

1 Nov 1789

Mr James Dives
at the Lecture Room
Portugal Street
Lincoln's Inn
London



Dear Sir

I have been in expectation you would have found a few leisure Minutes to tell us you were in the lane of the living; that you had perfectly recovered from the Compla-
int in your Leg; and that your Lectures drew a crowded audience. I flatter myself your time has been better emp-
loyed than in writing to either of us.

Since our arrival here I have been very ill with the headache, Tooth ache, and sometimes the Heart ache. We have at last got into a tolerable comfortable house, and will be very glad if some good wind would blow you here. our house is very much like that we left in Botany Bay, but at less than half the rent. As the girl who I brought here from London ter-
red to be with her Mother, I was obliged to be at the expence of sending her back.

I can give you very little account of the people in this place, the town it seems is very thin at present. They have got a Theatre but it will not open till after Christmas, they have also Equestr-
ian entertainments at a large Theatre which they call the Circus just finished.

Mr Henderson has been in expectation of hearing from you for some weeks past, agreeable to your promise, he wishes very

Much to know if you have ever had any conversation with Mr
Blaine, and if you have heard lately from Ireland. He joins my
Sisters in best wishes for your health & prosperity.

I am

Dear Sir

Your sincere friend
P^r
Marg^t: Henderson

N^o 16 St. John's Lane

1 Nov^r 1789.

Newcastle upon Tyne.

some where in Oxford Street a little west of Soho would be excellent, as it is
 something more out of the notice of Mr Godfrey. There is also a large
 allowance must be made for advertising weekly, you see how little
 purpose. The delay of sending the two Letters intended to me
 was of no moment. I wrote to Mr Dr. Roe about a fortnight ago asking
 amongst other things if they had got the Bill for spinning Flax &c in
 Ireland. I have had no letter from thence these 8 Months but that you
 was so kind as forward to me from Mich^l Fenley. If the spinning
 Machine is not already gone over, what premium do you suppose the
 Linnen board or Parliament would give for the model. You know it is
 not against Law to carry Machines or Manufacturers to that Kingdom.
 do you think they would give any thing for the art of Dying Cotton Red. I
 learnt this at Smyrna. May be so good as present our respects to our
 good friend Peter Pinkard, if he is in town you will hear of him at N^o 17.
 Clements Inn or at Mr Spies's Great Queen Street in your Neighbourhood.
 I shall see Count Aldem again tomorrow & mention the model. Yours L.H.

22 Nov 1789

one sheet post paper, single

Mr James Dinwiddie

Lecture Room

Portugal Street

W. CASSELL, Lincoln's Inn

LONDON

London

6/6

6/6



White
Hand
m d d

Newcastle upon Tyne 22 Nov.^r
1789.

Dear Sir,

I was last night favoured with yours of the 19 Inst. and am
=are you both Mr Henderson & I are very sorry to hear the cause of your long
silence, could we have formed any Idea of your situation, we should not have
importance you to write, when your attention was engaged in an affair in
which I am sorry to say we could not serve you.

Mr H. & I return you a thousand thanks for your hints in communica-
ting the scheme proposed by Mr Sturme. We have but one objection that is
the necessary Stock of Money to begin business, Mr H. supposes fitting
up a Laboratory, Shop, and buying a few Bottles & Gally potted vas-
-turns, would cost at least £350. a sum which is not at present in his
power to command.

I don't know if ever he mentioned to you that some
years ago he was induced by the plausible offers of a Relation, who prom-
ised him great assistance, to quit America where he was settled to become plan-
ter in the west Indies, after an infinite deal of Toil in settling a Sugar
plantation, and obliged to contract debts for that purpose he returned to
England where he sold his estate for £5700. to a Mr George Glennie
who paid him only £1500. and got possession of the property, the remainder
£4200 was to have been paid with 5 P. Cent interest at a future period, but
Mr G. being more a xxxxxx or man of Business if you please to call him
than Mr H. contrived to get a discharge of his debt, and keeps fast hold
of the Land and Negroes.

Unfortunatly Mr Blair who is the
only person of whom Mr H. could ask assistance, is now complaining heavily
of Disappointments in Money matters, & has very lately informed us of his sit-
-uation. About 5 years ago he has frequently told Mr H. if he wanted £
or £500 he had it at his service, on these terms, that he would assign
him Stock for which he should pay him 5 P. Cent interest and to be repaid
with the same value of Stock when he had no further occasion for the
Money.

