

DSI to Glasgow in 1827, aged 17

Appraisement of Garth Estate, the Property of John Stewart Esquire on the Quarter of North Naparima in the Island of Trinidad. 21st Day of April 1821.

Buildings:

Boiling and Curing Houses - 60 feet by 20, with a Gallery to hold three coolers 24 feet by ten, Iron Boilers etc., etc. £1000

Mill - Cattle Mill complete - £500

Magass House - 100 feet by 20 - £100

Dwelling House - 38 feet by 20 with a gallery of 8 feet all round consisting of a Hall and 3 bedrooms - £300

Office Houses _ consisting of a Horse Stable of six stalls, Kitchen, stores etc - £25

Negro Houses and Hospital - 11 Negro Houses £110. Hospital £10

£2045

Land Garth Estate.

30 acres in canes @ £35 - £1500

15 acres in provisions @ £30 - £450

36 acres felled and partly cleared @ £10 - £360

239 acres Wood @ £7 - £1673

£2983

Stock

A Horse - £50

2 Mules -£100

£150

Negroes

1. Jack, carpenter - £150

2. John Houston, Do & Field - £125

3. John Sharp, Do & Field - £125

4. Glasgow, cooper, - £100

5. John Brown, Do & Field - £80

6. Bob, driver - £150

7. Duncan, boiler - £175

8. Neptune, fireman, £150

9. Robert, Carter - £170

10. Joseph, Mule boy 7 field - £100

11. Moses, Do, - £100

12. Daniel, Do, - £80

13. Jackey, Do - £40

14. William, Do - £20

15. Charles, Do - £20

16. Ann, Field - £130

17. Charlotte, Do - £110

18. Fatima, Do - £80

19. Liddie, Do - £130

20. Mary Ann, Do - £130

21. Mary Leslie, Do - £130

22. Mary Melville, Do - £100

23. Jessie, Do, £130

24. Polly, Do - £130

25. Queen, Do £80

26. Rosette Ker, Do - £100

27. Rosette, Mule Girl and Field - £100

28. Eve, Do - £75

29. Phebe, Do - £60

30. ?Fran, Do - £75

31. Charlotte, Do - £50

£3195

Recapitulation

Lands - £3983

Buildings - £2045

Stock - £150

Negroes - £3195

Total £9373

270730DSG Copy letter to Mr Jno Stewart from A R Irvine. 'The General has requested of me to write you that he has received your letter of 20th May here on his way North and will write you when he goes home. The object of my writing in the meantime is to explain his disappointment to find from your letter there is no provision made from the shipment of produce this year for his relief which he had relied on. As he could not at the time write himself he thought it right I should do it and explain the difficulties the disappointment has placed him in. My knowledge of them he considered as a proper reason for doing it. He observed that he has remitted since he had charge of his father's and brother's affairs 4 or £5000 I forget which under the confident expectation of regular remittances to reimburse him. Indeed but for this he could have done it because beyond a certain period it could not be wanted. Of this sum he has only received £500 which was some years ago and nothing since. He trusted particularly to considerable relief this year & you may easily suppose therefore how grievous the disappointment is to him. It would be wrong in me to conceal from you his feelings on the subject and it obliges me tho with no little reluctance to communicate his sentiments. He observed that nothing prevents him from taking strong measures by laying Arrestments in the hands of the house the Sugars are consigned to but that it would injure your credit both here & in the Island. He even went so far as to say he would be under the necessity of sending out a power of Attorney to the West Indies to take steps for him there. These are dreadful alternatives for a brother who has your interest at heart as much as his own and has given proofs of it. Nothing it may be relied on could lead him to contemplate such a thing but the urgent nature of his own affairs here. At this moment it consists with my knowledge that he does not know how to meet the demands upon him. The properties are already mortgaged to the full extent they will bear and it is not to be supposed he can raise money on personal security. Even the Interests at present he is not prepared for. With the bad crops of last year and the losses sustained by the tenants he cannot get his rents as usual. It is therefore matter of no small regret that on receiving his letters of 22nd January and 12th March you had not allotted part of the produce afterwards shipped for his relief but I hope you will do it still. Indeed it is for your own interest because by not relieving him at this time it puts it out of his power to assist you afterwards and you know how well disposed he is at all times to accommodate you but he cannot do miracles. I am sure I need say nothing more on the subject to engage your earnest consideration of it. Your plans he observed are commendable and so far are what he recommended but then the first thing was to consider your ability without distressing him in withholding the relief he expected. I must now apologise to you for dwelling so long on this painful subject but believe me nothing could induce me to do it but from good intention & under a conviction that it is for the interest of the one as well as the other that your Brother should not be disappointed of the supply he expected and trusted to
To John Stewart, Garth Plantation, Trinidad'

291001DSI to DS of G. Glasgow, My dear Sir, I had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 27th June and am glad to find you were then well and that the newspapers I had sent you were acceptable. I remark that I had said something of bad times which displeased you and had led you to imagine that my Uncle John had been inculcating bad notions of things into my head. I regret that my letter should have given rise to this remark as John has always been kind and attentive to me, holding out good prospects to me should my behaviour and conduct merit his patronage and support. That our times in this Country are bad, the wretched state of the Country, the want of money, and the absence of credit are evidence enough, but so far, my dear Sir, from this consideration making me despond it only instigates me to greater exertions, and when I reflect on the many difficulties which you had to encounter and struggle with, and which you have so fully overcomes, I can only hope thro your kind interest, that my course through life may be attended with the same success as yours, and I shall be contented with one half the popularity and respect paid you at home and abroad. I am glad you concur

in my Mother's keeping William at home to finish his Medical Studies. So far as he has gone he has done well, and has already got a very flattering character from the surgeon under whom he studied. I saw Mr Huggins, proprietor of the Estate on which Robert is manager at Trinidad, during his stay here. He is much pleased with Robert's application and industry. By a letter I had from Robert lately he mentions that his salary as manager is still uncertain, but that he is to let us know, and with his usual consideration offers to contribute to the defraying of William's studies. This attention is most gratifying to my Mother and the good accounts she frequently has from the West Indies keep up her spirits and make her, if possible, more contented and happy. I was at home for 3 weeks last month and my Mother was then going regularly about. She is not now so liable to cold as she formerly was, and by a regimen to which she strictly adheres we may be blessed by a continuance of her good health. I communicated to Messrs Hunter & Aughtenon & Co your reason for not taking wine from them. They are much indebted to you for your kindness and proud that had you not been engaged they would have enjoyed your support, and I am equally pleased that any recommendation of mine should have your consideration. John McDiarmid means to write you by this opportunity and to send you some whiskey. William studies with me in Glasgow this winter, which is the cheapest way, and where there is such an immense population the number of sick cases must be comparatively great and his knowledge thus improved. James John goes to Perth Academy and will be boarded with Mr Bisset. Neill I believe remains at Garth, at least my Mother intends to send him from home I have heard nothing of it. The manse at Foss is getting on but Alexr will not be settled there before Whitsunday next. He has been preaching and I am most happy to say is popular. His Gaelic is clipped, and has an English tone about it, which practice I hope will overcome. I hear Chesthill is going to marry Sir Neill Menzies's eldest daughter. At least so the country reports say, but as to the truth of the report I cannot vouch. You would probably hear of John Stewart's death. He was at Perth where he was taken ill, from whence he removed to Glenlyon House where he died. His mother and the rest of the family are still there and well. Charles & Walter Stewart are still idle. Charles has not taken a farm, nor are his friends anxious he should from his want of experience. I regret he did not go abroad, but by the foolish interference of his mother and sister he is kept at home doing nothing. We have you dead several times since you went out. On going home I found the report very general and I need not tell you the joy and satisfaction of the Highlanders on my stating to them that you were in good health, and their anticipation of the protection and support they have experienced, and they fondly look to your return to your native country. I hear now from home that you are married tho I question much if this report be not of a piece with its predecessors. Mr James Eccles is highly gratified by the Pines you sent to Mrs Eccles. He is now in England and will of course write you very soon. Had he been here when this opportunity occurred he would have taken advantage of it. The Barrel of Sugar you sent to Garth reached there in safety and was very good strong sugar. The Arethusa our last ship arrivd from Trinidad two days ago bringing the remainder of the Crop. The quantum with some Planters will be short, and the quality of the Sugar in every case is inferior to last year's importation. I am quite well in Glasgow and have as much to do as I can possibly attend to. With Mr Eccles (James) attention and the kindness of Mrs Eccles I am quite happy and much as I feel myself indebted to that family, yet my services in the Counting House and in a private capacity may be some remuneration. The latter however is my duty the former I had no reason to expect. William has gone to Garth for a few weeks, and I have only now to add that I shall write you very soon by way of Trinidad, Yr very faithful and affectionate DSI

300319DSI Losh to JS of G. Port of Spain, 19th March, My Dear Sir, Since the melancholy affliction in the sudden and unexpected death of Mr [Robert] Irvine (whose decease I greatly lament) I very much doubt if you will pay us a visit in Town so early as you would as a matter of course have done. I take advantage of this safe opportunity to enclose you Steven's draft on Eccles for your signature and have to thank you for the promptness with which you executed this matter as well as the other matters committed to your care when last in Town. I forget

whether I quoted to you our advice from Glasgow by the Packet in which fine sugars are said to have risen from the lowest point of depression 2/- to 3/-. Inferior qualities from 1/- to 2/-. No news in Town yrs etc JOHN LOSH. PS I communicated the melancholy occurrence last night to Col Hamilton & Mr Goodsir. Please send up your other invoices for entry, particularly Arethusas.

300617DSI to ARI. I think you want more in your queries than you can know at present. Mr William Eccles' "disheartening" answers proves this, but I shall as far as I can answer your Queries as I know as much from reading all the letters from McMartin & Co as the Eccles' do. You ask "Can Mr James speak for self and the other Executors" I answer he can. The others are his servants and creatures & what he dictates is law and tho they must in obedience to their trust act impartially on the other side, yet Mr James will answer all your questions and satisfy you so far as he knows on everything. This much then you know but I don't know if Mr James' quietness all along has struck you. As Executor he should have written my Mother with a Copy of the Will which was sent home to him for that purpose, but he coolly tells me "you had better send them a copy of that will" which I did, but in everything else he keeps the same reserve. "What is my mother's property in the West?" The Garth & Drumcharry lands, Negroes, Negro huts, Steam Engine, Boiling House, Dwelling House etc etc when discumbered. They are as you say "virtually" the property of Eccles' for the present because they hold a second mortgage on the last 47 Negroes purchased and a joint mortgage on all the Negroes, Land, Boiling houses etc belonging to John before the purchase of the 47. "What are the burdens on the property?" This is not yet known. We know the debts at home, and any other debt in Trinidad. McMartin & Co must let us know, and you can by and bye ascertain them. It is impossible to say when it will be clear. William Eccles answered you so. It depends upon the season, the Sugar, the Market and, most important of all, proper management. How is my mother to be satisfied of the property being properly conducted - She must trust to the Executors and Manager or appoint an Attorney which would be more of an expense than a benefit. The property at this time owes us £7235 including a Bill of £100 due 1st July this year, all the supplys we know of for this season & two bills of £600 & £400 for stock. On 1st July 1831 there is another Bill of £1000 due and one of the same amount on 1st July 1832. And on 1st July 1833 one Bill more of £1580. [Total] £10,815. There is £309 at the credit remains of last years Sugar but none at all of this years. I closed a sale however of 22 Hhds by the Calypso which only bring £194.2.7 about £9 each, and granting we receive 200 hhds, that is only £1800 to come against the Balance of £7235 what the Estate now owes. The Engine is to put up and this will cost £500 at least, but the stock sold when the Engine is up should pay this expense. You should most unquestionably write Mr James but wait till September. You then allow all the ships to come. You have probably all the West Indian papers. You see what the Crop has been. You can then know the reversion, and whether you can conveniently claim any part of this reversion.

I was a little amused lately with a petty specimen of the reserve in our affairs. I wanted a cask of Sugar for my mother and told Mr James so. He said nothing. I then told Ronald. he answered. He could do nothing without orders, and yet all this fuss about a cask which they lost would only be 25/-. "Oh ?Bumpere. Oh Moses!" William Eccles I did not speak to. He has too much matter of fact severity and does not deal his favours much like a gentleman tho he may mean well. On the contrary he carries his "scoundrel maxim" even to the sacrificing of his private friends if he don't look out. The cask I alluded to was marked "Barrel" in the manifest of the Ship and McMartin & Co's manifest, but Mr William made it "tierce" a cask considerably larger, but ? I do not know but if I may suspect that it is to keep meat say "tis pitiful. Tis wondrous pitiful". It may be too bad to suspect a gentleman in this way but they will give me no reason for their doing and I must find one. I wrote Losh yesterday with all and sundry of your requests, It was a day too late for this week's packet, but it may overtake her and there would be no other before 6th July. I preferred letting it take its chance. If this letter be in time for the Packet now sailing Losh will have it in good time for or last ship leaving there and can thus send home your demands. They are probably now on their way and if so so much the better. My remarks to

Clementina I see do not please you but they are not more than just. My mother may be allowed a sum from the Estate but it is optional with the Mortgages. The most unfortunate business was this last purchase of poor John's. Had the property remained as it did it would now have been clear and we should have had a certain income of at least £800 a year, but this is sunk and tho I personally see the advantage I am to receive from the Garth Estate and an expenditure upon it, yet we must submit to the property remaining as it is, for tho my mother's tithe will be acknowledged, yet any advantage she can receive from it while mortgaged will depend upon good years and good management. Perhaps it may be necessary to see matters in propria persona, and it must be sooner or later, but of this hereafter. My mother is quite entitled to know how she stands with regard to the Property and this you can ascertain at the time I mentioned, at all events you know from William Eccles' own mouth how you stand at present. That you know the debts at home, but not abroad. That Sugar will not pay more than the interest on the debts and expenses for this year as times go, and tho this is disheartening you cannot help yourself. This is carrying the property to the extreme of lowness but the Estate cannot do much more till the Engine is at work when the Crop should be 300 Hhds if well conducted and at this rate for 5 or 6 years should clear it, at the rate Sugar now brings, about half as much as usual. I know that "our forlorn hope" as my sister calls it will annoy and agitate you but you should not fret yourself. Allow things to go on till September when you should take, as Mr James says, "more decided steps". What he means by this he best knows, but I again think you should allow them the chance of knowing more before you write them. I will let you know every sale made of the Garth Sugars & every thing else that I think can interest you from time to time. I am much obliged to Chesthill for his handsome present, more particularly his Pony for Clementina's sake - perhaps I may hope to get an outside seat on him by and bye - I feel for poor Don - poor in money, poor health & poor in everything. I was glad to hear that you had got over your sacraments well. I congratulate you on the satisfaction you gave all our friends on that occasion and trust you may go on and prosper. I heard of Clementina's attempt to found a sect of Baptists in your burn. It was certainly a burning shame to do the like so near to an Established minister's house. I am glad to hear of your boat - It will be a great pleasure to me if I visit you in September and have time to pay my respects with Loch Tummel trout. I saw William Fergusson Dumfallandy here two days ago - I had the offer of an introduction but it 'didn't suit' and I got off. I paid a visit to the Botanic Gardens last night where there was a promenade of ladies and gentlemen. It was a salmagundi turn out but there were a few respectables - just imagine one Glasgow merchant of 'high degree' walking about with his hand in the flap of his inexpressibles and among the ladies too another again was strutting with his hands in his Coat pockets displaying the extent of his 'honor', and this was necessary for he got into a duel and was said to have shown the white feather - This fundamental display I dare say satisfied most present that he was only slandered. I mean to go again as a stranger. I have now paid three visits in that capacity and have almost run out of names, next time I shall give them 'Donach More', I think. This will be a tickle for the Clerk. I feel lighter of late since my leeching, and believe now that my stomach is my only bother. One of our clerks is laid up with a fever at home. I will see how he gets on by and bye. William wrote you to the day about some money. He studies very hard if not too much so but I will take him out in the mornings. I shall be thankful for your promised £10. I am glad you have the Clock so near you, of course you will visit her "in course". I have encroached on Counting House hour & must plead this as my apology "still an'on you oonderstand" the letter is long, is long Sir.

300905DSI Copy letter to Eccles' from Garth. My Dear Sir, I feel gratified by the manner in which you reduced Kippen's passage money, and the receipt of your letter of the 25th Aug. I was glad to see that you had returned safely from your trip to England tho I daresay the gale you sustained would add little to the comfort of the voyage in my friend William's eyes who I understand was to accompany you. I am sorry that I should not have sent you more game hitherto. The Louisa's long voyage has delayed the arrival of a Gun which I expect by her and the crops here are all standing as partridge shooting not commenced nor will not

for a fortnight or so, and even then not generally. I was surprised to hear of Mr Taylor's marriage. I should have [thought] him too old to indulge in a wife, but he was probably guided by the good maxim "better late than never" tho I can't say that I would have exactly selected him as Husband for a Young Lady of 18. Mr Ronald's letter of the 2nd brought me the welcome intimation of the Louisa's arrival. I see there are 4 trunks or packages for my mother which she is exceedingly anxious to get as soon as possible. I should hope no application may be necessary to the Board of Customs tho I question whether the former one only referring to the Plate & Books can refer even in a general way of the present packages which we conceive consist principally of swords, medals, watches etc. I see that Neill & Gray were to take the trouble of writing to Port Glasgow for a copy of the Board's order to that Establishment and trust that no further form will be required. I was also glad to see that things were doing well on Garth. The loss of the carter who was "a valuable Negro" is severe but Mr Ronald states that you have been written to send out an overseer or carter in his stead. Young Kippen (of whom I wrote to you) I find goes to Duncan Stewart and will be on Garth. He might be able to take the part of overseer required. I must however state to you that this youth has beat his relations & Father & Mother to make anything of him. He is not ill disposed nor has he behaved ill but he is so lazy that sending him out would be nonsense were he not a burden to his parents who are very intelligent and industrious people for their rank. Stewart is his cousin, and on being put on his guard of Kippen's propensity might bring him round to an Overseer or at least make a carter of him, for all his accomplishments in this country are compromised by meat, drink & sleep. I have been disappointed in not hearing from Mr Losh. He has not written any member of our family as my late Uncle & Brother's friends nor as an Exr and I must say that he has very imperfectly filled the part of both, let his motives be what they may. We have heard nothing from him by this ship, as yet, and as I hardly expect he should have put his letter inside one of the packages. Stewart the manager was by one letter of intimation we had from him was to write in fully by the very first opportunity & yet his letter or letters have never reached us. I have thought seriously of late of the propriety of my going to Trinidad to settle on Garth. I would use many arguments to back my proposal, but of these you are much more sensible than I am. You are aware how we are fettered at home. How the Garth property at Trinidad is just now in as far as concerns my mother, a sunk capital and tho I am satisfied of the honor and intelligence of those in charge, yet it is notorious that the more we are interested the more we economise. My own idea is that I should go but this is strictly my own. My family know nothing of it, and to you I appeal for you and your brother's sanction or disapproval. In either case I am your servant at least to the term of my indenture & you will probably be guided in your answer by considering whether my services can be of most use to you in Trinidad or Glasgow. If my mother is satisfied that I should go and has your sanction I know her strength of mind and interest in all will make her acquiesce in the arrangement but should you disapprove of the ideas then I have spared her the pain of broaching a subject which afterwards was dismissed. I shall expect to hear from you by Thursdays post. I beg you to make enquiry in the Counting Room & if I am needed I shall be with you immed. My mother & sister join me in regards to Mrs Eccles & Misses Eliza & Noriana & with best wishes

301127DSI Copy to ARI. To Lewis Grant, Gov of Trinidad. Sir, A friend of mine in Perth made me acquainted with the terms in which your Excellency expressed yourself towards my family. You are aware of my misfortune at St Lucia & Trinidad. Had my brother survived I should then have taken the liberty of claiming your Excellency's patronage towards him but his death does not in the least take away from the pleasure I feel in acknowledging yr Excellency's polite and friendly attentions towards us. When my uncle Mr Stewart of Garth died, I determined on going out to Trinidad to superintend my mother's estate of Garth there but I found I should have to begin the world anew after having had nearly 3 years experience in a mercantile house here, but could I hold a situation there that would support me, I should be glad to accept it, no less on my own account that that I should be present to look over the conduct of a property at present

in the hands of entire strangers to me. If your Excellency knows of any such situation I should feel honored by your answering my letter. DSI

30th Nov 1830 London. Sir, I have this moment received your letter regarding your mother's property in Trinidad, As to any temptation by obtaining a situation, I can with safety assure you that I see no opening for several years to come for any person. Various situations which now exist are to be done away with and the present holders are to be allowed small pensions of remuneration for loss of office until vacancies occur to replace them in others, I had a true regard for both General Stewart and John Stewart and in consequence, as well as from a natural wish not to lose property averted from its right channel, I was anxious that the friends of that gentleman should know all Property in the WIs to be deteriorated in more ways than one if no person is present to take a right charge of it. I strongly suspect this will be the fate of Garth unless some active steps are taken to prevent it, more especially that Mr McMartin, who was a very worthy person is recently deceased. I write this in a very great haste as I have much business on hand and little time, but I may repeat that my humble opinion is that the property should be ascertained to be under proper and trustworthy management or otherwise it would be best disposed of it. I know not now who is in charge of it. If you should see a Mr Andrew Johnston, a merchant of Trinidad now in Glasgow, I would recommend you to speak to him on the subject, I know nobody whom you could better rely upon if he is informed of the late Mr Stewart's circumstances. LEWIS GRANT.

DSI to ARI 5th Dec. As General Grant was good eno to state what you had in Mr Rissel's letter to me, I thought it was ? to write him in return even for the sake of courtesy. You have here my letter to him and his answer. He has behaved handsomely in answering my letter so precisely, and as some passages may alarm you, I shall give you Johnstone's explanations. Johnstone says that the deterioration of property Grant speaks of arises from the attempts made at home, tho it is possible to hurt property by bad management, but this is only the case when no one person is present "to take a right charge of it". This Grant expects will be the fate of Garth because McMartin died. Johnstone says that General Grant must have thought that McM was the only Executor, and that consequently on his death it was under no proper charge, being ignorant of Losh's authority and the active steps he proposes are steps which he would not have recommended had he known this. He could not, Johnstone says, have a more efficient person than Losh, or a more honourable one, and thus he thinks we are secure in "trusty management". As to disposing he says (Johnstone does) that it would be a dreadful sacrifice, and not to be thought of, at least with the present feeling of Society in regard to W.I. property. Johnstone gives me the highest pleasure in Losh's character and he is not a man who would favour a friend were he ever not entitled to praise. I am sure Losh deserves it, because Burnley of Trinidad had applied to become partner, and I expect to hear that he will become so, and had Losh been a ?skemp no such application would have been made. We do not learn much from these two letters except as to Losh. My idea in applying to the general for the situation was this - that I would have an independent place, perhaps of £200 to £300 a year and by being on the spot set your mind at ease as to the conduct of the property, but you see entrenchment is the order of the day, and I must bide my time. This letter to the Governor has another advantage in bringing me under his notice and by and bye should he remember his professions of friendship he may do me service. I have not shewn either to Eccles, that is either my letter or the Governor's answer because he has no concern in the matter, and because he has been unaccountably altered in his conduct towards me of late. I shall not observe this till I trace its origin and then if I find, as I fear, that Ronald is undermining me, I shall give him a bit of my mind. My excellent associate and fellow clerk Lamont is precisely in the same predicament and feels as uncomfortable as I do. Ronald's interest is strong, when he got the situation his nephew has got, beating Eccles' nephew and one or two more from the West, and I do not give him foul play when I attributed his anxiety to have me, in the first instance, out to Trinidad to a wish to have me out of the way, and in the other to dispose of Garth at a sacrifice too humiliating to think of. I am now clerk after two and a half year's experience and the same application that raise one to the situation will still sustain one in the exercise of it. I shall commence

regularly when we get the Arethusa to sea next week, and when John Spicer sails. At present I have got part of the books only. Ronald is going to marry. "A modest lover makes a jealous husband" they say, and I never can conceive how he managed to pop the question. He marries in three weeks a London Milliner and brings her to Glasgow. I know nothing of her except that in dress she is rather furious. £300 a year will not go far for a wife and family, but Ronald is playing a deep game. The Eccles' are old men. Andrew the representative a fool. You understand why Ronald continues our clerk now. How I would like to thwart him if I had funds. We expect the Iris from Trinidad immediately. I have not heard how much Garth Sugar she has on board. The last advice you remember put Garth down for 11 Hhds, but I expect 10 or 15 more by her. The ?Neath I believe I told you had hulled up when we heard last. I will write Stewart and Losh by the Arethusa. I wrote Stewart to send home the St Lucia linens by the Arethusa's return, and shall give Captain Boyd instructions regarding them before he sails. I mean to ask Losh if Uncle John's Boy William McIntyre has got £20 and his liberty. If not I shall insist upon it as it would be cruel to send him down among the field Negroes as under Eccles mortgage. I shall ascertain that he is not so and look over the Mill before writing. The 35 Hhds and 5 Tierces Sugar by the Louisa 1835 30th Sept Garth Estate. 'In Account with Gray Losh & Co....Sept 30th Pd Susan Stewart 3 mth allowance £7-10s Pd Funeral Expenses of her Son £7-14s'

341103DSI to ARI (date from postmark) Wednesday 3 o'clock Counting House. I am at this moment entangled in such a mess of perplexity with some blundering blockhead's account that I give up in despair till Ronald return from Greenock this evening. I had your parcel in course, but you did not write to say what I am to make of the valuation & advertisement of the estates. I do not know for what purpose you sent them, at least I do not know how to give them publicity, if that was the object. I shall keep them beside me & you can let me know. I am very glad to learn that you are all so comfortably settled at Foss with everything needful to ensure you a comfortable sojourn during the winter. We had the Calypso in on the 23rd. I had letters from Losh & Stewart both detailing an attack of glanders the Garth cattle have had and 12 mules and horses dead. The complaint can not be cured there & Losh says that it appears to be a kind of cholera. This of course is quite in keeping with everything else, but they may probably not require any more cattle since they have that steam engine. Yet the loss is very great. Generally speaking the rain having played the devil with the canes but on Garth Stewart writes me there prospects are very excellent if they have only fair weather to make Sugar & cart it. Stewart had no overseer during the recent, but now he has got one a Mr Gilkison from Jamaica - a very honourable fellow and a good planter. You have heard me mention him. He was to have been Losh's partner at one time but the Eccles' made proposals and arrangements and Gilkison by remaining overlong in Jamaica was beat. He is a great help to Stewart. We have no Sugar in the Calypso tho there were 40 Hhds ready some months ago. The roads there are made of clay hauled out of ditches formed on each side. Branches of trees are placed in the ruts when they become very deep but such a road as this in wet weather is impassible. The Arethusa will be now about leaving there and I hope she may bring these 40 Hhds. I shall send you a copy of the Garth A/c current soon & you must bear in mind that the Engine curtailed the Crop etc etc. Eccles will give you a pitch about their engagements etc. I believe I have some chocolate by this ship but I have had no better from Greenock in answer to my enquiries after it. I shall send you on some & if I have any cigars I suppose I must let you have some too as you were savage because the puppies here got some when you refused them. No word of Captain Campbell. I can't imagine where he has gone to. I had a letter from Bruce lately. He is well. Willie is in excellent good health. He has taken the shine out of the other clerks. The Lord Provost sent for answers to certain queries about fever. The no of patients, referrals, causes, treatment etc, And the dismissals for want of room were so very numerous that he has taken 4 flats of a cotton mill for the poor wretches. The Clerk who made out the report had the thanks of the Lord Provost with a further list, but Willie took good care the second time to let his Ldship know that it was the Assistant Fever Clerk who had drawn up the report and not the senior clerk of the establishment. Willie has ?neatured what it took the Clerk of 10 years to ??

over, and made out this ?Garee to the Physicians satisfaction. The other day a fellow came to the Infirmary with a sick relation & insisted on leaving his relation there - room or no room - He got very impertinent & Willie sent off a note to Graham Captain of Police insisting upon an officer being sent to take the fellow to the office. Graham was at dinner when he got the note & luckily he had two of the most influential directors dining with him. Willie was sent for, explained and was commended, and the cause of the uproar was put in the Police Office. Graham asked Willie to stay which he did. One of the Directors - Lumsden - a furious bombast of a man - began telling W that he had settled that the Fever Clerks were to pay no board. "But" remarked the other manager, "This gentleman of course does pay board." "Ah no," replied Lumsden. "This is Mr Irvine of the Fever Home dont you know. Mr Irvine, sir, Allow me the pleasure of introducing him, one of our most assiduous & meritorious Clerks and we will drink Mr Irvine's very good health in return!" Since then he has been asked to send any improvements or suggestions he may see to the managers who will feel much obliged to him. He says himself that he is very of a hen [Must be ? but looks pretty sic]. There are no fears now of cholera. I think even typhus is going on desperately bad. We send a? by the Calypso in a week. I do not see how I am to overtake her today now have I last a confounded ? of humbug That fellow Donald should be tied to a cows tail etc etc. We also send today the John Scott on to Demerara but I have nothing to do with her. Willie has entered some classes for the winter telling mother that he and I laughed heartily at the vanity of the ? course & con. I should wish that he had as much sense or experience or knowledge or rumgumption in his whole body as Willie has in his little finger. Wait a little and we shall see which is the better man. Willie can play surgeon at any time but for the present he has no time. Offer my best love to Clementina and say that I shall write her a long letter in answer to her. I am much amused by her des of McInroys clansman Sandy McAndra but I want the feather whether one or two or three distinguish a chief etc I hope you have John James safe. I suppose I am never to hear from you again. I must finish this letter as it is now near dinner time. I shall have a Box in case you may require it at home, just some chocolate etc. The McInroys come to Town today. I believe. We have strong weather. I hope you will let me know when you begin to come. I shall be anxious to hear how ? ? out. I suppose she will be old enough to have a few ? this season

370310DSI Eccles & Co to ARI. We have your esteemed favor of 7th inst. Were it a matter with which we had anything to do we would not hesitate a moment to permit any clause you choose in our agreement as may regard the actings & doings of your Uncles Exrs from whom there is no doubt you will receive the most satisfactory account but these are matters in which we cannot interfere. We now hand you the deed of Agreement all ready for the signature of you mother, yourself and David & as soon as he brings it here it will be completed, after which if you wish it, you can have a notarial copy thereof by ordering it from Mcgregor Murray & Mcgregor but this expense may be saved as it will be registered & on an afternoon David could make a plain copy of it for his own use. Please sign before two male witnesses at the bottom of every page where your initials are marked. The witness to sign on the last page only.

370325DSI to Mrs JI, 2 West George St. My Dear Mother, I have just done breakfast and sit down to write you in case you might be under any anxiety on my account. I reached Glasgow on Wednesday afternoon. I found Burnley absent - He had gone to Roxburghshire but arrived in Town the same evening as I did and immediately called down at the Black Bull. I only got to my lodgings to sleep last night. The Black Bull terrified me as much as Geordie Stewart's brindled one, and I took my present rooms yesterday & occupied them the same night. I have had my usual good luck, of course,. My Landlady Mrs McLachlan is an old lady of 70, a kind, motherly, clean looking old body with a remarkably smart active Daughter, and a douce looking anxious servant. I have already cause to congratulate myself upon my good fortune, as my folks here are highly respectable, and as far as I have seen, most anxious to make me comfortable. My rent is 14s a week. Willie will understand where I hang out. It is exactly opposite Ben Greig's House. The Monster still stalks about smacking like a snapping turtle. I signed sealed and

delivered all matters connected with our contract on Thursday so that matters are now completed and the money paid. Mr Ronald has been kind. He gave me a couple of very sensible advices, and professes the greatest confidence in my bein' just sure to do well. I dined with Burnley on Thursday, found him as usual. I dined with the Perrys yesterday. They are all well. The old gentleman is in London however at present. I supped with Mr James Eccles the night of my arrival. He enjoys very good health but she has totally lost the use of her legs. Mr William Eccles is well. I have not seen his lady though I called there. I shall however dine at the House some of these days I suppose. Mr George Eccles, Mr William's son, is now Partner of the House and somewhat upsetting in consequence. Mr James' sons are two fine lads but they would need control and direction. We have a sad nest of fellows here in the 79th Regt at present and young men should not be exposed to gambling, drunkenness and open exulting infidelity. These are the virtues which our young officers now seem to cultivate most successfully and these are the intimates of my young friends. Our first ship may not be here yet for a week, so that I will have little to do till then. There is a crisis coming with our manufacturers here or I mistake much. You saw that they were shutting up their mills gradually. That will tend to keep down the glut. A House the Millers & Co have sold some thousand Bales of Cotton lately at a loss of £6 per bale. They know of 16,000 bales now on the way home, and if they sell these at the same sacrifice they will be cleaned out as the people here call it. A Mr Dennistoun was worth £60,000 on the first of January & he has lost every farthing of it. A Mr Brown in Manchester made £380,000 last year, and he has lost £270,000 this. There are others besides smaller losers, and we are in dread who may stand all the storm coming. The Sugar market is quiet. There was not a cask sold yesterday but the prices keep up. As Ronald said to me the other day "The Sugar market to the most experienced is for the present a perfect Lottery." There is however no alarm felt, nor no fear but that prices will be up. If they keep as they do I will do well. Can you send me a box next week? with a cheese in particular - ask Bruce to let me have two Bottles of Sandy Duff's whiskey made in Balnacraig and Faskally. The one marked Duff F and the other Duff B. I think I can sell almost any quantity from the scarcity of real good whiskey felt here. The older these samples can be sent the better as whiskey is conditionally bespoke already, and I want a good excuse for asking a high price. I have settled down as usual. The noise is rather too much at beginning. The cotton and gown pieces will be sent you soon whenever I have time to look about me. Sandy will hear from me next week.'

370403DSI to ARI 2 Fife Pl, Glasgow. There are no arrivals from the West and I am subsequently impatient. By accounts received from Trinidad last week the Ship Louisa would be dispatched about the first March - about means either then or thereafter and never before with us and it will be the 8 or 10th of this month before the Louisa gets to port. The accounts from Trinidad were of the 8th February and gratifying as we could wish - fine weather and carting going on briskly from all the Estates. The Estates were expected to make large Crops. Matters are at a stand in our Sugar sale room. There is no material falling off in price as there is no pressing on the part of the holders. As little unfortunately is there demand on the part of Rollers or Grocers. The Sugar market is a perfect Lottery just now. Eccles (Wm) made a speculation by which he will lose £1200 & maybe £2000. Others hold largely of Sugars purchased when the Market was near the highest and were they now to bring their stocks into the Sample Room they would sacrifice at least 10/- per cwt. The stocks held by speculators are not large eno to affect our market subsequently. I have been repeatedly in the sample room. I find that the Garth Sugars are a very favorable mark of late years, and that a House of the highest respectability in town purchases them when they can. This protects me from bad debts. The change in Bank interests have led to a change in our rate of discount. Formerly we allowed the purchaser 2 we now give him 2 1/2 per cent, the money being paid within 14 days of the day of purchase. This will make some alteration in my sales but of this anon. The deed was signed in my presence by the parties to it here the day after my arrival. It has been sent to get registered and today I call down to see that it is registered. I have £190 at my credit in the Commercial. I do not expect to break

upon this sum for some time, at least not to any amount. I have been at Greenock and have arranged with Neill & Gray to take charge of my matters there. Gray behaved very kindly. After I had detailed as much of my negotiations as that he might understand my position with the Eccles' he grasped me warmly by the hand & said "I should have made the offer long ago but I never had the opportunity till now. If you want to purchase any property or to make any advance to any friend of yours, apply to me and I will assist you. I am your friend and would advise you not to do anything in that way just now. Husband every £5 note you have. I am doing so, but in a year or two we can see our way clear in anything at all reasonable I will assist you." This is very well from a man with whom I had only some interchange of civility formerly, and I know that he is sincere. Gilkison & Brown have been losing money lately. Brown is & has been too sanguine. He has been losing upon his expectations and dreadfully upon his Sugar & Molasses importation. They are in no fear, but I hope they will benefit by the lesson and not be in too great a hurry to get rich. I have taken no [room in the] counting house, nor do I mean to do so. I find I can do famously without one, and my very honest Landlady will not object to my having the few who trade with me coming about my parlour. My books are all made and ready. We live in sad times here. Last week we had three failing in the Cotton trade - one of them to the tune of £200,000. There are rumours of a very big house which is expected to come down today, but no name transpired. You will see them all in your newspapers. In Manchester they are if possible in a worse state. One man named Brown made £380,000 last year. He lost £270,000 this & then was at the dead thraw when the Bank of England agreed to bear him through. I have had no letter from Losh. By the Louisa I will of course hear, also should there be any letter from Losh for you, recollect that I will read it before I send it north. Duncan Stewart has got the Eccles' to advance him money to enlarge his cultivation. So I can look for little from him. Perhaps he is not mortgaged. I will write and see. The Glens in Demerara purchased two years ago an Estate for £14,000. Two Crops has cleared it. The Eccles' too have been advancing considerably upon W.I. property. You can thus see the estimation in which these Capitalists hold their security. I am no ways frightened for my individual self, as if the 1SG [stamp. G is subscribed to 1S] Sugar sell at 57/- I cannot be far off the mark. They are now worth that price and therefore I see matters at the worst. Refer you to the newspapers for all the news. There have been several Club & Public dinners here none of which have I attended and find it very easy to keep a good resolution. I heard of a good thing said at a Public Dinner the other day. When His Majesty's ministers were proposed, some one said 'Will we not rise to drink that?' The party kept their seats "There is no occasion to rise for them" quoth Adamson, a great wag. "They will rise for their sells." You need not write me without you have something very particular to say. You will hear again in the course of a week with all the Trinidad news. My love to Baby & regards to Chesthill & Emily

370413DSI to ARI When I wrote you last I had promised to write you again immediately on the arrival of our first Trinidad ship. The Louisa arrived at Greenock from that Island on the evening of Tuesday last, bringing accounts down to 1st March. Of Garth produce there is on board 33 Hhds and 8 Tierces Sugar 1SG, 8 puncheons Molasses 1SG which I hope you will consider a very respectable shipment. The ship is now discharging and samples of Sugar will be with me by early day next week. When these samples come I shall lay them out for sale. My reasons are that there is in our market a good demand for Sugar such as Garth makes, that the state of the money market does not improve, and that from the number of people out and still going out of employment the home consumption will be diminished. There is in London a large consumption, a small (much smaller, that at the same time last year) stock on hand and yet except for the finer qualities prices are going down. If therefore I get an offer for the 1SG Sugar equal to their valuation shall I sell? Touching the Molasses they are worth from £5.10 to £6.10 per cask in quality. I have given a note of them to a Broker who attends to the sale of Molasses & who therefore from watching the markets will effect better sales than I could in that article of produce. His charge is very small. Losh has drawn no Bills on the Eccles' against the Garth Estate by this ship. The Arethusa or mail follow in 3 weeks and by one or both he most probably

will. Losh writes most favorably of the Garth. He says that it is now in a situation to make large Crops, that the weather was then beautiful and that he hopes the Garth would export a very considerable increase. I have not heard a word from him. If you have I shall hear of it. The Louisa returns again in 10 days, and as I mean to write both Losh & John Gray the manager you will say if you have anything to communicate to either. The amount of stores sent out for Garth up to this date is £700. I have made all the necessary entries in my Booth arising from negotiations with Eccles, my mother & yourself. The Bill of Lading was endorsed over to me last evening and this morning I have forwarded it to Neill & Gray that they may attend to my consignments. Ronald stated last evening that the only further thing necessary to be done was that Gray Losh & Co according to our Deed of Agreement should relieve Eccles & Co from all further responsibility after 31 December last as it will be the month of July most probably before the actual debt due by Garth can be ascertained, before then we will be able to get a letter from Gray Losh & Co in terms of our obligation. The sales of Garth Sugar are not all completed as yet. The deed has been recorded or as Ronald expressed "it's just whar naething nor naebody can never tich't". I must I find take a small office. I found no room here and as a place of call is indispensable I have looked at a small room in Buchanan Street for which £9 is asked. In this matter I have been guided by the advice of our friend Brown and others. I mean to open my account with the Commercial Bank of Scotland. They behaved very handsomely to us and as they are a House of the first credit here I mean to return their compliment. The Cotton spinners struck work the other day. They will like the Oldham chaps be glad to return upon their masters terms by and bye, but like their English compeers in folly to find their places supplied by others. There are no late failures. I am glad to see you Member of Assembly. In Greenock the other day the Presbytery objected to the overture of the eldership for the very reason that you (as an individual did) did. The vagueness of a bona fide elder. I saw John Forbes yesterday. He is sufficiently plain. Dr McLeod has been confined to bed and to his room ever since his return from England. I have got some gut for you which will reach Cluny next week. I have been all morning with Lamont opening my Booth and write hurriedly. I am now going out to effect an Insurance on the Garth Sugar in bond - the extent to £1000 or so. The premium is 1/6 per cent. The policy is made out for 3 months at a time so that when there is no produce in bond the policy expires. Best wishes to baby who I hope will continue to thrive. Let me hear from you during the next week. In my next I will communicate any thing I may glean as to the state of the slave population in our Colonies. I was in touch with poor Ronald's wife the other day. She displayed more feeling than I looked for on the melancholy occasion. Mrs James Eccles very much better.

