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DOCUMENTS ILLUSTRATING
THE WILTSHIRE TEXTILE TRADES
IN THE
EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

EDITED BY
JULIA DE L. MANN,

DEVIZES

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CHRISTOPHER ELRINGTON

NEWENT,

November, 1963

NOTES ON REFERENCES

The following books have been used for purposes of identification and are cited in shortened form in the notes :

FOR LONDON :

Kent's London Directory, 1738, 1754, 1763, 1766-71, 1774. Identifications which come from this directory are given without reference.

Osborn's Complete Guide to all Persons who have any trade or concern with the City of London and Parts adjacent, 1748, 1752 (cited as Osborn).

Payne's London Directory, 1768, 1772, 1773 (cited as Payne).

T. Mortimer, *The Universal Director*, 1763 (cited as Mortimer).

FOR BRISTOL :

Sketchley's Bristol Directory, 1775 (cited as Sketchley).

A. B. Beavan, *Bristol Lists* (1889) (cited as Beavan).

The Trade of Bristol in the eighteenth century, ed. W. E. Minchinton (Bristol Rec. Soc. xx) (cited as Minchinton).

J. W. D. Powell, *Bristol Privateers and Ships of War* (1930) (cited as Powell).

FOR MERE :

Mere, the Story of a Parish (Blackmore Press, Gillingham, 1958) (cited as *Mere*).

The Baker MSS.: notes on the history of Mere made by the Rev. T. H. Baker c. 1900 and now in the possession of the Vicar of Mere (cited as Baker).

INTRODUCTION

The writers of the three series of documents contained in this volume were all connected with the Wiltshire textile industries, and between them they cover the period from 1726 to 1775, though with many gaps. John Usher and John Jeffries (1726–42) were clothiers at Trowbridge, and George Wansey (1730–61) carried on the same occupation at Warminster. In that much intermarried society it should not be found surprising that Jeffries's son turns out to have been Wansey's brother-in-law. The third writer, Henry Hindley (1762–75), was a merchant at Mere, concerned primarily with linen but also with the export of cloth to Hamburg and Lisbon. Behind Hindley is the figure of his predecessor, James Harding of Mere, who carried on the same trade on a much larger scale. Some of his papers survive in the possession of Lord St. Aldwyn at Williamstrip Park, Gloucestershire;¹ but their existence was not discovered until the book was in an advanced state of preparation. An effort has, however, been made to incorporate in the Introduction and notes any new information from them which throws light on the documents printed. These latter have already been used by the present editor in describing the Wiltshire textile industries for the *Victoria County History*,² but they illustrate so many sides of industrial and commercial life in the 18th century that it is thought their publication may not be superfluous.

The Letters of Usher & Jeffries

Among the papers and pattern books of the 18th century preserved by Messrs. J. & T. Clark of Trowbridge³ is a series of business letters written by two partners and brothers-in-law, John Usher and John Jeffries, in various years between 1726 and 1742. Usher was also a brother-in-law of the Clarks⁴ and probably a son of the John Usher, also a Trowbridge clothier, who married in the last quarter of the 17th century the widow, née Halliday, of Silvester Talboys of Tetbury.⁵ Jeffries, whose father lived in Taunton, was also connected with the Clarks, Ann Jeffries having married the William Clark who

¹ See below, p. xvii. Three of the Account Books (BA/1–3) (1744–75) are records of payments made and received, and one (BA/4) is a 'waste book' in which separate transactions were entered. No estimate of income or profits can be made from them. The fifth book (BA/5) (1766–86) is catalogued as 'Account Book of Moulton Messiter', the Wincanton attorney through whom Harding lent money, but many of the loans are carried over from a previous book. The correspondence (BC/1 and 2) runs from Sept. 1750 to Feb. 1753, and from Jan. 1757 to May 1760. Hindley's papers (Wilts. R.O. 372) contain one leaf of a letter book of Harding's for 1768 and a loan book covering part of the same period as BA/5.

² *V.C.H. Wilts.* iv. 148–82. Professor T. S. Ashton has also made use of Hindley's letters in his *Economic Fluctuations in England, 1700–1800* (1959).

³ See *The Trowbridge Woollen Industry*, ed. R. P. Beckinsale (Wilts. Arch. Soc., Rec. Brch. vi), pp. ix, xxxiii.

⁴ There is a reference to 'Brother Usher' in 1744 in a pattern book which undoubtedly belonged to the Clarks.

⁵ *Wilts. N. & Q.* viii, p. 432. If so, she was the 'Mother Usher' who also carried on a clothing business; see no. 11.

died in 1735.⁶ The records of these partners begin with a book which records particulars of cloth made and of certain payments to workpeople from May 1721 to November 1726. There are also a pattern book and a bill book, the latter kept by Jeffries from December 1721 to the end of 1724.⁷ The later numbers in the cloth book correspond with those mentioned in the letters for 1726 so that it may be concluded that the book belonged to both partners though only Usher's name appears in it.⁸ The pattern book begins in 1726 but numbers are not entered consecutively and many are missing. About 1730 the remaining pages of the cloth book were also used for patterns and the numbers occasionally duplicate those in the pattern book proper; but here again they are not consecutive. In both books most of the patterns are now loose so that very few can be identified by their numbers. Both the cloth book and the letter book were carelessly kept and many particulars are missing.

The factors with whom the partners dealt, Yerbury and Filkes, both came of local stock. The Filkes family were clothiers in Devizes at this time and Filkes seems to have been related to Jeffries.⁹ The name of Yerbury had long been well known in Bradford-on-Avon and Trowbridge. By the 18th century the family had split into many different branches and it is not possible to say to which branch Richard Yerbury belonged,¹ nor have we any information about the William Yerbury who joined him in 1733.

While Usher occupied himself with the manufacturing side of the business, Jeffries attended to the correspondence until his death in 1733. He left land in Bulkington to his wife and eldest son, directing that £800 should be raised out of it to provide portions for four younger children.² The eldest son, John, who also became a clothier in Trowbridge, married Sarah Greene in 1746³ but he died in 1752.⁴ The second son, Edward, became a factor in London and later Clark pattern books show that cloth was being sent to him from 1755 up to 1771.

Usher was alive in 1744 but, though the name is familiar in Trowbridge today, nothing more is known of his family. A James Usher was living there in 1761,⁵ but he does not appear to have been a clothier. The pattern book already mentioned goes up to 1744. After that there is a gap until 1755 and again till 1760; but there is nothing to show who was using the book in these later years.

The letters are written on several loose sheets, evidently torn from one or more letter books. The first is headed 'Copy of Letters sent by Usher &

⁶ *Trowbridge Woollen Ind.* p. ix n. 3. In the Clark pedigree the name is spelt Jeffreys.

⁷ It is this bill book which contains John Allin's note of hand to Defoe of 1721 and Defoe's note of hand of 1723: *Trowbridge Woollen Ind.* p. ix. The entry of Allin's note for £30 at three months is marked in the margin 'Received of Cos. Sam. Allin'; but the second note for £54 16s. seems to have been received direct from Defoe. It was passed on to John Ellis a fortnight after its receipt.

⁸ Usher was also carrying on business on his own account up to 1726 but his cloths were numbered in a different series: see no. 3.

⁹ See nos. 23, 42.

¹ He had a widowed sister-in-law who died in Trowbridge in 1741: Wilts. R.O., will of Mary Yerbury.

³ P.C.C. Ockham, fo. 86.

³ George Wansley's 'Family Book', entry of 12 Nov. 1746. Her sister Hester was Mrs. George Wansley.

⁴ *Ibid.* 10 June 1752.

⁵ Wilts. R.O., Trowbridge Rate Book for 1761.

Jeffries'. The pages containing letters 76 to 89 have been torn across the bottom of the page and are defaced by damp; this also affects 11 letters which have not been included. Fifty others which only give advice of cloth sent have also been omitted.

The Papers of George Wansey

The George Wansey, some of whose papers are printed here, was the third to bear the name and the grandson of the second George, who left a diary and some account books dealing with his and his wife's cloth manufacture in Warminster from 1683 to 1713.⁶ His son Henry married Elizabeth Farmer, orphan cousin of Sir Josiah Diston, sometime M.P. for Devizes, the Blackwell Hall factor with whom the family dealt. Of their three surviving sons, George and John became clothiers in Warminster and William, as will be seen from the documents, a merchant in Bristol.

It is obvious that their father was not as successful as their grandfather had been, a fact which may have been due as much to his temperament as to the difficulties which assailed his branch of the trade. Henry left no papers, but the fact that Diston went bankrupt *c.* 1730 may account for some of the difficulties. The career of Henry's eldest son is summed up in a document⁷ written after his death by his brother William:

'My brother George was born the 6th July 1713, the first Child of our good and worthy parents Henry and Elizabeth Wansey . . . [who] fitted him at about 6 years of age for the grammar school at Warminster where the Reverend Mr. Barry, a clergyman of the Church of England, taught with considerable reputation; where, after he had gone through the upper class with Dr. Squire the present Bishop of St. David's, he was sent to Hitchin in Hertfordshire to complete his classical learning, in which he made a rapid progress to be master of the Greek language and had entered on the Hebrew; so that he was well fitted for academical studies, for which he was intended, on his friends seeing what a genius he had for learning. But my father wanting him at home, it was judged best that he should be with him in his business. Of this he soon made himself master. For he had a mind capable of any thing where ingenuity and application were requisite . . . though it was thought a great pity that such talents should be buried, as it were, in obscurity, in business when learning (such as he had acquired) . . . was no way necessary to the raising of a fortune or family . . .

'And while he was assiduously employed in his father's affairs he, in about 3 or 4 years, began to make cloth on his own account by the assistance of our grandmother, who had a great regard for so promising a grandson and lent him the first considerable aids towards doing for himself; which beginning he improved, with what my father from time to time gave him, to such a degree as would be thought scarce credible to relate; especially considering the difficulties under which the clothing trade, in that branch of it which my father pursued, laboured under for many years; which was increased by some peculiar family afflictions of which my brother had a great share in

⁶ See 'A Wiltshire family of Clothiers' by the present editor, *Econ. Hist. Rev.* 2nd ser. ix(2), 241-53.

⁷ In the possession of the Rev. J. Wansey.

having the burthen of the clothing business lie chiefly on his shoulders (and being of a very meek spirit, could ill brook the vehemence and seeming warmth of my father's temper . . .).

'He was taken ill the 12th January 1762, and died the 12th February following, in the 49th year of his age, soon after he had taken his eldest son from school and had begun to please himself with the hope of enjoying the fruits of his labour in retirement from business, as soon as this son was capable of taking the burthen of it upon him . . .'

George's character sufficiently appears in the extracts given below. One can fancy him as easily in the pulpit as in business, but he was successful in his trade and his disinclination to take risks was probably more of a help than a hindrance to him, since he had not much capital behind him. He became known in the family as 'the good George Wansey', and no one who has looked at his diaries can doubt that his sentiments were sincere. The whole family belonged to the chapel, originally Presbyterian, known as the Old Meeting. In 1713 the minister⁸ had been suspected of Arianism and the chapel became avowedly Unitarian at the end of the century,⁹ but there is no specific sign of Arianism in the copious religious writings to be found in George's diary.

