evening of that day, intending first to take a view of the grounds at Chap-town in my way thither. This is therefore a line to your dear self, begging the favour of your good company at that juncture, which will highly oblige

Your most humble Serv<sup>t</sup>,

JAMES TORRE.

(Addressed "To Mr Ralph Thoresby of Leedes at his house in Kirkgate in Leedes.")

FROM ARCHDEACON NICOLSON.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

I had by Mr. Wilkinson (I think) an assurance under your hand of your being alive: and by the same bearer I told you I was so too. By this time I suppose you have read Camden,<sup>2</sup> and I very much long for your thoughts of it. I

<sup>1</sup> The eminent antiquary; see *Diary*, i, 226. The letter refers to a proposed purchase by Torre of a house at Chapeltown from Mr. Parker, of Carlton-in-Craven.

<sup>2</sup> The new edition of the *Britannia*, published in 1695, to which both Nicolson and Thoresby had contributed. Apparently the Archdeacon's opinion of the finished work was not altogether a favourable one. It was edited by Edmund Gibson, afterwards Bishop of Lincoln and London. Thomas Hearne says (*Coll.*, vii, 234) that he received for editing it "20<sup>s</sup> a sheet for additions and 5<sup>s</sup> a sheet for the rest of the work, besides 10<sup>s</sup> a week for his sustenance."



have onely accidentally had the perusal of one, for two or three hours ; but am in dayly expectance of haveing one of my own, which came out of London a fortnight agoe. I do not (by any means) like the cutts, and I fear my honest friend Gibson has had too much of the load on his own shoulders. You can tell me more. I have just time to enquire, being very much in hast, and very much

Yours,

W. NICOLSON.

Apr : 29, [16]95.

(The address-sheet is detached.)

FROM DR. NATHANIEL JOHNSTON.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I was exceeding glad to heare yester night that you were come to town,<sup>1</sup> and shall be very thancfull to you for the favor of a visit at my chamber, for which purpose I desire you will leave a note with the Reverend Mr. Walker where you lodge, and I will send to you a direction how and when to finde me within, which I hope may be on Monday next at the furthest, for this weeke I have many troublesom businesses to attend about my private affairs, which will give me no determinate liberty of being in my chamber to receive so kind and valuable a friend, which is all at present (besides my humble service to the Reverend Mr. Walker) from, S<sup>r</sup>,

Your faithfull friend and servant,

May 22, [16]95.

N. J.

If Mr. S<sup>t</sup> John's chamber be enquired after at Captain Ely's house in the passage betwixt Somerset House watergate and the Savoy, you will be directed to the chamber of your friend.

N. J.<sup>2</sup>

(Addressed "For his worthy friend Mr. Ralph Thoresby ; to be left with the Reverend Mr. Walker at Mrs. Fountaines, these.")

Hearne himself had a very poor opinion both of Gibson and his *Britannia*. He writes in his diary "excepting what the learned Mr. Lhuyd of the Ashmolean Museum did, there is nothing of any great moment appearing throughout the whole book." This refers, of course, to the additions and corrections.

<sup>1</sup> Thoresby arrived in London (after a very bad journey) on May 18.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Johnston was practically then living in hiding.

FROM DR. JABEZ CAY.<sup>1</sup>S<sup>R</sup>,

A few daies since, my bro. Gilpin<sup>2</sup> bestow'd the figure of an altar with its inscription upon me, and I have here copy'd it and present the copy to you. The stone was taken out of the Roman wall about Carraw, where it now is in the possession of Mr. Forster. Procolitia, as Camden saies, was the station of the Cohors Pr. Batavor., and he placeth it at Prud-dow upon the banks of Tine, far enough from the wall, whether by mistake or no (since this altar was taken up at least ten miles from Pruddow) you that are skillfull in these matters may do well to consider. My brother has promised likewise to send you the copy of an altar in Blenkinsop Castle, as soon as leisure will permitt him. I sent to Dr. Manlove an account last post of a gross mistake committed by your friend Mr. Gibson in translating of Camden: his great obligations to you has perhaps tempted him to say too great and honourable things of Yorkshire, but in Northumberland our interest it seems in him was too little to procure bare justice from him, for Mr. Camden, speaking of Tindale and Rhodesdale, saies *utraque vallis laudatissimorum equitum altrix*, etc., which Mr. Gibson (thank him) has translated thus "both these dales breed most notable bogtrotters." Now, I would fain know why *equites* must be all knights in Yorkshire, and rascally bog-trotters only in Northumberland? But perhaps had he made Sir Ch. Metcalf's *trecentos equites* into bogtrotters, he had scar'd the Judges. Some other slips he makes in the translation, which (because he is your friend) I am sorry for. "The river Alon empties itself into Tine (*magno aquarum insultu*) with a pompous rattle"—a cunning kind of an expression; and some omissions he has been guilty of too, as pag. 849 (of the English) speaking of East Alon and Old Town, he has left out the following words, and overlook'd them quite *Floruit olim Alone quod et Alione ubi per lineam muri cohors tertia Nerviorum cum suo tribuno egit*. But to make us some amends for this, he has given us enough of Philemon Holland<sup>3</sup> throughout the

<sup>1</sup> A well-known physician of Newcastle,—a frequent correspondent of Thoresby's; born at Newcastle 1666, died 1703. There is a pedigree of the Cay family in the new History of Northumberland, ii, 298.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Cay married Dorothy, daughter of Dr. Richard Gilpin of Newcastle.

<sup>3</sup> Philemon Holland published an English translation of Camden in 1610.



whole county, whereas he has thrown him into the margent (*sic*) in the other parts of the book. Some more things I could adde concerning him if the paper would hold them, and nothing but want of room has for this time sav'd the Archdeacon Nicholson; he has so offended the Right Worshipfull and worshipfull part of this Corporation that he must never hope for a vicaridge here. My service to all friends.

Sr, your serv<sup>t</sup>,

JA. CAY.

Newcastle, August 31, 1695.

(Addressed "Mr. Ralph Thoresby in Leeds, Ferry-bridge. Postp<sup>d</sup>."

The seal is heraldic, a bend with a label of three points, but Mr. Cay uses other seals with different bearings.)

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FROM MR. JAMES IBBETSON.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>13</sup> 7<sup>ber</sup>, 1695, Rotterd<sup>m</sup>.

MR. RALPH THORESBY,

& RESPECTED S<sup>R</sup>,

I finde mysef indebted to yours acceptable of 28 8<sup>ber</sup> last which realy ought to have beene answered sooner, but want of subject has occasioned my so long silence. I returne you a thousand thancks for your good and seasonable advice; a word of caution is not to be slighted from our inferiors but much more to be reverenc'd from our superiors and is verry necessary, for God knows we live in a most sad debauched age.

We have this day advice that the French general Boufflers<sup>2</sup> is brought to Breeda; he'le have a rare opportunity to learne Dutch. The French King is mightely enraged at his being taken in arrest, and sweares he'le recompence his fury upon the acters thereof. The King<sup>3</sup> is expected at the Loo in 10 da: tyme, so that we are like to have a short campagne, occasioned partly

<sup>1</sup> Son of Samuel Ibbetson, Thoresby's partner. Ancestor of the Ibbetsons of Denton Hall. He returned home from Holland soon after the date of this letter, and a year or two afterwards married the daughter of John Nicholson, a wealthy York physician, which marriage seems to have laid the foundation of the fortunes of his family.

<sup>2</sup> Marshal Boufflers, made prisoner after the capture of Namur by William III in the previous month.

<sup>3</sup> William III.



thro' the extreame wett season. Pray my duty to father & mother, with love and service to all friends; please to accept of the same, with your lady, from, Sr,

Your obliged humbl: serv<sup>t</sup>,

JAMES IBBETSON.

I delivered your anexed letter to

Mr. Hill on receipt.

(The sheet containing the address is detached.)

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FROM DR. JABEZ CAY.

Newcastle, October 26, 1695.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I remember in my last there was mention made of the old Procolitia. I desire you would consider whether Collerton or Chollerton may not as justly lay claim to the name of Procolitia as any place; it is upon the Wall at about two miles and  $\frac{1}{2}$  distance from Carraw (where this stone lyes now)<sup>1</sup>; it is likewise at an important place, where the River Tyne interrupting the course of the Roman Wall, it was but necessary that the ford should be secur'd by makeing one of the cohorts keep that station.

If after all you think there is not much likeness in the names, you may consider whether even that be not more than there is in Corbridge for Corstopitum, and much more than there is in the Rible for makeing out Bellisama, as you may find with a great many more such guesses in Camden, or, to run to Dr Spon, whether it be not as fair to spell Procolitia out of Chollerton as to make Coos out of Stango, Lemnos out of Stalinnies, and Athens out of Setmos, and Constantinople out of Stambole: All which however strange they may seem to you at first are made out as clear as day in his *Voyage de Grece*, far beyond Hopper and K. Pepin. Thus much for antiquities.

I would desire you to send me an account what Parliament men you are like to have in Yorksh. Pray give my service to all friends, and tell Dr Manlove that Mr. Lyddel will be chosen for Durham with Mr. Mountague. We are in hopes.

<sup>1</sup> See Dr. Cay's letter of 31st August *ante*.

that Fr: Bowes (whom he knowes) will stand for Northumberland. Sir W. Blacket and Mr. Carr will be chosen without opposition for this town. Sir Henry Bellasis, a Major Generall, and the old one will be chosen for Morpeth, and Barwick cannot do ill. The County of Durham (thanks to Mr. Vane of Raby) will choose Sir W<sup>m</sup> Bowes and Mr. Lampton (*sic*).

I am inform'd by Dr Lister that there is a great deal of a thing call'd Cawk<sup>1</sup> in the lead mines that are on the edge of Lancashire, particularly in the mines that belong to one Cradock. If you could procure me any way a p<sup>d</sup> or two of it, or a small piece only, that when once I know it I may endeavour to get some from our mines nearer hand, I shall be very thankfull to you.

Sr,

Your serv<sup>t</sup>,

J<sup>A</sup>. CAY.

I sent yesterday Dr. Manlove's books by the Leeds carrier. (Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby in Leeds, Ferrybridge. Post p<sup>d</sup>.")

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FROM THE REV. RICHARD STRETTON.

London, Nov<sup>r</sup> 16, [16]95.

DEAR SIR,

I have sent you down the printed copy I have had by me some time; the written copy (which they still say was but a copy and no originall) they would still keep by them to justify the truth of the book to any curious inquisitors to whom they have referred to it in the printed book for their satisfaction. I have sent you down Mr. Brisco's papers about the Bank. I was yesterday with the Directors, and learnt something that I knew not before, viz. that persons could take up money on their lands, but in that order they were subscribed, and they that first subscribed should have the preference to those that came after. I was a little at a losse what summs of money you desired to take up, but (knowing it could be no prejudice and might possibly be an advantage) I subscribed an hundred pound per annum for you, as lying in Yorkshire; for which

<sup>1</sup> Cawk—a miner's term for native sulphate of barium (*Watts' Chem. Dict.*).

in your course you may take up 15 or £1600 at the interest of £3 . 0 . 10 per cent. You will be sent to in your order, and will be at liberty then to settle or mortgage as you please, or at liberty whether you will or not.<sup>1</sup> I got but your papers yesterday from Mr. How.<sup>2</sup> I see neither Dr Sampson nor he have added anything to them: I read over the sermon and part of the Life<sup>3</sup> with as fresh pleasure as though I had never seene them. I did not send them down till further order. Mr. How thinks (and so do I) that the sermon and life should be printed alone, and treble the number printed of them as of the other: and yet the other printed in the same volume that those that desire them may have them together; if you would have them sent, your order shall be observed by

Your assured freind and serv<sup>t</sup>,

RICH: STRETTON.

We carried it at Hampsted on Thursday last for Admirall Russell and Sir John Wolstenholme against two topping Tories by 300 voices for each, which is of considerable consequence.

(Addressed "These for Mr. Ralph Thoresby, merchant, in Leeds, with a small parcell.")

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FROM MR. JONATHAN PRIESTLEY, JUN<sup>R</sup>.

Hallifax, Aprill the 9<sup>th</sup>, 1696.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I received yours some time since, and take notice what you write. As for Mr. Sharp's book, when you have perused it I think you will be of my mind that it will not be proper to print it, nor will I ever answer the charge.<sup>4</sup> It is one Mr. Owen of Chester that is the author of that little book entituled *The validity of Presb. Ordination*, not Mr. Owen the Independent,

<sup>1</sup> This refers to the abortive scheme for a National Land Bank which was on foot at the time.

<sup>2</sup> The Rev. John Howe, a prominent London dissenting minister, formerly one of Cromwell's chaplains. He preached at Mill Hill Chapel on 11 Sept., 1692.

<sup>3</sup> Probably Thoresby's memoirs of his father.

<sup>4</sup> This probably refers to a MS. by the Rev. Thomas Sharp, of Mill Hill Chapel, who had died in 1693. In a previous letter Mr. Priestley gives his opinion that the MS. was "too virulent and satyricall."



which Party you know are for ordination by lay elders, and are in that respect quite contrary to the Presbyterians. I have enquired about Grimscar, but cannot hear of any Roman bricks dug up there in the memory of this generation, so that I do not find a possibility to answer your desires in that respect.<sup>1</sup> I have sent you a small silver coyn by your br[other] Mr. Hough,<sup>2</sup> which I met with lately, and do desire you to accept thereof; I think it hath Saxon letters on. I now also return you, by John Wells, Wanley's *Little World*, which is the last of the bookes I had of yours, and which I return you many thanks for; I allow the carrier 6<sup>d</sup> for carriage, so be sure to give him nothing. I have a great desire to borrow two bookes more of yours, viz. Burton of *Leicestershire* and Alphan's *Sea Atlas*; if you please to send one or both by the carrier, I will return you again in a small time and be very carefull of them in the interim. We have an auction here next week, of which Mr. Bentley promised to send you a catalogue, otherwise I would have sent you one myself: if there be any bookes you desire to buy, if you please to acquaint me I will buy them for you as cheap as I can,<sup>3</sup> as also for your cosen Mr. Wilson, to whom if at Leeds pray remember me and tell him I should be glad to see him here; if not, shall serve him in buying any book for him. One request more I thought to desire of you, since you have, as I perceive, a correspondence with Mr. Stretton, and that is that you would request him to write to some of the Ministers about Dartmouth to further and present us with a larger account of Mr. Flavel's life;<sup>4</sup> it is a 1000<sup>d</sup> pity's we should be put of[f] with such a scantling of it, such a worthy man as he was in his generation; I much long for such a thing, if it could be. I have ordered my *Camden* to be coloured, and will have the cathedralls and severall other cutts bound up with it and coloured also, which when done you shall (if you desire) see it, but I shall not further

<sup>1</sup> In a letter to Priestley, dated 24 January, 1696, Thoresby enquires about some Roman bricks inscribed "COH. IIII. BRE," said to have been dug up at Grimscar, near Elland, and asks Priestley if possible to procure one for the Museum.

<sup>2</sup> John Hough, who married Deborah Sykes, Thoresby's sister-in-law.

<sup>3</sup> See the following letter.

<sup>4</sup> The Rev. John Flavel, a Presbyterian minister, and author; died 1691. Much of his life was spent at or near Dartmouth.

inlarge at present. With my true love and service to you, I rest, Sir,

Yours to serve you,

JONATHAN PREISTLEY, JUN<sup>R</sup>.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby in Leeds, these are, with a book, per John Wells.")

FROM MR. JONATHAN PRIESTLEY, JUN<sup>R</sup>.

Hallifax, April . . . 1 1696.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I received yours, and now return your books Burton and Alphen, as also your auction books as in the margent (*sic*). I have been perusing Mills' Heraldry, which is a peice of curious antiquity worth more than double the price, as also Antoninus' Meditations, which I like well. I could not get Funerall Rites while I could pay for it in clept money,<sup>2</sup> and it is very dear and but a small book. As for the Abridgement of Tryalls, I can buy a new one for 10<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>, and the man that bought it lives at a distance from me. The books come to 15<sup>s</sup> 3<sup>d</sup>, so I shall return 9<sup>d</sup> [by ?] Mr. Hough, which is all at present from

Your real friend and serv<sup>t</sup>,

JONATH. PREISTLEY, JUN<sup>R</sup>.

Pray when you have an answer from Mr. S. about Mr. Flavel's life, communicate it to me.

	s.	d.
Mills' Heraldry . . . . .	3	6
Antoninus Med. . . . .	1	9
White, Defence . . . . .	0	5
Sir W <sup>m</sup> Dugdale of Arms . . .	0	7
Evelyn of Libraries . . . . .	0	8
Dugdale's Ld. Chancellors . .	0	6
Pettyt of Ireland . . . . .	0	7
Reyner's Well being . . . . .	1	3
Life Mrs. Scott . . . . .	0	8
Queen El. Favorites . . . . .	0	5

<sup>1</sup> The day of the month is obliterated by a stain. Thoresby wrote to Priestley on April 20th, thanking him for the trouble he had taken about the books, which, Thoresby remarks, are the cheapest he ever had at auction.

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.* clipped money (see the 21st chapter of Macaulay's History).

Appendix to Friendly Debt	0	7
Work for a Mass Preist and		
2 more pamphlets . . .	0	6
Whoredoms of Rome . . .	0	7
White's Sacred Law . . .	0	11
Veiv of Prelates . . .	1	2
Evelyn of Navigat. . . .	0	9*
Dutch War . . . . .	0	5
	15	3

\* An excellent peice and which I would not have parted with but to your selfe.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby in Leeds these are, with a parcel of books, per Tho. Mountain.")

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FROM THE REV. HENEAGE DERING.<sup>1</sup>

Bishopthorp, Oct : 10, [16]96.

S<sup>R</sup>,

You have taken occasion by excusing a supposed neglect towards Mr. Sharp to expresse greater respects for him than his modesty could have born upon the place. He must impute this your excesse to him to the readynesse you have always shewn in paying civilities to my Lord Archb<sup>p</sup>, and particularly in the agreeable entertainment you gave him in your study. I must needs call it such, because I have heard his Grace so often since mention the antiquities there as exceeding curious and valuable. And when I spake of his having been reported by some then present to have disesteemed them, he said it was the richnesse of your collection of coines that shewed him the poverty of his own. Surely the only dissatisfaction he shewed at that time proceeded from his being forced so soon to give over so diverting an amusement. And I must confesse I wonder any man that had so much curiosity as to come

<sup>1</sup> Secretary and afterwards son-in-law of Archbishop Sharp, and later Dean of Ripon (see Surtees Soc., vol. lxxv). The letter was in answer to one which Thoresby had written to Mr. Dering on the 21st September, containing a profuse apology for some (doubtless imaginary) neglect when Mr. Sharp (who was a relation of the Archbishop's) and Dering had called upon him. Archbishop Sharp had visited the Museum on the 31st August, 1696.



along with us into your study should want so much candor as to misrepresent anything there. Whoever he was that saw the rarities of your study and discommended them was the greatest raritie there. I am, Sr,

Your very humble Serv<sup>t</sup>,

HENEAGE DERING.

Please to give my service to all friends.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds. Pd 2<sup>d</sup>." The seal bears a horse, above (apparently) the coronet of a marquis. The Dering crest is a horse above a *ducal* coronet.)

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FROM MR. THOMAS PUTLAND.<sup>1</sup>

Dublin, 27 November, 1696.

S<sup>R</sup>,

Yours of the 4<sup>th</sup> August was long ere it came to hand, but might have been much sooner answered had not multiplicity of business prevented, and I am now led to write rather through shame then (than) leisure, and I begg your pardon for my tedious omission to acquaint you that King James haveing turn'd all the brass guns of Ireland and all the brass and copper vessells of Protestants that he could seize into coyne, viz. halfe crownes somewhat bigger than an English halfe penny, shillings broader but not so thick as a farthing, and 6<sup>d</sup>'s in proportion, it was ordered to pass current in all payments, even in Bonds and discharge of Judgments and Statutes (inso-much that if ages to come knew not the reason they would admire to be told that there was a time that men absconded to avoid receiving theire debts, as many here did), but these stocks of mettall being all spent (which he begun to coyne in June, 1689; the Proclamation was 18 June) and no circulation to bring them back into his Treasury, he call'd in all that he had coyned, and the halfe crownes which before were stamp't with a face were restamped with his effigies on horseback (as that sent you) and then paid out to those who brought them in as *crownes* and the smaller coynes were melted downe and recoyned under the same denominations but with less mettall. After the turne was served by this stratagem, he had not wherewithall to import copper and brass, but for want of it he fell foul on the peuter dishes.

<sup>1</sup> The name is printed Purland by mistake in the *Ducatus*, p. 384n.

etc., and the peece I sent you of that mettall was coyned for 5<sup>s</sup>, and the Proclamation to make it passable was as ready as the stamps, for it was prepared, but King William passing the Boyne (the battle at the Boyne was 1 July '90) prevented their proclaiming it;<sup>1</sup> there was very little of it coyned, for our Government could meet with none of it untill one day romaging all their tinkerly treasure that they left behind them in Dublin when they were routed, by accident I met with one bagg of 150 of those peeces, which I have still by me, not haveing distributed 10 of them, so that the peece I sent you, altho' its of no value, its a rarity, and had I thought it would have been acceptable I would have sent you a specimen of every sort that he coyn'd and recoined here, which if you think fit I will send to any friend in London that you shall appoint, but they are too common to be acceptable.

Haveing answered your curiosity as particularly as the limits of this letter will afford me, I come now to answer your enquiry concerning the lands in Wexford,<sup>2</sup> concerning which I shall make no distinctions between you and Mr. Rayner, esteeming my self equally accountable to both, and I shall not decline answering a question from either of you in truth and plainness. I never saw that estate, but by all accounts I gather that some part of it is under good grass (if that part of the county yields any), but most part of it is much worne and out of heart. One thing I shall observe to you that many tenants in this kingdome have got vast estates by takeing leases of farmes, and yours are all beggars except Devoreux, whose whole fortune, as far as I can informe my self, is not sufficient to build the house of Hiltowne, concerning which there is an explanation of a Covenant (for his supporting that house) before the perfection of the lease that it shall be construed only to the inside and not to the rooffe, though I am of opinion that quite contrary was intended, otherwise to me it seems as if men were out of their senses, to provide for the inside of a house and expressly exclude the rooffe.

<sup>1</sup> The portion of this letter referring to the Irish coinage was communicated by Thoresby to the Royal Society in 1705 (see *Phil. Trans.*, No. 297). He also to a large extent repeats it in the *Ducatus*, p. 383. See Macaulay's History, chap. xii, where his account of this Irish coinage is not unlike the above. Macaulay would doubtless have been glad to have the touch about creditors absconding to avoid receiving their debts.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 33 *ante*.



When Mr. Rayner was here he told me it was capable of improvement to bring it to more than double what it now produces. Whether it be so or not I know not. I reckon 12 yeares purchase to be the outside for lands in that country, and that the present rents may be raised and not much. The best judgment I can give is that to be sold the land will yield above £400, but I am doubtfull if it will ever produce £500 in the condition that it now stands.

Some short time since, Mr. Raynor wrote me to transmit what mony I have in my hands to one Mr. Joseph Jackson in London, and haveing a correspondence with one of the same name I tooke him to be the same person and wrote to him to pay or answer to you and him £50, but in reply he says he is not the person, and knows neither of you. I therefore draw a bill for so much on my friend Mr. Joseph Jackson, payable to you both and send it to Mr. Rayner's friend Mr. Joseph Jackson, to be sent to you for your endorsements; it's for fifty pounds sterl.

I am, Sr,

Your very humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

THO. PUTLAND.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby, at Leeds, Yorkeshire.")

FROM DR. JABEZ CAY.

New Castle, Novem. 28, 1696.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

I am oblig'd to you for your last kind letter, and for the light and information which I had from it: tho' what your MS. speaks of Galba's coin is but little, yet it has, I doubt, made mine counterfeit, but for further satisfaction I have sent you a rude draught of it, and as you shall declare your opinion either for or against it so I shall regulate my own, and shall either have a mighty value for it or look upon it as common bullion. The name "Ser. Galba" is against me, according to your Spanheim, and yet the face (tho' I have not hit it exactly) is so like the face of that Emperour wherever I have seen it that I can scarce fancy that he that made the face so well could be so great a blockhead as to mistake the



name; but yet alloweing all this to be possible, *cui bono?* Where lyes the plot or design that any one could have in imitateing a Roman coin? To counterfeit the metall might have turn'd to some account, but he that throws away 18<sup>s</sup><sup>hill</sup> worth of good gold only to try his talent of imitateing seems to me either to have had the Philosopher's stone, and that his gold cost him nought, or to have had a worm in his head of no small dimensions; had Mr. Mangee<sup>1</sup> follow'd that trade he had built no houses. But after all, let it pass for an odd unaccountable whim, this use, I think, however may be made on't—that even the maggots of this age are not produc'd after so æquivocal a manner as some ill meaning people would have 'em to be, but that we have come honestly by them, and that they have been very naturally and univocally convey'd to us from our forefathers.

And now, to take breath a little, pray give my service to all my acquaintance in Leeds,<sup>2</sup> as nam'd; and tell Dr Manlove that upon some business which I had with Heathcote I wrote to him and had an answer to my letter in 3 weeks. *Quantum mutatus ab illo!* will, I know, be all that he'l say to this,<sup>3</sup> tho' I think it's time he should say something else to me. The letter you mention in your last as sent to me long ago (concerning Procolitia) never came to hand so that I had some more reason for complaining than you thought I had. I hope, if I have my health, to be at Leeds again in May next, and then I may perhaps stain your Album with the letters of my name (had I done it sooner, I had not kept that distance from the Pontifex Maximus that good manners had obliged me to).<sup>4</sup> In the mean time I am, Sr,

Your serv<sup>t</sup>,

J. CAY.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house in Leeds, by Ferrybridge. Post p<sup>d</sup>.")

<sup>1</sup> Referring to the recent trial of Arthur Mangey, for counterfeiting at Leeds (see Thoresby Society's *Miscellanea*, vol. ix, p. 207).

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Cay had recently been on a visit to Leeds.

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Heathcote appears to have been notorious among his friends for not replying to letters (see *post*, p. 87).

<sup>4</sup> This refers to the "Album" which Thoresby kept for the signatures of his literary and antiquarian friends, and of any others he considered of sufficient importance to be invited to sign. The volume is now in the library of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society. It is headed as follows by Thoresby:

"This Album was begun 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1696, when his Grace the most

FROM THE REV. JOHN KILLINGBECK.<sup>1</sup>

GOOD MR. THORESBY,

According to your request and my promise to you on Monday last, I have here sent you the sermon I preach'd the last Lord's day, heartily wishing it may be serviceable to you. I confesse it is what I have been frequently importun'd to by others, but never did it to any other before: and nothing but that reall respect and concern I have for you and the confidence of your sincerity cu'd have prevayl'd with me to do it now.<sup>2</sup> I must here again repeat my request to you that you keep it private to yourselfe, not onely for the reason I gave you in my last but also to prevent the requests and solicitations of others, if it shu'd chance to be known. I am, Sir, in all sincerity and faithfullnesse,

Your friend to serve you,

JO: KILLINGBECK.

March 12, 1697.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house.")

FROM THE REV. RICHARD IDLE.<sup>3</sup>

Apr: 28, 1697.

DEAR BRO:

This day Mr. Savile of Methley sent me word that he will bestow on me the next presentacion of Darfeld, 'tis

reverend and excellent Dr John Sharp, Lord Archbishop of Yorke, condescended to view this poor Museum."

The Archbishop's signature, the first in the book, then follows "Jo. Ebor," with the motto "Omnia vobis cum charitate fiant." This is what Mr. Cay alludes to in his letter; however, he signed in the following year. Nearly all the signatories added some quotation or motto to their names, generally in Latin, and frequently sufficiently hackneyed. There are in all about 270 signatures. It would seem that Thoresby kept a second volume which he called his "travelling Album," and in which no doubt he had the signatures of his London friends and others at a distance. It is not known where this latter Album now is.

<sup>1</sup> Vicar of Leeds.

<sup>2</sup> Thoresby remarks in the *Vicaria* (p. 127) on Mr. Killingbeck's unwillingness to have his sermons published. His signature is in Thoresby's Album, with the quotation "Deus nobis haec otia fecit."

<sup>3</sup> The second husband of Thoresby's sister Abigail (see *Diary*, i, 185, 322, 325). He was at this time Vicar of Rothwell. He did not obtain the living of Darfield, and was equally unsuccessful in an attempt to secure the vicariate of Bradford in the following year. He seems generally to have been in a condition of impecuniosity, which occasioned much trouble to Thoresby.



worth near £300 per annum, the present Incumbent 75 years of age or upwards: Mr. Atkinson of Methley<sup>1</sup> has often begged it of him, but having disoblged him could not prevail. It was resolved to make an interest to him by some of my good friends his intimate acquaintance; it has pleased God so far to bless my endeavours that yesterday he gave 'em full assurance of it. I could not forbear acquainting you with this, that as you have been so kind as to assist and bear a share with me in my sorrows you might rejoice with me. He only desires I wou'd not let Mr. Atkinson know of it yet awhile. I am, with due respects to your whole self,

Your affect: and most obliged Bro.,

RICH<sup>D</sup> IDLE.

Do not divulge it unless to best friends untill I discourse with you.

(Addressed "Mr. Ralph Thoresby, in Leeds.")

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FROM MR. THOMAS JACKSON.

HON'D S<sup>R</sup>,

So fair an occasion presenting ittself as the bearer (by whom I should have been glad to have had a line from you, tho' I suppose you was diverted by more necessarie business) I have sent you K. James' brass coyns which I formerly gave you an account of. You will find wanting an half-crown for Jun. '90, shillings for Aprill, Jun. '89, Jan. Feb. March, '91, of 6 pences March, Aprill, May, and Oct, '89. Whether there were none coyn'd those months by reason of their alteration, I cannot hear: if I meet with 'em I shall take care to keep 'em, tho' I cou'd not yet after a dilligent search among 2 or 3 barrells of 'em for a considerable time.<sup>2</sup> I have also sent you a piece that was coyn'd at Limerick; you'll easily distinguish itt both by the difference of the coyn and the time of its coining. I thought perhaps you might not have one of that sort, because they are very scarce here. Uncle Boyse is very well, and I suppose designs to write to you, esp[ecially] if the bearer go not aboard to-night. The book you sent him of Mr. Manlove's was safely deliver'd. I have not to add but only to

<sup>1</sup> The Rector of Methley.

<sup>2</sup> See *Ducatus*, p. 383.



return you my humble acknowledgm<sup>ts</sup> for the manyfold favours you have been pleased to confer on

Your most oblig'd serv<sup>t</sup>,

THO : JACKSON.

Dublin, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1697.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby, in Leeds, Yorkshire.")

FROM THE REV. RICH<sup>d</sup> STRETTON.

London, December 20, 1697.

DEAR SIR,

I have not yet heard how I may returne the mon<sup>ey</sup> to you. I have sent the transaction which I beleeve you designed, though Smith and Walford were both puzzled at your direction. I enquired after Dr Gale's 3 vol.: they had but one sett by them, which cost them dear, the Dr keeping them in his own hands.<sup>1</sup> The first of *Ingulphus* grows scarce, and is sold dear at 18 or 20<sup>s</sup>, the other two he selles one for twelve and the other for 14 or 15<sup>s</sup>. It's probable they may be mett with cheaper at an auction, if you desire to have them: if I can meet with them a penniworth I shall buy them for you. Mrs. Clarkson hath some scores of her husband's, Mr. David Clarkson's,<sup>2</sup> sermons left on her hands; they were subscribed and sold at 24<sup>s</sup> a booke, bound, and now she would part with them at 20<sup>s</sup> a booke, bound. I never heard of any subscriptions from your countrey: if some freinds (that cannot but honor his memory) would take off some it would be a very great kindness to her. It's a verie fair large folio, and as good a book for a family as can be used. I question not but you have heard of our quarrells here. Mr. Lob began with his report: Mr. Alsop answered him very well in my judgement. He replyes again and wrests Mr. Alsop's words and sence at such a rate as I never saw the like and exposes him in a sawcy, slovenly manner, but he is ready with his rejoinder. He basely abused all the united ministers, and would brand

<sup>1</sup> Probably Dean Gale's *Historia Britannica*, etc., *Scriptores*.

<sup>2</sup> The Rev. David Clarkson, sometime of Trinity and Clare Colleges, Cambridge. He afterwards received the living of Mortlake, from which he was ejected, under the Act of Uniformity, in 1662. At a later date he was minister of an Independent Church in London. He died in 1686.

them for Arminians and Socinians. They referred it to their Committee, who drew up the papers Mr. Williams hath printed. Pray observe but the historie and let all the world judge where the fault of our division lyes.<sup>1</sup> My hearty love and service to you and yours and to all freinds. I committ you to God, and rest

Your assured freind and servt,

RICH. STRETTON.

(Addressed "These for his worthy good freind Mr. Ralph Thoresby, merchant, in Leeds.")

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FROM MR. THOMAS KIRK.<sup>2</sup>

MR. THORESBY,

In answer to yours concerning Mr. Hitch's<sup>3</sup> choice of new Trustees for Mr. Harrison's benefactions, I doe beleieve Mr. Hitch do's intend to nominate Mr. Arthington and myselfe with some others. As to what you informe concerning the Lord, etc., I cannot but wonder what wee have done to disoblige him, and 'tis more then (than) I know that I am named a Comisioner for the river.<sup>4</sup> I am sure I have trouble enough already with publick business, and am farr from courting more, but I shall take noe further notice of itt. I send you enclosed two letters of Sir George Rawdon's<sup>5</sup> and one of his son's, Sir Arthur Rawdon; they are their own handwriteing. I hope

<sup>1</sup> All this refers to the controversial war between Stephen Lobb, Vincent Alsop, and Daniel Williams, Nonconformist Ministers. It raged from 1692 to 1699.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Kirk, F.R.S., owner of Cookridge, was a friend and distant relation of Thoresby's, who after this period became very intimate with him. His name occurs very frequently in the *Diary* and *Ducatus*. He wrote his signature in Thoresby's Album in February, 1699, adding the Horatian remark, "omne tulit punctum qui miscuit utile dulci." He died in 1706.

The arms of Kirk, as given in the *Ducatus*, were *parted per fess, or and gules, a lozenge counterchanged*. The seal of the letter has these arms, but with the addition of a canton, bearing, apparently, a lion, sejant, holding a heart (?).

<sup>3</sup> Henry Hitch, of Leathley, son and heir of Dr. Hitch, Dean of York.

<sup>4</sup> This perhaps refers to the Aire and Calder Navigation scheme then on foot.

<sup>5</sup> This was Sir George Rawdon, son of Francis Rawdon of Rawdon. He was the first of the family to settle in Ireland, and took a prominent part in the troubles there in 1641. He was created a baronet in 1665, and died in 1684. The celebrated Francis Rawdon-Hastings, Marquis of Hastings, and Governor-General of India, was his direct descendant. His son, Sir Arthur Rawdon, died in 1695.



tomorrow's post will bring you some particulars about your river, an account whereof would be very acceptable to

Your obliged hum. serv<sup>t</sup>,

THO. KIRKE.

Cookridge,

March the 10<sup>th</sup>, 1697.

I find Sir George Rawdon is mentioned in the Lord Primate's funerall sermon, page 39.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby in Leeds.")

FROM THE REV. JOSEPH HILL.<sup>1</sup>

S<sup>R</sup>,

In answer to yours—For R. Coci<sup>2</sup> *Censura*, Londini, 1614 and 1623, & Helmstadii, 1655 and 1683, and which Hoornbeck mentions 1641, who in's *Vetera et Nova*, p. 29, gives this commendation of the book—"R. Cocus scripsit Censuram quorundam Scriptorum, 1614, Latine, in agro Eboracensi ecclesie Leodiensis pastor; scriptum nescio an majoris laboris an eruditionis an judicii." Thus that learned Professor of Leyden. The learned Gerhard also, in's *Confessio Catholica* often cites him, but oftner makes use of him without mentioning him.

The learned Dr Tho. James, keeper of the publick librarie in Oxford, in's *Treatise of the Corruption of Scripture, Councels, and Fathers*, printed at Lond. 1611, in quarto, in 4<sup>th</sup> part, p. 25, saith "I am but a collector of other mens' labours; I will not take upon me to be a director of other men's judgements: but there is Mr. Robert Cook of Leeds in Yorkshire, a very learned man of great sufficiency, whose talent hath been for many years employed in this kind, who will, I doubt not, ere long make us all beholding to him for his great pains by publishing his observations," and puts his name, as here,<sup>3</sup> in the

<sup>1</sup> A son of the Rev. Joshua Hill, born at Bramley 1625. He lived principally in Holland after 1663. He was minister of the English Church at Rotterdam from 1678 to his death in 1707. He gives a sketch of his life to 1696 in a letter written to Thoresby in that year (see *Correspondence*, i, 253).

<sup>2</sup> This letter mainly relates to the works of Robert and Alexander Cooke, successively Vicars of Leeds, 1590-1632. Thoresby makes great use of it in his account of these two incumbents in the *Vicaria*.

<sup>3</sup> The words "Mr. Robert Cook of Leeds in Yorkshire" are written in the margin of the letter.



margent (*sic*). This I thought good to copy out lest you should not have James. No additions in any of the editions,<sup>1</sup> so that I bought you none.

For Al. Cook and *Pope Joane*,<sup>2</sup> I have one perfect at your service if yours be imperfect. *Work for a Mass Priest*, 1617, in quarto, is but two sheets of paper or eight leaves, without his name to it, which in that of his you say you have begins at p. 38, number 30, and ends with number 97, but much augmented, so that it seems he put them all three together in what places he thought best. Now, I have one query for you—whether there was not a former edition of his *Pope Joane* than that of 1625, which I have: because Dr Favour, Vicar of Halifax, in's *Antiquity triumphing over Novelty*, printed 1619, cites Mr. Alexander Cooke's English Dialogue of *Pope Joan*, who also, p. 323 of the same book, highly commends for the Fathers Mr. Cook (meaning R.C., *Censura*) in these words—"who hath most exactly searched into this argument; which book I could wish in every young Divine's hand that purposeth to read the Fathers, lest he take *quid pro quo*, one for another, a thief for a true man; or, if he purpose to study controversies, lest he be insnared in a net woven with Fathers' names without one thread of their spinning and made a pray (*sic*) by Antichrist, the son of perdition. There he may find an answer out of our adversaries' owne mouths and pens to very neer two parts or more, very neere the one half of all that is brought for Private Mass, Real Presence, Transubstantiation, Invocation and worship of Saints, Purgatory, Pilgrimage, Pope's supremacy, Pardons, Original Sin, Justification, Free Will, Prayers in an unknowne tongue, half communion, merit, and Sacraments, and whatever else they call traditions." Thus far Favour. If you desire the book for your satisfaction, I shall send you mine, that you may see these things with your owne eyes. Those editions you mention from the Oxford Antiquities, as a 2<sup>nd</sup> of the Abridgement, 1628, is his *Weathercock of Rome's Religion*. I am tired, and shall tire you. I know not whether your neighbor Mr. I. be return'd, by whom I had return'd these if he had not gon to Flanders. I sent by him a small basket to

<sup>1</sup> Thoresby seems to question this (see *Vicaria*, p. 58).

<sup>2</sup> *Pope Joane: a Dialogue between a Protestant and a Papist*, by Alexander Cooke.

your Schoole Library, old book in folio *Alexandri ab Alexandro genialium dierum libri* 6 (a very learned antiquary) and 13 in quarto, also 15 in 8<sup>vo</sup> and 4 in 6<sup>to</sup>, which I hope came safe by Mr. Sotheran, a shipmaster of Hull. For that following in your letter concerning yourself, more, God willing, in my next, being now as I said tired, yet never of being

Sir,

Your faithful friend in our deare Lord,  
J. HILL.

May 10, [16]98. By Mr. Ross to Lond.

Since the writing this, I find another Cook's *Pope Joane* printed for Edward Blunt, 1610, of 128 pages, I believe both alike (for they end so) in matter, and this solves the doubt above proposed to you.

(Addressed "For's honoured friend Mr. Ralph Thorsby, merchant, in Leeds.")

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FROM ALDERMAN WILLIAM MILNER.<sup>1</sup>

Coz<sup>N</sup> THORESBY,

I was with Mr. Bolter<sup>2</sup> (the lord of the estate about Harwood) Tuesday last, and he enjoyned me to goe to see him, and he told me he had some freinds att Oxford who recomended him to your acquaintance which he would think himself very happy in, and desired me to prevale with you to goe with me to Harwood, where I am agoeing this morning about 10 a'clock, and desire you'l please to goe along with me. Mr. Bolter is a very civill young gentleman, and may be worth your acquaintance. If you want a hors you shall have one of mine, and I'll call of you at the time above mention'd.

I am, your affect : kinsman,

WILLIAM MILNER.

Leeds, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 1698.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby these prests, in Leeds.")

<sup>1</sup> The writer was the eminent Leeds Alderman, ancestor of the Milners of Nun Appleton, which estate he purchased. He was a special friend and distant relation (by marriage) of Thoresby's.

<sup>2</sup> John Boulter, lord of the manor of Harewood. He afterwards became a great friend of Thoresby's (see his letter of 28th April, 1715).

FROM ALDERMAN WILLIAM MILNER.

Leeds, the 24 June, 1698.

COZ. THORESBY,

I doubt not but you have by you the account of distances of places which you and Mr. Kirke tooke upon the River Ayre,<sup>1</sup> which I desire you to send me copy of per the bearer, for it will be of good service to us: hereby you'll oblige

Your affec: kinsman,

WILLIAM MILNER.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby, these.")

FROM MR. HENRY FAIRFAX.<sup>2</sup>

July 22, 1698.

S<sup>R</sup>,

Yesterday in the evening came my bro: Fairfax,<sup>3</sup> Brigadier Fairfax,<sup>4</sup> and Brian, my uncle Fairfax's eldest son,<sup>5</sup> but so wearied with an ill journey that they quarter'd at Tadcaster. This comes to acquaint you that my bro: intends for the Spaw to-day, so for Denton, and will (God willing) waite of Mr. Major,<sup>6</sup> yourselfe, and rest of good freinds tomorrow, which with my humble service to all freinds, is all that my time will permit me to write, saving that I'm ambitiose in assuring you that I am,

Dear S<sup>r</sup>,Your affectionate freind and serv<sup>t</sup>,

H. FAIRFAX.

I am going to waite on my brother, etc., who is as much devoted to serve you and your Corporacion as any whosoever, and as desirouse to see you.

(Addressed "To Mr. Thoresby, merchant, in Leedes.")

<sup>1</sup> See *Diary*, i, 320. Mr. Milner was a promoter of the Aire and Calder Navigation.

<sup>2</sup> Henry Fairfax of Toulston, High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1691.

<sup>3</sup> i.e. Thomas, 5th Lord Fairfax. Thoresby has written "Lord" before his name.

<sup>4</sup> This was Thomas Fairfax, son of Sir William Fairfax of Steeton, born 1633, died 1712; he was made a Brigadier-General in 1696.

<sup>5</sup> Brian Fairfax, Commissioner of Customs; he was himself a friend of Thoresby's, and an antiquary.

<sup>6</sup> In 1698 the Mayor of Leeds was Caleb Askwith.



FROM ARCHDEACON NICOLSON.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

How long is it since I promis'd you Mr. Thwaites's *Pentateuch*? Much longer, I am sure, than it ought to have been before performance, especially since I have now been a good while able to make good my vow. Well,—without any apology (in giving you the late history of my life) I can now tell you that the book is deliver'd to J. Airay, a woolman, who (I hope) will bring it to you safe this week.

Amongst the inscriptions of those English coins which you were kindly pleas'd to communicate to me, I find one or two which you attribute to Edw. 4<sup>th</sup>, whereof I must request some farther account. How is that King crown'd? If it be Ed. 4, he should have an Imperial crown, which I could never yet see on any silver coin which I could believe to belong to this prince. I think I shall prove to you that that in Speed (with the three crowns, etc.) is wrong father'd, notwithstanding that Selden agrees with that historian. I should have told you, some time agoe, that Dr Hickes is going to print a new edition of his *Grammars*,<sup>1</sup> with many large and useful additions. 'Tis propos'd to be carry'd on by subscriptions. The book will be in folio, and will have in it several cutts relateing to some choice antiquities of this kingdome. For every guinea advanc'd there will be deliver'd a complete book in quires, and to the more generous benefactors one in royal paper. Our Bishop has kindly given six guineas towards the carrying on of the work, and the Chapter here as many. How it will prove at York and Durham I cannot tell, but I have employ'd my agents at both places. If you have any spare gold by you, you cannot bestow it better in the service of our common studies, and my dear friend at Bolton<sup>2</sup> will take care that it be apply'd to a right use. Wishing you health, and prosperity in all your undertakeings,

I am, Sir,

Your ever affect. and oblig'd serv<sup>t</sup>,

W. NICOLSON.

Aug. 8, [16]98.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralf Thoresby at his house in Leedes, Yorkshire. Post p<sup>d</sup>.")

<sup>1</sup> Dr. George Hickes' *Linguarum Veterum Septentrionalium Thesaurus*, which included the various grammars he had previously published, was issued in 1705.

<sup>2</sup> Archdeacon Pearson, Rector of Bolton Percy.

FROM SAMUEL SMITH &amp; CO.

Lond: Sep<sup>r</sup> 1, 1698.HON<sup>D</sup> S<sup>R</sup>,

I rec<sup>d</sup> your letter but was not in town to returne you an answer sooner. Your letter I delivered to Mr. Eveling bookseller Mr. Tooke,<sup>1</sup> who promised to send it safe to him. As to the price of the Philosophical Transactions, compl: bound handsomly to this time will be worth 12 guineas. If you have those of Oldenburgh, etc., we can supply you with the late years; some months are 1<sup>s</sup> some 6<sup>d</sup> and some 2<sup>s</sup>, but you may depend upon having them at the just price, but for the most part they are not above 1<sup>s</sup> per month. D<sup>r</sup> Barnard (physician) his catalogue of his library is printed and will be sold by auction, but I heare nothing yett of his manuscripts. The price of *Decem Scriptores* is about 3<sup>s</sup>, now being very scarce. D<sup>r</sup> Lister is returned from France some time agoe.

Y<sup>r</sup> humble Sert,SAM<sup>L</sup> SMITH & COMP:

(Addressed "Mr. Ralph Thoresby in Leeds, Yorksheire.")

FROM MR. CHARLES TOWNLEY.<sup>2</sup>Towneley, Sep: the 19<sup>th</sup>, 1698.S<sup>R</sup>,

I must own the satisfaction I take in having put into the hands of so knowing and so deserving a Person the few old coins chance brought to mine. I wish I could promise myself more of such lucky hitts, for tho' I have a veneration for Antiquity and the admirers of it yet 'tis by such hazards alone that I can hope to promote those belov'd studies of yours—being myself without any qualifications that, or indeed any other, way. The name you meete with in the Philosophical Transactions is not mine but my elder brother's, and 'tis he who would think himself and house honour'd would you please to make use of it whensoever business or search after Antiquities

<sup>1</sup> i.e. "Mr. Eveling's (presumably John Evelyn) bookseller Mr. Tooke."

<sup>2</sup> The writer was the third son of Charles Townley of Townley, who was killed at Marston Moor. The brother he mentions was Richard Townley of Townley, who was of some note as a mathematician and natural philosopher, and the uncle was Christopher Townley, the well-known Lancashire antiquary. Mr. Charles Townley became a frequent correspondent of Thoresby's.



or other curiosities may draw you into these parts. Perhaps then some smal matters in the way of your studies which now ly, as it were, dormant, may when awaken'd and call'd upon in discourse appear and offer themselves. I am sorry I can afford no help towards your History of Kirkstall Abbey, and fear but little towards that of the Lacies. I find in a book of Pedegrees collected several years agoe by a deceas'd uncle of mine, two not much differing of that great family, the one compil'd, as he hints, by himself: he was a diligent searcher after old deeds and a laborious copyer of them. His manuscripts belong to my brother Towneley, but they are at present out of his hands and will be, I fear, ill to retrieve, but I shal make it my utmost endeavour to get them, and 'tis here, if any where I know of, that materials may be had for the history of the Lacies. The whole Hundred of Blackburn once belong'd to them, and cannot but afford many old writings wherein they are concern'd, and none could be more diligent than my deceas'd uncle in procuring copies of them. The house we live in, and which gives to our family its name, was a guift of the Lacies and the original grant is yet in being. Sir, you may command a copy not onely of the above mention'd pedegrees (tho' I fear there will be little in them not to be found in the Baronage) but allso of whatsoever I shal be able to procure that may help to further your undertakings. In the mean time, I shal lay hold on the first opportunity of waiting on you at Leeds, and there viewing your collection of rarities of which I have heard so much that I cannot but look on it as one of the best and most curious of the nation. The Philosophicall Transactions speake your happy genius that way, and it was from what I found there that I was induc'd to place, so well as I have done, the few coins I tooke the freedome to send. This consider'd, I must esteeme it a great honour to be mention'd amongst your other friends: I shal court all occasions to deserve it; what I can now pretend to is onely that of being, Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

CHARLES TOWNELEY.

(Addressed "These for Mr. Thoresby, Recommended to Mr. Benjamin Atkinson at his house in Leeds." The seal bears the Townley arms, *arg. a fess sa. and in chief three mullets of the second*. There appears to be a mark of cadency on the fess.)



FROM MR. CHARLES TOWNLEY.

Towneley, Dec : the 20<sup>th</sup>, 1698.S<sup>R</sup>,

When Mr. Atkinson was lately here he gave us the ill news of your having been indispos'd,<sup>1</sup> but qualify'd with that of your being in a faire way of recovery; his wife, who is pleas'd to be the bearer of this, saying nothing to the contrary, I will suppose that you are again reestablish't in your former perfect health, and thereby enabled to pursue your belov'd studies of antiquities and search after natural curiosities. In my answer to that you were pleas'd to favour me with, I acquainted you that I had here found two pedegrees of the Lacies, and that I would endeavour to retrieve the manuscripts of my deceas'd uncle, Mr. Christopher Towneley. I have been so fortunate as to recover alredy a few, and amongst them some in which are many deeds of the Lacies and several that relate to Kirkstall and other monasteries founded by that family. These, Sir, my brother Towneley says you may command, and he is very well pleas'd that he can further your ingenious studies in this, as both he and I shal be ready to do in any thing els that lyes within our power. I shal obey your commands when I hear from you, and till then I can onely take the freedome to ask whether you have a list of your curiosities, and, if you have, whether you can with convenience spare me a sight of it. I shal be carefully (*sic*) to return it safe, and in that as well as all things els that relate to your person or studies shall endeavour to shew myself, S<sup>r</sup>,

Your obedient humble servant,

CHARLES TOWNELEY.

(Addressed "These for Ralph Thoresby, Esqr, Leeds.")

FROM ARCHDEACON NICOLSON.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

Nothing but want of health should have hinder'd my acknowledging the receipt of your last kind letter. For three weeks past I have been afflicted with a feaverish indisposition, and

<sup>1</sup> Thoresby was dangerously ill in the autumn of 1698 (see *Diary*, i, 327).

my head is still so much disorder'd that I am hardly yet able to give you this account of myself.

Whoever he was that observed that (in the last chapter of my third book) I had not made so just an acknowledgement of your assistance as I ought to have done, is perhaps in the right; tho' I dare say 'tis more than he could be assur'd of. There were several observations in my L<sup>d</sup> A. B's<sup>1</sup> papers which I had hit upon before I saw them, as his Grace well knowes, who had the perusal of my notes before he was pleas'd to communicate to me his own. I must ever acknowledge that he gave me the opportunity of correcting many mistakes and made discoveries to which I was a perfect stranger: and (possibly) I have not so frequently own'd his Grace's helps as I was oblig'd in gratitude to have done. But I can justly protest that I did not wittingly omit any respect that was due either to his Grace or yourself. I confess your most instructive letter (of Apr. 16:98) was overlook'd when I finish'd my papers for the press. I find in it some remarks which should not have been left out. But they must be reserv'd now, in expectance of the whole book's being (some time or other) reprinted.

I thank you heartily for your kind account of the materials which your library affords towards the furnishing out of my new Historical one.<sup>2</sup> If the men of that kingdome do not disturb me in the services I am designing them, the work may probably go on this summer; but their remonstrances against England run in so high a strain that I know not in what security we shall be on the Borders.<sup>3</sup> Your MS. *Liber S. Mariæ de dulci corde* (by the acc<sup>t</sup> the printed catalogue gives of it) seems to be a book of pastoral instructions and devotions rather than of historical matters. I should be glad to hear whether there are in it any Offices or Rubricks that particularly relate to the Saints of Scotland. In one of your quarto MSS. there's the title of a *Full Lamentable Cronycle of the dethe and false murdure of James Steward*, etc.,<sup>4</sup> whereof I want a fuller account.

<sup>1</sup> i.e. Archbishop's.

<sup>2</sup> Alluding to his *Scotch Historical Library*, which was published in 1702.

<sup>3</sup> This refers to the ill-feeling between England and Scotland which arose in connection with the Darien expedition.

<sup>4</sup> See No. 108 in the Catalogue of Thoresby's quarto MSS., printed in the *Ducatus*.

Were the paper larger, my head will not suffer me to add more at present than that I am ever, S<sup>r</sup>,

Your most truly affect<sup>e</sup> and faithful servant,

WILL: NICOLSON.

Jan: 13, [16]99.

(Addressed "For Mr. Thoresby at his House in Leedes, Yorkshire, Post p<sup>d</sup> 2<sup>d</sup>.")

FROM MR. THOMAS KIRK.

S<sup>R</sup>,

According to your desire, I have search't out a letter of my uncle Hen: Layton,<sup>1</sup> which was written not long before his blindness seized him, and in this search I found some other letters that may be acceptable to you, viz., from my Lord Fairfax, Sir Godfrey Copley, the present Mr. Arthington, and Mr. Simon Stern,<sup>2</sup> which I enclose to you. I likewise send you F: Bernier's *History of the Revolutions of the Great Mogull* which I promised to send you, which is all that I remember was discoursed of when I was last with you; which is all from,

Your humb. servant,

Cookridge,

THO: KIRKE.

Jan: the 21<sup>st</sup>, 1698.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby, in Kirk-gate, in Leeds. With a book.")

FROM MR. JAMES TORRE.

9<sup>th</sup> Febr., [16]98.

S<sup>R</sup>,

Having bargained for the Mannor of Snyderall<sup>3</sup> with Mr. Fanning, shall have occasion for some sums of money to be transmitted to London for clearing certain incumbrances thereupon, and being a stranger at Leedes, where you are intimately acquainted, I beg your pardon for this my freedom with you as to make this request as to enquire at your town where I

<sup>1</sup> Henry Layton of Rawdon, of whom an account will be found in the *Diary*, i, 398, and *Correspondence*, ii, 193. His sister, Margaret Layton, was Mr. Kirk's mother.

<sup>2</sup> Simon Sterne, father of Richard Sterne, Archbishop of York.

<sup>3</sup> Snyderdale, near Pontefract.



may get a return for £700 which lyes by me, and also for £1300 more which I would borrow for half a year or a year's time upon interest at Leedes, giving bond security, provided the same may be returned<sup>1</sup> with the other, gratis, within the compass of two or three weeks at farthest. To this if you please to give your speedy answer it will be a great obligation to

Your kind friend and humble ser<sup>vt</sup>,

J. TORRE.

Be pleased to direct for mee to be left at Mr. White's in Tadcaster, and I'll send for it tomorrow or next day.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby of Leedes.")

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FROM MR. HENRY GYLES.

Yorke, March the 4<sup>th</sup>, 1698.

HON<sup>RD</sup> SR,

Finding this morning 10 pages more of Mr. Lodge's Painter's Voyage,<sup>2</sup> as also that small fragment of the glass urne I formerly told you of, have sent them to you, together with some specimens of my owne coloured glasse, such as I shou'd be glad to be employed in to make draperies for figures as large as the life in hystory worke for windows; and if I had encouragement, could make large quantities of such glasse, but truly, Sr, I have none; and, Sr, I can tell you as to the ancient coloured glasse and these, I know no difference except that these exceed in greater varieties; but the charge is so great to make this glasse that my poore abilities will not allow me to do it to lay waist (*sic*) by me; for, Sr, this glasse is first of all made into flat sheets, and then I cutt it out according to my desined draperies, and then shaddows upon it and passes it thro' the furnice, before it can come to be sett in lead for the window: and these small swatches<sup>3</sup> now sent you are of the remains of the window I did at University College, in Oxford. Sr, I humbly beg the favour that you'd send the

<sup>1</sup> The meaning is that Mr. Torre required a remittance to London both for the £700 and the £1,300.