370504DSI Losh to ARI. Trinidad. My dear Sir I had this pleasure by the Arethusa since which I have been on the Coast & visited Garth in my progress. There is now made there about 200 Hhds & I am in great hopes as the dry weather still continues that 50 more may still be ground. By the Gleniffer just arrived I have a letter stating that the Agreement you had entered into with E & Co remained unexpected. It is no doubt a large undertaking but in the expectation of the Market improving I do not think you run much risk in obtaining speedy reimbursements from the Estate. Your late uncle's boys - John, William and David, have been making application to me for part of the Legacy bequeathed to them by their late father. They request the sum of £100 stg apiece which they think they could lay out profitably. If it were possible I should like to give them something and beg you will take their case into consideration. William I concur is the most prudent of the three and very industrious. You will much oblige me by an early reply on this subject as I have promised to lay their application before you with a favorable recommendation. Considering all things they have been very patient and have not shewn any want of confidence in me in protecting their interest. The Crops generally have fallen off greatly this year in consequence of the extensive rains of last year & the unusual dry weather since beginning of January. The exportation will be at least three or four thousand Hogsheads short of last year. By the "Spence" I have made a shipment of 57 Hhds Sugar from Garth, and as was the case with the parcels already forwarded from this Crop have made

out a separate Bill Lading which may be endorsed over to your Brother if required. With kind regards to Mrs Irvine and other members of your family. John Losh

370505DSI 135 Buchanan St to ARI. I was wondering very much of late why I had not heard from you and yours of the 20th April from Cluny was handed me yesterday with the Glasgow postmark of the 4th upon it. I have neither room nor time to dwell upon this, but its recurrence may become very inconvenient. I have sold the Garth Sugars but not at a very remunerative price. On the 20th ult, finding a good demand, I sold my importation per Louisa, the 33 Hhds at 53/- and the 8 tierces at 54/-. I also sold the Molasses on the 19th ult at 26/- per cask. These prices for the Sugar are very miserable. The Molasses sells well. It is proper to remark that the Louisa cargo was an inferior one. The Eccles sold the great bulk of their importation by the Louisa on the same day that I sold, but declined allowing the remainder to go at the prices then current. The week following they sold what they held at a 6d of a deduction. Our Sugar market is exceedingly dull. If your lot of Sugar happen to suit a purchaser he will give a good price for it as times go, but the dealers are living from hand to mouth and there is not a pound taken on speculation. Every man in the trade is husbanding his means. The Sugar Roller who has the Country dealers, refiners and grocers largely in his books does not know how soon they may be declared bankrupt & therefore he requires to be prepared to meet his engagements out of his own capital. There is the same jealousy of their customers on the part of the grocers, and until there is confidence restored it is quite impossible that prices can go much higher. In London there are 6500 Hhds West India & 28000 Bags Mauritius (each bag 1.5 cwts) short of their last year's stock. Here we were 1100 cwt Sugar and 14000 casks Molasses shorter this year than we were at the same period last. Tea is much cheaper & the consumpt encreased tenfold. Many of the Colonies will make short Sugar crops and great Britain never has been as ill supplied with Sugar as at this moment, and yet the purchasers parade our sample rooms with their hands in their pockets, and if they buy at all we must meet too often on their own terms. Then the moment there is a movement the wiseacres who held for higher prices (confound their greed) When sugars were going at 69/- & 73/- bring their old stock into the market. These just to get them off their hands, they sell cheaper than we new Hhds can or will do, and the consequence is that untill the old stocks are cleared away, we shall have little advance in prices. What under all the circumstances is best to be done I feel it quite impossible to say. I never can get on at these prices. That is a self evident proposition, On the other hand I must meet my engagements for freight now & the £1400 payable in July, and my present intention is to sell as much Sugar as will place me in funds and let the remainder lay in my drawers for a little. The causes I have enumerated must and will operate by and bye. What the country wants is confidence. There is plenty of money in London, but then what security is good? Four months hence you will answer me that question. My accounts from Trinidad are down on the 19th March. The Arethusa would sail on the 1st April. She is therefore due on Tuesday first. She had 34 Hhds Garth Sugar on board on the 10th March. I should suppose the shipment may be encreased to 45 Hhds in all. The accounts from Garth continue most satisfactory - a large Crop making & the weather beautiful. The Louisa sailed again for Trinidad this week. All the Garth stores ordered for this Crop, except the 10 Hhds coals have gone. These latter will I fear not be sent till Oct. We shall see. There were two mules sent out for the Garth per Louisa. One which I bought I hope turns out well, the other may possibly serve to illustrate the possibility of an animal keeping its feet without a sound leg under it. I have dwelt in my letter upon the matter of stock to Losh & Gray. I trust we shall bye and bye need less assistance in that way, but when we do purchase, we may reasonably expect that £25 may reasonably purchase a mule that would require to be put into the wagon & not between the trains. The weights of the Garth Sugars are very much improved. I am however not yet pleased with them, nor with the colour of the Sugar. I sent Gray the weight and average sample. This I shall continue to do until I see the Garth yield a Crop which in quantity and quality will satisfy one. Losh has been instructed to send me a Journal of operations on the Garth Estate. I shall see the dispositions of our slaves, and in the coming

critical times that knowledge will prove useful. Besides a strict surveillance in this way will keep Gray to his duty. I have also directed all the Molasses made on Garth to be sent home. The Molasses Crop of that estate is worth from £500 to £600 here!. If you will just take the trouble to look at the amount credited in the Colonial Account of G.L. & Co for rum & Molasses you will see the hopelessness of doing any great good with the article of produce when made into rum or otherwise used in the colony. Losh writes me from Trinidad of date the 28th January. He had not then got yours from Foss. He has done nothing about the little place attached to Garth. The lawyers have it in court and will keep it there so long as there is anything to fight for. This place I trust will be immediately had. My only salvation since prices have gone down is to increase my quantity. Duncan Stewart also writes me. His hands he says are tied. We shall see anon. I am not at all anxious to be rich too fast. Our good friends Gilkison & Brown have been far too sanguine, extending their businesses too far & losing money and otherwise placing themselves in very critical situations. Did I tell you that John Gray of Greenock offered me £1600 to buy the property in Trinidad. He did so and it was a friendly act. By and bye I may be able to shew him that I appreciate his confidence in me. I am on the very best terms with the Eccles & Ronald. Mr William Eccles has done me much good by his attention to me in the sample room & whenever and whoever we meet in public. I am gradually working my way into useful acquaintance. I shall think of the ornamental by and bye. Touching my good friend the laird's Commission, I shall get him a Barrel of Sugar on Monday or Tuesday. There are none on show just now. The Limes are not so easily got. I shall instruct my agent in Greenock to pounce upon the first keg coming. I am delighted to see that you are coming here by the end of this month. You will see the situation in which we are, and that will set your mind at rest on my account. You must so arrange as to spend a couple of days with me and if you could come on a Friday morning and bring a popular sermon in your pocket many of your friends would be greatly pleased. I have just heard from my sister. The old woman says she is better. I am delighted with this and hope the Foss air will have its usual good effect upon her. I am necessarily much confined, but my health on the whole is good, and I have reason to be pleased with and proud of myself. My sister is to send a Box by you when you go south. Put two bottles of your Strathtummel Smuggler's whiskey into it. Such a thing is greatly appreciated here. I dined with Burnley yesterday to meet old respectable merchants. I find the General had a number of friends here and that is a good feather in my cap. At a late meeting I had to make an extempore speech which Henry Paul the chairman said deserved to be learned by heart by every member present. All things work together for my good and a good beginning is half the battle....PS My sister speaks of a Davie Alston being in the Country. Did you hear that there was anything wrong there? Don't say so on my authority but an officer of the 79th now stationed here told me that Master Davie got so doubtful that the Colonel hauled him up. That after that he fell on the drawing room floor of a private house and was carried out mortal. George Robertson Strowan my sister says is to be married to the eldest daughter of Major Menzies. Nothing more likely. he is a foolish chap. I know that he is constantly with them.

370516DSI to ARI. 135 Buchanan St. I received yours of the 10th in due course. I have read attentively all that you say of the Sugar Market. The market which about the date of my last rallied for a moment, has since fallen, and judging by our accounts from America & what we know of & see around us, it will fall much lower at least till October or November next. Yesterday Cole laid down a very fair cargo of Trinidad Sugars and would not sell a cask at the present prices. Burley on the other hand sold off at a reduction all that he held and Gilkison & Brown who exposed sugars refused 54/- for a quality which if I am not much mistaken they will take 50/- for in 6 weeks. What I mean to do now is this. Seeing that every price current from London evinces a decline - that public confidence is still as bad as ever - that there is no employment for our mechanics, and that our refined sugars are as dull as the raw, I will not refuse the best market price going & realise sales of all my importation. I am constantly told that things must be at the lowest and must mend. I can discover no tangible ground for either opinion. I will sell as a matter of policy. Any

time by the 15th June will be time eno to sell to meet my engagements. The Arethusa arrived from Trinidad on Thursday last bringing me 59 Hhds Sugar, a letter for you from Losh enclosing Gray Losh & Cos Account for supplies to the Garth down to 31st Dec 1836. The letter I opened. Losh writes in great haste and is very brief but says he will reply at length to your letter on 10th Jany by an early opportunity. The account for supplies shews a balance of £727.11s due to G.L. & Co for which they have drawn of Eccles & Co. You will recollect that Ronald stated G.L. & Co £1050 + £900 stores, hence £1950. G.L. & Co's account £3727.11s = stores £853.18.9 hnce £1581.9.9. I have directed Ronald to have our account prepared forthwith so that when you come here it will be waiting you. I need not say much upon the Colonial Account as we shall shortly go over it together. £727.11s you will remark is a very little over our minimum allowance for the Colonial expenditure. But then the debit of this account is nearly £1200 sterling, and the items are some of them open to challenge eg £135 sterling for oxen and mules which added to the price & expense of transmission of the two purchased here makes £200. This will never do. There is a good deal of money spent for what is in the account termed "free labour" besides sundry "orders" to sundry individuals without specifying for what. As to the credit again we have here one or two extraordinary items which cannot be calculated on in any, at least every year. £100 for some old machinery & some pucheons - spare ones etc - then the Molasses do something - £295 sterling - there were only 70 or so sold, and I do not see any mention of rectifaction or Rum. This year Molasses are far more valuable and I fondly trust that Losh will send them home as directed by you, and as conditionally confirmed by me ie if he can't sell them there at 2/6 per Gallon. They will not pay as well here even at the present high rate, more particularly with a four shilling freight. Molasses here are selling for 26/6 at the ship's side, value per puncheon £7 to £7.10. On the whole however G.L. & Co's account is satisfactory in nett amount altho in the Gross some or the items are open to animadversion, at least so I think. Losh reiterates as large Crop - and short Crops from Trinidad are again confirmed. Low lands are yielding nothing. 230 Hhds will enable me to tackle just in time to meet my engagements at the present prices. I yesterday sent my mother £50 her half yearly annuity from the Garth Estate. I have received payment of my Sugar & Molasses per Louisa sold 19th & 20th ult. Of course you heard of Oswald's failure (MP for City). His debts are variously stated. £250,000 is probably near the mark. This is one brush. We had another yesterday, Leslie Reid & Co but they are very small, only £80,000. Two more are whispered today & there we are. It will not be too much to say that we shall see the fruits of the above failures some 6 weeks hence in a number of small houses being Gazetted. Times here set at defiance the most intelligent and experienced amongst us. The Eccles' have been appointed agents here for the Honorable East India Co of London, and appointment highly creditable to them, and eventually most lucrative. The E.I. House here are I daresay biting their thumbs and well they may. We are delighted by Burdetts success. My health for a week has been very so so. I have only been confined one day to the house. I had last night a couple of mercury pills and expect to get rid of my bile incontinently. Change of air and diet and anxiety of mind are all capital nurses for bile & blue devils. I shall expect to hear from you when you are to be here. Portages are a very serious matter to me & let your letters be as few and fat as possible. I anxiously hope that my little pet Baby's cold will soon leave her. I daresay I may find you something for my lady, nous verrons. The Limes I fear are not forthcoming. I sent the Laird a tierce Sugar. Nett proceeds of 63 Hhds and 29 ts Sugar on hand 30 Sept last £1239.7s. This is £39.7s over Ronald's calculation, while the amount of supplies at home and abroad is £69 under it, so that we have more than £400 upon which we did not calculate.

370621DSI to ARI 135 Buchanan st. I had your letter of the 15th in due course. This is with the exception of Saturday my idlest day, and I date my letter now that I may have more leisure and less interruption than I am likely to have tomorrow. First as regards business. The Spence and Hamilla arrived from Trinidad on the 19th. The former with 57 and the latter with 7 Hhds Sugar for me - by both 64 Hhds Sugar - dates of Bills of Lading 4th & 8th May. On the 1st May there were 200 Hhds Sugar made on Garth, and if the weather, which was then fine continued

so, I may look for 50 Hhds more - ie 250 Hhds will be the maximum of my importations for this year. To Losh's letter which you will find in the Box I refer you. For the present I can only allude to the recommendation he makes that we should pay my Uncle's sons, John, William and David £100 sterling each of their patrimony. This proposal so warmly urged by Losh has my regard but it is premature in me to say whether I should be disposed to acquiesce in it to the extent of paying these chaps any part of the money left to them by their father till a more advanced period of the year when I have about realised my funds and know their amount. It will necessarily be a matter for after consideration, but for the present they were you are aware left £200 sterling each by their father's will. Any money that they get will be through me, and I will take good care that those arrangements to which I am a party will not become embarrassed however urgent the recommendation, or however proper, or necessary the forwarding the worldly well being of these gentry may be. By & bye we shall resume consideration of this subject. For the present we shall lay it up in the "Balaam Box". You might like to know my importation is up to this date. Here they are

per Louisa	arrived	12 April	Sugar	33 Hhds	8 tierces	Molasses	8 puncheons
Arethusas	arr	12 May		59 hhds			
p Spence	arr	19 June		57 hhds			
p Hamilla	do	do		7 hhds			
				<u>156 Hhds</u>	<u>8 Tr</u>		<u>8 puncheons</u>

of these there are sold
per Louisa Importation Hhds at 53/- and tierces at 54/-
per Arethusa do 52/-
Remaining on hand 64 Hhds Sugar

There are three vessels now loading or about to load at Port of Spain Trinidad, say we import by these

1st Calypso	now at sea on way home	40 hhds
2	Gleniffer to sail in a week	30 hhds
3	Louisa Uncertain	20 Hhds
		<u>90 Hhds</u>

There is the Crop and happy may we be if we can only get it. As to the future prices are now 2/6 better than they were on the 6th inst. That is to say I could get 54/6 for the Sugar I sold on the 6th June at 52/-. The Market is still rising, and I am out of deep water. My course is now to hold as long as I can & make what comes pay for what is past. I am confident that my present importation will be of good quality and if I find them so I may sell immediately. If not I will lay by and watch the Market. There had been a few fires in Trinidad but they were accidental. The small pox by the Barbados paper is said to have visited Trinidad but private letters do not confirm the report. Every thing as regards Garth was doing well. The ship captains say that we have the cleverest manager in the island. Losh gets the Garth Molasses, an arrangement which I shall not disturb. If I pay above £400 for this year's colonial account I shall be very angry. John Spiers is coming home next month. He is a close fisted chap, but I will find ways and means to pump him & you shall hear his report which I should be inclined to think valuable as being true. The Eccles' have purchased a very fine ship for the Trinidad trade, named the William. She is nearly 400 tons, and carries a large cargo. She will sail for Trinidad at the latest by September. They now have four ships in that trade to Trinidad and two in the Demerara. I have a note of your acceptance to the Commercial Bank before me and you may trust to my doing the needful in due course. The contents of your Box shall be charged in the meantime in your private account. I have you recollect an account opened in your name. The few pounds I now pay for you are of no moment to me in the world. Observe that to the extent of £20 it will at no time embarrass, or even inconvenience me to be in advance for you, and on this assurance you may act. If you feel yourself hard pushed and a small sum would relieve you till Martinmas, your draft on me for £15 or £20 will be duly cashed by McNaughton and returned by me. I trust you will however understand that you must not have recourse unless to relieve a pressing necessity. The tierce Sugar I sent the Laird was a 1G [a grade] & of Burnley's crack estate. Examine the end and you will find the mark. I am glad they are pleased with the Sugar. Tho I can't understand why it should be dirty. I have made a speculation in tea. Not finding any really good stuff in

small boxes I have examined and tasted half a box which I think very fine at 4/6. I have therefore purchased the half box of 40lbs for you and my mother, and will be responsible for the price and quality. Divide it as you please. Miss Hall will find some "sma trash" in the Box for your Monday dinner of your Sacrament week, and accounts & notes of the articles sent enclosed in the Box which leaves this tomorrow & will be with you next week. I hope everything will please. I have been very unwell with a cold and a severe cough, & am much weakened in consequence. For two days, however, I have been much better and mean to make up meat incontinently. I am about 10 stone now. We expect to hear of the King's death today. I dined and spent last night with Mr Eccles at his country seat. I wish the daughters were better looking. Young McLeod preached his first sermon in my hearing on Sunday last. He is clever and preached well. I have a free seat in St Georges Church during summer and autumn for which I am very grateful. We have a very abominably organised band but most unfortunately for me there is a foreman and a parcel of young girls at my back who disturb my enjoyment of it. If you could conceive a bonnet full of asthmatic Bumbees led by a Peacock you will be very near the exhibition they make. Our friends all well here. Kindrochet's death shocked me. He can be ill wanted in the Country and I am afraid he was but little prepared for another world. I congratulate you upon the comfort you have in Miss Hall. Make her my best regards. When I can find any thing for the Table or the drawing room for use as an ornament she shall have it. Love to my little pet baby. I am delighted to find that she gets on so favorably. You will have a few lines by the Box which, I repeat, will be sent hence tomorrow.

370622DSI to ARI. Enclosed you have note of the expense of articles except the tea which I will forward afterwards. The Sma' trash referred to in my letter of yesterday you will find in a few eatables. My friends have no W.I. preserves among them, & my purse cannot bear an irruption in these times. Immediately after the 1st July I shall hand you a note of my payments, funds, sales etc. By that time I shall have paid my first Instalment of £1000, & have had my Sugar samples before me. I shall also know the state of the market, prospect of advance etc so that you will have every thing done & to be done before you. I am rather occupied today and will now close. I have been this minute handed a letter from Willie in which he says that baby has a feverish cold. I am sorry that she did not get out of the Hooping Cough before she encountered any other ailment & I beg as a great favour that my sister or you would inform me a week hence how my little Tippittywitchet gets on. Now that you have mother beside you, let me impress upon you the absolute propriety of her making a settlement of her affairs. A recommendation strongly urged by you would effect this. She has £1600 in the Garth & £400 left her by her brother John. These sums she will certainly possess 4 years hence. Touching the Garth, nothing can be said, but she should at least make her daughter independent, not only of us, but of any one whom she may marry. The very awkward clause in your marriage contract is another reason why you should urge this matter, as it never was contemplated by you or any parties to it that the old woman's heritable property should in the want of a contingency go to strangers. I need not enlarge on this topic, it is eno' to have broached it, but let me beg that, as you will advise my mother, so for your own and your mother's sakes let her make Clementina by an annuity independent of us all, & that annuity so to be limited as that she, if she be single, or her family if she marry and have one, shall have it. If the imprudent engagement my sister has formed should be consummated by her marriage, I auger little happiness for her, but altho we cannot help this, it must be our duty to make her independent of a surly Boor who, could possibly, alone countenance the thing from the prospect that my sister's pittance might relieve him & his from his difficulties. My mother has the £2000 to divide & I suppose her sons will have Garth among them subject to such annuity as she may choose to leave Clementina. Her life is uncertain, Too many heartburnings and family quarrels have been from a neglect on the part of parents that I hope she will set about her settlements immediately. You will hear from me by some opportunity the 1st week of July. Till then my best to you all. DSI PS I refer you to an article in the Times anent the Duchess of Kent's interference with the Princess Victoria. The Times is wild. If the young Queen attempt to govern by a Radical Minority she will meet with little sympathy if she

put herself at the head of the Conservatives with the Lords, Commons & the great majority of the people of England with her she may flare up alongside Elizabeth herself. The King of France is said to have written her that if she attempt to form a minority with Durham in as Premier, or in any way to countenance Democracy in this country that his Crown is not worth an hour's purchase. We live in fearful times. My sister was left £200 by John's will. She has in addition her proportion of the £100 left by Robert.

370815DSI to ARI I hand you two sales. The Sugars do not nett so much as we could wish but no better could be done. I sold out of the market yesterday. 46 Hhds per Spence (I had previously sold 10) at 55/3. I daresay more could have been made out of them for the market is rising, but I thought it way better to let what is coming meet the higher market & rather sell off what I hold in case the market may go lower again - and thus I should lose in both cases. When the sales of the Sugar yesterday sold are made up I shall forward them to you. The order for the Garth stores for 1838 I have now before me. It is considerably larger than usual but I suppose that they either expect to make a very large Crop on Garth or to add that other small place. Among other matters there is a quantity of Lime & Bricks which I ship from L'pool immediately, and go on preparing the other supplies for shipment hence as a Ship is put up. Just as was to be expected Plug has opened upon me. He has calculated that my supplies will go over the £105 we have allotted us. It was not convenient for Eccles & Co to take my Bricks and I had therefore agreed to ship them elsewhere, if they agree to pay the freight on condition of my gross freight account falling short. This they will do. Next Plug gave me sundry "real friendly opinions" anent the way and proportions in which I should ship and stated that they had never had complaints. I find however that the complaints were loud and frequent, as for instance keeping back the food and clothing which should be out before Xmas till March because freight hence is scarce in the early months, is uncommonly scarce, and we of whom Plug is sure must wait for a convenient season, and allow him to pocket the "fecht" accounts of strangers. I of course professed myself sensibly affected by Plug's advice and have just done every thing directly opposite to them, as Losh's letters sanction my doing so because don't you see it stands to reason that as the stores shortly to be shipped are for Crop 1838 so the bulk of them should be forward before the Crop begins. My very queer friend "Andrew Fairservice" (for by such he is known here) and I are uncommonly attached to each other but I dread he will be a little startled when I begin shipping. We expect the Gleniffer immediately from Trinidad and by her I shall have an importation and letters from Losh. Have you kept in mind the Terrier I want for Port-of-Spain? When you write say of you have got him, so that I may make my arrangements for his passage. I have just taken advantage of a parcel for Willie to write you this shortly. You will hear from me by post next week with all the Trinidad news.

370824DSI to ARI 135 Buchanan St. I wrote you a letter enclosed to Willie in which were two account sale. That you will have received ere this time. I now write you a short screed as I was yesterday in Greenock introducing myself to the Individuals who are to furnish the stores for Garth during the remainder of this & the beginning of next year. I shall be able to purchase cheaply from going forward with the cash in my hands. This is my understanding with the Furnishers and it serves a double purpose - the establishment of my responsibility and the exertions made to secure my custom. My first shipment will be by the William to sail last week in September. I shall have a little game to play in working Ronald. I must study the interests of the Estate, and my own interest with the Eccles', and I suspect I will find that to secure a good understanding with the latter, I must sometimes yield a little for their accommodation. My first shipment will however place the supplies which to me appear most necessary on the Estate before the Crop begins and if any complaint be made it will be rectified next year. We have accounts from Trinidad to the 11th July. Then the weather was "too dry" so that I expect they were grinding on Garth to the end of June in which event I may receive large shipments by the Gleniffer and Louisa. The Gleniffer would leave Trinidad about the middle of July. Produce was very scarce in that Island and the Louisa in consequence will come home half loaded. The

Sugar market by this morning's accounts is quiet and little business doing. I apprehend that the cause of this quietness is the want of Sugar and I therefore think when new cargoes are laid down that they will be greedily purchased at a further advance of 1/- or 2/-. I am as well out of the market in case whether the quietness may continue I do not feel disposed to hold my next import a day. It should fetch 56/- or 57/- and as the drainage is fearful, and I do not expect any steady advance to reimburse me for holding I will lay down and sell at the best prices of the day. I have now nearly £1200 in the Bank and all my debts paid. I mean my business accounts. I hope to add £1500 more to it and that will do very well. Be sure you write to me sometime soon as to Losh's suggestion that we should allow John's sons something to account of their legacy. If during the winter I find I can afford them £150 or £200 among the three, may I authorise Losh to advance them to that extent and to draw on me next summer for the Amount? We must give Losh an answer altho it should be a conditional one. I hope you have not forgotten the Terrier. When you write say whether he can be sent at a week's notice. I should wish him expatriated about a month hence and beg you to arrange accordingly. Losh lays order for Bricks and Lime (8000 bricks, 1000 tiles and 7 Hhds Lime) leads me to expect that he has got the little place attached to Garth. Captain Melville says that the manager thought of building a store at the extremity of this new place, which is bounded by the High road, where the sugars could be loaded and carted directly to the Shipping place. The private road from Garth to the main road is 3 miles long and it is the beastly state of this private road which stops carting. Losh's next letter will set the matter at rest but I expect that this little property is purchased from the intention of the manager to build upon it and the brick and lime being to carry that intention into effect. I heard from James Robertson (Edin) yesterday. He is in great glee with the elections etc. Lord Hanley was here Monday week. He says Melbourne will not attempt to carry on the Government. Sir Geo Clerk says that he will but can't as the Whigs cannot so soon demand a new dissolution. He must walk and allow Peel to come in. Our reputations are going on swimmingly. We have had no reports however so far. I am so often interrupted that I must conclude with best wishes to all at the Manse.

370926DSI Cover from Losh 10.8.37 Dear Irvine, I wrote to you at length from Gleniffer which vessel sailed on the 4th but has been completely baffled by contrary winds in getting out the Bocas and was still visible from the harbour this morning. I then mentioned that Tom Gray the manager of Garth was in a bad state of health and I am sorry now to add that he died two days ago. I fear I may find some difficulty in obtaining a successor who will do equal justice to the property. When I last saw him about a fortnight ago he mentioned having received a letter from you which gave him much uneasiness - what its tenor was I do not know, but these managers are uncommonly sensitive when their conduct is subject in any way to revision. When the Louisa is off I must proceed to the Country to look after this and other concerns. On board Lousia is the three remaining Hhds Sugar of the Garth Crop. Hurricanes seem to be prevailing all over the West Indies at the present moment. Barbados & Martinique have both suffered considerably. Our last advices P Packet, quote Sugar as "rising" which we all hope they may continue to do until they reach 70/-. Yesterday we proclaimed the young Queen here, but they will be praying for the Old King "in the East", some time longer. With kind regards to all members of your family JOHN LOSH.

26th Sept. The above is the only letter I have had from the West since I last wrote you. The Gleniffer has not yet appeared & were it not that she is notoriously slow I should be apprehensive of her. as it is she cannot be far off now and may be in hourly. The long letter coming by her will I hope be a satisfactory one. At all events in so far as the Garth Crop I need not wait it to know what its extent will be. There are 3 hhds by the Louisa & 32 Hhds & 5 tierces per the Gleniffer. The whole Crop is then about 200 hhds and whatever expectation we may have heretofore formed, it is now clear that we must not henceforth calculate upon more than that number. I now wish that Losh had sent me the Molasses as he was directed as you will not fail to observe that with 30 Hhds struck off my credit side I shall have eno to do to meet my engagements which are in Instalments & Stores the heaviest I will have to liquidate. With 35 Hhds & 5

Tierces Sugar unsold I cannot calculate their value & with none of my stores shipped I cannot state even their probable amount, but two months hence I will have realised all my imports & exported the bulk of my stores & then I will be able to say whether the Garth will work its way thro this year's difficulties leaving me my own little capital to extend my Correspondence among my friends in Trinidad. On this latter head I feel most anxious because I anticipate some small orders which I can turn to good account as laying the foundation of a more extended and lucrative intercourse. You will regret Gray's death. So do I and most sincerely too. He was an industrious clever fellow by all accounts & the Eccles' who know the Island have often expressed their astonishment to me that he had made so much of the Garth. Who his successor may be I do not know but I hope he will be sober ad industrious & we must confide in Losh's discretion that he will be both. Losh will necessarily communicate with me on the appointment of a successor to poor Gray. What think you of the doctrine laid down that 'managers will not bear to have their conduct reviewed'? I cannot find in any of my letters (for I have them in my letter book) any cause for uneasiness. I found £200 for cattle one year and I asked what use Gray made of them. I found his Hogsheads coming home exceedingly ill fitted & I entreated his attention to this circumstance & suggested a remedy, but that in any expression there was aught of rebuke or severity which Gray ought reasonably to have taken offence I deny, and must suppose that the uneasiness has its cause in uncommon sensitiveness of the ? Managers. I never interfere with Losh, nor do I step between him and the Manager in any thing, but there are sources of knowledge peculiar to me on this side & Gray should have viewed me in imparting these for his government as an useful auxiliary. While therefore I am guarded in interfering with Losh I will never subscribe to the doctrine that we on this side have no voice in the management of our own property. I hand you the Account sales of the 50 Hhds Sugar per Spence. You will find that they nett a little more than I stated in the sketch lately sent to you. In my next I will be enabled to hand you the invoice for my first shipment of stores per the ship William to sail on Sunday or Monday first, and I trust copies of any letters from Trinidad. of course any remarks which I promised in my last upon Losh's application for John's son are unnecessary, and so are any observations upon the other claims Garth should have to liquidate. The Estate will pay nothing but its positive & contracted engagements for this year, and that is just the answer to all applications come they from what quarter they may. I remitted the old woman £40 on friday last as noted to you. You need to be under no apprehension that in so far as she is concerned the "reins" are in bad hands. She is most certainly not the source of any extravagance, if you think there is extravagance, and a moment's reflexion will I am sure convince you that you do her an injustice in suspecting her prudence. My remittances are made privately ie it is not generally known when they reach her, and this at her own request. You can be at no loss in discovering the motive for this, but as I want to stand well with you all I shall say no more upon this subject. The terrier arrived safely yesterday & to appearance he is quite the thing. I thank you or so handsome a specimen & I think he should be as good as he is handsome. If possible the receipt for the shrub will be enclosed you. I have not yet got hold of a proper one but I expect to get it from Mrs James Eccles today. The Sugar market is dullish. Indeed one hardly knows what to do. The little spurt caused by the hurricanes has subsided but we still have the benefit of the 2/- advance. My 3 Hhds are on the market and valued at 57/-. I do not apprehend any decline but I cannot flatter myself that the market will be much better. What I want is a little demand and then I will quit the selling and take the best prices going. I find I cannot enclose the shrub receipt. I will write Mrs Eccles immediately for it, as her son William who promised to procure it for me forgot to ask her anything about it, There are no limes come or coming at this season but if I can hear of any they will be sent to you. When are you going to send me a Box? I will return it plenished again & in the mean time I have a few hot pickles for you, and may add a bottle of shrub if my store will spare as much. We have a subscription agoing for the Irish election fund. The subscriptions are almost entirely of £1 each. The amount will consequently not be very great, probaby £700. Our Municipal Elections come on on the first Tuesday of November. The Conservative party make play by nominating a Lord Provost who will be supported

they expect by many Liberals. This is Henry Dunlop a respectable Liberal, but excellent Churchman and, moreover, a gentleman & that is something for our credit. "The Lords" are holding their Court here now. The catalogue of crimes is short and simple. The appeal Court for the registration claims sits I believe & so indefatigable have the enemy been that if we can equal them we will do well. Upon the new registration they have 171 of a majority but we have purged the roll to some purpose, tho to what extent I must refer you to the published scheme. They are getting up a dinner to Monzie at Dunoon. They expect that Islay will beat any man whom the Liberals bring forward. It was Islay's personal claims which secured the seat for him. Sir Donald Campbell will be the new man on the Liberal interest if they call Islay into the Lords. I saw Archy McNeil yesterday. He is particularly important and it was with some difficulty that I could make him abrowgawt (vide Plug) his jaw on dogs. He was only a few days on Colonsay & then killed 4 stags of these two in one day. Bran killed one single handed after being tossed and severely punished. Buscar is stiff and about done. So says Archie. This must be premature for a 5 year-old dog but they have clogged him into a nonentity & then the occasion of clogging. "Bless you Sir he took to sheep & they had them home in cartfulls. 20 in a cart, Sir." Scrope's work with Archy's article will be published immediately, I believe. Caermarthen dogs are not pure, nor nothing like it, and no other man pretending to purity. Archy now says that his kennel is the only one of the pure deer hound in Scotland. I dine with Burnley today to meet Joseph Hume's eldest son. The young chap is an uncommonly intelligent fellow of 19 or 20, and quite as much of a Tory as you could desire. He has therefore some degree of interest in my eyes & I will after dinner get at his principles even if it were for the novelty of findong upon acquaintance that Josphe Hume's son has dared to think for himself. Old Robert Eccles is home again from America & is perfectly well. He may live for 10 years to come. I have given you some news here & been rambling till it is time to dress for dinner. They have Elizabeth it seems at the cottage. I hope she does not forget me.

371005DSI Glasgow DSI to ARI I enclose you you Invoice of stores shipped per William on account of the Garth amounting to £127.14.8 due 23rd February next & which I have placed at the debit of Garth Estate per Crop 1838. The winds were favorable for the William till Monday last when they shifted & are now right ahead. She may be detained for some days. It may be weeks. The like has happened before. Our next ship is the Louisa on the 25th currt, We begin preparing for her immediately so it is keep the kail haet with me till Xmas. With last year's prices for this year's Crop we should have made a fortune. It will be well if we can establish a Crop at a minimum of 210 Hhds. I met a Trinidadian named Jack last week. He is a Scotchman & had been away 35 years. He was home on his first visit. He knew our late manager & knows Garth minutely. He thinks Gray's successor will be one Taylor, a very clever planter. This man was on Garth before for a short time during Gray's absence on sick leave so he knows the capability of the Estate & the people. The latter circumstance one of great moment. Jack has no fear of the year 1840 nor of any insurrection in Trinidad. The stipendary magistrates enforce the law very vigorously, so much so that the planters interfere on behalf of the Negroes. The latter in Trinidad are very quiet & disposed to work extra work upon the payment of the usual quantity of food and clothing so that the absurd 7 1/2 hours a day is of no avail in cramping the operations of Estates during Crop time. Spiers says that the reason why Losh has not purchased the place contiguous to Garth is that the parties cannot grant a title. They are now in Court & we will not get at it until the litigants have ruined themselves fighting for it and then the place will be sold under an order from the Court. Losh may have something to say of the subject if his epistle per Gleniffer reaches me. I sold the 3 Hhds Sugar per Louisa on Monday last at 56/6. The Sugar market will rise considerably - I think. Opinions are contradictory. But the present tendency is up and I should not be surprised to get 60/- for my next import. You will find the Stocks and Deliveries etc in the Glasgow Courier. The ship Trinidad arrived yesterday from Trinidad, sailed 15 August. The Gleniffer a much slower ship sailed only 6 days before so that she may still be on the surface of the ocean. My Sugar is insured - at £18 per Hhd. I had rather the vessel arrived. I think the Sugar will net more. I understand my mother's

money to be invested not sunk. When the Garth can pay up any part of it convey your instructions to me. I hope that the Estate will have £800 after paying all claims on next year's Crop. The Garth should in 1840 be clear of its debt to the Eccles' & my mother have eno to pay off the legacies left by John. This the Estate will do. Remember that prices have been kept down this year by the Commercial distress, one so great that this country was on the verge of bankruptcy & America in every institution. Next year things will be differently ordered and I hope to begin Crop 1838 at 60/-. I cannot doubt from my conversation with Jack but that the new management of Garth will be efficient & economical if Taylor be appointed. Every thing on the Estate is in great force & the Lands in full bearing. I am as anxious as possible that James should be moved on. My mother will satisfy you that I have often so expressed myself. We must wait another year. Any expectation that more money will go home than the Interest & annuity will be disappointed. Such an expectation is downright folly. I will be in advance for the Garth this year. Let this be your argument if you learn that any foolish hopes are built upon me. I am not confident about the Limes but I will try. The receipt for shrub will be sent to you next week. The Terrier is shipped & will I trust push his fortune successfully among the Port of Spain rats. Your plan of rearing two young ones is a good one. Try Charlie Stewart's breed. I have a notion that the wiry haired chaps would suit the Climate better than longer haired dogs. Pitnacree's Callum is a trump. We are all well here. I heard nothing of Mrs Alston till your letter announced her death. I sympathise with the family. I am glad twice that Miss Hall is safely back. Present her with my kind regards. I am buying butter and cheese. I get the Perth Constitutional for Duncan Stewart which I read and forward. We have had a good deal of rain for some days past. The Winds have been warm & from the South. There is still much to cut down in our neighbourhood on the clay soils. By the way every potato field I have seen shew quantities of strong clusters of apples. I have not noticed this of late years & it is instructive. The potato Crop appears every where excellent. I think there is some coffee for the old woman in Greenock. There is some laying in Bond which has not been claimed. I will claim it and take my chance it was intended for me. I sent you a bottle shrub & one of pickles lately. Dr Cook of Belfast is here. He speaks tonight on the necessity of a religious education. We have 12 Conservative Councillors. We hope to add 5 more to them on Tuesday month. The present Lord Provost will be ejected. Let me hear in your next how your young cattle get on & what calves you have. The north mail leaves at an awkward hour & I am always hurried to overtake it with my Letters for the North. My best love to Elizabeth

371009DSI to ARI The Gleniffer is below. Arrived today as I anticipated. I have large orders which put me about. I have merely time to say that as you might be anxious about the Ship that she is in & greatly to my relief I assure you. I am well but extremely busy. Sugar market looking up and 1/6 to 2/- better than when I last sold. Copies of my letter to Losh & Co in my next.

370504DSI to ARI I hand you copies of two letters from Losh. I have scarcely a moments spare time just now. I am constantly running about buying stores, making just now the biggest and most important shipment for the year. Losh's letters speak for themselves & the explanations are satisfactory. The Gleniffer is discharging her produce & has come to a good market. Today prices are again 1/- higher & I am almost certain by and bye of 60/- for what I have still to sell. There are no arrivals from Trinidad during this year. Every thing was going on well in the Island from last accounts (beginning of Sept). They had small pox but chiefly among the poorer classes in Port of Spain. Duncan Stewart sends me an order for the supplies of an estate of his. This will cost me about £200. What my cash account will be when everything is sold I do not know but I think it very probable that I shall be able to execute all my orders without trusting to next year's Crop. I must make the most of this bad year & my low prices heretofore & hope to see next Crop realising very different prices. There is no procuring freight. And Plug is confoundedly jealous of my extending my business. He may even put it out of my power to ship some of Duncan Stewart's stores from the high prices he asks for their freight. I think I can send Lady Menzies a few Limes

this week. There will be very few however, probably too few for her purposes; but I will send them, and a receipt for your shrub. My compts to Miss Hall. I have to send her sister some stockings. They would have been sent but that I have an order for the Campbells & will in getting it get the stockings cheaper I calculate. I had a Box from Cluny the other day. It reached me safely. We are all well. You will hear from me in a fortnight with invoice etc when I am at perfect leisure. I go tomorrow to Greenock to order all the goods we purchase there for immediate shipment. Of late we have had much rain & bad harvest weather. Mrs Wm Eccles is home. She was nearly wrecked in the Isle of Man. My love to Elizabeth who I am glad to hear grows well & is greatly improved. PS I sent you a copy of Losh's letter (by the Louisa) my Clerk says. He has copied by mistake a letter of mine & I have not time to make him copy Losh's letter over again.