His brother William, as buoyant and dashing as George was sober and self-distrustful, had a more spectacular career. Its outset was described by George as follows:

'1744, October 30. My brother William was married at Bristol to Miss Ann Barnes, daughter to Mr. William Barnes, a sugar baker (who was mayor of the city 1746),¹ a tradesman of a very great character in the city, with whom he receives a fortune of £2,000.

'It's now about seven and a half years ago viz. February 1736/7 that he went first to Bristol, a lad under 17 years of age (his fortune I suppose not exceeding £20) to be a servant in the counting house of Mr. Isaac Hobhouse;² this we then thought to be an extraordinary thing for him as my father was at a great loss what to do with him, having attempted to settle him in several places, but could find none to his liking without paying more money with him than he could afford to give; he recommended himself so well to his master that in the December following he was taken apprentice by him without any trouble to my father or expense, more than 10s. 6d. he paid for his indentures. Under Mr. Hobhouse's kind assistance and directions, with some little helps from my father and grandmother, given him chiefly in old cloth, he has been trading for himself and raising his own fortune, that by this time he is got to be worth of his own, I suppose, near £2,000. By which and by the reputation he has got in the city, he has brought about this affair with the consent, approbation, and concurrence of her friends, agreed upon and finished the whole without any trouble or expense to my father till he went to the wedding.'³

⁸ The minister whom George knew, S. Bates, was appointed in 1708 and died in 1761.

⁹ H. M. Gunn, *History of Nonconformity in Warminster* (1853), pp. 30, 31.

¹ This was inserted at a later date.

² Merchant and shipowner of Bristol, d. 1763. A sample of letters addressed to him in 1723 is given by Minchinton, pp. 82-101.

³ Family Book, in the possession of the Rev. J. Wansey.

William lived up to this beginning, in spite of a setback owing to the Lisbon earthquake. He was admitted to the Society of Merchant Venturers in 1749 'in consideration of having given a long attendance in London about the African trade and done all in his power for the service of the trade';⁴ was warden in 1755 and owned shares in ships and other property.⁵ All that is known of the third brother, John, comes from references to him in George's papers. William seems to have left no children. George, on the other hand, had a large family of whom four sons lived to grow up. William, the eldest, married his cousin, the only surviving child of the younger John Jeffries.⁶ He and his youngest brother George were clothiers in Warminster; both were active in introducing spinning machinery in the early nineties and the gig-mill just after the turn of the century, and both made comfortable, though not spectacular, fortunes. George and his nephew Henry (son of William) were both on the Committee of Wiltshire clothiers formed in 1802 to resist the shearmen's violence and later, in conjunction with clothiers of Gloucestershire and Somerset, to fight for the abolition of the restrictive statutes.⁷ Henry continued to make cloth in Warminster until 1824. Of the third George's other sons the second, John, became a well known cloth factor in London, at first in partnership with his maternal uncle by marriage, Edward Jeffries.⁸ Later the firm became Wansey & Co. and a partner gave evidence before the Parliamentary Committee on the Woollen Industry in 1803.⁹ The third brother, Henry, was a clothier in Salisbury and was the first to introduce spinning machinery there. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society and was the author of several publications, among which was one published in 1794 which gives an early account of machinery used in the woollen industry in the United States.¹

The third George kept a 'Family Book' and several memorandum books, but the entries are widely spaced in time. He would often enter the same event or sentiment in two different places. A bundle of papers, partly letters and partly calculations in connection with the Lisbon earthquake, and his ledgers with entries from 1752 to 1761 also survive. These and two Memorandum Books are in the Wiltshire Record Office,² but the Family Book and other Memorandum Books are still in the possession of his descendants. The extracts given below have been taken from all these sources, as stated in the notes appended to each entry.

The Letters of Henry Hindley

The papers from which these letters are extracted form part of a collection which was deposited with the Society for the Preservation of Business Archives in 1948 by the writer's descendants. The section which refers to Mere has now been transferred to the Wiltshire Record Office in Trowbridge.³

⁴ Minchinton, p. 39, n. 1. ⁵ Powell, p. 244.

⁶ *Bath Chron.* 18 Nov. 1773. See above, p. xii, n. 3.

⁷ For George, see *Evidence before Select Cttee. on Woollen Trade*, H.C. 95, p. 330 (1802-3); for Henry, Minutes of Meetings of the United Committees at Bath, entry of 1 Nov. 1802 (Gloucester Pub. Libr., JF 13, 25).

⁸ See above, p. xii. The firm was Jeffries & Wansey by 1785.

⁹ *Evidence before Select Cttee. on Woollen Trade*, pp. 328-333.

¹ *The Journal of an Excursion to the United States of North America in the summer of 1794* (Salisbury, 1796); see A. H. Cole, *The American Wool Manufacture* (1926), i. 66-67.

² Wilts. R.O. 314. ³ *Ibid.*, 372.

Hindley's correspondence shows him as a merchant dealing in the linen, mainly ticking, which was made in and around Mere, importing from Hamburg the yarn employed in making it, and exporting cloth to Hamburg and Portugal. He had begun as clerk to James Harding of Mere who had carried on a similar trade.⁴ Both men at their deaths were described as Hamburg merchants but Harding had traded on a much larger scale. Though his business was based on the local manufactures of ticking and cloth, he dealt in many goods which he never saw. To Lisbon, Oporto, and Cadiz he sent Gloucestershire cloth generally bought and dyed in London, Yorkshire cloth, and bays, shalloons, and says from both Essex and Yorkshire, the latter sometimes bought through Messrs. R. & J. Milnes of Wakefield and exported direct from Hull.⁵ He imported linens from Hamburg, Bremen, and Zittau, and in most cases had them sent direct to Bristol to be sold at Bristol Fair. He had evidently at one time done much business with the American colonies and the West Indies. He was even willing to take shares in consignments of goods of which he had no knowledge; thus in 1751 he went halves with J. Mannock, the London representative of his Cadiz correspondents, Mannock & Ryan, in a cargo of wheat from Stockton-on-Tees to Cadiz, but this was not a success, the wheat being finally sold in Marseilles at a loss.⁶ He also, on occasion acted as agent for a correspondent in Hamburg who sent him linen to be sold on commission.⁷ From 1750 onwards he seems to have been gradually withdrawing from business and employing his capital in loans to country gentry and farmers on bond or mortgage, in sums ranging from £150 to £10,000 at 4 to 5 per cent. Not all his debtors paid their interest promptly, in spite of provisos in their agreements that the rate might be reduced by 1 or 1½ per cent. if the half-yearly payments were made not more than two months after they became due.⁸ It was, no doubt, owing in part to this use of his money that his estate at his death was estimated at £300,000.⁹ It included the manor of East Mark in Somerset,¹⁰ but whether its acquisition was by way of investment or by foreclosure of a mortgage is unknown.

There was a Harding in Mere in the early 14th century¹ and in the 17th century the name appears frequently in the parish registers. James was born in 1688, the only son of a father also named James, who had been born in 1655. Like his son, this James was a tick merchant² and seems to have been something of a self-made man.³ When his name first appears in the churchwardens' accounts for 1686 as buying 'the old reading pew' for 8s.,⁴ he was

⁴ He is so named in Harding's will (P. C. C. Alexander, fo. 97). Harding left him £300.

⁵ BC/1, to R. & J. Milnes, 15 and 29 Sept. 1750.

⁶ *Ibid.* to F. Mannock, London, 29 Apr., 4 May, and 20 July 1751.

⁷ *Ibid.* to J. Thornton, 20 Mar. 1751.

⁸ From an account book among the papers in Wilts. R.O.; also BA/5.

⁹ *Salisbury Jnl.* 13 Mar. 1775.

¹⁰ Now in the village of Mark between Wells and Burnham.

¹ *Mere*, p. 147.

² The younger Harding referred to a debtor as 'an old customer of my father and self' (BC/1, to W. Tatnall, 31 Feb. 1751), and later, in sending some yarn to Tatnall to be dyed red, added, 'Your father hath formerly got such yarn dyed for my father many years since, when red striped tick was in vogue': *ibid.* 24 Feb. 1753.

³ His father, William Harding, may have been the man who was taxed at the low rate of 2d. for the army in Ireland in 1648. There were two men of this name in Mere in the mid-17th century, but the other, who was the sexton, does not appear in the list at all (Baker).

⁴ Baker.

plain James Harding. By 1718 his daughter, who married Thomas Beach Esq., of Fittleton, was dignified by the title of Mrs.⁵ At his death in 1725 his son, as executor, described himself as 'gentleman',⁶ though he later disclaimed the title of esquire.⁷ The younger James left no descendants and the greater part of his fortune went to his nephew, William Beach, an ancestor of the Hicks-Beach family, which accounts for the presence of his correspondence at Williamstrip.⁸ His cousins, to whom he left legacies, and their descendants continued to live at Mere as farmers or tradesmen until the 19th century.⁹

Hindley, who was trading for himself by 1751,¹ operated on a much smaller scale than Harding and some of his capital was borrowed.² He married in 1758 Rose Amzer Plucknett, daughter of Henry Plucknett, who had been a jeweller in London but in 1752 had settled in Wincanton, from which the family came.³ The Hindleys lived in the house which now belongs to Messrs. Walton and stands between their two drapery stores, opposite the clock tower in Mere.⁴ Henry Hindley continued to manage Harding's business at a salary of £50 a year⁵ until the latter's death in 1775, and remained in some kind of business relationship with Beach. Nearly all his correspondents in his own trade had been taken over from Harding and the only goods which he exported without seeing them were the red Gloucestershire cloths bought and dyed in London, which were seldom successful. There is one mention at the end of his life of a cargo of cod sent from Newfoundland to Civita Vecchia, which may have some connection with the fact that his third son, William, appears to have been at sea.⁶ Hindley's estate at his death in 1783 was just over £4,500 in cash and debts owing, not all of which were paid in full. He also left property in Mere, but the value of this is unknown. It looks as if he had suffered losses after 1779 when his will was made,⁷ for he intended to leave £5,000 among his children, besides making provision for his wife; and after his death his house was advertized for sale.⁸ Possibly this was due to illness; but the years from 1779 to 1783 were unfavourable for the linen industry owing to the loss of the American market, and tickmakers seem to have suffered heavily.

⁵ Phillimore and Salter, *Wilts. Par. Reg.* i. 42.

⁶ P.C.C. Plymouth, fo. 50. The elder Harding's pecuniary legacies amounted to £673 with annuities of £64 10s. He also owned land, including an estate called Benjafield in Gillingham; and this, with the residue, went to his son.

⁷ BC/2, to J. Harding, 26 Nov. 1757, 'that title doth not belong to me and I hope never will'.

⁸ See Mrs. W. Hicks-Beach, *A Cotswold Family* (1909), pp. 296 ff.

⁹ Baker knew of no connection between the two families, but Harding's will makes it clear that they were related.

¹ Baker. Wine for the church was bought from him, and also in 1755, when he is described as a merchant.

² Below, no. 607. He also borrowed £800 from Harding at 3 per cent. in 1771: BA/5.

