

1 April 1801

RB/837/145  
Gilbert Watson tells me Bob is mistaken - McKinlay had their authority to draw the £130 - which he showed me or he had not been got the money - and had that bill been first presented it had been accepted - but the next day he sent them a bill of Miller & McTaggart's and drew another £130 upon it to Menzies & Anderson - this last bill being for the sum of the credit they accepted as they knew nothing of the other - but they did not accept it as they returned Miller's bill - I cannot yet get hold of McKinlay but have set Penny upon him and hope to get something squeezed from him - I am not fond of Miller & Co's bill and it was for more than double the sum.

These Old Bank small notes are a constant plague to us - in the hurry of yesterday a payment on a deposit of £800 - was offered in them - our Tellers refused it as it is really impossible they could overlook this Manuscript if they were to take payments in that way - This brought Archie Hamilton down to me to-day complaining of our not taking their notes - I told him that if he did not do as other Banks in which we help it - it is disgraceful in any respectable Bank to offer payments of hundreds of thousands all in small notes - I wonder Mr Fraser does not see this - Archie was to write him or he may probably speak to you on the subject and you may just tell him that if he will not pay large sums chiefly in large notes, as other Banks do - we are under the necessity of refusing their small notes -  
Tell Mr More the 25/ paid Mr Nimmo is for chaise hire

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 1 April 1801

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1 April 1801

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These Old Bank small notes are a constant plague to us - in the hurry of yesterday a payment on a deposit account of £800 was offered in them - our Tellers refused it as it is really impossible - they could overtake the business if they were to take payments in that way. This brought Archie Hamilton down to me today complaining of our not taking their notes. I told him that if he would not do as other banks we could not help it - it is disgraceful in any respectable bank to offer payments of hundreds and thousands all in small notes. I wonder Mr Fraser does not see this. Archie was to write him so he may probably speak to you on the subject and you may just tell him that if he will not pay large sums chiefly in large notes, as other banks do we are under the necessity of refusing very small notes.

Tell Mr More the 25/ paid Mr Nimmo is for chaise hire.

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Gilbert Watson Penny & Mr McKinlay have all been with me - we have settled the matter and enclosed I return you the bill accepted - it will make no matter of to them to discount Miller & Co's note for £276 - I refused after getting another indorser a pretty decent man - out of this McKinlay took our draft on you per £130 - payable to S M & W - which he gave to Watson and then he accepted the enclosed - such is the plague of having to do with needy people

That bill sent you on Jamie Buchan I believe was really meant to be payable here - but his man Hosie is out of town - it is a turning round bill by way of an additional credit to Hosie they even say Jamie is partner with him - I suppose your exchange yesterday had been at par - or you would have said something about it.

somebody has just handed me  
 the new Stamp Act from Down & Co  
 2 copies one I see is intended for  
 you & I send it to Willie Kerr  
 I suppose you had perhaps heard by  
 some of the boys

1881 1 April 1

R S M  
 Wm Simpson Esq

I find they came in a box of stamps a day or two ago

I shall now every morning be expecting some account from you of our Baltic fleet - some boat must come to Leith with the intelligence some of these days I think

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 1 April 1801  
 RB/837/145  
 Page 2 of 2

Gilbert Watson, Penny & Mr McKinlay have all been with me - we have settled the matter and enclosed I return you the bill accepted. I could make no better of it than to discount Millar & Co's note per £276 I refused after getting another indorser a pretty decent man - out of this McKinlay took our draft on you per £130 payable to SM & W - which he gave to Watson and then he accepted the enclosed - such is the plague of having to do with needy people.

That bill sent you on Jamie Buchan I believe was really meant to be payable here - but his man Hosie is out of town. It is a turning round bill by way of an additional credit to Hosie they even say Jamie is partner with him. I suppose your exchange yesterday had been at par, or you would have said something about it.

I shall now every morning be expecting some account from you of our Baltic fleet - some boat must come to Leith with the intelligence some of these days I think.

Somebody has just handed to me the new Stamp Act from Down & Co - 2 copies one I see is intended for you and I send it to Willie Kerr to give you though you have probably seen it before.

I find they came in a box of stamps a day or two ago.

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2 April 1801

What a vexing thing this is - your letter again miscarried - and the more so that I am thereby deprived of all the important intelligence from you of the yesterday's arrival at Leith - it makes great noise here today - and no wonder - as the Danes seem so determined, there will no doubt be hot work - and you must in a day or two hear the Result - one thing pleases me - that by proceeding in this mode, the matter I think must at once be brought to a point - either we shall destroy or bring off the Danish and Swedish fleets or they will get the better of ours and in either way there will be an end of the question - Bonaparte does not seem to go so readily into a negotiation for peace as was supposed and the accounts from Egypt give little hope of our success there. Things look dark indeed in all quarters. May He who rules over all bring them to a comfortable issue! Mr Black tho in prison is not humble enough yet it seems to take the Muirkirk berth for which I think he is a great fool - I mentioned this to Mr Gordon and he has brought me the enclosed for you so you should get your man to set out for Muirkirk immediately and give him a line to young Jamie. James does not like to name a salary but I suppose it may be 70 or £80 - with a free house & coals - if your man does not like it, let me know as I just hear of one who I think will answer well - he has a wife and £1000 - which would give the company good security

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 2 April 1801

RB/837/146

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2 April 1801

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Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 2 April 1801

RB/837/146

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[not transcribed; addressed by RSM and annotated with date and sender by WS]

Rd M  
22 April 1801

Wm Simpson Esq  
R

NatWest

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3 April 1801

RB/837/148

Both yr letters came pop in upon me this morning - and it does not appear the fault has been with Duncan as the letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> has the Edin Postmark of that date upon it but it only came here by this morning's Post which I made the clerks of our office mark upon it - so you may take Willie Kerr to task - yr Intelligence of the good King being ill again is very dampening and I am afraid it is too well founded as I see by today's Sun some of the Royal Family were in the Chapel on Sunday - if it is so it will suspend all the operations of Government - what a singular state this nation is in at present! I shall every morning be looking for further Intelligence from you from the Baltic and nothing can now be expected there but bloody heads and broken bones. My only comfort is that thereby matters must soon be brought to a point - what heaps of London Bills! Macneil & Co frightened me - they assure me the Lancaster house are the first brokers in the Kingdom and that they have a cargo arrived there and consigned to them worth 7m. The Dublin house has two of James McCall's son's partners in it - I had some diversion with the Dean he would fain have me give him the 20d on that long bill on his greed of Interest in sending the bill to you last Saturday to save one day - he said it was not him but his partner Crooks and he was ashamed of it - and the best of it was that by the bill being discounted by you on Monday and me paying the money on Tuesday they actually lost one day's interest.

Archie Graham has just called to know what we think should be done about 5/ notes - the liberty of issuing them expires with this session of Parliament, and a new bill must be thought of if they are to be continued - he wishes to be rid of them as they are a great nuisance, yet neither he nor I can see how it will be possible to do without them - he begs me to get your opinion on the subject.