371012DSI to ARI I write to you very frequently [tear] want to let you know that the Gleniffer has discharged & that I have Sugar in the sample room. You will be glad to know that the weights of this import are excellent. I saw the discharge for an hour or two, and with the exception of 3 or 4 casks which were weak & ill put together, the 32 Hhds now landed are equal to 30 or 40 of those latterly imported. The quality is also good. Now you will remark that altho Managers do not like to have their conduct 'reviewed' that this good result is the consequence of my remonstrations. I have the Sugar valued at 58/6, but today's price current is so very encouraging that I have locked them part & wait for 60/- & perhaps 62/-. I am aware that speculations may be [tear; several lines missing] I find Duncan Stewart will be a good correspondent. I have another for a small order guaranteed by Losh. I do not find Ronald at all accommodating. It may be that his selfishness or jealousy of me may be his motive but he is a difficult chap to manage. The Louisa sails Sunday week. We have no very late news from Trinidad but all accounts of the Island are favorable. Captain Sandy breakfasted with me this morning. He called yesterday afternoon when I was much engaged & I had him up this morning. He is old, fat & very like the general. He is off to Edin and will see you. He talked a little of the Garth affairs & I, of course, knew nothing at all about them & referred if he wanted information to you. I sent a parcel of stockings this week to Mrs D Fergusson Dumfries. I can buy beautiful calicos here at 3/3 the Gown piece. I bought 24 Gown pieces in Campbells the other day for Trinidad. They would make nice plain dresses for Elizabeth. I have a dozen rather bilious looking woollen socks for you. I bought them at 7d a pair, strong purpose-like stockings of a bad colour. I think but you might like them well eno. The fame of the last terrier you sent me has spread. Do you think you could find me two youngish dogs for the East Indies. I will communicate with James too. I think Shoon the Fox Hunter might do well if he would rear young hardy pups. I would take 3 or 4 couples a year from him at 30/- to £2 a pair as they might be bred. The weather is very beautiful today & the potatoes are nearly up. Every drill is lifted with the Grape hereabouts. We had a deal of rain on Tuesday. I got wet thro while out after stores & caught a severe cold and rheumatism from writing afterwards in my wet clothes. My left arm is positively powerless. It is as well it isn't the right. All out friends here are well. Remember me to Elizabeth with my kindest love & to Miss Hall.

371101DSI to ARI I enclose you a copy of the Garth Invoice per Louisa amounting to £305.12.1 due 2nd April next, placed at the debit of Garth Estate for Crop 1838. Tho I had some stores shut out of the Louisa my shipment by her has on the whole been satisfactory. The mail leaves on the 10th or 18th November & the Calypso on the 1st December. So that I have plenty of opportunity before me - The Louisa for the present lays wind bound. The wind being south west & blowing very fresh. There was a little done in the Sugar market yesterday, the only business of any consequence for 10 days. I now apprehend that my prognostications are about to be verified & that the 2nd week of this month I will get 60/- for my Sugar. I still hold them locked fast for that price & unless I have a certainty of a higher I will sell out and have done with this miserable year. We have accounts from Trinidad down to the beginning of September. The season was propitious & the Planters were sanguine as to next Crop being a good one. I have had no letters from Losh & conclude that the Garth Manager had not then been

appointed. He will surely write me on the instant of his appointment. I have written Losh to say that I cannot entertain his proposal to pay John's sons a part of his legacy to them this year. I am hesitating what is best to be done in regard to the Garth Molasses. I cannot see their value this year till April & any decision come to must be immediately communicated to Losh. The reason why I cannot ascertain their value till April is that G.L. & Co's accounts are made up to the end of December & transmitted home by the first March ship. Molasses are just now very valuable and very scarce price 32/- & 34/- as in quality ie £9 a puncheon. The Garth makes or should make 100 puncheons & there are £900 at once out of the scum of the Estate. The question is will Molasses continue at the present high prices. I think so. There are no chance vessels going out to the Colonies. This is an unprecedented circumstance & of course that will decrease the import. Treacle made entirely from Molasses, or at least chiefly, is in great demand. The quantity of Molasses in the Country for the winter consumpt is extremely small, much smaller than in former years & altogether I should say that if there be a movement in the market at all, it will be an advance. The chief point with me is that the Molasses will put me in funds for the winter when no produce is coming home. This year I will be obliged to depart from my determination of paying every thing cash & to save myself adopt the credit system in a few accounts. The Garth will nett not much above £3000. Ronald's calculation was £3500 - and that we may at the beginning have funds to meet every demand upon us in every mishap I believe the better plan will be to call the Molasses to our aid & order them home. It is true that Gray Losh & Co credit the Garth account with them in the Colony but I never till last year saw any great good from that item altho this I hope to have a very small draft against me in spring for this year's Colonial suppliers. I think that we will try to import our Molasses for one year & we can at its conclusion compare notes when we have Gray Losh & co's accounts with the Molasses made this year credited therein. I hope to add a little to my imports next year from Duncan Stewart. He must ship me 50 puncheons Molasses at all events & he promises me the Consignment of the Crop when he is free two years hence. He makes beautiful Sugar. I am getting on very agreeably with the Eccles' and Ronald. He sees that I will be of use & I never put anything past him when he can accommodate me. I sent Lady Menzies some fruit & the shrub receipt last week, I said that I would send her a barrel of Limes next spring. When you are at Chesthill tell him that at Martinmas I render all my accounts for payment. His account was due 1st June. Will you be able conveniently to pay me your little account then, I will at all events hand you a note of it then. I am calling up all my little outstandings. Duncan Stewart's Invoice amounts to £170. I was lucky in buying tea for you in the quantity I did. This up 5d a pound since then. I urged a Roller here a friend of mine to purchase tea three months ago on speculation. I should have done so myself if I had money. He bought & he told me two days ago that he made £1200 of profit on 650 chest tea he bought then. He bought at 13.5d per pound & sold at 18d. The days of cheap tea are numbered. The men who embarked in the trade are cleaned out & have the forcing of sales to meet their engagements. We have had bad weather for 10 days. More rain and wind than I can ever recollect. Today the gloomy month of November has come in in the sulks and altogether we are horribly abused by the elements. The Clyde is very high & the vessels on the North side of the Broomielaw are on the Quay. Yours of yesterday has at this moment come to hand. I attend to your commissions. The Limes & Lemons have been sent, & your name mentioned as having commissioned me to get them. I am glad on every account that the Captain bold & the old woman foregathered pleasantly. He is a polite, plausible clever chap. I wish him success. I wish he were a magistrate in Trinidad. He should have told me his intentions when here. The Eccles & Co might be of use in introducing him to some of the Londoners. A thousand thanks for all you have done about the ?. Gruain will not go unrewarded. Get the Scottish Guardian from Willie containing Cook's speech at the Conservative dinner at Belfast. I was exceedingly provoked that I did not find your speech in the Constitutional, However the success satisfies me of the merit of your advocacy. You will hear from me again after a fortnight hence with a sale of 31 Hhds Sugar per Louisa, advice of sale of the Sugar per Spence & note of your small account. For making Shrub. To every gallon lime juice as 20lbs brown or 24lbs lump Sugar. Put them together on the fire & boil them to

a syrup. Skim till perfectly clear. When quite cold add the spirit, the proportion being about 5 gallons rum to every gallon lime juice. Keeping out a proportion of rum, say one gallon in five, & adding it in the brandy, will be found a very great improvement. Tho the Shrub appear quite thick it will soon clear in the bottles. James Eccles receipt

371024DSI to ARI. I had your last on Saturday. I had seen that Elder Buchanan & you had been at the Synod. I suppose the Constitutional tomorrow will give me the particulars of your sederunt. McLaurin I see will die game. I wonder if he will treat the General Assembly to the Cameronian's Rant. I have nothing particular to say in the way of business. The Limes have not been sent. They will be however as I have 9 dozen of them. I think of sending as many pickled lemons as will make a sizable Box & adding the apology you suggest and the promise of supplying in spring. 2 pence to account and 5/- in promises. That is the way London Booksellers pay poor authors. I really know nothing of Captain Sandy. I asked no questions that could lead into any explanation of his intention in coming to Scotland. Neither did I ask after his wife and family. In short our intercourse was confined to very commonplace attentions on my part which on his part he seemed to feel - to take with a 'koindly feeling' as the Dr would say. I must be even with him. He has many friends here I find, and some correspondence he seemed to say with parties abroad. That is reason eno' for me. He may have it in his power to be troublesome, and you know that he has little principle to restrain him if he feels the inclination to be so. He is not in the 94th I have ascertained. Find you out where he is & what his intentions are. I dare say Rattray and he have been raising the cinders & we would all need to be on our guard. The Gleniffer Sugar are lying past. The London market progresses quite to my satisfaction. Ours is in a state of somnolescency. The Buyers are playing a tricky game. They were themselves heavy holders till the middle of this month & it was their interest that prices should be upheld. Now that they are getting out of stock if they went on buying they would require to give advances at advancing prices. They hold off. Sugar becomes unsalable & in a little while the Merchant whose sugars are exposed is glad to get clear at the prices at which his Sugar was valued when they were laid down. Then the Roller buys perhaps a shilling below the market price. This policy will not outlive Thursday and then I will have the satisfaction of making whoever buys from me dance to my fiddle. The Louisa will sail on Friday first. Thursday is our fast & I will have my hands full of work for this week. The Brig mail will sail on the 10th & the Ship Calypso on the 25th November. Then follows the Arethusa on the 25th December and after that we rest from our labours. Do you remember Ritchie and acquaintance of yours who went to Demerara some years ago. He has behaved abominably - cut the Colony & run no one knows where leaving his wife and family behind. He went all wrong latterly. I saw Sandy Niven the other day during the Synod here, he appears to me to be very like the Minister of Dull, wife, whiskey. What think you of the new Lord Glenlyon? I hope you will call there when his Lordship arrives at the Castle. I would rather than my commission on my best sale I saw you minister of Blair & with your abilities, connexions and influence, I see nothing extraordinary in the anticipation that I may see you that some fine day next summer. Trust to yourself and the influence which you personally possess. Had you applied a weel sooner to the Duchess you would have been Minister of Logierait & had you not confided in a Milksop, you might have been minister of Moulin. George Eccles' Mr William's son had an ugly spill while hunting Saturday last. His horse got away with him, ran him into a tree & finally threw him at the bottom of a hill. He is sadly wounded about the head & face, but there is nothing dangerous in the accident. He would need to hunt a female kangaroo with a pouch into which he might creep in an emergency. The creature can no more ride that his friend Plug. By the way the latter is not unmanageable. You can manage most men thro their fears or interests. I will work my Bucephalus thro his interest. We are on the best possible footing & I do not know if he have a friend on whom he is so extravagant with his grins. I keep in return a fair face for him. To yield would only be to inspire him with confidence. Our subscriptions for the Irish Election funds have been prematurely closed. The Conservatives have had too many claims upon them for local purposes, & I believe that £300 will be the outside of our

contributions. What an outcry the friends "of Purity of elections" are making against us. I foresee there will be rare Murder of the Innocents on Tuesday first. The weather is wet for 2 days past. I am glad to see that your crops are housed. My love to Elizabeth. I am delighted to that she takes to her learning. This is all I desire. That she was intelligent and observing I knew & I rather think you will find her ambitious too. Remember me to the old woman, Miss Hall. PS I quite forgot to beg what I often meant to have asked your Bass. You can have the little one at Cluny, which I will have repaired for you. I would take it, but to learn on it would spoil my stepping on any other. I want recreation for my evening & one can't always read. I hope you will send me the instrument. It will confer a real favour on me & I will take every care of it. I am anxious about this because it will relieve me when tired, really I cannot always read profitable after a fagging days work at my desk. Any favour you ask in return if within my reach I will grant you.

371124DSI to ARI I had your letter this morning. I find my clerk made a mistake in copying your account. It is the first check we have had and his red face on the occasion satisfies me that he will benefit by the lesson read him. The credit is £406.18 same as the debit. The 6/- were paid by me for the packing of and Box containing all the commodities. ? Sims Helwood made no charge. I either for got or did not understand that the £250 was to clear interest & "who is to hear the £8.4.2 will be settled after wards". I hand you a copy of an Invoice of Bricks etc shipped from Liverpool on account of the Garth Estate. You will recollect that the Boilers are to be re-hung & there building materials are ordered for that purpose. It is not often that this expense needs to be gone into & for many years to come we will not be put to the cost of any more "building materials". The Brig Mail which sailed a week ago has had a consummation to her voyage which I neither wished nor anticipated. On Thursday morning I learned that she had struck on the south point of the Island of Arran on the day before. Thursday night blew great guns from the south & I was quite sure that the Mail from her exposed situation could never stand the lea and the blast with which she had to contend. I was right. Today, this afternoon, we had an express intimating that her bottom was out & the Cargo at sea. The wind blowing south would blow any part of the cargo which would float to sea, but Hogsheads of Coals and Casks of meat are not overly buoyant & these must have plumbed out of the Mail's bottom to the bottom of the sea. The Captain made every exertion but the severe weather experienced when on the rocks left him without the shadow of a hope for his ship & the concluding catastrophe was the only one which in the circumstances would have been natural. I am amply insured but then my supplies for the Xmas holiday were on board & we cannot for a month send stores to replace those now at the bottom of the frith. The Mail was very valuable & will cost the underwriters £5,000 while I do not think they will save £100 worth from the Ship or the Cargo. My Chaps will have but a meagre Xmas I fear on Garth but I hope Losh will attend to my recommendations conveyed to him most fortunately about 6 weeks ago to furnish the manager with meat to be retained out of my future shipments. This will check the Snowdrops from grumbling as they are often apt to do when "Massa Buckra him dem shabby". I will have to "play one more" and repeat the Invoice in her mail which in the state of the Sugar market is anything but convenient. £160 is no joke and it will be some months before I can recover it from the Underwriters. This is the fate of those who cast their bread upon the waters and go down to the sea in ships. I have some ?Temer Lime tumbling about the bottom & if any of the finny tribe should swallow these jars they will experience a pressure from within which will be anything but convenient. I have not sold my Sugar yet. I must of a necessity do so about the 6th Dec to be prepared for 1st Jan. I still hope to get 65/-, nous verrons. I am exceeding glad that you have appointed Clerk of Presbytery. It will bring you forward & I am satisfied you cannot miss speedy promotion. Many of your friends have looked upon you in some measure lost at Foss, but everything seems to lead me to hope that you will be removed to a sphere more suited your talent & exertion. At all events this is a compliment of which I am justly proud & you can have no difficulty mastering the forms incident to your new vocation. Young Mcleod you may have heard was presented with the Parish of Loudon Pres of Irvine. The late Minister Dr Laurie

was popular & having a son ready for the Church the parishioners petitioned the Marchioness for this son. He will be vetoed & no mistake. I am not sorry at this but for McLeod. If Patrons do not choose to recognise the People in settlements of this nature they are fairly entitled to make use of the powers with which the Church has entrusted them. We had a day of Thanksgiving on Thursday. I cannot say that the day was worthily observed. The public works almost without exception were in full operation & very many of the shops open. Altogether and on the whole however the day was tolerably well observed. Some called the conduct of the Synod in appointing the day at all tyrannical. Some called their conduct cruel to the poor workmen, some called it impious but very many (and I was one of them) whatsoever opinion they might entertain of the propriety of appointing a week day, yet when the Church did appoint a day, they felt that as a conscientious member of the Establishment they were bound to obey & to observe the day in spirit in which as Christians the church expected they would. Saturday forenoon. I wrote the above last night. I have three vessels taking in stores now & what with the unfortunate mail whose loss I was anxious you should hear of. I must write you when I can find time. We hear no more of the Mail. There is nothing particularly new this morning. Parliament goes on swimmingly. The extreme Rads have got their quietus from Lord John Russell in the House of Commons. There is not a word of the Church of Scotland in the speech & singularly eno no one took notice of this ominous omission. When the mention of that Church & a small pretension to character, availed the Ministers before the election, nothing could be more magnanimous than their intentions & I wish someone has asked them to survey the two pictures. Our friends the Presbytery of Dunkeld are attacked in the Herod of our infamous papers, the Reformers Gazette, in Clarke's defence. Poor Willie Thomson gets eno of it for his speech at the Synod. I think the article is written by Clarke himself. It is dated and signed "Blairgowrie". The Lord Provost case will be on in a week or so. In the mean time the twins sit each commanding the eyes & most sweet voices of the sages in Council assembled. Dunlop says Ecce Homo & Fleming says Ecce Homo & there the matter rests. By the way talking of Ecce Homo, I will tell you an anecdote of Hume. You know if anyone twit him with his laxness of religious principle, properly speaking with his want of it, he gets in a fine ferment. Nevertheless Burnley picked off Hume's dining room table a Book entitled 'Ecce Homo or a common sense view of the Bible' in which the writer labours to prove that Christ is a bastard & the Bible a fable! This morning one of our newspapers in writing of the fast or day of Thanksgiving say that the Clergy of the City prefer Lord Kelburne to Jesus Christ. The blasphemy of these blackguards is frightful. Time was when the authorities would have interfered, but verily we have proper authorities have we not when I tell you that our late Lord Provost & one of the Bailies (the present Provost Fleming) had a furious quarrel in the Exchange room on the Communion Sabbath day, called each other hard names & then went to the Communion Table after this extraordinary preparation. What can you say of the Commubity when her office bearers act in this way, or how can they act as "Censors of the Age" with such a beam in their eyes. Our friends are thriving & striving like - Ronald the old man - the rest like McFarlane's geese "yonder o'their play thaw their meat. Neil [son of DS of G] is a gentleman's servant in Edinburgh. Confound his craven spirit. He might have been the master of a ship and a gentleman. I send you a box next week, I shall then have time. Many thanks for the beef. I will repay you in the way you propose & shall attempt to get some luxuries for the coming daft days. I will see you on or about the 1st D.V. My love to Elizabeth & regards to all besides. PS Your flannel shirts etc in the Box

371128DSILB Henry Stewart (Calypso) I had your letter of the 16th September in due course, and have given considerable attention to it. I was aware before its receipt of John Gray's death, but I have since had Losh's assurance, that he will be replaced by one, who will do everything in his power to keep the cultivation of Garth as it now is, indeed to extend the quality, and to improve quantity and quality, all of which I believe to be not only possible but probable. Losh was appointed my Mother's attorney when home. I am more indebted to him than to any friend or relation I have on the face of the Earth, and surely friendship is worthless if it be not reciprocal. As my Mother's attorney Losh can gain nothing

to compensate him for his friendly interest, in the first instance, but it will be my duty as it will my highest pleasure to reward him for the voluntary sacrifices which he offered to make to testify his sense of attentions experienced from his friend John Stewart. Am I to turn my back on such a man? No, it is impossible. On the contrary, I shall seize every opportunity, and every form in which my gratitude can be expressed, to testify my approbation of his character, and my thanks for his kindness. Then as regards the Garth attorneyship, it was stipulated when the Messrs. Eccles and we entered into the present agreement, by virtue of which, I am put in possession of the Garth crop, that Losh should be continued attorney. I am so mixed up with the Eccles that for my own convenience, I should have made no change in this way, but moreover Losh is my uncle's Executor, and everything taken into account, his present attorneyship for the Garth, received the approval of the parties in Glasgow and at home for whom I act. So much then for Losh's attorneyships. I am satisfied that there the owner is on the spot the property thrives the best. But when I find large crops and small outlays, what decision can I come to but this, admitting the force of the axiom quoted, I am as well off or better than my neighbours. I am satisfied and what more could I desire. What reason to change my management. I am no radical reformer and I allow the labourer to be worthy of his hire. Touching the Sevilla Estate. This Estate during the late Montgomeries life, was under the control of the Roberts. Indeed before his death, Gray Losh and Co. got the contract of that property, and have had it till now. I am aware that the Eccles had been all along satisfied with the management, till this year, when whether they are or not is a question which I cannot solve. The Sevilla is in the hands of the Eccles and I cannot interfere with other people's concerns. It would be both imprudent and impertinent. Add to which that Gray have got the management you must realise in this, that the influence which the Eccles' possess is delegated, and apply you then to Gray Losh and Co. We merchants do not appoint attorneys for nothing, and I believe that those Gentlemen will allow that with our credentials in their hand. They are aimed with an authority which with reference to our affairs in Trinidad is omnipotent. I have thus answered your letter whenever and wherever I can serve you, Command me. But I cannot help insisting that you have egregiously mistaken my position and influence. I have already given you evidence, who should have, and I trust has satisfied you of the sincerity of my friendship for you, but not for my own brother will I ever attempt to influence any man save by honourable and upright means. When therefore you beg me to act secretly and "implore" me to secrecy, you must have supposed that my discretion needed to be fortified, and that then I was to embark in a system of espionage and duplicity, more worthy of Bow Street than of one whose crest you will recollect is "flourishing alike in sun and shade". I am ambitious of advancement in the world, but that advancement if it ever is to be, shall be attained through a spirit of jealous, but upright rivalry, and when I act in any other spirit, when I can believe aught inconsistent with that award of honour and candour which till I have evidence of their want of them, I am ever ready to yield my friends, I will submit to be termed a Fool. That knaves do work with, called a Fool. Remember me kindly to your wife and children.

371129DSI to ARI. On the other side I hand you invoice of stores shipped per Calypso. She sails, wind permitting, on Thursday (tomorrow) or next day. The mail has not exactly gone to pieces but her cargo tho saved is useless for export and will be sold for behoof of the underwriters. I go to Greenock tomorrow to see about the shipwreck & what is to be done in consequence. The Sugar market in London one report says is dull & another that it is not. I wait tomorrow's accounts with some anxiety. There is no policy so safe as selling if it does not appear perfectly clear that the Market is immediately to advance. I must be prepared betimes by the first January. There is no news from the West since my last. You see the auxiliary the Ante Slavery folks have got in Birmingham. His mind seems to have sunk under the influences of brandy and disappointed ambition. Inferiority is insufferable to such a man, and as he cannot lead the Whigs he has put himself at the head of the Radicals. We may now be prepared for what the Times calls a 'vast and violent nonsense'. We are likely to lose one of the two

events on which we reckoned connected with the election of Councillors. McGavin who is not a parliamentary elector was elected Councillor. The Tories carried the thing to the Court of Session & McGavin who is a furious infidel (brother to the Protestant) will keep his seat at the Council Board. We thus lose the event of first blood, but we will floor the Provost and they gain the first knock down blow. I was not able to send you a Box this week with all I had on hand to attend to but I will have the more time to cater for next week & the Box will be all the better, I am glad to see that the Bass is coming. I have been ailing since Saturday with a bilious cold. It don't suit to give in and in a day or two I shall be perfectly well. Today the frost is near about zero as our old friend used to say. It is very intense and likely to continue. We have had no snow here yet. The first time you write me state any conversation you may have had with our friends here touching Losh's being continued Attorney & any other verbal understandings not embodied in the agreement. I shall soon receive my accounts from the Eccles & desire this knowledge to assist me in their examination. I wrote Henry Stewart yesterday in which I told him among many other things that he had egregiously mistaken my position & influence. I do not suppose he will again suggest any system of espionage where I was to run all the risk and he enjoy all the benefit. I cannot afford to make any man my enemy otherwise he would have "kail thro the reek". It is very possible he will be magnificent in reply, for when he's on his legs, like Jack Lofty, he's prodigious. I suppose that you will be today ex clericous presbyterice Weemce. I suppose the dipthong latinises Weem, Old McLeod [Dr John McLeod 1757-1841] is a droll chap. He tells a story of "Archy McNiccol, Kilfinan" (the Minister of the Parish to wit) who was a corpulent gutsy chap, at a sacrament. The Dr and Archy slept in the same room - the latter painfully afflicted with flatulence emitted an occasional and most triumphant report. McLeod's patience & sleep were done for at length, he said "Lord man Archy, ye hae been ill used when they didna make ye Minister of the Kirk O Shotts." Archy in getting out of bed for something to relieve him put by mistake McLeods breeches on. They were too tight by half a mile & thinking that he had swelled unnaturally he threw himself on the floor & roared that he was gone. McLeod, on lighting a candle, found the gone man in his breath & laying on his back. I will write you next week when the Box goes forward. I had a parcel of vermin in a present the other evening. They are called capelings. You will have had them. I have 'no strong natural turn for such'. I am shipping coals at the Broomielaw for Trinidad. To shew you how much we are encroaching upon Greenock I saw 900 tons of W.I. shipping arriving by one tide. The saving to me is very considerable. Love to Elizabeth. I hope to find a big lassie next month. Thursday forenoon. I was kept in Town today by business which I must attend to. The London Sugar market is dull for the moment. There is no decline in price and I have no fear that before a week we shall have a stir and enable the Holders who are disposed to sell to get the late highest prices. Today is wet & warm with a beastly south wind. We are up to the ankles in dirt. Yesterday again was cold and frosty. One would need to be clothed in treble Brass to resist the changes of temperature to which he is subjected. McGavin has gained with all expenses. So much for one event. Next comes the Provost. We will be more fortunate in "putting the polish" on him, honest idiot. The Tory members of the Town Council have the Council at their feet. There is a club here where all the little and many of the great guns often attend. on Tuesday evening a copy of Provost Fleming's answer to the interdict was read, in which he stated that he was recognised as my Lord & cited in that capacity & so on. There were two or three Councillors present, & next day (yesterday) a meeting having been called by Fleming the Conservative Councillors acted thus. After the minutes of former meeting were read, the Dean of Guild asked "who called this meting" "Alone I did it," replied Fleming. "Well then I do not recognise you" replied the Dean "& I beg to leave the Council" Away he walked with all the Conservatives after him. The remainder were short of a Quorum & business has been and must be altogether suspended till the question at issue is decided, or a compromise effected. That is both the Lords waving their right in favour of the senior Bailie Paul. PS Say to the Laird that his letter is to hand & that it is all right & in good time.

Invoice of Stores shipped by D Stewart Irvine on board the ship Calypso, Alexander Melville master, for Trinidad, on account and risk of Garth Estate & consigned to John Losh esq, Exr to the late John Stewart esq

76	11.2.7	Rock Salt	per ton	45/-	1	6			
		1 new Molasses puncheon				15	2	1	
77	11.1	Rock Salt		45/-	1	5	3		
		1 new Molasses puncheon				15	2	3	
78	11.2.14	Butter & salt		35/-	1	3			
		1 new Molasses puncheon				15	1	15	3
		3 Barrels prime Mess pork		72/6			10	17	6
		I do do do Beef		75/-			3	15	
Biscuit		3 barrels		16/-	2	8			
		1 new Molasses puncheon				15	3	3	
		2 Barrels best herrings		37/-			3	14	
Oats	7 1/2	Bolls Oats		16/6	6	3	9		
		2 new 38inch hhds		14/-	1	8	7	11	9
Coals	20	Hhds containing 11 waggons coals		13/-	7	3			
		Filling do.				5			
		20 new 38 inch Hhds		14/-	14		21	8	
13	10	bundles 13 feet wood hoops 60ea	5c	17/-			4	5	
11	4	" " " "	2c	14/-			1	8	
		35 new 38 inch Hhd packs & heading		10/6			18	7	6
		25 new Molasses do		11/-			<u>13</u>	<u>15</u>	
							94	1	3

Charges

Literage, Cartage, Porterage Agency, Bond & Bills of Lading				4	6	1			
Export Duty					7	2			
Commission 2 1/2%				2	7		<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
							101	2	4
Premium of £105 insurance @ 20/- p cent								1	14
Comm 1/2 per cent & policy 2/9 p cent									4
							<u>£102</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>

Dateless Thurs forenoon. I wrote the enclosed yesterday afternoon altho the date be of this day. The cold today is more intense still & at this rate we will have it immediately at zero. In Perth the thermometer stands at one. The accounts of Tuesday's Sugar market in London are goodish. Matters are ticklish but the chances are in our favour, I think, & I may open the year with 60/- as a minimum. In Trinidad produce of all kinds is very high. Molasses in particular ruinously so for those who but there and import on speculation. We will by & bye see how the market at home turns out & whether the Garth Molasses will nett more than they did in Trinidad. There is little new from London this morning. The Belfast Election Committee are 10 Conservatives & 1 Liberal. I think this balances the Roxburgh Committee. Mckenzie on the 16th ult was in Navy Island. He began the War by cannonading Chippewa, but the fruits of the first day's practice was the murder of a Cow! Head was to attack him on the 24th ult or thereabouts. The Clyde above & below town is shut. Above the river is swarming with mortals of all sizes and ranks. A poor man was rescued by an acquaintance of mine in a funny way two days ago. The man had fallen in & was bobbing up and down, waxing weaker and weaker every dip. Some children standing by were enjoying the thing marvelously. "Hurra. There he is again" every time he appeared. This most providentially attracted my friend's notice & he flew at the man & lugged him out just as he appeared for the fourth time & very likely when death had given the last tap & was pronouncing the "going gone". I suppose you heard that Provost Fleming had again fallen & broken his other arm and two ribs. The man is certainly bewitched. Brown's wife is a Miss Chapman, well connected, pretty & essentially a gentlewoman. He is a lucky chap. In her speech & the formation of her mouth Mrs B reminds me very much of Margaret. I hope Brown is in shallow water. I have my doubts but we shall see. His mode of business I think abominably speculative, and but for the backing of monied friends he would this very year (after 8 years

experience) have been flooded. I find him peculiarly liberal and exceedingly gentlemanly & mean to consult my own interest by doing my business upon the best terms without regard to associations or old sympathies. Plug forgets all these & so will I. My clerk calls me to business & so good bye.

371221DSI To ARI I had yours of the 11th seven days ago. I see all that you recollect of any conversation you had with our friends here. I wish in no way to call in question Losh's right to the Attorneyship ore executorship, but he acting as the Eccles' Attorney had among others the Garth Estate under his charge & they paying him £300 a year as a fee would, or might, ask me to pay a proportion of that sum now that he no longer acts in so far as concerns their interest as attorney for Garth. I do not expect that they will charge me any thing under this head, and if they, or Losh, do not, I shall be the last person in the world to mention the matter to either. I sold off all the Sugar I held on Saturday last at 61/6, thereby losing 1/- a cwt from having for the only time during the Crop acted under other than my own impression. The loss is not great & will be profitable in my future sales. The Sugar market is up again but it has not regained what of lost. The sellers are at their old game - holding hard. Gilkison and Brown made a speculation in Sugar by which they could now nett 8/- per cwt & yet they are not sellers. They are waiting for 10/- or 15/- and they may spoil the horn before they have done. Plug perpetrated a piece of impertinence lately which I have punished - to wit interfering between my agents and me in the matter of my shipments for the Garth. Gray of Greenock communicated this to me & the explanation was that he "Thocht that me & you hed jist kent a' about it." I told Gray that any orders communicated to my agents would reach them myself & in the meantime as it don't suit to quarrel with a man who can command 10 legions, I have tried an experiment to guide Mr Plug into right conduct by shipping by other vessels for Duncan Stewart. We are the very best friends possible, but I think he will find it for his interest to be conciliatory, more particularly as in addition to fecht going out there there will be fecht coming home. We have no late news from Trinidad. Ronald has promised me the Garth account tomorrow & when I go north I will bring it & my own accounts for 1837, and so far as they have gone for 1838. The Arethusa will of sail for Trinidad before the middle of January & I will take advantage of her detention to see you on New Year day. We have an idle week during the daft days & after the New Year I will be too regularly occupied to spare a week. One of the cleverest planters in Demerara writes to Eccles "that the Slave Emancipation Act has been our salvation". He is not frightened by the year 1840 at any rate. In Trinidad the old Niggers are in the horror when they think of 1840. At present they have comforts in abundance but they do not know what they may expect when the law declares them free and independent. We must hope for good results from this feeling. Spring Rice is to cobble in a little more next year - July - by a reduction on the drawback paid on the export of refined Sugar. I wish the Right Honourable Superficial would have done with his nibbling. We encounter 1840 under the load of difficulties he has already entailed upon us. I will bring the handkerchiefs for Emily & some snuff for you & the Kynachan Acantha. We have flooded Provost Fleming. He has appealed to the House of Lords. Today the Council meet for the first time since the interdict was granted by the Court & I anticipate a very violent sederunt. The weather is dry and the wind fair. The Arethusa just in from Demerara lost 5 of her crew by fever. That colony is in a melancholy state with yellow fever. The weather on the 28th Oct was "rather dry" in Trinidad, just the weather for me. I have shipped £770 worth of stores to Garth. They will amount to £100 - a large sum truly & a bad year to pay it withall. I will leave Glasgow on the 30th. I suppose I will find you at home on the Monday following. I am glad that the frock sent Elizabeth pleases. I expect to find her much grown in the last 9 months. My regards to Miss Hall & the land.

371226DSILB John Losh I think you will do me the justice to say that I seldom trouble you in this way; your time is vastly too valuable to be needlessly occupied. From this magnificent preamble I calculate upon this lucubration being favourably received and inwardly digested. You will have a hash of stores this year for Garth. The amount thereof when the order is exhausted will be £1100. I

know that the rehangings of the Boilers etc are extraordinary items in the expenditure this year. You seem to look for a bustling year in the Hospital. The physic is many times greater than on any former year. The Garth account looks well, are we ever to get that place attached to Garth. I think it would materially lessen my anxiety if we did, and considering the many disadvantages before me, I long for an auxiliary which would render to my mind at least, my triumph over these complete. You will I know do your part in the matter, and a thousand thanks to you for it. You will be kind eno' in future to recognise me as Manager in Chief and Minister Penlifro in Glasgow for the affairs of Garth. From henceforth if my instalments are regularly paid, and the other provisions of the contract implemented, the Mortgagees have clearly no control over either you or me. I find some little difficulty in our shipping arrangements, and I was lately obliged to take tolerably high ground to prevent liberties being taken with myself, and interference being made with my agents. Whatever you may see or hear that may strike you as odd, you will consider it in so far as me or my actions are concerned as premeditated. I have been shipping our friend Duncan Stewart sundry stores. The order arrived so late that I have been a good deal put about with them, more particularly as he did not definitively promise return freight. I have shipped him 30 Hhds Coals by the Christian to be paid by return in molasses or sugar. Now may I beg you if it be not convenient for Duncan to implement this understanding with G & B to ship 30 puncheons on my account, purchased as cheaply as you can, and every care taken to protect me against loss, in so far as the security of the casks, and the quality of the Molasses are concerned. If on the other hand Stewart does ship by the Christian, then I still would like 30 puncheons shipped per Iris @ 3/6 freight. I think I can make £80 or £100 supposing you can buy at 2/ or thereabouts, and my excellent friend John Gray having some interest in the Iris, I would like to give him a "wee" lift. I may mention that of late Molasses from the West has been found adulterated with sand. The quantity varying per puncheon from 10 to 20 pounds, and in one puncheon 26 lbs of sea sand were found. This is very infamous. The whence these Molasses are derived from is concealed, but I trust that when the fact is known that the parties having recourse to practices so dishonest will change them. I say lately that a high Legal Functionary of your colony has said, or rather given it as his opinion that the slaves occupied about the Boiling house are not praedials and consequently free next year. This to any man who knows the act must be nonsense. What in the name of wonder does that superficial Jackanapes Rice mean by nibbling at us. The state of Canada should be a warning. Fools are taught by experience. What kind of intellectuality can there be about our present Rulers when experience does not teach them. I am truly in hopes of hearing from you soon. I go to the country on Saturday to see my friends there, but will be back in time to address you with an invoice of stores per Arethusa about the 15th or 20th of next month. May I beg you to convey my congratulations to Mrs Losh and with many good wishes toward you and here I am etc.

371229DSILB William Cunningham & Co. Our friend David Stewart Irvine Esq. has applied to us for room in the Iris for a quantity of Molasses not exceeding 50 puncheons. These if tendered by his correspondents please receive at freight of 3/6 per cwt.

371229DSILB to D Stewart Irvine Esq.. Neither Mr Oughterson, Mr Wallace nor ourselves considered your few articles saved from the Mail to be in good order and they have therefore been sold for behalf of all concerned.

380117DSILB (Arethusa) Glasgow . To John Losh. I trouble you now merely to enclose the enclosed which you will perceive secures me in freight for my Molasses on easy terms. I have seen my brother of Foss since I last wrote you, and his reverence was pleased to put the stamp of his approbation on all we have done since my advent. He also approves highly of my instructions conveyed to you that the Garth Molasses be sent home, because even situated as I am, should they nett less with me than they would have done with you, I am still a gainer in many important points. I have no news. Brown to be sure is to be married immediately and has taken a furnished house. I will hand my account; current made up on the

31st January, by the Janet next month. I refer you to my letter to the Executor and remain with good wishes to your wife &tc.

380101DSILB Glasgow to ARI. I had the prefixed yesterday morning. To the letter I refer you. on the 2nd of last October I wrote to Losh that 'I cannot sufficiently regret Mr Gray's death. Its occurrence is unfortunate on every account. I know however that his successor will do the Estate justice if he should be Mr Taylor of the Broomage who I am informed will likely receive the management of Garth. so far so well. Losh's character is the Alpha and Omega of good planting and if Taylor be indeed what Jack and others of my friends represented him to be, this corroborative, testimony of Losh's justified some degree of congratulation that he is the Garth Manager. The "experimental arrangement" wait our sanction I presume. "Gray's amount"™ of Salary was £500 currency. Now what I mean to insist on, is this.. that Taylor shall reside upon the Garth. He takes the full salary you perceive and because he does not reside upon the Estate, he pays the Overvseer £100 currency more and delegates his authority to him, and because he is absent from Broomage during the day, he provides an additional overseer for that Estate at "his own expense" that is, at my expense, for he pays this supernumerary out of the £500 also. If I am made to pay for a Manager I must have his undivided services. I am told moreover that is on all hands the better property of the two, and that removal from Broomage thence would be considered promotion. I am pleased well enough with Taylor, but I will not allow him to make Garth a secondary concern, the more particularly when he retains the whole salary and give me not the whole benefit, for his services during the day are not worth £500 to me a year. The Garth overseer is a very clever young chap and if Mr Taylor take £350 curry a year and allow the overseer of Garth £100 curr[encly] out of that I have no objections to the arrangement, but on every account I would far rather Taylor removed to Garth, and just stepped into Gray's old shoes. He must therefore have much influence with them, and mind you that we must consider by and bye the propriety of giving someone a direct interest in Garth, so as to attach the Negroes to the Estate when the vigorous and imprincipled struggle for labour will begin. The present is an experimental arrangement, and therefore left open for our approval. I have made these few remarks that you may give me your mind upon the matter, say, by Tuesday's post, and I will stake our wishes to Losh immediately thereafter. The sugar market is not very brisk you will see. I was lucky in selling ours. I dread April. But sufficient for the day is the evil thereof. The nett proceeds of the 32 Hhds and 6 sugar per Gleniffer are £643.18.11. Invoice of stores per Arethusa last week £43.11.2

380209DSILB to Losh via (Janet). I duly had yours of the 5th December. I approve highly of Taylor's appointment. The only remark I would make is this. Does not residence upon an Estate appear to be necessary? The arrangement is experimental, and looking steadily to 1840. I leave you to continue the present or to make such future arrangements as in your experience and judgement may be most advisable. Your charter of Mr Taylor is the Alpha and Omega of good planting. But "the proof o' the pudding is the preeing o't" and we will I have no doubt pronounce an opinion in time coming quite in keeping with that formed by you. I thank you for your promise of a good crop. Let there be no exertion spared to back me with the grist and you are kind enough to say that you feel the necessity of doing so. The little outlay necessary for cattle is no great matter. On this head I will only repeat a request formerly made, that you would write me to say so, and then I have time to look about me. I do not forget the claims of John's Sons and you will do me the justice to say so, when my letters are before you. This year I will I trust do something for them but it must come from Garth. I send you the Garth account. The continuation is a formidable one, but there it is, and I trust will be found correct. My profits on this year are not great but 1838 will do better. I have made no bad debts. The Banks have reduced their Interests and Discounts and so have we merchants (today) to the purchasers from 2/2 to 2 per cent this will put £50 in my pocket. My brother of Foss is anxious to know what the proprietors (absentees) mean to do for 1840. I had had it in view to ask this question of you before now. Do you think that we could meet 1840 as we are, or

would it be prudent to give some one a share in the Garth for which he would pay us Cash. There are necessarily many interests to take into account and many parties to consult, but there is nothing in the question proposed for your answer incompatible with either. If some Gentleman could be found to take a share of the Garth do you think it would be prudent to make or receive an overture.

