

2 July 1802

This variable weather must be trying to weak constitutions - we had a very cold frosty morning two yesterday - at night it rained - a very fine frosty morning today - and by 11 o'clock a heavy fall of snow - but the frost preponderates and I regret it only for friend James's sake; take it stops his machine for making Bars - and it stops the conveyance of his goods by the Canal - he has 800 to £1000 value locked up in it -

This is a prodigious armament gone from France. I cannot think they intend anything hostile to us - yet it is odd they went off before the definitive Treaty was signed - and these short adjournments by Addington are unaccountable to me - I see Mitchell's Fleet is arrived at Portsmouth - I doubt it is because they would not go to the West Indies - Some of our sugar merchants are saying that if the French are going to Jamaica it will make sugar sell - so there is no wind that does not blow good to somebody - Part of your Edinburgh militia left us this morning and the remainder go on Monday Major Hepburn called for the value of that bill sent you - and told me that the Duke had set him down at the entry to the square - but his Grace has never called - what a thoughtless body! He sent an artillery man with that draft on Leith fort - and I gave him the full sum without charging interest. We have such a bunch on Saturday forenoons that I put up a placard in the office that business will be done here from 10 to 12 - instead of 11 as the other Banks have it and I hope will give us a little relief.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 2 January 1802

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2 January 1802

This variable weather must be trying to weak constitutions. We had a very cold frosty morning too yesterday - at night it rained - a very fine frosty morning today - and by 11 o'clock a heavy fall of snow. But the frost preponderates and I regret it only for friend James's sake. It stops his machine for making bars, and it stops the conveyance of his goods by the canal. He has 800 to £1000 value locked up in it.

This is a prodigious armament gone from France. I cannot think they intend anything hostile to us, yet it is odd they went off before the definitive treaty was signed, and these short adjournments by Addington are unaccountable to me. I see Mitchell's fleet is arrived at Portsmouth. I doubt it is because they would not go to the West Indies. Some of our sugar merchants are saying that if the French are going to Jamaica it will make sugars sell - so there is no wind that does not blow good to somebody.

Part of your Edinburgh militia left us this morning and the remainder go on Monday. Major Hepburn called for the value of that bill sent you and told me that the Duke had set him down at the entry to the square, but his Grace has never called. What a thoughtless body! He sent an artillery man with that draft on Leith fort, and I gave him the full sum without charging interest. We have such a bunch on Saturday forenoons that I put up a placard in the office that business will be done here from 10 to 12, instead of 11 as the other banks have it which I hope will give us a little relief.

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Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 2 January 1802

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RSM

2 January 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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4 Jan 1801

I glanced yr Surgeon's Papers this morning and sent them to Mr Dale to divert his Gout - they really seem to have gone crazy I wonder some of them did not move to read the Riot Act -

That is a wonderful price you mention for a Shop - things cannot surely go on long in that way - My house is to let at Candlemas the lease being out at Whitsunday next. I hope Willie will get me some increase of rent for it - We shall be expelling Ed

the 20 tomorrow - it is much the same at what time our young men leave us - for we have always more ado than enough -

Just now honest Wm Pinkerton came in and paid 10/- on his returned Bills - his Bro writes that he will pay 2/6 or 3/ in two or three weeks - and that he has been making money since his stop - I shall have little dependence upon him after taking in his Bro here so deeply -

My wife sent a little square note directed to my Bird Miss Duncan last week and is much disappointed at having no answer - it went under yr cover and she supposes has not been forwarded - so clear yourself if you can

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 4 January 1802

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4 January 1802

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Just now honest William Pinkerton came in and paid 10/ per £ on his returned bills. His brother writes that he will pay 2/6 or 3/ in two or three weeks, and that he has been making money since his stop. I shall have little dependence upon him after taking in his brother here so deeply.

My wife sent a little square note directed to my bird Miss Duncan last week and is much disappointed at having no answer. It went under your cover and she supposes has not been forwarded. So clear yourself if you can.

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RSM

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[Also includes some notation of figures in RSM's hand.]

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6 Jan'y 1802

I hope Edward will cast up before this is closed - we have no snow here to interrupt anybody and our London post comes in as early as in summer - it seems to be fresh today though I can't get out to see - The ficty Body I suppose is gone and has never come near us - for the which cause I will remove him and put Father in his place none of us here ever heard of such a man as John Badd it will be some wrong headed Irishman who will be coming to Edin and he will call for his letter - all the lower story of my house is in shops and they are so well situated that I hope Willie will get a good rise of rent to increase the sum saved next year if I live so long - This being wednesday we have had a number of Country bodies with their deposit receipts - and some dull scenes - two fellows from Kilbride had sold bits of land to the minister and brought in about £800 - of the price one of them 500 the other 300 - the first said he had more money but he had not given it us till he saw if we kept our credit - the other wanted all the lads to sign his receipt - but the first said that was needless - only get the old man at the desk to sign it - then came a wife with 3 of our Receipts two £10 and one £13 - two of them dated in May and August last and she wanted them all put into one with the interest and £3 she was to add - I told her we would not pay interest to May - she teized me long enough - thus we go on - The B--ch I understand at her Greenock branch has reduced interest on deposits from 1st current to 3%

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 6 January 1802

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6 January 1802

I hope Edward will cast up before this is closed. We have no snow here to interrupt anybody and our London post comes in as early as in summer. It seems to be fresh today though I can't get out to see.

The ficty Body I suppose is gone and has never come near us, for the which cause I would remove him and put Father in his place. None of us here ever heard of such a man as John Badd it will be some wrong headed Irishman who will be coming to Edinburgh and he will call for his letter.

All the lower story of my house is in shops and they are so well situated that I hope Willie will get a good rise of rent to increase the sum saved next year if I live so long.

This being Wednesday we have had a number of country bodies with their deposit receipts, and some dull scenes - two fellows from Kilbride had sold bits of land to the minister and brought in about £800 of the price - one of them 500 the other 300 - the first said he had more money but he would not give it us till he saw if we kept our credit. The other wanted all the lads to sign his receipt but the first said that was needless - only get the old man at the desk to sign it. Then came a wife with 3 of our receipts 2 £10 and one £13 two of them dated in May and August last and she wanted them all put into one with the interest and £3 she was to add. I told her we would not pay interest to May. She teized me long enough - thus we go on.

The B--ch I understand at her Greenock branch has reduced interest on deposits from 1st current to 3%

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¼ before 5 - in comes Edward & the Bags - he
had very good travelling - I am sorry to see by
my Bird's letter she has been confined to bed -
wish she would come west and keep up my wife's
spirits in these long cold nights - I know you will be
thinking it would keep up my spirits

Recd
6 Jan 1802

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9 Jan 1802

I put your P into honest David Stirling's hands and we must have a talk with the tellers on Monday to see if they can contrive to give us their blotters in the way you do. David says the only objection that occurs to him is that as the R Bank articles the bills on Down and you, you must be placed together in the general cash book - that cannot be done till the blotters are closed with the tellers - but he says as the RB articles take about a whole page in the general Cash Book - a page may be left blank for that purpose till the afternoon. I wish indeed we could get matters arranged better [paper missing] are in the Tellers' office so as people might get [paper missing] dispatch. The Elder called today for his dividend [paper missing] near an hour before he could get sight of Peterkin, such was the crowd or his slowness in dispatching them. I should be happy if you or the Counsellor would come west and be with us two or three throng days, to see if you could point out any improvement - at least you would find out where the defect lies and when the disease is known it may be cured - altho by Mr More's mode of stating the transactions - the writing in the general Cash Book is not much more than years - of the number of Bills not paid of - and the number of London Bills discounted gives a good deal of work to the Tellers - I think there was 87 of the former and 43 of the latter - I am going to dine with Dainty Davy - he is in pretty good spirits - but still confined to his room (excepting Sunday afternoons) and I don't like the gout hanging so long about him without coming to a proper crisis -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 9 January 1802

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I am going to dine with dainty Davy - he is in pretty good spirits, but still confined to his room (excepting Sunday afternoons) and I don't like the gout hanging so long about him without coming to a proper crisis.

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his troublesome otherwise - you
must get the sealed order at 12 o'clock
the papers can be delivered to the
office just as they have been
Mr Graham has no objection to send
the papers to us for his box

Wm Simpson Esq

Wm Simpson Esq

was 1 hour 6

W. S. M.

What is the flying waggon doing?
My man tells me Kinneir is much
against the new plan for the boxes to
be sent to the bank and to him and
[paper missing] sure it would be troublesome
otherwise. You must get this settled with Menzies. The boxes are to be delivered at the office just at their courtyard and Mr Graham has no objection to send his porters to us for his box.

RSM

9 January 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

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I have not yet had courage to throw off the poor small depositors - were any coming in with a new deposit of 20 or 30 - I could refuse it - but a poor servant maid brought our receipts for £15 - on Saturday for her 12/ interest. I could not find it in my heart to refuse renewing it - nor do I think it worth while to make any alteration if we are still to take in such sums as £30 - nor would that save us much trouble, unless you follow the Aberdeen Bank and take no sums under £100 to lie for some months at least. It's hardly worth altering your system, and yet these deposits are increasing so fast that unless something is done it will be impossible to manage them.

