

2 March 801

Alas the accounts of our good King today are no better - the fever still continuing and a fever with a man of his age (he and I are year's bairns) must be attended with great danger - especially if his pulse be up at 140 - that must soon bring him to his End - may it please God to interpose in behalf of this sinful Nation! -

Stirling G & Co are no blate but from regard to your directors I suppose you must do the Whitsunday bills for them - they never applied to us for a discount - and I have always understood they kept their money equally with us and the other two Banks here. I do not know they have any particular connection with Carrick - but they are very intimate with Hugh Hamilton and Stirling our accountant who is the Air Bank agent tells me the frequently discount large bills with Air Bank. I suppose they discount only with Hugh - on looking into their account with us I see they make only 3 or 4 large operations in the month and that they have now £2200 with us -

I am very glad your small notes escape. Kind respects to the Elder and show him all civilities on my account. You may give him credit for 30 or 40/ to pay his charges - if he requires it.

50m bills on London sent you last week! That's no Bairns' Play I assure you.

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

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2 March 1801

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RSM

2 March 1801

Wm Simpson Esq

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3 March 1801

I have a letter from Mr T to day wherein after telling me he rather favoured the Catholic Emancipation Scheme and his reasons for doing so - he writes as follows as to our good King
"The Bulletin to day is that the fever continues but is somewhat abated - It is said that Dr Willis says if the other Doctors will answer for the fever he can speak confidently as to the head - the Prince is thought to wish to retain Pitt, or even to form a coalition between him and Fox but the latter is impossible, and probably the former also - I find that Hanover had certainly nothing to do with Pitt's Resignation"

From this I wd. hope that there is yet no settled derangement in the King's head, and that if the fever does not carry him off he may yet be restored to us - but the state of things is indeed alarming a few days must bring out important events I hear some private letters wrote at 6 o'clock on Saturday speak of the King as worse

We have had much to do to day - I have just given out the Bills due tomorrow in all 194 and the amount 33m - I fancy you have not so many - and you see what a heap of London Bills go to you - Mr D. thinks there is a great deal of wind going in that way - there may be some hundreds in such a bundle - but I cannot help thinking the generally are real Bills connected with real Trade

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

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3 March 1801

I have a letter from Mr T today wherein after telling me he rather favoured the Catholic emancipation scheme and his reasons for doing so - he writes as follows as to our good King

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4 March 1801 -

The Sunday's Bulletin I am told is favourable - I wd fain hope
our worthy King will yet recover - Sheridan & Pitt's Speeches
made my eyes water - The 11m Balance wd make the
dinner go the better down and give a Relish to the Blue
yesterday - We have never yet had our bank dinner
these 2 years - I wd fain see things in a more comfortable
State first - but I believe we must not put off much
longer - The King's recovery will be a good occasion
I am glad to hear the Hamburg Convoy is to sail
which shows that Government do not yet apprehend the
King of Prussia will be hostile - The Elder would
be very happy with you - but respects to him
I don't think it will be necessary to send any thing
west with him, we were very full of notes on
Monday - but to be sure have paid out a
prodigious sum since, tho' a great part of
them will no doubt come back to us on Tuesday
a terrible Bustle to day with so many Bills due -
- a Mr Bartholomew of Linlithgow called with a Mr
Belch from Stirling of Belch's Bank - to propose that
we shd take their notes in payments and that a young
man & call on us twice a week and take them up
he said you took them at Edinburgh - I told him we could
say nothing without hearing from you and that I shd
let him know what you said on Friday - Peterkin
tells me a vast number of these notes are offered in
payments - what a shame to the Country that it should be so

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

RB/837/100

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4 March 1801

The Sunday's Bulletin I am told is favourable - I would fain hope our worthy King will yet recover - Sheridan and Pitt's speeches made my eyes water. The 11m balance would make the dinner go the better down and give a Relish to the Blue yesterday - we have never yet had our bank dinner these two years. I would fain see things in a more comfortable State first - but I believe we must not put off much longer. The King's recovery will be a good occasion.

I am glad to hear the Hamburg Convoy is to sail which shows that government do not yet apprehend the King of Prussia will be hostile. The Elder would be very happy with you - best respects to him. I don't think it will be necessary to send anything west with him we were very full of notes on Monday - but to be sure have paid out a prodigious sum since, though a great part of them will no doubt come back to us on Friday. A terrible bustle today with so many bills due. A Mr Bartholomew of Linlithgow called with a Mr Belch from Stirling of Belch's Bank, to purpose that we should take their notes in payments and that a young man would call on us twice a week and take them up. He said you took them at Edinburgh. I told him we could say nothing without hearing from you and that I should let him know what you said on Friday. Peterkin tells me a vast number of these notes are offered in payments - what a shame to the country that it should be so.

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The Fairlies don't deal with us but I am told they
are very safe - they promised to pay the bill tomorrow
Just now George has brought me the inclosed note which
in sorting his notes he discovered to be a forgery but
he does not know from where he got it - as I did
not hear of any of Sir William's notes being forged I think
it right to send it to you - I hope they will pay it
tho' to be sure it is ill done
It is too much for the corn merchants Scott & Laune & Co
to expect that we are to retire their acceptances in Edin
& don't know but we should make them pay for it

RSM
RB/837/100
4 March 1801

Wm Simpson Esq
4 J

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

RB/837/100

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The Fairlies don't deal with us but I am told they are very safe – they promised to pay the bill tomorrow.

Just now George has brought me the inclosed note which in sorting his notes he discovered to be a forgery but he does not know from where he got it – as I did not hear of any of Sir William's notes being forged I think it right to send it to you. I hope they will pay it though to be sure it is ill done.

It is too much for the corn merchants Scott & Laune & Co to expect that we are to retire their acceptances in Edinburgh I don't know but we should make them pay for it.

RSM
4 March 1801

Wm Simpson Esq
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5 March 1801

Alas all our hopes from yesterday's accounts are dashed
to day - I fear it is all over with the good man - and
what a state will things be in! - we must just leave
them upon him who rules over all - and doing the
best we can in our little circle - hope for good in the
end - is it possible the K of Prussia can be so
hostile and yet the Convoy allowed to sail from Leith?

I shall keep the Bundles of new large notes to
the last - but by the way we are going ^{on} I dare say
they will be all out and we shall be out again before
you can send them for the new stamps -

Of our 194 Bills yesterday there were just 3 protested
and I had the pleasure to see two of these were
your honours - the other was indorsed by a man
almost as good and it was taken up this forenoon.

There may be some wind in these London Bills - but I do not think I ever saw less. You'll
observe a great proportion of them are foreign these are undoubtedly remittances for goods sent
out - a great part of them too are on Liverpool and we know certainly these in general are for
goods from America sent there on consignment by people here - that trade is become immense.
Robert Bog who breakfasted with me this morning has a ship of 450 tons there with flour Indian
corn tar etc from Virginia by which he will make a great sum - observe too that that trade
requiring many goods being sent out from England, bills on London must be sent from this to pay
there, which accounts for a large part of our trade.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William
Simpson, the bank's cashier, 5 March 1801

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5 March 1801

Alas all our hopes from yesterday's accounts are dashed today - I fear it is all over with the good
man - and what a state will things be in! We must just leave them upon him who rules overall -
and doing the best we can in our little circle - hope for good in the end. Is it possible the K of
Prussia can be so hostile and yet the convoy allowed to sail from Leith?

I shall keep the bundles of new large notes to the last - but by the way we are going on I dare say
they will be all out and in and out again before you can send them for the new stamps.

Of our 194 bills yesterday there were just 3 protested and I had the pleasure to see two of these
were your honour's - the other was indorsed by a man almost as good and it was taken up this
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There may no doubt be some wind in these London bills - but I do not think I ever saw less. You'll
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RSM

5 March 1801

Wm Simpson Esq

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6 March 1801

I am very glad to see the D of Athol's news confirmed by this day's post - but the quarrel with Prussia seems now to be certain - and we must of course be shut out from Hamburg also from the Baltic - what an effect this will have upon the Trade of the Country no man can say - I suppose there is no chance now of the Convoy sailing from Leith to Hamburg - what a trying time this is in all respects! - Towers the Surgeon tells me the Surgeons are determined to appeal the question - it will be very strange if the Power shall be taken from the Managers of directing a matter of such consequence to the Infirmary - we shall continue to refuse Belch's notes excepting when we ^{can} get nothing else in payments - young Belch has not called to day to get his answer - what fine weather we have had for some time past are you not yet gone out to P Green? - Fairly's did not keep their word to call and pay their bill yesterday - they called today offered me payment in a parcel of Bills payable at the old B's branch in the No Country which I refused they promised to bring the money at 3 o'clock - but have not done it - by all I can learn you are safe enough but if they don't pay tomorrow I will send back the bill and a charge of horning will bring the money - How vexing to return James Macdowal's Bill - he sent me yesterday a parcel of bills which he entreated me to take for payment. They may be good, but as I did not know the names I refused them

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

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6 March 1801

I am very glad to see the D of Athol's news confirmed by this day's post - but the quarrel with Prussia seems now to be certain, and we must of course be shut out from Hamburg also from the Baltic - what an effect this will have upon the trade of the country no man can say. I suppose there is no chance now of the convoy sailing from Leith to Hamburg. What a trying time this is in all respects!

