Correspondence to Lowbridge Bright, Bristol, from David Duncomb, St. Andrews, Jamaica, regarding business, shipments of goods and travel. Mentions martial law in St. Andrews. (21 of 27)

1809

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University of Melbourne Archives, Correspondence to Lowbridge Bright, Bristol, from David Duncomb, St. Andrews, Jamaica, regarding business, shipments of goods and travel. Mentions martial law in St. Andrews. (21 of 27), 1980.0075.10020
St. Andrew, Jamaica, 8th April 1809

Dear Sir,

In conformity with the intimation in my last to Mr. R. B. I now sit down to clear off the very long standing score of my official correspondence to you, by replying to your several favors of 6th July, 29th September, 6th October, 1st November, 1st December, and 4th January received since my last letter of 29th July 1808.

I communicated to Mr. Tinkler the mention made in your favor of 6th July of 1805 Baker's acknowledgments for M'r. B.'s attention to her son, which Mr. T. regretted she had it not more in her power to extend. She is however gratified to find these far merited. M'r. B.'s approbation and Thanks, and she cannot but coincide with all who had the pleasure of knowing that worthy and promising young man in sincere condolence on his being so rapidly snatched away. For my own part, I can only say, I never felt such poignant regret for any person with whom I had so short an acquaintance, as I did for him. But the Will of Fate must be submitted to. I trust the recollection of his virtues and many amiable qualities will afford him a splendid parent, much commolation for the loss she has sustained on this much to be lamented event.

I repeat your remarks on the high premium lately current on Bills of Exchange, and the serious consequences which might attend an alteration in the rate of Exchange between this Island & the United Kingdom in which I cannot but fully coincide and therefore hope no such alteration will ever take place, but that any variation from the legal ratio of Exchange may always pass under the denomination of Premium.

In my last letter to Mr. S. & R. Bright of 9th February I gave them all the information I then could respecting the late Capt. Hawkins affairs. Since then I have been informed by Mr. Wellman that Mr. Rochever has remitted his application.
for the purchase of the Negroes, and has met with another person to join him there-
in, but he was obliged to attend the Savannah, &c. Affairs Court, on his return
from which Mr. Allen expected to receive his definitive answer. I therefore
expect to hear from Mr. A very soon on this Business, as the Court terminates
the instant, and shall inform you the result thereof, as soon as opportunity after-
wards.

The person who wishes to join Mr. Boucher in the purchase of the Negroes
is a Dr. Owen of that Parish, of whose circumstances Mr. Allen was not suffi-
ciently informed, to enable him to judge of his ability to comply with the
payments which would be required on the occasion, but intended making
the necessary enquiries during Mr. Boucher’s absence at Savannah &c. Mar-
ian apprehension, it will be necessary to foreclose our several mortgages on the
lake. Also if Boucher’s Negroes and other property and should lately havepro-
icided in this measure accordingly, but have been prevented by the indis-
position and subsequent death of our Solicitor Mr. Daniel Moore about
3 weeks ago and by the absence of his Colleague Mr. David Baxtor who
unfortunately missed his passage in the first Caesar lately arrived
but who is daily expected in another ship that was to sail soon after the
Caesar, so that I hope there will not be much further delay herein as Mr.
Allen in one of his late letters is of opinion that it will be advisable to
adopt this measure.

My Brother has not wrote any one in this Island for some Months last, therefore I conclude he has thoughts of soon returning home, as I hear
his wife has lately taken ill, suppose it will not be long before he embarks,
saw Mr. Lee lately, from whom I learnt that there was still a prospect of
a good ship at Raleigh Castle this year, I sincerely hope it will be realized,
as it will admit of your having some payment from it really, Baxtor’s cap-
ities should force him to apply it otherwise, which I trust will not be the
case.
...Am much obliged by your friendly notice of my Sw and of the much admired...of him in your favor July and January; at the favorable report therein made of him. I cannot but be much gratified, and I trust he will merit a continuance thereof, as well as that the connection he was about to form in business will fully answer his expectations.

Am glad to find by your favor 1st September that the 2. Turtles sent you and M.R.B. 3p Ocean last year arrived in good order, and proved acceptable. With the Mango Plants had also arrived in good order. But unless they were attended by a person who understood how to take care of it, I could also be placed in a proper part of the Ship, there will never be much chance of their arriving with you in a healthy state or even alive. Mr. Baker intends taking some of the Seed with him. If he did I wish a trial may have been made to cultivate it, as here they grow very readily on dropping from the trees or being thrown away in any place where they can vegetate.