Friend James is sadly distressed - with that bill sent you on Stuart he took up his £300 pledge, but he has 12 or £1500 to pay at Muirkirk this week and he is quite run out of bills - and the Frost locks up all his Pigs for Newcastle and other places - he says he must give me back his Newcastle Pledge Bill tomorrow for £300 - and I know not where he is to get other bills - we have done a great deal for him this week past - without a weight upon us that Messrs is - and more like to be better -

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12 Jan 1802

Your P was most distinct on the subject - but nobody saw it but Stirling - I hope you will get Kinnear to be reconciled to the waggon and it put upon such a footing that neither you nor he will have much trouble - I think the waggon should drive up the Grassmarket through the Lawnmarket and in passing at the Cross deliver the boxes to you and Mr Kinnear - and so call for them as he passes from Leith - a key of the iron case should be at the Bank and another here - that our Porters might open it and take out the boxes - such you all these matters with Menzies - yes if we could get a percentage on all the Bills that we indorse it wd even make us much more - but we might not be a bit wiser or happier - From the Accounts I had of Mr Dundas, the notification of his death this morning did not surprise me - honest man, I shall ever owe much gratitude & respect to his memory - in his latter days he was quite unfit for business and entirely led by others - hence he gave that most vexing life rent tack of the beautiful spot which he often told me should never be out of the Proprietor's Power. It cannot now be helped. I had resolved not to stir as it appeared to me impossible, but on showing my letters this morning to Mr Dale he insisted so positively that I should go and assured me it will be no hardship upon him to attend for two or three forenoons as he intended coming out at any rate, so I think of leaving this in Thursday afternoon's Telegraph and taking a chaise at Uphall for Duddingston.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 12 January 1802

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From the accounts I had of Mr Dundas, the notification of his death this morning did not surprise me - honest man, I shall ever owe much gratitude and respect to his memory. In his latter days he was quite unfit for business and entirely led by others - hence he gave that most vexing life rent tack of the beautiful spot which he often told me should never be out of the Proprietor's Power. It cannot now be helped. I had resolved not to stir as it appeared to me impossible, but on showing my letters this morning to Mr Dale he insisted so positively that I should go and assured me it will be no hardship upon him to attend for two or three forenoons as he intended coming out at any rate, so I think of leaving this in Thursday afternoon's Telegraph and taking a chaise at Uphall for Duddingston.

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whether I will get to Edinburgh is a matter of doubt. I am
frightened to go there for so short time I could have it would be impossible for me even to see half of
my friends - and those I could not see would be offended.
There will be a large sum of debt on the premises and there will be no getting the better of
that life rent abominable lease - so that I know not if I myself will ever touch anything by it -
but it will be secured to Willie & Bairns. As soon as I have the command of the O Bank shares I shall
you may depend on it get clear of them and Hay Smith, and if not to pay debt transfer them
to the Old Royal.

Wm Simpson Esq

12 Jan 1802

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 12 January 1802

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There will be a large sum of debt on the premises and there will be no getting the better of that life rent abominable lease - so that I know not if I myself will ever touch anything by it - but it will be secured to Willie & Bairns. As soon as I have the command of the O Bank shares I shall you may depend on it get clear of them and Hay Smith, and if not to pay debt transfer them to the Old Royal.

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13 Jan 1802

Few Events have given me greater pleasure than that you announced to me this morning - it is what I have been ardently wishing for years - most heartily do I rejoice on the appearance of another Wm Ramsay offer my kind congratulations to the grand Father and all concerned - and let me know how mother & child go on -

I am sorry I shall be out of the way when Ally comes west but I hope he will stay the best part of next week for I should wish much to have him here in our crowds that I may see if he could suggest any improvements - Having so good an opportunity there will be no harm in sending 20m of all kinds by him - but pray if you possibly can send a bag of half guineas for we are quite out of them - our silver is now accumulating - we have 10 bags in the chest - so you may stop silver a few weeks - Talbocks bills are never entered into any book with us - but from a note I keep of the whole we got from George they stand as under

£290.6 - Tho Toler Chester 12 Feb 1800 on & accepted by Chas Talbock London 3mo date
290 - Ditto Ditto Ditto Ditto Ditto

I hope this will be sufficient for you - You see we send you Philemon's bill but when Dallern our attorney sent it he desired and we gave him our guarantee against Recourse upon him - I wish it may be paid

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 13 January 1802

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13 January 1802

Few events have given me greater pleasure than that you announced to me this morning. It is what I have been ardently wishing for years - most heartily do I rejoice on the appearance of another William Ramsay. Offer my kind congratulations to the grand father and all concerned, and let me know how mother and child go on.

I am sorry I shall be out of the way when Ally comes west but I hope he will stay the best part of next week for I should wish much to have him here in our crowds that I may see if he could suggest any improvements. Having so good an opportunity there will be no harm in sending 20m of all kinds by him, but pray if you possibly can send a bag of half guineas for we are quite out of them. Our silver is now accumulating - we have 10 bags in the chest - so you may stop silver a few weeks.

Talbock's bills are never entered into any book with us, but from a note I keep of the whole we got from George they stand as under

£290.6 Thomas Toler Chester 12 February 1800 on & accepted by Chas Talbock London 3mo date
£290. Ditto Ditto Ditto Ditto

I hope this will be sufficient for you.

You see we send you Philemon's bill but when Dallern our attorney sent it he desired and we gave him our guarantee against Recourse upon him. I wish it may be paid.

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Put a seal on the enclosed and send it to the
Director

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14 Jan 1802

I really do not think my presence here is of great moment. I dare say a good sensible dog like Beaux might be bred to do all that I do yet my hand being in the routine of the business, I cannot express what uphill work it is with me to go away - and the thought of flying like lightning through Edinburgh and disobliging half my friends by not seeing them is not very pleasant. Yet go it seems I must and there is an absolute necessity for my being back on Monday by mid day - I really believe it will be a greater mortification to me than to you if I don't see the Front - I am planning if I can possibly get on to Edin by 12 or 1 o'clock on Saturday night to my first object to call at the bank and try if possible to get an hour's walk with you to P Green by ourselves and so take that opportunity of discussing Bank Business. Then I must see to get some time with Director Duncan to discuss the business of my entails, and then fly about among friends. I thought it better to go direct to Duddingston, than to go into Edinburgh about 11 at night and then set out to Duddingston next morn. Mr Gray who is a very fine Chield goes with me and will probably return with me. I shall be much mortified if I do not find Ally here on my return. Mr Dale is pretty easy this morning and will be in the office by 10 tomorrow. In the meantime I have given the keys to honest David Stirling who I am sure will give due attention to every thing -

I have been pestered for some days with people calling to wish me joy which makes me look very awkward for I can yet count upon nothing and I cannot expect so much will be got from the subject during my life as will pay the debt. If the honest man had died 20 years ago the case would have been very different. The subject was then quite free and no tack. Were it out of lease, there are I think 80 acres of it completely enclosed which in that situation should bring at least £4 per acre rent besides the public house and Ross and wife have the whole for life at £250 I think.

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14 January 1802

I really do not think my presence here is of great moment. I dare say a good sensible dog like Beaux might be bred to do all that I do yet my hand being in the routine of the business, I cannot express what uphill work it is with me to go away, and the thought of flying like lightning through Edinburgh and disobliging half my friends by not seeing them is not very pleasant. Yet go it seems I must and there is an absolute necessity for my being back on Monday by midday. I really believe it will be a greater mortification to me than to you if I don't see the Front. I am planning if I can possibly get into Edinburgh by 12 or 1 o'clock on Saturday to make it my first object to call at the bank, and try if possible to get an hour's walk with you to P Green by ourselves and so take that opportunity of discussing Bank Business. Then I must see to get some time with Director Duncan to discuss the business of my entails, and then fly about among friends. I thought it better to go direct to Duddingston, than to go into Edinburgh about 11 at night and then set out to Duddingston next morn. Mr Gray who is a very fine Chield goes with me and will probably return with me. I shall be much mortified if I do not find Ally here on my return. Mr Dale is pretty easy this morning and will be in the office by 10 tomorrow. In the meantime I have given the keys to honest David Stirling who I am sure will give due attention to everything.

I have been pestered for some days with people calling to wish me joy which makes me look very awkward for I can yet count upon nothing and I cannot expect so much will be got from the subject during my life as will pay the debt. If the honest man had died 20 years ago the case would have been very different. The subject was then quite free and no tack. Were it out of lease, there are I think 80 acres of it completely enclosed which in that situation should bring at least £4 per acre rent besides the public house and Ross and wife have the whole for life at £250 I think.

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I must try what Bribery & Corruption will do with Trotter Mr Dundas' factor who I doubt was the origo mali - to see if he will get Ross to take a piece of money for the tack - according to my present view of the property I don't think £1000 would be ill bestowed for that tack, but I will do so without director Duncan's opinion
I gave Stirling your number of entries and he has given me the enclosed - you see with our 3 Tellers we still beat your 4 - especially if you take in the N of Bills on both sides each of which is an operation to the Teller and keeps a man standing in the office

Wm Simpson Esq

1/2 past 3

Ad M
14 Jan 1802
Sd of abstracts

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 14 January 1802

RB/837/539
Page 2 of 2

I must try what Bribery & Corruption will do with Trotter Mr Dundas' factor who I doubt was the origo mali, to see if he will get Ross to take a piece of money for the tack. According to my present view of the property I don't think £1000 would be ill bestowed for that tack, but I will do so without director Duncan's opinion.

I gave Stirling your number of entries and he has given me the enclosed - you see with our 3 Tellers we still beat your 4, especially if you take in the N of Bills on both sides, each of which is an operation to the Teller and keeps a man standing in the office.

1/2 past 3.

RSM
14 January 1802

Wm Simpson Esq
P

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18 Jan'y 1802 -

There I am again - after a very agreeable journey I got safe
home about half past 1 - I was in good time for the Exchange
with Gilbert and you see the Effect of my Packet.
I am glad to find no mischief has happened in my
absence - the only Information I have yet got from Mr Dale
is that a new Bank is to be set up in Greenock by
our Customers Hamilton Garden & Co - and by Walter Ritchie
& others - this I suppose is owing to their being displeas'd
with Gammell and the old B Agent - but if some
means are not fallen upon to check this Banking
Business the country will be overwhelmed at their notes
Ally has given me a call and I am glad to find
is not to leave this till Wednesday - so he shall
see how we go on tomorrow. How mysterious is
Addington with these adjournments!

Can you get me discontented Royalist who likes the
Bitch Stock better to take my 6 Shares of Bank stock
and give me Royal stock in place of it - and
who would rather be Proprietor of the latter than of
the former -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 18 January 1802

RB/837/541

Page 1 of 2

18 January 1802

Here I am again, after a very agreeable journey I got safe home about half past 1. I was in good time for the Exchange with Gilbert and you see the Effect of my Packet. I am glad to find no mischief has happened in my absence. The only information I have yet got from Mr Dale is that a new bank is to be set up in Greenock by our customers Hamilton Garden & Co, and by Walter Ritchie and others. This I suppose is owing to their being displeas'd with Gammell and the old B Agent, but if some means are not fallen upon to check this banking business the country will be overwhelmed at their notes.

