

1 July 1803

Your Returns this morning were quite over whelming - and some of them not expected in the end I believe little will be lost by them - but if matters go on in this way one knows not what to think - It is quite kind to send West Mr More and for him to come - I hope it is his plan to lodge upstairs and I shall look eagerly for him Monday before dinner - we had much occasion for him to day - it has been a heavy day - many Bills were due and of consequence many pressing demands upon us - you see the sum of London paper taken by it most of the payments were made - we have been fighting to get the people to send us none but accepted Bills - but they say they must have some warning - we have taken the best assurances that they would be accepted we could get, for these drafts of Sherriff's we have his Father Robert Sherriff's Guarantee which I hope is good but the young man has been doing too much, as indeed every body has. I know not how we shall do with Jo Pattison - his state is a very poor one in my view and I fear the Length you allow us to go will not carry him thro' neither do I know that a Security on his heritable Property would answer or can be effectual for covering us in our past or future discounts - but I shall leave Mr More to settle this - Monteth Balfour for some time with us to day - they are to give us the Letter of Guarantee to the amount of 2/5ths of all their Bills in our hands - and Arch Newbigging is to take on hand the turning all their property into money which he thinks he will do in 3 or 6 months so as the whole Bills will then be taken up, but they are very averse to the Bills by stopt houses being allowed to be over under protest. I told them this was your Plan. Mr Newbigging proposed that all the Bills due or not due in our hands should now be taken up and new Bills taken in place of them at 3 & 6 months by the stopt houses or by Lindsay Smith & Co in place of Smith Lindsay & Co while they are in a capacity of subscribing to Bills - these new Bills to be paid when due - we could not say any thing to this mode till we saw Mr More

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 1 July 1803

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1 July 1803

Your Returns this morning were quite over whelming, and some of them not expected. In the end I believe little will be lost by them, but if matters go on in this way one knows not what to think. It is great Kindness to send West Mr More and for him to come. I hope it is his plan to lodge upstairs and I shall look eagerly for him Monday before dinner. We had much occasion for him to day - it has been a heavy day - many Bills were due and of consequence many pressing demands upon us - you see the sum of London paper taken. By it most of the payments were made. We have been fighting to get the people to send us none but accepted Bills, but they say they must have some warning. We have taken the best assurances that they would be accepted we could get, for these drafts of Sherriff's we have his Father Robert Sherriff's Guarantee which I hope is good but the young man has been doing too much, as indeed every body has. I know not how we shall do with Jo Pattison - his state is a very poor one in my view and I fear the Length you allow us to go will not carry him thro' neither do I know that a Security on his heritable Property would answer or can be effectual for covering us in our past or future discounts, but I shall leave Mr More to settle this. Monteth Balfour & Co have been with us to day. They are to give us the Letter of Guarantee to the amount of 2/5ths of all their Bills in our hands, and Archibald Newbigging is to take on hand the turning all their property into money which he thinks he will do in 3 or 6 months so as the whole Bills will then be taken up, but they are very averse to the Bills by stopt houses being allowed to be over under protest. I told them this was your Plan. Mr Newbigging proposed that all the Bills due or not due in our hands should now be taken up and new Bills taken in place of them at 3 & 6 months by the stopt houses or by Lindsay Smith & Co in place of Smith Lindsay & Co while they are in a capacity of subscribing to Bills. These new Bills to be paid when due. We could not say any thing to this mode till we saw Mr More.

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I understand Smith as soon as he gets his London state made up is coming down here to lay it before the Cred^{rs} of the whole I wish it may be a good state - that immense debt of Mitchel Manchester will be much against it - Robert Lindsay supposes his obligation extends only to £2500 is it not so? - I think there must be but a small Proportion of Jo Pattison's Bills with us - Archie Smith was saying to day that Kirkman Finlay was losing spirit and quite depressed at which he was very angry as he says there was no reason for it - besides a very large stock and 50m of as good Bills as are in the Country in his desk the individual Partners were worth 300m - and that he thought should keep up his spirits - Willie left me at 4 o'clock and will see you tomorrow - I beg Mr More will stay as long as possible with us -

Recd

1 July 1803

Kirkman Finlay

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, 1 July 1803

RB/837/1184

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I understand Smith as soon as he gets his London state made up is coming down here to lay it before the Creditors of the whole. I wish it may be a good state. That immense debt of Mitchel Manchester will be much against it.

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RSM

1 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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2 July 1803

I was sitting in much fear & trembling this morning waiting for your letter. and was most agreeably disappointed when I saw the size of it - but I fear few such letters are to be looked for from you for a couple of months - we shall have a heavy day on Monday a great number of Bills being due that day - I wish Mr More may be soon here - notwithstanding what Mr T says I cannot help thinking a house of such extensive business should have more strength in all respects - he mentioned to me that the alteration in the house wd soon be formally announced - a good industrious Lad Henry Mackay from whom we had a returned Bill drawn by Mitchel & Co Manchester on Smith & Co, advised us a letter to day from the latter to whom he had wrote earnestly to enable him to take up the Bill - saying they could not go on with their payments in consequence of having a large sum locked up with Smith & Co that they hoped the Bank would be lenient to him, and that he might depend upon to be would ultimately lose nothing by them - how far this can be depended on I know not - poor Mackay is settling with his creditors to give them security for payment of 12/6d per £ and his own note for 2/6 per £ payable in 9 months. He is taken deeply in with Mitchell, we have another of his Bills on Smith & Co but it is indorsed by Robert Thomson & Son. This stop of Surtees & Co (the oldest Firm I remember) will I fear have dreadful Effects. We have not a note of theirs, and the Bill you advise to be refused on Forster is indorsed by James Hamilton Son & Co very solid People if any body here can be called so.

Mr Dale is insisting that my wife & I shall go out to Rosebank with him - but Oh it is uphill work for me to go out of the house - you had better continue to send us silver as long as you can - or order it from London for an all gold out of it.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 2 July 1803

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2 July 1803

I was sitting in much fear & trembling this morning waiting for your letter and was most agreeably disappointed when I saw the size of it. But I fear few such letters are to be looked for from you for a couple of months. We shall have a heavy day on Monday a great number of Bills being due that day. I wish Mr More may be soon here - notwithstanding what Mr T says I cannot help thinking a house of such extensive business should have more strength in all respects. He mentioned to me that the alteration in the house would soon be formally announced. A good industrious Lad Henry Mackay from whom we had a returned Bill drawn by Mitchel & Co Manchester on Smith & Co showed us a letter to day from the latter to whom he had wrote earnestly to enable him to take up this Bill, saying they could not go on with their payments in consequence of having a large sum locked up with Smith & Co that they hoped the Bank would be lenient to him, and that he might depend upon it he would ultimately lose nothing by them. How far this can be depended on I know not. Poor Mackay is settling with his creditors to give them security for payment of 12/6d per £ and his own note for 2/6 per £ payable in 9 months. He is taken deeply in with Mitchell, we have another of his Bills on Smith & Co but it is indorsed by Robert Thomson & Son. This stop of Surtees & Co (the oldest Firm I remember) will I fear have dreadful Effects. We have not a note of theirs, and the Bill you advise to be refused on Forster is indorsed by James Hamilton Son & Co very solid People if any body here can be called so.

Mr Dale is insisting that my wife & I shall go out to Rosebank with him, but Oh it is uphill work for me to go out of the house.

You had need continue to send us silver as long as you can, or order it from London for we are quite out of it.

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I hesitated about sending you that Bill on Kennedys, but Lawson earnestly begged it as giving us a chance of getting our money sooner than we can from him. All his house have is in Goods at Leipzig - but he assures me they are safe there. Mr Dale has a circular (printed) from Stirling & Co to day advising that Andrew has resigned his concern in the Business to his Sons who are to carry it on under the Firm of Stirling Brothers & Co - this seems an extraordinary measure when Andrew's property is withdrawn I cannot suppose the sons tho very industrious lads they say will have so much the confidence of their customers.

Ad Mr
2 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq

I have not seen Jo Pattison - but he has been at Mr Dale and tells him that less than 2m a week will not carry him thro. I desired Mr D to tell him that Mr More was to be here on Monday and we shall act by his advice. I fear he will not have unexceptionable Bills to offer and if he stop it will be a dreadful affair. I find I cannot go out to Rosebank.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 2 July 1803

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Page 2 of 2

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RSM
2 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq
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4 July 1803

I sent Mr Stirling upon receipt of your letter to Robert Lindsay - he always takes his letters from the Post Office on Sunday morning - but there were none for him from Mr Marshall yesterday - so I am afraid there has been some mistake - and I suppose you will lose your Cause with Dunlop -

Mr More came in in the Forenoon and has had a good deal of communings with distressed People - I will throw Mr Pattison entirely upon him - for I have not nerves for it - and being connected I wd leave it to others - I fear it is impossible to carry him thro' -

We refused the £1800 Bill sent you on Bannatyne from Henry Monteith as it was not accepted - but took it on his agreeing to lodge with us the amount in good Bills as a Security for the receipt -

Many thanks my good friend for your Endeavours to keep me up - but I fear all will not do - Every thing here is dark & distressing -

The Bill indorsed by Dunlop Smith & Co is for an accept of theirs to Callen & Son - and the house in London being esteemed very good, we thought it best to take payment in this way and make Dunlop S & Co put their names on it -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 4 July 1803

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4 July 1803

I sent Mr Stirling upon receipt of your letter to Robert Lindsay - he always takes his letters from the Post Office on Sunday morning - but there were none for him from Mr Marshall yesterday, so I am afraid there has been some mistake, and I suppose you will lose your Cause with Dunlop.

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We refused the £1800 Bill sent you on Bannatyne from Henry Monteith as it was not accepted, but took it on his agreeing to lodge with us the amount in good Bills as a Security for the acceptance.

Many thanks my good friend for your Endeavours to keep me up, but I fear all will not do. Every thing here is dark & distressing.

The Bill indorsed by Dunlop Smith & Co is for an acceptance of theirs to Callen & Son, and the house in London being esteemed very good, we thought it best to take payment in this way and make Dunlop S & Co put their name on it.

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Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 4 July 1803

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RSM

4 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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5th July 1803

Mr More is set to work I know not what we could do without him
or how he can possibly leave this - he has been looking over all
John Pattison's Bills and is just sending him a note to meet with
him - or rather send him a Note of the Bills due by him
and where they are - we quite enter into your Idea of not
burthening the Bank with the Bills in the hands of other Banks
The amount in our hands is too much. - Mitchell it seems
had remitted 49m to Smith towards retiring his drafts
on him and as the latter will come back upon him to
the amount they say of 126m he considers I suppose
the 49m as locked up. How thankful I was
this morning to find that Wardlaw's Hamburg Bill
was paid - but how vexing to find by your
Box Packet this moment received that so large a Bill as 3m
is returned on Mr Dale merely from an Informality in the Indorsation - we
must get it rectified to morrow forenoon and Mr More thinks we may send it directly to Down and request them to
guarantee the Indorsation. Malcolm McMurich's Brother should have subscribed by procuracy.

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Down and request them to guarantee the
Indorsation - Malcolm McMurich's Brother should
have subscribed by procuracy -

Pray who is this that has advertised the
Bank Stock at 150 - it is humbling.