Towers the surgeon tells me the Surgeons are determined to appeal the question - it will be very strange if the power shall be taken from the managers of directing a matter of such consequence to the Infirmary.

We shall continue to refuse Belch's notes excepting when we can get nothing else in payments - young Belch has not called today to get his answer. What fine weather we have had for some time past are you not yet gone out to P Green?

Fairly's did not keep their word to call and pay their bill yesterday - they called today offered me payment in a parcel of bills payable at the old B's branch in the No Country which I refused. They promised to bring the money at 3 o'clock - but have not done it - by all I can learn you are safe enough but if they don't pay tomorrow I will send back the bill and a charge of horning will bring the money.

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Cunningham brings me the inclosed note to show you what
a heap of other notes have come in to us this week -
The Ship & Thistle were so run of notes yesterday that
they sent our own notes to take up those stated -

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

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Page 2 of 2

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RSM
6 March 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, 7 March 1801

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Wm Simpson Esq

*Atte
RSM
7 March 1801*

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9 March 1801

Fairly called on me on Saturday afternoon and gave me such solemn assurances that he could pay his Bill tomorrow that I promised to let it lie over so long - I think he will keep his word - if he should not the Bill shall be sent back tomorrow

This return of Finlayson's Bill is a serious matter not that we have any fear of it - but I wish all the rest may be as well covered - I understand above 5m of their bills are returned within these two days - they write their house here that it is all owing to their establishing a house in London - which their Bankers both there and in Liverpool stopped all discounts - but that they have plenty of Bills & Property in their hands and are arranging matters so as all their bills shall be taken up in two or three days - pretty Boys to throw the whole trade here in to consternation by their ambition & impudence in establishing houses etc - I should have no fear of them if I had not heard that they had been speculating deeply in sugars - no less than 16m value a great part from Stirling Gordon & Co, G&R Dennistoun & Co - it is chiefly upon them their bills are returned - they will be in a fine pickle at them - honest Robert Stuart has taken up the £200 you return on him - these Graham's seem to follow the same plan by accepting such large sums payable in London they are friends of Archie Graham and he assures me they are very safe & cautious and never accept for above half the value consigned to them - I know too that the people who were frightened at Finlaysons went to them with their consignments. It's astonishing the value from America belonging to Glasgow people sent to Liverpool - pray did you meet SG & Co's bills to Jamie Dundas? How I should like to have a chat with you in your hot house just now - the Elder will enjoy that - I wonder you remain in Old Reeky in this fine weather.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 9 March 1801

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9 March 1801

Fairly called on me on Saturday afternoon and gave me such solemn assurances that he could pay his bill tomorrow that I promised to let it lie over so long - I think he will keep his word - if he should not the bill shall be sent back tomorrow.

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I am glad to see the good King continues better - yet I don't like the way he is in - and what a state the nation is in! -
Finlay & Co and Robertson & Co I find have engaged an American ship to carry their goods from Leith to Hamburg -
We have cut down Bills discounted last week I see 17m it should have been more - but I hope this week we shall bring it under the 500m as we have 50m coming in we sent you 54m on London last week!

RB 837/107

Red M

9 March 1801

Wm Simpson Esq

J R

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 9 March 1801

RB/837/107

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9 March 1801

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10 March 1801

Your Returns frightened me this morning - but every one of them was immediately taken up - I was particularly alarmed with that on Graham and sent a line to Archie expressing my surprise and concern - one of the partners being here he immediately called with the money in his hand begged I did not mention the return to any as he would show me in a few days the letter from his Liverpool Bankers stating the mistake to be an omission of theirs - he solemnly assured me that they gave no receipts for more than the half of the value consigned - that they never gave Bills before they got the goods into their hands nor speculated on any thing on their own account - ^{as Finlayson did} this being confirmed by Archie I did fear there may be depended on - and I am not sure if it will be prudent to refuse all these Bills in future the Mr D thinks we should Finlayson's I hear have wrote Jo Gordon who has 4m of their bills to send them immediately back to London where the money is ready further Finlayson's have kept their word & paid their bills What a demand upon us last night - we papered 230 bills and returned 234 - many of them excellent - to carry the matter further I fear we do mischief - as it is I think we shall have 6 or 7m to cut off the Bank this week of Bills discounted - pray do you mean that when we send you the account on Saturday, we shall still lay aside £250

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

RB/837/110

Page 1 of 2

10 March 1801

Your Returns frightened me this morning - but every one of them was immediately taken up - I was particularly alarmed with that on Graham and sent a line to Archie expressing my surprise and concern - one of the partners being here he immediately called with the money in his hand begged I would not mention the return to any as he could show me in a few days the letter from his Liverpool bankers stating the mistake to be an omission of theirs. He solemnly assured me that they gave no acceptances for more than half of the value consigned - that they never gave bills before they got the goods into their hands nor speculated on anything on their own account as Finlayson's did - this being confirmed by Archie I would fain think may be depended upon - and I am not sure if it would be prudent to refuse all their bills in future though Mr D thinks we should. Finlayson's I hear have wrote Jo Gordon who has 4m of their bills to send them immediately back to London where the money is ready for them. Fairly's have kept their word and paid their bill. What a demand upon us last night - we passed 230 bills and returned 234 - many of them excellent - to carry the matter further I fear would do mischief - as it is I think we shall have 6 or 7m to cut off for balance this week of bills discounted - pray do you mean that when we send you the account on Saturday, we shall still lay aside £250

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I shall look into some stamps and let you know
afterwards — nothing but a hurry-burry just now
Thanks for yr Frenchman's news —

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

RB/837/110

Page 2 of 2

I shall look into stamps and let you know afterwards — nothing but a hurry-burry just now.

Thank you for your Frenchman's news

RSM

11 March 1801 [sic]

Wm Simpson Esq

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11 March 801

While the People here do not seem to apprehend any danger from Finlaysons but what has happened must must give such a blow to their credit as will I hope keep us clear of their paper for some time at least - the Father it seems (a near Relation of your Minister's) was a Minister up the Country - for a good time past he has been attending his sons' Countinghouse here - now I am told he has resigned his charge and gone to London to conduct the house they are to establish there - another Relation is to establish a house at New York - such an enterprising Family! it was but 2 or 3 years ago I paid by Aly Bonar's desire a pension to one of the Boys from your Society of the Sons of the Clergy -

You see we have taken another bill and a large one of the Grahams - the drawers are undoubtedly people otherwise it would not have passed - Graham who is here came to me - he again solemnly assured me they never gave an acceptance for above half the amount of consignments, that the Dennistouns had consigned them largely these six months past and never before asked their acceptance that by a ship of theirs only last week they had large quantities of cotton and rice and besides 1000 barrels of flour which he is sure would be sold last Friday at about 4Gs a barrel - every shilling of which his house will he is sure receive in less than 2 months - I could not but own this was security enough, for his £900 acceptance.

Duncan & Wood tell me a £600 Manchester or Lancaster bill indorsed by them will be back next post for which the acceptor has sent them good bills saying it was a mistake.

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

RB/837/112

Page 1 of 2

11 March 1801

Still the people here do not seem to apprehend any danger from Finlaysons but what has happened must must give such a blow to their credit as will I hope keep us clear of their paper for some time at least - the Father it seems (a near relation of your Minister's) was a minister up the country - for a good time past he has been attending his sons' Countinghouse here - now I am told he has resigned his charge and gone to London to conduct the house they are to establish there - another brother is to establish a house at New York - such an ambitious family! It was but two or three years ago I paid by Aly Bonar's desire a pension to one of the boys from your Society of the Sons of the Clergy.

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✓ We have fixt our Bank Dinner for Saturday next after
sending you our quarter Acct - O Man if you wd come
and be one of the Party - it wd add much to the
Pleasure - you wd have a good bed upstairs and
you might stay till Tuesday afternoon - we
shd then talk about many things - and settle
about the alterations in the Bank Office which
wch now to be set a going without delay -

Wm Simpson Esq

11 March 1801

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

RB/837/112

Page 2 of 2

We have fixed our bank dinner for Saturday next after sending you our quarter account – O Man if you would come and be one of the party, it would add much to the pleasure – you should have a good bed upstairs and you might stay till Tuesday afternoon – we should then talk about many things – and settle about the alterations in the bank office which I wish now to be set a going without delay.