Ally has given me a call and I am glad to find is not to leave this till Wednesday, so he shall see how we go on tomorrow. How mysterious is Addington with these adjournments!

Can you get me discontented Royalist who likes the Bitch Stock better to take my 6 shares O Bank stock and give me Royal stock in place of it. I would like much better to be Proprietor of the latter than of the former.

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Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 18 January 1802

RB/837/541

Page 2 of 2

RSM

18 January 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

P

NatWest
Group

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20 Jan'y

Ally saw but little of us yesterday - there were but 2 or 3
dozens in the office while he was here - Robert McNair carried
him off before our mob at 3 o'clock - which I regretted -
I hope by this time he and his Saddlebags are safe with
you - There is no doubt but I will sell out
the B—ch's Stock - and if I keep stock at all it must
be the old Royal's - but I am not yet quite resolved
whether I should not apply the proceeds of that stock
towards payment of Mr Dundas's debt - so you may just
let matters stand as they are till we see how things look
if any thing could be brought in from my Tobago debt
I wd like much better to apply it towards the extinction
of the Entailer's debt - so far I ought to hold some Royal
Stock which I hope one day you will make a good thing -
I am glad James Innes has come in so well
that his successor like mine will not soon bring much
ready money into his hands - and he has not the advantage
I have of heirs male to succeed - tell him to acquire
this advantage by getting a wife - and she must
remove all his Complaints -
How you & the Director go on - and how I should
like to be one at these sparrings -
I found both unfortunate of his lecture, at his
sorting last night - none of the other two - nor has
any thing more yet passed - I am expecting some formal intimation
after they have consulted -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 20 January 1802

RB/837/542

Page 1 of 2

20 January

Ally saw but little of us yesterday. There were but 2 or 3 dozen in the office while he was here. Robert McNair carried him off before our mob at 3 o'clock, which I regretted. I hope by this time he and his saddlebags are safe with you. There is no doubt but I will sell out the B—ch's stock, and if I keep stock at all it must be the old Royal's, but I am not yet quite resolved whether I should not apply the proceeds of that stock towards payment of Mr Dundas's debt. So you may just let matters stand as they are till we see how things look. If anything could be brought in from my Tobago debt I would like much better to apply it towards the extinction of the entailer's debt so as I might hold some Royal stock which I hope one day you will make a good thing.

I am glad Jamie Innes has come in so well though his successor like mine will not soon bring much ready money into his hands and he has not the advantage I have of heirs male to succeed. Tell him to acquire this advantage by getting a wife, and she might remove all his complaints.

How you and the Director go on - and how I should like to be one at these sparrings.

I found Scott in consequence of his Lecture, at his sorting last night - none of the other two - nor has anything more yet passed. I am expecting some formal intimation after they have consulted.

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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 January 1802

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RSM

20 January 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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23 Jan 1802. —

It was a numerous and a pleasant meeting you had - but you sat too long at the Blue for a christening - however well may the Boy be - I sent Jo Stirling your letter which will rather be a Damper to him but I wrote him that the Bank must always proceed in a formal cautious manner - from the documents I saw I am quite satisfied Andrew is in the fault for John and James asked no more than what any reasonable man would have given without asking - security against these bonds coming upon them - I have not yet got the length of Gilbert Hamilton to enquire about the American payment but I shall call this evening and know from him what may be expected to Dunlop's estate - I never mentioned to any of his people how we got the 10m large notes - my son Robert left this morning for Edinburgh he brought James Watson to me to talk about the Agency Business I spoke of to you - he is very sick - and we must I sincerely believe advise their going into danger - I told them that I had no objection to S M & W undertaking the agency provided they were not to be brought into advance, and that the remittances to them were in good Edinburgh paper or notes, but that if they were to be remitted in London paper I saw it would lead them into an extensive scale, and I had a horror at the idea of their becoming Bankers as I know not a more hazardous Business or more wretched than Bankers with small capitals such as they had - that I had consulted you upon the subject and your sentiments were much my own - Mr Watson said that he by no means wished them to go into the Banking Line extensively - that he had no view of remitting them but in Bank notes or Bank Branch Bills on Edinburgh payable in a few days or which he thought they could easily get money if they needed it to pay their drafts on them -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 23 January 1802

RB/837/543

Page 1 of 2

23 January 1802

It was a numerous and a pleasant meeting you had, but you sat too long at the Blue for a christening, however well may the Boy be.

I sent Jo Stirling your letter which will rather be a Damper to him but I wrote him that the Bank must always proceed in a formal cautious manner. From the documents I saw I am quite satisfied Andrew is in the fault for John and James asked no more than what any reasonable man would have given without asking - security against these bonds coming upon them. I have not yet got the length of Gilbert Hamilton to enquire about the American payment but I shall call this evening and know from him what may be expected to Dunlop's estate. I never mentioned to any of his people how we got the 10m large notes.

My son Robert left me this morning for Edinburgh. He brought James Watson to me to talk about the agency business I spoke of to you. He is very sick and would not I really believe advise their going into danger. I told them that I had no objection to SM&W undertaking the agency provided they were not to be brought into advance, and that the remittances to them were in good Edinburgh paper or notes, but that if they were to be remitted in London paper I saw it would lead them into an extensive scale, and I had a horror at the idea of their becoming Bankers as I know not a more hazardous business or more wretched beings than Bankers with small capitals such as they had, that I had consulted you upon the subject and your sentiments were much my own. Mr Watson said that he by no means wished them to go into the Banking Line extensively, that he had no view of remitting them but in bank notes or bank branch bills on Edinburgh payable in a few days on which he thought they would easily get money if they needed it to pay their drafts on them.

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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, 23 January 1802

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Of these branch bills in Edinburgh a very great sum comes in to them as the people he said often brought them to them rather as wait an hour in a throng day to get the money from us. As to London bills he declared he seldom or never took any of our traders' drafts. He only took the English country banks' drafts on London bankers which to a great amount came to him for the above reason and because he gave 25 or 30 days interest that he would not have given £10 to guarantee all the London bills he had taken these ten years past. His idea is to send a few hundreds of these London bills to SM&W occasionally just to be disposed of by them when they can do it to advantage, and when they cannot to send them forward to Andrews & Co on their account. The only way of disposing of them he recommends is to indorse them to English Riders or Houses at 45/ds par they getting them at 30 ds and that is the only banking business he would propose for them at least for some time. He says it is the most profitable and safe business he has been engaged in. Having bills put into his hands by these English houses and travellers, to collect the payment he occasionally and when convenient advances a few hundreds upon the bills being lodged. When the whole are paid he makes up an account remits the balance by bill on London and charges 1/2 per cent commission he thinks he could recommend a good deal of this business to SM&W. I own if they could be kept to that branch of banking only, it might be safe enough. But I fear they might be tempted to go wider. I have laid the whole matter before you my good friend, think of it and give my boy your best advice. He will call on you on Monday. There is no reason to be sure for my plaguing you with the concerns of my Bairns, but I cannot help wishing you to be joint with me in that Business.

RSM
23 January 1802

Wm Simpson Esq
P

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As to ~~the~~ of these Branch Bills in Edin - a very great sum comes in to them as the People he said often brought them to them rather as wait an hour in a throng day to get the money from us - as to London Bills he declared he seldom or never took any of our Traders drafts - he only took the English Country Banks drafts on London Bankers which to a great amount came to him for the above reason and because he gave 25 or 30 days Int^{est} - that he had not have given £10 - to guarantee all the London Bills he had taken these 10 years past - His Idea is to send a few hundreds of these London Bills to SM&W occasionally just to be disposed of by them when they can do it to advantage, and when they cannot to send them forward to Andrews & Co on their Ac^{count} - the only way of disposing of them he recommends is to indorse them to English Riders or Houses at 45/ds par - they getting them at 30 ds - and that is the only Banking Business he would propose for them at least for some time - he says it is the most profitable and safe business he has been engaged in - having Bills put into his hands by these English houses, Travellers, to collect the payment he occasionally and when convenient advances a few hundreds upon the Bills being lodged - when the whole are paid he makes up an account remits the Bal^{ance} by bill on London and charges 1/2 per cent Com^{mission} - he thinks he could recommend a good deal of this Business to SM&W - I own if they could be kept to that branch of Banking only, it might be safe enough - but I fear they might be tempted to go wider - I have laid the whole matter before you my good friend, think of it and give my Boy your best advice - he will call on you on Monday - There is no reason to be sure for my plaguing you with the concerns of my Bairns - but I cannot help wishing you to be joint with me in that Business

Ad Mc
23 Janys 1802

B July 1802

I hear of another Bank to be set agoing here under the auspices of Charles Walker the grocer who is agent for the Falkirk Bank and who discounts many bills for them weekly - I have not yet heard who are to be partners or whether Walker is to set up this business in opposition to the Falkirk People - I rather suppose it may be in connection with them who by forcing their small trash of notes into the circle have got money by the trade and want to get more - but if you wise men in the east do not fall upon some way of checking this Banking Business by applying to the Legislature to prohibit the issuing of notes beyond the extent of Capital, I know not what will become of us - Indeed our system requires Reform - and you must come west and set that Reform agoing for I have not head for it - the crowds and detention must somehow be got rid of and more despatch given - you cannot imagine what a scene it was yesterday - Adam Keir called here just now - I was asking how his Tellers did - he says he has only one that he always comes in the afternoon but that when he has many small notes he takes the assistance of the Porter to sort them - Fraser Tytler's appointment I suppose is by old Henry's interest and that shows that he has not lost his influence above - I wish he had named a Judge that would make the court more respectable than it is. It hurts me to hear People speaking of the Court of Session as they do -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 3 February 1802

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Page 1 of 2

3rd February 1802

I hear of another Bank to be set agoing here under the auspices of Charles Walker the grocer who is agent for the Falkirk Bank and who discounts many bills for them weekly. I have not yet heard who are to be partners or whether Walker is to set up this business in opposition to the Falkirk people. I rather suppose it may be in connection with them who by forcing their small trash of notes into the circle have got money by the trade and want to get more. But if you wise men in the east do not fall upon some way of checking this Banking Business by applying to the legislature to prohibit the issuing of notes beyond the Extent of Capital, I know not what will become of us.