380215DSI to ARI. I had your letter of the 29th ult in due course. I have made up the Garth account & send you a copy of it. There is no particular remark to offer only that the account for 1838 opens fairly. You will also find account sales of the Sugar per Gleniffer & Invoices of stores for Arethusa and Janet. I am now concluding my shipments till April by the Hamilton to sail next week. Two more shipments, one in April & another in May & my list of stores of 1838 is completed. I wrote Losh by the Janet last week, I do not think that as Executor Losh is responsible to us any more than other heirs, but he has never gone against any wish of my mother's or mine. Your suggestions are so very reasonable and meet so fully any difficulty which Losh could start that I have acted upon them & have merely recommended Losh to use for the present his best discretion & that when we came to see the results of his "experimental arrangement" I would express my opinion more fully. If we get a good Crop, and a small outlay, it would matter little probably whether Taylor be resident or not, but on this point I have expressed my anxiety to Losh & begged his opinion whether keeping 1840 in view a resident manager should not be a sine qua non if he saw reason to make any change in his present arrangement. It is very probably that Losh looks upon me in the light of factor for the mortgagees, and I dare say Plug may have told Mr John Speirs as much. Then he is responsible to the Mortgagees for he is their paid attorney and they have retained all their rights, and he is not my mothers in so far as concerns Garth. He is responsible to her and John's heirs certainly & that is another interest so that I will take his appointments & intromissions without calling either in question except they should be palpably bad. The Eccles' have nothing to do with us if we implement our agreement with them, but as I do not precisely understand Losh's position in relation to all parties, I have no desire to assume any authority to which I am not entitled in my mother's name. The Proprietors do not know what they will do with their properties in the Colonies after 1840, nor can I learn what difference of management, if any, they mean to adopt. Generally speaking they feel very secure & seem to think that matters will turn rather to their benefit under the new regime. One or two to whom I spoke of Garth thought well eno of giving some one a direct interest in that Estate, but boggled at the difficulty of finding a proper person. I have mentioned the matter to Losh & asked his opinion as resident & one best qualified to advise us & best entitled to have his advice followed. We will see what he says. Eccles' and other have not begun to think about the matter & from Losh I will get Burnley's opinion & that of others who from being interested, & members of the illustrious Board of Cabildo, will be the most earnest & it is presumed the most successful in devising means for our protection & security. That compound of snores and sneezes Glenelg talks already of reducing in August next the number of Stipeniary Magistrates because the House servants are free. This is to my mind a dangerous experiment. We must for a long while I fear have to govern our dependents in the Colonies more by a civil than a moral power & to remove any portion of that protection which forms part of the machinery of Emancipation, until the experiment of emancipation is tested, is at the best bad policy & may lead to a bellum servile. Trinidad to the 22nd December last was tranquil. They had some showers & were to have the mills about in 10 days. Our first ship ought to be now nearly loaded & will be in the Clyde in early April. The Sugar Market is dull but the navigation is shut & trade nearly at a stand. When the thaw comes you will find a grand turmoil in the Sugar market. Our thermometers are at 8. Water pipes frozen & worse than that the pipes on our water closets. The Glasgow Green is one sheet of ice & carriages are fairly off the road. A Doctor's carriage came down a hill yesterday with the carriage first. It turned fairly round. The Clyde is shut today & the canals closed for the season 5 weeks ago. All communication by between this & Greenock by water is closed & railway shares will I have no doubt rise in consequence. Such cold has never been experienced here & I pity you if you have it as intense. They are worse in Paris than we are. Typhus fever is

among us west the Town. There were 4 deaths last week, all of folks moving in the first Circles. Sandford is a sad loss to us. He was not calvinistic ?and for some of us in his Conservatism but he did us credit for all that & many a one knew Glasgow politics this Sir Samuel who never heard of Hundreds who picked holes in his principles. Glasgow is nearly gutted of its Literary Magnates. The modern pythagoreans, Motherwell, Sandford etc - all within a short time, & now we are really in the predicament of having none of the Sons of Song among us, or if we have they are like Nebuchadnezzar's image. The Banks have altered their rate of discounts & have we in our sample room from 2 1/2 to 2%. This will put £50 a year in my pocket. I have not been to one public ball since I came. I do attend one however on the 7th March & have written Foss for his sporrans Molach for the occasion. I mention this in case he should be absent that I may meet with no disappointments. The cold has fairly driven me to the fire for thawing.

380215DSI to ARI. I'm not sure I have the right to manage. Losh is the Extr & responsible to heirs, perhaps he looks on me as factor for the mortgagees. Planters optimistic for 1840

380423DSI to ARI The Louisa is below. Left Trinidad on 13th April. Brings me only 10 Hhds & 6 Tis of Sugar. Had no letter from Losh. He had been all but gone, but on date of writing (13th ulto) was rather better, The Crop would no be more than an average one. Gray Losh & Co have written me.. I also have heard from Duncan Stewart. He is very highly pleased with all I have done for him & I think will exert himself in my behalf this season. The Calypso would sail from Trinidad about the middle of this month. She will bring me 30 Hhds Sugar & as much Molasses as can be got ready for her. The Sugar market is not pleasing me. You will hear from me by your carrier this week. With the Auchterader case & so will Miss Hall with a summer frock for my little Pet Baby. Quarter past 12. Louisa will be returned if possible on Sunday.

380510DSI to ARI. I understand they expect you and yours My Mother at Clunie on Saturday first & there I address my letter. I sold the 10 Hhds per Louisa at 53/6 and the 6 tierces at 57/- . This first import we must not take as a criterion of the new manager's capability but the next import will stamp that & I hope to see a material improvement in the quality, for the weights are very excellent - on this latter head my utmost wishes are realised. The Calypso will be here next week. I expect 30 Hhds and some Molasses by her. Then follow William and a host of others who are likely from present appearances to come home Bumpers. The latest accounts from Trinidad are to the 24th March. The weather good, 7 estates hard at work. Losh on the 24th March had had a relapse and from the nature of his complaint I feel great anxiety for next accounts. It seems he is labouring under "dry colic" the nature of which Willie will explain. If his bowels can be moved he will do. If not inflammation begins, then follows mortification and then catastrophe. Now I beg that you will write me as to your movements after Monday first, so that I can immediately communicate with you by letter or in person should my fears concerning Losh be realised. Say nothing about it at the Cottage in the mean time. I shall be prepared should the worst happen to say what my own experience and the advice of my friends suggest as best to be done, but I trust we are not destined to lose at the threshold of our speculation one so singularly and thoroughly devoted to us & so capable from his ability & influence of advancing my mother's interests & my own. The Sugar Market will do tolerably well. My never failing criterion will not I hope deceive in times coming and if not I am perfectly confident in the future. My Molasses will be no great speculation, so far, but this too may turn out better than what I at present expect. I have made my youngster note what explains itself at the bottom of the last page. It may instruct you. The per contra I can give no idea of. But you may be assured that I am perfectly awake to my situation & quite prepared to meet any difficulty whether of privation or deprivation. The tierces per Louisa were altogether so abominable that I sold them & have bought a tierce of very fair Sugar which reaches Clunie tomorrow - Half for you. I had Willie's letter & tell him that he shall have his answer soon. I thank him for the hint as to Sir Neil. John Lowe has been appointed Clerk to the National Security Savings Bank with a

salary of £60 to begin with. I must see & get him a place in one of our regular banks. I am not overly sanguine touching the Schoolmaster recommended by Sir Neil. McLeod I rather think is pledged to one Munro who from his knowledge of the Gaelic would be useful to the ?Dr at ? hours. We shall see anon. There seems to be nothing doing in Parliament about immediate Emancipation, except indeed the presentation of a multiplicity of petitions. The fact and the truth is there can be no mistake about the matter that the Ante Slavery Crusade has saved the voluntaries. The fact of their opposing the Extensionists on grounds so unchristian and selfish was a nasty fact & they needed to draw away the publick's eyes from them and their doings by a pretence of Christian sympathy with their suffering friends in the west. They gained another point, for they shewed the Ministry their power in Scotland - and another still that they make common cause with the Democratic Radicals in England. "We were received with open arms by the leal and true Men of Birmingham" quoth Dr Heugh giving an account of their stravague on the way to London. These voluntary democrats & all the bad blood & bad breath of the United Kingdom are our worst enemies, but they are the only and the best friends of a Ministry whom I consider the shabbiest creations in Christendom till I saw a Synod at Stirling. There is to be a demonstration in favor of vote by ballot and Universal suffrage in the 21st Currt. The time is well chosen. We have all the necessary elements at hand for such a demonstration - plenty of idle mechanics, plenty of poverty & plenty of Emissaries. The poor wretches who are victims of the Trades Unions have all of them had their wages arrested for the next 6 months. Others are being [laid off] as Trade gets duller and duller & hence they concoct demonstrations as if the people had the sovereignty of a Republic, which makes all the difference in life as to the fruits of their demonstration. They are mad, & to expend upon it sulphur & Gunpowder would cure more evils than the itch. There is little stirring in the City. We will soon have an election. No matter for that. If Dennistoun stand again he will ? every one of the Demonstration ? [the sense seems to be that D would win Radical support], and thus the chance we which we could have from a split among the Reformers is gone. So long as they concentrate upon one man they will beat us till we are strong enough in the Registration Courts. Sir Charles Gordon was here yesterday making arrangements with our local committee for the Cattle Shew in Oct. The weather is very hot & I should think beyond everything "convenient" for seed time. I trust the harvest may be equally good. There were 300 Hhds Sugar sold in our sample room today at very good prices. This backs my expectations. The Liberal Party are very big about Stirlingshire and call names at a great rate. When the ?times, or any Conservative ventures to apply the Knoute, there never was anything [tear] of his foulmouthedness. Among every other monopoly [tear] Liberals must have a monopoly of blackguardianism. They have long since taken all the Liberty to themselves & now they will by no mean allow any beyond their pale to set up for a Blackguard. I will add a sentence tomorrow forenoon before shutting up. There is a packet due tomorrow and should it arrive we have have accounts of Losh to the April. There has not been a lime in any ship [contd after a/c]

Amount of Stores shipped for Crop 1838 after deducting Balance sue Garth Estate for Crop 1837, shewing amount of Debit on 1st May with no part of the produce of Crop 1838 credited

	£592 6 3
Instalment of debt due 1st July	£900
Gray Losh & Cos draft, say	£600
Mrs Janet Irvine, interests & annuity payable this Crop	£140
Instalment of debt due 1st January	£900
Probable amount of Dr at 31st Jany	£3132 6 3

-arriving from the West so far as I can discover. I fear Lady Menzies' shrub will never be brewed. I don't forget the fruit but it is deuced hard to find at the present time. I see Almond has been moving some "very severe" overtures at Auchterader. My opinion of John is much like the Irishman's "My fine fellow you midder must have ben plaguey scarce o Childer when she reared the likes o you" Remember me to all and sundry at Clunie. Friday half past 11 am. No packet today & consequently nothing further of Losh. There will be word for certain in a few days & you shall hear from me when there is. let us in the meantime hope for the best. Gilkison & Brown will be fairly hors de combat if they lose Losh. There

is little political interest in the London papers. On Wednesday Chalmers on that day delivered his fifth lecture. The Liberal London papers are horrified at him & O'Connell has fallen foul of the Doctor charging him with "twofold blasphemy". He is a bitter pill for the Liberals. Peel they say has given him £500 for the Extension scheme & I really should not wonder if the Doctor bring £15,000 back with him. You are probably aware that he called a lot of Ministers up to keep him in spreading the nature of his mission. They are not, many of them, names of note, and I understand that the Commission by no means approves of this step of the Doctors, considering it ill-timed & injudicious & that a minute has been recorded on their book that all that Chalmers is doing is upon his own responsibility & altogether without their concurrence. Be sure & write me of your movements, My love to Elizabeth who must be growing a big lassie by this time. I venture to say there is nothing nearer perpetual motion than her little tongue in Blair Athole.

380523DSILB to David Peacock. I had your letter of the 12th in due course. I immediately saw the clerk of our Cattle Market, who did not know whether he could furnish me with the information desiderated. Yesterday after having danced after him 'till my patience was finally exhausted I asked him for a yea or a nay and then he said that the dealers had set their faces against prices appearing in the papers at all as they found in consequence the greatest difficulty in making their purchases in the Country, & moreover that when he stated that he meant to give a weekly statement they gave him two alternatives to do so if he so pleased but the would petition for another. I offered him 3 Guineas, but he was deaf as Ailsa Craig and there can be nothing done with him. I shall still see if I can fall upon or hear of any other way of getting at the matter and in the meantime have to express my regret that the one suggested by you should have failed. You will see plenty of our Demonstration. The whole matter is perfectly impotent of good or evil. We are in horrors at the Lord Advocate's Municipal Bill. The £5 franchise will I should hope damn the thing in the opinion of Moderate Whigs, but if the Bill do become Law, Glasgow is dished for 10 years to come at least. We have accounts from the Colonies (W.I.) to the 12 April. Things progressing most satisfactorily. I have no earthly fear of the year in 1840 if we were left alone in the meantime. In St Vincent 8000 of the non-praedial have refused instant manumission (as provided in the act) on 1 August 1838 and beg to be considered praedials till 1840. It was the same gentlemen who sent home a little money for the relief of the "great glorious and free" who start in the West Highlands and the Isles thereto adjacent. Nothing new in the political world here. Wishing you much success in your labours. I am etc.

380607DSI to ARI I lately wrote to you at length. The Calypso has discharged her cargo and both my Sugar and Molasses sold. I sold the Molasses at 28/- which is a very good price, and the Sugar at 57/- which is a better. I was singularly lucky with the Sugar. The quality was no great shakes, but I had the Sample room to myself. There was oddly eno not a sample on shew but mine. My good friends played my game of withholding their Sugar on Tuesday last (by the Calypso) and just as I expected I got my valuation which was 1/- above the appraisers. There are 5000 Hhds less Sugar in Greenock warehouses than there was this time last year & taking everything into account I am confident that the future barring the wet weather abroad & irresolution & incapacity at home, this year will be little worse than 1836. You must understand however that this is my opinion. I am nearly singular in entertaining it. "The deed will show". If we only have good news from Trinidad, and that I will receive 220 Hhds Sugar from Garth, our highest calculations will be more than realised. The Eccles' are now importing their Molasses too. You will wonder when I tell you that my best & most liberal friend among the entire house of Eccles & Co is Ronald. Yet such is the case. The William we look for now any day. Immediately on her arrival you will hear from me. I think I mentioned Duncan Stewart's purchases so far. He has as yet sent me no produce, but I will I think have a shipment immediately. We may expect Losh home within a month. Young Burnley with his wife and bairn start fro France & Germany on Monday. Mrs James Eccles is very poorly. I saw her yesterday. Mrs

William Eccles is in the Country 9 miles from Town. She and the young ? are all in status quo. I am most anxious for some opinion as to the position of the Church at the moment. A friend of mine met Collins the other day. What will you do if the Upper House confirm the decision of the Court of Session. "Deprive Young of his License" was the answer. Do not the terms of the minute on Young's dismissal from the Bar of the General Assembly bar this. Our madmen are ripe for any thing. The Guardian will give you a touch of their quality. We will have an election but no Tory opposition I hope. If there be they will be at us by 600. I am having a door broke thro a counting house next door to my own which I have taken for my Clerks, the old one you saw I make my own sitting & consulting room. The noise & lime dust is fearful. Good bye. My love to Elizabeth. When is your Sacrament? I will send you a dessert as usual for Monday's dinner.

380611DSI to ARI. The William arrived yesterday in 35 days from Trinidad. She sailed on the 5th ulto & so very bad are the accounts of the weather at that date that whether I import two thirds of my Crop is questionable. The rains were so incessant that not only was Cartage suspended, but grinding also & unless as change for the better took place before the 15th ult the usual and regular wet season would be on & we should then be dished ad infinitum. Losh writes me on the 2nd. He remarks that the season is unfortunate but does not write despondingly by any means. On the contrary he talks of the weather ?"making up" and of an intention when it became fine of his going down to Garth & reporting the state of matters there immediately after. We must trust for a change for the better & wait further accounts. The William brings me 45 Hhds Sugar & 12 punch. Molasses - a very good shipment. My imports are per Louisa 10 Hhds & 6 tir Sugar. Per Calypso 44 Hhds & 17 punch 2 Hhds Molasses. Per William 45 Hhds Sugar, 12 Punch Molasses, so that half the Garth Crop is to arrive. Markets are very flattening & these accounts will have their effect no doubt, I do not intend to sell more than half these 45 Hhds now to hand for the present. The Eccles' have 6 vessels waiting loads in Trinidad alone, so they are in a scrape as well as me. There is nothing new here. All these political movements you read of are ? The different parties throwing dust in each other's eyes. There is however a thoroughly organised Radical party termed the Wee Cleekie. The parties here now then are the Conservative, The Clique, or Radical Whig & the Wee Cleekie or the Demonstration Men. The Clique must coalesce with us & that we may meet them they must make many concessions. We will not. If they will not make these concessions we will start a man and beat both parties. So stand we at the present. I am disposed to concentrate our energies & trust upon the negotiations but a quarrel among the Clique is so much our game that we must suppose I take a hand. The season is wet and warm. I should think vastly favorable for vegetation. I have heard nothing of the Clunie folks for a long while. They are wretched correspondents. I hope there are some delectables for Sir Neil in the good ship William. He is first on my list. I must write him some of those days & I promised to do so & he appears to be very correct in his business matter. Glasgow is in a most extraordinary state. No water except the little to be got here and there among the wells. Something went wrong with the Water Company's works on Friday past. We shan't have a drop from them till tomorrow afternoon. I wish they were as dry in Trinidad

380618DSILB to John Gray. I find the William's discharge has been so much retarded by the "It-aye-rains-when it-does-na-snow"-ness of your climate, that I am rather at a loss how to act. In the first place, be kind eno' to let me know if you have discounted by Bill due the 30th. My first instalment to our good friends is paid on that day. £900 for 1838, and I have the needful, but I trusted paying you out of the William's import, and you have the "sum tottle" thereof in Bulk and sample beside yourself and if I sold it tomorrow the 14 days allowed the purchaser would be two beyond the 30th. I will overtake you by a few days, and what I want you to manage for me is this - that you will protect me from the consequences of the dilatoryness of the William's discharge. I recommend this matter to your friendly consideration and wait your answer. I think some of your auxiliaries behind the partition have made an omission in the coals. The omission I have officially announced to N & G. What think you of the Drawbacks and Spring

Rice's statements, no alteration will come in to operation before the 5th October I should fancy and 'till then, as the time is short, the refiners will work hard, and we may take a rise out of them. I hear it is quite possible to do something in Committee, especially if black and white Jospeh's notable plan be carried into the body of the Bill. I have had a correspondence with Rice and Lord Stormont upon the subject, which will now terminate by my having officially and "to the public" received what I wanted, privately and for my own satisfaction. The correspondence will amuse you. I trust the Bairns are in statu quo. I felt great pleasure in spending two days with our friend Mrs James Eccles at Aucchentorlee. Saturday and yesterday. She is but so and so, and her legs are very powerless, nevertheless I think her in no danger.

380620DSILB to John Gray. Yours of yesterday came duly to hand. Your answer is just what gratifies me beyond all expression. I shall see you next week, and settle the matter in great good tune, and upon to altered terms suggested - "so much for Buckingham". We yesterday held a meeting. We, meaning refiners, shippers and Merchants in General, when we came to the resolution that we should do no '. It was expected that by Newspaper or privately, we should hear more from Rice, and that therefore we should delay till the Chancellor of the Exchequer tidings were more deliberately announced. We learn to day that the little gentleman would on Tuesday name the day for going into Committee. We want to know when this Bill will come into operation, and as I have placed my Lord Stormont on the look out, we may learn this too. Under such circumstances we yesterday, as observed, did nothing. We had however sundry drafts of petitions read, the chief prayers of which seemed to be directed to the postponing the operation of the altered Law till October when the refiners will have worked off their present stocks, and till those who have gone into speculations on the faith of the Drawback being continued during 1838, have disposed of their cargoes. Another idea appeared to be entertained that the Drawback should be gradually reduced, and that the reduction proposed should be gradual and extend over a term of years. We shall immediately follow up this meeting with one or more petitions and we must trust to operating upon the good sense of the Committee. To operate upon the good sense or business talent of the Right Hon. Thomas Spring Rice, is just to take the Breeks off a Heilandman, the which we are credibly assured is at all times difficult and sometimes dangerous. For the present business is suspended, and I apprehend that there would be no inhumanity in the notion that our present Finance superficials were suspended too! I daresay Dr Ure would decline the "Wale" of empty sugar houses. It is vastly convenient for Cie who wants it to bolster his declining revenue by embarrassing the refiners and us too; not having a regard to the crying occasion for a reduction as a thing called for, and good in itself, but making the reduction upon the faith of one of 3 experiments all yielding different results. It is vastly convenient for that gentleman to stand behind Ure, and then when the tribulation came to say thou canst not say I did it." If we must have revenue alterations let these be timeously announced. As to what the results of the present alterations are tote, when the reduction has actually become Law I do not know. Molasses have been sold @ 29/4 1/2. This is really taking care of the pence.

380626DSI Glasgow. My Dear Mother, I yesterday received your letter of the 23rd. I find that the Tourists have left you - My friend Captain Campbell who has been here for 4 days is off today for home which he will reach on Thurs afternoon at 4. I suppose in that case he will catch Clemy & James. He has formed all manner of plans for them during their stay, and many of these plans are so eccentric and unreasonable that I regret much I miss the fun of hearing them mooted and overruled. I trust that both may return stout & strong & continue so. I am delighted to find that you are so well. You seem to reverse the laws of nature and get stronger the older you become & they used to tell of a mill for grinding old people young. You will not need the mill. I am sure that the air of Foss will still strengthen your greenness, if you consider the attribute a compliment, or if our good friend John will allow anyone to trench upon his distinguishing characteristic. He had better look to his laurels or 'green again Johnnie' will

no longer be the writing on the Barber's one pound note. I daresay that our good friend would willingly see you strong and green even if by your being so you would deprive him of the privilege of giving 20s for a bank note of the "Barber Bank of Fashion". Sandy writes me that his sacrament is next week and I am going to send my Saturday gift in a dessert for the Monday dinner which will be home by the Carrier this week. I fancy the Carrier will not be on the road next week. I see the Glenlyon House party are away sea bathing. Morvern seems a droll place to go, neither very approachable nor very civilised when at it. The air however will be all the purer & the water all the cleaner & that is something, at least in my mind. Our air is all manufactured air & when we are lucky and have water it is also manufactured and filtered & so ?bebided & bedevilled, with your leave, that the natural green filth of a quagmire is more natural even if the bog should be the resting place of Eliza's friend the Egunmf. I am very glad to find that the Country is so agreeably peopled - During harvest you should have a very nice series of meetings, if the Tilt go on so as to form an introduction. I think the plan of keeping alive the Tilt is a good one. It has many advantages besides social ones & I am sure if James Robertson will accept the Secretaryship that he will be a worthy successor to our excellent friend Captain Robertson. I daresay James John has done wisely in postponing his visit to me. The cattle show will be very beautiful and he will be able to keep we Glaswegians in our estimate of hair & horns. I should very much like butter and cheese too, so you can leave out some to be sent me any time most convenient. The pease meal will be home with you this week, if not Friday week, in time for the Invalids on their return. I should think Willie has a good season before him in a professional point of view. If he keeps three horse he would need it. I had a long letter from Losh a few days ago. He has after being at death's Door recovered his health again. There is a good deal of sickness in the Island, and my under manager Wood is dead. Another has been placed on Garth in his place and a very suitable person I am informed. The season has been unsteady and we are uneasy at the early appearance of grains and no less so at the extraordinary position in which we find ourselves with our Negroes. One third of all the slaves have been declared free on 1st August 1838 altho the law did not compel their freedom till 1840. I allude to the field labourers - but they could not see why the house slaves should be free in 1838 & they not till 1840. The distinction was impolitic but it was made & now we must do the best we can for our protection. I should not be in the least surprised if all slaves in Trinidad are declared free on 1st Aug without distinction of occupation. I cannot pretend to say what the consequences will be but I do not fear them so much as many. I looked upon the transition which has passed more ?jealously than I do upon the approaching one, yet all the poor slaves behaved themselves better pending upon the receipt of their Charter of Liberty than our Radicals did when the Reform Bill was passed. I have written Sandy urging a step which appears to me inevitable. that is giving some man of the spot & who will reside on Garth a share of that Estate. We must leave the selection to Losh & Losh we can trust. We must not however expect the price to be paid down. A small sum only will be paid down & the balance will be paid out of the crops. Losh highly approves of the arrangement & I fancy I can so manage it that Eccles will be no bar to the arrangement provided that Sandy and you authorise me to proceed with it. No time at least should be lost in deciding one way or the other, and the case is more urgent from the unsettled state of feeling among the slaves and the frequency of death of those having authority over them. There is little new here. I had Bob Menzies & his young wife here last week. I had much pleasure in paying them some attention & we certainly had some rare fun & not a little, I believe, of my creating. The young wife is a nice lassie. I think I will with Miss Hall tomorrow afternoon. Remember me to Willie and Pongo. Yrs

380629DSI to ARI I anticipate a busy forenoon tomorrow & take an hour of this afternoon from my walking time which I shall repay by an extra stravague tomorrow afternoon. I have read all you say on matters abroad. I have before stated my sentiments & need not here repeat them. I quite agree with you that Emancipation in Trinidad is inevitable. I intimated by a note the other day that I should wait on Mr Eccles & Mr Ronald today to hear their opinion of my plan for giving a

share of the Garth to some Man of character and talent. I called accordingly and both approved the idea. I knew they could urge no legal objection to any thing which did not interfere with their mortgaged rights, but they did not on any view state an objection, but seemed to enter into my views very earnestly & to approve highly of the motives by which we were actuated in carrying them into effect. We must leave everything I fancy to Losh. We can state as many recommendations as we please but as regards the selection of the Individual & the terms upon which he will be allowed to purchase, these must be left to Losh's discretion. I will state what I propose doing. Getting a special power of Attorney in favor of John Losh, John Spiers & Alexander Gray, to enable them to carry into effect the arrangement proposed. The addition of Spiers and Gray was suggested to E & Co by me as a precautionary measure and by them approved. It secures us in an attorney in case Losh either leaves the Island or dies in it. I mean to recommend to Losh to look more to character than money in the selection he makes. A honest poor man with tolerable ability and security if that can be had. On this point I will embody your suggestion in writing Losh. That person selected shall reside upon the estate & take the management of the estate, & that he have no other Interest & above all that he is not to leave the island for 4 years after he enters upon his management & property, except upon life & death necessity. That Losh be careful in ascertaining that the Purchaser has no debts. This is I think a very necessary caution. That he state & that fully the obligations under which the Estate is & provides after the Mortgage debt is paid up that the Crop shall be thereafter sent to me. I think this clause necessary. If you object to it as hampering the purchaser or if you think it may scare a worthy man I will not insist upon it. Losh has a copy of a deed to the Eccles' which is in no ways affected by the proposed sale. They retain all their rights. The purchaser becomes my Mother's creditor. I wish we may get security. We must try. We have no very favorable accounts from Trinidad. They are not however less favourable than we looked for and I will get through this year yet. If a sale can be made during Autumn the money paid down may be of consequence & in any case it is absolutely necessary that we have a man whose interest does not lead him to entice the industrious and well behaved of our slaves from us. If they are emancipated unconditionally on the 1st August next year that power is given to any mere manager. The Eccles' think that a special Power should be sent. I shall see about this tomorrow. We have a vessel sailing for Trinidad on our about the 15th & time is very precious. I pay my instalment of £900 tomorrow. I expect that produce from Duncan Stewart is now on the way home. I cannot give you the least idea as to the value of Garth, nor can I even recommend how much the yearly Instalments should be. We may get £1000 paid down. But Mr Eccles recommended me strongly not to urge too much attention to money. We need not sell half. Would you give Losh the discretion to sell one third or even a half as he thinks he can get a purchaser. I would like to hold out an inducement & begin with a small share. I am uneasy about the ? The old merchants no ways affected. "we are not to think ill of all that has been done so far" The revenue of this Country must be looked after & £8,000,000 a year is a most important element in the question "How are we to receive our Duties?" I have great comfort in this consideration. You & I may live to see a system of coercion more intolerable to the free man than the worst tyranny exercised upon the slave. Any suggestions you have to make I should like to have by Tuesdays Post. I wish to overtake the ship sailing the 15th. there is nothing in the power of Attorney requiring revision so you need not see it till it go to Foss to be signed by the old woman.

380629DSILB to John Gray. I was duly favored with your letter anent the bill per £500. The arrangement suggested by you is very accommodating. One consequence of the ill timed Legislation of our present most incompetent Exchequer Chancellor (who by the way spells Chancellor with one l) is a total suspension of all business. The little superficial has convulsed the Mercantile Community, and if notoriety be his aim and object he has without doubt attained that "bad eminence". Hence it is that your friendly attention is so considerate and so very useful. I expect Robertson will place £100 or thereby in your hands to the credit of my account, and I enclose you my, note at 4 months for £420 which in its duration and amount will I trust meet with your approval. You must arrange about

the balance 'till you are in funds of mine and when first I am down I shall get the old bill. All which will I presume be duly attended to. We are out of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's "frying pan" only to turn into the fire and tribulation of the weather in Trinidad. I am not aware that any interest has so much to contend with as the West Indian. Taxed for the production of a necessary of life to 45 per cent of its value, the necessary commodity paying more over 8/- as charges and to the Merchant the Balance is frittered away at home by every Gingerbread Economist, whose dogmas are as incomprehensible to practical men as the theories of such men are incomprehensible to each other. "Fools will enter in where angels fear to tread". Then the very Elements seem to favour the stigma attempted to be fixed upon us by our Christian friends at home, and the little wealth we have is turned to a curse. There is one thing which seems palpable to me, and that is, that we are on the eve of a convulsion. Eight colonies have declared all slaves free on the 1 August coming without regard to occupation. This may prevent combination and ergo is wise, and indeed the sooner that things settle down to their ultimate state of quiescence whatever that may be the better for all parties. Hence I do not see (indeed it would be madness to attempt it) that Trinidad can keep her slaves in bondage after what has been done elsewhere. Then what intervenes in the "Reign of Terror"? That's the rub as Hamlet very sensibly remarks when he contemplates self-destruction and the unknown bourn in the same breath, and if we are to have our quietus from the Right Honourable Thomas Spring Rice, I insist that we shall have our quietus from the barest of all "bare bodkins". What then if we should. What would our kind friends at home say, if to prop a sinking revenue the government should establish a system of coercion where every particle of opinion and privilege would be extinguished, and the poor Freeman the object of so much philanthropy and sentiment, the subject of a thousand speeches, and the cause of so much tea drinking, and waste of Linen Hand'hs and fine garments be left at the mercy of a Tyranny more aggravated than the worse Tyranny of the worst days of his long borne slavery. It may not only come to that, but you and I may see it. £8,000,000 enters immensely into the calculation.

380702DSILB to John Losh. I daresay you remember the story of the monkey who asked his master permission to go out. To see what. To see a friend. "Aye truly mayest thou, and I shall go with thee, for I never saw a friend in my life." I am very much disposed to try conclusions with this cynic, but I really have a friend, and that proves that he had no philosophy in him and ergo as old Touchstone concludes "he must be d...d". I felt really pleased by the receipt of your letter. Your head is clear, and your pen fluent as ever. The heart did not need mending as that is never victimised by the stomach. I trust that you are now strong, and that you will have strength eno' to superintend the operations of our time of trial. I must first say a word on business. I have then to inform you that your approval of my plan of sharing the Garth has met the sanction of the Reverend the Minister of Foss and the concurrence of the Eccles. I trust on or about the 15th to send you a special power of attorney to carry my wishes into effect, and for the present with reference to the power I may mention that in addition to your name there are superadded those of Spiers and Gray. This I have done as a precaution and while you are understood and intended to exercise the chief influence & indeed the only influence, nevertheless to make me sure of a resident and selected functionary, in the event of your coming home. I have added the names of your respectable coadjutors. So far as I can see I do not presume to say whom you should select or whom you may consider best qualified for me. I want an industrious man of some moral character. I consider this more valuable than money, and I beg for the sake of all concerned that character will be a sine qua non with you. I do not wish to say either what amount of share for the present I should desire to part with. This is left with you mainly, and must depend upon the capability and security of the purchase. I would also wage that if such can be ascertained, the purchaser have no debts, at least to any amount. That he should be of a good constitution, my object in this seemingly quaint provision is that he may not have to leave the Estate from ill health, and that his constitution may not dispose him to ill health. I should consider a term of years residence upon the Estate indispensable considering how much may depend upon

prudence kindness and watchfulness. And lastly that the purchaser should have no other interest, or if he have, that it be secondary in importance to Garth. I am terrified at the struggle there may be for labour, and I desire to attach my partner by his interest to the Garth. I have thus very summarily touched upon a few topics, noticed merely and entirely as recommendations. I do not desire in any thing to tie your hands, and though in my next letter I may recapitulate all these and add some others, you must understand my object being the simple desire that you should know our sentiments. Mr Eccles at one approved of my intimation that I was freely to throw myself into your hands. In the meantime pray look about you. I will have difficulty, indeed I do not, see my way clear at all for paying my engagements for 1838, and any sum which might be paid down would be at least of great use in facilitating my arrangements for January 1839. I am from the above remark you must see impressed with the idea that I shall receive little more from Garth this year, and when I burdened myself with these payments to the Eccles I never contemplated any other source than that Estate as the source from whence I should derive the needful. I trust Stewart will not forsake me. The Molasses spec, with the turn the question of Drawbacks has given the market, will be bar eno' I opine. I have heard nothing from Duneau. He is inconveniently in my debt. Do you know I am vastly pleased that I wrote so savagely to Charlie's successor. There is nothing like honest impulses and he wont forget that I have way to. I dreaded there was a screw loose somewhere. I shall wait your letters most anxiously. I do not despond but really if we are not relieved of the present Ministry and that speedily I see no end to our difficulties. I merely intended this to intimate that I desire you to go on with your enquiries for a man for Garth. Next week I shall give you a bonus of news and on dits which your letters require.

380702DSILB to John Gray. The Bill seems destined to cause us some correspondence, but better that than misapprehensions. Have you encountered it? Up to this hour I have neither heard of nor seen it. I just mention this, that as we appear to be at a game of hide and seek, you may know that I have no knowledge of the local habitation or the house of the "last quantity". Of course if it come to you I shall hear, and ditto ditto if I encounter it first. There was a little done in the way of asking prices to day in our Sample Room. Some lots laid down were held at 2/- from big best point. This did not meet the views of the buyers.

380705DSILB to John Gray. It's a long lane that has no turning, and a long story that has no end. All human events are rounded by catastrophes, and hence our Bilious fever I am glad to say has taken a turn. I yesterday retired my to you here. Had you intimated at the time of making the alteration of the City I should have been all ready but I was perfectly ignorant of the change till your favour enclosing the last bill. I was twice myself in the Bank on Saturday, but the Teller who usually receives the amount of bills was not in the Body on that day neither was Smith, and Buchanan had 4/1 in the prospect, so he gave me "bare justice" and hence the Fates had ordained that you were to have a great deal of bother. Smith said that he took blame to himself for the matter, and took the 4/1. You said that I had blame to assume on my inadvertence, and I said that you were blameworthy for making the alteration without informing me at the time; and so Smith and I laughed and you were under guarantee to a sympathetic "hodge" and Buchanan even after the loss of his 4/1 raised his specs and looked pleased and thus ends "this most strange and eventful history" Shakespeare! Thus there were Smith to blame, and you to blame and me to blame and so I fell to quoting the Catholic story (not to be found in the Bard of Avon) the devil chasing Saint Patrick into Ireland, where found the Saint between King o'Foole and St Columba. At a loss to the Saint. quoth he "Gentlemen I'm clean bothered, but if yer lave, I'll take the Gintleman in the middle." Query! I think as Ben Greig used to say to me "I hae ye there Dunkell" followed by an ad libitum chorus of smacks. I have mustered the £420 Bill as you desire. I wrote it before I knew of your desire upon this head. I enclose you the first primeval cause of all our . You can look at and then destroy the document. Smith is a fine fellow. He said that had he known of the matter he would have "made them retire the Bill at once." This is handsome, and I am certainly rich in, which I esteem my chiefest

wealth, a set of most devoted and interested friends that ever cheered and strengthened a man's hands in his pilgrimage thro' this weary world.

380706DSILB to John Buchanan Jnr. I was duly favoured with your letter handing me my account, and I intended 3 weeks ago to have sent you its amount. We have lately had however an alteration in the Drawback introduced, which as an immediate consequence has so affected the sugar market that not one of us can sell a cask. This state of things must be temporary and I only mention the circumstances that you may not consider your account overlooked. I have my sugars now on the table, and shall during this month have the pleasure of handing you in an order on our mutual friend Mr Gray, the amount of your account.

380720ishDSI to ARI. I had your letter of the 12th. Since then I have had no occasion to write to you till today & now to say that I have a letter from Losh dated 9th ult. The weather has taken up & Sugar making going on vigorously and cartage would be resumed instanter. So far well. I have no idea how short we may be of 220 Hhds, probably I may get 200 & that with fair prices will do. We have got over another difficulty at home. The altered scale of drawback which you will find introduced on the evening of the 13th inst by Rice will not come into operation till the 10th October, so that business, which for 10 days has been totally suspended, will be resumed and I think much to our advantage. I do not affect to understand the question, but in so far as I do I think 10/- a Hhd during the panic I expect to attend the introduction of the altered law will be the difference to me. Others cry wolf when there is none at hand. The quantity of Sugar refined and exported is 10,000 tons & the quantity consumed at home of raw and refined is 160,000 tons. I think then that the importance of Sugar refining is greatly over-estimated. My fear comes not from that. Losh says that the slaves who are not to be free till August 1840 - the praedials to wit - are dissatisfied with the distinction made between them and the non-praedials who are to be free in August 1838. I do not wonder at it. It was an unwise and unpolitic distinction, and to prevent worse consequences they may do in Trinidad what they are doing in many of the other Islands, declaring all slaves free without distinction of person and occupation & that on the 1st August 1838. Losh does not state any such intention in Trinidad, but as a matter of expediency and as the lesser of two evils Mr Eccles thinks the instant emancipation of all classes imperative. You know I have been urging Losh for his opinion as to getting some one to take a share of Garth. He says "I would highly approve of your getting a partner to take half of the Garth, but one who has money is not to be found. This you need not expect with perhaps a small sum paid down you must look for the remainder out of the annual crops of the Estate. On this principle most of the Estates of the Colony have changed hands." Such is Losh's opinion. Mr Wood, the resident undermanager on Garth is dead & another placed there. These frequent changes of men & management affect me & the Negroes & I think we should not lose one day in starting the question to the Eccles' for advice & action. What say you. Do you approve of my waiting on Mr Eccles before doing more, or authorising Losh who must settle the matter, I presume, to do so. Give me your sentiments in full. There is no shutting ones eyes to the peril which may overtake us. But we must act vigorously. I am convinced of Losh's integrity & ability, and to him we may confide our helm in this emergency. I do not now hesitate to say that it may be necessary for me to go out in October, but we shall hear more of Trinidad before we say more on this head. Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof. We have overcome the difficulties as home & been so far prosperous. A packet sails on the 1st July for Trinidad & by her I will with you answer have time to refer the matter to Losh, taking it for granted that the Eccles' will sanction by doing so. I am glad you are all well. I shall attend to your Monday dinner. I asked Sir Neil lately for a vote to a friend of mine who goes now to ballot for the East India direction & he was most happy to give it. I have also met with great courtesy from Lord Stormont whom I have had badgering Spring Rice. We will hear again from Trinidad next week. My first Instalment for 1838 - £900 - is paid the Eccles' on 1st July current. I fear Duncan Stewart had better taken my advice to be cautious. He has much to win, or everything to lose. I must watch him & keep away. My policy and practice hitherto have been most fortunate & by & bye when

this most abused country shall have shaken off the members of the Whig regime I will 'walk abroad" perhaps a poor but unfettered man. Gilkison & Brown are daft. I would not take their business with their responsibilities. Today I was embraced by Ronald in the Exchange. He is given to impulses & this was one. I may turn these to good account. I have a great deal to say but have not room till my next. ?Roebuck is here. he talks but it won't do. His party are the demonstration men & we have 2500 good votes. The whole Liberal party about 2900. ?This won't hear being spent. Yet the Clique reject Roebuck, Remember me with all affection to my little pet & Miss hall. If you think or rather if you would wish to meet me at Clunie after I have seen the Eccles', I can during the week run that length for a day very conveniently & as the step is important we should meet somehow.

380723DSILB to John Gray. Your rejoinder of the 14th put a period to our voluminous correspondence of late. I think the merits or demerits of the transaction are pretty well considered and conclusively established so we shall borrow a resting place for them from a neverfailing source (Shakespeare of course). I had a chat some days ago, and again to day with Mr William Hamilton of R. Boyle & Co. and the subject of the chat interest me not a little. Mr H. sold the Messrs Warden a cask of sugar, which on being taken to the Quay, after it was weighted over to the purchasers, was by accident tumbled into the water. Delend est Carthage. Now Mr Hamilton rendered an invoice for this tierce of sugar, which invoice the Wardens would not pay. On this case was referred simpliciter to Mr W. Connal and I understand that without deciding between the parties he says that it hath herebefore been the practice that the liability of the seller did not cease until the purchaser had the commodity in his proper possession. We merchants, it seems pay the carriage from the warehouse, and hence our liability says Connal, until the commodity be delivered over, not at the warehouse but out of the cart What I want you to say then is this am I thus bound? I had in my ignorance considered that my liability ceased when the sugar was weighed over and really and truly taken delivery of by the accredited agent of the purchaser, for here were the two features of a bona fide sale, the sale itself and the transfer and delivery, and that tho' the receipt were not then and at the moment signed, still this was simply a question of time and no way disturbed the liability of the Recipient. Am I wrong in this common sense view of the matter? I will pay the cartage, but will most unquestionably resist the liability. In Mr Hamilton's case the month had expired. Does that not strengthen his case? I suppose after the month had expired, and the sugar were not then taken delivery of, the warehouse had been burned who then would have lost the sugar? The purchaser if his claims be good, i.e. if he can establish our responsibility until the sugar be tumbled off the cart had clearly nothing to do with it, but as I apprehend that there should be a distinct and well defined understanding upon the Head of Liability. I must trouble you to give me your ideas upon the question. It is clearly a case which affects me as it does Mr H. and therefore it is pertinent. You must have an opinion either established or you can form one readily when you lay out the facts and fix your mind upon them, and did I not consider that the opinion would be sound, I am not sure that I should have favoured you with this communication. PS Let me hear from you by Wednesday if quite convenient.