RSM

11 March 1801

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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12 March 1801

I had a chat last night with Archie Graham - he assured me we could
not run the least risk with his Cousin, of Liverpool, Bills for he knew
the state of their funds that they had abundance and pay their acceptances as
they come due and was sure they would never accept but when they had
double the value in their hands - we both agreed however that they must
limit the amount of their acceptances whatever property was consigned them
as it would hurt their own credit to force their bills into the circle
to too great amount as it could not be expected the banks would take
them. Archie refuses none of them from his customers but ours naturally
send them to us - as Dennistoun's did yesterday and Jameson & McFunn today -
and when we know the bills are drawn against property consigned -
should we refuse taking them from good indorsers? I own I think this might
do mischief - Archie says the bill you returned on Tuesday was owing to a
mistake which will be cleared up to us by the brokers at Liverpool in a few
days - and he is much afraid by the same neglect another bill of theirs to
Gibsons for £400 odd due on Saturday may also have been returned - but as
it did not come yesterday I hope it was paid - Archie is of the same mind
with me - that the general Trade of this Place is carried far beyond proper
bounds - particularly this American Trade into which a great number of
young dashing lads have plunged and beyond their capitals - but he thinks
there is no greater increase in paper than proportioned to the increase of
trade - that altho many bills may be renewals - yet they are generally
against property and that if a general crash like '93 were to happen, it
would appear as it did then that there are very few wind bills. I own this
is my opinion but if the port of Hamburg is to be shut and all British
property seized as one of the papers mentions today I know not what will
become of us - perilous times indeed and this a most anxious station

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 12 March 1801

RB/837/113

Page 1 of 2

12 March 1801

I had a chat last night with Archie Graham - he assured me we could not run the least risk with his
cousin, of Liverpool, bills for he knew the state of their funds that they had abundance and pay
their acceptances as they come due and was sure they would never accept but when they had
double the value in their hands. We both agreed however that they must limit the amount of their
acceptances whatever property was consigned them as it would hurt their own credit to force
their bills into the circle to too great amount as it could not be expected the banks would take
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this American trade into which a great number of young dashing lads have plunged and beyond
their capitals - but he thinks there is no greater increase in paper than proportioned to the
increase of trade - that although many bills may be renewals - yet they are generally against
property and that if a general crash like '93 were to happen, it would appear as it did then that
there are very few wind bills. I own this is my opinion but if the port of Hamburg is to be shut and
all British property seized as one of the papers mentions today I know not what will become of us
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I wonder how James Dunlop can lay out money for annuities before his debt is paid - but Finlay & Co's bills must be good if anything here is so - you have David Russell Leitch & Smith etc etc engaged - I wish Finlay do not lead them a dance - he was bred by John Monteith. I would not take a share with them although they have made wonderful profits -

I cannot help entertaining some hopes that you may come west on Saturday with the Elder - dinner on the table at the Tontine half past 4 - come along the Elder with you

I wonder you take a £15 bill on Port Glasgow as we have no connection there and must employ some house here to negotiate it - as it is due 26th I think it needful to send it for acceptance but shall get some neighbour to manage it a day or two before due

RSM
12 March 1801
RB 837/113

Wm Simpson Esq

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 12 March 1801

RB/837/113
Page 2 of 2

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I cannot help entertaining some hopes that you may come west on Saturday with the Elder - dinner on the table at the Tontine half past 4 - come and bring the Elder with you.

I wonder you take a £15 bill on Port Glasgow as we have no connection there and must employ some house here to negotiate it - as it is due 26th I think it needful to send it for acceptance but shall get some neighbour to manage it a day or two before due.

RSM
12 March 1801

Wm Simpson Esq
P

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13 Mch 1801

Poor young David Owen Mr Dale's grandson died at Lanark yesterday - he went there with his Father & Mother last week in great health and was a very fine child - was carried off after 2 or 3 days illness, by the surgeon thinks an inflammation in his bowels - Mr Dale meant to have gone to Lanark this morning but was not well yesterday - and his Surgeon advised him against the Journey - he is confined today and I shall not see him till this evening - as he cannot and you will not come to our Bank dinner I have put it off -

These returns from you are vexing things but they are all taken up excepting the two smallest which are perfectly good and I am sure will be taken up tomorrow - as I wrote you last night Graham expected the return on him - he called with the money and really satisfied me much that there is no danger with them - its amazing the value of American Goods and the most saleable articles they have in their hands at Liverpool and how small a proportion of the value they have given bills for - altho I know not upon what more solid grounds bills can be granted. I told him the necessity of his limiting the sum of his acceptances still further as we would be obliged to refuse them - and he had this morning refused his bills for a cargo of Indian meal sent from Greenock and arrived at Liverpool altho he knows it will immediately sell there - he expects to get a credit established on a London house - the bills we have taken on him today are all well indorsed and he assured me he had more than 3 times the value in saleable goods at Liverpool. Finlaysons I have no such confidence in though I still think they have property against their bills many of them have been paid in London - since the first return - and those they allow to come back it seems is from some dispute with the Drawers -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 13 March 1801

RB/837/114

Page 1 of 2

13 March 1801

Poor young David Owen Mr Dale's grandson died at Lanark yesterday - he went there with his father and mother last week in great health and was a very fine child - was carried off after 2 or 3 days' illness, by the surgeon thinks an inflammation in his bowels. Mr Dale meant to have gone to Lanark this morning but was not well yesterday, and his surgeon advised him against the journey. He is confined today and I shall not see him till this evening - as he cannot and you will not come to our bank dinner I have put it off.

These returns from you are vexing things but they are all taken up excepting the two smallest which are perfectly good and I am sure will be taken up tomorrow. As I wrote you last night Graham expected the return on him - he called with the money and really satisfied me much that there is no danger with them - it's amazing the value of American goods and the most saleable articles they have in their hands at Liverpool and how small a proportion of the value they have given bills for - altho I know not upon what more solid grounds bills can be granted. I told him the necessity of his limiting the sum of his acceptances still further as we would be obliged to refuse them - and he had this morning refused his bills for a cargo of Indian meal sent from Greenock and arrived at Liverpool altho he knows it will immediately sell there - he expects to get a credit established on a London house - the bills we have taken on him today are all well indorsed and he assured me he had more than 3 times the value in saleable goods at Liverpool. Finlaysons I have no such confidence in though I still think they have property against their bills many of them have been paid in London - since the first return - and those they allow to come back it seems is from some dispute with the Drawers.

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you'll observe Graham's have no connection with Sir James Esdaile
 to whom they are unknown - they just gave me a note of
 their acceptances to their bankers in Liverpool who correspond
 with Sir James - and they order them to be returned - their neglect
 he supposes to be the cause of these two bills being returned
 I had also I have been to have tasted the salt beef with
 the Elder at P Green - we see the error you mention
 in the Edinburgh bills - it was in stating 10d too little - but the
 sum total in our books is right -
 what a dreadful appearance public matters have and
 what will be the end!
 what a sum of London bills and I refused a large one from
 McNeil & Co on Bethune & Co - I told them one was enough till
 we know more of them - has Down said O about them?

R. Scott
 RB/837/114
 13 March 1801

Wm Simpson Esq



Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 13 March 1801

RB/837/114
 Page 2 of 2

You'll observe Graham's have no connection with Sir James Esdaile to whom they are unknown - they just gave me a note of the acceptances to their bankers in Liverpool who correspond with Sir James - and they order them to be returned - their neglect he supposes to be the cause of these two bills being returned. Glad should I have been to have tasted the salt beef with the Elder at P Green - we see the error you mention in the Edinburgh bills - it was in stating 10d too little - but the sum total in our books is right.

What a dreadful appearance public matters have and what will be the end!

What a sum of London bills and I refused a large one from McNeil & Co on Bethune & Co - I told them one was enough till we know more of them - has Down said O about them?

RSM
 13 March 1801

Wm Simpson Esq
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14 March 1801

When Stirling was closing the account I went away with Mr R's friend Aggie Marshall and her husband to see John Pattison's Steam Engine - they were astonished at it - there is nothing I believe so complete in the Kingdom - you must really see it when you come next - in my absence the Elder called - I am sorry I missed him as I expect to get a great deal of news from him about P Green etc. Mr Pattison told us the sale of yarn for the Continent was so brisk 2 or 3 weeks ago that it was taken away as soon as it came from the hull and they could not answer the demands - but since the Prussian Manifesto everything has stood still and today there are apprehensions that the fellow has seized our packets - if so it will affect our traders very seriously - one cannot say what is to happen. John Stirling tells me that his brother James has been five times with Mr Pitt about the duty on printed linens - but he remains stiff - yet he gives great attention to their remonstrances, and wrote a whole sheet to James upon the subject with his own hand stating many queries so John is not without hope he may yet give it up.

John has contrived a way of bleaching upon a new principle which he says will be of vast advantage to trade. He has got a patent for it - and is to tell me all about it in a fortnight - but desired me to say O till he get out his Irish patent - no end to improvements.

What large sums are in this account sent you - look at the total of bills on London last quarter and observe that Glasgow bills are 4m under the sum last quarter day - but we have little coming in next week.

John has contrived a way of bleaching upon a new principle with the advantage of vast advantage which he has got a patent for it - and is to tell me all about it in a fortnight - but desired me to say O till he get out his Irish patent - no end to improvements.