We cannot comprehend Andrew's circular - but
his Sons they say are steady Lands and I doubt not
will get into Credit. I hear they are never to send their own notes - but Purchasers' acceptances.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 5 July 1803

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5 July 1803

Mr More is set to work I know not what we would do without him or how he can possibly leave this. He has been looking over all John Pattison's Bills and is just sending him a note to meet with him, or rather send him a Note of the Bills due by him and where they are. We quite enter into your Idea of not burthening the Bank with the Bills in the hands of other Banks. The amount in our hands is too much. Mitchell it seems had remitted 49m to Smith towards retiring his drafts on him and as the latter will come back upon him to the amount they say of 126m he considers I suppose the 49m as locked up. How thankful I was this morning to find that Wardlaw's Hamburg Bill was paid, but how vexing to find by your Box Packet this moment received that so large a Bill as 3m is returned on Mr Dale merely from an Informality in the Indorsation. We must get it rectified to morrow forenoon and Mr More thinks we may send it directly to Down and request them to guarantee the Indorsation. Malcolm McMurich's Brother should have subscribed by procuracy.

Pray who is this that has advertised the Bank Stock at 150 - it is humbling.

We cannot comprehend Andrew's circular, but his Sons they say are steady lands and I doubt not will get into Credit. I hear they are never to send their own notes, but Purchasers' acceptances. A good plan.

I just hear poor King has at last stopt and I hear Burnthwait who kept his account with us, both in this Square but we must have little of their paper. What a time this is.

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RSM

5 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq

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6 July 1803

Unluckily John McMurch the first Indorser of the 3m Bill is at Grangemouth but as he is to be home this night we shall tomorrow get him to indorse it properly and send it back to yourself instead of Down & Co. that you may return it by Friday's post - we have got a 2^d Bill which may be indorsed properly - and I think you should desire Down & Co to guarantee the Indorsation if after all that should be necessary. There can be no doubt John McMurch has full power to act as Malcolm's Executor - it is provoking these Englishmen should not be satisfied with the Scotch Form. Indeed I fear it will be impossible to carry John Pattison thro. I closeted him with Mr More this forenoon and I know not what he has made of him - he talks of going off for London tomorrow with some others here to second the application for Exchequer Bills - Mr More & Mr Dale were induced to take these drafts on London from him towards carrying thro' his payments this week - many other Bills you will see are taken tho' not accepted, although these 10 days past we have been telling the People that they must get their drafts accepted before sent us - but most of them sent not accepted are from houses who are in no danger and who lodge the money with us - If the French have 45000 men in Hanover and Germany allows them to remain there - I have little doubt they will go forward to Denmark - but indeed I can hardly think a Thought on Politics - in that and in commercial respects every thing looks as dark as it can be. Gregory's Book at another time might have diverted me. At present I could not look on it -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 6 July 1803

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6 July 1803

Unluckily John McMurch the first Indorser of the 3m Bill is at Grangemouth but as he is to be home this night we shall tomorrow get him to indorse it properly and send it back to yourself instead of Down & Co, that you may return it by Friday's post. We have got a 2nd Bill which may be Indorsed properly, and I think should desire Down & Co to guarantee the Indorsation if after all that should be necessary. There can be no doubt John McMurch has full power to act as Malcolm's executor. It is provoking these Englishmen should not be satisfied with the Scotch Form.

Indeed I fear it will be impossible to carry John Pattison thro. I closeted him with Mr More this forenoon and I know not what he has made of him. He talks of going off for London tomorrow with some others here to second the application for Exchequer Bills. Mr More & Mr Dale were induced to take these drafts on London from him towards carrying thro' his payments this week. Many other bills you will see are taken tho' not accepted, although these 10 days past we have been telling the People that they must get their drafts accepted before sent us. But most of these sent not accepted are from houses who are in no danger and who lodge the money with us.

If the French have 45000 men in Hanover and Germany allows them to remain there, I have little doubt they will go forward to Denmark. But indeed I can hardly think a Thought on Politics - in that and in commercial respects every thing looks as dark as it can be. Gregory's Book at another time might have diverted me. At present I could not look on it.

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RSM

6 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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7 July 1803 —

To give me fresh discounts would just be at once to stop the whole Town and disabling the best of them from paying their Bills and then we should have nothing but lying over Bills - how far to go in supporting these houses that are perfectly safe and at same to renew to those who cannot otherwise take up their Bills is indeed a most difficult ~~part~~ part to act we do the best we can and are much relieved by Mr More's Counsel - but indeed the whole scene here is overwhelming beyond what you conceive - it is considerably darkened to day by the account of Earl & Barrell's Failure - we have many Bills on them - I wrote twice to Down & Co about them and they gave them the best Character - that Earl was a man of good landed property etc - hence we took bills on them with Freedom and several of the Drawers prove to be the People now in distress. You will see the large sum sent you in London and when you see Mr More he will tell you what squeezing we have had about taking bills not accepted. In the cases wherever we have departed from that rule, we were under the Necessity of doing so but have no reason to doubt the Bills will be accepted. I am vexed to see the sum so large.

I have shown Mr More your letter - he is disappointed by John Pattison not calling today, from which I am afraid he can make no proposals to satisfy Mr M - he is considerably in I see with Earl & Barrell -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 7 July 1803

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7 July 1803

To give no fresh discounts would just be at once to stop the whole Town and disabling the best of them from paying their Bills and then we should have nothing but lying over Bills. How far to go in supporting these houses that are perfectly safe and at same to renew to those who cannot otherwise take up their Bills is indeed a most difficult part to act. We do the best we can and are much relieved by Mr More's Counsel - but indeed the whole scene here is overwhelming beyond what you conceive - it is considerably darkened today by the account of Earl & Barrell's failure - we have many Bills on them. I wrote twice to Down & Co about them and they gave them the best Character - that Earl was a man of good landed property etc - hence we took bills on them with Freedom and several of the Drawers prove to be the People now in distress. You will see the large sum sent you in London and when you see Mr More he will tell you what squeezing we have had about taking bills not accepted. In the cases wherever we have departed from that rule, we were under the Necessity of doing so but have no reason to doubt the Bills will be accepted. I am vexed to see the sum so large.

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You have not sent the returned Bills by the Box to day - but
I am sure we shall have too many of them by your letter
tomorrow - I know of what consequence Mr More is
to you - but such is the state of matters here that indeed
my Friend it appears to me impossible that we can go on
without him here - my strength both in Body and mind is
quite inadequate even with the aid of worthy Mr Dale's
strong nerves, to stand under the overwhelming load - and
the Interest & security of the Bank render additional aid
altogether indispensable - Mr More must surely remain
some weeks if not months - O that it could be so
arranged that he could remain here altogether & dismiss me!

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 7 July 1803

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Page 2 of 2

You have not sent the returned bills by the Box to day - but I am sure we shall have too many of them by your letter tomorrow. I know of what consequence Mr More is to you, but such is the state of matters here that indeed my friend it appears to me impossible that we can go on without him here - my strength both in body and mind is quite inadequate even with the aid of worthy Mr Dale and his strong nerves, to stand under the overwhelming load - and the interest and security of the bank render additional aid altogether indispensable. Mr More must surely remain some weeks if not months - O that it could be so arranged that he could remain here altogether and dismiss me!

RSM
7 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq
P

Recd
7 July 1803

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8 July 1803

We have appointed tomorrow after the Bustle of the forenoon is over and before Mr Dale goes to the Country to look into the Bond Book John Pattison was with Mr More this forenoon but there were others with him and it was all about his going off to London tomorrow to enforce the application for Exchequer Bills - he said not a word about his own affairs - I have sent him a note to call on Mr More in the afternoon and say what he means to do - It would never do to relieve other Banks of his paper by taking the whole load upon us - if any arrangement is made with him which I have little expectation of Mr More will take care of that - Wardlaw & Sons told me yesterday they had yet got no particular state from Liddell of his affairs but expect it very soon when they will inform me - I look for little there. Wardlaw & Sons have found a kind of security for paying 15/ and they are to give their own notes for 2/ per £ - Every thing goes on here in the same dark distressing Train - yesterday Kibble Forster & Co a very respectable printing house stopt and their Fall will I fear have extensive effects. Kibble was one of the Heirs of Cross of Paisley and got 20 or 30m by him. The bills we discounted to the Collector's Son were their acceptances. After taking two or three £300s we stopt short, as it appeared evidently an operation for their accommodation. This morning Thomas Layton manufacturer and Alexander Mallison yarn merchant stopt - indeed I know not who will stand -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 8 July 1803

RB/837/1193

Page 1 of 2

8 July 1803

We have appointed tomorrow after the Bustle of the forenoon is over and before Mr Dale goes to the Country to look into the Bond Book.

John Pattison was with Mr More this forenoon but there were others with him and it was all about his going off to London tomorrow to enforce the application for Exchequer Bills. He said not a word about his own affairs. I have sent him a note to call on Mr More in the afternoon and say what he means to do. It would never do to relieve other Banks of his paper by taking the whole load upon us - if any arrangement is made with him which I have little expectation of Mr More will take care of that.

Wardlaw & Sons told me yesterday they had yet got no particular state from Liddell of his affairs but expect it very soon when they will inform me. I look for little there. Wardlaw & Sons have found a kind of security for paying 15/ and they are to give their own notes for 2/ per £.

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For their drafts of Henry Monteith & Co Watson Arthur & Co and
others not accepted we have got Bills lodged with us as a
security for their acceptance which was the most we could make
of it — I only wish these Bills may be duly presented
for acceptance — if we hear not that they are refused in
10 days it is understood we are to give back the
Bills lodged —

Wm Simpson Esq
July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq
J

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 8 July 1803

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Page 2 of 2

For these drafts of Henry Monteith & Co Watson Arthur & Co and others not accepted we have got bills lodged with us as a security for their acceptance, which was the most we could make of it. I only wish these Bills may be duly presented for acceptance. If we hear not that they are refused in 10 days it is understood we are to give back the bills lodged.

RSM
8 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq
P

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9th July 1803

Your Packet this morning was frightful - it is so fortunate however that
all the Bills returned in it are taken up but two three on Monteath
& Balfour & Co and Thos Layton & Jaffrey & Partin. But this account
of Stirling & Co's bill being returned is a sad damper - if things go on in
this way there can be no saying what the End will be -
Mr Dale has a letter from the young Stirlings today with a Sale
account - and a P.S. from the Father saying that from the
great sums locked up he wd be difficulted to make his payments
but that the new house wd conduct matters on such a
plan as wd make them easy &c - he says nothing of stopping
tho it may be inferred - by a letter I saw from Mr Owen's
partner at Manchester there was a Report there of the great
Horrocks MP - and perhaps the most extensive manufacturer
in Engl^d having stopt - if it is so as I much suspect it is
I know not who in the manufacturing line can be depended
on - the Bills we sent you on Stirling & Co yesterday were
from a very safe Indorser - Mr Dale expects back those
we sent you about 10 days ago due the 4th

Mr Pattison & Mr Grahame set off this afternoon for London
I refer you to what Mr More writes you on that Subject -
I have given Mr P's letters to Mr Thornton - Earl of
Montrose's Correspondents here that they expect very soon to liquidate
their affairs and resume payments - I wish it may be so - Earl
paid in 15m and B's worth 3m into the concern - I just
hear that George Leckie who was esteemed very opulent and
upon whom we certainly have several bills (tho I cannot look
into it at present) had stopt - he has shown a great Reversion
and his Crs have allowed him to go on - this seems to be
the way in which all such matters are now settled - it will
throw the whole commercial world into Confusion -
I am frightened too at the Extent of Bills on Findlay B & Co
but most of them I really believe are drawn upon the manufact^{rs}
lodging with them Bills at long dates upon the consigning houses

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 9 July 1803

RB/837/1195

Page 1 of 2

9 July 1803

Your packet this morning was frightful - it is so far well however that all the Bills returned in it are taken up but two three on Monteath Balfour & Co and Thos Layton & Jaffrey & Partin. But this account of Stirling & Co's bill being returned is a sad damper. If things go on in this way there can be no saying what the End will be.