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Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 3 April 1801

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3 April 1801

Both your letters came pop in upon me this morning - and it does not appear the fault has been with Duncan as the letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> has the Edinburgh postmark of that date upon it but it only came here by this morning's post which I made the clerks of our post office mark upon it - so you may take Willie Kerr to task. Your intelligence of the good King being ill again is very dampening and I am afraid it is too well founded as I see by today's Sun some of the royal family were in the chapel on Sunday - if it is so it will suspend all the operations of government - what a singular state this nation is in at present! I shall every morning be looking for further intelligence from you from the Baltic and nothing can now be expected there but bloody heads and broken bones. My only comfort is that thereby matters must soon be brought to a point. What heaps of London bills! These from McNeil & Co frightened me - they assure me the Lancaster house are the first brokers in the Kingdom and that they have a cargo arrived there and consigned to them worth 7m. The Dublin house has two of James McCall's son's partners in it.

I had some diversion with the Dean he would fain have me give him the 20d on that long bill which I would not do - I joked him on his greed of interest in sending the bill to you last Saturday to save one day - he said it was not him but his partner Crooks and he was ashamed of it - and the best of it was that by the bill being discounted by you on Monday and me paying the money on Tuesday they actually lost one day's interest.

Archie Graham has just called to know what we think should be done about 5/ notes - the liberty of issuing them expires with this session of Parliament, and a new bill must be thought of if they are to be continued - he wishes to be rid of them as they are a great nuisance, yet neither he nor I can see how it will be possible to do without them - he begs me to get your opinion on the subject.

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I saw a letter from Bloxam & Co Bankers authorizing Johnston & Co  
to draw the £800 - on them - otherwise we did not have given the value  
for it as these Johnston & Co who are supposed to have made a great  
deal of money are too extensive in the bill way - let this bill  
be sent off tomorrow for accept - Was there ever such  
delightful weather - it is almost frightful at this season.

Robt M  
3 April 1801

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 3 April 1801

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Page 2 of 2

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4 April 1801

Inclosed in the Cover of the post found letter what is write on it is by one of the Clerks in the office here - some of the Clerks in the Edin office must be in the Fault - I will not say any thing to James Senior till your man has been with James Junior and is either off or on - it is very likely he may satisfy Junior that he can manage the Business without a wife and if so he should certainly have it - and let him set off immediately. I have no Connection with the other man I alluded to - not so much as I know him - a friend of his hearing of Black having refused the offer of a wife to me, and from what he said I thought he would suit the Office well - In comes James I have just read the advice to him and he approves -

I envy Willie the pleasure of a Breakfast at P Green - I scolded him for voting for graceless Colonels etc for Elders - but he says his list were all well disposed churchgoing people - if so he was on the right side - I dont understand choosing an Elder who seldom or never goes to Church - that I know is not the case with the Elder for Aberdeen presbytery -

How I long to see the Improvements going on at P Green but I hardly think I shall ever again be out of sight of St. Andrew's steeple. Our preachings are next week. And the Monday after we shall expect to see your Crop with the Counsellor. I see the forgery bill will not suit you - but may not you get that paper that the Bank of England is to have. I am sorry to find Marshall is not to be tried - I cannot understand how they have let him off after having such work with him.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 4 April 1801

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4 April 1801

Inclosed is the cover of the post found letter what is wrote on it is by one of the clerks in the office here - some of the clerks in the Edinburgh office must be in the fault. I will not say anything to James Senior till your man has been with James Junior and is either off or on - it is very likely he may satisfy Junior that he can manage the business without a wife and if so he should certainly have it - I let him set off immediately. I have no connection with the other man I alluded to - not so much as I know him - a friend of his, hearing of Black having refused the offer spoke to me, and from what he said I thought he would suit the office well. In comes James I have just read the above to him and he approves.

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Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 4 April 1801

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The two bills you remitted us on Sandy Allan will be submitted tonight, and returned you on Monday. Until his remittances by the Jamaica fleet arrive he can pay 0 – he will then have almost 30m to divide. What a sum we have done this week on London – but we have also remitted you largely – Peterkin tells me in an hour and a half this forenoon the credit side of his cash book was 45m!

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night and returned you on Monday – until his remittances by  
the Jamaica fleet arrive he can pay 0 – he will then have  
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Wm Simpson Esq

R

RSM

4 April 1801

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6 April 1801

I have heard it stated as a matter of calculation how much ink your old friend Mr George Innes after a long life and much writing, had saved by omitting the dots above his P's - now if I was to omit the address of my P's how much writing of ink and I save in a year? 313 times W Simpson Esquire is no small matter - I see you have made Willie Kerr pay for his Blunder he also sends me the Report of your House of Industry which seems to be an excellent Institution and if I were not kept down by such things here I should send them a note -

I shall tell Archie what you say about 5/ notes - Collector Corbett tells me he is to make the first remittance payable on a Tuesday - but is not sure if he will be allowed to go on in that way - I hope you will get Jamie Fraser to do as other banks do -

The intelligence from Hamburgh to day seems to put our People in good spirits - Sunday has been a little singing about all is quiet there - and no probability of the K of Prussia taking possession - another letter mentions that Paul had changed his ministers and that in consequence the Confederacy will be given up and our Fleet was expected to return without having occasion to do any thing - I wish it may be so - but certainly the alarm at Hamburgh is much over - as there are many letters to that effect - I was at Rosebank on Saturday and saw a Rumford Stove Mr Dale has erected there - it is curious to see what boiling roasting & baking can be carried on by a mere handful of coals - you should get one at P Green's - Gregory from Edinburgh erects them - Archie Spiers has got one at the Inch and had a meeting of friends to try it on Saturday. It gave great satisfaction - Mr D moves to Rosebank in 2 or 3 weeks when we must try his -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 6 April 1801

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6 April 1801

I have heard it stated as a matter of calculation how much ink your old friend Mr George Innes after a long life and much writing, had saved by omitting the dots above his P's - now if I was to omit the address of my P's how much writing and ink would I save in a year? 313 times W Simpson Esquire is no small matter. I see you have made Willie Kerr pay for his Blunder he also sends me the report of your House of industry which seems to be an excellent institution and if I were not kept down by such things here I should send them a note.

I shall tell Archie what you say about 5/ notes - Collector Corbett tells me he is to make the first remittance payable on a Tuesday - but is not sure if he will be allowed to go on in that way. I hope you will get Jamie Fraser to do as other banks do. The intelligence from Hamburg today seems to put our people in good spirits. Finlay & Co have a letter saying that all is quiet there - and no probability of the K of Prussia taking possession - another letter mentions that Paul had changed his ministers and that in consequence the confederacy would be given up and our fleet was expected to return without having occasion to do anything. I wish it may be so - but certainly the alarm at Hamburg is much over - as there are many letters to that effect. I was at Rosebank on Saturday and saw a Rumford kitchen Mr Dale has erected there - it is curious to see what boiling roasting and baking can be carried on by a mere handful of coals - you should get one at P Green. Gregory from Edinburgh erects them. Archie Spiers has got one at the Inch and had a meeting of friends to try it on Saturday. It gave great satisfaction - Mr D moves to Rosebank in 2 or 3 weeks when we must try his.

