

1 July 1802—

a sermon was a curious subject for a laugh - but to be sure it is impossible to read my wife's sermon without Gravity what a difference between it and Dr Blair's -

This is a good paternal speech of the good King - I suppose we shall have a Proclamation for the dissolution tomorrow and what a Bustle this will make thro' the country if I were to propose a Reform it would be that there should be no general Election - Both Boyd Alexander and Archibald Stirling have been at us to day - I am sure I could not make a Note to either of them -

These McBruers are plaguing us for discounts to enable them to pay Robert Allan - I hope he will accept the £1500 - Bill sent you - but I do not think we can get him no more unless they were accepted the efforts of Allan's Interposers seem to be to get him a Commission and throw the advance upon the Bank - These Tellers are still

my Plague - I wish you had come next day into Aberdeen or Garmy had went to throw more upon Lumsdaine than he says he is able for - he takes the mixt notes and the specie note keeps him generally 8 at night - he takes payment of all the Bills - They never come back in the afternoons but Mondays they say Lumsdaine should take also the exchange with one of the Glasgow Banks - I know not how to manage with them

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 1 July 1802

RB/837/708

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1 July 1802

A sermon was a curious subject for a laugh - but to be sure it is impossible to read my wife's sermon with Gravity. What a difference between it and Dr Blair's.

This is a good paternal speech of the good King's. I suppose we shall have a Proclamation for the dissolution tomorrow and what a Bustle this will make through the country. If I were to propose a Reform it would be that there should be no general Election. Both Boyd Alexander and Archibald Stirling have been at us to day. I am sure I could not make a Note to either of them.

These McBruers are plaguing us for discounts to enable them to pay Robert Allan. I hope he will accept the £1500 bill sent you, but I told him that we would take no more unless they were accepted. The effect of Allan's Interposition seems to be to get him a commission and throw the advance upon the Bank. These Tellers are still my Plague. I wish you would come west a day or two. Peterkin & Cunningham want to throw more upon Lumsdaine than he says he is able for. He takes the mixt notes and the specie which keeps him generally 8 at night. He & Ross receive payment of all the Bills - they never come back in the afternoons but Mondays. They say Lumsdaine should take also the exchange with one of the Glasgow Banks. I know not how to manage with 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, 1 July 1802

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RSM

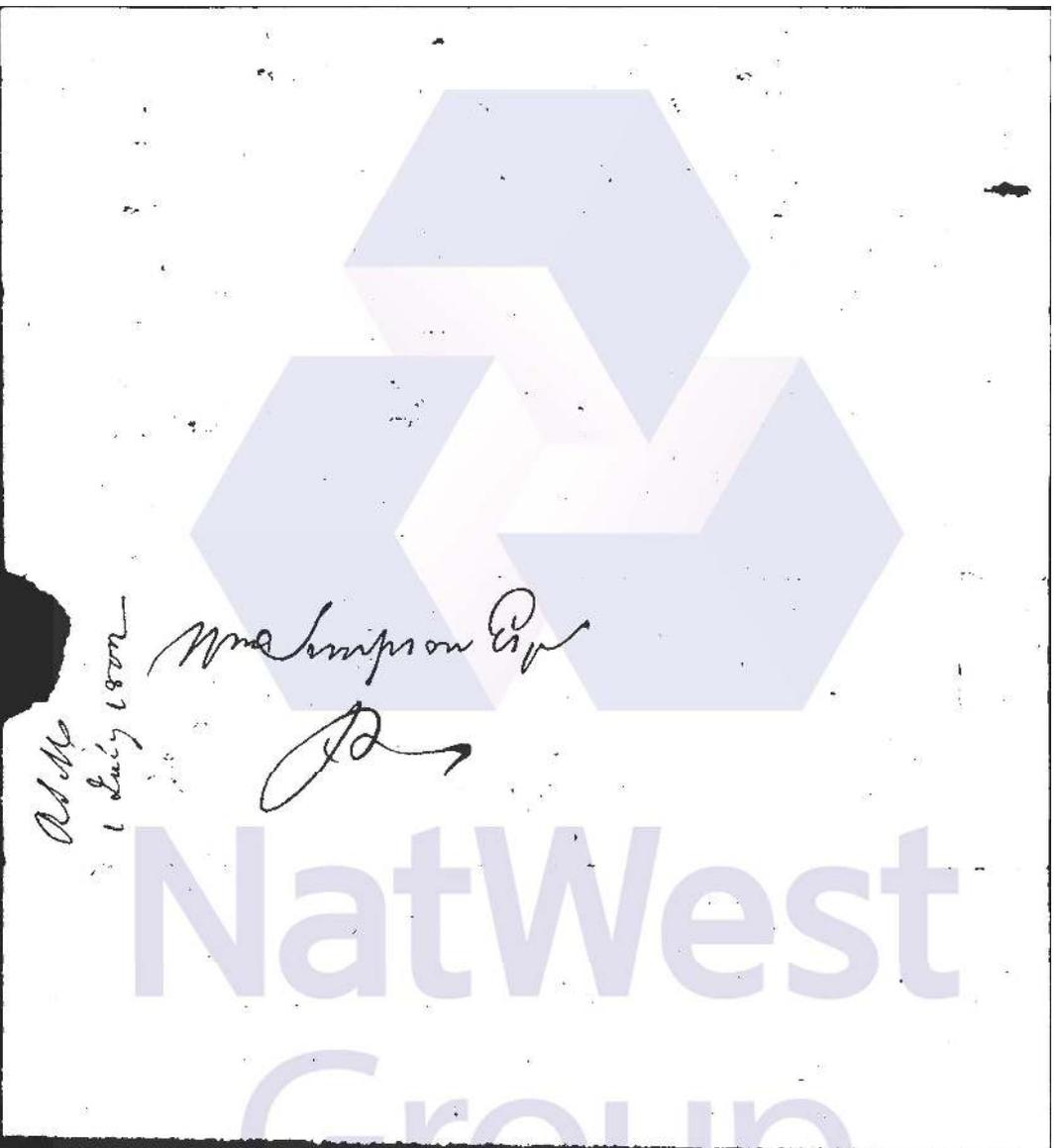
1 July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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2 July 1802

James is going about and I wd fain hope will come round again
 Robert Mackay had no return of his Complaint yesterday -
 I shall give young Mackay £200 - for his draft on you if he
 calls he seems to be an amiable youth - I advised him to
 get his Friends in Edin to take up the Swindlers bills there
 so as to save the Expense of Post & Postage in returning
 them - he desired me to mention this to you - I am glad
 a good part of the Goods have been got back -
 The Contest for MP is going on with great Keenness
 here - Andrew has certainly made a considerable Impression
 on the Council - but I doubt he will not make a Majority -
 They say very justly that after making a public declaration
 of their high approbation of Mr Pitt & his measures it will
 be most inconsistent in them to elect his violent opponent
 I wish our Friend Henry may carry his Election for I
 see there is a keen Contest in the Borough - Henry 9th
 I observe is arrived and will no doubt take the chief
 management of Scots Politics - (did you not say that
 he was in the high Church on the Thanksgiving Day -
 the newspapers say he arrived only last Sunday & it
 seems Garthland, Houston & B Alexander submitted all
 their matters to him - but he declined the arbitration
 Garden called this forenoon - his ship is come - but no
 receipt owing he supposes to his partner
 Ouchlerson being up the country and having the receipt with him when she sailed -
 I fancy you wd pay him the £92.10 - has the friends
 as letter from Miss Russell advising her having received the
 money.
 Look at the London Paper sent you to day and say if this be not a wonderful Place - surely some of that
 foreign money must stick with us - but there
 is so much done that I am in terror for a Crash

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

RB/837/711

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2 July 1802

James is going about and I would fain hope will come round again. Robert Mackay had no return of his complaint yesterday. I shall give young Mackay £200 for his draft on you if he calls he seems to be an amiable youth. I advised him to get his Friends in Edinburgh to take up the swindler's bills there so as to save the expense of protestation & postage in returning them. He desired me to mention this to you. I am glad a good part of the goods have been got back.

The contest for MP is going on with great keenness here. Andrew has certainly made a considerable impression on the Council, but I doubt he will not make a majority. They say very justly that after making a public declaration of their high approbation of Mr Pitt & his measures it will be most inconsistent in them to elect his violent opponent.

I wish our Friend Henry may carry his Election for I see there is a keen contest in the Borough. Henry 9th I observe is arrived and will no doubt take the chief management of Scots politics. Did you not say that he was in the high Church on the Thanksgiving day. The newspapers say he arrived only last Sunday. It seems Garthland, Houston & B Alexander submitted all their matters to him, but he declined the arbitration.

Garden called this forenoon - his ship is come, but no receipt owing he supposes to his partner Ouchlerson being up the country and having the receipt with him when she sailed. I fancy you should pay him the £92.10 - has the friends no letter from Miss Russell advising her having received the money.

Look at the London Paper sent you to day and say if this be not a wonderful Place - surely some of that foreign money must stick with us. But there is so much done that I am in terror for a Crash.

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We are now full of small notes you need not send us more for a while - I find by Hamilton & Son are only to give 3 per cent on deposit money - while the other banks give 4 they need not expect any - but was it not intended to reduce the interest by all the banks -

4 o'clock so dark that I can hardly see to write - and such a tremendous shower half rain half hail as I never saw nothing like general heat yet - Dr Stuart Luss tells me that he never saw such a cold season that he was on Glenorchy last week and the hills were covered with snow

Adm
20 July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq
Glasgow

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

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Page 2 of 2

We are now full of small notes you need not send us more for a while. I did find G Hamilton & Son are only to give 3 per cent on deposit money, while the other banks give 4 they need not expect any, but was it not intended to reduce the interest by all the banks.

