

in preference to being loose

~~William Barnett~~  
~~Abingdon~~ (Copy)

London December 2-1794

Received Decem<sup>r</sup>. 1794 of Mr Joseph Hills Forty Pounds  
on account of a new Barge I am now building for the Thames  
& Severn Canal Company as p<sup>r</sup> agreement

£40.-.-

Child Prince - Abingdon

On Barnetts making application for the above Sum  
please pay it him & procure his Signature to the receipt &  
favor me with it p<sup>r</sup> post

By the Companies Act no Stamp is required -

Tho: Fletcher  
Abingdon

London Dec<sup>r</sup>. 2 - 1794

I am very much obliged to you for your  
Letter inclosing Barnetts Agreement I have given him  
a Credit with Childs Prince for Forty Pounds - which  
I doubt not he'll apply for without my informing him  
are not our Company cruelly used by the Oxford Junta?

Treachers  
Sonning

London Dec<sup>r</sup>. 2 - 1794

Dear Sir -

What is to be done about Sandford?

I am just informed that the upper dam is again blown up  
& the water now running down the pound Lock

The Commissioners adverted a Stoppage of a  
Month it is now four Months - & the dam not yet effected

Consider what a delay, Expence & Danger  
this matter has been attended with to our Trade

Pray favor me with your Sentiments on this  
Subject - I want much to see you & if you are not  
coming to town I shall be at Sonning next Week  
I'll come down to you



66  
George Harmer  
Gloicester

London 2-1794

We have no demand either upon you or  
Mason & Scott of Shrewsbury & I should have informed you  
so sooner but that I have been much out of town lately  
& exceedingly occupied about some vexatious business the  
Company have upon the river

Your friend Knights affair has not been neglected  
I wrote him instantly on the receipt of your Letter &  
have yestardy received some of the Stones which were put  
into his Boxes — which are evidently taken from the Banks  
of the Severn — No discovery is yet made but I hear a  
Woman is taken up on Suspicion — The Advertisements  
you have naturally seen — I flatter myself to succeed  
impairing for M<sup>r</sup>. Knight the indemnification he demands

Rich<sup>d</sup>. Jefferson  
Westbromwich

London Decem<sup>r</sup>. 2 1794

By desic of M<sup>r</sup>. E. P. Sills of this City I beg to inform  
you the prices of Freight p<sup>r</sup> the Thames & Severn Canal  
from Stourport to London viz<sup>t</sup>

On Castings, Bar, Iron & Lead	}	33/—
Tim, Copper & Ironmongery		
On Merchandize		35/6—

Charges at Brimscomb port  
about 6 p<sup>r</sup> Ton

Wharfage & Cartage in London the same as at all other  
Wharfs there

John Smith — Stourport Comp<sup>r</sup>. Agent  
Sam<sup>l</sup>. Smith — Brimscomb port Gloc<sup>r</sup>. Agent  
Sills & Sons — Hambro Whf London Wharfingers



John Holmes  
Bristol

London Decem<sup>r</sup> 21 1794

I was duly favored with your Letter of the 20<sup>th</sup>

The packages you allude to were forwarded in perfect good condition —

I am sorry somany Instances of the kind occur — it is for the Gent<sup>rs</sup> of the Committee to determine some mode of redress & your Letter shall be lain before them at their meeting on Tuesday next at my house when they will likewise give further directions about the Freight<sup>s</sup> you complain of being chargd 30/ & 35/

The Briettes I agreed my self to take in at 30/ — so that freight may be settled — M<sup>r</sup> Smith is informd of it & I am surprizd he did not apprize you of it. —

The first copy I have of ~~the~~ <sup>after</sup> the Freight<sup>s</sup> are finally determined upon shall be sent you —

Lewis Knight Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Northlands

London Decem<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 1794

The Committee met on this day week at my house when I communicated to them the contents of your Letter — the Baskett of Stones was not then come to hand — not that any discovery yet been made of the Theft

They came to no resolution in consequence but it seemd to be the Sense of the Meeting that your demand, made in so handsome a way, should be complied with & I have no doubt but that in their next meeting they will give me directions to reimburse you the Sum you mention — they at the same time naturally hoped for your assistance in discovering or prosecuting the offenders

Their next meeting is on the 9<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>t</sup> when I will again bring the business forward.



