

Thomas Case Upton

19 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1796

In ~~reply~~ to your absence I have to acknowledge  
the receipt of your favour of the 17<sup>th</sup> Curr<sup>t</sup>. covering Mess<sup>rs</sup>  
Lechmere & Co D<sup>o</sup> N<sup>o</sup> 1126 in your favour from  
Roberts Curtis & Co London Value Eight Pounds  
fourteen Shillings which with Postage Freight paid,  
Commission, & Stamp, is together the Balance of your  
Debt under 13<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>t</sup> & is paid to your Credit agreeably  
for Mess<sup>rs</sup> J Berry & Co

I am Sir your obed<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>  
J<sup>o</sup> Smith

James Taylor Worcester

19 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1796

In reply to your favour of the 17<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>t</sup> by the  
Invoices from London the following Goods are on board  
the Boats on their way here which shall have every  
possible dispatch on their Arrival, which I hope will be  
in the course of a week, its been the low State of water in  
the River Thames that's prevented a part from  
reaching this place ere this

J<sup>o</sup> Smith

1 Pipe Oil  
1 1/2hd Do  
1 Bbl Brumstone } In & first Boats  
1 Chest Juice  
24 Bags Soap  
1 1/2hd Tobacco

1 Butt & 1/2 Bbls Currants, In & second Do.  
10 Bbls & 10 Bags Bruey  
4 Carr<sup>t</sup> Currants } In & third Do  
1 Bag Pepper

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Mr. Chambers or Mr. Smith recommended me a tenant  
 for my Little Publick House & that at Newbridge but  
 at that time it was out of my power to let it; and  
 at that time I promised when I had it free, Mr. Chambers  
 should have the first offer of the place and at this time  
 it is so, any person may enter on it any day as can  
 be agreed on, I think there may be a great deal  
 of Business done in the Coal way if there was an  
 industrious man with a little money to carry the  
 Trade on if Mr. Chambers or Mr. Smith should think  
 of any person fit for that business I shall be much  
 obliged to them & esteem it a favour and shall  
 be much obliged to Mr. Smith for a Line as soon  
 as convenient: Mr. Child of Abingdon is to have  
 the next refuse of the place, that gives it up any  
 day when I wish it at one days Notice

Kingston House

Oct. 15, 1796

From  
Your most obedt Servt

Mr. S. Smith ad

(Signed)

John Walker

Brunncombe Court

near Masey Hampton (presumed Exon)

Gloucestershire

✓  
 NB the original of above letter was sent under  
 cover to Mr. Chambers the 21 Oct 1796, under cover to  
 I Sargent Esq

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Brimcombe Post 21 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1796

Sir

I rec<sup>d</sup>. your favour of the 10<sup>th</sup> requesting me to fix an early day to meet you at Leachlade to pay Mrs Effins Lawd, at present am fully employed at the Repairs of the Canal, but if you can fix any marked day to meet me at Cirencester after Monday next, I will make it a point to attend, otherwise it may be out of my power to meet you at Leachlade for a few weeks

for the Crofts. of the Thames & Severn Canal

I am Sir

Yours obed<sup>t</sup>. & able Ser<sup>t</sup>

Sam<sup>l</sup> Smith.

Mrs Effins Lawd

attorney at Law

Farringdon

Berkshire

Winchcombe M<sup>r</sup> John Durham

Brimcombe Post 21 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1796

Sir/ In reply to your Esteem<sup>d</sup> favour of 15 Instant the 45 Bags & 7 Hells of Rags are on their way from Town having been thus long detained by the prevailing Droughts on the Thames, and the Repairs our Tunnel is now undergoing. On Arrival which will be I trust in a Week or Ten days as I think the above Repairs will be finished by that time I will cause every despatch to be used in forwarding them to you - I hope ere this the 26 Parcels of Paper are Arrived in Town - the 18 are on their way thither -

Richmond M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Withins

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Bruncombe Post the 21 October 1796.

Sir/ Your Household Furniture is now in our Warehouse waiting for the first Boats that sail from hence. Which will be very shortly. and according to your desire you shall be informed of their departure in time.

---

Trurobridge M<sup>r</sup> Henry Brand

Bruncombe Post 21 Oct 1796

Sir/ In reply to your letterd 19 Instant - The <sup>Ship</sup> Beasley is not yet arrived - having been thus long detained by the Draughts on the Thames and now unfortunately by the Repairs going on at the Tunnel which however I trust will be finished in a Week or Ten Days - On Arrival of your Tallow you may depend on every despatch in forwarding same to you.

---

Worcester M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Becken

Bruncombe Post 21 October 1796

Sir/ But for an Absence of a few days - your over Angry Letter would have had an earlier Answer? I am also much grieved that your goods have been thus long detained, but the Elements have fought cruelly against us, & in addition to them we have had to combat with misfortunes at our tunnel out of which we have been necessitated to drive the Water! - But I hope the Repairs will be finished in a Week or ten days, & on arrival of the Boats you may depend on the utmost despatch in forwarding you your packages.

418  
Stomminster Barthol.<sup>w</sup> Davis & Son 21 Oct. 1796

But for a few Days absence your Request of an Answer by Return of Post to your much Esteemed 12 Ins<sup>ts</sup> should have been <sup>Complied</sup> ~~Complied~~ with indeed I would wish the Chief Clerk had immediately given you that Reasonable Satisfaction, at least, for the Unheard of detention your goods have Experienced this Voyage on our Navigation; on my Return I hasten to do it, and I hope you will allow the Cause alledged to be a reasonable one, while I shall as candidly own that these delays must be very distressing to you -- I trust we shall break the Neck of them -- We are I assure you struggling hard for Victory; but we have mighty foes to contend with; of no less fame than the Elements themselves, the Continued droughts that have reigned this Summer cannot be unknown to you, & in addition to them as you have been rightly Informed our tunnel is undergoing some repairs; they will I Hope be finished in a Week or ten days, & on arrival of the Boats you may be assured the utmost dispatch shall be Used in forwarding your Goods, but as they are on the further side the tunnel I fear the Expence of Conveying them by Land to Severn, would be too great: I shall be Exceedingly Happy Gentlemen in being favored with your Correspondence though I hope on more pleasing Occasions than the present and your Commands will be always Highly valued

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Hereford. T. Oakley 25 Octo: 1796

In addition to the droughts that have reigned during the  
Summer Months our Tunnel is at this Moment  
undergoing some repairs; they will be finished I hope  
in a week or ten days and on arrival of your goods your  
Request contained in your Esteemed 12 Inst. "to forward  
them to Mr. Farmers Warehouse Gloucester" shall be duly  
attended to — I have been from Home a few  
days or you should have had an earlier answer  
being very truly

London James Black Esq. Bridgnorth 15 Oct. 1796

Dear Sir

✓  
Mr. Chambers will tell you what I am in  
consequence of your Desire Doing here & I only send  
you these three lines to say I hope you will not think  
me Inattentive to your wishes respecting the papers in  
question they were in Readiness when I left Brimscombe  
all to the fair Copying I Have desired that may be  
done During my absence & on my return whither I  
will send them immediately to you — I doubt not  
your having Rec<sup>d</sup>. my Letter pray do not forget  
The quilts yours

Excuse the Half Sheet on aut. of the Frank

London, Christopher Chambers Esq.