<sup>2</sup> William Lodge's *Painter's Voyage of Italy*, 1679. Mr. Lodge was a native of Leeds.

<sup>3</sup> An old word meaning here specimens or patterns.

inclosed letter to Astropp,<sup>1</sup> after you have perused it and seal'd it up, and if Mr. More send the 24 shill. to you I desire you'd pay it to Mr. Bevitt, draper, in Leeds, and take his receipt for me: But if Mr. More don't send you this, then I desire you'd lay downe so much for me to Mr. Bevitt, and I will repay you when you come to Yorke, which it may be will be at our azises, and then I must beg of you to bring this peice of the glass urne with you, because then I expect a glass-maker to be in Yorke that I would shew it to, for the hollow roule at the bottom is pretty and odd: besides, I wou'd examine with him the nature and temper of it, which seems to be a more fix'd mettle than . . . . .<sup>2</sup> use. Sr, I desire you endeavour to helpe me of[f] with some china glasse; the conveniency of it you will see on the back of my picture inclos'd, and if you have a convenient window for a glass dyall, if you please I will paint you one, sending me directions.

I am, Hon<sup>rd</sup> Sr,

Your humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

HENRY GYLES.

(The address-sheet is detached.)

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FROM DEAN GALE.<sup>3</sup>

York, March 27<sup>th</sup>, [16]99.

S<sup>R</sup>,

That I may not quite bankrupt my credit with you, be pleased to know that I, haveing nothing worthy of your knowledg, did not think fit to be needlessly and uselessly troublesome to you. Til yours came I comforted myself with hopes of seeing you here these Assizes. But that hope being blowen away, the next was to see Mr. Kirk, into whose hand I would have put Almonbyry and Dorchester. He promised to call, but failed. Sr, if you give me the like orders concerning these papers by any other hand, they shall be sent you, with a letter of Don. Mabillon's which I thinck you desired. Were there any thing in my power to further your learned designs,

<sup>1</sup> Austhorpe.

<sup>2</sup> A few words close to the bottom of the page are stained and illegible.

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Thomas Gale, Dean of York. He was father of Roger Gale and the Rev. Charles Gale. Thoresby attended his funeral in April, 1702.



I would certainly communicate ; but this is a barren soile. About 30 malefactors of several sorts were condemned ; about 13 or 14 will suffer : more are since come into the Castle. Poverty makes these great disorders, and the trade of clipping<sup>1</sup> and coining is at an end. I know not what new reforme or regulation hath been made in the R[oyal] Society, therefore can give noe opinion about it. Sr, if your occasions draw you to York you will be welcome to your friend and serv<sup>t</sup>

T. GALE.

(Addressed "For his worthy friend Mr. R. Thoresby, at his house in Leeds." The seal is broken, but enough remains to indicate the arms as described at p. 201 of the *Ducatus*.)

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FROM MR. THOMAS JACKSON.

March, 1698.

HONOURED SIR,

Being but just return'd out of the countrey, where I have been all this winter, I have not had time to gett you what epitaphs are in Patrick's and Christchurch, but I shall send 'em per first letter I send to uncle att Leeds, where I shall be glad to hear hee is arriv'd, as also of a good conclusion of his affayr there.<sup>2</sup> What epitaphs there are in the Colledge Chappell, you have 'em here. I did think when I was in the countrey to have tak'n a short tour to Kilkenny, and taken what epitaphs there where (*sic*) in the Cathedrall there, of the Buttlers, etc., but was prevented ; but, however, I believe, God willing, I may do itt this summer. I was with Mr. Puttland, who at present is somthing indispos'd, and gott from him one of the tin crowns, which you have here inclos'd. I enquir'd of him about the brass coyns, what months they were coyn'd, when they begun and end'd. Hee told me hee had given you a particular account of itt,<sup>3</sup> tho' I believe you'l find none but what I sent : I turn'd over some thousands of 'em, but found no more, and have not yet been able to gett you the 6 pences you want, but if possible to be gott I'll take care that you shall have 'em sent. You thought Sr James Ware *De Præsuli*

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* by reason of the issue of the new milled coinage in 1696.

<sup>2</sup> Alluding to the approaching marriage of his uncle the Rev. Joseph Boyse to Rachel Ibbetson, which took place in the spring.

<sup>3</sup> See p. 50 *ante*.

*bus Hiberniæ* was to (*sic*) dear, but I much question whether you'll meet with one so cheap again; I see itt sold in an auction, where books are usually cheaper then (than) a stationer's shop, for 11 or 12 sh. There is no Irish grammer to be gott here, tho' there is one print'd. I cou'd have gott the Bible, but itt was valu'd at 20<sup>sh</sup>; itt was in two vol. in 4<sup>to</sup>. As to uncle's tracts, I here send you what of 'em are to bee gott here, viz. his *Sermon on the Queen's death, Vindication of the Remarks* (which I was forc'd to buy, hee having none of 'em by him), his *Discourse about Swearing*,<sup>1</sup> to which I have ad'd two sermons that were preach't in this City,<sup>2</sup> one by Mr. Weld, the other by<sup>3</sup> Mr. Emlin, my uncle's colleague, that so you might have a short knowledge of what preachers wee have here. This is all I am capable to send you att present, but if I can be further serviceable to you here for the future, I shall bee both ready and willing. I need give no account of any affayrs relating to myself, for uncle can do itt, tho' indeed I have nothing worth mentioning. I cannot but still gratefully reflect on all your kindnesses to mee and my relations, and hope God will repay and requite you. My humble service and thanks to Mr. Brian Dixon and all other friends att Leeds. I am, Dear Sir,

Your most humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

THO. JACKSON.

Pray gett the inclos'd letter sent to sister.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby, in Leeds, Yorkshire. Per amic. L.D.P.")

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FROM THE REV. JOHN HEYWOOD.<sup>4</sup>

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

I am this night come to my father's, and have given him as before my thoughts about leaving Pomfrett, yea, I may say my reasonable resolves, and have advised with him about it. He leaves me wholly to my selfe and the direction

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Boyse sent Thoresby a list of his writings, with some particulars of his life, in a letter printed in the *Correspondence*, i, 288.

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.* Dublin.

<sup>3</sup> Written *my*.

<sup>4</sup> A son of Oliver Heywood. He was not selected to fill Mr. Manlove's place at Mill Hill, as the above letter indicates he wished, but died still a minister at Pontefract in 1704. The "new married couple" were probably Mr. J. Boyse and Miss Ibbetson (see *Diary*, i, 328).



of Divine Providence which I desire singly to eye and follow the motions of in every thing. If your thoughts encline towards me, I do looke on my selfe free to accept an unanimous invitation to Leedes. I pray God direct your issues for the best. My dear father has himselfe sincerely remembered to you, and I beg an interest in your retirements, who am, Sr,

Yours,

J. HEYWOOD.

Northourehom, Aprill 10<sup>th</sup>, 1699.

Hearty service to the new married couple, whom I hope to see latter end of the week.

(Addressed "To Mr. Thorsby at his house in Leeds.")

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FROM MR. THOMAS JACKSON.

DEAR SR,

I doubt not but you received the bundle I sent you by Uncle Boyse, with the letters enclos'd. Since that, I have been both att Patrick's and also att Christchurch to see what epitaphs there were there; in Patrick's Church there was a very fine monum<sup>t</sup> of the E[arl] of Cork's, another of the Earl of Ranelagh's, with large inscriptions on each, but the stone and cutting were so bad that one half of the epitaphs at le[a]st was quite wore of[f], so that I cou'd make nothing of 'em. There were some Popish ones and a few others, but they had all undergone the same fate, so that my labour there was quite in vain. In Christchurch I found the epitaph on Strongbow, one of our first invaders, which I here send you. There were 2 or 3 Bishops bury'd there, but no epitaphs on their tombs, nor indeed were there any other worth taking notice of. I have not yet been able to find out the coyns you want, nor the manuscripts, etc., you mentioned; when I can, I shall take care to procure and send 'em by the first opportunity I meet with. My humble service to Mr. Dixon and all other friends at Leeds. I am, Sr,

Your most oblig'd and humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

THO. JACKSON.

Dublin, Aprill 13<sup>th</sup>, 1699.

This ancient monument of Richard Strangbow  
call'd Comes Strangulensis, Lord of Chepsto and

Ogny, the first and principall invader of Ireland, 1169, qui obijt 1177 ; the monument was broken by the fall of the roof and body of Christ-church in anno 1562, and sett up again att the charges of the right Hon'able S<sup>r</sup> Henry Sidney, Knight of the Noble Order, Lord President of Wales and Lord Deputy of Ireland, 1570.

To Mr. Ralph Thoresby.

(The address is incomplete, part of the paper having been torn away ; but the letter appears to have been forwarded to the Rev. J. Boyse, then staying at Thoresby's house.)

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FROM MR. CHARLES TOWNLEY.

Towneley, May the 12<sup>th</sup>, 1699.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I beg a thousand pardons that I have not sooner sent you my unckle's MS<sup>s</sup>. The truth is, a person of quality, just before I receiv'd your letter, beg'd the perusal of them, in hopes to find something in 'em that might be of advantage to him in a suite about bondaries, and it was but yesterday that he sent them back, having kept them a fortnight longer then (than) promise. Tomorrow these, with the Sawley little MS. and the other mention'd trifles, shal be directed to Mr. Brerecliffe at Halyfax, from whome I hope they will in due time come to you, and I shal be glad to hear from you that they are safe lodg'd in your hands. My bro: Towneley, self, and most of the family intend, the weeke before Whitsuntide, a journey into Cumberland: our stay about a month, and our station when there with one Mr. Howard of Corby, who married my brother's daughter, some 4 miles from Carlisle, and some few more from the famous Picts' Wall. When formerly there, I observ'd at Nawworth, a seate of the Earles of Carlisle, the most Roman altars that I ever saw: a skilfull antiquary might there find whereon to employ his talent. I wish I could hence, or from what els nature may offer of curious, pick up any thing worth your acceptance. My bro: would be overjoy'd to have one so near within lines of communication and so ingenious as your selfe become a co-observer with him of the



weather, raine, etc.<sup>1</sup> Whensoever you shal please to begin to gratify the curious in that kind, he will not faile to acquaint you with his ways and methods that they may be us'd and improv'd by you. A very smal stock will sett up a trader in these wares; a tunnell and tin-pipe the height of your house are sufficient, for he doubts not but that you are alredy stor'd with barometers and thermometers. Now Aire and Calder will doubtless be made navigable. I congratulate your town for it, and even we here are in hopes to receive some benefitt by it. This raises in us a curiosity to know how and when the work is like to be begun and goe forward, who are the undertakers, how the money is to be rais'd, what difficulties probably may be met with, with what else may accompany the carrying on so great a work: but this, Sr, at your leisure. We have yet some thoughts of passing through your County into Nottinghamshire this summer, but as yet all's uncertaine, so dare not promise myself the long wish't for satisfaction of waiting on you. However, Sr, I am no less

Your very humble servant,

CHARLES TOWNELEY.

(Addressed "These for Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house in Leeds.")

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FROM DR. SHARP, ARCHBISHOP OF YORK.<sup>2</sup>

SIR,

I again thank you for your last present of K. James his tin crown piece and the account you sent with it. This account pleased me so well that for the sole sake of it I thought it worth the while to draw out my notes of the Irish coins, that they might make a part of my other papers about these matters. I could not forbear sending you a transcript

<sup>1</sup> "Viewing the mathematical curiosities of Mr. Townley, particularly that for observing the quantity of rain that falls there, having thoughts of doing the like at home, but am discouraged with the charge and tediousness" (*Diary*, i, 386). This was on the occasion of Thoresby's visit to Townley in September, 1702.

<sup>2</sup> John Sharp, appointed Archbishop in 1691. He was a son of Thomas Sharp of Bradford, and was born in 1644. A life of him, originally written by his son, was published in two volumes in 1825, and a memoir will also be found in James' *History of Bradford*. There is no date to this letter, but the postscript would seem to indicate that it accompanied the letter from the Archbishop to Thoresby written on the 6th June, 1699, printed in the *Correspondence*, i, 370, in which the Archbishop mentions that he sends Thoresby his own prayer-book.

of them, tho' I am very sensible they are not worth your perusall. But you will take kindly every thing, tho' never so slight, that comes kindly from, Sr,

Yours heartily,

J: E:

You will find this paper within the common prayer book.

(Addressed "For Mr. Thoresby at Leeds, with a book." The seal has the arms of the See of York and Sharp of Horton jointly.)

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FROM ARCHDEACON NICOLSON.

Jul. 17, [16]99.

DEAR SR,

Yours (of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup>) came to Penrith on Saturday last, and to my hand last night. How it came to linger by the way I know not: however it would not have found me at home any sooner. I am glad to find my L<sup>d</sup> of S[arum]<sup>1</sup> and yourself so industrious in asserting the Doctrine of the Trinity by proveing the text in S. John's Epistle authentic and canonical. I wish I were able to be (in any measure) assisting to you. The best rules for distinguishing the date of MSS. are to be had in F: Mabillon's learned treatise *De re Diplomatica*. If you have that book, you need no further help. My L<sup>d</sup> Bishop (in the letter you quote) saies that the Zurich MS. seems to be about 800 years old, being written in that hand that began in Charles the Great's time. I suppose his Lordship means the same character which we (in England) call the Saxon: for in that are most of the antient Latin Bibles which are to be met with in Germany. I believe this came in fashion about the time he mentions: but whether it was invented by the encouragement of that Emperour or of some of our more early English-Saxon kings will admit of a dispute. I do not believe it was brought from Ireland. The eldest Francie piece that is now extant is a fragment of Otfrid's Evangelical History, which is thought to have been penn'd about the time of its Author, if not by himself, and he liv'd within a century of Charles the Great. The characters here

<sup>1</sup> The writer put S only; the "arum" is filled in by Thoresby. Gilbert Burnet, a Scotchman, was then Bishop of Salisbury. In his "Review" for 1699 Thoresby mentions that Archbishop Sharp "brought me acquainted with the famous Dr Burnet, Bishop of Sarum, from whom I received some kind letters about MS. Bibles."



are nearly the same with those of our eldest Anglo-Saxon remains. We have a Saxon MS. of the Gospels which has been long believed to have been Venerable Bede's own book. But as soon as Dr Hickes's new edition of the Septentrional Grammars comes abroad, that mistake will vanish. My Lord of Salisbury (in his third letter) mentions a copy of Ruffinus's translation of Josephus in the Ambrosian Library, written in the old Roman hand, which, saies he, is very hard to be read; tho' he makes it probable that this was written in the dayes of Ruffinus himself: and in the last of those letters he takes notice of some MSS. (in the Library at Basil) of the best of the Roman times writ in great characters. This seems to intimate that the mode of writeing (in Capitals) used in the dayes of Augustus, etc., was in Honorius's time laid aside and a new kind of alphabet introduc'd. What that was I should be glad to learn. That which we call Saxon is very little (if at all) elder than the times foremention'd; and the black Gothic-Roman, as the printers term it, is onely an improvement (or corruption) of this. All our present alphabets are varieties of these two, and they are originally one and the same. There's a good collection of Latin MS. bibles in the Library at Glasgow. These cannot be strangers to my Lord of S. unless perhaps some of 'em may have been given since his Lordship left that place. If you desire to have any of 'em collated, I have acquaintance enough with the present Library-Keeper to serve you.

I am, Sr, yours ever,

W. NICOLSON.

This day sennight (in my way to Kendal) I gave a small packet for you to Mr. Cuningham, who promis'd to send it forthwith. It would bring you some of the old potter's work from Galatum, and the autographa formerly promis'd.

(Addressed "For Mr. Thoresby, at his house in Leedes, Yorkshire. Post p<sup>d</sup>.")

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FROM DR. JABEZ CAY.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

You may perhaps wonder at my remissness in writing and negligence in not answering yours sooner, but I could give you very good reasons for my being so slow, but in the con-

fusion that I am at present can scarce write you either sense or reason. In short, Sr, Dr Manlove is dead (last night),<sup>1</sup> and that too of an intermitting feaver, to the shame and scandal of all Physick; but complaints are both unseasonable and insignificant, somewt out of our reach and sight 'tis that governs the world, and this is not the only instance we meet with to teach us that no disease is small or contemptible when sent upon a fatall errand and a design to kill. We have lost a minister, with some circumstances that make the loss very considerable, and I have lost a friend: I can add no more; I am sorry that I have this melancholy occasion of sayeing thus much.

Sr, your serv<sup>t</sup>,

J. CAY.

N'Castle, August 4, 1699.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thorsby, at his house in Leeds, Ferry-bridge. Post pd.")

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FROM ARCHDEACON NICOLSON.

DEAR SR,

As I remember, I promis'd (in some of my late letters to you) that you should speedily have a copy of my third book.<sup>2</sup> I am ashamed to tell you that I have it still in my possession, and (what is worse) 'tis onely one of the ordinary paper, my stationer haveing bestow'd all his better sort on my friends above. This afternoon I send a couple of 'em, which (I am told) will be deliver'd to you this day senight. You will please to accept of one your self, and get the other conveyed to my cousin Pearson at Bolton.<sup>3</sup> I will presume on the continuance of your kindness in freely remarking to me the errours you observe in it.

I requested your searching into your cabinet for such Saxon coins as are omitted in the tables of the late Camden. These I desired you would get drawn out, and communicate the draughts (as speedily as you could) either to me or Mr. Thwaites of Queen's College in Oxford. There's a design to insert 'em

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Manlove had previously been minister at Mill Hill, Leeds, in succession to Thomas Sharp—a post he had only recently quitted for another ministry in Newcastle.

<sup>2</sup> The third part of his "English Historical Library," published in 1699.

<sup>3</sup> Archdeacon Pearson, Rector of Bolton Percy.



in the new edition of Dr Hickes's Grammars,<sup>1</sup> and I have promis'd that what assistance I can help them to shall be sent in within a fortnight after Michaelmas. Mr. Sutherland (of Edinb:)<sup>2</sup> will be a special benefactour in this particular. He tells me he has (in his own possession) no less than 44 pieces omitted in Camden. He lately went to Glasgow, in quest of others, and he is now in Fife, whence he resolves to bring what Aberdene and St Andrews will afford him. He has sent me a specimen of some of 'em, which are taken by a curious and fine hand. The few that I have (and I am chiefly indebted to my Lord Archbishop<sup>3</sup> and your self for 'em) I have sent up in specie, haveing none near me that could take the draughts of 'em. I am the more pressing with you to hasten your quota because the work is retarded wholly on the account of these coins, and the subscribers begin to want patience.

I have put a mighty ferment into the enquirers after decay'd antiquities in our neighbouring kingdome, by my late conversations among 'em, and I expect several notable discoveries from that quarter. What they are doeing at Oxford (in our way) you will find by the enclos'd. I wish'd to have Orosius's text printed together with this Saxon paraphrase, but I am overrul'd by the much greater authority of Dr Hickes. I heartily pray for the continuance of your health, and am ever, Sr,

Your faithful serv<sup>t</sup>,

WILL: NICOLSON.

(Addressed "For Mr. Thoresby at his house in Leedes, Yorkshire. Post p<sup>d</sup>.")<sup>4</sup>

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FROM J. SAGER.<sup>5</sup>

SIR,

Sep. 19, [16]99.

I could do nothing at the auction; books selling at an high rate. Hale's Origination went at 8<sup>s</sup>, Dugdale at 9<sup>s</sup> tho' meanly bound, and but a small Folio. Evelyn came not up in my time; 'twas very meanly bound and cut so crooked that

<sup>1</sup> See p. 62 *ante*.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 95 *post*.

<sup>3</sup> Archbishop Sharp.

<sup>4</sup> This letter is undated, but Thoresby has written on the back "received this Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, 1699."

<sup>5</sup> Possibly Joshua Sagar, a dissenting minister of Wakefield. His wife's mother was aunt, by marriage, of Mrs. Thoresby.

it would not admit of a 2<sup>nd</sup> bind, wherefore gave no orders about it. This with due respects to you and cosen, I am, Yours,

J. SAGER.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thorseby at his house in Leeds these.")

FROM MRS. MARY MARSHALL.<sup>1</sup>

HONORED S<sup>R</sup>,

I have been very rude in not answering your obleiging epistle before now, but I was unwilling to give you the trouble of this till I had procured what you desired, the purs and shilling<sup>2</sup> are now at your servic. I have alsoe some other trifles to send with them, which are not worth your acceptance on any other account but as they are purely Ireish may be a rarity; their bulk and waight will not be above 2 or 3 pound; if you hear of any that comes to our Country that will take the troble of them be pleased to order them to call for them; in the meantime if Mr. Boise has any acquaintance that goes to your parts that can carry them, you may expect them. I shall think myself very happy if in any thing I can serve you here; when ever I have an oportunity I shall with what I send give you an account what they are. In the mean time be pleased to accept my servic and allow me to be

Your obliged friend & humble servant,

MARY MARSHALL.

FROM MR. BRIAN DIXON.

MR. THURSBY,

I desire you of all love to write to Mr. James Oweing<sup>3</sup> this post, and use all the rethericke you can to perswaid him to come to us,<sup>4</sup> and to return his answer as speedily as he

<sup>1</sup> The writer was no doubt the "M.M." alluded to in Thoresby's letter to Evelyn printed in the Philosophical Transactions, No. 256 (see *Ralph Thoresby the Topographer*, i, 407-9). There is no date to the above letter, but it is written on the same sheet as a letter from the Rev. J. Boyse, dated October 12, 1699, and addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby, in Leeds, York-shire."

<sup>2</sup> Thoresby has written in the margin "Qu: Mary's Irish shilling."

<sup>3</sup> Thoresby has written "Owen" above.

<sup>4</sup> i.e. to Mill Hill Chapel, as successor to Dr. Manlove. Thoresby apparently wrote to Mr. Owen, who was minister to a congregation at Oswestry, and the following month received a reply from him definitely declining the proposal (*Correspondence*, i, 387).



can : and whatever you writte will owne it. Pray excuse my cominge to towne, for I dare not venter over the bridge. I went to Mr. Spencer's yesterday but neither of them was within, I think to doe it againe to-day. My love to you is the rest, from

Yours to serve you to my power,

B. DIXON.

October 28<sup>th</sup>, [16]99.

What you pay att post will give it you againe.

(Addressed " For his esteemed freind Mr. Ralph Thursby in Leeds.")

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FROM MR. THOMAS KIRK.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I doe own my selfe much to blame that I have not answered your letter sooner ; indeed I deferred that my answer might be more perfect but I yet fail herein. Dr Lister<sup>1</sup> and his lady have been out of town some time ; upon his return I will deliver him your letter. I have gott his *Journey to Paris* of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition for you,<sup>2</sup> and within these 3 or 4 days is another reflecting book come out upon itt, dedicated to the Doctor in a scurrilouse epistle ; the book I have, and read most of itt, but I have just now lent itt to my Lord Lonsdale. I was this day to wait of Mr. Evelin,<sup>3</sup> but found him not within : I will doe itt again shortly. I will take care your name be incerted in the next printed cattalogue of R. S.<sup>4</sup> members, if there be not an anuall tax laid on them, and I will pay your admission fees, which I beleeeve was the true reason you was left out last time. St Andrew's day is the day of determining these things, and I will give you an account of itt. As to what you say of the Levells, I will show to Dr Lister when hee returns. Mr. Ray<sup>5</sup> comes seldome among us ; when I see him I shall performe your requests. I have seen little

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Martin Lister, previously of York. There is a memoir of him in the *Yorks. Archæological and Topographical Journal*, vol. ii, p. 297. There is a short note to Thoresby from him dated July 28, 1697, which winds up—" Sir, I am proude of your friendshippe."

<sup>2</sup> Thoresby had, however, already received a copy from Dr. Lister.

<sup>3</sup> John Evelyn.

<sup>4</sup> The Royal Society.

<sup>5</sup> John Ray, the eminent naturalist and botanist, author of many works. He died in 1705.

in London worthy notice, but many things in Holland, by farr to[o] much for a letter. I will name the towns I have been att, and Mr. Dineley will informe you more, haveing had a large letter from mee. I saw the Brill, Roterdam, Delf, Leyden, Harlem, Amsterdam, Utrecht, Soesdike, Amersfort, the Hague, Helvertsluce, and the Goree. I saw some curiouse collections of shells and insects, and some curiouse landskips made in paper, one whereof the late Queen bid 1600<sup>lbs</sup> for and was refused. I saw a peece of ambergreace that weighed above 180<sup>lbs</sup>, and they refused 7000<sup>lbs</sup> sterling for itt; but I had best put a stopp to these wonders lest I be thought a traveler. My service to Mr. Blithman, Mr. Barstoe<sup>1</sup> and al my friends, and if you please to favour mee with a line or two direct for mee att Mr. Tufton's, a glazier in Duke Street near St James'. I am,

Your affectionate friend and serv<sup>t</sup>,

THO: KIRKE.

My Lord Fairfax bought a few fine modern medalls in silver. London, the 2<sup>d</sup> of Nov., 1699.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby in Leeds, Yorkshire.")

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FROM DR. JABEZ CAY.

DEAR SIR,

This comes in all hast to beg a favour from you, viz., that you'l send me by the first post the proposealls for printeing a Naturall History of Lancashire and Cheshire: you may I suppose readily enough have 'em from any of your booksellers.<sup>2</sup> I expect wonders from that author more than truths.<sup>3</sup> My service to all friends.

Yours in hast,

J. CAY.

Newcastle, November 4, 1699.

<sup>1</sup> Jasper Blithman, Recorder of Leeds, and Alderman Jeremiah Barstow.

<sup>2</sup> From this request it may be inferred that Dr. Cay had not been able to obtain the Proposals in Newcastle. We know, however, that at the time there was at least one bookseller there—Mrs. Sarah Button.

<sup>3</sup> This disrespectful allusion to Dr. Charles Leigh, the author of the *Natural History*, is amplified in a subsequent letter of Dr. Cay's to Thoresby, written on the 12th December following, in which, mentioning Dr. Leigh, he says "I expect nothing from any performance of his; he has, I know, the name of an



Pray let me know what Dr Heathcote my friend wrote in your album.<sup>1</sup>

(The address has been detached.)

FROM MR. THOMAS KIRK.

London, the 2<sup>d</sup> of Dec., 1699.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I think in my last I told you that I had gott Dr Lister's book for you, and delivered him his letter, hee lives much in the country soe I very seldom see him. I have 2 parcells for you from Mr. Evelin, with a letter, all which, with the foremention'd book and a printed list of the R. Society shall be sent you as you shall direct mee. Yesterday was our day of election of members at Gresham Colledge<sup>2</sup>; wee had 13 new ones chosen, amongst which was the Lord Privy Seal and Mr. Benson near Wakefield.<sup>3</sup> I paid 40 shil. for your admission mony, and have got your name printed in the list in the manner you desired itt.<sup>4</sup> There is a new *Transaction* printed, wherein is your letter concerning Mr. Greatrix.<sup>5</sup> I thank you for the letter I received last night, wherein you mention a boy possest, of which I desire to hear further, as alsoe of the 3 children that were lost on some moor which you forgot to mention. I shall give your service to the gent<sup>n</sup> you name as soon as I shall have opportunity to see them. My Lord Fairfax is just now come to see mee; hee gives his service to you and francks you this letter, which makes mee enclose a part of the R. Soc. list wherein your name is printed.

I am, Your affectionate friend & serv<sup>t</sup>,

THO: KIRKE.

(Addressed and franked "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house in Leedes, Yorkshire,—T. Fairfax." The letter is sealed with the Kirk crest, an arm in armour, holding a cutlass.)

ingenious man, and of a scholar too, but 'tis among these that are no judges, and I think I could make it appear that he neither understands Physick, Philosophy, nor Chymistry, no, nor so much as the Latin tongue."

<sup>1</sup> He wrote "Sep<sup>r</sup> 25<sup>th</sup>, 1699. Cavendo tutus—Gill: Heathcote."

<sup>2</sup> i.e. members of the Royal Society. Thoresby had been elected in 1697.

<sup>3</sup> John Lowther, Viscount Lonsdale, was Lord Privy Seal. Robert Benson of Wrenthorpe was Clerk of Assize for the Northern Circuit.

<sup>4</sup> Thoresby has written in the margin "without the title of Esq."

<sup>5</sup> See *Ralph Thoresby the Topographer*, vol. i, p. 407.

FROM THE REV. RICHARD IDLE.<sup>1</sup>DEAR BRO<sup>ER</sup>,May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1700.

Mr. Lee the vicar of Wakefield has not preached these six weeks and 'tis believed he will never appear in the pulpit again, being under a great declension and decay of nature. A great many of my friends have desired me to make my interest in time, and as I'm informed the most and the best are well inclined towards me, Sir Lyon Pilkinton and his interest I reckon myself to be sure of, and Mr. Armitage has promised to do what he can for me, but adviseth me to get Mr. Thornton's<sup>2</sup> letter to Mr. Witton and Mr. Finay, two of the eight governours, which when once gained will bring over the generality of the towne for me, who have thoughts of presenting a petition<sup>3</sup> by the A. B<sup>p</sup> of York to the King for the man they approve of. My humble request is that you wou'd obtain Mr. Thornton's letters to the above mentioned in my behalf, and send 'em to me with all convenient speed. I waited on my Lord Irwin Munday seven night, and he has promised me his interest to the King, and that he wou'd write on Wednesday last to Mr. Montague<sup>4</sup> for me, and I hope a post or two will bring us an account. But I think it not convenient to let 'em know this much untill I hear what success we have above, but shall leave 'em to proceed in their own way. With most grateful acknowledgements of all your favours, and prayers for an increase of all the blessings of this and those of a Better Life on your whole self, I rest your affect: and most obliged bro<sup>ER</sup>,

RICH<sup>P</sup> IDLE.

I wou'd have this carried on with as little noise as may be.  
(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby, in Leeds.")

<sup>1</sup> Thoresby's unlucky brother-in-law. He did not obtain the living of Wakefield; and his pecuniary affairs came to a climax in the following year, when Thoresby was obliged to take a journey to London to save his brother-in-law and brother, Jeremiah Thoresby, from ruin. The Archbishop of York had given Thoresby a letter of remonstrance to Mr. Idle's creditors, and promised £40 towards extricating him, but when this letter was produced to the creditors they declared that Thoresby was trying to impose upon them, as they happened to know that the Archbishop's name was Sharp, not Ebor! Thoresby, however, managed to come to an arrangement with them. He himself lost nearly £100 by his brother-in-law.

<sup>2</sup> Thoresby's friend, Richard Thornton.

<sup>3</sup> The Wakefield townsmen did get up a petition respecting the appointment; but, unfortunately, it was in favour of the other candidate.

<sup>4</sup> Charles Montague, previously First Lord of the Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer.



FROM THE REV. NATHAN DRAKE.<sup>1</sup>

Sheffield, May 21, 1700.

S<sup>R</sup>,

Some business extraordinary has hinder'd me hitherto from answering yours. But now I can assure you that B<sup>p</sup> Sanderson<sup>2</sup> was born and baptiz'd in this town of Sheff<sup>d</sup>. This day I went down to the clerk's house (where all the Regist<sup>r</sup> Books are kept) and found it thus registered in a very fair hand:

Sept<sup>r</sup> 20, 1587. Robertus Sanderson, filius Roberti Sanderson, baptizatus fuit.

We have furthermore an undoubted tradition which fixes the very place of his birth, viz. at an house near the Irish Cross which goes by the name of Lane-head-stone. This is enuff to overthrow what Mr. Walton<sup>3</sup> and others from him have publish'd, and to restore Sheff<sup>d</sup> to the just hon<sup>r</sup> of being the birth-place of that eminently gr<sup>t</sup> and good man B<sup>p</sup> Sanderson. All that I have to desire of you is to do us this piece of justice, and if either you want further testimony, or intelligence in any other matter that I can serve you in, you may at your pleasure command, S<sup>r</sup>,

Your most humble servant,

NATH: DRAKE.

FROM DR. HENRY SAMPSON.<sup>4</sup>

Clapham, July 16, 1700.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I goe out sick this morning from my house towards Nottingham'shire, not knowing whether ever I shall return

<sup>1</sup> Vicar of Sheffield.

<sup>2</sup> Robert Sanderson, Bishop of Lincoln 1660-1663.

<sup>3</sup> Izaak Walton wrote a life of Bishop Sanderson.

<sup>4</sup> Dr. Sampson had been incumbent of Framlingham until ejected by the Act of Uniformity, 1662. He afterwards took to the study of medicine, and settled in London, where he practised. There is an account of him in Calamy. He left a voluminous collection of notes, from which Thoresby made large extracts; some of these are printed in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1851. Dr. Sampson never returned from his visit to Nottinghamshire; Thoresby has added the following note at the foot of the above letter: "this was the last letter I rec<sup>d</sup> from this ingenious and pious gentleman, my hon<sup>d</sup> and dear friend Dr. Sampson, who dyed at his brother's in Nottinghamshire (as S<sup>r</sup> W. Hickman told me). *Vide* Mr. Calamy's *Life of Baxter*, p. 238: Phil. Trans. No. 217 107 140, and Phil. Col. No. 2." Several letters from Dr. Sampson are printed in the *Correspondence*.

hither alive, and therefore according to my promise to you I here take care to send you your papers, viz., the MS. about witches and the printed paper about Mr. Scurr. To these I have added for your use a large transcript from some papers of Mr. Woodcock's, in a blue cover, wherein as you will find some trifles, so some things of worthy remark. You shall find in the bundle 5 original letters of Mr. Dod, 5 of Dr Burgess,<sup>1</sup> some of Mr. Davenport in New England, &c., to the old Lady Vere, Sr Horatio's lady, which I got from one that had been her chaplain. Those of Mr. Woodcock, etc., I shall request may be restored to me if I live; but if I dye I (sacrifice?) them to your service; giving you many thanks for your friendly and ingenuous correspondence for diverse years past. The like to my worthy friend Mr. O. H.,<sup>2</sup> telling him I hope to bee in Heaven before him. Farewel, Dear Sr, and while there is room for prayer

Your humble servt,

H. SAMPSON.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds in Yorkshire—to be sent by the Leeds carrier at the White Bear in Basinghall Street, every or other Fryday.")

FROM THE REV. OLIVER HEYWOOD.

Aug. 19, 1700.

DEAR SIR,

Yours I received by J. Baxter. I'm heartily sorry for the death of our noble freind Dr Sampson, immediately after I had intelligence of the death of my dear freind Dr Nicholson<sup>3</sup> of York. Good men are passing off—it's a warning to us to make ready. I am sorry for your losse of Mr. Wales' memoirs; possibly they'll be retriev'd.<sup>4</sup> I have not found my lost letters. My hast is great—my love to you, yours.

Your obliged friend,

OL. HEYWOOD.

(Addressed "These for Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house in Leeds.")

<sup>1</sup> There are notices of these ministers in Calamy.

<sup>2</sup> Oliver Heywood.

<sup>3</sup> A leading physician in York; as before stated, his daughter married the son of Samuel Ibbetson, Thoresby's partner.

<sup>4</sup> Elkanah Wales (see *Diary*, i, 321).



FROM SIR WILLOUGHBY HICKMAN.<sup>1</sup>Gainsbrough, the 28 Aug<sup>t</sup>: 1700.S<sup>R</sup>,

I have according to your desire enquired after the manuscript you lent Dr Sampson who lately dy'd in my neighbourhood,<sup>2</sup> which I understand is left at Clapham in the south and directed for you, which I thought necessary to acquaint you with, that if you had any perticuler directions to give abt it, either to have it delivered to any person in London or otherwise disposed of, upon the receipt of your commands I will endeavour to have them observ'd. I must now returne you my thancks for the civilities you shew'd me lately at Leedes,<sup>3</sup> and desire you will give my humble service to Alderman Ibbetson and Alderman Miller<sup>4</sup> and to Alderman Kitchinman to whome I am and to yourself

A very humble servant,

W. HICKMAN.

(The address-sheet is detached.)

FROM DR. JABEZ CAY.

N'Castle, August 29, 1700.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

Upon my return from my bro. Gilpin's yesterday I found a letter from you which was very acceptable, having not had one from you of a long time. Since you mention the Transactioneer, pray inform me if you can who he is, for I think him no witch at rallying, and some of his jests that are the most tolerable are not his own but taken from Mr. Harris' answer to Parson Robinson's wise Theory of the Earth (which by-the-by is dedicated to the Archdeacon of Carlile). I wish you could see this Theory without buying it; it would at least make you laugh, etc. In what forwardness is our *Naturall History of Lancashire*,<sup>5</sup> etc.? You wonnder that Dr H[earthcot]<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Sir Willoughby Hickman of Gainsborough, third baronet; died 1720.<sup>2</sup> See p. 84 *ante*.<sup>3</sup> Thoresby records in the *Review* for 1700 a visit of Sir Willoughby Hickman to the Museum, when his signature was added to the Album.<sup>4</sup> *Sic*, probably intended for Milner.<sup>5</sup> Dr. Leigh's work (see p. 81 *ante*).<sup>6</sup> The name completed by Thoresby (see p. 53 *ante*).

writes not to you. Why? He writes to no body; he is as kind a friend as I ever met with while I am with him, but afterwards a little troubled with forgetfulness: he gave me a present of books last time I was at his house, to the value of 3<sup>lb</sup> and better; and that I think any body will allow to be very kind, but yet he can answer none of my letters. I shall take care to deliver your letter to Mr. Turnbull.<sup>1</sup> My bro. Gilpin gives his service to you, and has given me an autograph of the old E[arl] of Carlile for you. He has got another altar, of which (when he returns from Sir J. L.<sup>2</sup> where he designs to stay about a fortnight) I expect a draught, and shall send it to you, as likewise an Urn inclos'd within a stone almost like a bottomless stone mortar (if I may use such an expression); this I suppose was design'd for the security of the urn. The ashes were pick'd out of the urn before it was brought to my brother. Dr Manlove was born at Ashburn, in Darbyshire, Nov. 18, 1663; his mother's name was Timothée Pearse, niece to Col. Saunders's his wife. I shall be glad to hear from you. I renew my request to you about Wakefield and Halyfax.<sup>3</sup> My service to Mr. Fenton and all friends. Mr. Bradbury<sup>4</sup> gives his service to you.

Sr, Your serv<sup>t</sup>,

J. CAY.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house in Leeds, Ferry bridge. Post p<sup>d</sup>.")

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FROM DR. BRIAN FAIRFAX.<sup>5</sup>

Oc: 1, 1700.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I thank you for your oblidging letter. I spoke to my Lord of Canterbury concerning Mr. Idle: he told me he would think of no other person than my Lord AB<sup>p</sup> of York would nominate, being in his Province and diocese, and that

<sup>1</sup> The Rev. John Turnbull, a dissenting minister at South Shields.

<sup>2</sup> Probably Sir J. Lowther.

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Cay had asked Thoresby for certain information from the Bills of Mortality of these towns. His papers were presented to Thoresby after his death, by his widow (see *Ducatus*, 527).

<sup>4</sup> The Rev. Thos. Bradbury, previously of Call Lane Chapel.

<sup>5</sup> The writer was Dr. Brian Fairfax, secretary to Archbishop Tillotson. He was a grandson of the first Lord Fairfax.



he had allready given a good character of Mr. Idle, and other persons of quality had don the same, so that I hope Mr. Idle stands fairest for it, and I wish it were better for his and your sake.<sup>1</sup> I would advise him to wayte on the Archb<sup>p</sup> at B<sup>p</sup>thorp. I suppose it will not be don till the King come, tho' the Lords Commissioners may dispose of it without sending to the King if it be (as I fear it is) under £150 per annum. You are sure of my service in this or anything else to my power.

I have a few autographs for you, if you please to let me know what way I may send them but by the post, and a little medal coyned at Naples in the reigne of Masanello (*sic*), which I would present as my mite to your treasure. Mr. Gibson<sup>2</sup> is remembered to you. Excuse this haste from

Your affec: friend,

B. FAIRFAX.

(Addressed "To Mr. Thoresby at his house in Leeds, Yorkshire.")

A seal with the Fairfax arms and motto, "Fare Fac.")

#### FROM THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK.<sup>3</sup>

GOOD MR. THORESBY,

Direct your letter to the B<sup>p</sup> of Sarum at Salisbury and to the B<sup>p</sup> of Norwich at Norwich when they are in the country, as I believe they now both are. And when they are in town (as I believe they will be at the next session of Parl:) then you may find the former at his lodgeings in St James's House, and the latter at his house in Charles Street near St James's Square.

My book refers your denarius of Galba to 821 A.U.C., shortly after Nero was slayn. I will give Bagnith's story to Shepper to be copyed out for you.

Poor Mr. Idle I believe must sit down with a disappointment. My L: of Cant: sent me down such extraordinary testimonialls from the most eminent men about London in behalf of Mr. Scot, and the town are so very importunate for him, having sent a

<sup>1</sup> See page 83 *ante*.

<sup>2</sup> Edmund Gibson, the editor of Camden, then the Archbishop's chaplain.

<sup>3</sup> Thoresby's friend, Dr. Sharp.

second petition with 100 hands after the first which had above 300, that I for my part both in prudence and conscience have thought myself obliged to declare for him rather than any other; and so I am apt to think will the other Commissioners when they meet and have examined all the papers and letters on Mr. Idle's side and Mr. Scot's, which are all fairly before them.<sup>1</sup>

You will (I doubt not) be grieved at what I tell you. I must confesse I am so, that I cannot serve Mr. Idle, for I have a great many considerations that strongly incline me to it (among which his relation to you is not the least), whereas the other man is a perfect stranger to me. But private affections and friendships must have no place in such cases as this, nor indeed any other consideration but the service of the Publick. And by that alone I can truly say I am swayed in my determination as to this particular.

Mr. Idle is particularly obliged to my L<sup>d</sup> Irwin, who got Mr. Ch: Mountague to appeal very vigorously to my Lord of Canterbury on his behalf. After all, what the issue of this business will be I cannot tell, but I have honestly told you my own sense. With service to Mr. Thornton and your Vicar, I rest

Your truly affectionate friend,

JO EBOR.

B<sup>p</sup>sthorpe,

Oct. 21, 1700.

(Addressed and franked "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house in Leeds.—Jo Ebor." The seal bears the arms of the See of York and Sharp of Horton, jointly.)

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THORESBY TO MR. JOHN ARCHER, MERCHANT, LONDON.<sup>2</sup>

HONORED SIR,

By a letter of yours upon Lawyer Washington's death,<sup>3</sup> you seem'd to be a particular friend and acquaintance of his. We have the honor, if not of his nativity (which I dare not positively assert) yet of his education in part at Leedes, where his father was an eminent merchant. This is to request

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Thomas Scott was instituted Vicar of Wakefield on 18th December, 1700. He had been educated at the Grammar School there.

<sup>2</sup> This letter was written by Thoresby, and addressed as above.

<sup>3</sup> See *Ducatus*, p. 103.

the favour of you to know the certain number and titles of what books he printed, and if you can learn the time and place of his birth and death, and, he being one of our Leeds authors, if you cou'd procure any other memoirs of him, or an original letter writ by him (for to my former curiositys I am adding a collection of autographs of persons eminent in any kind, authors, benefactors, etc.) you wou'd hereby very much oblige, Sr,

Your most humble servant,

RALPH THORESBY.<sup>1</sup>

Leedes, 21 Oct<sup>r</sup>, 1700.

If my cos<sup>n</sup> John Dickonson be with you, please tender him my respects. I shal be glad for his dear parents' sake to hear of his health and welfare.<sup>2</sup>

FROM ARCHDEACON NICOLSON.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

Your MS. missale came to my hand about ten dayes agoe; but so little of that time have I been at home that I have hardly as yet had leisure to look into 't. I have noted its mentioning S<sup>t</sup> Columban's day in its Calendar; and I hope to find somew<sup>t</sup> more for my purpose in it. I shall take care to have it thankfully and carefully return'd.

I communicated your Saxon fragment to D<sup>r</sup> Hicks, who saies 'tis in Heming's Chartulary of Worcester, Bibl. Cott. Tiberius, A. 13, fol. 182. There was one word in your transcript which I could not read. He tells me 'tis *hlaeple*, and that instead of *hpaeppe* the true writeing is *hnaeppe*, *calix*, the chalice. The rest is right.

I had lately a letter from Mr. Lhwyd, who was then (Oct. 20) at Helston in Cornwall. He has brought with him from Ireland

<sup>1</sup> At the foot of the letter there is written, in a different hand, no doubt Mr. Archer's, the following replies to Thoresby's enquiries:—

His D. 26 Feb., '93.

1<sup>st</sup> Modern Reports.

Som Observations upon the Ecclesiasticall Jurisdiction of the Kings of England, etc., 8<sup>vo</sup>.

Abridgm<sup>t</sup> of the Statutes of K. W<sup>m</sup> and Q. Mary during (*blank*) years of their reign.

Several stitched books and pamphlets in vindication of the present Governm<sup>t</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> This was a son of John Dickinson, Thoresby's old friend, who had died in 1689 (see p. 17 *ante*).



about thirty parchment MSS. in the Irish language. He had some converse with O'Flaherty,<sup>1</sup> author of the *Ogygia*, but did not find that he was so much master of the antient tongue of his country as he expected. However, he allows him to be a learned, obliging and communicative person, and much bemoans the extreme poverty to which the late revolutions in that kingdom have reduc'd him, and his being plunder'd of his books and papers. In Cornwall (he saies) they have lately found a pot of coins of Canutus, William the Conquerour, etc., some of which he has procur'd, and I have desir'd him to try his fortune once more, whether it be not possible to get duplicates of 'em for the service of his northern friends. There are no Roman monuments, as far as he has yet been able to learn, in that County. They have the Druid adder-beads or glain neidir, which they call Milprev, and they give the same traditional account of their origine as the Welshmen and Highlanders in Scotland. They have several such antient tombstones with inscriptions as are in Wales, some whereof are publish'd in the late Camden. One of these bears the name of Rhiwalvran ap Kynwal, a name so strange to the men of the present age that Mr. L. had much adoe to perswade 'em that there ever was any such amongst their forefathers. Near this, there's a parish church call'd Gyeval, but in old writings Gonval, which he supposes to owe its name to this Kynwal, who, on the stone, is written Cynoval. The inscription at Burien, publish'd in the new notes on Camden, proves to be French, and the inscription is "*Clarice la femme Cheffrei de Bolle . . . . git ici; Deu de l'alme eit mer, e ke pur l'alme puñt diior de pardon averund.*" The Guirimer (there likewise mention'd) seems to have been peculiar to themselves, but he does not believe that the round dykes and entrenchments were thrown up (as is suppos'd) on that occasion, these being rather to be look'd upon as the remains of old camps and forts. The word Guirimir itself he thinks to be a corruption of Gwari myrkl, which signifies a miraculous play or interlude. Two or three of these plays are the onely Cornish books remaining, whereof the last was written by one William Gorden A.D. 1611. They were compos'd for the begetting in the people a right notion of the Scriptures, and were acted in these camps in the memory

<sup>1</sup> The Irish historiographer.

of some lately deceas'd. Our friend is not satisfy'd with his having transcribed these, and learn'd (from other helps) what was to be had of the Cornish language, but he's now going into Bretagne in France, to enquire after the Armorican dialect. To this purpose he has requested the Vice-Chanc<sup>r</sup> to enlarge his leave of absence from the Museum for three or four months longer, in which time he hopes to finish his course for the provideing his materials.<sup>1</sup>

I am, Sr,

Your very faithful and oblig'd Servant,

WILL: NICOLSON.

Nov. 14, 1700.

(Addressed "For Mr. Thoresby at his house in Leedes in Yorkshire. Pd 2d.")

FROM DR. WILLIAM COOKE.<sup>2</sup>

S<sup>R</sup>,

I rec'd yours, and thank you for reminding me of the promise which I suppose I made Mr. Thornton and you, but had quite forgot it: I have endeavor'd to give you what satisfaction I can and I hope the inclosed papers will doe it effectually: Dr Nalson<sup>3</sup> dyed at Ely and was bury'd in the Cathedrall; your other queres are resolved in the epitaph, which was writ by Mr. Brown of St John's Coll: a person not unknown to Mr. Thornton; the paper of the Dr's writeing is pretty remarkable (which was sent me by a friend at Ely) being an Address to K: James the 2<sup>nd</sup>, drawn up by Dr Nalson and writ with his own hand, which you see is neat and gentlemanlike: his widow, I told you, was marry'd to a common lawyer, one Mr. Creamer, and not to a clergyman as you mistake, and I doubt was very ill advis'd in her match; but one of his daughters is marry'd to one Mr. Williams, who

<sup>1</sup> Edward Lloyd (who was Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford) did go to Brittany in 1701, and shortly after his arrival was arrested on suspicion of being a spy, and ordered to quit the country.

<sup>2</sup> William Cooke, LL.D., President of Jesus College, Cambridge, and Chancellor of Ely.

<sup>3</sup> John Nalson, LL.D., Rector of Doddington and Prebendary of Ely, author of several works. He was born at Cat Beeston, his father being minister at the chapel there (see *The Chesters of Chicheley*, by Chester-Waters, i, 320.



was the Dr's curate at Doddington, and, marrying the daughter, was presented to the living after the Dr's death by Sir Sewster Payton, nephew to Mrs. Nalson; 'tis the best benefice in the diocese of Ely, being well worth 600<sup>l</sup> per annum.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Williams and his wife I am very well acquainted with; and they no doubt could furnish you with severall manuscripts of his; but if you only desire a specimen of his hand, the inclosed, I suppose, will be sufficient. My service I pray to Mr. Vicar and all friends; if I can further serve you in this or in any other thing, I shall be very ready to doe it; for I am, S<sup>r</sup>, Your most humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

WILLM. COOKE.

Jesus Coll: Nov. 19, 1700.

(Addressed "To my worthy friend Mr. Ralfe Thoresby at his House in Leeds, Yorkshire, these. Post p<sup>d</sup>.")

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FROM MR. B. FAIRFAX.<sup>2</sup>

There needed no thanks, Mr. Thoresby, for so gratefull an office as you imploy'd me in, where the work sufficiently rewarded the small trouble I was at. However, I should have thought it my duty anyways to further such an undertaking. It is to such publike spirits as yours that the learned part of the world have been ever oblig'd, and they would not deserve that benefitt did not every single person think himself bound in duty to contribute his small help towards it.

I have sent you Mr. Dodsworth's MS., and wish I had known of that design of yours before, for some papers or MS<sup>pts</sup> might have fall'n in my way which perhaps might have added some small help toward your undertaking.

The shortness of my stay in the Country would not permitt me to turn over all the letters again: such an addition as my time would admitt of I have sent, but had not leisure to make any great choice.

<sup>1</sup> Until a comparatively recent period, Doddington is said to have been the richest living in England, worth over £7,000 a year.

<sup>2</sup> This letter is not in the same handwriting as that of the letter printed on page 87 *ante*; it was probably written by Brian Fairfax, son of the writer of that letter. The younger Brian was a Commissioner of Customs, and an antiquary. He died 1748.



I can promise you my L<sup>d</sup>'s memoirs from my father, and if you needed any farther particulars then (than) you have of Ed. F—x's life could inform you of them from him.

When I am at London, you may assure yourself of any service I can do you there. And I hope God will prevent a warr with France for the Pub: interest, my own private satisfaction in travelling, and that I may have a farther opportunity of shewing how much I am

Your friend and humble servant,

B. FAIRFAX.

Denton, Jan : 15.

1709.

(There is no address on the letter.)

There comes next a paper in Thoresby's writing, as follows:—

“Original letters from my Lord Fairfax, sent along with this obligeing letter from Mr. B. Fairfax”:

Anno 1603. Matthew Hutton, Archbp. of York to Bp. Tob. Mathews of Durham.

1620. Mr. John Fairfax, slain at Frankendale,<sup>1</sup> to his father S<sup>r</sup> Tho : Fairfax.

„ 21. Mr. Peregrine Fairfax, slain at Montauban, to his father T. F. afterwards Lord.

„ 23. S<sup>r</sup> John Ogle.  
Francis Manners, Earle of Rutland, to Sir Tho : Fairfax.

„ 27. S<sup>r</sup> Geo : Booth to ditto.

„ 29. John, Lord Darcy, to Lord Fairfax.  
S<sup>r</sup> John Savill to Mr. Harrison, of Leedes, etc.

„ 29. S<sup>r</sup> Guy Palmes to Lord Fairfax.

„ 30. S<sup>r</sup> Ch<sup>r</sup> Clapham to S<sup>r</sup> Ferd : Fairfax.

„ 34. S<sup>r</sup> Tho : Wentworth (Earl of Strafford) to the Lord Fairfax.

Scotch Petition, subscribed by Loudoun, Lauderdale, Ch. Erskine, H. Kennedy, R. Barclay.

S<sup>r</sup> Will : Constable to Sir Ferd : F :

„ 39. S<sup>r</sup> Ed. Osburne, Vice Presid<sup>t</sup>, to S<sup>r</sup> Fer : F :

„ 42. Hen : Clifford, Earl of Cumberland, to Lord Fairfax.

S<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Craven to ditto.

<sup>1</sup> *Sic*, for Frankenthal.

1647. Algernon Percy, Earl of Northumberland, to Lord Fairfax.  
 „ 47. Sr W<sup>m</sup> Strickland to ditto.  
 „ 47. Sr W<sup>m</sup> Lister to ditto.  
 „ 47. Sr Geo. Wentworth.  
 „ 47. Mr Jno. Rushworth.  
 „ 47. Sr Arthur Ingram.  
 „ 47. J. Lambert, the General.  
 „ 47. Sr Tho. Widdrington.  
 „ 47. Sir Tho : Ingram.

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FROM THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK.<sup>1</sup>

GOOD SIR,

I herewith return you Mr. Sutherland's letter,<sup>2</sup> which indeed I intended to send by this post tho' you had not writ to Mr. Richardson. I see my collection of Scots coyns is very imperfect, but so is it also as to Saxon and others. I mean to leave your 5 pieces which you sent by Mr. Killingbeck with Mr. Derring<sup>3</sup> who stays at Bishopthorp during my absence at London. He shall send them to you by the first opportunity. I have not had so much time to spare as to look nicely into Du Fresne's book of the coyns of the Greek Emperors, in order to the finding out to which of them these do belong. The largest and the fairest of them I take to be Heraclius his. The rest I will not so much as guess at, tho' I find such sort of reverses frequently in the book I now named. The silver coyn I know not what to make of. Upon my writing my last letter to you, I look'd among my papers for Bagnith's story, in order to the giving it to Shepper to copy it out for you, but I could not find it; it seems I mislaid it when I brought it back after my showing it to the Bp. of Norwich and you. I have of late been in such a hurry that I could not look over all my boxes where I use to lay papers, but if God give me

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Sharp.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. James Sutherland, of Edinburgh, a correspondent of Thoresby's, to whom he was introduced by Dr. Richardson of Bierley, who describes him as "the Intendent of the physick garden at Edenbrough," and adds that "he has the character of one of the best antiquarys in Scotland." Mr. Sutherland was a great collector of coins.

<sup>3</sup> See p. 49 *ante*.

life and a journey down again, I hope I may be as good as my word to you.

I believe Mr. Thornton might tell you of the motion I made to Mr. Ingram with relation to Mr. Idle's<sup>1</sup> debts. I hoped to have heard of something done before this time towards the making him easy in that point. I will not onely stand to what I then promised but am ready to advance double the sum if there be occasion, towards the setting him free. I am now satisfied that Wakefield living would have undone him. I have no more to add at this time but my hearty wishes of your good health, as also of Mr. Thornton's and Mr. Killingbeck's, to whom I beg you would give my service. I am, with sincere respects,

Your affect: friend,

JO EBOR.

Bpthorp, Feb: 15, 1700.<sup>2</sup>

I design for London on Monday.

(Addressed and franked "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house in Leeds,—Jo Ebor.")

FROM ARCHDEACON NICOLSON.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

I have a great share in your happiness and success in the world, and therefore am not a little troubled at the acct your last gave of the severe treatment you had lately had from some of your mistaken friends.<sup>3</sup> I am especially concern'd that your worthy adhering to the Communion of the Established Church should be an occasion of your sufferings: but I hope you will never like our Doctrines the worse for bringing the Gospel-badge of persecutions on their followers. Dabit Deus his quoque finem.

I beg your pardon for not returning your MS. The expectation of being obliged to attend the Convocation made me desirous to keep it till I could bring it my self: and (as slender a confidence as you have either in the Dean of York's

<sup>1</sup> Thoresby's brother-in-law. See p. 83 *ante*.

<sup>2</sup> 1701.

<sup>3</sup> Alluding to the unpleasantness caused at Mill Hill by Thoresby's attendances at the Established Church.



promises or mine)<sup>1</sup> I assure you that I am fully purpos'd never to come into Yorkshire again without paying my respects at Leedes.

