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Title
Correspondence relating to trade and estate management to Henry Bright from James and Mary Smith; Robert Whatley; Lowbridge Bright; Chris George; Thomas Shuter; Dorothy Bright; Joseph Hartland; Thomas Struman; to Allen Bright from Abbott; to Mr. Bright from Chris George; to Donbridge, Shuter, Lowbridge from Henry Bright. (5 of 51)

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Charlestown, South Carolina, 30 March 1784

Dear Sir,

I inclose you a copy of what I wrote upon the Sally, since which, I have not heard from you or any of my friends in England. We had an account of two ships being on the coast, on which we defined writing till this day in hopes of a letter; this morning they arrived, but to my great disappointment, are both from Portugal.

Tomorrow morning I set out for the Northern, on Company with Mr. Lypsans of Jamaica, who is a very worthy, modest young gentleman; shall have no intention of writing again till I get to Virginia, from which place you shall hear from me. We go all the way on horseback; have got the necessary information from Mr. Kinlaw. I shall send two gentlemen of this place, who are the last to Philadelphia, who travel'd the Road, the Distance is 701/2 Miles.
Expect to be there by the first of June, without any accident.

The horses in this country are very dear, and there are not a great many left to attempt such a journey, but I hope there is not. I shall not fail, I am sure they ought not when I consider what they cost, the horses with the saddles, bridles, and all other necessary for the journey cost upwards of 550 sterling, which is more than they will sell for when you come to the Northward.

Indeed, I thank every thing in this place is most extravagantly dear, lodging and living in particular, occasioned by the number of Officers and Garrison People.

I have drawn a bill of Rs. on you in favour of Henry Penn's Esq. at 30 days for Thirty Pounds, and bring what money I have taken up to supply myself with horses for and to bear my expenses on the journey, as I must carry $100 with me, which will pay in all the Colonies, the curr only in their own Provence.
I think the Trade of this place is greatly overdone, and no doubt, but you might sell goods and negroes enough, but it would be impossible to get payment in any reasonable time. The goods of this place are much in demand. The whole produce of the country is not more than three hundred and thirty thousand pounds sterling, all to be taken off by one, there are full 100 stores of dry goods, and ship chandlery &c. which with the negroes that are annually imported, from the West Indies, from Philadelphia and York, and the money spent in England, must necessarily exceed that sum. For the value of their exports, and this increasing annually, must of course make the pay of this province very low, which nothing can remedy but an Act of Assembly to prohibit the importation of negroes for a certain time, which some people are in hopes will take place, but when they come to business again, when that will be is very uncertain.
From what I can collect the number of Negros that is wanting for the Province, is not more than 2500 or at most 3000, if they exceed that, the Planters cannot pay for them, and will sell low, one great disadvantage to the People in Business in this place is, their being obliged to make the Remittances for what they owe to England at their own risk, for the Planters ship nothing on their own account, at least only this necessity, as we now will buy which is seldom the case, for those who import goods must make Remittances even if to a great disadvantage, and the loss which generally happens in shipping produce from this Port is a great drawback on the Profits of any concern.

Notwithstanding what I have said above, I think there may be money made by selling Negros of shipping of Rice. So by any Person who can have a Credit for it.
England, without which it is impossible, as the Planters pay will not enable any Person to comply with the Tenour of an Affrain Deed; The article of keeping Slaves appears to me to be much over done; indeed Strangers who engage in that Business labour under one great disadvantage, as there are few families who have not some of their Relations in Trade, who you may be sure will have the preference; Tho’ the Business of this place (by means of their connections) enables the Native to live genteely, yet it would be difficult in any reasonable time to make a fortune sufficient to return to England, very few Instances of which can be produced, which would be the great object I should have in view, to enable me to return as soon as possible to my Native Country, and settle among my Friends.
The Inhabitants of this place极 as much as any I have ever seen, and it is generally Healthy, but the Heat in this Summer is more intense than in the West Indies; three days ago the Thermometer was at 79 Degrees, which for the month of March is very great.

One advantage in the Trade of this place is that what Bills you procure you may look upon as good; it not being very common to have any Protested, the Damage and Re-exchange being 15 Pint and a Shilling, which makes People cautious how they draw, without being well assured that their Bills will be paid.

Here are two Days in the Week open for Public Vendue, where you meet with most kinds of goods, which generally sells very cheap, and I think is a great detriment to the Stores, for what you buy there.
you pay ready money for, and then go to the Stores &
run in Debt for what else you may want.

I have receiv'd great civilities from Mr. Laurel, also
from Ingen Lloyd Hall, Bruneton & Smith, so: have given
Matthew
a Letter to Mr. John, a young Gent. Brother in Law to J.
Hall who is now going to England, so call on you should
he go to Bristol.

I have nothing more occurs at present but to
defy my Duty to my Aunt, my Love to Dicky, with
best Respects to Mr. Meyler and Mr. Cott of and with the
greatest esteem.

Dear Sir,

This is left with Mr. Laurel to
forward by first Opportunity

Henry Bright Esq.

Your Dutiful Nephew

Lewbridge Bright