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You see we have got down B[ills] discounted a trifle last week  
and it should be more reduced this week as we have 55m  
coming in including next Monday's bills - but heavy  
demands on us I see for this night.

52m remitted you on London last week!! and you  
see what of stuff we send you today which shows  
people here are not idle -

In comes fail me never Friend James - who says O  
see if you can prevail upon him when he comes west  
to take his dinner with me -

for some we have got the letters  
of G. H. T. - but the bills are not  
well in time to come into our  
bank and about 5-9-19 -

1000 1900 - 6224430 - 1100 22  
914100

Wm Simpson Esq

R

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson,  
the bank's cashier, 6 April 1801

RB/837/152

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You see we have got down B[ills] discounted a trifle last week and it should be more reduced this  
week as we have 55m coming in including next Monday's bills - but heavy demands on us I see for  
this night.

52m remitted you on London last week!! And you see what of stuff we send you today which shows  
that the people here are not idle.

In comes fail-me-never Friend James who says O see if you can prevail upon him when he comes  
west to take dinner with me.

For once we have got the better of Gilbert but the balance was not settled in time to come into our  
cash and list today.

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8 April 1801

So it wd appear we shall have as little good of you this visit  
as usual - if you are to be in the Court all Tuesday and to  
wheel to the right on Wednesday, you may as well stay at  
home for me - but how do you know the Trial will come  
on Tuesday? I hope not till Wednesday or Thursday and if I  
have Interest with the Court it shall be so - that you may  
be kept here nolence volence - if you come west on Monday  
will you take your kail with us at 4 - and at 7 I shall  
promise you a sight of more Bills than you see in Edin at  
least in one day - all our large notes of all kinds are  
given out of the Chest to day, as we have two days payments  
to make the sum paid out is larger than usual - most  
of these notes will no doubt be back with us on Friday  
but you may bring west a large supply of large notes  
particularly £100s - for few of them seem to come back  
we have still 12m of 20/ notes so you need not bring many  
of them - our Tellers I see dont use Guinea notes - we have long  
had 2m of them untouched - you may bring 5 or 600  
of half 4s & 7/ pieces - The returned Bills frighten  
me from their Bulk - but when I looked into them  
I saw the sum was small and we were safe - but friend  
James will not be pleased with that Irish man returned  
upon him - what a heap of Bills you send us  
some of them shabby enough I wonder how they  
find their way to you - but your Indorsers are good  
& fancy Robt Allan has got rather too far in with  
Campbell Ruthven & Co - you need not expect  
to hear from me tomorrow

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson,  
the bank's cashier, 8 April 1801

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8 April 1801

So it would appear we shall have as little good of you this visit as usual - if you are to be in the court  
all Tuesday and to wheel to the right on Wednesday, you may as well stay at home for me - but  
how do you know the trial will come on Tuesday? I hope not till Wednesday or Thursday and if I  
have interest with the court it shall be so - that you may be kept here nolence volence - if you  
come west on Monday will you take your kail with us at 4, and at 7 I shall provide you a sight of  
more bills than you see in Edinburgh at least in one day - all our large notes of all kinds are given  
out of the chest today, as we have two days' payments to make the sum paid out is larger than  
usual - most of these notes will no doubt be back with us on Friday but you may bring west a large  
supply of large notes particularly £100s, for few of them seem to come back. We have still 12m of  
20/ notes so you need not bring many of them - our Tellers I see don't use Guinea notes - we have  
long had 2m of them untouched - you may bring 5 or £600 of half Guineas and 7/ pieces. The  
returned bills frightened me from their Bulk, but when I looked into them I saw the sum was small  
and we were safe - but friend James will not be pleased with that Irish man returned upon him.  
What a heap of bills you send us some of them shabby enough I wonder how they find their way to  
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the bank's cashier, 8 April 1801

RB/837/157

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*Wm Simpson Esq*  
*8 April 1801*  
*RSM*

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10 April 1801

You'll receive my yesterday's P - that stupid body McDonald showed me  
 a letter to day from Boness from which it appeared the money was really  
 sent there to pay his Bill - but whether it is to be forwarded to the Edin  
 or come back here was not clear - so I return you the Bill and if the  
 money comes here we shall credit you for it and advise -  
 I can let my kail cool for no man on Mondays for I am obliged  
 to be down stairs at 5 to take Cunningham's cash off - if you will  
 not take kail at 4 - will you try David Russell's rum at 9 after  
 a couple of hours sweating at the Bills? - I read Senior what  
 you wrote and he has taken up his returned Bill by my discounting  
 a bill of McNeil Co for a larger sum - when you come west  
 I must have some talk about drawing some line with these McNeil  
 The Newcastle forged note Peterkin says he supposed a forgery - but  
 the lady who brought it assured him it was not and agreed to  
 take it back if returned - they have need of better eyes than  
 mine to discover the other forgeries particularly those of our  
 own forged notes - I am just made there is a letter  
 in our coffee house from Edin saying that dispatches had come to Leith  
 for Sir Hyde Parker - and that they were accompanied with an  
 order of Council to release the Danish ships at Leith - if this  
 be true it looks as if matters were settled - but it is not said  
 from whom the letter is - and with Intelligence I think should  
 have come through different channels - this is as did most  
 winter a kind weather - at this season I don't think we have frost  
 here but cold wet like weather in July and blowing hard - how  
 much we depend on a favourable spring! may it please God to  
 send it - Cunningham and Ed Gilchrist went up to Lanark to the Forty on Wednesday evening to  
 return on Sunday - they will have cold work of it I should think. In comes McNeil & Co with another  
 £1500 bill. I hesitated much, but on their assuring us the accepters were the very first and most  
 opulent brokers in London and that this bill is for their goods in their hands Mr D thought we should  
 take it.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson,  
 the bank's cashier, 10 April 1801

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10 April 1801

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how do you design Lord Armadale in a bond - I suppose <sup>the Honourable</sup> W<sup>H</sup> of Armadale one of the Senators of <sup>The College of</sup> Justice - I do not suppose he is entitled to Right Honourable. Henry Glassford has just sent me a Packet for you to go by the box - I told his lad that I expected you here before the box day. The letter in the coffee house I find is from Laird at Grangemouth and only says that two Swedish ships which were cut out of Norway are to be released - Peterkin goes into Edinburgh this afternoon to return on Monday - how our graceless lads fly the perchings - honest Dr Davidson is to take his kail with me today - I have given Peterkin Mr Glassford's Packet for you.

Robt M  
10 Apr 1801

Wm Simpson Esq  
J.S.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 10 April 1801

RB/837/159  
Page 2 of 2

How do you design Lord Armadale in a bond – I suppose the honourable WH of Armadale one of the Senators of the College of Justice – I do not suppose he is entitled to Right Honourable.