Burgess  
Abingdon

London Dec<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> - 1794

Neither Cook nor Barnett have charg'd me for work to the Britten tho' my agreement with them was the same as with you — & I never paid more than £11. 6 for Launching & Cendes which you have overcharg'd the fore wind tafe — so that if you chuse to accept the same charge as other people I will remitt you a Draft for Eleven Pounds which will be Five pounds ten Shillings on each Boat upon — returning me the receipt sign'd as below

Let me have your answer by return of post as I want to have this matter Settled

Received Decem<sup>r</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> - 1794 of Jos<sup>h</sup> Silts Eleven Pounds being in full for the extra work on two new Barges built for the Thames & Severn Canal Company which I have been Settled with for according to Agreement

£11. — —

2

Sam Smith  
Brimscomb.

Informing him my agreement with Cooper is at 23/6 Freight for all goods delivered upon the Canal to be paid on delivery of the goods in good condition at Brimscomb —

Requesting he would send me the weights of goods rec'd at Brimscomb to fill up blanks — & to inform me if the prices from Stourport are correct

That mistakes arise from Mr Smith the Cambria's agent forwarding Goods directed to Mr Smith of Stourport



Thomas Beesley  
Oxford

69  
I December 3 1794

Webb informs me that you have got your Horses this time from Wintonham

You will observe that while Webb continues to do our Work well he shall horse our Boats & that I will not suffer you or any other of our Men to have horses where they please without assigning a good reason to me & having my order for it

I have not heard from you since you left town.

---

Webb

near Buncot

Abingdon

December 3 1794

I forgot to mention what passed between you & Beesley to him when he was in town - I give the Post Bearers general orders not to be still for want of Horses & if this was not the case with you - he was acted contrary to My Orders

While you continue to do our work well you need be under no apprehension about our Men going elsewhere for Horses I shall write Beesley this evening and reprimand him for his conduct

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Rich: Edgington  
Abingdon

I December 6 1794

We are favored with your Letter of Yesterday & observe you have drawn for Fifty six Pounds 15/8 at 1/2% which shall be duly honoured.

With respect to the 20 Tow Clothes of which you have sent an Invoice pray say what is your usual  $\text{C}^{\text{t}}$  upon them & at Marlow we have 6 Months & 2 1/2 %  $\text{C}^{\text{t}}$  Discount - I do not recollect ordering so many, neither will they be wanted for some Weeks.

I think my order went only to 12 - but if they are at Spinas the quantity is no object - but they do not wish to keep a Stock of them - I will give written orders for the delivery as they are wanted.



John Holmes

Dec<sup>r</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> - 1794

Bristol

Inclosing two Bills N<sup>o</sup> 10 & 11 Five hundred Pounds each on Phyn Ellis & Co. — accepted 5 December at Sixty days Sight —

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Rich<sup>d</sup> Gearing  
Lechlade

London Dec<sup>r</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 94

Some time ago we handed you a list of Upward Freight due to the F & S. Comp<sup>y</sup> at & about Lechlade

We now beg the favor to know if any of them are still outstanding as Term is fast approaching when the Comp<sup>y</sup> Books at our Wharf are always settled.

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Burgees  
Abingdon

London

I wrote you some time ago offering to pay Eleven pounds as the Cullance of your bill — I had not time to settle this matter with you at Abingdon.

Write me by return of post saying if you mean to accept of it or what you do mean to accept of as I must have this account settled.

I shall then send you an order on the Bank for the amount upon your given me a receipt in full — I repeat that the above sum of Eleven Pounds make your Boat come dearer than others

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Jam<sup>s</sup> Smith

Brimscorn Post

on the other side is the rates of Freight determined on by the Gent<sup>l</sup> of the Committee & published by their order

I shall send a quantity by N Laurence inclosed to you for the different Wharfs

Dec<sup>r</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 94



Williams  
Sutton

December 16<sup>th</sup> 1794

I am informed that some of our Men have occasionally applied to you to purchase Old Rope Stuff of them as it is impossible they can come by it honestly I shall esteem it a particular favor if you will give me the name of any one that may apply to you in future, or if you can inform me of any person in your neighbourhood that is in the habit of buying it — as I would instantly detect them being prosecuted.