What large sums are in this account sent you - look at the total of bills on London last quarter and observe that Glasgow bills are 4m under the sum last quarter day - but we have little coming in next week.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 14 March 1801

RB/837/117

Page 1 of 2

14 March 1801

When Stirling was closing the account I went away with Mr R's friend Aggie Marshall and her husband to see John Pattison's steam engine - they were astonished at it - there is nothing I believe so complete in the Kingdom - you must really see it when you come next - in my absence the Elder called - I am sorry I missed him as I expect to get a great deal of news from him about P Green etc. Mr Pattison told us the sale of yarn for the continent was so brisk 2 or 3 weeks ago that it was taken away as soon as it came from the hull and they could not answer the demands - but since the Prussian manifesto everything has stood still and today there are apprehensions that the fellow has seized our packets - if so it will affect our traders very seriously - one cannot say what is to happen. John Stirling tells me that his brother James has been five times with Mr Pitt about the duty on printed linens - but he remains stiff - yet he gives great attention to their remonstrances, and wrote a whole sheet to James upon the subject with his own hand stating many queries so John is not without hope he may yet give it up.

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J Campbell Sen & Co had an acceptance of Finlaysons due the 12th for about £1300 - as it is not returned by you today he hopes it is paid - but he is to call tomorrow between sermons as I rather think it will not be returned till 13th -

Mr D is a good deal better today though still complaining and could not venture on a journey to Lanark.

Wm Simpson Esq

14th March 1801

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 14 March 1801

RB/837/117

Page 2 of 2

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Mr D is a good deal better today though still complaining and could not venture on a journey to Lanark.

RSM

14 March 1801

Wm Simpson Esq

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16 March 1801

I gave so little credit to Baillie Smith's story that I never mentioned it although I heard that one of your Edin papers had a stop the press for it - I do not understand Likly's letter in regard notes or acceptances by individuals in Engl - that will apply to all bills on London accepted - but this surely he cannot mean - I suppose he refers to English notes or acceptances payable on London - for my part if these are granted for real value and by solid respectable houses I cannot see more natural bills - when a good house here consigns a good saleable cargo to an undoubted agency however in Liverpool such as Ewart & Ritson who are esteemed among the most opulent agents in Britain - as they can only sell for money in Liverpool - what can be more natural than in place of waiting till that money comes in and then remitting bills on London for them to give their acceptances payable in London and then remitting the money to the agents in London to pay them by this means the man here gets his money a month or two sooner - I cannot see a reason why a bill of this kind supposing the drawers & acceptors are known to be safe, should not pass as well as a bill on a great agency house in London upon goods consigned for sale there - I have heard of late that they have remitted a large sum of a new Liverpool Banking Paper to retire all their returned bills - by Sandy Campbell's bill not coming back they must be paying in London - but they deserve to be checked and their Paper should not go down here unless well covered indeed - I think it might be said you the new enclosed letters recd. this morning - by which you see Graham's are not in the fault - I see a letter from Thomas Graham Archie's brother in law and one of the partners expressing their astonishment and distress at the amount of their acceptance being returned - and saying that they had 4m lying dead with their bankers that day

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

RB/837/119

Page 1 of 2

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I do not understand Likly's letter he says notes or acceptances by individuals in England - that will apply to all bills on London accepted - but this surely he cannot mean - I suppose he refers to English notes or acceptances payable on London - for my part if these are granted for real value and by solid respectable houses I cannot see more natural bills - when a good house here consigns a good saleable cargo to an undoubted agency however in Liverpool such as Ewart & Ritson who are esteemed among the most opulent agents in Britain - as they can only sell for money in Liverpool - what can be more natural than in place of waiting till that money comes in and then remitting bills on London for them to give their acceptances payable in London and then remitting the money to the agents in London to pay them. By this means the man here gets his money a month or two sooner. I cannot see a reason why a bill of the kind supposing the drawers and acceptors are known to be safe, should not pass as well as a bill on a great agency house in London upon goods consigned for sale there. Finlaysons I hear today have remitted a large sum of a new Liverpool banking house's Paper to retire all their returned bills - by Sandy Campbell's bill not coming back they must be paying in London - but they deserve to be checked and their paper should not go down here unless well covered indeed. I think it right to send you the two enclosed letters received this morning by which you see Graham's are not in the fault - I see a letter from Thomas Graham Archie's brother in law and one of the partners expressing their astonishment and distress at the amount of their acceptance being returned - and saying that they had 4m lying dead with their bankers that day.

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RB/837/119

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RSM

16 March 1801

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17 March 1801

I must have a chat with the Elder and his Partners and see if we can fall upon any way of accommodating them - I wish we could take the sum they want off some of our West India fortunes and among the rest his own house Hopkirk Cunningham & Co who have been pretty heavy upon us of late - and their businesses not half so valuable to the bank as a good linen printers - but the last is always a heavy business - I wish the Elder had hovered a little before he had gone into that concern what provoking fellows these Finlaysons are - upon the return of their first bill one of the McBairs went to Liverpool to prevent any more of their American ships coming to them they expect two there every day with above 20m value of Rice Flour etc and they have put the bills of lading into the hands of Ewart & Ritson - the brother writes all about these returned bills you send us - and that he saw Finlaysons send off a bill at sight to their agent in London to retire them when they come back - so with much reluctance I have agreed to send them back - and I hope they will be paid tho' I have little dependence upon Finlaysons - but if they do not we are safe enough with McBairs - all the other bills which frightened me this morning are taken up - and a dreadful accident indeed at Inverness, much are there concerned who filed O how anxious we shall now be to hear from the Baillie. I am much afraid something bad has come from Sir Ralph. By all means let a power be sent to Mr Nimmo to appear for the bank at Dunlop's meeting. I have neither temper nor nerves, nor time for it - he will manage it much better. Is the Lindsay you mention Jo Lindsay of Lindsay Smith & Co - Mr Nimmo says he expedite your confirmation long ago and gave it to Robert Graham he is to inquire of him why it was not sent to you.

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

RB/837/121

Page 1 of 2

17 March 1801

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What provoking fellows these Finlaysons are - upon the return of their first bill one of the McBairs went to Liverpool to prevent any more of their American ships coming to them they expect two there every day with above 20m value of rice flour etc and they have put the bills of lading into the hands of Ewart & Ritson - the brother writes all about these returned bills you send us - and that he saw Finlaysons send off a bill at sight to their agent in London to retire them when they come back - so with much reluctance I have agreed to send them back - and I hope they will be paid though I have little dependence upon Finlaysons - but if they should not we are safe enough with McBairs - all the other bills which frightened me this morning are taken up.

That's a dreadful accident indeed at Inverness, much all those concerned to be pitied.

O how anxious we shall now be to hear from the Baillie. I am much afraid something bad has come from Sir Ralph. By all means let a power be sent to Mr Nimmo to appear for the bank at Dunlop's meeting. I have neither temper nor nerves, nor time for it - he will manage it much better. Is the Lindsay you mention Jo Lindsay of Lindsay Smith & Co - Mr Nimmo says he expedite your confirmation long ago and gave it to Robert Graham he is to inquire of him why it was not sent to you.

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18 March 1801

I am very glad to find by the Sunday's Paper you are out of
your calculation as to the Hamburg mails - The certain arrival
of 3 of them is very comforting Intelligence to many here - you
will probably get some of their Paper tomorrow - I was
afraid too that there had been bad accounts from Sir Ralph
but these letters from Malta make me easy - and it is
said the Sunday's Paper contains accounts from Constantinople
of his safe landing at Jaffa - what an interesting moment
this in a week or two we must hear from the battle
and from Egypt and how important must the Intelligence
be -

Possill happened to call - I just read to
him what you wrote - he had me speak to Waltie
Ewing which I shall do and see to get the money
for it is not the thing to have the bank's money
locked up in that way - it should be always running
around otherwise you will never make a rolling
Progress

This is curious weather - these two mornings we have
had a good deal of snow upon the ground which the
sun melts thro' the day - and yet the wind in the
S.W. - it is so soon we have snow from that quarter
it must keep back the seed time - but a Gentle
from Perth tells me they have had fine weather there
and a good deal sold - you will be snug at P Green tonight - I wish I
were at your lug an hour or two. The Elder called today - we are
to meet with Archie Newbiggin some evening and
see what can be done -

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

RB/837/122

Page 1 of 2

18 March 1801

I am very glad to find by the Sunday's paper you are out of your calculation as to the Hamburg mails - the certain arrival of 3 of them is very comforting intelligence to many here - you will probably get some of their paper tomorrow - I was afraid too that there had been bad accounts from Sir Ralph but these letters from Malta make me easy - and it is said the Sunday's paper contains accounts from Constantinople of his safe landing at Jaffa - what an interesting moment this in a week or two we must hear from the battle and from Egypt and how important must the intelligence be.

Possill happened to call - I just read to him what you wrote. He bade me speak to Waltie Ewing which I shall do and see to get the money for it is not the thing to have the bank's money locked up in that way - it should be always running round otherwise you will never make a rolling progress.

This is curious weather - these two mornings we have had a good deal of snow upon the ground which the sun melts through the day - and yet the wind in the SW - it is seldom we have snow from that quarter it must keep back the seed time - but a gentleman from Perth tells me they have had fine weather there and a good deal sold - you will be snug at P Green tonight - I wish I were at your lug an hour or two. The Elder called today - we are to meet with Archie Newbiggin some evening and see what can be done.