But to return to The Chemical scheme, suppose it is a castle founded
only in the Air, let us try & build a little of it. Besides the ordinary
Chemical preparations, I suppose Quack Medicines and Perfumery might
be profitable branches of the business, and Betsy undertakes to help to
keep the Shop, if the d-1 dont put it in her head before that time to
go to Russia, which she very often talks of. Mr H. says that Oxford Street
will be the best place for business, but rents are excessively high, and a
situation for a Laboratory requires room, if the Laboratory is under the
same roof or adjoining to the building the insurance is 10 times the ordinary
sum or about 1 P. Cent on the value of the House &c.

We are by no means partial to Newcastle, and should not regret leaving it
the only temptation to come here, was the cheapness of Coals provisions and
rent which do not amount to the half they did in London. Mr H.
has found there is very little to be done here in the engineering line.
As to Chemists there are none in the place who pretend to any knowl-
-edge in that way, but a Mr Taylor, who is no Conjuror, he was brought
here by a Mr Anderson a surgeon he supplies several of the Shops with
perfumery and amongst other things he attempted to Make Warrens
Milk of roses but failed in it, he then got a Man from warrens who
undertook to teach him but this preparation does not answer, a quantity
of Oil rises to the Top, and if you do not shake it daily, it loses its Milky
Colour

and becomes like whey. Some of Taylors Customers have applyed to me to make them some. I have been very dilligent in making experiments for some days past, but as yet can not boast of any success, as I am now very much interested in this scheme. I shall trespass on your patience so far as to give an account of Warrens, Milk-of-roses and the attempts I made to analyze it. The Colour a Milk white, when left several days at rest, some very small particles of oil rise to the surface but no alteration is to be observed in the colour, the smell is strong of roses, and rosemary, in distillation in a retort a considerable quantity of spirit comes over, perhaps $\frac{1}{2}$ of the whole, on evaporating the remainder in a Spoon, it froths up but very little, so that it does not seem to be a soapy substance, when the moisture is quite gone these remains a brownish greasy substance which being collected and exposed to the flame of the Blow pipe, smells like Burnt Almonds and Stogs Lard, but the proportion of the Almonds if any, must be very small as there is hardly any coal left.

I have made in the course of these 10 days some hundreds of experiments to make this sort of emulsion which I suppose it to be, I have made many combinations of Almonds, Oil, Gum, Essence of rosemary Spirits, & Water, but seem still to be far from perfection, the colour is either defective or in the course of three or four days it begins to ferment and separate. The two points to be gain'd is to make some Milk white liquor like an emulsion in which must be some spirits; essential oil to give it a smell, and which will not in standing either ferment or separate. I am so deeply interestec in this discovery at present. I beg you will be so good as ask Mr. Hume if he can give me any assistance in this business, and be so obliging as write to me as soon as possible it will be not only to my credit but to my advantage to beat the great Chemist in this place.

I have manufactur'd and sold some excellent liquid Blue for Bluing Stockings and dying Silks. I also make another kind for Bluing Linnen and Cotton. I had almost forgot to tell you that I learnt in France and Italy, to make some of the most delicate Nostrums in the perfumery way, viz. Poudoe, & Pommade Double a la Marichale, & Italian Cold Creme, &c. &c.

To return again to the subject of the Chemical Hall. Mr. H. who is now engag'd with a Count Riden director of the King of Prussias mines, desires me to tell you that if he can borrow about 300 for which he is willing to assign his half pay, and insure his life as a security, will be ready to engage in that business directly. He will immediately communicate his wants to two of his acquaintances who may if they deserve the name of friends, very easily lend him a lift, he will if possible pay you a visit soon in your new habitation. I fancy if you will give him leave he will sling his Hammock along side of you. Club the Bill for breakfast and Dive together at noon. if you take him under your protection I shall flatter myself he is safe.

He is sorry there is very little prospect of disposing of the Model of Woolwich amongst the bars of this place, there is but one gentleman who there is the smallest probability of becoming a purchaser, that is a Mr. Lockson he is Banker, & Laps maker, & Iron founder. Mr. H. will mention this to Mr. Lockson & also to Count Riden who is now exerting himself to get

every intelligence possible on the subject of Iron works.

Mr Lyon rec^d some time ago the amount of his bill for Coals all but 8 or 9 Shillings. I do not recollect any 4 & 6 pence debt which could remain unpaid, such tricks are not uncommon about London.

Mr H. says Mr Woods charge is very moderate and together with some Money you have paid for him, shall be remitted first opportunity. I have now little else to add but to give you some account of the people here. I look upon them in general to be a set of Bares, who have perhaps a sufficient knowledge in their different professions, but if you will exclude the Subjects Coals & Shipping from the conversation, you will strike down a whole company. There is a Mr Chapman here a very sensible old Gentleman but I am sorry he seems to be going off the stage.