Jawney  
Oxford

December 16<sup>th</sup> 1794

I forgot to enquire when I had the pleasure of seeing you in Oxford whether your Wharf now Lett to Gardiner is subject to the Bye Laws of the Oxford Wharf Tawnd to Grain Viz. that of paying him Wharfage on all Merchandise landed at it & what the rates of wharfage are

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Child & Prince — Abingdon Please pay Mr. Tho. Fletcher  
Eleven pounds

L<sup>th</sup> M<sup>th</sup>

Mr. Tho. Fletcher

I am very much to you for paying the above Sum to Burgess please charge stamps & postage to account

N. Lawrence is nearly loaded upwards — Jackson came down Yesterday Mills is expected to Monow — we have sufficient loading for N. Lawrence & Jackson, Goods are offering every day — I will venture that one of them shall take Mr. Keens flour if you are like to want any thing by Mills pray inform me



12 John Smith  
Stowport

December 19 1794

Sir

We have your Letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> Instant and note its Contents  
We much approve your consulting the Committee in all cases of  
uncertainty. We join in opinion with you on the propriety and  
prudence of lessening the Companys Stock of Coals more  
especially as we are informed by your Bro<sup>r</sup> at Brimscomb  
that the Coal dealers on the Canal & river Thames have found  
other Channels to Supply themselves, a circumstance not displeas<sup>ing</sup>  
to us — You inform us about 1500 Tons remain in Stock  
at Stowport some of which are of two winters standing —  
whereby some deficiency in quality & weight must have arisen  
You also observe that the Canal Boats can supply the Barges  
to Brimscomb port, and with more satisfaction to the  
Captains and a fresher Supply for the Comp<sup>ys</sup> Sale on the bank.  
Under all these circumstances, We are desirous of disposing  
of the Stack of 1500 Tons at Stowport & if you could find  
a good Buyer to take the Stack as it stands at an  
evaluation, giving a credit of 1 Month or 6 Weeks for the  
payment, We should be contented to give up a part of the  
profit on the boitage from the Mines particularly if such  
a Buyer as Mr York or Cowley would remit us their bill  
on London at a Months or 6 Weeks date, We shall expect  
to hear from you on this Subject I am

Sir

Your obedient Servants

John Chatie

Robert Rolleston

James Black

Matthew Chatie

(Signed)



Samuel Smith  
Brimcomb Port

73  
December 19<sup>th</sup> - 1794

Sir

Mr Black wrote you on the 17<sup>th</sup> Instant We have yours of the 16<sup>th</sup> acquainting us of the intended Meeting of the Mill owners at Stroud on the 26<sup>th</sup> Instant

You seem to wish for the presence of some Proprietor at such Meeting, but we do not see that it would answer any good purpose. Please to take notice that the Commissioners shall not take notice of any complaint unless application has been made within 6 Months next after the time that such supposed injury or damage shall have been sustained by XX Section of the act, so that their Meeting can only relate to some injury that may have been sustained by them during the last Summer & that of a nature different from what has at any former time happened during the many years we have been in peaceful possession of the use of the water, so far as we do use it, which we believe to have been without any <sup>real</sup> injury to any of the Mills, we forwarded to you a Letter from Mr Perry on the use of the Howlers Mill water, in which he advises the passing the Ordinary water thro' the Gage below the head of the Reservoir the lower Mills have an ample Supply. If you was to attend the meeting it would perhaps answer the purpose of having information of the cause of their complaint; but on the other hand they are bound by the act to give you that Specifically before they can legally apply to the Commissioners for redress on this head you may consult Mr Pitt or Mr Lewis & show them this Letter & follow their advice.

We have answered a Letter to your brother John at Stroudport, desiring him to sell the Stack of 1500 Tons if he can and make us a remittance here to help us out in the payment of Interest due.

From your representation of the cost of our Coals at Brimcomb, we agree to your endeavouring to promote their Sale at 16s 1/2 per Ton  
Yours  
Turner



14  
If you could advertize the Wind Pump Engine to be sold on a fair evaluation and to be delivered at the Salt works where they are used, it seems the most probable way of disposing it and Mr. Bloues might be of service in this way if he is inclined, on this you may write a line.

By your Letter of 9<sup>th</sup> to Mr. Black you inform us Mr. Edmunds claims, which you seem to have obviated, or agreed to remedy except in the case of certain Gates which seem to have been originally made of Oak barks & heels, and the bars of Ush Poles; in order to put an end to claims which are scarcely if at all maintainable. We will consent to replace these Gates originally put in place by the Com<sup>rs</sup> of Oak on the several occupiers signing an acknowledgement to keep them from henceforth in repair and replacing them whenever it shall in future be necessary.

