

## **Thames and Severn Canal Company: Letters Reporting Activities in 1811 (Gloucestershire Archives TS/216)**

Weekly letters from Brimscombe Agent J R Denyer to Company Treasurer J S Salt in London reporting on current issues, including:

Bad weather in January delayed traffic - coal on the way to Lechlade was sold at Cricklade.  
Concern about Sills & Co at Hambro Wharf after one of the partners went bankrupt.  
Costs of shipping coal to Lechlade provided with a recommendation to reduce prices.  
Information about the qualities of Lydney vs Bullo coal and need to reduce prices.  
Kennet & Avon Canal opening had drastic effect on traffic to and from Bristol.  
Shortage of small change met by parcels from London.  
Competition amongst the carriers has led to disputes - particularly Wyatt vs Miller.  
Good stock of coal at Lechlade in December ready for winter.

### **5 January 1811**

I am duly favoured with your letter of 1st.

The canal I am sorry to say is now completely stopped by ice and I see no prospects of any alteration in the weather at present. The detention this will cause, added to the late flood, will, I am fearful, make the shippers of goods very dissatisfied with the conveyance. Some goods have been on their passage from London upwards of two months, and the boats having them on board are now stopped near Oxford. No blame whatever is imputable to the barge masters. I am not aware of whom I received the note detained by the bank, having taken it during my visit to the wharfs to close the quarterly accounts. I have duly credited you for it and beg instructions as to the loss.

The cash account and weekly return accompany this. On the other side are particulars of drafts drawn to Debit of Committee of Trade:

2 January 1811 To Thomas Ball or order £25.

3 January 1811 To James Hewlett or order £30.

### **14 January 1811**

Mr Harford's letter, with transfer of shares, came duly to hand.

Herewith you will receive the Bankers books, cash account, weekly return and Oxford paper. The whole line of Canal will again be navigable this day, but I am fearful the River Thames will be impeded by flood.

The two shares Nos 651 and 652 are in the name of Moreton Walhouse of Grays Inn London instead of Hatherton Staffordshire as stated in certificate. Presuming the numbers to be right, I have transferred them to Sir E Littleton.

### **21 January 1811**

Enclosed you have the cash accounts and weekly return. The Oxford Paper which contains new matter on the subject of the proposed canals is likewise sent this day.

Brookings, in reply to my letter to him respecting the draft refused payment by Sills & Co, requests it may be held till Wednesday or Thursday when he intends being in London and will take it up - charges in addition to noting one-half. This business has risen solely in consequence of the almost unprecedented detention the boats have experienced.

In addition to the 184 tons of coal on Lechlade wharf the 19th, 63 tons of Newport have since arrived there. 56 tons Forest left here on Friday, and I hope to dispatch upwards of 100 tons during the present week. The entry in the cash account for coal sold at Cricklade arises in consequence of the boat being stopped there by the late frost (on her way to Lechlade), and that place being without coal I disposed of it to prevent the inhabitants resorting to be Berks & Wilts Canal.

I have drawn on you as per the other side to Debit of Proprietors:

16 January 1811 To William Lidiatt at 2 months £30.

### **28 January 1811**

Enclosed you will receive the cash account and weekly returns.

The canal has been partially frozen over during part of last week. The ice boat was immediately put to work and the boats liberated without experiencing much detention. I am however very apprehensive, from present appearances, the canal will again be impassable. Owing to the above circumstance, one of the boats for Lechlade wharf is now loading instead of being on her passage thither.

I hope Brookings has taken up the draft agreeable to his promise.

Drafts drawn on account of the T&S Committee of Trade to pay for coal:

26 January 1811 To Thomas Ball at 2 months £50

26 January 1811 To Bullo Pill Co at 2 months £65.6 2

Goods for London accumulate very fast arising in consequence of the flood in the River Thames which, after stopping the navigation for 11 weeks, is now abated so as to allow the boats to travel, and I hope very soon to see a very great reduction in quantity. I have appraised, although I am inclined to think the loss they have experienced rendered it almost unnecessary, the carriers that every nerve must be strained to forward the boats, and we are now having two of Messrs Wyatt's sent empty for Oxford for that purpose.

### **4 February 1811**

I am duly favoured with Mr Harford's letter of 30 ult and note the contents. I have six of Mr Sills' £1 notes by me, taken of Mr Hipsley. I don't know how the carriers accounts stand with them, I hope they are not considerable. [After bankruptcy of one of the partners - Lon Gaz 29 January 1811]

Two boats loaded with Forest and Bilston coal are now detained by ice on their way to Lechlade Wharf. I understand it is intended by Mr Procter to liberate them tomorrow.

On the other side is an account of drafts drawn on you:

Drafts drawn per J R Denyer:

6 February 1811 To N Thornbury at 2 months £146 15 8 to Debit of Proprietors for taxes.

1 February 1811 To Thomas Webb & Co at 2 months £100 to Debit of Committee of Trade to pay for Newport coal.

### **11 February 1811**

Enclosed you have the cash account and weekly return.

We have at length an arrival of boats from London and I hope in consequence to see a very considerable reduction in the goods at this place by the end of the present week.

I have so often and at the same time so ineffectually applied to Mr Baker for the payment of his Thames boats tonnage account that I feel I should be departing from my duty by not mentioning the circumstance. The balance of his account to Christmas last was £426 1.10, of which something more than £140 arose in the quarter ending at that period. By an almost daily application, I have extracted £45, leaving a balance of £381 1 10. The other carriers make it a rule to pay their accounts conformably with the conditions agreed upon, but Mr Baker never has.

I have this moment heard Brookings, in addition to his unfortunate business at Sills, has a boat sunk at Marlow on her passage to this place.