4 o'clock so dark that I can hardly see to write, and such a tremendous shower half rain half hail as I never saw. Nothing like general heat yet. Dr Stuart Luss tells me that he never saw such a cold season that he was on Glenorchy last week and the hills were covered with snow.

RSM
2 July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq
P

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3 July 1802

Andrew I think will make nothing of it - he was at me
last night and I went with him to Mr Wardlaw - but told
him positively that I would solicit no man - Mr W said
if he could detach his personal Character and Profession from
his Principles - he should at once declare for him - but
his Principles meet him every where - and no man
- as to our Tellers - they are indeed out of that cast
that I had wish - our Accountants are of another spirit -
but I do not see how any of them could be a Teller
at once or how we could want the best of them
in the Accountants Office - we must just have patience
a while till we see what casts upon the removal
of C - but do me good - unless P were to go also - he
is the most pert and conceited of the two -

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3 July 1802

Andrew I think will make nothing of it. He was at me last night and I went with him to Mr Wardlaw, but told him positively that I would solicit no man. Mr W said if he could detach his personal character and profession from his principles, he should at once declare for him, but his principles meet him every where - and no wonder. As to our Tellers, they are indeed not of that cast that I would wish. Our accountants are of another spirit - but I do not see how any of them could be a Teller at once or how we could want the best of them in the Accountants office. We must just have patience a little till we see what casts up. To remove C would do no good, unless P were to go also. He is the most pert and conceited of the two.

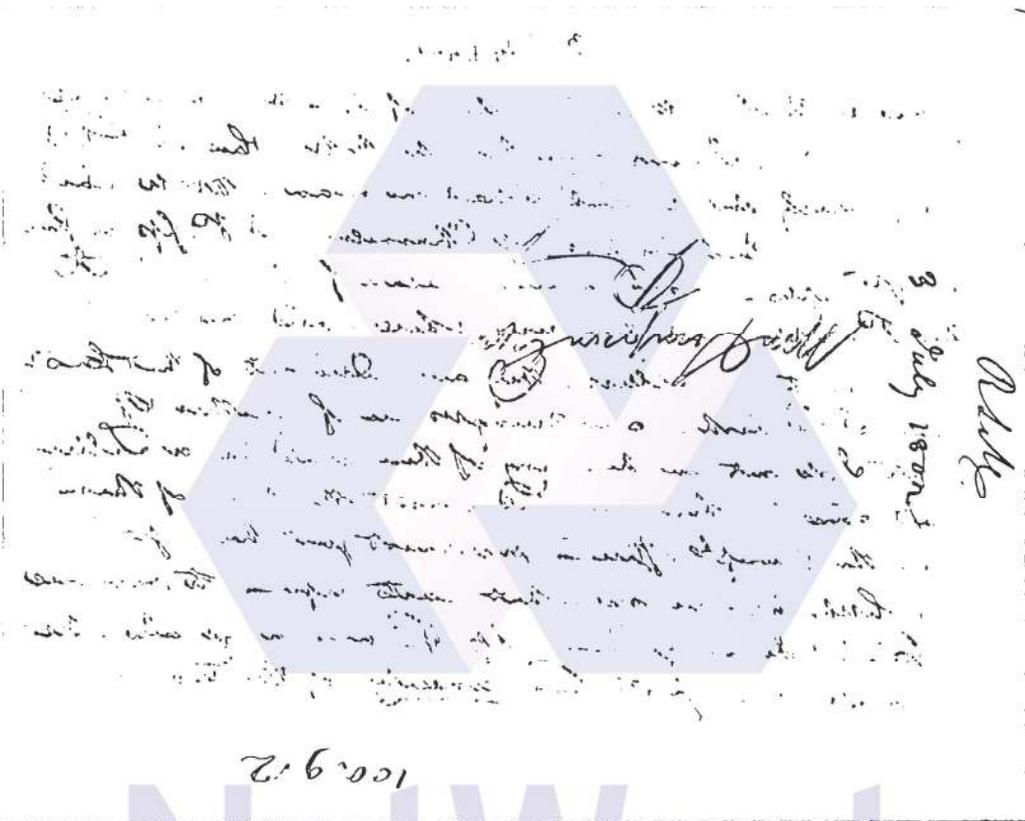
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Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 3 July 1802

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RSM

3 July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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5th July 1802

I doubt Andrew will get little credit for his Recantation - he has been pestering me to speak to People - I told him I would ask Favours from no man - and that his Principles would meet him on every occasion - his Party however boast of having the support of the two Banks and Carrick who is his Cousin - to day I hear 17 of our 28 Councillors have subscribed their declaration for B Alexander - Peterkin tells me the Old Bank small notes are coming in in as great Bundles as ever - it is really hard that they will not pay as other Banks do - I hope you will get John to pay the £92.10 - as after Mr Gardner volunteered so readily in giving the Credit it does not look well his having any difficulty in getting his money - I don't suppose there can be any commission - his house at Barbadoes just write that they debit them £92.10 paid Miss Russell - to be sure they should have sent a Bill or Receipt for it - Friend James promises soon to bring me a good Bill to meet the Interest discharge, but he is mourning over the bad sales - no demand for Pigs he says - what a fighting time he has of it - I see we have 49m coming in this week, so I hope we shall reduce Bills discounted a few thousands but many are the demands on us. The Dean's partner tells me they have a sugar ship come in and one of Mackay & Co's with 300 hundreds daily expected which will take a great sum for duties - what uncommon & I fear threatening weather - as cold as in February as in February

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 5 July 1802

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5th July 1802

I doubt Andrew will get little credit for his Recantation. He has been pestering me to speak to People. I told him I would ask Favours from no man, and that his Principles would meet him on every occasion. His Party however boast of having the support of the two Banks and Carrick - who is his Cousin - to day I hear 17 of our 28 Councillors have subscribed their declaration for B Alexander.

Peterkin tells me the Old Bank small notes are coming in in as great Bundles as ever. It is really hard that they will not pay as other Banks do.

I hope you will get John [paper missing] to pay the £92.10 as after Mr Gardner volunteered so readily in giving the Credit it does not look well his having any difficulty in getting his money. I don't suppose there can be any commission - his house at Barbadoes just write that they debit them £92.10 paid Miss Russell to be sure they should have sent a Bill or Receipt for it.

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RSM

5 July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

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6 July 1802

Young Mien is a fine Boy and I think will do very well - he is
however but a Boy yet and must take a year or two to be an
expert Clerk - and then he will probably leave us - Stirling
says Stow's friend Braemer will be a valuable hand to us
he is constantly at it, and his voice is never heard - indeed
all our Accompts are to a wish - there never were finer Lads
than Fraser & Dickie - what a pressure upon us for
discounts to day I fear we shall have little of our 49m
coming in this week - there seems to be no lightening of
the Burden by the Old B—ch's operations - what
wonderful Bodies they are here for Business - I think
they are talking as if Trade in all its Branches were
brother man to us - only poor James and his Pigs
seem to stick - I must keep you note of public money
remitted - it is a prodigious sum - something more than we
sent you in the same time - what had our Fathers had
thought of such a sum being squeezed from Scotland and
sent to England - I am glad you have ordered
a regular supply of Silver from London and I hope you
will be able to provide us till it come otherwise we shall
be in a wretched way - I wish you had sent us a Bag of 4 or
500 Guineas - we have none left and only one of 200
Bank of Engl note - when customers call for a few Gs
it looks awkward when we cannot give them -
The Spanish Dollars seem to be coming in fast - I
wish they were converted into Shillings -
we had a great deal of Rain yesterday - it is not quite
so cold as it was but still stormy unnatural weather
for July - I hear of Politicks to day - but suppose
Andrew has given up the Contest altho he boasted he
had the warm support of all the moneyed Interest for
the which the Aristocrats are abusing us -

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

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What a pressure upon us for discounts to day I fear we shall leave little of our 49m coming in this week. There seems to be no lightening of the burden by the Old B—ch's operations. What wonderful Bodies there are here for Business. I think they are talking as if Trade in all its Branches were brisker than it was - only poor James and his Pigs seem to stick. I must keep your note of public money remitted - it is a prodigious sum - something more than we sent you in the same time. What would our Fathers have thought of such a Sum being squeezed from Scotland and sent to England. I am glad you have ordered a regular supply of Silver from London and I hope you will be able to provide us till it come otherwise we shall be ruined. I wish you would send us a bag of 4 or 500 Guineas. We have none left and only one £20 Bank of England note. When customers call for a few Gs it looks awkward when we cannot give them. The Spanish Dollars seem to be coming in fast. I wish they were converted into shillings.

We had a great deal of Rain yesterday. It is not quite so cold as it was but still stormy unnatural weather for July. I hear of Politicks to day, but suppose Andrew has given up the Contest although he boasted he had the warm support of all the moneyed Interest for the which the Aristocrats are abusing us.