Mr Dale has a letter from the young Stirlings today with a Sale account, and a PS from the Father saying that from the great sums locked up he would be difficulted to make his payments but that the new house would conduct matters on such a plan as would make them easy &c. He says nothing of stopping tho it may be inferred. By a letter I saw from Mr Owen's partner at Manchester there was a report there of the great Horrocks MP and perhaps the most extensive manufacturer in England having stopt - if it is so as I much suspect it is I know not who in the manufacturing line can be depended on. The Bills we sent you on Stirling & Co yesterday were from a very safe Indorser. Mr Dale expects back those we sent you about 10 days ago due the 4th.

Mr Pattison & Mr Grahame set off this afternoon for London. I refer you to what Mr More writes you on that subject. I have given Mr P our letters to Mr Thornton. Earl & Co write their Correspondents here that they expect very soon to liquidate their affairs and resume payments. I wish it may be so. Earl paid in 15m and Barrell 3m into the concern. I just hear that George Leckie who was esteemed very opulent and upon whom we certainly have several bills (tho I cannot look into it at present) has stopt. He has shown a great Reversion and his Creditors have allowed him to go on. This seems to be the way in which all such matters are now settled. It will throw the whole commercial world into Confusion.

I am frightened too at the Extent of Bills on Findlay B & Co but most of these I really believe are drawn upon the manufacturers lodging with them Bills at long dates upon the consigning houses

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in London - Whitfield & Co & John Bannatyne when here agreed
to accept upon such lodgements - and I know they over little sends
him such Bills to great amount - but indeed I think he goes
too far to accommodate them in that way - The Partners
are Jas Hopkirk - Andrew Buchanan Ardconnell - Dunlop
(Mousehill's Brother) and John Bannatyne - Thomas Hopkirk took
fright a few years ago and withdrew - his brother if he knew
all that is going on I am sure would not be easy -
Mr More is gone to Paisley this afternoon - I tremble when he
is out of my sight - it is impossible he can leave this for any
time - I have little hope of Exchequer Bills being got - and if
so I hardly know who will stand here - Patterson
need not attempt it - his matters look very ill indeed -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 9 July 1803

RB/837/1195

Page 2 of 2

in London. Whitfield & Co & John Bannatyne when here agreed to accept upon such lodgements, and I know Henry Monteith sends him such Bills to great amount, but indeed I think he goes too far to accommodate them in that way. The Partners are James Hopkirk, Andrew Buchanan Ardconnell, Dunlop (Mousehill's Brother) and John Bannatyne. Thomas Hopkirk took fright a few years ago and withdrew. His brother if he knew all that is going on I am sure would not be easy.

Mr More is gone to Paisley this afternoon. I tremble when he is out of my sight - it is impossible he can leave this for any time. I have little hope of Exchequer Bills being got, and if so I hardly know who will stand here. Patterson need not attempt it - his matters look very ill indeed.

RSM
9 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq
P

R.S.M.
9 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq

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11 July 1803

Two days without returns is indeed a wonder - but alas we cannot expect it will be soon so again - how sadly are times altered - I only mentioned the return of Stirling & Co's Bill in a note to David Walker - but I dare say there will be no Secret in the matter. Middleton & Tennent and McCulloch Penny & Co have both letters from Andrew to day requesting they will remit for taking up his Notes to them due in a few days and draw upon him a new - as in the present great scarcity of money he could not manage the payments. I know not what Penny has done, but on consulting Mr More we thought it best to take Middleton & Tennent's draft on them at 2/6 which is sent you and they got our draft on Down to remit him. We thought this better than to let the Bill be returned which tho I believe they are safe enough they could not at present easily take up. If Exchequer Bills are got Andrew will get a good share of them and that I hope will enable him to go on. If Exchequer Bills are not got, I suppose he must stop. Mr Dale's Bills due 7th must surely be paid or he would have had Intimation from him to the contrary -

We have not had a great Pressure to day but shall have enough of it in the Evening. Mr Archibald Smith has been in with Mr More - he is in good spirits and says by the 1st November all will be right and we shall have more money than we shall know what to do with - it will not be easy to bring my mind to this view of matters. Still no appearance of Smith from London, but still the other Parties here say there will be much more than sufficient in the 4 houses to pay all their Engagements. I much fear it will be otherwise. Oh for better times

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 11 July 1803

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Page 1 of 2

11 July 1803

Two days without returns is indeed a wonder, but alas we cannot expect it will be soon so again. How sadly are times altered. I only mentioned the return of Stirling & Co's Bill in a note to David Walker, but I dare say there will be no Secret in the matter. Middleton & Tennent and McCulloch Penny & Co have both letters from Andrew to day requesting they will remit for taking up his notes to them due in a few days and draw upon him a new - as in the present great scarcity of money he could not manage the payments. I know not what Penny has done, but on consulting Mr More we thought it best to take Middleton & Tennent's draft on them at 2/6 which is sent you and they got our draft on Down to remit him. We thought this better than to let the Bill be returned which tho I believe they are safe enough they could not at present easily take up. If Exchequer Bills are got Andrew will get a good share of them and that I hope will enable him to go on. If Exchequer Bills are not got, I suppose he must stop. Mr Dale's Bills due 7th must surely be paid or he would have had Intimation from him to the contrary.

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We have only £60 Silver in the house. Pray send more before Friday and order a weekly supply from London.
Mr More talks of leaving us - I do not see it is possible and I am sure his services cannot be so important any where else.

Wm Simpson Esq

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 11 July 1803

RB/837/1202

Page 2 of 2

We have only £60 Silver in the house. Pray send more before Friday and order a weekly supply from London.

Mr More talks of leaving us. I do not see it is possible and I am sure his services cannot be so important any where else.

RSM

11 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq

P

11 July 1803

Time says without return is indeed a wonder - but alas we cannot expect to see it again - how sadly our times are altered - I only remember the return of Mr Dale in a note to Mr Dale - but I dare say there will be no secret in the matter - Middleton & Tennant - and Mr Guller King to have both letters from Andrew to day requesting requesting they will remit for taking up his Notes to them due in a few days and draw upon them a sum - as in the present great scarcity of money he could not manage the payments - I know not what King has done - but on consulting Mr Stone in thought it best to take Middleton & Tennant's draft on them at 2 per cent is sent you and they got our draft on down to remit to him - we thought this letter had to let the Bill be returned which I believe they are safe enough they can get Andrew will get a good share of them and think I hope will enable him to go on - if Exchequer Bills are not got, I suppose he must stop - Mr Dale's Bills due yet must surely be paid - he had been had information from him to the contrary -

We have not had a great prospect to day but shall have enough of it in the evening - Mr Andrew Smith has been in with Mr Stone - he is in good spirits and says by the 1st Nov we will be right and our share have more money than we shall know what to do with - it will not be easy to bring any more to the view of matters - still no appearance of Smith from London - but still the other Parties had say there will be much more than sufficient in the 4 houses to pay all their Engagements - I would fear it will be otherwise - Oh for better times

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 12 July 1803

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12 July 1803

The returns this morning are all good excepting that on Auchie & Co which will be good in the end. But oh these returns how they press down my spirit!

I was thinking Andrew would make some appearance as a Gentleman told Mr Dale the other day that he might be sure Andrew would not stop without our hearing more of it. His bouncing sum of Figures I would not much value, the Credit side will be mostly Land & locked up Property which will not pay his Bills. But if he gets the Banks to renew his Bills I dare say it will be the best thing they can do and I should think with you there will be more of them in other hands than ours. I do not think we have any of Cross's Bills on him but such as he drew lately on lodging long dated London Bills with us to a larger amount. Gilbert Hamilton says by a note he has to day from Mr Forrester he thinks the Old Bank will settle with him upon his plan. He will soon be here I suppose harassing us and his customers here. We took no Bills on him but from Indorsers who were esteemed good at the time, but alas the Face of these Customers has been greatly changed of late. Most of the most active industrious enterprising manufacturers here are fallen. I was just now looking at the bills sent by Hunters & Co to D Stirling to get payment of tomorrow a good number of them and nearly one half are upon stopt houses or drawn by them. Comparing these with our Bills due tomorrow, ours is certainly the best collection but some of them will also be protested.

We have drawn much on Down to day - 3m in one Bill to the Glasgow Insurance Office - so much to be put into the Funds of their paid up Capital - much against Mr Dale's opinion. We had a Fight with Robertson Tall & Co about taking their 2m Bill not accepted, but they had not got time to get them accepted - they never had so little running on them they say, and it is of little consequence. Andrew Buchanan & John Bannatyne partners in both houses.

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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, 12 July 1803

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RSM

12 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq

P

Wm Simpson Esq
12 July 1803
RSM

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13 July 1803

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 13 July 1803

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13 July 1803

I shall expect to know tomorrow how the Banks settle with Andrew but with these enormous Engagements in whatever way you do I have no hope he will be carried thro' so as to make his payments even if the Bills are renewed as he proposes. How unfortunate for the industrious people in this quarter that two such madmen as Andrew and Smith should have got so much of their property - it is so far lucky that we have so little comparatively of his paper but if he falls it will have sad Effects here. Little are our manufacturers able to take up 60m returned Bills at present. The 3 notes sent you to day Mr More advised Mr Dale to negotiate although he never would pass them till within a few days of being due. Those to Craig are the same as Mr Dale's, they are connected in the Stanley Mill and Craig a very safe man. The sum of London Paper taken to day is very great, I should hardly have had courage to take so much had not Mr More been at our hand. Indeed if we had refused it, the people could not have gone on. The Paper however we believe to be all very good, for these Bills of John Monteith's & Henry Monteith's Bogle & Co on Findlay & Co we have good bills lodged in security for the Acceptance. Henry Monteith B Co have 10m running on Findlay & Co. We saw a letter from the latter to them acknowledging receipt of bills at longer dates and saying their draft of the 4th would be accepted. Tho Bannatyne does not write as if he were any way uneasy nor does he find fault for their drawing so much.

Rathbone Hughes & Co on whom you have a 3m Bill is the most respectable house in Liverpool, and the Indorsers we consider as the most solid People here. These are the most decent Bills of W Stirling & Sons we have got of a long time for them. I believe McNeil's Bills are on decent houses too, but we should hardly have had courage to take them if Mr More had not thought we could not do otherwise and certainly they could not otherwise have gone on. How painful this work.

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Mr More talks of leaving us tomorrow or Friday - it is painful
to me to think of keeping him from you and from his own
home - but such is the pressure upon us here and so
difficult it is often to know how to act, that I really do
not know how we can part with him for any time - I am
much afraid that without his sound head & good spirits to
resort to on every occasion, my spirit within me will sink
altogether - for I can yet see no light breaking thro' the
dark scene - and this affair of Andrews will add much
to the darkness - I am sure Mr More's presence can
be of no such consequence to the Bank any where else - O
that he could come altogether and take the station of
one very unfit for it - he is gone out with Mr Dale to dine at Rosebank
after making up a state of N^o 2 -

R. S. M.

13 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq

I beg of you if possible send us by tomorrow's Box a couple
Bags Sliver we are quite out of it and without a supply
before Friday when we give the People their weekly allowance, we
shall be obliged to refuse them altogether and that might have
a very bad Effect at present - pray order a supply from London

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 13 July 1803

RB/837/1204

Page 2 of 2

Mr More talks of leaving us tomorrow or Friday - it is painful to me to think of keeping him from you and from his own home, but such is the pressure upon us here and so difficult it is often to know how to act, that I really do not know how we can part with him for any time. I am much afraid that without his sound head and good spirits to resort to on every occasion, my spirit within me will sink altogether, for I can yet see no light breaking thro' the dark scene, and this affair of Andrew's will add much to the darkness. I am sure Mr More's presence can be of no such consequence to the bank any where else - O that he could come altogether and take the station of one very unfit for it. He is gone out with Mr Dale to dine at Rosebank after making up a state of No.2.