### **18 February 1811**

Herewith you will receive the cash account weekly return and Oxford papers together with a book relating to proposed canals, received from Mr Lovedon, which I was not certain the

Committee might have seen. I have also enclosed a statement of the cost prices of coal sold at Lechlade, together with the price at which, after fully considering the subject, I beg leave to recommend its being lowered to. The reasons why coal should be sold as cheap as possible, so as not to monopolise a trade to the exclusion of individuals, are so many and so well known to the Committee that nothing I can add (except that all coal save Newport has experienced a reduction in the first cost since the present prices were established) will throw any further information on the subject. Should the Committee adopt the reduced price, the 1st March is the period at which I also beg to observe it should take place.

Mr Baker has been with me to say he has received a letter from Mr Harford and that he hopes to pay the whole of the company's debt by the end of next week.

Brookings' loss by the sinking of the boat mentioned in my last is likely to be very serious indeed. Mr Miller informs me that in a letter to him he states it at £2,000. If this be true, he is, I am fearful, forever ruined.

On the other side is an account of two drafts drawn on you to Debit of Committee of Trade:

14 February 1811 To Thomas Ball at 2 months £58

16 February 1811 To James Hewlett at 2 months £40.

Forest Coal 10 December 1810	Bullo Pill per ton	Lydney per ton
Cost at shipping place	12s	13s
Freight to Brimscombe	3s 6d	5s
Stroud tonnage	1s	1s
T&S tonnage	1s 3d	1s 3d
T&S wharfage	3d	3d
Cost at Brimscombe	18s	20s 6d
T&S tonnage to Lechlade	2s 9d	2s 9d
Freight to Lechlade	2s 6d	2s 6d
Cost at Lechlade	23s 3d	25s 9d
Profit	5s 9d	3s 3d
Selling price at Lechlade	29s	29s

Cost prices of Coal February 1811	Bilston	Newport	Lydney Forest	Bullo Forest
Cost at shipping place	16s 6d	11s 6d	13s	12s
Freight to Brimscombe	4s 6d	7s	5s	3s 6d
Stroud tonnage	1s	1s	1s	1s
T&S tonnage	1s 3d	1s 3d	1s 3d	1s 3d
Wharfage etc	3d	3d	3d	3d
Cost at Brimscombe	23s 6d	21s	20s 6d	18s
T&S tonnage to Lechlade	2s 9d	2s 9d	2s 9d	2s 9d
Freight to Lechlade	2s 6d	2s 6d	2s 6d	2s 6d
Cost at Lechlade	28s 9d	26s 3d	25s 9d	23s 3d
Profit	2s 3d	2s 3d	2s 3d	2s 3d
Proposed price to be sold at on 1 March	31s	28s 6d	28s	25s 6d

### 21 February 1811

I am favoured with your letter of 19 inst in reply. You say in the list I sent I "state the cost price of Forest coal at Lechlade from Lydney 28s, from Bullo Pill 25s 6d and that I recommend the former to be sold at 28s and the latter 25s 6d". If this is so, I certainly have made a very great error in copying the list I sent as the cost price of Lydney Coal at Lechlade is only 25s 9d and Bullo Pill 23s 3d, to each of which I add 2s 3d per ton as an adequate

profit for interest of capital etc, making the former 28s and the latter 25s 6d, the prices at which I recommended their being sold. Lydney and Bullo Pill coal are of very distinct qualities and I conceive both sorts should be encouraged. The latter is not so dear as the former at the shipping place which, being situated nearer the entrance of the Stroud Canal, also causes the freight to be less. As I before said, the reasons are numerous why coal should be sold as low as possible on this canal, and they are equally obvious, and I hope the effects of the reduction, if adopted, will be very visible in the ensuing summer's tonnage account. I also think that instead of allowing, at the usual period, the full Bounty, if any, on Bullo coal, it will find a readier sale at 1s than the other sorts will at 2s. I however am fully of opinion all kinds of coal should receive encouragement by being offered for sale and the Public allowed to judge for themselves.

### **25 February 1811**

I am duly favoured with Mr Harford's letters of 20th and 22nd. Messrs Glover & Son called here on their return from Lechlade etc and informed me of their having written you upon the subject of taking Lechlade Wharf. They also stated that through the medium of Mr Bragg Bathurst of Lydney, they had every reason to suppose Lord Bathurst would spare them a strip of his land adjoining the Company's wharf at Cirencester for the purpose of landing and selling coal also, and indeed that they intended keeping a stock at every wharf on the canal. So very confident are they of commanding an extensive trade that they would not hesitate in entering into an agreement to pay the company £1,000 per annum for the tonnage on coal sold by them alone for 7 years. I mention this merely to show you their ideas upon the subject, but I must say I am afraid they will never be realised. The Bullo Pill people will always have a great advantage over the Lydney from situation, besides which I have seen no coal from Lydney, in my opinion, equal to the Bullo. I have had no means of correctly ascertaining the character and respectability of the parties. What I have heard has been from men concerned in the same way and consequently they may have spoken from interested motives, but their account of them is by no means favourable, as they are described as speculative persons, in several of which they have failed, and that they now build their hopes upon a trade in Lydney coal. The estate they speak of I believe is not their own.

With respect to having two prices of Forest coal, I must beg to observe that in my letter of 24 December I pointed out the reasons why I conceived it unnecessary at that period, being the first Bullo coal that had arrived for the company, to make any difference in price, namely that Hipsley would be able to sell all the coal that could be sent to the wharf till March as the price then stood.

Brookings informs me that he gave instructions to the person that was to collect his debts in London to pay a sufficiency into your hands to cover the draft, which he thought had been done.

Mr Baker this day paid me in a draft, not payable in London, and local notes £170 on account.

PS. Hipsley in his return of this day says "Mr Walker of Lechlade sells 2s under us in Forest coal".

### **4 March 1811**

Enclosed you will receive cash notes value £123 15s to the credit of the Proprietors of the T&S Canal.