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*Robert Scott Moncrieff
6 July 1802*

7 July 1802 -

I think it as well to send you Garden's Acknowledgement - which you may give to Mr Innes for his Voucher - I have told Peterkin how to do with the Old Bank small notes and I shall be at Gilbert's son this evening to let him know our Resolution - but these Old Bank People from head to Tail are unmanageable and will not do as other Banks - by a note of the Exchange on Monday afternoon which Peterkin has shown me - I see of above 16m of their notes we had to give up there were above 5m small. Of 14m of our notes we got from them there were only about £800 small. This shows the different way we go on - I can see no good a Bank can get by paying large sums which are known to go immediately into another Bank, in small notes - our political Contest is very hot to day - The Sherriff has ordered the Councils of Glasgow & Rutherglen to elect their Delegates ^{in 48 hours} ~~in 48 hours~~ so they must be chosen by Monday - there is no doubt our Provost will be chosen and he is staunch for Boyd Alexander - Renfrew by Blythswood's interest will also go for him - but as Mr Houston has Dumbarton the returning Borough, the great Push will be to get Rutherglen and it will be carried it is supposed by Money. Houston is very active there to day. I have no doubt that 2m Bill of his Glasgow house sent you is for that Purpose - and that by this time the Bills are snug in some Rutherglen Drawers. On the whole I think Houston has the best Chance. It's a bad Business. I am glad it will be soon over. We have it to day that D Hamilton is to bring in Andrew for the Lanark & Linlithgow Boroughs. His Grace & Family I suspect are on the democratic side. It must be so if it be true that he is exerting himself to get Lauderdale returned one of the 16. I shall be sorry if he succeeds -

How did you bid us return the Bill on Pro. Young with the needful, when it is payable here and at sight.
There is a fine day - like summer -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 7 July 1802

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7 July 1802

I think it as well to send you Garden's acknowledgement, which you may give to Mr Innes for his voucher. I have told Peterkin how to do with the Old Bank small notes and I shall be at Gilbert's son this evening to let him know our Resolution, but these Old Bank People from head to Tail are unmanageable and will not do as other Banks - by a note of the Exchange on Monday afternoon which Peterkin has shown me, I see of above 16m of their notes we had to give up there were above 5m small. Of 14m of our notes we got from them there were only about £800 small. This shows the different way we go on. I can see no good a Bank can get by paying large sums which are known to go immediately into another Bank in small notes.

Our political Contest is very hot to day - the Sherriff has ordered the Councils of Glasgow & Rutherglen to fix a meeting for electing their Delegates in 48 hours, so they must be chosen by Monday. There is no doubt our Provost will be chosen and he is staunch for Boyd Alexander. Renfrew by Blythswood's interest will also go for him, but as Mr Houston has Dumbarton the returning Borough, the great Push will be to get Rutherglen and it will be carried it is supposed by Money. Houston is very active there to day. I have no doubt that 2m Bill of his Glasgow house sent you is for that Purpose, and that by this time the notes are snug in some Rutherglen Drawers. On the whole I think Houston has the best Chance. It's a bad Business. I am glad it will be soon over. We have it to day that D Hamilton is to bring in Andrew for the Lanark & Linlithgow Boroughs. His Grace & Family I suspect are on the democratic side. It must be so if it be true that he is exerting himself to get Lauderdale returned one of the 16. I shall be sorry if he succeeds.

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Cunningham has asked leave to go to Berwickshire to see his
Friends whom he has not seen these 5 years - and the other
Tellers have taken his duty upon them - so he goes on Friday
for a fortnight -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William
Simpson, the bank's cashier, 7 July 1802

RB/837/717

Page 2 of 2

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RSM

7 July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

P

[some scrap calculations, not transcribed]

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RSM
7 July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq
R

280
892
4. 79

11
461
29
69
753
686

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8 July 1802 -

I called on Archie Hamilton last night and found he was not in the Fault for he assured me he never paid away above 10 or £20 small notes in any one payment - and he was surprised to see so many of their small Notes in the Exchange with us - but they come from Greenock and the People there who have Bills payable here send them in large Bundles by the Evening coach - and they are seldom sent round till after 8 o'clock when the Notary has called for the Bills this gives us so much plague that we are determined to discount no Greenock acceptances. Indeed most of them we have all sent us by you from Robert Allan. Why should not Mr Forrester supply the Greenock Branch with large Notes for large Payments Mr Andrew is working away at Dumbarton but I should think will make 0 of it - and I suppose there is no foundation for the Report that he was to be Candidate for Lanark etc. What ridiculous things happen in these vile Politics. Mr Dale was disturbed this morning by an Express from Lanark with a letter from Sir W A Cunningham congratulating him on his Friend Maxwell of Carriden having completely carried Linlithgow. He mentions the names of all the Council who have declared for him. Mr Dale never saw Sir William or Maxwell and knows nothing about them or the Linlithgow Politics so he just sent back the letter under a cover saying it must have been sent to him by mistake. It will be curious if this mad Democrat Maxwell carry these Boroughs and will show that the Hamilton Family are clearly on that side, which I am sorry for.

Con Corbett wrote Mr Pitt with the Resolutions of our Merchant House which you would see in the newspapers. He has a very handsome answer to day of which I will send you a Copy. Hot work at Rutherglen - Cunningham was there at 7 this morning for his Friend Alexander but I suspect Houston's Royal Bank notes will carry it. Cunningham is corresponding with your Friend George Chalmers about the statue. He has consulted Sir Jos Banks, who advises it to be modelled in London and made of cast Iron in Scotland. It will help off the Pigs.

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

RB/837/721

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8 July 1802

I called on Archie Hamilton last night and found he was not in the Fault for he assured me he never paid away above 10 or £20 small notes in any one payment, and he was surprised to see so many of their small notes in the Exchange with us, but they come from Greenock and the People there who have Bills payable here send them in large bundles by the evening coach, and they are seldom sent round till after 8 o'clock when the Notary has called for the Bills this gives us so much plague that we are determined to discount no Greenock acceptances. Indeed most of them we have all sent us by you from Robert Allan. Why should not Mr Forrester supply the Greenock Branch with large notes for large payments. Mr Andrew is working away at Dumbarton but I should think will make 0 of it, and I suppose there is no foundation for the Report that he was to be Candidate for Lanark etc. What ridiculous things happen in these vile Politics. Mr Dale was disturbed this morning by an Express from Lanark with a letter from Sir W A Cunningham congratulating him on his Friend Maxwell of Carriden having completely carried Linlithgow. He mentions the names of all the Council who have declared for him. Mr Dale never saw Sir William or Maxwell and knows nothing about them or the Linlithgow Politics so he just sent back the letter under a cover saying it must have been sent to him by mistake. It will be curious if this mad Democrat Maxwell carry these Boroughs and will show that the Hamilton Family are clearly on that side, which I am sorry for.

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I am glad your friend Pitfour will have it so hollow - but it is provoking the Sheriff should have so much to say -
It was you I suppose that sent me the Chancellor's speech on Monkland's case - it may be intelligible enough to the lawyers - but I cannot make sense of it - Is Charles Hope to say nothing now to the Faculty about Monklands?
We have had a great deal of Rain this morning.

Robt M
8 July 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, 8 July 1802

RB/837/721
Page 2 of 2

I am glad your friend Pitfour will have it so hollow, but it is provoking the Sheriff should have so much to say.

It was you I suppose that sent me the Chancellor's speech on Monkland's case. It may be intelligible enough to the lawyers, but I cannot make sense of it. Is Charles Hope to say nothing now to the Faculty about Monklands?

We have had a great deal of Rain this morning.

RSM

8 July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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9 July 1802 -

Cunningham tells me to day that he will not get away all this month - you wd be for making quick dispatch with him - but I doubt if that wd be right unless he was more in the Fault than the others which is not the case - I told them when People applied for Bills on London to let them know that it suited us best to draw at 7/d st, but few I see choose to pay a Prem. Can no Exchequer Bills be got in London just now so as to bring 4 per cent Interest? - I am sorry to see our Friend Henry's Election is to be decided by a Poll which is an expensive Business - I have a letter to day from his brother Robert from Colchester saying the 5th Current saying that he was returned that morning at 8 o'clock along with a Friend of his whose Interest he had supported - Mr Dale has a letter to day from Maxwell of Carriden by which he finds it was our Friend Andrew that recommended him to Mr Dale as a Person whose Interest would be of service to him in Lanark. Mr D wrote him that he never meddled in Politicks - it will be very bad if such an outrageous Democrat as Maxwell carry these Boroughs - Andrew's supporting him shows there is no thorough Conversion in his Principles and indeed I never knew a converted Democrat. Rutherglen it seems has put off the day for choosing their Delegate till the 23rd, which will give time for the operation of Influence of all kinds. Andrew is busy there to day. The Elder tells me that Mr Glassford has been some days at Sir James and if he names the 29th or 30th for the Election it will show that Sir James is on his side and gave him the Election.

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

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9 July 1802

Cunningham tells me to day that he will not get away all this month. You would be for making quick dispatch with him, but I doubt if that would be right unless he was more in the Fault than the others which is not the case. I told them when People applied for Bills on London to let them know that it suited us best to draw at 7/d st, but few I see choose to pay a Prem. Can no Exchequer Bills be got in London just now, so as to bring 4 per cent Interest?

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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, 9 July 1802

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RSM

9 July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

P

NatWest
Group

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10 July 1802

Do not send me James Glassford's Coal Paper - it is in my desk - Friend James would have me to read it - I bestowed half an hour upon it but tho very well written I found it went beyond my depth so I gave it up - what do the Lawyers say about the Chancellor's speech? - to me it is quite unintelligible - Lord Eldon is a good man - but I fear he has not a head for a Chancellor -

Boyd Alexander's Friends I see are down in the mouth - it seems Col Spens of Rutherglen very unexpectedly has declared for the Government and it is supposed the majority of the Council will follow him - The Col was lately in Edinburgh and it is thought Old Henry had got his hands over him there - for he was believed to be much against Houston who has Henry's good wishes - will you let me know what is doing in my old County where I was 20 years a Freeholder - Fife - I wish General Hope may succeed - he is a respectable Character - the other is O - but I have never heard of the General's return from Egypt - The Democrats seem to be making a bold Push they have kicked out poor Wyndham I see from Norwich. I shall be sorry if Carriden or any of his Stamp get in for Scotland. Who is this Travers that makes such a Figure on Guildhall - is it your Friend the Grocer?