Indeed our system requires reform, and you must come west and set that reform agoing for I have not head for it. The crowds and detention must somehow be got rid of and more dispatch given. You cannot imagine what a scene it was yesterday. Adam Keir called here just now. I was asking how his tellers did. He says he has only one, that he always comes in the afternoons, but that when he has many small notes he takes the assistance of the Porter to sort them.

Fraser Tytler's appointment I suppose is by old Henry's interest and that shows that he has not lost his influence above. I wish he had named a judge that would make the court more respectable than it is. It hurts me to hear People speaking of the Court of Session as they do.

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These Payments of money here to be paid in Edin are become very numerous - and when we receive sums in mixed notes as we often do it is certainly against the Bank - Jo Leckie for the Duke of Argyll's Rents to James Ferrier and Moodie for David Paterson's pay in very large sums thro' the year - it is not reasonable they should get the money next day in Edin - I know not but you will make some regulation in that matter -
Sorry I am to see one of Philemon's bills returned today - so that we get from Liverpool and sent you will no doubt be back tomorrow - mind to put no charges on it - I suppose I must just send it back to our attorney Dallern at Liverpool to make what he can of it -

R. Leckie
Edin, 1802

Wm Simpson Esq
Edin

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 3 February 1802

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Page 2 of 2

These payments of money here to be paid in Edinburgh are become very numerous, and when we receive sums in mixed notes as we often do it is certainly against the bank. Jo Leckie for the Duke of Argyll's rents to James Ferrier and Moodie for David Paterson's pay in very large sums through the year, it is not reasonable they should get the money next day in Edinburgh. I know not but you should make some regulation in that matter.

Sorry I am to see one of Philemon's bills returned today. So that we got from Liverpool and sent you will no doubt be back tomorrow - mind to put no charges on it. I suppose I must just send it back to our attorney Dallern at Liverpool to make what he can of it.

RSM
3 February 1802

Wm Simpson Esq
P

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5 Feb 1802

The Bank Stock has sold just as I had hoped it to -
I think it had not been lower and for the reasons you
mention it is as well it has not gone higher - Bob Allan
is always catching at it - he has a high idea of my laid
aside profits - I must get him to tell me all about them
when he comes west - I am glad you had a chat with
Archie Graham - he is a solid sensible Chield always very
discreet & communicative to me - and really I cannot say
I find Carrick otherwise - you had settle about the
light waggon - I desired Stewart Campbell & Co's man to
bid Menzies & Anderson settle every thing with you before
they got the box - he talked of them to you only twice
a week till end of March - I called on Scott last
night - his Complaint I don't think dangerous - it is just
a Rheumatism affecting all his joints - and may confine him
some time - poor Sandy Low has a worse Complaint -
an inflammation in his lungs and he is thought to be
near his end - The Cup goes round - and soon my friend
may see spirits it will put into our hands
I hear the two Spiers are to be Partners in this
new Greenock Bank - unless they sell some of their
movable Funds they will not bring much money to
the Bank - and Peter always ready accomo-
dations - I shall be glad we get clear of them -
a terrible Blast of Wind & Rain -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 4 February 1802

RB/837/548

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4 February 1802

The Bank Stock has sold just as I would have wished it. I think it should not have been lower and for the reasons you mention it is as well it has not gone higher. Bob Allan is always catching at it. He has a high idea of your laid aside profits. I must get him to tell me all about them when he comes west. I am glad you had a chat with Archie Graham. He is a solid sensible Chield always very discreet and communicative to me, and really I cannot say I find Carrick otherwise. You would settle about the light waggon. I desired Stewart Campbell & Co's man to bid Menzies & Anderson settle everything with you before they got the box. He talked of it going only twice a week till end of March. I called on Scott last night. His complaint I don't think dangerous - it is just a rheumatism attacking all his joints, and may confine him some time. Poor Sandy Low has a worse complaint - an inflammation in his lungs and he is thought to be near his end. The cup goes round. And soon my friend may we expect it will put into our hands.

I hear the two Spiers are to be partners in this new Greenock bank, unless they sell some of their movable funds they will not bring much money to it. Archibald is now and then and Peter always needing accommodations. I shall be glad we get clear of them.

A terrible blast of wind and rain.

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Col Leven Greenock his letter ordering that £3000 bill on you did not reach me till 9 last night and he wanted it to be sent him by yesterday's post - I had to draw it myself long after the Bank was shut and had no Clerks or Tellers to initiate it - as our Porter Wm calls it -

Recd
4 Feb 1802

Wm Simpson Esq
P

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 4 February 1802

RB/837/548

Page 2 of 2

Col Leven Greenock his letter ordering that £3000 bill on you did not reach me till 9 last night and he wanted it to be sent him by yesterday's post. I had to draw it myself long after the Bank was shut and had no Clerks or Tellers to initiate it, as our Porter William calls it.

RSM
4 February 1802

Wm Simpson Esq
P

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8th July 1802 -

Your yesterday's Packet made us easy as to the missing letters but more than one of you seems to fall into blunders - our Porter when he brought the letters yesterday morning told me there was in the Post Office a Packet with the Royal Bank Seal directed for a house here unknown - I immediately called at the office and found your Saturday's Packet for Down & Co - directed (& paid) Glasgow - and struck out Glasgow and put London upon it - so it would go by our London post yesterday - I will not tell you by whose hand the address was wrote lest you should give him a scold which you would not like to do as he seldom deserves it -

I told Friend James your wishes about Sandy's money - he says there is no chance of any of it coming his way as he has nieces & nephews he thinks he will leave 8 or 10m - Sandy was just my age - another contemporary Dr Lockhart a very worthy man was struck with an apoplexy or Palsy on Saturday and there is no hope of his Recovery such are the warnings we are getting -

Genl Corbett has been bothering me about the two bills on London mentioned in the Publican - he bid me some weeks ago that he had order Findlay Bannatyne & Co to accept them for his honor if I show it - I said as B & Co were upon them and as good as FB & Co it was of no consequence - only take care they be retired when due - he has wrote Bannatyne to take care of them - but he will have me let you know it was not his fault they were not accepted - Gordon's letter you send in the box I shall give Willie Gillespie & Co who I have no doubt sent out the balance to N York long ago - I shall deliver your message to the Elder when he calls

Heavy demands I see coming upon us tonight - 41m coming in this week but I fear it will not do. Scott still confined - our two Tellers harassed - what are you to do on that matter?

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 8 February 1802

RB/837/550

Page 1 of 2

8th February 1802

Your yesterday's Packet made us easy as to the missing letters but more than one of you seems to fall into blunders - our Porter when he brought the letters yesterday morning told me there was in the Post Office a packet with the Royal Bank seal directed for a house here unknown. I immediately called at the office and found your Saturday's packet for Down & Co, directed (& paid) Glasgow. I struck out Glasgow and put London upon it, so it would go by our London post yesterday. I will not tell you by whose hand the address was wrote lest you should give him a scold which you would not like to do as he seldom deserves it.

I told Friend James your wishes about Sandy's money. He says there is no chance of any of it coming his way as he has nieces and nephews. He thinks he will leave 8 or 10m. Sandy was just my age - another contemporary Dr Lockhart a very worthy man was struck with an apoplexy or palsy on Saturday and there is no hope of his recovering. Such are the warnings we are getting.

Con Corbett has been bothering me about the two bills on London mentioned in the Publican. He told me some weeks ago that he would order Findlay Bannatyne & Co to accept them for his honour if I chose it. I said as CR & Co were upon them and as good as FB & Co it was of no consequence - only take care they be retired when due. He has wrote Bannatyne to take care of them, but he will have me let you know it was not his fault they were not accepted. Gordon's letter you send in the box I shall give Willie Gillespie & Co who I have no doubt sent out the balance to N York long ago.

I shall deliver your message to the Elder when he calls.

Heavy demands I see coming upon us tonight. 41m coming in this week but I fear it will not do. Scott still confined - our two Tellers harassed. What are you to do on that matter?

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You forgot to keep off the charges on Philemon's bill but I
have done it for you you see. I send the bill by this post
to our solicitor at Liverpool to make the most he can of it
— Pray is your Director Mr Duncan in Edin at present?

R 11/6
& July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq
P

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 8 February 1802

RB/837/550

Page 2 of 2

You forgot to keep off the charges on Philemon's bill but I have done it for you you see. I send the bill by this post to our solicitor at Liverpool to make the most he can of it. Pray is your Director Mr Duncan in Edinburgh at present?

RSM

8 February 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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10 Feb 1802

The Elder is the best hand I think to inform me about Canal
Stock - I have desired friend James who wd see him at Sandy
Low's funeral to bid him call on me - if he does not I will
call on him on the Evening and let you know tomorrow
I was asked - but as funerals are in the forenoon it is very
seldom I can attend them - I hope however half a dozen Friends will
be found to lay me in the dust and I wd wish for no more -
Our Tellers I see come sometimes back in the Afternoon -
Cunningham I saw at it pretty late last night - but
to be sure the work is far too much for two - three I
think might do if they were clever hands and their heart
in their work - but to remove all complaints and if possible
give the People dispatch and deliver us from these crowds
I know not but it wd be advisable to have four
You must come west and settle all this - and pray
send us soon a supply of notes - only 1m 20/ notes
remains in the chest -

In comes the Elder - he says the last price of
Canal Stock was £250 - money down - and that
he thinks he could get you Purchasers of 6 or 7
Shares at that price - why don't you answer
his Enquiry about Oyster Shells on which he has
a Bett - it was a Joke his evening your fine
Front to them - he tells me Addington is
to lay a heavy Tax upon the Brewery - or wd
at least on strong ale - it will meet great opposition
I wd think - I remember when old Pitt laid a farthing upon
the Pot of Porter it was like to cause an insurrection in London

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 10 February 1802

RB/837/552

Page 1 of 2

10 February 1802

The Elder is the best hand I think to inform me about Canal Stock. I have desired friend James who would see him at Sandy Low's funeral to bid him call on me. If he does not I will call on him in the Evening and let you know tomorrow.