I am duly favoured with Mr Harford's letters of 26th February and 1st inst, and I'm sorry my letters upon the subject of Forest coal have not been sufficiently explanatory hitherto. The particulars I sent of the cost I conceived would convey every information so as to enable the Committee to fix a selling price, and I wished for an opportunity of ascertaining how it withstood the effects of a summer prior to saying too much of the qualities of either. Indeed, if the Proprietors of the various works are to be credited, what we have already had passed

through the canal can hardly be considered a fair sample, so much do they expect it to improve in quality as they proceed. The Bullo coal already imported is of a pleasant free burning quality and, generally speaking, divested of any extraneous matter. It's remarkably brittle and consequently becomes rather small by frequent removals. Lydney coal is of several different sorts, the quality from most of the pits varying very materially. It's larger and harder but not as beautiful burning, and rather more durable than the Bullo but the greater part of it is incorporated with a sort of ironstone. I cannot again forbear taking the liberty of reminding the Gentlemen of the Committee that an increase of tonnage being their principal object, coal cannot of course be sold too low in price, so that individuals are not excluded. The profit of 2s 3d per ton is fully equivalent for interest of capital, trouble, weight etc and is considered a good fair profit and which, added to 23s 3d the cost, enables Bullo coal to be sold at Lechlade for 25s 6d, the price I stated in the list sent. The Wilts & Berks dealers are selling coal at Longcott, 3 or 4 miles from Faringdon, at 27s, and, unless coal can be sold at less than that price on the T&S Canal, only a partial trade can be expected. I purpose going to Lydney tomorrow as desired. Business would not allow of my going before.

Mr Pitt being in possession of the extracted particulars of Whatley & Co., accountants, I have written to Mr Proctor to call for and send them to me and I hope to have them in time to furnish the account required by the Meeting on 12 inst.

The undermentioned bills have been drawn on you to Debit of Committee

27 February 1811 to Richard Miller at 2 months £75

28 February 1811 to Thomas Ball at 2 months £45

Messrs Pitt & Co will pay, through Esdailes', £100 of the balance in Cirencester Bank prior to Saturday.

### **11 March 1811**

Herewith you will receive the cash account and weekly return of imports and exports.

I went to Lydney for the purpose of seeing Messrs Glover & Son as stated in my last letter, and I must observe my visit in a great degree confirms in my mind the report I had heard of them and which I stated to you on the 27th February. They were unprepared to meet the business in every shape, and the idea of taking to the wharfs immediately originated in their comparing the cost and selling prices of coal, which they had learnt very accurately, and not with a view of pushing a trade in what they call their own coal. This is in fact coal raised by needy free miners to whom they advance certain sums for the purpose of opening and working a pit, upon conditions of the coal being rendered to them at a fixed price, according to quality and situation, and this I verily believe is the estate they alluded to in their letter to you. They promised to write you.

I did hope the account given to Mr Pitt some years since would have enabled me to make out Messrs Whatley & Co account as desired, but neither from that nor the ledgers here can I make it so as to show the number of tons of coal sold, contrary, as Mr Whatley considers it, to the agreement. The amount of that sent to Cricklade, up to the period of the agreement ceased, greatly exceeds at 2s per ton his whole debt to the Company, but what portion of it remained on the wharf unsold at that time cannot be ascertained. I must however beg to observe that it has never yet been admitted that the Company broke the agreement, but in consequence of Messrs Whatley & Co not keeping an ample stock for the supply of the County, the Company, under the agreement, had a right to place such stock upon the Wharfs which they did, and Messrs Whatley & Co refusing to give the price offered for it by others consequently did not have it. These I believe are the facts of the case but as I at that time resided in London, I of course have no personal knowledge of it. Mr Harford I presume will be able to put the Committee in possession of further information. The agreement is I think in London. If not, I have a duplicate which shall be sent if necessary. Any account I can furnish would tend only to confuse, unless present to explain it, as it is connected with both sets of

books. Monies received of Whatley & Co on account and for which receipts were given in one sum, were afterwards divided and placed part to Proprietors and part to Trade account. If Mr Whatley can by any means evade paying, he certainly will until he finds the Company fully determined to proceed against him.

On the annexed side is an account of drafts drawn on you to pay Messrs Hall & Son surveying etc, and I shall be obliged by knowing whether the amount is to appear in the half yearly account or go to the account of T&S Canal.

11 March 1811 To Richard Hall & Son at 1 month £93 to Debit of Proprietors.

### **18 March 1811**

Enclosed you have Wardle on Sharpe & Son £20, Gibbons on Forster & Co £30, Cash notes value £12 5. Total £62.5s to the credit of the Proprietors of the Thames and Severn Canal, the receipt be pleased to acknowledge.

The packet contains a copy of Whatley & Co agreement.

I hope Messrs Pitt & Co paid through Esdaile & Co the £100 as mentioned in my letter of 4th instant.

I have drawn on you as per the other side to pay for coal:

14 March 1811 to Thomas Ball at 2 months £50 to Debit of T&S Committee.

### **25 March 1811**

Herewith you will receive the weekly accounts. Mr Harford's letter of 19th with transfer came duly to hand. I have written Brookings respecting the draft, he has not paid any part of his account to Christmas last £113 17 11d. If the law compels him to make good the loss and damage arising from the late accident, he is most assuredly unable to support it.

A sample of Bullo and Lydney coal will be forwarded as desired. The cask containing the wine arrived this day.

Bullo coal is a much quicker coal than the Newport, nor does the small cake so much as the latter. Bullo and Newport coal mixed make excellent and at the same time durable fire.

I have given Messrs Lovell & Son, Fleet Street, directions to receive £8 3s of you for paper purchased by order of the Gentlemen of the Committee for papering the Committee room at this place.