We join in opinion with you that an account of the extra expences of loading and unloading at Sandford Lock, and also of the extra expences of the consequent detentions and of the losses that may happen by the course of Goods thro' other channels in consequence thereof, ought to be kept whereon to found a claim against the Com<sup>rs</sup> of the Thames. — a word or two more on the Subject of the Gates.

The Com<sup>rs</sup> are obliged to keep up their fences against the tow Path, but the Gates are to be maintained by those who use them. If the Gates are made in a manner not sufficiently strong the Tenants ought within 6 Months to have complained of their insufficiency.

An act of the Committee done, destroys no right established to the Com<sup>rs</sup> by the act of parliament. So that the Committee may erect one or twenty Gates for particular persons, — without establishing such right in favor of all persons along the Canal, if such right is not given by the act

We are Sir

Your obedient Serv<sup>t</sup>

John Chalio

Rob<sup>t</sup>. Kettleston

James Black

Matthew Chalio



Samuel Smith  
Brunnscombport

December 19 - 1794

In reply to your Letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> No Courants have been received by us or any other Goods for the persons you mention at Evesham they would otherwise have been forwarded in course we presume some mistake in the delivery has taken place which it might not be improper to inform M<sup>r</sup> Pearce & M<sup>r</sup> Sealy

It has some times happened that for want of the Light & Heavy Goods, being distinguished, we have class'd particular Goods Heavy which might otherwise have been reckon'd Light — but in no instance do we make particular agreements, when people apply for the rates of freight we refer them to the printed List given us by the Committee — this was the case with M<sup>r</sup> Ward's Bags — we refer'd to the List & found the freight to Evesham 25/ of course it could not be more to Thames Head Bags cannot be reckon'd light goods neither will the value of the article admit of their being reckon'd so.

Why should the same Fre<sup>t</sup> be charg'd to Thames Head as to Bristol?

M<sup>r</sup> agreement whatever was made about M<sup>r</sup> Skeys <sup>ne</sup> Brunsto he was inform'd that the freight to Stourport was 32/ — may one of the Comp<sup>ys</sup> printed Lists was given to his Agent by which he is inform'd that the freight from Stourport to Bewdley is 26/ — Thus he must settle agreeable to it — he was particularly accommodated in having it sent it when it was

We beg leave to thank you for the consignments you have made to us by Keats & Wyatt & shall think ourselves oblig'd by such attention in future being

Your serv<sup>t</sup> Hum<sup>l</sup>



6  
Mess<sup>rs</sup> Child & Prince

Please pay M<sup>r</sup> Burt<sup>n</sup> Norrington Twenty pounds

£ 20<sup>..</sup>

M<sup>r</sup> Norrington

Sir

I received your Letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>t</sup> with your Account of a  
Horsing - I enclosed you have Pebbles Demand on you for the  
different times he has Horsed our Boats from Abingdon &c  
which you & he both have charged me with - I of course  
debit you for that Amount viz<sup>t</sup> 14. 17<sup>/-</sup> - & I understand  
there is more owing - I likewise debit your Account  
for the above Draft of Twenty pounds which you will  
please to send me a receipt for by return of post

Thos<sup>s</sup> Fletcher  
Abingdon  
Berks

Dec<sup>r</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> - 1794

I am duly favor'd with your Letter of  
Saturday & have ordered M<sup>r</sup> Randall of Peters Hill to  
put 10 Chaldron of prime Coals on board Jackson who goes  
out in two or three days

(We are likely to be scanty of Lading for Mills,  
without Goods come in unexpectedly - pray say in this case  
what quantity you would not like us to exceed by him)

Hill  
Putney

Dec<sup>r</sup> 29/94

Please to send your Account for  
Horsing the Thames & Severn Boats to this time by  
return of post without fail

M<sup>r</sup> Rose Spadeoak near Marlow Bucks  
M<sup>r</sup> Cottrell Pangbourn near Reading Berks  
M<sup>r</sup> Creswell Wallingford Berks  
M<sup>r</sup> Shephard Cookham near Maidenhead Berks  
M<sup>r</sup> Bullock Dunton Green near Reading D<sup>o</sup>



Child & Prince

December 29/94

71

Abingdon

I am under the necessity of returning  
B. Harringtons Dft on us payable to you for £77 The net  
having done work for the S & S Company to me at that amount