RSM

13 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq

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14 July 1803

The thought of Andrew Stirling and what is to follow his stop is like to turn my stomach - and it is not the better that Mr More is to leave us tomorrow. I know not how we shall do without him for something difficult is constantly occurring and it will be worse when Andrew's decision is taken and when we get accounts which I have little doubt we shall receive in 2 or 3 days, that John Pattison's mission is unsuccessful his stop must follow - The Cloud looks darker & darker in my view - tho' by a line from John Bannatyne London to day he concludes by saying "the panic is over here - things are brighter and money more plentiful" - I have got Mr More to agree not to leave us till afternoon tomorrow we have always hot work on Fridays - he will tell you of all our squeezings about getting Bills on London accepted - and what we have proposed to Robertson Tall & Co. Anderson & Co. are Anderson Fullerton & Dunlop owners of the Rothesay Cotton mill - and Anderson Bannatyne & Co who are partners with them in that Concern - the latter are manufacturers - but they may be both considered as one Co. they are so much connected and their manufactures were chiefly sold by Stirling & Co. Anderson was 1/3 heir to George Anderson. Dunlop is Cashier to Renfrew Bank, tho most of their Bills on Andrew I should suppose will be there. Bannatyne is Andrew's brother in law. We have some of their acceptances for Cotton from the W India Merchants I believe but not much of their paper. Their Fall is inevitable and it will much increase the alarm. I forgot to mention to you that Archibald Henderson died two days ago.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 14 July 1803

RB/837/1205

Page 1 of 2

14 July 1803

The thought of Andrew Stirling and what is to follow his stop is like to turn my stomach, and it is not the better that Mr More is to leave us tomorrow. I know not how we shall do without him for something difficult is constantly occurring and it will be worse when Andrew's decision is taken and when we get accounts which I have little doubt we shall receive in 2 or 3 days, that John Pattison's mission is unsuccessful his stop must follow. The Cloud looks darker & darker in my view. Tho' by a line from John Bannatyne London to day he concludes by saying "the panic is over here - things are brighter and money more plentiful". I have got Mr More to agree not to leave us till afternoon tomorrow - we have always hot work on Fridays. He will tell you of all our squeezings about getting Bills on London accepted, and what we have proposed to Robertson Tall & Co. Anderson & Co - are Anderson Fullerton & Dunlop owners of the Rothesay Cotton mill, and Anderson Bannatyne & Co who are partners with them in that Concern - the latter are manufacturers, but they may be considered as one Company they are so much connected, and their manufactures were chiefly sold by Stirling & Co. Anderson was 1/3 heir to George Anderson. Dunlop is Cashier to Renfrew Bank, tho most of their Bills on Andrew I should suppose will be there. Bannatyne is Andrew's brother in law. We have some of their acceptances for Cotton from the W India Merchants I believe but not much of their paper. Their Fall is inevitable and it will much increase the alarm. I forgot to mention to you that Archibald Henderson died two days ago.

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The two Bags Silver came after I wrote you yesterday very seasonably
but I beg you will send more, or order it from London
I should be very uneasy if we had no specie to give your own
heart it operated an alarm agt Banks - as I am told some
of the country people are talking rather freely of the Credit
of Banks — Mr More will leave me this Evening take a Ride
with him to the Elder's country house

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 14 July 1803

RB/837/1205

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The two Bags Silver came after I wrote you yesterday very seasonably but I beg you will send more or order it from London. I should be very uneasy if we had no specie to give just now lest it exacted an alarm against Banks, as I am told some of the country people are talking rather freely of the Credit of Banks. Mr More will leave me this Evening take a Ride with him to the Elder's country house.

RSM

14 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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Adm

14 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq

P



15 July 1803

Mr More has just left us - and I know not what I shall do - there is not an individual in the Kingdom I am sure under such a load and constantly exposed to such difficulties & distresses as I am nor can any be more unfit for the burden - it is impossible I can stand long under it - one would wish that Andrew's application might succeed, if it were not that I am persuaded if he was to get the sum he desires, it would be as a drop in the Bucket to his wants. Mr More will inform you of a sensible letter I had this morning from Mr T about the Exchequer Bills which and upon solid grounds gives little or no hope of them being obtained - if so John Pattison must fall - Mr T in a PS says they found Stirling's account so troublesome they had desired them to close it - we have two failures yesterday Fr Blackie & Co and Leckie Alexander & Co - (and one man can say how many will follow - I sent a note to Dunlop & Co this morning to write you a dispensing letter as you wish this return of the Bill on Rutherford is very vexing on sending to our Indorser he was clear for taking it up but the Drawer has just been with us and says that he has heard Mr Indorser was clear for taking it up - that when he heard of Rutherford's stop he was most thankful the Bill was paid some weeks before - and that as to the protest he would have nothing to do with it - one would wish to blame the man - but we shall keep the Bill a day or two till we see what the Indorser says Rutherford had gone over to the continent where his Property lies, it is expected he will pay all - Mr More will tell you of poor George being laid in Prison - some means must be fallen on to get him out

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 15 July 1803

RB/837/1206

Page 1 of 2

15 July 1803

Mr More has just left us, and I know not what I shall do - there is not an individual in the kingdom I am sure under such a load and constantly exposed to such difficulties and distresses as I am nor can any be more unfit for the burden - it is impossible I can stand long under it. One would wish that Andrew's application might succeed, if it were not that I am persuaded if he was to get the sum he desires, it would be as a drop in the Bucket to his wants. Mr More will inform you of a sensible letter I had this morning from Mr T about the Exchequer Bills which and upon solid Grounds gives little or no hope of them being obtained. If so John Pattison must fall. Mr T in a PS says they found Stirling's account so troublesome they had desired them to close it. We have two failures yesterday Fr Blackie & Co and Leckie Alexander & Co, and no man can say how many will follow. I sent a note to Dunlop S & Co this morning to write you a dispensing letter as you wish. This return of the Bill on Rutherford is very vexing. On sending to our Indorser he was clear for taking it up but the Drawer has just been with us and says that it was really for Goods sold Rutherford here, that when he heard of Rutherford's stop he was most thankful the Bill was paid some weeks before, and that as it would certainly have been paid if called for when due which the protest bears, he would have nothing to do with it. One really could not blame the man, but we shall keep the bill a day or two till we see what the Indorser says. Rutherford had gone over to the continent where his Property lies, it is expected he will pay all.

Mr More will tell you of poor George being laid in Prison - some means must be fallen on to get him out.

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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 1803

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Page 2 of 2

RSM

15 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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16 July 1803

I wish indeed my good friend I could bring my mind to view things in the same light as you do - it is perhaps my infirmity that it sh^d be otherwise - but as I cannot help that, it would certainly be for the interest and credit of all concerned that another could be found in my place better fitted for the station. I saw a letter to day from the deputies sent to London for the Exchequer Bills - their meeting with Mr Addington was put off till Thursday - they do not seem to entertain much hope. I am sorry for it as in my opinion a loan of Exchequer Bills is the only thing that will prevent an almost general Bankruptcy - I will throw it out only to you as the thing in my opinion most to be dreaded - The vast sum of lying over bills in the hands of all the Banks will no doubt be talked of and I much fear will soon excite an alarm in the minds of the country people and even shake the Credit of Bank Paper and occasion Runs upon the Banks - I have heard already of some of the smaller Banks being suspected in the Country - these country bodies cannot discriminate - if the Credit of a small Bank is affected, it will soon extend to a great one - and there is no saying what the consequences may be - as we hang upon Paper credit - it is in this view the obtaining Exchequer Bills appears to be of the greatest consequence to me, and I should think it well worth the Consideration of the two chartered Banks whether it would not be prudent in them to apply or at least second the application to Government merely with a view to support the Paper credit of the country. I do not think it well worth the consideration of the two chartered Banks whether it would not be prudent in them to apply or at least second the application to Government merely with a view to support the Paper credit of the country. I do not think it well worth the consideration of the two chartered Banks whether it would not be prudent in them to apply or at least second the application to Government merely with a view to support the Paper credit of the country.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 16 July 1803

RB/837/1207

Page 1 of 2

16 July 1803

I wish indeed my good friend I could bring my mind to view things in the same light as you do - it is perhaps my infirmity that it should be otherwise, but as I cannot help that, it would certainly be for the interest and credit of all concerned that another could be found in my place better fitted for the station. I saw a letter to day from the deputies sent to London for the Exchequer Bills. Their meeting with Mr Addington was put off till Thursday. They do not seem to entertain much hope. I am sorry for it as in my opinion a loan of Exchequer Bills is the only thing that will prevent an almost general Bankruptcy. I will throw it out only to you as the thing in my opinion most to be dreaded. The vast sum of lying over bills in the hands of all the Banks will no doubt be talked of and I much fear will soon excite an alarm in the minds of the country people and even shake the Credit of Bank Paper and occasion Runs upon the Banks. I have heard already of some of the smaller Banks being suspected in the Country. These country bodies cannot discriminate - if the Credit of a small Bank is affected, it will soon extend to a great one, and there is no saying what the consequences may be - as we hang upon Paper credit - it is in this view the obtaining Exchequer Bills appears to be of the greatest consequence to me, and I should think it well worth the Consideration of the two chartered Banks whether it would not be prudent in them to apply or at least second the application to Government merely with a view to support the Paper credit of the country.

John Pattison I find could bring forward satisfactory security for any sum of Exchequer Bills, if they are not granted I see nothing for it but his stopping whenever he returns - you see the Bills on London taken from him to day - his Lad declares they are the most undoubted and that he told Mr More that he trusted to our taking good London Paper from him I would not meddle with them but Mr Dale said he would answer for them and so put his initials to them.

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And Stirling has been with Mr Dale with his supersidene
and his Trust deed and you will know of it and have Mr
Dale subscribe first and I believe he is getting his other
Cred to subscribe - but his notes will now be coming
back upon us - Kirkman took up his returned Bill
to day without saying a word - The Mitchell Drawers
of the 3 Bills you mention is a rich house at Riga
who take up all their drafts - they were indorsed to us too
by a rich house Lawrie & Co here - I hope your
Counsellor got safe home last night and that he will sound get
back to us - I was sadly distressed with sickness & Reaching
in the midst of the bustle this forenoon which I imputed
to his being away

Admitted
up to
the
order
of
Mr
Dale
to
be
sent
in
the
box
this
morning

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, 16 July 1803
RB/837/1207
Page 2 of 2

Andrew Stirling has been with Mr Dale with his supersidene and his trust deed which you will know of. He would have Mr Dale subscribe first and I believe he is getting his other Creditors to subscribe, but his notes will now be coming back upon us. Kirkman took up his returned Bill to day without saying a word. The Mitchell Drawer of the 3 Bills you mention is a rich house at Riga who take up all their drafts. They were indorsed to us too by a rich house Lawrie & Co here. I hope your Counsellor got safe home last night and that he will sound get back to us. I was sadly distressed with Sickness & Reaching in the midst of the bustle this forenoon which I imputed to his being away.

A letter from Dunlop S & Co and a letter to Mr More were sent in the box this morning.

RSM
16 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq
P

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18 July 1803

I dare say there will ultimately be little loss by all the lyings over yet - but alas I fear they are only beginning - and what the amount may be before all is over - is more than I can think of

These two Bills of Mitchells ordered back to day we never thought of - but we have good Indorsers Wm Taylor & Co otherwise we would not have taken that bill on Horox. They say Horox had a Run upon ^{him} but paid nobly and is now over his difficulties. We have had a good deal of heartless work to day - not a transaction indeed is now pleasant and we are so often obliged to take bills in payment of bills that I know not how the sum of bills discounted will be enlarged. We have only 39m coming in this week - do as little as we may this night, before this day sennight there will of necessity be so many bills taken in payments that I know not what the sum may be.