I am now very throng in winding up my bottoms for the finishing of my *Scotch Library*, which (if God continues my health and the public peace) will be publish'd this summer. I shall take the best care I can that even Mr. Momus Atterbury may be pinch'd to find a flaw in it. I suppose you have seen Dr Kennet's and Mr. West's replies to the fam'd Preacher at the Rolls, who will have enough to do to bear up against two such adversaries. In my preface (to my old Caledonian Library) I shall return my answer to the charge he has brought in ag<sup>t</sup> me, and shall abundantly prove that he's not mistaken when he declares that he has no skill in the Saxon tongue.<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Lhwyd is now in the French Bretagne, and I am afraid will be in some hazard if the clouds break into a storm.<sup>3</sup> I am heartily concern'd for him, looking upon him as the most promising light we have both in Antiquities and Natural History. What think you of Dr Leigh's performance?<sup>4</sup> A great many, I find, are dissatisfy'd with it, and I must confess'd (*sic*) I am far from being pleas'd. That you may have all the happyness of this life and the next is the prayer of, Sr,

Your truly affect :

WILL : NICOLSON.

Mar. 17, 1709.

(Addressed "For Mr. Thoresby at his house in Leedes, Yorkshire.")

FROM ARCHDEACON NICOLSON.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

I am not pleas'd to hear that you and I are looking contrary wayes. But so it happens at the present. You are goeing towards London, you tell me, and I am preparing for an Edinburgh expedition. I am drawing together such chapters

<sup>1</sup> This refers to the repeated unfulfilled promises of a visit to Thoresby.

<sup>2</sup> The *Scotch Historical Library* was published in 1702. In the preface Nicolson made a vigorous reply to some slighting remarks about him which Atterbury had made in his work on English Convocations.

<sup>3</sup> The probable outbreak of war with France (see p. 92 *ante*).

<sup>4</sup> *The Natural History of Lancashire and Cheshire*.

of my *Scotch Library* as will most want the inspection and censure of my friends in that kingdome; and when I have that I will bring the rest (God willing) into form very speedily, so as to have the book in the press before Michaelmas.

I have this day rec<sup>d</sup> an obliging present from Dr Woodward, of metals (from Cornwall) and other valuable fossils. He will, I am sure, be glad to see you at Gresham College; and if you have not formerly seen his collection, will give you one of the most acceptable entertainments that the town affords. His diligence and extraordinary judgement in makeing discoveries for the improvement of Natural History is what all lovers of that curious part of knowledge must honour in him: and tho' he must look for the being bitten into the heels by the malicious gang of critics, yet (I hope) the encouragement and thanks of good men will still outbalance those sufferings.

I am heartily glad that you have thought of seeing Dr Wake.<sup>1</sup> I need not tell you anything of the worth of that excellent person, whose great services to the establish'd Church have met with a very odd sort of return from some of her pretended sons. You will please to give my humble respects to him. I shall not so much as desire you to do the like to our friend Mr. Gibson,<sup>2</sup> who wants not any new assurances of my hearty esteem for him. He'l accompany you to the Doctor.

I go for Scotland on the 9<sup>th</sup> of next month. What commands you send me before that time shall be carefully obey'd by, Sr,

Your very affectionate humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

WILL: NICOLSON.

May 31, 1701.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby, at his house in Leedes, Yorkshire. Post p<sup>d</sup>.")

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FROM MR. THOMAS KIRK.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I have not been att home one day since I received yours. I shoud have been very glad of soe good company if my occasions had called me to London.<sup>3</sup> Att the Court of Requests

<sup>1</sup> Afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury.

<sup>2</sup> Edmund Gibson, the editor of *Camden*.

<sup>3</sup> Thoresby started for London on June 9th.

you will find my L<sup>d</sup> Fairfax, Sir Godf. Copley, Mr. Arthington, and other friends; one or both of the two last named gentle-[men] will be proper persons to introduce you to the R. S.:<sup>1</sup> they dine together every Wednesday at Pontack's,<sup>2</sup> and from thence goe to Gresham Colledge,<sup>3</sup> where you will find my honored friend Dr Hook. I desire you to wait of him and give my humble service to him; hee will show you the Repository, but in case hee should be indisposed Mr. Hunt the keeper thereof will show itt you upon Dr Hook's or my recomendation, more especially as you are a member of the Society. If you dine with the gentlemen, you will likely find Sir Rob<sup>t</sup> Southwell, Sir John Hoskins, Dr Sloan, and others of my good friends, to whome I pray my humble service. Itt is now late, soe I have not time to enlarge, onely to wish you a good journey.

I am,

Your humb : serv<sup>t</sup>,

Cookridge H.,

THO : KIRKE.

the 31<sup>st</sup> of May, 1701.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby in Leeds.")

On the back of the paper Mr. Kirke has written "Pontack's in Abchurch Lane. Meet at Garoways Coffehouse near the Royall Exch: every Wednesday att or a little before 2 a'clock the Royall Soc: gent: meet. Every Friday night att 7 or 8 a'clock you may meet Dr Sloan and others at the Temple Coffehouse. When you see Dr Hook if you goe to a coffehouse with him perhaps you may see Mr. Williams, I pray my service to him."

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FROM MR. JAMES SUTHERLAND.<sup>4</sup>

Edinburgh, Junii 5<sup>th</sup>, 1701.

HONOURED SIR,

I have yours of May 24<sup>th</sup> by post, and Mr. Currie called at me May 31. I received your box with the duplicats

<sup>1</sup> The Royal Society. Thoresby was formally admitted a member during this visit to London; see his account, *Diary*, i, 339, where he mentions Dr. Hook, Dr. Sloan, and other members.

<sup>2</sup> Pontack's in Abchurch Lane, then and for many years after one of the most popular restaurants in London.

<sup>3</sup> Where the meetings of the Royal Society were held.

<sup>4</sup> See p. 95 *ante*.



in good order, conform to your letter. The golden Trajan weighs exactly a Louis d'ore, is somewhat blemished, wanting a little bit on the edge, so that I think a guinea may serve for the price. I have layed out the money for these Scotch coyns following, which are not in your list and I met with yesterday by good happ, viz. a crown piece of Queen Marie, a fourty pence piece of the same, a fourty pence of Marie and Henry, a twenty pence piece of the same, a fourty pence of James the sixt with the crown upon the point of the sword, a fourty and five pence piece of James the sixt, a fifeteen pence of the same. They cost in all one and twenty shillings and eight pence, and are put up apart in papers marked, as also the duplicats I could supply you with, of John, King of England, and Edward Longshanks. I have likewise sent the medals of Q. Anne and Charles the 2<sup>nd</sup>'s Coronation-piece at Scoon, both which I procured with great difficulty. All are pack't in a box directed for you, together with all the Scotch duplicats I sent you the list of a long time ago, put up likewise in numbered papers, and in the upper part of the box above the coyns ane elf-arrow<sup>1</sup> and 3 barnacles all marked in papers apart. Mr. Robert Currie went from this to Perth to attend a great fair there, and told me he would not be at Leeds before a month were over, neither was he to return home by Edinburgh, and therefore thought best that I should give the box to your nephew Mr. John Rayner, who takes journey from Edinburgh homewards this day. I have therefore given it to him, and hope by this means it may come very safe to your hands. I shall be glade to hear from you after Mr Rayner arrives, and how ye please what's now sent. Buy Saxon or Roman silver or brasse medals that are well preserved for me at the same rate ye use to give for yourself . . . . .<sup>2</sup>

Honoured Sir,

Your most oblidged humble servant

JA: SUTHERLAND.

(The address-sheet has been detached.)

<sup>1</sup> A belemnite or fossil bone.

<sup>2</sup> The remainder of the letter principally relates to Mr. Sutherland's possessions and requirements in the way of coins—not of much general interest.

FROM MRS. HANNAH BEALE.<sup>1</sup>S<sup>R</sup>,

To preserve my memory in this present I would not have you, for I deserve no better then (than) it should be burried in my grave, for I have been so unfortunate in my second marriage with Mr. Beale; I have brought into the honest family of the Stanhopes the wickedest man upon earth. But I desire you to say in your cattelogue that it was the gift of Mrs. Mary Stanhope to mee, who died on the 10<sup>th</sup> June, 1700, and lyes burried in St Pulken's Church att Northampton which has formerly been a Jewesh Synagogue: it is made round, there is but one more of them in England. This pice (*sic*) was dug out of the ground of Kirkstall Abbey, 40 years agoe: it represents the pious memory of Joseph of Arrimethea lying our Saviour in his sepulcher.<sup>2</sup>

I am, S<sup>r</sup>,

Your servant,

HANNA BEALE.

Horsforth, 5 June, 1701.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Theresby in Kirkgatt in Leeds, these.")

FROM ARCHDEACON NICOLSON.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

I hope this will find you return'd in good health from London, as well pleas'd with your southern journey as I am with my northern expedition. I carry'd with me the two last chapters (on the law-books and coins) of my "Scotch Library," and had 'em review'd by some friends who were well skill'd in those several subjects. I am now putting the rest into the last posture they are like to have from my hand before they appear in public; and I very much long to be eas'd of the fatigue of 'em.

I met with a very ingenious and worthy friend of yours (Mr. Boulter) at Edinburgh. He would give you a far better

<sup>1</sup> According to the Stanhope pedigree in the *Ducatus* (p. 166), Mrs. Beale was a daughter of Leonard Horsman, and was successively the wife of John Stanhope, of Gray's Inn, who died 1694, and Captain Henry Beale. The latter was a captain in the Duke of Bolton's regiment, and at one time Governor of St. Christopher's.

<sup>2</sup> See *Ducatus*, p. 487.

account of the place and the neighbouring curiosities than I am able to doe; and indeed his comeing home to you full fraught with much finer observations than I could make was one main reason why I have thus long deferr'd the giving you any trouble from myself. You will please to give my humble respects to him when you see him.

He'd tell you of Mr. Slezer's<sup>1</sup> intentions to goe on with his Scotch Atlas, if either of the kingdomes (or both joyntly) will afford him a sufficient encouragement. In the last session of their Parliament his proposeals came abroad, but they have hitherto had no better success than several other projects started at the same time. Amongst his other designs, I am told he intended such an Historical Library for that kingdome as at present disquiets me: but I have no hopes of haveing any help from him or his papers.

Mr. Adair shew'd me the progress he had made in the hydrography, or coasting-charts, of Scotland; which (truely) is very considerable. His abillities (if I am not much mistaken in him) are answerable to his undertakeing, and 'tis a great pity that he should want, as I fear he does, a suitable support from the Public.

Your MS. *De dulci corde* continues still here. I am now, I think, unalterably resolv'd (God continueing my present state of health) to bring it home the first week in October. I am under some engagements to be at London in the end of that month; and since this is like to be the last ramble of my life, I would take as much leisure and make the journey as pleasant and improveing as is possible.

I got a transcript of their MS. *History of Mailros*. It differs in many particulars from the printed book,<sup>2</sup> but haveing the same preface seems to have been written (originally at least) by an Englishman. Perhaps many of the additions relateing mainly to the affairs of Scotland may be the work of a late monk of the place and a native of the antient kingdome.

I thought I had made my account of their coins so complete that 'twas hardly possible to discover any antient pieces which

<sup>1</sup> Slezer's *Theatrum Scotiae*, a book of views of ancient Scottish buildings, was published in 1693.

<sup>2</sup> This possibly refers to the *Chronica de Mailros*, printed in Fulman's *Rerum Anglicarum Scriptores*, Oxford, 1684.



were omitted: and yet Mr. Sutherland (in a letter which I received from him the last week) saies he has seen a gold coin of James the Fifth, since I left him, which is about the weight of a bonnet-piece,<sup>1</sup> but different in stamp from all that are in his excellent collection. He promises me a more particular description of it in his next.

I am ever, Sr,

Your most oblig'd,

WILL: NICOLSON.

Jul. 26, 1701.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house in Leedes, Yorkshire. P<sup>d</sup> 2<sup>d</sup>.")

FROM DR. HICKES.<sup>2</sup>

London, Aug<sup>t</sup> 14, 1701.

SIR,

I have been very buisy ever since you were here, and on Munday next, God willing, intend to go to Oxford for a fortnight. After my return from thence, I will send you some letters as I promised you, some whereof you may keep but others you must return because they are not my propriety (*sic*), but you may take copies of them. I will then also, God giving health, write you my thoughts about the inscription of your Runic coin, which I think is to be translated "Thor, God of the country," or "Thor, the country God."<sup>3</sup> In the mean, I beg your excuse, and with very great respect for you as my countryman, an antiquary of a free and communicative temper, a lover

<sup>1</sup> The bonnet-piece was a coin of James V, on which he is represented as wearing a bonnet.

<sup>2</sup> The well-known Dr. George Hickes the nonjuror. He was born at News-ham, near Thirsk, in 1642, and was appointed Dean of Worcester in 1683, but refusing the oath of allegiance after the Revolution, he was deprived in 1690. He was afterwards consecrated as the (nonjuring) Bishop of Thetford. His principal work was the "*Linguarum Veterum Septentrionalium Thesaurus*" which appeared in 1703-5, but he was the author of many other works, a list of which appears in Thoresby's *Correspondence*, vol. ii. He obliged Thoresby with a number of derivations, inserted as an addendum to the *Ducatus* (page 267). He was a remote connection of Thoresby's. He died in 1715.

<sup>3</sup> Thoresby received a further long letter from Dr. Hickes on the subject of this inscription in the following October, which is summarised in the *Ducatus*, p. 339.

of truth, a searcher after the reasons and causes of thinges, but above all as a good Christian, I subscribe, Sir,

Your most faithfull humble servt,

GEO. HICKES.

(Addressed "For Mr. Thirsby, at his house in Leedes in Yorkshire.")

FROM DR. JABEZ CAY.

DEAR SIR,

I am glad to hear that you were regal'd at London with entertainments so much to your palat. The conversation that you had with great personages and men of learning, and the many other collections of antiquities and naturall curiosities that you were so freely admitted to, must doubtless have taken your time of [f] your hand after the most agreeable manner. If ever I would entertain the passion of envy, it should be upon such an occasion as this; and I do assure you that it is with no small impatience that I long for some of those opportunities that you have had. I was at York in June last, and was strongly tempted to go to Leeds, but I knew that you were not there at that time,<sup>1</sup> and therefore could with the more ease put by the temptation. I sent two boxes to Dr Woodward about 7 weeks ago, but I suppose you were come away before they came to his hands. My service to Mr. Fenton and all friends,

Sr, Your servant,

J. CAY.

Newcastle, September 5, 1701.

(Addressed "Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house in Leeds, Ferry Bridge. Post p<sup>d</sup>.")

FROM LORD FAIRFAX.<sup>2</sup>

S<sup>R</sup>,

Haveing an oppertunity by my Cosen Fairfax of returneing you my hearty thanks for your kind letter and intentions, I cou'd not let it slip without the greatest appearance of ingratitude, which I wou'd not in the le[a]st be guilty of, tho' I'm

<sup>1</sup> Thoresby was then in London.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas, fifth Lord Fairfax.

sure none of my endeavours can ever make a suitable returne for the past favours I have rec<sup>d</sup> from you and the rest of my friends at Leedes. The elections are now like to be more frequent than formerly and I shou<sup>d</sup> be very unwilling to be the occation of disputes while so worthy gentlemen fitter to represent the County than myself might be chosen, but since I have that encouragement given mee to offer my service, I will not decline anything in my power, either at home or abroad. It was not in my power, by reason of business in Town, to come down sooner, but I intend very suddenly to be at Leeds and tender my service, tho' at the same time I see little or no prospect of a dissolution.<sup>1</sup> My cosen is in hast, therefore I hope you will pardone this abrupt conclution from

Your most oblig'd Servant,

T. FAIRFAX.

Denton, Sep. 22, 1701.

(Addressed "For Mr. Thorsby at his house at Leeds.")

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FROM DR. HICKES.

GOOD SIR,

Sep<sup>r</sup> 28, 1701.

I received yours of the 13<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>t</sup>, by which I perceive you did not receive the letter which I wrote to you before I went to Oxford. In that letter I told you I would send you some originall letters if you would please to take copies of them and send back the originalls, and that I would send you my thoughts of the inscription of your Runic coin. Ever since I came from Oxford till within these 3 or 4 dayes, I have been so ill that I could not mind my studies, even writeing of letters was irksome to me. But now, I thank God, I am well again, and intend to give you my conjectures upon your coin, which I will send you as soon as I know your pleasure about the above-mentioned letters.

Some way or other, you shall have a copy of Mr. Dodsworth MS. I have not yet spoke of it to Mr. Gibson. I am very much engaged to you and that worthy gentleman Mr. Thornton for finding so pleasant and healthy an habitation for me, which I wish I could embrace, but I can stir no whither till my book

<sup>1</sup> At the election of 1702, Lord Fairfax changed his mind at the last moment, and declined to stand for the county (see *Diary*, i, 373).



at Oxford is finished;<sup>1</sup> I pray give my humble service to that worthy gentleman Mr. Thornton. If ever I settle in the country I should be glad of such learned and ingenious conversation as his. Mr. Wanley, I thank God, is very well again;<sup>2</sup> I will tell him in a day or two what you desire of him. I am glad, and thank God, for the benefit you and others received by my book, and wish to see your *Antiquity of Leedes*, and desire to know in your next what you take to be the reason of the name.

I have not yet heard of the worthy Archd<sup>n</sup> Nicolson, whome I long to see. Sir, I wish you and Mr. Thornton long and firm health, that you may live many yeares to advance learning: and committing you with most hearty ejaculations to God's fatherly protection, I subscribe with all respect

Your most faithfull humble serv<sup>t</sup>

GEO. HICKES.

I suppose you have heard from my excellent neighbour Dr Sloan.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house in Leedes in Yorkshire.")

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FROM DR. JOHN WOODWARD.<sup>3</sup>

S<sup>R</sup>,

I return you thanks for your obliging letter and account of the numismata f[oun]d in Lincolnshire. A lady that is a patient of mine was in those parts last sommer and brought up some small Rom. coynes, I believe of those you mention, lately found there, but they that she had were litle worth. When next I see her I will direct her to make further enquiry.

Mr. Wren has been lately in Dorsetshire, but either is return'd or will be suddenly, and I'll get you a prospect of St Paul's. I have laid by a letter of Mr. Flamsteed's, which shall be sent you with that, and I shall be glad to accomodate you with others from men of note, I mean as any come to my hands

<sup>1</sup> Probably his *Thesaurus*, alluded to in the note to his previous letter, page 103.

<sup>2</sup> Humphrey Wanley, afterwards Librarian to Harley, Earl of Oxford. He was at this time assisting Hickes.

<sup>3</sup> The writer was the well-known John Woodward, M.D., author of the "Essay towards a natural history of the earth," and other works. He was a learned man, but of a captious and quarrelsome disposition. He died in 1728.

that I can spare, for I cannot part with those that contain any business; and in truth my affairs are such that I have not leisure to maintain a meer verbal correspondence with any body, so that I fear I shall not be able to oblige you this way so much as I could wish.

I have received lately a brass sword and 2 weapons, one like a cuneus, the other a small ax, of great antiquity, from the Isle of Man. I'm sure you are not idle at Leeds, and I shall be glad to see some of the fossils and of the antiquities of those parts.

My Lord Pembroke remembers you with much civility. Mr. Stonestreet<sup>1</sup> gives you his service, and Mr. Dale<sup>2</sup> tells me he wrote to you lately. You mention nothing of the receipt of my last letter: I hope it came to your hands. I have a copy of an inscription in strange characters on a rock in New England, but we know not what to make of them. Mr. Morton has found a statue with its arms akimbo and an inscr. D. M. IOVI CVSTODI FILIAE SVAE BLESIVS. There are like statues said to be in the north; pray send me your thoughts of it. Mr. Morton is a gentleman worth your correspondence: I'll bring you acquainted with him if you please.<sup>3</sup> Or if there be anything else in which I can be serviceable to you, you know with what freedom you can command, Sr,

Your humble servant,

J. WOODWARD.

Gresh: Coll: 2 Decemb: 1701.

(Addressed "To the very worthy Mr. Ralph Thoresby, at Leeds in Yorkshire.")

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FROM DR. HANS SLOANE.<sup>4</sup>

London, Dec: 11, 1701.

SR,

I rec<sup>d</sup> your letter and communicated it to the Royall Society,<sup>5</sup> together with Mr. Rastrick's letter<sup>6</sup> to me. They were

<sup>1</sup> See *Diary*, i, 343.

<sup>2</sup> Probably Robert Dale, the herald.

<sup>3</sup> The Rev. John Morton, curate and afterwards rector of Great Oxendon, Northamptonshire; author of the *Natural History of Northamptonshire*.

<sup>4</sup> The celebrated Dr. (afterwards Sir) Hans Sloane, then secretary of the Royal Society.

<sup>5</sup> See *Ralph Thoresby the Topographer*, vol. i, p. 417.

<sup>6</sup> Respecting a find of coins at Fleet, in Lincolnshire (see p. 110 *post*).



well pleased with both, and ordered me to thank him and you for helping them to the knowledge of what had not else been seen by them. I will not fail to write to Mr. Ray abt what you desire me in my next letter to him. He is become of late sickly and is pretty well in years, but a very extraordinary person.<sup>1</sup> I will not fail also to give your respects to Dr Hickes and the other gent. you mention. I am promised a letter of my Lord Bacon's for your collection, and shall send that, many others, fruits, etc., as soon as I can lay them by. I have a design to sett my things in order, and will send them to you immediately as I range them in my small collection. I am,

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>,

HANS SLOANE.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thorsby, at Leeds in Yorkshire.")

The seal has a coat of arms, in a quarter three lions passant, also a crest apparently a bird.)

FROM THE REV. EDMUND HICKERINGILL.<sup>2</sup>

Pondhall, near Maningtree, in Essex,

December 15, 1701.

S<sup>R</sup>,

Yours of the 25<sup>th</sup> of the last month I rec<sup>d</sup> long agoe, but I have thus long delayed my answer, chiefly because I did a good while resolve to give no answer at all; not that I doe not approve of your laudable design (wh<sup>ch</sup> should be encouraged) but because I esteem no fame in this life worth the courting, or the trouble of my pen, much lesse fame after death; nor can a true estimate be taken of any man's life till he has finish't it—you know the old verse

Dicique beatum ante obitum nemo, supremaque funera.

Plutarch's Lives are onely of the dead, for whilst men live flattery, like the morning shadow, represents us bigger then (than) we are whilst we live (*sic*), and envy, like the meridian shadow, makes men lesse then they really there (*sic*): and both

<sup>1</sup> John Ray, F.R.S., the well-known botanist and naturalist.

<sup>2</sup> Rector of All Saints', Colchester. As may be inferred from the letter, he was a curious character. Darling, in his *Cyclopædia Bibliographica*, calls him "a half crazy writer . . . . described by Newcourt as an impudent, violent, ignorant fellow."



envy and flattery are our inseparable attendants whilst we live, and are both infallibly dead and buried with us in our graves. And I should as soon hunt my shadow as fame after death. All the obligation my friends can put upon mee after death is to forget mee. Alexander, Cæsar, and the rest of the pests and plagues that devour'd all before them with fire and sword, are no more concern'd in their good or bad fame now then a rotten oak is, nor would I so much as in a wish prolong my memory in a gravestone or (a lesse lasting monument) an epitaph.<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, your ingenious design is as commendable as that of Plutarch, who writ the lives of hero's, not for the sake of the dead but for document<sup>2</sup> and instruction to living posterity. If therefore I dye before you have finish't your intended design, my *Executor* will furnish you perhaps with some passages of my life, which has not a scene in it for which I have cause to blush, yet being both a souldier and a divine, if of no great moment yet rare and therefore diverting enough. I have but just room to assure you that I am Your affectionate friend,

EDMUND HICKERINGILL.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds in Yorkshire.  
Per London post.")

FROM MRS. ANNA THORESBY.<sup>3</sup>

DEARE COSIN,

I have not been unmindfull of you tho' I have not answered your letters, but truly I am so frequently indisposed that it is troblsom to me to set pen to paper; it has formerly been my delight. You inquire after the Christian names of my father Thoresby's brothers-in-law. I never knew them, nor have I heard of their names. But my husband was born at a house called the Grange in West Cottingworth (*sic*) and my selfe at Rawcliff in Snath parish: my father's name John Belton, my mother's Jane, but I remember not hir maiden name. The tenth of March, next I shall be 89, if God spare my life. I

<sup>1</sup> After this tirade, it is perhaps hardly necessary to say that the writer furnished Thoresby with a long account of his life and writings (see *Correspondence*, ii, 8).

<sup>2</sup> Used in the old sense of "teaching" or "instructing."

<sup>3</sup> The writer was the widow of Paul Thoresby, half-brother of Ralph Thoresby's grandfather. She died in 1703.

was maryed aboote 19, and have had 12 children, but one living. This is as much as I can say in answer to what you write, and what is awanting perhaps cosin Heath may inform you. I am concern'd for the loss of my dear sister,<sup>1</sup> but it is hir greate gaine; I long to follow hir who through faith and patience doe now inherit the promises. I desire to hear of cousin Alice and hir children, of yourselfe and family, cous[in] Jerimy and Abigill,<sup>2</sup> which is all, but commit you to the Almighty, and rest

Your very loving Aunt

Anna Thoresby.

Chester, Dec: 16, 1701.

(Addressed (in different writing) "Mr. Ra. Thoresby at his house in Kirkgate, Leeds." The seal has the Thoresby arms.)

FROM THE REV. JOHN RASTRICK.<sup>3</sup>

Lynn-Regis, Dec<sup>r</sup> 22<sup>d</sup>, 1701.

WORTHY S<sup>R</sup>,

Your's of the 27<sup>th</sup> of Octob. I received, and in compliance with your order have endeavoured by the help of my wife's brother (who lives near the place) to procure you what I could of the Roman coyn or medalls found at Fleet: and I have now three score of them by me for you, with some few small pieces of the pot they were found in; which I shall keep by me till you or I can find a convenient way to contrive them to you.<sup>4</sup> They are in the ruff (*sic*) and rust just as they came out of the pot. My bro. tells me their way to get them bright is to steep them in wine-vinegar for a fortnight, shifting the vinegar once in 4 or 5 days, then rubbing them with a

<sup>1</sup> In the margin Thoresby has written "Milner." She was wife of William Milner of Leeds, and died on the 9th December, 1701.

<sup>2</sup> Thoresby's brother and sister.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Rastrick was a dissenting minister (though Thoresby records that he had previously been a conforming clergyman), who had been one of the candidates for the appointment at Mill Hill when Dr. Manlove resigned. The motto attached to his signature in Thoresby's Album is "In necessariis unitas, in non necessariis libertas, in utrisque charitas."

<sup>4</sup> There is another letter from Mr. Rastrick, written on the 26th of the following month, acknowledging receipt of 4s., and stating that he was forwarding the medals "by one Benjamin Ledgard, a Quaker, who lives in your parish (tho' not in your town) at a village called Churrell, or some such name." Thoresby was disappointed with them (Atkinson's *Ralph Thoresby*, i, 418).



woollen cloth, and they will be very bright and fair to be seen. But doubtless you know a better way than that, and to do it sooner. Some do it with aqua fortis and water, equal parts, in which dip a woollen rag, and rub them, then presently rub them with an oyle cloth, and lastly with a dry woollen cloth dip't in powder of *lapis calammaris* or rotten stone, rub them bright.

They are all of them of the small sort, and cost my brother 1<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup> per score, that is four shillings all of them. The pot held no larger in it than this sort, Mr. Lindon (as my brother writes him) had parted with them all but 200 pieces, out of which my bro. pick't these 60, the fairest he could chuse; yet to me it seems as if there were not many of them that can be entirely read. The man that found them has an uncle at London who came purposely down to see his coyn, and he took as many as he gave 30<sup>s</sup> for, and after he sent him word that he sold them again at London for 8<sup>li</sup>, and now the young man frets that he should swatter<sup>1</sup> them away and make no more of them. This is all at present from, Sr,

Your friend and servant,

JOHN RASTRICK.

I ventur'd to acquaint the Royall Society with this matter by the same post that I wrote to you, which I perceive they are pleased kindly to accept.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house in Leedes in York-shire, these D. By way of Caxton. Post paid 3<sup>d</sup>.")

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FROM MRS. SUSAN MADOX.<sup>2</sup>

Mr. THORSBE,

S<sup>R</sup>,

I have according to your desire got something of both Mr. Clark's writeing and some other odd things, which if you think worth your ading to your other collections may be had at Cosen Dickinson's in Amen Corner, where (I think) you said you would get some friend to call for them. They are more

<sup>1</sup> *Swatter*, an old word here used in the sense of "squander."

<sup>2</sup> Mother of Thomas Madox, the historiographer. She was a large contributor to Thoresby's museum. She died in 1704. Her sister married John Dickinson, of Leeds and London, merchant, the old friend of Thoresby and his father.



bulkey than I intended, by reason of a lanthorn that's made of the body of a fish,<sup>1</sup> which if it will be too troublesome to be sent so far may be left behind. Wish it were in my power to gratify you in anything that were more considerable, but, since it is not, hope you will except (*sic*) of the will for the deed. With my service to your lady, from, Sr,

Your reall friend and servant,

Decem : 23, 1701.

S. MADOX.

Cosen Dickinson give their service.

(Addressed "This to Mr. Ralph Thorsbe, Leeds, in Yorkshire.")

FROM SIR GRIFFITH BOYNTON.<sup>2</sup>

I hope, Sr, the booke you lent me will get safe with this to Leeds; could not let it return without thankses for the favour, and assuring you under my hand that I am,

Your affectionate kinsman<sup>3</sup> and humble servant,

G. BOYNTON.

Janu : the 14<sup>th</sup>.<sup>4</sup>

(Addressed "For Mr. Thorsby.")

FROM THE REV. EDMUND CALAMY.<sup>5</sup>

January 17<sup>th</sup>, 170 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

WORTHY S<sup>R</sup>,

As great a stranger as I am to you, yet knowing your character I resolv'd rather to incurr your censure for my rudeness than deny my self the advantage of falling within the

<sup>1</sup> Thoresby has added a note "the scolopendra fish."

<sup>2</sup> Of Burton Agnes, baronet; born 1665, died 1731. His signature is in the Album, with the motto "Omnia vincit amor," which appears to have been popular, several other signatories using it.

<sup>3</sup> The relationship was sufficiently remote; Sir Griffith's wife's grandfather, Richard Sykes, rector of Kirkheaton, was a brother of William Sykes, Mrs. Thoresby's grandfather.

<sup>4</sup> Thoresby has added: "14 Jan., 170 $\frac{1}{2}$ ." He has also written on the back of the letter "this is the least sheet of paper that ever I saw, and that it is a whole sheet is evident by the gold on each side the edge, quite round." The seal bears a fess between three crescents.

<sup>5</sup> Edmund Calamy, D.D., the well-known biographer of the Nonconformist ministers. The work he refers to was his Abridgment of Baxter's Narrative of his Life, which contained the first account of the ejected Nonconformist ministers. Dr. Calamy died in 1732.

reach of your assistance in a design which I have on foot, calculated for the publick good of which I understand you are so studious a promoter. By my very introduction you'll easily spy my selfish aim; indeed, I think 'twould be to no purpose to seek to hide it: I apply my self to you with hopes of deriving from you, but it is that the world may have the benefit.

Thus stands the case: Mr. Baxter's History of his Life and Times (which cannot have escap'd you) is a book of as great variety as the age has afforded. Being solicited by many, I have undertaken to abridge it—cast it into another form—lopp off excrescencys—and putt it into something of a modern dress and make it more easy and pleasing and consequently more useful. Being thus engag'd, I was importun'd to make allso some additions. Several additions I have to make which I have the vanity to hope may be entertaining to the curious. Among the rest, I have bin press'd to add a list of the ministers who were ejected after King Charles's Restauration, to make way for the new settlement, together with the most memorable passages of the lives, the characters, and works of the most considerable among them. This allso I have undertaken, and the press is actually going, and I am in hopes to gett thro' it by Lady day or a little after. Besides domestick provision I have sent to several parts of the nation for intelligence. Amongst the rest I have written to two worthy persons in your county—Mr. Oliver Heywood and Dr Coulton,<sup>1</sup> who have bin so kind as to transmitt me considerable memoirs about the Yorkshire and Lancashire ministers. I last night receiv'd a letter from Mr. Priestley of Winteredge, who informs me that you have among your curious collections several memoirs that might be useful to my purpose, and urges me to write to you, giving me some hopes of your freedom in communicating. I had often heard before of your curious genius, but never knew till then that it led you at all that way; but having this information I soon resolv'd the cause should not suffer for want of a bold request to you, to impart what you have by you concerning Mr. Reyner of Lincoln, or any other of our more antient or modern Puritans. A bold request, you'll say, from a meer stranger; but I have two pleas to back it which crave

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Colton (see Hunter's *Life of Heywood*, p. 377).



your consideration. The first is taken from the generous openness that is universally observable where there are the best furnish'd stores. A slack hand where there is penury is easily supposable ; but plenty without diffusiveness carries with it so great an absurdity as I can never imagine one of Mr. Thoresby's character chargeable with. My second plea I derive from the strength of the obligation you'll lay upon me to anything within my power by way of return. This plea would, I confess, be much stronger could I assure you of my capacity of gratifying your curiosity in any way that is considerable, as to which I must confess I dare not make any great pretences. But this however I'll venture to say, that diligence and industry and application are sometimes equivalent to great abilities, and there (I here give it you under my hand) I'll not be wanting in anything you shall desire me to contribute to your assistance. If my pleas are insufficient, I crave your pardon ; and let me but have it under your hand, and that, if I can have no more, will be esteem'd an obligation by, Sr,

Your humble Servant

EDMUND CALAMY.

You may please to direct to my house in Hoxton Square, near Shoreditch Church, in London.

P.S. If you'll venture to trust me, I'll, under any penalty you shall fix, be responsible for the safe return of anything you communicate which you have a particular value for.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby, at his house in Leeds, Yorkshire.")

FROM MR. RICHARD THORNTON.

DEARE SR,

I am sorry to find any person reduc'd to soe great straits as to part with the Bible for sustenance—the Bread of Life for their dayly bread. Therefore would rather lie down what you propose, 18<sup>s</sup> or 20<sup>s</sup>, and upon paying back what you think the Bible worth, restore it to the owner, then (than) buy it quite out.

Doe what you please in the matter, and you will please, Sr,  
Your humble servant,

R. THORNTON.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby.")

22 Jan : 1702,



FROM DR. WOODWARD.

Gr : Coll : 7 Febr : 1701.<sup>1</sup>S<sup>R</sup>,

I would not have been so long in arrear for answer of your last kind letter, but that I was willing first to have seen the gent. that brought the box, for which I thank you. But I happen'd to be abroad when he brought it, and he hath never call'd since. The letter from Mr. Flamstead and one from S<sup>r</sup> Robert Southwell<sup>2</sup> are ready for you against you give me an opportunity of sending them. Sir Chr. Wren is graveing a much finer design of S<sup>t</sup> Paul's, and I believe I shall have an exemplar ready for you in a month or sooner. I congratulate your good fortune in getting so many of the Lincolnshire coynes<sup>3</sup>; they are fallen into good hands. D<sup>r</sup> Sloane read a letter from you about them. He's a very tricking person, you'd best take a caution of him. You cannot be any stranger to his character.<sup>4</sup> I doubt not but you hear my Lord Pembroke is Lord High Admiral, a station of great business, so that he has less time to mind these matters. Mr. Stonestreet and Mr. Dale are your servants. Mr. Morton will write to you suddenly, if he have not done it already. My L<sup>d</sup> Archb<sup>p</sup> of Yorke did me much honour and my Discourse of Vegetation: if you see his Grace again, pray do me the favour to give my duty to him. D<sup>r</sup> Richardson did the part of a candid and honest gentleman: pray send me the whole of what past betwixt you on that subject. Pray give him my service. I should be glad to correspond with him, or to see him if he hold his intentions of comeing to this town.<sup>5</sup> My servant is at last return'd from Cornwall and has brought me a great variety of ores from Cornwall. But I have chid him for bringing so few duplicates that I cannot pleasure

<sup>1</sup> Probably 1701.<sup>2</sup> Flamstead, the Astronomer Royal. Sir Robert Southwell, President of the Royal Society, a prominent diplomatist, and Secretary for Ireland.<sup>3</sup> See page 110 *ante*.<sup>4</sup> Dr. Woodward, though a man of energy and ability, was, as before mentioned, of a contentious disposition, and seems sooner or later to have had quarrels with most of the persons of his acquaintance. His ill-feeling towards Dr. Sloane increased to a pitch which finally led to his expulsion from the Royal Society.<sup>5</sup> Dr. Richardson (of Bierley) did call upon Dr. Woodward shortly afterwards, but their acquaintance speedily resulted in a quarrel, and Woodward afterwards vehemently, but unsuccessfully, opposed Dr. Richardson's election to the Royal Society.

many of my friends that I had promised some of those ores to. The expectancy of war and a breach with France takes the thoughts of people much up, and learning is little regarded. Dr Sloane produces now and then so much from his correspondents as serves to make the Company smile. His gambols have brought the study of nature much into ridicule. Have you seen Dr Dickenson's<sup>1</sup> *Physica vetus et vera*, 4<sup>o</sup>? From France I have lately the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of M. du Hamel's *Hist. Academiae Scientiarum*, with many curious additions. I am, Sr,

Your very humble servant,

J. WOODWARD.

(Addressed "To Mr. Thoresby, at Leeds, in Yorkshire.")

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FROM DR. RICHARDSON.<sup>2</sup>

North Bierley, Feb: 20, '7<sup>2</sup>.

WORTHY SIR,

I here returne you Dr Sloan's booke, with my hearty thanks for the service it has don me. I heare from my friend Vernon, who is now at London, that the Dr's Nat. Hist. of Jamaca<sup>3</sup> is in good forwardnesse. Mr. James Petiver,<sup>4</sup> an apothecary in London and Fellowe of your Society, is for printing his Centurys at large by subscription. The worke consists of Indian animals of all sorts, shells, and plants. Mr. Vernon tells me he sawe the copper plates, the figures being very fine: the subscription is a guinea. Mr. Ray's third vol. of his generall history of plants is very nigh perfected. I had a letter by the last post from Mr. Lhwyd<sup>5</sup>; he gives you his thanks for your information about the British coyne in

<sup>1</sup> Edmund Dickenson, a noted physician of the period, with a strong taste for alchemy.

<sup>2</sup> Richard Richardson, M.D., F.R.S., of North Bierley, one of the leading physicians of his time, and an eminent botanist. A volume of letters addressed to him, with a short memoir of his life, was printed by Mr. Dawson Turner in 1835. His signature is in Thoresby's Album, with the motto "non nobis nascimur."

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Sloane.

<sup>4</sup> James Petiver, author of many works on botany and entomology. Died 1718.

<sup>5</sup> Edward Lhwyd or Lloyd, Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford,

Cambden, and desires you would favour him with the inscription at length. He tells me he is glad that you are begining to collect fossils, that he may have an opportunity of obliging you with such as the neighbourhood of Oxford affords. If you please to write to him yourself I am sure he wil take it very kindly from you: you may direct to him at the Museum in Oxford, or if you thinke it not convenient, what ever you intend to send him, either relating to the coyne or any thing else shall be very carefully transmitted to him by

Your obed. servant,

RIC: RICHARDSON.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leedes." The seal bears Dr Richardson's crest and coat of arms.)

FROM MR. GEORGE HOLMES.<sup>1</sup>

S<sup>R</sup>,

Mr. Petyt<sup>2</sup> was pleas'd to communicate your letter to me, wherein you desire some of Mr. Pryn's own hand writeing. I have here enclosed sent you some, as likewise an originall letter of the Lord Burghley's who was Secretary of State to Queen Elizabeth, another of the Duke of Lenox's, another of Mr. Cotgrave's who wrote a French dictionary. Mr. Petyt had disposed of his collections of Archbp. Williams's letters the day before Mr. Kirk was with him. I have sent you Mr. Petyt's other tract, viz. *Miscellanea Parliamentaria*, which I desire you would be pleased to accept of from, S<sup>r</sup>,

Your very humbly (*sic*) servant,

GEO. HOLMES.

Inner Temple, London,

March the 14, 170 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

(The address-sheet is detached.)

<sup>1</sup> George Holmes, F.R.S. and F.S.A., a native of Skipton, deputy-keeper of the Records in the Tower of London. He died 1749.

<sup>2</sup> This was the writer's chief, William Petyt, Keeper of the Records in the Tower, and author of several works. He also was a native of Craven. Born 1636, died 1707.



FROM MR. CHARLES TOWNLEY.

Towneley, March 16, 170 $\frac{1}{2}$ .S<sup>R</sup>,

I hope this will atone for my former neglect. I have spoke to my b<sup>r</sup> for some autographs of our famous triumvirate, and find him very willing to gratify you, provided it can be done without dismembring the collection, so that what the authors assert may not in it want the due proofs they give: my brother's eys grow worse and worse; however I shal desire him to look the collection over, and if any piece be found that can be spar'd, I doubt not but that you may command it. I am sorry your Lincolnshire old coins prove so defective; when occasion serves, I shal not be wanting to see what can be got from S<sup>r</sup> Nicholas Shireburn. One that had skill (which I have not) might by truck and change of what is common come to light on what is valuable. What you write of the laskhole or pond is very satisfactory. I know not whether you have heard of the death of D<sup>r</sup> Cuerden: he dy'd wondrous poor, and without taking care to restore the manuscripts he had borrow'd of my brother, to retrieve which I, the other day, took a journey to Wiggan. I found and have got most that were wanting; they are not yet come home, and so cannot give you any account of them. I had about half an hour's time to view many scatter'd notes and papers of his collections, but this was not enough to give any guess at their value: besides, he writ so ill that I fear they will scarce be serviceable. I could not find anything fitted for the press, tho' I had been told his late journey to London was in order to send something of his fashion into the world by it.<sup>1</sup> When at London, if I mistake not, his particular friend was D<sup>r</sup> Woodward at Gresham Colledge; had I any acquaintance with the Doctor, I would trouble him with a letter of inquiry of what he knows of D<sup>r</sup> Cuerden and the manuscript he intended for the press, if, at least, he had any, and if he had not 'tis strange, for on my knowledge 20 or (more) 30 years past he

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Richard Cuerdon (his real name was Jackson; Cuerdon was the place of his birth) made large collections for a history of Lancashire, which are now deposited in the British Museum, Heralds' College, and the Chetham Library at Manchester. *The Dictionary of National Biography* says he is supposed to have died between 1690 and 1695, but the above letter would appear to indicate that he did not die until 1701 or 1702.

has talk'd of appearing forthwith in print. 'Tis pitty that when last at London you had not some hint of this; it might have given you occasion to augment that rich letter you were pleas'd to send me, with another rich and beneficial head. I cannot but here again tell you that time slips slily away and that if you lay not hold on it, all your precious and instructive labours may be lost. Wee have here a particular example in Dr Cuerden, who whilst he was snatching at I know not what additional perfection to sett off his book has quite lost all, and we must suffer for his imprudence. Sr, I need not tell you what I mean<sup>1</sup>; I am sure you will find in it a seasonable piece of advice that has been formerly with all due respect offer'd you by

Your humble and oblig'd servant,

CHARLES TOWNELEY.

Sr, my brother gives you his humble service.

Casting an ey on your ingenious letter of your London journey, I find that you received favours and civilities from Dr Woodward: certainly a letter from you to a person so qualify'd cannot but be well taken, and the answer cannot but inform us of what he knows of Dr Cuerden.<sup>2</sup>

(Addressed "These for Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house in Leedes." The seal has the Townley arms.)

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FROM ARCHDEACON NICOLSON.

Salkeld, Mar. 21, 170½.

DEAR SR,

I am much asham'd at my being put in mind of some of my gross omission-sins, by a letter of yours which I find here at Salkeld on my return from London, where I spent three whole months, and yet saw very little. I was at the Tower and in the Library at Lambeth, but otherwise came in no eminent repositories of either books or records. I was most

<sup>1</sup> He alludes to the delay in the appearance of Thoresby's proposed book, respecting which Thoresby had many similar hints from his friends. The work, however, did not appear for more than a dozen years after Thoresby received the above reminder.

<sup>2</sup> Thoresby acted upon this suggestion, and there are repeated references to the Cuerdon MSS. in Woodward's subsequent letters to him.



kindly honour'd by my Ld. Pembroke, who gave me the satisfaction of being entertain'd (for some hours) with his Lordship's rich cabinet of medals. He is certainly the nimblest man in Europe at that sort of learning, and indeed admirably well skill'd in all other kinds of knowledge. Four or five hours were too few for our running over such a treasure as this, and I promis'd myself the haveing another opportunity of looking into the numerous remains of unseen wealth. But—my Ld. President's great worth rais'd him into a Lord High Admiral, and then his business was too weighty and great to be disturb'd by such a poor wretch as me.<sup>1</sup>

I was twice or thrice with Dr Woodward, who shew'd me a great many of most curious fossils, tho' (as he told me at our parting) not half of his store. His practice as a physitian was so full that he could never have leisure to bring me (as he promis'd to do) either to the Arundel Library or the Royal Society's Musæum. He's makeing all the dispatch he can with his greater work; and both Dr Richardson and I (as he assures me) are to expect a severe treatment from him. The Dr's crime is his denying that there are any shells on the top of Ingleborough, etc.; and I am to be pepper'd off for not writeing with that respect, in the character which I have given of his little book, which was due to him.

Mr. Stonestreet's shells are wondrous fine. So are his fossils; and his coins are (many of 'em) very good. But the man himself is what best pleas'd me. I do not know that I ever met with a more agreeable mixture of excellent learning, modesty, good nature and religious disposition, in any one person.<sup>2</sup> He carry'd me to Mr. Charlton's musæum,<sup>3</sup> which I suppose you saw, tho' I do not remember that you took any notice of it in the letter I had from you after your return.

I was with Dr Johnston at the Countess of Peterborough's; with Mr. Dale (a very ingenious gentleman) at the Herald's Office; with Mr. Wanley<sup>4</sup> at St James's, etc., but never got to the Cotton library.

<sup>1</sup> The Earl of Pembroke was appointed Lord High Admiral in January, 1702.

<sup>2</sup> The Rev. William Stonestreet, Rector of St. Stephen's, Walbrook. He died in 1716.

<sup>3</sup> See *Diary*, i, 298-9.

<sup>4</sup> Humphrey Wanley, afterwards librarian at the Harley library.



Hurry'd I was (at last) out of the Town in such hast as made me forget half of what I had to do. My *Scotch Library* (with Dr Kennet's last book, sent you from Mr Gibson) ought to have come to you directly from London, but they have taken Salkeld in their way. You will have 'em by the first opportunity from

Yours,

W. NICOLSON.

The enclos'd is not to be made too publick, tho' (because I can deny you nothing) I send it as the most agreeable to your design.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house in Leedes in Yorkshire." Pd 3<sup>d</sup>.)

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FROM MR. BARWICK FAIRFAX.<sup>1</sup>

Newton, June the 22, 1702.

S<sup>R</sup>,

If you and your acquaintance in Leedes think fit to encourage a Painter, viz. Mr. Schroder (he having worked 3 years under Sir Godfrey Kneller in London), who drew my picture (his price being 4 Guineys for one of the same size, but if you can engage 9 besides yourselfe, then 3 Guineys) I can engage him to come from Cambridge, he being desirous to see the north of England.

I am, Sir, Your humble Servant,

BARWICK FAIRFAX.

(Addressed "For Mr. Thoresby at his house in Leedes.")

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FROM THE BISHOP OF CARLISLE.<sup>2</sup>

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

Since my return from London I have been in the greatest throng of any part in my whole life, and therefore my

<sup>1</sup> A son of Henry, 4th Lord Fairfax, by Frances daughter of Sir Robert Barwick.

<sup>2</sup> Thoresby's old correspondent, Archdeacon Nicolson, who had recently been appointed to the See of Carlisle. In his *Review*, Thoresby mentions that he had an "unaccountable indication" of the Archdeacon's promotion, in a remarkable dream, which made such a deep impression upon him that he could not forbear writing a letter of congratulation beginning "My Lord" instead of "Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir"; at this time he had not "received from any hand the least intimation of it."

friends will pardon my late irregular correspondence, if they find me (as I hope they will) more punctual hereafter. Yours by the last post (dated the 12<sup>th</sup> Inst) is the first the B. of C.<sup>1</sup> has had from you, I can assure you; and you will not think him wholly abandon'd if it be the first he answers after the rect of it. This also I can honestly testify for him.

The discovery of a new (old) Roman Town<sup>2</sup> is of more consideration with me and sounds more pleasantly than anything I have heard of the takeing of more modern ones this summer.<sup>3</sup> I want to know at what distance it lyes from Leedes; of what extent it is; whether any great way pass thro' it, etc.; in all which particulars I should have had satisfaction had your former letter (which you tell me was written about two months agoe) hit its way to Salkeld. You are known to be an Antiquary zealous for the honour of your own city. Beware the fate of Annus of Viterbo do not attend you, and that you be not brought under the suspicion of being the hider, as well as finder, of these fine monuments.

Our friend Sutherland saies he has lately met with a golden medal of Nero, of above an ounce weight. The E. of Pembroke himself cannot equal this. Now that I mention that great and good man, I ought to have told you that (when I was with him the last summer) he earnestly enquir'd after your health, and bewail'd his not having had an opportunity of answering some of your queries.

Your neighbour Mr. Thornton was lately in this countrey, and so near me that I could hardly (at first) believe that he was gone without seeing me. However, I am his very faithful serv<sup>t</sup>, and yours,

W. CARLIOL.

Oct. 15, 1702.

(Addressed and franked "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house in Leedes, Yorkshire. Free, W. Carljol.")

<sup>1</sup> Thoresby has written in the margin "B<sup>p</sup> of Carlisle."

<sup>2</sup> Referring to the discoveries at Adel mentioned in the *Ducatus*, p. 159, *et seq.*

<sup>3</sup> This alludes to the recent capture of Venloo.

FROM MR. SAMUEL SMITH,<sup>1</sup>Yorke, Nov. 23<sup>d</sup>, 1702.

SIR,

According to my promise to you at Leeds, I have sent you by bro. Ellis the copper plate which has been enamel'd and gilt, and undoubtedly has belonged a shrine of St Tho. Becket's (if I be not mistaken); his martyrdome was commemorated in many churches in England. If it deserve a place in your repository, shall be very glad. Mr. Gyles was lately at his namesake's where he took possession of a Roman lamp, which I take to be a valluable piece of antiquity; suppose the same shown you when last at Mountry's,<sup>2</sup> then it's needless to describe it. My uncle (I believe) intends it for you unless Mountry discover who has it and demand it againe.

I am, Sr,

Your obliged Serv<sup>t</sup>,

SA: SMITH.

(Addressed "To Ralph Thoresby Esq<sup>re</sup> in Leeds.")

FROM MR. HENRY GYLES.

York, 26<sup>th</sup> November, 170...<sup>3</sup>

DEARE SR,

I sent you the whole lump of soathered<sup>4</sup> nayles at the same time you requested, but a part thereof, which you do not mention, are come to your hands lose (loose). James Smith put them up in a pack of waires sent to Mr. Cloudesley, peuterer, in Leeds, with a labell affixed, and directed to you; but as to the Roman lamp, I cannot say it is yet my owne (tho' Cose: Ellis see it in my possession), for I being at Mountry's house, as it was handed about to halfe a dousen persons, at length I gott it and put in my pockett without askeing

<sup>1</sup> A bell founder at York with a taste for antiquities—a nephew of Henry Gyles. Thomas Hearne (who says he was a baker) observes that he was "very skillfull and curious in coyns," and adds that he was about fifty years of age, a rich man, and had some learning (Hearne's *Diary*, 28 August, 1723).

<sup>2</sup> Montague Gyles, of York (see *Diary*, i, 265).

<sup>3</sup> The last figure of the year is torn off; it was probably 2. The letter would be written before 26 January, 1703, the date of Mr. Gyles' next letter.

<sup>4</sup> ? soldered.



Mounty's leave, so must be still awhile, for if he calls on me for it I must refund. I thank you for your condoleing letter, but indeed, S<sup>r</sup>, my sufferings and many difficulties still grow upon me: I pray God to give me ease in his dew time; but deare S<sup>r</sup>, besides my boddyly afflictions dissappointments in my bussinesse (notwithstanding my best indeavors) strikes deepe with me, so that I am very much straitened and can truly say with Solomon 'Hope deferr'd makes the hart sick; but when the desire cometh it turnes to a tree of life'<sup>1</sup>;—the latter part of which sentence I humbly beg of God I may enjoye. But, Sir, to acquaint you in writing who are the remora's in my affaires must suspend till you and I meete. With cordiall love to my cosens and service to yourself is all more at present from

Yours to my power,

H: GYLES.

Postscript. Am much affraid to loose the use of the fingers of my left hand, being all as stiff as a bow, and cannot bend them, and feare my enemy has there fix't himselfe, which makes me a sad man.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thorsby at his house in Leeds, these.")

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FROM THOMAS TOPHAM.<sup>2</sup>

November the 28<sup>th</sup>, 1702.

MR. THESBY,  
S<sup>R</sup>,

I am upon accounts ingaged to you as far as I know upon which I do first remember my kind love to you and to your wife and family, hoping this will find you in good health as I am at this present, and have been ever since I was on board, and the pretended seargeant and corporall as was then swore that they entered me, which I have proved to the contrary since I came to this town of Chichester where I am now:

<sup>1</sup> Proverbs xiii, 12.

<sup>2</sup> Thoresby has endorsed on this letter "My tenant Topham's letter." The Parish Register records the birth of William child of Thomas Topham of Midow Lane, on 7 January, 1693, and of Thomas child of Thomas Topham of Meddow laine, on 20 October, 1694.

they conveyed the money into my pocket, which I knew not of, and I do humbly pray to God for a blessing upon my poor children, hoping that my friends have taken some care of them, and I hope they are and have been well ever since I was forced to leave them, as I have been myself as well in every respect as any man in her Maj<sup>ty</sup>'s service, only very much troubled that I should be forced to leave my poor children. But I thank God that we have had as good success in our matters which we have been about, and have subdued our enemies in a considerable manner, so that I hope we shall so far vanquish them that I shall in some reasonable time have my libertie to come home again about my buisness, and I do humbly desire you to present my service to my most worthy and much esteemed Mr Alder<sup>mn</sup> Kitchingman and to his s<sup>d</sup> son Thomas and to all the rest of the family, hoping and humbly desiring my said master to be a friend to overlook and see that my poor children may be taken some care of now in my absence, and I do humbly beg of my said much esteemed Mr to give himself the trouble as to write to Colonell Fox our Colonell of our regeiment of Mareenes, and desire him to discharge me upon the account that I was not fairly listed but forced to go and upon the account that I left my poor children behind, and pray give my love to my brother in law John Watson and his wife and to Mary Hamslie and her son Joseph and the rest of her family, and to Mr. Bollon and his good wife, and so I rest your obliged friend,

THO. TOPHAM.

Pray, Mr. Thesby, be so kind as to send me an answer by the next post, how my poor children do, before you hear from my father, for I do much desire to hear from you how they do, if they be not fetched to my father's or brother's.

(Addressed "For Mr. Thesby Esq<sup>re</sup>, at Leeds in Kergate, Yorkshire.")

Upon the reverse of the address-sheet the following letter is written :

Novemb<sup>r</sup> the 28<sup>th</sup>, 1702.

HONER'D FATHER,

After my duty to you and my love to my brother and sisters, hoping they have been so kind as to take some



care of my poor children in my absence, hoping they and all of you have been well in health as I have been ever since I have been gone, and to let you understand that we have had very good success on boord our ship of Mareenes, and have taken and burnt Roto, St Marieport forte, and in the Harbour of Vego have taken 45 saille of merchantmen, men of warr, and galloons, besides other as many as made them up 96 saile as they were a crusinge,<sup>1</sup> which is all at the present from your dutifull son, only I would desire you to send me a letter to the Colonell's own Company lying in the City of Chichester.

I remain, Your obliged son till death,

THO. TOPHAM.

We were on boord our ship 22 weeks before we landed in England.

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FROM MR. CHARLES TOWNLEY.