³ From family papers in the possession of Capt. Maggs of Bourton (Dorset). Henry Plucknett's name appears in Osborn, 4th edn. (1749) as living in Lothbury. The 5th edn. (1752) does not mention him. Charles Plucknett, Rector of Cheriton (Som.), a cousin of Henry, owned the Rectory of Wincanton up to 1772. See Venn, *Alumni Cantabrigienses*, vol. i.; W. Phelps, *History and Antiquities of Somerset* (1832), i. 163.

⁴ Baker.

⁵ He entered this sum as his salary in the accounts which he drew up for Beach after Harding's death.

⁶ Wilts. R.O., translation of a letter of 7 July 1783 from Civita Vecchia mentioning his 'trading to Newfoundland for cod' and asking whether 'your son Captain William continues at sea'. The letter arrived after Hindley's death.

⁷ P.C.C. Cornwallis, fo. 300. ⁸ Baker, from *Salisbury Jnl.* 19 May 1783.

Hindley's eldest son, Henry Plucknett Hindley, carried on his father's business. He also made ticks and received a special mention in the Directory of 1791 for the excellence of his manufacture at Wolverton near Mere.⁹ He seems to have been ruined by the Napoleonic Wars which had a serious effect on the trade of the district.¹ By 1811 two of his sons were working at a carpet warehouse near Finsbury Square and the eldest subsequently established himself as a high-class furniture dealer and upholsterer in London. The remaining section of the papers, which is still in the possession of the Society for the Preservation of Business Archives, deals with this business.

The letters are contained in three books which have been much mutilated. The first section (1762-3) has a brown paper cover marked 'Copy book from 17 October, 1761, 1765'. The second (1769-70) seems to come from a vellum-bound book from which all the pages have been torn out. The third section (1773-75) is still in its stiff marbled cover from which many pages have been torn at the beginning and end; a note at the end reads 'Begun 21st October, 1772, Ended 9th October, 1776'.

The 683 letters which remain have been reduced to 499 by omitting those which only cover consignments of ticks or advice of bills accepted. Some of those to Henry Hoare & Co. which serve the purpose of a modern paying-in book have also been omitted, as have passages which repeat information given in other letters. A few letters have been summarized.

By 1726 the characteristic product of the Wiltshire woollen industry was medley cloth made of dyed wool, in contrast to that of Gloucestershire, where, except for a strip of country extending at the foot of the Cotswolds through Wotton-under-Edge to Dursley, the staple production was of cloth dyed in the piece. Both counties still sent up to London some 'whites', to be dyed there or, occasionally, exported in their raw state. Gloucestershire whites were always to be had in London, as may be seen from Hindley's unfortunate experience in 1774,² but their production was no longer the great trade which it had been in the early 17th century. Much fine Spanish wool was used for superfine cloth but only the most expensive kind was made entirely of it. Over most of the area English wool was still important. Wansey's use of 150 bags of Spanish to 400 packs of English wool over a period of fifteen years³ was probably greater than that of most clothiers in the smaller places. The name 'Spanish cloth' which appeared in the 1620's was presumably given to denote the use of Spanish wool,⁴ but it had always covered much cloth made with English wool only;⁵ and this was certainly the case with the Spanish cloth which Wansey and Hindley were exporting. Otherwise, there does not appear to have been, in the early part of the century at least, an agreed nomenclature

⁹ *Universal Directory* (1791), ii. 913.

¹ For the subsequent history of the industry see *V.C.H. Wilts.* iv. 178-9; G. E. H. Maggs in *Som. and Dorset N. & Q.* xxii, pp. 75ff.

² See nos. 496, 503, 526, 536, 547, 566, 573, 583, 616, 617, 636, 658.

³ See no. 182. A bag of Spanish wool contained about 200 lb. or less. A pack of English wool contained 240 lb.

⁴ For one account of the origin of the name see *V.C.H. Wilts.* iv. 153, n. 50.

⁵ P.R.O., S.P.16/456/39; cf. W. B. Stephens, *Seventeenth Century Exeter* (1958), p. 49.

for much of the cloth made. Usher & Jeffries's 'gold mark' or 'super', which they themselves called 'coarse',⁶ was much above the sorts which were called 'super' in other cases;⁷ and their 'superfine' was of several different qualities.

One of the most interesting points which emerges from these letters is the number of ways in which cloth could be disposed of. It has been generally supposed that the only outlet for the western clothier, at any rate in the early part of the century, was through the Blackwell Hall factors who, having a monopoly, were able to oppress the clothier as they pleased. The letters of Usher and Jeffries show that, although they sold cloth through their factors, they also sold to Bristol and Exeter merchants and to shopkeepers all over the southern counties, from Plymouth to Portsmouth. Occasionally, too, a London shopkeeper would by-pass the factor and get his cloth directly from the clothier,⁸ though this does not appear to have been common. Rudder, writing in 1779, says that the 'inland trade' was introduced into Gloucestershire 'within the last fifty or sixty years';⁹ and this is just the period at which we find it flourishing in Wiltshire. Clothiers originally met their customers at the great fairs; but, once met, they kept up the connection by letter and by visits. In fact, Defoe's statement that 'the clothing of Wilts. comes all by land carriage to London and goes down again by land carriages to all parts of England'¹ had ceased to be true by the time it was published in 1726. In that year Usher & Jeffries sent up about half their production, just over 100 cloths, to their factors (though they often asked for them to be sent back again if they did not sell quickly); but after Jeffries's death in 1733 Usher concentrated on the country trade and sent to the factors only an average of three cloths a year between 1734 and 1738.² By that time there were evidently several clothiers in Trowbridge who sold their cloth entirely in the country,³ a practice which continued throughout the century and must have been greatly assisted by improvements in transport.

George Wansey dealt with merchants in London and Bristol as well as with at least two London factors; but the chief interest of his methods of marketing lies in the numerous ventures which he sent abroad. It is impossible to say whether this was a widespread practice among clothiers in the middle of the century. Probably the fact that his brother was a merchant in Bristol gave him opportunities which would be lacking to many clothiers; but direct trade with Portugal, at any rate, was not unknown in Wiltshire.⁴ Only one of Wansey's ventures to America appears here, but his ledger⁵ shows that he continued, generally in partnership with his brother, to send small quantities both to the mainland and to the West Indies.

Usher, Jeffries, and Wansey were all medium capitalists. Wansey's last balance sheet in 1761 shows him to have possessed a little over £6,000, a sum

⁶ See no. 3, note 4.

⁷ As, for instance, in the correspondence of James Elderton, a Blackwell Hall factor whose letter book for 1763-9 is in the Somerset Record Office, Taunton.

⁸ See nos. 18, 19, 33, and later letters to John Burrow.

⁹ *Hist. of Gloucestershire* (1779), p. 61.

¹ D. Defoe, *The Complete English Tradesman* (1726-7), i. 397.

² These figures are calculated from their pattern books.

³ See no. 153.

⁴ See no. 181; cf. *Trowbridge Woollen Ind.*, p. ix, and below p. xxvii.

⁵ Wilts. R.O. 314/2.

which he had built up from very slender beginnings. We have no information about the capital possessed by Usher & Jeffries, but it is unlikely to have been significantly greater. None of them was particularly enterprising, although Wansey's exports may have been unusual; and consequently, since they all seem to have begun without great resources, their output was much less than that of the large clothiers in their neighbourhood, who might make between 400 and 500 cloths a year.⁶ For the first fifteen years of his career, from 1737 to 1752, Wansey did not produce more than an average of 130 cloths a year, and only twice in the later fifties was the number over 250. The cloth book of Usher & Jeffries begins with No. 131 on 12 May 1721, and ends with No. 982 on 9 Nov. 1726, a total of 851 cloths in five and a half years, or an average of 150 a year; but the average gives a false impression, since production in 1726 rose to about 200. Usher was also producing some cloth on his own account up to the middle of that year. Afterwards, all the cloth made seems to have been on joint account and, to judge from the numbers in the pattern book,⁷ Usher & Jeffries averaged about 280 cloths per annum in the years between 1728 and 1733. After Jeffries's death production fell to some 220 cloths a year up to 1744.

Though often pressed for money, all these men survived and made profits, Wansey of the order of 10 to 14 per cent. in the fifties.⁸ Some of the small clothiers with whom Hindley dealt were in a lower category and needed cash down on delivery of their cloth in order to enable them to carry on.⁹ If they dealt with factors they must have been kept in business by liberal supplies of credit,¹ but their mainstay was probably cash sales at fairs and local markets² and to merchants such as Harding and Hindley who cannot have been the only dealers of their kind.

With Hindley we enter the area of the linen manufacture which produced chiefly ticking and dowlas and occupied the south-west corner of the county together with a much larger area in Somerset and Dorset. According to a witness before the Parliamentary Committee of 1773, ticks were made of a mixture of foreign and homespun yarn in the proportion of two-thirds to one third,³ thus providing a basis for the existence of such merchants as Harding and Hindley, who obtained it from Hamburg, to which it came from many parts of Germany.⁴ Both men also imported flax from Rotterdam when the

⁶ In 1739 it was suggested that a 'considerable' clothier would use some 80 packs of Spanish wool in a year (*Gent. Mag.* ix (1739), p. 126). Usher & Jeffries had 44 packs in 1726. Few Wiltshire clothiers at this time appear to have made more than 500 cloths a year, though several in Gloucestershire made over a thousand.

⁷ Assuming that all numbers were made. There is a considerable gap in the early cloth book and the numbers in the pattern book are not consecutive, so that it is difficult to be sure that they are all there.

⁸ See 'Clothiers and Weavers in Wiltshire during the Eighteenth Century' by the present editor, in *Studies in the Industrial Revolution presented to T. S. Ashton* (1960), ed. L. S. Pressnell, p. 85.

⁹ See nos. 353, 412.

¹ Elderton's correspondence (Somerset Record Office) shews that this was not unusual.

² Cf. no. 22, where cash was paid for cloth bought at a fair.

³ *Rep. Cttee. on State of Linen Trade*, H.C. (1773), printed 1803, 1st ser. III, p. 105. The witness said that the warp was of homespun yarn, but both Harding and Hindley sometimes bought chain yarn from Hamburg.

⁴ Much yarn came from Silesia, but this was not suitable for the Wiltshire manufacture: BC/2, to S. Wolffenden, Hamburg, 23 Sept. 1758.

local crop was short; and in 1751 Harding had bought Russian and Narva flax in London.⁵ Local flax was preferred if it could be got. 'Our country flax is in general superior to [Dutch] in quality and much cheaper unless when the crop happens to fail', wrote Harding to Liebenrood in Rotterdam in 1758. A year later he wrote: 'there is no better flax abroad than what is grown in these parts.'⁶

The little that is known of the industry in the 18th century, apart from these letters, comes from the Report of a Parliamentary Committee on the Linen Trade⁷ which sat in 1773 in response to petitions from all over the country representing the depressed state of the trade, which was said to be due to the great importation of foreign linen. Although ticking was not much affected since it was protected by a high duty,⁸ it was said that over-production had resulted from the fact that looms formerly devoted to dowlas had been turned over to making it. The industry was undoubtedly depressed in 1773, but the reason seems to have been partly the financial crisis of 1772 and partly the overstocking of markets abroad,⁹ particularly in North America after the non-importation agreements had petered out in 1770. The depression lasted until the spring of 1774 but there was a recovery the following year, although the industry was later hard hit by the American War of Independence. Hindley's remarks on the successful competition of English with German dowlas in 1775¹ form an interesting commentary on the linen manufacturers' allegations. Harding was complaining in 1759 of the high price of the dowlas he imported,² but it was much higher in 1775.