380724DSILB to John Losh. On the 2nd of this month I wrote you announcing our determination to sell part of Garth. I have since then seen my Mother and Brother, and they all, as do our friends here coincide in opinion with you that the presence of an intelligent and interested manager is a great boon to the Estate and all concerned. Enclosed is a special power of attorney for the purpose contemplated. Yourself, Mr Gray and Mr Spiers are the parties nominated in this document, but only for the special purpose of effecting a sale. You will find a clause authorising you to take any steps necessary for constituting and granting a title to the purchaser. I forget if you mentioned having done this before. But the clause referred to enables you to do so if you have not. I have little or nothing to say. My brother does not wish more than one third of the Estate sold. His reasons are that if benefit there is to be, he would like to have as much of it as possible, and he would like to hold out an inducement to the purchaser by

extending his interest. This recommendation I promised to state. You have my own sentiments already. I had thought over and been advised, certain suggestions which I had noted for your eye, but all old things and systems to which these would have been applicable and pertinent, may be done away before this reaches you, and I simply ask you to use your kind discretion in every thing you do, and consider your power omnipotent. I am fairly perplexed with "at home and abroad". I can see nothing but a terrible chaos of confusion, uncertainty, and older heads than mine may well turn giddy. I must trust to you keeping the mirror to my eye, by stating everything you are doing in so far as it affects me. I may want for further advices and then I will state fully the plan I should adopt when I have materials to form an opinion. Stewart has written me. I hope he has not done too much. I wish him every good wish in my power. I hope by and bye to pick some of the crumbs. For the present I fancy we will close accounts. He appears to have been shamefully used by the Master of the Christian. It is most unlucky for me. One thing after another too occurs to hurt our friends in Miller Street, who if they stand this year will do more than I look for. The remarks made by you as regards the speculations were painfully anticipated by me. This overspeculativeness is the rock on which they split. I am very sorely beset this year. I know not however, how I may be soon, but I think at probable that I shall be in arrears to the bankers. I have no source but Garth, and you know how Garth will supply me. The sugar market is fairly backed. 51/6 for dry brown. Had we been let alone it would have been otherwise. The Bill introduced for the protection of the coolies is withdrawn. Any contracts entered into without the consent of the Stipendiaries are void. The St Vincent bill for preventing combinations among workmen will be/allowed/dis by the home government. I had the happiness of seeing my family a fortnight ago. They are all well. I hope that your health continues good and that Mrs Losh is also well. Your colony seems to have been cursed with a plague, so indeed is Demerary, and so indeed are we but ours is a plague of bad men, of evil Taskmakers who expect us to make bricks without straw.

380802DSI (Trinidad 9th June 38 from Losh to DSI. [precis. Sugar down. freedom looming. Tumult expected...I visited Garth fully 3 weeks ago, and regretted to see palpably eno confirmed the prospect of a short Crop, a rumour of which I had previously heard. It so happens the Weather would have prevented them making much more Sugar than has been done for short crops from this cause are general all over the island, but in the case of Garth the canes gave out entirely. The weather you will find in the issue of this recital has had a little to be blamed for in the end, but good or bad weather I always give the main cause so that the D--1 may not be blamed for that of which he is innocent. The canes then of 1836 fell to be cut again this year. In 1836 they yielded a Crop of 196 Hhds Sugar - this year only 94! To account for this the seasons may no doubt form a partial reason, but the chief reason is that Mr Gray from the infirm state of his health has neglected his business, & therefore the weeding and supplying the cane pieces in 1836 had been badly, slovenly and in very many places not done at all, or if done had been overtaken so late that the high sprouts from existing cane stools had choked them. Some time before I went down I was aware they had been cutting the ratoon canes intended for next year but when I made up my mind to go on to the extent of one third of them, very reluctantly Mr Taylor and myself fixed on the pieces to that extent which we calculated would make up the Shipping Crop of this year to the 160 Hhds. To reinforce next year's Crop we have very fortunately the plant canes put in last year, which I hope will make us sure of 200 Hhds. Such however has been the wet state of the weather since I was there that the yielding is very bad, the canes being full of sap. A week ago Mr Taylor says as follows. "There has scarcely been a dry day since you were down. I have cut of the two pieces at Garth which we fixed on & they only fill 9 Hhds instead of twenty which we had estimated." This will therefore reduce the expected 160 to something under 150 when rammed and shipped. Knowing your money engagements this has given me much pain. You will see that very cane has been cut that could be safely done with the necessary regard to the next year's Crop & the quantity of weeding (extra) that will fall upon the Negroes. In case of loss of labour being sustained this year by any movement of the Negroes, I have determined on getting

a quantity of plant canes put in by free labour, so as to be on the safe side for 1840. The Salus carries 21 Hhds Sugar & 17 puncheons of Molasses from Garth, and further shipment will go per Janet. I enclose under another cover List of Stores for next year, and compared with last year's requisition, you will find such a change as is compatible with a short Crop. Begging to be kindly remembered to all the members of your family JOHN LOSH.

I send you a copy of a letter from John Losh. It speaks for itself. I can easily understand how Gray's sickness should have brought about the difficulties spoken of by Losh, but not so easily how Taylor should not have taken steps to remedy Gary's neglect. What is past we cannot help. It will be my care for the future that no such neglect be allowed. The order for this year's stores is very reasonable. My imports will be about 130 Hhds Sugar. The Molasses may come to 55 puncheons. By and by when I have my actual import beside me & see what price that it is worth I will have something to say of money matters. Losh talks stuff in what he says of their determination not to manumit their slaves. In Jamaica they have done so. In Demerara a motion has ben talked of to the effect that they should and we look every day for accounts that they have, and so will they in Trinidad. I dread by compulsion, & that would be mischievous. They will I hope not be too long about it. I stated to you before what I thought of Glenelg withdrawing any of the Stipendiary magistrates before 1840. You see what Losh says. As regards Labour there is no doubt but that for a time - how long I can't say - I must confess to work Garth at a dearer rate than heretofore, but we will and must have such an influx of Negroes into Trinidad from the old colonies where they earn 1/- a day, to Trinidad where now free labour brings 4/- curry per man, that 2/- will probably be the price per day for effective labourers. The Coolie speculation is blown upon. A temporary 3 year supply of labour is not what we want. In the meantime till Trinidad is filled from other places it might do well eno. There will be a row today in Trinidad. So says Losh & so think I. Today the house or domestic slaves are free. The field are not. The distinction was most unwise. If we can get labour for 1/6 curry for Garth or even 2/- per day, I see that we shall be richer than we have been. We shall then pay for nothing but effective labourers - no infants & no octogenarians. I do not attempt to say with my present light what to expect. We will have much danger & worse that that much incompetence at head quarters to contend with. The whole conduct of Government is abominable, after having a resolution of the House of Commons that the Emancipation Act should work undisturbed, expressed by a Frigate to Jamaica, to counteract the dreaded effect of Strickland's motion, and assurance upon assurance given by Grey & Glenelg in their respective places, that no compromise would be listened to, and that the Country was pledged to work out the Emancipation Act, here is the same Glenelg recommending every Colony in the West to manumit its slaves. The pressure from without is ruining us, for so long as we have our present rulers we need not expect anything at their hands either staple or determinate. I hold my 45 Hhds Sugar per William. Go they must however on the 10th August. Sugar is gradually rising. Many have sold out. I will do better I think by having held. I heard again from Gray Losh & Co to the 22nd June. Nothing said of the slaves & consequently nothing done. Today I dreaded always more than 1840. When I hear more & something more decided I will instantly write you. The power of Attorney is now on the way out. William Eccles has been ill with Garth but is much better, His daughter Margaret whom you will remember was nearly blind is recovering but one of her eyes I fear to be badly disfigured. The Burnleys will be home Monday next. We have gained no victory on the claims lodged this year, On the objections we hope to do summat, but parties will remain nearly as they at present are. James John has done ?manly in his ?parish. He says he has 42 names in. Ayrshire is now safe. The Liberals have been doing wonders in Renfrewshire & Stirlingshire is gone I fear. They have a new Whig Sheriff and his party has served up 600 objections for him. Lanarkshire is confirmed in Toryism. Forfar is safe I think & so is Argyll. Monzie has gained 50 votes in Islay island alone. The reaction is coming. My love to Grannie & Elizabeth.

380808DSILB to John Losh. I had your carefully written and most intelligent Epistle of the 7th June and feel greatly complimented that the care and intelligence spoken of should have for their object my edification. We need not

open old wounds. The season is past and my import is 70 short. Would it were otherwise. I have nothing to say on money matters, only that now I will not stick, and if these devils Buckies with you can be fashioned in to any approximation to the industrious and intelligent ones of the Garth we may recover our Harps from the Willows and make the "fruit Ilium" of our lamentation the burden of a merrier starve. You see that you "be'ed to do it" as a friend of yours has it. You were very brave in your determination while the fit lasted, but you made one mischievius miscalculation, and that was in supposing that our paternal government would protect the right, and maintain their country's pledge. That they were guided by principle and were open to conviction I need not speculate upon what is in future, but I hope something will come out of future, but if that be of good, you, the Local authorities and the poor slaves will have the whole merit. I trust that you have had time to concoct some code for the emancipated. They must not be allowed to understand liberty without restraint. The freest of us all does not; while at the present time we are experiencing the tender mercies of a government the most arbitrary of God's created anomalies when it has the power. You must find labour I fancy. But the government will not allow it from the East, nor from the West. We must be ruined because the dread of a new slave trade has seized on the good dames who swallow tea and masticate sponge cake for the cause of humanity. We are all very dull at home. The markets falling and no one understanding what is passing or what is coming. Two years hence when the veto upon Coolie Emigration is withdrawn we may do better. I fancy you will have fewer orders for Molasses next year. I shall lose £50 by the Christian. Her owners are in a worse predicament. I do not wish to alarm you but you may hear something unpleasant soon. I shall, and indeed have determined to go thro with this year I very readily believe that our good friends R. E. & Co. would postpone their New Year's day instalment, but I will pay it, and leave no one to say that the agreement was not paid and implemented to the letter. I will be most anxious to hear what you have to say upon the proposal made, and the power sent for the sale of a part of Garth. Much may come out of it for my relief. A little money like a little learning is a dangerous thing, and bankers are very kittle cattle to shoe behind. I am in possession of a good and that most instructive, part of Spiers admirable letter to Mr Eccles on the state of your colony. I need say nothing on the subject till we hear further from you. All our mutual friends here in statu quo. So are mine and yours in the country. Your many papers will give you the political news, and your many letters the business news. PS I flatter myself that I shall hear from you soon when the deed of Grace has been consummated.

389814DSILB John Stanley. I am honoured with your letter of the 9th. I regret that I cannot propose to do anything for Mrs Anne Pringle, and the more that she was introduced into our asylum purely upon my recommendation and was during her residence in it a Protege of mine. She may have mentioned that she worked in the Asylum. We find now that the workers are a profitless set, and we are now clearing the Asylum of those already in it, and positively decline taking in any new hands, let their ability or character be what it may. I recommended Mrs Pringle to the Superintendent as Servant but the duties of the Asylum are severe and her strength not equal to their continued performance, and having failed in this respect I have only to express my regret that I cannot either as a director or a private individual do anything more for Mrs Pringle

380822DSI to ARI. I am never busy on Wednesdays and I fancy I cannot be more agreeably employed than in writing to you. I had your letter of the 13th in due course, You must be very zealous of any bilious attack. Recollect the suffering your last severe one led to. We know the slaves are free in Demerara and on the 1 July the Trinidadians had heard of the Jamaican doings & they were talking of setting their house in order also. Today then we have not a slave in 'our Royal Dominions" in the West. How long we may retain these dominions is the next question. You see then that all we know of Trinidad, so far, is that they had set about the instant manumission of the Slaves on 1st July, leaving them but one short month to accommodate the laws and institutions to the altered circumstances

of the Negro population. By next letter I shall have to tell you that the deed of Grace has been consummated & then whether the virtues of the free men will prove them to have been entitled to their liberty. Losh in saying that the List of Stores for this year is less than last year means two things. The one that a part of last year's stores was to pay borrowed stores, a system which I have condemned - and the other, that I dread he has scrimped my List unnecessarily, so that he will need to supply the deficiency on the other side. I had anticipated what you say on this head by pointing out sundry stores which I believed to be necessary & which I considered should have been ordered from this. I have told Losh that he does not please me by the smallness of my List if he must add to it on the other side. It is quite possible that he anticipated Emancipation this year and foresaw that fewer stores would be required. I mean to have two lists of stores, the one for the Estate to go out as usual, the other for food and clothing and other comforts for the free men. By our agreement with the Eccles' all stores are carried out free in consideration of Sugar home. But when I send out an invoice of stores for sale, I charge freight and other charges which will be repaid by the free labourers, supposing he buys his stores as I fancy he will at the Estates Giral. In this way I will save £150 a year when we now buy labour only when we require it. Formerly we had a constant expense all the year round, and one third part of that term the slaves were unproductive. Add to that we have no children & no old people - no doctor's bills, and these are always formidable. And as far as I can see, always supposing that labour can be had at a fair price, we shall have cause to rejoice at the change. I will keep you constantly advised within two days of the receipt of any important news from the West. I have still so much produce on hand that I am not prepared to propose anything as to money matters. I will not do anything without consulting you. In the meantime I may state the question - Whether shall we ask the Eccles' to delay their January instalment of £900 or get a Bank to grant me that sum. If I get the money from a Bank, it will cost 4%, and if we get our friends to delay the Instalments we will pay 5%. Then there is an ugly penalty attached to non performance. ?? than that from personal considerations & these affecting me alone I am averse to asking the Eccles' to defer the January instalment. My inability becomes thus known to the clerks as well as the principals. I am not just certain that no bad use might be made of this. You have the name of having considerable wealth and by getting money from the bank & paying my Instalment, I am supposed to have good backing & will get good credit. My mother & you are thus by the plan I propose understood to have no responsibility in the matter. Upon my own credit I believe I shall get money & since debt must be incurred there is more economy & less risk in owing to a bank. My stake is deep and desperate, but as you say we must not stop now, and all that I beg is that no one may know enough of my position or plans & all that I write you is simply for your own ear. The old woman shall receive her instalments regularly. Last year was good. This I am 70 Hhds short. Remember I have a backstay in the proposed sale and superintendence. We must hope for a good year next, and tho we have difficulty now I see no danger. I will send you with great pleasure the next Birds I get I sent Lady Menzies half dozen shrub & two bottles N.I. pickles. I saw Hunter of Hafton last week, I had a shot at the end of the week was out at 9 and in at 3 with 8 brace. I proposed 8 brace & came in when I shot them. Regards to Miss Hall & best love to Elizabeth.

380823DSILB John Gray. Above I hand you check for Balance of Bill per £500. The state of the markets has prevented me making this arrangement sooner, and I have to express my best apology and my best thanks to you. The sugar market beats "Bannache" and I fancy you know what Bannache "bangs". I have just told Jamie Robertson to sell off my Molasses. I am thus quit of a great annoyance, and if you understand that we have a bet about produce during 1838, I opine that if you wait till you win the hat you will be soon and long going without one. I sent you one brace game Monday last.

380908DSI to ARI. I had great pleasure in the receipt of your letter of the 23rd ultimo. I do not see that as far as regards Trinidad we are at the commencement of a totally different order of things. Except the few domestics our slaves will I believe continue slaves until 1840. Labour may be more reluctantly given but it

must be given, and that at no augmentation of expenditure to us. My difficulties this year arise altogether from the season. In ordinary calculations we cannot contemplate such another season & I therefore do not foresee the necessity of calling on a Bank for assistance save for this year, believing that next I shall have more than sufficient for my obligations. I never contemplated paying the Eccles off. This they would not agree to: and remark that tho our friend Burnley acknowledges the justice of our asking them to go into a supplementary deed to meet the altered value and cost of property and labour, that alteration must first be realised, and extraordinary as the announcement made above may seem & culpable & rash tho the determination on the part of the Trinidadians may be, nevertheless there will be no general Emancipation in Trinidad altho the Governor is instructed & the officials, the local ones, are working with might and main to urge the Planters to follow the example set them by other Colonys by instantly manumitting their slaves. My shortcomings this year are owing to the season, and to all appearances they will be confined to it. As to the second of your observations you will recollect that I always looked to the circumstances of Losh's effecting a sale of part of Garth as one having a necessary influence on our negotiations, and I perfectly agree in opinion with you that we must wait advice from him before we finally decide upon anything. We will do nothing for the present. I must state however that in the plan I proposed I had a personal consideration the force of which you may not perceive in desiring to conceal from the public my position, and as I am not sure what use might be made of the knowledge which some of my friends would have of my situation were I to go to the Eccles & ask them to let the January Instalment lay over, I preferred, since I had to incur debt to some one to be owing a Bank because I saved money and secured secrecy by so doing. It was with reference to my entire dependence on Garth I said 'my stake was deep and desperate'. I have most providentially forborne putting any other irons in the fire. I had many and legitimate opportunities of extending my business & placing myself, to an extent at least, beyond the Garth if our spec there failed, but I always felt and acted on the conviction that my exertions and means should be concentrated and directed exclusively to the extrication of that property. This was all I meant by the phrase you allude to. I have no speculations of any kind & never had. I will lose £50 this year by Duncan Stewart but he has been duly informed thereof, and in time coming he may desire to cancel the obligations under which I have placed him. We have then 4 months to come and go before we appear at the scratch & with you as my second & coat holder we should have the Battle whoever win the first events. Our Trinidad friends are plucky chaps. Discretion is the better part of valour. I hope they treasure this in their memories. In Barbados the slaves have had a preliminary rumpus. The newly washed do not by any means intend to settle down without a cantrip but the argumentum dacenlinium is an excellent soothing system & they are adhered down under the bayonets of the military. The Trinidadians seem to dread Sambo as little as you Corrochosach (my knowledge of the Celtic is not critical) & without doubt if they can keep him down for two years we will do wonders. The attempt at least shews confidence and there is much prudence and ability in other matters in the local Sugar Council & in it we must place more confidence than in our own conjecture. The Sugar market is very low. I sold 24 Hhds Sugar two days ago at 50/6. Now this is very low & yet very good too. Planters are no philosophers. They go out to make fortunes. They sail very well with the stream, but they cannot breast it, ? & thereby hangs a tale. Had they fine prices at home they would in beginning the new regime give, or be inclined to give, extravagant prices for labour. but 50/6 is a price not likely to cause the planters' expectations to be too highly excited & so we may reasonably expect him to establish at starting a system of advantages and discreet expenditure. In Jamaica they have in many instances made agreements with their labourers at 1/- for the first class field labourers & 8d (sterling of course) for the second. This would suit me well. The Tradesmen and Sugar boilers and other 'Headmen' have a much higher rate - some 2/- sterling a day for 5 days a week, one day being allowed for their own grounds and Sunday kept sacred. To conclude with Colonials, there is a very bad spirit in Jamaica and rioting is anticipated. I trust you are getting stronger. When I was in the country the stomachic epidemics were very common and very troublesome. I have been at Oban and elsewhere for a week & saw

an infinitude of Lions. My companion on voyage was Hunter of Hafton. I met Islay. He is a conglomerated idiot. His kilt keeps him on his legs. Monzie was also at Oban. At a public dinner Monzie disgusted me, a mile & a half too much Oil & ostentation about him and if he intends to rise in the House he must have more ?. The Attorney General Plain John was also of the party. His speech was stupid and egotistical. The Whig aristocracy of Argyleshire are a rotten set. I had game from Foss for which I pray you thank Foss & Emily. I sent Lady M a considerable kit of limes. They are as yet unacknowledged. I shall be writing you a week hence from Trinidad to the first August. I am delighted to find Elizabeth so well. Love & kind wishes to Miss Hall.

380910DSILB to ARI I wrote you on the 8th inst. and must or rather desire to do so again to day. The times as Shakespeare says are big. We have Letters and Newspapers from Trinidad and elsewhere in the West to the 21st July. There is nothing new as regards the other colonies and our intelligence from Trinidad is confirmatory of what I announced two days ago that there will be no general Emancipation there till 1840. Such is their present determination. In our correspondence there is generally speaking nothing said of the future. Several of the Port of Spain merchants however seem to be alarmed. Their customers are, and their best paying ones, the slaves. They foresee a misunderstanding, and a temporary idleness, and a suspension of demand for their merchandise. These things which would seriously affect them, would not so materially affect us; but it is soothing to know that whatever the fears of the Planters are, they keep these to themselves and indeed the bold determination they have come to would seem to justify a hope that we may get on well eno'. The Newspapers talk much of the good understanding between the slaves and their masters, and of the formers' attachment to the soil. This places Trinidad in a more favourable position as regards the success of the experiment now made than any other colony would be, were it to attempt a like one, still I know that the Law declares the Domestic slaves free on the 1st of last month and the distinction between the Domestic and field slaves Losh considered most impolitic and unjust. There is a danger there. There is another in this, that our Government when it has the power is the most arbitrary in the Universe, and I dread it will not stomach the resistance to its authority by an isolated and unimportant island, and then public opinion and the antislavery gentlemen. The latter will concentrate their venom for the exclusive punishment of Trinidad - and altogether we are in a strange position. We must not let our fears mislead us nor must we suppose ourselves more capable of forming a correct opinion than those on the spot and who win or lose all by the step they have taken. That step is condemned by all of us here. We must wait to see who is in the right. Our friends on the other side must feel that they have the power to protect themselves. That they have a right to do that which they have done is beyond cavil, but if they are not victimized by the present government I am very much mistaken. You now know the final determination of the Trinidadians. Public opinion would pronounce upon it within 14 days of the date of our last advices, and in my next I will have to tell you what judgement follows. Things look better and I think we are going to recover our panic. The Winter may strengthen and confirm our confidence and 1839 be a good year. You will see that Jamaica and Barbados will need pitch hot presently if the d...l be to pay because they have made their slaves free what will we have to pay who do not make them free? How can men act?

380929DSILB to Duncan Stewart. I wrote you on the 15th since then we have heard of your Colony to the 10th ulto, and the news we have had has been most gratifying. Liberty has borne its natural fruits with you, virtue and contentment. In other colonies the public mind seems to have got into a fever, and the head has become affected. The heart will follow. All intercourse founded on moral obligation or mutual good will is next at an end, and what becomes of Property, and of the Exchequer. The only consolation is, that the riot of Jamaica, Grenada etc. is our wealth, and the more production is reduced in the West, to counterbalance its extension in the East, the sooner will we recur to old prices, and then we need to pay at the present price of Labour. Are you pleased with the new regime? I think you should and I believe you will. In a

year or two we shall be all fairly established. Till then we must work the tide as we may. The first point is established. The Labourer will work. The second is also all but established. That he evinces a conciliatory disposition and is satisfied with a rate which tho' high leaves his employer in the possession of advantages. The market at home is rallied. The price is up 2/ from the lowest point. It had fallen to the amount of reduction of the drawback, and many consider the worst as past. There are many circumstances to support this opinion, such as the high price of foreign sugar, the unsettled state of some of our colonies etc. It may then be said that 1839 will rule high for colonial produce and I hope it may. You are deeper in the wood than I am but when I am out you will hear my whistle, and if I can guide you with a bawbee or a lick o' meal, both, God willing, shall be at your command. We have seen the silver age, we have experienced the Leaden and I now believe that the Golden is dawning for our colonies. The Louisa will sail in 3 weeks. You will have your little machinery, and I have made arrangements with Mr Ronald for your commodities being carried out in regular and small shipments. I may here mention that the 30 puncheons Molasses per Christian have lost me £3 3/ per puncheon. I have thus £96 to write off against my profits, this I have not done. I am in hopes that you will ship me next year what will help to liquidate this from the commissions, and in such expectation I leave it for the present. We are all in great good health in the country. The old lady getting young the older she becomes. The weather is become more settled of late and the Harvest goes on satisfactorily. The present Ministry are about done. In the registration Courts much has been done. 8 counties and burghs gained by we Tories, and others in the way of being won. Besides all which public opinion is against them, and public scorn with them. The English radicals appear to think as I do. They are trying hard to "Bell the Cat" with the Peel party. Either to pluck the apple from them, or be so formidable as to extort some concessions "in favour of the steady march of democratic principles". They have begun too late. The Scotch radicals are all alive and kicking too, but except some danger to our sides and jaws from Laughter convulsions I have no other fear. Great Britain is Tory at heart! I will write you per Louisa about the 20th of next month.

380930DSILB to John Losh. My last letter from you was per proxy of our good friend Spiers, dated 31st July. Since then however I have had frequent intercourse with others and that has brought down your correspondence to the 10th ulto. I fancy it is too soon to crow yet and it is not always prudent or valorous to whistle till one is out of the wood but comparing your Colony with some others, I may safely say that if in some small matters things are not altogether to my mind we are infinitely better off than our neighbours. The new regime seems to have begun well and we must trust it will continue in the same way. I value property more than I have ever done, in Demerara and Trinidad, and the more do I value it from the consideration that the misfortunes of others are our wealth. The Colonies of Grenada and etc. (you know all who are in danger) will most likely become de-populated. Demerara will beat you in the competition for Labour. The market at home is rallied, pro tem may be, and may be not, and altogether I am disposed to think that matters colonial have had a new impulse, and a new energy, and that we shall by and bye find the fruits of both in our Breeches pockets. Touching the sale of a portion of Garth, I have been advised by some friends in whose capacity and sincerity I can place entire confidence that I should not be over urgent about the sale, at the very present time. The feeling here is that property will for a little become depressed. That men's fears more than their judgement will guide them and many more laws, equally touching and wise. Now I told you before that the matter was placed in your hands. I want a Partner. That is my first remark. Do you in attaining my object, protect me from any sacrifice. That is the second. I have been advised to send all supplies of food for the people as customary, retaining merely what is properly called clothing, for body, head or any other part of the corpus. In regard to the clothing I must say that I dread having the Labourers migrating to Town for their every day necessaries, and I desiderate much more the Packman who may, and who most probably will, be wandering about, robbing the Labourer and creating discontent in that Labourer's mind when by the legitimate exercise of his

physical powers he cannot satisfy the demand of the packman for what the Labourer may choose to consider necessaries. The same remark tho' modified applied to some even of your smaller Town depots, who will establish entrepots all over the Colonies. Let me then know if you desire that the clothing should not be sent at all. I am most anxious, having a store that the people should, if they will, have their supplies from it. You will I fancy draw bills for the amount of money paid the Labourers. Now I must beg that you will not pass any upon me till the next crop begins to come in. I mean to pay my instalment to our mutual friends on the 1st Janary. All your drafts are paid, at the least one is, and the other will be soon and I should find it inconvenient to have any more payments toyond the stores till 1839 crop comes. You know I am short and tho' I have good friends I want to save them. The Louisa will sail for your colony about the 15th or 20th proximo. I will send you a tolerable shipment by her. Mens' minds are not made up as to what state November may find our Colonial Markets in. The market has already fallen to the extent of the reduction in the drawback, and generally speaking no further reduction is contemplated. Foreign sugar is rising, that is a very good feature. Much will depend upon Jamaica, Grenada and elsewhere, and certainly so far liberty has become bitter fruits in these colonies. I fancy I may calculate upon my sugar selling next April @ 58/ or 60/ supposing the public mind to continue unsettled in the Colonies specified. The wages you have agreed to pay are I fancy reasonable, not with 50/ prices, but tempora mutantin. We are all well in the country. The weather is beautiful of late and the radicals will have no bad harvest to aid their arguments against the Corn Laws. Gray and his little lady well. She is clever and very youthful in look and manner. He is I think like you in appearance and I will not flatter you by saying that that is a great claim on me.

381004DSI to ARI I am rather busy preparing for the Louisa which sails in a fortnight for Trinidad. We have accounts from that Colony to the 22nd August. At that date the Negroes were not conducting themselves as orderly as they should, and Losh writes in bad spirits. There are no instances of insubordination specified and I am in great hopes that the Planters from the Negro having been so industrious & contented for the first 3 weeks are more alarmed at any change in his conduct now than they would have been had that change followed on the backs of his manumission. We have as I said no particulars. The slaves were many of them asking higher wages. That will not do at all and must be got over. Others were moving away to the Crown lands & evincing a disposition to ?equalt, but on several estates again there was no change but all hands working away happily and industriously. I know nothing of Garth not having heard from Losh. No news you know is good news. I will not be surprised to hear that some of our people are working badly because under the old regime they were not stretched, but if I can get labour, and that I ought to get, if the indisposition to work is confined to a few estates & the general remains true & uncontaminated. On the whole I have no great fear till we have more of certainty. Men in time of excitement are apt to overcolor and overestimate the danger & I am disposed to think such the case with our good friends in Trinidad. In Jamaica, St Vincent, Tobago & St Lucia the Negroes are going to the Devil. There is no doubt about the part. You may have your theories for the future. But as a present consequence (the canes are choked with weeds) we will have precious little Sugar from these Colonies next year. And already speculation is begun. Sugar is up 2/- here today, and I fancy the Garth Crop for 1839 will realise more than any Crop it has ever made. I have only 20 Hhds on hand. Had I my Crop of last season, of which I am 80 Hhds short, it would have been grand. As it is property in Trinidad is increasing, the increase for the first 3 weeks after the first August 20 per cent. I have taken every precaution to prevent Losh drawing upon me till next Crop for free labour hire. Every man is paid money now. Losh says that many of the small planters will be ruined. They (GL & Co) have been applied to by dozens for money to pay free labour but Losh says that to carry on the Estates with which they are already connected they will need to lean heavily on Eccles & Co. If, as I hope & trust, they will, matters keep their balance in Trinidad 1839 ex necessitate will be a golden year for all of us. I have nothing to say myself pro tem. I had Sir Neil & Lady M & Sir John & Lady Richardson here (Counting House) We were all exceedingly

pleasant. Let me hear from you soon. I fancy you know that Rattray is vacant. I refer you to the Laird & he will tell you something of Blair. James left me Monday. He is an intelligent gentlemanly fellow & worth a cartload of our smatterers. I am delighted with him.

381015DSI to ARI. You addressed your last to Edinr & tho dated 11th I only had it this morning. We have had no further accounts from Trinidad but I have every reason to think that I have no cause for anxiety, & that Island generally is now from the prompt and determined ordinance promulgated by the Governor just as quiet as the planters would desire, & heaven knows they are like the Duke of Buccleuch's deer "no cannie". I believe that the merchants of Trinidad are selling on tick to the slaves, & yet the planters & they the one to get a high price for his Sugar & the merchant to keep me & the likes of me from the dread of losing all, from sending out supplies & thus taking his trade out of his hands, find it their joint interest to send us make believe accounts of fears & riots which do not exist. I never contemplated any insurrection in Trinidad & hence for me the next was to be a golden year. The other Colonies have been & many still are convulsed, but we have accounts from Jamaica this morning to the 28th August & then Sambo was enacting the Prodigal son, & returning to Labour & virtue. By the bye other Colonies will represent like conduct, but end has been done to do we Trinidadians good for 1839. I think you are wrong in your ideas that it will take years to settle Sambo under the new regimen. It will not take half a year to settle many of the Planters. Those who have no money to pay for free labour must give in and many in Trinidad have done this. We have the more labour thus & the more labour the cheaper. My Crop was home (you must remember I said so) two months ago. I have imported 143 Hhds this against 218 last year. I hold 20 Hhds & these I will sell of today, as the good accounts from Jamaica will puzzle the buyers & they will wait by a little. I see every danger either which we are beset at home & abroad, but stick we must not & will not D.V. Two months hence I will have decided the ways and means. Mean time I will do nothing with Banks. So make yourself perfectly easy on that score. I should hear from Losh about the Garth partnership etc a month hence & his letter will determine my plans & immediately thereafter you will hear from me. What Foss told me was that he had had a conversation with his Lordship about Blair & that it was promised to you all right. You can credit this or no just as you please, but I would have you depend more upon your own character, claims and exertions than on the promises and exertions of some of your friends who, as in the case of Moulin, give you a vox et peteria nihil. I agree with you that you have been questionably used with regard to Clunie. With Dunkeld I trust you may be more & entirely successful. Infinitely better, as you say, that you had a distinct yea or nay. You have in all conscience plenty promises, but if every Patron in the belief that his neighbour is to bestow a living on you giving that in his gift away you may have the crooked stick in the long run. One thing is certain I fear. If you get Dunkeld, the Trustees will consider your claim on them paid, while Lord Glenlyon would not care for his conditional promise to Foss when you were applicant for a living in which application you had been successful. Take care Foss does not do you more harm than good in losing you Dunkeld. Better a present promotion than a prospective one & God speed you in your legitimate ambition. The Louisa sails for Trinidad the end of this week. I am busy shipping stores by her. There is nothing new here in the mercantile world. In the political we are all anxious & ?. Our Municipal elections are at hand. The Tories will have a decided majority in the Council & once that we will gain every election afterwards. The weather for two days is very wet. On Saturday morning we had 1/4 inch of ice on our dubs. I am glad to hear Elizabeth is well.

381016DSILB to Duncan Stewart. I wrote you on the 29th ulto. "since which time, as those say who unable to manufacture a sentiment, are fair to wear one out at the elbows in their utter need". I have had none of your esteemed favours to acknowledge. Since the congratulations I sent you on the state of your social intercourse, we have heard with more regret than surprise that the Freemen were not on the whole conducting themselves so well as all of you would desire. It is pleasant to be assured that a good understanding exists between master and

servant on the Providence, and that a like good feeling will speedily be established throughout the Colony. You have had my sentiments on the relative positions of Master and servant in your Colony, so much at length heretofore, that I say nothing now. But notwithstanding a great alarm felt here that fortunes are not henceforth to be made, I think they are, and more certainly than ever. You have much more to dread from the last than from a deprivation of Labour. It is the interest of Planter and Merchant in the W.I. Colonies to make matters appear worse than they are. The one that the Markets may feel the operation of a panic arising from a dread of a lessened or absolute nonproduction, and the other from a very natural desire to have Sambo entirely at his mercy, and that if money were to be made and his vanity to be gratified, the money should be pocketed and the vanity ministered to by the Merchant. I am no sham Abrahamist, and to be this, is to have that Turkish philosophy which, under a blind and prejudiced conviction how explained or defended it matters not, seems to rejoice when it encounters a difficulty and makes no preparation either to obviate or redress it. So my Dear Stewart be you no Turkish Philosopher. Do not wink at difficulties.

When I jumped over the style

I met with an aged woman

And she bade me keep up my heart

For the best of my days were coming.

The Louisa is in dock. She had not been coppered for 5 years, and really when her bottom had to be cleaned it was no joke. She will be out of dock on the 18th and to sea about 28th. You will have invoices and letters from me then. The bad news we had from Jamaica etc of the high jinks of the "great and glorious free" had an effect upon sugar and we are 4/ up from the lowest point. For a week past however the market has hung and yesterday we had accounts from Jamaica of a favourable reaction on the feelings and dispositions of the Labourers and that favourable news will have a bad effect. I do not say what the future may realise, but everything will depend upon the state of the Colonies. We have 20,000 more sugar in London and 2000 in Clyde more this time than we had last year so far we have an abundant present supply. There are two vacant churches just now in the presbytery of Dunkeld. Dunkeld and Clunie. My brother of Foss has good hopes of the former, and if not that of Blair Atholl the present Minister of which is on Stills and a puff may upset him any day. The rest of the family in statu quo. The youngest James a devilish clever chap and agent and secretary for heaven knows how many Interests and Societies. The old Lady is very well and generally speaking all our mutual friends are living and living like. I hope you have kept your health during the past year and that you will during the years coming. Lamont we have it is selling out. Cole at all events is selling off his ships. The Trinidad he sold the other day for £2,500 to Geo. Oughterson, James Oughterson, Mr Simmonds and J. H. Robertson.

381016DSILB to John Losh. I wrote you on the 30th ulto. and I now do so again not so much to convey intelligence to, as to beg intelligence from you. I have been altogether most anxious and have had no means of relief. Providence and Les Efforts seem to be the only two Estates where a good understanding prevails between the master and Servant. Garth then cannot I fancy be included, and must walk into the category of unworkables. Hooper's Gang were always unsettled, and I am prepared to hear that they have not improved now that their self control has been made absolute. "No news is good news" and when I do hear from you it may be that, from its isolated position and the attachment which the Old residents had for their late master, matters are better than I expect. Still that many of the more detached Estates will empty part of theirs into Town appears certain. The Louisa had to be coppered and is now in dock. She will leave dock on the 18th and go to sea on or about the 28th. By her you will hear from me with invoices etc. The very bad news from Jamaica and elsewhere told upon the sugar market and it has advanced 4/. There it hangs, or rather it has declined and yesterday's news of a better feeling in Jamaica will aggravate the depression. I refer you to Wiser Heads than mine for the future. I find it sufficient to manage the present. Our friends E. & Co hold 1400 Hhds sugar and 2400 puns Molasses. The latter may do well. But as for sugar the market may like "Duncan Grants Horse be gude, but it wants action," and I fear 1839 is with them to realize a loss like 6 & 7-.

Dry brown 54/ and unearthly demand here. In London there is a demand but a decline attending it. Lamont is here. He retires and so I hear does Cole. Cole sold the Trinidad last week for £2400 to old Oughterson and 3 partners. She is up for Demerara. This sale looks a break up. There is nothing new among our mutual friends. John Gray of Greenock is thriving. He backs me quite as much as another nameless John whose modesty I spare. I am also on the greatest good terms with our friend Ronald, and find that in this weary world kind words are a vastly useful coin. Brown in status quo. This year should fill his boots with hot water, and I am very anxious that he had a rugg at "the private parts of Fortune" should he catch the old Woman asleep at her wheel. There are no sugars sent them on consignment, a business without consignment is not one to my mind while in their care it betrays a feeling which no merchant can feel easy under.

381019DSILB to ARI. On the other side I hand you copy of a letter from Losh. I am very well pleased with what he says of Garth. The desultory nature of the attention paid to their work by the labourers will be cured by the influx of labourers from other Estates besides which half Gangs are quite eno' for the present purpose of weeding and cleaning the cane fields and ?longr before Christmas, I trust we will have an effective resident gang in full pay on the Estate. You see then that I was so far right in discrediting the ipse dixit's of Merchant and planter. I never feared the ultimate success of the Manumission Act. I felt assured that individuals must be sacrificed and my dread was that we might be numbered among the things that perish. A great part of Hoopers gang is gone. This I told you I expected. They were from example a moral nuisance, and the influx will more than recompense for the great part gone, most likely the most worthless part. Losh's cause for grumbling can only arise from the peculiar and I am convinced temporary circumstance of the Colony. One third at least of its effective labour is inoperative, and hence the stimulus which one may expect that mass of labour to give to industry is awaiting, but I really think it premature to dogmatise, after only 5 weeks experience upon the disposition of an animal the most liable to ridiculous influences and the most untutored of God's creatures. I look upon the state of matters in Trinidad as a progressive one, and am quite assured that gang after gang will return to their huts and their comforts when they have experienced the discomfords of the woods and the hostility of the Indians who are very chary of their territory and of whom there are 600 in Trinidad. Sambo is no match for him.

381024DSILB to John Gray. You will I am sure remember (for it is one of the very best of the many good traits in your character that you love the interests and the happiness of your friends deserving of the name much at heart. Now I do flatter myself that I am AI in your heart's register, and so, emboldened to call your recollection to) the topic we discussed when last we met in your dining room. Since then my letters from Losh have been very satisfactory and I see my way clear once I had this year past. You promised to help me, and may I beg to know whether I may send you my note in payment of that to be retired here on the 2nd of next month, and further if you are agreeable that the amount of that to be now granted should be £750 and the date 6 months. The amount of that due on the 2nd is £420 In this way I am ready till 1st January and from Losh's letters I am disposed to think that I shall at least probably will, be in a situation to meet that term from the West. I propose enclosing my new note on Friday, and the money you may send me on Monday. I will date the note the 29th (Monday) and will most cheerfully bear the few days difference (between the 29th and 2nd when the £420 falls to be retired) of discount for sake of the appearances which I shall be enabled to make in Miller Street. Your hint on this head has not been fruitless, and I shall henceforth appreciate very highly the distinction and convenience of reputed wealth. Some of us are dumpy about the West. Some of us would be dumpy were the west our own. Ben Greig, poor man, has lost the entire strength and substance of his Gang on the Perseverance. They all marched off ah! Nunquam reditura! Exceppin fifteen auld yins that coudna gang, and so ends "this strange and most eventful history for Mister Benjamin". He has plenty money. Would he had a little more virtue. The old chap has both feet in the grave, but his heart

in his Bank account. The sugar market will do I think. Still I would do as I have done sell out, at stiff prices. When January comes, and the Mauritius cargoes expected and arrived we shall have more money lost than made.