Just now Willie Bogle has been at me with the inclosed Proposal for Monteath Balfour & Co which I beg you will return me in Course with your opinion whether we shall subscribe it as he wants us to begin it and says he is sure the other Banks will follow. I see no necessity for it but if it can be the means of settling their matters it would be pity to refuse it.

Mr More can tell you of the arrangement proposed by Mr Newbigging which it is still meant to carry thro, but this pause of Stirling & Co obliges them to alter it so far as to reduce the dividend to 8/6 per £ for they have 2m of their Bills and Willie Bogle has brought forward his friends 12 paid Bills for 8m instead of 6m as formerly proposed. You see from Archie Newbigging's letter how we are put to it about getting Bills accepted. Corbett Russell & Co have just been holding the same language & yet I know not how we can discriminate

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 18 July 1803

RB/837/1211

Page 1 of 2

18 July 1803

I dare say there will ultimately be little loss by all the lyings over yet, but alas I fear they are only beginning, and what the amount may be before all is over, is more than I can think of.

These two Bills of Mitchells ordered back to day we never thought of, but we have good Indorsers William Taylor & Co otherwise we would not have taken that bill on Horox. They say Horox had a Run upon him but paid nobly and is now over his difficulties. We have had a good deal of heartless work to day - not a transaction indeed is now pleasant and we are so often obliged to take bills in payment of bills that I know not how the sum of bills discounted will be enlarged. We have only 39m coming in this week - do as little as we may this night, before this day sennight there will of necessity be so many bills taken in payments that I know not what the sum may be.

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No Indian Corn here - Meikle the Baker had the other day
a Cargo of wheat from Virginia in company with Robert Bog, I sent
to him - he says no Indian corn came - but he thinks Mr
Bog has some Indian corn flour - but that suits you?
I beseech you send us more Silver - for I know not
how we can get forward without it - The Collector wanted
£30 to day to pay the Chelsea pensioners which we
would not give him - but should also send more
notes - and send us a couple thousand of notes as
we have none of them -

I don't recollect such intense heat as we have had
these two days -

It is most vexing that Auchie & Co's dollars
are not sold - I wish you would write Down
to sell them rather as keep them longer -
rather as keep them longer -

Wm Simpson Esq
P

Wm Simpson Esq

The deputies write they had been with Mr Addington who received them very affably heard their whole story - but positively refused upon the Grounds formerly mentioned - they then went to Sir W Pulteney who promised to speak to the Minister and do what he could for them - but I have no hope -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 18 July 1803

RB/837/1211

Page 1 of 2

No Indian Corn here. Meikle the Baker had the other day a Cargo of wheat from Virginia in Company with Robert Bog, I sent to him - he says no Indian corn came, but he thinks Mr Bog has some Indian corn flour - would that suit you?

I beseech you send us more Silver, for I know not how we can get forward without it. The Collector wanted £30 to day to pay the Chelsea pensioners which we would not give him. We shall also need more notes, and send us a couple thousand Guinea notes as we have none of them.

I don't recollect such intense heat as we have had these two days.

RSM
18 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq
P

The deputies write they had been with Mr Addington who received them very affably heard their whole story - but positively refused upon the Grounds formerly mentioned - they then went to Sir W Pulteney who promised to speak to the Minister and do what he could for them, but I have no hope.

It is most vexing that Auchie & Co's dollars are not sold. I wish you would write Down to sell them at the price they mentioned rather as keep them longer.

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19 July 1803

The deputies write to day that they give up all hope of obtaining Exchequer Bills - Sir Wm Pulteney entered very warmly into the business but found he could make nothing of Mr Addington - he proposed they should try if they could get a rich Gideon or some such to lend the Banks a million - to enable them to support the Traders - such Nonsense - John Pattison's clerk is just now working Mr Dale with his Bills and he says if he gets thro' this week he sees his way clear before him without the aid of Exchequer Bills - this also is nonsense - we are glad however to take any decent Bills from him for the returned Bill on Papillon which he has taken up - and most of the other Bills returned to day are taken up - Andrew Stirling's Bills will now be coming back upon us - and Earl & Barrell's and Andrew Rutherford & Co, in what a scene of vexating distress and no prospect of things coming round - Coutts will make nothing of Addington - you see we have taken Archie Newbigging's Bills to day unaccepted - there's no doubt they are good - but I know not how we can follow a different route with him from what we adopt with others - it is a vexing Business - Robert Lindsay has just given me in a new proposed arrangement respecting Lindsay Dalrymple & Co which I shall send you in tomorrow's Box to show to the Counsellor. There are so many things of that kind coming constantly in upon me, that I have not head for it.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 19 July 1803

RB/837/1212

Page 1 of 2

19 July 1803

The deputies write today that they give up all hope of obtaining Exchequer Bills. Sir William Pulteney entered very warmly into the business but found he could make nothing of Mr Addington. He proposed they should try if they could get a rich Gideon or some such to lend the Banks a million to enable them to support the Traders. Such Nonsense. John Pattison's clerk is just now working Mr Dale with his Bills and he says if he gets thro' this week he sees his way clear before him without the aid of Exchequer Bills - this also is nonsense - we are glad however to take any decent Bills from him for the returned Bill on Papillon which he has taken up, and most of the other Bills returned to day are taken up. Andrew Stirling's Bills will now be coming back upon us, and Earl & Barrell's and Andrew Rutherford & Co - what a scene of vexating distress and no prospect of things coming round. Coutts will make nothing of Addington. You see we have taken Archie Newbigging's Bills to day unaccepted - there's no doubt they are good, but I know not how we can follow a different route with him from what we adopt with others. It is a vexing Business. Robert Lindsay has just given me in a new proposed arrangement respecting Lindsay Dalrymple & Co which I shall send you in tomorrow's Box to show to the Counsellor. There are so many things of that kind coming constantly in upon me, that I have not head for it.

I am glad Smith is at last in his way higher. We shall see what sort of states he produces. They will not easily convince me that we shall get full payment. Mitchell's I suppose is just such another state as John Pattison's and it is likely both will come to the same end. What misery these over Traders bring upon themselves and all connected with them.

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The Box is come with the sales of the dollars but what to make of them I know not it is provoking that Down & Co will not mention on each sale account to whom they were deliverable. I shall look into the copies of our letters to you and see if we can make it out. They are all I think from Auchie & Co and Alexander & Co - Thanks for the silver and Guinea Notes I but I pray you send more silver and order a couple of hundred a week from London. Little comes in now I suspect the people are hoarding.

Wm Simpson Esq

R & M

19 July 1803

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 19 July 1803

RB/837/1212

Page 2 of 2

The Box is come with the sales of the dollars but what to make of them I know not it is provoking that Down & Co will not mention on each sale account to whom they were deliverable. I shall look into the copies of our letters to you and see if we can make it out. They are all I think from Auchie & Co and Alexander & Co. Thanks for the silver and Guinea Notes, but I pray you send more silver and order a couple of hundred a week from London. Little comes in now I suspect the people are hoarding.

RSM

19 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq

P

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Mr More will recollect what passed with
Robert Lindsay about Lindsay D & Co's affairs
inclosed in the state which he saw - and the new
proposal he bro't me this morning - Mr P^r seems
w^h to throw the whole advance upon the Thistle
Glas, I know not how much of their Paper Mr Graham
may see but I think Mr More saw that we
had only one or two of their Bills here, and
you took a large one to remit the value to
Smith in May last - it w^old seem unreasonable
for the R^o Bank to take a larger share of the
Advance than corresponds with the Bills in
our hands - John Leckie writer and a man
of considerable landed Property is a Partner
which makes the Company safe ultimately

Tuesday Even

I send you the inclosed sensible letter from
Mr Thornton which you need not return

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

Undated: attributed to 19 July 1803 based on content

RB/837/1214

Page 1 of 2

Mr More will recollect what passed with Robert Lindsay about Lindsay D & Co's affairs. Inclosed is the state which he saw, and the new proposal he brought me this morning. The plan seems to be to throw the whole advance upon the Thistle and us. I know not how much of their Paper Mr Graham may have but I think Mr More saw that we had only one or two of their Bills here, and you took a large one to remit the value to Smith in May last. It would seem unreasonable for the R Bank to take a larger share of the advance than corresponds with the bills in our hands. John Leckie writer and a man of considerable landed property is a partner which makes the company safe ultimately.

Tuesday Evening.

I send you the inclosed sensible letter from Mr Thornton which you need not return.

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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

Undated: attributed to 19 July 1803 based on content

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William Simpson Esq
R Bank

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20 July 1803

Your Packet this morning was too much for me - yet I see no loss that can ultimately arise from these returned Bills - that on John Pattison is taken up as are several others and the whole that came yesterday were retired excepting one on John Monteith which he promises to take up tomorrow - I suspect the Bill on Donaldson returned on him to day is one of those provided for by his letter which Mr More carried with him - I have sent to him to call and inform me - you see what a sum on London we have taken from him - it is astonishing the Extent of these People's Transactions - but he has lodged good Bills with us in Security for the Acceptance of those not accepted - I hope we are safe with John Muir - but indeed at present I suspect every body connected with Glasgow - these Bills on London from John Pattison were taken in payment of the £500 returned Bill on him to day his clerk assures us they are on and accepted by his best Customers undoubted People - This of refusing the drafts of the most respectable houses not accepted subjects us to a sad outcry - Henry Monteith has put a large Bundle of Bills into our hands in Security for the Acceptance of his £1200 draft on Findlay & Co - we have settled it with Newbigging that his printing house is to guarantee the acceptance of his muslin house's drafts and vice versa. I have given him the letter to Monteith Balfour & Co subscribed and he soon expects to get all their matters arranged. The same story of Andrew's house going on came to us from another quarter to day - but I give it no credit.

I have a letter from Robert Graham saying that Sir W Pulteney had called on them late on Saturday night to tell them that Government were at last alarmed and would do something for the support of Glasgow but not in the way of Exchequer Bills, and he desired him to write me by express to support the People of Property as relief would be given in a few days - so Bob wrote by Sunday's mail coach

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 20 July 1803

RB/837/1215

Page 1 of 2

20 July 1803

Your Packet this morning was too much for me, yet I see no loss that can ultimately arise from these returned Bills – that on John Pattison is taken up as are several others and the whole that came yesterday were retired excepting one on John Monteith which he promises to take up tomorrow. I suspect the Bill on Donaldson returned on him to day is one of those provided for by his letter which Mr More carried with him. I have sent to him to call and inform me. You see what a sum on London we have taken from him – it is astonishing the Extent of these People’s transactions – but he has lodged good bills with us in security for the acceptance of those not accepted. I hope we are safe with John Muir, but indeed at present I suspect every body connected with Glasgow. These Bills on London from John Pattison were taken in payment of the £500 returned Bill on him to day his clerk assures us they are on and accepted by his best Customers undoubted People. This of refusing the drafts of the most respectable houses not accepted subjects us to a sad outcry. Henry Monteith has put a large Bundle of Bills into our hands in Security for the Acceptance of his £1200 draft on Findlay & Co. We have settled it with Newbigging that his printing house is to guarantee the acceptance of his muslin house’s drafts and vice versa. I have given him the letter to Monteith Balfour & Co subscribed and he soon expects to get all their matters arranged. The same story of Andrew’s house going on came to us from another quarter to day – but I give it no credit.