Competition in the sale of yarn was keen. Both Harding and Hindley frequently complained of being undersold, mainly by London merchants who went to great lengths in selling even small quantities cheaply to local tick-makers.³ Harding wrote in 1757 that one firm sold 'I think full as cheap as mine stands me in, but they give out . . . that they gets it from out of the country where it is spun'.⁴ An attempt to eliminate middlemen was being made in all branches of the trade. In 1751 Harding wrote to the London warehouseman, William Tatnall, that the tickmakers 'run all over the town to the upholders and sells to those that you ought to serve . . . and thereby brings trade out of course'.⁵ Retail traders, including at least one with local connections,⁶ bought direct from the makers and entered what the merchants and warehousemen regarded as their own preserve, the export trade to the American colonies.⁷ The same thing was happening in the foreign import trade. Harding had been in the habit of importing chests of various kinds of linen which he sold mainly

⁵ BC/1, to J. Harding, London, 11, 18, 21, and 23 Sept. 1751. In 1803 Hindley's son Christopher, then in Russia, mentioned the import of Russian flax through Bridport: Wilts. R.O. 372/5. Cf. the account of the industry in the 19th century by G. E. H. Maggs, *Som. & Dorset N. & Q.* xxii, pp. 75-76.

⁶ BC/2, lrs. of 11 Mar. 1758 and 11 Aug. 1759; cf. below, no. 271.

⁷ See above, n. 3.

⁸ *Ibid.* Mr. Harvey's evidence, p. 105.

⁹ D. Macpherson, *Annals of Commerce* (1805), iii. 547.

¹ See no. 677.

² BC/2, to G. A. Schluter, Zittau, 4 Aug. 1759.

³ BC/1, to S. Wolffenden, 21 Oct. 1752.

⁴ BC/2, to the same, 12 Jan. 1757.

⁵ BC/1, 22 June 1751.

⁶ i.e. James Standerwick: BC/2, to W. Tatnall, 31 Jan. 1759. See also below, no. 662, note.

⁷ BC/2, to W. Tatnall, 31 Jan. 1759.

at Bristol Fair, but he wrote to Hamburg in 1751 that 'the linen drapers in London and Bristol and elsewhere that have money import their own linen from Germany and unless they can buy as cheap as they can import buys not of us; the same I suppose is done by the Dutch with you by importing their own woollens from London etc. and so the trade spoiled on both sides and scarcely worth following'.⁸ He continued to import linen in smaller quantities from time to time, but Hindley seems never to have done so.

The clothiers had their London agents in the Blackwell Hall factors, but Hindley, as a country merchant, also needed a 'friend' in London to do business for him. His correspondence shows the mixture of function performed by such an agent who might be anything from a packer to a merchant. Business descriptions were often misleading,⁹ and few acted only in the capacity in which they described themselves. Packers, factors, and warehousemen frequently acted as merchants, and merchants could act as factors;¹ thus Denys De Berdt was a Blackwell Hall factor and appears as such in Wansey's books, but he is entered in the Directory as a North American merchant, which he had undoubtedly become.² Sir Samuel Fludyer, entered as a warehouseman, had begun life as a Blackwell Hall factor and he seems to have preserved some of the habits of the factor in his dealings with Wansey³ though he was actually one of the wealthiest merchants in the kingdom. In Bristol shopkeepers were generally wholesale merchants also;⁴ thus Peregrine Stockdale, to mention only one of Hindley's correspondents, is listed in the Directory as a woollen draper (in which capacity he appears in Hindley's letter) but is elsewhere described as a merchant and held shares in ships,⁵ as did many others.

Besides transacting business, the London agent was necessary to provide a central place of deposit where payment of bills could be made and received. Hindley's agent was the packer Timothy Budworth who had been the employee and finally the partner of Harding's agent, who, confusingly, had borne the same name of James Harding, though the two men do not seem to have been related. Hindley not only used Budworth's services to procure foreign bills and make payments on them, but also drew inland bills on him and sent up others so that Budworth might collect the cash when due. After Budworth's death in 1769 John Webb, a Blackwell Hall factor, acted in the same capacity, but another packer, the unsatisfactory John Gray, who seems to have been only a packer, had also to be employed for dispatching goods. Both Budworth and Webb, like other factors, were performing many of the functions of a bank; and it was not until Webb's death in 1773 that Hindley acquired an account with Hoare's Bank and began to ask his correspondents to make bills payable there. It might be thought that this was a sign of the growing importance of London banks as opposed to London tradesmen in the organization of credit;

⁸ BC/1, to J. Thornton, Hamburg, 30 Mar. 1751.

⁹ Cf. L. S. Sutherland, *A London Merchant, 1695-1774* (1933), pp. 27-28.

¹ Cf. R. B. Westerfield, *Middlemen in English Business* (1915), pp. 302-3, 313. An Act of Common Council of the City of London, in 1678, had permitted Blackwell Hall factors to engage in the export though not in the inland trade.

² Mortimer. See below, no. 186, note.

³ Wansey enters cloth as 'resting' with Fludyer in the same way as with other factors and it looks as if Fludyer only paid for the cloth as he sold it or used it in his own trade.

⁴ M. Postlethwayt, *Dictionary of Commerce* (4th edn, 1774) s.v. Bristol.

⁵ Sketchley; Powell, pp. 179, 217.

but it is more likely that it was a consequence of living in the neighbourhood of Henry Hoare at Stourhead, especially in view of the fact that Hoare's Bank dealt rather with the landed than with the mercantile classes.⁶ Harding was on friendly terms with Hoare whom he named among the trustees appointed by his will and he had had an account with the bank from 1750 at least. Hindley used it only for deposits; but Harding bought East India bonds through it from 1767 onwards, though he was buying them at the same time through Herring, Smith & Slack, the London linen drapers. He also invested in Bank Annuities through the London warehouseman, William Tatnall, and in Consols through Robert Child & Co.⁷ Neither he nor Hindley appears at any time to have obtained foreign bills through Hoare's, but asked their agents to procure them, presumably from brokers on the Exchange. This conforms with the practice of at least one other London bank, which purchased securities for its customers but did not negotiate bills.⁸

All the correspondence therefore supports the view that in the mid-18th century it was the London merchants and tradesmen who provided the credit which made the growth of trade possible.⁹ Cash changed hands at fairs and was sometimes sent to London concealed in a cloth; and when clothiers who dealt with country customers visited them to get orders they often hoped for cash in payment for goods sent earlier. But the greater part of the trade with London was carried on by means of inland bills and notes of hand and this was true, more often than not, of other areas also. If goods could be sold where raw materials were bought, there were obvious opportunities for payment by bill. Thus in the twenties purchases of Spanish wool in Bristol or Exeter could be paid for by bills drawn on customers for cloth in those areas, but, if local bills were not obtainable, a good bill on London was always acceptable. Indeed, country bills were often a great nuisance. Harding received several from his London customers for ticks, for many of which he managed to get payment; but he vehemently objected to taking them¹ and remarked that they were frequently not paid when due.² It is noticeable that the number he received in 1757-9 was very much lower than it was in 1750-2; and the few received by Hindley were drawn by and on local residents and not sent down from London for him to collect payment. It looks as if the country bill was being superseded in the later fifties by bills drawn on London, but Bank of England notes do not appear to have been used to any significant extent until the seventies. Sir John Clapham, in trying to estimate how far bank notes were used outside London, came to the conclusion that before the rise of country banks they may have had a more extensive circulation than towards the close of the century;³ but only three figure in the letters of Usher &

⁶ D. M. Joslin, 'London Private Bankers, 1720-1785', *Econ. Hist. Rev.* 2nd ser. vii (2), 176.

⁷ BA/5.

⁸ i.e. Martin's Bank: *Econ. Hist. Rev.* 2nd ser. vii (2), 180.

⁹ *Ibid.* 186. No doubt, however, most of them had accounts with the private bankers as Webb had: below, no. 481.

¹ BC/1, to Holmes, Wheatley & Holmes, and to Holmes & Guichenet, both 24 Sept. 1750.

² BC/1, to H. Herring, 30 Sept. 1752 and 29 Jan. 1753, where he remarks that many people refuse to take them on this account. He once returned three (on Salisbury, Hereford and Speenhamland) 'having no conveniency for negotiating them' (to Holmes, Wheatley & Holmes, 17 Nov. 1750).

³ *The Bank of England* (1944), i. 146-50.

what buyers in Lisbon and Brazil were looking for. In fact, until the last decade of the century, English cloth was appreciated abroad rather for its low price than for its intrinsic merits. English wool was cheaper than most foreign wool of similar quality, so that other countries could not always rival England in the cheapest cloth.³ This alone was what Hindley's correspondents wanted. Harding and Wansey, exporting in the fifties, sent some of a better quality (though the letters of both contain warnings from Lisbon about difficulties in selling superfine blacks)⁴ but Harding had ceased sending the more expensive sorts before 1757.

It is a curious coincidence that both Wansey and Hindley were concerned in the Portuguese trade.⁵ By the treaty of 1654 England had been placed in a favoured position; and the Methuen Treaty of 1703 had renewed the privileges of English merchants and had added to them the liberty of exporting cloth. Cloth did not at any time form a very prominent part of English woollen exports to Portugal, but from 1740 onwards it suffered more than most varieties from French and Dutch competition, in spite of the monopoly which the Methuen Treaty was supposed to have given to English exporters. It was not, however, until the end of the Seven Years' War that the policy of the Portuguese Government resulted in a marked drop in the volume of woollen goods sent there. It looks as if the cheaper varieties of cloth would have continued to sell provided that a high standard could have been combined with low prices. The mark of 'Harding of Mere' was remembered in Lisbon in 1774⁶ and it is clear that as late as 1787 cheap cloth from the West of England could have been sold in Hamburg also, if clothiers had been willing to make it at the same price as before.⁷ But about 1770 there was a marked shift in production from coarse to finer cloth, of which Hindley's letters provide some evidence.⁸ He often found it difficult to get cheap cloth made in the colours which were wanted in Lisbon; and with the rise in wool prices (not to speak of the increased duties in Portugal) it must have been impossible.

Cloth could either be sold direct to merchants established in Lisbon or be consigned to a factor to be sold on commission. Harding sold all his cloth on commission and he preferred to pay an additional sum to have his debts insured—a system known as 'del' credere'. In 1752 he offered a Lisbon firm double commission (5 per cent.) 'for sales and standing good to debts'⁹ and in 1759 he wrote to another firm in Oporto, 'Your agreement for del' credere . . . was as I remember to remit me the whole in two years' time from the day the goods were sold'.¹ It is possible that this system may have ended after the great catastrophe of the earthquake, when there was considerable argument whether

³ But cf. *ibid.* 240.

⁴ See no. 211 (1756); BC/1, to Horne & Mitchell, Lisbon, 1 Feb. 1750, 'I observe many others are in the same dilemma as myself in regard to black cloths', and to J. Atlee, Lisbon, 20 Oct. 1750, 'whether it may please as well as the Dutch blacks I know not'. Cf. Postlethwayt, *Dictionary of Commerce*, s.v. Portugal, quoting Mercator, *Letter on Portugal and its Commerce* (1754).