Kennet & Avon Canal being now navigable, every exertion must be made by the carriers on this canal to prevent goods going by that conveyance. I have enclosed an advertisement cut from a Bristol paper by which I presume the Committee will see the absolute necessity of their interfering, as it is next to impossible justice can be done by one party conducting opposite interests. [Advertisement: Richard Horner of Newbury advertised he was trading via the Kennet & Avon Canal from Bristol to Hambro Wharf London run by Sills Sons & Co.] The carriers I know have had the matter in contemplation but I don't think anything has been done in it, and I beg leave to suggest the propriety of sending a letter to each of them, from the Committee, calling upon them to exert themselves to render the conveyance regular and insisting upon the trade through the canal being removed from the present wharf in London unless the Proprietors thereof prefer declining to receive and ship for the Kennet & Avon or any other canal whose interest is in opposition to the T&S.

The whole of the mortgages and bond creditors have, I believe, signed their shares made out except Francis Knight Clifford's £125 - mortgage

I have given repeated directions to the person carrying the parcels to regularly book them and send them per mail and not the Guard. I'll again enforce such instructions.

### **1 April 1811**

Enclosed you will receive cash notes value £158 5s to the credit of the Proprietors of the Thames & Severn Canal, the receipt be pleased to acknowledge. Brookings promises to pay his account to Christmas in a fortnight.

By Miller's boat, which left this place on Friday last, I sent two casks containing Bullo and Lydney coals, and the captain, Thomas Hart, promised to deliver them at No. 80 for which, to save trouble of entry etc in London, I agreed to pay him.

The Bankers books came duly to hand. In the Proprietor's, Mr Harford has entered £15 half-year use of Committee room etc instead of £25 as heretofore. [I] will thank him to say which is right.

Mr Procter having unexpectedly been summoned to attend a court-martial at Bristol and detained there the whole of last week, and I believe not yet returned, it will be impossible for me to have his accounts before Wednesday or Thursday next, which I am fearful will put it entirely out of my power sending the accounts by the 8th, as desired. I beg to assure you no exertion shall be wanting to effect it if possible

Bill drawn to Debit of Committee of Trade

29 March 1811 To Thomas Ball at 2 months £60.

### **8 April 1811**

By Mail this day I have forwarded the weekly papers together with cash notes £48 15s, and I here enclose the half yearly statement of receipts and payments on account of the Proprietors of the T&S Canal. The tonnage and housing accounts, I am to sorry to observe, have severely felt the effects of the late flood of nearly 11 weeks. I found it impracticable to get the whole of the papers ready for forwarding this day, notwithstanding every exertion has been made to accomplish it, and concluded upon sending the enclosed, knowing it contained the information required for arranging the payment of a dividend, which I trust will meet the approbation of the Committee.

### **8 April 1811**

Enclosed you have cash notes value £48 15s to the credit of the Proprietors of the Thames & Severn Canal. Thomas Hipsley's remittance £135 this day you will also be pleased to place to same account. The Bankers books, cash account and weekly return are also enclosed.

I beg leave to suggest the propriety of discontinuing to allow any bounty on coal taken by land during the summer months as heretofore, being of opinion from the price of Bullo coal there will be a very good trade, so soon as the farmers have got the land in order, without any further allowance, any rate I certainly think it worth trying.

Goods are becoming very scarce from Bristol, no doubt in consequence of the Kennet & Avon Canal being opened. The Thames carriers having met here last week, I conceived it a good opportunity to speak to them upon the subject of a wharf in London etc, and in consequence they have written to Sills & Co, giving them notice that unless they decline receiving Kennet & Avon boats and all others that affect their interest within 21 days, they will remove the Thames & Severn boats to another wharf.

### **15 April 1811**

Enclosed you will receive cash notes value £35 15s to the credit of the Proprietors of the T&S Canal, the receipt be pleased to acknowledge. The packet contains, in addition to the regular weekly papers, balance sheets of the two ledgers at this place and lists of the proprietors of shares in three classes. In the balance sheet of the trade ledger, the profit on Lechlade wharf is exhibited.

The three shares Mr Disney sold to Mr Bland are presumed, from the consideration paid for them, to be part of those Mr Disney bought of Mr Bowdler and are transferred to Mr Bland under Class 3 or non subscribers to half shares. The numbers are not stated in the certificate sent here.

I was not aware there was such a claim as the Rev R Lockey's until he produced his contract signed by Mr Perry (the counterpart to which I found in the iron safe). Mr Lockey promised

in future to receive it every year. I have endeavoured as far as possible to bring in every expense as well as receipt annually.

**22 April 1811**

Mr Harford's letter enclosing Wardle on Sharpe came duly to hand. Herewith you will receive the cash accounts and weekly returns. The undermentioned draft on account of Committee of Trade has been drawn on you.

11 April 1811 to Thomas Ball at 2 months £45.

**29 April 1811**

Herewith you will receive the cash account and weekly returns. I directed Messrs Pitt & Co to transfer £100 to the credit of the Proprietors of the T&S Canal with you which I presume they have done.

Drafts drawn on you to Debit of the Committee of Trade to pay for coal:

25 March to Bullo Pill Co at 2 months £136 18s 4d.

27 April to Thomas Ball at 2 months £5.

**6 May 1811**

Enclosed you will receive the cash account and weekly return.

I hope Brookings has paid the balance of his account to Christmas as he promised.

I am favoured with Mr Harford's letter of 1 inst. Hipsley's remittance of this day, £60 5s, you will be pleased to place to the credit of Committee of Trade.

I certainly did not mean any further sum than the £135 8th April to be placed to credit of proprietors undefined. I have however put it right by an entry through these books.

Goods continue to fall off very fast both from and to London and I am very much afraid will continue so.

**13 May 1811**

The cash account and weekly return you will receive herewith.

Messrs Sills have repurchased the Hambro Wharf. Annexed I hand copy of a letter received from them.

The undermentioned draft has been issued since my last advice to the Debit of Committee of Trade:

11 May 1811 To Thomas Ball or order at 2 months £55.

10 May 1811. Letter to Mr J R Denyer from J & J Sills, Hambro Wharf, London.

We take the earliest opportunity of informing you that we have been enabled to repurchase the Hambro Wharf and are making arrangements to resume the Trade on own account almost immediately, of which we shall not fail to appraise you. In the interim, attention shall be paid to the interests of the boat owners on the T&S Canal.