Mr Carrick will carry on the Bank & Business in his own way - Yesterday we had two acceptances of Hugh Love's one of them from you, the other indorsed us by the Stirlings it had been indorsed to them - together about £800. Love keeps his account with Carrick. He brought he payment, £700 of it in East Country small notes which he said Carrick gave him. To have protested the Bills would have subjected us to much Plague with the Indorsers, and I was the more backward to do this, that Carrick as you will see at yesterday's Exchange gave us back our 6m draft on you of Tuesday, and yesterday the Exchange was as much in his favour, and instead of taking our draft on you for the Balance, he just took back our own notes, so he seems to be one of our best Customers. Would it be right to offer to take

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

RB/837/726

Page 1 of 2

10 July 1802

Do not send me James Glassford's Coal Paper - it is on my desk. Friend James would have me to read it. I bestowed half an hour upon it but tho very well written I found it went beyond my depth so I gave it up. What do the Lawyers say about the Chancellor's speech? To me it is quite unintelligible. Lord Eldon is a good man, but I fear he has not a head for a Chancellor.

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his mixed Notes from him in sealed Parcels initialed - twice a week
send them to Edin in our Box and give him the value a few
days after - this wd save us the Trouble of counting over all
his small notes, and the saving the Expense of carriage wd be
an object to him - but to be sure we wd run the Risk
and there is no reason we shd do so -

I am going out with my wife to dine at Dalbeath
and we take the Baillie with us - but it is a bad day
for the Country - we have had much rain and the
wind at last has got round to the east - it is as cold
as in Jan - I despair of seeing Summer this year -

12 July 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, 10 July 1802

RB/837/726
Page 2 of 2

his mixed notes from him in sealed Parcels initialed twice a week, send them to Edinburgh in our Box and give him the value a few days after. This would save us the Trouble of counting over all his small notes, and the saving the Expense of the carriage would be an object to him. But to be sure we would run the Risk and there is no reason we should do so.

I am going out with my wife to dine at Dalbeath and we take the Baillie with us, but it is a bad day for the Country - we have had much rain and the wind at last has got round to the east. It is as cold as in January. I despair of seeing Summer this year.

RSM

12 July 1802

Braidwood

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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12 July 1802 -

I fancy your Friend Hy G is in some negotiation with the Knight - but it will be disgraceful in the latter if he deserts the Argyll Interest - Jo Stirling has been giving me a curious account of what has been going on at Dumbarton - night and day he has been at it - and never these 8 days past has had 2 hours sleep without being disturbed by an Express - but he believes it is now all over with Andrew as he understands Mr Dundas has made Houston give up to Alexander and he had nothing else for it to keep out Andrew - I had a line from our friend Henry yesterday of which I shall give you a full Copy -

I have just carried my Election after some Fatigue but at little or no Expense - Turton declined this evening
H T 1607
Tierney 1341
Turton 1183
Yours in haste H T

Samuel I see has got Hull - so the three Brothers have secured their seats - I can't suppose where so many votes are given Bribery can be attempted even if the Candidates were inclined which I am persuaded none of the Thorntons are. What a ridiculous Figure the Cities of London & Westminster make with their Elections. Our Council have just unanimously chosen the Provost for their delegate. That ends the Business with us - and secures Glasgow for Alexander.

Robert Bogle Junior called this forenoon with a bunch of 6m capital Sugar Bills and requested on the quietest I would melt 3m of them and give him a draft on Down at 7/6 for the amount in we case he wd not ask another desert for a month - this sweeps away so large a portion of our last week's savings that I wd not have thought of yielding to him - if you had not expressed a desire that we should draw at 7/6 - so I picked out 3m of his best Bills and gave him a draft on Down for that sum - We had a dismal cold day at Dalbeath on Saturday - never got without the door with the Ladies which I regretted as my wife had never been there before - have you got into your dining room to give your Session dinner? This is a fine day, but still no heat -

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

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12 July 1802

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RSM

12 July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

P

NatWest
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14 July 1802

Your P was a delightful morsel to breakfast this morning
 we are much interested in the Ferry Elections - to get in a
 fine honest Fellow - and to keep out a ----- but from
 there having been two Delegates chosen I am afraid it will
 be a troublesome expensive affair for the Captain even if
 shall eventually succeed - I suppose my Robert had
 remained on the Field of Battle as we have no word
 from him - Niel Gow and Andrew Balfour's Achievements
 are very diverting - I hear nothing new to day in
 our Politics - Houston went yesterday to E Lothian
 thinking he had every thing snug - but the other candidates
 think he will be mistaken - it seems the Election of
 the Dumbarton Delegate will be called in question -
 Seeing you are so full of money will you discount
 the inclosed Bill for an old Friend and pay £100 of
 it to the Director Duncan with the inclosed Letter which
 may relate and seal - the Bank place to B. & O. of
 St. M. & D. - this Bill is for the full of my Tobago
 mortgage due in January last - I wish I may ever
 see more of it - I am glad you approved
 of my accommodation to Robert Scott - indeed they
 were such pretty Bills that I grudged giving
 them the half of them back - but I had the Terror
 of a Check from the Whispering Gallery before we
 observe we are beyond the mark 430m but observe
 also that deposit money is much more increased
 and not a Bill lying over - this is a great Fair day
 and innumerable Bodies with Deposit Receipts from
 the Country

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

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Seeing you are so full of money will you discount the inclosed Bill for an old Friend and pay £100 of it to Director Duncan with the inclosed Letter which you may read and seal. The Balance place to Credit of SM & D. This bill is for the Interest of my Tobago mortgage due in January last. I wish I may ever see more of it. I am glad you approved of my accommodation to Robin Bogle. Indeed they were such pretty bills that I grudged giving the half of them back, but I had the Terror of a Check from the Whispering Gallery before we observe we are beyond the mark 430m but observe also that deposit money is much more increased and not a Bill lying over. This is a great Fair day and innumerable Bodies with Deposit Receipts from the Country.

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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, 14 July 1802

RB/837/728

Page 2 of 2

I had a chat with Carrick last night he is to think of my offer to send his mixtures by our Box. He says he pays away but few of these notes, that they must come to us chiefly from the Paisley & Greenock Banks who are notorious in that way. He keeps our 6m draft to him of yesterday and does not know if he will use it. These Greenock Bills you send us from R Allan are a great Plague hardly any of them are paid but by small notes sent to us between 8 & 9 after the notes are with our notary.

RSM

14 July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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Wm Simpson Esq
[Handwritten signature]

RSM
14 July 1802

NatWest Group

15 July 1802 -

It is only large Notes we are in want of and I should think you wd be at no loss to find some of our Commissioners to the Boroughs to bring them west - our Provost & Baillie Smith however I suspect will spend a night with Jo Dunlop as they come west - Provost Barns of Renfrew wd be a good hand but he may be gone before this reaches you - their Delegate is to be chosen on Saturday - it is supposed he will be Mr Alexander's man - Andrew & Lord Archibald Hamilton were working yesterday at Rutherglen - and sad work it is -

What £61 - you advise to have need - I suppose is from Tatlock's note Tulloch's Estate - if so it is one of George's Bills he got from Wyllie & Archibald - and goes so far to reduce his debt - we have no rec^d of that sum in our Books - it stands with the other Tellers' deficiencies in a note which was made up by Mr More last year with is still in the Chest Book at the weekly Bal^l as so much Cash in the Chest so this £61 with the amount of the Bill on Dennistouns when paid I suppose I must just deduct from the amount of that note - these two sums together make £1007.8.6 off George's Debt with is so far well - and I think we should get two or three hundred more from these Bills -

Peterkin found a forged Thistle 20/ note among his notes this morning - he went immediately with it to Mr Graham who gave him another for it and told him only one more had appeared, but since Ross has found one which I send you inclosed that you may show it to your Tellers and return it me - it is well done - the names must have been traced with a Pencil and in that way Mr Graham thinks the Provost being so tedious, they wd not have been many of them issued -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 15 July 1802

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15 July 1802

It is only large notes we are in want of and I should think you would be at no loss to find some of our Commissioners to the Boroughs to bring them west. Our Provost & Baillie Smith however I suspect will spend a night with Jo Dunlop as they come west. Provost Barns of Renfrew would be a good hand but he may be gone before this reaches you. Their Delegate is to be chosen on Saturday. It is supposed it will be Mr Alexander's man. Andrew & Lord Archibald Hamilton were working yesterday at Rutherglen - and sad work it is.

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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, 15 July 1802

RB/837/730

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RSM

15 July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

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NatWest
Group



Robert Scott Moncrieff
15 July 1802

16 July 1802 -

your way of discounting bills would not do here - if I had thought of such a thing I did not have sent it to you - I think shame of it but I will not quarrel with my masters - so I have placed the £100 to the debit of Profit & Loss - and the 43.11.9 goes into my deposit account here to keep the Pot boiling -

Mr R seems has subscribed 50 to Henry's Statue - it is the act of a great mind I cannot tell you how it pleases me I hope he will take time to lay in a good stock of health for the winter at Buxton - I rode out last evening to Killermont and had a chat with Archie Campbell & there I met with a most conversable lady - Mrs Baron Mure who knows every thing about Barnton P Green and every body and every thing - I was much informed and entertained by her. She says you abound with the finest Fruit and made my Teeth water with the account of Peaches you gave her on the Street -

The only news I hear to day about our Peebles is that 3 or 4 of the Rutherglen Councillors are carried off and sleeping - and that it is supposed they are going at Drumpeller - Mr Owen tells who is just come from Lanark tells me Col Dickson has sent Morrie hollow in case he can make some Peebles still more - and that the D of Buccleuch has joined his Interest - if so I hope the Democrat Max will win to -

What can have become of our Dollars - I was obliged to give Auchie Ure & Co £1000 to day upon the Credit of them to relieve that returned Bill you send me on them. The Dean has been here too, telling me I must advance on his dollars to pay duties on a cargo of Mackay & Co's sugars -

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

RB/837/731

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16 July 1802

Your way of discounting Bills would not do here. If I had thought of such a thing I would not have sent it to you. I think shame of it but I will not quarrel with my masters, so I have placed the £100 to the debit of Profit & Loss, and the 43.11.9 goes into my deposit account here to keep the Pot boiling.