Bridgnorth 15<sup>th</sup> Octo. 1796

I believe I must once more beg of you to forgive my deferring my Answer to your Last Friendly Letter as I am really very much fatigued. The purpose of my Journey you will know is for the Effecting the Resolution of the Committee of August last, for the purchase of Timber now is it less from the Satisfaction I ~~would~~ derive by meeting the wishes of M<sup>r</sup>. Black in Inquiring personally, aided by the practical Knowledge of Bird, into the particulars of the Vessel building near Swinca - we shall be there I Hope to Morrow Morning, and if back in time you will have a P.S. saying what we have done. It pours with Rain & Hail but I Hope to morrow it may be fair and then we Start at 6. I doubt not your Having rec<sup>d</sup>. mine of 10 Ins<sup>t</sup>. & Remain ever with much Esteem.

London James Black Esq. 21 Octo. 1796

As I Wrote you from Bridgnorth, the Accounts you expressed a desire to me to have sent you are in readiness waiting merely for the Cirencester & other Wharf Accounts which M<sup>r</sup>. Tho<sup>s</sup>. Smith is gone thither to adjust: finding However on my Return here last Night by your letter of 19 Ins<sup>t</sup>. that the Committee were Impatient after the above Accounts I Herewith subjoin them in Numbers 1. 2. 3. 4. & 5. The Wharf Accounts must

must then be sent afterwards,

I Hope the disappointment at not Receiving them sooner has not been very great. Considering how ~~much~~ every Instant of my time since I have been at Brimscombe has been devoted to the Company's <sup>and over & above other important occupations of their Service</sup>. In the short space of 4 Weeks I have been two pretty Considerable Journeys, one of which with the foot in the Stirrup at Six in the Morning, has Occupied 8 Days and it is literally true that out of 10 or a Dozen Introductory Letters to families in the Neighbourhood, I brought down with me I have as yet only delivered one; you know Sir I do not lose my time on the pillow, and this very Morning I was answering at 1/2 past 4 the different Letters received during my absence.

The miserable Hour of the post with us 1/2 O'Clock prevents my saying any thing of my Swinca tour. Of that therefore I say nothing of my next, but I cannot than add three words in reply to your Allusion, on my Hopes of Instruction from your Maturer Experience, and goodness for me, that "I Hold from what I have already felt, that the genial Warmth of the Sun will at all times, & on all Occasions, be co-equal to the Benignity of its aspect, which you promise me / and the genuine goodness of that Heart which made the promise"

Believe me ever most Cordial  
On examining the Inclosed Account this Morning I found in some of them Errors de Peana which I have Blotted out, necessity obliges me to send them off in this rather mutilated



State there being no time to have them copied afresh -  
You will therefore have the goodness to make my  
Excuses to the Committee for this seeming want of neatness

Thomas Chapman Newham

22 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1796

I perceive by your Letter 19<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup>. that you are  
not certain of a freight from Cardiff next Spring. In  
that case I know of no other remedy than your steering  
for Tenby, Letting me know in time whether you  
go there or to Cardiff, in order to the making the  
necessary & usual remittance for the Coal. But I  
have to request of you to endeavour if possible to get  
load the Wisemans Bridge, as I ~~prefer~~ prefer it <sup>more</sup>  
to the other, & you will please me much by using your  
utmost to procure them - The Bill of Lading I have  
received & it is come up with the Iron  
Yours of the 15 I also have rec<sup>d</sup>  
I am

Christopher Chambers Esq<sup>r</sup>. London

23 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1796

Dear Sir

Notwithstanding my repeated excuses to you for not  
answering your friendly Letters of the early date of 6<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup>.  
you have been so indulgent as not only, not to be angry with  
me for my delays, but not even to rally me on the Subject,  
that I nearly begin to grow angry with myself for having  
deferred it so long, and I know no better means of <sup>meriting</sup> ~~receiving~~  
your forgiveness nor of obtaining it from myself than by  
immediately setting about the performing so necessary a  
Duty while I return you my due acknowledgements for  
that, & the One of 13 Ins<sup>t</sup>. put into my Hand on the Thursday  
Evening of my Return from the Caughley Hall Expedition.  
In the first place I have to thank you for your kind  
recollection of me with regard to the Boston Journey in

furnishing me with an Excellent Map of that Country;  
 It would certainly Have been infinitely more desirable, and  
 gratifying to my Amour propre to have gone thither,  
 provided with passports from your respectable Committee,  
 in truth It is a passport I am always ambitious of, but  
 at that ~~moment~~ <sup>time</sup> I set off on the ~~spur~~ Spur of the  
 Moment, or having hopes from the resolution of your  
 Committee of seeing Mr Black at this port, and not  
 knowing how soon that might be, I wished myself  
 back before I had even set off & therefore hastening away  
 I contented myself with as much Information & Intelligence  
 respecting Burton & its Miners as I ~~could~~ <sup>could</sup> obtain from  
 Hence, and upon the whole as you will have perceived by  
 mine of 10 Tons to the Committee, I succeeded tolerably  
 well: I do not know whether as you will now have  
 seen that I am storing up a tolerable provision of  
 this your favourite, you <sup>mean</sup> to be so penurious of it  
 as you first intended, However I will let loose no  
 considerable quantity till I obtain your further  
 wishes on this Head; In the mean time I can now  
 give a tolerable decisive answer to your query, of the  
 quantity of Tons of Burton Coal I shall be able to procure  
 you between this & X mas L. between 7000, at least  
 I have contracted for as many, and more I have been  
 promised me: the next consideration is, as you submit,  
 at what price we shall dispose of them, & this must  
 be regulated as you justly remark by the quantity of  
 Staffordshire on Hand, that by keeping up the Burton  
 at a High Rate we may in the mean time dispose  
 of the former: By looking into my report 21<sup>st</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>.  
 to the Committee you will find that we had then about  
 different Wharfs including this Port about 3000 Tons  
 & the quantity is not much altered since that period,  
 while the sum total of the Burton did not exceed  
 500 Tons to these may be added, Ucinid since circa  
 240 Tons, thus the stock of Burton does not equal  
 that of Staffordshire by  $\frac{3}{4}$  this kind of light I conceived  
 might be of use to you in your Calculations, and now  
 I shall be expecting to hear from you, at what

If you will allow that I have kept my word  
 with you; these 240 Tons are of my own  
 procuring and will come up in spring.

proportionable higher Rate you think our Buxton  
 should be put in; you are not ignorant that at  
 present they are selling cheaper (as well at Crinchester as  
 at Cucklode than in Staffordshire but should you not  
<sup>so immediately</sup> collect it the report just above alluded <sup>to</sup> will give you full  
 information on the Subject: with regard to the Soabury  
 things seem to be strangely altered, since Brand should  
 have told you that they were selling a 24/4 Ton, while  
 our best Staffordshire were a 22/4 supposing that to have  
 been then the fact (at what period so ever it took place)  
 I can no longer marvel at their beating us at present  
 so thoroughly off the ground, while they are actually  
 underselling us at Crinchester; as well as at Cucklode  
 But as you have all this before you in the already cited Report to enter  
 Here again large upon the Subject must be totally  
 unnecessary

I am quite in love with your Abingdon & Burniscombe  
 System of Exchange of Boats, such an Establishment  
 would Invigorate the trade by keeping the people in  
 constant employ (during the winter months) & would be  
 doubly advantageous to us while operating as a nursery  
 for our Boatmen, since they might become useful  
 on the Thames by degrees, advancing an Inch every  
 Voyage & thus get acquainted unwillingly with the  
 shallows, ~~that cannot be frequently~~ which cannot  
 then frequently happen from Incidents of delay, & the  
 Irregularities naturally attendant on such an undertaking  
 you speak also of Lighters on your River pray has the  
 experiment been ever there made? in my late Excursions  
 I have seen & Examined two or three for our Severn,  
 which at a yard will carry 50 Tons, supposing them  
 64 feet long aloft, & 15.4 <sup>ft. high</sup> wide — and  
 at 30 Inches will carry — 40 Tons  
 " 24 " Do — 30 —  
 " 18 " Do — 20 —