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You may say to M R & Co that I have just got
payment of Gilbert Douglas's bill from Hamilton
It seems Finlaysons say they are only to let their acceptances
to McAlister & Bryson be returned now, because they get
bills for too much - a pretty story to tell a holder of a
bill - I see one of them for £37.9 indorsed to us by
Marshall Duncan & Co fell due 16th and will be clear I suppose
tomorrow or Friday -

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

RB/837/122

Page 2 of 2

You may say to M R & Co that I have just got payment of Gilbert Douglas's bill from Hamilton.

It seems Finlaysons say they are only to let their acceptances to McAlister & Bryson be returned now, because they got bills for too much, a pretty story to tell a holder of a bill. I see one of them per £37.9 indorsed to us by Marshall Duncan & Co fell due 16th and will be clear I suppose tomorrow or Friday.

RSM

18 March 1801

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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RSM

18 March 1801

RB/837/122

Wm Simpson Esq
J R

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19 March 801

I wd not have sent you back Finlayson's Bills if I could have helped, etc - but I thought it better to do this and take the chance of getting the money in London, than take Glasgow bills in payment for I could not expect money for such a sum. You see what a large bill on Liverpool I have taken today. I knew the accepters were the most respectable people there, but I wd not meddle with it till I went & consulted Mr Dale who has a violent prejudice against all such bills - he however at once approved of taking it altho the indorsers are not very strong - for my part knowing that they have really consigned saleable American produce (in return for our manufactures) to Mr Iners, I know not a more natural bill. Fail not to send me the proper Powers to Mr Nimmo - it must be John Lindsay his Partner John Dunlop meant - Capt Cochran's letter is so far satisfactory that it tells us the Army is well - but their not landing till middle of July seems unaccountable and puts us off another month before we can have accounts of any thing decisive done there - and I wish the French fleet may not be at them before that - the fate of that expedition is more doubtful than it was - I was hoping to hear of something being done by our North Sea fleet, in a few days and giving Government great credit for the dispatch in attacking the Danes etc before they could be well prepared - but I am now told the fleet is to rendezvous in Cromarty Bay - so it may be long enough before anything is done.

Friend James bids me say that he is consulting and arranging about the clerk & sutler at Muirkirk, and will let you know as soon as anything is settled - but I am afraid I shall interfere with you there - one of Lady Auchloyn's daughters Kathy Campbell ~~was~~ a good girl, and often in our house, married about 2 or 3 years ago a Mr Black.

Friend James bids me say that he is consulting and arranging about the clerk & sutler at Muirkirk, and will let you know as soon as anything is settled - but I am afraid I shall interfere with you there - one of Lady Auchloyn's daughters Kathy Campbell ~~was~~ a good girl, and often in our house, married about 2 or 3 years ago a Mr Black.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 19 March 1801

RB/837/123

Page 1 of 2

19 March 1801

I would not have sent you back Finlayson's bills if I could have helped it, but I thought it better to do this and take the chance of getting the money in London, than take Glasgow bills in payment for I could not expect money for such a sum. You see what a large bill on Liverpool I have taken today. I knew the accepters were the most respectable people there, but I would not meddle with it till I went & consulted Mr Dale who has a violent prejudice against all such bills - he however at once approved of taking it altho the indorsers are not very strong, for my part knowing that they have really consigned saleable American produce (in return for our manufactures) to Mr Iners, I know not a more natural bill. Fail not to send me the proper powers to Mr Nimmo. It must be John Lindsay his partner John Dunlop meant. Captain Cochran's letter is so far satisfactory that it tells us the army is well - but their not landing till middle of February seems unaccountable and puts us off another month before we can have accounts of anything decisive done there - and I wish the French fleet may not be at them before that - the fate of that expedition is more doubtful than it was - I was hoping to hear of something being done by our North Sea fleet in a few days and giving government great credit for the dispatch in attacking the Danes etc before they could be well prepared - but I am now told the fleet is to rendezvous in Cromarty Bay - so it may be long enough before anything is done.

Friend James bids me say that he is consulting and arranging about the clerk & sutler at Muirkirk, and will let you know as soon as anything is settled - but I am afraid I shall interfere with you there - one of Lady Auchloyn's daughters Kathy Campbell a good girl often in our house, married about 2 or 3 years ago a Mr Black

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who had a Brewery in the neighbourhood - the son of an East Lothian
Farmer - a most discreet good looking man, and a very good pen
and ink man - with his little capital and dear barley & hops
his affairs are gone all wrong and he and his wife are in the
most abject misery and poverty - they do nothing I hear but cry
from morning to night - I think he would be an excellent hand
for the Muirkirk Station as he is a good judge of grain & provisions
but I have not mentioned this to any living but James, and
he bids me settle it with you - I do not know if Mr Black
will go to Muirkirk nor will I make the proposal till I
know whether you think he should be preferred to Cunningham

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 19 March 1801

RB/837/123

Page 2 of 2

who had a brewery in the neighbourhood - the son of an East Lothian farmer - a most discreet good looking man, and a very good pen and ink man - with his little capital and dear barley and hops his affairs are gone all wrong and he and his wife are in the most abject misery and poverty - they do nothing I hear but cry from morning to night. I think he would be an excellent hand for the Muirkirk station as he is a good judge of grain and provisions but I have not mentioned this to any living but James, and he bids me settle it with you. I do not know if Mr Black would go to Muirkirk nor will I make the proposal till I know whether you think he should be preferred to Cunningham.

RSM

19 March 1801

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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20 March 801

I have sent a Tickler to Walter Ewing about the two Bonds
but I doubt you need hardly expect the money by Whitsday -
he was telling me the other day that in order to enable him
to pay some dividends for the Arms Bank the end of this month
he would be obliged to apply to us to meet a large bill at 7 or 8 months
date - and I told him it would not do -

I have sent to Mr Nimmo to call on me as he comes from
the Police office when I shall deliver him his powers - I
hope Simon will not desert you - it will be John Gordon
of Stirling G & Co I suppose that will act for him
by the bye David Russell was telling me the other day
that when he gave us his 7m bill due at Whitsday he
then meant to sell stock for the payment of the whole
but the Funds have fallen so much that unless there
be a considerable rise by that time he cannot find
it in his heart to sell but - he therefore means to propose
the Bank should renew 2m of the bill and for the other
5m he means to draw on Simon at 4 months - to give
him the chance of the Funds rising before the bill comes
due - what will your gentlemen say to that!

Penny I know is not fond of bringing money and we are
not yet near a ground - but if he chooses to bring 10 or 20m
large notes we shall soon have occasion for them I doubt not
Our clerk John Cunningham left us on Monday and Edward
succeeds him in keeping Glasgow bill book writing the Ledger
Cunningham went to Edinburgh on Tuesday - to look after a good estate
of £1500 a year he has succeeded to - he will be
returning to his family here I suppose in a week and can
bring a parcel with him - Willie can inform you about this

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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, 20 March 1801

RB/837/128

Page 1 of 2

20 March 1801

I have sent a Tickler to Walter Ewing about the two bonds but I doubt you need hardly expect the money by Whitsunday - he was telling me the other day that in order to enable him to pay some dividends for the Arms Bank the end of this month he would be obliged to apply to us to meet a large bill at 7 or 8 months date - and I told him it would not do.

I have sent to Mr Nimmo to call on me as he comes from the police office when I shall deliver him his powers. I hope Simon will not desert you - it will be John Gordon of Stirling G & Co I suppose that will act for him. By the bye David Russell was telling me the other day that when he gave us his 7m bill due at Whitsunday he then meant to sell stock for the payment of the whole but the funds have fallen so much that unless there be a considerable rise by that time he cannot find it in his heart to sell out - he therefore means to propose the bank should renew 2m of the bill and for the other 5m he means to draw on Simon at 4 months to give him the chance of the funds rising before the bill comes due - what will your gentlemen say to that!

Penny I know is not fond of bringing money and we are not yet near a ground - but if he chooses to bring 10 or 20m large notes we shall soon have occasion for them I doubt not. Our clerk John Cunningham left us on Monday and Edward succeeds him in keeping Glasgow bill book writing the Ledger. Cunningham went to Edinburgh on Tuesday, to look after a good estate of £1500 a year he has succeeded to - he will be returning to his family here I suppose in a week and can bring a parcel with him - Willie can inform you about him.

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to wd seem you east country folks have much better weather
than we have - it is blowy blashy weather with us - and
no seed can be sown - I wish our Baltic fleet may
not suffer by these Gales - it is clear now they are gone there
what an unexpected event is this of the P of Orange
being first Consul of Holland - the operation of the K of
Prussia I suppose - Friend James bids me say
to you that if you will send me a state of the result
of the debt by the Arms Bank they assigned you he
will settle it with Mr Ewing -
T. W. M. R. Co we have given Dennistouns the half crown

Ad. M.
RE 837/128
20 March 1801

Mr Nimmo tells me Mr Glassford carried the paper to Edinburgh

Wm Simpson Esq

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 20 March 1801

RB/837/128
Page 2 of 2

It would seem you East country folks have much better weather than we have here – it is blowy blashy weather with us and no seed can be sown – I wish our Baltic fleet may not suffer by these gales – it is clear now they are gone there.