⁵ For the trade to Portugal see V. M. Shillington and A. B. W. Chapman, *The Commercial Relations of England and Portugal* (1907), pt. 2; L. S. Sutherland, *A London Merchant*, ch. 2; R. Walford, *The British Factory in Lisbon* (1940).

⁶ See no. 601.

⁷ See no. 713.

⁸ See nos. 310, 337. There is other evidence in Elderton's correspondence; see p. xix, n. 7.

⁹ BC/1, to Mayne & Co., 21 Oct. 1752.

¹ BC/2, to Standert, Etty & Co., of Oporto, 15 Sept. 1759.

factors were bound to pay debts incurred *del' credere* before it.² Harding sent cloth to Cadiz as well as to Portugal and in both cases preferred it to be sold to merchants in their home ports; sending it to Mexico or South America on the English exporter's account might entail not only returns in kind after a long delay, but also the possibility of giving the supercargo one-third or one-quarter interest in it in order to promote its sale.³ Wansey also sold on commission (though not *del' credere*, a system with which his factor did not agree)⁴ and in 1762 Hindley did likewise; but in 1770 he was selling direct to English merchants in Portugal and was paid by drawing on an allied firm in London. Only once or twice did he suffer a long delay in returns.⁵ Even when, in default of orders, he sent cloth on his own account to Lisbon and asked his correspondents to sell it for him, they were able to pay him with reasonable speed.

Returns from Portugal were often a difficult problem. One product which could be sent in payment was wine which, under the terms of the Methuen Treaty, was admitted at one-third the duty on French wine. Thus Wansey, Harding, and Hindley had all, on some occasions, to accept wines and at an earlier stage in his career Harding had done some business with them in the West Indies;⁶ but in the fifties he was very much averse to accepting them, protesting that he had no market for them except Bristol, which was always overstocked. Even with all the exports Portugal could make, their value was below that of the imports from England, and the balance was made up in gold, the export of which was generally winked at in spite of a law prohibiting its being sent out of the country.⁷ Imports of gold consisted of both coin and bullion⁸ and much seems to have come in small parcels of coin, of which there was always a quantity in the country. This was generally sold to merchants in London or abroad. Coin could not be paid into the Bank of England,⁹ presumably because of the fluctuating value of gold on the market, but possibly also because it was sometimes light.¹ In 1763, when the price of gold was fluctuating considerably,² Hindley was disposing of Portuguese coins in

² BC/2, to G. Allen, jr., 12 Feb. 1757, to Mayne & Co., 23 Mar., 20 Apr., and 4 June 1757, and to Horne & Mitchell, June 1757.

³ BC/1, to Mannock & Ryan, Cadiz, 27 May and 22 July 1751. In this case the returns were ordered in cochineal and indigo.

⁴ See no. 210.

⁵ See no. 578 (Madeira).

⁶ See no. 605.

⁷ There had, however, been a seizure in 1751 (*Private Correspondence of Sir Benjamin Keene*, ed. Sir R. Loder, p. xxix) which may explain why Harding refers to the gold which he sometimes received as 'yellows'. He also received at least one consignment of silver which he found difficult to sell as the price had fallen: BC/2, to J. Harding, 11 July 1757. He once suggested diamonds, but much preferred good bills of exchange to anything else.

⁸ For instance, between 1758 and 1763 William Braund imported far more coin than bullion: Sutherland, *A London Merchant*, p. 36.

⁹ BC/2, to W. Tatnall, 11 Jan. 1758: 'The bill drawn on you to R. Fulstone was brought me back for the reasons you mentions, would not take porto. I find it was got into the Receiver General's hands of the Land Tax who remits up his money to the Bank and the person that called with it I suppose belonged to the Bank where they will not take Portugal gold.' In a later letter to J. Fisher, 4 Mar. 1758, he says, 'Shall in future, to prevent my bills coming into the hands of the Bank, put "pay in porto" which I suppose will prevent it or at least oblige them to take Portugal money in payment'.

¹ Lord Tyrawley, who had been Ambassador in Lisbon, told Fox in 1755 that 'our merchants take care to send us home the lightest gold they can find and even washed for that purpose, so much so that payments in Portuguese gold have been refused (and if I am not mistaken advertised against in our public papers)': Walford, *British Factory in Lisbon*, p. 69.

² Sutherland, *A London Merchant*, p. 39, note 1; cf. T. S. Ashton, *Econ. Fluctuations in Eng. 1700-1800*, pp. 125-6, for the reasons of this movement.

London, and, when a fall occurred, thought that Rotterdam might provide a better market.³ In the seventies he was not much concerned with direct returns from Lisbon since his exports were paid for in London; but the continued presence of Portuguese coins in Wiltshire is evident from the fact that in 1770 a goldsmith in Salisbury was offering a premium for them.⁴

Hamburg, the other main port to which Harding and Hindley traded, offered no such difficulties in returns, its greatest export being linen; while its greatest import was woollen goods, which mainly came from Yorkshire via Hull.⁵ The Hamburg Company, relic of the former Merchant Adventurers, had long lost its privileges for the sole import of woollen goods, but it was still in existence though its trade was declining. Harding mainly dealt with English merchants, and, when J. R. Duve first asked him for a consignment of cloth in 1751,⁶ he was a total stranger. Harding professed ignorance of how Duve had discovered him and, indeed, endorsed the remark of one of his English correspondents that it was a pity 'that this branch of the woollen trade (formerly advantageous) should go out of English hands'.⁷ He found Duve & Möller exacting customers, who (as Hindley discovered later) were not slow in returning cloth they did not like; and after one such experience in 1759 he declared to another correspondent that he would have nothing more to do with them.⁸ It was possibly at this time that he relinquished them to Hindley, who was also sending cloth to George Allen of Lisbon in this year.⁹ Lisbon merchants resented goods' being sent for sale to their rivals; and Mayne & Co. had discovered some time earlier that others in Lisbon were selling Harding's cloth. Harding met this charge with bland ignorance and made a hurried change in the name on the bills of lading.¹ Later for the same reason he changed the seal on cloth sent to Allen,² but he may have found Hindley's trade with them a useful alibi.

There is little to be said of the other markets mentioned, the American colonies and the West Indies. Harding seems to have been withdrawing from this branch of his trade early in the fifties; though he was still sending consignments of ticks and kerseys to Philadelphia in 1751 and seems to have continued to do so until the Seven Years' War. In 1757 he remarked that 'the hazardous times and dullness of sales and recoveries with you' had prevented him from doing so for some time.³ Hindley's trade was interrupted by the preliminaries of the American War of Independence and later by the war itself which cut off completely, for the time it lasted, a market which at one time seems to have been a good one. Not all returns, however, were made as quickly as those for Wansley's venture of 1741.⁴ Only a very small part of a later venture of his, sent to Philadelphia in 1756-7, had been returned by August 1761.⁵ Returns

³ See no. 263.

⁴ *Salisbury Jnl.* 22 Jan. and 26 Mar. 1770; and see no. 291.

⁵ Postlethwayt, *Dictionary of Commerce*, s.v. Hamburg.

⁶ BC/1, to J. R. Duve, 2 Feb. 1751.

⁷ BC/1, to J. Thornton, 30 Mar. 1751.

⁸ BC/2, to S. Wolffenden, 16 Jan. 1760.

⁹ BC/2, to Mayne & Co., 5 Apr. 1760.

¹ BC/2, to G. Allen, jr., 12 Nov. 1757. Hamburg merchants also grudged cloth sent to competitors, but Harding told Wolffenden that 'to be obliged to sell to none other is what I won't engage to do': BC/1, 11 Sept. 1756. The Lisbon merchants were evidently more difficult to dominate.

² BC/2, to J. Harding, 29 Mar. 1760.

³ BC/2, to W. Coleman, Philadelphia, 12 Sept. 1757.

⁴ See no. 173. ⁵ Ledger, Wilts. R.O., 314/2.

from the West Indies were more speculative still. Harding appears to have sent nothing there after 1750 but he was still trying to recover debts in 1757,⁶ even though he had been willing to take them in sugar, indigo, cotton, or mahogany.⁷ Wansey noted in 1759 that two small ventures sent to Jamaica in 1745 and 1749 were never settled owing to the death of the factor; and nothing had been received by 1761 on another sent to Antigua in 1756–7.⁸ Hindley never ventured into this market; it looks as if Harding's experiences had taught him that it was too dangerous for a man of small capital.

Harding did not always insure his goods, or not to the full value, when rates were high. He could afford an occasional loss, but Hindley could not; and the keen interest which the latter took in comparing insurance rates in Hamburg or Rotterdam with those in London is particularly interesting since the accepted view expressed by Magens,⁹ who himself came from Hamburg, is that by 1755 London had won the dominant position in the insurance market. No doubt this is true as regards the scope of business, but it is evident that in wartime a wide difference in rates could exist between either of the two foreign centres and London. In April 1762 the difference was 2 per cent. in favour of Hamburg¹ and Hindley continued to ask his correspondents to insure for him there until October 1763 when this section of his letters ends. He was also insuring there in 1769–70 but by 1773 he had reverted to London. The rate of premium, even during peace, was not always as low as given by Magens. For 1753 he stated it as 1 per cent. in summer and 1½ or 2 per cent. in winter.² Harding expected to insure from Bremen to Bristol within the range of the latter rates in December 1750 but he actually had to give £3 or 3 guineas.³ Again, the rate from Hamburg to London had risen to 3 per cent. in the winter of 1772–3,⁴ for reasons which are not clear, unless it was due to the financial crisis of that period. War rates were naturally higher and in 1758 and 1762 goods on English ships from Holland to the south coast could not be insured under 6 per cent.; so that it was cheaper to bring them on a neutral ship and pay the duty imposed by the Navigation Act, which would be offset by the lower insurance on a neutral.⁵

There are a few indications about improvements in transport. When Harding had goods sent by carrier from London, they appear to have come no nearer to Mere than Salisbury whence he had to have them fetched by waggon.⁶ Like Hindley, he made great use of the river to Newbury, but from Newbury again there was no public transport to Mere and farmers' waggons were generally sent over for the yarn. After the road from Andover to Mere over Salisbury Plain was turnpiked at the beginning of the sixties,⁷ public carriers

⁶ BC/2, to Bayley, Elworthy & Bayley (re debts owing by the late Mr. Crymble of Jamaica), 19 Mar. 1757.

⁷ BC/1, to Tredell, Blackwood & Peare (re Crymble), to P. Furnell (possibly of St. Kitts), and to Ducommun & Stirling, all of 23 Jan. 1751.

⁸ Ledger.

⁹ N. Magens, *A Treatise on Insurance* (1755), p. v. Once Magens seems to have acted as Duve's correspondent in London: BC/2, to Duve & Möller, 13 Mar. 1757.

¹ See no. 216.

² Magens, *op. cit.* p. 83.

³ BC/1, to J. Harding, 3 Dec. 1750; to Bound & Mayler, Bristol, 15 Dec. 1750.

⁴ See no. 422.

⁵ BC/2, to T. M. Liebenrood, 11 Mar. 1758; see below, no. 227.