Towneley, Jan: 11, 1703.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I hope you will do us the justice to believe that we value as we ought the favour of your correspondence, and, if our acknowledgement comes late, yet is it never to be imputed either to ingratitude or forgettfullness. I am sorry your endeavours to retrieve old Doctor Cuerden manuscripts prove unsuccessfull; if these be not in Doctor Woodward's hands it could not be otherewise; but if they be I am confident he will in due time make good use of them, for I think I have reason to expect this from a man of his candour. Dr Cuerden had promis'd my Br[other] Tow[nley] to insert in his work our pedegree, as a pattern of one at least well prov'd: when I view'd the Doctor's old remains at Wigan I found nothing there that tended that way, so that they must then be elsewhere amongst what he had prepar'd for the Publick. I wish my circumstances would have allow'd me to waite on Mr. Kirke, and your self at Ribchester and thence to Stonihurst, Sir Nich. Shirburn's.<sup>2</sup> I might not onely have more fully satisfy'd my

<sup>1</sup> This refers to the attack by Admiral Rooke's fleet on Rota and Port St. Mary in the summer of 1702.

<sup>2</sup> This refers to Thoresby's tour with Mr. Thomas Kirk into Lancashire in the previous September, narrated at some length in the *Diary*. The travellers



own curiosity but have serv'd you in bringing you to the sight of some pieces of antiquitie which have escap'd you, and in particular of that altar dedicated *Dijs* or *Deabus Matribus*, which Camden calls *Ararum quas vidit omnium pulcherrimam*. Running over some of my uncle Christopher Towneley's<sup>1</sup> manuscripts, I find an inventory or schedule given by the then Archb<sup>p</sup> of Yorke to King Henry the 8<sup>th</sup> of all chantaries within his Diocese, with the names of their founders and their yearly value, and amongst these some belonging to your Parish Church of Leeds. You can best tell what may be hence had towards the work you are about, of illustrating your Parish. We are not here at all personally known to Doctor Woodward, so cannot tell how it comes to pass that he sent this inclos'd paper to an ingenious workman of his acquaintance, with a desire that it might be communicated to my bro[ther]: he has at present, but must restore when call'd on, the original (in the Doctor's hand) and is desirous to keepe this copy, which you may at your leisure transcribe for your own use; the queries are judicious and may be matter of discours allmost in all companies, and so one may probably stumble on some thing worth taking up. In his letter he's a little sharp on a country-man of ours. I have not yet procur'd me his late tract, but shortly shal, and then I shal see whether he has thought this adversary of his worth buckling with. Be pleas'd to give our humble service to Mr. Kirke when you see him, and ever to esteeme me,

Sr, Your oblig'd humble servant,

CHARLES TOWNELEY.

Be pleas'd to return at your convenience the inclos'd papers.

(Addressed "These for Mr. Thoresby.")

passed by Stonyhurst, but did not call there, because, as Thoresby explains, there was some reason to believe that they "would not be grateful to the owner (Sir Nicholas Shirburn), who is reputed a stiff Papist and Mr. Kirk setting out a militia horse for him."

<sup>1</sup> Christopher Townley, the well-known antiquary. He may be said to have done for Lancashire, though in a lesser degree, what Roger Dodsworth did for Yorkshire; but, unfortunately, his collections did not ultimately, like Dodsworth's, almost in their entirety, meet with such a home as the Bodleian Library.

FROM MR. HENRY GYLES.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

The bearer hereof Mr. Permentee<sup>1</sup> coming to Leeds, I could not misse recommending him to you, who is a most excell<sup>t</sup> Artist, either in painting noble hystory or faces after the life, as many of his peices both here and at Hull do testifie. What favours you can do him in acquainting him with gentlemen of your acquaintance I shall take it as done to my selfe, and I desire you to entreat my cosen Ellis and Stockdaile to do the same for, S<sup>r</sup>, both yours and there (*sic*) humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

HENRY GYLES.

York, Jan : the 26, 170<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>.

I have had a very hard winter of it, cheifly in both my hands, but I thank God my right hand is come to use againe. I hope by this Moun<sup>t</sup>y has forgott the Rom. urne,<sup>2</sup> so the first time you come to Yorke may have it.

(Addressed "For his Honoured Friend Mr. Ralph Thorsby at his house in Leeds, these.")

FROM MR. HENRY GYLES.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

I thank you for your letter, but you heard a false report, for Moun<sup>t</sup>y is alive and alivelike, but I never see him since I gott the urne, but I now send it with this proviso that if it be demanded by him I may have it returned. I hope I need not bid you be silent from whence you had it.<sup>3</sup> I desire that you'd gett an ingeniou<sup>s</sup>e tin man you have at Leeds to make one of tinn by it, and send me. I have also sent you an excellent wax impression from the first-rate artist in his time (the same that cutt the brave gold meddall for Oliver, which was never since outdone) who you cannot but have heard of.<sup>4</sup> I pray you my respects to Mr. Permentere,

<sup>1</sup> Parmentier, the artist, who painted Thoresby's portrait a few weeks later. It is now in the possession of the Society of Antiquaries of London, and a copy is in the Thoresby Society's rooms.

<sup>2</sup> This probably refers to the Roman lamp mentioned in his letter on page 123, and in Samuel Smith's letter of the 23rd of November, 1702. See also the next letter.

<sup>3</sup> Considering the way in which the lamp had been obtained from the owner, Montague Gyles (see the previous letters from Henry Gyles), it would seem that Thoresby's collecting zeal on this occasion carried him a little too far.

<sup>4</sup> Perhaps referring to Thomas Simon, the medallist.



and my service to Mr. Kirke when you see him. I am almost kil'd in a cold, and my left hand still very lame. Mr. Niolas (*sic*) Fairfax family are leaveing my house, he himself dyeing the last weeke<sup>1</sup>; 'tis said (under the rose) that he and another drunk 30 shill[ings] in clarett at one sitting a little time before. I shall want some good lodgers at my house; if you heare of any, I pray to remember me. I gave your postscript to my cosens; I suppose you may have the enamel'd plate at the price they paid for it, as old mettle. I hope after my L<sup>d</sup> Archb: is come downe (which will not be till after Easter) we shall see you at Yorke; till then an[d] alwaies, I am,

Deare Sr,

Your humb: serv<sup>t</sup> to my power,

H. GYLES.

Yorke, the 4<sup>th</sup> Martii, 170<sup>2</sup>.

(Addressed "For Mr. Thorsby.")

FROM MR. CHARLES TOWNLEY.

Towneley, May the 6, 1703.

S<sup>R</sup>,

This day I receaved and return to you the box of medalls, with a sight whereof you were pleas'd to favour me, by Mr. Atkinson. Besides their antiquity and their usefullness in history, methinks one may see in them the progress the world of late has made in that kind of manufacture, for how much does the modern exceed those of an antienter date in the curiousness of designe and graving. The like advances may be observ'd in other arts, onely the great Art of Arts growes worse, and we are, I fear, *daturi progeniem vitiosiore*. The favour of shewing the medalls is great, yet there seems to be something of the decoy in it; they were sent abroad to bring back with them some of their own kind, and I am loath to lett them have come thus far on a sleeveless<sup>2</sup> errand, so they come accompanied with the two coronation medals of King James and his Quene.<sup>3</sup> Death may, but I have no right to separate 'em, and shal think them very well plac'd in your

<sup>1</sup> Nicholas Fairfax, father of the 6th Viscount Fairfax.

<sup>2</sup> "Sleeveless"—fruitless, unprofitable.

<sup>3</sup> See *Ducatus*, p. 381.



hands amongst their ancestors. My nephew Towneley and my brother Francis were the two of our name who pas't by Wakefield; they were on a journey, and had little time to bestow on friends,—besides, their genius and yours do not just beate the same roads. I do not, by your letter, find that you can elsewhere have, then (than) from me, what relates to your Chantaries: if I can be serviceable to you in this, be pleas'd to lett me know what other neighbouring Parish Churches besides your own may have Chantaries worth your inquiring after. My br[other]<sup>1</sup> gives you his humble service; of late nothing has occur'd either to him or me worth communicating: when anything does, you shal not faile to hear from

Your oblig'd friend and servant,

CHARLES TOWNELEY.

(Addressed "These for Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house in Leeds; with a smal box." The seal has the Townley arms.)

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FROM DR. HANS SLOANE.

London, June 3<sup>d</sup>, 1703.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I rec<sup>d</sup> yours and am surprized to find you have not rec<sup>d</sup> my letter in answer to your former, for which as soon as I had read it at the meeting of the Society I return'd you their and my thanks.<sup>2</sup> I suppose it miscarried, and therefore I again give them you now. I should be sorry anything should happen to hinder me of the honour of your correspondence, and shall ever be glad of it or of any opportunity to serve you. The originall letters, Indian plants, etc., shall all be sent when I have leasure to look them out, as also the Transactions wherein your letter was printed long since. I begg you will be free with me on all occasions, and present my most humble service to your neighbours D<sup>r</sup> Richardson and Mr. Kirk, to whom I am very much obliged. I am, without complement,

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> and most humble servant,

HANS SLOANE.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby, near Leeds, in Yorkshire." The device on the seal is a horse.)

<sup>1</sup> Richard Townley, of Townley.

<sup>2</sup> Probably Thoresby's letter respecting the Roman remains found at Adel, printed in No. 282 of the Philosophical Transactions.

FROM MISS MARY MILNER.

GOOD SIR,

I had a letter the last post from Cambr. which gave me an account that you had made a kind enquiry after my most dear deceased father. My brother who, I hope, is well at Leeds has or at least will wait upon you. I had the order from my good father in his sickness that I should send to you his *Conjectanea*, *Nethenim*, and the *Church History of Palestine*, bound together, also his *Discourse of Conscience*, his *Defence of Bishop Usher*, his *View of Dr. Bentley's Dissertations*, his *Animadversions upon Le Clerc*, the *Account of Lock's Religion*, Wormius his *Literatura Runica*: all which he desired that you would take the trouble of placing in the publick library at Leeds.<sup>1</sup> I hope to send them by the carrier to my brother before he leaves Leeds, to deliver to you. I cannot boast of good health since my irreparable loss,<sup>2</sup> but I am, Sir,

Your most obliged Servant,

MARY MILNER.

I beg of you to accept of my good wishes for the health and welfare of your family, and to give my service to your good lady. I am at the "Two Black Balls" in Lincoln's Inn Fields, Holbourn Row, London.

August the 7<sup>th</sup>, 1703.<sup>3</sup>

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house in Kirkgate in Leeds, Yorkshire.")

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.<sup>4</sup>

GOOD MR. THORESBY,

I had waited on you yesterday at Leeds, but I found myself much out of order, and durst not attempt the journey.

<sup>1</sup> It would be of interest to know more of the "publick library" existing in Leeds in 1703. There is a letter from Thoresby to Thomas Hearne, written on the 19th September, 1711, in which he remarks that he proposes to present a copy of his book (the *Ducatus*) to the Public Library at Leeds.

<sup>2</sup> The writer's father, the Rev. John Milner, formerly Vicar of Leeds, had died in the previous February.

<sup>3</sup> This letter is bound up with the 1707 letters.

<sup>4</sup> What is known of the life of this clergyman is given in the Rev. F. S. Colman's *History of Barwick-in-Elmet*, p. 72. This letter is perhaps the earliest remaining to us of the long series which Mr. Plaxton addressed to Thoresby, many of which have been previously printed in the *Correspondence*. He was

I sent you a small pockett clog by my son, but I have a large family clog<sup>1</sup> for you, with the notes (considering its age) very fair: when I bring my books and luggage to Berwick I will put it up securely for you, with some other things to adde to your noble store. I am now pretty well again, and design to take my Induction tomorrow, and you cannot oblige mee more than to come and eat a piece of beef with mee. I wish Mr. Killingbeck,<sup>2</sup> your worthy neighbour, would favour me with his good company, and wed me to Berwick where I design to set up the staff of my old age. If you want an horse, I will send my man in the morning to wait on you. You will be charitable in pardoning this great boldness and freedom used by

Sr

Your very affec. friend and humble serv<sup>t</sup>,  
G. PLAXTON.

Berwick, Sep. 22: 1703.

Pray make my request known to Mr. Killingbeck and use your influence with him for his good company and beg my pardon.

I can now unriddle the Staffordsh<sup>r</sup> clog and tell you the meaning of it.

(Addressed "This for Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds.")

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#### FROM MISS MARY MILNER.

Your obliging letter I received, good Sir, by my brother, and humbly thank you for all your civilityes and for your kind sympathizing with me under the greatest affliction by much that I ever knew or I hope ever shall know. I bless God I am better in health than I have been and could I forget last February I believe I should be very well. I beg the favour of Mr. Thorsby not to give himself the trouble of getting my dear

a protégé of the Gower family, and had been presented to the rich living of Barwick by Lord Gower, then Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, in the previous July; he had, therefore, lost no time in making the acquaintance of Thoresby.

<sup>1</sup> The "clog" was a kind of wooden calendar. See the description of Mr. Plaxton's present in the *Duc. Leod.*, p. 595.

<sup>2</sup> The Vicar of Leeds. He and Thoresby went to the Induction.



father's "Dr Bentley's dissertation" and the "Discourse of Conscience" for your private library; my brother has the one and I the other, and they will both be at your service, and I will send them to you with the book which I shall send for the Publick Library. I should be very glad to find letters of Dr Duport's or Dr Marshal's, but I fear I shall not, because I believe my brother has looked over all and found none, but if we find any I dare promise that they shall be yours. My service I present to good Mrs. Thorsby. I am, Sir,

Your most obliged friend and servant,

MARY MILNER.

October the 2<sup>d</sup>, 1703.

I am at The Two Black Balls in Holborn Row, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thorsby, at his house in Kirkgate in Leeds, Yorkshire.")

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FROM MR. RICHARD THORNTON.

Leeds, 22 Nov.<sup>1</sup>

DEARE S<sup>R</sup>,

The bellman's place (which is in the disposall of the Lords of the Maner) being void, the bearer, John Varay, desires me to recommend him to you for your vote: I never heard him very loud, soe canot judge of his voice, but know him to be a very honest painfull poor neighbour, on which account I heartily recommend him to you, and desire your interest with your bretheren.

I am, S<sup>r</sup>,

Your affect. humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

RI. THORNTON.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby.")

At the foot of this note Thoresby has written "we gave him the place accordingly, under the yearly rent of 10<sup>s</sup> as formerly, but remitted the money." It appears, therefore, that the bellman paid the Lords of the Manor (of whom Thoresby was one) 10<sup>s</sup> yearly for the privilege of holding the office, which no doubt yielded considerable fees.

<sup>1</sup> There is no year to the date; it was 1703.

FROM THE REV. ABRAHAM DE LA PRYME.<sup>1</sup>

Thorn, Nov: 24, 1703.

HONOUR'D S<sup>R</sup>,

I thank you most heartily for your kind letter and all the labour and pain's that you have taken to gratifye me with the transcript of those things that I desired out of Leland, which are very much to my satisfaction. I have this day sent to Rawcliff the *Comp: Compert*:<sup>2</sup>, the little book of Portington,<sup>3</sup> with several original letter's, more of which and other thing's I shall send by some other opportunity: and if there be any thing in my other paper's that may be anywise serviceable to you, pray be pleas'd to name it, and it shall be sent with the utmost expedition by your most obliged friend and serv:

A. DE LA PRYME.

I have directed them to Mr. Milner as you desired.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralf Thoresby in Leeds present.")

FROM THE REV. MATTHEW SMITH.<sup>4</sup>

May 8, '704.

WORTHY S<sup>R</sup>,

According to your order, I have sent the enclosed so soon as I could meet with a safe bearer. I account my self very much obliged to you for your prudence in ordering to me the last: for, S<sup>r</sup>, I will assure you I have very many adversaries. My book, S<sup>r</sup>, that you was pleased to returne me thanks for,<sup>5</sup> and which hath been commended by many Divines, both non- and con-, my neighbouring ministers of the

<sup>1</sup> The Rev. Abraham de la Pryme, F.R.S., the Hull antiquary, at that time incumbent of Thorne. His diary has been published by the Surtees Society (vol. liv). His signature is in Thoresby's Album, beneath the motto "de lumine lumen." He died in 1704.

<sup>2</sup> The copy of the *Compendium Compertorum* for Yorkshire which Pryme had made for Thoresby. As to this document, see Gasquet's *Henry VIII and the English Monasteries*, chap. ix.

<sup>3</sup> The "little book of Portington" was no doubt the pedigree of that family for which Thoresby expresses his obligations to Pryme in the *Ducatus*, p. 99.

<sup>4</sup> A Nonconformist minister. Thoresby accepted the offer of a copy of his work on the *Decrees of God*, referred to in the letter (see *Ducatus*, p. 543).

<sup>5</sup> No doubt the writer's *True Notion of Imputed Righteousness*, which caused much stir in Nonconformist circles (see Hunter's *Life of Oliver Heywood*, p. 400).

non- do cast dirt upon, and very much vilifie. And of late I thought meet to inform my congregation with all possible plainness about the Decrees of God respecting the salvation and damnation of men, that I might clear the Lord's justice in condemning of impenitent sinners and leave the fault wholly upon themselves, where I doubt not but it will be found. But you would wonder to know how their spirits are raised against me for this: upon which I drew up my sentiments in short touching this matter, and sent them to the London Ministers, and have already received Mr. Stretton's and Mr. Sylvester's approbation, and expect others. St, I have the original by me, and, if such a thing will gratifie you, I shall get it transcribed and send it you, only let me know your mind in a line or two by the bearer. Not else, but with my humble service,

I am,

Your obliged servant,

MATT. SMITH.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thorsby at his house in Leeds, these.")

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FROM MR. JOHN GLEDHILL.<sup>1</sup>

Colchester, Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>, 1705.

DEAR SIR,

I hope you will excuse the trouble of this 1<sup>re</sup>. I have had so much experience of your friendly regard to me and have known so much of your obliging conversation that I easily perswade myself you will take any opportunity to serve me. The occasion of these lines is this—your brother Idle doth court a friend of mine that is with me here at Colchester, for whose happiness I am concerned.<sup>2</sup> Now, you are able to give us his character, and you are a person of that judgem<sup>t</sup> and sin-

<sup>1</sup> I am unable to identify this correspondent with certainty. Thoresby mentions a Colonel John Gledhill, who, he says, was Governor for the King in Newfoundland (*Diary*, i, 331), but I cannot say whether he was the above writer.

<sup>2</sup> Richard Idle was now a widower, his wife Abigail, Thoresby's sister, having died in 1703. The proposed marriage respecting which Mr. Gledhill writes did take place, as appears from the following entry in the registers of South Dalton, of which place Mr. Idle was then rector,—“Richard Idle Rector of South Dalton and Rachell Holdsworth of Trinity Parish in Colchester were married in Lincoln's Inn Chappel in London Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> 1705.” Mr. Idle survived until 1715. He was buried at South Dalton.



cerity that we shall have a great regard to what you say. Now, I beg of you that you would please, the first post, to return an answer; we would know what circumstances he is in as to the world, and whether he be sober in his conversation, and in short whether you in a like case would think so well of him as to encourage any friend of yours to comply with the motion he hath made. You may please to be as large in your answer as you think fit. We shall reckon our selves extremely obliged to you for your speedy answer, which we shall expect every post. You may please to direct to me at my house near Trinity Church in Colchester, Essex. If I can in anything serve you, you may command,

Sr

Your humble and obliged servt,

JOHN GLEDHILL.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby, in Leedes, Yorksh<sup>r</sup>. Post p<sup>d</sup>, 6<sup>d</sup>. By y<sup>e</sup> way of London.")

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FROM MR. SAMUEL SMITH.

Yorke, Jan<sup>y</sup> 28, 170<sup>8</sup>.

SIR,

I see (*sic*) yours of the 15<sup>th</sup> to my uncle Gyles. As to the Roman monum<sup>t</sup>, I see (*sic*) it last week, plac<sup>t</sup> in a new brick wall nigh the place where 'twas found, by the advice of a clergyman of this place, who told the owner that it wou<sup>d</sup> still be tutelar, so by all means to keep it i<sup>t</sup>h same building. However, I have got him to promise that he'l take  $\frac{1}{2}$  a crowne for it (which he had once profer<sup>d</sup> for it), but I fancy 2<sup>s</sup> wou<sup>d</sup> do, so if you please I'll purchase it for you, or you may referr it till you come to Yorke, and then may see your pennyworth. When I received your last, I went to Mr. Noble, who assur<sup>d</sup> me he forwarded your letter to Mr. Gale as he always sent his own, so doubted not but it got safe to him. I hear Mr. Gale is now at London, being lately elected Parliament man for N. Allerton.<sup>1</sup> I have sent you in a box of Mr. Gyles', which he desires you send back to sis. Stockdale's, 2 wax impressions of seals which are in my hands, tho' not mine: I fancy I can buy them for a small thing, so if you think 'em worth

<sup>1</sup> Roger Gale, Thoresby's friend.

your having shall save 'em for you<sup>1</sup>: the inscription of the larger I take to be

“Virgo pudica pia nostri miserere Maria.”

I am, Sr,

Your humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

SA: SMITH.

(The address-sheet has been detached.)

FROM MR. JOHN DYNELEY.<sup>2</sup>

21 March, 1706.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I am very much oblidge<sup>d</sup> to you for your thoughtes of my pedigree; itt is a thing I am very defective in; I know nott any one except yourself can doe me any kindness in itt. I have inclosed what you gave me before, according to your direction. I alsoe sent the bookes Mr. Kirke ordered, which I hope you have rece<sup>d</sup>, and am, Sr,

Your most humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

J. DYNELEY.

If you have a satiricall peice called *The Riddle*, please to communicate a copy to, Sr, Yours att command, J.D.

(Addressed “To Mr. Theresby at his house in Leedes present.”)

FROM MR. JONATHAN PRIESTLEY.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

I received yours, with Scarlet's epitaph, which is a pretty one and for which I thank you. I forgott to tell you in my last that there is a pretty book extant and lately printed, being a funerall sermon preached upon the death of the late Duke of Devonshire by Kennet White, Archdeacon of Huntington (*sic*), wherein you will find many pretty observables, and something of Hobbs that I believe you have not seen.

<sup>1</sup> Thoresby acquired them (see *Ducatus*, p. 491).

<sup>2</sup> Mr. John Dyneley, of Bramhope. His ancestor purchased that manor temp. Hen. VIII, and it continued in the Dyneley family until last century. John Dyneley married a daughter of the celebrated Dr. George Walker, the hero of Londonderry. He died 1714. The Dyneley pedigree appears at page 30 of the *Ducatus*.

I now send you some odd papers and the letters about my Ld. Wharton's death, all which are at your service. As for Dunton,<sup>1</sup> I cannot well with patience look into it myself, it is such a mixture of riff-raff, and therefore I had rather you would excuse me in that point; it will not give you content. I think I can accommodate you better with 2 volumes of remarkables of some parishes, churches, and monuments (I think done monthly) and designed to be continued, if you have not seen them; they cost 18<sup>d</sup> a volume—shall lend you if you desire it. As for Dr Sampson's memoirs, I shall be very carefull of them, but I think I have seen some quarto pamphlets of them, but I never saw any original of Mr. Woodcock's so often mentioned. I have Dunton's Life and Errors, a pretty tolerable peice if you desire it; and for the other, I would not willingly have it seen, there being more tares than wheat, but if you cannot be easy without it it must be upon this condition that no liveing soul must have a sight of it but yourselfe, sealed by a solemne promise. This with my humble service to you is the rest at present  
from

Sr, Yr cordial friend,

JONATHAN PRIESTLEY.

Jan: 30, 1707.

(Address-sheet wanting.)

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

Feb. 11, 170<sup>6</sup>.

MY DEAR FR<sup>D</sup>,

I had your last by Alderman Hast, with Dr Brown's travells, for both which I now most truly thank you, and have sent 4<sup>s</sup> for the purchase. Your B<sup>p</sup> Goodwyn and Bate came both safe to mee long before. I am getting materialls together about the authors and compylers of our English lyurgy. I have much of that of Ed. 6, anno 3 Regni, 1549, and also that of 5 and 6 regni, done by the oversight of Martin Bucer,<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John Dunton, bookseller and author; the publisher of the *Athenian Mercury*. There is a flattering reference to Thoresby in one of his books, *The Whipping Post*.

<sup>2</sup> A native of Alsace, who ultimately became Regius Professor of Divinity at Cambridge. He died 1551.



anno 1551. I am now considering that of 1 Eliz., anno 1558. I have got a very fair book of Eliz. 10; that of Edw. 6, compyled in the year 1549 wants two or three leaves, and I know not how to supply it. There was a Greek edition made by Eliás Petitius—pray send mee word what Mr. Anthony á Wood saith of him; he liv'd temp. Cha<sup>s</sup> 1<sup>mi</sup>—that I may know how Don Antonio and I jump in our accounts of him. That of Dr Duport was done some yeares after that of Petitius. The Spanish edition was set out when Prince Charles went for Spain to court the Infanta there. The first Latin edition was done by one Allesse,<sup>1</sup> a Scotsman, for the use of Bucer, who was not well skill'd in the English tongue. Since that, there have been many alterations and additions to the Latin. If you have anything of Alesse, let mee know at your leisure. I have now a full set of our English common prayer-books, and I wish they were all perfect; that of Queen Eliz. came home but last night from the mountains of Wales. The Scotts' lyurgy was done by their own bishops, and I have a good acc<sup>t</sup> of that matter. You must not expect Fuller, Bate, or Goodwin till I have milk'd them thoroughly, and then I must be a sutor for Tony Wood, if the lads cannot get mee a good one in London.

Tell my deare friend the lawyer<sup>2</sup> that I have a piece of the olde Royall Oake for his loyall wor<sup>p</sup>, and I wish I had a workman to turn it handsomely for him. His books I will send again by old Wisdom<sup>3</sup> who return'd from the <sup>4</sup> last night. I have also a piece for old Orenoque (your worthy Vicar). And now pray thee burn that bawble of a paper which you found amongst your rubbish, and expose mee not in this mad age; who knows but some zealous shearmen may raise a party and come and mob mee.<sup>5</sup>

Wee have been engaged all this day against Euroclydon, a certain blustering generall who began to strip my barns and out-

<sup>1</sup> The well-known Alesius; he was born at Edinburgh 1500, and died 1565.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Thornton, afterwards Recorder of Leeds.

<sup>3</sup> He seems to have been a servant of Mr. Plaxton's. His name frequently occurs in the letters; but it is not in the Barwick Registers.

<sup>4</sup> A word uncertain.

<sup>5</sup> Mr. Plaxton had a turn for versifying. Perhaps the paper he mentions was a copy of satirical verses on Leeds people.

buildings, so that I have not time to send what I should and what I promis'd; excuse till the next conveniency.

I am,

Yours very sincerely,

BARWICK.<sup>1</sup>

(Addressed "This for Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds, in Kirkgate.")

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

I send this to ask how you do, and to tell you that the ways grow fair and that Mr. Fothergill,<sup>2</sup> your fellow footman, has allready performed one of his pilgrimages and I hope to heare that you will follow his example. I hope to see Ralph Thoresby and the swallow very shortly—I will not say the cucow, though these three are all spring birds. News I have none worth sending but good wishes and services. Is your votive sheild<sup>3</sup> come or no? Hearty respects to the Vicar and Vicaressa and to all the rest of our friends. I shall now dayly expect you and your staff, both which shall be truly wellcome to

Your affect: fr<sup>d</sup> and serv<sup>t</sup>,

BARWICK.

Lady-day, 1707.

Mr. Fothergill kept his octaves with mee; he went back yesterday to Pontfract.

(Addressed "For Mr. Thoresby at Leeds.")

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

DEAR RALPHO,

This last ill fit hath so rack'd and shock'd mee that I cannot read or think, and therefore new books will have as poor a relish as all other things. I am somewhat better but really very far from well. If you cannot get six subscribers for Livy<sup>4</sup> (at Leeds) I will come in to make up a number,

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Plaxton was rather fond of signing himself "Barwick" or "G. Barwick."

<sup>2</sup> The Rev. Marmaduke Fothergill, of Pontefract.

<sup>3</sup> See *Ducatus*, p. 564.

<sup>4</sup> Hearne's edition, published in the following year.

though I am confident the lad at Oxon<sup>1</sup> hath allready subscribed for it. I have three fine editions of that historian allready, and a fourth will be no store; however, wee are all bound to encourage Mr. Hearne in his laborious work. I send you a multitude of thanks for your favours abundantly shown to

Your affect: fr<sup>d</sup>,

BARW.

April 1, 1707.

(Addressed "For his good friend Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds, this.")

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

Perusing some old papers this day, I stumbled upon the inclosed, which I now send you; 'tis an originall and worthy of your notice: it was signed at the Easter Sessions by the Justices of the County of Staff., 1611, upon the demand made upon that County to supply the K's purveyors.<sup>2</sup> You will find some odde passages in it. You may show it at your leisure to my good friend Mr. Thornton. S<sup>r</sup> John Leveson to whom it was sent was a Kentish gent. yet of a Staffordsh<sup>r</sup> extraction; he liv'd at Great Hawling, had an estate of 4 or £5,000 per an., and was the most generous and hospitable man that Country aforded in those times. The notes on the back of the lett<sup>r</sup> are his own hand.<sup>3</sup> I have told you who the gent<sup>n</sup> were who subscribed this pet<sup>n</sup>, in a few lines over against their names; thus I have added one drop more to the vast ocean of autographs which this world may afford you. I am still far from being well; however, I am

Heartily yours

G. PLAXTON.

Barwick, Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1707.

My service to Mr. Thornton, I pray, and deliver the inclosed safely, *manu propria*.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby, at Leeds.")

<sup>1</sup> His son, John Plaxton.

<sup>2</sup> The document is not entered separately in the Museum catalogue, but Mr. Plaxton is mentioned among the donors of autographs.

<sup>3</sup> Sir John Leveson, of Halling and Cookstone, Kent, died about 13 James I. He was succeeded by his brother, Sir Richard Leveson, of Trentham, who sold all his Kentish estate (see Hasted's *History of Kent*, iii, 393).



FROM MR. SAMUEL SMITH.

Yorke, April 16, 1707.

S<sup>R</sup>,

Mr. Gyles sent your letter to me about 8 dayes ago, and my brother went 3 times to Mr. Baxter's, but the young woman was abroad, however yesterday he obtained the hand,<sup>1</sup> which is by me, and shall be sent as you please to direct; it is both the hand and arm to the elbow, with the skin, bones, and sinews, onely half of the forefinger wanting. If it be the old Marquesse's hand it deserves to be kept as a pretious relique of one of the Royall martyrs. I hope we shall see you at the election which now begins to be talk't of. The present Marq: of Montrose went from Yorke last Munday sennight, and the last news speaks of his arrivall at London.

I am, S<sup>r</sup>,Your humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

SA: SMITH.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby, in Briggate (*sic*) in Leeds.")

FROM DR. WOODWARD.

S<sup>R</sup>

I entreat you to deliver the inclosed forthwith to Mr. Banister, for his son is ill and in my care. He does not know me, which make me give you the trouble of delivering it to him; but I entreat of you that it may be done without delay.

Your friend, my Lord Pembroke, is going Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. He has made great additions to his collection of medals since you saw them. I hope the print of my shield is come to your hands ere this. I shall be glad to hear your sentiments of the persons and things it exhibits, and of the whole representation.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The hand in question was doubtless that believed to be the Marquis of Montrose's, who was executed in 1650. It was evidently considered by Thoresby to be one of the most notable objects in his museum (see *Ducatus*, p. 431). After Thoresby's death it returned to York, having been acquired by Dr. John Burton, author of the *Monasticon Eboracense*, and it is now in the possession of Mr. J. W. Morkill, of Newfield Hall, Craven.

<sup>2</sup> This was the celebrated Woodward shield on which Henry Dodwell, Thomas Hearne's friend, wrote his dissertation "*De parma equestri Woodwardiana*." Woodward bought it from the daughter of a man who had found it in a smith's shop near Tower Hill. The shield was the cause of much differ-

In digging to lay the foundations of an house near Bishop's Gate here, several urns were dig'd up, with cinders of bones in them. I had the fairest, which is pretty intire. The rest were broke all to pieces. There were several Roman tiles dig'd up, likewise: as also a tessellated pavement. I heard of no coyns, and believe there were none. You never tell me what discoveryes you make at Leeds. I'll slip down some time or other, and surprize your collection, as cautious as you are. I should have been very glad to have seen Mr. Gale while he was in town. Pray tell him so when you see him; and that I have deliver'd an icon of the shield to his brother for him; givinge withall my humble service to him.

I am, with great affection, S<sup>r</sup>,

Your very humble servant,

Gresh. Coll.,

J. WOODWARD.

22 Apr., 1707.

(Addressed "To Ralph Thoresby Esq<sup>r</sup>, at Leeds in Yorkshire.")

FROM MISS A. JENNINGS.

Ripon, May the 1<sup>st</sup>, 1707.

S<sup>r</sup>,

At the request of S<sup>r</sup> Roger Beckwith<sup>1</sup> I send you the scales with some of the coynes that S<sup>r</sup> Roger presents you with which was found att a place in Ripon called Allice-hill<sup>2</sup>; and since you desire a motto I hear subscribe one—

"My maggot's a million to me."

I am, Your friend and servant,

A. JENINGS.<sup>3</sup>

(Addressed "To Mr. Thursby, in Leeds." The black seal bears a griffin: Dugdale says the Jennings crest was a *demi*-griffin.)

ence of opinion, and in a letter written to Roger Gale, when it had been sold after Woodward's death, Sir John Clerk remarks "as for the *clypeus votivus*, I wish the gentleman joy who paid one hundred guineas for it: never was there anything more absurd in my opinion than to fancy it was Roman."

<sup>1</sup> See *Ducatus*, pp. 133, 341.

<sup>2</sup> Thoresby writes at the foot "Alla's hill I presume from King Alla, whose coins were found there with other Saxon Kings' during the Heptarchy."

<sup>3</sup> Thoresby writes opposite the signature "eldest dau. of S<sup>r</sup> Edm<sup>d</sup> Jenings of Ripley." In the motto this lady sends, she was evidently what *would* now be called "chaffing" Thoresby. He responds with the following, written by him underneath her line,—

If one maggot's a million to thee,  
What will thy million of maggotts be?



FROM ALDERMAN MILNER.

COZ<sup>N</sup> THORESBY,

Leeds, 13 May, 1707.

I suppose you are for writeing or goeing over to Mr. Plackston's.<sup>1</sup> I desire you to give him a short hint to befreind me what he can in the purchase wee have talked of.<sup>2</sup> I believe itt lays in his power to serve me, and a word from you may be of good use to

Yours most affectionately,

WILLIAM MILNER.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby these present.")

S<sup>R</sup>,FROM MR. ROBERT PLUMPTON.<sup>3</sup>

I had the honor of yours, and could wish that I ever could gett anything worth your acceptance; itt shall be my indeavours to gett what I can for you. In the mean time, I beg you please to accept this and the purs[e] you have. My father's name was Robert, and married Ann Middelton the forth doughter to William Middelton of Stockeld, and had John Plompton, that died young, and myself, and a doughter that is married to Tho: Chomeley of Bransby. I married Anne West, doughter to Nathaniell West, whos[e] granfather was Thomas West, L<sup>d</sup> de la Warre; had issue, Elizabeth, John and Robert, twins, Ann, Cesily and Jain, twins, and Francis,<sup>4</sup> all living; those dead I will nott trouble you with. I married Julian Whitt, widdow, whos[e] mayden name was Appleby. S<sup>r</sup>, I hope you'll pardon this truble given you by, S<sup>r</sup>,

Your obliged servant,

May the 22, 1707.

ROB<sup>T</sup> PLOMPTON.

I believe that Thomas West, L<sup>d</sup> De La Warre, was father to Nathaniell.

(Addressed "To Mr. Thoresby att his house in Leeds.")

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* Mr. Plaxton.<sup>2</sup> Probably the purchase of the Nun Appleton estate, concluded by Alderman Milner (the writer) in 1709. In his Diary, under date of January 7th in that year, Thoresby writes "was with ditto Alderman to meet Mr. Tregenna and the Plaxtons about his purchase of the two lordships of Nun Appleton and Bolton Percy."<sup>3</sup> Robert Plumpton Esq., of Plumpton.<sup>4</sup> *i.e.* Frances. She and her sister Elizabeth eventually became coheiresses of the ancient family of Plumpton, on the death of their nephew, Robert Plumpton, in 1749.



FROM MR. JONATHAN PRIESTLEY.

Winteredge, May the 26<sup>th</sup>, 1707.WORTHY S<sup>R</sup>,

I received yours with my book per Jer. Baxter, which you had been welcome to have kept much longer if it would have been any way useful or acceptable to you. I also delivered the inclosed to Mr. Francis Bentley, who promised me your book on Satterday sevensnight. I went then for it; he told me he had buisnesse with you himselfe and would give it to you on Thursday or Friday last week, which I wish he hath done, but fear it, for under the rose I tell you he makes no conscience of lying, nor will he come to any acct with any man if anything be due from him: he wrongs me of no less than 10<sup>u</sup> in books, and will do unless I sue him.

I take notice what you write about Mr. Creswick's diary,<sup>1</sup> of which you have the whole in Turner, I only finding those passages writt in a book amongst some heads of divinity: as for Mr. Heywood's,<sup>2</sup> you shall have them with all my heart if your patience will hold out to read them, being ill writt and tedious *de die in diem* etc. I must also premise this, when you find any reflections or anything exposed of any defects in his family or congregation you will cover you with the mantle of charity, and keep them secret: I should be loth such memorials as these, how weak soever some may think them, being written with great sincerity, should be exposed or ridiculed by any one. I now send one book by Jer. Baxter, and you shall have more if you desire them. I have also some books of his observations which I should be loth should be seen by any but such as would read them with the same candid welmeaning temper they were writt. I may probably send you a sermon or two to read over that will please you; also shortly severall sad accidents have happened lately, a young man or two kill'd in a cole pitt; another near Bradford rideing fast at a wedding fell off[f] the horse, and never spoke; another near Caverley hanged himself in the highway; another upon whom a dog leap'd at Morely he fell down, broke his thigh, and is since

<sup>1</sup> Probably the Rev. James Creswick, of Beall, who died (aged 73) in 1692. Mr. Priestley was his executor.

<sup>2</sup> The Rev. Oliver Heywood's diaries, etc., have been printed in four volumes, under the editorship of Mr. Horsfall Turner.

dead; one or two more dyed of the biting of a mad dog; these if recorded exactly by a judicious hand might be of use—"lege historiam ne fias historia." We should learn righteousness when God's judgments are abroad in the earth. I shall conclude with a late and true story of the Vicar and Lecturer of Chesterfield. The Vicar is a good popular preacher, orthodox, prays well and long before sermon, a moderate man; his curate of the high church lately took a text to expose and ridicule him for his extempore prayer, and when he was with great heat exaggerating the matter in the pulpit he chanced to turn over two leaves in his notes, and was quite out, and for want of something extempore in himself came down ashamed. This is all, with my service to you, from, S<sup>r</sup>,

Your assured friend to serve you,

JONATH: PRIESTLEY.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby, in Leeds, these are, with a book, per Jeremy Baxter.")

FROM MR. ROBERT MOLESWORTH.<sup>1</sup>

Edlington, May the 28<sup>th</sup>, 1707.

HON<sup>D</sup> S<sup>R</sup>,

This is to acknowledge the great favour of youres of the 24<sup>th</sup> Inst, and to thank you for your kindness in being solicitous about my health, which, I thank God, improves daily, tho' I cannot say I am perfectly recovered. Two or three of my friends have made an agreement to accompany me some time next month into your parts, if nothing intervene which may obstruct our design. One of our projects is to view Mr. Kirk's wood before it be cut down, for we hear 'tis absolutely condemned next season.<sup>2</sup> You may be sure I will not neglect to pay my hearty respects to a person I value so much as I do you, and that I will lay hold on that opportunity to do it. I fear 'tis too late to recover any of the autographs of Sir Charles Coote the General, but perhaps of his son the

<sup>1</sup> There is an account of the writer (who was afterwards created Viscount Molesworth) in Hunter's *South Yorkshire*, i, 93.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Kirk, of Cookridge, Thoresby's friend, had died in 1706. Presumably the idea of cutting down the Maze at Cookridge was that of his son, Thomas Kirk the younger, whose early death in 1709 may have interfered with the design, as apparently the wood was still existing when the *Ducatus* was published. There is a plan of it in that work.



first Earl of Montrath we may. I have again written to my wife who is now in Ireland, to use her utmost indeavours; but the more then civill warrs which have now twice ravaged and in a manner destroyed that unhappy country has (*sic*) occasioned among other mischeifs the destruction of most of the papers and records belonging to the publick as well as private families. I shoud have been very proud to have seen you at Edlington if your health and conveniency woud have allowed it, but for want of that must accept of your too just excuse. My eldest son is now in London. The second is with the D[uke] of Marlborough in Flanders, as his Aid de Camp, and writes me word by last post they were in dayly expectation of fighting a battle, the French being strong enough to encourage them to meet us. I am sensibly obliged by your enquiry after my family, and am with great sincerity and respect, S<sup>r</sup>,

Your most faithfull humble servant,

R. MOLESWORTH.

(Addressed "For Mr. Thoresby at his house in Leedes. Post p<sup>d</sup>."  
With fine heraldic seal.)

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FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

May ult<sup>o</sup>, 1707.

Be so kind, good Ralpho, as to put these letters into the bag, and bid my deare countryman send me 1 bottle of his best white wine, and my man shall pay for it on Tuesday, for this poor lad is not fit to carry money. Your friend Mr. Million will be Earle of Northumberland.<sup>1</sup> I have fought his battell as well as I could, and I hope the gent<sup>n</sup> will concurr with my proposalls sent by this post. I am ill this day, I must neither ride nor drink wine nor travell late. Wee got safe to Barwick, all here are well. I will send fuller on Tuesday with your catalogue of books. My service to Bonarges,<sup>2</sup> Lord Cheif Justice Thornton, and the E. of Northumberld. Forget mee not to the Prince of Wales<sup>3</sup>; tell him I would advise him

<sup>1</sup> I cannot explain how Mr. Plaxton arrives at this *sobriquet*, unless it be that Alderman Milner's purchase was to include Bolton Percy. In his next letter Mr. Plaxton alludes to the Alderman as "Baron of Bolton." The Plaxtons seem to have been mixed up in the negotiations for the purchase (see the Alderman's letter to Thoresby of the 13th May, 1707, *ante*).

<sup>2</sup> Perhaps meaning the Vicar of Leedes.

<sup>3</sup> I cannot say who is here alluded to.



to go barefoot this summer, as his countrymen do, 'tis cool and convenient for his feet, and agreeable to prime antiquity, for shoos are a late invention in Wales and a silly upstart fashion learnt in England. My service to all yours.

I am, S<sup>r</sup> Ralpho, in much affect.

Yours,

BARWICK.

Hold Ralpho, I expect as you read over D<sup>r</sup> Dearing's list of my predecessors that you make good remarks and observations. Mr. Stanly the B<sup>p</sup> of Man is mentioned in Weever, page 521. In my old catalogue he is said to have been parson of Barwick, Wigan, and Winwic.<sup>1</sup>

(Addressed "This for Mr. Ralph Thoresby, with my love to Dicky."<sup>2</sup>

The great letter is but one single sheet of paper, tell the post.")

D<sup>R</sup> S<sup>R</sup>, FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

Pray deliver these two letters, the one to our friend the Christian lawyer, the other to the Baron of Bolton.<sup>3</sup> The book is for that potent expositor of God's word Johannes Killingbeccius. I trouble you with these errands because you are related to one Mercury, an active god. I have (old Erra Pater<sup>4</sup>) a parcell of fine coyns in a corner: live in hopes. Romage over the Rectors of Barwick, make some annotacions on them, and tell me your thoughts of the town and manor. We are not a berwick or grannary to Leeds, but Barwick is our true name, a fortify'd village, *urbs munita, præsidium*. Remember the Tower Hill and ramparts.

I am

Your hearty friend,

Junii 7<sup>o</sup>, 1707.

BARWICK.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds.")

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Stanley was Rector of Barwick 1527-1568. See the *History of Barwick-in-Elmet* (Thoresby Soc., vol. xvii), p. 64.

<sup>2</sup> Thoresby's younger son, or possibly a daughter of Mr. Plaxton's, who had acquired this nickname.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Thornton and Alderman Milner.

<sup>4</sup> *Hudibras*, Canto 1:

In mathematics he was greater  
Than Tycho Brahe or Erra Pater.

By "Erra Pater" Lilly, the astrologer, is supposed to have been meant.

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

DEARE RALPHO,

Methinks there is a great gulf fix'd between you and mee, for wee have no sort of communication of late . . . . . If you will not come to see mee, you may come and make hay; 6<sup>d</sup> a day and small drink is good wages for a man who works in the sunshine. I saw his Grace the last week; I told him that you still had the greedy worm after noveltys and anti-quities, but those of a midle position you heeded not. He show'd me a vol. of Dr Sloan's labours in Jamaica<sup>1</sup>; 'tis a majestique book; I hope yours is come to Leeds. I pray give the inclosed to our friend Thornton; you will find him in the Beare Garden at Owen's,<sup>2</sup> attaqueing the rampant Orson. All our services to yourself, wife, and baby. Send word when you will come, and I will send horses for you.

I am

Yours very truly,

Junii 23<sup>o</sup>, 1707.

BARWICK.

(Addressed "This for Ralph Thoresby, the great Antiquary, at Leeds.")

FROM THE REV. JOHN GARDNER.

S<sup>R</sup>,

After a tedious expectation I have at last received Mr. Owen's MS. and sent it to you with Mr. Tallents' History of Schism, which I desire you to accep[t], nott for the largeness but sincerity of the present. I have procured the pictures of some money coin'd here during the Civil War; the two less pictures are of a ten-shilling peice, on one side is King Charles and the writeing around it is *Carolus Dei gratia Magnae Britanniae Franciae et Hiberniae Rex*. On the reverse there is in the middle *Religio Protestantium, Leges Anglicanae, Libertas Parliamenti*. On the edge, *Exurgat Deus dissipentur inimici*. The two larger are of a 20<sup>s</sup> peice, as appears from the two

<sup>1</sup> Sloane's "Voyage to the Islands of Madeira, Barbadoes, Jamaica," etc., published 1707.

<sup>2</sup> I think Owen, who is mentioned in other letters, must have been the keeper of an inn in Leeds.

10<sup>8</sup>. Their inscriptions are the same as the less, only they were coin'd in the year 1643 and the less in 1642. Sr, if you have any further service to command, you may expect a ready compliance from your friend and servant

JOHN GARDNER.

Sallop, June 26, 1707.

After I had writt this, Dr Benion gave me Mr. Tallents' Vindication of his History of Schism, to send with his service to you.

(The address is not on the letter.)

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FROM MR. THEOPHILUS OGLETHORPE.<sup>1</sup>

Westbrook Place,

June the 27<sup>th</sup>, 1707.

S<sup>R</sup>,

In a letter from Mr. Squire, Rector of Searle, I received one that you wrote to him dated May the 17<sup>th</sup>, and finding that you were desirous of knowing whether any of the Oglethorpes were Reives of Yorkshire att the Norman Conquest, I give you this trouble to inform you as to that part as much as lyes in my power and to begg of you to send me a true blazoning of the coat armory of the Oglethorpes family of Oglethorpe in Yorkshire, which will very much oblige me, and I shall take care to satisfy you to your desire. The Bishop of Carlile that crowned Queen Eliz: was an Oglethorpe, but of a spurious race,<sup>2</sup> and therefore if any coat armour was allowed him by his father Ogle., it must certainly be distinguished from the rest of the family by some mark of bastardy, as cutting off the bores' head instead of erazing 'em, and some other distinction which, time perhaps having worne out, that only remains

<sup>1</sup> The writer was the eldest surviving son of Sir Theophilus Oglethorpe, M.P. He was a brother of Dr. Johnson's General Oglethorpe. His grandfather, Sutton Oglethorpe, sold the manor of Oglethorpe, the ancient seat of the family, to Henry Fairfax of Bolton Percy in 1653 for £2,950. The Oglethorpes suffered much for their support of the cause of Charles I in the Civil War, and Theophilus Oglethorpe, the above writer, following the Stuart proclivities of his family, finally went over to the Pretender, James III, by whom he was nominated for a peerage as Baron Oglethorpe of Oglethorpe.

<sup>2</sup> He is believed to have been the illegitimate son of Owen Oglethorpe of Newton Kyme.



which makes the mistaking of the family; and he being noted in history for crowning Queen Eliz: when nobody else would, the ignorant have it an honour to descend us from a Bishop when really wee are not. I do not find our family mentioned in any history except Owen Ogle., nor did I expect it, for to be chronicled in our British annals they must be monsters, great favorites or great rebels, etc., none of which, God be thanked, our family has been. My father alsoe told me the same you write as to the marriage of Hugh Okelsthorpe, and that they were Reives of Yorks.: for a prooffe, Will. the Conquerer sent a writt to Oglethorpe then Reive to put Vavasore or Vavasour, I know not which, in possession of the estate which they now posses by virtue of that, and the Plumtons of Plumptre in Yorkshire was put in possession in the same reigne by Oglethorpe, then Reive.<sup>1</sup> Ogilby, in King Charles' reign, gave my father a pedigree of his family, deriving them before the Conquest (which is lost), and for coat armour three boars' heads erased; Bloom has it so in his book of Chivalry. Mr. Squire, certainly mistaking the family, sends me word that Oglethorpe of Thorp and Rowdon (Com. Ebor.) dev<sup>d</sup> the  $\Lambda$  embat<sup>d</sup> (? alig) arg<sup>t</sup>—danz. inter three bores' h<sup>ds</sup> coup<sup>t</sup> S. and Ogle Arg<sup>t</sup> 5 fusils in fess S. three bores' h<sup>ds</sup> coup<sup>d</sup> S.; which I can't but think must belong to the Bishop's family, not ours. I begg of you to send me the blazoning as soon as conveniently you can. According to your desire to Mr. Squire, I send you an epitaph made on my father and brother, by Mr. Perkes of C.C.C. Oxon., and that which is to be affixed to his tomb the other being to[o] long. If there is anything wherein I may be capable of serving you I begg you'll command, being tho' unknown

Sr,

Your most humble servt,

THEOPHILUS OGLETHORPE.

If you design to honour me with a letter, direct for me at Westbrook Place near Godalming, Surrey.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds in Yorkshire."  
Sealed with a fine heraldic seal of the Oglethorpe arms and crest.)

<sup>1</sup> It is probably hardly necessary to say that all this is merely traditionary legend. Thoresby wrote to Sir Walter Vavasour to inquire if he had any old document relating to the matter.

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

S<sup>R</sup> RALPHO,

I thank you for Dr Sloan's large book; 'tis an expensive volume, and good for litle.<sup>1</sup> I will send it again by the first safe hand. I thought I should have found wonders [in] it, but—*parturiunt montes*. I hope the 2<sup>nd</sup> vol. may be better. I am obliged to you for your kindnesses to my daughters. If there be any news, send mee a line or 2: I mean learned news. The Doctor hath put in many trivial things which will occasion laughter; the best of the book are the cutts; they are well done and curiously engraved. I suppose the other part will be fishes and animalls terrestiall. All our services and thanks to yourself and Mrs. Thoresby.

I am,

Yours very heartily,

1 July, 1707.

G. PL.

(Addressed "This for Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds, in Kirkgate.")

FROM THE REV. FRANCIS TALLENTS.<sup>2</sup>

Salop, Frid: July 4, 1707.

S<sup>R</sup>,

Upon the receipt of your kind letter, I wrote to a friend in London for Mr. Owen's<sup>3</sup> *Welch Antiquities*, who hath sent them me down, saying the booksellers fear'd a book of that subject would not go off, and so had no mind to print it. I send it with this by Mr. Gardner, and wish you may find something answering your expectation, and if so should be glad you would be pleas'd to print it, being a small thing, at the end of your large book, and if not to return it back in a convenient time. You was pleas'd, S<sup>r</sup>, as you say, after an indifferent night's rest to rise before day to favour me with your letter (I am asham'd you should take the pains to do so

<sup>1</sup> Sloane's "Voyage to the Islands of Madeira, Barbadoes," etc., referred to in the previous letter from Mr. Plaxton.

<sup>2</sup> The Rev. Francis Tallents (see the *Diary*, i, 313). Thoresby's affectionate regard for him is expressed both in his note to the letter above and in the *Ducatus*, where he alludes to him as "that good old Saint."

<sup>3</sup> Probably the Rev. John Owen, a Nonconformist minister. There is a letter from him in October, 1699, respecting a Welsh grammar and dictionary, which Thoresby had asked him to procure.



to poor unworthy me). And it falls out so that, late this evening, when upon many accounts I was much tired and on my bed, Mr. Gardner came to tell me the carier went early the next morning before I could be up; which hath produc'd this scribble, which yet you will take as a poor sign of the great respect I deservedly have for you. I am glad you have met with so many good originals: I have none of Mr. Pool's tho' I knew him well, having burn't abundance of letters. If I can find anything yet, I will not fail to send them. I have desir'd Mr. Gardner to send you a very little piece that I last put out, which may make you lose but about an hour's time in reading it, which it's like you would be willing to see, since *nostras esse soles aliquid putare nugas*. My chief desire is to know and teach the true way of salvacon by our great Redeem'r, which so great a part of the world opposes and many corrupt, and the best of us know and live by it so poorly. So commending you to the grace of God, which was good old way of writing, I rest

St,

Your much obliged and humble servant in our  
Blessed Lord,

FRA : TALLENTS.

(Thoresby has added a note at the foot "See the account of the life of this very Rev<sup>rd</sup>, learned, and pious Devine, p. 67 and 69. He was now in the 88<sup>th</sup> year of his age, and dyed 11<sup>th</sup> April after this my last letter from so dear a friend.")

(Addressed "These for the wor<sup>th</sup> Ralf Thoresby Esq<sup>re</sup>, at his house in Leeds.")

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FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

S<sup>R</sup> RALPHO,

Cannot you bring the MS. with you and make a tour to Barwick and rest a day or 2 with mee? Leeds is a busy town, wine and company, noyse and mony, are the great things your Corporation deales in: now these are enemys to old MSS. and records, and will not allow a man time to pore over them. I shall feed thee with beans and bacon, and live in dayly expectacion of you and the cargo. I am

Yours truly,

July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1707.

G. P.

(Addressed "For Mr. Thoresby, in Kirkgate, Leeds.")



FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I do very gladly subscribe for Mr. Strype's book,<sup>1</sup> and have return'd your paper. I would have been at Leeds this week but I suppose my friend the Christian Lawyer<sup>2</sup> is amongst the Pagan pleaders at York. Mr. Milner and my son William went for Oxon on Thursday last, and design'd to see Windsor and Hampton Court in their way, as I am inform'd. I hope the Alderman will be in the Cloth Market again very speedily. I am affraid I must go for Shropsh<sup>r</sup> in a few days, and must come to the Vicar to beg a supply for one Sunday; my service to the man of God. I am, Your most affect. friend and serv<sup>t</sup>,

G. PLAXTON.

July the 29<sup>th</sup>, 1707.

I have a very pressing letter from my Lord Gower to meet him at Trentham.<sup>3</sup>

(Addressed "For Mr. Thorsby at Leeds, this.")

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

HONEST SYDROPHIL,<sup>4</sup>

Send the inclosed at your leisure to our friend the Christian Lawyer. I am sorry to heare that he has got the sciatica, 'tis the stone in the hip, for you must know the stone is a distemper that seizes all mankind. Some lawyers and attorneys have it in their hearts and some in their hipps, occasioned by hard riding to the Assizes and Sessions. The Fanatiques have the stone in their heads; this fills 'em full of scruples and doubts, for you know *scrupulus* is a little stone. Some divines have the stone in their understandings; they cannot speak or think cleare, but all their actions are full of gravell and hard sand.

So that most folks have the stone and will not beleive it, and I am confident that even my friend Ralph Sydrophil the

<sup>1</sup> Probably the *Annals of the Reformation in England*.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Thornton.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Plaxton seems to have been an especial friend of Lord Gower's, by whom he had been presented to the living of Barwick.

<sup>4</sup> Mr. Plaxton frequently addresses Thoresby by this *sobriquet*, taken from Butler's *Hudibras*.

antiquary of Leeds, has the stone too, as well as other people, but his is the rape-mill-stone, of which I have often heard him complain.

Your friend Major Fairfax<sup>1</sup> has the stone, but his is the pumex stone for he is allways dry and thirsty.

Well, my friend, tell me in your next how and when the Fairfaxes came to Denton. I suppose it was by a match with Thwaites; pray look, and send me word when they married that heiress.<sup>2</sup> I am for Shropsh<sup>r</sup> speedily, but hope to see you all at Leeds before I begin my journey. My service to all our friends.

I am,

Yours very truly,

Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1707.

BARWICK.

What news have you about the Earle Piercy?<sup>3</sup> I have had no letters these 10 or 12 days from London: when will his lord<sup>p</sup> return to the famous town of Leeds?