What an unexpected event is this of the P of Orange being first consul of Holland – the operation of the K of Prussia I suppose. Friend James bids me say to you that if you will send me a state of the balance of the debt by the Arms Bank they assigned you, he will settle it with Mr Ewing.

Tell M R & Co we have given Dennistouns the half crown.

Mr Nimmo tells me Mr Glassford carried the paper to Edinburgh with him.

RSM
20 March 1801

Wm Simpson Esq
P

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21 March 1801

You are very good in giving up the Muirkirk place to poor Black - I shall say 0 to him however of it till I see if James resolves on having such a clerk - and as even in that case it is possible Mr Black's family may not like the appointment you may still have it in view for your man if nothing better offers -

I see Finlayson's Bill we expected is come back and I find the indorsers have not taken it up today - at which I am not pleased with them - the shortness of the business time on Saturday is their excuse - they shall take it up on Monday or be horned - It is wonderful how few of these bills of Finlayson's we have - but indeed nobody brought them here these six months past but they got a woebegone look from me -

That is a curious story of Doug Stuart's - how the Husbands and Fathers would feel when their wives and daughters were seized - my poor Bird would have indeed been in a sad Packer - one I think the conduct of these French armies would satisfy our democrats that we are as well with the old order of things - these Gales make me quake too for our Baltic Fleet - but I do faint hope they were snug in the sound before they came on - mercury dreadfully low -

I enclosed is a letter from Walter just put into my hand - it is just as I expected -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 21 March 1801, enclosing a letter of the same date from Walter Ewing Maclae to Robert Scott Moncrieff

RB/837/129

Page 1 of 4

21 March 1801

You are very good in giving up the Muirkirk place to poor Black. I shall say 0 to him however of it till I see if James resolves on having such a clerk - and as even in that case it is possible Mr Black's family may not like the appointment you may still have it in view for your man if nothing better offers.

I see Finlayson's bill we expected is come back and I find the indorsers have not taken it up today - at which I am not pleased with them - the shortness of the business time on Saturday is their excuse - they shall take it up on Monday or be horned. It is wonderful how few of these bills of Finlayson's we have, but indeed nobody brought them here these six months past but they got a woebegone look from me.

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RB/837/129

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RSM

21 March 1801

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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Dear Sir

I have your letter of yesterday and I am not in the least surprised that Mr Simpson should complain of Mr Crawford's two Bonds, he has certainly received very uncommon indulgence from all his Creditors, and he is very sensible of it.

I cannot promise to pay the money at Whitsunday, indeed you must know it would be impossible to sell Land & realize the payment so soon without making a most dreadful sacrifice of property. I have however matters in a train which gives me the prospect of being enabled, by that term, to come forward and propose a settlement, which I hope will meet the approbation of the Royal Bank.

I never knew a Man more anxious to be free of debt than Mr Crawford, he owed little on his ^{own} account, his whole embarrassment arose from lending his name to Mr Dunmore and when ever he found that these debts would fall upon him he reduced his establishment in such a way as to enable him to pay the Interest from his own rents. I have had great pleasure in conducting his Affairs and I have now the full hope of restoring him to the possession of Possil with very little burden upon it.

I am very respectfully

Dear Sir Yours Sincerely
Walter Ewing Maclae

Saturday 21 March 1801.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 21 March 1801, enclosing a letter of the same date from Walter Ewing Maclae to Robert Scott Moncrieff

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Page 3 of 4

Dear Sir

I have your letter of yesterday and I am not in the least surprised that Mr Simpson should complain of Mr Crawford's two bonds, he has certainly received very uncommon indulgence from all his creditors and he is very sensible of it.

I cannot promise to pay the money at Whitsunday, indeed you must know it would be impossible to sell land & realize the payment so soon without making a most dreadful sacrifice of property. I have however matters in a train which gives me the prospect of being enabled by that term, to come forward and propose a settlement, which I hope will meet the approbation of the Royal Bank.

I never knew a man more anxious to be free of debt than Mr Crawford, he owed little on his own account, his whole embarrassment arose from lending his name to Mr Dunmore and whenever he found that these debts would fall upon him he reduced his establishment in such a way as to enable him to pay the interest from his own rents. I have had great pleasure in conducting his affairs and I have now the full hope of restoring him to the possession of Possil with very little burden upon it.

I am very respectfully

Dear Sir

Yours Sincerely

Walter Ewing Maclae

Saturday 21 March 1801

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23 March 1801

How I should have liked to have made one of your Restalrig Party!
but I doubt if ever I shall be there or even see Auld Reekie
again — David Russell's bill you know is only
payable at Whitsunday — and the question is whether he shall then
sell his stock at what price it will bring — or renew 2m of
it and draw on Simon at 4 per cent for 5m ordering him to
sell when that bill comes due be the price what it may —
I am sorry we have not a place for Mr Marjoribanks' man at
present — he did not occur to my lady when we took in an
additional hand — and when I wrote you of the application by
P Campbell's son — this lad was recommended by W E Maclae
and seems to be a clever steady young man — being a nordland
from Aberdeen you will not like him the worse — and his name
being Scott makes him not disagreeable to me — Edward
fills up Cunningham's place — I shall try to mind Mr
Marjoribanks when there is another opening —
It is such a lie like story this of the P of Orange that
I cannot believe it — what a melancholy affair this
is of the Invincible — with this hand we may expect in
a very few days important news from the Baltic and
I will look to you for the first intelligence —
Let Finlayson see what states he pleases, his bills will
not easily go down at this time — his folly & impudence
ought to be checked — you see by the bill indorsed by
Riddell & Co only because they have taken up the bill
on Finlayson's indorsement on Saturday — Gold Corbett goes
into City tomorrow afternoon and will call on you as
you wished to mention on Wednesday — Mr Nimmo has
just come from Dunlop's meeting — he says nothing was done but
reading the last minute declaring a dividend of 6 p per cent
and nothing new was proposed — nobody appeared for Simon —

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

RB/837/130

Page 1 of 2

23 March 1801

How I should have liked to have made one of your Restalrig party! But I doubt if ever I shall be there or even see Auld Reekie again.

David Russell's bill you know is only payable at Whitsunday — and the question is whether he shall then sell his stock at what price it will bring or renew 2m of it and draw on Simon at 4 per cent for 5m ordering him to sell when that bill comes due be the price what it may.

I am sorry we have not a place for Mr Marjoribanks' man at present — he did not occur to me lately when we took in an additional hand — and when I wrote you of the application by P Campbell's son — this lad was recommended by WE Maclae and seems to be a clever steady young man — being a nordland from Aberdeen you will not like him the worse and his name being Scott makes him not disagreeable to me. Edward fills up Cunningham's place. I shall try to mind Mr Marjoribanks when there is another opening.

It is such a lie like story this of the P of Orange that I cannot believe it — what a melancholy affair this is of the Invincible — with this hand we may expect in a very few days important news from the Baltic and I will look to you for the first intelligence.

Let Finlayson send what states he pleases, his bills will not easily go down at this office — his folly and impudence ought to be checked — you see by the bill indorsed by Riddell & Co on Graham's how they have taken up the bill on Finlayson's returned on Saturday. Collector Corbett goes into Edinburgh this afternoon and will call on you as you wished tomorrow or Wednesday. Mr Nimmo has just come from Dunlop's meeting — he says nothing was done but reading the last minute declaring a dividend 6d per £ and nothing new was proposed — nobody appeared for Simon.

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RSM

23 March 1801

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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24 March 1801

Indeed the loss of the Invincible has been little out of my mind these two days I know not whether the scene was most awful to those who were lost or to those who survived and saw their friends swallowed up - The Captain I am told was a fine fellow and a countryman of mine - from Fife - These stories of the Egyptian Expedition are very mortifying - I fear it is all wrong there that they must just return and if so the French will get great possession - Sir Ralph is rather an unlucky man - How provoking this Gauk's Errand upon which Sir Robert Calder is gone - I hope it will not be so with Sir Hyde and we must hear from him in a few days - I thought the Bank of England's Bonus would make you prick up your ears - but I think with you it is a wrong system and that they should lay up their profits (if they really have them) till they can make a regular annual dividend from them - but this Nordland your friend will give them no rest ~~and~~ and I suppose you will be harassed by some of your Nordland or lowland Proprietors by a story in the same way - I wish we may not be taken in with this chap Wilkin upon whom you return the bill on Martin he came from Jamaica two or three years ago with a large sum but like a fool he bought land with it and now he lets his bills be protested - and I see advertises the land (an Estate near Whitburn) for sale - I have wrote him that if the bill is not taken up this day it must go back to Edinb. for a Warning - and if not paid by 6 o'clock I mean to give it to Mr Nimmo - what an uncertain world this - I have just got a card saying that Mrs James Monteith died last night - you remember what noise his marriage made last autumn - it was a strange connection brought about by Andrew Buchanan's love of money - she was to have £900 but how will he grudge the 2m he paid down of her portion -