I was asked, but as funerals are in the forenoon it is very seldom I can attend them. I hope however half a dozen friends will be found to lay me in the dust and I would wish for no more.

Our Tellers I see come sometimes back in the afternoon. Cunningham I saw at it pretty late last night, but to be sure the work is far too much for two. Three I think might do if they were clever hands and their heart in their work, but to remove all complaints and if possible give the people dispatch and deliver us from these crowds I know not but it would be advisable to have four. You must come west and settle all this. And pray send us soon a supply of notes - only 1m 20/ notes remains in the chest.

In comes the Elder. He says the last price of Canal Stock was £250 money down, and that he thinks he could get you Purchasers of 6-7 shares at that price. Why don't you answer his query about Oyster Shells on which he has a Bett. It was a Joke his evening your fine Front to them. He tells me Addington is to lay a heavy tax upon the brewery, so we should all buy in strong ale. It will meet great opposition I should think. I remember when old Pitt laid a farthing upon the Pot of Porter it was like to raise an insurrection in London.

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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, 10 February 1802

RB/837/552

Page 2 of 2

RSM

10 February 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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Wm Simpson Esq
10 Feb 1802
RSM

NatWest
Group

11 July 1802 -

I approve much of Stowe's Plan. but you need do 0 in it till I have an opportunity of talking it over with Mr Dale ^{in the Evening} and I shall write you tomorrow - I only regret that honest George should be brought away so long from his family - and my fear is that a Teller unacquainted with the People here w^d be much at a loss - orders & Receipts w^d be easy enough - but when a heap of discounted Bills are laid down to him to give the value when the People calls I know not well how he would do. I must talk again to Stirling and see if he thinks any of the Accomptants could be a Teller. Bill and Ross are clever lads and close attendance they give as does Donaldson, but I doubt none of them would be a Teller - it is to be sure a confounding business. You must certainly come west to do things a going - I covet that Aberdeen friend of yours -

I see you are no friend to authorship, but if a man has time and talents to set the public right upon some subject, I think he is well employed. I wish some able hand w^d expose to Government and to the Public the dangers & mischiefs arising from a Multiplicity of Banks without Capitals - Andrew Graham tells me his Tuesday's letter to Kinnear is miscarried if it does not cast up tomorrow we are to give him a 2^d Bill - Sandy Low James tells me has left his Fortune about 10m to 3 nieces equally and no legacies -

I just hear of a quarrel in our Street - Mr Muir a Surgeon knocked down Mr Whittlaw an oldish man and broke his stick upon him - Whittlaw was carried into a shop much hurt - I sh^d think to be sh^d had not Muir

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 11 February 1802

RB/837/557

Page 1 of 2

11 February 1802

I approve much of Stowe's plan, but you need do 0 in it till I have an opportunity of talking it over with Mr Dale in the Evening and I shall write you tomorrow. I only regret that honest George should be brought away so long from his family, and my fear is that a teller unacquainted with the People here would be much at a loss - orders and receipts would be easy enough, but when a heap of discounted bills are laid down to him to give the value when the People calls I know not well how he would do. I must talk again to Stirling and see if he thinks any of the Accomptants could be a Teller. Bill and Ross are clever lads and close attendance they give as does Donaldson, but I doubt none of them would be a Teller - it is to be sure a confounding business. You must certainly come west to set things a going. I covet that Aberdeen friend of yours.

I see you are no friend to authorship, but if a man has time and talents to set the public right upon some subject, I think he is well employed. I wish some able hand would expose to Government and to the Public the dangers and mischiefs arising from a Multiplicity of Banks without Capitals.

Archie Graham tells me his Tuesday's letter to Kinnear is miscarried if it does not cast up tomorrow we are to give him a 2^d Bill.

Sandy Low James tells me has left his fortune about 10m to 3 nieces equally and no legacies.

I just hear of a quarrel in our street - Mr Muir a surgeon knocked down Mr Whittlaw an oldish man and broke his stick upon him - Whittlaw was carried into a shop much hurt. I should think it would stand hard with Muir.

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4 o'clock and no word of our London post - it must have
met with some accident - we sometimes take bills you
see from Allan Tod & Co - I think they were introduced to
us by Robert Allan but we know little of them or their
Trade - will you ask Robert Allan if he has still a
good opinion of them - are they not R Bank Proprietors
The Post is just arrived with a Jamaica Packet and
accounts of the definitive Treaty - the letters are not to be
out till after 7 -

RSM
11 Feb 1802

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, 11 February 1802

RB/837/557

Page 2 of 2

4 o'clock and no word of our London post. It must have met with some accident. We sometimes take bills you see from Allan Tod & Co. I think they were introduced to us by Robert Allan but we know little of them or their Trade. Will you ask Robert Allan if he has still a good opinion of them. Are they not R Bank Proprietors.

The post is just arrived with a Jamaica Packet and accounts of the definitive Treaty. The letters are not to be out till after 7.

RSM

11 February 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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12 Feb 1802

You see all the accounts of the definitive Treaty being signed is
a Hum altho the Star to day is as positive as ever - I cannot
think but if it had been true it had been been announced to
Parliament - you scandalize our Glasgow Folks in supposing
the Gambling Policy came from them - the order came from London
to John Alston here and he could not get one underwriter here
to touch it - he got a good sum done at Greenock and at Edinburgh
O'er - had I been in that line I sh^d certainly have taken
it for I have no doubt had the Treaty been signed 30 past
it had been been known before now

I had a chat with Mr Dale last night - he sees nothing
better can be done than what you propose - and he wishes
you could bring west two clever Tellers to show what
could be done - he is clear for parting with those we
have - the great difficulty in my view is to get Tellers
who can not only give dispatch but who know the
Peop^l - on that account I wish it were possible to get
any of our Accountants to go into that office - I have been
speaking to Bill and to Ross - if they would come in
Scott's place - Bill is perhaps he could not undertake to
Peop^l is much of the same mind - he says a Tuesday
would confound him - but from his way of speaking
I know not but he might be induced to make a trial
of it - and he says there should be no deficit in attendance
indeed all the Accountants now attend most closely from
morning to night - Scott I hear is better but still
confined and there is no saying when he will be out
shall we try if Peop^l will take Mr Ross in the meantime
I was wishing you could come west the first Tuesday
of March to see our Crowd in Perfection - but I observe

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 12 February 1802

RB/837/558

Page 1 of 2

12 February 1802

You see all the account of the definitive Treaty being signed is a Hum altho the Star today is as positive as ever. I cannot think but if it had been true it would have been announced to Parliament. You scandalize we Glasgow Folks in supposing the Gambling Policy came from them. The order came from London to John Alston here and he could not get one underwriter here to touch it. He got a good sum done at Greenock and at Edinburgh. Had I been in that line I should certainly have taken it for I have no doubt had the Treaty been signed 30 past it would have been known before now.

I had a chat with Mr Dale last night. He sees nothing better can be done than what you propose, and he wishes you could bring west two clever Tellers to show what could be done. He is clear for parting with those we have - the great difficulty in my view is to get Tellers who can not only give dispatch but who know the people - on that account I wish it were possible to get any of our Accountants to go into that office. I have been speaking to Bill and to Ross - if they would come in Scott's place. Bill is positive he could not undertake it. Ross is much of the same mind - he says a Tuesday would confound him - but from his way of speaking I know not but he might be induced to make a trial of it. And he says there should be no deficit in attendance indeed all the Accountants now attend most closely from morning to night. Scott I hear is better but still confined and there is no saying when he will be out. Shall we try if Ross will take his box in the meantime.

I was wishing you could come west the first Tuesday of March to see our Crowd in Perfection - but I observe

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That is your Election day - what do you think of coming west
next Monday seeing the operations of that night and Tuesday
and after that determining on sending George west with
Lumsdain who if Ross went into the Tellers' office would succeed
here as an Accomptant - who is to be your new Director

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 12 February 1802

RB/837/558
Page 2 of 2

that is your election day. What would you think of coming west next Monday seeing the operations of that night and Tuesday and after that determining on sending George west with Lumsdain who if Ross went into the Tellers' office would succeed here as an Accomptant. Who is to be your new Director.

RSM
12 February 1802

Wm Simpson Esq
P

12 Feb 1802

Wm Simpson Esq
R

NatWest
Group

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13 Feb 1802

I sent your letter or rather C Tait's to the Elder but he was just going to the country so you need not expect to hear about the Canal Shares till Monday - These shortcomings in the Packets sent you are most vexing - Cunningham says instead of 20/ over he was 20/ short on Tuesday - and he complains that you do not mention whose initials were upon the packet in which the 20/ was wanting - Gilbert Watson's supply will come in good time - I gave out the last large note this morning - we wait yet of the definitive Treaty - but it appears to be in a good train - Hugh Hamilton called just now who is to be a Partner in the new Greenock Bank - we cannot find out among them all where much money will be got to pay in for a stock - but we see plenty of them that will need it - The whisky selling ill gives me little concern - if it were not that by being cheap it may tempt the lower people to drink too much of it - Mr Dale is going to take a Ride out to Rosebank and I am going with him - and may stop to Westburn to dinner and not come in till the evening - it is half past one and Mr South not come they don't expect it till about 2 - I have ordered a Porter to wait and bring the Bags - and have desired Stirling to add a P.S. to the Publican when they come -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 13 February 1802

RB/837/561

Page 1 of 2

13 February 1802

I sent your letter or rather C Tait's to the Elder but he was just going to the country so you need not expect to hear about the Canal Shares till Monday. These shortcomings in the Packets sent you are most vexing. Cunningham says instead of 20/ over he was 20/ short on Tuesday, and he complains that you do not mention whose initials were upon the packet in which the 20/ was wanting. Gilbert Watson's supply will come in good time. I gave out the last large note this morning.