This is not so much burden in proportion to the draft  
 as your Thames Lighters, but then your Locks allow  
 of a greater width, & they perhaps be also somewhat

longer; these Lightness are coming now into general use  
of the Sworn, and I am in daily Expectation of a Resolution  
of the Committee ordering half a dozen on the Works imme-  
-diately; It is for that as well as the pushing on with  
vigor the works at the Bourne that I have in part  
made my ~~late~~ late exertions, Having purchased for me  
50 fine Sticks of Oak Timber so you see if things are  
to go in Suggishly I at least shall have no hand in it,  
of my own purchase of course I cannot say a word, but  
leave it to Bird to say what sort of a bargain I have  
made for you: I got them from Westwood Park, belonging  
to ~~the~~ John Bachelton, apropos when we meet I will  
tell you a little anecdote that happened to me there,  
but it is too nonsensical for a Letter of Business  
which I Hope to fill up to more advantage, or even  
you of it before I quite tire you out: but to return; I  
think with you, that as to your Thames Improvement,  
we have much in our power, & at no great expence,  
but when you add "and without any great Effort"  
if I am to judge for the past, I do not here ~~think~~  
with you: Even was it so, such a word ought  
not to be found in our Dictionary; and may not  
fairly say that you would appear to deny your own  
assertion by the immediately following "When we  
can move that great heavy Body of Commissioners"  
— the whole sentence will then run thus "we have  
much in our power without any very great Effort,  
when we can move that great heavy Body of Commissioners"  
Query does it not require a great effort to move this  
Heavy Body? I am very sorry in pulling your  
Letter to pieces in this way, but I Hope you will not  
be so angry as I have made Vells, from whom I have  
now no hopes of pardon left — I have told him "we  
want Energy;" he tells me we want water" — This  
Letter is no paradox but I ~~have~~ know what it is, and  
so I shall tell Him — I now turn to your last favour of 13. Ins<sup>s</sup>. and perceive  
from your Acc<sup>t</sup>. of Mr Bony's Opinion respecting the

the Change about to take place, in the Conversion of  
Upper Severn into Lower Swern Boats; that the  
learned are not perfectly agreed; indeed Recurring to  
my old system, I having no very great Respect for  
patch work, I rather as far as that goes should throw  
my weight into his scale; on the other Hand as to  
his supposing that we shall not have boats sufficient  
remaining for our up Severn Trade, I cannot well form  
an opinion, not, having seen sufficient of it to be able  
to speak with any degree of Accuracy; But my dear  
Sir & the Committee when they came to the above  
Resolution understood the Business as you do, I think  
it my Duty to inform them & you that you have quite  
mistaken the matter: In yours before me you say "If  
I understand the Matter right our three Bristol Boats  
are only raised by one Plank along their sides, which can  
be easily taken away when others are provided or those  
wanted for more Important Services" No such thing, they  
are raised not one but three planks: in a word they go  
through an entire new process: See a Specimen of it:  
In the first place, the *Chalie*, for it is ~~the~~ <sup>her</sup> we are  
alluding to, will be stripped, i. e. Her Decks will be  
taken up they will then take ~~out~~ her Trilson & line  
her timbers, in order to make her bottom sufficiently  
strong for the sea she is about to combat with: (you  
will observe that all this need not to be done if she  
should remain in her present Tack, as she is of sufficient  
strength for the Bristol Trade) after this they will replace  
~~her~~ her Trilson & put her on a Keel, which she  
has not at present, & which must be taken off should  
she ever go back again to her former Tack: She will then  
be studdled up to the Necessary Height which will be  
three planks & this is done by Scarving Her, or that I may  
speak so as to be understood, as it were riveting in, Fresh  
tops on the Old timbers, to which to fasten the three New  
planks; I am daily Expecting the *Chalie* back, & but  
for this they were to have set about unrigging her immediately  
but I will now <sup>suspend the</sup> order ~~that~~ ~~there~~ ~~is~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~made~~ ~~until~~ I hear from

you; in the mean while, much time will not be  
lost, as this shall not operate to slacken the progress to  
of the materials: pray tell Mr Black, that instructions  
change should go forward & Bird is a great loss — you  
for her being schooner rigged, when she says herself,  
require less hands, say the men & two Boys,  
navigate her than if she be sloop rigged which  
under full four men necessary, if not five & being  
sloop rig? she will have but one sail, which  
must be a very unweildy one. In account of its size  
more difficult to work: a case in point is the present  
rigging of our Trows, which being sloop rigged  
& with one mast require 5 or 6 men, but then  
there is a reason for it, as from the shallowness of the  
water they navigate they cannot possibly have a  
keel, & schooner rigging requires one: Here then it  
is a matter of necessity with the Charlie a matter of  
choice, and I apprehend from his representations  
if he is right, a baneful one

That Mr Berry should give me a Rap of the  
Knuckles, <sup>since</sup> ~~since~~ ~~we~~ do not know <sup>him nor the cause</sup> ~~the cause~~,  
especially <sup>as</sup> ~~as~~ he assigns no cause for it, would  
not greatly affect me, but that you, *Basidium et*  
*dulce decus meum* — <sup>must make me</sup>  
should have even devised such a thing ~~must you~~  
<sup>to say about me</sup> ~~to say about me~~ <sup>regard</sup> ~~regard~~ <sup>concern</sup> ~~concern~~; Indeed I do not  
<sup>know how</sup> ~~know how~~ I should get over it if I thought you quite right:  
But I cannot help thinking, that in this very *Book*  
for which I am to have this very Rap, my apostrophe which  
made hills so very angry would be <sup>apostrophe enough</sup> ~~apostrophe enough~~  
"you want energy" In whatever wand I may at any  
period of my Life have been in of my servants  
either in my office, or in my family, I took  
care never to let them perceive it, though for  
enough in my younger days, I would sooner  
have gone with my Hair out of a Boule than  
have retained an insolent puppy of a Valet in

my service because He dread ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> well; if  
had gone on a different plan, I should often have lost  
a clever fellow when I kept one, I remember on Instance  
in particular. . . . However that matters not But  
rest assured, It is so throughout Life, where men are  
guided by any other principle save that of Honor  
which is certainly therefore the noblest of the Passions,  
as being unbiass'd by any selfish Views; & that  
we can neither expect nor ought to look for among  
the lower orders of society. - with regard to the  
Case in point, you say to me "you do not seem  
previously to have made yourself Master of the  
temper of these people, nor of the Value of their  
places" Indeed my Dear Sir but I have - and  
I have acted accordingly - and have gained my  
point. you know I have been at Howport  
& you may Recollect from John Smith's <sup>Letter</sup> the terrible  
doings that were going on there between Bowley -  
Darker, Darker's wife, and all the <sup>rest</sup> - I went  
thither with the Resolution to break the nest  
Cato qui Conto, but I did not think It would be  
you or me, <sup>very</sup> Dear, and so indeed it proved: <sup>the</sup> <sup>very</sup> <sup>next</sup> <sup>day</sup>  
arrival I sent for John Smith who Corroborat<sup>ed</sup> the whole  
me all he had written with some little addition  
I was well pleas'd to learn: I then order'd Bowley  
in (for I must write as I spoke) and in the presence  
of Smith Recapitulated to him his ill Conduct,  
and asked what He had to say for Himself, and  
whether He had not refused ~~to~~ going down in his turn.  
He denied it: I then turning to ~~the~~ Smith whom  
I had previously tutor'd promising Him my support,  
Is it not so Mr Smith? Yes Sir; do you then think  
friend I shall believe you & not Mr Smith who is your  
Master when I am not Here - certainly not; But  
I would have you to know now, if you have not known  
it hitherto that the Company will have none in their