It may be proper to inform you for your own security  
that these Gentry are in continual habits of  
overdrawing these accounts &  
that I never advance for them but under particular  
Circumstances —

Wishing you the compliments of this  
festive Season

Wm. Lawrence  
Abingdon

When the water is sufficiently low for you to  
proceed to Sandford I wish you to shift all the goods you  
can from out of our two Boats into a Lighting Boat to be  
placed in the Mill Stream over the Lasher & so only have  
two Boats through the Lock if they are not sufficiently  
light then make them lighter I do not run the smallest  
risk on any Acc<sup>t</sup> whatever — you have a good deal of S<sup>d</sup>  
which will make it handyer for you

Beesley is froze up in the Canal as I suppose  
you have heard so you had better hire a Lighting Boat  
of Wm<sup>m</sup> Beesley if you have not one near Oxford —

Inclosing a Dft of Child & Prince for fifteen Pounds

Thomas Beesley  
Oxford

I approve very much of your Manner  
of Lighting the Boats at Sandford I have given  
Wm<sup>m</sup> Lawrence & all the other Cott Bearers orders to  
follow it — I am sorry the frost stops you but when  
you get to Abingdon take in all the Sacking you can

Inclosed is an order on Child & P<sup>o</sup> for £15  
as you desire



18  
Bring me down a Cask of Child very best beer  
I take the men do not tap it & likewise a Cask of  
Potatoes when you can buy them best.

W. Dowding  
Worcester

In reply to your favor of the 30 we have  
this day received a Letter from the Captain of the Boats  
which have you the fail on board who is now about  
Oxford on his passage to Brims. I expecting he has  
impeded by frost will be there in a few days.

The Companys Agent Name at Brimscomb  
Port is Sam. Smith

Jefferson Knight Esq.  
Brimscomb

In reply to your favor of the 20 Inst.  
our Charge for Wharf Landing & Loading Barrels  
Five Iron (when it does not lay upon the Wharf)  
is 2/6 Ton the Cartage from our Wharf to Messrs.  
Pellatt will be about 2/6 Ton more

Always attention to your Commands

Normington  
Abingdon

Your Draft on me for £77. has appeared  
& is returned in consequence of the Dft sent you on  
Child & Dunsell which Sum of £20 together with welbs  
Acct. & several over charges of Oats &c in your last bill  
leaves but a small ballance coming to you

I never shall accept to the full amount  
of what is owing you till the Acct. has been agreed  
it is therefore in vain Drawing.

Lewis Knight Esq.  
Northlands

I beg to inform you that the  
Gent<sup>rs</sup> of the Thames & Severn Canal Committee  
have given me orders to accept a pay your Draft  
upon me for £30 at any time that is most a-  
greeable to yourself in case you should not



have recovered any part of the Property stated to be  
lost on Board their Boats 71

John Holmes  
Bristol

January 3 - 1793

The Committee are desirous of having the inclosed  
hand Bill inserted Weekly for four Weeks in the Bristol paper  
which you will be so obliging as cause to be done

William Fearman

I am obliged to you for the Contents of your  
Letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> Ult. — The Lock keepers were perfectly  
right in stopping the Boats when our Cost bearers are  
out of the way & I so far from taking the Mens part  
who broke open the Lock would assist to punish them  
as I will discharge any Cost bearer that neglects his  
duty, they have no business to borrow money any where,  
your intention is equally good &c, as you have taken  
so much trouble, you will please draw on me for the  
amount of your bill & money advanced but I must  
beg of you not to do it in future unless under very  
particular circumstances

I shall endeavours to make some  
arrangement with the commissioners about the  
payment of the same Lock the first time I  
have leisure

Sam<sup>l</sup> Smith  
Brimscornel port

January 3 - 1793

As above is Nath<sup>l</sup> Laurence's Invoice, I have  
heard from him at Abingdon where I believe he still lies

In reply to your favour of the 24<sup>th</sup> Ult. Mr<sup>s</sup> Masters  
son was informed every particular about their Hops  
this being the case I think any correspondence on the  
subject might only give him some hold upon us —  
but positive orders must be given not to deliver  
them before the Cunnage is paid or want of Boats  
& heavy Goods prevented their being forwarded before  
had they gone by land the Cunnage would not have  
engaged to deliver them in any given time —  
unfortunately the frost setting in does not help us