(Addressed "This for his good friend Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds, in Kirkgate."<sup>4</sup>)

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

I am told that they have taken a porposse at York<sup>5</sup> and design to present to you, to hang up in your study amongst

<sup>1</sup> I am uncertain which of the Fairfaxes this alludes to.

<sup>2</sup> Thoresby has written a note against this: "1 H. 8, Jo. Thwaites of Denton dyed, and Isabella Fairfax his heir was then 16 years of age. Mr. Thornton's MS. Inquisitions and Esc. No. 8." The Fairfax ownership of Denton was now near its end.

<sup>3</sup> Meaning Alderman Milner.

<sup>4</sup> This letter is partly printed in the Rev. F. S. Colman's *History of Barwick* (Thoresby Soc., xvii, 72).

<sup>5</sup> On the back of this letter Thoresby has written the following: "From Mr. Hen. Gyles's letter, 9 Aug<sup>t</sup>:"

These two days past here was a great hurry on our river Ouse, by reason of a porposse which pass'd under Ouse bridge, which alarmed the whole city, and it's believed above 500 gun shot were discharged at it, but at last it was kil'd. It's supposed it left the sea in pursuit of salmon. Above 1000 people of al sorts were on both sides the river to see the sport. I remember about 25 years ago a larger porposse than this was shot in our river, and there was a larg paper of verses made thereupon and the accidents that then happened, which I sent to Mr. Kirk. Mr. Gale was with me this evening after he had seen the dead porposse, which they hung up by the tale in the Duke of Buckingham's hall; it is 10 foot long, and after they had opened and pancht it, as fat as any hog."

your raritys, and that it will be at Leeds this day. It were fit that Mr. Mayor and the Aldermen should meet it, and the Recorder ought to make a speech the stranger (*sic*) and bid him welcome.

Let me know how the Christian lawyer doth, and also if Mr. Milner be return'd from London.

I expect two lines by G. Hast this evening; thus, with hearty respects to everybody, I remain

Your assur'd frd,

Aug: 12<sup>o</sup>, 1707.

G. PLAXTON.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby, in Kirkgate, Leeds.")

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

Aug: 22, 1707.

DEAR SYDROPHIL,

I am now jogging on my way towards the Peak country. I hope to reach my journey's end on Wednesday.

I forgot to tell you the meaning of the Corpus Christi play in your manuscript: the account of it is thus.<sup>1</sup> In many towns corporate in England the Freemen us'd to meet in their severall Companys, and under the severall banners of their Company, and there they had speeches and old rigmarow rithmes (*sic*) and therefore you will find the speeches of every Trade and Company there, and if I mistake not we have an Act or some injunction about the Reformation which forbids them. This custome is still in use in some Corporations, though the verses are left out. You will find the speech of every Trade if you look over the book. Pray enquire into the Corpus Christi Feast, and have an account of it ready against I return; this is the task which I enjoyn you in my absence. Give the inclosed to the lame Pagan; I own him not, he is a very renegado; tell him I am not his but old Sydrophil's

Very much and truly too,

G. PL.

<sup>1</sup> The Corpus Christi festivities, at which the members of the various Guilds assisted, were held on the feast day of Corpus Christi, the first Thursday after Trinity Sunday. The manuscript to which Mr. Plaxton alludes was doubtless No. 17 in Thoresby's catalogue of MSS. (*Ducatus*, p. 517). At the Thoresby sale in 1764, it appears to have been purchased by Horace Walpole, and at the sale of his collection in 1842 it was sold for £220. 10s.



I will not forget the clog almanack<sup>1</sup> nor the account of Mr. Illingworth's death and epitaph. Service to the Alderman Million.

(Addressed "This for Mr. Ralph Thoresby in Kirkgate, Leeds.")

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FROM DR. GIBSON.<sup>2</sup>

DEAR SR,

Lambeth, Sept. 2, 1707.

The last edition of Camden's *Britannia* being sold off, Mr. Churchil<sup>3</sup> begins to think of a new one, and in order to it has printed those heads of enquiry to be transmitted to the most able hands in each County, and particularly to those learned gentlemen who favour'd the last edition with their observations. In the County of York, it is needless to think of any hand besides Mr. Thoresby's, upon whose favour we must beg leave to depend for the revisal of it, altering or adding as he shall see cause. 'Tis true you only concern'd yourself with the West-Riding before; but (if the trouble were not too great and unreasonable) we would pray you to extend your remarks to the remaining parts of the County; which yet, I am very sure, will be less trouble to you than to any person whatsoever, considering the successful endeavours you have long us'd in discovering the remains of antiquity in those parts. Mr. Churchil has interleav'd the County of York of the last edition, presuming upon your inclination to oblige him and me and the publick; and will send it down by some safe hand, directed to you at Leeds. One request more we have to make, that you will oblige us herein as soon as you conveniently can; because, tho' Yorkshire stands late in the book, we shall not begin to print till the whole is finish't and fitted for the press.

Dr Fairfax<sup>4</sup> is well: he and I often remember our good friend at Leeds of whose welfare I shall much rejoyce to hear, and to whom I shall always continue

A most faithful and affect. friend and servant,

EDM. GIBSON.

(The address-sheet is detached.)

<sup>1</sup> See page 132, *ante*.

<sup>2</sup> Edmund Gibson, afterwards Bishop of Lincoln and London successively. He had edited the edition of Camden's *Britannia*, published in 1695, to which Thoresby was a contributor.

<sup>3</sup> Awnsham Churchill, the publisher. The new edition of Camden did not appear until 1722.

<sup>4</sup> Dr. Brian Fairfax.

## FROM THE BISHOP OF CARLISLE.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

Rose, Sep. 4, 1707.

I am in your debt for two very obliging letters, and am ashamed to tell you that (now at last when I come to make my acknowledgements) I find that some way or other the former is so misplaced that I cannot find it. This fault lies betwixt Mr. Benson and me, who had joyntly our shares in it. He took upon himself the charge of giving our present thanks, and, as I remember, had the whole letter in his possession: but he assures me that he never was entirely master of any more of it than was his property. I remember you put a query to me about the Saxon termination of *sætan* in the name of some place in your neighbourhood. How to answer you particularly (in my present shameful condition) I know not. I need not tell you that the word generally betokens the same thing which we still express by "seat," as in Dorset, Somerset, etc. If I find your letter (as I earnestly hope I shall) or you are pleas'd to renew your commands, I will be a little more exact.

I think you were also desirous to have some account of B<sup>p</sup> Halton. He was Regular Canon of the Priory of Carlile before he was chosen Bishop; and was afterwards much in the favour of our great Edw. the First, who sojourn'd much with him in this Diocese, and whose Comm<sup>r</sup> he was in several treaties (with the Scots) at Berwick, etc. He was likewise very serviceable to that King's unfortunate son. We have the fullest register of the transactions of his time of any that (almost anywhere) to be met with, and they shew that he was an extraordinary Prelate. He came to the See in 1292, and not (as is commonly asserted) in 1288.

The farther relation which Mr. Wood has given you of the knocking spirit is what surpasses most of what I have met with of the like kind. You do well to have the stories attested under the gentleman's own hand, since 'tis not unlikely that you may meet with some that will not be over-forward in believing that a ghost should be so disquieted at the undue disposeal of a trunk and two pair of sheets.<sup>1</sup> For my own part, I am far

<sup>1</sup> This refers to a matter which had recently caused some sensation in the neighbourhood of Hovingham in the North Riding. The household of John Fawcett of Scackleton had been much disturbed by certain mysterious knockings. It was assumed that these proceeded from a ghostly visitor, with whom the family eventually succeeded in opening communications by (antici-



from questioning the truth of what many grave historians have told us of this sort of apparitions; but when good men are too easy in giving credit to every whisper of that nature, the sceptical deists take the advantage.

Th'other day I rode out to the sea-shore, and (what I never saw before) met with the very terminus of the Picts-wall. I was much pleas'd with the sight, and the more because I was willing to hope that my reporting of this to you would be some inducement to you to divert yourself (at your first leisure) in these parts, where you'll be abundantly welcome to, S<sup>r</sup>,

Your ever affectionate and obliged servant,

W. CARLIOL.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house in Leedes, Yorkshire. By Ferry Bridge. P<sup>d</sup> 3<sup>d</sup>." The seal (the arms of the See of Carlisle jointly with a chevron between three crowns) is obviously that of Dr. Nicolson's predecessor, Dr. Thos. Smith.)

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FROM DR. HICKES.

Ormond Street, Sep<sup>r</sup> 6, 1707.

HON<sup>D</sup> SIR,

I hope you'll pardon my long delay of an answer to your obliging letter of Aug<sup>t</sup> 9, and impute it wholly to buisnesse, which in truth was the cause thereof. If you would be at the paines to draw up such a narrative of the knocking ghost as you mention, I should be willing to get it printed, but D<sup>r</sup> Sloan thinks it not so proper for his province as a

pating more modern methods) a system of knock-signals. It then appeared that the visitant was the spirit of "Madame Savage," grandmother of Mr. Fawcett's wife, who was perturbed because certain things left by her to her grandchildren had not been divided. Thoresby made out a statement of the whole matter, which he caused Fawcett to sign, and which was witnessed by Mr. Wood, the rector of Dalby, who himself made a further statement shortly after; this is no doubt what Bishop Nicolson alludes to above. These statements are now in the library of the Thoresby Society, and are sufficiently amusing. Eventually the services of a "wise man" were called in to lay the spirit, and his modé of proceeding is set forth in the statements.

Thoresby evidently believed the story, and was rather indignant at the Bishop's slighting remark about "a trunk and two pair of sheets," as he has added a note in the letter "it appears by this that his Lordship had mislaid the letter which gave acc<sup>t</sup> of some things of value restored, as a gold watch, rings, £4 in moneys, besides wood sold and not accounted for." He was indirectly interested in the matter, as his nieces, the daughters of Jeremiah Thoresby, were among the grandchildren of "Madame Savage." See the *Diary*, i, 330.



physiologist, who is to publish the phænomena of nature, to encrease naturall history, and not the phænomena of spirits, which relate to the nature and history of the invisible world. It ought particularly to be enquired into whether the person be dead at Paris as the ghost is reported to have said, and to have left three children. A methodicall acct of the whole story in all its circumstances from the beginning, with the several attestations, would, I verily think, be acceptable to all but Atheists and Sadduces of the age. The strangest part of the story is that of the conjurer who directed them to lay the ghost with that form of words, though, supposing it an evil spirit, that were more accountable.<sup>1</sup>

Whenever you please to send up your MS.<sup>2</sup> I will peruse it with faithfulness, as I am sure I shall with delight, and I am glad my book hath any way been serviceable to you. Mr. Nelson hath been long out of town; when he returns I will let him know the favour you desire of him, and send you his answer. Pray, Sir, give my humble service to Mr. Thornton: were I able to travell, I would give myself a diversion to see you both at Leedes, and by so doing shew you that I am, Sir,

Your humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

GEO: HICKES.

(The address-sheet is torn off.)

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FROM MR. SAMUEL MIDGLEY.

Sept<sup>r</sup> the 9<sup>th</sup>, 1707.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I make bold to present unto you this enclosed letter, which was writt by my brother Mr. Robert Midgley and sent unto me, with a true demonstration of the time of his birth and departure, according as I think you desired me. Sam<sup>l</sup> Midgley my father lived at a place called Burdenhead within the parrish of Harwood, and had two sons, one called Sam<sup>l</sup> which was born at the said Burdenhead the 18<sup>th</sup> day of

<sup>1</sup> At this period Thoresby was evidently much excited about the Fawcett ghost. He wrote about it to several correspondents, and appears, from the above letter, to have been quite ready to make a formal communication on the subject to the Royal Society had not Dr. Sloane thrown cold water on the idea.

<sup>2</sup> "Ducatus Leod:" written between the lines by Thoresby. Dr. Hickes perused part of the MS. in January, 1709.

December 1651 (which was my selfe), the other called Robert which was also born at the said Burdenhead, the 17<sup>th</sup> day of September 1654 being Sunday, and learned at schoole untill he was an excellent schollar, and then my father sent him to Cambridge where he was educated severall yeares; he going from there to London became correcter of bookes in the press, and soon after was concerned in licensinge bookes, and he departed this life the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March 169<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, being Sunday, in the fortieth yeare of his age, and was interred in a Church called by the name of St Michael Bassishaw in London.<sup>1</sup> I shall not trouble you with anything more at present, but giving you humble thanks for takeing so much notice of my deare brother, I rest, S<sup>r</sup>,

Your humble servant,

SAM<sup>L</sup>: MIDGLEY.

(The address-sheet is detached.)

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FROM THE BISHOP OF CARLISLE.

Rose, Sep. 13, 1707.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

To make some little amends for my last empty letter give me leave to transcribe a passage which I find in my last winter's collections out of the Cottonian Library. The MS. Chronicle of Lanercost, being written by one of our Cumberland Monks, has a great many things in it which particularly respect this diocese; and amongst the rest tells this story of the recommendation of a new Bishop to the See of Carlile (by K. Hen. 2) in the following terms:

A.D. 1186 . . . . . Dum<sup>2</sup> venit Rex, cum magno exercitu, usque Carleolum, volens ulterius procedere ad debellandum Rolandum filium Uchtredi filii Fergus propter injurias et dissaisinas quas ipse fecerat Dunecano filio Gilberti filii Fergus; sed predictus Rolandus venit illuc ad Regem et fecit pacem

<sup>1</sup> Robert Midgley, M.D., was a person of some note in his day. It has been said that he was the author of the work called *The Turkish Spy* (but see Nichols' *Literary Anecdotes*, i, 413). Thoresby inserted a pedigree of the Midgleys in the *Ducatus*, page 21. There is another, prepared by William Radcliffe, Rouge Croix, among the manuscripts of the Yorks. Archæological Society, M. 139.

<sup>2</sup> Roger de Houeden, who gives this account almost in the same words, has "*deinde venit Rex.*"



cum eo. Rex vero ibidem fecit Paulinum de Ledes eligi ad episcopatum Carleoli, quem idem Paulinus refutavit. Et cum Paulinus episcopatum illum recipere vellet optulit ei Rex quod episcopatum illum ditaret de trescentis marcarum redditibus, videlicet de ecclesia de Bamburgh et ecclesia de Scartheburgh et capellaria de Tykyl, et duobus maneriis Regis prope Carleolum.<sup>1</sup> Chron. Lan. fol. 91<sup>a</sup>.

You can certainly give me a more full account of this Paulinus, who it seems was not to be tempted into the toilsome office of a Bishop by any view of royal bounty.

You have questionless consider'd the fancy of Sir Ja. Dalrymple<sup>2</sup> in making Leodonium the countrey about Leedes; rather than he'll give up Lothian for a part (as it certainly was) of the old kingdome of Northumberland. This opinion of that worthy gentleman seems to me the most harsh and strain'd piece of conjecture in his whole book. 'Tis the common infirmity of men engaged in party disputes to force an argument where it comes not in voluntarily. For the controversy about Homage I sent my friends at Edinburgh this note out of some *Inquisitiones post mortem* taken in this countrey, a<sup>o</sup> 21 Edw. I — "Alexander Rex Scotiæ tenuit de Domino Rege Angliæ, die obitus sui, in capite terras in Tyndall quæ valent per annum 108<sup>li</sup>, per servitium faciendi homagium Domino Regi Angliæ pro predictis terris. Item tenuit de dicto Rege in capite maneria de Penrith, Soureby, Langwathby, Salkeld, Carlaton, et Scotteby, per servitium reddendi unum osturconem annuatim ad Castrum Carleol. et faciendi homagium Regi Angliæ et heredibus suis et fidelitatem pro predictis tenementis. Johannes Balliol heres Alexandri."

This is plain dealing. Jury-men on their oathes speak the truth and the whole truth<sup>3</sup>; which is too often minced by authors.

I am, Sr,

Your ever affectionate,

W. CARLIOL.

(The address-sheet has been detached.)

<sup>1</sup> Paulinus did not see his way, even with the above additional inducement, to accept the bishopric (see Thoresby Society's vol. iv, p. 209).

<sup>2</sup> Sir James Dalrymple, Bart., a Scottish antiquary and author. He wrote "Collections concerning Scottish History," 1705.

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Nicolson can hardly have been largely acquainted with the returns of medieval juries.



FROM DR. RICHARDSON.<sup>1</sup>

North Bierley, Sept. 21, 1707.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I am very much obliged to you for your kind letter and for your intelligence about the bookes. I intend to send a servant to Mr. Dynley tomorrow; considering he has twice promised to send them to me before company of note, I do not question but I shall have them deliver'd. With this comes to you Mr. Lhwyd's booke,<sup>2</sup> which I hope will prove diverting to you. I have not yet leasure to send you my pedigree, being tomorrow obliged to be abroad, and the day after I am under a promise to goe with some neighbours to my Lord Doun's.<sup>3</sup> When I come home, I wil endeavoure to give the best account I can of our family, which cannot derive from very many generations, our family being, as I believe, of Scotch extraction, though, as I find by a manuscript note I have of Uncle Hopkinson's,<sup>4</sup> from the Bishoperick of Durham. However, you shall have it as perfect as I can make out. When I meet with anything of nat: curiosity worth your acceptance, you may be assured of it. If you wil oblige me with a transcript of my lord A<sup>B</sup> of York's MS. of English coynes<sup>5</sup> I wil if you please to employ any person in doing it, freely pay for the trouble. I shall always be ready upon any occasion to approve myselfe

Your humble servant,

RIC: RICHARDSON.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leedes. With a bundle.")

Seal of Dr. Richardson's arms and crest.)

<sup>1</sup> Richard Richardson, M.D. and F.R.S., of North Bierley; one of the most prominent physicians of the north. See his pedigree in the *Ducatus*, p. 20. He was an eminent botanist; a volume of letters to him, chiefly on botanical subjects, with a memoir of his life, was printed by Mr. Dawson Turner in 1835.

<sup>2</sup> Probably his *Archæologia Britannica*.

<sup>3</sup> Lord Downe.

<sup>4</sup> John Hopkinson of Lofthouse, to whose MSS. Thoresby was so much indebted in preparing pedigrees for the *Ducatus*. He was Richardson's great-uncle.

<sup>5</sup> This MS. by Archbishop Sharp is now in the library of the Yorkshire Archæological Society.

FROM THE REV. NATHAN DRAKE.<sup>1</sup>Sheff<sup>d</sup>, Oct : 1, 1707.WORTHY S<sup>R</sup>,

I have waited long for an opportunity to send you the inclosed papers to Leeds. They are too bulky for the post, and this Bradford carrier is the first man I durst send 'em by. Mr. Jessop,<sup>2</sup> who is not return'd from his Welch circuit, left his service for Mr. Thoresby, with this Hydrostatical Essay of his father's, which I hope you will receive safe, together with the other papers you left with me. Those concerning the knocking ghost are very amusing. What time has produced since, or shall produce, I should be glad to hear. The narratives seem well attested, but many are apt to conjecture, as 'tis natural for 'em to do, that 'tis a thing concerted to make old Johnson<sup>3</sup> and others disgorge what they have devour'd of the poor orphans'.

Mr. Plaxton (with the learned Dr Hudson<sup>4</sup>) call'd here in his southern journey. I every day expect his coming back and purpos'd to have made this return by him if this opportunity had not offer'd, which I think less uncertain, for the old gent. may give me the go-by, but I hope will not. As for this paper of proposalls for printing Strype's History of Religion, I have ventured to set my hand to it among so much good company, hoping to receive the benefit of the 7<sup>th</sup> book,<sup>5</sup> as you do, and if either you or good Mr. Plaxton will pay the 6 shills. for me (which is to be p<sup>d</sup> down) when you pay your own, I will repay with thanks.

<sup>1</sup> Vicar of Sheffield. There is a letter to him from Thoresby on the 29th March, 1711, making the curious request that Mr. Drake would send him half a handful of the dust out of the Countess of Shrewsbury's coffin, the sight of which, Thoresby thought, might "awaken my children to a sense of their mortality." The request appears to have been complied with, and "a pugill of the dust of a noble Countess, *not easily distinguish'd from common dust and ashes,*" appears among the "humane rarities" in the catalogue of the Museum.

<sup>2</sup> William Jessop of Broom Hall, Sheffield, a Justice of Chester and M.P. for Aldborough. His father was Francis Jessop, F.R.S.

<sup>3</sup> Johnson was son-in-law of "Madam Savage" and father-in-law of Fawcett (see *ante*, p. 158).

<sup>4</sup> Of the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

<sup>5</sup> A copy presented to those who obtained six subscribers.

What becomes of Mr. Atkinson's amour? I hear nothing of it in these parts.<sup>1</sup> My service to him and all fr<sup>ds</sup>. I am,  
Good S<sup>r</sup>,                      Your very faithfull humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

NATH. DRAKE.

(The address-sheet is detached.)

FROM MR. ROBERT DALE.<sup>2</sup>

College of Arms, Lond: 18 Oct: 1707.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

You may very justly interpret my long silence as a neglect, but I assure you it has been only owing to the Earl of Bindon now our Lord Marshal's putting a stop to the passing any Grants of Arms till lately, occasion<sup>d</sup> by an alteration his Lo<sup>p</sup> made in the forms of application; which being settled, if your kinsman, Dr Kirshaw,<sup>3</sup> continues his resolution

<sup>1</sup> This probably refers to John Atkinson, Mayor of Leeds in 1712, whose marriage to Dorothy Pease took place in April, 1709.

<sup>2</sup> Dale was at this time Suffolk Herald Extraordinary. He became Richmond Herald in 1721, but died within a year. Thoresby had become acquainted with him during his visit to London in 1701. Dale was a Yorkshireman.

On the back of this letter Thoresby has copied the petition to Lord Bindon (Deputy Earl Marshal) by Robert Midgley of Leeds for a grant of arms, setting forth the pedigree given at p. 21 of the *Ducatus*, together with a certificate in favour of the petition, signed by Thoresby and Thomas Brailsford of London. He also copies a list of the fees, etc., then payable on a grant of arms, which Dale had sent him, as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
To two Kings of Arms . . . . .	30	0	0
To the Lord Marshall's Secretary for the warrant . . . . .	2	3	0
For My Lord Marshal's approbation of the arms (painted on paper) . . . . .	0	6	8
For painting and gilding the Patent and for vellum . . . . .	2	0	0
For the Queen's stamp . . . . .	0	1	0
For engrossing the Patent . . . . .	0	6	8
For registering it at the College of Arms . . . . .	1	6	8
For a leather case to keep the Patent in . . . . .	0	4	0
Two tin boxes for the seals . . . . .	0	1	0
Ribbons and soft wax . . . . .	0	0	8
	£36	9	8

I believe the present total cost is more than double this sum.

<sup>3</sup> Richard Kirshaw, D.D., Rector of Ripley. There is a letter to Thoresby from him dated the 29th November following, in which he says "please to accept my very hearty thanks for your kind concern and trouble about the affair you write of, but I choose to engage no further at present about it," probably referring to the idea of applying for a grant of arms.



to have a patent, I shall accomplish his desires in that particular as soon and as much to satisfaction as possible, and in all respects answer your recommendation of me. Be pleas'd therefore to favour me with a line or two at your leisure, and believe I will esteem it a singular honor to renew a correspondence that has so unhappily bin interrupted on the part of

Sr,

Your most obliged and most faithful humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

ROB : DALE.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house in Leeds, Yorkshire, these.")

# FROM THE BISHOP OF CARLISLE.

Rose, Nov. 3, 1707.

DEAR SR,

I have been much harass'd and baited of late with a couple of very surly members of my Cathedral Church, and the fight (I doubt) is far from being at an end: but at present I have a little breathing while, and I cannot employ it better (nor more honestly) than in the payment of my debts. In your last letter, you desire to have a more particular acct of Sr James Dalrymple's fancy about Lothene in England, the place where the Sax. Chron. tells us the Kings of England and Scotland met in the year 1091, which he would have to be at Leedes in Yorkshire.<sup>1</sup> His words ("Collections concerning the Scottish History," p. 193) are these—"our author's last refuge (meaning Mr. Atwood's) is to allèdge that the homage was for no possession in the Counties now passing for English, but for Lothene, then a part of England, and gives the authority of the Chron. Sax. To this Dr Gibson gives the answer in his notes *In provincia Loidis* from Floren. and Sim. Dun. He might have added the Chron. de Mailr., as he addeth *Provincia Loudicensi* from Brompton. Camden saies Leedes, *Saxonice* Loidis, on the river Are. From these writers it's plain that the ren-counter was not in Lothian in Scotland, but in Loidis or Leedes

<sup>1</sup> See *ante*, p. 162.

in Yorkshire,<sup>1</sup> and so it might be well said that K[ing] Malcolm went from Scotland to Leedes in England; it being acknowledged by Ord. Vitalis himself that at that time Lothian was become a part of the kingdome of Scotland; from whence Northumberland was first invaded in May, and King William preparing to take revenge his ships before they touched upon Scotland were almost all miserably lost a few dayes before Michaelmas, as the Saxon Chronicle has it. Sim. Floren. and Brompton add that many of his cavalry perished by hunger and cold, and so King William had leasure to return from Scotland to Northumberland and meet the other King in the province of Leedes in Yorkshire, and oblige him to renew the peace in the terms it was in his father's time, which it seems the son had infringed. Mr. Tyrrel falls in the same mistake when he saies (vol. 2, p. 83) the peace was made at Lothian upon the Borders of England. He might have known better that the place of treaty was in Yorkshire, when he had said in his first volume (lib. 4, p. 185) that the battle wherein K[ing] Penda was killed by K[ing] Oswin was fought near a place called Loyden, now Leedes in Yorkshire, and the near resemblance of the words Lothene and Loyden might have caused the addition in the Chron. Sax., Lothene in Anglia meaning Leedes in Yorkshire to distinguish it from the Scottish Lawden, Lowdean, or Lothean."

Here you have the whole paragraph you desir'd, and a manifest instance it is how apt learned men are to impose on themselves when they write on a side, where Nature is in hazard of struggling against Truth. Mr. Atwood (in his *Superiority, etc., reasserted*, p. 48) has duely observ'd that Dr Gibson himself gives sentence against Sr James, in his *Explicatio Locorum*, p. 36.

I am much pleas'd with Mr. Lhwyd's book.<sup>2</sup> His Comparative Etymology will be very serviceable towards the finding out the reason of the names of a great many of our towns, especially in this countrey where there was antiently a mighty mixture of the several dialects of the old Britnish language. For some time the Irish (or primitive Scots) harbour'd much in these parts, whilst they made their yearly incursions upon

<sup>1</sup> This is, of course, purely fanciful. Even Thoresby, anxious as he always was to find historical associations with Leeds, disclaims it in his preface to the *Ducatus*.

<sup>2</sup> The *Archæologia Britannica*.

the Saxons: and they have left behind them abundance of those names which they bestow'd on our rivers, hills, fenns, etc. Others we have that are more truly Cambrian. In all these my friend's help seems very promising.

I am, S<sup>r</sup>,

Your ever affectionate serv<sup>t</sup>,

W. CARLIOL.

(The address-sheet is detached.)

# FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

Pardon me (Good Ralph) for being thus slow in writing to you; I have all your papers, and will with care return them. What you enquire about Dr Hudson<sup>1</sup> is only this, that he thought a private man could not have collected such a treasure of coyns as yours are, especially in the North. He talks of two or three MSS. which you have, which would be of use to the Publique Library at Oxon. if you would part with them,—a piece of Lactantius, Mela, and another; but you and I will talk of these when I see you. I wish I knew what number of villages are in your Parish, what number of houses in the Town and Parish, and what the Excize of the Parish of Leeds amounts to: Mr. Fletcher can tell the last and you and the Vicar the 2 former. I am at work for you, and want some small helps. Pray answer these few queries at your leisure;

- 1 What number of houses and inhabitants, as you judge them.
- 2 What the Excize of Leeds yearly is.
- 3 What was the number of chymnys and firehearths formerly.
- 4 What number of communicants in the parish.

You shall heare from mee shortly if you answer this letter. Tell the Christian lawyer I sent away to London this day as he directed mee. Give my service to all our good friends, from Owen to Mr. Million and from John Killingbeck to his parish clerk.

I am

Yours truly,

G. BARWICK.

Novemb. 10, 1707.

<sup>1</sup> Chief Librarian at the Bodleian Library, Oxford.



All our services to you and yours.

I am sorry that I was from home when Jenny Kershaw call'd; Mr. Ellis<sup>1</sup> invited me to dinner this day—his two sons William and Harry from London were there. My wife went to Parlington to see Mrs. Gascoigne<sup>2</sup> this afternoon, so that John had a poor welcome.

(Addressed "This for Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds, Kirkgate.")

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FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

I have no safe hand by whom I will trust your papers, but will rather bring them myself on Munday next. I will take care of poor H. Gyles,<sup>3</sup> and sorry I am that so great an artist should starve when bunglers and blockheads, knaves and coxcombs, are rich and wealthy. I long to see you and my two good friends the Christian lawyer and the Pagan vicar; for you must know there were a sort of Pagans in former days of exemplary virtue and goodnes, and *de salute Paganorum* was not to be questioned by some people. However, a Pagan vicar, an Antinomian Maior, an Heathen Corporation, a miscreant Common Councill, and an idolatrous antiquary, may make a fine show in a Synagogue. I know you are an inquisitive man; pray search the regesters and let me know if Mr. Mayor were ever baptized; if not, 'tis an odd body politique where the Major is an infidel and the Head an unbeliever.<sup>4</sup> *Tace* is Latin for a candle.<sup>5</sup>

I am, Deare Ralpho,

Heartily yours,

BARWICK.

Nov<sup>r</sup> 18<sup>th</sup>, 1707.

(Addressed "This for his good friend Mr. Ralph Thoresby, at his house in Kirkgate in Leeds.")

<sup>1</sup> Mr. William Ellis of Kiddal; died 1726.

<sup>2</sup> Probably the wife of Mr. John (afterwards Sir John) Gascoigne.

<sup>3</sup> The York glass-painter.

<sup>4</sup> Mr. Rowland Mitchell was then Mayor of Leeds. Of course, Mr. Plaxton's remarks about him and the other people mentioned must be taken as humorous only.

<sup>5</sup> An old phrase, suggesting the expediency of silence. It occurs in Swift and Fielding.

FROM MR. NEVILL SIMMONS.<sup>1</sup>DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

I have been much abroad, or else had answered yours sooner. I own myself extreamly oblig'd for your kind offer about the manuscript,<sup>2</sup> but dare not undertake itt except I could ingage a London bookseller to joyn with mee. Mr. Drake<sup>3</sup> tells mee [he] has writt to you. In hast, I remain, S<sup>r</sup>,

Your much oblig'd humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

NEVILL SIMMONS.

Nov. 20, 1707.

(There is no address-sheet.)

FROM THE REV. CHARLES DAUBUZ.<sup>4</sup>S<sup>R</sup>,

I send you again the Selden "Of Tythes" with my hearty thanks for the use of it. You will find therein two autographs of S<sup>t</sup> Evremont; one of them hath his name, the other is a piece of gallantry to a lady, where he tells her that when he wrote to the Dutchess Mazarin he subscribed himself "the knight of the ill-favour'd countenance," and she to him "Dulcinea," so that he puts no other name to it, but 'tis certainly his, and the hand shews it; when the Dutchess and hee were friends he took the liberty, I suppose jesting upon himself as being old and having a great lump on his forehead, etc. The Parchment speaks for itself. I am informed that the autographs of Descartes, what I suppose are letters not printed may be swapped for books. Without staying for your answer, I wrote that one would suffice if to be had, and so that there was not

<sup>1</sup> A Sheffield bookseller. Thoresby records that he held the first book auction ever known in Leeds, in December, 1692. Every known fact about him and his family seems to have been printed by Mr. W. T. Freemantle in his *Bibliography of Sheffield*.

<sup>2</sup> Thoresby adds a note "Mr. Owen's Welsh Antiquities."

<sup>3</sup> Vicar of Sheffield.

<sup>4</sup> The Rev. Chas. Daubuz was Vicar of Brotherton. Hunter gives a short account of him in the *Diary*, i, 416. Thomas Hearne remarks that his "book in Latin about the passage in Josephus relating to our Saviour shews him to have been a very good scholar, tho' at the same time he was look'd upon as whimsical, which sufficiently appear'd afterwards when he writ and published a large book upon the Revelations, by which he obtain'd the character of a Madman" (Hearne's *Diary*, 14 December, 1724). Mr. Daubuz wrote his signature twice in Thoresby's Album.

so much need of insisting upon a price, and that this would be thankfully acknowledged. I beg of you to return the other two books to Mr. Tavernier with my service and thanks. If you know where Mr. Parmentier<sup>1</sup> is now, pray let me know how one may write to him. I am just now preparing and proposing to my booksellers to print a *Gustus Apocalypticus* or a Taste of my Perpetual Comment on Revel[ation], to contain my Preliminary Diss: of the certainty of my principles and the comment on one or two chapters: this to give the world a sketch of my performance, and to excite the curiosity of readers, in order to put the rest forward. I will you good health and a good Christmas: my service to Mr. Wilson, and be pleased to accept the same from, Sr,

Your affectionate friend and humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

C. DAUBUZ.

Dec<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>th</sup>, 1707.

(The address-sheet is detached.)

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FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

December the 16<sup>th</sup>, 1707.

D<sup>R</sup> S<sup>R</sup>,

I am upon a very troublesome piece of work, and I want your help. Pray answer these following quæries:

1 What antient English Bibles have you—when and by whom printed?

2 What antient Common Prayer Books or prymers or homilys have you?

3 Have you ever seen Tavernier's translation of our English Bible?

4 Have you ever seen John Joy's translat. of the Prophet Isaiah into English?

5 Have you ever seen Tyndall's New Testament, printed about 1525 or 1526?

6 Which are the oldest prints you have?

7 When and by whom was your parchment book printed at Paris, and what is the name of it?

<sup>1</sup> The artist who painted Thoresby's portrait.



There is now a design on foot to print the History of Printing<sup>1</sup> and an account of the most valuable books of antient impressions.

What now, Sydrophil? I am told that you are number'd amongst the fallen angells and become a Stricklander.<sup>2</sup> Much good may it do you, with your new Mr (Mayor)<sup>3</sup>: at the best he is but a wise-man, and not an inch honestier than

Your affect. fr<sup>d</sup>,

BARWICK.

Buy me I pray you Gadbury and Partridge's almanacks. William will pay you.

(Addressed "This for Mr. Ra : Thoresby at Leeds in Kirkgate.")

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

December 19, 1707.

I long for an answer to my quærys—

1. What Bibles you have of antient impressment in English?
2. What Common Prayer Books, Ritualls, Psalters, Primers, Missals, Picas,<sup>4</sup> or such like books in English?
3. What books of antient impressions—when, where, and by whom printed?

Pray send me your answer, for I want it. Pray observe by whom every book was printed, where, and the yeares when. Did you ever see or heare of Taverner's translation of the Bible?

Give my service to your new minstrell: I rejoyce at his preferment,<sup>5</sup> but more at his honesty.

If you want an autograph of this present Queen, I know where you may have a letter of her writing, and, it may be, some other things. Farewell, Stricklander—repent and amend. They say your Aldermen will furr their gowns with hare skins, in token of their dependency.

<sup>1</sup> This was probably the project of John Bagford, the collector of ballads and title-pages. He had sent out proposals for such a history, but the scheme came to nothing.

<sup>2</sup> Sir William Strickland of Boynton, the whig candidate for the County at the General Election in 1708.

<sup>3</sup> Rowland Mitchell.

<sup>4</sup> Pica—"Ordo recitandi divini officii" (*Ducange*).

<sup>5</sup> Mr. Thornton's election as Recorder.

Have you any autographs of any of the lords of Oliver's creation? If not, I know where you may be furnished with some. Sir Charles Woolsly,<sup>1</sup> one of his lords, is still living, though my lord Str——nd and some others are dead. I can have an autograph from S<sup>r</sup> Charles at any time. Farewell, deare Ralpho.

I am, Yours very much,

BARWICK.

I have Goggy<sup>2</sup> some pudding-timber and pymorter.

(Addressed "This for Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds, in Kirk-Gate.")

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FROM DR. JOHN HUDSON.<sup>3</sup>

Jan. the 19<sup>th</sup>, 1707.

Univ. Coll. Oxon.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

I have lately mett with a great many old papers, out of which I have reserv'd about 60 autographs for you. They are all of the greatest men of the last century, and I perswade my self they will upon that account be acceptable to you. I wait for an opportunity of conveying them to you without expence; and if you can direct me how to doe this I shall (if before that I find not out a way) observe your orders. Pray let me know whether Mr. Plaxton has sent me what he promis'd, for I am afraid that his pacquet may be miscarried. We long to see you at Oxon., where you shall have a hearty wellcome and such accommodation as our College can afford you. Your countryman Dr Potter<sup>4</sup> has gott the

<sup>1</sup> Sir Charles Wolseley (d. 1714) and Sir William Strickland (grandfather of the Sir William named in the previous letter) were among the peers created by Cromwell.

<sup>2</sup> "Goggy" seems to have been Thoresby's younger son, Richard, born 25th January, 1704.

<sup>3</sup> Chief Librarian at the Bodleian. He paid a visit to the Museum in 1707, and in the *Ducatus* Thoresby acknowledges the gift by him of a number of autographs, many of learned foreigners.

<sup>4</sup> Dr. John Potter, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury. He was a native of Wakefield. The appointment alluded to was that of Regius Professor of Divinity. Dr. Potter was of whiggish tendencies, which probably accounts for the suggestion that his nomination to the Professorship was intended to "spight" the University.

professorship ; which the Court (as 'tis said) gave him out of spight to our University. This you will say was no great complement to him. My service to all friends with you.

I am, Sr,

Your humble servt,

J. HUDSON.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds in Yorkshire."

Franked "Alb. Bertie. Free.")

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

Jan. 20, 1707.

DEARE WIZZARD,

I know you will frump if my man comes to Leeds without a letter to the old conjurer, and verily, Ralpho, I have very litle to say or write to fill up an 8<sup>vo</sup> page. I would gladly see you and your town of Leeds, but ill ways and ill weather keep mee close to the fire side. I expect letters from Oxon. and London in answer to some quæries which I sent up to those places. I should be glad to see what additions you have made to Mr. Camden ; I am sure the book is capable of improvement.<sup>1</sup> Give my hearty service to your new Recorder<sup>2</sup>; I am sorry to heare that he has debauched your modest and virtuous High Sherif<sup>3</sup> and taught him to sit up at Owen's till 6 a'clock in the morning. I hope the Vice-comitissa<sup>4</sup> will ring the minstrell a peale, and his hornpipe and her organ will be brave musique. Farewell, honest Ralpho, I shall be glad to see thee dance at such a tune.

I am,

Yours truly,

BARWICK.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby, at Leeds, in Kirkgate.")

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Gibson had undertaken a second edition of his Camden's *Britannia*, and Thoresby again gave his assistance in the preparation of the work, which did not appear until 1722.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Thornton, elected in the previous month.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Henry Iveson of Black Bank.

<sup>4</sup> Mrs. Iveson.



FROM THE HON. THOS. WATSON-WENTWORTH.<sup>1</sup>S<sup>R</sup>,

Designeing to appeare att York to offer my service to the County att the next Election, shud own it a great honour and favour to have the countenance of your vote and intrest, which I hope I shall never give you just cause to be sorry for, being

Your most humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

TH: WENTWORTH.

London, Jan<sup>y</sup> 31<sup>st</sup>, 170<sup>7</sup><sub>8</sub>.

(Addressed "Mr. Theresby, in Leeds.")

FROM MR. JAMES PARMENTIER.<sup>2</sup>Broatherton, Feb: 9<sup>th</sup>, 170<sup>7</sup><sub>8</sub>.S<sup>R</sup>,

Since I see (*sic*) you I have bin very ill of a cold, which is turn'd to a fitt of the gout, under which at this time I suffer much paine. I desier yoo'l favour me with Mr. Bar: Tathweell pickture by this bearer, which will mightley obleige me. I latley din'd with Mr. Moldswoorth,<sup>3</sup> who drank your health heartly, and by me desired to be kindly remembered to you. He had the happeyness to see (att Christmass) all his familey of children at home togeather, and, since, one of his sons, Mr. Rob: aged 18 years dyed of the small pox. My humble service to your good ladey and selfe.

I remaine, Sir,

Your most humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

J. PARMENTIER.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thorsby att Leeds.")

<sup>1</sup> The Hon. Thomas Watson-Wentworth of Wentworth Woodhouse, grandson of the great Earl of Strafford. The election came off in May, and Mr. Wentworth was at the bottom of the poll.

Mr. Wentworth's signature appears in Thoresby's Album, with the motto "Dum spiro spero." Thoresby visited him at Wentworth Woodhouse in 1711.

<sup>2</sup> The artist who painted Thoresby's portrait. His signature appears in Thoresby's Album, with the motto "j'aime la vertu et je suis ami de tous ceux qui la recherche." Thoresby has added "the celebrated painter from France."

<sup>3</sup> Thoresby has interlined "now Lord Molesworth." The writer of the letter at page 146, *ante*.

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

DEARE CONJURER,

Wisdom comes to attend the Patriarch of Leeds and to know my doom. He also brings your Babylonish book of unintelligibles, and also Mr. Stripe's folio and three bibles: the rest I will send speedily. I want a tract about coyns which I formerly lent you. Pray what time were those coyns stamped which beare "Urbs Roma" and on the reverse Romulus and Remus sucking a wolf? Have you any coyns of Salonina the wife of Galienus? Send me word how you do. If the Proto Doctor<sup>1</sup> command mee I will come to town and preach on Sunday next and stay till Munday, but I must be at home on Munday by noon. If any learned news, send two lines to

Your affect. fr<sup>d</sup> and ser<sup>t</sup>,

G. BARWICK.

She is stamped Salonina, but the historians call her Salonia. All our services to yours and to Goggy.

17 Feb., 7.

(Addressed "This for Mr. Ra. Thoresby at Leeds.")

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

Feb. 20, 1707.

DEAR SYDROPHIL,

Be so kind as to deliver the note inclosed to the B<sup>p</sup> of Orenoque,<sup>2</sup> and beg his holyness' blessing for your self and mee. I design, *Deo dante*, to wait upon the Primate on Sunday the 29 Instant, being the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent. I was in hopes of seeing you on Tuesday at the Vicecom's,<sup>3</sup> where we had all the regalias of an hearty welcome, everything in plenty and perfection; but now the Carnival is over, lytanys and Lent are come in, pease porridge and prayers, orisons and oatkakes, herrings and humiliations, all go hand in hand. If you have any news, scribble two or three lines by way of autograph to

Your most affect.

BARWICK.

<sup>1</sup> Presumably the Vicar of Leeds.

<sup>2</sup> The Vicar of Leeds. Perhaps this *sobriquet* might have some allusion to his fondness for tobacco.

<sup>3</sup> Henry Iveson of Black Bank, Sheriff of Yorkshire for that year.



Has the minstrell quite forgot mee? Am I no serv<sup>t</sup> to his greatnes? Ah Honour! How thou changest mortalls, and turnest a Christian lawyer into a proud and disdainfull Recorder!

(Addressed "This for Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds in Kirkgate.")

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FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

RALPHO,

Fret not thy self at evil doers, neither be thou angry at envious persons; had you been the first who had suffer'd from evill tongues you might have had some occasion for your present concern. Remember, One greater than R. Th. was called a wine-bibber, a friend to publicans and sinners; all that malice or an enraged envy could suggest was said ag<sup>t</sup> him—and doth the serv<sup>t</sup> expect a better treatment than the Master found? Come, a good conscience and fair innocency is brave armour, and let the Whig dog say what he will, or surmize what his canker'd rancour can invent, your innocency and reputation is above his villany. I never heed what the world says when it speaks falsley; the crime is at the author's door, not at mine. And now, good friend, possesse thy soul in patience, and to be revenged on him forgive him and pray for him, though he hath used thee spitefully.<sup>1</sup>

I design for York on Munday, and will see poor Harry Gyles, and at my return give you an acct of what I have seen

<sup>1</sup> Perhaps Thoresby's uneasiness at this time may be explained by the following entry in his *Diary*, 5th March, 1708: "Strangly (*sic*) surprized with the incredulity of Mr. W., who will not beleive my most solemn asseverations of my innocency, but prefers the testimony of a servant who is either remiss or knavish (upon enquiry I find he has been guilty of former crimes of this nature) and paid not to his master the ginny I sent by him. O my Lord God who searchest the heart and knowest the truth, discover it in thy due time, to the clearing of my innocency, which thou, O Lord, art a faithful witness of." On the 6th, he writes "after an ill night's rest . . . . . was abroad about this uncomfortable matter; evening continued under much heavyness." And on the 7th, "lay long awake, musing upon this afflictive Providence." There are one or two more references in the *Diary*, but the matter then died away, and how it was ended, or who the "Whig dog," Mr. W., was does not appear. The name of the delinquent servant, as appears from a later entry in the diary, was Toby Wolrych. Thoresby says, in his *Review*, that he was once "under a sudden and violent temptation to try for curiosity whether one of those falsely called wise men could oblige the knave to discover it," but he put the idea aside. He complains bitterly that some of his near relations (meaning probably the Rayners) gave credit to the man's story.



and heard. Pray send word what news in your town. I had letters from N: Castle on Thursday, and also from Dr Fall; they all say that Scotland is yet quiet.<sup>1</sup> My hearty service to my dear fumigator<sup>2</sup> and his sweet dumplin (*sic*). Service also and kind respects to thy mislead wife; bid her go to Church and say she has stray'd hitherto like a lost sheep.<sup>3</sup> I have many guests coming from London.

I am,

Yours,

G. BARWICK.

13<sup>o</sup> Martii, 1707.

I want the small tract of coyns very sadly; you may have it again at any time. I have sent Harry Gyles' letter back.

(Addressed "This to Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds.")

FROM MR. CHARLES TOWNLEY.

York, March 18, 1707.

S<sup>R</sup>,

Many thanks for yours. The Towneleys therein mention'd are all of our family. When I shal have the happiness to see you here I may then [have] the oportunity of bring (*sic*) you acquainted with some particulars of each of 'em. Mr. Knaresborough<sup>4</sup> takes mention'd of his name (*sic*) to be his grand-father and great grand father. When at Towneley, I sought for an autographon of the famous Mr. Gascoigne, but in vain. I have no prospect of seeing that old home of ours,<sup>5</sup> but if that be brought about I will again make a new and more diligent search. The monument for my deceas'd bro: tho' slowly yet goes on, and I hope may be finish't against the time you propose to favour my Lord Downes<sup>6</sup> with your vote, and then I shal take the freedome to acquaint you with

<sup>1</sup> Alluding to the attempted French invasion of Scotland in March, 1708.

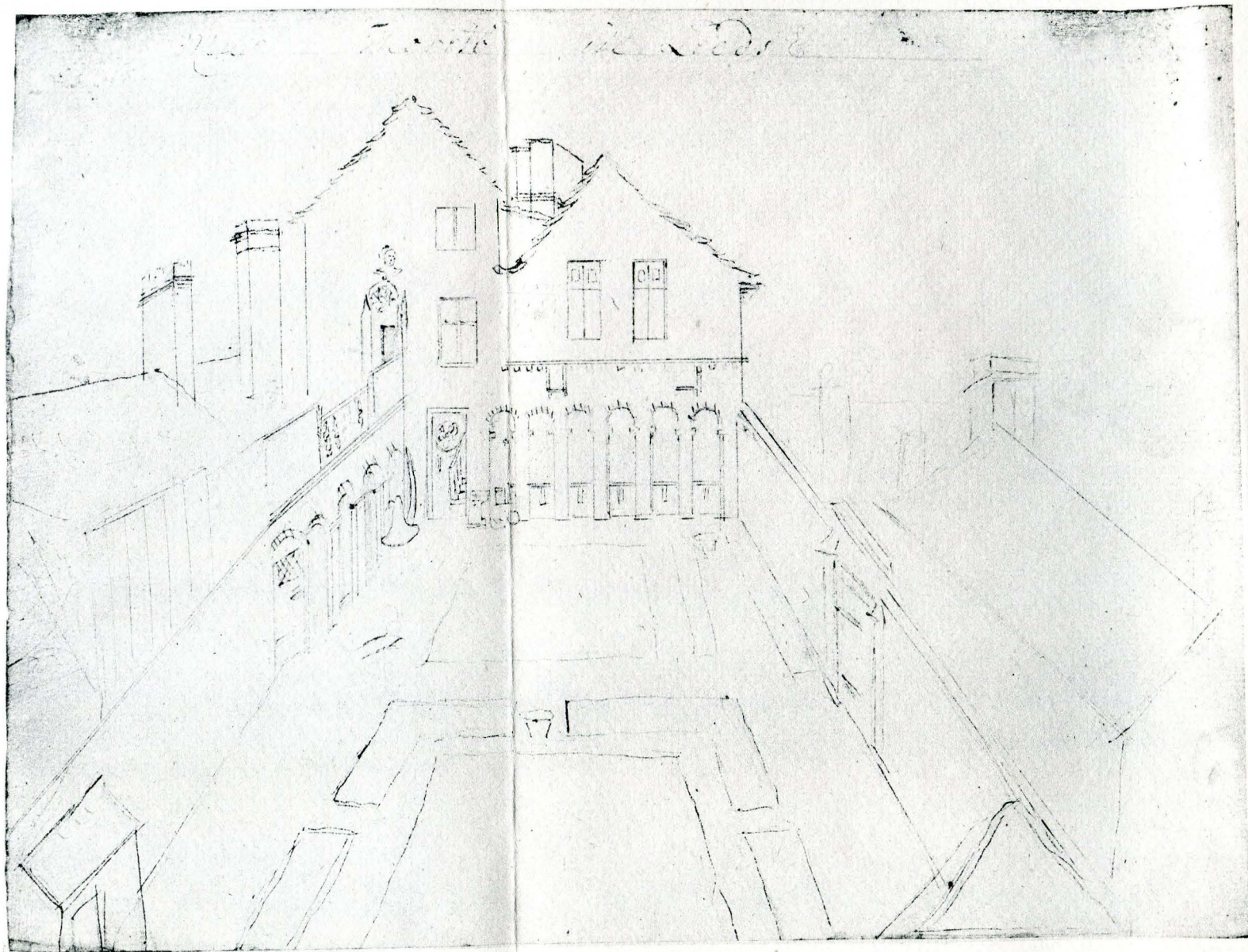
<sup>2</sup> I believe this is another *sobriquet* for the Vicar of Leeds.

<sup>3</sup> Mrs. Thoresby was still attending the Mill Hill services.

<sup>4</sup> A Roman Catholic priest mentioned with commendation by Thoresby (see *Diary*, ii, 62).

<sup>5</sup> Richard Townley, owner of Townley, the writer's brother, had died in the previous year.

<sup>6</sup> This seems to indicate how Thoresby voted at the election in May, 1708. Lord Downe was at the head of the poll.



MUSEUM THORESBYANUM IN LEEDS



the reasons why I could not well admitt the alterations your ingenious friend<sup>1</sup> thought myght be made in the inscription. We are here upon uncertainties, and no doubt but that those that are look'd on as obnoxious, tho' otherways innocent, may be secured: this does not hinder their having a prospect of all civill usage. Whatsoever my fate be,<sup>2</sup> it shal not hinder my continueing as formerly, S<sup>r</sup>,

Your oblig'd humble servant,

CHARLES TOWNELEY.

(Addressed "These for Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house in Leeds.")

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FROM MR. HENRY GYLES.

DEARE S<sup>R</sup>,

I received yours of the 9<sup>th</sup> with the inclosed to Mr. C. Townly, which I streight sent to him, and here is his answer, but himselfe is in some trouble (as all the Roman Catho :) being confin'd by the Deputy Leiuetenants, but suppose it will not be long. As to what you say of your correspondence dropping with the Wharledale gentlemen, it is no novelty with you and me (dull old fellows). Mr. Arthington came into my house to aske for Mr. Kirk—but never a word of poor mee. Mr. Kirk<sup>3</sup> and his lady was in towne one night at Milburn's and came in twice to see mee with wine along with them both times: I was rejoyced to see them, a pretty discreet lady. They told me they live now at their owne house, and Mr. Kirk sayes Parson Jackson<sup>4</sup> has those books I desired but he durst not aske them of him, etc. Mr. Plaxton was in towne all the last weeke but was not with me; Sammy Smith<sup>5</sup> see (*sic*) him go out of towne yesterday; tho' indeed I expected he would ha' seene me, and Milburn's daughter that is married to Barwick told me he intended it. I see (*sic*) our Camb: carrier yesterday, who has lately beene up, and he sayes Mr. Craister is not their. Mr. Dinely and Mr. Arthington did both

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Thornton; the inscription on Richard Townley's monument.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Townley was a Roman Catholic, and was in some temporary trouble in consequence; see the following letter.

<sup>3</sup> Thomas Kirk of Cookridge, son of Thoresby's old friend. His wife was daughter of Anthony Light of London. He died in the following year.

<sup>4</sup> Rector of Adel.

<sup>5</sup> The writer's nephew (see *ante*, p. 123).



of them promise me to get me that guinea of Mr. Malliverer, but I suppose forgett. I have a fine pedigree of the Maliverers neatly lim'd on parchment, worth 40 shill: but wou'd take a guinea for it; I wish that Mr. Mallverer at Burton wou'd purchase it. I had a letter from Dublin from my good friend Dr<sup>r</sup> Fairfax, sadly complaining of his brother's unkindness; he wishes I were 30 yeares younger, free from the gout and stone, something might be done for me. Generall Fairfax<sup>1</sup> there does remember me, but I have writt again to him and told him 'tis impossible to be twice young. I pray, Sir, when you see Permentee aske him as prettily as you can wheather the 20 shill: he gave me was solely from himselfe or who else. Mr. Place and Dr<sup>r</sup> Asheden<sup>2</sup> have not seen these 2 months, and I cannot yett gett abroad. Dr<sup>r</sup> Place is still at Lond: but will be downe as soone as the weather growes warmer; his sister had a letter lately that he has lost a fine cargo by sea comeing from Leghorne, of bookes, prints, meddalls, etc., of 200<sup>lb</sup> vallew, which I was mighty sorry to heare. I wou'd gladly have the <sup>3</sup> sent me; I will write to W. Ellis to bring a glazier to your house and pack them up, for I see there is no relying of Cosen Smith's. I pray remember me to Mr. Jackson, and wish hee'd write to that gentleman he lent my curious antique print to, so wishing you all happinesse, I am, Your most humb. serv<sup>t</sup>,

H. G.

March the 21<sup>st</sup>, 170<sup>8</sup>.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby in Leeds.")

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

25 Maii, 1708.

RALPHO,

I return your papers with many thanks. You have made a great many good observacions, and I doubt not but

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Fairfax, son of Sir William Fairfax of Steeton. I am uncertain as to the identity of the "Dr. Fairfax" named by the writer.

<sup>2</sup> Francis Place of York, artist, a great donor to Thoresby's museum. He made the sketch of Leeds for the *Ducatus*. Dr. Place seems to have been a cousin of his (see *Correspondence*, ii, 92). Moses Ashenden was a physician at York.

<sup>3</sup> A word which I cannot read satisfactorily. Mr. Hunter makes it "salutes" in Gyles' letter of 25th November, 1707 (*Correspondence*, ii, 78), and it appears to be so in the original of that letter, but in the present one it is more like saluies.

many more might be made by inquisitive men in their own neighbourhoods, but you know that I am a stranger in Yorkshire and know little of my native country<sup>1</sup>; however, I will romage up my head for some small additions to accompany yours. I have this day writ to my Christian lawyer to know when we first began to weare hatts in England. Let mee have your thoughts upon that trivial subject, and what were the ordinary coverings of their heads in times of peace, for helmets and morrians they had in times of war—

A man's a man, as I have read,  
Although he weares an hose on's head,

and I am apt to beleive they wore an hood or cap, but how they defended themselves ag<sup>t</sup> the sun I know not well. K. James is the first crowned head who wore an hat: the monks then, and still, wore hoods or huds. I know you can say much on this subject; send mee two or three lines at your leisure.

I am,

Yours,

BARW.

(Addressed "This for his good friend Mr. Ralph Thoresby, at Leeds.")

FROM ALDERMAN MILNER.

Coz<sup>N</sup> THORESBY,

Ten pounds or a greater summe is att your service,  
or any thinge else that's in the power of

Yours

WILLIAM MILNER.

Leeds, 19<sup>th</sup> June, 1708.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby, these present.")

Below this letter Thoresby has written "Repaid the said 10<sup>l</sup> (which was for repairs of the house when cased with brick) 12 March after."

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Plaxton was a Yorkshireman by birth, but had spent most of his life outside the county.

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1708.