⁶ BC/1, to J. Harding, 20 Apr. 1751; BC/2, to J. Pound of Salisbury, 30 Mar. 1758.

⁷ *V.C.H. Wilts.*, iv. 262.

were available, though Hindley found them unsatisfactory⁸ and resorted to the old method of hiring farmers' waggons, especially when they might already be at Andover Fair.⁹ In fact, before turnpikes were common, farmers seem to have done a considerable amount of the cross-country trade. Harding got conveyance of flax from Southampton in 1757 'by farmer Ford who carries up a load of cheese for Mr. Jukes',¹ and there seems to have been fairly constant traffic of this sort to Poole.²

Other points will be noticed by readers on looking through the documents; but mention may be made of the resort to the county court in 1770 with an action for replevin,³ when both the court and the plea are said to have been nearly obsolete in the 18th century. The letters describing the Lisbon earthquake⁴ do not add anything to what is known of that disaster; but they paint such a lively picture that it has been thought worth while to include them.

Note on Money and Exchange

LISBON. Accounts were kept in reas (reis) and milreis, the sign for the latter being written between the two denominations. The rate of exchange was expressed in pence per milreis and theoretically fluctuated between 65*d.* and 70*d.*; but in London it was generally below the par of just over 67*d.*⁵ Hindley seldom mentions the rate, as he was usually paid by drawing a bill on the London agents of his correspondents; and it was only in 1762-3 when he sold goods through a factor in Lisbon, or later when he occasionally exported on his own account, that the exchange was of importance to him.

HOLLAND. Accounts were kept in Florins (Guilders) and stivers, 20 stivers equalling one florin. The exchange however was calculated in 'Flemish money', i.e. Schillings and deniers gros, written, to take a random example, 35/3. Twelve deniers equalled one schilling gros and this also equalled 6 stivers. The rate of exchange fluctuated between 35 and 38 schillings gros to the pound sterling.

HAMBURG. Accounts were kept in marks and sols (or schillings) lubs. The sol is also called stiver⁶ and Hindley always refers to it by this name. Sixteen stivers made one mark. The exchange, like that of Holland, was calculated in Flemish money, and the stiver had the same value in schillings gros as in Holland. The rate fluctuated between 33 and 36 schillings gros to the pound sterling.⁷

⁸ He never suffered, however, from delays due to colds and distemper among the horses as Harding did in Dec. 1750: BC/1, to H. Herring, 17 Dec. 1750.

⁹ See no. 464.

¹ BC/2, to G. Robinson, Southampton, 28 Dec. 1757.

² See no. 274. Harding managed to get carriage from Weymouth, but Hindley said he was unable to do so.

³ See nos. 341, 345.

⁴ See nos. 208-11, letters from Edward French. For an account of the earthquake and a bibliography see T. D. Kendrick, *The Lisbon Earthquake* (1955), pp. 24 ff. and 165-6.

⁵ See L. S. Sutherland, *A London Merchant*, pp. 29-33.

⁶ W. Beawes, *Lex Mercatoria Rediviva* (2nd edn. 1761), p. 876. (All references are to this edition.)

⁷ In 1757, during the Seven Years' War, the exchange rates mentioned by Harding were generally above 36 and once as high as 38/4.

To calculate the exchange from either country, the sums must first be turned into Flemish money. The resulting amount and the rate of exchange must then be reduced to the lowest common denominator before the division of the former by the latter.⁸

For the purpose of making a rough calculation of the sterling equivalent of the sums mentioned by Hindley, the following table may be useful:

IN FLEMISH MONEY. *One schilling gros at exchange*

33/- to the £=7·27 pence 35/- to the £=6·86 pence

34/- to the £=7·06 pence 36/- to the £=6·66 pence

Therefore in both Holland and Hamburg one stiver at exchange

33/-=about 1·21 pence 35/-=about 1·14 pence

34/-=about 1·18 pence 36/-=about 1·11 pence

IN HOLLAND. *20 stivers make one florin, which at exchange*

35/-=just over 1s. 10¾d. 36/-=just under 1s. 10¼d.

IN HAMBURG. *16 stivers make one mark which at exchange*

33/-=between 1s. 7½d. and 1s. 7¼d.

34/-=between 1s. 6¾d. and 1s. 7d.

35/-=just over 1s. 6¼d.

This table shows how well justified was the importance which Hindley attached to a high rate of exchange.

Hindley used the conventional signs for coin denominations, but they have been replaced here by words, e.g.:

Lisbon. 100.mil.10 is one hundred milreis ten reis.

Holland. fl.100.10s. is one hundred florins ten stivers.

Hamburg. mks.100.10s. is one hundred marks ten stivers.

Note on transcription

For greater ease in reading, spelling and the use of initial capital letters have been modernized, and punctuation, which is usually missing except in George Wansey's writings, has been supplied. Abbreviated words, including forenames when it seemed safe to do so, have been extended. The grammar has not been altered, not even the very frequent coupling of a singular noun with a plural verb or *vice versa*. Both Jeffries and Hindley wrote in the 'mercantile' style ridiculed by Defoe, in which every possible pronoun is omitted, though it may be doubted whether either was 'affecting to be thought a man of more than ordinary sense by writing extraordinary nonsense'.⁹ In fact, the sense is generally clear and pronouns have not been inserted unless their absence really causes uncertainty about the meaning.

Amounts of money and cloth have been set in figures throughout, and the form in which dates are expressed has usually been standardized. The names of recipients are not repeated on successive letters, and in Hindley's letters his address at Mere at the head of each letter has been omitted. In the letters of

⁸ See examples in Postlethwayt, *Dictionary of Commerce*, s.v. Holland, Hamburg.

⁹ Defoe, *Complete English Tradesman*, i. 26.

Usher & Jeffries the particulars of cloth (see e.g. no. 3) are often missing in the MS., and they are printed here only when they give information about price, colour, or measure. These particulars and the particulars of bills, etc., in Hindley's letters are not printed here in the tabular form which they take in the MSS.

In the MSS. three types of distinguishing cloth mark are reproduced with the purpose of showing the distinctive form of the original: those which are composed of initial letters are indicated below in bold-face type; those which combine initials with other symbols have additionally an asterisk; those which consist only of symbols other than letters (of which between three and seven different examples occur in the MSS.) are indicated below indiscriminately by an asterisk.

LETTERS OF
USHER & JEFFRIES OF TROWBRIDGE,
1726-1742

1 Messrs. Yerbury & Filkes Trowbridge, 9 Jan. 1725/6

We have this day sent you 5 cloths. In their disposal hope you'll do your best. Please to place no. 703 to account Usher & Jeffries and the other 4 to John Usher. We wrote you this day sevendnight to send us 6 bags of wool, which desire you would forward.

2 The same 17 Jan. 1725/6

Yours received with 3 patterns and advice of 6 bags of wool which hope will be to content. Have now sent 3 cloths, one J. Usher and 2 Usher & Jeffries. When you see Mr. Immins please to acquaint him that I intend to go for Taunton the beginning of February, when intend to order up a parcel of druggets[?].¹

3 The same 24 Jan. 1725/6

... This day is sent 3 cloths, 2 of Brother Usher, as under. I am sorry to hear such complaints; will take all necessary care for the future. As to their coarseness, it's occasioned by being worked in frosty weather.

In my last I forgot to advise you that Brother drew on you the 15th instant for £100 payable to Sir Philip Parker. Now advise you that Brother have also drawn [on] you the 22nd inst. for £23 payable to Mr. William Adams at 30 days, and have remitted you in the gray cloth no. 479 a bill for £23 8s. 0d., in which is also Brother's affidavit of his debt due from Mr. Philip Coleman² which desire you would carry to the commission to prove his debt thereby.

The 6 bags of wool are all come to hand. Please to afford us as good a bargain as you can with 6 more with convenient speed.

Sad³ sand, no. 482 superfine, sad gray 479 ditto, IV; copper colour 727 gold mark⁴ V and I for Mr. Lacy.

¹ Druggets were finished like cloth but were made with a worsted warp, which made them less heavy but also less durable. But the word may be Perpett, short for Perpetuana, which was a kind of serge.

² Mercer, of Devizes, bankrupt 10 Dec. 1725: P.R.O., B 4/5 (Ind. 22638).

³ i.e. dark.

⁴ The sorts made were superfine and gold mark but it looks as if the term 'super' had been substituted for the latter by 1733 (cf. 114 and 124). Gold mark is called 'coarse' in the cloth book (though it was only coarse in relation to superfine), and its warp is often noted as being of English wool. The warp of superfines might contain 15 up to 19 'hundreds' and that of gold mark 12 to 14 hundreds; the former normally sold for 15s. a yard upwards (but see 10 and 96) and the latter for 12s. 6d. to 14s. The hundred was a conventional term. In Gloucestershire, in 1756, it contained 190 threads (Glos. R.O., Sessions Order Book), and it was probably the same in Wiltshire at this time.

4 Mr. King 7 Feb. 1725/6

We have by the bearer (Thomas Clark, [who is] to send a messenger from Andover) sent you patterns and batts⁵ of what cloths we have coming about. Please to send the numbers of what you make choice of. Please to send by the bearer the cash for your note of hand left with you by Mr. Greenhill's man last week.

5 Messrs. Cooper & Hackman 7 Feb. 1725/6

[*Letter sending patterns, in similar terms.*]

6 Messrs. Yerbury & Filkes 7 Feb. 1725/6

. . . Shall send you some of drab colour forthwith and Mr. Lacy's as fast as they are ready. One is now sent. I am sorry to hear such complaints of trade from you, wish 'twas otherwise. The wool last advised of is not yet come to hand. Have now sent 4 cloths. Enclosed is two bills of Uncle Grant's⁶ which he desire you would get accepted.

No. 734 gold mark, 28 yds.; 716 superfine, 25½ yds.; 718⁷ superfine, 26 yds.; 723 superfine, 26½ yds.

7 The same 14 Feb. 1725/6

. . . I found out the error last week as soon as your letter was gone; 'twas owing to our shearman is given a wrong account . . . Have received but two bags of wool last advised of; we think it hard if you charge it above⁸ 2s. 8d. per lb. Have seen much better wool from London at that price. Have now sent you 5 cloths, 2 are Brother Usher's. There is 2 for Mr. Lacy and next week shall send 4 or 5 more for him. There is one drab.⁹ Hope next week to send you one or two drabs more and what more we have as fast as can get them ready; but have had the misfortune with one drab colour . . . not fit to send to London; and the light dove stained by an olive cloth when wet put on it; but have some more light dove which will send up as soon as ready.

No. 728 gold; 735 gold; 712 superfine; no. 611 and 612 superfine I V.

8 Mr. John Pain 14 Feb. 1725/6

We have now sent you 2 pieces cloth as under, which doubt not but will please. When anything further is wanted, hope you'll command.

9 [*A superfine black at 16s. per yard sent to Mr. John Tozer and 2 cloths at 14s. and 15s. 6d. sent to Mr. John Davis of Salisbury.*]

⁵ 'Patterns' refer to cloth; 'batts' are of dyed wool to show the colour and were numbered in a series from no. 1 upwards, so that purchasers could order by number.