No word yet of the definitive Treaty, but it appears to be in a good train. Hugh Hamilton called just now on his way to Edinburgh with Sir David Hunter - he tells me Charles Stirling is to be a Partner in the new Greenock Bank. We cannot find out among them all where much money will be got to pay in for a stock, but we see plenty of them that will need it.

The whisky selling ill gives me little concern, if it were not that by being cheap it may tempt the lower people to drink too much of it.

Mr Dale is going to take a ride out to Rosebank and I am going with him, and may stop to Westburn to dinner and not come in till the evening. It is half past one and the Coach not come. They don't expect it till about 2. I have ordered a Porter to wait and bring the Bags, and have desired Stirling to add a PS to the Publican when they come.

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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, 13 February 1802

RB/837/561

Page 2 of 2

RSM

13 February 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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16 Feb 1802 -

I shall say 0 to Cunningham about the 20/ note till you see if it casts up with Heggie - he told me that each Pacquet was initialled by the Porters or Blair who counted & sorted them -

You may be sure I shall look after such of our Customers as are to be Greenock Bankers as soon as they set up - and close Accounts with them - I often wished you had been here this forenoon you had seen how your Plan for the Glasgow Bill People coming in to the Accomptants' Office had been done - as it was we were crowded enough - the Presenters of all the Edinburgh & London Bills had to stand till the discounts were marked, and all those who got our Bills on Down (of which there were 27 this forenoon) had also to come into this office first to get their Bills drawn, and then to get these signed - then the deposit People - in short there had not been room for the tenth part of the Glasgow Bill Folks in number 231 who crowded the Tellers room so that Friend James tells me his man had to wait an hour & a half before he could get £150. He says there is a scheme much talked of to carry an Iron Waggon Road in place of a canal between Glasgow & Greenock. It seems the English are going mad about that mode of conveying Goods as much cheaper & better than water carriage and if this scheme takes here, he expects it will help off the Pigs well.

Pray is the Canal between Edinburgh & Glasgow now to be set a going? I hope you will be here on Friday night that you may see the bunch on Saturday forenoon - and you must really hurry & bed upstairs that I may have the opportunity of talking over things with you at night for I cannot be going after you to public houses - there is no body with us at present and my wife thinks of going into Edinburgh with you to see her mother - I wish George would be my lodger - we have a room for you both and you can be no where so convenient

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 16 February 1802

RB/837/566

Page 1 of 2

16 February 1802

I shall say 0 to Cunningham about the 20/ note till you see if it casts up with Heggie. He told me that each Pacquet was initialled by the Porters or Blair who counted and sorted them.

You may be sure I shall look after such of our customers as are to be Greenock Bankers as soon as they set up, and close accounts with them. I often wished you had been here this forenoon you would have seen how your plan for the Glasgow Bill People coming in to the Accomptants' office would have done. As it was we were crowded enough - the presenters of all the Edinburgh and London Bills had to stand till the discounts were marked, and all those who got our Bills on Down (of which there were 27 this forenoon) had also to come into this office first to get their Bills drawn, and then to get these signed - then the deposit receipt people - in short there would not have been room for the tenth part of the Glasgow Bill Folks in number 231 who crowded the Tellers' room so that Friend James tells me his man had to wait an hour and a half before he could get £150. He says there is a scheme much talked of to carry an iron waggon road in place of a canal between Glasgow and Greenock. It seems the English are going mad about that mode of conveying goods as much cheaper and better than water carriage and if this scheme takes here, he expects it will help off the Pigs well.

Pray is the Canal between Edinburgh and Glasgow now to be set a going?

I hope you will be here on Friday night that you may see the bunch on Saturday forenoon - and you must really take your bed upstairs that I may have the opportunity of talking over things with you at night for I cannot be going after you to public houses - there is no body with us at present and my wife thinks of going into Edinburgh with you to see her mother. I wish George would be my lodger. We have a room for you both and you can be no where so convenient.

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Ross was saying to me just now that he wd undertake
the Tellership if I wished to and I know not but he wd
do better than Scott who is still confined but getting better
I told him you was coming west and we should not
determine on any thing since we had got over Tuesday
till we saw you

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William
Simpson, the bank's cashier, 16 February 1802

RB/837/566

Page 2 of 2

Ross was saying to me just now that he would undertake the Tellership if I wished it, and I
know not but he would do better than Scott who is still confined but getting better. I told him
you was coming west and we should not determine on any thing since we had got over
Tuesday till we saw you.

RSM

16 February 1802

[annotation in pencil:] Iron Waggon Road

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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referred to in the letters, is available [here](#).

17 July 1802 -

Your Plan of placing the Am^t of Bills discounted directly to the
Credit of People's Accounts I fear would never do - Stirling is clear that
it wd not - altho generally the People who get discounts have acc^{ts}
with us yet there are many who have not - little folks who have
no acc^{ts} with any Bank but just get the money for the bills they
give - we and pay it away as their occasions require thro' the week
many of them too who have acc^{ts} order it so that their chief
payments are on Tuesdays - these settle it with the Teller by taking
away with them so much of their discounted Bill as they need
and getting the rest placed to their acc^{ts} - Stirling thinks your Plan
wd multiply Transactions greatly - there wd be about 200 acc^{ts}
to be credited every Tuesday forenoon - it is remarkable that
since the office was established not one mistake has occurred
in the way of giving back Bills to a wrong hand - but if the Bills
are left as is the case at all the Banks here and seems to be
absolutely necessary - I do not see it makes any difference in point
of security after such mistake whether they are delivered back by
a Teller or by an Accomptant - but I wd just determine
on no Plan till you come west and spend a few days in
the office you will then be better able to judge what can
be done - and if George could not undertake paying or giving
back Bills, he might at least put the Tellers upon a more
regular & expeditious mode of dispatching the Business and
give them good lessons in that way - My opinion is that
if we had three or at most 4 regular Tellers all with their
hearts in the Business and willing to attend from morning
to night - the work might still be carried on upon our present
System with sufficient dispatch & general satisfaction -
but something must be done immediately - it was near 4 before the
Tellers room was clear yesterday - they told me they were not

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 17 February 1802

RB/837/567

Page 1 of 2

17 February 1802

Your plan of placing the amount of bills discounted directly to the credit of people's accounts I fear would never do. Stirling is clear that it would not, altho generally the people who get discounts have accounts with us yet there are many who have not - little folks who have no accounts with any bank but just get the money for the bills they give in and pay it away as their occasions require thro' the week. Many of those too who have accounts order it so that their chief payments are on Tuesdays - these settle it with the Teller by taking away with them so much of their discounted bill as they need and getting the rest placed to their account, and many have no bank books. Stirling thinks your plan would multiply transactions greatly - there would be above 200 accounts to be credited every Tuesday forenoon - it is remarkable that since the office was established not one mistake has occurred in the way of giving back a bill to the wrong hand. But if the bills are left as is the case at all the banks here and seems to be absolutely necessary, I do not see it makes any difference in point of security against such mistake whether they are delivered back by a Teller or by an Accomptant - but I would just determine on no plan till you come west and spend a few days in the office you will then be better able to judge what can be done and if George could not undertake paying or giving back bills, he might at least put the Tellers upon a more regular expeditious mode of dispatching the business and give them good lessons in that way. My opinion is that if we had three or at most 4 regular tellers all with their hearts in the Business and willing to attend from morning to night, the work might still be carried on upon our present system with sufficient dispatch and to general satisfaction, but something must be done immediately - it was near 4 before the Tellers' room was clear yesterday. They told me they were not

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able to go on with it unless additional hands were got - I said
you was to be west the end of the week when we should determine
what was to be done - if Scott cannot attend by that time
we must put Ross in his place - you see by the inclosed
what demands come upon us - I passed the Bills altho they
have no claim upon us either from attachment to the Bank
or the advantage of their account - The new Greenock Bank shall
be welcome to them as customers - but they are respectable
and when money is plenty they may be of use - you don't say
how your Exchange did yesterday - I say nothing to Cunningham about
the 20/- I wish that were all the deficiency with him - they
are all short too much

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William
Simpson, the bank's cashier, 17 February 1802

RB/837/567

Page 2 of 2

able to go on with it unless additional hands were got. I said you was to be west the end of the week when we should determine what was to be done. If Scott cannot attend by that time we must put Ross in his place. You see by the inclosed what demands come upon us. I passed the bills altho' they have no claim upon us either from attachment to the Bank or the advantage of their account. The new Greenock Bank shall be welcome to them as customers, but they are respectable and when money is plenty they may be of use. You don't say how your Exchange did yesterday. I say nothing to Cunningham about the 20/. I wish that were all the deficiency with him. They are all short too much.

RSM

17 February 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

P

RSM

17 Feb 1802

Wm Simpson Esq
P

NatWest
Group

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Citation guidance is available [here](#) and a user guide, including help with some of the people, places and events referred to in the letters, is available [here](#).

18 July 1802

I am sadly disappointed by your P this morning and feel myself rather in an awkward situation - having told the Tellers that you was coming west the end of the week and that every thing should then be settled, I know not what to say to them now - I will say 0 till I hear from you tomorrow in the hope that you may yet change your mind - if you should not and still think your coming will do us good - there seems nothing left for me but to make up matters with our Tellers the best way we can and if Scott is not able to attend to appoint Ross in his place for without a third Teller at least it is really impossible the business can go on - even upon that plan and if you saw it impossible after being 2 or 3 days here to bring in new hands into the Tellers room - I thought when you saw our system in operation you would be able to judge what might be expected and required of our old Tellers and that your admonition might have a good effect upon them and perhaps they might be induced to undertake cordially what might be required. George too from his experience in the Telling way upon seeing our Tellers methods might suggest some improvements to them for accuracy & dispatch - I shall return what bags we can spare in next box - but silver is wearing away from us again - there are only 3 bags in the chest so we shall need what you can spare - we take the 5/ notes in payments - as many of the Bodies who pay Bills here could not make it out if we were to refuse them - what a damper this is to poor George King and the Trinidad people who had such sanguine hopes from the Trade to that place - you see it is to be given up and Martinica taken in its place which is not thought of near the value. Many a fine scheme this will blow up -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 18 February 1802

RB/837/571

Page 1 of 2

18 February 1802

I am sadly disappointed by your P this morning and feel myself rather in an awkward situation, having told the Tellers that you was coming west the end of the week and that every thing should then be settled, I know not what to say to them now. I will say 0 till I hear from you tomorrow in the hope that you may yet change your mind. If you should not and still think your coming would do no good, there seems nothing left for me but to make up matters with our Tellers the best way we can and if Scott is not able to attend to appoint Ross in his place for without a third Teller at least it is really impossible the business can go on. Even upon that plan and if you saw it impossible after being 2 or 3 days here to bring in new hands into the Tellers' room, I thought when you saw our system in operation you would be able to judge what might be expected and required of our old Tellers and that your admonition might have a good effect upon them and perhaps they might be induced to undertake cordially what might be required. George too from his experience in the Telling way upon seeing our Tellers' methods might suggest some improvements to them for accuracy and dispatch.