MY DEARE RALPHO,

I am sorry to heare of your illnesse<sup>1</sup>: a rheumatique is a brave companion and will stick to you as close as your skin, but you have both soul menders and body patchers in Leeds, and I doubt not but grewell and milk porridge, blessed by Dr Skelton,<sup>2</sup> will releive you—if not, take a good dose or two of John Killingbeck's prayers, and be sure that he prays for patience, for that must season your grewell and make your physique work effectually. I long to see you and talk with you about twenty odde things. I will hobble to Leeds some morning and tattle over the day with you. George and the remainder of my squadron are preparing to come down into Yorksh<sup>r</sup>. I writ about the gent's Florence, 'tis good wine but apt to prick, and what is worst of all a dangerous wine for my distemper. . . . . My service to Mrs. Thoresby and Goggy. I am, Good Ralph,

Yours very much,

G. PLAXTON.

What news? What heare you? How goes learning on?

Dr. Talbot<sup>3</sup> subscribes for the book of Strype's—what is the pay and when? In what forwardness is the book?

(Addressed "This for Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds in Kirk-gate.")

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

DEAR RALPHO,

I thank you for the *Transactions*, which I now return. I am sorry to find my letter there; had I known of your design I could have enlarged and made it far better and more instructive. I could send you a great many remarques, but I

<sup>1</sup> In his *Diary*, 5 July, 1708, Thoresby writes "sent for Cos<sup>a</sup> Symson to blood me, having had another very painfull night in the rheumatism, which has much afflicted me the week past." He was also at this time regularly drinking the water of "our Leeds spaw."

<sup>2</sup> John Skelton, M.D.

<sup>3</sup> Rector of Spofforth. The work alluded to was no doubt Strype's "Annals of the Reformation in England."



do not care to be in print without my leave.<sup>1</sup> I wish I had the *Transactions* of 1706, that I might see what Mr. Baxter saith of the hypocaustum at Wroxeter. I am not very hearty, and I know not the cause of it. If you return the letter about the golden torques I will make it fit for the Society to peruse, and adde somewhat more to it. Let mee know how you do, and how this ill distemper deales with you. My service to all yours.

I am,

Your affect. friend,

July 20, 1708.

BARWICK.

What news from the learned world, I pray?

(Addressed "This for Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds in Kirkgate.")

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

Aug. 21, 1708.

S<sup>R</sup> RALPHO,

My vermine<sup>2</sup> are all at York though my little niece is well recovered. George is gone into Nottinghamsh<sup>r</sup>, Staffordsh<sup>r</sup>, and Shropsh<sup>r</sup>, and I believe he will return through Cheshire about 20 days hence. I pray let me know what is become of Goggy and how he does.<sup>3</sup> Tis an age since I saw you. The worthy Recorder was here yesterday and brought the Vicar with him. I have run over Mr. Thornton's MS. History of the Abby of Meaux<sup>4</sup> and find a great many very curious things in it, which ought to be taken notice of. The origine of Hull is fairly set out; it rose from the decay or rather swallowing up of Ravenser Odde which was formerly a great burrow<sup>5</sup> and had many freedoms and priviledges. When will Mr. Hearn's Livy come down? It meets with a different reception at Oxon; some approve it and others speak poorly of it—thus hard it is

<sup>1</sup> This refers to a letter of Thoresby's, printed in No. 310 of the *Philosophical Transactions*, containing observations by Mr. Plaxton on the parishes in Shropshire of which he had been incumbent before coming to Barwick.

<sup>2</sup> Presumably his children, who had been sent to York in consequence of the young niece Mr. Plaxton names having had the small-pox at Barwick.

<sup>3</sup> Thoresby writes in his *Diary*, 15th August, 1708, "much concerned for my dear child Richard, who had a bad night, was feverish."

<sup>4</sup> It would be interesting to know what became of this manuscript.

<sup>5</sup> *i.e.* borough.

to please everybody, or to hit their palats. I think to send for my son John the next week from York, and then he shall come and see you at Leeds. My service to all yours.

I am,

Your affect :

BARWICK.

(Addressed "For Mr. Thoresby at Kirkgate, Leeds.")

FROM SIR PHILIP SYDENHAM.<sup>1</sup>

S<sup>R</sup>,

I wish you may think me worthy of the continuance of your acquaintance, for I am afraid you will condemn yourself now you find that you are disappoint'd, for I do assure you, S<sup>r</sup>, that I have done nothing at Hackness, which I have sold to Mr. Bemde, to deserve any praise or commendation, but the reverse. But I can't omitt this oppurtunity of informing you of the generous and religious endowment of S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Posthumus Hoby,<sup>2</sup> Lord of the mannor, and his wife Margaret, who built an handsome chappell at Harwoodale,<sup>3</sup> and endow'd it with the great and small tithes to the value of forty or fifty pounds per ann., which now the Minister enjoys. If I had not bin incumbered and mired with debts and other misfortunes, I would have collect'd the antiquities of the adjacent places, tho' no question you that are so well skilled in the studdy and so well furnished with collections of that kind, they would have bin of no service to you. I have some few epitaphs in the churches nigh Hackness, which if of any service to you I shall readily communicate to you, and if I can be serviceable to you or D<sup>r</sup> Gibson about any information in these parts, or

<sup>1</sup> Sir Philip Sydenham, Bart., of Brimpton, Somerset, was a well-known personage in literary circles in the first half of the eighteenth century. He ran through an estate said to have been of the value of £4,000 a year, sold his properties, and died in 1739, when the baronetcy became extinct. Perhaps trying to find some excuse for his thriftlessness he wrote to Thomas Hearne, the Oxford antiquary (of whom he was a great patron), in 1719, that he had had several estates which had belonged to the Church—Hackness was one of them—and had never had any satisfaction or comfort with them, and that ever since his family had them it had been decreasing, though before flourishing and increasing.

<sup>2</sup> Thoresby has interlined here "who dyed anno 1640."

<sup>3</sup> There are some interesting particulars of the old chapel at Harwood Dale and of the Hoby family in the Yorkshire Archæological Society's *Journal*, xvii, p. 72 *et seq.*



any of your friends travell this way, I should be very ready to give them the best reception and accounts that I am able. Wee have two very worthy clergy men in this part of the country, the Constantines, who have the happiness of knowing you, who give their service to you. I am seldom at home, so that, Sr, is the reason of this late and hasty answer to your letter, which I hope will be no discouragem<sup>t</sup> to you for the future of using me, who am, Sr,

Your assured friend and humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

P. SYDENHAM.

Brympton, Sept: 11<sup>th</sup>, 1708.

Sr, I believe my L<sup>d</sup> Pemb[roke] is not yet gone for Ireland.

(Addressed and franked "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds, Yorkshire, via London. Free, C. Mompesson." Above the address Thoresby has written "This Sr Philip Sydenham was son of Sr John Posthumus Sydenham by the Lady Mary dau'ter of Philip, Earl of Pembroke.")

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FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

Sept. 18, 1708.

MY GOOD FRIEND,

I beg your pardon for being thus tardy in answering your letter; I have been over the head and eares in mortar, and stun'd with the din of axes and wheelbarrows, but the noyse abates now, and you will find new contrivences at Barwick when I am so happy as to see you there.

As to Dr Tim. Bright,<sup>1</sup> I can say litle of him; he was resident at Barwick and kept the Rectory in his hands I presume, for they have an old tradition that he knew not his own oxen but desired his steward to buy such as those were in the field, not understanding 'em to be his own. He had grandchildren born at Barwick and his son Peter was buried here, sept<sup>us</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 25, 1595. I will write to Br Atkinson about him and know if they have anything about him at Methly. I can say nothing of his predecessor Mr. Power, nor of the Marg.

<sup>1</sup> See the accounts of the Rev. Timothy Bright and the Rev. William Power, Rectors of Barwick, in the *History of Barwick*, by Mr. Colman (Thoresby Soc., xvii, 65), who quotes from this letter. "Brother Atkinson" was the Rev. Gilbert Atkinson, then Rector of Methley.



Professor at present, but shall make enquiry. My son John is gone to B<sup>p</sup>thorp to wait on his Grace for Deacon's orders, and Mr. Parrot<sup>1</sup> for Priest's orders. I long to see you, but the ways and weather have been so very bad that I could not stir out. If any news, send two lines I pray you to

Your friend who loves you,

G. PLAXTON.

I have some apples for Goggy, but know not how to send them; I have had no body at Leeds these many dayes. When comes Livy into Yorksh<sup>r</sup>?

The old deed you mention, of giving lands to Drax Abby by the lord's consent, is common, for there was an Act of Parl<sup>mt</sup> that none should sell or give lands *Judeis et domibus religiosis sine consensu domini*. I can give you many instances of this custom.

(Addressed "This for Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds.")

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FROM THE REV. CHRISTOPHER WILKINSON.<sup>2</sup>

S<sup>R</sup>,

You was pleas'd to tell me you'd been inform'd that the building I had erected on our Chappell land<sup>3</sup> had rather lessened then (than) improv'd our revenue. And this I suppose was asserted because I had made use of the money which had been left for the use of a preaching minister at Armley Chappell. It is true I did, with the consent and approbation of his Grace of York, imploy that money (which was 70<sup>l</sup>) towards the carrying on the said building, with which and the generous contributions I received from severall well disposed gentlemen, I was enabled to perfect my undertaking, which did in every respect answer my expectations and what I propos'd to his Grace and others; as will evidently appear by comparing the present profitts with what I and my predecessors received before:

<sup>1</sup> Perhaps the Rev. Thomas Perrot, who married the writer's daughter.

<sup>2</sup> Perpetual Curate at Armley.

<sup>3</sup> Thoresby mentions that by Mr. Wilkinson's care and cost, aided by the contributions of several charitable persons at Leeds, a very good brick house was erected in 1704 for the successive curates of the chapel. The present letter adds some further account of this, not without interest. Thoresby mentions that the "Town End Club" (see *Diary*, i, 457) gave forty shillings towards the building.

	The old rentall when I came to Armley, 1690.				Present rentall, 1708.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Chris. Broadbelt . . .	19	0			1	6	8
Edw <sup>d</sup> Hawksby . . .	1	0	0		2	0	0
Mr. Tho. Moor . . .	6	2	10		8	0	0
Joshua Vevers . . .	1	4	0	The remainder which is in my possession, with the building, is valued and I was offer'd for it	18	0	0
Sam Armitage . . .	1	4	0				
Edw <sup>d</sup> Gelderd . . .	1	4	0				
Mrs. Lund . . .	2	0	0				
John Wilson & Edw <sup>d</sup>							
Sproat . . .	1	0	0				
Interest of 50 <sup>li</sup> . . .	2	10	0				
Interest of 20 . . .	1	0	0				
	<u>£18 3 10</u>				<u>£29 6 8</u>		

Improved 11 2 10

This is an undeniable demonstration of its improvement, and were I capable to make a lease for 21 years I do not doubt but that I could improve it yet 5<sup>li</sup> or 6<sup>li</sup> a year more: so that I am apt to believe my successors will have no reason to think that the money which had been left to the use and benefit of the Minister has been either wasted or misemployed by me.

There are some who are not asham'd to say that I was a considerable gainer by building, but whoever knows the charges of building and considers what I have built and withall that the money and contributions I rec<sup>d</sup> did not amount to one hundred pounds, will easily believe that I am out of pocket, and I will assure you that I am allready above fifty pounds worse, and am like (if God spare me life) to be at above ten pounds charges more. I do not grudge my cost, and hope it will turn to good account both to me and my successors.

I am, Sr,

Your very much obliged serv<sup>t</sup>,

CHRIS: WILKINSON.

Sep: the 21,

1708.

(The address-sheet is detached.)



FROM LADY MARY HOWARD.<sup>1</sup>London, Nov<sup>br</sup> the 20<sup>th</sup>, 1708.S<sup>R</sup>,

I beg your pardon for my being so long before I gave you the account you desired. My Lord Aston's<sup>2</sup> title is Barron Forfar, a Scotch (*sic*) title. The inclosed letter is what you desired. It was the worst quality my deare lord had was his handwriting, tho' in biseness none could express himself better. I have endeavoured to git the mony<sup>3</sup> you did so wish for, but as yet I cannot git any answer wheather ever there was any such pices. If it is in my power, you shall not be forgot in procuring one, which is all I can do to asure you how much I am

Your hum: serv<sup>t</sup>,

MARY HOWARD of Worksop.

If there is any service I can do you be pleased to direct for me at the Duke of Norfolk's house in St James' Square, London, and it will come allwayes safe to me.

(Addressed "For Mr. Thosbey at his house in Leeds, Yorkshire.")

FROM MR. ABRAHAM SHARP.<sup>4</sup>S<sup>R</sup>,

Yours I had by Mr. Eli Dawson, to whom your payment of the 3<sup>ll</sup> was proper and convenient enough: but am sorry I cannot gratify you in what you further desire, for I never had any particular account what works of my unkle Mr. David Clarkson<sup>5</sup> are extant; for since his death (which was while I resided in London about 1686 or 8, as I remember) and my brother's, I have been almost as much a stranger to his concerns as those that never knew or heard of him: it was by accident (through Mr. Priestley's information) that I heard of

<sup>1</sup> She was widow of Lord Thomas Howard of Worksop, and mother of Thomas and Edward Howard, 8th and 9th Dukes of Norfolk.

<sup>2</sup> Lady Mary's daughter Mary married Walter, 4th Baron Aston of Forfar.

<sup>3</sup> Thoresby has added a note "of K. James 3<sup>rd</sup> as proclaimed in France." After the Revolution of 1688, Lord Thomas Howard adhered to King James, and followed him to France.

<sup>4</sup> The eminent mathematician and astronomer (see pages 11, 12, *ante*).

<sup>5</sup> See page 56, *ante*. Mr. Clarkson's sister was Abraham Sharp's mother.

a posthumous volume of sermons in fol., which I soon after bought. I find them select pieces, therefore conclude there are no more nor will be printed. Besides this, and that which you mention against the Papacy, we have three more small tracts about the Liturgy, Episcopacy, and humane soul, which are all I know of. I presume you may obtain a fuller and more distinct information from Mr. Whitaker, who being also Congregationall would (I suppose) scarce want the works of one so eminent in the same profession. The carryer being ready to goe, can only add in hast,

Sr,  
Your assur<sup>d</sup> fr<sup>d</sup> and serv<sup>t</sup>,  
ABR. SHARP.

Horton, Decem. 6, 1708.

(Addressed "To Mr. Thoresby in Kirkgate, Leeds.")

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FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

Dec<sup>r</sup> the 18, 1708.

DEAR FRIEND,

I have been coughing and grunting all this week ; all my servants weare nightcaps, a livery which this new cold has bequeathed to their noddles. I am now somewhat better and freer from pain then (than) I have been for some days. I wish John Killingbeck would . . . . . tell me whether tobacco be proper in my distemper—Jack lives in the atmosphere of health and bravery ; no infectious vapours dare approach him ; colds and catarrhs are strangers to his constitution . . . . . give him my service when you see him, and beg his directions how I may ward ag<sup>t</sup> these coughs and hoosts.<sup>1</sup> If he will not prescribe, I am sure mother Peachy<sup>2</sup> his beloved will, to whom I pray give my service for a fee, and tell her my case. Well, Ralpho, I will send you some short notes or memoirs of D<sup>r</sup> Talbot<sup>3</sup> as soon as my head is in a right place. I have

<sup>1</sup> Hoose—a cough or wheeze (*New Eng. Dict.*).

<sup>2</sup> It is to be feared that this somewhat disrespectful name refers to Mr. Killingbeck's wife ; as also the epithet in the first postscript to the letter named in the note on the next page.

<sup>3</sup> The late Rector of Spofforth.



return'd your book again,<sup>1</sup> with many thanks. I wish he would bring it down to this time. I find very few nobility of 200 yeares standing—I mean as noble; thus honour ebbs and flowes, every one acts their part and goes off. Seven will be a number which may comprehend all the nobility of 200 years creation, Norfolch, Shrewsbury, and a few more may challenge that antiquity. Pray send mee word how you do and what you are adoin'g in this foggy season: what news from the world of letters, what hard problems has been attaqued of late, what difficult piece of learning batter'd, what cittadell of science storm'd, for I know litle save my beads and my manuall. I long to see you, and hope to come in Christmas and visit my friends *inter* Leedes. Good wishes to all yours: God keep you all safe and in his favour.

I am,

Yours very much,

G. BARWICK.

(Addressed "This to his good friend Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds.")

# FROM ALDERMAN MILNER.

Coz: THORSBY,

I resolve (God willing) to beginn my journey for London on Fryday morning, and if you have any thing to send by the carrier in the morning you may direct it to yourself att Blossomes Inn in Lawrence Lane.<sup>2</sup>

I am, Sr,

Yours,

the 21<sup>st</sup> Decem., 1708.

WILLIAM MILNER.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thorseby, these present.")

<sup>1</sup> In Mr. Plaxton's letter of the previous 26th November to Thoresby, announcing Dr. Talbot's death, which was printed by Mr. Hunter (*Correspondence*, ii, 126), there are two postscripts which Mr. Hunter omitted. They are as follows:—

"If any learned newse, send me a litle. I have been from home a long time—how dos my Christian and how dos the godly smoker and his Dumplina, and how dos old Grace 'a God, thy wife, and all your litle ones?"

"Pray send me Mr. Dale's Catalogue, if you have it, of the Nobility, etc."

The latter is no doubt the book Mr. Plaxton now returns.

<sup>2</sup> This letter refers to Thoresby's London journey with Alderman Milner, of which he gives so doleful an account in the *Diary*, ii, 12. The weather was exceptionally severe, and the travellers, who left Leeds on December 27th, did not reach London until January 5th.

FROM MR. RICHARD THORNTON.<sup>1</sup>

Leeds, Jan. 31, 1708.

DEARE S<sup>R</sup>,

I rec<sup>d</sup> yours and Mr. Milner's with much satisfaction to heare of the continuance of your health and the recovery of Mr. Milner from the pain of his eyes, and heartily wish you both well at home and your busines done to your own satisfaction.

You have much oblig'd me by your kind inquiry into the Heraulds' bookes, and would oblige me more if you would let me know wether I could fairly leave out the Trees<sup>2</sup> or noe, without a confirmation: if not, what such a confirmation would cost; if noe great matter, procure one.

Your journey has been chargeable beyond expectation, therefore pray use me as your freind, and write a note<sup>3</sup> on me to Mrs. Thorseby to pay to her what you may have occasion for at London, or what she may have occasion for in this place. I wish you could doe any thing *ad proprios usus*.

I am, Your ever faithfull,

R. THORNTON.

I am in great hast, goeing to Church, will write next post to Mr. Milner. I must beg Mr. Milner's pardon for not writeing, but really busines unexpected and unforeseen has kept till it's now ten of the clock and full church time.

I sent both to your house and Mr. Milner's; both your good wives are well.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Blossom's Inn in St Lawrence Lane, London.")

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

DEAR SYDROPHIL,

I am glad that the E[arl] Piercy and my good fr<sup>d</sup> Ralpho are safely returned from London.<sup>4</sup> I heartily long to

<sup>1</sup> The Leeds Recorder.<sup>2</sup> See *Diary*, ii, 50.<sup>3</sup> Here Thoresby has written a note "this was very kind of my dear friend, but I had not occasion for it."<sup>4</sup> Thoresby and Alderman Milner reached home from London, after a very rough journey, on the 18th February.



see you and the Count of Bolton, but the ways will not mend, I feare, till the swallow chatters or the ominous bird calls me up in the morning. I am confin'd to the house, and, God knows, 'tis a very wett prison this thaw. My mother is out of her computacion about my birth day<sup>1</sup>; I was born on the 23<sup>d</sup> of January, 1647, listed a soldier under K. Charles the Martyr on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February following,<sup>2</sup> and never yet deserted that banner. I long to see your curious and wonderfull autographs, and heare you recount the favours of the learned. I will hasten to your lectures as soon as I dare crosse Win-moor. Hearty service to all yours.

I am,

Yours truly,

Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, 1708.

BARWICK.

If you please to send Livy and Mr. Strype's book in sheets, and the rates of both, I will send your mony for them by my man. I shall not bind up Stripe till I have the former volume.

Service to all friends, from the Christian lawyer to the Pagan vicar. Tell John Killingbeck that I have not had one line, or how do you, from him these fourteen weeks; 'tis a smoky rough vicar.

(Addressed "This for Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds, in Kirkgate.")

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FROM MR. JOHN CHAMBERLAYNE.<sup>3</sup>

Petty France,

22 Febr: 1708.

WORTHY S<sup>R</sup>,

I don't doubt but the inclos'd wil be very acceptable to you, being an autograph of the Grand Monarck, that has been so long the plague of Europe<sup>4</sup>: I found it t'other day, romaging among my father's papers. If any thing of that

<sup>1</sup> In his *Diary*, Thoresby records that he dined with "good old Mrs. Plaxton," in Lincoln's Inn Square, on the 2nd February.

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.* baptised on that date.

<sup>3</sup> The writer is referred to in the *Ducatus* as being a great linguist. He was a Gentleman of the Privy Chamber to Queen Anne and George I. He was the translator of several works, and a member of the Royal Society. He published the *Magnæ Britanniae Notitia*, and was Treasurer of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

<sup>4</sup> *i.e.* Louis XIV.

nature occurs to me worth your acceptance hereafter, you may be sure you shal not be forgot by, Dear Sr,

Your most humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

JOHN CHAMBERLAYNE.

(Addressed and franked "For Ralph Thoresby, Esq<sup>r</sup> at Leeds in Yorkshire. J. Ely.")

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FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

Febr. 22, 1709.

GOOD RALPHO,

Acts of charity and mercy are the best attendants upon our Lenten fasts: I know you love to do good and will not deny your help upon my request, to a poor neighbour. The case stands thus—a long sute has been depending between Willm. Dibb of my Parish and Mathias Bucktrout of the Parish of Aberford: they have spent most of their substance on the lawyers, and now Dibb has got an execution (as I am told) against Bucktrout; if it be broken up, the charge and fees, with the money to be levyed, will ruine Bucktrout. One Mr. Brooksbank of your town is Dibb's atturny: I writ to him yesterday upon this affair: I would begg the favour from you and Jacob Symson<sup>1</sup> to speak to the atturny that he would not break up the execution, but let Bucktrout come to him and know what his charge amounts to, that he may agree, and save all needlesse charges and expence. If he will fix a day, I will send Matt. Bucktrout to him, and so the busines may be ended without more trouble. Pray favour this request, and you will oblige,

Your very affect. friend

G. PLAXTON.

Pray know what Mr. Brookbank demands from Bucktrout.  
(The address-sheet is wanting.)

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FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

22 Feb., 1709.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

I have rec<sup>d</sup> the Livies and Strype, but no acct of the purchase. Pray thee send me some learned newse;

<sup>1</sup> The Leeds surgeon.

my understanding is mouldy, my iron intelects grown rusty, my soul hung with cobwebbs and dusty, my thoughts damp, and my sentiments musty, for want of using: I have not seen one Christian since Christmas nor conferr'd with any body above a Talgol or a Trulla<sup>1</sup> since you went to London. If you have any improveing snuff, send mee a litle to cleare my brain. I am as dull as the weather, as foggy as the ayr, and only fit for a Russian conversation: Demas has forsaken mee, Bonaerges scorns mee, Atkinson<sup>2</sup> is kill'd, and Dr Talbot gone to Heaven, so that my acquaintance is very short in this world: God send mee some friends in the next. Adieu (my deare knowledge). I am,

Yours truly and really,

BARWICK.

Service to all our friends, where you find them.

(Addressed "This to Mr. Ralph Thoresby, at Leeds.")

FROM DR. RICHARDSON.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

I am much obliged to you for your remarks upon your late journey to London,<sup>2</sup> and glad to heare all our friends are in good health there, especially our common friend Dr Sloan, of whose favours I am a very great sharer. I find Dr W.'s temper is the same as formerly, not only from your intelligence but from my friend Mr. Lhwyd,<sup>4</sup> who tells me he is chosen a member of your Society though the Dr much opposed it: if you was not at the election perhaps you have had noe account of Dr W. behaveiour; I have here sent you part of Mr. Lhwyd's letter upon that occasion<sup>5</sup> —; I perceive you have seen my letter upon Scheulzar's<sup>6</sup> *Itineraria Alpina*,

<sup>1</sup> Characters in *Hudibras*—which poem appears to have been rather a favourite with Mr. Plaxton.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Atkinson, Rector of Methley, whose death, the result of an accident, had taken place in the previous month.

<sup>3</sup> See Thoresby's letter to Dr. Richardson of 23rd February, 1708, printed in the *Correspondence of Dr. Richardson*, p. 96.

<sup>4</sup> Edward Lhwyd, the antiquary and naturalist. "Dr. W." is, of course, Woodward.

<sup>5</sup> The succeeding sentences appear to be an extract from Mr. Lhwyd's letter. He was elected F.R.S. in 1708.

<sup>6</sup> Scheuchzer.



printed in the Philosophical Transac., which has given Dr Woodward such disgust that he has expostulated with both the Secretaries about printing it, and finding little satisfaction from them complained of Dr Sloan in a very eloquent harangue at a meeting of the Society, but they told him the Secretary was free to print what he pleased in the Phyl. Transact., and that the authors only were accountable for their perticulare papers, at which he was angry with the whole Society. Some time after Dr Robinson proposed in the next meeting for electing me a fellow of the Society and put to the ballot in the following, when Dr W. made a speech against electing me, but two or three gentlemen answering him and none backing his harangue they caried the election against him by a majority of 25 votes. I should be anxiously to knowe some part of his speech, but suppose it is not usuall to communicate such matters; I have asked noe body about it. I have received Langius's *Historia Lapidum Figuratorum Helvetiae*, and am to give some account of it in one of the Transactions, which will undoubtedly create the Gresham Professor a farther disgust, in regard Langius admitts of and confirms my hypothesis. Thus far Mr. Lhwyd. If it may be any service to you I am willing to take the Annals of Q: Eliz: of[f] your hands, and also the Livy, though I have a very good one of my own: if you please to send them by my servant who brings this letter, and an account of the prices, you shall have your money on Tuesday next. I have little more to add than to assure you that I am

Your assured friend and servant,

North Bierley,

RIC: RICHARDSON.

Feb: ult: 1708.<sup>1</sup>

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby, in Leedes.")

FROM ALDERMAN MILNER.

Leeds, the 4<sup>th</sup> Mar: 1708.<sup>2</sup>

COZ: THORESBY,

You know I parted with a considerable summe of money att London,<sup>3</sup> which obliges me to call in what odd matters

<sup>1</sup> 1708.

<sup>2</sup> 1708.

<sup>3</sup> Alderman Milner had been Thoresby's companion in his recent journey to London, and had there advanced £13,000 to the Government (see p. 190, *ante*, and *Diary*, ii, 18).

I have standing out, and I find I lent you the 19 June last . . . . .	£10 0 0
Lent you att London 6 guin: . . . . .	6 9 0 <sup>1</sup>
P <sup>d</sup> for your acc <sup>o</sup> in goeing up . . . . .	17 7
P <sup>d</sup> for you att London <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	2 12 6
In comeing down . . . . .	1 2 10
	<hr/>
	£21 1 11
	<hr/>

You shall have perticulars of the abovesaid disbursments if you desire it, and I must request you to pay me the £21.1.11 as soon as you can conveniently, for I realy want money. I am,

Dear Fr :

Your humble servant,

WILLIAM MILNER.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Theresby, these present.")

On the back of the above letter is the following, in Thoresby's writing—no doubt a copy of his reply :—

HON<sup>D</sup> S<sup>R</sup>,

Being uneasy to be in debt, I had often tho't of it before I rec<sup>d</sup> your letter (which was delivered me just now, as I was going to Church), you need not send any further particulars, I am fully satisfyed in all, only as you had good success in all things and I in none (but the happyness of your company) I was apt to fancy you would generously have paid the horse charges at London as I willingly did upon the road, but I referr the whole to yourself. I was in hopes to have paid you part immediately, but am disapointed of some rents due the last year, but hope to receive them and others before the end of this month to discharge the whole debt due from, Dear S<sup>r</sup>,

Your obliged servt,

R: TH:

The following memorandum below, also in Thoresby's writing, shows how the debt was discharged :

<sup>1</sup> The guinea was then at a slight premium.

<sup>2</sup> Thoresby has added a note here "this was for the horse charges alone,"

I p <sup>d</sup> of this,	£10	0	0	March 12 <sup>th</sup>
more	7	17	0	28 <sup>th</sup>
more	12	6		Mr. Strype's book & binding,
				with carriage
	£18	9	6	
	2	12	6	horse charges remitted.
	21	2	0	

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

DEARE SYDROPHIL,

I wish thou wouldest consult the starrs and tell mee what is good for a cold, for at this time I am as sore as the poor man in Gadburye's almanack,<sup>1</sup> wounded in every place. If you have any newse (I mean learned) send a litle to put into my cawdle as a cordiall. Send mee some good book such as I never saw. I have returned Roger Ascham's Epistles, with thanks. I could not go to the Club on Tuesday last<sup>2</sup>; the ways and I were both in an ill condition. As soon as I can stir abroad I will try to help you off with Strype.<sup>3</sup> My hearty love and respects to all yours.

I am, Deare Ralpho,

Yours very much,

26 Martii, 1709.

BARWICK.

How doth Father Puffindorp your vicar? Some write him Puff-in-burgh, *Angl.*: a Corporation smoker.

Pray restore this paper to Jacob Symson; 'tis a prophecy of his own makeing.

Pray send some of the late Philosoph<sup>11</sup> Transactions if you have any, and I will restore them safely.

I will send you a bushell of wheat as soon as I can come at it, to make Goggy a pudding.

(Addressed "To Ralpho the Learned.")

<sup>1</sup> John Gadbury, astrologer, who died 1704. He printed a long series of Ephemerides or Calendars.

<sup>2</sup> The Town End Club (see the *Diary*, i, 457).

<sup>3</sup> Probably Strype's *Life of Archbishop Parker*. There is a remark on the work in a letter from Mr. Plaxton printed at page 145, vol. ii, of the *Correspondence*. The date of that letter (February 3rd, 1709) is there omitted.



FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

RALPHO,

I am obliged to E. Piercy<sup>1</sup> for his kind invitation to your town, and would have attended your opulent and bountifull Corporation yesterday,<sup>2</sup> had I not been half dead with a cold. Van Helmont will tell you how I am better than I can, for he is a Doctor, and understands all sorts of distempers and their tendencyes. I have an akeing head and very sore sides, but Jacob<sup>3</sup> tells mee it is going off[f]. My service to Puffenbrough your vicar, and to the worthy and learned Recorder; I hope the Judge has infected him with his distemper and that he will be a Judge in a short time. I heartily wish happines to your worthy Corporation, and shall allways be theirs and your

Most affect: and faithfull serv<sup>t</sup>,

G. BARWICK.

March ult<sup>o</sup>, 1709.

When you send up the subscriptions to Mrs. Elstob's book, put in Anna Plaxton<sup>4</sup> of Barwick in Elmet, Ebor., instead of my name which I have subscribed in your paper.

(Addressed "This for Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds.")

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FROM DR. RICHARDSON.

DEAR SIR,

I have at length sent you a copy of Uncle Hopkinson's<sup>5</sup> deputation, whereby you wil receive more full satisfaction then (*sic*) if I had sent you some few perticulars; 'tis very hansomly written in a small Italian hand.

I doe not lay any claime to the seventh booke you have to dispose of; my share is freely at your service.

<sup>1</sup> Alderman Milner.

<sup>2</sup> In Thoresby's *Diary*, March 30,—“afternoon taken up in attending the Corporation in their formalitys to receive the Judge, Baron Price, with whom spent rest of the day and evening, at the expense of the Corporation.”

<sup>3</sup> Probably Jacob Simpson, the Leeds surgeon.

<sup>4</sup> His daughter.

<sup>5</sup> John Hopkinson of Lofthouse, to whose MS. pedigrees Thoresby was under so many obligations. His sister was Dr. Richardson's grandmother.

I have seen the late edition of Livy, and tooke particulare notice of Dr Woodward's bucler; he shewed it to me at Gresham Coll:—it is a very fine and valuable piece of antiquity.<sup>1</sup>

The other ainchient one you name, you will find a very fine cutt of in Mr. Spon's memoirs, and alsoe in the reflections upon Dr Burnett's letters, so that there was noe occasion for a nue one, whether it was a votive altar or noe as most would is still a contravertable poynt; some beleive to have been only a large silver dish, and indeed the imbossing being all inward does much favour this oppinion. I perceive it has been gilt as those affirme who have seen it at Lyons, where it still remains; but enough of this. Beleive me to be

Your friend and servant,

North Bierley,

RIC: RICHARDSON.

Ap: 1<sup>st</sup>, 1709.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leedes. Car. pd." The seal is heraldic, showing three lions' heads erased, on a chief, with a crest of an arm holding a falchion.)

(The following is a copy of Hopkinson's deputation referred to in Dr. Richardson's letter. It is headed "A true copy of Mr. John Hopkinson's deputation from Will: Riley, Esq<sup>re</sup>, then Norroy K. of Armes. 'Tis written upon halfe a sheet of parchment, hansomly gilt and painted about the virge; before it the Norroy's coat impaled with that of the office, and the seal of the office annexed.")

To All and Singulare as wel Noublemen and Gentlemen as others to whom these presents shall come to be seen, heard, or read, William Ryley esquire, Norroy King of Armes of the North part of England from the River of Trent northward, sendeth greeting with all due respect and observance. Whereas there are great abuses don and offer'd to the nobility and gentry of this nation, as wel by the sinister practises of several mechanickall tradesmen, as painters, glasiars, stonecutters, carvers, and many other artificers trading in armory, who presuming without authority to intermeddle with marshalling of armes, the erecting of monuments whereon armes are to be fixed, coates

<sup>1</sup> Opinions differed as to this. The "bucler" was Woodward's "parma equestris," on which Dodwell, Hearne's friend, wrote a dissertation (see *ante*, p. 142).



quartered, due differences to be observed, being misterys of honour and out of their eliment, by reason whereof many great errours are daly committed, to the great offence and prejudice of the ainchent nobility and gentry of this nation, and to the breeding of many ambiguetys and questions which may happen in their desents and issues in future times, as alsoe by a generall neglect of the gentry and nobility themselves in omission of funeralls and other rites heretofore used which are now almost altogether laid aside: for remedy whereof and for avoyding the like abuses and neglects for the future, and for the preservation of the severall and respective rites and degrees and intrests of the gentry of the Countys of York and Lancaster in their armes and desents, as alsoe for discharging my duty and office of Norroy, and performing the trust in me reposed (whereunto I am strictly obliged), I, William Ryley, Norroy King of Armes by virtue of Letters Pattents granted me under the great seal of England by and with the consent, advice, and assent of both houses of Parliament bearing date at Westminster, the sixth day of July in the three and twentyth yeare of the late King Charles, have authorised, deputed, nominated, and appoynted my wel beloved friend John Hopkinson of Lofthouse in the County of Yorke, gentleman, my lawfull deputy for the Countys of Yorke and Lancaster, the City of York and town of Lancaster, and all other citys, towns, burrows, corporations, and places within the said Countys, to desire, demand and take in writing a true certificate of the day of the death and place of buriall, match, issue, and armes of all and every such estates, dignitys, and degrees of the said nobility and gentry as shall happen to dye in the said Countys of Yorke and Lancaster, and to returne them to the Office of Armes, to be there truely and carefully registered and safely kept in a fair booke in the Office of Armes as an authentique record which in future times may determine and end many questions that may hereafter rise, as by many examples of late times have been seen and approved, and for the same certificates soe taken to demand, take, and receive for me and in my name, and in the name of the Office of Armes, all such fees and sums of money as the heirs and executors of the said nobility and gentry shall willingly and freely pay unto him: all which certificates and armes, with the fees and rewards for the same he is to returne and



be accountable to me and the Office of Armes, and to make true payment of the foresaide fees once every year, viz. in the month of August, for soe long time as he shall be and continue my deputy in those imployments. And further for remedy of the former great abuses, I doe desire and authorise my said deputy to prohibit all painters to make or paint any armes, desents, or pedigrees, and all masons to make any tombs or monuments or to ingrave or cause to be ingraven, painted, or set forth, any armes, genealogys, or inscriptions, or make any monument of armes, and alsoe that he prohibit all glasiers, gouldsmiths, cutters, gravers, and carvers, and all other artificers to paint in glass, grave in metle, cut seals of armes, and carve in timber any armes, coats, or crests, whatsoever, before the draught thereof be first seen and allowed by my said deputy, except it be of the nobility of these Countys whose coats and quarterings are eminent and wel known, or such of the ainchient gentry as have been formerly viewed, approved, and allowed heretofore by my prediceors the provinciall Kings of Armes in theire severall visitations in the Countys aforesaid. Provided always that the said John Hopkinson my deputy shall not act or doe anything to the prejudice or distaste of the nobility or gentry in the said countys, but shall civilly and prudently demeane him selfe with all the respect and observance to all degrees and persons of quality whatsoever, according to the true intent and meaning of these presents. In witness whereof I the said W[illiam] Ryley have hereunto affixed the seal of my office and subscribed my name, the fifteenth day of November anno Domini 1654.

WILLIAM RYLEY, Norroy.

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FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

Apr. 2, 1709.

DEARE RALPHO,

I am yet out of the hands of Van Helmont, but I know not how soon I may come into his clutches. Dr Roger Aykroyd was A: Deacon of York, and Rector of Bolton-Millner<sup>1</sup>; Mr. Pearson<sup>2</sup> has found much mention of him. But before him

<sup>1</sup> This is jocular; Bolton Percy is, of course, meant.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Pearson, Chancellor of York, Rector of Bolton Percy.

there was one W<sup>m</sup> Ackeroyd, Rector of Long Marston, who, in the days of H. 8, bequeathed an estate in Batley, Brearely and Grimthorp to maintain a scholar in the Universityes to the world's end. If you have a mind to see the Inquisition about this affair, I can send it to you.<sup>1</sup> Cardinall Woolsey was his Executor: the estate is considerable, but the iniquity of the times has swallow'd up much of it, and I think there is not above 13 or 14<sup>11</sup> per annum remaining, the rest quite gone. I am next a kin to it.<sup>2</sup> Farewell (Dr Sydrophil).

Yours truly,

BARWICK.

Prince George, as you call him, is at your town.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby, Leeds.")

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

Apr<sup>r</sup> 19, 1709.

DEAR SYDROPHIL,

I have now something by mee which may invite you to Barwick. As Mr. Ellis's servants were plowing in Osmanthick<sup>3</sup> the last week, they found 5 brasse instrum<sup>ts</sup> of different bignesses and shapes, much of the same kind with those mentioned by Dr Plot and Mr. Llhuyd,<sup>4</sup> but what to make of them I cannot tell at present; however, you shall have my thoughts of them as soon as Easter is over. I have sent you a rude scetch of 3 of them. Whether they have been the heads of arrows or British hatchets, as some judg, or heads of the catapultæ, is all enquireable: they are odde things, and for what use you must judg when you see them—but know, Ralpho, that it will cost you a footing journey to Barwick to fetch them. I will spend a day or 2 in considering them, and give you my thoughts of them if worth anything.<sup>5</sup> I am told of

<sup>1</sup> Thoresby evidently saw the Inquisition, as a short abstract of it is endorsed upon this letter. The yearly value of the Charity was therein stated as £13 10s.

<sup>2</sup> The founder's kin had preferential rights in the Akeroyd Charity.

<sup>3</sup> Near Bramham Moor.

<sup>4</sup> Edward Lhwyd. Dr. Plot was the author of some works on natural history. He was at one time Secretary to the Royal Society, and, later, Mowbray Herald Extraordinary. He died in 1696.

<sup>5</sup> These implements or weapons found their way into Thoresby's museum (see the *Ducatus*, p. 563). The "rude sketch" made by Mr. Plaxton accompanies the letter.



one larger than the rest, in the hands of a workman who found it; I design to send for it. My service to all our good friends, in spiritualls and temporalls, from Rich. Thornton, Esq. to John the Divine.

I am,

Your affect. fr<sup>d</sup> and serv<sup>t</sup>,

BARWICK.

(Addressed "This for Mr. Ralph Thoresby, at his house in Kirkgate, Leeds.")

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

DEARE SYDROPHIL,

I fully design'd to have waited on you and the good Company at your feast this day<sup>1</sup> had not my son John plaid mee a scurvy trick. I lent him my mare to Pontefract yesterday to preach for Mr. Drake, with a strict charge to be at home the last night, but the vicar, I presume, has superseded my command, and the Mayor of Pontefract seiz'd the lad and my mare, for neither of them are return'd, so that I am forc'd to stay at home against my will. If I knew when my Lord of Carl[isle] would make his vissit *en passant* I would do all I can to meet him and Mr. A. D.<sup>2</sup> Pearson. I heare his Grace of York will be at home on Sat. next. My hearty and kind respects to all my friends at your meeting. My poor lasse<sup>3</sup> has been a little out of order and ill these two or three days; she is feverish and restless, but I hope there is no danger. Here is a brave jolly lad; he will be fit to come to Leeds in a short time.<sup>4</sup> Forget mee not to the leader of the people, hight Dan John Murderburne,<sup>5</sup> with true respects to your Remembrancer,

<sup>1</sup> In Thoresby's *Diary*, 2 May,—“was the whole day with Lords of the Mannor and some friends (as Recorder, Vicar, etc.); invited to the great Court dinner 'til about 9 in the evening.”

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.* Archdeacon. The Bishop of Carlisle (Dr. Nicolson) and the Archdeacon were in Leeds on the 5th, when they called upon Thoresby. On the following day Thoresby writes that he spent the morning with the Bishop and forenoon with Mr. Plaxton, who had, therefore, fulfilled the intention expressed in his letter above.

<sup>3</sup> His daughter Anastasia, wife of the Rev. Thomas Perrot, Rector of Welbury.

<sup>4</sup> Mrs. Perrot's eldest son, Richard, baptised at Barwick 12th May, 1709; buried there 9th December in the same year. Her second son, George (who became a Judge), was also born there the following year.

<sup>5</sup> *i.e.* the vicar—a play upon “Killing-beck.”



Rich. Thornton, Apprentis en ley: pray acquaint the former that I design him to be either Godfather or foster-father to my grandson, and therefore bid him scower his countenance and sweeten his breath, that he may be fit to appeare amongst ladys. Kind respects to all yours.

I am, Deare Conjurer,

Yours very heartily and continually,

May 2, 1709.

BARWICK.

I will return all your papers by my serv<sup>t</sup> tomorrow. Pray send what you promised (by old Hardisty), I mean the letters. You shall have my thoughts of the British instrum<sup>ts</sup> tomorrow.

(Addressed "This for Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds.")

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

DEARE S<sup>R</sup>,

I return your two letters which you kindly sent mee, and with them I have sent the 2 vol. of London, which I beg you will restore to Mr. Thornton with my hearty service. I am pretty well in body, but dayly find the losse of my old woman.<sup>1</sup> When shall I see you at Barwick? As to your book,<sup>2</sup> I am glad so many learned men are willing to further your design. You have taken a great deale of pains about it, and will be at a vast cost in printing it: however, I doubt not but you will have 100 subscriptions in these parts, and your friends at London will gain some, besides what your friends at Cambr. and Oxon. procure, so that you may recon 200 subscribers at the least.<sup>3</sup> The booksellers are generally very doggs, and care not how they use an author provided they can get by him. If any newse send two lines by John Wisdom. Hearty service to all yours.

I am, Good Ralph,

Your most faithfull fr<sup>d</sup> and serv<sup>t</sup>,

GEO. PLAXTON

alias BARWICK.

July 9, 1709.

(Addressed "This for Mr. Ra. Thoresby at Leeds, in Kirkgate.")

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Plaxton was buried at Barwick on the 2nd July, 1709.

<sup>2</sup> The projected *Ducatus*.

<sup>3</sup> Thoresby did considerably better than this. The list of subscribers printed in the *Ducatus* contains more than 300 names.

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

DEARE SYDROPHIL,

I have order'd Wisdom to enquire after the welfare of you and yours, and to bring you all the services of this place. You have sent mee many a famous letter from your correspondents—I now send you one from a bantering rogue of my acquaint.; he has made bold with your name, having heard of your fame and learning.<sup>1</sup> Pray lend me your Goodwin *De Præsulibus*; I have an occasion to consult it. My service to Mr. Recorder and the Earle of Northumberland<sup>2</sup>; forget mee not to your spirituall dad, John Killingbeck.

I am,

Yours truly,

Sept. 5, 1709.

BARWICK.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby, at Leeds.")

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

22 October, 1709.

DEAR SYDROPHIL,

Yesterday I saw Mr. Greenwood the R<sup>r</sup> of Darfield, who has promised mee an account of the deaths of Mr. Edmunds and his B<sup>r</sup>, they being both his parishioners: there are some things remarquable in their deaths, of which you have not as yet had any acct: however Mr. Greenwood will answer all my quæries very fully, and as soon as they come to my hand I will transmit them to you: he is to consult the Registers.

I found this old deed very lately, amongst some which I had collected; 'tis at your service, being the manumission of a villain. Formerly the Lords of Manors sold their villains *cum tota sequela*, i.e. their sons and daughters, cattell and stock, together with the lands on which they lived. In the 4<sup>th</sup> line you will find an old obsole word "nayuitate," which is used for "nativitate," their natives or offspring; all these with their

<sup>1</sup> In all probability, this was a rhyming epistle written by Mr. Plaxton himself.

<sup>2</sup> Alderman Milner.

<sup>3</sup> Rector.

services went along with their possessions, as you will find in Madox's *Formulare*, or in Mr. Thornton's learned observations if you turn over his head.

I am glad the Saxon nymph has had a good labour and that we are like to see her offspring shortly.<sup>1</sup>

I had not your last till Thursday; the slow markets kept our Barw[ick] butcher hovering over his flesh till that day.

Roger de Someri was a baron in Staffordsh<sup>r</sup>. Ettynshall is a large copyhold manor in that country. The witnesses were all great men in that district: Will. de Wrottesley was ancestor to Hugo de Wrottesley, one of the founders of the Garter: John de Perton was L<sup>d</sup> of Perton, a larg manor; his arms were a pear-tree loaded with ripe fruit. Roger Careles was ancestor to Coll. Careles who changed his name to Carlos by order of K. Ch. 2, and the same who was with the K. in the Royall Oake at Boscobell.<sup>2</sup> Adieu,

Yours,

BARWICK.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds.")

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

DEARE S<sup>R</sup>,

I own my self in your debt for two or three letters. I cannot give you so full an account as I would about D<sup>r</sup> Aikroyd till I have an answer to some letters and quæries made to one of my neare relations. I have some notes of that family, but not so perfect as I could wish. My mother was the youngest daughter of John Aikroyd of Foggathorp Esq<sup>re</sup>, in the E. Ryd.: but I hope in a short time to send you the transcript of their pedigree.

I sent Mr. Gas[coigne] his book, but have not seen him since. I will wait on him and send his second subscription and my own. Pray let mee know at what time the D<sup>r</sup> was Vicar of Leeds, and what you know and find of him in your archives of S<sup>t</sup> Peter's Church. I sing the same tune as the cuccow dos.

<sup>1</sup> Alluding to Miss Elizabeth Elstob's work, "The English-Saxon Homily."

<sup>2</sup> These particulars no doubt refer to the deed which Mr. Plaxton was sending with the letter.



My service to Mr. Recorder temporall and the sp<sup>ll</sup> director, with hearty respects to yourself. I am,

Yours truly,

Nov<sup>r</sup> 15, 1709.

G. BARWICK.

Due respects to all yours. What newse from the learned world, I pray? I am half dead with a cold.

N.B. There were 2 Doctor Aikroyds: one of them was Rector of Marston, temp. H. 8, and made Card. Woolsey his ex<sup>r</sup>: the other was Rector of Bolton Piercy not many yeares ago, I suppose in the reign of K. James I. Which of these was Vicar of Leeds<sup>1</sup> and your benefactor? There was Roger and Ambrose, both divines: one Dr Aikroyd was Vicem<sup>r</sup> of Trin. Coll. Camb. and br to my grandfather, a learned man. My uncle, John Aikroyd of Foggathorp was a learned man also: they commonly call'd him Old Chaucer; he was bred at Camb., I suppose at Christ's Coll.: he had £1,000 per ann., but sequestred and sold much land. Broomfleet was his, which was antiently an old Barony, as you find in S<sup>r</sup> W. Dugdale. But of these matters more, God willing. He had 3 dau<sup>rs</sup>: one married to Vavasour of Spaldington, another to Robinson of Thickett, a third to Bethell of Ellarton—shee's yet living.<sup>2</sup> He had two dau<sup>rs</sup> by a second venter.

(Addressed "This to Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds in Kirkgate.")

FROM MR. THOMAS THOMSON.<sup>3</sup>

Tadcaster, Nov: 24, 1709.

S<sup>R</sup>,

Our Recorder, Mr. Mashrother, and self being lately in Mr. Harrison's company, we prevail'd with him to let you have (to put amongst your rarities) th'inclos'd tinder-steel which you have formerly seen in his hands. I have also sent you a letter sign'd by K<sup>s</sup> Charles the 2<sup>d</sup> which I met with th'other day; not for the rarity of it (for I am sensible you may have severall of his signing), but one may by it see what straits that Prince was brought to in his exile, by his solliciting so earnestly for

<sup>1</sup> There was surely some misunderstanding here. No Aikroyd or Ackroyd appears in Thoresby's own list of the Leeds vicars.

<sup>2</sup> See the pedigree of Akeroyd and Plaxton at p. 260 of the *Ducatus*.

<sup>3</sup> Of York; the Judges' Associate.

so small a sum: 'tis pity the seal is destroy'd, but you have it as it came to the hands of, Sr,

Your humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

THO: THOMSON.

The steel may be taken out of the iron case.

(The address-sheet is detached.)

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FROM THE BISHOP OF SODOR AND MAN.<sup>1</sup>

Isle of Man,

Nov. 30, 1709.

MR. THORESBY,

My good friend Madam Blackburne intimates to me your desire of hearing from this place. It would be a great pleasure to me if I thought I could be able to gratifye you; but the truth is I fear this small spot of ground will afford little matter of curiosity to one of so large a correspondence and genius as I know you to have. However, Sr, if I can oblige you with any thing worth your knowledge, I am ready to do it as often as you shall lay your commands upon me. In the meantime, I pray your acceptance of a small peice I lately printed in the Manks language, being the first of such an undertaking. It is but very lately that I had Mrs. Blackburne's letter. I take this opportunity of sending this, together with what is in hast said above, that you may not doubt of my willingness to serve you.

I am, Good Sr,

Your affect. friend and humble servant,

THO. SODOR AND MAN.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby, these.")

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FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

I am now satisfy'd that Ralph Thores: is dead, for had he been alive he would have seen mee this frost, but he is certainly gone to the other world to converse with Selden,

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Wilson, Bishop 1697-1755. The work he mentions was his *Principles and Duties of Christianity*, 1707.

Cambden, Goltzius, Sr Simon d'Ewes, and other Antiquaries. I hope he will meet with Tom Coryat<sup>1</sup> and other learned foot-pads in his travells, and confer notes and compare shoes with them. I am sure that John de Sacro Bosco will be glad to see him, and so will old Paulinus de Leeds<sup>2</sup> and the merry Abbot of Kirkstall. I hope he will discourse with Robin Hood and get his pedigree, and send us word who was Little John's godfather. Had I known of his journey, I would have sent some materiall enquiries by him, and writ a letter to our friends Fryar Bacon and honest Bungey; but Ralpho slip (*sic*) away unknown to his friends. I will write to him by the next neighbour who goes that road and send 1<sup>s</sup> to drink with him and poor honest Owen,<sup>3</sup> who I am sure will be glad to see an old acquaintance. By this time, I judge he is neare Purgatory; if he passe well that dark and troublesome lane he will soon be at his journye's end. I have no more to adde but that I am Old Sydrophil's

Liveing friend and servant,

BERVICUS.

St Thomas's Day (Dec<sup>r</sup> 21), 1709.

I hope he will send Magellan's tobacco-box to the Vicar and Ralph de Hengham's inkhorn to the Recorder.<sup>4</sup>

(Addressed "This to the Ghost of Mr. Ralph Thoresby, late of Leeds. To be left at the sign of Methusalem's head, in the suburbs of Purgatory. Frank—Jo<sup>n</sup> Mandeville.")

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FROM MISS MARY TOWNLEY.<sup>5</sup>

Towneley, Dec: the 24<sup>th</sup>, 1709.

SIR,

I beg this may assure you of my acknowledging the favour of yours which came to my hands as sounne as posibly that

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Coryate, a noted traveller and writer of the time of James I.

<sup>2</sup> John de Sacro Bosco, a thirteenth-century writer on astronomy and mathematics, said to have been born at Halifax. Paulinus de Leeds was a twelfth-century Vicar of Leeds (see Thoresby Society's *Miscellanea*, iv, 209).

<sup>3</sup> Perhaps the Owen referred to at page 149, *ante*.

<sup>4</sup> Ralph de Hengham was Chief Justice of the King's Bench, *temp.* Edw. I; probably the allusions to his inkhorn and Magellan's tobacco box arose out of some previous jocular conversation.

<sup>5</sup> Probably a daughter of Charles Townley of Townley who died in 1711.



I writ could be answer'd. I am, Sir, extremely obliged with the trouble you have been pleas'd to take, and mightly ples'd to be so sounne put out of paine about my littell consearn for the knife which I was very glad to heare was in your hands.<sup>1</sup> I have since maid the most diligint serch I could to have found som of the old writings and seailles belonging to Kirstall Abbey, but can't find the leaist thing of that name, and fear if there were ever any depositated hear that they were distroid when an old building was pul'd down, in a roome of which was formerly kept all things of that natur. The box of my onkell's workemanship<sup>2</sup> you was pleas'd to desire I inclose with this to Mr. Knassboro',<sup>3</sup> of whome I beg the favor to recomend it to som saife hand for you, feareing I shan't otherways find sounne an ocation, which I stay'd in hopes of, or should sounner have return'd you my thanks. My onkell name is Richard Towneley,<sup>4</sup> now a Religous of the Order of St Bruno at a House cal'd Bourfonten in France. I don't heare he imployes himself in any worke of that kind since he left the world, tho' they are obliged to som every day and his is jeneraly to dig in the garding. I have put in the box a Roman medall, seeing you had things of that kind and hope it be acceptable, and the small thing you was ples'd to lay down for me to the maid who had my knife; she was very reasonable. I must conclude, Sir, with wishing you a hapy Christmas and newe yeare, atended by many,<sup>5</sup> and begging you will ever esteeme me when capable one of

Your most humbell servant,

MARY TOWNELEY.

The favor to know you receve this and the box will be very acceptable.

(Addressed "To Mr. Thoresby at his house in Leedes.")

<sup>1</sup> In a previous letter, Miss Townley asks Thoresby to try to recover "a litell turn knife with a guilt haft" which she had left in the "loo parlor" at the inn where she and her "onkell" Townley had been staying on the 17th November. They inspected Thoresby's museum on the 18th.

<sup>2</sup> See *Ducatus*, p. 485.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Knaresborough, the Roman Catholic Priest (see *ante*, p. 178).

<sup>4</sup> Richard, son of Richard Townley of Townley.

<sup>5</sup> *i.e.* with many succeeding ones.

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

DEARE SYDROPHIL,

Jan. 7, 1701<sup>9</sup>/<sub>10</sub>.

Let me know when the Recorder dyed, where he was buried, and what epitaph is inscribed on his tombstone<sup>1</sup>—for he is certainly gone the circuit of the dead: I have not heard from him or seen him since June last. I am told he has taken the B<sup>p</sup> of Orenoque<sup>2</sup> for his chaplain, and made [him] Primate of Hades: so that you now want a sp<sup>ll</sup> and a temporall guide. Adieu, good friend. I am

Yours very truly,

BARWICK.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds.")

FROM LADY MARY HOWARD.

S<sup>R</sup>,Redhall,<sup>3</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> the 30, 1701<sup>9</sup>/<sub>10</sub>.

I was in hopes to have seen you some day before I did leave this place that I might have given you this inclosed paper which the Cardinall's owne handwriting (*sic*) which you desired me to procure for you<sup>4</sup>: these two little pices (*sic*) of coine which was found some yeares agoe in S<sup>r</sup> Nicolas Shirburn estate in Lancashire under grownd, there was severall hundreds of them but most of them was disposed of by the finder before he heard of them; the pott that held them was of the same mettle: if they be a curriosity I shall be glad I have got them for you. I cannot yet here any certainty of what you desired me consarning the medall or mony coined,<sup>5</sup> but when ever I do you shall be sure to here from

S<sup>r</sup>,

Your humble servant,

MARY HOWARD OF WORKSOP.