**20 May 1811**

Enclosed you have the cash account and weekly return. Mr Harford's letter of 14th came duly to hand. The undermentioned draft has been drawn on you since my last advice

17 May 1811 to Thomas Webb & Co at 2 months £74 16s to pay for coal.

I hope soon to hear of the Gentlemen of the Committee having determined to visit this place.

**27 May 1811**

Enclosed you have cash notes value of £46 5s to the credit of the Proprietors of the Thames & Severn Canal, the receipt be pleased to acknowledge.

Mr Harford's letter of 23rd with sundry entries came duly to hand. I printed on each cask the description of coal it contained which I am surprised to find is obliterated. The bargemen



must, after leaving this place, have removed them and left them exposed to the weather. Bullo coal is by far the brightest and more brittle than the Lydney. Mr Miller expects to be in town very shortly and will point out the sorts, if not ascertained before.

Draft drawn on you to Debit of the Committee of Trade:

22 May 1811 to Thomas Ball or order at 2 months £50.

### **3 June 1811**

Enclosed you have two drafts: Joseph Brookings' acceptance on J Hathaway London £133 15s 10d and L&R Wyatt acceptance on J Hathaway £322 13s 5d. £456 9s 3d to the credit of the Proprietors of the Thames and Severn Canal, the receipt be pleased to acknowledge.

Mr Harford's letter of 29th ult states a remittance from Thomas Hipsley on the 28th to be £134. Hipsley states in his return to me only £34 on that date, which sum I have entered in my cash account. Be pleased to inform me which is right.

### **10 June 1811**

Herewith you will receive the cash account and weekly return. Annexed are particulars of drafts drawn on you to pay for coal.

4 June 1811 to Thomas Ball or order £40

10 June 1811 to Richard Miller or order £81 13s

### **17 June 1811**

Herewith you will receive the cash account and weekly return. Mr Harford's letter with sundry entries came safe to hand. The drafts advised last week were at 2 months after date. The lease from Lord Bathurst to Dr Disney of Sapperton Mill is at this place.

### **24 June 1811**

You will receive herewith the cash account and weekly return.

Annexed are particulars of drafts drawn on you since my last advice.

Bills drawn to Debit of T&S Committee of Trade to pay for coal:

19 June 1811 to Thomas Prewett or order at 1 month £50.

20 June 1811 to Thomas Webb & Co or order at 2 months £34 10s

I have lately seen a letter received by Mr Miller, inviting him to become a trader on the Kennet & Avon Canal, in which the tonnages as at present taken are inserted, by which it appears very clearly the Proprietors of the two Rivers as well as the canal have very considerably reduced their tonnages to enable the carriers to establish a Trade and which appears to have the desired effect. The whole of the goods formerly sent this way have vanished, proof of which an invoice is received from London in which is inserted only 2 hundredweight for Bristol instead of from 30 to 40 tons as heretofore. This is truly melancholy.

### **1 July 1811**

Enclosed you will receive cash notes to the value £150 to the credit of the Proprietors of the Thames & Severn Canal, the receipt be pleased to acknowledge. Thomas Hipsley's remittance of this day £30 10s you will also be pleased to place to the same account with all future remittances until the trade balance at this place is equal to the demands upon it, of which I will inform you.

Draft drawn upon you to Debit of the Proprietors of the T&S Canal:

2 July 1811 to John Dimmock at 2 months £50.

Tuesday 2 July 1811. I detained the packet yesterday in consequence of a letter received from Abingdon from Mr Disney stating his intention of being here (presuming he might probably have something to enclose). He left this morning, accompanied by Mr Moreland, for the Forest of Dean.

**8 July 1811**

The Cash account and weekly return are enclosed. The draft to Dimmock is for timber and board for repair of the Works.

Upon applying to Mr Miller for a second sight of the letter alluded to in mine of 24-ult for the purpose of drawing a comparison of the tonnages on the Kennet & Avon Canal and Rivers and the Thames & Severn Canal, he informed me he purposed laying something of the kind before the gentleman when at this place, but that such comparison was not sufficiently matured at present, of course unwilling to give me the information. The K&A most certainly will, in my opinion, retain a certain part of the trade formerly enjoyed by this canal, but I have no idea that they will be able to monopolise the whole.

**15 July 1811**

The cash account and weekly return you will receive enclosed.

No interest was ever paid on William Smith's £200 advanced on bill of sale dated 3 October 1797. I am not certain as to what period the interest ceases, but I have a faint recollection of a resolution being passed upon the subject about the year 1804 or 5.

We are so much distressed for small change as to be frequently obliged to pay the work people in advance, which, exclusive of the risque, is attended with great inconvenience. Mr Miller, who leaves for London this day, would undertake the conveying any relief you may be pleased to send.

Drawn to Debit of Trade to pay for Coal:

8 July 1811 to Thomas Ball at 2 months £50 Debit

**20 July 1811**

The cash account and weekly return are enclosed. Since my last, the undermentioned bill to Debit of Committee of Trade to pay for coal has been drawn on you:

15 July 1811 To Richard Miller or order at 2 months £100.

**5 August 1811**

Herewith you will receive cash notes to the value of £61 5s to the credit of the Proprietors of the Thames & Severn Canal, the receipt be pleased to acknowledge.

The undermentioned bill has been drawn on you to Debit of Committee of Trade to pay for coal: 1 August 1811 To J Dimmock at 2 months (value received of T Ball) £40.

**12 August 1811**

Herewith you will receive the cash account and weekly return. Mr. Harford's letter of 6th with sundry entries came duly to hand.

Mr Pitt has been from home for some time, consequently I did not see him on Monday last. He is expected to return this day or tomorrow, and I purpose going to Cirencester on Wednesday upon the subject of Lechlade Wharf.