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11 April 1801

I fear there can be little doubt the Danes have taken possession of Hamburg. Finlay & Co here had a letter to the same effect with Mr Parishes - at same time it mentions that there was no intention to seize British Property and insurance was done at Hamburg as low as ever - I should not however like to have any Property there and if it is seized, there is no saying how far the effects will extend - strange it is that we yet know nothing of the operations of Sir Hyde's fleet - we must surely hear in a day or two - but these stormy winds at SW keep back intelligence - this however is a good day - the accounts of Ganteaume's Squadron are so vague and various that I have always some doubts, that they are not gone to the Mediterranean. It is a bad sign indeed of the King's health his not being at Chapel - he has not a subject I believe that has been for 50 years so regular an attender upon public worship. It will be a sad matter if the good man is taken from us - but as the complaint is only weakness the effect of fever, I would fain hope he will recover. Thomas Hopkirk has been confined a fortnight by a feverish bowel complaint - I sat an hour with him last night - he is a good deal better and expects to be able to attend the circuit as a jurymen - but he is to ask Lord Craig to put him up on a short trial - which will not be ours - he tells me the old Dean certainly comes west - if so he will quite overcome your young counsel and Bar will get off - your own old Counsellor will be the heaviest metal against him - you would see Canal Logan only paid in his money for his acceptance to us yesterday so I suppose it would be protested - adieu till I see the crop Monday afternoon - it will be near 4 before I get home from church - we have 2 long sermons here.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 11 April 1801

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Page 1 of 2

11 April 1801

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Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 11 April 1801

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Page 2 of 2

I find there is a Hamburg mail and I have just seen a letter from there with an account of the Danes entering the city – but property is not touched.

I find this is a Hamburg mail and I  
have just seen a letter from there  
with an account of the Danes entering the  
city – but property is not touched  
- 11 April 1801  
R. S. M.

Wm Simpson Esq

NatWest

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16 April 1801

So we must just fall to the Ps again - indeed the Bank letter these two days past has been a dry morsel to me for want of them. By this time I hope you, your counsellor and my Rob are safe in old Reekie - I doubt it will be long enough before we get such a decent sort of visit from you - curious enough that we should have owed it wholly to a Rascal of a Forger - will Mr R never come west and see how his child goes on here?

There are most serious accounts by the Hamburg mail today. I fear there has been hot work at Copenhagen and I wish our fleet may not be destroyed - but in one way or other I should think matters must soon be brought to a point -

What a pitiful figure the free imperial city of Hamburg makes - but from all I can learn very little or no British property from this place at least will be found there - this event has been long in view and means have been taken for sending off the goods or transferring the property - indeed a very great proportion of the goods sent from here were sent per order and for account of Germans - these will surely not be touched - with these easterly winds I should think you must immediately have information at least of what is going on at Copenhagen -

We are sadly distressed for want of Copper - the few remnants of the old halfpennys will now go - and we have none of the new coin - I have desired Bollin's friend here to write for some Casks to us but he doubts whether Bollin may now have them as his contract with government was for a limited quantity - Pray if you can spare us any quantity of them send them by first carrier - or if but small by the Ps - Penny pieces we like best -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 16 April 1801

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16 April 1801

So we must just fall to the Ps again - indeed the bank letter these two days past has been a dry morsel to me for want of them. By this time I hope you, your counsellor and my Rob are safe in old Reekie - I doubt it will be long enough before we get such a decent sort of visit from you - curious enough that we should have owed it wholly to a rascal of a forger - will Mr R never come west and see how his child goes on here.

There are most serious accounts by the Hamburg mail today. I fear there has been hot work at Copenhagen and I wish our fleet may not be destroyed - but in one way or other I should think matters must soon be brought to a point.

What a pitiful figure the free imperial city of Hamburg makes - but from all I can learn very little or no British property from this place at least will be found there - this event has been long in view and means have been taken for sending off the goods or transferring the property - indeed a very great proportion of the goods sent from here were sent per order and for account of Germans - these will surely not be touched. With these easterly winds I should think you must immediately have information at least of what is going on at Copenhagen.

We are sadly distressed for want of copper, for none of the old halfpennys will now go, and we have no more of the new coin. I have desired Bollin's friend here to write for some casks to us but he doubts whether Bollin may now have them as his contract with government was for a limited quantity.

Pray if you can spare us any quantity of them send them by first carrier - or if but small by the box - Penny pieces we like best.

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Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 16 April 1801

RB/837/162

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[not transcribed; addressed by RSM and annotated with date and sender by WS]

Mr Simpson Esq  
RBS

16 April 1801  
RSM

NatWest

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17 April 1801

How important the Intelligence by this days Post. It spreads  
universal Joy here - I never saw the People's faces so much changed  
I should have hesitated about believing it if I had not got a  
letter from my friend Mr Begbie wrote at Mr Robt Thornton's  
desire, saying that the account of Paul's death had come to his  
and some other Russian houses and that the fact might be  
depended on - I wd fain hope his death will be the immediate  
death of the Northern Confederacy - but it is strange that  
the Danes after they must have heard of it should have  
made such resistance - it seems certain that there has  
been a furious Bombardment at Copenhagen - and we have  
many stories here of the Result - but we can depend upon  
none of them - in a day or two we must have accounts  
from authority - what an eventful Period this - if  
we could get such accounts from Paris as we have from  
Petersb<sup>urgh</sup> it wd produce a wonderful change in Europe  
- what shall we do with this Carrick - he persists in  
paying out on Tuesdays & Fridays all his east country  
small notes which he knows they will come into the other Banks  
Just now Menzel & Co brought a Bundle of abt £1000  
all small notes which they got from a man who got them from  
Carrick - as it was to pay a Bill and they had no other  
means of paying it we could not refuse them - but it is  
most provoking to be put to all this trouble and I know  
not how it is in our power to prevent it - we may  
and do refuse such terms when offered to be paid into an account  
but I know not if we can refuse them in payment of Bills  
I mean to call on Carrick this evening and at least let  
out my ill humour at him

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 17 April 1801

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17 April 1801

How important the intelligence by this day's Post. It spreads universal joy here – I never saw the People's faces so much changed. I should have hesitated about believing it if I had not got a letter from my friend Mr Begbie wrote at Mr Robert Thornton's desire, saying that the account of Paul's death had come to his and some other Russian houses and that the fact might be depended on. I would fain hope his death will be the immediate death of the Northern Confederacy – but it is strange that the Danes after they must have heard of it should have made such resistance – it seems certain that there has been a furious bombardment at Copenhagen – and we have many stories here of the result – but we can depend upon none of them – in a day or two we must have accounts from authority – what an eventful period this – if we could get such accounts from Paris as we have from Petersburg it would produce a wonderful change in Europe.

What shall we do with this Carrick – he persists in paying out on Tuesdays and Fridays all his east country small notes when he knows they will come into the other banks. Just now McNeil & Co brought a bundle of about £1000 all small notes which they got from a man who got them from Carrick – as it was to pay a bill and they had no other means of paying it we could not refuse them, but it is most provoking to be put to all this trouble and I know not how it is in our power to prevent it – we may and do refuse such terms when offered to be paid into an account but I know not if we can refuse them in payment of bills. I mean to call on Carrick this evening and at least let out my ill humour at him.