381026DSILB to Sir Neil Menzies. I more than once intended since I had the honour to meet you here to say what we are doing in the political world. For I attach infinitely more importance to our doings than I do to the movements of Edinburgh, Dundee, or Aberdeen, in as much as we have for five years struggled heedless of expense of labour, to annihilate the radicals, while in the Towns enumerated the same exertions have not been made, or if they have the same consequences have not followed. This year we had on the winding up of our registration Balance a "Gain on the years transactions of 427 votes". That is an awkward reduction of a 600 majority, our last parliamentary one. Next year with the same exertions we will Balance parties in the Municipal districts. Next year or ? opportunity, in natural consequence come 2 Conservative members and then the harvest is won. I do not fear a falling off in exertion in time coming. I am rather disposed to look for increased exertion. Like Foxhounds we will know that we have game in sight and the death near, run home with increasing speed and strength. So much for our parliamentary prospects. My object however in troubling you with this letter was not to speak of these so much, but of our Municipal Elections. These we have on the 6th of next month. There is a division of Glasgow, on the south side of Clyde called Gorbals which this week selected six Magistrates or Bailies. I was very much surprised to find two thorough going Conservatives at the top of the poll. This phenomenon was explained by the fact that the Radicals supported the Tory Councillor candidates, and then our friends rejecting altogether the Whig, or as they are here termed, the "clique" party. The Gorbals Election past, next comes the Glasgow. We here find a meeting of the "Universal Suffrage Association" in the justiciary Hall two Evenings ago. at which the Whigs were thrown overboard, and the following singular and unexpected declaration made. "That a Wellington & Peel Ministry would save the country Millions a year." The voters present at this meeting were not numerous, but the men franchised were very numerous, and the Leaders of the Universal Suffrage Mongers are in the meantime put up to oppose the Whig Councillor Candidates in the Municipal Wards and if they (the radicals) should leave the field it would only be to support and vote for the Tory Councillor Candidates, whose honesty of intention and public virtues are now the subjects of their especial commendation. I may indeed be told that the numbers who had abandoned the Clique are not many, very possibly not, but then they are the Leaders. In every village there is a demagogue calling himself the People, one or two clever men lead the mass. They find no difficulty in inoculating that mass with their opinions and now that our leaders begin to entertain rational views we shall feel the influence of the change on our next parliamentary Election. The only declaration with which I could and cannot sympathise is that where the radicals say that they will no longer make fools of themselves. This they do not unfortunately need to attempt. They cannot unmake themselves. Let them begin to grow wise men and they will have employment worthy of their talents and perseverance. You may recollect my stating that I would not have you attach the least Political importance to our summer demonstration which like a summer rose is withered and forgotten but I did not expect that the aiders and abettors thereof should within a few months have fallen so madly in love with Wellington and Peel. So it is and so it was in the Earlier times. The Jupiter and Mercuries of the one day were the kicked and cuffed of the next. I must not forget to state that we look for a majority of 3 on our municipal Election. That will make our majority in the Council four. To recapitulate our prospects, we have a majority in Municipal Council. From our own exertions and the newly awakened convictions of our friends the Universal Suffragists we have a very good hope of a parliamentary majority at the first election. One point is gained in the division in the Enemy's camp. The more honest now see what we have for five years been drumming into their ears, that the Whigs have been using them precisely as the Monkey did the Cat's paw, to take the roasted chestnuts from between the ribs.

381101 to JI. My dearest Mother, I very often thought of writing you but I waited till I knew you were so well yourself to read my letter. May I hope that your

periodical illness is past & that your head may continue well for a year to come. The season altogether has been & still is most extraordinary. Within a week we have been visited by an epidemic which tho very simple in its earlier stages settles into a confirmed rheumatic influenza, & then follows by excessive debility and a dreadful cough. Several have sunk under it & my much esteemed friend Burnley is just convalescent after a siccar week of grunts and groans. Charlotte Eccles, Mr Wm Eccles' second daughter, is in a very bad way. A cough that shakes the house and a hectic flush and brilliant eye enough to inspire a man with admiration did he not know what was behind. They are very uneasy about her. The weather is wet, cold & windy & no hope of frost even on this the 1st Nov. I am perfectly well. This I attribute to great care and great exercise. I am about as regular as any piece of mechanism you could name. Up at 7 & engaged all day long, just now, about my own and other peoples' business. You see then that with a mind actively and usefully exercised & a Body carefully tended, it would be 'verra redeeklous' to complain that any ailment would find me predisposed. Lamont is sick, but I cured him yesterday in spite of himself, with a steak, some brandy toddy and a tune on the Bass. The Louisa is loaded & after that the wind is keeping the ship at the quay. Our exports are less numerous than they are wont to be. We know not exactly what our Black Brethren on the other side may adopt till we hear what Clothing their Bean Brum well delighteth to assume & then we will attempt ministering to their vanity. In the meantime we send out no clothing. In so far as I am affected I have every reason to congratulate myself on the state of matters on the Garth. The accounts from the colonys in general are absurdly conflicting. Some loss will follow the act of 1st August but it will be individual and not national. At home we are worse off than they are abroad. The Colonial markets are dead. The blow being given by Rice the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I was as usual fortunate eno to have sold out & off before the Market fell, got laughed at then, but now the laugh, as I told a friend, don't come so free, he being expectant of higher prices. Such things happen. The Eccles for the 3d year in succession lose enormously. I for the second year by calculating what I needed & selling when I had reached my ultimatum have in so far as I was concerned & it depended upon me, have made both ends meet & saved the estate £500 in the two years. I do not claim any extraordinary merit for this, but I am reputed a very lucky seller. Clementina has been very long in writing me. I am sure if she knew the great happiness I have in hearing from her she would write oftener than she does. Separated, except at intervals, for what may be our lives, the little intercourses I have with you all is by letter & that bringing me as it does tidings of all at home & all that is done there, is always more welcome than you who are not a detached member can realise. I hope Willie continues to get stronger. James too I hope mends or as the saying gets rather better. I had very great pride in Bruce when here, He is a fine spirited intelligent fellow & will make a useful & very creditable public man. I judge of these matters thus from the force of contrast. We are all very lively on municipal elections. By some care & tact I have managed on two occasions to make good speeches & have in consequence been pressed more into service than I have time for. You will hear from me again on the 15th. Meantime with love to all at Cluny.

381107DSILB to Sir Neil Menzies. I had very great pleasure in the receipt of your letter of the 31st ulto. Above I hand you a note of the former an present accounts. I have sent a tierce sugar. May I hope Lady Menzies will approve this. My reasons were that the tierce tho a large supply is clean strong, yellow coloured sugar and very cheap @ 6d per pound, while from the great uncertainty concerning the West, the market bids fair to use and I wished to protect Lady Menzies from paying extravagantly in future for what can be purchased so very favourably at the present moment. Since I am upon Groceries at any rate, I may state that I purchased a chest tea for my Mother a few days ago. Very fine flavoured strong congou @ 4/6 per pound. I have seen Perth tea @ 6/6 greatly inferior. We wiped away a good surface of what you so felicitously termed the shine of radicalism at our yesterday Elections. The contamination is too deep to yield to one years drugging but the slower the cure the safer the recovery and the less the fear of a relapse. We have only a majority of two in the Council. I predicted 4. We gained two men yesterday, but we lost one. The Provost-that-

would-be-if-he-could-be was most signally defeated (Fleming) in one ward, and from what follows one would suppose office has more sweets than thorns - defeated in the 4th Ward, the Liberal party, determined to give we of the 5th (Municipal) who were walking the course some trouble, and so about half past one they actually started would-be-provost Fleming in opposition to the two Tory candidates. The Booth was inundated. I was sent for and ran down to join the Committee. What is to be done. We had reckoned everything safe, and here was a deep laid and preorganised scheme to catch us sleeping. Time was all we wanted, and so our opponents learned we could scheme as well as they. Between 1 past one, and 4 when the Poll closed Fleming polled 119 votes, and every man of that number was sworn. So when we compared notes it was 119 for the Liberals to 384 for the conservatives, I never saw men so angry. I wish I saw them more honest. I must not overlook what would be a diverting, were it not a melancholy, exhibition of depraved principle. I stated that the Leaders of the Universal Suffrage Association were to stand. One of the gentlemen got one vote, the next no vote, and the third from having gone over to the Liberals is now in the Council. The Non Electors are this rate will soon be conservatives. The Leaders of the Universal Suffrage party will soon be tired herding among swine and eating husks and they seeing how absolutely depraved are the men who profess like principles with themselves, but who when tested betray them, will practically exhibit their preference for the Conservatives. I hope the non electors will visit the sins of Radical upon them.

381119DSI to ARI I have had no direct news from Trinidad since I last wrote to you. I have heard of Losh & that Colony through Sandy Gray of G.L & Co who is here for the winter & spring down to the 21st Sept; a late date. At that time things were progressing very satisfactorily, the slaves never appearing to have abandoned the Estates permanently, but to have taken a pro tempore straggle to satisfy themselves that they were absolutely & entirely free. Here we have matters gravitating towards their old Centre & tho many planters are sore beset & many of the small proprietors ruined by the change of the 1st August, the Abolition Act will be beneficial to us after the first year of its term, and not during the first year from the probable increased expense of Production. Having no news from Losh I fancy they are doing handsomely on Garth. I have paid all Colonial claims for the last year. We have no debt against us there. The current expenses will not be drawn for till April or may nor fall to be paid here till July or August 1839 when half my Crop is to hand. So much for Trinidad. Then as regards our debt to Eccles & Co that mounted when I came here on 23rd March 1837 to £6517.14.8. Now to £3617.14.8. After Instalment due January 1839 - £900 - to £2727.14.8. I have paid off £4900 already & when my January instalment is paid will have cleared £5,800 within two years. I now come to the question - How are we to get the £900 to be paid 1st January? You will anticipate my object in the statement of facts I have adduced to be this, that heretofore our best anticipations have been realised & I want to bespeak your confidence for the future. I told you that I was 76 Hhdw Sugar short of my last year's Crop ie £1200 sterling at least, thence the necessity of my looking elsewhere for my Instalment. From circumstances which I could not have anticipated, I would not ask money at the Bank. Neither will I ask Eccles to postpone their instalment. They have £25,000 worth of produce on hand, and have this year without anticipating anything of the sort at the beginning of the year, to supply their constituents and attorneys with money to pay the labourers in Trinidad & Demerara Cash for their labour. They have not a sixpence to spare. That is one reason but not the strongest. My friend John Gray of Greenock whom alone I consulted & to whom alone I revealed my position urged me to do anything rather as place myself in the power of a party who by a word could destroy my credit & force me into the Gazette. His words are "Have the appearance of money. My head is seldom above water, but I never seem to want it. You must pay the Eccles' and a fortnight before your Instalment becomes due, write Ronald saying that you want to spend Xmas with your family & beg him to send down the usual receipt." What I mean to do is follow this advice. The Garth is worth £15,000. The only debt against it demanding immediate payment is £3617.14.8. I am satisfied I shall have 200 Hhds Sugar in 1839, and newspapers will satisfy you that I am entitled to look for

good prices in 1839. We shall have no more legislation at home or abroad. The political Economists & the Ante Slavery party have severally realised their dogmas. The drawback is reduced and the slaves free. Gray will privately give me £1000 & what I want you to say is this. Will you join me in a Bill for that amount, at 4 or 6 months? I propose this arrangement because you formerly raised £420 for my accommodation & Gray is entitled to all the security I can offer. This is why I ask your name. Within so little of being clear I will not hesitate. It is for you to say if you will stand by me. In any case you & Gray are the only parties who know how I am situated. You will see at once the propriety of keeping all this strictly private & beg you will not appear to interfere in any way except in the accommodation specified. But of this you must assure yourself that I will not ask the Eccles's to postpone their claim & that if you decline facilitating my negotiation for paying them in January I believe Gray has so good an opinion of me that he will give me the money on my personal security. I have all along written you will see without reference to the contemplated sale. I may have £1000 or £1500 remitted me before the Bill becomes due. At all events part of Garth will have been sold, a part of the purchase money paid down & the purchaser a man of means. Yours of the 16th to hand. I had a letter also from Clunie. Willie is coming here. Defer replying to me till his return. I shall explain to & I am sure satisfy him & he will communicate with you. Love to my dear Elizabeth.

381124DSILB to John Losh. I am not going to plead any apology for bothering you with a private communication. I am not sure that I have been explicit enough in two or three remarks in my House (hem!) letter, and ye ken its a far cry to Lochawe. In regard to the 20 puns. Molasses, these you will ship in any vessel of ? You may first have loading. They need not be marked but and then we shall have remarks. You are aware that the destination of the Garth Molasses is free; last year I exceeded my £105 p. port of freight and covered the excess by the Molasses imported. This year from many causes I will perhaps be within the £105, at least not much over it, and that little will be more than recompensed by 60 puncheons Molasses. Then again I was a little diffculted by the limited nature of my early imports last year. 60 by the two first ships should be the mark, and 80 hhds if not a 100 before or by July. Then you can send the rest when you please. In regard to the Molasses, you must use them for the convenience of our mutual friends ships (except the 20 puns) and may reserve them for the later vessels when you have more difficulty in providing loads. The Eccles' imports this year from your colony have been large. I fancy fully 3600 Hhds. I hope I shall be guaranteed 200 for next year. We are doing well here. The market will do I hope and "the beginning of the end" is come. Sugar now is 8/ lower than at this time last year, and trade and refined sugars are comparatively high Everything points to 1839 as to a year of rejoicing for we colonists and after that year I will be able to fly a little further, within 21 months I have paid £4900 to the Eccles alone and on the first January next will have paid £5800 of the debt of the Garth, and that within two years, when I have two years free income to work from, I will I trust come out, in 1841 as a merchant worthy of being wooed, after the 1 January 1839 my mortgaged debt is £2700 or thereabouts. One good crop will do for that, and you and I will arrange and close John's will in the year following so that tho' I cannot whistle as being altogether out of the wood, yet I think I may be arranging the tune. Brown's gude wife is about breaking up. He is in great glee and much like a man to whom a son is about to be born. The Lady does not come abroad. I see my much esteemed Gray when in town. We have sundry sober and edifying cracks, and altogether there is a quiet intelligence and gentlemanly courtesy about him which me renders him a delightful companion. And he does not lose by comparision. "That's a fact" as Sam Slick says. Burnley has been an invalid for 14 days. He is again strong and going about. All others in statu quo. My brother Dr Willie is here and sends kindest regards. He left the old Lady and the family well. The former grows young as she waxeth old. a strange contradiction certainly but in bodily vigour she is strong, and her mind active and grasping as ever. His reverence is threatened with promotion and that right early. He is a rising man, and knows a thing or

two, not to be found in the old or New Testament. The Political world is threatening. Durham is coming home like Halley's comet. Lord Melbourne is ever with the Queen. She is a stupid Lassie. Palmerston is buried in cravat, and the colonial secretary is an incarnation of sleep. If they understand all that is going on in the East and West, and all that will be about in Canada presently they will be called the Phenomena.

381130DSILB to William Angus. I will not be able to attend the meeting of the Committee of management this evening. Will you state for me the following particulars which I urge upon the gentlemen present:

1st. That the Gentlemen delegated or deputed to draw up the Memorial about John Reoch should do so, and that immediately. He now lives upon us, and is paid 3d. a night for his bed out of the house. This is altogether out of rule, and will damage us in public estimation should it become known. 2nd That the Committee (of whom Mr Woodrow is one) who were appointed something more than two months ago to dispose of the workers should give in their report, and if not convenient for them to do so within a week, that a committee be re-appointed consisting of new members, one of whom I have no objections to be. 3rd. That a supply of strong mats be immediately ordered. That supply in the meantime not to exceed 30 Mats. I may also mention that it will not be convenient for me to undertake the charge of any of the collection lists and I beg that I may not be associated with my Gentleman to superintend or conduct the collection of subscriptions for the Asylum. I would also recommend that the Superintendent be called before the committee and directed to make himself master of the rules and regulations of the Parishes, Poors House, and Hospitals etc. of the city, become acquainted with the Treasurers and managers of these institutions, and shortly attend as well to the external Economy, as to the internal management of the Asylum. This you know was along contemplated, and besides the great relief which the Directors would have from the Superintendent fulfilling this part of his allotted duty, we should I think from having one man's attention confined to these matters, be relieved of a great deal of that burden which Mr Lumsden and others say is making our asylum a Hospital.

381203DSILB John Gray. I wrote my eldest brother about 10 days ago, with a view to my arrangements for the instalment of £1000 payable to Eccles and Co, on the 1 January next. I proposed to him that he should join me in a bill for that amount, and that I was satisfied you would be no bar to our negotiating the same. He has urged no objection to my proposal, but he is a little nervous about the present state of the West, and he, methinks, considers my assurances and arguments as overcoloured. Tho' as I said he has urged no insurmountable objection, still he would prefer what he calls a loan, or as I would say a cash account and tho' I am well assured that I shall have abundant means at my disposal to retire the £1000 when at Midsummer it becomes due, still as my brother is my Pater Achises, he is certainly entitled to have his own way, in sofar as that is practicable. He is now convinced of the propriety of going on. The only question with him is that I may not have the means of retiring the bill in 1839. He should desire the term of payment indefinitely postponed. As I flatter myself I shall negotiate anything I may have to do towards 1 January through you. I beg to know what you say to the idea of a cash account? For my own part I would not desire it and for reasons which will instantly rise to you, believing inter alia that sugar in 1839 will rule enormously high, and having so far as I am informed no reason to doubt that my next imports will be 200 Hhds and 80 puns from Garth alone. You will make salt for your Brochan with your Mauritius imports.

381203DSI to ARI I have to acknowledge your letter of the 29th Ulto to hand this morning. let me correct you in supposing that the money proposed to be raised is so raised thro a Bank. John Gray who is to pay it and to whom the Bill is to be granted or it may be to Neill & Gray. I propose to pay the Bill when due out of the Garth Estate Crop. That Crop I calculate will during 1839 average 63/- per cwt & will yield me from Garth alone £5000 including Molasses. Besides which I am promised imports from Stewart etc. The Eccles' will be paid D.V. their last claim on the 1st July 1840 - 18 months hence - leaving £1600 due my mother & John's

legacies against the Estate. In stating what had been done in the way of reducing debt I did not wish you to understand that the Estate out of its own resources had reduced it from £8000 odd to £3000 odd. My object was to shew you how little remained to be done. The system of renewing Bills I know is expensive & I would wish to avoid it, but I feel now that the tide in my affairs is come & I would do anything to conceal my affairs & clear my way. I will in my purse be the sufferer. Since you have preferred your plan of a loan I have written Gray intimating such as you desire. When his answer reaches me I will write you more fully. In the mean time I am sure I need not say that I should not ask you to become a party to any negotiation in which I dreaded the least danger to you. You know how much nerve is needed in a merchant. He must take all necessary precautions, & lay his plans & calculations according to knowledge; but if he waits till he see the issue he must stand still & leave others to reap his fortune. I have paid Gray the £500. The Colonial supplies of 1837 formed part of my debt as noted £8517.14.8. I know not what to say at what occupies the last page of your letter. I may however say that nothing has so unsettled one as your intimation of a thought of going abroad. That you were not successful in your application for Dunkeld or Clunie is a loss to a man anxious to arise in his profession, but certain of your friends looking to Blair were perhaps not very urgent on your behalf, nor very caring for your success in either application. Blair is to come & you still have a chance there. The interest of your friends will be concentrated upon you for it & if Robertson becomes Lord Glenlyon's Edin Agent, you could not desire a more anxious friend than him. Then there's Dull. That you are sure of when the present incumbent dies. He has one foot in the grave, & totters on its brink & he can't last long. That your present living is surely disproportionate to your position in the Church your friends admit & admitting lament, but wait a little. You have just now enough to gratify your ambition if you have failed in getting preferment, your standing among your Brethren in the Church Courts is evidence enough to you how soon you may become a leader, and much as I am attached to you, & desiring more than anything in life your advancement, I will oppose your plan with all the energy & ability & affectionate solicitude I can. Why leave us to go where none but young men of no family, fortune or patronage seek what they can't find at home. What will you make of Elizabeth? Do you do her justice in taking her out & by leaving her at home, you leave us, & to go out a solitary wanderer, to beg in the world, where Popery is now getting into the ascendant & where you will find little to recompense you for what you leave behind. Let me hope that you have ? of going to Australia, from your want of success at Clunie & Dunkeld & that you will come to think differently soon. I will write you again on Thursday first. Don't let Captain Sandy influence you. I will say nothing to Principal McFarlane till I hear more from you

381206DSI to ARI. I had a call from John Gray a few minutes ago. I happened to be in the Sugar sample room & missed him. He returns again in half an hour and I will tell you what we decide upon in regard to the £1000 in question. I wrote Principal McFarlane a note 3 days ago to which I have as yet had no answer, putting the question noted by you, nearly in your own words. I did this because in the course of conversing with him he might have put some question to me as to the Individual which I should have found it not convenient to answer and there was no fear of my committing myself or you in the way adopted. All necessary information as to the Emoluments to you could have & must have gotten from the Government Agent & I shall give you timeous notice as to the opening desired by you. I have thought a great deal over your idea & one thing is perfectly plain & that is that if you have mentioned it to any person but to me, you have done yourself an injury. Your friends, if they ever learn, that you entertained an idea of migrating, will consider that a sufficient apology for lukewarmness in your cause, & that their influence and intentions have been under-rated, besides which I do not think there is one of them who would advise you to take the step you seem to meditate. I think the period has arrived when men like you are most needed at home. The present extraordinary position of the Church, the necessity of the popular party being met with vigour & talent & ability by the Moderates, the almost certain promotion that waits you in a very short time now, all these

and many more considerations indicate that your leaving Scotland just now for any temporary, or secular consideration, look like a betrayal of that Church in which you are an officer & which may soon need you & such as you to stand between her and her pretended friends. Recollect too how short the time is since you have become urgent for promotion. I remember the time when Foss seemed to bound all your wishes - and if you must not & should not cant & profess to friends merely ad captandrum ways. You should "make a fuss about yourself", or nobody else will & I am sure no man ever makes a fuss with more credit to himself or usefulness to the Church than you - I will hope to hear from you, not what impression anything I write has, but what the issue of your own reflection is, when you have considered all the outs and ins & have heard from me what the Principal says. If Dr Charlie McDiarmid acted wisely he would go out to Australia & if they must become man and wife take my sister with him. That would be my plan & I should not be surprised to hear that he adopts it. Captain Sandy is going I fancy. He needed little to confirm him in his intention & that little he must have found in Doyter's representations. Gray has been here. What we have decided upon is this. That you and I must grant a Bill for £1000, dated 1 Jany 1839 and payable 3 July 1839 (6 mos) which Bill I have become bound then to pay & have guaranteed Gray against a renewal. I have taken so many precautions abroad & am so confident at home that I have cheerfully given Gray the guarantee requested & so by and bye I shall send you a Bill for your signature. The plan of a loan on a cash account cannot be gone into, and if it could it only increases your responsibility. Love to Elizabeth & best regards to Miss Hall, the captain etc

381218DSI to ARI I had yours of the 15th yesterday. As I have much to say I will say nothing of what formed the chief topic of your letter till I have a more convenient season. I am so uncertain of the posts & have my letters from the north so irregularly that I have determined to enclose this to Willie who will forward it to you by a special messenger. I have a letter from Losh dated 28th Oct. He writes me at some length. The Power of Attorney reached him. It was found sufficient for the purposes contemplated. It would appear that the present manager Mr William Taylor, a native of Aberdeen & of whom Eccles thinks well, is to become interested in the property of Garth to the extent of one fourth. He enters upon his purchase on the 1st January next, and the value of his share is to be determined by appraisers to be chosen & who were to give their decision in "December" - this month. Mr Taylor is to pay one fourth of the expenses for this year in maintaining the cultivation. He is to grant a mortgage on the part to be sold binding the shipment of the Crops to my address. Losh says nothing of any sum to be paid down & I do not know that the terms of his letter lead me to think that any sum is to be paid down. We shall hear more of this anon. It was a point on which I did not insist as a man of good character & ability was my aim & he might not have had money at his disposal. Mr Taylor will need an indemnity, or discharge, from the mortgage held by Eccles & Co over the Garth Estate. This discharge may be granted in two ways. Either by Eccles & Co granting a discharge in Taylor's favour of the right which they hold over the part to be purchased by him in virtue of the mortgage held by them over the whole of the Garth Estate & which discharge they can only be asked to grant on our paying them a fourth part of the debt due them from 1st January to which they would most probably object to receive & which it might, & most probably would be inconvenient for me to pay, or that my mother should find sufficient security to protect Taylor from any loss or trouble on account of the Mortgage held by the parties specified. The latter way will be the best & I have asked Losh to say plainly what the nature of the Indemnity to be granted is to be. Here then I have all I know of the doings in regard to the sale & in so far as we know they are satisfactory. The Labourers are behaving well. The Crop promising to be very good and the weather excellent. The Mills were to be about on or about the 15th of this month & Sugar making fairly begun. Taylor will have every assistance I can afford him. You see that the share is shaped to your idea. If we find Taylor deserving of more he will have it by and bye but I rather think W.I. property is to become valuable & that we will be loath to part with any more. The Bill is enclosed. I have no fear of the term when payment needs to be made. I have made sure as far as I can & Gray is perfectly willing to bide by his chance. You must return me the Bill by

Friday's post, so that I may have it beside me in great good time. After this year we will go on swimmingly & in the mean time I have the confidence of my seniors & have done well I think in conciliating Ronald who has I verily believe a very sincere friendship for me. The Sugar Market here is & in status quo till after New year day when it will open with life. I met yesterday a Chap who breakfasted in London on Saturday morning at eight, and dined in Greenock next day at a half past five. Lord Durham demanded and was refused an audience. The Countess in consequence resigned her office as Lady in Waiting. The Court is shut against Durham. Lord Hill wrote a note to Durham requesting a visit at the Horse Guards & Durham sent a verbal message back by Lord Hill's messenger saying "always at home after 12". I have just had the Garth Estate Account made up with Interest to ?Sept last, Balance due the Eccles on that day £3868.16.9. This all right. The Ministry are going to pieces. We shall see. The ? ? ripe for the Tories ?. Sir James Graham's address today has 1360 names to it. It will be presented on Saturday I fancy. The centenary concern they say is to be very fine. The Public bodies all walk in procession and dine in the evening. Buchanan of the Tron goes to Edinburgh, so says the on dit of the day. The weather has been very wet and cold. Today it is clear & inclined to frost. Murphy says that Tuesday next is to be wild and stormy. I have not had as much to do for 6 months as I have at this moment

381222DSI to John Gray. I refer you to our mutual friend Mr Roxburgh touching the conversation we had on the negotiations of the enclosed. In consequence of that conversation I hand you the bill, dated 28th and drawn at 6 months. The object of this being that (as was fully explained) I desire to be largely in funds from the West, and to protect myself from the necessary renewal. I am going to eat my goose at Halfton, and will be away till Thursday morning and as business should precede pleasure and the latter can only be called such when the mind is easy, I know at this early day place the bill in your hands, with a request that you will negotiate the same, and hand me proceeds on Saturday the 29th. or Monday the 31st. - the latter day at the very latest. I have heard at great length from Losh. My labourers are behaving very creditably, and sugar making would be begun this month. One fourth part of the Garth Estate is to be purchased by my present Manager, one named Taylor, a native of Aberdeen, married, and of great good health, creditable ability and strict honesty. He mortgages his share to my mother, and enters on the 1 January 1839. He also pays for this year one fourth of the expesne of cultivation. A serious release to me I assure you. I think I have done every thing with discretion for 1839 and already see the tide making. There was nothing done in our sugar sample room from the 7th inst. till yesterday when a little fine sugar was sold. There is most assuredly no decline here. I facny you are aware that the Calypos's Molasses have been sold @ 30/6.

381227DSILB to John Gray. I find no letter from you on my return to town this afternoon and to prevent all accident and to make "assurance doubly sure" I beg to say that on the 22nd I enclosed you my brother and my own P.N. for £1000 requesting that the needful should be forth coming on Saturday or Monday next at latest. If on the latter day I should amazingly desire it before 12, as that would materially facilitate sundry plans of attach on a poultry yard of a friend in the country on the new year day; and as there are sundry young ladies and the privileges of the first morning are many and sweet I want to see how far kissing goes by favour. In haste.

381231DSILB to John Gray. I have to acknowledge your letter of the 29th inst. prefixed by an order on the Western Bank of this city for £979.14.6 being proceeds of bill enclosed to your address in my letter of 22nd - £1000. Wishing you and yours very many happy returns of the season I ever am believe me etc,

390123 DSILB to Duncan Stewart. More from custom than from any hope that I can write you an interesting letter I now sit down to write you. I flatter myself you like to hear from me and I assure I like very much to address you. I have sent you nothing, I should say I mean to send you nothing by the Heyworth. The William

will sail for your colony on or about the 13th of next month. She will bear the last shipment of the stores and some of the . I have merely touched upon the state of the country in my House (hem!) Letter. The manufacturing classes are moving heaven and Earth in all the principal manufacturing towns for the total repeal of the Corn Laws. No modification will suit them. They must have a total repeal. In so far as you and I are concerned the consequence of their success in this insolent and most inconsiderate demand would be just this. Admit the propriety of abolishing. Admit the propriety of abolishing restrictive duties and in comes foreign sugar. Sugar is now a necessary of life, and as sure as they are successful in the Corn will they also assail the sugar prohibitory duties. In fact the parties here are working against both. You say the Ministers will never turn round, and sacrifice so important a branch of our National Wealth at the beck of men who in all other things are the open and indefatigable enemies of our Establishments. But if they can be maintained in power and pay they will stoop to any sacrifice. My only hope is that the Conservative Minority and the House of Lords will strangle the shameless attempt, more especially as my Lord Glenelg as Mr Charles Grant came in and carried this in 1828 the Bill which now regulates the Corn Laws. The sugar market is doing well. There are 68 ships home from Demerara in Ballast. That speaks sadly for that Colony. If you can make your customary crop that which at one time I feared was to have been fairly "bitched" will grow into a spoon "rayther" wide for your mouth. i.e. that you will make a fortune. Sugars will and must be very high. It still needs at the present time 4/ to put it equal to 1838, and the winter promises to be open so that the communication will be free, and the consumption also, and in consequence receive no check. Jamaica will not do. The policy adopted by the House of Assembly is bad. That House may be, and I believe it is, quite right in their struggle for privilege, but there is some discretion even in the assertion of privilege, and I should think very little of the man who would stand stargazing while I picked his pocket. They are all well in the country. If you except my youngest brother James about whom there appears to be hanging some constitutional malady. His brother the Dr has adopted a new mode of treatment from which I apprehend a good result. My Mother is strong and lively. She is a pluckie old Calach, and will I hope live to see me married and the customary et ceteras about me. I hear very often and very regularly from our friend Sir Neil Menzies. The Highland Society (The Highland and Agricultural) of Scotland have made him their Honorary Secretary. He is very proud of the honour and very industrious in the cause of the Society. The weather has been stormy beyond all example. Houses and chimneys, trees & stacks and all whirling about as if they had become animated and were competing for the best dances of the reel of Tulloch. The bestial in the country have had good times from the want of snow, and generally speaking we have not had much frost and what we have had has not been very severe. I have been expecting to hear from you and still do by some of the Packets. Whenever you write, and that cannot be too often your Letter will be most welcome.

390305DSILB John Gray. I had yesterday by the hands of your Pater four hundred and fifty pounds and have now to enclose my [note] for that amount. I do not contemplate any more renewals and did not trouble my Brother for his name to the enclosed considering that your security is sufficient without it. I must remark that you fell into the same mistake as I did in calculating the date when due of the Bill per £750. There are only 28 days in February, thence the Bill being dated 29th October due 2nd/3rd Inst. This alteration was made by the bank here, but no intimation of the alteration communicated to me, and it was only on retiring it yesterday that I became aware that 3rd was substituted for your 4th. These little irregularities are annoying to me and I must guard against them in future as much as I can. We have accounts in town from Trinidad to 23rd January. The people were working very well but demanding high wages.

390319DSI. Janet Irvine, heir to John Stewart sells one quarter of Garth, Trinidad to William Taylor, resident manager, for £1100 subject to Eccles' 1829 mortgage of £3017-4s for which he will be responsible for one quarter of interest. Payment from crops.

390401DSILB to Mr Alex. King. I thank you for you intimation that I may have the cottage. The rent being thirty pounds for the six months. The only matter about which I feel any doubt is the "articles of bedding to" which are not to be left as possessed by Captain McDonald. I have not seen the Captain to ascertain what these are nor do I wish it. Perhaps you would leave the cottage as he left it till I see it on Saturday first and as you may not need the bedding during the summer months we will agree I am quite sure very easily about that and the other articles. You will see that I trust entirely to your courtesy and liberality and I assure you, you will find me very reasonable and accommodating. Do I trouble you too much in begging that you would look after a man for the ? If I do, I will call upon you at half past ten on Saturday at the office when we can see about this. I am very well pleased I am become your tenant and beg you to believe me etc. etc.

390413DSILB to John Losh. I had your letter as expected before that dated "from myself solo" reached me. The the latter was written on the 16th February as a mutual friend rendereth the vernacular I had fully expected some papers or some inkling into the valuation effected, or other negotiations for or with Taylor, but as no news is good news. I apprehend I shall have all necessary information by the Jno. Scott. So for the present that matter may rest. Mr Reid and I will I fancy settle the bill for £263, and as you very properly observe, you need not help the gentleman out of the wood, more particularly as you might bring my Dundee correspondent upon your tops. I am not quite relieved and much pleased to find that I know of all the claims against me in so far as they have been rendered or are known to you. When those sent in are technically and properly established, I will be no bar to these settlements. We must I see abandon my scheme for helping the labourers to clothes and food. There seems to be indeed and expansion of their long suppressed appetite for luxury, and in so far as that expansion leads to exertion for the gratification of that appetite, and for a reasonable and equitable consideration it is all very well. Taylor will do famously I think on Garth. You say he is making rum and highly approve of his so doing. You and he must always judge better than I can of what is best to be done pro bono publico at the same time as I have promised Molasses to our mutual friends for the past years freights you will see that all the Molasses not made into rum be sent home. I calculate upon 200 Hhds, or at least 180 from Garth this year. I shall be glad that you continue your drafts when you choose to pass them. The Rubicon is passed, and I am at all times in such credit as to be ready "and no mistake". Bear that in mind for the future, and bear in mind too however that I would much rather receive than pay away money. You sent the order for the slates very late. The Eccles have put up the Louisa for charter. No other ship is going soon bar the Hotspur and she is shut against every thing saving and excepting "small boxes". I have then sent the slates from Liverpool with a few to complete my list and 2 , and these go out by the Diadem to sail next week. We are in a very extraordinary state here with all our Colonial Markets. The prices current and the Ministerial prints generally by direct misstatements on their part of insinuated tergiversations on ours, and on yours, have so written the buyers into the belief that all is going on to admiration in the Colonies and particularly Jamaica, that we are positively at a dead lock. Devil a cask sold here in all this month. I fancy 2/ off from the highest point would not induce buyers to do business. As the saying is he that will be Cupar maun to Cupar, We shall see by and bye. In the meantime the Ministry have got leave to bring in a bill to suspend the Constitution of Jamaica for 5 years. It perhaps were as well that Jamaica were governed by Orders in Council, Our being so is our great blessing, still there are faults on both sides. Treachery and Tyranny on the part of government and foolhardiness and severity on the part of the Assembly. It is a very pretty quarrel as it stands. Ayrshire will be carried for the Conservatives by Lord Melbourne. The Election 10 days hence.

390504DSI to WSI. My Dear Willie, This letter will reach you earlier than Sandy & after reading it you can address & send it 'oop the Glen' to him. I have seen what you propose should be done for Clementina. I will implement my share most willingly. I can do this I think without any fear. It will however be

Clementina's legacy from John paid in advance, & the £200 must in the mean time be charged against our mother. The Estate & myself have no room on the debit side just for the present. This then makes up £550 which we are understood as having provided for our sister so far. You seem to expect that Charlie's friends will do something for him. Not one shilling will he get from them. I yesterday wrote my mother on this head & it is just as well that the old Chap were not spoken to till my letter to Mother & Charlie to you reached you. I am altogether opposed to Charlie's investing any money on landing. This he should not do for a year after he gets out. Till he gains experience & has time to look about him. If I be right in this we must not boggle at the £700 - £800 which he should invest to yield him a subsistence in addition to his practise, he will need some means of subsistence when he arrives, Everything in S Australia is dear & the population of Adelaide small & many doctors there cultivating practise already & unless Charlie can turn his hand to farming I do not see what he can do better. He comes here on Monday & I will introduce him to the Company's agent here from whom, tho very much a gowk we may get some information. I know that for a portion of the increase of stock & wool you get a Man resident to look after & tend your flock, but I do not think it in the main prudent to buy land for our flock till you have weighed well the the probable position of roads, canals, water, locality etc and besides and above all we will not get over the difficulty of where the £700 or £800 is to come from. I think that John's legacy to mother £600 can be paid a year hence that would do provided we can get the old grumbler at the Port to give security for that on his son's account. We should if possible make Charlie cover any amount which we give our sister by an equal amount, or an annuity over the Port which I fancy will be his. Sandy & you must act with great tact here, But looking on Charlie's means of getting money or done I think we must see during his stay here what we can do in the way of some government appointment or something of that sort on the other side. On Wednesday I will write you or Sandy. In the meantime we have gone well in having £550 provided. We have precious little time you will observe, but once Charlie were appointed to a Ship & everything done so far, perhaps the Bohally Glowerourorum may come down with £300. If he did that would facilitate our arrangement most materially. Lord Brougham has given judgement on the Auchterader case, a confirmation absolute of the Lower Court. He reads the popular men one of the most cutting lectures you ever read. He hopes they will not set themselves in opposition to the "Acts of King, Lords & Commons. The Statute Law of the Land." What next? Rare Assembly this one. You see ? they are without leaders on the wild side, no Buchanans or Cunninghams. 168 wild to 149 moderate & 21 neuter so far as we have the returns. The wild men are done for. You can form no idea of the moderate & hearty satisfaction with which the real friends of the Church have received the intimation given. Reform will be duly attended to.

390528DSI. My dear Sandy. It was only this morning that I decided that I could not at the moment go into Edinburgh. I have the 2nd Scotts Sugar on hand today at least our lot of 32 hhds and I am shipping mules and Goods for Trinidad on Thursday, & the Calypso will be here any day, so here I am pinned safely against the grain for I desired very much to have seen you. There was a division of 8 Hhds of the Garth Sugar, very inferior, under mark T which I yesterday sold at 64/- . I will sell the 32 1S/4 [this is another mark The S is over the 4] today at 66/- I hope. I have the deed of sale of one fourth of the Garth Estate to Mr Taylor before me - as also the valuation and inventory of that estate - the valuation was made by Horatio Neilson Huggins and John Thomas Miller - and is rated at £7505 stg. This Losh says he considers a full valuation. Losh in his letter simply refers to the Deed of Sale. He expresses his hope that all will be found satisfactory - Taylor's fourth part is £1854 6s stg. He is bound to pay one fourth part of the mortgage due Eccles & Co on 2nd Jany part £3017 4s, being £754 6s stg under the head of a mortgage agreement and £1100 stg as purchase money - with interest at 5%. Taylor is bound to reside upon the Estate & to consign the produce to my mother's address till the debt is paid off. He pays 1/4 of the stores and expenses for this year - The mortgage 1/4 to my mother. He pays no money down. His 1/4 share of the profits go in the first instance to his mortgage

account (£754 6s) When that is paid off then to credit of purchase money (£1100 stg). To be allowed a 'reasonable sum' for managing & lastly he is bound to give my mother over in the event of his decease his share of that may be valued by a appraiser. Now for my commentary. I consider the valuation very low. So do Eccles & Donald, but we all agree in this that Taylor should purchase on the most favourable terms. £9,000 to £12,000 was my expectation. The terms are easy for Taylor, but there are to counterbalance these some peculiarities such as compulsory residence, unusual, & the binding of his heirs to give over his share to my mother in case of his death. Then I will still take care that the reasonable sum for management be very reasonable so that all things considered tho Taylor has a good bargain we have a good manager & a few hundred pounds are well sacrificed supposing Eccles & me better judges than Losh & the appraiser as to the value of the Estate. Taylor makes capital Sugar but he will not make 200, nor 180, Hhds, or I shall be very greatly surprised - all depends upon weather. I shall have £2200 drawn for last year and this year's expenses. My Bill to Gray, £1800 to Eccles & £600 more so I have a year before me. I have not made up my mind till the Calypso come in. Then you should hear. I am getting very uneasy about Charlie McDiarmid's notions. He is a miserable businessman & seems to me to have been fiddling away his time. Will he take a surgeonship in a Clyde or L'pool ship. Why should he dandle after London. Do decide upon something. I have written my mother very strongly & have spoken ditto to Clementina. There must be no marriage till all & every minor preliminary is settled. When they have their money and their berths secured.? ?..and all cut & dry, then marry and off. But no marriage till then remember & quote me as immovable in my determination that to what I have here and elsewhere written & spoken I will adhere. Do you see Charlie & see too what he aims at. What has he done. They have much to learn I fear. The old chap has not written or been to Cluny. Oh! you moderates. I am glad I am one. Our day is coming. I am off to the Sample Room. God bless.