Annexed you have particulars of draft drawn on you to Debit of Committee of Trade to pay for coal: 10 August 1811 To Bullo Pill Co at 1 month £151.

[Attached Note:] To write to Denyer (1) to send us a table of all the tonnages upon stone as to distances etc. (2) Mr Wyatt offers to take our coal to Lechlade at 3d per ton less than Miller takes it at now.

**19 August 1811**

The cash account and weekly return are enclosed, together with a parcel for Mr Disney containing the lease of Sapperton Mill for Dr Disney's signature, also the particulars of the tonnage on stone.

Mr Pitt intends selling the whole of Hill's property by auction immediately. The wharf belonging to him at Lechlade he valued in his statement of his effects at £1,000 but says it will bring more at the sale. I certainly think the sum stated to be the full value of it and more than it possibly can be worth to any individual, but when, on the part of the company, the loss that would arise in tonnage by their declining the trade there is considered, there is no saying how much it is worth to them. I have mentioned the circumstance in a letter to Mr Disney to whom I showed the premises, and it will, I conceive, be necessary for me to receive directions how to act prior to the sale.

Mr Harford's letter containing sundry transfers came safe to hand.

I have six of Sills's £1 pound notes and there are several on the line of canal. Pray is any dividend payable thereon?

[Added Note:] I have seen the wharf and though I think £1,000 a large price, I am clearly of opinion that the company ought not to be without it. Mr Denyer should buy it in the cheapest way, but at all events, buy it.

### **26 August 1811**

Enclosed you have with the weekly papers a bill L & R Wyatt on James Hathaway £232.9.7 to the credit of the Proprietors of the Thames & Severn Canal The receipt be pleased to acknowledge.

Mr Harford's letter respecting Lechlade Wharf shall have due attention.

### **2 September 1811**

The cash account and weekly return are enclosed. I am favoured with Mr Harford's letter of 27th ult in reply. It is impossible at this season of the year (in consequence of being under the necessity of providing a supply of coal for the ensuing winter) that the receipts on Trade account can be equal to the payments. I however hope now that I have brought the trade balance of cash at this place to the proper side you will soon be in possession of sufficient to effect the same without disposing of the Trade Exchequer Bill as Hipsley's remittances must now go to that account.

I expect to hear from Mr Pitt every day respecting the sale.

I see by the Oxford Paper Sills & Co have commenced paying their notes to such persons as have proved under the commission. Will it be necessary for me to do so, and can it be done in the country or will they pay without?

### **9 September 1811**

Enclosed you have J Brookings on J Hathaway £198.7.11, ten £1 notes (Sills) £10, total £208.7.11 to the credit of the Proprietors of the Thames & Severn Canal, the receipt be pleased to acknowledge. Mr Harford's letter of 3rd is duly received and the contents noticed. Hipsley remittances to be place to credit of Trade account.

### **23 September 1811**

The cash account and weekly return are enclosed. Mr Harford's letter of 17th came duly to hand.

The coal of which Mr Lovedon complains is, as Hipsley states, nearly 50 tons. It was the first cargo imported last spring from Bullo Pill and was at that time very fair coal, (certainly not so good as what is now received). But in consequence of the Wharf being very confined, the coal sent thither first cannot be come at to be sold till the last, and thus it is exposed a much greater length of time to the weather than it otherwise would be, by which it certainly, (all coal) receives considerable injury both in quality and appearance. I sent 27 tons last week to mix with it.

Mr Hathaway most certainly should accept such bills as are drawn by the carriers upon him or they should be refused to be taken for their tonnage, which shall be attended to.

Mr Procter purposes letting off the water in the summit to do some repairs on Wednesday next, provided the goods now here and expected this day can be got past the intended stoppage in sufficient time, and I intend putting up the crane during the period he stops the canal.

Draft drawn to Debit of Committee of trade to pay for coal

19 September 1811 To John Dimmock on account of T Ball 2 months £45.

### **30 September 1811**

The packet containing the Bankers books came duly to hand.

The water is at present let out of the canal in several places and at this place. I hope to be able to let it into the basin on Sunday next, but I do not apprehend the canal will be navigable again throughout under a fortnight.

Mr Pitt has not yet written me respecting the wharf at Lechlade. I am sorry to say but little dependence can be placed upon his promises. I purpose going to settle the Wharf accounts tomorrow or Wednesday and will call upon him. The half yearly account shall be made out and sent as early as possible after my return.

I am again under the necessity of applying for further aid in small change. The first time you send a parcel to Mr Miller.

### **16 September 1811**

The cash account and weekly return are enclosed. By the cash account you will perceive I have made a purchase of a small lot of oak timber in pursuance of an order made when the Committee were at this place. No part however will be consumed prior to 1st October and in consequence I beg leave to suggest its being carried to an account say "Oak Timber" until after that period then to be transferred to "Repairs of Canal etc". The present half yearly balance will by no means admit of being burthened with stock unconsumed.

I am very much surprised that I have not heard from Mr Pitt as he promised me. When I wrote you for instructions, the advertisement should appear that week. The moment I hear from him I will write you.

Draft drawn per J Denyer to Debit of Proprietors to pay for oak timber

9 September 1811 to Richard Lindon or order at 2 months £90 12.

Draft drawn per J Denyer to Debit of Committee of Trade

14 September 1811 to James Hewlett or order at 2 months to pay for coal £170

### **7 October 1811**

The cash account and weekly return are enclosed.

In consequence of the unfavourable weather last week, the water cannot possibly be let into the basin at this place before Thursday next, at which period Mr Procter also purposes letting the water into the summit. Mr Miller is now in town and will bring such relief in small change as you can afford me.

The half yearly papers shall be sent per packet Monday next. The attention necessarily required to be given to the work now about prevents their being sent sooner.

Mr Procter will require in about a fortnight from £150 to £200 which I hope to be able to provide for without drawing upon you. This will account for the increase of balance at this place.