I shall return what bags we can spare in next box, but silver is wearing away from us again. There are only 3 bags in the chest so we shall need what you can spare - we take the 5/ notes in payments, as many of the Bodies who pay bills here could not make it out if we were to refuse them.

What a damper this is to poor George King and the Trinidad people who had such sanguine hopes from the trade to that place - you see it is to be given up and Martinica taken in its place which is not thought of near the value. Many a fine scheme this will blow up.

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Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 18 February 1802

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RSM

18 February 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

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19 Feb 1802

I shall say no more of our office arrangements but cannot help thinking you might have done worse than come and helped us to make them - were I to play Walter Hog with our Tellers and bid them march off - pray how was the Business to be carried on next day - I shall this evening tell them you are not coming west and just desire them to go on cordially with the assistance of one in place of Scott and two if it shall be found necessary. It is most unpleasant to be obliged to submit to and depend upon Servants - but if new hands cannot do the duty I see not how it can be helped - I shall inclose the jotting I took of last Monday night's bills - each sum stands for the whole taken from each individual & house - the first 3 columns are generally the amount of more bills than one - the other columns are for single bills - you see there would be above 190 accounts to credit - what a Geo Chalmers' Book, about - if he has sent you a state such as you had and sent me a sight of two or 3 years ago of the progress of the scheme for paying off the national debt, I wish you would send me a copy of it -

we shall pay due attention to Gibson - but I know nobody here in the Dantzic trade. The only house in this quarter connected with Barbados is Hamilton Garden & Co. I shall be at Garden this night for a letter to Miss Russell which I dare say he will have no objection to give me. But I cannot get the office left till late. Cunningham cannot account for the 20/ mistake. The parcel was made up by our junior William the Porter a very honest laborious creature. How vexing these things. I was frightened at your returned bills but I am glad to see them taken up. John Leckie writer is a laird of £500 a year and must be very safe. As to James D I leave him to his own conscience. What a shocking story this is of Lennox. They say the house owes 2 millions and that stocks have fallen 1/2 per cent in consequence. Oh the woes that pride and ambition bring on mankind! I would fain hope the Trinidad news will not prove true. What a storm of snow - you will be glad you are not coming west.

the Parkers a very honest laborious creature - how vexing these things - I was frightened at your returned bills but I am glad to see them taken up - John Leckie writer is a laird of £500 a year and must be very safe - as to James D I leave him to his own conscience - what a shocking story this is of Lennox - they say the house owes 2 millions and that stocks have fallen 1/2 per cent in consequence - Oh the woes that pride and ambition bring on mankind! I would fain hope the Trinidad news will not prove true - what a storm of snow - you will be glad you are not coming west

Letter with enclosed page of figures from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 19 February 1802

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19 February 1802

I shall say no more of our office arrangements but cannot help thinking you might have done worse than come and helped us to make them. Were I to play Walter Hog with our Tellers and bid them march off - pray how was the Business to be carried on next day. I shall this evening tell them you are not coming west and just desire them to go on cordially with the assistance of one in place of Scott and two if it shall be found necessary. It is most unpleasant to be obliged to submit to and depend upon Servants, but if new hands cannot do the duty I see not how it can be helped. I shall inclose the jotting I took of last Monday night's bills. Each sum stands for the whole taken from each individual & house - the first 3 columns are generally the amount of more bills than one - the other columns are for single bills. You see there would be above 190 accounts to credit.

What is George Chalmers' book about. If he has sent you a state such as you had and sent me a sight of two or 3 years ago of the progress of the scheme for paying off the national debt, I wish you would send me a copy of it.

We shall pay due attention to Gibson, but I know nobody here in the Dantzic trade. The only house in this quarter connected with Barbados is Hamilton Garden & Co. I shall be at Garden this night for a letter to Miss Russell which I dare say he will have no objection to give me. But I cannot get the office left till late. Cunningham cannot account for the 20/ mistake. The parcel was made up by our junior William the Porter a very honest laborious creature. How vexing these things. I was frightened at your returned bills but I am glad to see them taken up. John Leckie writer is a laird of £500 a year and must be very safe. As to James D I leave him to his own conscience. What a shocking story this is of Lennox. They say the house owes 2 millions and that stocks have fallen 1/2 per cent in consequence. Oh the woes that pride and ambition bring on mankind! I would fain hope the Trinidad news will not prove true. What a storm of snow - you will be glad you are not coming west.

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Letter with enclosed page of figures from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 19 February 1802

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RSM

19 February 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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Letter with enclosed page of figures from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 19 February 1802

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424	100	86	164	413	581	300
90	180	140	431	228	225	210
30	83	94	165	300	234	300
48	143	350	200	191	214	82
77	200	94	194	243	156	46
80	49	45	280	59	165	297
58	200	92	350	275	60	126
87	118	112	108	379	189	36
53	91	35	6	71	81	81
673	138	253	169	296	506	96
1105	216	134	198	85	231	34
350	179	112	111	132	231	105
160	390	142	784	189	132	296
854	86	65	71	302	189	50
770	1090	156	93	291	302	207
48	108	190	100	326	291	166
543	307	82	73	101	326	185
129	100	302	55	73	101	141
285	100	55	65	231	73	2758
100	126	214	73	30	193	5951
290	85	381	126	126	57	7399
171	476	381	165	703	31	5578
100	239	26	119	93	98	6776
100	280	460	572	97	24	6571
309	245	121	107	75	158	4852
270	216	147	290	276	130	6776
86	195	600	47	97	64	6571
84	584	75	400	97	804	39885
179	372	69	66	97	150	176
82	80	220	66	194	176	30
6571	6776	4852	5578	7399	5951	

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424	100	86	164	413	581	300
90	180	140	431	228	225	210
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80	49	45	280	599	165	297
88	200	92	350	275	60	126
87	118	112	108	379	189	36
53	91	35	62	71	81	81
673	138	263	169	296	506	96
1105	216	134	198	85	231	34
350	179	112	111	95	231	105
160	390	142	784	61	132	296
854	86	65	71	161	189	50
770	1090	156	93	157	302	207
48	108	190	100	100	291	166
543	307	82	73	73	326	185
129	100	302	55	73	101	141
285	100	55	65	231	73	2758
100	126	214	73	30	193	5951
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171	276	26	119	703	31	5578
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309	280	121	107	97	24	6571
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84	195	75	400	97	64	6571
179	584	69	66	97	804	39885
82	372	89	66	97	150	176
	80	220	66	194	176	30
6571	6776	4852	5578	7399	5951	

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Letter with enclosed page of figures from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 19 February 1802

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20 July 1802

I wish indeed you had followed out your original Plan of coming west the end of this week and spent some days with us when seeing how things went on with your own eyes, we might have converted our plans & arrangements - but as you gave up that I had a conversation with Peterkin last night when I found him very discreet and willing to give evening attendance if sufficient assistance was given him for sorting notes etc - from the other Banks here positively refusing at the Exchange to take up their notes distinctly from the different Tellers and insisting that the whole of their notes shall in one Bundle be given up, contrary to the practice with you, he represented to me that the trouble of exchanging notes with each other and consequently sorting them - was great beyond what you could suppose - but he said if Scott would attend so as there should be 3 regular Tellers, and we would send Ross into the Tellers' office from 1 to 3 o'clock to assist along with Blair in sorting & making up the small notes there he thought the business could be carried on if they all went heartily into it. - and he thought this supplementary hand necessary in all events to come in place of any of them that should be laid aside by sickness or go away - I agreed to this plan - Scott called for the first time to day much shaken - but is to come to his Station on Monday - having so settled it. I think it may perhaps be as well your first part of your visit till we see how or how much this plan goes on - I have just been talking to Cunningham who is willing to follow out this plan - but still seems refractory as to coming in the evenings - he thinks it sufficient if the youngest Teller attends to receive payment of Bills in the afternoon - but I told him he must come and see his work completed - if after all you come west on Monday I am sure I shall be glad to see you

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 20 February 1802

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20 February 1802

I wish indeed you had followed out your original Plan of coming west the end of this week and spent some days with us when seeing how things went on with your own eyes, we might have converted your plans and arrangements. But as you gave up that I had a conversation with Peterkin last night when I found him very discreet and willing to give evening attendance if sufficient assistance was given him for sorting notes etc. From the other banks here positively refusing at the Exchange to take up their notes distinctly from the different Tellers and insisting that the whole of their notes shall in one bundle be given up, contrary to the practice with you, he represented to me that the trouble of exchanging notes with each other and consequently sorting them was great beyond what you could suppose. But he said if Scott would attend so as there should be 3 regular Tellers, and we would send Ross into the Tellers' office from 1 to 3 o'clock to assist along with Blair in sorting and making up the small notes there he thought the business could be carried on if they all went heartily into it. And he thought this supplementary hand necessary in all events to come in place of any of them that should be laid aside by sickness or go away. I agreed to this plan. Scott called for the first time to day much shaken - but is to come to his station on Monday. Having so settled it I think it may perhaps be as well you postpone your visit till we see two or three weeks how this plan goes on. I have just been talking to Cunningham who is willing to follow out this plan, but still seems refractory as to coming in the evenings. He thinks it sufficient if the youngest Teller attends to receive payment of bills in the afternoon, but I told him he must come and see his work completed. If after all you come west on Monday I am sure I shall be glad to see you.

