

Chas. Spalding

9 Sept. 1783

Mr James Dinwiddie
Teacher of mathematics in

Dublin

Dr Sir

I intended to have wrote you long ago, but the Melancholy
 death of my son has rendered me incapable, he was highly esteem'd by his numerous acquaintances
 both of nobility & Gentry both in England & Scotland who knew him and the loss of him
 much regretted by all of them. It may be thought wite in me to say any thing to his praise
 but this only beg leave to say that he was possid of the most amiable Qualifications, a true
 friend, a most excellent genius, and a real love to the good of mankind which prompted him
 to undertake the Diving Bell and many things besides, perhaps few ever did more lamented
 I earnestly beg your goodness will let me know all you can concerning my dear son's
 death, and in particular the Captain of the ship name who was hired to save him from
 -brony to his orders kept him under water an hour and a quarter, and although he had
 received the two Barrels his he sent down to him, which he knows not if he
 ever received them, yet still he kept him a quarter of an hour longer than all that air
 could have serv'd him, which would have kill'd all Mankind, the want of air for
 for fifteen minutes I am certainly assur'd. And this is such a crime as no mortal
 ought to pardon, murdering two innocent men whether by Design or neglect
 god only knows, but whatever way it was the Crime is most heinous both in the
 sight of God and man. And when my son and servant were brought up they were
 most cruelly and barbarously treat'd laid on the head of a barrel each of them in a
 cold morning, whereas being both very warm if they had let blood of them and
 them warm Dr Cullen and all the Physicians in Edinr declare they
 have recovered been alive and well. I am not able to write any more
 and barbarous murder committed by Neglect or Design, one of which it may
 was so skill'd in Diving that if the Shipmaster & his men had done their
 more order'd my dear ly beloved son had been alive and in safety. If my
 son in Law had been with my son as he was with him at portsmouth no evil had
 a lady from Ireland last week in forming my daughter and husband that such
 begone in Ireland for my sons widow and seven infants all who are in
 any thing yet, if so advise me, first in course, and if not let me know if
 proper to open a Subscription in Ireland, indeed the opinion of all your
 it's proper as it's reported the Gentry & Nobility in Ireland are very generous on
 occasions. If the worthy Mr Black Dr Black in Edinr his brother and you
 thinks fit to do any thing in this manner for the excellent woman the excellent
 distressed widow, the leaves it to your selves, relying on your goodness
 The Diving Bell cost first & last above two thousand pounds, the value
 recovered out of the Royal George above four thousand pounds, the value
 four hundred pounds ster. and he had not above one hundred pounds ster to
 the charges he paid. I hope your goodness which I know long ago, per
 giving you and the worthy Mr Black, I am in sincerity,
 Dr Sir your most obedient &
 Chas: Spalding

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P: Sir I'm case your goodness cause you go on in the Subscription I hereby
 to pay you all Charges shall be incurred or you brought into, Chas: Spalding

whatt adds to my sorrow ^{is} my being seduced by Robertson of Malloch
to sell my own Estate which tho' it was but one hundred and odd pounds
sterling a yearly would have been a great help to my Daughter &
Grandchildren, and of the price of this Estate was & several others sold
hands to this old gentleman all cheated for he gave himself for a
rich man and he proved bankrupt, and I had no sell at all