

London 25<sup>th</sup> August 1816

My dear Willem.

You may perhaps be surprised at receiving a letter from me of a date so very little later than my last <sup>missive</sup> ~~this~~. There is every probability of the Packet reaching ~~Dundee~~ <sup>Berkeley</sup> and at all events before you quit it <sup>for Surinam</sup>. It is well to give you a detailed account of the interview that I had with Mr. Donovan. In my last I sketched to you my being waited on by Mr. H (who is the Commissary chief) at Westminster & from him obtained with some difficulty Mr. D's Address whom he admitted <sup>was</sup> in a most dangerous state at the time <sup>suffering</sup> ~~something~~ that he was alive which he thought improbable. He expected <sup>admitting every hour</sup> ~~any~~ to be officially notified of his death. Under such circumstances I would not think for a moment of intruding myself on him but took a while making my observations. Some one came out of the House of whom I firstly enquired if Mr. D. lived there and also in what state of health he was. I was answered by the Gentleman (whom for subsequent circumstances I ~~was~~ imagined to have been a Physician) in the affirmative to my first question and also as satisfactorily as I could expect to have looked one and I am glad to say find that tho' very ill was not by any means in the immediate ~~along~~ alarming state represented by Mr. H. nor had he been attacked with the Palsy and deprived of all his faculties as sketched. In fact he had some short time ago in the best Indies/Berberdoes (where he has appointed to succeed Mr. Bullock as Commissary General) a paralytic stroke which certainly has partly deprived him of the use of his left side and of course materially injured his Health but his memory, reason & personal appearance is the same as formerly. — With these observations for my informant I determined on writing a letter to him, and of doing it declined by a friend that an answer might be sent to me without delay and also to prevent any excuse. — I received a polite verbal message that Mr. D. was then undergoing some elective operations but would wait upon me in a day or two. On Tuesday (this is Friday) about 5 o'clock in the afternoon just as I was expecting dinner to be brought up,

having a couple of friends with me to dine, a carriage drove up  
to the door & a servant descending from the dickey rapped at the  
door & enquired for me. Being answered in the affirmative he delivered  
Mr. D's name, upon he said would follow up stairs immediately.  
on receiving this message I went to the window & saw the servant  
arriving his master to alight from the carriage. I therefore  
went down stairs and made every apology for the trouble he had  
given himself & after presenting him with a glass of wine (for in-  
tuit the exertion had very much affected him) which much refreshed  
him. He entered into a voluminous detail of the transaction which  
ultimately put you in possession of Mr. Heyward's order on him  
for Two Hundred Pounds. I must now give my unbiased opinion  
to you. My dear Frederick which in <sup>these</sup> circumstances must I think have  
been mistaken to you or you have misconceived them,  
most probably the former. It however has most <sup>clearly</sup> ~~clearly~~  
appeared to me from the papers Mr. D produced to me, & also  
from those you left in my possession, that Government, nevertheless  
bound (now do they ever bind themselves on similar occasions) in the  
equal penalty with the other contracting Parties, tho' they are always  
liberal enough to make Allowances where any of the contracts may  
have proved very unprofitable or injurious to <sup>opposite party?</sup> ~~the parties~~ <sup>and on</sup> ~~the parties~~ <sup>ascertaining</sup>  
this to be the case with Mr. Heyward. Mr. Donovan declared to me on  
this Honor that <sup>very</sup> ~~very~~ <sup>urgently</sup> ~~urgently~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>him</sup>  
a similar Memorial of his <sup>claims</sup> ~~claims~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>that</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>he</sup> ~~he <sup>would</sup> ~~would <sup>forward</sup> ~~forward <sup>it</sup> ~~it <sup>with</sup> ~~with <sup>his</sup> ~~his  
strongest Recommendation to Bullock, <sup>Whom</sup> ~~Whom~~ <sup>(he</sup> ~~he <sup>knew</sup> ~~he~~ <sup>he</sup> ~~he <sup>had</sup> ~~he~~ <sup>no</sup> ~~no <sup>doubt</sup> ~~doubt  
about would grant very fair Allowance but it never sent him one  
and the consequence has been that now it must rest with the Lords of the  
Treasury. I find <sup>also</sup> ~~also~~ that in November Heyward himself did not fulfil  
his contract and he subjected himself to prosecution on the part of Catherine  
for this neglect had I been so disposed. - but between you and myself  
there appears to have been very little cordiality existing between H and  
D from beginning to end. - Bullock has fortunately returned to England~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