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I know it is the practice in the Bank of England to place the amount of bills to the credit of accounts - and we may have this in contemplation - but it will take some thought to make such a change in our system - Peterkin says there had been 160 Books given in Tuesday morning last and 30 or 40 receipts - that it would be an ease to the Tellers - but I fear to add overwhelmed the Accomptants - who as it is have as much to do on Tuesday forenoons as they can manage - the Trinidad news I fear is too true several private letters from London say it is believed there.

Recd
20 Feb 1802

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 February 1802

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Page 2 of 2

I know it is the practice in the Bank of England to place the amount of bills to the credit of accounts, and we may have this in contemplation, but it will take some thought to make such a change in our system. Peterkin says there would have been 160 books given in Tuesday morning and 30 or 40 receipts, that it would be an ease to the Tellers but I fear it would overwhelm the Accomptants who as it is have as much to do on Tuesday forenoons as they can manage.

The Trinidad news I fear is too true several private letters from London say it is believed there.

RSM
20 February 1802

Wm Simpson Esq
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24 Feb 1802

If you approve of the Plan mentioned in my last I suppose we shall just go on as we are doing till quarter day and then tell Mr Blair that he must give his place to Ross and give him a quarter's salary till he can provide himself - He certainly by this time should have been fit for a teller's place had he not been slapdash - but the other Tellers threw the load upon him of telling specie and sorting notes, so they kept him back - you had he pleased with the copy of Henry's letter about Scott & Co - their having 500m coming round so soon is a great matter and if the old man takes the management I think they should yet do. Tho' I am always frightened at these extensive dashers and if I had money there I doubt I should be like your prudent aunt - she must have been a sicker hand - I hope you sent her the £100 and let the ~~face~~ - we have a failure here a week since in the Agency line Milvin & Stuart I have been looking over their Bills and find we have only two of their Indorsations but about 2 dozen of their Acceptances mostly small sums - and I think well covered - they were discreet lads - and I am told it is expected their Effects will pay their debts - its wonderful we have not more Fractures considering the dashing spirit of the People here there has been a deal of rain here to day and the wind away into your quarter. The Green will soon be under water which it has not been of a long time.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 24 February 1802

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Page 1 of 2

24 February 1802

If you approve of the plan mentioned in my last I suppose we shall just go on as we are doing till quarter day and then tell Mr Blair that he must give his place to Ross and give him a quarter's salary till he can provide himself. He certainly by this time should have been fit for a Teller's place had he not been slapdash, but the other Tellers threw the load upon him of telling specie and sorting notes, so they kept him back. You would be pleased with the copy of Henry's letter about Scott & Co - their having 500m coming round so soon is a great matter and if the old man takes the management I think they should yet do. Tho' I am always frightened at these extensive dashers and if I had money there I doubt I should be like your prudent aunt - she must have been a sicker hand - I hope you sent her the £100.

We have a failure here a little house in the agency line Milvin & Stuart I have been looking over their bills and find we have only two of their indorsations but about 2 dozen of their acceptances mostly small sums, and I think well covered. They were discreet lads, and I am told it is expected their effects will pay their debts. It's wonderful we have not more Fractures considering the dashing spirit of the People here. There has been a deal of rain here to day and the wind away into your quarter. The Green will soon be under water which it has not been of a long time.

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Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 24 February 1802

RB/837/578

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RSM

24 February 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

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25th Febry 1802 -

Willie is much obliged to you - and the 20 lbs will make up for the bad bargain he got of his stock from me - it was I think 170 - I hope he will as every extra and ordinary Director ought to do - just leave the Management to go on quietly in the present hands - it cannot be in better - you will see an advertisement in the day's London Paper from Lushington & others which sets all D Scott's affairs to rights - what an alarm their pause raised in London a few days - they talked as if it had occasioned a fall in the stocks etc - it diverts me to think that two obscure Glasgow bodies (the Callant & Mackenzie) should have stopt for half the whole amount of SM&Co's debt - without making much noise - or affecting either public or private stocks - Poor Blair is confined by sickness to day - we must have all arranged before the quarter day - but I am now forced to be a Man of Authority - neither do I think that is your Fort my friend - tho' you can talk ^{understandingly} at 40 miles distance - The Renfrew Shire Banking Co^y is it seems to be launched the beginning of April - I suppose on the 1st day Garden is not it seems to manage for them here - but Gilbert Kennedy a nephew of Jo Orr's and Relation of Chas Stirling who has no doubt got him this agency Char. I suppose will have most to say in that business with I do not think augers much in its favour - Kennedy was Partner with Rankin Aitken & Co who failed - he has since gone into the wine business with Walter Logan (the Canal agent) and Logan & Kennedy have a cash account with us -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 25 February 1802

RB/837/581

Page 1 of 2

25th February 1802

Willie is much obliged to you, and the 20 guineas will make up for the bad bargain he got of his stock from me. It was I think 170. I hope he will as every extra and ordinary Director ought to do, just leave the management to go on quietly in the present hands. It cannot be in better.

You will see an advertisement in the day's London paper from Lushington & others which sets all D Scott & Co's affairs to rights. What an alarm their pause raised in London a few days. They talked as if it had occasioned a fall in the stocks etc. It diverts me to think that two obscure Glasgow bodies (the Callant & Mackenzie) should have stopt for half the whole amount of SM&Co's debt without making much noise or affecting either public or private stocks.

Poor Blair is confined by sickness to day. We must have all arranged before the quarter day, but I was never formed to be a Man of Authority - neither do I think that is your Fort my friend - tho' you can talk wondrous big at 40 miles distance.

The Renfrew Shire Banking Company is it seems to be launched the beginning of April - I suppose on the 1st day. Garden is not it seems to manage for them here, but Gilbert Kennedy a nephew of Jo Orr's and relation of Charles Stirling's who has no doubt got him this agency. Charles I suppose will have most to say on that business which I do not think augers much in its favour.

Kennedy was partner with Rankin Aitken & Co who failed. He has since gone into the wine business with Walter Logan (the Canal agent) and Logan & Kennedy have a cash account with us.

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Is Coll Baillie Cairnbrae at Edin just now - a £117 bill we
discounted to him was protested the 15th current - of wh^{ch} I advised him
the 16th and getting no answer I wrote him again yesterday - both
letters went by the Hamilton post - still no answer - from wh^{ch}
I suspect he must be from home.

Recd Mc
26 Feb 1802

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, 25 February 1802

RB/837/581

Page 2 of 2

Is Coll Baillie Cairnbrae at Edinburgh just now. A £117 bill we discounted to him was protested the 15th current of which I advised him the 16th and getting no answer I wrote him again yesterday. Both letters went by the Hamilton post – still no answer – from which I suspect he must be from home.

RSM
26 February 1802

Wm Simpson Esq
P

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27 Febry 1802 -

I believe you and I are equally unfit for the drill Sergeant Business. My System of Government is something like the late Mr Mercer's Sheriff substitute of Perth - he had a number of Boys rising in the world somebody asked him how it happened his sons did so well when he had neither bestowed money nor attention upon them - He said all he had to give them was their Will and he was sure they had plenty of that - This is a story in return for your Poem for I have no Muse -

I have no doubt the Renfrewshire Banking Co will like the other companies take all measures fair and unfair to force their Notes into the circle and so will be an additional Plague to us with their small Notes - I never heard of Stirling being a Partner of Carrick's - I am told Hamilton Garden & Co who were the most respectable names in their list, have withdrawn from the concern - but I hardly believe this - Garden went to the first time I saw him with Mr Forbes Co who no doubt be the Edinburgh Agents -

My wife paid her visit to Mrs I and found her very discreet & conversable - nothing particular occurred - nothing said of Methodists or democrats - My son says what is thought of John Home's History of the Rebellion - as he has taken about 30 years to write it I should expect it will give satisfaction if it will be interesting to those who recollect the Persons & Events that made a noise 50 years ago - if it is much thought of I know not but I will throw away a Guinea upon it -

Con Corbett tells me that to his certain knowledge Hamilton Garden & Co are not to be Partners in the new Bank - but he knows not the reason of their withdrawing - and he says I think is not to be Partners but Patten.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 27 February 1802

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27 February 1802

I believe you and I are equally unfit for the drill Sergeant Business. My System of Government is something like the late Mr Mercer's sheriff substitute of Perth - he had a number of Boys rising in the world somebody asked him how it happened his sons did so well when he had neither bestowed money nor attention upon them. He said all he had to give them was their will and he was sure they had plenty of that. This is a story in return for your poem for I have no muse.

I have no doubt the Renfrewshire Banking Co will like the other companies take all measures fair and unfair to force their notes into the circle and so will be an additional plague to us with their small notes. I never heard of Stirling being a partner of Carrick's. I am told Hamilton Garden & Co who were the most respectable names in their list, have withdrawn from the concern, but I hardly believe this. Garden will tell me first time I see him. Sir W Forbes & Co will no doubt be the Edinburgh Agents.

My wife paid her visit to Mrs I and found her very discreet & conversable. Nothing particular occurred. Nothing said of Methodists or democrats. By the Bye what is thought of John Home's History of the Rebellion - as he has taken above 30 years to write it I should expect it will give satisfaction, if it will be interesting to those who recollect the persons and events that made a noise 50 years ago. If it is much thought of I know not but I will throw away a Guinea upon it.

Con Corbett tells me that to his certain knowledge Hamilton Garden & Co are not to be partners in the new Bank - that he knows not the reason of their withdrawing, and he says Dunlop is not to be cashier but Patten.

Note on transcriptions: the above transcriptions are not definitive. For clarity, we have modernised some spellings, expanded abbreviations and added select punctuation and capitalisation. Uncertain transcriptions are in grey. All quotations should be based upon the original source, pictured here; please do not rely upon the transcriptions.

Citation guidance is available [here](#) and a user guide, including help with some of the people, places and events referred to in the letters, is available [here](#).

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 27 February 1802

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RSM

27 February 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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