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

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24 March 1801

Indeed the loss of the Invincible has been little out of my mind these two days I know not whether the scene was most awful to those who were lost or to those who survived and saw their friends swallowed up. The captain I am told was a fine fellow and a countryman of mine from Fife. These stories of the Egyptian expedition are very mortifying - I fear it is all wrong there that they must just return and if so the French will get great possession - Sir Ralph is rather an unlucky man. How provoking this Gauk's Errand upon which Sir Robert Calder is gone - I hope it will not be so with Sir Hyde and we must hear from him in a few days. I thought the Bank of England's bonus would make you prick up your ears - but I think with you it is a wrong system and that they should lay up their profits (if they really have them) till they can make a regular annual dividend from them - but this Nordland your friend will give them no rest and I suppose you will be harassed by some of your nordland or lowland proprietors by and by in the same way. I wish we may not be taken in with this chap Wilkin upon whom you return the bill on Martin he came from Jamaica two or three years ago with a large sum but like a fool he bought land with it and now he lets his bills be protested - and I see advertises the land (an estate near Whitburn) for sale. I have wrote him that if the bill is not taken up this day it must go back to Edinburgh for a horning - and if not paid by 6 o'clock I mean to give it to Mr Nimmo. What an uncertain world this - I have just got a card saying that Mrs James Monteith died last night - you remember what noise his marriage made last autumn - it was a strange connection brought about by Andrew Buchanan's love of money - she was to have £900 but how will he grudge the 2m he paid down of her portion.

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Walker has called and taken up his bill with that bill on London sent you which I don't much like - but as he must be good at bottom I have taken it - he says the Jamaica mail will make him easy - and that he would not take 5m of profit for his land -

R. L. M.
RB 837/131
24 March 1801

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, 24 March 1801

RB/837/131

Page 2 of 2

Walker has called and taken up his bill with that bill on London sent you which I don't much like - but as he must be good at bottom I have taken it - he says the Jamaica mail will make him easy - and that he would not take 5m of profit for his land.

RSM

24 March 1801

Wm Simpson Esq

P

25 March 1801

We shall send back no more of Finlaysons Bills as I see there can be no dependence on them - McBrair has taken it up and I made him pay 22/ as interest and gives a Intt Prop - you see friend James has paid the Arms Bank debt - Walter has said would not allow him Intt upon Intt as you charge - but he paid it cheerfully as Walter said he should do for the accommodation - he has brought me back the Receipt for the notes as Walter told him he would and I suppose he will he will cut off the interest upon interest - when I can get away to call upon him I shall settle it and let you know

That was very handsome indeed in the old Dean and what I had hardly have expected from him as he is thought to like the money - it shows clearly there is a gang - these hangings here and in England must reduce the number fast. I have not heard particularly who is prosecuting Marshall but should suppose it must be at the instance of the advocate - pray are you to employ any other Counsel but Mr Glassford against Bar - I am glad Mr More does not think our Tellers will be called off - but I thought the witnesses were shut up in a room from the beginning to the end of a Trial - you see poor King has got his Remittances which have been a missing for months from West Indies - What uncomfortable blowing wet weather we have here - a farmer tells me they can put no seed into the ground.

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

RB/837/132

Page 1 of 2

25 March 1801

We shall send back no more of Finlaysons bills as I see there can be no dependence on them. McBrair has taken it up and I made him pay 22/ as interest which goes to interest box. You see friend James has paid the Arms Bank debt - Walter has said would not allow him interest upon interest as you charge, but he paid it cheerfully as Walter said he should do for the accommodation - he has brought me back the receipt for the notes as Walter told him he would settle that with me and I suppose he will he will cut off the interest upon interest - when I can get a way to call upon him I shall settle it and let you know.

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What uncomfortable blowing wet weather we have here - a farmer tells me they can put no seed into the ground.

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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 March 1801

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RSM

25 March 1801

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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26 March 1801.

Glad am I that Rae & your Councillor have done more than all my Rhetoric could do - and that we shall at last have a Visit from you - you must come and assist us on the Monday Evening and the Trial I hope will not come on till Wednesday or Thursday so that we shall for once have a decent Visit from you - never will I forgive you if you don't take your bed in the Directors Room upstairs - you shall be at full Liberty to roam about among your friends thro' the day - I will only ask you to take a quiet chat & Glass of Toddy with me at night out of David Russell's Book of famous men. which I have been keeping long for you - for your further Encouragement if you will do this as my wife goes into Edinburgh about middle of April to pay her annual Visit to her mother - she will thankfully go in under the Escort of you & the Councillor after your Business is done.

What a mischievous man you are to laugh at poor Andrew Buchanan on the present occasion - to wish on Campbell to have his daughter and his 2m instead of seeing her with a £900 Jointure - I remember some of the ladies said it was the best marriage ever was in Glasgow - a sickly dying man and £900 Jointure - you might as well have been at your octagon Table as at the Presbytery voting for some graceless Elder!

I'll lay a Bett Willie's was the most orthodox man - we have today a printed puffing letter from a Thomas Cobb & Co London offering to make wonderful paper to cheat the Stamp office - I suppose you will get one - I will send you one - I think it not amiss to send you a wafer or drop of wax into the corner of it.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 26 March 1801

RB/837/133

Page 1 of 2

26 March 1801

Glad am I that Rae and your councillor have done more than all my rhetoric could do - and that we shall at last have a visit from you - you must come and assist us on the Monday evening and the trial I hope will not come on till Wednesday or Thursday so that we shall for once have a decent visit from you - never will I forgive you if you don't take your bed in the directors room upstairs - you shall be at full liberty to roam about among your friends through the day - I will only ask you to take a quiet chat and glass of toddy with me at night out of David Russell's book of famous men which I have been keeping long for you - for your further encouragement if you will do this as my wife goes into Edinburgh about middle of April to pay her annual visit to her mother, she will thankfully go in under the escort of you and the counsellor after your business is done.

What a mischievous man you are to laugh at poor Andrew Buchanan on the present occasion - it will be no laughing to him to lose his daughter and his 2m instead of seeing her with a £900 jointure. I remember some of the ladies said it was the best marriage ever was in Glasgow - a sickly dying man and £900 jointure. You might as well have been at your octagon table as at the presbytery voting for some graceless Elder! I'll lay a Bett Willie's was the most orthodox man.

We have today a printed puffing letter from Thomas Cobb & Co London offering to make wonderful paper to cheat the stamp office - I suppose you would get one - if not I shall send you one - I think it not amiss to send you a reading of this inclosed - put a little bit wafer or drop of wax into the corner of it.

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The Elder I see of Sir J^t Stirling are the Elders from this Presby
years before I know who they are and not up to them for decency
sincerely - I have just been reading the debate in the Ho of
Coms about the Bank Bonus - it was most impudent in
Nichols -

R. S. M.
26 March 1801

Wm Simpson Esq

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 26 March 1801

RB/837/133
Page 2 of 2

The Elder I see and Sir John Stirling are the Elders from this Presbytery. Yours before I know who they are are not up to them for decency and sobriety. I have just been reading the debate in the House of Commons about the bank bonus – it was most impudent in Nichols.

RSM
26 March 1801

Wm Simpson Esq
P

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27 March 81

I shall tell Walter Ewing what you say - but it is too late now as you are in the middle with him regarding and just took what he gave us - he told Mr Gordon that he could make no difference and that none of the creditors got or asked more than simple interest - although your mode is fair and just I am not sure if it is allowed upon sequestrated estates - Is Henry Erskine to oppose you at the circuit - if so I doubt young Rae will be no match for him - Our farmers are not far back in ploughing - I believe the land was never more forward in that respect at this season - but it is so wet they can sow nothing - we have constant blowing blashy weather - even although the barometer is very high - Mr Dale has got some of the potatoe cuts and says he will spare you what you want next year - it seems they are all from a stalk found growing in a potatoe field, and are of the most uncommon quality you mention - How do you account for this rise of the stocks - it is wonderful in the present dark state of things they don't fall more - there must be some hope of peace being brought about but before a negotiation I should like to see good accounts from the Baltic and from Egypt - if today's accounts be true that our East India army is arrived at Suez I shall hope our object must be obtained there - We are to have our Bank dinner today - when your health shall be drunk - I saw your Elders in the news paper - as Mr Dale says sometimes of Bills pinched enough for Elders -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 27 March 1801, with a pasted-on slip containing notes about debts

RB/837/134

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27 March 1801

I shall tell Walter Ewing what you say, but it is too late now as you would see we settled with him yesterday and just took what he gave us - he told Mr Gordon that he could make no difference and that none of the creditors got or asked more than simple interest - although your mode is fair and just I am not sure if it is allowed upon sequestrated estates. Is Henry Erskine to oppose you at the circuit - if so I doubt young Rae will be no match for him. Our farmers are not far back in ploughing I believe the land was never more forward in that respect at this season - but it is so wet they can sow nothing - we have constant blowing blashy weather - even although the barometer is very high - Mr Dale has got some of the potatoe cuts and says he will spare you what you want next year - it seems they are all from a stalk found growing in a potato field and are of the most uncommon quality you mention.