390621DSILB to Donald Smith. Manager W. Bank. I desire to open a cash account with the Western Bank for £2500. The securities I offer are my Mother, Mrs Irvine, and my Brother, the Revd. Alexander Robertson Irvine. I trust on many considerations the Directors will not reject Mrs Irvine's name, but should they determine to do so, I shall procure the security of Sir N. Menzies, Bart, Perthshire.

Donald Smith Private

I send you an application for a cash account of the nature suggested by you. I have now to repeat that my Mother has an Estate in Trinidad worth £10,000 and that my Brother has by his wife (she is dead) £3,000. Sir Neil Menzies again lately purchased an Estate for which he paid £35000 and that says eno' for him. I am most anxious that you should recommend the acceptance of my Mother's name. You are aware that my decision is perfectly legitimate. Indeed as I said I could raise money as I required it upon my personal security: but seeing that having money provided to my hand, I should be asked to make my business with you all the are profitable for the Bank and I hope you will draw the "leather" out as far as you can. Next year I shall have the favour to

390626DSILB PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL Robert Roxburgh. Some week ago with, the concurrence of our mutual friend Mr Donald Smith, who saw no reason to doubt either the success or the propriety of the application I asked for a cash account of the Wester offering the most undoubted and unquestionable security therefore. In the mean time however we have accounts that the Bank of England discounts only at 5 1/2 percent and yesterday the Directors declined "at this time" entertaining the proposal. You will understand I have funds eno' for my immediate instalment to E & Co. on the 1st. You will also recollect that I stated to you at our last interview here that I did not contemplate renewals neither did I desire to incur the expense of such, but I must provide for you £1000 and such of mine due the 2nd July, and I now beg to intimate that I will be at your office tomorrow by 12 or 1 o'clock, that we may arrange the matter. I will have immediately produce home, but you have seen that heretofore my imports have been right, while my responsibilities are congregated about the beginning of July. I regret our friend Mr Gray is absent. I trust that you and I can arrange the matter satisfactorily

for me and with perfect security for you. Calling your attention to the interdict at the head of my letter I am very truly, etc.

390628DSIto ARI. Do nothing as regards the Cash Credit. I have done nothing myself for the present. The state of the money market since I wrote you is such that I deem it prudent to wait for a little more favorable terms & I can do without it. Losh instead of fulfilling my injunctions by sending me produce as it was carted, disposed of it to suit the convenience of Eccles' ships & I can do nothing more than remonstrate. A merchant must never want money if he wants to thrive, and a reputation once made always made. We have no vessel direct to Glasgow from Trinidad but two are at hand. The weather down to the 16 May was fine. On that day they had rain but no thunder, so that the wet season may not have then begun & we may see it continue tolerable down to the end of May. I am about the luckiest, perhaps I should say discreetly, fellow that is. I sold out my 30 Hhds Sugar per Calypso at 64/6 on Monday last. Since then the market is down 1/- to 1/6. Some thought I was doing wrong but the moment I found the Bank of England in difficulties I saw the immediate consequences would be a temporary depression of all interests & mine inter alia. Some of my speculative young friends now laugh very uncomfortably & some of the older ones would like very well to be in my shoes. I have settled matters so far as regards this surgeonship that ?[I fix] and Clemy is informed on Monday or Thursday next for the 5th August. Have you written to Edin as regards any settlement. I refer you to what I have said to Clemy. Things must be urged on & I go in more for that purpose than from any desire to interfere. I sent your box. It will wait you in Scotts Pitlochrie. There is an awfu rickle in it of Sundries and what they may turn out to be you must see & report. I have heard from Willie of James' state. I am very uneasy about him but by no means from my present knowledge without hope. I hope I may find my hopes realised. I am very busy today & they are eternally shifting our mails. Now the Perth one starts at 1/4 past one, & I am always hard up for time. We have no fear of the Sugar Market ultimately but I am not so clear that the ultimately is near us. We shall see, Matters are least are mending on the other side. Some of the smaller Planters are ?breaking & we get their gangs. It is now money and labour. ?[There's} a greater monopoly shewing that we had under the old regime. The Eccles' will be immensely wealthy. Nothing locally new. Plenty grain & we needed it as well as you. I am [tear] but having lots of work & lots of [tear] as well as you. This will be the year of my life to look back & so am ? through it I must. Every thing is rotten all over the country, and the Court the rottenest thing in it. When the present men may go out at no man may say, but they are near governing us by means of a minority & with Court at their back they may run themselves into an impeachment. We have sent 7 millions gold out of the Country to pay for grain. So much for no corn laws & the reciprocity system.

390624DSI To ARI. I have not heard from you for some time. I hope you are all well at the Manse. I shall see you in a fortnight most probably & leave all gossip till then. In the meantime to business. We have news of Trinidad to the 8th Ult. Then the weather was fine and Sugar making progressing heavily. We have had complaints of idleness and indolence on the part of the labourers but to play off the long dry season against these will insure an average Crop tho a little additional outlay will be incurred in its production. There must have been 130 Hhds made early in May on Garth. On 9th the Calypso arrived 8 days ago I had 130 Hhds. Taylor has difficulties but he is in great spirits. I am glad to say that the other islands have withdraw the restriction on emigration & that in consequence Trinidad where wages pro tem are very high had for a beginning 70 effectives over in April & I have no doubt but that this the sanction of the Home Government & the exertions of the Trinidadians themselves & the countenance & commendations of Buxton & the ante Slavery people that before next Crop we may have 3000 Labourers additional imported into Trinidad from the neighbouring Colonies. The consequences morally and physically will startle you. I have seen old Burnley's correspondence with the Colonial Office. I have heard young Burnley (Chmn of the W.I. Assoc) account of his and the London, Bristol & Dublin

deputations interviews with Normanby. ? all I have the pleasure to assure you that Buxton & the Ante-Slavery Chaps have taken ?me by the hand & tho they will discountenance Coolie or ?Maltese emigration, they will countenance emigration from the neighbouring Colonies into Trinidad. Trinidad lately placed £1000 in Buxton's hands for the education of their Labourers & have professed the greatest desire to furnish him with all the means & prove necessary for carrying out ?his hobby. The remit is that he wants to crowd Trinidad with labourers where he will convert them into Christian by the bakers' dozen leaving every 13th man for ?. Mcleod the new Trinidad Governor too is sanguine that Trinidad is to do well. In his repeated interviews with Burnley expressed his entire concurrence in our views & wishes both as regards our present position & the means of our extrication therefrom. Now all this preamble ?ready to what I meant the "business" mentioned in the beginning should consist of. You are aware for you have in one instance at least been a party to it that I have raise money on my personal security on Bills. These Bills never got into general circulation because they were granted to Gray & cashed by him at the Parent bank here where they were retired. When the Calypso came in I then made up my mind to two things. The one as to the greatest probable amount I should have to pay out this year & till next Crop came in & the other that I should not grant or accept any more Bills. I consequently after considering the matter made application two days ago for a cash account with my Bank for £2500 offering my Mother & you as securities, or (failing the Bank not taking my mother being a Lady for they are not fond of ladies) that then she should grant her guarantee to Sir Neil who would I think so far accommodate me. This application is necessary. It is one which is daily made. & I have no doubt that the Bank will at once grant my request. In this way my Account is kept steady. If I want the money it is there. If I do not, it is also costing me nothing. I shall write you again on Wednesday & you shall hear more as I did not take any decided step till I heard by the Calypso I could not sooner communicate with you, but since I have made up my mind to the step I have taken I will go on with it confident that it is both perfectly safe & absolutely necessary. I have not had Charlie McDiarmid's Testimonials. You are all doing a great deal too much & ?. This week I hope to offer him an appointment. In the mean time I read him a lecture and pointed out the consequence of his indecision. For say my sister says 'wait London' wait till the Autumn is past & then wait for Spring & then 'no Song no Supper'. He may be angry but that will do him good. I have made formal application. If he refuses my offer he will have done foolishly. Half past one, Monday. Yours of the 20th to hand. I had no objection to the ceremony coming off on the 8th or 9th provided Charlie would sail from Clyde in August. Ten days before won't do. If I can send him his appointment this week it may come off about the 9th. So as you like any day will please me only that I am most anxious he had an appointment. Take the fruits I give you as they are intended. I see that in nothing you give cause your grumbling, I am sorely distressed about poor James. You have done very wisely indeed in advising them to take a certainty. I wish the business done. I have had an especial deal of anxiety about it and I only fear from your despairing opinion of James that we are not done with it. So they should take every care this Autumn. Whatever may happen. Have you done anything in the way of assisting Charlie to money. What the Devil's he doing. See & prepare yourself with some galloping aims for Blair so you will have a ? the week and all you ? therein

390702DSILB to Donald Smith. I have £970 in the Western and have to retire a bill for £1000 today. I shall need a little money also on the 8th so that you will do me a favour by allowing me £600 for one or more months as you may determine.

390724DSILB to John Losh. I think I could work advantageously more ways than one by doing a little sugar importing and eke in "the delicate article of Molasses". Suppose you purchased and shipped me 50 Hhds sugar next crop which you could purchase I should fancy at much the terms of this season 5 to 6, and further suppose you shipped me during next crop 100 puncheons Molasses, which I also fancy could and can be purchased @ 2/9 or thereabouts on an average of I840, you would do me an especial favour, and

forthe shipping of which 50 hhds sugar and 100 puns Molasses, you have my injunctions. For these respective shipments you will draw upon me. Let however your bills if convenient be remitted to Eccles & Co, and as a general rule, where you can act upon it, i.e. do not draw upon me by the vessel bringing home the produce, but by any other, immediately before (sailing) at the same time, or immediately after. I do not desire my [speculation] to be other than sub rosa et in pace, and have no fancy to their being dragged into the light of a jealous scrutiny as to the Carriers, that will depend upon circumstance. I shall hand you when I can find room for them 50 hhds packs and 100 Mols puns. If these go by Eccles and Co ships, you will of course receive them "frecht" free for return, and in that case, the sub rosa hint need not be attended to. But in any case, I aim at the 3/6 freight home, which I shall nearly realise by sending the packs out free, or paying freight therefor and Molasses home at 3/-. You will be advised Now I pray you to understand that tho' I calculate upon some profit, I aim more at accommodation. I have always more need of money at the beginning of the season than the end, add to which I pay the Eccles off on 1 July 1840 and what I desire is that I receive as early shipments of sugar, no matter how small the lots, and of Molasses as you can find room for. If I need to work with them, I have them, if not so much the better return it may be for the spec. I for example last season wrote for early imports and trusted to them. Now that is the Devil often. I have been put to a world of inconvenience often, and tho' know there is a struggle and competition for large early exports, do I pray you extend as much favour to me for one year, as that I shall be saved disappointment. The kind of sugar had better be brown and not too fine, so that the casks be good and well filled. It can hardly be too low if dry. I need only repeat that you will greatly oblige me by bearing in mind my request as to early shipments and the prodigious accommodation such will afford. That is my motive in asking consignments at all. Things colonial are very well in this country. The market is rising. I do not think we are to see much higher prices. I do not desire we should. For the present there are influences at work which will keep us where we are, till your Islanders have your produce realised and in hard cash. The cash is hard eno' this year and you too on your side have helped to make it more so. Money matters are not at all in a healthy state, but we must hope soon to see the Exchequer more favourable, and gold finding its way back into the Bank of England. The Chancellor of the Exch. wants that capacity and decision so essential to monetary arrangements as these so often do on time and opportunity. The present ministry will be in office some time longer. I have heard nothing new lately from London. You will be vastly pleased with McLeod. Burnley McGregor and co like him much. If he go out from hence, and there is a chance he may, we must give him a dinner that he may see we Trinidadians where Glasgow men are unapproachable thro the smoke of smoking turtle! My youngest brother, James is I fear on his deathbed. The old woman is well. So are all the others. I shall be north I dread immediately. Man was made to mourn. I shall regret most sincerely the loss of my Brother to whom I have always been much attached. PS In the Co: Gazette I now send you you will find a table of the rate of wages paid all over the W.I. Colonies. The Col Society have taken up the question with the Colonial Office, and mean to circulate among the old Colonies the rates paid in the new and to influence by every possible means emigration from Barbadoes Ex. Gra: where they have 4 times your population with considerably less than one half your surface. Good luck to the Slavrry Gentlemen, and much fruit of their labours. We are now the most ardent advocate the poor labourer has, and utterly denounce all who would withhold any one of those privileges involved in the great boon, and we contend in particular for the free influence of intercourse and competition among the colonies. That the labourer may be able to carry his labour to the best market. In this way are we working with the party whom once we abhorred, but tender noses don't do in these times. Barbados has 4 times your population. We contend that it can be only by an act of injustice that she can keep a surplus population to depress labour below its legitimate value, for she is not the W. Indies, nor is she entitled to post interests of other and more important colonies to her own. She must give you of her super abundance, and when once the value of labour comes to be more generally assimilated all over the colonies, Trinidad will not pay the AI field labourers 8 to 10 dollars. The case for Guiana

and you is particularly strong, and don't wonder when you hear of a very brisk ?in Barbadoes, Grenada etc. the work of our quondam enemies, now our "very worthy and approved good masters". They will send you, there is no doubt, a plethora of bibles and tracts, and other more learned cogitations and recreations for your great and glorious free. These you will acknowledge with all becoming gravity of face and diction, so that we shall realise what Buxton and others aim at, convertin' of Trinidad into a moral and spiritual Lazaretto. Whoever invented humbug was an amazingly clever fellow, and I daresay if you happen to meet Dr Wardlaw "in your parts" you will give him your proverbial luxuries, a land crab and a coloured McLeod when he reaches you will give you a hitch. His policy if he became independent will be to govern Trinidad for Trinidad's interests and her individual interests alone. That's the man for your money and no mistake.

390814DSILB to John Losh. I had your letter of 1st ulto and when you do come out you are like a Giant in your might. Come out oftener if you please and I promise you "David" will not march against the modern, but most Christian Goliath. That makes a beginning and there are fewer harder things to make than a beginning. In so far as I am individually concerned this year will be a thought troublesome, but on the whole the Garth has done good, and when we pay off our friends in full I shall then be able to devote some of our "righteous earnings" to the Estate's sustentation and mine own. Before your Memorial to the Queen came home the W.I. Association here had remonstrated against the connection between Barbados and Trinidad. Your memorial and their protest are almost word for word, and I have no doubt, from what Normanby said to the Deputation from hence, that he is willing to recommend the desired divorce, and dissolve the connection authorised by Glenelg. So you may, as you do by anticipation flatter yourself with citory and independence. It has been matter of urgent remonstrance with me in sundry quarters to wit, that since the days of McQueen we find no Newspaper so poor as do us reverence. This I have of late attempted to remedy. The Constitutional of this city is cleverly edited. The field is almost unoccupied; and on the eve of a new era the Editor could not generally speaking or as his writing would affect our Colonial Empire desire a more beneficial topic, while in particular and locally speaking he would recommend his paper to those who are our Magni Pueri, and who have much good things to bestow. Then again the Colonial Gazette is passed into the hands of Rintoul Editor of the Spectator. I send you Rintouls leader. I have written him at some length, really tho' James McQueen was not the kind of thing. The fortiter in re is very well with its corrective or the suaviter in modo. Our advocacy must be temperate and conciliatory. Better flatter fools than fight them and we should aim at keeping the doors and the ears of the Colonial Officex open to us. Your policy has been matter of special commendation here, and all are agreed upon the conciliatory and most meritorious course your Trinidadians in general, and you the Honourable John Losh in particular have adopted. I have put the Editor of the Gazette up to the iniquity of the connection with Barbados, and tho' I am very far from sanctioning or approving his general views, I have assured myself that these views are most correct as regards us and therefore Monsieur Rintoul shall do "mind office". Take you, mine honest friend, good care of these same banks. That you are and deserve to be a "great people einterly" is most true, but I do assure you that the experience of the Merchants here dealing with the Mauritius of Banking in that Colony is one which cost them not a little. I have no means of judging of the practical working of your Bank, but I am disposed to think that they may come to establish and regulate the Exchange, and affect we merchants by giving any direction they please to consignments.

390814DSI to ARI I cannot budge hence at the present. I am much occupied today writing per packet & I must not lose sight of my last imports. I will see you at Clunie before Clemy leaves as I shall be there to see them all - that will be in 3 weeks hence. I was most anxious to ?be in, but I am always catching summat to prevent me when most anxious to take the ? for a day. I wrote Sir Neil at great length yesterday. I am bringing him out & Judging by the Italics, printing and elaborate pointing in his letters to me I can see he desires to shine. The last two days have been of the "Sacred Month" except a few more drunken men than usual

you would never discover that the period of "moral regeneration" had dawned upon us. Today there was to have been a Convention meeting here & may be but they are very long of beginning. We have had neither tuck of drum or squeal of fife & I fancy 1700 Constables sworn in on Monday last must nurse their wrath a little longer. ? Sugar better & things look cheerily ? at home. Money scarce & 6% Discounts the Go. I am not in immediate want & after duly considering the pros & cons will let you know. 6% for accommodation is fearful, but I must go on. All friends well. I think I mentioned having had a long private letter from Losh. My Crop 160 Hhds or thereabouts and matters going on well. The Supplies hence moderate, and once I have the Eccles' cleared off, the Estate could have have? ?play, in having some of its returns applied to its sustenance. Great returns from the Moors. Burnley & Eccles in Ayrshire 22 ?[looks 'than"] on the 12th. Wm Eccles Jnr 11 at Hafton. For my own part I put a piece of heath in my coat & 'covered' every crow what passed me in the railway coming in, so as to get up a sham 12th. Weather dry, cold & windy. All friends well. I was at Garnkirk at dinner yesterday, the family there old & Young in status quo. Nothing new locally speaking. James when I last heard was better. I hope he may continue so. PS I sent Lady M a handsome barrel of Limes. Enough to poison Rannoch. These went yesterday. I fancy the destination is conformable, do you? I could think of no one else so worthy of being complimented.

390808DSI to ARI I had yours of the 6th in due course. I have nothing of late to say, but now Trinidad vessels begin to drop in and we are once more in correspondence with our friends on the other side. I have two letters from Losh today of 28 June & 1 July. My Crop will be 160 Hhds at the outside. That is very well if my engagements were paid off, but with £1800 to pay before and on 1 July 1840, I will need to look elsewhere for some aid. Now that I know what I am to expect to the west I shall immediately strike a Balance and on comparing my liabilities and means, take steps to get the wherewithal to liquidate the former. This I shall all arrange before Monday. I will if possible see you in Edinr on Tuesday evening. I am anxious we should meet for my position if by no means desperate is very critical. I shall bring my W.I. Letters with me. They will speak for themselves. Matters on the whole are progressing satisfactorily on the other side. The list of supplies is economical, and I think once I had this year past I should do something considerable. Taylor seems to be a good manager, You have heard that Charlie is appointed to the Tomatin to sail next month. Port Phillip should in the first instance be their destination. Eventually I should think New Zealand will go ahead of all the other three. They have much before them but Youth is the season of hope & with exertion & some prudence they will at least be in no worse position than their neighbours. I have been occupied for an hour on business. I must close for the Post. God willing we meet in Edinr on Tuesday evening. I will expect so for the present. I have the most painful apprehension of James's state. Indeed I do not hope that he is to be long with us poor fellow. It is well that the old woman keeps up so wonderfully. I am also delighted that my pet Elizabeth grows so strongly. She is in every respect the nicest little creature I ever know and her intelligence is beyond praise.

390819DSI to John Gray. My youngest brother is dying

390824DSI to Dun Stewart. I am greatly concerned to say that my youngest brother James John is I fear on his deathbed. He is only 23 and as fine a young fellow as you would desire for a friend. My poor Mother will feel the blow much. He has been much with her, but this world had been one of trials to her, and she will bear this one as she has done those past, with that calm resignation which not only evinces the Christian character but the Christian's practice.

390905DSI to ARI Glasgow. I found very much more to do on my return than I anticipated and I had no time to attend to your wine or anything else beyond the Counting House for this week. I got here quite safely on Friday afternoon last. The weather since then, with the exception of two days nearly dry, has been most alarming. There is no saying where we will land as a nation. In the mean time we are politically, commercially & atmospherically rotten. Money matters have not

been in the same state since 1825, if so bad then, & you will see that Spring Rice has ridden out of the scrape on the back of a Peerage. These appointments of Thompson & Shiel are perfectly incomprehensible and insane. There is no arrival from the West since I saw you. The Hamilton & ? should, one or both, have been here ere now and great is the inconvenience to which I am put by their non arrival. Gray has withdrawn his former accommodation. "The times" are his excuse & the excuse I am sorry to say is too valid. You can't raise the money by a cash account in Glasgow just now because of "the Times" and with my produce at sea I am most uneasy. I have fortunately no immediate call for money, but where the funds with which I am to weather winter & Spring are to come from I do not at the moment say. If I find it necessary I shall give up my shipments to all except the Garth, but that only in extremity. I have considered sundry ways and means the nature of which I shall communicate by & bye. A good harvest would make money very much more plenty & I trust we may soon see weather to induce a conviction that Harvest may be secured. You can do nothing at home. That is most unlucky. Every little however assists, and I beg that you would consider whether you have the means of raising any money till we see if matters mend. I can afford 6% for money, and with so much done in times past & so little comparatively speaking to do for the future, I would make every present sacrifice to go on & meet my engagements. In the meantime I am taking every precaution & tho I have never been so hard up, I have had severe rubs before now too & got over them. I have seen Reid since I came here & every thing & arrangement will be completed early next month - the 10th - for the Tomatin departure. There will be at least £60 for Charlie besides his passage money. I shall when more at leisure write him. Captain Campbell has been at this Tournament - back to Greenock where he encountered some stray friend with whom he stopped some days. He then set away for Ayr where he is at the Hunt. He called here on Tuesday evening at 1/2 past 10pm to see me & left his card & apology that he had not found me in! He returns again tomorrow when I may chance to see him. The Perthshire Highlanders made a capital figure at Eglintown. Old Londonderry was always with them. I took extreme pleasure in drilling them. They were a decided hit. Sugar is dull & so is Molasses & so is everything & everybody. I hope Emily, to whom I beg best regards is well & Elizabeth & Miss Hall - to everyone my remembrances are sent.

390903DSILB to James Robertson. Did you ever see or hear of such a season? We are politically, commercially and atmospherically rotten. With abundance on the fields the rain pour daily here. Money in London is dear and Spring Rice has ridden out of the scrape on the back of a peerage. We as commercial men consider the destination of P. Thompson will be. on the same as Lord Durhams unhappy Mission as Vice Presidet of the Board of Trade will play the Devil with us. All the moves are insane and the principle now is to select for the situation the individual least fitted for the same. We will not soon forget Whig Legislation. I am very much pressed for money. I have had heretofore no difficulty because we were abroad and at home in what is called an easy state. I am now after having paid off some £7000 of debt since March 1837 encumbered with outlay that I begin toward . I am owing the Eccles' just £2000 in toto which must be paid £900 with interest on 1 January 1840 and £900 with interest in 1 July of the same year. The outlay for labour for 1838 and 1839, the latter being now paid cash in advance, and Garth due me £1500 placed me in a very delicate situation. You can't raise money here on a easy account and every commercial man is hoarding till the "jaw" is past, so that after having done so much I must about for some aid for which I will willingly pay 6 percent. You writers have sometimes money to invest probably scarcely in the way and with the personal security I have to offer. The Garth Estate is tho' not in this country and is probably not acceptable, but it is worth my while saying that I will give 6 percent for money and such security as I hope will satisfy you. Let me hear from you, and if you have any prospect of being able to assist nad any desire to see one in Edinburgh I would go infor an evening with much pleasure. Write me without delay on this head

390907DSILB to William Robertson. Wrote him this day in acknowledgement of his letter of 6th inst. replying to my query as stated in former. recapitulated my

desire for money and states again terms etc. James but William would write him as today. Will not fail I hope to do what he could in the matter.

390918DSILB to Duncan Stewart. I wrote you on the 24th August per Heyworth, and have now to write you by a vessel from this port, an occurrence now less rare than it used to be. I have met with a severe and very painful disappointment partly because I had overcalculated in the entire absence of information, and thus innocently my crop from Garth for this year and partly that from the scarcity of money, all customary and legitimate means of relieving accommodation have been closed. Then too my shipments of produce have been from the other side very small and very irregular. What with me who undertook in 4 years to pay £9000 of Mortgage debt and hence my disappointment in that to save myself I have been compelled to get my instalments postponed for 6 months. Now of bills I shall have to pay good £2500 for last crop, and this year's expenses, which are now you know paid cash, and to lessen my subsisting and prospective liabilities I must sacrifice you. I have determined to stop with your order, but 'skin foreskin' what will a man not rather do etc. That you will suffer much inconvenience I very readily believe, but tho' you do, I hope you will still receive your supplies thro' some other channel before spring. I intimated my determination to Mr Ronald, and tho' I could not ask him to take over and exhaust the order, I left him to offer to he did not do. In these circumstance there is nothing for it. The difficulty I have experienced has come upon myself most unexpectedly and by all our old friendship and the many kindnesses I have received I do assure you that I am extremely pained at the necessity imposed upon me. It will take me next year to clear up the old way, and I will try that the rubbish be thrown aside then. You will of course consider all I said of molasses in my letter 24 Aug. as in abeyance for the present. I shall communicate by and bye on this matter. In the meantime by misfortune is that I should have incurred so frightful a responsibility. But then who did foresee and who could have foreseen the reduction of the Drawback, and the abrogation of the emancipation act? So that indeed I am now after 2 and a half years toil and after having paid off £6700 besides all the contingent expenses obliged to tie by hands, and live for 6 months on salt and potatoes. Let me repeat my hopes that you will not ultimately and really suffer any great inconvenience. I might have given another colouring to my position, but in writing you I cannot doubt but that I write one who will shut up the intelligence in his heart and make the best excuse he can for circumstances over which I have in bulk no control If I could have served you I would. In the meantime I burst to receiving a bill from you by the Hamilla for last years stores. I can assure you that carrying on a W.I. property just now is no joke, and that I find to my very painful experience. I will write you by the William next month. My mother is wonderfully well. She is in very good spirits too. My sister and her husband will sail next month for Sydney. The Laird of Faskally is going for two years to the continent. and the Laird of Foss is going to the D...1. Campbell of Drumcharry was at one time lately thinking of returning to India but I believe he now remains at home. Sir Neil is in great force just now. My Brother the Minister of Foss was here last week. He is well. Dewar from Lochtaysde in Minister of Dull put in by the Whigs in spite of Sir Neil. The old chap is dead at least, I give the worms joy of him.

390918DSILB to John Losh. You have had sundry intimations, public and private of the unprecedented depression of all commercial interests in this country. In your last private letter alluding to an intimation conveyed by me in one of the many letters embraced in your reply which intimation was last spring, you say you are pleased to think that I had passed the rubicon. Much has occurred during summer and autumn both with you and here to make me wish most sincerely I were well over the stream. I had been in advance for the Garth and Stewart to some amount, and had always commanded money when I needed it. This summer this channel was closed against me, and that at a very short notice indeed. Then I have no produce coming in but at long intervals, and Taylor only in a letter dated 9 July says he was afraid to say what the Garth crop would be and then says it is 150 hhds including tierces altho' in his preceding Epistle he spoke of 170 to 200. I have had lots of Bills to accept for this year and instalments to pay with crops of 146 hhds

for 1838 and 150 hhds for 1839 and all now it appears thro' Grays injudicious management while the money market is in such a state as to preclude the hope of ordinary and customary accommodation from Banks. Yours and Taylor's Bills have been sent so as to accumulate all about the same period and with no produce arrived for nearly 7 weeks I found myself all at once in a very strange predicament. I have got out of it so far and hope successfully to weather through, but then' I was obliged to get our mutual friends the Eccles to postpone their January instalment of £900 till July and that then due 6 months later, and what I must regret to lessen by subsisting and prospective Liabilities by throwing Stewart overboard in toto, even after due consideration had obtained at one time that I should have been able to go on with his list of stores. Now the amazingly diminished crops, and the fact of my paying cash for labour and the colonial account for 1838, and the other circumstances alluded to will explain the nature and the occasion of the predicament, and I mean to make it the ground of an earnest and most friendly appeal to you on the score of future exports from the colony. I have written Taylor on the subject of his false delicacy in being 'afraid' to speak out, and I now hope that seeing how much I have to do you will let nothing interfere with your determination (for I am sure you will determine) to send me large and early shipments during 1840 and to seeing that as much is made of the Garth next year as can. You had no idea heretofore of the embarrassment the detention of my produce would occasion as tho' I often asked for early shipment I did not press the point as essential to my security. Believe it is as so now and act upon the conviction conte quis conte of course you will do nothing till I further advise you in regard to the sugar and Molasses written of in my private letter of 24th considered as in abeyance. You will too spare me in Bills till next crop like a good fellow if that can be done. I have just undone what I have been doing with Stewart and one or two more for two years, but then tho' I had paid £6,700 of debt I had much more to pay, and these prior responsibilities left me no choice. All things considered I have done every thing I think with discretion and have among evils chosen the least. All I have said is said to you as to my Brother and must be locked up in your heart till some after period when this jaw will become a reminiscence, with I trust most unpleasant consequences. I shall write you again per William. I do so now that you may know how matters stand in case you may have a spare crutch beside you.

390920DSILB to Fletcher. I yesterday met Mr Reid agent for the and the Jamaican owner of the Tamatin now preparing for Australia and they both mentioned that they had had a communication from you on the subject of your account, money etc. thro Mr Reid. It has occurred to me that from my intimacy with the Parties here, I should be able in the event of your determining to go by the Tomatin to arrange matters for you on more favourable terms than they would be disposed to grant a stranger and if you allow me I should have great pleasure in beating down the passage money to him making any other arrangement for your comfort and convenience. Mr Reid mentioned that your own passage would not be charged the usual amount provided your family and Stewarts went in the Tomatin. There is another ship about sailing, but she is not sent by the and consequently you want in security that they implement their agreements, and in the character of the vessel and the commander you cannot the same confidence. These two the India and Tomatin are the only two sailing during this year. My brother in Law and sister sail in the Tomatin and I hear of another relation who will probably sail too. The Tomatin will put to sea about the 10 Octob, not later and she has what adds, most materially to the health and comfort of cabin passengers a poop cabin and berths, baths, water closets etc. Mr Jamieson mentioned having handed you terms and a plan of the cabin and I shall be most happy to do anything I can for you in coming to terms, or in making any necessary arrangements you may desire consummated. The weather here is constantly wet. The grain begins to grow in the stook Etc.

391002DSI to ARI I received your letter dated Clunie & Foss in due course and proceed to answer them in their order. I have received and credited you with £684.8.6 I have also received £200 from James Robertson for which he has my acknowledgement in form, and which I have in the mean time waiting to help me

past the 9th currt. I observe in your letter of Saturday from Clunie that you say Robertson is in great hopes of getting £500 on loan. Should he succeed I shall receive £300 from him which will keep me easy for a month. I may here since I have mentioned Robertson say that I have sent him the receipt and discharge signed & endorsed & mentioned to James the urgency for money before the 9th current. I also stated as you desired the Garth debt due to E & Co. The gain on this year's account & the probable assets for next year. You state you think you can get a cash credit for £500 or £1000 with the Commercial. As I do not keep my account there I fear you will hardly succeed in this as the profit on such an account would offer no inducement to the Bank in such a year as this to grant one but you can try what can be done and if you fail I will hope if the harvest continue pretty regular to succeed here in that way myself when money becomes more plenty. You write as if you expect the money lately paid into my hands as well as the £500 which I hope to get from Edinr from Robertson in all £1184.8.6 to be paid out of next years Crop. I understood when here that you were to lend the estate the money in the Royal Bank & the £300 in Foss, in all £1000 or nearly that sum at Interest and I expect that the loan of £500 for which Robertson is now negotiating shall remain over next year too. The only sum I can guarantee paying out of next year's Crop will be any sum raised to retired Gray's Bill for £535 of which anon. You have not changed your mind since you were here, for then the understanding was that the money in the Royal Bank and in Foss should be invested in the Garth sine die and as I said so must the £500 coming from Edinr as far as I can at present see. It is perfectly impossible that the Estate can met these & its prospective liabilities out of one Crop but it will out of two, and it will be 1841 before any money save about £600 presently raised can be repaid. The rate of interest will be 5% I fancy. I next come to where you advise recourse to Ronald. I had a long interview with him yesterday in my Counting House. He says that Mr Eccles & he cheerfully acquiesced in our request for the extension of time for paying our remaining two instalments. 'I jist say it wud be a pity to push David poor fellow & well just gie him his ain time.' But they decided that the concession should stop. I made no bones with Ronald, who sat long with me & thought much over all I had said to him, but he would not promise to do anything with the Bill for £400 due on the 9th which he was compelled to discount but added he would see me when going about in a day or two. He does not consider the case in any way desperate with such an estate at our back. He says that I can very easily get money for Gray's Bill retired & one way was by your accepting my draft at 6 months, to be retired out of next years Crop & which he will help me get discounted. He sees no difficulty in arranging this and as I said considered that I can experience little difficulty in retiring all my engagements. He will I fancy consult with the old man who will not mend the matter for me, so that I wrote Robertson, as I stated, that I had urgent need for money by the 9th. I still hope when you have such a confident opinion from such a man as Ronald that the £500 marked as probable may be forthcoming, more particularly that I have great recourse in a cash account which would enable me to do much which I cannot now promise to do & which with ordinary luck I am sure of getting for £1000. So much in answer to your first letter that from Clunie. That from the Manse came along with the Bill and receipt which were yesterday received and yesterday sent to Robertson. I find nothing of any moment in the beginning but something which I will notice soon after when I have answered your observation about the Estate. I have answered your PS from the Manse already about Ronald. Tho he declined for the moment retiring the £400 Bill he will see me in a day or two. That amounts you know to nothing. With the £300 to he received from the ?ration Ronald's rejection of my proposal does not cost me much present anxiety, as with his advice and aid the Bill for £535 due on Novr will be retired at maturity. Observe too that since the £400 Bill is discounted that it, being a foreign Bill held by them as agents for Gray Losh & Co must be presented in any case for ? to preserve recourse in case of accidents as they are personally responsible for its amount and this I must use every exertion to avoid. I hope to hear from Robertson this week and have in the mean time placed the £200 received from him to yr credit. It would have been very much better had you put the question on the 'subject of minor moment' to me when here. I am most happy to afford you every explanation. You are making great exertions and

considerable sacrifices & are quite entitled to every satisfaction I can afford you. You are in error in saying that I told you I was in debt to the Estate £170. I will repeat to you that all the money I have received & that you still propose sending in for retiring bills alone I have paid £100 at least for Bill accommodations for the last 16 months on account of the Estate. The expense of renewal you know. I have also paid £70 being an additional half % on the last two crops which we give the Sugar buyers for prompt payments within 10 days, the sales being made at 4 months: this half % additional being claimed by them on account of the high rate given by Banks on deposits. This £170 I have paid for the Estates accommodation & all with 16 months. The Garth Estate will be due me at the Balance £2,500, even when credited with 3/4s (?) of gain on this year's account. Stewart is now due me £190 (stores lately sent). William Taylor for stores for private use £90. Linens sent to Trinidad but not accounted for the money paid for them to Wm Harries £79 & Henry Stoddart - Garth dr, to be credited in Colonial account £25. John Stewart Menzies £25. Garth stores 1840 which these are now paid £135. You will mark too that I have £500 at my disposal from Bankers for which I am personally responsible, with which the Estate has nothing to do, except that the money is partly for its use. Observe too that my clerk's salary, counting house rent, taxes etc are just as high as tho I had ten times the business. You are continually at me to do nothing beyond Garth and you will wonder when I tell you that I question if this year my income will be £150. It would be better for me today that I had nothing to do with Garth & hence it is that I am anxious now that my friends should assume the responsibility which I have paid so dearly for. Wait till you have the accounts for you and then you will I hope not repeat questions such as those in your letter from the Manse. You say you did not tell my mother of my misappropriation of the funds of the property to my private use. You have done well for you would have made her miserable without cause. The same may be said of your very plain insinuation as to the £300 from Willie. If you will just wait till all the accounts are before you, you will be in a state to judge for yourself, besides which it will save me much annoyance and save you from yielding, as I fear you did when you wrote the letter from the Manse, to an angry impulse. Your exertions are great and so are your difficulties, but be calm under them & do not I beg you repeat the ferocious insinuations so lavishly bestowed. If any other man had repeated the same expressions and hinted the same insinuation, I would have kicked him from one end of Glasgow to the other and feeling this as the only answer I could make to a stranger, I pass them by in your case, only by requesting you will treat me like a gentleman. That I am prepared to make any sacrifices I have already told - that I have often had to spend more money than I should have also told Willie & you when I was elected into the Western & Gaelic Clubs however which others usually covet, but which I get from my rank from those who were ignorant of my circumstances and that this year from Clementina being here, she wants in some cases supplied, her marriage, James's funeral etc I have been more expensive than I hope to be. I repeat I will make every exertion for the future and knowing as you do how much I have occasion for support rather than bullying that you will on no future occasion cause me to say that I feel more vexed by your last letter than I do at the loss of friend or sweetheart, and it was something too much to escape the notoriety of a duel, by sacrificing both, to find myself on the verge of bankruptcy & then to find you addressing me in language which I feel derogatory to me. I shall do nothing in any case without your knowledge and concurrence. You will be careful where & when you speak of any thing we are doing, things cannot on every account be kept too quiet - at least till we have them in a train to hear being talked of. I met Andrew Eccles the other day & we spoke as old friends. He has the old man's ear. I also encountered the young ladies & Mrs Burnley. They were coming up the street & I round a corner. I passed without giving them an opportunity of bowing. George is going out to Trinidad soon. The whole thing is just as silly as matters usually are when women manage them. They must now make the advances & if they don't I will wait a while. The weather till yesterday was fine; yesterday rained all day. Today is good & things ere better in every way in London. Nothing new locally. I am just busy with Wms despatch to Trinidad. I am in great good health.