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

RB/837/731

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RSM

16 July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

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17 July 1802 -

St. Albans carries his Election to make be one of many whimsical returns to the new Parliament - my Friend Begbie writes me from London that there will be many new Faces in it who will add little to its respectability - The Democrats have made great Efforts to get in and have succeeded in too many cases - I hope however that madman Burdett will be kept out of Middlesex - Is it possible that the Peers will bring in Lauderdale? I suppose the new Lord Leven will try to get in - Arthur Campbell tells me that Gen Hope has not given up altho the story was generally circulated by his adversaries - there will be a hot Push at Stirling on Monday

Will not George Ramsay be there to assist the Elphinstons? Mrs Mure who knows all things told me that there were 17 contested Elections in Scotland, and I was very glad to hear from her that my Friend Charles Grant is sure of Inverness shire. Nothing new here to day. Renfrew Delegate will be chosen at 2 o'clock. It is not doubted he will be for Alexander. If so the great Push will be for Rutherglen. The 4 voters carried off it seems are Andrew's friends and he only wanted to take them out of the way that they might not be tampered with but what he can make of a few Rutherglen votes I know not. I wonder Bob does not inform me about his Ferry Business. I know nothing about it but from you.

These forgeries are vexing things and that Thistle one seems to be too well done, but Archie will surely pay till he advertises. I have taken Tallocks £61 from the chest note with 2 Guineas Ship forged notes which Carrick has paid me. They were lying among a parcel of Forgeries which Mr More saw.

Mr Owen has an Express from Lanark desiring him to come up and meet with some Gentlemen at Coris, but he has not gone - it seems Sir James Nasmyth, Henry Erskine & Clerk had been at Lanark, but he says they will make 0 of it as the Provost and majority of Council are steady for Government.

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

RB/837/734

Page 1 of 2

If Kilbucko carries his Election it will be one of many whimsical returns to the new Parliament. My Friend Begbie writes me from London that there will be many new Faces in it who will add little to its respectability. The Democrats have made great Efforts to get in and have succeeded in too many cases. I hope however that madman Burdett will be kept out of Middlesex. Is it possible that the Peers will bring in Lauderdale? I suppose the new Lord Leven will try to get in. Arthur Campbell tells me that General Hope has not given up although the story was generally circulated by his adversaries. There will be a hot Push at Stirling on Monday. Will not George Ramsay be there to assist the Elphinstons? Mrs Mure who knows all things told me that there were 17 contested Elections in Scotland, and I was very glad to hear from her that my Friend Charles Grant is sure of Inverness shire. Nothing new here to day. Renfrew Delegate will be chosen at 2 o'clock. It is not doubted he will be for Alexander. If so the great Push will be for Rutherglen. The 4 voters carried off it seems are Andrew's friends and he only wanted to take them out of the way that they might not be tampered with but what he can make of a few Rutherglen votes I know not. I wonder Bob does not inform me about his Ferry Business. I know nothing about it but from you.

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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, 17 July 1802

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RSM

17 July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

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19 July 1802

That is a good story of Clattervegence - I am sure if I see her again it will come into my head - I see all your Subscriptions in the Courant which are very respectable - I am sorry our Subscription for Mr Pitt does not go on so briskly here it is only I believe up to about £500 - but I think we will make £1000 of it -

Archie Hamilton told me they had several applications for Cash Accounts - I have often Inquiries from him to which I give the best answer I can - I am glad to see to day the Ball is at home -

I hope my letter of Saturday night inclosing the London Bill had reach you this mornig - it was started in Edward to enter such a Bill in our Glasgow Bank Book - and you are not to observe it in checking them -

Still our political Contest goes on - Andrew it is said has carried off some more hands - a friend of his told me to day that he had no doubt he had he returned MP - for if he carries Rutherglen - Mr Houston's Delegate for Dumbarton will vote for him - so they go on - it will then Elections will soon be over -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 19 July 1802

RB/837/735

Page 1 of 2

This is a good story of Clattervegence. I am sure if I see her again it will come into my head. I see all your Subscriptions in the Courant which are very respectable - I am sorry our Subscription for Mr Pitt does not go on so briskly here. It is only I believe up to about £500 but I think we shall make £1000 of it.

Archie Hamilton told me they had several applications for cash accounts. I have often Inquiries from him to which I give the best answer I can. I am glad to see to day the Balance is against him.

I hope my letter of Saturday night inclosing the London Bill would reach you this morning. It was doiled in Edward to enter such a Bill in our Glasgow Bill Book, and in me not to observe it in checking them.

Still our political Contest goes on. Andrew it is said has carried off some more hands. A friend of his told me to day that he had no doubt he would be returned MP for if he carries Rutherglen, Mr Houston's Delegate for Dumbarton will vote for him - so they go on. Its well these Elections will soon be over.

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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, 19 July 1802

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RSM

19 July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

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19 July

There is a scheme of a Partnership for my son Robert in agitation on which I would like to have your sentiments. I am puzzled about it myself and my natural course on such occasions is to resort to you and plague you not only with my own Concerns but with those of my Boys. You must know James Walker upon the most frivolous grounds imaginable is to part with John Robertson which I have no doubt he will soon repent of. I know Robertson to be a steady, active, well principled man - quite master of the wine and agency business - he came here a week or two ago, informed me of this separation and that he had proposed going into partnership with Bob who much approved the Idea and left him to talk with his Friends here. My wife & Mr Penny (who is Bob's great Counsellor) were very keen that the Connection should immediately take place. I hesitated a little. From the opinion I have of Mr Robertson and my persuasion that aided by his Talents & Industry & Experience, the wine agency Trade might be carried on to considerable extent & advantage provided he & Bob were to employ their whole Capital & attention on it - I should have been clear also for the Connection and to whole place Bob in a line more to my mind and more suited to his Capital and Talents than any he has yet been in. But he is under a 5 years' Contract with Watson and it is a Condition of that Contract that none of the partners shall carry on a separate Trade as agents - now the Agency is still in the sale of Sugars Fruits etc in this Branch from which Mr Robertson expects to derive considerable Advantage. I therefore told him and wrote Bob, that unless he could get disengaged from Mr Watson I did not see how the Connection could take place - that I should be very happy to see him & James Robertson go together if they were jointly to bend their

PP

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 19 July 1802, marked 'PP' in the margin, indicated that it was a postscript to the letter RSM had already written to WS on that date

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Page 1 of 2

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whole Attention to the Wine & Agency Trades - but I should not be reconciled to the Idea of Bob being a principal efficient Partner both with Watson & Robertson - being an Insurance Broker Banker - Wine Merchant and agent - it appeared to me grasping at too much, and having too many Irons in the Fire - they have no Capital for such extensive Business, and I never knew a man whose attention was divided among different objects make a respectable Figure in any one of them - The Insurance Business is now not worth looking after - The Banking Business I never liked - they have no Capital for it and I know not a more despicable Being than a poor Banker - this Agency for the Watsons here I do not suppose will bring them £100 a year - that is a poor Object to take off Bob's attention from the Wine Trade -

These were my Sentiments on the Subject which I communicated to Bob - but left him to judge and act for himself as I had no reason to be concerned of my own Judgement - by a letter from him he says to George that he has felt himself so entangled by this Contract with Watson that he should not propose leaving him to be and Robertson think proposed to accept Watson and be all three Partners in all their Business - and Watson after consulting his Brothers here, has agreed to it - so there the Matter stands - I cannot say it is an arrangement quite to my mind - there will still be divided Attention and his small Capital for such various Objects - but perhaps Watson could be got clear off I know not how to say he managed otherwise - The Matter is an entire Secret yet and till it is further settled I beg you will mention it to no one - but if Bob shall talk of it to you I beg you will give him your best advice - I am very sorry if he concluded an Engagement without

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 19 July 1802, marked 'PP' in the margin, indicated that it was a postscript to the letter RSM had already written to WS on that date

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Page 2 of 2

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These were my Sentiments on the subject which I communicated to Bob, but left him to judge and act for himself as I had no reason to be conceited of my own Judgement. By a letter from him to day to Penny it would seem he has felt himself so entangled by this contract with Watson that he would not propose leaving him so he and Robertson have proposed to adopt Watson and be all three Partners in all their Business, and Watson after consulting his Brothers here, has agreed to it. So there the Matter stands. I cannot say it is an arrangement quite to my mind. There will still be divided attention and too small a Capital for such various objects, but unless Watson could be got clear of I know not how it can be managed otherwise. The Matter is an entire Secret yet and till it is further settled, I beg you will mention it to none, but if Bob shall talk of it to you I beg you will give him your best advice. I would be sorry if he concluded any Engagement without your approbation.

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20 July 1802 -

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

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20 July 1802

What is become of your 30m? I have been in terror all day of our stopping Payment for want of notes. If no opportunity casts up tomorrow you will be obliged to send a special Messenger, and now that our small notes are nearly gone also you may send us 4 or 5m at least of them. The more Banks I think the more Business for them. We felt no Ease from Gilbert's operations this morning, and encouraged by your late Hints, we have not spared your Coffers. I wish we may not have been too liberal we have only 38m coming in this week and we have done no less than 47. I should expect a Check from the Whispering Gallery but the Report will not I hope reach Buxton. There has been a great cut too I see upon our deposit money, that must be owing to the Excise Men. Colr Corbett drew out 18m Leven 8m and the Reduction is 262.