### **15 October 1811**

Herewith you will receive the half yearly account of receipts and payments, balance sheets of Proprietors and Trade ledgers, cash account, weekly return and bankers books. Mr Harford's letter of the 8th is duly received.

Lechlade Wharf shall have due attention, and as there is a very good depth of water in the summit, I have no doubt of being able to get an ample stock there prior to a frost. 46 tons of Lydney Coal left here yesterday.

Upon referring to the balance sheets you will perceive the Proprietors are indebted to the Committee of Trade £650,3,4, being the difference between the amount of the Committee's tonnage and wharfage and the amount of coal furnished by the Committee for the use of the Fire Engine and for other purposes. (This sum also includes the £500 transferred 27 October 1809 from the Committee to the Proprietary under circumstances somewhat similar.) As it is not probable the amount of tonnage etc to be paid by the Committee will be equal to the coal furnished by them during the present half year, I beg to suggest the transferring £500 from the Proprietary to the credit of the Committee of Trade through the Bankers books to cover the balance of £253.11.5 which the trade account appears overdrawn, exclusive of Exchequer Bills, on 1 Inst.

The late reduction in tonnage has considerably revived the trade from and to Bristol etc, although not to make it of the importance as formerly. There is however little doubt that it will continue increasing. Many articles have been carried at the reduced freight which are not specified in the resolution, such as seed, colour, Lancewood spars, Matts etc, upon which the carriers claim the reduction but which I do not feel empowered to allow. As there no doubt will be many articles carried which it is impossible to foresee, in the making an additional resolution (presuming the tonnage is intended to be lowered upon every description of goods carried at the reduced rates of 40 and 45 shillings) the difficulty may be obviated by the reduction being made upon "all goods carried upon the terms stated in resolution of 13 August 1811".

#### **21 October 1811**

The cash account and weekly return are enclosed.

Drafts drawn to Debit of Proprietors:

19 October 1811 to John Procter at 1 month £6 3.8 to pay Dean and Chapter of Bristol rent of land in Canal.

To Debit of Committee of Trade

21st October 1811 to Thomas Ball at 2 months to pay for coal £60.

#### **28 October 1811**

The cash account and weekly return are enclosed.

I hope to send two if not three boats fully laden with coal for Lechlade Wharf during the present week. It is somewhat singular after Mr Wyatt's proposition to the Committee to carry coal to Lechlade at 2s 3d per ton that he should have been here several times since, and when he has had four or five boats lying idle in the basin and without any prospect of loading for them, that he has never said one word to me upon the subject or give any directions to his Clerk to offer to load them. Mr Miller does not appear disposed to undertake the supplying the wharf at less than he has latterly been paid, 2s 6d per ton.

Hipsley remittance of this day you will be pleased to place to the credit of the Proprietors £41.15s and to Trade hereafter.

Some time since, I sent the address etc of a patent Flour and Seed scale maker and I understood from Mr Miller the Committee purposed having one of the scales for the use of this place. It would very much assist in dispatching such articles as it is calculated to weigh.

#### **4 November 1811**

Herewith you will receive the cash account and weekly return.

Bills drawn upon you since my last advice to pay for coal:

1 October 1811 To Bullo Pill Co. at 2 months £73 12s

2 November 1811 To Thomas Ball at 2 months £50.

**11 November 1811**

Herewith you will receive the cash account and weekly return. Mr Harford's letter accompanying sundry entries is duly noticed.

The late separation amongst the carriers is productive of continual dispute at this place, each party trying to obtain the carriage of the others' goods on their arrival here by procuring orders to that effect from the consignees. For instance, Mr Wyatt has a boat from London now here having on board 140 casks of tallow for Bristol, for the carrying of which from this place to Bristol, Mr Miller has orders from the parties to whom they are consigned. Mr Wyatt contends that when he took them on board in London, they being consigned to Bristol he considered himself the carrier to that place and that he is answerable for their delivery there. Consequently he refuses their being delivered to Mr Miller, intending to send them by another vessel. This is a case now at issue, and I should be obliged by instructions how to act, the goods being in the Company's possession in the usual manner to weigh. Hitherto similar disputes have been adjusted by the carriers themselves, but in this case Mr Wyatt appears determined to convey the goods throughout without the assistance of Mr Miller, and for that purpose has engaged a vessel, and his Clerk given me a written indemnification of which I enclose a copy.

The navigation of the River Thames is stopped by a very high flood.

Mr Pitt has purchased Lord Porchester's interest in the Borough of Cricklade and has intimated his intention of offering himself as a candidate to represent them in Parliament.

[Enclosed] Copy of a letter from Mr Joshua Shoel to Mr John Rudge Denyer, 8 November 1811.

Messrs L & R Wyatt have instructed me to acquaint you that they took on board their boat now arrived here 110 casks of tallow for Messrs Tripp & Co Bristol and 30 casks tallow marked FB Bristol for the purpose of and considering themselves bound to see it delivered at Bristol. In order to do which, they have a right and are determined to send it hence by what vessel they please. Nor is it to be delivered to Mr Richard Miller nor anyone he may appoint to receive it, whatever orders he may show you for that purpose. If you, for your own Company's satisfaction, choose to have it landed and weighed, we will pay your usual charge on such goods for so doing, but in that case it is not to be considered as landed to be warehoused, nor as delivered into your care as Wharfinger, so as to be out of Messrs Wyatt's possession for you to deliver it to other than they or me for them shall appoint. Because, if such landing is to be so considered, we will not land it at all but load it from bottom to bottom, and, to avoid any fine or penalty, we will allow it to be entered some tons more than such a quantity of casks of tallow usually weigh. For the compliance with these instructions Messrs L & R Wyatt authorise me to say to Mr John Rudge Denyer that they will indemnify him and the Thames & Severn Canal Company against all damages or actions that may be brought against him or them on this account. Witness my hand Joshua Shoel.