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Corbett Russell & Co had a very agreeable Party at dinner yesterday when your absence was much regretted - the first Toast even before the King was the Royal Bank - David Russell regretted not meeting with you - asked if I had spoken to you about his receiving the 2m - I told him I had that it was not expected he would have desired it - but that I supposed it should be done -

Dr Stuart Luss is at my hand goes into Edin tomorrow for a week or two I invited him to P Green to give you a good advice about your flowers - Mr D & I gave a kind of promise that Middleton & Tennant's proposal would be agreed to

Edin  
17 April 1801

Wm Simpson Esq  
P

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 17 April 1801

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Page 2 of 2

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Dr Stuart Luss is at my hand - goes into Edinburgh tomorrow for a week or two I invited him to P Green to give you a good advice about your flowers.

Mr D and I gave a kind of promise that Middleton & Tennant's proposal would be agreed to.

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18 April 1801

Never did I see such a burst of joy as in our coffee house this morning - what a transition in two days! I really hope we shall hear no more of the northern confederacy and that the Danes at Hamburg when they hear the news will give up their prey there and set all to rights again - that Nelson is a wonderful body for execution - it will be much if his head do not crack with vanity & applause - Mr. Sluham came in the Mail from London this morning and he says before he set out certain accounts had arrived of the Bombay Army 10,000 strong having landed at Suez - I shall see what the dinner Pouters say to it - but some of them will not rejoice much - they are of that perverse description who only rejoice on our Enemies Victories - before dinner I am going to take a Ride with the Dean to see his Improvements at Jordanhill - he will rejoice - adieu - I am glad you are keeping the old B--ch in order - Thanks for your Care of my wife - a high Joke her being taken for Hodges' wife in such company - If I don't meet with Mr. Glassford to day I shall send him a note on Monday that I will pay your debt -

Monday's Gazette comes to day - but the letter to the Lord Mayor is sufficient Authority

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 18 April 1801

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18 April 1801

Never did I see such a burst of joy as in our coffee house this morning - what a transition in 2 days! I really hope we shall hear no more of the northern confederacy and that the Danes at Hamburg when they hear the news will give up their prey there and set all to rights again - that Nelson is a wonderful body for execution - it will be much if his head do not crack with vanity and applause - McIlwham came in the mail from London this morning and he says before he set out certain accounts had arrived of the Bombay army 10,000 strong having landed at Suez.

I shall see what the linen printers say to it - but some of them will not rejoice much - they are of that perverse description who only rejoice on our enemies' victories. Before dinner I am going to take a ride with the Dean to see his improvements at Jordanhill - he will rejoice. Adieu. I am glad you are keeping the old B--ch in order. Thanks for your care of my wife - a high joke her being taken for Hodges' wife in such company. If I don't meet with Henry Glassford today I shall send him a note on Monday that I will pay your debt.

No Gazette come today - but the letter to the Lord Mayor is sufficient authority.

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Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 18 April 1801

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[not transcribed; addressed by RSM and annotated with date and sender by WS]

*R. S. M.*  
*18 April 1801*  
*Mr. Simpson*

NatWest

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21 April 1801

RB/837/170 I have desired Bob to give you a Reading of his Glasgow Courier of this day - there is a letter in it from the Surgeon of Lord Nelson's Ship giving almost admirable Account of that most tremendous affair with many Particulars which will touch you to the heart - it seems really to have been the most glorious Exploit ever our Navy performed - the Writer of the letter is I hear from this Town - I sent the Speech to the Speaker - David Russell just called to say that he was to draw on Simon at 3 mo<sup>s</sup> for 5m - and to know if he might depend on the Renewal of the other 2m at the Term - I told him that I thought he might - 5 of the 7 paid in a good London Bill is pretty well -

I wish you had been with us last night in place of the Monday before we had at least one fourth more Bills laid before us - there was a column & a half more of my Jottings - and we have done but much as you will see for it is unluckily only 31m comes in this week but much good Paper did we refuse - These Returns of Somervill's Bills will distress some here - the Sum must be very large - I wish you Brown Murray Co may stand it we have more of their Paper than of Somervill's whose Bills I never liked and must look any but from the best Indorsers - such is the end of mad Speculation - Our Box will not hold all our Mixture today -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 21 April 1801

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21 April 1801

I have desired Bob to give you a reading of his Glasgow Courier of this day - there is a letter in it from the surgeon of Lord Nelson's ship giving a most admirable account of that most tremendous affair with many particulars which will touch you to the heart - it seems really to have been the most glorious exploit ever our Navy performed - the writer of the letter is I hear from this town. I sent the speech to the Speaker.

David Russell just called to say that he was to draw on Simon at 3 months for 5m and to know if he might depend on the renewal of the other 2m at the term - I told him that I thought he might - 5 of the 7 paid in a good London bill is pretty well.

I wish you had been with us last night in place of the Monday before we had at least one fourth more bills laid before us - there was a column and a half more of my jottings - and we have done too much as you will see for it is unlucky only 31m comes in this week - but much good paper did we refuse. These returns of Somervill's bills will distress some here - the sum must be very large - I wish your Brown Murray & Co may stand it we have more of their paper than of Somervill's whose bills I never liked - and never took any but from the best indorsers - such is the end of mad speculation.

Our box will not hold all our mixtures today.

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Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 21 April 1801

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There is a parcel for Mr More which the box will not hold.

There is a Parcel for Mr More  
which the Box will not hold.  
21 Apr 1801  
RSM

Wm Simpson Esq

NatWest

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22 April 1801

The B—ch's Blood being converted into Balsam for Down is a good fancy — plenty may you have of it — The Scotch Banks' Birse will be up at the slighting manner in which the Attorney General talks of their Paper — I shall let Wallie know how good you are to Postle — I tell him he is a famous hand for cobling Bankrupt Estates indeed if we get Peace I wish our People do not turn daft — our next accounts from the Continent will be very important — we shall hear what Nelson has made of his negotiation — what the K of Prussia is to do and above all how the Emperor Alexander is to act — the only satisfactory proof of his being friendly to us will be his restoring our ships & property if he does this I shall think all is right yet —

The letter I advised you to read in our Courier is from a brother of Mr Finlayson the advocate whom you saw here — he is surgeon of the Elephant he writes that Sir Hyde sometime after the attack was begun dreading the result hung out the signal to Nelson to withdraw but he would not obey it — the printer very properly suppressed this — and I hope it is not quite correct as it would not be for the credit of either — By the Sunday's paper I see Sir Ralph certainly landed 8 March and from the desponding style of the French of malPasser I hope we shall soon have good accounts from there.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 22 April 1801

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22 April 1801

The B—ch's blood being converted into Balsam for Down is a good fancy — plenty may you have of it. The Scotch banks' birse will be up at the slighting manner in which the Attorney General talks of their paper — I shall let Wallie know how good you are to Postle — I tell him he is a famous hand for cobling bankrupt estates. Indeed if we get peace I wish our people do not turn daft — our next accounts from the continent will be very important — we shall hear what Nelson has made of his negotiation — what the K of Prussia is to do and above all how the Emperor Alexander is to act — the only satisfactory proof of his being friendly to us will be his restoring our ships and property. If he does this I shall think all is right yet.

The letter I advised you to read in our Courier is from a brother of Mr Finlayson the advocate whom you saw here — he is surgeon of the Elephant. He writes that Sir Hyde sometime after the attack was begun dreading the result hung out the signal to Nelson to withdraw but he would not obey it — the printer very properly suppressed this — and I hope it is not quite correct as it would not be for the credit of either. By the Sunday's paper I see Sir Ralph certainly landed 8 March and from the desponding style of the French of malPasser I hope we shall soon have good accounts from there.