⁶ See 11 and 13. At least three John Grants were baptized in Trowbridge between 1671 and 1697. One, of Staverton, appears in the Trowbridge rate assessment of 1711. One of the Clark pattern books contains initials which are probably Grant's, and it looks as if Thomas Clark took over his business late in 1741.

⁷ In the cloth book no. 718 is marked as 'coarse'. This is one of two cases where the details in this book do not agree with those in the letters.

⁸ 'About' in the original, but 'above' seems correct.

⁹ Drabs were stout cloth, not necessarily of a drab colour, much thicker than the ordinary superfine. They were often used for greatcoats. See *Oxford English Dictionary*.

10 Messrs. Yerbury & Filkes

21 Feb. 1725/6

This adviseth you of 5 cloths this day sent, all for Mr. Lacy; but must advise you that No. 719 have his mark (?) put in it, but 'twas by mistake. If he like it he is welcome to it, if not hope 'twill yield 14s. or better, for it is better than the superfine sort. We did endeavour to get as good spinning as we could for Mr. Lacy's cloths, but the times was such, could not do as we would. Believe the present times will make an alteration. As to the price for Mr. Lacy's cloths, we designed to make 'em deserving 14s. but if you think that is too much must leave it to you to do the best you can. When you have the wool you mention please to send us 4 bags, likewise 4 more of another sort. Beg to know what prospect you have of a spring trade and whether Brother's account will admit him to draw; also what colours you think most proper now to dye.

11 The same

28 Feb. 1725/6

Yours received with advice of 4 bags of wool. Have this day sent 4 cloths and one of Mother Usher's. Shall observe your advice as to colours. B¹other Usher have of this date drawn on you for £50 payable to Mr. John Grant or order at 30 days after date. We desire to know what the numbers are of cloths unsold. In no. 740 is two papers [of] patterns which please deliver to Brother Cole¹ who is now in London who will wait upon you for the same . . .

12 Mr. Timothy Coles

12 Mar. 1725/6

There was sent you Monday to Bristol per way of London a light dove superfine cloth; hope you received it, of which please to give us a line. Shall be glad with a further order . . .

No. 742 23½ yds. payable at 15s. 6d. £18 4s. 3d.

13 Mr. Casamayor²

14 Mar. 1725/6

Be pleased to deliver to this bearer, Mr. John Grant's servant, the 2 bags of Spanish wool bought of you last Thursday. I hope you'll make no difficulty of allow[ing] 18 lb. tare, one with the other, it being so done elsewhere.

14 Mr. Robert Earle³

14 Mar. 1725/6

Be pleased to send the 4 bags of Spanish I ordered for last week by the bearer, Mr. John Grant's man, mark AJ. Enclosed is two bills, viz. on John Jenkins, £70 and on Jos. Paine Jun. & Co. for £40, which please to credit the account of Mr. John Usher.

15 Messrs. Yerbury & Filkes

21 Mar. 1725/6

. . . Have this day sent 2 cloths, but it's likely more may come to your hands this week. Shall observe your advice as [to] the cloths sent 24 Feb. but wish may not be too late with it. We wonder you find occasion to find fault about

¹ John Cole, a brother-in-law of Jeffries who is mentioned in his will. He was also a Trowbridge clothier.

² Merchant of Bristol, of Huguenot origin: Minchinton, pp. xvi, 9 n. 1.

³ Merchant of Bristol; Master, Merchant Venturers' Co. 1733-4; d. 1737: Beavan, p. 287.

the short measure. Beg to know what is expected as to threadyness, we will do our utmost to prevent it.

16 Messrs. Yerbury & Filkes 9 Apr. 1726

. . . We hope shall see Mr. Filkes here. Desire you would send us back, if not sold, no. 744 and 757 by the first waggon. The bill for £100 was made payable to Uncle Grant. Shall send 3 or 4 cloths Monday; desire your opinion of colours.

17 The same 11 Apr. 1726

Have this day sent you 3 cloths. We understand there is a great deal of wool come in, so hope 'twill be cheaper . . .

18 Mr. John Burrow⁴ 11 Apr. 1726

Have this [day] by Roger Bird's waggon sent you the cloth you made choice of at Bristol; and under the binding twine at the head is some batts of what we have coming about. If any you like, please to send your commands.

No. 783 24 yds. at 15s. per yd. £18

19 Mr. John Burrow & Co. 24 Apr. 1726

. . . Shall send you the light sand colour cloth Monday sevensnight, but cannot get the gray ready under a month and the olive under 6 weeks, which hope will do. Suppose shall see you at Northton fair.⁵

20 Mr. John Peachey⁶ 25 Apr. 1726

. . . This day we sent you one cloth, contents as under, but our shearman put the wrong direction on it, which directs it to Mr. John Vining Read. Have wrote him to send it you, but 'twould not be amiss if you send over for it. The other cloth will be ready in [a] fortnight.

No. 805 25 $\frac{3}{4}$ yds. payable 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ ⁷ at 15s. 6d. £18 9s. 9d. by Philip Hayward.

21 Mr. William Cock⁸ 27 Apr. 1726

This adviseth that the 18th instant we sent you one cloth, but by mistake there is a superfine mark on it. 'Tis an extraordinary good cloth of the sort, and yesterday we sent two pieces of superfine . . . which hope will come safe to hand.

22 Mr. Nathaniel Welchman 2 May 1726

This adviseth you of 4 pieces of narrow cloth sent from Norton fair. The length and prices are marked with a red stone as usual. We had the assistance

⁴ A bill in Jeffries's bill book shows that Burrow lived in Lombard St. He was still there in 1738 as a woollen draper.

⁶ Presumably the fair at Norton St. Philip (Som.) held on the eve of St. Philip and St. James's Day (1 May) and the four days before. See also 22.

⁶ A note of 1737 in another pattern book shows that he lived at Gosport.

⁷ The usual allowance to buyers was one yard in 20. Usher & Jeffries frequently, but not always, allowed it to country customers; sometimes, as in 120 and 123, they allowed rather more. Cf. 459, note.

⁸ Of Plymouth, see 136.

of a very ingenious draper and we think they are [a] very good pennyworth. We paid the cash down for them in the fair, so have drawn a bill on you payable to Daniel Wayland or order for £19, date 30 Apr. at 20 days after [sight]. The gray broad cloth will be sent you next week, but cannot get a gray narrow cloth of that sort you advised for.

23 Messrs. Yerbury & Filkes 2 May 1726

Have now sent you 3 cloths; also received yours of the 21st past. If you compare no. 779 with no. 6⁹ sent us on 11 Dec. I believe you'll find but very little difference, it being dyed for it. Have some grays and olives also to no. 2 coming about; we was afraid of such colours, which made us backward with them. We expected we should have seen Cos. Filkes over here. I intend to be in London in about a fortnight's time.

24 Mr. Obadiah Aaron Smith 4 May 1726

Yours received with advice of 1 cwt. 0 qr. 16 lb. of hops, which also came to hand this day; but we expected a quite different hop of what those are, for we have endeavoured to dispose of them (and should have done it had they been good) but cannot get 12*d.* per lb.; nay cannot sell them on any terms, for have had the opinion of judges in that commodity who say they are worth but very little, so we must be obliged to return them. We wish they had answered, for believe 'tis in our way to dispose of considerable quantity if [we] have that which is good.

25 Mr. Thomas Wiggington¹ 10 May 1726

Have now sent you the light colour cloth. Could not possibly get it ready sooner, 'twas a fortnight longer on loom than I expected. Hope this day fortnight to send you the brighter olive and light gray.

26 Mr. Edward Witts of Witney 14 May 1726

Wednesday last we sent you 12 dozen of fine small cards² directed as you gave orders. Hope they'll answer. We [are] careful to save the rest and in good order. 12 doz. cards at 2*s.* 6*d.* per doz. bag, £1 11*s.* 0*d.*

27 Mr. John Peachey 28 May 1726

Have sent the olive cloth and under is your account. You mentioned in your last that no. 805 was a thin cloth. I assure you we made no difference in the prices but I hope you will allow that such colours won't prove as well as some others; but will always take care that you have good goods of us.

28 Messrs. Yerbury & Filkes 6 June 1726

I bless God I got safe home Thursday last but I received nothing Saturday by post or carrier; if not sent, beg you would take care about it and also to be

⁹ The batt.

¹ Mercer, of Exeter. His name appears as creditor to a bankrupt in June 1727: P.R.O., B 4/5 (Ind. 22638).

² It was the custom of the superfine clothiers to dispose of their cards second-hand to makers of coarser cloth when they would no longer serve to card fine wool. See *Econ. Hist. Rev.* 2nd ser., ix (2), 246.

sure to forward some wool and advise of colours and the number of resting cloths. This day sent 2 cloths; the French gray will be sent next week. The enclosed bill on James Shrapnell for £40 is sent you by Uncle Grant to answer that he draw'd on you for like value . . .

29 Messrs. Yerbury & Filkes

13 June 1726

Yours we received with advice of 18 bags of wool, 5 of which are come to hand. I did not expect you would have sent all at once, but that you would [have] taken 5 or 6 weeks, for about 6 months hence shall want something else besides wool in order to make up cloth. You have also exceeded my order, for I ordered but for 4 of T at 2s. 9d. and you have sent an F which I told you I would not have; so if I cannot have the T without the F would choose to leave both.³ I can't help telling you that we think you make us give too dear for wools for am credibly informed that others have it on better terms; and am much surprised to see that you allow but 12 lb. tare on the 2 bags, especially considering the weight they are, for I thought 'twas a universal rule to allow 2 lb. extraordinary on a bag exceeding 2 cwt. So suppose 'tis only mistake, in which desire you would satisfy. Have this day sent 2 cloths; please to give us your opinion of no. [blank].

30 Mr. Obadiah Aaron Smith

13 June 1726

We have endeavoured to dispose of the hops but cannot do it. If it had been a good Farnham hop, such as we hoped [?] to have had, should have had no difficulty in disposing of them. I am positive we agreed for a Farnham hop. Cousin Allin doth remember the same, so desire you will order us where to send them or what is the lowest price you will allow us to sell them at. Desire your answer by first [post] in which you'll oblige.

31 Mr. John Burrow

20 June 1726

I have this day sent by Bird's waggon 4 superfine cloths. No. 823 should have been no. 848, but our burler put it in by mistake.

32 Messrs. Yerbury & Filkes

20 June 1726

Have this day sent you 2 cloths. No. [blank] is spotted by the shearman, so desire you will do the best you can with it. If it will not sell in a fortnight's time please to send it down again.

33 The same

27 June 1726

. . . We cannot imagine how you could think the 4 cloths could be for you being not directed for you, but the contrary on both sides for Mr. Burrow. But I suppose you think a disappointment in that trade allowable;⁴ but I know not for what reason the cloth was not sold him when I was at town, neither did I show him a pattern or ask him at all about any, but 'twas bought at our house

³ T (*Terceira*) was the third sort of Spanish wool (the lowest sold in England). F (*Fina*) was the second sort, the best being R (*Refine*).