Service who do not follow the directions of their  
Agents at the different <sup>Ports</sup>, and except <sup>promise to</sup>  
do so in future, I attend to ~~them~~ the written Instructions  
I shall prescribe to you for your future Rule. — You  
are dismissed — He muttered something to Himself,  
but Resolved to Carry my point — then you are  
dismissed; and away marched my Gentleman  
Had you been with me, you would then I believe de  
facto have app'd my Knuckles; I on the contrary  
was perfectly satisfied with myself & would ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup>  
that moment Have ventured thro' to one that all  
with this very man would still turn out well;  
I had shewn <sup>him</sup> now that I did not care five Shillings  
about Him and I was and am still ~~of~~  
convinced, that if there is a method of Reclaiming  
these people, & putting things on a respectable, aye  
& profitable footing for the Company, it ~~only~~ can  
be effected by shewing them, that you are & will be  
master: use severity when severity is absolutely  
necessary for the Benefit & Happiness of society,  
but always Have Benignity & Benevolence  
uppermost in your Heart; these added to a certain  
dignity of manners, & the power of doing good as  
well as punishing, <sup>with</sup> and the Exercise of that power manifested  
~~with~~ <sup>with</sup> firmness and discretion, will never fail with the  
lower classes of <sup>the</sup> People, — And so it proved here for  
Brookly came to me the next Morning of his own accord,  
behaved wonderfully well, promised in the presence of  
Mr Smith to follow his directions in every thing — never  
to go by his turn more — and was accordingly re-  
instated as Master of the Drolleston — I corrected some  
few abuses, and we parted the best friends in the world:  
may what is more Bird happening to meet Him and not  
knowing of any thing that had pass'd, asked him if  
he had seen me, (and this was previous to our making  
it up) yes, he had — and how do you like our new Master



why very well - His main testy - but this a very good  
Sort of a Gentleman And so this affair ended; I have settled  
in the same way with James Dasher, whom you may  
recollect was the other Subject of John Smith's Letter, and  
Have drawn up Instructions for them pointing out what  
their Duty is, and what forfeitures they are liable to  
if they do not attend <sup>to it</sup> so that I Hope your Honour post  
trade will in future meet with no more such terrible  
Obstructions as It has hitherto Experienced; I made  
poor John Smith quite happy, He thanked me over & over  
again for what I had done, & said that He Hoped to  
have some peace now, for that he had had a rude time  
of it all the Summer - It is excellent to have a Giant's  
Strength,

but tis tyrannous to use it like a Giant.

Indeed I soon think so, that if I do not make  
myself beloved at Beinscombe I will run away from  
it, but then your ~~shame~~ <sup>will not purchase that love ad your expense</sup> ~~requires that a strict~~ ~~perhaps~~  
~~keeping~~, ~~we were as~~ ~~tyrannous~~, & ~~that~~ ~~was~~ ~~the~~ ~~best~~, If  
I was in town I should act in the same way, and I  
would venture my Life for it should succeed, indeed I  
made the Experiment though so new at that time  
Here on one of your great London Cashiers John Mills  
with whom I came down, It was respecting that Hate  
of Clap you may recollect my having written Tells that  
some of his people had broken, Young Millar having  
the Lading of the vessel very properly took notice of it  
on which Mills poured out a Volley of Catches, on that  
Young Man who complained to me about it; Young  
as I was then in office, I felt if I once tolerated  
such misconduct I gave loose for a Reputation of it, &  
therefore immediately had him called in, and gave <sup>him</sup> a  
reproof, severe as he deserved - I felt no other evil Effects  
from It than his promising to behave with more decency  
in future; I have as yet only seen one of these Men since  
I have been down here, and therefore cannot absolutely  
take on me to know How I shall be able to Manage <sup>them</sup>

but I will confess to you, I entertain but few  
apprehensions than that every thing will go on as it  
should do — I'll tell you what happened to me  
this very day which will explain to you in three  
words my manner of treating with these people:  
Happening to be up ~~early~~ <sup>early</sup> ~~before~~ ~~the~~ ~~sun~~, I think  
it was about 3 o'clock I soon after heard the noise  
of a Boat unloading Her Iron; this was being very  
industrious; I therefore thought they deserved it  
being noticed, & as soon as the servants were up  
had some Ale Heated, & a little Ginger & Brandy  
put into it & send it down to them with a Message  
that they were industrious fellows & I therefore  
wished to make them comfortable — the very same  
morning I had a Complaint against this Man  
for being the Cause of the Water above of the Locks  
Running over the Weir, I called him into the office  
read the Clause in the Act to him, & on the spot  
said <sup>to</sup> ~~me~~ ~~that~~ ~~on~~ ~~my~~ ~~Honor~~ ~~it~~  
~~gave~~ ~~me~~, & still gives me pain to have been  
under the necessity of doing it, because I believe  
the unthanky fellow can ill bear the forfeit, but I  
dare I must persist in it, as I apprehend it to  
be the only means in these matters, & when they  
are from under <sup>your</sup> Eye of Keeping this rough untractable  
set, as you so truly stile them, within any kind of  
Bounds: though I have not exhausted my subject  
yet I think to have said sufficient to Explain to  
you my Reasons for thinking different from your  
good self thereon, I will therefore quit it that I  
may find Room to take Notice of two or three other  
points you touch on & then wish you a Good Night  
For me who think that the pay of 4<sup>th</sup>. Cisbearers for  
London is already much too high it is something  
novel to be told of <sup>their</sup> talking in the way you write

but I repeat it, "I fear you let them feel too much  
their own consequence - Lash them well & you will not  
fail of Victory" What you mention of Confining them to  
their own Element the Thames is a <sup>devourly</sup> Consummation  
to be wished, do it if possible & you will confer a  
Benefit on the whole Navigation -

I think with you that a Rail way from Burton would  
be a very great object obtained indeed; Money you say  
will not be wanting; if the Mines will come forward,  
do you wish me to go & animate them on - you  
know in every thing you can command my services.  
Could we by means of such a Rail way reduce the  
price 4/6 of Ton It would be a prodigious saving  
indeed & worth fifty journeys to Burton

# You will have this too narrow a morning, but as I  
have observed that the answers from the Committee  
never come away before Wednesday Evening <sup>if they</sup> <sup>on second thoughts</sup> I would beg  
alterations of the Charter are to go forward <sup>to</sup> <sup>be</sup>  
5 words by return of Post "go on with the repairs"  
otherwise she will uselessly lose a day - to save  
two I dispatch this to day. It was otherwise intended  
to have accompanied my report to the Committee  
tomorrow relative to the vessel at the Drawings -

The Committee of Trade of the Thames & Severn Canal  
Navigation, London — 24 Oct. 1796 —  
Gentlemen