Considering the casualty that befell the Ocean in the Gulf, it was very fortunate her Hull was not damaged by it, as well as that such effectual assistance was so near at hand. For the several articles you and M.R.B. have been so kind as to send me by her; I request you will accept my hearty thanks and hope shall soon have it in my power to inform you of their arrival in good order notwithstanding the very undoward detention this Ship has met with in common with many others of the large fleet which left port the end of June last, and which soon afterwards met with such tempestuous weather. As part of them has arrived in these seas, I hope most of the rest have put back to Ireland or Portsmouth, its to be hoped the latter will soon be here; as the Supplies by them are much wanted.

Am pleased to learn that the Billow alias Story & Co. for £125, 3s. 7d. Sterling remitted you July last, was duly forwarded as well as, that you had effected a settlement with M. Milwards Legates for what was in your hands the begin...
ing of September last.

I believe the late Mr. P. Stratton had, some time ago, disposed of his concern in the Spring Estate, it affords me satisfaction to find that the quality of the Sugars from that Estate turned out so well last year, and I shall be much qualified to be informed that the favorable prices you mention how to be worth, may be obtained for them. On apprehending the crop of this year will fall short of the last, but hope the quality of it will prove equally good. I have received directions to ship the whole of the Rum, as well as the Sugars, therefore, hope to give the Ocean a good lift.

We shall in a few days be much in want of the Hopkirk Packs, shipped on the Ocean, as we have been obliged to pay the enormous price of £23 per for Slaves to make Hopkins to go on with. I hear they have been advanced to £20, and if the Ocean does not now arrive, we must buy more, if he had in Kingston, which is rather doubtful. Pinecones are now selling at £15, therefore those shipped by the Ocean will be very acceptable.

I wish I could inform you of having obtained any payment on account of Sand & Greens Bonds for the purchase of the lands belonging to Mr. Smith's Estate, whether the Writs have been regularly issued without effect, nor can I obtain any satisfactory information of them. In such circumstances, but as they are not to have the Title for the land till they pay for it, it is to be supposed, they will do that, as soon as they can. I shall continue to issue the Writs as long as there is any chance of any return being made to them, although the expense attending it will be £3 or £4 per court.

I have not yet put in execution your plan for closing the Books of the late concern of Mr. M. P. D. but hope soon to advise you of having accomplished it, being aware how much it is your wish to have it done.

I am convinced at not having it in my power to inform you of the sale of the Land in St. George's convent to you and me in Trust by the late Mr. Harris,
...and begin to apprehend it will lay on hand as soon as the mention I made of it to you, 1802, have been in treaty with two insurgent about it, also, without effect. I had a sale taken place. I should certainly have advised you of it, but after the disappointment experienced in the treaty with Mr. Grouw, I was determined not to say any more about it till a sale was effected — A Frenchman applied for it 1813. Months ago, but could not produce satisfactory security for payment, and in consequence of the stoppage to the importation of Negroes, the prospect of a sale of it is much diminished. The former diagram of it having been misplaced, I was under the necessity of employing a surveyor in May or June last, to run the lines over again by which it seems there's a further reduction of the quantity by prior claims so that there now only remains 600 acres belonging to us. The surveyor who was then in treaty for the purchase of it having accompanied the surveyor in running the lines, discovered that the last part of it was claimed by a neighbour and therefore relinquished. Instruction of buying it has since purchased same from another person. I don't yet know what the exchange of this last survey is, but am fearful it will be so much added to our Demand on that score. I shall therefore not reject any tolerable offer that may thereafter chance to be made for it.

In respect to your Demand against the late Mr. Owen am apprehensive that will be nothing more recoverable for it than the sum of £53. 4s. mentioned to have been in my hands on that account. However I will ask Mr. Swaine or Mr. Connolly about it the next opportunity that occurs for that purpose.

I am truly thankful for the kind inquiry in your favor of 1 December by which I was very glad to learn that you have experienced some relief from a late attack of your old complaint.

For the bundle of Bristol papers sent me by the Ocean to hand accept my thanks, and believe they will soon come to hand & as the perusal of them will I have no doubt afford some gratification. The other parts of your favor...
of the 1st December are answer'd in the preceding part of this.
I cannot but congratulate you on the favorable sale mentioned in your letter of the 4th January last of the 25 Tuns. 498 Sacks of Sugar, 52 Sacks of Oceana, as it makes a difference to you of about £500 Sterling from the advance in price since the time of their being landed. Of this I hope Mr. A. Bolling has avail'd himself in respect to the Sugar.