391009DSI to ARI I yesterday received yours from Pitlochrie with £200. I have now received from you so far as follows - on your account, Sept 16th Order on Comm Bank from Dunkeld £300. Sept 23 do on do from Pitlochrie £384.8.6. 30th from Edinburgh £200. Oct 8 order on Comm Bank from Pitlochrie £200. Total £1084.8.6. All which sums are placed to your credit. I now understand that the loan Robertson is negotiating is on the Life Policy. You are aware that I had been informed of his borrowing money on his own & Willie's security, but now I see that all the money to come will be £300 or nearly so, making the money I shall receive £1350 or thereabouts. In the meantime I today retired the Bill of £400 to Eccles & Co and when the William sails and I am at leisure I shall send you the accounts on also a sketch of my liabilities part & paid as well as to come & make a proposal as to how we are to meet them in future. From present appearances we shall have less difficulty than I at one time anticipated. Robertson writes me that you have desired him to send you the money he is now raising direct. I do not see the point of having it sent to you & then sent to me from the Country again. We lose both postage & exchange besides which money for appearance sake is valuable to me just now and I hope you will send me the £300 as soon as you can so that I shall escape lodging money the one day & taking out more than I lodged the next, a profitless business for the Bank. I have to pay ?furnishing accounts for stores as well as retire Bills and the money for doing so comes from the cash advance I have on my own security, and that advance is limited. I have no more time at present. I will write to you this week with accounts. Weather was settled for two days, State of the Country better. I expect Clementina and Charlie on the 15th. (+ pencilled financial calculations in ARI's hand)

391011DSI Cluny Cottage, Oct 11th 1839. We the undersigned grant us to have presently received by the hand of the Rev Alexander Robertson Irvine, Minister of the Gospel at Foss, the sum of two hundred pounds sterling being the share in full of the property of the late Doctor Alexander Irvine of Little Dunkeld, accruing to us Clementina Stewart Irvine or McDiarmid only surviving daughter of the said Doctor Irvine and in her right to Charles McDiarmid Surgeon her spouse, of which share of said property, and of which sum of two hundred pounds as the full amount thereof, all concerned are hereby discharge, in witness whereof we have subscribed this acknowledgement at Cluny Cottage this eleventh day of October one thousand eight hundred and thirty nine years CS MCDIARMID. CA MCDIARMID

391012DSI to ARI. I have been of late much occupied with the William. We have not heard that she has sailed but the wind was yesterday by NE & I fancy she will have moved last night. Enclosed are several accounts. "Garth Estate for Crop 1839" shews how that account stands up to the present date with all the charges so far as I know noted & the gain on the Estate for this Crop credited. There are some remarks in red ink to which I refer "Garth Estate new account for Crop 1839 opened in consequence of Taylor's purchase of one fourth of the Estate - shewing at its debit all the stores shipped hence and Bills drawn by Losh & Taylor on account of this past Crop. Taylor is debited in two accounts with the amount of his purchase. One a mortgage account & the other a purchase account. He has also mortgaged his quarter to my Mother in security. This account shews what the Estate has done with its very small Crop for this year. "Garth Estate New Account Crop 1840" is also sent. There is nothing needing to be said on this account that has not been noted in red. I also send you the final sketch of my liabilities and assets which you saw when you were here. As also my copy of my letter to Taylor. "Garth Estate for Crop 1839" will have the Balance at its debit on 31st Jan 1840 written off to a new account to be opened and under the head of "Garth Mrs Irvine's 3/4ths" to which 3/4ths of the gain will go in diminution & to which will be added simply and only the remaining instalments and the Interests and Annuities to be paid my Mother. The Interest to be paid you etc. Taylor you see makes a good thing of this year bad as it is & we will all do well when we have these instalments paid up with £1746.12.11 of a gain with a Crop of 133 Hhds, and these like the minutes of ?Bulls ?dram Glass. I may here repeat that I am in advance for the Garth for stores, for Stewart for do, for Taylor (and about £120 in small sums to be repaid next year) in all about £400-£480. Touching the Bill

which is due 6th Nov I propose to pay that out of next Crop altogether & with that view I beg your permission to propose that £530 should be got from my Bank on your acceptance of my draft at 6 months which will be dated 5th Nov and due 8th May, by which date I shall have my first import in from Trinidad. I hope to meet no difficulty in discounting this Bill and shall again write to Losh as I have done by anticipation that a larger import by the first ship is essential to me. I have I may here say also told him that I have paid of Bills drawn by me and Taylor £1800 besides two instalments of £900 each & £348 of an old debt since 1st Jan last. You will see that it is better that I should in the way I propose take up the £535, the last of my accommodation Bills, because I shall save much by it, and the transaction is perfectly safe and perfectly legitimate - the same as that into which you went in raising £400 when I came here, & which was duly retired out of that years Crop. I have paid Gray £162.11.7 of discounts on these accommodation Bills, and have £84.4.5 to remit Gray & Roxburgh's balance of their Account to date next week. As regards the £300 still to come that & more will be needed for stores etc before next Crop comes in. There is £171.17.10 to retire, and before I can hear from Stewart with a remittance there will be £220 on his account to pay, so that I have necessity for the £300 without any delay. I have before said that Furnishers will soon suspect something if you keep them dunning for their accounts. I do not ask all of them to send them in, but when they do I pay them. I have of late paid £150 of supplies. The consequence is that I am very bare & when I send Gray £84 I will be absolutely hard up. So that I hope you will send whatever more you can afford without delay & consent to the proposed way of retiring the £535. We have then the whole matter in our own hands where by a good management we may keep it. As regards the future whether we are to get a cash account or not will depend upon the times. I will not do anything without a certainty of success. It would not do to be refused, but the feeling of the Country is much better. Money is becoming more plentiful and once discounts fall, we should consider the screw as taken off. For the moment they do not grant Cash Accounts in Glasgow and with the hope of getting £300 soon from you I will do you for a little till I see if things continue to mend. In the mean time we must immediately provide for the £535. I have no news from the West since I last wrote to you. The Eccles' are very heavy holders & the market is in a very ticklish state. We are well with our instalment postponed. Tea is rising very fast. Some speculation has taken place here in Tea & much money will be made on it by those who will sell out to realise their profits now. I had a letter from Sir Neil yesterday. He is in great fig altogether. I expect Charlie & Clementina on Wednesday. I will write him positively insisting on his being here on that day. He has taken a day more than he should in remaining till Wednesday but he does not what he has to do, tho he judges he will have plenty time after he comes. He writes me in good spirits & makes no allusion to money matters. I hope he will take care in Perth & Edinr, He may not know how much present prudence will help him in future. They will be here for 10 days, but with some friends of ours. I am in amazing condition, For two days I have had my head stuffed with cold but not fever and appetite like an ostrich. I never have had the same enjoyment of health & my condition is good. I was 11 stone 10 last week. Let me hear from you soon. My love to my dear Elizabeth. I have had no more conversation with Ronald. I will in future have as little talk as possible with him or anyone. Gray has asked the £84 balance of his account to help him meet some heavy payments. The money I have had from you makes me so far independent of him & I will make the Estate render me more so next Crop. Should I succeed in getting a cash account I will be very independent, and if not I have a Director of the Scottish Provident Assurance Co a policy on my life for £1000 which will be a last resource [to] keep me easy and which in the event of my death will leave everyone square. I have consulted several friends in regard to some agencies. You will hear from me soon. There is one agent here for the Provident. Another would do good. The one here is a sleepy fellow without much influence and there is no Assurance Society offering any thing like the advantages the Provident does extant. Should the Edinr Board appoint another agent here I would take the active agency and work up the Society success fully. The north mail starts at an inconveniently early hour. Before you have all your day's business provided against and letters for the north mail written the Box is ready to shut. I seldom receive my letters from the north till

none to it are off. The weather dull today, but on the whole the week has been good & much housed in good order. Sir Neil says they have had no rain in the north

391016DSI to ARI half past two. Clementina & Charlie are now here. As you may be anxious for the within I send it you by the first post and I will again write you with regard to the £500 or £600 more. I am in the mean time making every exertion to raise that sum & you shall hear. Taylor writes me of date 21 Aug. He had them more done that on 31st Dec last Crop, rather a compliment to himself and absenteeism. He had sent his head man to Grenada for men & he was expected early in Sept with 12 men who would help him much. He had peons and Americans who will plant and cut canes and make Sugar but they won't weed. Gray was paying labourers in sum at 10/- curry which is a monstrous price. He is also planting more canes and on the whole is doing all he can to make the most of the estate, and I am now very well pleased with the letter I wrote him & of which you had a copy. It will do all I contemplated & he I now hope will do all Man can - and if he ?retorts or turns restive it is then time eno to be ?[sense must be tough] I must first lead him to water, for one man may lead a horse to water tho ten won't make him drink. All the sums but £348.14.9 in Garth Estate for Crop 1839 are for 1838. All in "New Account" for 1839. You have seen that the Emancipation Society here & in America are doing all they can to ship free slaves from South America to Trinidad. They are now preparing for a Consignment and it is lucky that Trinidad has been first thought of. If they go on we can afford to take 10,000 or as many more as they send us. This idea will serve the Yankees better than their Liberia scheme & will soon render Trinidad the Jamaica of the West

[Set of a/cs h/w, not clear what is what]

[Debit]

1839 Sept 18	Paid Bill to Gray Losh & Co	£300		
	24 Paid do to Balfour	348	8	2
	30 do do to Gray Losh & Co	200		
Oct 9	do do	400		
Nov 6	Promissory Not to Gray & Roxburghs	535		
		<u>1783</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>2</u>

Prospective for 1840

	Stores	£600		
	Stewart	190		
I July	Instalment	900		
	Annuities & Interests	400		
	Bills to be drawn by Taylor. Say	700		
1Jan 1841	Instalment (may be otherwise provided)	900		
		<u>3690</u>		

[Credit]

	5 Hhds Sugar	100		
	Bill from Stewart	220		
		<u>320</u>		

Sep 16	Money from you	£300		
23	do	384	8	6
30	do - Edinburgh	200		
Oct 8	do	200		
16	do	<u>200</u>		
		1284	8	6

1840				
Garth Crop for 1840. Say 160 Hhds		3200		
	Molasses 40 punch	400		
		<u>3600</u>		

The above as you saw it with rather more added - Taylor's Bill in case of need. Since you saw the Scheme Bill to Gray Losh & C £171.17.10 and I will require £500 or £600 to keep me square till April 1840. The £535 will be returned in the way proposed and the £500 or £600 more I will come at by a loan on my policy or if that cannot be come out and here it is almost impossible to get money so I will

try my bank with the policy as security and if Smith give me £600 of an advance on my own security he will hardly hesitate with that of the policy to encrease it. I have not included the Cash advance because I do not anticipate it being called up without two months notice to me. My hopes for next year will be found on the first page & I think the Garth will yield fully the £3600. I this morning had £200 from Edinr as you will find above. I am going on paying my furnishers, but am now most anxious that I could raise £500 say without applying to the bank as then I should encrease my account without their aid and might postpone discounting the Bill till it could be done cheaper than at present. In any case I am I think provided for the future and I did not hesitate to say that you are perfectly sure of the Bill for £535 being paid out of next Crop. Taylor writes me of date 31 Aug & you will find out what he says on the first page. I have now only the future to provide for. These accommodation Bills kept me in deep water & if I succeed in raising £600 that with your money will give £2000 of a loan which will wait till I can repay it out of the Garth profits when clear of the Mortgage account.

391017DSI to Mother. I have so seldom written to you of late that I hope a letter from me would be a 'dentis' did it even not contain news of our travellers. Clemy & Charlie got safely to Edinr where they dined with old James on Tuesday and never was there such a sensation in any dwelling as in No 66 Great King St on that, the first occasion in which a Lady had dined under their roof. They arrived here yesterday afternoon, and tho Miss Gibson prigged hard to have them go at once to West Regent Street, Clementina wished to spend an evening with me & she went out with me at 4. Charlie & I returned to Town this morning that I might once and early settle him to his work. Clementina lay in bed but Charlie is away out this instant (12 noon) to return with her at half past two when they go to their friends Miss Gibson & the Flemings. Clemy looks remarkably well. I think and last night we were all exceedingly cheerful. She seems quite contented and what I am more glad to see really intelligent on the ways of the new world and the struggles she will have to undergo & endure at first. Charlie has been with both Reid and Jamieson. His duties are not so very onerous after all. They are entirely routine and become every day more easy. He has the privilege of choosing his assistants and that is a great one. Tomorrow we all go down to Greenock at 8am to see the ship and the captain, & see what is to be done and known and everything else. There are 3 cabin passengers so far besides Charlie & Clemy and I want to so arrange it as that Clementina's woman may sleep near her in the cabin. Charlie you know had only 3 servants, 2 male & 1 female and he must have equal number of opposite sexes. This difficulty we have got over by laying hold of a stray woman, 15 a nice girl, who will be tickled to Stewart or McCrostie as one of Charlie's servants, he being entitled to employ her on the other side or not just as he pleases. The passengers for the steerage are all nearly Highlanders - 125 from Tobermory out of 146 in number. That will be of great consequence to Charlie, he and his two assistants speaking Gaelic & they will both obey and respect him more than they would a sassenach. He has however been recommended to lay in an extra supply of sulphur for the Highlanders & a few pairs of hair mitts would save some trouble to the afflicted. After tomorrow I will consider Charlie as fairly installed and initiated, and from what I can see I do not think they will sail before tomorrow or Saturday week. I can't help thinking John McPherson is a great monster. He was here last night, or rather yesterday, raging about the small terms his daughter has got. He told me he never heard a word of these till he & she were leaving home two mornings ago & that she shall not go upon the terms of her engagement. Charlie & he have not met but we will settle the matter today - we can be at no loss. Charlie was offered a very decent lassie from Kirkaldie who since she goes by the Tomatin would engage on any terms. So John may get his foot in it. You will of course hear regularly from one or other of us till the Tomatin sails. I have nothing, at least, not much of myself to say. I am in great good health I have reason to thank God and I hope soon to have to say that I am safely and honorably and creditably past all my late difficulties. I did not send you your £40 last month, but I will when Martinmas comes send you that and as much more as I can spare. DSI We look for Willie tomorrow.

391018DSI to ARI. Menzies sent you £300 which I received here on Monday morning. The cashier of the Commercial bank made no objection to paying me the money on producing your letter. I today retired the Bill per £300 which, fortunately, as it may turn out to be is discounted at the same bank as my last acceptance to G.L. & Co of £400 was discounted. The Royal of which Laurence Robertson late of Perth is cashier. This will shew him that I stand or ought to stand well, and I may be able to turn his influence or good opinion to some account. The next step in our progress is that Bill to Balfour for £384 due on Tuesday the 24th to which I recall your attention. The Hamilton is not in. The winds for two days are fair and she will be here before the end of the week. I trust I shall of course hear from you if possible by Fridays post to this if you write me which you will I hope do tomorrow - at all events on Saturday. I yesterday was all day occupied in writing to Trinidad. I think there will be no mistake a delicacy henceforth. I find by reference to Taylor's letters that much ground for censure exists & I have been as severe as, knowing the many difficulties he had to encounter, I could reasonably be. I will not send him the Still this season. That will save me £250 and I have so arranged some of my shipments that I shall show them taking the credit prices into April next year. That will also assist. I was very frank with Losh. No produce for two months, and he knowing my engagements. I find too by reference to his & Taylor's letters that Losh on one occasion with-held 30 Hhds Sugar and 30 puncheons Molasses carted for shipment because of the scarcity of freightage home. Stewart will be much embarrassed but there is no help for it. The moment the Hamilton arrives I shall write you. In the mean time do you make every exertion for money. Will you of speak to Emily. She can only refuse & have no delicacy for it is misplaced in my circumstances. I may hear something thru Jas Robertson who will if he can I am sure assist me. I have an interview with Ronald on Monday. He is very kind and very earnest in his advice & I will have no delicacy should I so require to consult with him upon money matters. He will afford me every accommodation I need in regard to my shipments. I can in the meantime do or say no more until I hear from you. I trust to be easy with your aid and the Hamiltons for a month, and we must if possible get Money without my granting any more Bills. Indeed I cannot so raise money. I send the letters to be signed by Mother and you & to be thereafter returned to me. They go in a parcel by today's mail. This letter in case you should not be down tomorrow will go separately. I have had a smart sore throat for 3 days. I knew there was something hanging over me & I have a knowledge now what it was. I am otherwise now perfectly well. My plans are laid and I am in great hopes all will be got over. We have had rain for two days and the wind round to the South

391023DSI (post mark, letter undated) to ARI. I had yours of the 21st this afternoon. Enclosed you have two accounts Robert Eccles & Co shewing a balance due them of £2068.16.9 exclusive of Int & Garth accounts for 1838 shewing a Balance at its debit of £1055.15.10. Robert Eccles & Co balance their books at 30 Sept but they have not yet made up their accounts. When they do so I shall state the actual debt due them by Garth as 30 Sept of this year. We are this year perplexed because from the state of the monied Interests Bankers have restricted their usual accommodation. This is an extraordinary year & from no other cause was I refused the cash credit I asked from the bank. We now see that money can be had in London at 5%. The harvest is abundant & on the whole well received. Gold is coming in from the Continent & America & the worst is past. So we consider. I see no reason to hesitate as to the Bill for the 6th November. I will with your acceptance at 6 months get over this and being the first and only Bill I have ever asked Smith to discount for my accommodation while he knows you he will not refuse. Then by the 8th May when the Bill becomes due it will be retired out of the Garth Crop. I do not owe the Bank £500 but I am allowed to overdraw my account to the extent of £600, half of which sum I now have at my credit. This is quite irregular however and I should necessarily ? to draw money on other terms. You see then that I have enough in the mean time till 6 Nov & that will be got over in the way proposed. McNaughton will give you a "small sum" for a short time. How much & how long? £500 for 6 months from 1 January? I have not been able

so far to convert my policy into money but will write to you more at leisure what I can do. In the mean time the pressing point is the 6th Nov. It is very possible that we may not be able to meet the Eccles' January 1841 Instalment of £900 but if that be the only failure we have you must not concern yourself for that. My impression is that we will clear all except that from the coming years Crop and we can have no difficulty in raising £900 on the 1st Jany 1841 if, and I am assured it will, the Garth Crop for 1840 [raised] £4000. I look confidently to a cash account during 1840 and I am in great hopes that Smith will grant me extended accommodation for a limited term say 10 or 12 months on the security of my policy. You will see that in any thing you do with McNaughton, you arrange that there - payment will be made from the Garth Crop - Everything that can be done we must in future do without ?committing the Eccles' or anybody else. Were matters less satisfactory in Trinidad than they are I should not care to put you to the liabilities I do but I am morally certain that Crops 1840 & 1841 will clear away every temporary debt & every liability under which we have or may come. The idea then of yielding up the Estate to the Eccles' is not to be thought of. I wish you had said what the amount of the small sum McNaughton was willing to give you was, or also the term during which he was willing to lend it. Tomorrow is our fast, and I will be occupied all this week with Clementina. Charlie is down today for good. Clementina goes down tomorrow for do and the Tomatin may sail on Friday & most likely will. I am then very much [engaged] but I thought you would be anxious for the enclosed accounts and if I did not now send them I did not know when I conveniently could. The weather is very wet & I dread contrary winds. They are all ready Charlie has £380 in Bills. £30 in gold. £60 for his emigrants & £80 for land so that when he lands he will have £550 capital & sheep will be cheaper when he arrives. Clemy is quite well & very cheerful

391025DSILB A. R. Irvine. Wrote him this Oct enclosing your acceptance bill for £550

391025DSI Glasgow, My Dear Sandy, As I may be occupied for some days with Clementina and Charlie if by reason of contrary winds or any other cause they should not go to sea, I have antedated the Bill for £550 which I intend for discount & which you will send me with your acceptance. I have authorised a party here who does all my law business for me to make every enquiry as to whether money can be had on the assignation of a Life Policy. If I can raise money in that way I will not discount the enclosed for a little, but if I can't I will. Smith is with his wife near Edinr during the preachings except one day when he was laying the foundation stone of the new Western Bank and occupied, but as I told you I have barely half exhausted my credit for £600 and have no pressing demand for money after the 6th prox and during Nov. In the mean time you will send me at your earliest convenience the enclosed Bill with your acceptance. You see the Bill becomes due the 8th may and I have to secure certainty is the transaction made it 6 months which is rather long at present but that was necessary to enable me to have realised my first import to meet it. If the party who is now making general enquiries succeed in getting money on the security noted you will hear of the sum so raised, and if not a full month before I require money I will write you pointedly to say what I can do and have done. Every day strengthens the confidence of bankers and loosens their restrictions and having refused me when times were bad the accommodation which I required, I have a prior claim on them when they take off their restrictions and the times become good. That may be very soon. The moment the bank of England take off a half per cent Confidence will be restored. On the whole I consider it better to wait as long as I prudently can before I decide on any particular step, but only that the first time I meet Smith without the bank I can see how the bank feel as to Credits. You will oblige me by answering when you next write me my queries as to what McNaughton will do as regards the amount and the time. Clementina and Charlie are in Greenock. The Tobermory Emigrants did not come forward Tuesday night as we expected but were to arrive last night & I doubt not did. Clementina is perfectly pleased with the Ship's Captain & accommodation as she may for being the only Lady on board, the captain is delighted with her, besides which she has

an excellent manner & has taken with the Cabin passengers who are all one more than the other attentive to her. She has been most fortunate in her servant - You heard that McPherson took his daughter back again after being here with her, because Clemy would not give £30 and keep. Now a highly respectable woman, a widow of 38, cousin the Grant, minister of Rothiemurcus, of whom Clementina heard, whose connexions she knows, came from Rothiemurcus to go out. She is engaged for 3 years at her own request for £15 a year and keep and will do anything. This servant is quite delighted with her engagement. You never saw a better talking woman in manner & appearance & being a "lone woman" she appreciates the benefit of going out under such patronage. You may tell Stewart & McCrostie's friends that I yesterday saw and conversed with both. They are as happy as crickets and have already stuffed their dexter cheek with a huge quid. I am going down tomorrow and will see them off. The cabin Charlie & Clementina have is not the "Drs berth" but one of the two large cabins holding two beds, a chest of drawers, a trunk and two boxes with plenty of room for dressing, two stern windows. It is the after cabin a stern cabin, and a window in the side, so that they have plenty of room and plenty of air. Charles Stirling our leading citizen and Conservative is dead or dying at his country house ?Kenmuir of fever. Today is dry. We have had 4 hot days till today. Sugar dullish. No further news from Trinidad. The Glasgow Liberals are dished or will soon be dished. Look at them at Gorbals. I mean to go down to Greenock tomorrow morning and remain till I see Clementina away. This is our "Preachings". The Guardian is mad at the Aberdeen and Dumfries Synods. It had better not get before the wheel. There is a large measure of funk in the church and high time for it. I daresay Walker of Muthil of Mckenzie will spiritualise the Comrie Earthquake. Love to my dearest Elizabeth & regards to Miss Hall

391106DSILB to Smith. Will you allow me £1000 for six months from this date including of course £330 by which sum I have today overdrawn my account. I have since 13 June last, that is to say in something less than 4 months lost £5420 to my credit with the Western Bank which circumstance will I expect render nothing more than this application for the desired accommodation necessary.

391113DSI To WSI. I only returned from Campbeltown last evening very late. Clementina wrote my mother when they were ready for starting, and I saw her away on Sunday afternoon last at one o'clock. The wind was not very fair. It was what sailors call a working wind, but Wingate will be clear of all land before now; besides that the weather was very moderate. I have had two or three cogitations with my Banker about money. He is 'extremely pleased' with my accounts but will not guarantee a cash credit for six months to come. He has however at my request agreed to give me money for 6 months upon a 6 months Bill for £800, £300 of which I have already drawn, and as there must be two names upon a Bill I have enclosed it that Sandy may accept and return it for my endorsation. I would have wished to have provided otherwise but this Bill will be due on the 16th may a fortnight after I have retired his Bill due on the 3rd may 1840 at the Commercial bank of Pitlochry for £550. This is a concession to me which few bankers would make, and being in the 'meantime' and till better times come round, I am satisfied that it is the best course I can take. This Mr Ronald's advice, and considered the better plan by Smith of the Western bank. I am ignorant of Sandy's movements & have therefore enclosed the Bill to you, that you may without loss of time send it to him for acceptance if he is in the Country or in Edinburgh & let it be returned to me without delay. I have failed in my desire to raise money on a policy of assurance for £1000 which I have on my life in case of accidents. I today write James Robertson to see what he says. Money is scarce here beyond all experience for the present but gold is coming back and we are all glad to find that the Country takes the failure of the United States bank so quietly. If Sandy's movements are South, I should like to meet him in Edinr, and to facilitate my arrangements with Robertson there I will go into Edinr on Saturday in hope that I can convert my policy to money and return next afternoon. Clementina was pretty well when the Tomatin sailed. She met with great attention & kindness from some friends there, and so did I too. When I am more at leisure I will write you more

at length. The Sugar and Molasses market are both started and will both go higher yet. Spring promises to have good prices for all colonial produce. I have had no more bills drawn upon me from the other side. There are however two ships still to arrive from Trinidad & till they are both in I do not know how much more I may have to provide. Losh before now knows how scarce money is with me and I am in hope he will forebear drawing upon me. We have no late news from Trinidad. None later than 31st August to me. I am coming into Town for the winter tomorrow afternoon. I shall keep this till the usual delivery from the Country and half past 12. Kind love to the old woman.

391125DSI Glasgow, My dearest Mother, I had your letter of the 22nd this morning with the receipt for £60 and I write you shortly as I am today & will be tomorrow much occupied. I will send away your coffee and Sugar tomorrow. I have had very much else to think of of late & what with my tripes down the water & to Edinburgh and my anxieties here I have delayed many Country Commissions & yours till I had money to pay these and some other things. Now I hope I have got over my late and present engagements & have made besides reasonable provision for the future so that having money to pay for what I buy I will send you of Sugar and coffee what will keep you out of the market till April 1840 when we shall get a supply from Trinidad. The carts leave this tomorrow afternoon and will be in time for Scott this week so that you had better not send to Perth for any coffee or you will pay a price and a half for quality which will not please you. I have John's pocket handkerchief waiting an opportunity for Pitlochrie. I will likely take it home with me when I visit you before Xmas. We have heard nothing from the Tomatin nor, very likely, will we hear of her for 4 months and perhaps 6 months to come. There is a chance that some vessel may speak her, but that is but a chance & I rather think the first news we will hear will be from the cape where she will probably touch for water etc. It depends much however upon their wants as the captain wants to make Adelaide in 100 days if he can and if he has no for touching at the cape he will carry on, in that case we may hear of or from Clemy & Charlie after they have reached terra firma once more. I am delighted to hear from you that you are better again. We have cold here and I am quite in the fashion in that way. The rain is incessant, the winds warm and southerly and the streets everywhere a perfect puddle, so that we shall have accounts of this green weather & that before long. Miss Gibson's address is Mrs Flemings, West Regent Street, They are all well there. So are all our other friends. We have very late news from Trinidad, 19th October. Everything was going on to admiration. There was also a certainty of a large accession of labour from America. Two ship loads of free people from that country were to sail from Norfolk on the 15th October. Old Burnley who is here says that Trinidad will in 5 years have people enough to cultivate its entire surface. I find I can get a cart tonight & will send away your Sugar & coffee by it as you say unless they be in Perth on Wednesday that you must want this week. We send away the Arethusa next week for Trinidad, and today my clerk and I are busy preparing for her. I will be home to spend Christmas & New Year's day with you and as many more days as circumstances will allow. The Queen will be married so she has announced to her Council. Prince Albert is the lucky man it seems. That will give the Whigs another year of office at least, so on we will be carried bit by bit till we are damaged in religion, commerce and reputation.

391126DSILB John Losh. Asked him to send me some small lots of sugar during early part of season 1840. Consignments in whole not to exceed 30 Hhds

391126DSILB D. Stewart. Asked him to send me 50 puncheons molasses during season 1840. Term be left to him. To be drawn for on proceeds to remain in my hands

391126DSI to ARI. I heard from the old woman that Elizabeth was well & that she herself is much better. I think she should never be alone. There is of late a tone of despondency in her letters which with her is unusual and she appears to derive great comfort from having Elizabeth with her and from having her mind diverted. You must arrange that all your household meet at the Cottage at Xmas. I have heard nothing from Edin since my return. I filled in a personal application,

which I handed next day after you left into the office, naming the gross sum insured at £1300. I hope next week to have the Bond signed and the money here. I have today received my account against Chesthill with Interest to last Martinmas, so I am £25.14.9 richer today than I calculated. I saw the Laird twice in Edinburgh after you left. He looks well and seems quiet and sensible and approaching something to sobriety of deportment. He has taken greatly to golfing, but plays cheap. We have very late accounts from Trinidad, so late as 19 October last. My letters are very general except that the weather is very seasonable - fine, showers and the cultivation healthy with good promise of an abundant Crop. I have no letter from Taylor. The vessel bringing us this late intelligence came to Liverpool. The above is the general tenor of all the late letters to Eccles & Co etc. Crop season in Trinidad is now approaching. In a month or immediately after Xmas the mills would go about, so that of the weather continued seasonable the Planters would make every exertion to make their crops early. Old Burnley has been here for a week. He seems to have succeeded completely in his attempt to colonise Trinidad with free American slaves. My information of all that he has done is in many respects very vague. But this much is certain that on the 15th of last month two ships left the port of Norfolk, I think, laden with labour for Trinidad, many of whom came long distances to engage. Burnley says that these cargoes were composed of small shopkeepers, mechanics and field labourers, and he adds that he sees no reason to doubt but that in 5 years Trinidad will have from the same source labourers to cultivate every inch of that colony. The American Legislature wisely encourages this emigration of a class towards whom the whites fear a dangerous disproportion as regards numbers, while the Ante Slavery Society here openly and covertly in America give Burnley & the Trinidadians all the support they can. Agricultural Societies and Emigration Societies have been formed in Trinidad, and if we had the Wakefield plan now in operation in Australia of selling land and applying the proceeds in encouraging Emigration, set agoing in Trinidad we should soon become "a great people quite entirely". As it is I hope we have the beginning of the end of our extravagant outlay. I do not know how these Americans may be allocated or apportioned. It is I should fancy probable that estates near Town should offer inducements and advantages superior to those offered by more isolated Estates, and that consequently Taylor may not so easily reap the advantage of this supply as some of his neighbours more favorably circumstanced. If the Agricultural Society have the distribution of these people Losh & Taylor are both members & we will in that case have our fair proportion. But if the people themselves are to be treated with Estates near Town will certainly carry the day at first till the importations are sufficient to people them. This is all conjecture however. Trinidad and Demerara will soon have nothing to fear from the East. All we want is labour as in productiveness, we can beat the Mauritius to ?sticks - So far then as regards Trinidad present and to come. Sugar is dull enough in all conscience. It is I am aware 5/- to 6/- cheaper than it should be, but the state of the money market is such that we must be kept down. In March we will have the screw off and then you will find matters just as far the other way. You will find speculation as wild in 1840 as it was in 1837. We have very much to make up and to recover. So far we have had fewer failures here than we expected, and no House for a sum above £60,000. The Queen's marriage seems to please everybody. We believe that we shall shake off the Melbourne influence - and if Albert will at once explain to his wife the character of the court he will do her some service. A worse adviser than she now has she could not find. That is all that can reasonably be said of the husband elect. The Whigs will however have another year in place. What with the joy & rejoicing & making of Peers & granting of ribbons & garters the nation will grant a general habeus corpus to the Whigs & under it they will outlive 1840. The old Duke is quite well. He has some fight in him yet. But he should take better care of himself. There is nothing seen or heard of the Tomatin yet. It is just a bare chance that she may be spoken by some homeward bound vessel in which case we will know the whereabouts and the date when seen and then calculate what she has been doing. The Arethusa arrived from Trinidad last week. She had fearful weather on the 31st Oct & had some damage. She returns again next week & until she sails I will be rather busy. We have had most disgusting health since we last saw you. Warm, southerly, showery, windy & a great deal of sickness the consequence. I am almost

terrified to do duty at the Asylum. I have a head and a half of cold, and the usual quantity of stupidity indeed thereby, but today the frost is white on the tops of the houses and you have some inducement to walk into the Country. All friends here are well. Don't forget my whiskey and the sooner sent to better. Tell my dear Elizabeth that I have a specially beautiful hkf for her gift to Dr John, and that I will bring her a picture book when I get home at Xmas. I beg to be kindly remembered to Emily & Miss Hall.

391202DSI. Glasgow. My dearest Mother, My clerk is just gone out for half an hour. I will occupy my time in writing you to say that I have heard of the Tomatin. She was spoke on the 22nd of last month in Lat 51, Longitude 13 . That is in the way west of Cape Clear and then free of land. I thought she would have been very much further but we don't know which channel the Tomatin took as we must suppose she took the least favourable passage for her, and had head winds to work against. The Owner tells me that the passengers were reported "All well". They are not mentioned in the printed report I saw but they know it privately. This keeps me quite easy as we had rather severe weather for any vessel chopping about the Channel but once west of Cape Clear she has the open sea before her and plenty of elbow room into the bargain. As she may not be reported in the paper & even tho she were you might not have noticed it I have written you with all the news we have. They took 12 days to make Cape Clear, but I hope they are today past Madeira. I hope you have received your Sugar and coffee and that both pleased you. I have myself become a constant coffee drinker so I will regret if it should turn out bad. Tea is getting very dear and at this present rate I question if we have an old maid alive in ten years. If it continues to rise in price I will buy you some more coffee, for the public will become coffee drinkers and that will make coffee very high. I hope you are pretty well. We have had the old changes in our climate, plenty of snow the first three days of last week, rain and thaw the remaining three and the snow all gone with yesterday and today a biting cold frost, and an atmosphere which the sun in vain tries to penetrate, so that we had as well be in Newfoundland as St Mungos for the present time. Glasgow is dull in every way. Commercially, socially and politically, and it will remain so till next spring or perhaps summer. Money matters in England are mending very slowly and tho we have had no late failures there are many men who are borne up by the banks alone and whose credit is as low as need be. All our friends are in their usual health. We have had no late accounts from Trinidad than those I gave you in my last letter but they will all be bustle there about this time in preparing for the new Crop. They begin on 1 Jany 1840. There are a great many people going over from the American coast. These are of the same kind as our present stocks of labourers and will be suited for the climate and work. The Arethusa sails the end of this week and the next ship about the 1st week of Jany. I propose all well & things being convenient to go home on this day three weeks to spend Xmas & New Year day with you, and I only hope the weather will be good. I have knocked a good deal about of late and have had more than my own share of anxiety, so that to escape from the shop and be quiet at home is a pleasure which I shall relish most excessively. I fancy Sandy will be moving south again this day week. I am sure I hope he may be instructed to depose Mclaurin. He has been cause of great expense and trouble with him and the Presbytery, and such a subject as they have had to deal with. Let me know timeously if I can bring you anything when I go home. I hope to hear from Willie soon with the Country news. I fancy from what you say that you are as dull as we are. Burnley & his wife are in London. I saw Mrs Hunter Hafton here last week. She & her bairns are well. Glasgow is getting very sickly and it needs some pluck to attend the night asylum. We had 100 poor wretches on Saturday evening. Remember me to all near you.

391213DSILB to James Robertson. I have this day received from you per order on the Glasgow Union Banking Co. the sum of £900 Sterling to account for a loan of £1000 granted by the North British Insurance Co of Edinburgh on an Insurance of £13000 on my life.

410710 Losh to ARI. I have omitted to say that I have been of late frequently applied to by your late Uncle's three boys for a portion of their legacies. They have certainly been very patient & if even one or two hundred pounds could be spared amongst them they would be very grateful for it - particularly William who is desirous of setting himself up with a Stock in Trade as a master cooper.

420810DSI Wm Taylor ARI Garth Estate [some spelling/punctuation corrected] Yours of the 18 June come safe to hand on the 25 July. I am happy to hear of your appointment to a parish of more emolument. I wish it was in my power to say any profits can likely to be received this season from the Estates. if they clear here our way that will be all. the rain set in this season on the 16th April and on the may so severe that put an end to all manufacture of Sugar. The Crop of this Estate as I supposed could at least be 195Hhds. It will only be about 170 including tierces this however is entirely owing to the early commencement of the rainy season or rather to the count of sufficient labour to go on steady while the fine weather lasted. This and many other circumstances joined has put an end to my proposed trip home this season which I am sorry for for more reasons than one. I will try and get through my weeding early & commence ?Crop in Novemeber so as to enable me to finish Crop 43 soon & perhaps be able to go home next year. Instead of Labor becoming more plentiful it is daily retrograding the people emigrating from the old islands here either return so soon as they have saved a little money squat down on Crown land unmolested the laws to prevent such are not stringent enoug. Before receiving your letter I had no intention of putting in any new land this season on either place. with a sufficient number of Laborers there is now cultivation on this Estate for 250 to 300 annually and could we spare providance for next crop it could give 100 hhds in 1844 this I am affixed we will not be able to do. The reason of our going so much in debit is not entirely owing to the expences on cultivation but chiefly on buildings as follows erected on Garth since 1839. 29 Negro Houses at \$220 each = \$6380. ?Boiling House \$2000 purchase of 60 quarees of land part paid \$100 first instalment providing \$600 = \$3600

Purchase of 10 Mules for do \$150. erection of 8 labourers Houses @ \$220 = \$1760 for extending cultivation on Garth alon 18 quarees Cut from High Wood fit for Mill at \$212 per quarees \$3816. Showing the enormous sum of \$15706 which will not occur again for many years perhaps never to such an extent. Could I only be assured of plenty of labor even at the present high rates of wages and 15/- of protective duty there is no doubt the Estates in this Island would pay more particularly those back in the Country where the soil is not so much exhausted. I hope the Messrs Eccles will not be too hard in case we should not be able to clear off as fast as they expect. as to the idea of their bringing the Estate to sale of that I am under no apprehension as I have friends both in Scotland and England who would advance twice the sum of these mortgages it is true my own family are not able to assist me but I have relations of both father's and mothers side with whom I have constantly corresponded who are perfectly able and from recent letters willing to assist me could I by any possible menas live to explain matters personally to them that is what they insist on but ? [seal] of the difficulty of leaving even for a few months [seal] not know the nature of a West India property. I sent the barrel of sugar long ago also 2 jars of preserved fruit one of lime the other of guava ? there still remains 2 jars of preserved pineapple by what opportunity they may arrive I cannot say as the season they come is generally the time when more of the ships are here the very first occasion I will send them the season has been fine for the ensuing Crop whould it continue so there is every prospect for a larger Crop than has yet been promised. WILLIAM TAYLOR

430918DSI Losh to ARI I received yours of 12th July on various interesting subjects. Before I can hear from you again you will have seen our mutual friend Mr Duncan Stewart who will give you a Viva Voce account of every thing at Garth. The Estate at this moment is in first rate order. It escaped my memory whether I informed you of the death of Susan Stewart the mother of the young boy Robert who was left unprovided for by your late uncle. She received an alimentary allowance monthly and at her death there was paid \$115 or about £25 stg which falls now to

be reimbursed out of the estate. I enclose a statement of the payments, and as all Bills are now drawn by Mr Taylor I beg the favor of your giving him credit for the amount in his private acct with you and in this way I will get him to include it in the Estate's yearly account which will be made up at 31st Dec next - and when the balance of the Estate's acct is drawn for I will let you know what the \$115 will be in sterling at the Exchange of the day of drawing, but the sum at any rate will fall between £24 & £25. On a previous occasion I explained the compulsory arrangement I was under the necessity of making with Mr Hobson the advocate of your Uncle's sons in prosecuting for their legacies. They are to be paid in three years by equal annual instalments commencing in April next year with stay of execution against the Estate with stay of execution against the Estate, provided the Instalments are equally paid at the stipulated periods. I am desirous of bringing this under your notice now so that the mode of meeting the payments may be determined upon beforehand. The payments will be about £300 annually and I think the simplest method will be to let Mr Taylor under your authority draw a Bill on the House in Glasgow for the sum & let it be accumulated as part of the Expenses of the Estate - your giving Mr Taylor credit for the Bill in his private account with you in like manner as I have suggested in respect to the small sum of £25 - Please let me hear from you early on these matters & if you approve of the suggestions it will be necessary that you explain the proposed arrangement fully to Mr Taylor.

430214DSI From Eccles, Burnley & Co to Taylor, Garth ccARI. [Do not spend more than £300 a year. None of our estates should do so] We believe that Mr Irvine has consented to a certain outlay for the erection of a new dwelling house, which you propose to pay for by the sale of Rum, but a great change has come over the Rum market and it will never do for you to appropriate the price of all the Rum you can make for any such purpose, but we beg you will estimate the cost of the House & on informing Messrs Losh & Co they will provide you with the funds in addition to the £3000. A Pun of Rum of 100 gallons of 5-10% overproof is now worth about £17. We therefore strongly advise you to make as much as you possibly can, shipping it to us as fast as you can. A pun of Rum is worth as much as a Hhd of Sugar just now. You should make all your Molasses into Rum & if you can make more than that with your present still, you might buy for that purpose.

470213DSI WJ Templeton of Eccles Burnley & Co to ARI Enclosed we beg to hand you copy of a letter which we forward by this packet to Mr Taylor at Garth Estate. Glasgow, 14 Feb 1847 Wm Taylor esq. We beg to hand you copy of our last receipts. We trust sincerely that you have adhered closely to the arrangement entered into between you, Mr Losh & the writer to confine your gross expenditure within £300 Sterlg for the twelve months ending 30th June 1847, viz £1000 from 1 May to end Decr & £2000 from 1 Jany to end of June. We recur thus often to this subject because we know that nothing but reduced expenditure will enable you to carry on we are so forcibly impressed with this fact that we have come to the resolution of fixing a sum beyond which no Estate in our connection shall go on any pretence whatever, & to carry out this, we have instructed Messrs Losh Spiers & Co not to countenance a larger expenditure on the Garth Estate in the twelve months now Current than £3000 Sterg - the same as was agreed upon for the year ending 30th June next. They are neither to furnish you with money nor endorse your drafts to a larger amount than that £3000 including the value of whatsoever Molasses & Rum may be sold in the Colony. If you cannot do with that you had better give it up as it is impossible for us to be going on for ever losing money. You spent last year according to the accounts made up to 30th Sept last £4147, that is to say you drew for that amount & the consequence is the Estate has gone nearly £1500 deeper. We believe that Mr Irvine has consented to a certain outlay for the erection of the new dwelling house which you propose to pay for by the sale of Rum, but a great change has come over the Rum market & it will never do for you to appropriate the price of all the Rum you can make to any such purpose, but we beg that you will estimate the cost of the House & on informing Messrs Losh S & Co they will provide you with the funds in addition to the £3000. A pun of Rum of 100 gallons of 5 to 10% over proof is now worth about £17. We therefore strongly advise you to make as much as you possibly can. A pun of Rum is worth as much as

a hhd of Sugar just now, you should make all your Molasses into Rum & if you can make more than that with your present still, you might buy for that purpose.