I see Mr Dundas has withdrawn General Hope which I am sorry for. The general idea here to day is that Andrew will carry Rutherglen and if so that the Dumbarton Delegate who is friendly to him seeing he could do no good to Houston will give Andrew his vote so he will be returned MP but if Adam Rolland's opinion is good and he is quite clear upon the subject, the Dumbarton delegate's vote will be found by a Committee of the house of Commons worth nothing and if so Boyd Alexander will be the sitting member as Glasgow & Renfrew are decidedly for him.

I have not heard how the Stirling shire contest has ended. I just find Elphinston has got it.

Robert Stuart took up a Bill you returned ten days up and sent it to his Partner Caruthers London to recover it. He got it back to day - they accepter could not pay and it appears Down & Co had been a month too long of calling for the payment it was due 5 June - only protested 5 July - I desired him to settle it with Down & Co.

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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 July 1802

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20 July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

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21 July 1802

I do not know what salary Gilbert & Son have - but they are bound for a proportion of the Bills - I suppose a half - for they boggled much at this - but were reconciled to it when they knew it was the Case with us and other Agents - To be sure it is an absurd obligation if it were to be carried rigorously into Effect - I fancy you will be pleased at our letting out so much yesterday, when you are drawing so much Blood - it will be vexing however to have much lying dead at London - can you make no Interest by Exchequer Bills at present. That is the Fund I like best, as it is always convertible and without loss. What Idiots these Brokers in London are and really it was stupid in Down & Co to take such an amount of Dollars from them. They neither captain the ship - the number of dollars - nor to where they were deliverable. The sale of each Bill of Lading they should have kept by itself, but they have mixed them all thro' one another. I told the Parties that we should pay the whole sum with 25 days' Interest (which I grudge just now) and leave them to settle their proportions among themselves - thus they have done accordingly - I see they have another 2000 dollars to account for. I shall be sorry if Jo Sym's story be true - but there's not believing a word a politician says - a man tells me just now that there are no more than 4 councillors left in Rutherglen. They will all appear on Friday.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 21 July 1802

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21 July 1802

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Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 21 July 1802

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21 July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

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22 July 1802

We have fought thro' the best way we could in our pinched state. I hope you will get some trusty hand to day or tomorrow to bring west the Bags – if not you must really send a special Messenger. There's 0 in the Chest but 1m 20/ notes – send 1 or 2m Guinea notes as the Collector has got the last of them to day to pay Pensioners. I shall try to get a piece of good Paper for you in lieu of Henry's £1000 Bill. Few large Bills come in to us on Thursdays. Tomorrow I hope some may come in. I would like to have it in one Bill, and it accepted. If I can get the Business over by 4 o'clock to day I am going out with Mr Dale to dine with Clathick, and excepting on Saturdays or when you was here I don't think I have dined abroad this twelvemonth.

From what a Rutherglen man tells me just now I doubt Andrew will make 0 of it. I would regret this if it was not for his democratical Principles and Connections. I never yet knew a converted Democrat.

22 July 1802

We have fought thro' the best way we could in our pinched state
I hope you will get some trusty hand to day or tomorrow to bring
west the Bags – if not you must really send a special messenger
there's 0 in the Chest but 1m 20/ notes – send 1 or 2m Guine
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Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 22 July 1802

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I have just given out the last note from the Chest - and
they are obliged to divide the small among them.

As Mr
Wm Simpson Esq

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I have just given out the last note from the Chest, and they are obliged to divide the small among them.

RSM

22 July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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23 July 1802

Friend James came in with his Paper in his hand as usual and I read him your PS. He said he was just come to pay it, and you see how he has done it. What sums we have here done for him since I sent you the note! I see the Bills due in October only amount to £6500. I am glad you are getting hold of so many Exchequer Bills – it is quite the thing – a good forthcoming Fund to be ready when a squeeze comes which you may lay your account with by & bye. The dollar Gentry settled it among themselves very amicably, but the Broker's note is confused & unintelligible. I hope the other 2000 dollars will soon be accounted for and there can be no confusion about them as they all belong to Auchie & Co. The whisky People you mention I think are very safe – McMurrich & Strang are certainly very opulent. Buchanan pays well and is thought very good. Matthie (Greenock) is supposed to have got money in the Quebec Trade, but he is rather extensive and dashing. I would not go so far with him as with the others.

When you see Robert Allan will you ask if he has still the same opinion of Allan Tod & Co whom he introduced to us and whether the death of Hector Allan their Partner makes any change in their Situation. I see they are trusted by the W India Merchants here, but I know not their Business nor their Bottom. I must just leave Bob to judge and act for himself after having told him my mind.

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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 July 1802

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RSM

23 July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

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24 July 1802

yr 2m small notes came most opportunely last night - we could
not have got thro' without them to day and they are all gone
I hope you will get some of the Race People coming west to
day to bring the Bags - if not you must surely send them
on Monday or we shall stop payments -

What a madman that Fletcher must be and what
mischief such a man does to Society - he is an unfortunate
youth that falls in with him - I should think Sir W Poutleny
seeing how his Fortune is likely to go, and never put it into
such hands - I am sorry for the loss of the Postmaster

as he was a worthy Character - the office I should think
and not suit Lord Leven as to require attention and
Residence in Edin - however under Henry I have
mentioned it to him and desired him if his Lordship
succeeds to let him know that it will be expected he
will keep the Post Office account - where it has been kept
by his Predecessors - our Pollocks are now called
and poor Andrew completely defeated - Col Spens
for Rutherglen was last night chosen Delegate
for Rutherglen by 10 votes against 8 - so Houston will
be returned - but whether the Dumbarton Delegate's vote
will stand good as a question for the Lawyers and
Council of the House of Commons - you will know
that Colquhoun Glassford & Co have carried the
shire of Dumbarton by 17 against 14 - I am rather
sorry the good Duke of Argyll should be defeated -
I have got yr £1000 for Henry's Bill - but

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

RB/837/743

Page 1 of 2

24 July 1802

Your 2m small notes came most opportunely last night. We could not have got thro' without them to day and they are all gone. I hope you will get some of the Race People coming west to day to bring the Bags - if not you must surely send them on Monday or we shall stop payments.

What a madman that Fletcher must be and what mischief such a man does to Society - he is an unfortunate youth that falls in with him. I should think Sir W Poutleny seeing how his Fortune is likely to go, would never put it into such hands. I am sorry for the loss of the Postmaster as he was a worthy Character. The office I should think would not suit Lord Leven as it requires attention and Residence in Edinburgh. However writing Henry I have mentioned it to him and desired him if his Lordship succeeds to let him know that it will be expected he will keep the Post Office account where it has been kept by his Predecessors.

Our Pollocks are now settled and poor Andrew completely defeated. Col Spens for Mr Houston was last night chosen Delegate for Rutherglen by 10 votes against 8, so Houston will be returned. But whether the Dumbarton Delegate's vote will stand good is a question for the Lawyers and committee of the House of Commons. You will know that Colquhoun Glassford & Co have carried the shire of Dumbarton 17 against 14. I am rather sorry the good Duke of Argyll should be defeated.

I have got your £1000 for Henry's Bill, but

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still no proper Bill has cast up for you - that £500
of Loabury's is too short dated. I will know by your
next whether I shall send you unaccepted drafts
at 3/4 mdc. I can easily make up your sum in that
way.

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

RB/837/743

Page 2 of 2

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RSM

24 July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

P

As Mr Simpson
is the
Elle
Mr Simpson Esq

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26 July 1802

Two P's at once to answer is not common with me. Duncan came in very opportunely and his Bags will stop our mouths for 2 or 3 weeks - once a week you may send us 2m small Notes in the Box till I bid you stop - send us ~~one~~ one or two m Guineas as they are all gone and sometimes they are wanted - it will be vexing if Down cannot supply us with silver - but it is impossible we can do with less than £200 a week -

Friend James is going to Newcastle &c to see to get off his Pigs and will see you as he passes. He has a vast value of metal on hand, it would be cruel to cut him short before he has made an Exertion for sales. McMurich tells me that Mathie has made a great deal of money and is as safe as he is. I don't recollect his stop. Buchanan he says is very safe - I don't recollect his stop - Buchanan he says is very safe - I don't know before you was a midlothian voter - where does your Lairdship lie? It cannot be Barebones. Sir James they say looked very foolish and was silent when Lord John charged him with breaking his word. A Protest too was taken against the supposed Bargain with Mr Glassford. I don't suppose any thing will be made of that, yet it is but an awkward way in which Henry will come in - under all the Circumstances I should not want the Honour. The Dumbarton Delegate was chosen by a bare Majority of the Council and one of them was a Clerk to the Postmaster. Mr Rolland is clear that he was disqualified and consequently the Election void. Malcolm Ross is of the same opinion, but the Lord Advocate & Henry Dundas think it was a good Election - so the House of Commons must determine it.

They say to day that Andrew will object to Col Spens the Delegate for Rutherglen being disqualified as a Barrack master. I doubt he will make nothing of that. The Mob at Rutherglen during the Election were bawling out Stirling for ever. No slave drivers.