There is no chance whatever of the Property of Thornton being sold altogether. I therefore hope the sale of the Segregos will now be effected, as they are likely to be the most productive part of A. Rankin's Estate, the Stock being by Mr. A. Bolling's Letter of 23d February reduced to 16 Hogs and 10 Sows of 19 Mules, 7 Pigs, 44 Segregos, and 5 Sows, 44 Segregos, 23 Mixtures, 39 Mules and 30 car. Gold and Silver, 15 Mules were chiefly old. The Segregos were, some of them sold and sold to the Butchers. Others from age, poverty and various accidents have died. He says he thinks the Segregos will value from twelve to thirteen thousand Pounds. In that Letter he says he intends selling this crop at Black River, and to remit the balance he owes you for by a Bill of Exchange. The remainder, after paying the annual Consequences, he shall apply to the credit of his Account against the Estate, on which he says there is a balance, due to him of nearly five thousand Pounds, which he expects to lose. His motive for going into the advance was to remit the balance to keep the Property or the freehold of Thornton for the family, as he has not the Estate, as productive as he expected. I apprehend, the Stock and Segregos will produce both little. It that the freehold will not sell for much of this. However, I shall ask him for a valuation, and long. I have not seen his Accounts against the Estate. Therefore cannot judge how far the balance he mentions is correct, nor can I form an idea how it could have increased to such a Sum unless from the repairs of the Works, and the hire of Segregos, as he has made. I am most willing to pay either to your firm or to Mr. D. out of the crops of which it is well stored.
ary he should soon give an Account.

For the information you are so kind as to communicate respecting the Business my Son is about to engage in, I am much obliged to you. But more particularly so for your friendly advice to him on that important occasion, for which you are so fully qualified, that I trust he will strictly adhere to it. I hope he will be favor'd with a continuance of Health to enable him to attend to his charge with all discretion.

I was concern'd to observe by Mr. R. B.'s Letter of 1 February in Packet for that month (which did not arrive till the 3 instant) that you had been laid up by a return of your old complaint, but I hope you have since eliev'd from it, and that I shall have the satisfaction to be assured of your recovery by your next Letters from yourself by the next Packet.

I have the consolation to inform you that I have had a respite from my acute Astylosis these last 4 months, but am not so much recover'd from the effects of the Fever by which I was laid up in October and November last as I expected, being still emaciated and my strength rather defective, but considering how very much reduced I was I am thankful for being so far recover'd as I am. For your very friendly wishes in my behalf they have to return you my grateful Thanks.

I am now making out my Account with the Estate of Mr. Willard deceased, and hope to send it to you by this conveyance or at further by the next to sail a week after.

With best Wishes for your Health and every Welfare. RemainDear Sir,

Your faithful humble servant,

[Signature]

Original 1 Prine of Augusta Packet 15th June Labridge Bridge 21. — Bristol.
Dear Sir,

It is with the utmost concern that I have to inform you that since the return of my late father (of which the preceding is copy), I feel symptoms of a return of my late father's illness, which have unfortunately convinced me of the necessity of my attending personally to Barings. It is impossible for me to describe the situation in which I am at present, as the severity of the illness I suffer from has been very sudden. The result of this attack has been to break my heart, and I am not able to bear up under it. I hope that your sympathy will make up for all the defects in my conduct, which this dreadful calamity may occasion.

By your favor of the 1st inst., received by me, I am, as you are, glad to see you are now in good health. Mr. Yarborough informs me that he has changed his place of residence.

If Mr. Wofford by the next is to sail for the most likely place in which I can be informed of his arrival, I presume he will inform you by an alteration in the remainder of his letter. I presume he will inform you, by an alteration in the remainder of his letter, of the steps he has taken in order to secure your return. I hope you will find the steps you have taken to secure your return will be attended with the consequences you have anticipated.

I desire to impress some pressing demands, that are against him I due to destroy his reputation and interests. If the property to which you referred is not within the reach of your power, I will not press the matter further, as you may suppose; I am certain that the treaty with his friends has been taken off, and the demand of the treaty is not against the terms of the treaty. I will endeavor to send you a copy of the treaty, as soon as it is ready.

I am informed by the most competent, should but my situation increase as it is at present, that I am disqualified for it. Mr. Badger arrived in the last packet. I have given him directions to proceed to the forbearance of the present mortgage, as he held on A.R. Painet, to which Mr. Allen says, he shall not make any further opposition than may be necessary for his security. I am myself in a difficult position (from the condition of my health) that I can not do anything hostile to your present and future state. From what I have learned, the situation of my health, and the state of my mind, I do not expect to be able to see you again, as your letters are not so frequent as to give me any idea of your welfare. If I can be of any service, I am sure you will let me know.

I have enclosed the copy of the original, from the various alterations, in order to make sure that my father's state of health is not as bad as he is. I hope you will be able to get an idea of your situation, as I am very ill and unable to write. I hope you will find this copy useful. 30th April. No news from home to this day, as I am unable to write. I hope you will find this copy useful. I am very ill and unable to write.