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Correspondence between Henry Bright, Richard Hare, Richard Jollet, and Benjamin Heywood; regarding the Mayor of Bristol fixing food prices for Bristol; sale of House Works Coffee Plantation [Jamaica?]. (6 of 6)

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Bristol 30 May 1818

Dear Sir,

We have to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of 27th, to which, we feel ourselves rather at a loss how to reply, as to all the questions you ask, particularly as you have not given any explanation or answer to that part of our letter, which we deem the most important of the whole, & which must form the basis of any negotiation — We mean, as to the means & mode of payment — Being therefore uninformed on that subject, we have some disinclination to keeping ourselves in a state of suspense, on an object that appears to us so uncertain as Mr. Cheamers approbation, & the means of carrying it into execution on the terms prescribed. Besides this, we perceive is still further to depend on the chance there may be of his receiving your letters on the subject while he is in Jamaica of which you do not speak with any certainty — Under the impression form'd in our Minds by the above circumstances, we hesitate as to the propriety of implicitly committing ourselves in a Negotiation that seems to rest on so much uncertainty, and apparently dependant on a Gentleman, with whom & his situation we are entirely unacquainted.

Your enquiry as to the Terms on which we would treat, was answered generally in our former Letter, in addition thereto we shall now be as precise as we have it in our power to be, by repeating below our instructions to Mr. Ponnall, respecting the Conditions & Terms of Sale and mode of payment for your information, but as to the price of the whole, we cannot determine on that here at present, not having rec. sufficient information to enable us to form any correct Estimate of its Value — That must in

a great measure depends on circumstances, & the chance there may be of Peoples wanting an Establishment of the kind, as well as on the state and Condition the Property may be in at the time of Sale, which we expect will be very different from what it was when your Father gave it up; having expended a considerable sum in new things & other Repairs to the Buildings, erecting a new pulping Mill - in raising a good supply of Provisions, and in improving & properly dressing the Coffee Trees: thereby endeavoring to restore it to a state of Utility.

Our Instructions therefore to M^r Ponnall are to Tell if he can get what he considers a fair price for the House, Works, Coffee plantation, and other Land &c. in their present state, payable in 2, 3 or even 4 years, by equal Annual Instalments with Int. at 6% - on having a competent additional Security besides the Premises, for performance of the Conditions of the Sale, but which of these periods must depend in some measure on the Sum he may be able to procure for it - And we wanted to think there is a probability of obtaining a purchaser among that class of people who have jobbing Gangs of Negroes of their own, but who may want a situation, ready cleared & planted, to place them on. - We shall also direct him to sell the Negroes & Stock with it, if a person offers, who can give Cash, approved Bills or Bonds payable in a short time, for their amount, at a fair Valuation, but not to sell the Negroes payable by any distant Instalments, since we may be able to find employment for them elsewhere if they should not be sold with the Land - At the same time informing M^r Ponnall of your application, and that you had desired your Friend M^r Chermer to call upon and

treat with him on the subject of a Purchase of the property -
having given him your instructions, I left the determination
entirely with him. - Should any negotiation take place in
consequence, Mr. Ponnall will of course be guided by the instructions
which as herein stated, we have furnished him with, if
Mr. Chesser should accede to such a price as Mr. Ponnall thinks we
ought to obtain for the property in its present state. otherwise we
cannot think of restraining Mr. Ponnall from availing himself of
an opportunity of selling it to any other person, having already
lost too much by the property to induce us to run any further
risk. - And our Object being as you rightly surmised in
your Letter, to bring this unfortunate Concern to as speedy a termina-
-tion as possible. - We are Dear

Yours Wm. Geo. Jr.

L. Q. Bright

Information, that we have come to the determination of not ~~renew~~
 renewing the Partnership of L & R Bright (which has expired
 by lapse of time) our L B from his increasing ill health, wishing
 to retire from all active business, and R B, to decline in favor of
 his son M. Robt. Bright, who has lately joined the House of Messrs.
 George Gibbs & Son under the Firm of Gibbs Son & Bright.

This is our Additional inducement with us for wishing to
 sell that Estate, whenever we can do it on the terms mentioned
 in our last letter, as to the mode of payment for the sale of it ^{by} ~~pay~~
 distant Instalments, would not answer the Object we propose in
 disposing of it - which is to collect all the Outstandings on our
joint Account as fast as we possibly can, a circumstance that
 is now rendered more necessary from the termination of our late
 Partnership. Should you, or any friend of yours, wish to
 become the purchaser on those terms, we shall be glad to treat, but
 we must beg to know your sentiments thereon in time to enable
 us to write to Mr. Pownall by the Packet, it being now our intention
 immediately to direct him to try if he can effect a Sale for us, at a fair
 price, on the Conditions abovementioned for the whole together - or if he
 could dispose of the House Works & Land to any one who has Negroes
 of his own. - In respect to the Negroes we could perhaps find
 Employment for them on another property, in case no eligible purchaser
 should offer for them. We find by our letter from Mr. Pownall under
 date of 12th Apr. that he had written to you fully, and we entertain
 no doubt - but he has given you every particular necessary for your
 information respecting your Fathers affairs. - We remain
 Dear Yours &c. &c.
 L & R B