Friend James is going to Newcastle &c to see to get off his Pigs and will see you as he passes. He has a vast value of metal on hand, it would be cruel to cut him short before he has made an Exertion for sales. McMurich tells me that Mathie has made a great deal of money and is as safe as he is. I don't recollect his stop. Buchanan he says is very safe - I don't recollect his stop - Buchanan he says is very safe - I don't know before you was a midlothian voter - where does your Lairdship lie? It cannot be Barebones - Sir James they say looked very foolish and was silent when Lord John charged him with breaking his word - a Protest too was taken against the supposed Bargain with Mr Glassford. I don't suppose any thing will be made of that - yet it is but an awkward way in which Henry will come in - under all the Circumstances I don't recollect the Honour - The Dumbarton Delegate was chosen by a bare Majority of the Council and one of them was a Clerk to the Postmaster - Mr Rolland is clear that he was disqualified and consequently the Election void - Malcolm Ross is of the same opinion - but the Lord Advocate & Henry Dundas think it was a good Election - so the House of Commons must determine it - They say to day that Andrew will object to Col Spens the Delegate for Rutherglen being disqualified as a Barrack master - I doubt he will make nothing of that - The Mob at Rutherglen during the Election were bawling out Stirling for ever. No slave drivers.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 26 July 1802

RB/837/745

Page 1 of 2

26 July 1802

Two P's at once to answer is not common with me. Duncan came in very opportunely and his Bags will stop our mouths for 2 or 3 weeks. Once a week you may send us 2m small notes in the Box till I bid you stop. Send us one or two m Guineas notes as they are all gone and sometimes they are wanted. It will be vexing if Down cannot supply us with silver, but it is impossible we can do with less than £200 a week.

Friend James is going to Newcastle &c to see to get off his Pigs and will see you as he passes. He has a vast value of metal on hand, it would be cruel to cut him short before he has made an Exertion for sales. McMurich tells me that Mathie has made a great deal of money and is as safe as he is. I don't recollect his stop. Buchanan he says is very safe. I did not know before you was a Midlothian voter. Where does your Lairdship lie? It cannot be Barebones. Sir James they say looked very foolish and was silent when Lord John charged him with breaking his word. A Protest too was taken against the supposed Bargain with Mr Glassford. I don't suppose any thing will be made of that, yet it is but an awkward way in which Henry will come in - under all the Circumstances I should not want the Honour. The Dumbarton Delegate was chosen by a bare Majority of the Council and one of them was a Clerk to the Postmaster. Mr Rolland is clear that he was disqualified and consequently the Election void. Malcolm Ross is of the same opinion, but the Lord Advocate & Henry Dundas think it was a good Election - so the House of Commons must determine it.

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This fall of the stocks looks ill after such a sum had been paid for midsummer dividends - I cannot account for it any way but by large sales by the Dutch & foreigners. I am sorry to see my Friend Fordyce so low upon the Berwick Poll - but it was the first day - let me know how you hear that Election is likely to go - so John Dunlop has got the Port of Glasgow Collectorship. James McDowal they say could have got it but did not like to give up what he holds for life for an office removable at pleasure - he wanted his son to be Comptroller. I wish he may succeed.

R. S. M.
26 July 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, 26 July 1802

RB/837/745

Page 2 of 2

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RSM

26 July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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

RB/837/747

Page 1 of 2

[paper missing] not a proper Bill for you – that of McNeil's on Colquhoun is not quite so sound a piece of Paper as I would wish to send you – nor is Allen Todd & Co's till I know more about them. Tho' Rucker's we are told is a first rate house – there seems to have been a falling off of London Bills since you wanted one, but your £1000 is snug in my deposit account and you shall have 4 per cent on it till I can bestow it properly which I hope will be tomorrow. You may tell your Parlour Commissioner that as I have no P from you to day you have none from me – you see how we extended last week – and we are too much to day – only 37m coming in – done 42m.

Not a proper Bill for you – that of McNeil's on Colquhoun is not quite
so sound a piece of Paper as I would wish to send you – nor is Allen Todd
& Co's till I know more about them. Tho' Rucker's we are told is a first
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Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 27 July 1802

RB/837/747

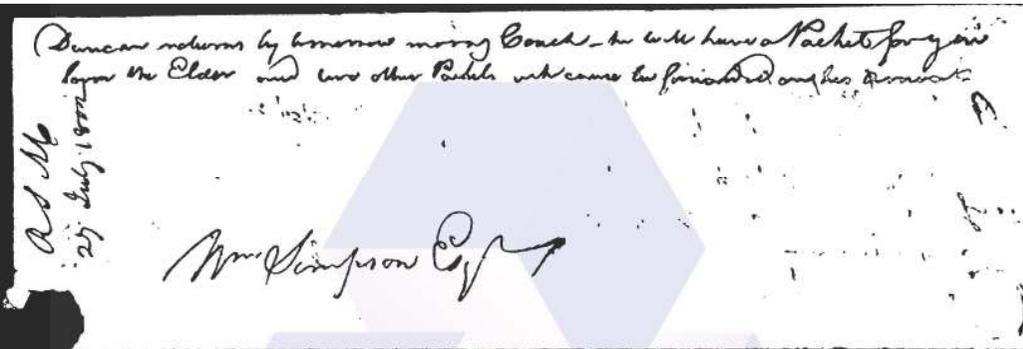
Page 2 of 2

Duncan returns by tomorrow morning Coach. He will have a Packet for you from the Elder and two other Parcels which cause be forwarded on his account.

RSM

27 July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq



Duncan returns by tomorrow morning Coach. He will have a Packet for you from the Elder and two other Parcels which cause be forwarded on his account.

Ad M
27 July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

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28 July 1802 -

I went to the Coach this morning at 7 o'clock to give Duncan a line to you about the Bill that was drawn on you last night by Mr Bell - but not meeting with Duncan I gave it to Mr Dalgleish who promised to deliver it - from what I have learned since I suppose Duncan had been sitting in the Coach and I had not seen him - Cunningham here says he gave a note of the Bill to one of the Porters to get it from the Accomptant - and had no doubt it was sent to the Union People - (The Porters say they got no such note - so I can make no more of it - but I hope honest Bill's Bill will be honoured - well done Father - flirting with the Ladies at Buxton there's no saying what our old men will do when out of the sight of our sharp sighted Inspectors - I am glad however he is in such good spirits. An old Friend of mine Bogle of Daldowie would be there as yesterday - he wanted me to give him a line of introduction to Mr R. I told him there was no occasion - he had met him in his walks and he might give my respects to him and that he might give my respects to him and that he might make them acquainted - Bogle is a fine Crack - and a most benevolent soul - if you go on this way - the poor old Lady will be ruined - there's little matter - she has done much mischief - for all these plaguing upstart Banks are owing to her foolish measures - The Renfrew Co I find are at the note picking Business and a disgraceful Business it is - I beg your honours Pardon - and acquaint Henry the great for your Vassal - but surely Barebones does not extend to Melville - you must have another Estate in that quarter - There's a dear opinion of Charles Hay's that the Dumbarton delegate's vote is not worth a farthing - so Alexander's friends seem confident he will be the sitting member - I shall be sorry if Fordyce is disqualified by Bribery -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 28 July 1802

RB/837/749

Page 1 of 2

28 July 1802

I went to the Coach this morning at 7 o'clock to give Duncan a line to you about the bill that was drawn on you last night by Mr Bell, but not meeting with Duncan I gave it to a Mr Dalgleish who promised to deliver it. From what I have learned since I suppose Duncan had been sitting in the Coach and I had not seen him. Cunningham says he gave a note of the Bill to one of the Porters to get it from the Accomptant and had no doubt it was sent to the Union People. The Porters say they got no such note, so I can make no more of it. But I hope honest Bill's Bill will be honoured. Well done Father - flirting with the Ladies at Buxton there's no saying what we old men will do when out of the sight of our sharp sighted Inspectors. I am glad however he is in such good spirits. An old Friend of mine Bogle of Daldowie would be there as yesterday - he wanted me to give him a line of introduction to Mr R. I told him there was no occasion - he would meet him in his walks and he might give my respects to him and that would make them acquainted. Bogle is a fine Crack, and a most benevolent soul. If you go on in this way, the poor old Lady will be ruined - there's little matter - she has done much mischief - for all these plaguing upstart banks are owing to her foolish measures. The Renfrew Company I find are at the note picking Business and a disgraceful Business it is. I beg your honour's Pardon, and a great Honour it is to have Henry the great for your Vassal. But surely Barebones does not extend to Melville - you must have another estate in that quarter.

There's a clear opinion of Charles Hay's that the Dumbarton delegate's vote is not worth a farthing, so Alexander's friends seem confident he will be the sitting member. I shall be sorry if Fordyce is disqualified by Bribery.

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Pray what answer did you give George Oswald. I hope
it was a civil one. Should any good large
London acceptance come in my way shall I send it you?

R. S. M.
28 July 1802
Election

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, 28 July 1802

RB/837/749

Page 2 of 2

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RSM
28 July 1802

Election

Wm Simpson Esq
P

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29 July 1802

The 33m was placed to the Cr. of the Bank on Monday before our Balance and all but the 3m small notes were counted. This £80 - of Mr Heggie's is a vexing Business - I always suspected it did not belong to us as it did not answer to the date of our deficiency - it was on the 15th March the day you & Stow came here - that £120 was wanting - you heard the long confused story of notes given to Blair to sort by all the Tellers - and they said they got back £120 - less than they gave - of these £80 belonged to Scott & £40 to Peterkin. Mr Heggie's £80 - was applied to pay Scott's and Peterkin's stands over - I suppose you must just debit us for that £80 - and I must just add it to the sum deficient in the Chest Book.

I know not when I may see the Elder - he and all his Partners were to go to Donovan this morning - but when he comes my way I shall delivery your message. Friend James has taken up Aly Bonar's Receipt. I made him laugh at your wish that his Pigs would squick. He sold 100 Tons to Edington and 100 Tons to Bairds yesterday that he might have their 6m Bills to melt before he set off on his journey to Newcastle etc which he proposes next week. This fall in the stocks is a serious unaccountable thing - How thankful I am we have no Omnium. Smith Payne & Co, the Thistle etc will be cut. I wish Robert Scott may not cut himself. Another Forgery has come out to day - it is of Gammel's notes - we heard of 5 or 6 being discovered by the Paisley Bank agent, and immediately after one came in to us which Ross discovered and refused - they are well done. I would never find out the difference.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 29 July 1802

RB/837/752

Page 1 of 2

29 July 1802

The 33m was placed to the Credit of the Bank on Monday before our Balance and all but the 3m small notes were counted. This £80 of Mr Heggie's is a vexing Business. I always suspected it did not belong to us as it did not answer to the date of our deficiency - it was on the 15th March the day you & Stow came here - that £120 was wanting - you heard the long confused story of notes given to Blair to sort by all the Tellers, and they said they got back £120 less than they gave - of these £80 belonged to Scott & £40 to Peterkin. Mr Heggie's £80 was applied to pay Scott's and Peterkin's stands over. I suppose you must just debit us for that £80 and I must just add it to the sum deficient in the Chest Book.