As to the Women, I shall give you a small anecdote of them, which will show you the nature of the Town, more than any observation I could yet have made. A Milliner of the town about three days ago, told me she had got a large Stock of goods from London, and begged I would form her an advertisement for the Newspapers. on my reading the papers I found the substance of my advertisement, but the stile transformed to the vulgar jargon of the place. I saw the person soon afterwards who thanked me for the pains she had taken with her advertisement, but that it would not have suited the people of Newcastle, and mentioned an instance of two very gentle & girls having come from London to settle as Milliners a year or two ago, they put a very polite advertisement such as would have suited London, into the papers, but far from drawing custom it frightened the Ladies so, that not one ever enter'd their shop, and the poor girls were obliged to return. I can easily see they look on us as animals dropt from the clouds, and for almost

4 months we have been here, there have been but three Newcastle Women courageous enough to visit us. tho' I know they are like to burst with curiosity, losing no unfair means to get a peep at us, by staring in at our windows. &c. As to Mr Chapman's family they are not of this Town, tho' they live here at present. I leave you to judge from facts whether either of us can like this place, where Vulgarity reigns, Science is neglected, and the polite arts unknown.

The best wishes of this family attend you. We are all very much oblig'd to you for the history of your family economy.

Betsy & Sarah present their kind Compl^{ts} to you.

Pray allow me to beg of you to let us hear from you before the end of this week, and don't wait for a Frank. Our respects to Mr Gordon, who took the trouble to procure the last.

I am,

Dear Sir
your fast friend
Th^o Mary^r Henderson

My Charmer having already said so much to you on the subject of Mr James's proposal, I have very little to add at present but to beg you will be pleas'd to ask Mr B. when you see him what stock he thinks will be required. I think the situation near Soho Square would certainly be proper but even there the rent are high I was last year asking about a house in Garrard Street Soho and found them with Taxes at least £100 p^a year.

18 Feb. 1790

Mr. Dinwiddie
Old Theatre Portugal Street
Lincoln Inn
London

Dear Sir

Mr Henderson is now busy about his Spinning Mill, it therefore falls to my lot to take up the pen for him. I ought before now to have thanked you for your care of my Husband in his late Visit to London, I must beg when you get a wife you will retaliate upon me, by putting her under my protection on any similar occasion.

Mr H. tells me that you & our good friend Mr Ben Stadi, have agreed that we should not be too hasty in sending over goods to Ireland, ^{the} We know on what footing we are to be there, we are perfectly of the same opinion, and see the impropriety of launching out and embracing ourselves with a great Stock at same time, we imagin it would not be advisable to go over merely on the Spinning scheme in which we may be anticipated by some one else, for this reason it is Mr Stairs advice we take out a small Stock of Chemicals, Druggs & Perfumes, these perhaps Eliza & I may turn to acct. while Mr H. follows his Mechanical schemes.

I have heard you mention that you have a Nephew bred an apothecary. If he is now disengaged do you think he might be trusted in Dublin under our protection, it might

probably be to his advantage and will eventually serve us, as
he could make up prescriptions and be otherwise very useful
in business. Mr H. & I flatter ourselves you will not imagine
that we shall impose any hardships on him. if you think this
proposal would be agreeable to his friends in Scotland we shall
be much obliged to you if you will be so good as write by the
first post desiring to know his terms. I take ^{it} for granted you
would wish him to make one of the family as he will be less
in harms way than eating from home, it will be best to request
his friends to be explicit in their proposals.

Mr H. is now employed constructing a Machine for Mr G. he
hopes it will be ready in time to go by sea and delivered before
the end of next Month agreeable to his promise. I believe he
will write to you particularly on this subject in a few days, in
the meantime he presents Compl^{ts} to you, and begs to be rem-
embered to Mr Slade when you see him.

Eliza. & Sarah desire their kind Compl^{ts} may be presented
to you — I am as usual

St. Johns Lane Dear Sir
Newcastle upon Tyne your fast friend &c.
18 Feb^r 1790. Mary^r Henderson
please see next page.

I hope Mr English has shipped the little Trunk for Mr Henderson,
left in his care.

Mr H. begs you will please order the Telescope to be put in a
packing Box, & put his name on it. He wishes much to have one
of Mr Feirs lamps to be put up with the Retorts & a paper of
fireable earth which he left lumbering your floor. and be
so good as let them know the amount of these commissions and
he will send you an order on Mr Blair for that money.