My mother presents her humble service to you.

(Addressed "For Mr. Thosbey att his house in Leedes.")

<sup>1</sup> This was, of course, not written seriously, but it was not very premature, as Mr. Thornton did die a few months later.

<sup>2</sup> Vicar Killingbeck.

<sup>3</sup> Red Hall, near Shadwell (see *Ducatus*, p. 144).

<sup>4</sup> Perhaps the document in the handwriting of Cardinal Howard alluded to at page 549 of the *Ducatus*. The coins are mentioned at pp. 306, 313 of the same work.

<sup>5</sup> See *ante*, p. 188.

FROM MR. NEVILL SIMMONS.

Sheffd: Feb. 3<sup>d</sup>, 170<sup>a</sup><sub>10</sub>.S<sup>R</sup>,

I have by the bearer sent the book<sup>1</sup> I told you off and desire you will accept of itt if worthy a place in your study. I have writt by the bearer to Madam Dickson<sup>2</sup> and propos'd, if she is not free to comply with the offers I have made her, to sell her books by auction, she allowing mee for my trouble. I am, S<sup>r</sup>, with humble servise, yours att command,

NEVILL SIMMONS.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thorseby in Leeds—with a book.")

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

RALPHO,

Well, my friend Ralpho, I have been upon the confines of another world since I writ to you, and struggled with a great many ills, such as rheumatique pains, nephritique dolours, violent colds, and, it was worst of all, Symsonique stabbings; that rogue undertook to mend my old kettle, and he has made worse holes in then (than) it had before. I have much adoe to write to you; I have the effects of his lancetts yet in my right arm and I know not when it will be well: I am yet very lame, and I think he designs I shall be soe.<sup>3</sup> Pray tell mee how you do, and how all our friends do. I suppose the Recorder spirituall is picking up his Pascall crumbs of comfort, and the temporall Recorder swaggering in his gown at the Assizes, for the defendants and plaintiffs. A friend of mine and yours writes mee word that when the mob demolished the synagogue of Daniel Burges<sup>4</sup> they found 2 bottles, the one of brandy, the other of aniseed water; they drunk up the cordials, but if you would have one of the bottles for a rarity they will

<sup>1</sup> Thoresby has written at the foot "a book in the Slavonian language and character."

<sup>2</sup> Probably the widow of the Rev. Bright Dixon of St. John's Church.

<sup>3</sup> These allusions are to Mr. Plaxton's surgeon, Jacob Simpson of Leeds.

<sup>4</sup> Daniel Burgess, a prominent dissenting minister of the time, noted for the vivacity of his sermons. Thoresby heard him in London in 1709, and remarks that "though he had some pleasant passages which profane wits might sport with, yet preached very well." His meeting-house in London was gutted by the Sacheverell mob on 1st March, 1710.



send it down. Dr Sloan has got one of them for Gresham College. I send you a thousand good wishes and services: let mee know how you do. My service to all our friends. I am

Your affect. friend,

Martii 28, 1710.

JACOB'S CRIPPLE.<sup>1</sup>

What learned news, and how goes the peace forwards? <sup>2</sup>

My service to John Killingbeck with the Golden Thumbs. I have 3 empty bags; if he would, I will send them for his use this mony harvest.

(Addressed "This for Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds in Kirk-gate.")

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FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

May 2, 1710.

What is become of old Sydrophil? I cannot tell whether he be upon earth or gone to his beloved starrs; none can tell me, 'tis a secret in his own keeping. I have heard nothing from him since passive obedience was baited, and the Homilies try'd for their lives before the B<sup>ps</sup>. I fancy my old friend the Mysta of Leeds has made a trip to London to visit the 4 Indian monarchs<sup>3</sup> and to get an autograph of his Majesty King Anadagarjaux, though if I had been to advise him he should have asked a belt of wampum from good King Quedor; I am told that the Corporation of L. is sending an envoy to them to perswade 'em to weare clothes and bring coats and breeches in fashion amongst their subjects; this will mend trade and help of[f] the woollen manufacture, but the grandees of York I feare will get the start and recommend their thinn stuffs for summer matchcoats<sup>4</sup> if a speedy application be not made to those potent hero's. If the town of L. send up an envoy, I hope a fr<sup>d</sup> of mine will be the man. Well, Ralpho, wherever thou art, alive or dead, on earth or in the ayr, if this finds thee let it give you my hearty service. I have the same affection for you in all places and in all conditions; nothing can alter the

<sup>1</sup> Another allusion to Dr. Simpson.

<sup>2</sup> The negotiations for peace in the spring of 1710 ended in failure.

<sup>3</sup> Four chiefs of tribes of North American Indians, who visited England in the spring of 1710. See the *Tatler* for May 13th in that year.

<sup>4</sup> Matchcoat,—a kind of mantle formerly worn by American Indians. (*New Eng. Dict.*)

friend<sup>p</sup>, affections, services, duties, love, respects, and good wishes of

My dear Fauste,

Yours very truly,

BARWICK.

My service to the Recorder; who knows but he may be a L<sup>d</sup> Cheif Justice of Quebeck, and John Killingbeck Primate of Orenoque, if these Indians be baptized and come into the Union with Engl. and Scotland. Pray del[iver] to the Recorder.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds.")

FROM LORD DOWNE.<sup>1</sup>

Cowick, June the 1<sup>st</sup>, 1710.<sup>2</sup>

S<sup>R</sup>,

I am extreemly sensible of the honour I have upon severall occasions received from my country, which I shall ever acknowledge by an unbias'd pursuit of its interests. A short time must putt a period to this Parliament: I take this opportunity therefore to acquaint you with my resolutions of standing for the County again att the next election, in conjunction with S<sup>r</sup> Arthur Kay; and shall take itt for a particular obligation to have the assistance of your vote and interest.

I am, S<sup>r</sup>, Your most humble servant,

DOWNE.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thorsby in Leeds.")

FROM MR. GEORGE LUMLEY.<sup>3</sup>

York, the 6<sup>th</sup> of June, 1710.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I received yours this day by Mrs. Wilson, and we shall be very glad of your daughter's companey when ever you are

<sup>1</sup> Sir Henry Dawnay, second Viscount Downe. He and Sir Arthur Kaye were returned for the county at the election foreshadowed above, which took place in the following October.

<sup>2</sup> Thoresby has written on the outer sheet: "this was not delivered me til 12 Aug<sup>t</sup> w<sup>n</sup> others (but all I saw without date) were sent by the Lord Downe to the Mayor, Aldermen, etc., . . . so that now a new Parl<sup>t</sup> as well as change of the Ministry is fully expected. Lord grant it may be for the good of these nations."

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Lumley, with his wife, kept the Manor-house School at York, which, Hunter remarks (*Diary*, ii, 61), was long in high reputation. Thoresby mentions that Lumley was also an excellent artist. He (Thoresby) placed his daughter at the school in the following month.

pleased to send her. Our rates for bording is as followes: each gentlewoman payes att the rate of fourteene pounds the year for lodging<sup>1</sup> and dyett, and has all the learnings taught by my wife given in, paying half one ginney entrance. Musick and dancing is paide over and above att twenty shillings a quarter and five shillings entrance each. They bring with them one pare of sheets, six napkins, two or thre towells, all which, with ther other close is washed by washer wemen att five shillings a quarter. These have always bin the standing rates of this schoole, when all things was cheape, and we have not in these times advanced them, to our great loss. I am glad Brother Thoersby<sup>2</sup> is well, but I think him unkind not to lett me here from him in twelfe months time. Mr. Place<sup>3</sup> was with me att the opening of yours, presents you with his humble servis, and please to except of myne and my wife's, from, Sr,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE LUMLEY.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoersby att his house in Leedes, these.")

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FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

Junii 6<sup>o</sup>, 1710.

DEARE GAFFARELL,

I had writ to you ere this had I not been told you were gone on pilgrimage to S<sup>r</sup> H. Goodrick's to pay your respects to the old Commandary of Ribston.<sup>4</sup> I have litle to say in this letter, but only that it brings you a seale which Mr. Lascells, a clergyman in Pontefract, sends to you as a present: it formerly belonged to some Fraternity of that Corporation, as the epigraph shows.<sup>5</sup> I was at Harwood Ch. and Castle the last week: I have sent the Recorder an account of what I saw, with a desire that you may see the letter. My George is just come home from London; wee are glad to see

<sup>1</sup> Written *lodeing*.

<sup>2</sup> Joseph Thoresby of Chester-le-street, who had married Lumley's sister.

<sup>3</sup> The artist who drew the view of Leeds for the *Ducatus*.

<sup>4</sup> According to the *Diary*, Thoresby's visit to Ribston did not take place until June 8th.

<sup>5</sup> The seal is entered in the catalogue of the Museum, *Ducatus*, p. 491.



him. William will be here in July. I send you my hearty respects, and am, with much sincerity,

Your affect. fr<sup>d</sup>,

BARWICK.

Service to all our friends in town, especially to Lex, Fumus and Vis:<sup>1</sup> and forget mee not to the postmeridian expositor in St Peter's.<sup>2</sup>

Lex, Fumus and Vis,  
Are all of a piece,  
And so is the Post meridian.  
But the rest of your blades  
Are of different trades,  
And thou art a Nulli-fidian.

(Addressed "This to Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds.")

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

D<sup>R</sup> S<sup>R</sup>,

This comes to enquire after my old fr<sup>d</sup> R. Th., and to give him a wellcome to Leeds after his long peregrinations.<sup>3</sup> I doubt not but you have ransak't the City for raritys and brought away King Ebrauk's<sup>4</sup> crown to ennoble the growing state of Pannopolis.<sup>5</sup> I wonder what is become of your Recorder; I have not seen nor heard of him these many weeks; tell mee where he is, and how you do, and what you do, for I am so old and lame that I am able to do litle. All mine are at York, and your old friend is now alone and longs to heare from you, being allways

Yours,

Aug. 8, 1710.

B.

If any news from the litterati send a litle, for I know nothing. My service to all yours.

Forget mee not to Lex, Fumus, and Vis. and that rogue of a Post-meridian, who is a very wagg, Ralph.

(Addressed "This for Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds.")

<sup>1</sup> The Recorder, the Vicar, and the Rev. Henry Lodge, Vicar of St. John's.

<sup>2</sup> The Rev. Joseph Cookson, Lecturer at the Parish Church, afterwards Vicar of Leeds.

<sup>3</sup> Thoresby had been staying in York for a few days, in July.

<sup>4</sup> Geoffrey of Monmouth's legendary King Ebraucus; according to that historian, the founder of York, from whom it took its name.

<sup>5</sup> i.e. Leeds,—from *pannus*, cloth.

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

D<sup>R</sup> RALPHO,

I am still in pain and sorrow. Let mee know how you got home and how poor Ralph perform'd his journey.<sup>1</sup> Pray tell me how the Recorder does, and give my service to all my friends, especially to the Christian, the smoker, and Vis. Tell mee how you do and what you do. I am very much out of order.

Yours,

Michaelmas Day, 1710.

BARWICK.

Service to all yours and to the Post meridian and his brother.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds, Kirkgate.")

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>, 1710.S<sup>R</sup> RALPHO,

I have sent you a very poor elegy on our good fr<sup>d</sup> Mr. R. Thornton.<sup>2</sup> You may take a copy of it if you think it worth your labour, but verses can never run smoothly where the poet is lame of his feet; besides, I am old and scarce able to rhyme. However, my affections to my good fr<sup>d</sup> have impos'd upon my judgm<sup>t</sup>: I mean very honestly but expresse poorly. I paint ill, but I hope the colours are good and will hold well. His memory will allways be deare to mee, and I must beare a valuable respect for his remains. I never heard that any man rejoyc'd at the losse of so good man, except S<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Str<sup>d</sup>, the idoll of Leeds,<sup>3</sup> for whom you

<sup>1</sup> In his *Diary*, under date of September 21st, Thoresby writes: "took my son Ralph along with me that I might instruct him in discourse; walked to Barwick; got in time for the prayers there, but found the elder parson under a severe fit of the stone, but diverted him til 3; then returned, and my dear boy (who might have rid part of the way) performed the journey bravely." The younger Ralph was then in his thirteenth year.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Thornton, the Recorder, had died on the 6th of the previous month. He appears to have been in failing health for some time; on the 17th August Thoresby records in his *Diary* "spent evening entirely with my dear friend, Mr. Recorder (after a long absence at Scarbrough)."

<sup>3</sup> The meaning of this somewhat confused sentence probably is, *not* that Sir William Strickland rejoiced at Mr. Thornton's death as it might be read, but that Mr. Thornton was, next to Sir William, the idol of Leeds. The "pilgrimage" was no doubt the journey to York at the recent election for the county, when it appears from Mr. Plaxton's remark that in Leeds Sir William was the favourite candidate. The question of the day was the case of Dr. Sacheverell, to whom Sir William was opposed. He was not elected.

have a fruitlesse and yet a zealous pilgrimage: but errors abound in all places; every man has a blind side and some have 2. Wee must pardon one another, that God may in mercy pardon us. You must send mee the paper again by my son on Munday—the same identicall paper, for I have no copy of it; shew it to the Vicar and get it amended. My service to Mr. Killingbeck and his lady, and to all our friends—to Lodge and the Postmeridian. I have rec<sup>d</sup> all my things, and I thank you, and will pay you at our meeting. Quid novi e mundo literario? And forget not my best services to Mrs. Thornton and the deare remains of that family.

I am

Yours very heartily,

G. BARWICK.

To all yours abundantly. Tell John Killingbeck that I design him a visit shortly, and will stay all night, and, if I like my quarters, 2. John Pl[axton] will call on you on Monday.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds, these.")

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

Dec: 8, 1710.

RALPHO,

This is the Feast of the Conception of the Blessed V.M., a late festivall in the Romish Ch.; it begun since the Norman Conquest, and owes its birth and life to Elsy, Abbot of Ramsey.<sup>1</sup> I have a very good legend of it, writ about H. 3 dayes, if not sooner; 'tis in old English rhymes, and very full of hard and obsole words. I have sent you a specimen of it, but I dare not attempt to transcribe the whole; and I have also sent you a short description of old Isaac when his eys were dimme, from the same author, by which you may judge the age. I have an old slipper which belonged to Pope Joan; if you will come for it you shall have it; 'tis a fine antiquity and worthy of your notice. I am serious and do not banter—you

<sup>1</sup> "Aielsinus Abbas suscepit abbatiam anno millesimo octogesimo, et fuit Abbas per octo annos. Et eidem revelatum fuit in mari quod festum Conceptionis Sancte Marie celebraretur, et per ipsum primo fuit inventum" (*Char-  
tulary of Ramsey Abbey*, iii, 174).



shall have it when you fetch it.<sup>1</sup> Tom Perrot is at York, Jack going to his government. I cannot get out, having all the care and burthen on my shoulders. Service to Mr. Cookson and his br.

I am,

Yours,

BARWICK.

(Addressed "This to Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds.")

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FROM MR. ROBERT DALE, SUFFOLK HERALD.

College of Arms, London,

29 Jan: 17 $\frac{1}{4}$ .

DEAR SIR,

As I hear nothing of the publishing your book, now the term is so far advanced it's reasonable to conclude the delay must be put on some other foot than the want of the dedication, and perhaps the undertaker, Mr. Nutt, may pretend he waited for the cut of Mr. Thoresby's monument which I find Mr. Sturt<sup>2</sup> hath not yet done, tho' he has promised to have it finished by Tuesday or Wednesday at furthest, if he's as good as his word, which is very little to be depended upon any more than the exactness of his work by what appears in Mr. Disney's case, who gave me the enclos'd for conveyance, and therewith an opportunity of rendring you this account.

I've so ill an opinion of the parties concern'd that I despair of doing you any service in applying to them on your behalf, but must advise you to press the matter closely to bring things to a period, as well for your own sake as the sake of the subscribers, which certainly ought to be consider'd on both sides, and methinks one way or other ought to be found out to do every body justice, since 'tis none of your fault.

Mr. Ashly, the rolling press printer, I'm inform'd will not part with the sheets till he is secured of the debt owing to him and hence probably arises the *remora* they are unwilling to remove. Where's the honesty of such a hesitation? But it's answerable to the usage you have had, and what's to be

<sup>1</sup> A subsequent letter from Mr. Plaxton to Thoresby commences "I have sent you Pope Joan's slipper, which is a valuable relique."

<sup>2</sup> John Sturt, a well-known engraver of the period. He engraved the view of Henry Thoresby's monument, and also the view of St. John's Church, for the *Ducatus*. He died about 1730.

expected from these men who thus prostitute their own characters to blemish yours? The end, I fear, is not likely to prove better than the beginning, contriv'd fraudulently and as treacherously executed. I heartily regret your misfortune, and wish you a good deliverance.<sup>1</sup>

The last post brought me a letter from Mr. Richard Bland, dated at Williamsburg in Virginia, 10<sup>o</sup> Novemb. last, which relating to an affair of my mother Hall, do's make no mention of his descent, whence I persuade myself what belongs to that head must be transferr'd to your neighbour Mr. Nathaniel Bland,<sup>2</sup> from whom I would gladly receive a line if any particular occur. Pray present him with my humble service, and an assurance of my preparing Lane's pedigree for him, as also some farther collections of the name of Bland, not only from the City books but Records, design'd to be communicated as my conveniency permits. Accept my due respects and believe me affectionately

S<sup>r</sup>,

Your most obliged humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

ROB. DALE.

(No address-sheet.)

FROM MR. SIMON SEGAR.<sup>3</sup>

Esholt, March 7, 1714.

S<sup>r</sup>,

Not finding Mr. Nevile at home, I was obliged to alter my resolution contrary to my desire and tripp it to Mr. Wade,<sup>4</sup> hoping nevertheless to have had your company there, the day appointed between us. There I met with his pedigree, of Cromp's doing. It begins *temp.* H. 8. For my own satisfaction, I'd begg the favour the first opportunity of what you have printed of that family, for as I take it you mention

<sup>1</sup> The chapter headed "The Ducatus published" in Mr. Atkinson's work *Ralph Thoresby the Topographer* summarises the delays and annoyances met with by Thoresby in connection with the printing and publication of the *Ducatus*.

<sup>2</sup> Dale prepared for Mr. Nathaniel Bland of Beeston the pedigree of the Blands printed at p. 208 of the *Ducatus*. Mr. Bland's mother was a Lane.

<sup>3</sup> The writer was a descendant of Sir William Segar, Garter. He was an antiquary and genealogist, and appears from references to him in Mr. Robert Dale's letters to have been in very bad odour at Heralds' College.

<sup>4</sup> Of the New Grange, near Kirkstall (see the pedigree, *Ducatus*, p. 155).

one to be a sea officer about that time. I know the pedigree is but short: your kindness yet will not be the less. And as to some arms, being uncertaine of the colours, as Foxcroft a chevron between 3 foxe heads, Beeston a lyon crowned, &c., the arms of Longbotham of Longbotham, Dene of Exley, Shan of Leeds, Merring of . . . . .<sup>1</sup> all Yorksh. fam', Horne of Wakefield, and Jennison of Newcastle which is in Guillim, be pleased to communicate them to me, and it will be a further obligation to, Sr,

Your most humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

SI. SEGAR.

If desir'd, I'll transmit a copy of Sr Walter's<sup>2</sup> as drawn from his writings to compare with yours.

If you can, Sr, pray let me heare this market day by the bearer, Sr Walter's serv<sup>t</sup>: being to insert some of the arms in his pedigree.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house in Kirkgate, Leeds.")

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FROM MR. BARWICK FAIRFAX.

Smaws, March the 14<sup>th</sup>, 171<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I pray acquaint Mr. Milner that Mrs. Hammond of Scarthingwell, near Sherburne, has an estate of Great and Little Fenton better than 250<sup>l</sup> per annum, easie rented, she designs to sell.<sup>3</sup> Is the other prospect of your town, that of the south upon a sheet of royal paper, done by Mr. Place? I wish I had a sight of the same here, for I shall not come till I pay my second payment.<sup>4</sup> I hope by Easter at the farthest your book will be published. One Edmund Barker, a glazier in Coney Street, York, has done the north prospect of the Minster at full length; I saw his performance, which pleas'd me. I saw my L<sup>d</sup> Mayor's hand among the many subscribers: the artist being not in the house, I cou'd not learne the sum

<sup>1</sup> *Sic* in letter.

<sup>2</sup> Sir Walter Calverley. About this time Mr. Segar was preparing a calendar of the Calverley evidences.

<sup>3</sup> Frances, widow of William Hammond of Scarthingwell.

<sup>4</sup> *i.e.* for the *Ducatus*. Five members of the Fairfax family subscribed for the work.



he expects to carry on the design. Kip's worke<sup>1</sup> I doe not approve of. To whom wou'd you recommend the artist for the engraving parte? This may be news with you and may get him subscribers. When you see Mr. Nevile of Holbeck (with my service and to all friends) I pray aske him if he receiv'd my letter since we were at York. I expect an answer; the same from you at this time will oblige, Sr,

Your humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

BAR: FX.

(The address-sheet is detached.)

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FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

'Tis so long since I heard from you that I scarce know how to direct this scrawl to you, whether in Leeds or London. I long to heare what is become of the Ducatus and when wee may expect it. I have subscribed for the Saxon Homilys and paid my subscription mony, but I feare the book will be retarded by her brother's, Mr. Elstob's, death.<sup>2</sup> Dr Smith's Bede I heare is at the presse in Cambridge and will be finished shortly. I writ about a month ago to Mr. Hearn, and am in hopes of his Collectanea: I sent up money by a Chr: Church man of his acquaint. Have you the 9<sup>th</sup> volume of Mr. Lealand for me? I have order'd my sonn to pay you. Let mee know what you are adoing, what new discoverys you have made in antique learning, what newse you have from the learned world and the inhabitants of it, what you doe at Leeds, and how your newest church goes on. I have the best workman in England for you. My service to St Peter's old Angell and the damsell Rhoda his lady, to the bright star of St John's and Megg his handmade, to the worthy flagellator or schole beadle, to Joe the excellent prætor's (Coz. Cookson's) br<sup>r</sup>, to the standard of Mayors, the blue originall ch. magistrate, to Dr Skelton and Panpharmager his b<sup>r</sup> leech, to Jacob Van Helmont the man with mithriadate in his pockett, to John Kershaw the sobe, to the Indian marchant, to Adam Pirvey the sallet (?) monger, to thy wife and all thy domestique furniture from

<sup>1</sup> John Kip, an engraver of Dutch birth, who settled at Westminster; he died in 1722.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 231, *post*.

Ralph to Goggy, to yourself and all the Cæsars in your cabinet. Farewell dear Ralph, thou miner in hidden treasures, thou restorer of antiquities, thou furbisher of obsole things, thou brusher and cleanser of old trunk hose, jerkins, habergions, gippons, and whittles.

I am

Faithfully yours as much as you can wish,

G. BARWICK.

March 21, 1714.<sup>1</sup>

Send the enclosed as soon as you can to my sonn, conveniently.

(Addressed "This to Mr. Ralph Thoresby at his house in Kirkgate in Leeds, Yorkshire. Turn at Manchester. Post p<sup>d</sup>.")

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FROM MR. B. LANGWITH.<sup>2</sup>

Q.C.C., March the 24<sup>th</sup>, 1714.<sup>3</sup>

S<sup>R</sup>,

I am exceedingly oblig'd to you for the fresh tokens of your good opinion of me convey'd to me by your last, and heartily wish that I may be able to answer what you are pleas'd to hope for from me: if I shou'd prove so unhappy as to disappoint you it will proceed from an inability to serve you and not from want of a hearty desire to be as usefull as I can to you or your's. I promise my self a great deal of satisfaction from the perusal of your book and don't doubt but I shall find it worthy of its author.

As to the buying surplice, bed, &c., for your son, it will be best to let it alone till you come to Cambridge: you will have them cheaper here at second-hand than in the country. The person that told you it wou'd be better to borrow a bed than buy one, I am afraid knew but little of the matter. The lowest price for bed-hire is 16<sup>s</sup> per annum; now a second-hand bed, &c., may be bought for 50<sup>s</sup> or 3<sup>l</sup>. Judge you which is better.

As to the imitating the worthy gentleman's hand, which you mention'd in your letter, I must desire to be excus'd.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1714.

<sup>2</sup> A tutor at Queen's College, Cambridge, under whom Thoresby placed his son Ralph. He was a native of York.

<sup>3</sup> A somewhat mysterious passage. Surely Thoresby had not been suggesting that Mr. Langwith should forge a frank!



It may possibly some time or other be attended with very troublesome consequences, and I shall be very willing to support the trifling charge of a correspondence which will give so much satisfaction to

Dear Sr,

Your assured friend and humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

BEN : LANGWITH.

(The address-sheet is detached.)

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FROM THE REV. JOHN DISNEY.<sup>1</sup>

Lincolne, Mar. 28, 1715.

HONOURED SIR,

If I recollect my self aright, I did not answer your last kind letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> of February. If I did not, assure your self it was from no want of respect or value for you, but want of time to expresse the esteem I have. I came out of London on Monday the last of that month; and all the preceding week was in a sufficient hurry, preparing to get away. The present design'd for the King was made on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup>, and was graciously received in his Majestie's closet, no person there but the King, my Ld. Townsend (who introduced me) and my self. I staid with him 10 minutes or longer, and he seem'd very well pleased with the Genealogy,<sup>2</sup> which was richly painted and gilded, made up upon blew silk and gilt rollers, and tied with 2 rich knots of gold and blew ribbon. Having kissed his Majestie's hand, I retired; and on Monday presented to the Princesse and the little Ladyes; the Prince being engaged in Cabinet Council, I committed his to the Bishop of Bangor, his Almoner, who promised to deliver it to him. Since my being at Lincoln one hindrance or other has intervened, that I could not write to you till now, which I hope you will excuse. The original manuscript, which Baron Bothmar had, is not to this day recovered out of his hands, and I believe never will be, or else it should most heartily be at your

<sup>1</sup> The Rev. John Disney, Vicar of Croft, Lincolnshire, and later of St. Mary's, Nottingham, author of several works. Thomas Hearne remarks of him that "his friends being Presbyterians and himself educated in that perswasion . . . . . he still retains many of their ill qualities, as being pert, affected, proud, etc." Hearne's hearty dislike for anything connected with Presbyterianism is, of course, responsible for this rather uncalled-for outburst.

<sup>2</sup> The work presented to George I by Mr. Disney was his "Genealogy of the House of Brunswick-Lunenburgh."



service; and that which Sturt had he cut to pieces, so that 'tis wholly uselesse. I received your second guinea, and thank you for it; the 12 setts I hope you have received long since; my landlord tells me he sent them down to you by the carrier. I ask'd Mr. Dale for the other little parcel that was for, but he had just before sent it down to you.

Mr. Hardy, the dissenting minister in Lincolnshire, who subscribed to Leland's Itinerary, has parted with the 8 volumes to me, and I allow'd him also the 10<sup>s</sup> which he advanced toward the Collectanea and the Review which were to come out after.<sup>1</sup> But he has them not, and I desire to know your advice how I shall get them, being willing to pay all the remainder of the charge for those 3 books, to have that work compleat. Pray favour me with your direction; or if you will give yourself the trouble to procure them of Mr. Herne for me, I will gratefully repay you what is yet unpaid.

I am, Honoured Sir,

Your most obliged humble servant,

JOHN DISNEY.

(Addressed "To Ralph Thoresby, Esq<sup>r</sup>, att Leedes, Yorkshire, these. By Doncaster: p<sup>d</sup> 3<sup>d</sup>.")

FROM MR. BARWICK FAIRFAX.

April the 2<sup>d</sup>, 1715.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I rec<sup>d</sup> yours, and writ this day to Mrs. Hammond on Mr. Milner's behalfe (to whom present my service), and she sent me an answer with the enclosed, intimating she was busie in ordering every farme for saile<sup>2</sup>: I will (says she) take care Mr. Milner shall have a rent-roll and a perticular of each farme.

I pray procure me two prints of Wakefield Church and give my service to all friends.

I am, S<sup>r</sup>, Your humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

BAR: FAIRFAX.

(No address-sheet.)

<sup>1</sup> See p. 237, *post*.

<sup>2</sup> This probably refers to the sale of the estate of the ancient family of Hammond of Scarthingwell, pursuant to an order of the Court of Chancery in 1713. Mrs. Hammond was the widow of William Hammond, who died in 1711 (see p. 221, *ante*).

FROM H. CLEMENTS.<sup>1</sup>

SIR,

You had heard from me in answer to yours of the 9<sup>th</sup> of last month some time since had the paper which was design'd for me and which came to you, reach't my hands. The manner I am to be concern'd in the disposal of your book is quite otherwise than has been represented to you. Mr. Atkins, tho' he has lived at an unaccountable expensive rate, has however satisfied all the persons he owed money, and what your book produces will come clear into his own pocket: the use that's intended to be made of me is onely to sell what number I can for him: he having left his shopp, 'twas thought convenient to make use of some other as near it as could be, wherein it should be expos'd. I am utterly unacquainted with the state of the work, and what retards its publication. Mr. Ross has been very near death for several months, and I believe you'll hardly see him more. Some persons have call'd on me of late to enquire after the book, but being able to give 'em no satisfaction, they have been referr'd to Mr. Nutt<sup>2</sup> by, Sr,

Your most humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

April 9, 1715.

H. CLEMENTS.

(Addressed "For Ralph Thorisby, Esq<sup>r</sup>, at Leeds, Yorkshire.")

Franked by Will: Shippen.)

FROM MR. ROBERT DALE, SUFFOLK HERALD.

College of Arms,

London, 12 Apr., 1715.

DEAR SIR,

Upon shewing Mr. Clements that part of your letter relating to him and offering the list of your subscribers, he told me he was only concern'd to dispose of such of the books as for the convenience of the buyers might be put into his hands

<sup>1</sup> A London bookseller, who, according to a letter addressed to Thoresby in the same month, had been anxious that his name should appear on the title page of the *Ducatus*. Maurice Atkins, who ultimately published it, had been a very unsatisfactory connection for Thoresby. In the previous year he had had to go into hiding for a time to avoid his creditors, and Thoresby complains repeatedly of his dilatory and drunken habits.

<sup>2</sup> The bookseller who was entrusted with the sale of the *Ducatus*. In the *Review*, Thoresby writes of "surly Nutt and drunken Atkins."

by Mr. Nutt, to whom he should presently go, and would (if I pleas'd) shew him the paper; whereon I determin'd to keep it, at least till I receiv'd further instructions thereon from you: however, left with him a cover to be applied better than the former, of which he knew nothing, it having been used, just as you guess'd, to no purpose: if he writ as he propos'd you will be truly appris'd how far he could serve you, so as 'twill be impertinent to offer my random conjectures in the matter, and therefore I shall defer saying anything more on the subject at present.

To your former favour be pleas'd to add the trouble of sending me an exact transcript of Archb<sup>p</sup> Matthew's children from the original copy of the proper character of his Lady now in your custody.

I've seen your account of S. Segar, whose mean soul exactly suits the indifferent opinion I always entertain'd of him. What can you expect from such vile principles but base practices, and to be expos'd by any civilities you shall do him: wherefore I not only concurr'd in the advice given you formerly by Mr. Collins, but must enforce it by making it my earnest request that as you value my friendship or would oblige me, you'll avoid countenancing, much less assisting, him to carry on his scandalous impositions upon our countrey men the Gentry of Yorksh<sup>r</sup>, since it must necessarily reflect on your reputation, and prejudice, S<sup>r</sup>,

Your most faithful humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

ROB: DALE.

Mr. Collins sends you his humble service, designing to answer yours by the next post. We are just now drinking your health with Mr. Downs at the Angel in Mitre Court.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby att Leeds, Yorkshire."  
Franked by John Anstis.<sup>1</sup>)

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FROM MR. ARTHUR COLLINS.<sup>2</sup>

Aprill 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1715.

My dear freind may think me long in answering, but I hope for his excuse when I acquaint him that I have call'd

<sup>1</sup> Afterwards Garter King-at-Arms. He was Member for Launceston.

<sup>2</sup> Thoresby's friend the bookseller and author of a *Peerage and Baronetage*. Thoresby had stayed with him during his visit to London in the previous year.



at least 6 times at Mr. Sturt's for the plates and proofs of them, without any effect; it was last Thursday in the evening before I could obtain what I have now enclos'd: but he absolutely refuses to deliver me the plates till they have work't off[f] 750 of each of them, and Mr. Nutt tells me that without he has the map to work off[f] the like number the book shall not come out: he urges the plates being given for the use of the book, and as 750 is printed he expects to have them perfect.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Sturt complain'd that you only sent him the blazon of the arms, when you ought to have sent them scetch't out, to obviate which and to prevent loss of time in expectation of having them from you, I got Mr. Coats to draw them out. I thank you for the intelligence of Mr. Seagar, and should be glad to hear further of his progress as it occurs to you. My wife and all freinds desires to be remembre'd to you, as well as

Your most affection<sup>t</sup> humble serv<sup>t</sup>,  
ARTH<sup>R</sup> COLLINS.

Mr. Nutt and the rest of the partners, as Mr. Sturt pretends, will bear him harmless, tho' I can't see how he pretends to justify the keeping them.

(Addressed and franked "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds, Yorkshire. Frank, John Anstis.")

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FROM MR. JOHN BOULTER.<sup>2</sup>

April the 28, 1715.

DEAR FREIND,

I take this opertunity to thanke you for your kind letters and remarkeable exstract out of Harwood regester.

<sup>1</sup> I do not understand the trouble about the number to be printed off. On the 26th of the same month Nutt writes to Thoresby "I am surpriz'd you make any difficulty to let the full number be printed of the map and two other plates that are design'd to be done in the History of Leeds; I assure you 'tis contrary to all rules of trade . . . . without your compliance it will probably be injurious to the book." Notwithstanding all the friction with Sturt, Thoresby refers to him in the *Ducatus* (p. 498) as "that celebrated artist and my kind friend."

<sup>2</sup> Lord of the manor of Harewood. He introduced himself to Thoresby in 1699, and became as Thoresby declares "a kind friend and noble benefactor to me and mine, having sent me more and more valuable curiosities than any one person living." He signed Thoresby's Album in 1702, adding the old Harewood motto "yat sall be sall." His name occurs very frequently in the *Diary*. He died in 1738.

I should have writt before, but the mapp<sup>1</sup> with your owne and oblidging Mr. Shelton's corrections was finished but this week, and I thought to have sent you a proof-peice of it, with a parcell of uncommon meddalls as I ever saw. But as I shall not have them all till Saterday I must refer the sending till my owne trunks take there pilgrimage, and that will be in May. I will however give you a specimen of some,—as

1 The French K[ing] on his knees offering up his baggs to the Turkes of Algeirs and Tripoly, over *Gallia supplex*, under him *Viro imortali* (sic).

2 The Duke of Monmouth's head; on the reverse *Parum successit, feci sedulo*, over Samson tearing the lyon.

3 The Royall Sunn in flames, over it *Nunc pluribus impar*.

4 The F. King in a chair with a fishing rod in his hand baited with the word *Pax*, over the Allys is *Ne credite, Belgi*, under him *Aliquis latet error*.

5 Molinos' head; on the reverse he in prison, over *Tamen et adhuc quietus*.

6 Count Teckely's head, on the reverse a horse a-breaking flings and tramples on his rider, over him *Sic virtus nescia fræni*.

(Most incomparably well perform'd, and I wish they had been silver, but the art is still the same.<sup>2</sup>)

These and severall more will be delivered to you at my returne.

Here is abundance of forreigne gentlemen of your Society<sup>3</sup> who came over on purpose to see the famous eclipse; how it appeared in your lattitude I know not but here in London it was the most wonderfull subject for speculation that I ever beheld, and your self woold laugh to hear how full of admiration the common people are, that the conjurers should find out to a minute when the sunn and moon should fight, and glad they are the moon had not the better, for if victory had fallen to her ladyship's share they were shure the world woold then be at an end. But enough of this.

I am hartily glad to hear that you have your health, and as I wish you a successfull journey to Cambridge<sup>4</sup> so I hope

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Boulter presented the map of twenty miles round Leeds, which appears in the *Ducatus*.

<sup>2</sup> The words in parentheses are written in the margin of the letter.

<sup>3</sup> i.e. the Royal Society.

<sup>4</sup> Thoresby took his elder son to Cambridge this year.



to injoy your company at Leeds long before that time. Mr. Milner's family were all well when I dined there last week, and I think the third daughter one of the handsomest young ladys I have seen a long time.<sup>1</sup> What a sad thing it is to be a walking antiquity; if your humble serv<sup>t</sup> and most grave companion was not one of that number, I could like a sceen or two of adress as well as any of the younger brother hood. Mr. Milner is expected this week. I hartily wish him a good journey, and if I cann here be any ways servisable to Mr. Thoresby he may always command his faithfull freind and serv<sup>t</sup>,

JOHN BOULTER.

Love and servis to your lady and famyly and all freinds.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby, in Leeds, Yorkeshr.")

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FROM MR. ARTHUR COLLINS.

May the 12<sup>th</sup>, 1715.

S<sup>R</sup>,

Since the receipt of yours I have visited both Mr. Sturt and Mr. Nutt; the former absolutely refuses to deliver the plates, and the latter will not be at the charge of the 50 as you desired: I shall very willingly send paper and pay the charge of printing them if you think fitt to make such concession to them, but can't pretend to have the first 50 work't off when the plates are not in my power. Mr. Nutt tells me Sturt won't deliver the plates because I can't deliver up the note he gave you, but he never mention'd any thing of it to me, but now makes it as an excuse in order (I suppose) to print off the 750 before you can return it me. Mr. Chamberlain's *State of England* will not be published this 2 months, and I can give no information of the Lord's Prayer in 200 languages, having not yet seen Mr. Newman.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Elstob is

<sup>1</sup> If the order of the Milner daughters given in the pedigree in the *Ducatus* is correct, this was Elizabeth Milner, who married William Cotton of Crake-marsh, Staffordshire.

<sup>2</sup> Thoresby's friend, John Chamberlain of Westminster (see *ante*, p. 192). As to his design to print the Lord's Prayer in 200 languages, see the *Diary*, ii, 220. Mr. Newman was Secretary of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.



dead, but I can't say what forwardness the Saxon Homiles are in,<sup>1</sup> no more than I can when your book will be published, for Mr. Nutt will sett no time and the plates are not yet work't off and the Arms last sent not yet engrav'd, tho' for expedition I gott Mr. Coats to scetch them out. I am very sorry you should fall into such hands that neither regard your reputation or indeed their own interest. Mr. Dale by the last post has given you his sentim<sup>ts</sup>,<sup>2</sup> and I must own I close with them that such a rascal as Sturt ought to be shewn in his true colours. I should be glad to hear whether Seager<sup>3</sup> designs to continue with you, in order to take some measures to gett the books he clandestinely depriv'd me off and which I now very much want. If you determin to come to London from Cambridge, a room is at your service and your company will be very acceptable to your freinds and to none more then (than) to

Your affectionat freind and humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

AR. COLLINS.

(Addressed and franked "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby att Leedes, Yorkshire. Frank, John Anstis.")

FROM THE REV. JONATHAN WRIGHT.<sup>4</sup>

May the 16, 1715.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I rec<sup>d</sup> yours, for which with all former kindnesses I return you many thanks. I hope I shall not be unmindful of you to implore Almighty God to prosper you in your journey. If it was in my power I would do you any service. I have a nephew, my own sister's son, Daniel Bentley of Bradford by name, student in St John's Colledge, who will commence Batchelour next Christmass: if you will give your selfe the trouble to enquire of him and give my respects to him, tell him from me that I desire him to waite on you or your son to do you

<sup>1</sup> The proposed *Homilies of Aelfric*, which did not reach publication. The Rev. William Elstob died 3rd March, 1715.

<sup>2</sup> He did, and in very plain terms as regards Sturt and Nutt, in a letter dated 10th May. There are two or three other letters from him about the business, written in a similar strain (see p. 232, *post*).

<sup>3</sup> Simon Segar (see p. 220, *ante*).

<sup>4</sup> Curate of Lightcliffe. The letter refers to Thoresby's intended journey to place his son at Cambridge.

any service that lies in his power, and spend twelve pence with him and I will be accountable to you for it. I wou'd have sent it enclos'd but that I cou'd not tell whether you wou'd be gone or no, because you did not mention any time in your letter. I suppose if you go about the beginning of July 'twill be soon enough for that term, for my nephew went then abouts, who is an excellent scolar of his standing and I hope very sober and studious; I have scarce known his fellow so young, I think he is but 20 or 21 in July next, but of very pregnant parts, if it please God to endow him with supernatural gifts, which both for him and your son is the earnest desire of, Sr,

Your affectionate friend,

JON : WRIGHT.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby, in Kirkgate, Leeds, present.")

FROM MR. ROBERT DALE, SUFFOLK HERALD.

College of Arms, London, 28 Maii, 1715.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

I hope this will meet you and your son safely arrived at Cambridge, where I wish him well settled to your satisfaction, assuring you, so far as my interest (by Mr. Wasse) may be of advantage to him, he shall not want any service I can do him, either there or with respect to his future advancement elsewhere, tho' at present matters don't go very favourable to me, as you'l be more particularly inform'd when we meet, for notwithstanding I ought in regard of an inviolable friendship extreamly to rejoyce any occasion should make me happy in the enjoyment of your company and give me an opportunity of acknowledging your many repeated kindnesses so readily conferr'd, yet I must at the same time very affectionately regret your coming to so little purpose, as I fear 'twill prove, from the success I apprehend you may have with Nutt and the rest of that villainous crew,<sup>1</sup> concerning whom it's difficult to determine which is the worst; however to say no more on

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Dale had exerted himself actively in the troubles between Thoresby and Nutt and Atkins respecting the printing and publishing of the *Ducatus*, sometimes bearing himself more warmly in Thoresby's interests than even Thoresby himself approved (see *Diary*, ii, 225 *et seq.*).



such a disagreeable theme (the subject being inexhaustible) I think my self obliged before I conclude to assure you of an hearty welcom either at my appartments or your old lodgings (whereto the enclos'd likewise envites you)<sup>1</sup> whether you may find most suitable to your convenience, hoping you can't doubt the sincerity of,

Sr,

Your most faithful humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

ROB. DALE.

(Addressed merely "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby these.")

FROM RALPH THORESBY THE YOUNGER.<sup>2</sup>

Queen's Colledge, Cam : 25 June, 1715.

DEAR FATHER,

Now being a little more at leasure, I shall give you an account of my present condition, which as to the victuals I am well contented with. I can have milk,<sup>3</sup> indeed 'tis not very good, but present pay twice ev'ry day; at noon I din'd in the hall (where all was very civil), got pease and cheese, but I'm sadly straitened because Mr. Bently has got a school-master's place at Willingham, and upon that account is oblig'd to leave the Colledge, so cannot get the surpluss<sup>4</sup> or the bed at present, for I know not the gentleman's name of whom you bo<sup>t</sup> the bed, but lay my sheets upon Mr. Briscal's (he in the next room) bed, who now has the gate-keeper office. Dr James (who except you write about it will forget his promise) is very weak; the other day his death was expected, but now he recovers. I got well hither, tho' the ways are bad; in one place, I think on this side (? Donebridge)<sup>5</sup> the coachman was

<sup>1</sup> Thoresby, however, seems to have been staying during this visit at the "Black Boy" in Fleet Street.

<sup>2</sup> Thoresby's elder son, just entered at Cambridge. From this letter it would appear that he had travelled *via* London, and that Thoresby had accompanied him there, about the end of May. The elder Thoresby remained in town until August.

<sup>3</sup> In 1708, Thoresby wrote to Archbishop Sharp that his elder boy "could never eat flesh meat since he was born, lives wholly upon milk, etc." (*Correspondence*, ii, 132).

<sup>4</sup> *i.e.* surplice. See Mr. Langwith's letter, page 223, *ante*.

<sup>5</sup> An alteration in the initial letter makes this word uncertain.



forc'd to light and weigh on one side least the coach should be overturn'd, yet escap'd blessed be God. I paid 3<sup>s</sup> dues to the Colledge, must buy chairs and table, and a great many other things. I writ this day Mr. Bently, expect an answer on Monday, so then I hope the bed will be conducted safe to

Your dutiful obedient Son,

R. THORESBY.

Pray give my service to Mr. Dale's and Mr. Collins' family. I hope you've rece<sup>d</sup> the prayer book.

(Addressed "For Mr. Thoresby at Mr. Collins, bookseller, over against St Dunstan's Church near Temple Bar, London.")

FROM ALDERMAN WILLIAM COOKSON.<sup>1</sup>

Leeds, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1715.<sup>2</sup>

DEAR COZ,

You'l be surprised to hear the news that Mr. Mayor is sent for up by a messenger and this day setting forward. Your good opposite neighbour and his associates are the occasion of this, Mr. Sleigh<sup>3</sup> and Mr. Ormrod, the aulnager,<sup>4</sup> are likewise sent for. It's a great surprise here, and you may find in Sr A. Kay's hands a faitfull (*sic*) acc<sup>t</sup> of the transaction of that night.<sup>5</sup> I hope (as you have opportunity to see persons

<sup>1</sup> Alderman Cookson, Mayor of Leeds in 1712. His autograph appears in Thoresby's Album under the motto "Utile dulci."

<sup>2</sup> This letter is bound up with the letters of June, 1710. The last figure of the year is rather indistinct, but we know that Thoresby was not in London in June, 1710. The figure most resembles 6, but Thoresby does not appear to have been in London in June, 1716. The real date was no doubt 1715, when we know that Thoresby was staying in London.

<sup>3</sup> Hugh Sleigh, the attorney who caused Thoresby to be arrested in December, 1709 (see *Diary*, ii, 56). Thoresby gives some particulars of his family in the *Ducatus*, p. 581. He placed his signature in Thoresby's Album on 30th March, 1704, with the motto "Medio tutissimus ibis."

<sup>4</sup> The Aulnager or Alnager was an officer appointed to examine and certify the quality and measurements of woollen goods. The office, however, had been abolished in the reign of William III; possibly Mr. Ormrod was a surviving aulnager.

<sup>5</sup> It would be of interest to know to what affair this letter alludes, and why Mr. Mayor and the others were summoned to London; but unfortunately Thoresby's diary for 1715 is wanting. Have we a hint in the Rev. N. Hough's letter to Thoresby of the 1st February, 1716 (*Correspondence*, ii, 332), which contains a remark "I am vexed to the heart that such a Protestant and a trading place as Leeds should be so deeply tinged with Jacobitism which we may now call Papism in effect"? The writer (who apparently

of distinction as much as any man) you'll take all occasions to acquit your native and injured town from the villainous aspersions that are sent up. A line from you will much oblige

Your verry affectionate kinsman,

W<sup>M</sup> COOKSON.

Your family is well and my coz.<sup>1</sup> writes you this post.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby att Mr. Collins' near Temple Barr, London.")

FROM BENJAMIN BAYNES, OXFORD.<sup>2</sup>

GOOD MR. THORESBY,

The Master of Univ: College<sup>3</sup> transmitted your letter to me who am Fellow of the said College, in order that I might doe what he, had he been here, would have readily done,—assist you in the disposal of your books to your Oxford subscribers. The best acct and directions I can give concerning them are these: of your subscribers Mr. Chambers is dead, my Lord Fairfax is gone from the University but I beleive may be found in London; B<sup>p</sup> Potter, Mr. Clavering and Mr. Ibettson are in town, the two last may be heard of at Lambeth and can tell you where the first is; Mr. Cav. Nevile is in Derbyshire at his Vicarage of Norton near Shefeild in Yorkshire, and Mr. Richardson, if it is he of our College you mean, for there are others of that name in the University, is with his father, and will continue with him for two months at his house near Bradford in Yorkshire<sup>4</sup>: by the help of these directions you may send their books to most of these gentlemen, but if you will be pleas'd to send by either of the Oxford waggons which come from the Oxford Arms in Warwick-lane the books

hopes to counteract these deplorable tendencies by sending a number of his own sermons for distribution) goes on to hint that Alderman Milner and even Thoresby himself were suspected of disaffection by the authorities. Thoresby, of course, indignantly denied the charge. Alderman Cookson had himself recently been imprisoned for several months,—possibly under a similar suspicion.

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Thoresby. Mr. Cookson's wife was a cousin of Thoresby's.

<sup>2</sup> Of University College, M.A.

<sup>3</sup> Arthur Charlett, D.D., whose surname Thoresby gives as "Charlotte" in his list of subscribers.

<sup>4</sup> The names of all the above gentlemen will be found in the list of subscribers printed in the *Ducatus*. Mr. John Richardson was a son of William Richardson of High Fernley, Birstal, and a nephew of Dr. Richardson of Bierley.



for Dr Adams, Dr Charlet, Dr Hudson, Mr. Dyer, Univ: Queens, and Lincoln College Libraries, with what I must receive for the 2<sup>nd</sup> payment, I will endeavour to get and then transmit the money to you with all care.

I am, Sr,

Your affectionate friend and countryman,<sup>1</sup>

BENJ: BAYNES.

Univ: Coll:

July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1715.

(The address-sheet has disappeared.)

FROM MR. PEIRCE TEMPEST.<sup>2</sup>

August the 1<sup>st</sup>, 1715.

SR,

I understand you are delivering out your books to the subscribers. I pray be soe kinde to give order that I may have mine. I subscrib'd the 20<sup>s</sup> to Mr. Atkins for I did it purely on your acct. I will call at Mr. Collins' tomorrow. You will oblige

Your humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

PEIRCE TEMPEST.

(Addressed "For Ralph Thoresby, Esq., at the Black Boy in Fleet Street.")

FROM THE REV. JOHN HARDY.<sup>3</sup>

SIR,

Your last letter coming from Leeds perfectly surprised me, for I had been told by several you were yet at London, else had I, long before this, writ to you and shewn you that indeed I am none of the least admirers of your book. Whether you will allow it a proof of this I know not when I confess to you I have not as yet been able to read any more of it than the account of your own Museum, which affords me abundant instruction and pleasure; but 'tis such as will, I fear, hereafter make me more troublesome than ever I was before

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Baynes was a Wakefield man.

<sup>2</sup> Youngest son of Henry Tempest of Tong Hall, and brother of Sir John Tempest. He was a bookseller and engraver in London.

<sup>3</sup> There is a short account of Mr. Hardy in the *Diary*, ii, 190.



when I come again to visit that Treasury of various Art and Learning.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Disney would gladly partake of the entertainment did his health and publick employ permit. You will very much oblige that worthy gentleman as well as me, Sir, if when you write to Mr. Hearn you please to tell him that Mr. Disney will give order about the *Collectanea*<sup>2</sup> in a little time. To him I have transfer'd my right in those books. As to the ninth volume of the *Itinerary*, I shall esteem it a very high favour if you will let me have one of your 3 copys, which I know not how otherwise to procure. And indeed were it not for the difficulty of conveyance of the money and procurement of the book, I shou'd desire to be admitted a subscriber for *Joan. Ross*, the larger paper.

I sincerely join with you in the just sense you entertain of Divine Mercy appearing in our national deliverance.

I am, Your real fr. and humble service (*sic*),

Nottingham,

J. HARDY.

. . . . . 7, 1715.<sup>3</sup>

(Addressed "For Ralph Thoresby Esq<sup>r</sup> at Leeds in Yorkshire this. Post pd. 3<sup>d</sup>.")

# FROM MR. JONATHAN PRIESTLEY.

Winteredge, Aug. the 22<sup>d</sup>, 1715.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I received yours, which gives me notice your book is come, which I now send for by Jeremy Baxter who will pay you for it, but it is so long since I cannot very well tell what I have to pay, but you will take what is right and what others pay. You have had a tedious and I doubt a tiresome peice of work of it, but am glad you have confuted the censures of your enemys, who would needs say your book would never come. I have one request more, that you will please to

<sup>1</sup> Thoresby records that he was showing the collections to Mr. Hardy and some fellow-travellers on May 28th, 1713.

<sup>2</sup> The three works published by Thomas Hearne referred to by Mr. Hardy are Leland's *Collectanea* and *Itinerary* and John Ross' *History of the Kings of England*.

<sup>3</sup> The month is obliterated by the seal,

lend me and send with it Dr Sampson's Historicall Manuscripts ; I do not mean those about a history he intended to compile, but his observations<sup>1</sup> ; they shall be carefully return'd. I think I should have your receipt for this latter payment in full, which with my service to you is all at present from

Your cordial friend and humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

JONATHAN PRIESTLEY.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby in Leeds these are.")

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FROM MR. BARWICK FAIRFAX.

Gunthwait, Aug. the 22<sup>th</sup>, 1715.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I had the favour of yours, being very glad to hear that the long look'd for is now at the service of the subscribers, designing to insert in that for my selfe severall cuts for the honour of our Country. I wish Mr. Bosseville hereof<sup>2</sup> (whose uncle left him a great estate and a fine library) had one of the same : the first of this name came in with William the Conqueror, which long descent gives him an antient pedigree ; considering your extraordinary pains to oblige the world with many things hidden from us, I reckon you will trouble your selfe noe farther upon this subject. I shall not returne till Munday fortnight, and [you] then shall hear further from me. Was you at London and saw my L<sup>d</sup><sup>3</sup> since I was with you ? If soe, did he talke of coming down ? I hope Denton and Askwith will be sav'd.<sup>4</sup> When he has settled his troublesome affairs, making Denton his residence, I wou'd have you two very well acquainted, which time I long to see. If you write to me before Munday aforesaid, direct per Doncaster bagg. This month I did write to you but yours mentions nothing theirop. The prospect of Scarborough will make a good figure in your book tho' the sculpture by Kip is course—he has a

<sup>1</sup> No doubt Dr. Sampson's notes alluded to at p. 84, *ante*. As there stated, Thoresby made large extracts from them, some of which were printed in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1851.

<sup>2</sup> William Bosville, who had inherited the Gunthwaite estate of his uncle Godfrey Bosville in the previous year. He died in 1724. There is an account of the Bosviles of Gunthwaite in Hunter's *South Yorkshire*, ii, 345.

<sup>3</sup> Thomas, sixth Lord Fairfax.

<sup>4</sup> The fifth Lord Fairfax had died in 1710 so heavily in debt that his Yorkshire estates had to be sold.

heavy hand, but David Loggan<sup>1</sup> did to admiration. You may possibly call to mind wherein [I] may be serviceable to you in these partes.

Sr, Your humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

BAR: FX.

(The address-sheet is detached.)

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FROM MR. ROBERT DALE.

College of Arms, Lond: 25<sup>th</sup> Aug: 1715.

DEAR SR,

You've heard that Sr Henry St George<sup>2</sup> died the 12<sup>th</sup> Inst at a quarter before six in the evening, and was buried at St Benet's this day sen'night at about ten at night, where your friends Mr. Anstis (who took possession of the house an hour after his decease)<sup>3</sup> and humble servant attended the solemnity of his interment, being envited as ghests, to the no little dissatisfaction of the Officers of Arms, as was evident by Sr Van's<sup>4</sup> and Van Step-in's non-appearance, who thereby lost their rings of 20<sup>s</sup> value, gloves, and hatbands.

The new Garter will have all possible opposition against the Queen's Patent, but I believe may support it against the pretender and his adherents.

Dr Smith is dead, therefore your letter to him about the books was by me reserv'd, as I had sooner told you if the other momentous affair would have allow'd leisure: what you will now do in that matter is beyond my skill to guess or advise, tho' any measures shall be pursued you think expedient to direct, if I can be serviceable therein.

S.S. Esq<sup>r</sup><sup>5</sup> your neighbour, author, and adept in the science of heraldry, hath by letter address'd to Mr. Garter [applied?] for the post of Amanuensis, but his extraordinary qualifications are too apparent to insure any success; what shall we say where such transcendent merit finds no regard! Alass, your

<sup>1</sup> A well-known engraver, a native of Dantzic, who engraved the "Oxonia Illustrata" and "Cantabrigia Illustrata." He died about 1700.

<sup>2</sup> Garter King-at-Arms.

<sup>3</sup> See p. 245, *post*. It would appear from Mr. Dale's statements above that Anstis was not in prison at the time of St. George's death, as stated in the *Dict. Nat. Biog*.

<sup>4</sup> See p. 245, *post*.

<sup>5</sup> Simon Segar,



interest and mine too combined will not avail him! How shall we answer it?

I am glad to hear of your safe arrival at Leeds, after the fatigue of a journey so hazzardous, and hope you'll credit me when I tell you no ceremony was wanting in your abrupt departure, but it was some sensible regret to me so unexpectedly to lose your most agreeable conversation. As to the pedigree of Archb<sup>p</sup> Matthews, be pleas'd at your first conveniency to send me only the two last descents (as in the original) with the attestation or subscription, and then I shall the better be enabled to propose how the whole may be fitly certified for my purpose.