I know not when I may see the Elder. He and all his Partners were to go to Donovan this morning, but when he comes my way I shall delivery your message.

Friend James has taken up Aly Bonar's Receipt. I made him laugh at your wish that his Pigs would squick. He sold 100 Tons to Edington and 100 Tons to Bairds yesterday that he might have their 6m Bills to melt before he set off on his journey to Newcastle etc which he proposes next week.

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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, 29 July 1802

RB/837/752

Page 2 of 2

RSM

29 July 1802

[pencil annotations in another hand:] Iron

Bairds Edington

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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30 July 1802

I have told Lumsdain to count the silver — pray send 2m
small notes by next Box and as many by every future Box
for all the small notes you sent us are gone excepting a few
in the Tellers hands — If Henry is to be made a Peer I
cannot imagine a Reason why it should have been delayed
so long — the proper time would have been when he resigned
Charles Hope is a fine bold Fellow and will make a very good
MP for you — what a work would be going on in
the Boroughs to day — I am curious to know what
was done at Dunfermline — I had yesterday a letter
from Capt Cochrane in which he says he hoped his
next would be franked notwithstanding Sir John's Pup
in the newspapers — we shall hear to night
what was done at Dumbarton to day — it
seems Henry Erskine is there for Boyd Alexander
John Stirling went to Edinburgh this
morning to consult about his Patent for Bleaching — you
will probably see him — and he will tell you
about the Interest discharge — I don't know that
Kilgour is here at present — the whole Partners
of Donovan Printfield were to be there yesterday
and they were to take a Londoner with them
but I think it was not Kilgour — I wrote
Bob to send them wine but he is so much
taken up with his Politicks that I know not if he
sent it — he writes Penny that you advised his
giving up any of his Employments —

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 30 July 1802

RB/837/753

Page 1 of 2

30 July 1802

I have told Lumsdain to count the silver. Pray send 2m small notes by next Box and as many by every future Box for all the small notes you sent us are gone excepting a few in the Tellers' hands. If Henry is to be made a Peer I cannot imagine a Reason why it should have been delayed so long — the proper time would have been when he resigned. Charles Hope is a fine bold Fellow and will make a very good MP for you. What a work would be going on in the Boroughs to day. I am curious to know what was done at Dunfermline. I had yesterday a letter from Captain Cochrane in which he says he hoped his next would be franked notwithstanding Sir John's Pup in the newspapers. We shall hear tonight what was done at Dumbarton to day. It seems Henry Erskine is there for Boyd Alexander. John Stirling went to Edinburgh this morning to consult about his Patent for Bleaching — you will probably see him — and he will tell you about the Interest discharge. I don't know that Kilgour is here at present — the whole Partners of Donovan Printfield were to be there yesterday and they were to take a Londoner with them but I think it was not Kilgour. I wrote Bob to send them wine but he is so much taken up with his Politicks that I know not if he sent it. He writes Penny that you advised his not giving up any of his Employments.

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What Dismal rainy weather

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 30 July 1802

RB/837/753

Page 2 of 2

What dismal rainy weather.

RSM

30 July 1802

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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31 July 1802

I shall mind the 30th July – and many years may you yet squick
after my squicking is over – for I have got $\frac{1}{2}$ years a head of you
I should have liked to have been one of the Party at opening
the new dining room – it will be the most delightful room in
this Society, either in winter or Summer –
The discount on the Omnium is dreadful – Smith Payne & Co
and their connections must be cut to the Bone – I should
suppose if it goes on – they will be obliged to apply for an Act
of Parliament to indemnify them as I remember was done
in Lord North's time – I have not seen Archie these
some weeks as he is in the Country off Bank hours – but I
do think he and Peterkin will be down in the Mouth
I do be glad if your blue Ink prevented Forgeries – but
Peterkin showed me some of your notes the other day in which
the blue Ink Subscription had entirely gone out and
left the Vestige of a name – I desired him to put
them among the worn out notes and you in the Box –
Lumsdain has begun counting the silver and says a great
deal appears to be bad – I bid him report the state of it when
he had counted over the whole – Pray send us another
Bag of small Gold as soon as you can – and fail not to send
2m 20/ notes in next Box – Our Expenditure of
large & small is very great –

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31 July 1802

I shall mind the 30th July – and many years may you yet squick after my squicking is over, for I have got $\frac{1}{2}$ years a head of you. I should have liked to have been one of the Party at opening the new dining room. It will be the most delightful room in the country, either in winter or summer.

The discount on the Omnium is dreadful. Smith Payne & Co and their connections must be cut to the Bone. I should suppose if it goes on, they will be obliged to apply for an Act of Parliament to indemnify them as I remember was once done in Lord North's time. I have not seen Archie these some weeks as he is in the Country off Bank hours – but I should think he and Robert Scott will be down in the Mouth. I should be glad if your blue Ink prevented Forgeries, but Peterkin showed me some of your notes the other day in which the blue Ink Subscription had entirely gone out and not left the vestige of a name. I desired him to put them among the worn out notes sent you in the Box.

Lumsdain has begun counting the silver and says a great deal appears to be bad. I bid him report the state of it when he had counted over the whole. Pray send us another Bag of small Gold as soon as you can, and fail not to send 2m 20/ notes in next Box – our Expenditure of large & small is very great.

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Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 31 July 1802

RB/837/758

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I hear 0 of what went on at Dumbarton yesterday but that Houston was returned MP as was to be expected, and that our Provost assisted by Henry Erskine took a protest against the Dumbarton delegate. I am more anxious to know what was done at Dunfermline.

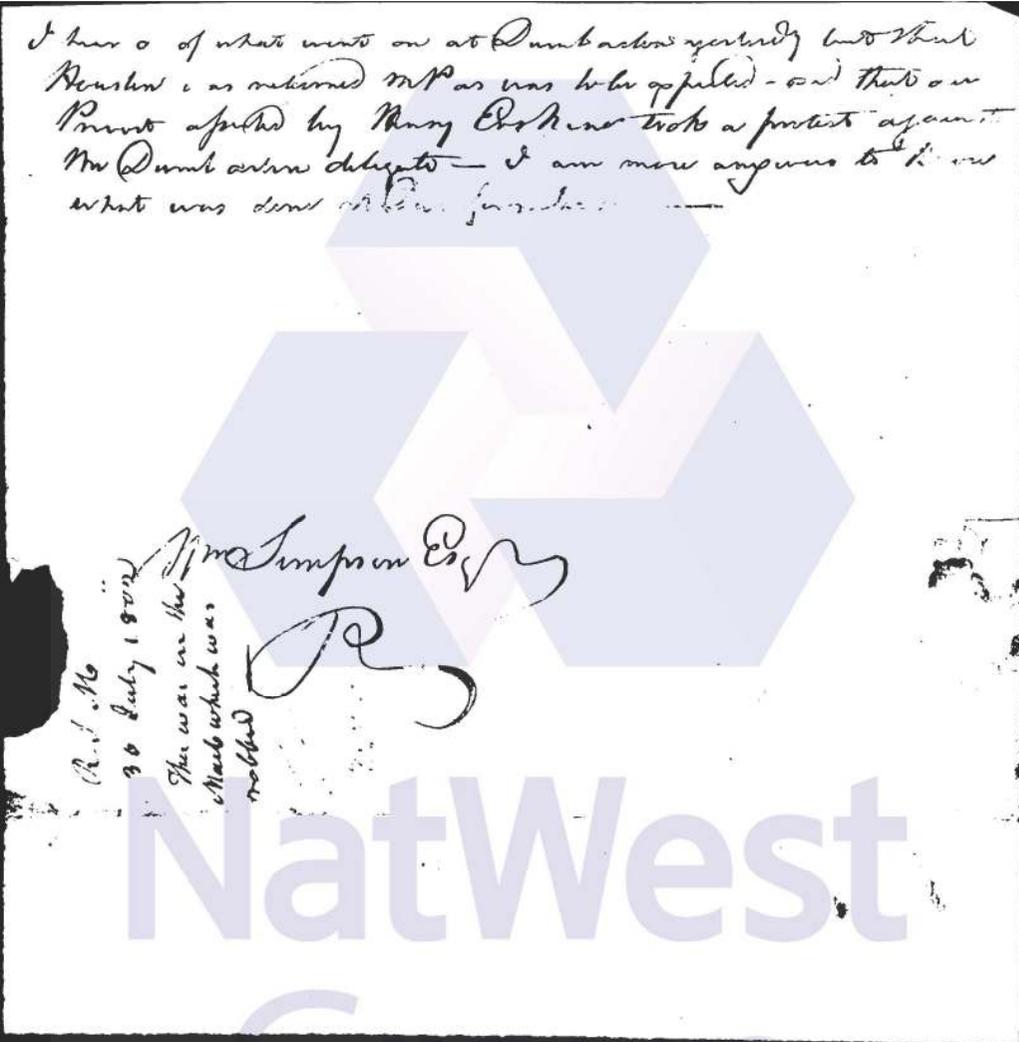
Wm Simpson Esq

P

RSM

30 July 1802

[in a separate hand, probably Simpson's:] This was in the Mail which was robbed.



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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](#).