I have the Honor to transmit to you a  
Report relating to a vessel now laying at a place  
call'd the Drawings not far from Bredonorth, of  
which at the desire of a Member of your Committee  
I have, aided by the Practical Knowledge of the  
Master of the Broomer, taken a Survey; to  
that respectable Member I beg leave to refer your  
Committee (as in a Letter to him I have entered  
very minutely into the Subject) and the rather  
so, since he from his Talents & theoretical knowledge

in that line will so amply supply <sup>Build</sup> whatever may be deficient in me, I credit the Error unto which my inexperience may have led me: I Have the Honor further to subjoin for your Committee's Information a Valuation Letter A of this same Vessel, & of the Materials, <sup>taken</sup> alluded to in my Report, <sup>by</sup> Mr Bird, Boat Builder at <sup>at</sup> Stourport in January last; which thinking it might be something satisfactory to you I procured from the Steward of Caughley du It amounts to £198. — & they ask 150 Guineas ~~for the whole~~ for the whole; yet I no wise depart from the opinion I have hazarded to Mr Black, the less so since It is rendered of an Efficiency, by the annexed Estimate <sup>Letter B</sup> of your Master, of the cost of a like Vessel built at the Bournes, which without that I could never have thought it entitled to: this Vessel is supposed 63 feet long a least 15. 4 broad draft 4<sup>th</sup> 6 in & burden of 2 Tons, thus near 4 ft longer, & carrying 7 Tons more than the one in question: the cost of 2<sup>th</sup> 3 something less than the demand & completing without any of the defects, patch work of Laws, of that laying at the Bournes: your Committee will be informed that I have hopes of getting the latter something cheaper, perhaps 10 or 15 Guineas less even should I succeed therein which however is by no means certain still in my opinion from the state she is in, at 265 Guineas she would be a dear purchase; I must also say that I should conceive of Tons burden more or less, an object of some weight; besides when I can avoid it, I will confess, I do not like patch work: sewing & lining can never be of an equal strength with one solid piece of Timber! I have thus after holding out to your Committee every Information within my reach, though certainly very incompetent as yet to Naval Duties, hazarded an Opinion

founded on the Survey I have taken, yet you  
may be convinced Gentlemen, that whatever be  
the Resolution you come to, an in me, an pro me,  
I shall treat it with equal clarity, and with one  
Sole Bias, that of making the best Contract for you  
I possibly can

I have further to state to your Committee that  
in pursuance of your Resolution of 17 Aug<sup>r</sup> last  
I have purchased 40 Sticks of Oak, containing  
viz 2000 Cubical feet @  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ft. of Matter  
Myself that the Quality & Price will be found such  
as not to shrink from a Revision, but Bird  
will best say how hard I fought your Battle:

There remain still 1000 feet for y<sup>e</sup> full execution  
of your order, which will be proportionably divided  
between Elm & Deals: at Westwood Park, 1<sup>st</sup> of  
Buckingham seat, where I purchased the above,  
there was none of either, I must therefore take  
some further Opportunity to complete your order

I have y<sup>e</sup> Honor to be respectfully  
Gentlemen

James Blacke Esq. London — 24 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1770

✓ Although I write to the Committee this night  
respecting my proceedings at Swined, yet as you are  
not of it & it was <sup>at your</sup> <sup>more</sup> <sup>immediate</sup> desire that I  
went over to examine the Vessel laying there, I think  
it an Attention due to you to inform you what in  
conjunction with Bird are my Ideas respecting it: with  
regard to the length, Breadth &c. I beg leave to refer  
you to my Report to the Committee, & therein you will  
see the altogether Enfeebled State in which this Vessel  
~~now~~ now lies; nor is it much to be wonder'd at, considering  
that she has been expos'd to wind & weather for now above  
11 Months; you can fairly see through some of her Side  
planking, & the top plank, as stated in my Report, is quite  
broken off near the Stern; the Knee to her Stern is also

much too light for the Lonnage she is to  
carry, and as to the Lonnage itself It is nothing  
near what you stated to me; 90 or 100 Tons: when  
finished in her present form she will not carry  
above 50 Tons: (if starved she will carry 65 Tons,  
provided she is risen to 7 ft 6 In.) this Bird according  
to Her being so short, and assures me that He  
can build one of the same draft of water, say 7 ft 6 In.  
which shall carry ~~72~~ <sup>72</sup> Tons: Now as to the price of 150  
Guineas, their demand, It appears to me full  
much, but I have reason to think that by ~~some~~  
bargaining personally for Her, I may have Her  
something cheaper, this will be attended with a  
= another Bride, & that at no very favourable season  
of the year, but it is my Intention, (and I wish it to  
be so understood) ever to let fatigue & trouble keep  
the Beam when the Company's Interests are concerned:  
I have enter'd heartily into your Cause; allow me  
to say, I have Espoused it, and will prove a good  
Husband to you: Suppose then I should be able  
to get her at £130, add to this £130 — for which  
I believe I could get her finished, even then in my  
opinion considering her shattered state she would  
not be a cheap purchase, for Bird has by my desire  
given me in a Estimate, which I have forwarded to  
the Committee, of the Expence of a better Vessel than  
this built at the Bourn 60 feet long, Carrying Burden  
as above 1/2 tons, & more than this Vessel, which besides  
the Credit & Honor of its being built in our own Yard,  
and I consider that, as no small Matter, will be  
free from those Imperfections which we already know,  
adhere to this Vessel; perhaps also to others we  
know as yet nothing of, over & above the Certainty  
we shall then have of the goodness & sufficiency of  
the materials, besides Bird tells me He thinks  
Her a bad moulded Vessel, that she is too flat

bottomed for the purpose, has no Run aft, & will be  
a Suggish Sailer —

I doubt not your Having Received my Letter  
with the Accounts in question on Saturday, and am  
very truly Dear Sir.

\* I learnt at ~~the~~ Coughley Hall that Mr.  
Perry had likewise been making Inquiries after Her;  
I Hope He will not be too precipitate! Had I known  
him or Had an Introductory Letter from any of you  
Gentlemen in town to Him I might perhaps have  
rode over to Wolverhampton! But as it was I thought  
it as well not —

Instructions from Mr. Nicella to Rich<sup>d</sup>. Mullar —

Burinscombe Post 25 Oct. 1796

✓ Rich<sup>d</sup>. Mullar you are to proceed to Burton, & inform  
Mr. Morse & Mr. Hewlett that Having been Informed  
by Ben<sup>o</sup>. Bowkley of the Compt. Frow, Black that  
there was scarce any Coals come down, to the Wharf  
at Burton, in order that the Company's Boats may  
not be detained & lose their Spring, I have sent  
you over Express, to desire them to have the Coal I  
contracted for in readiness against the Company's  
Boat coming down —

with Mr. Hewlett & Mr. Packer jointly I contracted  
for, when at Burton, on 2 Oct. — that they should  
deliver ~~me~~ me that Spring — 90 tons  
and the ensuing Spring, that just now } 40 —  
past — — — — — }  
— — — — — } 40

And this now coming Spring — Tons — 170

They have delivered me only — — — — — 86  
thus remains — — — — — 84 Tons  
for which I will send my Boats if they are ready.

with Mr Morse I at same time Contracted  
 for that Spring ————— 40  
 the ensuing one ————— 40  
 And this now coming Spring ——— 40  
 ————— 120  
 He has delivered me only ——— 30  
 Thus remains 90 Tons

for which I will send as above if ready  
 you will also make the Hereto annexed Inquiries

Rich<sup>d</sup>? James promised me 40 tons that Spring that  
 only delivered ————— 10

John Jones — Do — me 75 Tons — Do & has only deliv<sup>d</sup> 20

I likewise Contracted with Mr Morgan for 60 Tons  
 between that time & Xmas — but have as yet  
 received none from them

You will inform these different persons that I trust  
 they will adhere — to this Contract for this & the  
 ensuing Springs, & not disappoint me, and  
 note down from their Mouths How many tons I  
 can depend on from each this Spring and  
 desire them to note it down also.

And whether I can depend on Mr Morse & Mr  
 Havellet's supplying me, each with 40 tons Every  
 Spring between this & Xmas according to their  
 promise.