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but I have no hopes from Sir William's schemes - or from any thing but Exchequer Bills as in '93 - Sir Wm's idea will be a private loan to the Banks from the Bank of Engl^d or from Govt - that wd not answer

what a press was upon us to day - for 2 or 3 hours there were not fewer than half a dozen Peoples at my desk all pressing for aid in one way or other - you can have no idea of the scene I am pleased to see however all the returned Bills this morning are taken up but two - one on Oliphant W & Co on Earl the other Langton on Fraser. I hope there will be no loss by them, but no word yet of Smith from London

Recd Mr.
20 July 1803
only one Bill given out to protest this night and a good one

Wm Simpson Esq

P

I enclose you Mr Graham's letter - how could it come into Sir William's head to desire him to write me in that manner - as if the Fate of Glasgow was in my hands - but the deputies it wd seem have frightened him completely there was a strong letter from Boyd Alexander to Addington which he would receive on Saturday and it might have effect

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 20 July 1803

RB/837/1215

Page 2 of 2

but I have no hopes from Sir William's schemes, or from anything but Exchequer bills as in '93 - Sir William's idea will be a private loan to the Banks from the Bank of England or from Government - that would not answer.

What a pressure upon us to day - for 2 or 3 hours there were not fewer than half a dozen people at my desk all pressing for aid in one way or other - you can have no idea of the scene.

I am pleased to see however all the returned Bills this morning are taken up but two - one Oliphant W & Co on Earl the other Langton on Fraser. I hope there will be no loss by them, but no word yet of Smith from London.

RSM
20 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq
P

I inclose you Bob Graham's letter - how could it come into Sir Williams's head to desire him to write me in that manner, as if the Fate of Glasgow was in my hands. But the deputies it would seem have frightened him completely. There was a strong letter from Boyd Alexander to Addington which he would receive on Saturday and it might have effect.

Only one Bill given out to protest this night and a good one.

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My Dear Sir

I wrote you this by desire of Sir
Wm Pulteney - You would be informed by Mr. Findlay
of our proceedings till yesterday evening - After
waiting some hours in the lobby of the house of commons
last night Sir Wm. desired us to go home as he did not
think he could get any thing settled till Monday - But between
nine and ten last night he called at our lodgings and desired
me to write to you and to mention to you in confidence
that a plan was arranging of affording government assistance
to the trade of Glasgow tho not by Exchequer bills and that
it would be finally determined on Monday - That
it was thought absolutely necessary in the present situation
of affairs on the continent that any embarrassment of trade
& credit and any interference of government to aid them
should be kept as secret as possible and that we should
therefore have this view - In the meantime he advised
that I should instantly forward this intelligence to you by
express that such use might be made of it as might prevent
houses of property from stopping in the interval
- But on consulting with Mr Pattison he was of opinion
that no express which we could procure would reach you
sooner than Tuesday evening, and that it would therefore
answer the same purpose to write you by this
day's mail coach - I send this by a parcel in
the mail coach & a duplicate by express to Barnet
to be put into the post office there - I have commu:
nicated the same intelligence to Mr. Findlay
and with much respect I am My Dear Sir

London July 17 1803
Friday morning

Yours obliged & obedient
Robert Grahame

Letter from Robert Graham in London to Robert Scott Moncrieff, 17 July 1803, enclosed by RSM in his
letter to William Simpson of 20 July 1803

RB/837/1208

Page 1 of 2

[see RB/837/1215 for the letter in which this was enclosed]

My Dear Sir

I write you this by desire of Sir William Pulteney. You would be informed by Mr Findlay of our proceedings
till yesterday evening. After waiting several hours in the lobby of the House of Commons last night Sir
William advised us to go home as he did not think he could get any thing settled till Monday. But between
nine and ten last night he called at our lodgings and desired me to write to you and to mention to you in
confidence that a plan was arranging of affording Government assistance to the trade of Glasgow tho not
by Exchequer bills and that it would be finally determined on Monday. That it was thought absolutely
necessary in the present situation of affairs on the continent that any embarrassment of trade & credit had
any interference of government to aid them should be kept as secret as possible and that we should
therefore have this in view. In the meantime he advised that I should instantly forward this intelligence to
you by answer that such use might be made of it as might prevent houses of property from stopping in the
interval.

But on consulting with Mr Pattison he was of opinion that no express which we could procure would reach
you sooner than Tuesday evening, and that it would therefore answer the same purpose to write you by
this day's mail coach. I send this by a parcel in the mail coach & a duplicate by express to Barnet to be put
into the post office there. I have communicated the same intelligence to Mr Finlay

And with much respect I am My Dear Sir

Your obliged & obedient servant

Robert Grahame

London July 17 1803

Friday Morning

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Letter from Robert Graham in London to Robert Scott Moncrieff, 17 July 1803, enclosed by RSM in his letter to William Simpson of 20 July 1803 (RB/837/1215)

RB/837/1208

Page 2 of 2

[see RB/837/1215 for the letter in which this was enclosed]

R Graham
17 July 1803

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22 July 1803

Mr T has sent me a copy of his letter to you with the inclosed and Bob Grahame writes to R Finlay a full account of the conversation at the Bank in which Bob made a very good appearance for the Banks and stated the Improbability of their needing or taking any aid from the Bank of England or taking the responsibility of lending out the money if they were to get it - it is a foolish scheme of Sir William's and will I doubt not end in nothing but you will say to Mr T what you think proper. I wrote him on Wednesday that any measure but the issue of Exchequer Bills as in '93 appeared to me altogether ineffectual - John Pattison writes he is at all events to be home on Sunday - Mr Dale has taken a great sum of Bills from him to day to keep them on till his return, but they are very good Bills and nearly the whole goes to pay his acceptances & returned Bills in this office. Carrick took the Bills he gave him in payment of his acceptances at the Ship. For the £1000 sent you on Thursday B & Co we have Bills to a greater amount lodged in security for the acceptance mostly indeed Bills upon Perth & Dundee, but they assure us good People, and they send Findlay & Co by this post such good paper as I have no doubt they will accept upon. John Monteith has given us Robert Thomson & Sons' Guarantee for the acceptance of all bills he may draw on London but only to extent of £1000 - this besides the former guarantee - he says he has 30m value of goods ready for the Market and mostly ordered and for which he would have been in cash long ere now had Hamburg been open. To what extent these Monteiths go. Henry has lodged good Bills with us in security for the £600 sent you. Most of the Bills returned this morning are taken up but oh it is unpleasant work. Your morning Packet is always like to make me throw up my breakfast

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 22 July 1803

RB/837/1216

Page 1 of 2

22 July 1803

Mr T has sent me a copy of his letter to you with the inclosed and Bob Grahame writes to R Finlay a full account of the conversation at the Bank in which Bob made a very good appearance for the Banks, and stated the Improbability of their needing or taking any aid from the Bank of England or taking the responsibility of lending out the money if they were to get it. It is a foolish scheme of Sir William's and will I doubt not end in nothing but you will say to Mr T what you think proper. I wrote him on Wednesday that any measure but the issue of Exchequer Bills as in '93 appeared to me altogether ineffectual. John Pattison writes he is at all events to be home on Sunday. Mr Dale has taken a great sum of Bills from him to day to keep them on till his return, but they are very good Bills and nearly the whole goes to pay his acceptances & returned Bills in this office. Carrick took the Bills he gave him in payment of his acceptances at the Ship. For the £1000 sent you on Findlay B & Co we have Bills to a greater amount lodged in security for the acceptance mostly indeed Bills upon Perth & Dundee, but they assure us good People, and they send Findlay & Co by this post such good paper as I have no doubt they will accept upon. John Monteith has given us Robert Thomson & Sons' Guarantee for the acceptance of all bills he may draw on London but only to extent of £1000 - this besides the former guarantee - he says he has 30m value of goods ready for the Market and mostly ordered and for which he would have been in cash long ere now had Hamburg been open. To what extent these Monteiths go. Henry has lodged good Bills with us in security for the £600 sent you. Most of the Bills returned this morning are taken up but oh it is unpleasant work. Your morning Packet is always like to make me throw up my breakfast.

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Robert Lindsay called as did Archie Graham about Lindsay Dalrymple Co's Proposal - I told them the Bank would agree to it but only to the extent of their Bills with you & us - did not Mr More take a note of the bills here - if he can give me it, it will save my looking over the Bills again -
James Smith has not been at Manchester - he left London on Monday was to be at Carlisle yesterday - wished not to come to Glasgow but to meet his Friends some where else - they however sent Thomas Watson to Carlisle for him yesterday
I shall attend to Mr R's wishes about No. 2
Mr Dale and some other very solid People here have engaged for D Allan & Co as proposed to Mr McKinlay, not from any regard to Sandy Allan but merely to keep up the Business for his worthy wife & large family - Mr D therefore wishes Mr McKinlay may agree

RSM
22 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq

You will not forget to send us more silver for next week - otherwise we shall not know what to do - I suppose you will be obliged to order it again from London and the sooner the better

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 22 July 1803

RB/837/1216
Page 2 of 2

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RSM
22 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq
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27 Bills returned from 15 to 22nd July amount £ 8702. 8. 1

Lying over to No 2

D Walker & Co on Earl & Barrell 253.1.2

Lindsay S & Co on S Lindsay & Co to Auchie & Co 392.17.6

Oliphant Watson & Co on Earl & Barrell 643.12.7

Geo Fraser & Co to Tho Layton 189.16.6

Lindsay S & Co and Lindsay & Co 812.12.7 2292 --- 4

taken up £ 6410. 7. 9

23 July 1803 -

The above is a state of these horrible Returns since Mr More left us to last night - the days are what we expected excepting that on Thomson & White indorsed by Oliphant W & Co and Wm Marshall & Co who will certainly make it good in the end but when we cannot say. I am thankful however that so much has been taken up these 8 days past but Oh it is unpleasant work. Johnston & Cross who took up from us a returned Bill on Smith Lindsay & Co made me discharge it from him last night as he said he was to order a Horning upon it and bring them to a point. I have not yet heard of Smith's arrival and I auger no good from his delay - Wm Smith told me the other night that he could not account for his Brother's Backwardness in bringing forward his states - how or where he could have lost money - I shall say O of what the Bank may do with the Bank of England, but I cannot see day light thro' that scheme and was very sorry when I heard that Sir W Pulteney suggested it. The Royal Bank is already far too deep with the Glasgow Trade - it would be folly I think in them to take the Responsibility of lending out more to the Trade here than what is necessary to secure their former Advances even if the Bank of England were to give them the money - one word from the Deputies to day from which it is concluded they are on their way down without doing any thing

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 23 July 1803

RB/837/1218

Page 1 of 2

27 Bills returned from 15 to 22nd July amount £8702.8.1

Lying over to No.2

D Walker & Co on Earl & Barrell 253.1.2

Lindsay S & Co on S Lindsay & Co to Auchie & Co 392.17.6

Oliphant Watson & Co on Earl & Barrell 643.12.7

Geo Fraser & Co to Tho Layton 189.16.6

Lindsay S & Co on S Lindsay & Co 812.12.7

2292---4

Taken up £6410.7.9

23 July 1803

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I beg of you try to find an opportunity of sending us west
a supply of Notes there are no large ones in the Chest and
but 3m small - and mind Silver - we shall need
a supply for Tuesday - Mr Bog has just called
in his way to the Highlands with his wife - he has no Indian
Corn but on his return will inquire and if any in
Greenock he will get it for you -

Adm
Cash July 23 1803

Wm Simpson Esq

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 23 July 1803

RB/837/1218
Page 2 of 2

I beg of you try to find an opportunity of sending us west a supply of notes. There are no large ones in the Chest and but 3m small - and mind Silver - we shall need a supply for Tuesday.