**18 November 1811**

I am favoured with your letter of 16th annexing a copy of one from Mr Lovedon which I will reply to as early as possible, but I do not imagine the particulars required can, without materially interfering with the regular business, be furnished in less than three weeks, to which effect I have written Mr Lovedon.

I was very much surprised to find my letter of last week was not in time for the post of that day, particular care being taken here to send it off in proper time. I enclose the postmaster's answer to a note I wrote him respecting it. It fortunately turned out that Mr Miller gave up his claim to the tallow, otherwise it would have been of serious consequence, as my not having the Committee's decision would have caused the vessels of both parties to have lost their spring, and of course a detention of a fortnight would have arisen to the goods. As the same

kind of thing will occur upon the arrival of Wyatt's next boat from London, I hope the Committee will determine upon it at their next meeting.

The cash account and weekly papers accompany this.

Particulars of a bill drawn upon you to pay for coal:

14 November 1811 to Thomas Ball at 2 months £50.

### **25 November 1811**

Herewith you will receive the cash account and weekly return.

I last week accompanied Mr Miller to Guiting for the purpose of ascertaining the possibility of getting the produce of those quarries to London by way of the Thames & Severn Canal, and I am very sorry to say I am afraid it cannot be accomplished. The magnitude of this undertaking the Committee are acquainted with, and it is most seriously to be lamented that it cannot be conveyed this way. I annex a copy of the price at which the stones can be carried to London from Gloucester by way of Stourport at which I am persuaded the Committee will not be a little surprised. One circumstance which militates against this conveyance is that the stone pipes must be delivered at Paddington.

The very great risque attending the importation of Tenby coal, its cost price also being double that of any other, together with its being only of partial consumption, has always caused it to have a greater profit put upon it than other coal. The cost price at Lechlade is about 50s 6d per ton and the selling price 3s 2d per barrel (18 of which are calculated to be a ton) or about 57s. Although this may appear a great profit at first view, yet it is not so when everything is taken into calculation. It will however enable the Committee to reduce the price so as to meet the Wilts & Berks who are enabled to get Tenby coal via Bristol cheaper than they can by this way.

### **2 December 1811**

Enclosed you have William Gardiner on Maitland & Co £30, cash notes to the value of £56 5s, total £86.5s to the credit of the Proprietors of the T&S Canal, the receipt be pleased to acknowledge. The cash account and weekly return are also enclosed. Mr Harford's letter of 30th ult is duly at hand.

The Oxford Paper contains an advertisement of the Thames Commissioners to oppose the proposed Severn Junction Canal.

Annexed are particulars of Bill drawn to pay for coal:

2 December 1811. To Thomas Ball or order at 2 months £50 to Debit of Trade.

Hipsley's stock of coal on Saturday last was 940 tons, 88 tons are on their passage thither and about 50 tons will leave tomorrow. So that I think Lechlade Wharf may be considered as having a stock equal to at least 1 month's continued frost as the weekly supply during the open weather will fully answer the sale. I shall however send an additional supply every opportunity.

Hipsley's next remittance, (not £126 5 6d this day), you will be pleased to place to credit of the Proprietors.

### **9 December 1811**

Enclosed you have cash notes to the value £35 to the credit of the Proprietors of the Thames & Severn Canal. The cash account and weekly return are also enclosed together with a statement of the number of tons of goods and coal agreeably with Mr Lovedon's letter to you of which you sent me a copy. I have not sent Mr Lovedon a copy of a statement as I wish instructions as to any or what remarks you may wish to have added, nine years would not have included better years than seven, the best years in point of quantity of tons were the years 1799 to 1800.

I beg leave to refer you to my letters of 11th and 25th ult.

Hipsley's remittance of this day £50 5s you will be pleased to place to the credit of the Proprietors as mentioned in my last

### **16 December 1811**

Herewith you will receive the cash account and weekly return. Mr Harford's letter of 11th came to hand and the contents duly noticed. A list of the Proprietors shall be sent by Wednesday's post.

Hipsley's stock of coal exceeds 1000 tons and by his return of Saturday he appears to have room for very little more. He says "if the frost don't set in, must keep your coal in the boats. I have room for some Bullo but know not where to place any other at present".

### **18 December 1811**

Enclosed you have a list of the Proprietors of the Thames and Severn Canal.

Mr Whitworth, of the Wilts & Berks Canal, sent me a note from Cricklade Wharf yesterday requesting me to furnish Mr Atherton, now in London, with a copy of the statement made out for Mr Lovedon, (for the last two or three years), but as I did not feel authorised without the consent of the Committee to do so, I have written Mr Atherton to that effect, at the same time stating that such an account was most probably with you, to whom I took the liberty of referring him.

### **23 December 1811**

Enclosed you have the cash account and weekly return.

I am sorry to have to observe that unless some of the Thames carriers use greater exertion to expedite their boats, it's altogether useless for the Company to reduce their tonnages, as no reduction in point of price can be equivalent to expedition. We are now loading a Bristol trow with goods that arrived only on Saturday, notwithstanding the boat left London on the 13th November and met with no real impediment. So that between six and seven weeks will have elapsed from the time the goods left London till received in Bristol, while goods which came out of London 3-weeks afterwards are now absolutely delivered in Bristol. Mr Brookings is the person in fault.

I shall be obliged by receiving a card of the Meetings for 1812 with the Bankers books at the end of the year.

Bill drawn to Debit of Committee of Trade to pay for coal:

12 December 1811 To T Ball at 2 months £50.

### **30 December 1811**

Enclosed you have the cash account and weekly return. Mr Harford's letter of 26th with its enclosures came duly to hand. I presume the circular letter calling the meeting on the 7th January is sent officially and not intended for me to obey. I shall be glad to receive the Bankers books as early as convenient after the expiration of the year with some 3s bill stamps and a card of the Meetings in 1812.

Annexed are particulars of draft drawn to Debit of Trade:

13 December 1811 To Richard Miller at 2 months for Coal had of H Lewis £61 12s.