You will also inquire for Mr Kerr, and in the  
 Company's Name Contract with Him for as many  
 Tons Boston Coal as He will undertake to  
 furnish between this & Xmas —



Gloster

W<sup>m</sup> Harmer

Bruncombe Post 25 October 1796

Sir You have been Credited for the £15.10.0 sent by Young Millar & Co contra debited for a trifling & wrongly charged by you in your present Account, as paid Withers for the same, since you brought it to Account in Jan<sup>y</sup> last.

The 10/6 has been as you requested of me stopp'd from James Darke - but you committed a small Error in deducting it from the Monies due by you to the Company - as they of course can never be answerable for Monies paid without their Order - I beg my Compliments to W<sup>m</sup> Harmer and am with much Esteem -

Bruncombe  
near Wincoboe

Mess<sup>rs</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Darham & Co

Bruncombe Post 25 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1796

Gentlemen A Barrel of Linatts is on its way from London for you - I hope it will be here this or next Week and the utmost despatch shall be used to forward them to you on Arrival -

Salop Mess<sup>rs</sup> P. Beck & Williams

Bruncombe Post 25 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1796

Gentlemen In examining the different Town Bills of the Beats coming from London - I find in none of them the 15 Pnds Sugar & Bull of Currants you Allude to in your Letter 20 Instant - If However, but which I cannot suppose there should be any mistake - and they sh<sup>d</sup> notwithstanding their not being in Town Bills be found on Arrival in

any of the Barges - You may depend on the  
utmost despatch in forwarding them to you.

Friend Doctor Snowden

Brunswick Fort 25 Oct 1796

Sir I have to thank you for your care of the  
Young Lad and request the favour of your Report  
to me of the present state of his Eyes - and whether  
you are of Opinion that without doing them any  
prejudice he may now be set to Writing - if not  
how long it may be first -

Gloster Mr Harman. Brunswick Fort 26 Oct 1796

Sir I confirm mine of Yesterday and in reply  
to your favour 26<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>y</sup> by which perceive the Bond  
in question is executed - the Salt Petre will be  
forwarded to Bristol in the Public Store  
Masters.

\* I do not recollect having mentioned to you  
that I will think of your Recommendation  
of W<sup>m</sup> Trigg when our Schooner shall be  
in readiness -

Stourport Mr John Smith

Brimscombe Post 26 Oct 1796

Sir / By yours 26 Instant I perceive that Mess<sup>rs</sup>  
Owen & Hudson of Stourbridge would send some  
Spades Kea by our Boats provided they may be allowed  
to pay the Freight at Brimscombe or to you -  
You are well aware that the general Order is that all  
the Freight be paid in London, and that it is attended  
with much Inconvenience to go thus from the general  
Rule - pray will this House become such large  
Freighters as to render it worth the Company's while  
to alter the general Established rule in their favor,  
and what Guarantee have we that three Months after the  
Freight is due, no difficulties shall arise - these you  
know are matters well to be Weigh'd nor ought the  
Change to take Place, or be thought of, than where we  
are not only sure of our Freight but are also duly  
rewarded for the exception in favor of such Freighters  
You know I would not even hear of it from the House  
of Mr Purgator whom you had assured me would  
become very considerable Inlanders, till Mr Yorks  
Partner Mr Tree had promised to become Guarantee  
for their due Payment of the Freight -  
Your Brother Thomas tells me he is very Poor just  
now, but I will take care to remit you the £60 -  
'ere long and will then endeavour to send you -  
Your Instructions relative to the Boatmen but have

really not had a moment's leisure for them  
since my return here.

You have been as you usually are very Correct in your  
Darkes Iron Bill - I hope now so to have settled matters  
for you that you will in future have some Peace -  
James Parke has promised me here, as Rowley did  
with you, to attend in future in all respects to your  
directions and that he will not let his Wife be any  
more Master aboard his Vessel - but I am afraid  
from all I hear of this Lady that the Poor Fellow has  
promised more than he will / with respect to his Duty  
of a Wife be able to perform - I trust however  
now that all will in future go on tolerably well:  
I have put these Fellows into the hands of a good Master  
namely you - and am therefore satisfied if they do  
their Duty they will be kindly treated.

✕ You will explain the above to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Owen & Hudson  
and hear what they say - when I can Oblige  
I shall always be both ready and desirous to do it  
but we cannot alter our Old Established Rules  
without having some very good Grounds to go on

Bristol Mr W<sup>m</sup> Reed -

Brimcombe Post 26 Oct 1796

Sir / In reply to a letter directed to Mr T. Smith  
but which pray forward to me in future, Your Stamp &  
Junk are on their way from London - and as soon as  
Arrive shall be sent to you with every possible dispatch  
Mr Holmes told you the Truth? but there are in the World  
very Busy, and those of that Stamp are at the same time  
in general very Ignorant People, as by the Tale they have  
told you - they have proved themselves in this Case -  
every Effort has been exerted to serve our Friends, nor any  
Expense spared - I confess there appears much Room  
for Complaint and that it is little Consolation to you  
that the Company are the greatest Sufferers - however  
this is the Fact: we have the most cause to complain;  
but Complaints are fruitless against the Elements -  
According to your desire the Flux shall not be Opened.

X You would be Astonished to hear what one Set  
of Boats alone has cost the Company -

Stroud ~~Mr~~ Joseph Grayebrooke Esq<sup>r</sup>

Brimcombe Post 27 Oct 1796

✓ Dear Sir / With the foot in the stirrup for Gloster  
I give you these three Lines to say, that having another  
demand on us for boat in favour of J. Packer. I have in  
Consequence of what I had the Pleasure of mentioning  
to you Yesterday - directed Mr T. Smith to give his

Draft on you at 1/3m which you will have the  
 Goodness either to discharge when due, or give your  
 Bill at same date on London, as the Parson may be  
 desirous of taking it. I remain with much Esteem

Kempford Mr William Drake

Brimcombe Post 26 October 1796

Sir - I have closed your Account as settled with  
 you the 20 Instant and find several of the Sums in  
 your Balances Receivable charged at this Place  
 as stated at foot Viz

Total Amount of Balances Receivable } £116.8.2 1/2  
 agreeable to your Account }  
 From which deduct the following Sums  
 charged which are and will be received  
 at Brimcombe Viz

20.0.0	Sold from Inglesham to W <sup>m</sup> Brocks 25 June & charged at Brimcombe 30 June	} 22.10.0	
6.0.0	Sold from Inglesham to M <sup>r</sup> Deatroy 29 July & charged at Brimcombe the 30 July		
2.0.0	Sold to M <sup>r</sup> Watts 9.9.9. 2.5.0		
32.0.0	Sold from Inglesham to M <sup>r</sup> Loveden 15 & 22 April 13 May & 10 June 1796 charged at Brimcombe 22 Oct 1796 £36.0.0	} 36.6.0	
	Old Balances due from M <sup>r</sup> Loveden as charged & settled at Brimcombe 5 <sup>th</sup> 96		
			67.16.0

Balances due to be received at Kempford are £80.6.8 1/2  
 Continued Overleaf

Letter to William Drake Kempford Wharf Continued

You will Please regulate your Balances in your Coal Book agreeable to the foregoing - making a Reference to this Letter and the £80. 6. 8. to be received by you must be collected from whom due, at all opportunities which of course you will not omit noting -

In future you will please Enter all Coal allowed you by the Company - and such as you may Occasionally deliver for the use of the Canal &c - for which the Amount is not put to, in the General Coal Account instead of amongst the Sales - by doing thus the Coals will have the proper Value to them - and such Coal as you do not receive for - may at any Time be soon referred to -

T. S.

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Stroud, Tho. Baylis Esq.