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RSM
23 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq
P

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25 July 1803

Oh - these returns - and the whole dark scene here - it is impossible I think my Frame can stand it long - we hear to day of a Carlisle Bank Lark & Co having stopt. If so, some people here will be involved with them. Mr Pattison returned yesterday morning. He has not yet called but I hear he is very low from having got nothing done in London. He talks they say of renewing his Bills, but I don't believe it is possible he can be carried on in that way. I have begged Mr Dale may treat with him when he calls - it's pity Mr More carried all the notes of his bills with him - Mr Dale could better judge what should be done on seeing them. I wish Mr More were west again. Bob Grahame comes home another road. The only letter he wrote me I sent you - his conversation at the Bank of England was stated in his letter to R Finlay.

James Smith came yesterday. I do not hear that any proposal is yet fixed upon for these houses, but I expect nothing good from that quarter although they say all the houses here have certainly been making a great deal of money since '93. It must all have been lost in London. We shall know more of it tomorrow. Glad I am you are so strong in London but this demand for specie is alarming - I have told Lumsdain to give out as sparingly as possibly indeed he must do so for we have none to give. The People are certainly hoarding and that may produce dreadful Effects. Much as I dislike 5/ notes I cannot but think the issuing of them would relieve us of the pressure for silver. I dare say it will be found necessary.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 25 July 1803

RB/837/1219

Page 1 of 2

25 July 1803

Oh - these returns - and the whole dark scene here - it is impossible I think my Frame can stand it long - we hear to day of a Carlisle Bank Lark & Co having stopt. If so, some people here will be involved with them. Mr Pattison returned yesterday morning. He has not yet called but I hear he is very low from having got nothing done in London. He talks they say of renewing his Bills, but I don't believe it is possible he can be carried on in that way. I have begged Mr Dale may treat with him when he calls - it's pity Mr More carried all the notes of his bills with him - Mr Dale could better judge what should be done on seeing them. I wish Mr More were west again. Bob Grahame comes home another road. The only letter he wrote me I sent you - his conversation at the Bank of England was stated in his letter to R Finlay.

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From the payment of these large Bills taken from Auchie Ure & Co we have the Guarantee of all the Trustees upon their Estate - that Bill of Lading is an irregular kind of Bill but John Bannatyne who got it accepted wrote them that it might be negotiated the same as a Bill - and Hibberts the accepters are great people Auchie & Co's first instalment is next week
John Pattison has been calling for Mr Dale who says he is more composed than ever he saw him - he was going to all the banks to try if they would renew his Bills till he could get his Goods sold - and if they declined it he saw nothing for it but to stop - I have no expectation he will get all the Banks to renew
Mr Pattison has been again with Mr Dale he says if the R Bank would lend him 15m on his heritable objects it would carry him thro' - Mr D bids me mention this to you but I see nothing can be done

Adelle
25 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 25 July 1803

RB/837/1219

Page 1 of 2

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Mr Pattison has been again with Mr Dale he says if the R Bank would lend him 15m on his heritable objects it would carry him thro' - Mr D bids me mention this to you but I see nothing can be done.

RSM
25 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq
P

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26 July 1803

Several lying over Bills have come on No.2 - and I sent you the
 Note up to the 22nd. The two did to day and many more must come
 upon it - as soon as I can get leisure I shall send you a
 Continuation of the State Mr More carried with him - Oh that I
 could think of it as good Mr R does - but really the
 scene of darkness & difficulty here disqualifies my mind from
 judging properly - I tremble at every Bill we take
 we are forced to take as our refusing w^d occasion a general
 stop - we have only 32m coming in this week and we
 have done ~~about that~~ ^{34m} to day - and before next Monday
 we shall have many a Bill to renew - but a considerable sum
 shall come in next week - These Transactions of McNeil & Co
 are quite overwhelming, besides a £1000 good Glasgow Bill
 we discounted to them - they lost to day three large Bills intended
 which we at first refused - but Bob McCall told us that they
 were upon the most respectable Bankers in London for Goods assigned
 by their house Henry & Co and that if we did not do them they
 could not make their payments to day - that house is evidently in
 a deep Circulation Business - I have not leisure to go on with
 them - and yet were we to withhold it w^d produce the most
 serious consequences - when I mentioned our situation with
 them before you, thought it most advisable to go on - do
 you think so still? I wish they could be got to make their
 application at Edin - for I know not what it is right for us to do, and yet this is but one of many such distressing
 Connections - from morning to night I do not meet with a pleasing
 occurrence or countenance - I had a Note from
 Dunlop & Co this morning desiring me to meet with them and
 some Friends at 1 o'clock to look into their states - it was
 impossible for me to leave the Bank - Penny tells me he hears the states
 are very bad, that Smith has lost a great deal by bad debts in London which he concealed from his
 Partners here and they concealed from him their large Payments of Colin Dunlop & Sons' debts. This is
 what I expected.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 26 July 1803

RB/837/1220

Page 1 of 2

26 July 1803

Several lying over Bills have come on No.2 since I sent you the note up to the 22nd. The two returned to day and many more must come upon it. As soon as I can get leisure I shall send you a continuation of the state Mr More carried with him. Oh that I could think of it as good Mr R does, but really the scene of darkness & difficulty here disqualifies my mind from judging properly. I tremble at every Bill we take and yet we are forced to take as our refusing would occasion a general stop. We have only 32m coming in this week and we have done 34m to day - and before next Monday we shall have many a Bill to renew - but a considerable sum should come in next week. These Transactions of McNeil & Co are quite overwhelming, besides a £1000 good Glasgow Bill we discounted to them, they brought to day these large Bills on London which we at first refused, but Bob McCall told us that they were upon the most respectable Brokers in London for Goods assigned by their house Henry & Co and that if we did not do them they could not make their payments to day - that house is evidently in a deep Circulation Business. I have not nerves to go on with them, and yet were we to withhold it would produce the most serious consequences. When I mentioned our situation with them before you thought it most advisable to go on - do you think so still? I wish they could be got to make their application at Edinburgh, for I know not what it is right for us to do, and yet this is but one of many such distressing Connections. From morning to night I do not meet with a pleasing occurrence or countenance. I had a note from Dunlop S & Co this morning desiring me to meet with them and some friends at 1 o'clock to look into their states - it was impossible for me to leave the Bank. Penny tells me he hears the states are very bad, that Smith has lost a great deal by bad debts in London which he concealed from his Partners here and they concealed from him their large Payments of Colin Dunlop & Sons' debts. This is what I expected.

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I have not yet seen J. Pattison - his clerk called and settled for that
bill on Bendor who agreed with him in London to accept the
own Bill on his allowing a large discount on the Goods sent him -
his clerk says R Finlay is much against his stopping but I do not see how it can possibly be prevented. He has some hopes it seems that the Bank will advance 15m on his heritage - which I dare say they will not think of. I have a letter from Mr T which I shall send you in tomorrow's Box - he is anxious to know what you say to his last. I suppose you would write him that the Bank would require no aid from the Bank of England.

you have a letter from Findlay Bannatyne Co agreeing to accept Robertson Tall & Co's bills to extent of 10m. I see a bill of John Pattison's creditors due to day not paid and will no doubt be sent to Mr Nimmo to protest. Another due tomorrow which unluckily we discounted to King.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 26 July 1803

RB/837/1220

Page 1 of 2

I have not yet seen John Pattison. His clerk called and settled for that bill on Bendor who agreed with him in London to accept the own Bill on his allowing a large discount on the Goods sent him. His clerk says R Finlay is much against his stopping but I do not see how it can possibly be prevented. He has some hopes it seems that the Bank will advance 15m on his heritage - which I dare say they will not think of. I have a letter from Mr T which I shall send you in tomorrow's Box - he is anxious to know what you say to his last. I suppose you would write him that the Bank would require no aid from the Bank of England.

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RSM

26 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq

P

I have your Packet per Box - many thanks to Mr R for the Enclosure, but alas how differently do things look now from what they did in '97.

I have just now a note to attend a meeting of Oliphant Watson & Co's creditors tomorrow at 10 o'clock.

RSM

26 July 1803

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20081
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Wm Simpson Esq

I have your Packet per Box - many thanks to Mr R for the Enclosure but alas how differently do things look now from what they did in '97

You may return me the enclosed in the Box
at your Leisure - what do you think of her Expedient?
I really believe it is the best that could be thought
of but I trust there will be no Occasion for it
In the Event of a serious Invasion - no man can
guess what the Consequences may be - but sufficient
for the day are the Evils thereof - and so many of
these Evils are momently coming upon me that
I cannot look forward -

Wednesday morning

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 27 July 1803

RB/837/1229

Page 1 of 2

[This letter is undated but has been attributed to 27 July 1803 based on its content and reference to Wednesday morning]

You may return me the inclosed in the Box at your Leisure. What do you think of this Expedient? I really believe it is the best that could be thought of but I trust there will be no occasion for it. In the event of a serious invasion, no man can guess what the consequences may be, but sufficient for the day are the evils thereof, and so many of these evils are momently coming upon me that I cannot look forward.

Wednesday morning

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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 1803

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28 July 1803

Mr Nimmo has not yet called with the state he expected of Lindsay & Co's affairs - but Penny tells me they show a Reversion on the house here and in London of about 40m - to make good their Engagements for 222m - a bad affair I fear it will turn out -

Henry Monteith has just been with us - to know the answer to his proposal - we could give him no comfort so I suppose he must fall - he spoke of your suggesting to him that he might send you any good long dated Bills although you would by no means promise to do them - he has no real Bills and was very averse to make Bills - but I suppose he will get some of his friends' Bills to send you - rather his acceptances to them and if he bring us such Bills to send you we shall give our opinion of them - but I have no idea he will get such Bills as we can recommend to the extent he wants - John Pattison's stop is now much spoken of - he is going thro' the Banks to get them to renew - but the thing still agree with is very doubtful, there will be many of his Bills in hands who cannot renew - what a scene of distress is here! The difficulties we have to encounter from 10 to 4 o'clock every day cannot be conceived - and things look darker every day - I know not how you can be spared from your station - but I really wish my good Friend you could be some days with us - No 2 is increasing fast and if these Failures go on I can hardly imagine how far it will go - Mr Dale still keeps up and says the ultimate loss will be trifling - this is a great comfort to me - but my view of matters is different - These Bills of Stirling & Sons on Hendry & Co (McNiel's house) I don't at all like - I wrote them so and that we would take no more.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 28 July 1803

RB/837/1225

Page 1 of 2

28 July 1803

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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, 28 July 1803

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RSM

28 July 1803

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, 28 July 1803, enclosing a letter of the same date from Kibble Forster & Co to Scott Moncrieff & Dale

RB/837/1225

Page 1 of 6

You may return the inclosed and let me know what we shall say to it - I told them that it was not likely the Royal Bank and gave them any Trouble but that it was not our practice to subscribe any deeds - We have little of their paper - I have not yet had time to look thro' the Bills and see exactly how much, but I don't think we can have above £1000 of their Bills besides 3 or 4 £300 acceptances of theirs which we discounted to Forster & Corbett in consequence of the Collector's application at Edinburgh. We took their Bills two or three perhaps 4 weeks but when we saw they had none to offer but the same house's acceptances we stopt short and returned the Bills

28 July

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28 July

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RSM
28 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq
R Bank



*Wm Simpson Esq
R Bank*

*28 July 1803
RSM*

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Messrs Scott Moncrieff & Dale

Gent.