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Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 22 April 1801

RB/837/171

Page 2 of 2

[not transcribed; addressed by RSM and annotated with date and sender by WS]

Mr Simpson Esr  
22 April 1801  
RSM

NatWest

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23 April 1801

I do fain augur well from the French account of the Egyptian  
 business but it seems to have been hot work and I fear  
 we shall hear of many of our countrymen having lost their  
 lives - I hear there are stops the presses in some of the papers  
 with an account of a 14 weeks armistice at Copenhagen  
 I do not well understand this, it had better been better  
 matters had been formally settled - but we shall hear all  
 about it tomorrow - what story is this Bob gives  
 me of two Bow Street officers apprehending a traitor  
 from Hamburg in Leith Roads - and finding many letters  
 to some people in this country - we shall be curious  
 to know who these people are - I wish some of our  
 Glasgow blacknebs be not among them - if it should  
 turn out to be Fox or Sheridan I do not regret it  
 That Somervell will do much mischief - these mad  
 extensive speculators should be sent to Botany Bay -  
 If Cunningham does not call before the Bank I  
 shall call on the Currency and tell him about his bill  
 you might have sent it to Cameron at Leith -  
 James had two horses to send to the works - one of them was  
 to be rode out by Cunningham - he did not know how to get  
 the other sent when Cunningham frankly offered to lead him  
 and did so - this shows that he will put his hand to any  
 work and please James much - The Elder has lost  
 his estate - it was all sold in whole to James Sword, who I am  
 afraid will be to erect an ironwork upon it - the Elder  
 called to tell me about this last night after I had gone out  
 and may probably have wrote you - I must speak to  
 Sword and see if he will give him a slice

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 23 April 1801

RB/837/173

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23 April 1801

I would fain augur well from the French account of the Egyptian business but it seems to have been hot work and I fear we shall hear of many of our countrymen having lost their lives - I hear there are stop the presses in some of the papers with an account of a 14 weeks' armistice at Copenhagen. I do not well understand this, it would have been better matters had been formally settled - but we shall hear all about it tomorrow. What story is this Bob gives me of two Bow Street officers apprehending a traitor from Hamburg in Leith Roads, and finding many letters to and from people in this country - we shall be curious to know who these people are - I wish some of our Glasgow blacknebs be not among them. If it should turn out to be Fox or Sheridan I would not regret it.

That Somervell will do much mischief - these mad extensive speculators should be sent to Botany Bay. If Cunningham C does not call before the bank shut I shall call in the evening and tell him about his bill - you might have sent it to Cameron at Leith.

Senior called just now - Junior is well pleased with Cunningham. James had two horses to send to the works - one of them was to be rode out by Cunningham - he did not know how to get the other sent when Cunningham frankly offered to lead him and did so - this shows that he will put his hand to any work and pleased James much. The Elder has lost his estate - it was all sold in whole to James Sword at 15,000G who I am afraid will be to erect an ironwork upon it - the Elder called to tell me about this last night after I had gone out and may probably have wrote you - I must speak to Sword and see if he will give him a slice.

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RB/837/173

I did not meet with Carrick till last night - could make 0 of him he says the two Paisleys and Greenock send no notes to Edinburgh and harped up on the old string that until we paid silver and gold for our notes as the other Banks do we never could act justly etc. He talked about a clause in the new Stamp Act which he thinks would subject your notes reissued here and the Bank of Scotland's notes at their Branches to double duty - you may look into this. You bid us refuse these bundles of east country small notes. We do so when offered on cash or deposit accounts - but can we do so legally in payment of bills? I doubt Mr Nimmo could not protest if such payment was offered him. In comes a letter for you from the Elder which will tell you all about it.

Mr Carrick has just called - Cameron has got part of the money and secured the rest - he is ready to pay.

Wm Simpson Esq

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 23 April 1801

RB/837/173  
Page 2 of 2

I did not meet with Carrick till last night - could make 0 of him he says the two Paisleys and Greenock send no notes to Edinburgh and harped up on the old string that until we paid silver and gold for our notes as the other banks do we never could act justly etc. He talked about a clause in the new Stamp Act which he thinks would subject your notes reissued here and the Bank of Scotland's notes at their branches to double duty - you may look into this. You bid us refuse these bundles of east country small notes. We do so when offered on cash or deposit accounts - but can we do so legally in payment of bills? I doubt Mr Nimmo could not protest if such payment was offered him. In comes a letter for you from the Elder which will tell you all about it.

C Corbett has just called - Cameron has got part of the money and secured the rest - he is ready to pay.

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24 April 1801

Most of our coffee house Politicians I see are roaring against the  
Armistice - but I really think it is all we could expect and  
that an explicit Renunciation of the Neutrality Treaty on the part  
of the Danes - extorted by Fear would not have been so much  
to be depended on - this is letting them down more gently and  
will I trust have the same Effect - how important  
the news we must have in a few days from Egypt! I hope  
the best - but there is some danger - and at best many  
a fine fellow must have lost his life there - what an  
eventful Period this! - It will be strange if this news  
at all shall prevent your making use of what Paper  
you please - but I shall be curious to know what the  
Englishers say to your sheet - what shall we do for  
Copper - Bollen's friend here has an answer saying none  
can be got till a new coinage and the Price of Copper falls  
and advises Government to be petitioned as the only means  
of getting a supply - Peterkin says he knows not how  
it will be possible to get there without a supply  
we have had a very ~~heavy~~ heavy discounting week of  
it and must have lost all the ground we gained -  
By a letter from Hambg I see there is no word of the  
Prussians retiring - and the two ships from Leith had  
arrived but were detained at Coxhaven until security  
was given that British Goods would be secured -  
P Porcupine says - O if Berlin were but a  
Sea Port! - he must be a sad fellow that K of Prussia

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson,  
the bank's cashier, 24 April 1801

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Page 1 of 2

24 April 1801

Most of our coffee house politicians I see are roaring against this Armistice - but I really think it is all we could expect and that an explicit renunciation of the neutrality treaty on the part of the Danes extorted by fear would not have been so much to be depended on - this is letting them down more gently and will I trust have the same effect - how important the news we must have in a few days from Egypt! I hope the best - but there is some danger - and at best many a fine fellow must have lost his life there - what an eventful period this!

It will be strange if this new Act shall prevent your making use of what paper you please - but I shall be curious to know what the Englishers say to your sheet - what shall we do for copper - Bollen's friend here has an answer saying none can be got till a new coinage and the price of copper falls and advises government to be petitioned as the only means of getting a supply. Peterkin says he knows not how it will be possible to get thro without a supply.

We have had a very heavy discounting week of it and must have lost all the ground we gained. By a letter from Hamburg I see there is no word of the Prussians retiring - and the two ships from Leith had arrived but were detained at Coxhaven until security was given that British goods would not be seized. The Porcupine says O if Berlin were but a seaport! He must be a sad fellow that K of Prussia.