20 Octr. 1796

Monday the Morning fix'd for our Ride to Tramlode is approaching; I Had Hoped for a Sight of you last Sunday when you was at Burncombe House, but you run away without giving me that Pleasure; pray favor me with a Line where I am to meet you? your Hour shall be mine I Have the Honor to be

T. S.

Cucklade Mrs. Brund

27 Oct. 1796

✓ Since closing your Acc<sup>t</sup> the 25<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>d</sup> if I recollect  
right the Coals you have for your own use, as allowed  
you by the Co & what you have delivered to the London  
Boatmen, are entered amongst the Sales & of course  
without any Value annexed to them — In order that  
the Am<sup>t</sup> of Coals may correspond to the quantity  
sold it will in future be best to Enter your own  
Coal, & such as you may occasionally deliver for the use  
of the Canal & to the London Boatmen direct to the General  
Coal Acc<sup>t</sup> in the same manner you did <sup>those you sent</sup> ~~that~~ to the  
Engine, — This mode I am persuaded you will  
concur with me in Opinion to be most proper for  
the reasons here stated as well as for any other reference  
if required —  
I am  
T. S.

You have been as you usually are very correct  
in John Darke's Trow Bill

✓ Stourport Mr John Smith Bruncombe Port 29 Oct 1796

You certainly my good Friend have not  
understood me: Read the above two Lines over again  
they are what I wrote you respecting John Darke and  
certainly contains no symptoms of Reproof or dissatisfaction  
which by your manner of Answering them you would  
seem to have Imagined — No Mr Smith I therefore tell you  
that you have been in the case of John Darke, as you  
generally are, right and that you had made no Omission  
in his Trow Bill; and I vividly believe in saying this  
I did you no more than Justice, for you appear to me very  
correct and Carefull in all your Transactions and you  
have Pleas'd me more than once, even during this  
my short stay at Bruncombe —



James Daske is gone down - John Daske is running  
after him and Bowley in the Black may perhaps  
out Strip them both - so you see I have taken good  
Care of you -

I am also very sorry Thomas is so Poor - but I am  
sure as soon as he gets a little Rich, which I mean  
to make him shortly, he will not forget you? or should  
he ever, depend on my keeping my Promise with you  
so such as may continue making Inquiries after  
Goods from London, say I hope and trust to have the  
Boats here in a week or 10 days - do you therefore  
despatch the Dashes & Bowley as quick as possible  
Pray where is Bowley that I hear nothing of him

I send you herewith in pursuance of my Promise Copy  
of the Instructions I mean to furnish your Stowport  
Masters of Traws with - I think you will find them  
Answer the Purpose, but if your Knowledge of these Shaps  
can suggest any Alteration for the better Write it me  
and I shall with Pleasure adopt it - I amea also  
form of the certificate of their Good Behaviour, they  
are to receive from you to Entitle them to the intended  
Gratification but Pray never furnish them with it  
but when they truly deserve it, and then I have my  
hopes it may have the desired Effects in keeping them  
to their Duty - and saving you a Deal of Vexation -

I am with Esteem -

In your Town Bell N<sup>o</sup> 328 & James Daske you omitted inserting 2 Bags Nails <sup>EPS</sup>  
in Ink Pitch mark SX the N<sup>o</sup> for Message of your Place will be charged  
making your Town Bell L<sup>1</sup>. 0. 6<sup>2</sup>

Hpton M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Bayles

Brimscombe Post 29 Oct 1796

Sir/ I think in about a Week or 10 days. I shall have Boats ready to Load for London - which I trust will not be long on their Passage; perhaps a Fortnight

Worcester Mess<sup>rs</sup> Ballard & Harwood

Brimscombe Post 29 Oct 1796

Gentlemen The Goods mentioned in your Letter of the 24 Instant are on their way hither and I trust I shall be able to forward them to you in a Week or 10 days - The Passage has this time been assuredly very tedious from the great draughts in the Thames, but the Season for Waters thank Heaven is approaching: I assure you I am as thankfull for it - as you can be -

Penby Captain Chapman

Brimscombe Post 29 Oct 1796

I received your Letter 26 Instant from Newnham but to day - Inclosed according to your request a draft of £52 - On Foster Lubbock & Company - for Payment of the Schooners cargo of coals - which I hope will be the Wiseman Bridge - but you must not wait this time for them as I have a Letter from M<sup>r</sup> Williams of Cardiff saying that he has a Loading of Bar Iron for you, and wishing you to go down for it this Spring, but as you was unluckily sailed before I received his Letter - I would Wish you to return as speedily as possible in order to go Early in the next Spring - I hope therefore you will prove a bad Prophet - and that you will have a Sufficiency of Fair Weather,

M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Chapman  
Merchant in Brimscombe  
at Mess<sup>rs</sup> Mary Bayles & Co  
Penby Brimscombe

Cardiff Mr Thomas Williams

Bruncombe Fort 29 Oct 1796

Sir/ Unfortunately your Esteem'd 25 Instant directed to  
 Mr Smith came a day too late to Enable me to comply with  
 your request "to send our Schooner to Load Bar Iron this  
 Spring" as she is gone to Tanby, but I will order Chapman to  
 you the next if you can wait till then which of course you  
 will have the Goodness to let me know in time -  
 With Respect to Mr Hughes I learn from Mr Smith that when  
 at Cardiff it was agreed between you and him that you should  
 settle with the former and in Pursuance thereof in reply to a  
 Letter from <sup>him</sup> ~~him~~ dated 7 Instant requesting Payment ~~from~~  
 from me - I directed him to apply to you he has done so and  
 you send him now back to me - I shall be always desirous  
 of Accommodating Mr Humphrey and you Sir/ but I think  
 it a pity that this Owner should be thus sent a hunting  
 after his Money -

At Bottom copy of his charge made to me amounts to £23.13.8  
 pray say is it Mr Humphreys desire that I should give my  
 draft on Mess Clarke Foreman & Co for this sum, and does  
 he become Guarantee to my company for the due Payment  
 thereof - in which case I shall with Pleasure attend to his  
 request and remain -

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Smith & Co To Thomas Hughes Esq<sup>r</sup>

1796  
 August 8<sup>th</sup> 1796  
 13.0.20 of Iron from Cardiff  
 to Bruncombe Fort of Mess<sup>rs</sup>  
 Jerry Humphrey & Company 1/6 } 28 0 0  
 Paid Tonnage 1 14 8  
 Received by the Master 33 2 8  
 9 9 0  
 £ 23 13 8

Bristol W<sup>m</sup> John Holmes

Bruncombe Post 29 Oct 1796

✓ Sir Above Invoice of the Goods of the Galic which  
which you will do the needfull -  
I had thoughts to have sent you this Spring the Gall Petra  
which has been so long and foolishly detained at Trombesas  
a M<sup>r</sup> Mills has obtained the Order of Council for its  
Release ever since the 29 July - but with an inconceivable  
Stupidity or inattention or both since he was the Petitioner  
omitted giving the required Bond till within these few  
days: this I discovered last Spring having for the better  
clearing away all difficulties at the Custom House gone  
Myself over to Gloucester - interesting myself much for the  
Consignees at Bristol - I then offered to become security  
in my own and the Company's Name for the Landing of  
the Petra at Bristol: but this they refused. Saying they  
must have Mills for one of the Securities -  
On Wednesday last I received Notice that Mills had signed  
the Bond as also a M<sup>r</sup> Stock of Gloucester and that it now  
only wanted for my Signature: I accordingly as no  
other security could be found, and wishing to serve the  
Consignees went a second time to Gloucester when to my  
Surprise I found that through the whole 36 Casks  
consisted of no more than 23.6.2 Grofs. they had given  
Bond in £6000. for the delivery of 25 Tons W<sup>m</sup> Bristol  
and that in addition to this Two Casks had by some  
ones order but entirely unknown to me been sent  
two days back to Bristol by a Waggon -

Wm Holmes

I therefore refused to have anything to do with People  
who transacted Business in such a Slowing Way -  
In my opinion the signing a Bond for £6/11 is no  
trifling matter nor do I chuse to put myself into an  
unpleasant Situation for any Man Living but much  
less for Strangers and those too who seem so entirely  
Ignorant of the Common forms of Business.