The affairs of our concern having become embarrassed from the great pressure of the present times, we found it necessary to suspend our payments, and have exhibited a state to our principal creditors here and proposals to pay them, which has been agreed to by all our creditors here upon Open Accounts, & we have now to request that the Royal Bank will grant us the same indulgence upon such Bills they may hold upon which our names are

We owe £47,558.15.6 and have £69,619.19.5 to pay it ^{with}, but from the various ways we have become involved and the heavy stock of goods which we hold we found it necessary to ask time to pay by the following instalments, viz: 2/6 per 4m^o from the 1st.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 28 July 1803, enclosing a letter of the same date from Kibble Forster & Co to Scott Moncrieff & Dale

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Messrs Scott Moncrieff & Dale

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The 1st Aug. and 2/6 every two months afterwards including Interest - till we had paid 20/- and for the two last payments - Mr Kibble to give ^{an additional} security upon a piece of land which cost him £10,000 -

The two Paisley Banks which hold most of our Bills have acceded to the settlement - and we request that the Royal Bank will concur in the same -

The business is to be managed under the inspection and advice of Messrs K Finlay, Rob^o. Flemming and Rob^o Stewart as Commissioners and the same Gentlemen as Trustees are to have the land of Mr Kibble conveyed to them in security of the two last payments - and we have promised to make these payments earlier if any favourable change of the times enable us to bring round the means - we wait your answer with much anxiety and are with much respect
Yours
Gent.

Yours most humble servants
Kibble Forster & Co
Glasgow 28 July 1803

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 28 July 1803, enclosing a letter of the same date from Kibble Forster & Co to Scott Moncrieff & Dale

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Page 4 of 6

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Your most humble servants

Kibble Forster & Co

Glasgow 28 July 1803

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PS Forster & Corbet having been reduced by our failure
to the same situation - they can only make an
arrangement founded upon ours, - which may enable
them to pay 10/ in 10 months. By installments of the
same date, and nearly the same sum as ours
which will with our payments retire their drafts
upon us in ten months - This they have not
yet finally arranged but expect to effect it -
R. S. M.

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 28 July 1803, enclosing a letter of the same date from Kibble Forster & Co to Scott Moncrieff & Dale

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PS Forster & Corbet having been reduced by our failure to the same situation, they can only make an arrangement founded upon ours, which may enable them to pay 10/ in 10 months by installments of the same date, and nearly the same sum as ours which will with our payments retire these drafts upon us in ten months. This they have not yet finally arranged but expect to effect it. KF&Co.

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Messrs Scott Moncrieff & Dale

Royal Bank

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29 July 1803

Sure I am if good Mr R witnessed how matters were going on here he would be perfectly satisfied of the Impracticability of following out his order to discount no Bills above 2 months date - unless he made up his mind to put a stop at once to the whole Paper circulation business here - for it would certainly have that Effect if such a measure was taken without ~~at~~ least giving two or three months warning. The Bills we discount on Tuesdays are generally to People we esteem undoubted and with the sole view of keeping up such People and enabling them to make their payments, as if they were allowed to fall, there would be an universal Bankruptcy here - Now such People can only give us the Bills they have - they cannot without some months warning be prepared with 2 months date Bills (and were we suddenly to insist upon such short dated Bills - they could not have real value for value - they behoved to make Bills some of the principal houses I doubt but rather stop as take that course, and if such wind Bills were brought us, you must be sensible it would give the Bank much worse security than we have by real value Bills - our discounts after Tuesdays and which are new to a great amount are generally to enable People to take up returned and protested Bills or sometimes their Acceptances when we find they have no other means of doing it - for such purposes we are thankful when we can get good Paper in place of what is bad or doubtful, and in such cases we would surely be against the Interest of the Bank to stick to the date of the Bill - we are thankful when we can get good Paper at almost any date - This is the way we go on as what appears to us evidently most for the Interest of the Bank - Mr Dale entirely concurs with me in these sentiments, and both of us cannot see a possibility of exercising a discretionary Power or carrying

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 29 July 1803

RB/837/1228

Page 1 of 4

29 July 1803

Sure I am if good Mr R witnessed how matters were going on here he would be perfectly satisfied of the Impracticability of following out his order to discount no Bills above 2 months' date, unless he made up his mind to put a stop at once to the whole paper circulation business here, for it would certainly have that effect if such a measure was taken without at least giving two or three months' warning.

The Bills we discount on Tuesdays are generally to People we esteem undoubted and with the sole view of keeping up such People and enabling them to make their payments, as if they were allowed to fall, there would be an universal Bankruptcy here. Now such People can only give us the Bills they have - they cannot without some month's warning be prepared with 2 months' date Bills and were we suddenly to insist upon such short dated Bills, they could not have real ones for value - they behoved to make Bills. Some of the principal houses I doubt would rather stop as take that course, and if such wind Bills were brought us, you must be sensible it would give the Bank much worse security than we have by real value Bills. Our discounts after Tuesdays and which are new to a great amount are generally to enable People to take up returned and protested Bills or sometimes their acceptances when we find they have no other means of doing it - for such purposes we are thankful when we can get good Paper in place of what is bad or doubtful, and in such cases it would surely be against the Interest of the Bank to stick at the date of the Bill - we are thankful when we can get good paper at almost any date. This is the way we go on as what appears to us evidently most for the Interest of the Bank. Mr Dale entirely concurs with me in these sentiments, and both of us cannot see a possibility of exercising a discretionary Power or carrying thro' the measure proposed unless it was to be general and after warning.

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When this measure was talked of before - 3 months warning was to be given - if the Directors should resolve on it now, the same or at least 2 months warning should be given - and in that way we should have no objection to it - The People could sell their Goods so as to bring their Bills within the date - but how should we do with Bills on London and should not the same rule apply to them? indeed I wish from my heart that after due warning no Bills whatever should be discounted having more than 2 months to run - Mr Dale thinks that in 2 or 3 months there will be a great falling off of Bills as was the case after the distress in 1793 - but as our Trade was going on at full swing when the war broke out, it is impossible in the nature of things that the Paper Circulation can be suddenly reduced -

As to the chief Baron's Inquiry - there can be no question our Distress has been chiefly occasioned by the war and the Embargo that followed whereby vast Quantities of our Goods were stopt in their Progress to the Markets and the demand for most Goods particularly cotton wool Yarn &c has fallen off so much that those who have these articles on hand cannot get an offer for them - and the distress has been complicated by the Failures in London - Exchequer Bills a few weeks ago would have given unspeakable Relief - now I am afraid they will be too late - as the Evil is done and those houses of property who could easily then have brought forward sureties, now that they have stopt could hardly apply for any - Mr Addington in resisting the application has most certainly been very ill advised - and Sir Wm Pulteney's Idea of the chartered Banks getting a Loan from the Bank of England to advance further to the Trade line was most absurd -

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 29 July 1803

RB/837/1228

Page 2 of 4

When this measure was talked of before, 3 months' warning was to be given. If the Directors should resolve on it now, the same or at least 2 month's warning should be given, and in that way we should have no objection to it. The People could sell their Goods so as to bring their Bills within the date, but how should we do with Bills on London and should not the same rule apply to them? Indeed I wish from my heart that after due warning no Bills whatever should be discounted having more than 2 months to run. Mr Dale thinks that in 2 or 3 months there will be a great falling off of Bills as was the case after the distress in 1793 but as our Trade was going on at full swing when the War broke out, it is impossible in the nature of things that the Paper Circulation can be suddenly reduced.

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Pattison I have not yet seen but Penny tells me is
so much affected as to be almost unfit for doing any thing -
It seems you wrote him a letter saying that the Bank would
renew his Bills if the other Banks did so - this he has shown
to Hugh Hamilton & Archibald Grahame who have subscribed to
Carrick has asked a day or two to consult his partners
but seemed friendly disposed - he has sent his Clerk to the
Greenock & Paisley Banks to ask their concurrence - as we
shall renew his Bills to good drawers - but what shall
we do when the drawers are Bankrupt - and with Bills
returned - we have of the former his acceptance to King & Morison
of the latter his returned Bill on Smith Lindsay & Co
and we have his lying over Bill on Wm Marshall & Co
what we shall do with this kind of paper of which I
shall have much I know not - must we just let
lie over - I have not yet seen a state of affairs
appears - but from what I hear it will be very bad
one house at Hull Finlay Uppleby & Co owe them
49m which I dare say will never be got - there
are other large debts due the house in London
which cannot be trusted to - and as loss on their state
will fall upon the other houses - they are talking
of a voluntary Trust - but I don't believe it will
be carried thro' - you say of Macneil Co who
will be at us again next Tuesday with a large sum
of their Bills in London besides a large Glasgow Bill
shall we take them or shall we let them stop -
In every view of matters here there is such a maze
of difficulty & distress that it is really too much for
us - the Bank stake here is so deep that had the
Com. matter of our number should come west and
take part of the Burden - it is quite overwhelming

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 29 July 1803

RB/837/1228

Page 3 of 4

Pattison I have not yet seen but Penny tells me is so much affected as to be almost unfit for doing any thing. It seems you wrote him a letter saying that the Bank would renew his Bills if the other Banks did so - this he has shown to Hugh Hamilton & Archibald Grahame who have subscribed it. Carrick has asked a day or two to consult his partners but seemed friendly disposed. He has sent his clerk to the Greenock & Paisley Banks to ask their concurrence. So we shall renew his Bills to good drawers - but what shall we do when the drawers are Bankrupt - and with Bills returned. We have of the former his acceptance to King & Morison of the latter his returned Bill on Smith Lindsay & Co and we have his lying over Bill on William Marshall & Co. What we shall do with this kind of paper of which we shall have much I know not - must we just let it lie over. I have not yet seen a state of Lindsay's affairs but from what I hear it will be very bad. One house at Hull Finlay Uppleby & Co owe them 49m which I dare say will never be got. There are other large debts due the house in London which cannot be trusted to, and a loss on their state will fall upon the other houses - they are talking of a voluntary Trust, but I don't believe it will be carried thro'. You say of MacNeil & Co who will be at us again next Tuesday with a large sum of their bills on London besides a large Glasgow Bill. Shall we take them or shall we let them stop. In every view of matters here there is such a maze of difficulty & distress that it is really too much for us. The Bank stake here is so deep and the Anxiety & Responsibility attending the giving away so many thousands of the Bank's money every day under such circumstances is so great that I do think a Committee of your number should come west and take part of the Burden. It is quite overwhelming.

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one which will be paid tomorrow this (and not have
been the case if we had not discounted 3 months' Bills

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William
Simpson, the bank's cashier, 29 July 1803

RB/837/1228

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RSM

29 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq

P

RSM
29 July 1803

Wm Simpson Esq

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29 July 1803

The inclosed Packet was sent me this Evening after writing you and after Mr Dale had gone to the Country - The Bills are not at all of the kind I expected Henry Monteith would have sent, I gave them back to his partner and desired him to say to him that as I could recommend but very few of them, I thought it better for him not to send them to you as I had no Expectation you would discount them - but he returned them to me and begged I would send them to you - I have gone over them with Mr Stirling and marked with a x such as we esteem good and would readily discount here. The others are known to be very light paper indeed, or not known at all. Only as to his Brother Adam he no doubt succeeded to about 14m from his Brother James and has got payment of a good part of it - but he is so involved with Henry that if the one falls the other must no doubt follow, and we have some of his acceptances already discounted to Henry. You may return the Packet on Monday, or Tuesday's Box - if you take none of them or with such as you refuse - I see little or no prospect of his getting thro' - What a scene of Trouble & distress!

Letter from Robert Scott Moncrieff, joint Glasgow agent of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to William Simpson, the bank's cashier, 29 July 1803

RB/837/1230

Page 1 of 2

29 July 1803

The inclosed Packet was sent me this Evening after writing you and after Mr Dale had gone to the Country. The Bills are not at all of the kind I expected Henry Monteith would have sent. I gave them back to his partner and desired him to say to him that as I could recommend but very few of them, I thought it better for him not to send them to you as I had no Expectation you would discount them - but he returned them to me and begged I would send them to you.

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