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Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 24 April 1801

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25 April 801

Mr Baird's letter brings very important intelligence I hope Alexander & George will soon be good friends - and that Sir Hyde & Nelson will soon manage the Swede and bring about a general amicable accommodation which will be surely much better than if we had destroyed the poor Danes.

This is an ugly story from Malta but I cannot believe it - but it must make us the more anxious for good accounts from Egypt - I am glad Carrick is wrong about the clause - we shall refuse their bundles of small notes even in payment of bills unless we see danger that

payments may be lost by the refusal - I called on Sword last night and was glad to find that he is not the purchaser of the estate nor has any idea of erecting iron works on it as was said - it is young Dennistoun the son of the present proprietor that has bought it on speculation and would say he will be disposed to sell it off in parcels - so the Elder may yet get his slice.

John Lindsay the other day told me that he was certain something was going on by Dunlop & his son to get him a discharge and that he suspected Simon Fraser wd be brought to yield - I showed him the letter of mine left with him which surprised him much - and made him happy.

Jo Wardlaw Dalkeith left this today - he promises to procure us a supply of new coined copper as he thinks he can pick up a good quantity at Dalkeith - I bid him to apply to you for the value -

McMurrich tells me he hears Somerville is to be immediately sequestrated - such the end of mad speculation.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 25 April 1801

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Page 1 of 2

25 April 1801

Mr Baird's letter brings very important intelligence. I hope Alexander and George will soon be good friends, and that Sir Hyde and Nelson will soon manage the Swede and bring about a general amicable accommodation which will be surely much better than if we had destroyed the poor Danes.

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Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson,  
the bank's cashier, 25 April 1801

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*Robert Scott Moncrieff*  
*25 April 1801*

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27 April 1801

Glad I am to see the bad news in a manner contradicted in the French papers - I never believed it - but the Relations of the officers there would suffer much by it - The Democrats I see are confident that Sir Ralph will make nothing of it - may they be disappointed. If Alexander the 1st is really our friend and Nelson gets the better of the Swede I think the K of Prussia will be got wrapped tho I agree with you about not sending goods to Hamburg at present - you see how bills discounted swelled last week - and I fear it will be more so this week as there is only 37m coming in and many demands - a letter from Jo Campbell & Co saying they balance their books the 30th - begging as a particular favour we will do £1900 for them this week and they will ask 0 the next - a note from Walter Ewing begging we will do £700 for him and he will ask no more for a long time - a call from Hopkirk & Co begging £1000 - this night and as much two weeks to come unless the Leeward Islands mail which is due arrives by it they expect large remittances - so we go on and many such demands there will be before night unless you come again to frighten away the people -

(The you ever see such delightful weather - this is like the Springs we had about 50 years ago when it was universally the practice at least in Fife to work the beancrops from 3 to 8 in the morning as from the intense heat they could not work in the middle of the day - it was then we had such full crops - I hope we shall have the like this year - The Dean goes in for his daughter this day senight - he speaks much of your kindness to her - I had then with a Peep of P Green and see what you was doing there on Tuesday he returns on Wednesday -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 27 April 1801

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Did you ever see such delightful weather - this is like the springs we had about 50 years ago when it was universally the practice at least in Fife to work the bean seed from 3 to 8 in the morning as from the intense heat they could not work in the middle of the day - it was then we had such full crops. I hope we shall have the like this year. The Dean goes in for his daughter this day senight - he speaks much of your kindness to her - I had him take a Peep of P Green and see what you was doing there on Tuesday he returns on Wednesday

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Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 27 April 1801

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The balance with Gilbert.

*R  
S*  
*Mr Simpson & Co*  
*27 April 1801*  
*The Balance with Gilbert*

NatWest

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28 April 1801

The Elders £10- was only paid the 16<sup>th</sup> current and will appear in the state sent Mr Mac by this day's box. I heard Gammell's story and there seems to be no doubt he bought pistols here on his way to England - but Gordon Hamilton's partner tells me that the latter had no thought of fighting a duel - altho he says Gammell used him very ill and gave him much abusive language at a friend's house where they happened to meet at dinner - he says Gammell is universally disliked at Greenock and that he is gone up to London on purpose to oppose a Bill for the improvement of their harbour which all the people there are set upon - but this is the testimony of an adversary - I do not like to hear of the B--ch changing her Pups - lest it come into Fashion and the Royal dismiss her poor old Pup -

Mr D went for Lanark this morning to attend County meetings and will not be home till Friday - he said nothing to me about the £1600 bill but I suppose has it in view and you may just keep it till you hear from him - when he returns I shall let him see what you say - I have had a great deal of backwater today - its a tormenting Reprobation to sit and hear people telling their wants of necessities - These McNeil & Co above all are a torment their sums are so large - we refused a Glasgow £1000 acceptance last night because we knew not the acceptor - they brought a £2000 draught on Colquhoun today which I refused as we have already a large sum on them - so how they will do I know not - two of their bills on London we took when you was here and refused acceptance £400 - each drawn from Ireland. I know not what they are all chased away - indeed I never take these Lancaster bills but with much reluctance - it would be right to refuse them altogether if that did not break the indorsers. I would fain hope it is not so ill with the King as I see by today's paper he is riding about and going to Weymouth -

Handwritten marginal note on the left side of the page, partially obscured and difficult to read.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 28 April 1801

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28 April 1801

The Elder's £10 was only paid the 16th current - and will appear in the state sent Mr Mac by this day's box. I heard Gammell's story and there seems to be no doubt he bought pistols here on his way to England - but Gordon Hamilton's partner tells me that the latter had no thought of fighting a duel - although he says Gammell used him very ill and gave him much abusive language at a friend's house where they happened to meet at dinner - he says Gammell is universally disliked at Greenock and that he is gone up to London on purpose to oppose a bill for the improvement of their harbour which all the people there are set up on - but this is the testimony of an adversary.

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Mr D went for Lanark this morning to attend county meetings and will not be home till Friday - he said nothing to me about the £1600 bill but I suppose has it in view and you may just keep it till you hear from him - when he returns I shall let him see what you say. I have had a great deal of backwater today its a tormenting situation to sit and hear people telling their wants and necessities. These McNeil & Co above all are a torment their sums are so large - we refused a Glasgow £1000 acceptance last night because we knew not the acceptor - they brought a £2000 draught on Colquhoun today which I refused as we have already a large sum on them - so how they will do I know not - two of their bills on London we took when you was here and refused acceptance £400 - each drawn from Ireland. I know not what they are all chased away - indeed I never take these Lancaster bills but with much reluctance - it would be right to refuse them altogether if that did not break the indorsers. I would fain hope it is not so ill with the King as I see by today's paper he is riding about and going to Weymouth.

I refused an acceptance of a Robert Wilsons Leith for about £300 to Robertson Henry & Co til I should know more about him. Do you know if this Wilson is good.