They must therefore now find their own Securitys and all  
I can do in the Business is, that whenever Mr. Gave shall  
inform me that the Pot is may be Transported to Order  
the Chatic to take it on Board.

I have received your Letter 19<sup>th</sup> with the charge of <sup>Charles</sup> £1.10.11  
Also cost of a Cask Grease ----- 3.6.5

for which you are credited ----- £ 4.17.4

Pray Excuse the turnings & Twistings of this Letter & Commu-  
nicate it to the Consignees. Believe me

~~W<sup>o</sup> Pillawell } Mr. Rich James Bremcombe Post 29 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1796  
near Sutton~~

~~Sir, I have this day paid agreeable to your  
Order to Mr. Edward James £11.12.0 for your Coal  
brought here 20 this Month by the Iron besides the  
Gibbons with more~~

Pillawelle M<sup>r</sup> Rich<sup>d</sup> James  
near Puxton

Brimscombe Post the  
29 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1796

✓ According to ~~your~~ Your Order I have Paid  
M<sup>r</sup> Edward James £14..12..0 being the Amount  
of the Coal you sent me by the Ironside being 29.6.2  
I understand it was not all Weighd on delivery and  
thus have been very Particular in having it Weighd  
here.

Burdley Mess<sup>rs</sup> John<sup>n</sup> Sherr & Son

Brimscombe Post 30 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1796

✓ Gentlemen The Goods Noted in your Letter 27<sup>th</sup> Inst  
have not been forwarded to you - because they are not  
Arrived at Brimscombe

On examining the Trow Bills I find the  
5 Casks Copperas } which you want immediately  
2 Casks Allom }  
1 Cask Ashes }  
are on their way thither and as soon as they Arrive  
which I trust now will not be long first - I shall  
per very first opportunity be despatched to you  
and the Charges and Freight made out to you accord<sup>ing</sup>  
to your desire Specifying each Item in the Account -  
The Argol Logwood &c may be perhaps coming in some  
other Boats of which the Trow Bills are not yet come  
to hand.

Custom House Gloucester 20 October 1796 to Capt<sup>m</sup>  
Thomas Yates of the Town (Chalie) -

Sir, I am to acquaint you, that you must  
on the Receipt of this procure a Certificate of return for  
a Forfeited Coast Bond dated August 15. 1796. for the  
Chalie Bond for Bristol and send the same to your  
Surety M<sup>r</sup> James Broughton to prevent the Trouble and  
Expence which will attend a Prosecution that will be  
Spued without further delay against you -

Signed Rob<sup>t</sup> Hardy of Col<sup>l</sup>

Bristol M<sup>r</sup> Holmes Brunscombe Post 30 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1796

Sir, Yates sent me the above Notice Yesterday -  
Be so good as to procure the required Certificate which  
these Plaging Rascals, I imagine, only cry out for  
in Order to make us detest them more than we do already  
I confirm mine of Yesterday -

New Wear & near Ross { Mess<sup>rs</sup> William Partridge & C<sup>o</sup>  
Brunscombe Post 30 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1796

Gentlemen The Cask of Oil you suppose Arrived at  
this Place Post in your favour 25 Instant is still on  
its way from London. Our Tunnel is at present  
undergoing some Repairs but will be Open next Week  
when I have no doubt of seeing the Boats among us -  
And you may depend on the above Casks being forwarded  
to you immediately on Arrival -

Post Slip  
near Wincoborn

Mess<sup>rs</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Durham & Co

30

Brimscombe Post 30 Oct 1796

Gentlemen The second Barrel of Smalts you enquire  
after is likewise on its Road from London & shall be forwarded  
immediately to you on Arrival.

Cricklade William Brent

Brimscombe Post 30 Oct 1796

Sir I am Pleased to hear that your lower Severn  
is so reduced. and by the first Opportunity will  
replenish it - but have no Thoughts, <sup>at present</sup> whatever of reducing  
the Price - indeed to say the Truth I am not quite sure  
whether I shall not be obliged to raise it, as they  
talk of ~~raising~~ making us pay 6<sup>d</sup> per Ton at the Pits  
you may however at present continue it @ 22/3.

London Mr James Black

Brimscombe Post 30 Oct 1796

Dear Sir - I came down here from the Tunnel last  
Night and found your favour of the 28 together with  
Copy of Orders of the General Assembly - In your  
Letter you say "I am to take Bills and Remit to Mr  
W<sup>m</sup> Stevenson and J. Atkinson Esq<sup>r</sup> for so much Money  
as has been received at Brimscombe &c" I presume  
the Balance after deducting the common Expences  
of the Canal - this I am at a loss to do, having no  
Bills or Cash in hand to that Amount -



therefore must be your Opinion how this is to be done  
also if I am to draw on the Navigation Committee  
for the Balance agreeable to the Account transmitted  
by Mr Nuccella which I understand to be about  
One Years Accounts or Only for Six Months during the  
time of the Tonnage in favour of those Gentlemen which  
I will set about so soon as the Repairs of the Canal  
are closed but this part of the Business in future I presume  
maybe best done by the Acting Agent upon the spot -  
On Wednesday last the Masons finished using up all  
the Stones in the Tunnel - since that ~~time~~ time the Marshes  
been Employ'd in getting the Rubbish out of the Tunnel at  
both Ends - at the Stapleton End I do not expect the Men  
would be out before Three O'clock this Morning and to  
Morrow I hope it will be completed - getting out of the  
Tunnel but the Boats will not be Discharged -

Beesleys Boats came up to the Stop Gates in boats full  
& Quarrington were in the Summit at Siddington -  
Yesterday Morning - but I am rather doubtful if there  
will be Water sufficient to bring them all down here  
with their present Ladings - after the Ponds are filled  
from Daneway Lock to Chalford - and only 2 feet 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch  
upon the hills of the Summit Yesterday - The Average of  
the Gloucester <sup>Water</sup> last Week 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  Hours in 24 - and but a  
small supply at the Engine - tho at this Rate in the course

of last Week the Tunnell and to Danaway was filled  
near 2 Miles and the Water Rose ~~about~~ about 5 feet  
in the Summit besides bringing up 11 London Boats -  
A Communication is made of the little Tunnell at the Engine  
to the Hill in the Valley - but do not find any additional  
Water yet -

The Water from Downampney was expected  
to be brought to Bricklade Pond on Thursday or Friday  
last - the different Repairs lying wide, I was not able to  
go down last Week -

Mr Hall has promised to make a Drawing  
of the Floodgate at Burncastles soon -

It will take nearly or quite all this  
Week to put all straight - the first Moment after will send  
you all the Particulars of the Tunnell, with the necessary  
Remarks of Repairs &c

I hope to get the Boats pass the Tunnell  
on Tuesday Morning -  
under Cover to John Sargent Esq<sup>r</sup> S. S.

Jewksbury Mr Thomas Caddick

Bruncombe Post 9 Novem<sup>r</sup> 1796

Sir In reply to your Letter 31 October I can assure you  
that Rice and Oil are considered as tight Goods and  
charged as such 3/9/- to allow Friends from whom we  
never receive any Animadversions thereon they all  
regarding the same as right and proper - and therefore  
I can have no doubt but you will do the same on Reflection

I hope soon to be able to forward you some of