of Donoven advised me that he would see him immediately on the subject and that perhaps by a strong representation from D to B & from B to the Treasury Board something may be obtained. I have since consulted with Turner, & he advises me that if the Business was put into the hands of a lawyer, it would depend perhaps the contrary, for the Counsel for the Crown would be ordered to defend the Action, no Individual being available answerable personally so any Contract made is on the part of Government & not on any individual's own account and risk. I <sup>urged</sup> ~~urged~~ the matter as far as I possibly could with Mr. D particularly the threat of submitting the affair to law but he appears to be aware of the futility of employing any such means against [Bank fold] himself personally and particularly dwells on the result of fulfillment of the Contract by Hayward, which his official letter to him of the 21<sup>st</sup> Nov. 1814 particularly mentions. Finding little good to be obtained by opposition at present, I also <sup>[restrained]</sup> from mentioning Hayward's name in the Business. - I have particularly urged Mr. D. to use his immediate Exertions with Mr. Bullock & ~~from~~ <sup>to</sup> him at the Treasury, on your Account alone. I stated that this Two Hundred Pounds would be the entire loss to you who had nothing to do with the transaction, and that I should put myself under the most particular obligation to him, if he can <sup>secure</sup> ~~find~~ the means of recovering the Money for you - He has ~~presented~~ <sup>promised</sup> me every thing and I shall not fail to keep up his Remembrance - He staid with me upwards of an Hour and half and after producing ~~the~~ <sup>me some</sup> ~~some~~ <sup>Diamonds</sup> ~~legal~~ <sup>legal</sup> ~~securities~~ <sup>securities</sup> which he had ~~had~~ <sup>very</sup> ~~very~~ <sup>handsomely</sup> cut & gave me an invitation to ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> House. - I already have informed you that he was appointed to succeed Mr. Bullock as Commissary General to the Windward ~~Islands~~ <sup>Islands</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~appointed~~ <sup>appointed</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~leave~~ <sup>leave</sup> that lucrative situation on a/c of his ~~personal~~ <sup>affection</sup> ~~affection~~ <sup>affection</sup> otherwise he declared to me that he would have been most happy to have managed the Business for you amicably which as Commissary General he would have been unable to do without any ~~reference~~ <sup>reference</sup> Home to the Treasury or any one other - I do not wish you to imagine from what I have told you of his intentions of employing ~~Mr. Bullock~~ <sup>his</sup> ~~his~~ <sup>Mr.</sup>

Butcher's interest & recommendation in the affair that  
you are to expect ~~any~~ really any beneficial results, or  
that more than one half of the claim you have can be recovered  
~~balance~~ I ~~with~~ <sup>wish</sup> my dear Wilkins I had the Hundred Pounds  
~~to remit~~ of it to remit this Wilkins I should be very glad to  
realize even that sum for the present. However be assured  
I will spare no pains nor will I neglect every fair means of  
<sup>securing</sup> ~~securing~~ your interest, and if all my endeavours fail I must  
fulfill your best wishes respecting the Business by giving up  
the Papers to South - I have thought it right to lose no time  
in giving you my opinion on the Information I have received &  
the Papers of Donovan's which I have perused in order that you  
may make your ~~arrangements~~ <sup>arrangements</sup> ~~to South?~~ with Captain Heyward on your  
Arrival in Turin accordingly - and ~~my~~ <sup>my</sup> ~~bonafide~~ Advice  
is that you <sup>will</sup> consider this sum of Two Hundred Pounds actually  
& bonafide unpaid to you and of course it remains a Debt from  
Captain Heyward to yourself - Forgive the length with which I have  
carried on <sup>Business Communication</sup> ~~my~~ <sup>present intention</sup> ~~present intention~~ of the Business as far as it has gone -  
I hope to have a more decisive Answer in a few days, in the mean  
time with every sincere wish for your prosperity & ~~not~~ Happiness, believe  
me to remain your ever faithful and affectionate friend  
W<sup>m</sup> Hunter.

of course  
P.S. Please make my kindest Regards & good wishes to your Mother  
and Captain Heyward. If you should see my little one tell me  
all about her.

John J. Wilkins Esq

Ship Henry Corb  
Barbadoes.

Per Packet.