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In comes Bob McCall (McNeil's Partner) with an accept of Finlay & Co's £950  
and the £2000 - sent on their Bankers sent you - the first I took readily  
but I hesitated about the latter without which however he said he could not  
make his payment to day. I told the extent of their Paper was so great and  
so much beyond what we did for others that I really could not go on in  
this way - I begd he wd go into Edin and settle with the office there  
to what extent we were to go as it was cruel to throw upon me  
the Responsibility of going into such deep Transactions - he said  
he wd do so as he could not bear to be bothered in this way every  
week - that he did not consider our taking their Bills on London  
as any favour many wd be thankful for them - I asked who  
would take them to such extent and told him he might and should go to others.  
So there it ended - and still I know not what to make of them.

Bob McCall  
28 April 1801

Wm Simpson Esq

In comes the Elder - he has employed Jamie Hall the writer to negotiate with Dennistoun for a slice  
of the land - he tells me Mr Ranken our minister who is publishing a history of France 6 or 8  
volumes is to dine with him today - that he was made a D.D. by our College this forenoon but he  
does not yet know so the Elder is to surprise them after dinner with a bumper to Dr Ranken -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 28 April 1801

RB/837/182  
Page 2 of 2

In comes Bob McCall (McNeil's partner) with an acceptance of Finlay & Co's £950 and the £2000 draft on their bankers sent you – the first I took readily but I hesitated about the latter without which however he said he could not make his payment today. I told him the extent of their paper was so great and so much beyond what we did for others that I really could not go on in this way – I begged he would go into Edinburgh and settle with the office there to what extent we were to go as it was cruel to throw upon me the responsibility of going into such deep transactions – he said he would do so as he could not bear to be bothered in this way every week – that he did not consider our taking their bills on London as any favour many would be thankful for them – I asked who would take them to such extent and told him he might and should go to others. So there it ended – and still I know not what to make of them.

In comes the Elder – he has employed Jamie Hall the writer to negotiate with Dennistoun for a slice of the land – he tells me Mr Ranken our minister who is publishing a history of France 6 or 8 volumes is to dine with him today – that he was made a DD by our college this forenoon but he does not yet know so the Elder is to surprise them after dinner with a bumper to Dr Ranken.

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29 April 1801

I rejoice with you on the fall of the Prices - this delightful weather will frighten all the Grain holders and make them bring it forward but altho there be much in the dealers hands that is little to the Consumption and I cannot yet think there is much in the Farmers hands otherwise it would have appeared when Prices were so high. I hear thro' other channels the King is not well and has Dr Willis with him at Kew - which is very grieving - yet I can hardly think he can be very ill when the Privy Council so lately ordered Thanksgiving for his Recovery - a Capt Charles Kerr called just now was surprised I did not know him - wanted £50 for his Bill on Hotchkis I asked for his letter of credit - he had none - but from the man's appearance I was induced to give me the money as he showed me his letter of advice to Hotchkis - he says he has bought Calder Bank a beautiful place near Blantyre and will have occasion to draw a good deal more - shall I take his bills? Capt Corbett goes in to Edin tomorrow and promises to call and give you a chew - he tells me his large Bill on Somervell £1500 I think due this day indorsed will come back upon you but it is indorsed to him by a Liverpool house who will make it quite safe to him - tho' they cannot give the money - they had a great deal more than the value of Somervell's Rum. McMurrich is in the precise same situation for a 4m Bill which I suppose will be back up on you - but I must call and see if he can take it up - Malcolm is very rich and will not be pleased at this - he says Somervell is really wrong in the head - what folly in people to trust so much property with such a mad man - I don't wonder to see Rum down at 3 or 4/ - Bob McCall will probably be at Glasgow and I wish you may settle with him to what extent we are to go with McNeil & Co - I cannot but think they have a great bottom but they are beyond all bounds in extent and when such is the case there is always danger.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 29 April 1801

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29 April 1801

I rejoice with you on the fall of the prices. This delightful weather will frighten all the grain holders and make them bring it forward but altho there be much in the dealers' hands that is little to the consumption and I cannot yet think there is much in the farmers' hands otherwise it would have appeared when prices were so high. I hear through other channels the King is not well and has Dr Willis with him at Kew - which is very grieving - yet I can hardly think he can be very ill when the Privy Council so lately ordered Thanksgiving for his recovery.

A Captain Charles Kerr called just now was surprised I did not know him - wanted £50 for his bill on Hotchkis I asked for his letter of credit - he had none - but from the man's appearance I was induced to give me [sic] the money as he showed me his letter of advice to Hotchkis - he says he has bought Calder Bank a beautiful place near Blantyre and will have occasion to draw a good deal more - shall I take his bills? Collector Corbett goes into Edinburgh tomorrow and promises to call and give you a chew - he tells me his large bill on Somervell £1500 I think due this day in London will come back upon you but it is indorsed to him by a Liverpool house who will make it quite safe to him though they cannot give the money - they hold a great deal more than the value of Somervell's rum. McMurrich is in the precise same situation for a 4m bill which I suppose will be back up on you - but I must call and see if he can take it up - Malcolm is very rich and will not be pleased at this - he says Somervell is really wrong in the head - what folly in people to trust so much property with such a madman - I should not wonder to see rum down at 3 or 4/. Bob McCall will probably be at you and I wish you may settle with him to what extent we are to go with McNeil & Co. I cannot but think they have a great bottom but they are beyond all bounds in extent and when such is the case there is always danger.

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Edward forgot to send the weekly list in the Box yesterday  
it will go in the next

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 29 April 1801

RB/837/185

Page 2 of 2

Edward forgot to send the weekly list in the box yesterday – it will go in the next.

Rd Mc  
29 April 1801

Wm Simpson Esq  
R

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30 April 1801

You think of nothing but to crack your wit upon my Troubles with your back water Drains - and sweating Room Evacuations long however may it be so! - This tumbling of the markets seems to put you in good spirits - it is really delightful - but what a sum Government will have to pay - in your calculation you omit American Flour which I doubt will be the heaviest article - all shipped before 25 March is guaranteed 90/- the quantity will be immense - some cargoes lately sold here at 65/- at public sale - J & A Dennistoun tell me just now they have 1300 Barrels advertised - they hardly expect so much at that rate Government must pay 25/- for every Barrel - the price at Liverpool I see notwithstanding the immense importation there is 75 or 76/- I should hardly think Dr Ranken has such Talents as will make his Book take however he has made a safe bargain with the London Booksellers - they publish the two first Vols at their Risk of their sale will - they are to give him a Price for the following Vols - I should suppose the two first will relate to the ancient History of France - it is too soon to write the modern history - the want of Hamburg mails today makes our people fear the K of Prussia has stopped them - had this been the case I think a caller would have been sent with the intelligence. They will come tomorrow. I hope there is no truth in the Turks having allowed the Russian fleet to pass the Dardanelles - but peace does not seem to be so near as it was. Nothing decisive will be done before the fate of Egypt is known - how important the intelligence from there.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 30 April 1801

RB/837/188

Page 1 of 2

30 April 1801

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John Wardlaw writes me that he has sent us a Box with  
£15 - of Copper which will help us - you will give him  
the value and debit us - If my Robert comes across  
you - you may say to him that our Porter forgot to put  
the small Parcel for his Aunt in the Box - I shall send it by  
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the Box in our hold -

Recd  
30 April 1801

Wm Simpson Esq

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Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 30 April 1801

RB/837/188

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