How do you account for this rise of the stocks - it is wonderful in the present dark state of things they don't fall more - there must be some hope of peace being brought about but before a negotiation I should like to see good accounts from the Baltic and from Egypt - if today's accounts be true that our East India army is arrived at Suez I shall hope our object must be obtained 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, 27 March 1801, with a pasted-on slip containing notes about debts

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RSM
27 March 1801

Wm Simpson Esq
P

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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 March 1801, with a pasted-on slip containing notes about debts

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Debts in suspense Balance March 5 13123.7
1801
March 26 Dividend of 6d per £
from Jas Dunlop's estate 229.12.5
Balance £ 12893.8.2

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Debts in suspense balance 5 March	£13123.7
1801	
March 26 Dividend of 6d per £	
from Jas Dunlop's estate	£229.12.5
Balance	£12893.8.2

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Moncrieff
Glasgow

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28 Mar 801 —

You mortify me sadly by refusing the directors Room — but I must submit — I'll be glad to see the Counsellor who I suppose will be of the same mind — but I hope he will at least take a glass of toddy with me at night. I am going out to dine at Daldowie and shall expect to see him when I come home in the evening — I need a Ride after yesterday's debauch — a long dinner is a sore business to me, however every thing went off very well — I heard there that Andrew has got the better of James Monteith — that the first moiety of the Portion was only payable on the birth of a child so Andrew will get off — and James will get 0 for all his expenses these 6 months past which he will grieve sadly —

My advice to that will I hope be attended to, as to his Business but as to matrimony I have no hope — he seems to have got completely the Principles & Habits of Bachelorism and very unlike his Father to have an aversion to conjugal Enjoyments — I am glad you have got the Opium Business put in so good a train — to make a considerable difference to the Bank at the end of the year

These Captures in the Mediterranean must be of great consequence to our Fleets & Armies there in supplying them with provisions of which they were in want — 15 ships load must be a good supply — but I am always afraid the French Fleet will fall in with Lord Keith and be an over match for him — what Bill is this the attorney general is bringing in against forgery — I hope it will not be confined to the Bank of England but apply generally

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

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28 March 1801

You mortify me sadly by refusing the directors room, but I must submit — I'll be glad to see the Counsellor who I suppose will be of the same mind — but I hope he will at least take a glass of toddy with me at night. I am going out to dine at Daldowie and shall expect to see him when I come home in the evening. I need a ride after yesterday's debauch — a long dinner is a sore business to me, however everything went off very well. I heard there that Andrew has got the better of Jamie Monteith — that the first moiety of the portion was only payable on the birth of a child so Andrew will get off — and James will get 0 for all his expenses these six months past which he will grieve sadly.

My advice to Robert will I hope be attended to as to his business but as to matrimony I have no hope — he seems to have got the principles and habits of bachelorism and very unlike his father to have an aversion to conjugal enjoyments. I am glad you have got the excise business put in so good a train — it will make a considerable difference to the bank at the end of the year. These captures in the Mediterranean must be of great consequence to our fleets and armies there in supplying them with provisions of which they were in want — 15 ships load must be a good supply — but I am always afraid the French fleet will fall in with Lord Keith and be an over match for him. What bill is this the attorney general is bringing in against forgery — I hope it will not be confined to the Bank of England but apply generally.

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RSM

28 March 1801

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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30 March 1801

Indeed I do not think Willie's list better than yours - I thought he
had been told some of the old-fashioned decent churchgoing folks
such as Willie Galloway Balfour of Pilrig etc whom the strict
Party used to bring forward in old times - your Lawyers and Colonels
may be men of honour - but as to Religion
Your Counsellor will tell you of his operations here - I never
saw him till yesterday morning when he was just on his return
by what Mr Nimmo tells me I fear Hodge's wife will
do you no good - I am provoked at these blunders in
our Advices to you by our young hands - but more vexed at
a blunder I fear of yours - which I doubt may not be so
easily rectified - the 11th current we sent you McKinlay's Bill
on Scott Moncrieff & Watson per £130 - on seeing their letter
allowing him to draw had the Bill been presented for accept-
the next day it would have been accepted - but he drew the
same sum to Menzies & Anderson and that Bill was accepted
that we sent you it seems has never appeared - pray
look out for it and send it us back rated - I wish we
may get the money from McKinlay - he was Partner
with Auchinvolde & Co who are sequestrated - I cannot
imagine how your folks have mislaid the Bill for it
seems Bob was inquiring at the Bank for it -
There is certainly something going on for Peace - Mr
Paylor writes me Omnium was 27% and India stock
had risen 8% in one day - if I had such houses
I'd sell out - for I have no hope from a Peace
made with victorious France - they will not keep
it longer than till they get the means of
the British Government

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

RB/837/137

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30 March 1801

Indeed I do not think Willie's list better than yours - I thought he would have had some of the old
fashioned decent churchgoing folks such as Willie Galloway Balfour of Pilrig etc whom the strict
party used to bring forward in old times - your Lawyers and Colonels may be men of honour - but
as to religion -

Your counsellor will tell you of his operations here - I never saw him till yesterday morning when he
was just on his return. By what Mr Nimmo tells me I fear Hodge's wife will do you no good.

I am provoked at these blunders in our advices to you by our young hands, but more vexed at a
blunder I fear of yours, which I doubt may not be so easily rectified - the 11th current we sent you
McKinlay's bill on Scott Moncrieff & Watson per £130 - on seeing their letter allowing him to draw
had this bill been presented for acceptance the next day it would have been accepted - but he drew
the same sum to Menzies & Anderson and that bill was accepted that we sent you it seems has
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McKinlay - he is partner with Auchinvolde & Co who are sequestrated. I cannot imagine how your
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stock had risen 8% in one day - if I had stock however I would sell out - for I have no hope from a
peace made with victorious France - they will not keep it longer than till they get the means of
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McKinlay has just been with me he promises to get me a
good bill tomorrow to remit to Mr. Watson so as they
may yet accept with either the best way of managing
it so you need not return to till you hear further
but I wish he may keep his word -

Leitch & Smith tell me they sent you a 2m London
bill on Saturday because it was too late for bank
hours here - they needed not have been in such
hurry to save one day - I suppose your letter
tomorrow will order us to pay them the value

R.S.M.

30 March 1801

Wm Simpson Esq

J

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

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McKinlay has just been with me he promises to get me a good bill tomorrow to remit to SM & Watson so as they may yet accept which will be the best way of managing it so you need not return it till you hear further but I wish he may keep his word.

Leitch & Smith tell me they sent you a 2m London bill on Saturday because it was too late for bank hours here - they needed not have been in such hurry to save one day. I suppose your letter tomorrow will order us to pay them the value.

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Wm Simpson Esq

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31 March 1801

OH/153/140
I hope you are mistaken as by the newspaper account - it wd seem
the attorney general's forgery Bill extends to all Bank Notes
certainly from Addington's speech something is going on towards
a peace - but I look for no peace worth having till the French
Government is changed and she is brought to something near
her ancient Territories - I am glad to see Mr Dundas
is able to speak so much - as I heard he had some very bad
Complaint - he makes a noble defence of his Conduct
The Jamaica folks have been sadly off for a long time
of the badness of Trade there - but Sandy Allan's letter
speaks of things being better and that the Spaniards and
their dollars were again at the market - he has
a ship in the Fleet with nearly 30m Produce and
this is all he has to pay his Installment due to Govt
I heard of the Paisley Chairman's walk - and that
there was about £1000 Betts on it - but who the
bettors are I know not - if I did they should get no Bills
discounted here - it was a wonderful walk however
McKinlay has not brought me his Bill as he
promised - I have sent to him but cannot
find him - I wish we may get out there
tho' I think he will get that Bill out of the way
that he may not have the door shut upon him
There is delightful weather now - I should like
then Every to take a walk about Salisbury Crags

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 31 March 1801

RB/837/140

Page 1 of 2

31 March 1801

I hope you are mistaken as by the newspaper account it would seem the attorney general's forgery bill extends to all bank notes. Certainly from Addington's speech something is going on towards a peace - but I look for no peace worth having till the French government is changed and she is brought to something near her ancient territories. I am glad to see Mr Dundas is able to speak so much, as I heard he had some very bad complaint - he makes a noble defence of his conduct.

The Jamaica folks have been sadly off for a long time by the badness of trade there - but Sandy Allan's letter speaks of things being better and that the Spaniards and their dollars were again at the market - he has a ship in the fleet with nearly 30m produce and this is all he has to pay his instalments due the 4th current.

I heard of the Paisley Chairman's walk, and that there was about £1000 Betts on it - but who the betters are I know not - if I did they should get no bills discounted here - it was a wonderful walk, however.

McKinlay has not brought me his bill as he promised - I have sent to him but cannot find him - I wish we may get out there though I think he will get that bill out of the way that he may not have the door shut upon him. There is delightful weather now - I should like this evening to take a walk about Salisbury Crags.

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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, 31 March 1801

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RSM

31 March 1801

Wm Simpson Esq

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