Till further order, pray convey your letters under cover superscribed to William Shippen, Esq<sup>r</sup> (a Member of Parliament), at his house in Norfolk Street, London, and let Mr. Bland (to whom pray render my due respects) have like notice from,

Sr,

Your most affectionate and obliged humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

ROB. DALE.

Mr. Capps presents you with his humble service, and begs you to remember the recipe for the head-ache.

Your letter went directly to Qu : Coll : where I hope the young gentleman is in good health.<sup>1</sup>

(Addressed and franked "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby, at his house in Leeds, Yorkshire, these. G. Lawson, frank.")

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

Epiph. Day, 1714.

S<sup>R</sup>,

Since I writ to you, I have had a most violent fall which hath shaken my sound constitution and allmost made me a criple, as you may guess by my way of scrawling and characters.<sup>2</sup> I have read over your book,<sup>3</sup> and soe have many good scholars to whom I have lent it: they admire your industry and care, and doe wonder at your pains and labour. I have

<sup>1</sup> Thoresby's son.

<sup>2</sup> The letter is written in a very shaky hand.

<sup>3</sup> The *Ducatus*.

many autogr[aphs] for you, which I will bring with me in May. I am heart-whole, but old and very clumsy; I eat and drink little . . . . . I still want one vol. of Lealand,<sup>1</sup> which Mr. Cavendish Nevill, you say, had for me. I have not been on horse back for many months; I stir little abroad. I have fitted up the prettiest library you ever saw, and full of good books. I pray let mee heare from you; the Manchester post comes this way—3<sup>d</sup> brings a letter. My service to Mrs. Thoresby and all yours. Forget me not to all my fr<sup>ds</sup>. Give the inclosed, I pray, to the bright angell of St John's,<sup>2</sup> though some call him a firebrand: my service to that luminary; I am his and,

Dr Sr,

Yours.<sup>3</sup>

(Addressed "This for Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds, in Kirkgate.")

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FROM MR. JAMES MICKLETON.<sup>4</sup>

MY GOOD FRIEND,

Some time agoe I subscribed for your Antiquities of Leeds when the book was in the press, but I have not yet got it as I find some of our friends have, that I must desire you'll let me know by the returne of the post who to apply to, for I must have it to adorne my study. I often, Sir, remember you with our good friends Mr. Garter and Mr. Wanley,<sup>5</sup> and this summer, as I designe for the north, I will make it my business and a journey on purpose to see you at Leeds.

I am, Sr,

Your faithfull, humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

Gray's Inne,

JAS. MICKLETON.

1 May, 1716.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby, at his house in Leeds, Yorkshire, these.")

<sup>1</sup> Hearne's edition of Leland.

<sup>2</sup> Interlined "Mr. Lodge"—I am not certain whether by Mr. Plaxton or Thoresby.

<sup>3</sup> The letter is not signed.

<sup>4</sup> Of Furnival's Inn. "Was to visit Mr. Mickleton of Furnival's Inn, who showed me many volumes of valuable MSS. collected by his grandfather, relating to the Bishopric of Durham" (*Diary*, 1 July, 1712).

<sup>5</sup> John Anstis, and Humphrey Wanley librarian at the Harley Library.

FROM THE BISHOP OF CARLISLE.<sup>1</sup>Westm<sup>r</sup>, May 19, 1716.DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

Last night's post brought me your letter, with the beautiful creeping-stone (from Minorca) in its seal,<sup>2</sup> as mine, on this, brings you a couple of King George's pence. The most valuable present that you could make to me is the divine hymn compos'd by (my late dearest friend) Chanc<sup>r</sup> Pearson.<sup>3</sup> 'Tis a lively picture of that good soul, which is now in possession of its wishes. I see nothing that needs correction in your copy, saving that for *doom* I think we ought to read *doom'st*. The printed paper which you mention was penn'd by the same hand, but not publish'd by his order, tho' (upon his communicateing of it to me in MS.) I advis'd its being immediately sent to the press. A too modest diffidence in himself was the chief frailty that I ever observ'd in him.

My Lord of York is a very wise and worthy prelate,<sup>4</sup> and I am heartily glad to hear of the general good opinion that you all have of his Grace. My being to preach in the Royal Chappel tomorrow frees you from a more tedious trouble at present by

Your ever oblig'd serv<sup>t</sup>,

W. CARLIOL.

(The address-sheet is detached.)

FROM MR. GEORGE EDWARDS.<sup>5</sup>S<sup>R</sup>,

By order of Mrs. Newborough (who was Mr. Atkins's mother) I inform you that Mr. Nutt, after a tedious sickness,

<sup>1</sup> With one exception, this is the latest letter from Bishop Nicolson preserved in the collection. In Thoresby's latter years the correspondence seems to have languished; on July 22nd, 1724, he wrote to Dr. Nicolson (who had then become Bishop of Derry), mentioning that he had not received a letter from him for more than three years.

<sup>2</sup> Some kind of fossil. When letters were still sealed it was not unusual to enclose some small article in the wax. Sir George Trevelyan mentions that when he was at Harrow, Lord Macaulay occasionally sent him gold coins in that manner.

<sup>3</sup> Rector of Bolton Percy. He died in 1716.

<sup>4</sup> Sir William Dawes, who succeeded to the Archbishopric on the death of Dr. Sharp, Thoresby's friend, in 1714.

<sup>5</sup> George Edwards engraved the sheet of coins in the *Ducatus* (see Atkinson's *Ralph Thoresby*, ii, 251).



is now dead, and buried on the 27<sup>th</sup> of this instant,<sup>1</sup> without coming to any reckning amongst all of us, as well engravers as printers of your book of Leeds. The mony being left in his hands, they intend to pay themselves first, which is contrary to our agreement, so that our debts are become desperate. Mrs. Newborough desires to know what mony you have paid Mr. Nut and what remains in your hands. I desire that if you have occation for any more books you would send to me for them, which will very much oblieg your humble servant,

GEORGE EDWARDS.

Mary-bone, May 29, 1716.

Direct for Mrs. Newborough at Mr. John Morphew's near Stationers' Hall, London.

(The address-sheet is detached.)

FROM MR. BARWICK FAIRFAX.

May the last, 1716.

S<sup>R</sup>,

In your last letter you told me that you design'd for York, and wou'd have my company to Bramham and Headley: tomorrow the late Lord Mayor is expected at Newton, where perhaps he may stay till Munday or Tuesday; cou'd not you stay soe long at Tadcaster to make him a visit and hear the ingenious Mr. Gyrling<sup>2</sup> next Sunday? If soe, well and good; if not, as soon as fair weather setts in I shall goe for Harragate. I cannot think of my L<sup>d</sup> Fx's hard fate without being heartily vexed. The Virginia estate wou'd have set things right again, and put money in his mother's pocket for the younger sons. She may call her selfe Jew, Barbarian, or Sythe-an, as void of natural affection, vile woman!<sup>3</sup> When it comes

<sup>1</sup> The printer and bookseller. It may be inferred from the entries in the *Diary* that his habits had not been very healthy. There is a note from his son addressed to Thoresby when the latter was in London in August, 1715: "I left my father at the 3 Tun Tavern, in Newgate Street, at two a'clock, where he design'd to stay about an hour; he'll be there again at 4 a'clock, and would be glad to see you if it suites with your conveniency this afternoon."

<sup>2</sup> Vicar of Tadcaster.

<sup>3</sup> As has been previously mentioned, Thomas, fifth Lord Fairfax, died heavily in debt in 1710, and his Yorkshire estates were sold to clear off liabilities. His wife was Catherine, daughter and heiress of Thomas, Lord Culpepper,

to him by her death, I doe not question but that he will get above £30,000 for it: their's (*sic*) both a fine corne country (that tract of land between the rivers Rapahanok and Patomok) and fine woods of stately oaks. At our meeting I will give you a strange account of a swarm of bees; it will prove that nature has endued them with a most exquisite sence of smelling; the accident happened at Mr. Clapham's of Newton, about 4 years agoe. I am just now told by the parson that my cousin Fx. comes not to Newton till next Munday. I am, Sr,

Your humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

BAR: FX.

(The address-sheet has been detached.)

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FROM MR. ROBERT DALE.

College of Arms, Lond: 14 Jun: 1716.

MY GOOD FRIEND,

I left your letter on Monday last for Mr. Collins (who was expected in town the next day), and have deferr'd acknowledging your favours till now, in hopes of seeing him, as I desir'd to take the 10<sup>s</sup> you order'd along with the other money to the surley Savoyard: permit me therefore now to declare my due sence of your signal kindness to myself and client, who will not let your service be either forgotten or unrewarded, tho' the use it was to her scarce requir'd half so much trouble; however, she resolv'd to comply with all the unreasonable terms they put upon her, and at a proper time expose both the ignorance and malice of their unnecessary scruples as well as folly, owing to an implacable prejudice against me or any of my friends, so that you need not wonder why these silly wretches are so inveterately bent to discredit

of Leeds Castle, Kent, who is the lady so politely alluded to in the letter above. She brought into the Fairfax family the great American estate, on which her son, the sixth Lord Fairfax, ultimately settled, which Mr. Barwick Fairfax describes. Apparently he, and probably the other Fairfaxes, not unnaturally thought that the American land ought to have been sold, and the ancient property of the Fairfaxes in Yorkshire retained. In another letter to Thoresby, undated, he remarks "the loss of D— (Denton) is wholly owing to a wilfull hard-hearted woman; the selling of that in Virginia would have redeem'd all and put money in her pocket." Considering the very long connection of the family with Yorkshire, it is difficult not to sympathise with his view,



your authority, either as to your book or the attestation,<sup>1</sup> which if they should question (as possibly they may) can only turn to their own shame and contempt. We've battled every frivolous exception and carried every point save the allowance of the crest; that is to be our last combat, nor do I doubt of coming off victoriously, it being entred for a younger (but illegitimate) branch of the family, in regard there are many precedents to support my opinion. They were forced to permit the words "Lords of Oglethorp" to stand in the title of the pedigree and to desist from inserting "Lords of the Mannor of Oglethorp" by an irrefragable argument drawn out of Domesday Book, which gave me a fair opportunity of doing some honor to the family: in short, I may freely tell you none of their attempts have turn'd to my disadvantage, but rather improv'd the value of your recommendation in the esteem of the lady,<sup>2</sup> who is pretty sensible the collective body of these blunderbusses were unable to have set out (much less illustrated) the long series of her famous ancestors, agreeable to truth or justice; for I've clearly retriev'd the arms of Bridesal (whose heiress was married to Mallory as early as the beginning of K. Hen. 3 reign) and the coat of Mallory to whose coheir they matched before the end of that King,<sup>3</sup> as also fix'd the marriage to the most noble family of Manners,<sup>4</sup> *temp.* Hen. 7, beyond

<sup>1</sup> This letter illustrates the jealousies and squabbling prevalent at the time at Heralds' College; the "silly wretches" and "blunderbusses" were certain colleagues of Mr. Dale's there; the chief cause of the trouble existing was with reference to the office of Garter King-at-Arms. Some years before, John Anstis had obtained from Queen Anne a patent for the reversion of the post on the death of Henry St. George, then Garter. When St. George died, however, in 1715, Anstis was under accusation of favouring the Pretender, and Sir John Vanbrugh was appointed. When Anstis was acquitted, he at once asserted his claim to the post, and finally obtained a decision in his favour in 1718. Dale evidently favoured the claim of Anstis. As to the attestation he mentions, he had asked Thoresby to obtain from the Registers of Bramham extracts of various Oglethorpe baptisms and burials, and to make a Declaration that such extracts were all made by the Vicar of Bramham.

<sup>2</sup> The lady who was Mr. Dale's client—recommended to him by Thoresby—was Anne Henrietta Oglethorpe, sister of Theophilus Oglethorpe (see *ante*, p. 150). She and her sisters were a good deal mixed up in the Stuart intrigues of the early part of the reign of George I. Much will be found about them in the King's Stuart papers, published by the Historical MSS. Commission.

<sup>3</sup> Sarah, daughter and heir of Robert de Birdsall, married Anketin Mallory, who died between 1279 and 1282. Nicholas de Oglethorpe married Nichola, daughter and eventually coheir of Anketin.

<sup>4</sup> Raine in his pedigree of the Manners family (*North Durham*, p. 212) gives no alliance with Oglethorpe, but Sir Robert Manners, who died 1461, married Joan, daughter of Sir Robert Ogle.



any future cavils, and thereby can deduce an alliance in blood or lineal descent from the Kings of England, France, &c., Dukes of Savoy, Kings of Scots, and most of the old Nobility at home and abroad; besides which, my client's maternal pedigree as I transmitted it to Ireland, will derive her in a direct line from K. Edw. I, and many of the prime noblemen of both kingdoms<sup>1</sup>: judge you then, Sr, whether Mrs. Oglethorp must not think herself highly obliged to you in this matter, over and above the pains you've taken for her. Nevertheless, it might have been wish'd you had visited the Mansion House at Oglethorp as was intimated, for discovering what antiquities remain'd there—the single omission I need regret, altho' perhaps 'tis of small consequence, since we shall otherwise complete the business to satisfaction.

Mrs. Anstis was this morning brought to bed of a daughter; the lodgings are fitting up at the office, for Mr. Garter, and they design to remove hither, which I presume will the more speedily put an end to the unaccountable (or rather illegal) usage he has hitherto met withal; but as he's prepared against the utmost opposition, what they've yet given him is so far from discouraging him that he will speedily act offensively, and do's not doubt of surmounting all difficulties.

My humble service waits on you, your son, and our other friends not particulariz'd, very respectfully, as becomes,

Dear Sr,

Your most affectionate and obliged humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

ROB. DALE.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby, at his house in Leeds, Yorkshire, these.")

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FROM PETER MAUDUIT.<sup>2</sup>

S<sup>R</sup>,

In behalf of Madam Oglethorpe, I make bold to trouble you with these lines, that, if possible you can, to get the crest of Oglethorp of Oglethorpe, which hath been an omission in that family's entring it with us, though I cannot doubt but,

<sup>1</sup> Sir Theophilus Oglethorpe, father of the lady named above, married a daughter of Richard Wall, who was maternally descended from the Eure and Campbell families.

<sup>2</sup> Windsor Herald.

that family for a long time having been of consideration, had that ornament added to their arms, and if you get it I desire you would transmit it to me with what expedition you can and with as good authority as you can likewise get.

And if it prove not to[o] much trouble, I shall desire a further favour, which is the arms of Lepington of Hodmanby in Yorkshr. They are entred with out arms in the visitation of Yorkshr. made *anno* 1612. Likewise I find them a Lincolnshr. family more antient, and their heir marryed to Sibsay of Lincolnshr., and in that family a blanke is left for the quartering of Lepington. Excuse this trouble, and if in anything I can serve you here in the College of Arms you may freely command, Sr,

Your most humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

London, 23 June, 1716.

PEERS MAUDUIT.

(Addressed "To Ralp Thoresby, Esq<sup>r</sup>, at Leeds in Yorkeshire.")

FROM THE REV. GEORGE PLAXTON.

Sept. 6, 1716.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

Yours came safe about 14 days ago, and brought me the wellcome newse of your health, and family. I love a letter from R. Thoresby; it has allways enough in it worth the postage. I know not what witchcraft and charms bind my affection to your town; the newse of a flourishing t[r]ade at Leeds makes me pert and easy under my pains<sup>1</sup>: to talk of Lodge, R. Thoresby, Jo: Cookson, nay, even of *Nemine Contradicente*<sup>2</sup> is very refreshing to me; Jacob Symson and his eye water are comfortable to me, but the Alderman of Newgate<sup>3</sup> and his family's health and his liberty, are like a dissart (*sic*) of sweetmeats to me, comfort the stomach and help digestion. His good brother, Mr. John Cookson, lay here on Tuesday night; he is hearty, you may expect him in your burrough very shortly; he is upon the mony round and getting in his grocerys harvest.<sup>4</sup> My service to all our friends with you.

<sup>1</sup> The letter is written in a very feeble hand.

<sup>2</sup> I cannot suggest to whom this name refers.

<sup>3</sup> William Cookson, who had recently been imprisoned in Newgate (see *ante*, p. 235).

<sup>4</sup> Mr. John Cookson was a grocer in London.

I am ready to do all the poor services I can to the memory of my old fr<sup>d</sup> Mr. John Killingbeck, but I want to know how long he was at Linn,<sup>1</sup> how long at Leeds, when it was he dyed, the day, month and yeare—whether his inscription will be on brasse or marble, with such other remarks as you judge proper for me: forget not his age.<sup>2</sup> I long to see you; make me as easy as you can by your frequent letters. I am sure your industrious penn will send me some novelty. To yours all happynes, and many years of health to yourself.

I am, Deare S<sup>r</sup>,

Mutch at your service,

G. PL.<sup>3</sup>

(Addressed "This for Mr. Ralph Thoresby at Leeds, in Kirkgate.")

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FROM MR. HENRY NEWMAN.<sup>4</sup>

Mid. Temple, 8 Oct<sup>r</sup>, 1716.

DEAR S<sup>R</sup>,

I am oblig'd to good Mr. Foxcroft for this opportunity of saluting you and of thanking you for all your favours. I rec<sup>d</sup> long since your very kind letter containing some memoirs of my grandfather,<sup>5</sup> for which I am particularly oblig'd to you, and wish I could make any suitable return for it.

Your packet from the Society is either gone or will speedily be sent by the carrier. All your fr<sup>ds</sup> that I have the honour of knowing are in health, God be praised, particularly Mr. Chamberlayne, Sir John Philipps, Mr. Dolins, Mr. Shute, etc.

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Killingbeck was at King's Lynn before he was appointed Vicar of Leeds.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Killingbeck's epitaph was written by Mr. Plaxton.

<sup>3</sup> This is the last fully-dated letter from Mr. Plaxton in the volume of his letters to Thoresby, held by the Yorkshire Arch. Society,—with one exception, a letter evidently written from Trentham containing a long account of a robbery and assault on Mr. Williams, the Dowager Lady Gower's chaplain, and of other crimes of the assailant, with practically no other news. This letter is dated November 26, 1716. According to Thomas Hearne, Mr. Plaxton died about 1720, having spent his last years chiefly at Trentham, the seat of the Gowers, to whom he owed his advancement in life. See the *History of Barwick-in-Elmet* (Thoresby Society, vol. xvii), p. 74.

<sup>4</sup> Secretary of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, of which Thoresby had been elected a "corresponding member" in 1712.

<sup>5</sup> Samuel Newman of Howley Hall, author of the *Cambridge Concordance* (see *Ducatus*, p. 626).



The messenger stays for this, so that I can add little news, only that the Protestant missionarys in India, though they were heretofore very much obstructed in their proceedings, by the Govern<sup>ors</sup>, are now very much carress'd both by the British and Danish Governours, who seem to contend who shall most assist them.

The Trustees of the Charity Schools in London had a gen<sup>l</sup> meeting last week, and upon information of some masters that were disaffected to the King and Governm<sup>t</sup>, they discharged three and voted them incapable of ever teaching school again. You will see by the enclosed what care the Society have taken to keep up a loyal spirit among teachers and schollars. God grant they may have a good effect.

You will receive copys of these in your packet, but I hope these may come to your hands sooner.

I refer you to the prints for pub. news, only I can't help telling you that there seems to be an ample prospect of future happiness to these unthankfull kingdoms, from the excellent administration of our wise and august King in the success of his councils both at home and abroad.

Pray give my humble service to Mr. Robinson; I hope ere long to write to him; and be assur'd I am,

Dear Sr,

Your most humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

HENRY NEWMAN.

(No address on the sheet.)

FROM THE REV. JOSEPH SAGER.<sup>1</sup>

Wakefield, Oct. 13, 1716.

SIR,

I return you a great many thanks for the lent (*sic*) of your valuable manuscript, which has given me an opportunity of making several very material alterations in one of the finest Christian writers we have. I designed to have made some atonem<sup>t</sup> for detaining it so long, by doing a piece of publick justice, but I am disappointed in these intentions by the assurances that I have lately receiv'd from Cambridge of an edition of Lactantius's works being now in the press, which I am verily

<sup>1</sup> Nonconformist minister.

to injoy your company at Leeds long before that time. Mr. Milner's family were all well when I dined there last week, and I think the third daughter one of the handsomest young ladys I have seen a long time.<sup>1</sup> What a sad thing it is to be a walking antiquity; if your humble serv<sup>t</sup> and most grave companion was not one of that number, I could like a sceen or two of adress as well as any of the younger brother hood. Mr. Milner is expected this week. I hartily wish him a good journy, and if I cann here be any ways servisable to Mr. Thoresby he may always command his faithfull freind and serv<sup>t</sup>,

JOHN BOULTER.

Love and servis to your lady and famyly and all freinds.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby, in Leeds, Yorkesh<sup>r</sup>.")

FROM MR. ARTHUR COLLINS.

May the 12<sup>th</sup>, 1715.

S<sup>R</sup>,

Since the receipt of yours I have visited both Mr. Sturt and Mr. Nutt; the former absolutely refuses to deliver the plates, and the latter will not be at the charge of the 50 as you desired: I shall very willingly send paper and pay the charge of printing them if you think fitt to make such concession to them, but can't pretend to have the first 50 work't off when the plates are not in my power. Mr. Nutt tells me Sturt won't deliver the plates because I can't deliver up the note he gave you, but he never mention'd any thing of it to me, but now makes it as an excuse in order (I suppose) to print off the 750 before you can return it me. Mr. Chamberlain's *State of England* will not be published this 2 months, and I can give no information of the Lord's Prayer in 200 languages, having not yet seen Mr. Newman.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Elstob is

<sup>1</sup> If the order of the Milner daughters given in the pedigree in the *Ducatus* is correct, this was Elizabeth Milner, who married William Cotton of Crake-marsh, Staffordshire.

<sup>2</sup> Thoresby's friend, John Chamberlain of Westminster (see *ante*, p. 192). As to his design to print the Lord's Prayer in 200 languages, see the *Diary*, ii, 220. Mr. Newman was Secretary of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

durst not defer it longer because you charg'd me to write the first post. I am sensible I mistook the date; I arriv'd at Cambridge the Tuesday in the afternoon after I begun my journey. You have heard from my tutour of his mistake: he is very civil to me, he has lent me his globe, so that by the assistance of another student I hope I may understand Gordon as well as if I had resided in College the late vacation. We have now enter'd upon a very usefull course of lectures, both in astronomy and geometry. Your wooden square is very requisite. Mr. Boyle publish'd a little peice of hydrostaticks which you plac'd upon the shelf over the books of forrain languages: may I humbly desire you to send it, for perhaps it may be usefull. I shall reserve the Macedonian Demetrius's manuscript for you, but it has not his name sign'd to it. The College begins to flourish, yet I hope I may keep my room single, and live as it becomes religious parents' children.

Your dutifull obedient son,

R. THORESBY.

My black cap was very much worn with carrying it in my pocket.

(The address-sheet is detached.)

FROM THE REV. JOHN FROGGOTT.<sup>1</sup>

Kirk Deighton, Nov<sup>br</sup> the 19<sup>th</sup>, 1716.

KIND S<sup>R</sup>,

I herewith return you the latter of your two books, with my thanks for the use of them. At my first going to Carlton you may expect the Emperor of Terra de Labrador's coronation belt, compos'd of the tributary porcupine-quills paid by the numerous kings and princes of the Arctic Regions, at their Congress to do homage to their Sovereigne. Till then I remain

Your obliged friend and humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

JOHN FROGGOTT.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby, in Kirkgate, Leeds. With a book.")

<sup>1</sup> Rector of Kirk Deighton.



FROM THE REV. JOHN CHIPPINGDALE.

Thorganby Hall,

Jan : 3<sup>d</sup>, 1722.

WORTHY SIR,

At your request, by an acquaintance of mine, I give you this information concerning the Parish Church of Thorganby in the East Riding of Yorks. The body of the said Church was both taken down and very beautifully rebuilt in the year 1710, Francis Annesley, Esq<sup>re</sup>, Lord of the Mannor (now a worthy member of Parliament) promoting it by generously paying most of the charges, both for stone, brick, lime, wood, and workmanship, out of his own purse. Afterwards, not approving of the old Chancel that was still standing, he took it down and rebuilt it allso, making it answerable to the afores<sup>d</sup> body, in the year 1719. And when the whole Church was finished, he gave a handsome sett of Communion plate to the same, all in silver. This he has done, and designs to do a great deal more. May the Church ever abound with such Christian benefactors!

The whole tithes of it are appropriated, Lawyer Annesley being only oblig'd to keep a constant Curate at it. If anything more particular is requir'd, at the least notice you may be made acquainted by, (Sir),

Your most humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

JOHN CHIPPINGDALE.

(Addressed "To Ralph Thursby, Esq<sup>re</sup>, at his house in Kirkgate in Leeds, These.")

FROM MR. ROGER GALE.<sup>1</sup>Lond., Nov<sup>r</sup> the 24<sup>th</sup>, 1722.S<sup>R</sup>,

I have been sending allmost every day since the receipt of your last to Mr. Bangham for your money, and was promis't it yesterday at eleven a clock, but when the person I appointed went to receive it they ask't him for the account of the money

<sup>1</sup> The well-known Yorkshire antiquary, author of the *Registrum Honoris de Richmond*. He was a son of Thoresby's old friend, Dean Gale, and for some time Member for Northallerton. His signature is in Thoresby's Album, with the motto "nil admirari." He died in 1744.

due, which you very well know he could not have to produce; and thereupon paym<sup>t</sup> was refused. Be pleased therefore by your next to send me that account stated and signed by you, and then I hope they will make no more excuses to keep you out of your money. I hope in a little time to gett you some of Mr. Lownds's writing, and whatever comes to me from any hand of eminence I shall lay by for you. If you have a mind to see the *Registrum Richmondie*<sup>1</sup> in any tolerable time you must write to my brother about it, who has had it by him above a fortnight, but I can't see he is in any hast to get it bound and sent to you. I shall pay the remaining 20<sup>s</sup> to him for it out of the money I receive from Mr. Bangham. I will onely add that tho' it has exceeded the price proposed at the first undertaking of it, it is looked upon as the cheapest book that has been printed for severall years in England, and that I am,

Sr,

Your most humble servant,

R. GALE.

(The address-sheet has been detached.)

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FROM MR. JOHN BOULTER.

January the 26: 1722.<sup>2</sup>

GOOD S<sup>R</sup>,

I received yours of the 21 Instant, and severall others, for which I give my thanks. But as the principall inquiry of most of them is after the publication of your MS., now safe and intire, with box and drawing in my closet, I must now plainly tell you the true reason why it has not been printed before, viz. Mr. Smith,<sup>3</sup> having been at a great expence for his part in printeing the atlass and 2 Monasticons, has not as yet met with so good returnes as he expected, and that has, to my knowledge, prevented his purchaseing and printing severall other valluable matters besides your book, and I must informe you that not one freind of yours, ecclesiasticall or civill, do recommend it but as a very good book for

<sup>1</sup> The *Registrum Honoris de Richmond* was published in 1722.

<sup>2</sup> The date is no doubt 1722<sup>3</sup>. In his *Diary* on 21 January, 1723, Thoresby mentions that he wrote to Mr. Boulter on that day.

<sup>3</sup> Joseph Smith, publisher of the *Vicaria*.

the narrow limmits of a country parish and the adjacent parts, and booksellers will not print unless a prospect of a quick and good sale offers itself. I cannot tell what you propose in particular about it, but if it's designed for the benefit of the Clergy, by setting examples for their imitation of the godly (and to use your Society's terme) labours of the good viccars and rectors in those days, I wish you all imaginable succes.<sup>1</sup> I hope to be in Yorkesh<sup>r</sup> early this year if it please God to grant me health, which at present I enjoy except a violent cough my inperable (*sic*) companion sooner or latter when winter appears. I desire my love and servis may be given to all friends that live round about Leeds old kirke; and for a conclusion, as I know you love to be sometimes in London, if you have a mind to see your old freinds, and your new booke fitted for the press to your owne content, be pleased to looke on the other side and it is very probable the method will much facillitate the journey,<sup>2</sup> which is all at present from

Your friend and serv<sup>t</sup>,

JOHN BOULTER.

(Addressed "For Ralph Thoresby, Esq<sup>re</sup>, in Leeds, Yorkesh<sup>r</sup>.")

FROM MR. WILLIAM SMITH.<sup>3</sup>

Rawden, Feb. 7, 1722 $\frac{2}{3}$ .

SIR,

Yesterday I receiv'd a letter from my uncle to inform me that he has lately a book of the B<sup>p</sup> of Bath and Wells which goes through all the Attick, Roman and Hebrew weights

<sup>1</sup> The above, of course, refers to the *Vicaria Leodiensis*.

<sup>2</sup> What was "on the other side" is shown by a note in Thoresby's writing on the fly-sheet, as follows:—

"Copy of the bill below:

Jan. 26, 1722.

Mr. Midgley, at the first opportunity pay Mr. Ralph Thoresby Twelve Guineas, and his receipt or indorsing of this shall be a sufficient voucher in the account of your loving friend,

J. BOULTER."

£12 . 12 . 0.

The bottom part of the fly-sheet, on which no doubt the order was written, is cut off. Thoresby did not lose much time in acting on Mr. Boulter's suggestion and remittance; he started on his final visit to London on the 4th March following.

<sup>3</sup> Of Rawdon. The uncle he mentions was the Rev. Wm. Smith, Rector of Melsonby.



and measures,<sup>1</sup> and has added a large appendix concerning the English money; it cost 10<sup>s</sup> in sheets, tho' but in 8<sup>vo</sup>. My uncle imagines this being so excellent in his way may put a stop to your ever publishing of Abp. Sharp's MSS. upon the English coins<sup>2</sup>—your copy of which he begs the favour of you to lend him to compare with this of B<sup>p</sup> Hooper's, which, if you will oblige him with, be pleased either to send it me, who shall have an opportunity of sending it by an honest stapler on Friday, who will convey it to his own hand, or send it by the Darlington carrier by whom he has formerly received MSS. from you,—or if you will give leave to take a copy of it, I could do it for my uncle here, and return it you in 3 or 4 days time. I am hinder'd from waiting on you myself, but shall shortly do my self that pleasure. My uncle's service presented, with the tender of my own.

I am, Sr,

Your most humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

WILL: SMITH.

(Addressed "To Ralph Thoresby, Esq<sup>r</sup>, att Leeds.")

FROM MR. ROGER GALE.

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 172<sup>3</sup>.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I have engaged Mr. Willis and D<sup>r</sup> Stukely<sup>3</sup> and my brother to dine with me tomorrow at one a'clock, in hopes of meeting you at that time, and we all promise ourselves your good company, which will be particularly acceptable to, Sr,

Your most humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

R. GALE.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby these.")

<sup>1</sup> This work, by George Hooper, Bishop of Bath and Wells, was published in 1721.

<sup>2</sup> Thoresby's copy of Archbishop Sharp's dissertation on the coins of England, Scotland, and Ireland is now in the library of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society.

<sup>3</sup> Browne Willis and Dr. William Stukeley, both well-known antiquaries of the period. The memoirs of the latter have been published by the Surtees Society, vols. lxxiii, lxxvi, lxxx. In his *Diary* Thoresby (then in London) records on March 19<sup>th</sup> "walked to Southampton Buildings, where my kind friend, Roger Gale, Esq., had invited several learned men to dine with me, the celebrated Browne Willis, Esq., the Admiral's chaplain Mr. Tooke; but Dr. Stukeley being confined with the gout, Mr. S. Gale walked with me to visit him, who showed me draughts of many Roman stations he had drawn." S. Gale was Roger's brother Samuel.

FROM MR. JOHN LUCAS.<sup>1</sup>Leedes, Mar. 20, 1722.<sup>2</sup>

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Tho' I had but a very short notice of this opportunity, and that in school-time, yet I was not willing to let it slip without acquainting you how heartily I rejoyce to hear of your safe arrival<sup>3</sup> and health. I make no doubt but you have heard of the dismal accident by fire at Wetherby on the 11<sup>th</sup> Inst. It was occasioned by the boiling over of tallow in a chandler's shop. The wind was so high that 'twas thought most of the houses were on fire in an hour's time, viz., about 5 in the afternoon; about 40 dwelling houses (of which the post house is one) besides outhouses, stacks of corn and hay, great quant. of corn in chambers, most of their household goods, &c., were utterly consumed.<sup>4</sup> My wife fell very ill that morning you set out; wee thought 'twas a fever; she drank water, swet profusely, and the fever abated, but on Thursday after [she] was seized with a tertian ague which is yet upon her. Mrs. Scot was seized about a week since with a palsie fit and lost the use of one side and her speech. Mr. Richard Hunter was buried yesterday.

Mrs. Thoresby, Mr. and Mrs. Wood,<sup>5</sup> and all other friends here are in good health. That Heaven may protect my dear friend and bring safe to his habitation again shall (? without fail) be the fervent petitions of . . . . .<sup>6</sup>

JOHN LUCAS.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby att Old Par's Head in Knight-Rider-Street, London.")

<sup>1</sup> Master of the school near Leeds Bridge. He is frequently mentioned in the *Diary* in Thoresby's later years. He is said to have been a native of War-ton in Lancashire, a MS. history of which place (now in the possession of Mr. Darcy Wilson of Seacroft Hall) he composed.

<sup>2</sup> 172 $\frac{2}{3}$ .

<sup>3</sup> In London.

<sup>4</sup> In the *Diary*, under date of 16th February, 1724, Thoresby records shortly "the Brief for the burning of Wetherby."

<sup>5</sup> Thoresby's son-in-law and daughter.

<sup>6</sup> The letter is torn at the bottom, and a few words illegible.



FROM MR. JOHN LUCAS.

Leedes, Apr. 29, 1723.

HONOURED S<sup>R</sup>,

The same day I received your kind letter, for which I return my hearty thanks, I had another from Mr. Swann, containing a civil invitation to spend part of Easter at Ledston Hall,<sup>1</sup> with which I thought it my duty to comply; yet that good family with all the courteous entertainm<sup>t</sup> you know it affords, came short of the usual satisfaction, because I wanted your instructive company. We remember'd you often, and just before I came away her Ladyship was pleased to ask me when I heard from you, and of your health.

I find you misunderstood me about the Saxon.<sup>2</sup> He has only given over brewing and remov'd into a less house in the same yard that he may with more application attend his trade which he finds encreases upon him. All your friends here are glad of the B<sup>p</sup> of Lincoln's promotion,<sup>3</sup> even for Mr. Thoresby's sake. Lawyer Wilson,<sup>4</sup> his lady, and all the family are well, and desire a return of service to you. I was with the Vicar<sup>5</sup> last Friday; he desired me to give his service to you, but (inter nos) seems not to be well pleased that you have not sent him a line in so long a time, especially since he has written to you.

I am sorry to hear that you are likely to be balk'd of Mr. Boulter's company into the country,<sup>6</sup> but I hope we shall see you the sooner upon that account. I hope the *Vicaria* is in good forwardness by this time.<sup>7</sup> Mr. Chipping, Mr. Allen,

<sup>1</sup> With Lady Elizabeth Hastings. Thoresby records more than one visit there in company with Mr. Lucas.

<sup>2</sup> "The Saxon Saddler" is first mentioned in the *Diary* in March, 1720, and repeatedly afterwards. Mr. Hunter remarks that he had been unable to recover his name; it was Christopher Hebblethwaite, and he was evidently a special friend of Mr. Lucas'; there are frequent allusions to "Mr. L. and H." in the *Diary*. Thoresby records various visits to the saddler, and more than once assisted him in money matters.

<sup>3</sup> Thoresby's old friend, Edmund Gibson, translated from Lincoln to London.

<sup>4</sup> Lawyer Wilson, Thoresby's relation, whose abortive election as Recorder of Leeds is narrated in the *Diary*, 1710-1.

<sup>5</sup> Vicar Joseph Cookson.

<sup>6</sup> "Walked from Charing Cross to my lodging, musing upon my disappointment of Mr. Boulter's company both to Cambridge and Leeds," 19 April, 1723 (*Diary*, ii, 369).

<sup>7</sup> Thoresby's present journey to London was in connection with the printing and publishing of the *Vicaria*.



the Saxon, and several other friends desire to be remember'd to you.

From your own chamber, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour past 6.

Mrs. Thoresby, Mr. Wood and Mrs.,<sup>1</sup> are very well. Mr. Wood desires you to buy him a Common Prayer Book or two; he saw a *Companion to the Altar* which came in a packet to you and was, I suppose, design'd for Mrs. Thoresby, and was very desirous to have it, so Mrs. Thoresby desires you to buy her another. Mrs. Thoresby rec<sup>d</sup> a box of books but wonders she had no letter how to dispose of them. The Vicar<sup>ess</sup><sup>2</sup> set forward for London in the Wakefield coach this day. Mr. Samuel Kirshaw<sup>3</sup> sets out for Cambridge with his nephew, the doctor's son, about a fortnight hence. The best directions Mrs. Thoresby can get to find Mr. Hough is viz. Mr. Hough at Mr. Davies' at the Morter and Pestil in Devonshire Street near Red-Lion Square, Holberne, and to find your old tenant W<sup>m</sup> Loggins at Mr. John Fartam's (I think, for the surname is in a blot) staymaker, at the farther Black Ball at the upper end of Bedford-berry near New Street common garden.

I am, S<sup>r</sup>,

Your hearty well-wisher and humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

JOHN LUCAS.

Mr. Lockwood desires you to buy him 50 sticks of cane (4 yards long apiece and not too small) as cheap as you can, and he will gratefully repay you. He desires you'll bring directions where you buy them, that he may send again if he has occasion.

(Addressed "For Mr. Ralph Thoresby att an oyl-shop near Old Par's Head in Knight-Rider-Street, London.")

FROM ALDERMAN WILLIAM COOKSON.

DEAR S<sup>r</sup>,

I have yours, and as far as I am able have complied with your desire of sending you a draught, the south

<sup>1</sup> Thoresby's wife, son-in-law, and daughter.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Cookson married Miss Smith of Hendon, Middlesex.

<sup>3</sup> "Mr. Sam. Kirshaw of Leedes, the Doctor's brother" (*Ducatus*, p. 19). He was a donor to the museum.

front, of our new church<sup>1</sup>; it was drawn by Mr. Etty of York, who has also made us a wooden modell for our workmen to go by. I have not the scale to this, but the dimentions of our building is 17 yards in breadth within, and the square of the church within (excluding the steeple and the semicircle where the altar must stand) is 24 yards and 2 foot; the height of this front from the case of the pilasters, which is paralel with the flore, to the verge of the parapet, is 14 yards. There are two sorts of vases (you see) on the parapet, but that marked with a  $\times$  is what we follow. The height within will be about 12 yards to the square. I believe you'll be surprised when I tell you we have got the north side 4 yards high, and are in so good forwardness with the front and ends that we hope to have it all so high by Whitsuntide, tho' we begun but the Wednesday in Easter week to lay the super-structure, and our workman hopes to go to the upper side of the high windows before he give up for winter, and to rear in good time the next summer; this I believe is better news to you then (than) that of roosting bishops.<sup>2</sup> I desired in one of my former to know if any appendix was yet published to the Pearage or any other part to the Baronettage. I likewise desired you to enquire among the Kings<sup>3</sup> whether any of their predicessors have ever thought the family of the Cooksons (whom you have sometime honoured with the epithet of hopefull)<sup>4</sup> worthy to bear Arms. Whenever a relation of yours<sup>5</sup> talks of a coach that serves for a good excuse (never that

<sup>1</sup> Trinity Church.

<sup>2</sup> There is an entry in the *Diary* on the 11th of the month—"while we were in the church there was a mighty shout in the street, which we were after told, was upon the Bishop of Rochester's passing by, some crying out 'no Popish Bishop,' 'no English Cardinal,' but the guards restrained them as much as possible." Possibly Thoresby, then in London, had mentioned this incident in writing to Mr. Cookson. The Bishop in question was Atterbury, whose trial for alleged high treason was then proceeding.

<sup>3</sup> *i.e.* Kings-at-Arms. In making the enquiry he mentions, Alderman Cookson wrote (under date of April 3rd) "have you seen the Herald, and what says he to my legs—for *sans* pun they are not my arms. I wish he or you could find any. Our family came originally (at least as far back as I can learn) from about Carlisle, and have resided about Settle ever since Queen Eliz: as appears by the register there. If it be not much trouble to you, I would not grudge some expense to know whether the family has ever been worth taking notice of."

<sup>4</sup> See *Ducatus*, p. 608.

<sup>5</sup> *i.e.* the writer.



better, of six young hopefulls). All your family are well, and the town very peacefull, Mr. Rook being gone to Scarbrough, who is now the chiefe disturber of its quiet, it growing near Midsummer moon. I begin to wish you in the country again. My spouse joins with me in cordiall respects and affections, who am, Dear Sr,

Yours very faithfully,

Leeds, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1723.

W<sup>M</sup> COOKSON.

Pray is there any entire sett of good Mr. Nelson's works.

(Addressed "To Mr. Ralph Thoresby, F.R.S.")

FROM MR. S. LEVINGE.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I was at Mrs. Dale's<sup>1</sup> when you sent that kind messuage to her, that if she did not return you the book which you gave Mr. Dale she might expect to be arrested for twenty shillings which you say was due to you from her husband for the trouble you had been at in searching registers in relation to the pedigree of Oglethorp.<sup>2</sup> How you will be able legally to prove this debt, or how it comes to pass that in so long a time (which is even beyond the limitation of the Statute) you never made any demand upon your friend (as you call him) I know not; perhaps whilst he was living you might have had in remembrance the many obligations you stood indebted to him for, and how serviceable he had been to you in settling the arms and pedigrees contain'd in your book, which had he been p<sup>d</sup> for I believe the ballance of the accompt wou'd have layn very much on your side. However, since you have been so exceedingly good to the widow of your very good friend, to expect that from her which you never thought fit to ask of her husband, I now tell you (that you may not put yourself to unnecessary expences through ignorance) Mrs. Dale is no ways obliged to pay any of her husband's debts more than she has a mind to, having taken care before marryage to have a settlem<sup>t</sup> that will secure her, and were your debt much juster than I conceive it to be you shall neither have that nor your book, since your behaviour is so particular to her. But if

<sup>1</sup> Widow of Thoresby's friend, Robert Dale, Richmond Herald.

<sup>2</sup> See *ante*, p. 245.



after this information you have a mind to try for it, you need not give yourself or Mrs. Dale the trouble of an arrest, only give notice to me at my Chambers in Inner Temple Lane and I will appear for her, who am not a stranger to many circumstances that pass'd between you in Mr. Dale's life time. This is all I now say at present from, Sr,

Your humble servt,

SAM. LEVINGE.

You may direct to be left at Mr. Ward's, the bookseller's, in the same lane.

(There is no date and no address sheet to the letter. At the foot someone has written in pencil "1715," but in his calendar of letters received Thoresby gives the date as 28 August, 1723. Thoresby mentions in his *Diary* that when in London in March, 1723, he called upon and dined with Mrs. Dale; probably, therefore, the dispute arose after that date.

FROM MR. ROGER GALE.

Lond: Sept<sup>br</sup> the 24<sup>th</sup>, 1723.

S<sup>R</sup>,

Last Fryday I received the letter you sent me<sup>1</sup> in favor of Mr. John Smith, who may depend upon being imploy'd as soon as his turn comes, but as I have already a great many upon my hands qualified for employment long before him he must be content to stay till I have discharged myself from them whom it would be injustice to postpone for one that is of so much later standing. I hope you have heard that the sheet you sent me<sup>2</sup> was safe delivered to the printer, tho' I did not acquaint you with it myself, having forgott it in the hurry I was in when I rec<sup>d</sup> it, being just then setting forward to my L<sup>d</sup> Pembroke's at Wilton,<sup>3</sup> where I have spent some weeks in a most agreeable and instructive entertainment. I

<sup>1</sup> *Diary*, Sept. 10th, 1723: "Endeavouring to write short letters to Dr Bray, Mr. Commissioner Gale," etc. Thoresby was at the time in very bad health. Gale was a Commissioner of Stamps and Excise, and Thoresby was writing to him on behalf of Smith, who was a Derbyshire man, at the request of Joseph Bland of London.

<sup>2</sup> No doubt a sheet of the *Vicaria*.

<sup>3</sup> Thomas, Earl of Pembroke, F.R.S., Thoresby's friend.

have herewith sent you 3 or 4 autographs; one is of the Speaker of the House of Commons,<sup>1</sup> and contains something remarkable in it, besides the writing; another is of Mr. Horace Walpole, brother to the great Mr. Walpole and joynt Secretary of the Treasury with Mr. Lowndes, whose hand I have not yet been able to procure you tho' no endeavors have been omitted by me; the third is of the famose Coln<sup>1</sup> Chartres, remarkable for its bad spelling and writing, tho' the scribe has raised an estate of above 100,000<sup>1b</sup> by his industry in a few years; and the last is of a Whitby Jewry<sup>2</sup> where not one of them could write his own name. Mr. Vertue<sup>3</sup> did you justice in presenting the prints you mention. Dr Stukely, who was with me at Wilton, made an excursion thence as far as Excester and took Dorchester in his way back, where he found and delineated a fine Roman amphitheatre, and of which in a little time, I believe, he will give us an account in print. My brother presents his best services to you, as do's, Sr,

Your most obliged friend and humble servant,

R. GALE.

(The address-sheet has been detached.)

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FROM MR. JOSEPH SMITH, LONDON.<sup>4</sup>

S<sup>R</sup>,

This comes to informe you that the Vicars of Leeds is finish'd. Pray lett me have your derictions abought presenting the books to my L<sup>d</sup> of London<sup>5</sup> and Mr. Boulter, if you would have it done by me in pearcon (person) or any other frind, and what you would have done with the Arch. B<sup>p</sup> of York<sup>6</sup> and my Lady Betty Hasting, or if you think proper for to draw up a publication in order for to have it advertised, or leave it to

<sup>1</sup> The Speaker was Sir Spencer Compton; "Colonel Chartres" was probably the notorious Francis Charteris, who made a large fortune by gambling and other very questionable methods. He is alluded to more than once in Pope's poems. He died in 1732.

<sup>2</sup> i.e. Jury.

<sup>3</sup> The engraver.

<sup>4</sup> The publisher of the *Vicaria Leodiensis*, to which the letter relates. Mr. Hunter prints several other letters from him relating to the book, written about the same time.

<sup>5</sup> Thoresby's old friend, Edmund Gibson, Bishop of London.

<sup>6</sup> Archbishop Dawes, to whom the *Vicaria* was dedicated.

me, and if you will have any bookseller's name in the country put in to the advertisement. I think the dedication is exceeding good, and done with judgment. Pray be soe kind as to give me an answer next post. Am, Sr,

Your most obedient humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

JOS. SMITH.

Novemb: 21<sup>st</sup>, 1723.

(The address-sheet has been detached.)

FROM THE REV. JOHN HARDY.

SIR,

That I have at any time been in Yorkshire and not at Leeds I cou'd easily make appear to you was my unhappiness and not my choice. Mr. Wainwright tells me he has writ to you himself, so that I have nothing more to say to you in relation to his affair.<sup>1</sup> But I have a very singular affair of my own in which I am forced to call in to my assistance your humanity and testimony. A gentlewoman of this town about 6 or 7 years ago, or perhaps it may be longer, wou'd needs lend me an eaglestone (as she call'd it) or a bloodstone, which she fancied wou'd relieve me against the excessive effusions of blood from the nose, which were very troublesome to me, and seemed dangerous. My fancy was not so strong; the stone lay by neglected: some of my children happened to meet with it, play'd with it, and broke it. I have offer'd the gentlewoman any satisfaction, but she has taken it into her head that I transmitted it to you and that it is laid up in your Museum. I shall take to care to (*sic*) rectifie her mistake by your book,<sup>2</sup> but lest that method should not suffice, I wou'd further ask the favour of one just, generous, and faithfull, of you, Sir, my friend under all these characters, that in a letter to me, as soon as you have leasure, you'l give me your testimonial to this purpose (which if my tho'ts and memory are my own I am sure you safely

<sup>1</sup> There is a short letter from Thomas Wainwright of Nottingham to Thoresby, dated 10th November, 1723, which apparently refers to poor ministers' charities.

<sup>2</sup> Meaning the list of the contents of the museum printed in the *Ducatus*,



may) that I never did make you a present of any such stone. I am really ashamed to trouble you about so silly a thing, but often our interest may be influenc'd by silly things.

I am,

Yours very affectionately and humbly,

JOHN HARDY.

Gridlesmith gate,

in Nottingham, Nov. 28, 1723.

I shall allways be very ready to pay for a letter from Mr. Thoresby.

(Addressed and franked "To Ralph Thoresby, Esqr, at Leeds in Yorkshire. Free, M. Wainewright.")

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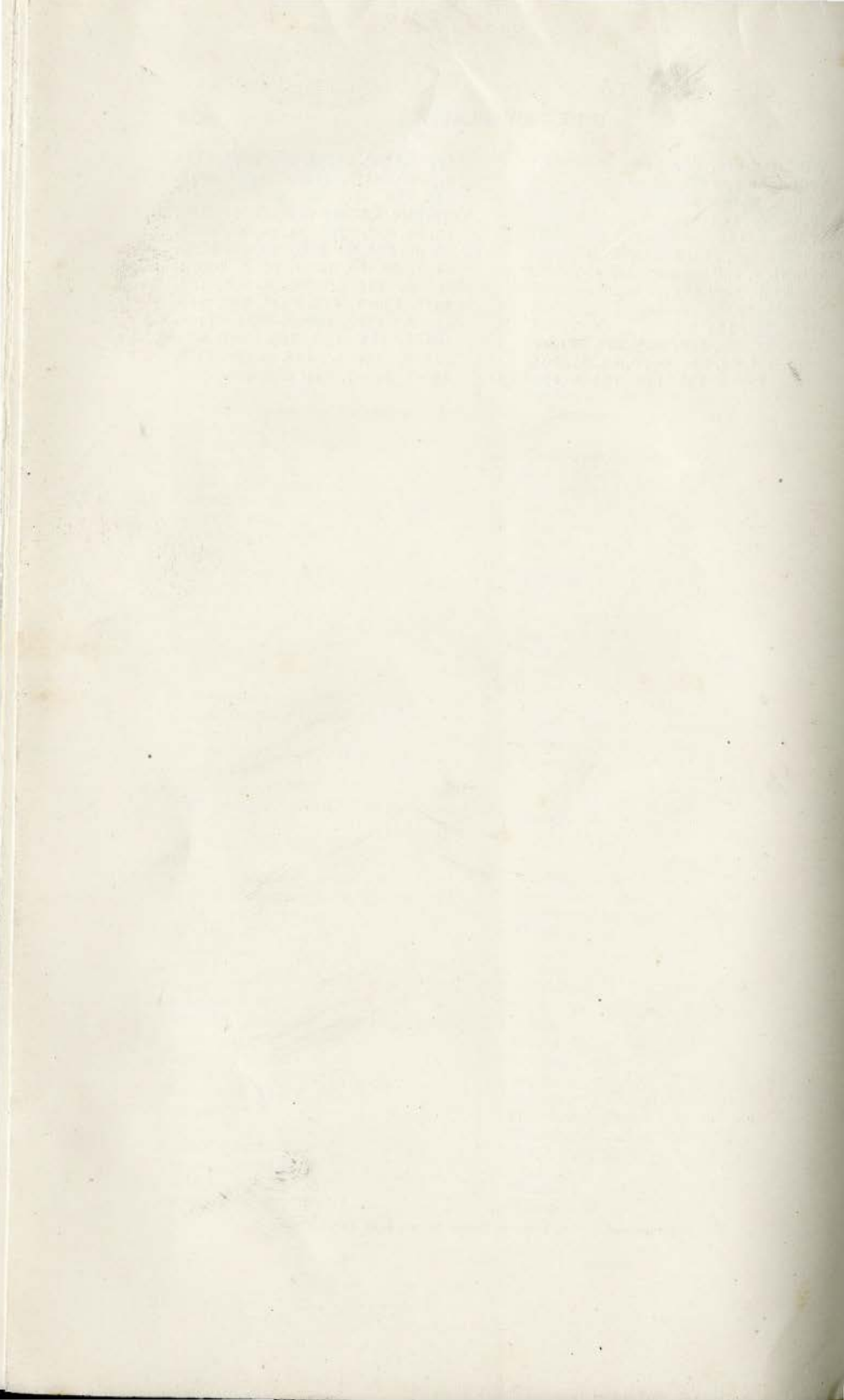
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(colour) will please you. When Mr. Dorington came home, sister told him our circumstances, and strait said he "it shall be done, and well done, and in time, or I will have as many workmen more than I have." The bla[ck] beaver hatt I hope is a good one, and will fitt, tho' you gave me noe directions for wideness, but I bought it big enough, I thing (*sic*), that if it be a little too big you may putt a linnen (lining) in it. I delivered Mr. Dor. the measure; he sayes it agrees with his owne, onely the shoulders is made broder then (than) Coz. Collins', which I am sure yours is not soe, in that he followed his own measure, and not his from the country. The stockings suits very well; collered clocks and tops of stockings are out of fashion, soe that these are all of a collar, but the[y] are long ones to roule as those that have collered tops. Mr. Dor. did not buy gold buttons, but frost buttons, that he assures me are more fashionable: all things are very grave and genteele, and I hope will please. I bought the periwig of Mr. Clak in our street; he sayes he has used me very well. I bought the beaver of a young man Mr. Dor. caryed me too (to). I told him if he would bee faithfull to me and use me well he should have my custome. Mr. Dor. sayes he is very honest. I told him if he had cheated me he wronged himselfe more than me. The hatband and cravatt ribin sister bought of Mr. Pelcome. I shalbe glad to heare the[y] come safe to your hands. I shall not intertaine you att this time with any more lynes from me to tell you how glad I am you have obtained your desire, and I hope God has gone a long with you in it, because I have onely roome below to sett downe the particullers what I have disburs't for you, which is (*viz.*):

For 2 y <sup>ds</sup> and $\frac{1}{2}$ an $\frac{1}{2}$ q <sup>tr</sup> at 18 <sup>s</sup> per y <sup>d</sup>	. 02 : 07 : 00
For 6 y <sup>ds</sup> silk for lynning at 7 <sup>s</sup> 6 <sup>d</sup> per y <sup>d</sup>	. 02 : 05 : 00
For a bla[ck] beaver . . . . .	02 : 11 : 00
For hat band and cravatt knot . . . . .	00 : 10 : 00
For muslin cravatt and cuffs . . . . .	00 : 7 : 03
For a pair silk stocking, 12 <sup>s</sup> 6 <sup>d</sup> : thrid sto. 3 <sup>s</sup>	00 : 15 : 06
For a periwig, 28 <sup>s</sup> . . . . .	01 : 08 : 00
Mr. Dorington's bill inclosed . . . . .	03 : 18 : 00

---

14 : 01 : 09

---

I have not yett seen Mr. Sle to shew him what you writ to me in the two last letters, nor can I give you any account about the Marter<sup>1</sup> book. Mr. Dorington sayes cloks (? cloaks) are not much ussed, but if anything of that nature its a large shoulder coat with sleeves as long as coat, but being toward summer he advisses me lett it alone. You may please to pay the money I have disburs't for you to Rev. Jos. Jackson. Pray cutt off[f] the bottom of Mr. D. bill, and deliver what I have their (there) writ to Jos. Jackson. What I have of newes you have in what I have writ to him.

I am,

Yours,

JOHN DICKONSON.

(The address-sheet is wanting.)

---

FROM MR. HENRY GYLES.<sup>2</sup>

22<sup>nd</sup> of March, [16]8<sup>6</sup>.

MR. THERISBY,

I have sent you your armes which I hope will please you, and when you place them up in your window give your glazier a caution not to lay any oyle or plaister upon them. Am your very humble servant,

H. GYLES.

The armes . . . 00 : 10 : 00

The box . . . 00 : 00 : 06

which be pleasd to order to me at your conveniency.

(The address sheet is detached.)

---

FROM MRS. FRANCES FRANKLAND.

17 March, [16]8<sup>7</sup>.

S<sup>R</sup>,

I just now received yours, but can give no incorigment to the Lady as to the musick of the gittar which shee desirs her daughter may be further instructed in that musick, we have

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* Martyr.

<sup>2</sup> A noted glass-painter of York. In his later years he fell into poverty and ill-health, and there are some piteous letters from him in the second volume of the *Correspondence*, and later in the present work. There is a portrait of him in Horace Walpole's "Anecdotes of Painting."

# LETTERS

ADDRESSED TO

## RALPH THORESBY

F.R.S.

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