⁴ The factors, who normally acted as intermediaries with London merchants and drapers, may have looked askance at direct sales,

whilst I was in London. If any damage come Mr. Bird⁶ must answer for it, for we are discharged, having delivered it to his order. Desire to know what numbers you have sent him. Please to desire Mr. Willy [to] send the note down and it shall be paid next Wednesday sevensnight at Vise⁶ or else will send it in a cloth this day sevensnight, which he chooses. The French gray will not be sent before this day fortnight. Have received all the wool and this day sent 4 cloths. No. 835 is the same colour as no. 833 sent last week for Mr. Burrow, which, if he had it not, must send this to him.

34 Mr. John Burrow

27 June 1726

. . . I am sorry there should such mistakes happen. The 4 cloths was made up all in one truss directed for you on both sides and my partner see it entered on the carrier's bill of loading, so it's very odd the book-keeper should deliver them contrary to order and direction, or that they should take them in. We done all that was needful on our part. Desire to know what is the number of the cloths you have received; and shall endeavour to send you the fellow of those they have sold.

35 Messrs. Yerbury & Filkes

4 July 1726

This day have received a letter from Mr. Burrow, which he won't keep the cloths that you sent him, nor will buy no more of us because you disappointed him; so if you can sell them I'll order to be sent for you; if not send them down before Bristol fair.⁷ Today have sent 4 cloths as under; in the sale of them put forward.

No. 846, 833, 831, 843, all very stout good cloths.

36 Mr. Burrow

4 July 1726

This day received yours. Am sorry that you should meet with such disappointment, and, for the piece of cloth that have so many gross faults, send down this week by the flying waggon, and the other 3 to Yerbury etc. When we see you at the fair hope shall make you satisfaction . . .

37 Messrs. Yerbury & Filkes

11 July 1726

Yours received. You not mentioning anything about Mr. Willy we concluded paying the money at Vise, but Mr. Willy refused it, insisted on it being paid at London; accordingly have now sent £50 in no. 867. Brother Usher thinks that his account will answer that which will become due this week. Am very sorry to hear such a complaint about measure; you may depend on it that it shall be rectified. This day is sent 4 cloths. Shall take care to answer the £100 bill.

38 Mr. Thomas Wiggington

30 July 1726

Tuesday last was sent you [a] superfine cloth . . . 'Twas a very good cloth but a misfortune happened on't, it being scovey⁸ a few yards in the fore end; what

⁶ The carrier. ⁶ i.e. Devizes.

⁷ St. James's Fair in Bristol began on 25 July until 1731, then on 1 Sept.

⁸ Streaky or spotty, owing to wool of different colours not having been properly mixed in scribbling.

damage you sustain, please to charge our account with it. When anything further is wanted hope shall hear from you.

39 Mr. Thomas Denham

30 July 1726

Shall send you 10 yards of very good gray cloth to be with you Wednesday. The other half piece of cloth I mentioned sending with it a friend which could not come the beginning of the fair had a desire to have. Thought 'twould not be a great disappointment to you, so we did let him have [it]. When [you] have any further occasion, please to command.

40 Mr. Burrow

8 Aug. 1726

By Bird have sent the dark gray. Next week shall send the olive . . . I will make no allowance, neither did agree with your brother to allow on the last cloth.

41 Messrs. Yerbury & Filkes

22 Aug. 1726

Have sent one light gray and one black of Brother Usher's. The black have no mark, it's a superfine but not the best; do the best you can with it. Have, enclosed in the gray, sent you some patterns and batts; when you want any of the cloths advise the number of the batt. Brother have of this date drawn on you for £60 payable to Mr. John Samson or order at 30 days.

42 The same

5 Sept. 1726

. . . This day have sent you 3 cloths. Uncle Grant have sent you the enclosed note of Mr. Munks, £35, due the 7th instant. Uncle Filkes wanted returns, Uncle Grant have got it for him and have drawn of the 3rd instant for £100 payable to Philip Hayward and for £30 payable to R. Cocky; provision will be made to answer them. Uncle hears that Brewer is still safe; if his note of hand is not paid when due, being the 16th instant, desire to have your opinion whether it won't be best to accost him. If you cannot answer Brother's bill for £60 let us know, that provision may be made for it.

43 Benjamin Wattmore

15 Sept. 1726

I desire to know if Mr. Percival⁹ is returned, whether he intends to keep the two cloths. Being willing to oblige Mr. Percival, will allow them 6d. per yard cheaper than I charged in the bill of parcels left with you, though it's so much per yard cheaper than the draper gives us. The T bag of wool waits Mr. Percival's order. Desire an answer very soon.

44 Mr. Robert Earle

15 Sept. 1726

Enclosed is J. Burrow's note of hand payable in October next for £120 15s., which please to procure the needful and place to the account of us.

⁹ Probably either Joseph or Samuel Percivall, merchants of Bristol, see also 105. For Joseph (d. 1764) see Minchinton, p. 24 n. 1, and J. Corry, *History of Bristol*, ii. 237.

45 Mr. Richard Yerbury

19 Sept. 1726

We have sent you one cloth. Desire to know the resting number, also the number of what cloth Mr. Burrow had and did keep that passed through your hands, because he told me at Bristol that he returned all again. Have sent 3 cloths, no. 889, 908, 856, which desire you would get well pressed and send to Timothy Fish at Lyme Regis (the waggon goes out at the 'Black Bull' in Bishopsgate Street); but please to observe that if no. 752 or 3 is still unsold, that you would let that be sent and keep back no. [blank]. We have orders to dye to four patterns last sent; I beg your opinion of that colour Mr. Filkes (who went this afternoon from hence to Bath) made his last choice of. I am apt to think it will prevail in the spring something; if you concur with me please to get 2 or 3 patterns that we may be early enough. If Brother had £60 that he could spare, would certainly have sent it up. When you hear of any movement in the druggist trade let me know it.

46 Mr. John Burrow

24 Sept. 1726

At Bristol you told me that you returned to Mr. Yerbury all the cloths that was sent you in by them, but he adviseth me that he never received no. 835, quantity 25 $\frac{3}{4}$ [yds.]; desire you would look into it that there may be no mistake. If anything is wanted please to command.

47 Mr. Timothy Fish

24 Sept. 1726

We have sent you by way of London 3 superfine cloths pursuant to your order; they are very good and hope will come safe to good content, having charged them the very lowest, and as low as anybody can that make the best superfines. When anything is wanted further, hope [you] will command.

48 Mr. Thomas Wiggington

2 Oct. 1726

Have now sent you the 4 cloths ordered for, contents as under. If it suit you to send us a bill it will be of particular service, for money is very scarce with us.¹⁰

No. 866, 20; 898, 24 $\frac{1}{2}$; 861, 25 $\frac{1}{2}$; 70 [yds.] payable 66 $\frac{1}{2}$ at 15s. 6d., £51 10s. 9d. No. 915, 26: 25, half drab at 16s. 6d., £20 12s. 6d.

49 Mr. Thomas Philips¹

2 Oct. 1726

Have now sent you the piece of cloth ordered for, which doubt not but will please and encourage further dealings with, Sir, etc.

No. 901, 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ yds.; 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ at 15s. 6d. per yd., £12 3s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

50 Messrs. Yerbury & Filkes

2 Oct. 1726

We received your kind letter and thank you very heartily that you are concerned for our welfare. We bless God we are strong in health but weak in

¹⁰ No doubt owing to the crisis which developed in the autumn of 1726. See T. S. Ashton, *Econ. Fluctuations in Eng. 1700-1800*, pp. 59, 122.

¹ Of Plymouth, see 143.

purse. Necessity obligeth us for Brother Usher to draw on you next Saturday the 29th inst. for £100 payable to Mr. Edward Mortimer² at 20 days after date, which said gentleman desires to know whether Mr. Chadwell have underwritten Mr. Slade's bill for £50 to pay at the time fixed, which I think he said was 2 months. If not he desire you would get it done. He also beg the favour you would get the enclosed accepted as soon as possible. Next week we shall send some cloth and, if nothing prevent, Brother Usher will then also make you a visit. Am sorry to hear of Mr. Filkes's indisposition; hope he is now better.

51 Mr. Timothy Coles

7 Nov. 1726

Yours received. Am sorry the cloths do not please you.³ My partner had ordered the making of them to your order at Bristol Fair last, and he, who is a better judge of cloth than myself, thought that they was worth considerable more per yard than charged. He is now from home. Desire you would order them back to Bristol if they will not do for you, and advise us when sent.

52 Messrs. Yerbury & Filkes

7 Nov. 1726

This day is sent two drab colour cloths as my partner write for. Shall send two light colours and a dark gray next [week] if there is occasion, but it's my opinion 'twill not be for our interest to send up cloth without there is something of sales, for it's like other fine things, the more seen the less admired. Suppose Mr. Usher will have left London before this come to hand; if not please to tell [him] all is well . . .

53 The same

14 Nov. 1726

Yours received with 10 patterns. Brother Usher came safe home Thursday last. This day is sent you 4 cloths and have also of this date drawn on you for £50 payable to Mr. Edward Mortimer at 30 days. Was forced to do it for present need, but shall make due provision to enable you to pay it.

54 Mr. Thomas Wiggington

3 Dec. 1726

Yours received with a bill on Samuel Grimes for £20 which have credited to your account. I know the drawer which I believe to be good. I doubt not but you received the cloths sent you the 25 Oct. though you mention nothing of it. If anything else is wanted please to command.

55 Mr. John Tozer

3 Dec. 1726

Money is very scarce with us. If you could send a bill for that small sum, 'twould be of great service.

² Clothier of Trowbridge. He was a wealthy man who died in 1744 worth about £40,000; and he was probably obliging the partners with cash, being repaid by a short dated bill.

³ These cloths had been sent on 22 Oct. They were described in the accompanying letter as 'superfine' but the cloth book shows them to have been gold mark and they were charged at 12s. 6d. a yard which was an appropriate price for that variety.

56 Mr. Jos. Lynthorne 2 Jan. 1726/7

This day is sent to Salisbury for conveyance to you a piece of cloth as under. We know of no better way.

No. 748, 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ yds., payable 16 yds. at 15s. 6d. per yd., £12 11s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

57 Mr. John Vining Read⁴ 2 Jan. 1726/7

This day was sent you one cloth and 10 yards gray as under, by Bird to Sarum.

No. 951, 27 yds., 25 $\frac{3}{4}$; 942, 10 yds., 9 $\frac{1}{2}$; is 35 $\frac{1}{4}$ at 15s. 6d. per yd., £27 6s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

58 Mr. Sam Smyth of Winton 2 Jan. 1726/7

This day we sent you 15 yards dark gray cloth as under.

No. 942, 15 yds. payable 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ at 15s. 6d. per yd., £11 0s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

59 Messrs. Yerbury & Filkes 6 Feb. 1726/7

This day is sent 6 cloths as under. The colours you advised to no. 10 are not yet ready; the late tumults with [us] have hindered business.⁵ Shall take care to remit you for our last draught and would [send] also the £50 if it lies [?] in our power; but if things take not a different [turn] know not what we shall do except we almost give off. Beg you would let us know what have been sold since last account and should be glad to know weekly what goes out and monthly what is sold; it will be no different for you but an information to us what colours sells. We are almost in want of the wool; desire you to take care that it may not be left behind.

60 Mr. James King 13 Feb. 1726/7

This day have sent 2 superfine blacks which doubt not but will please you. If anything is wanting before the fair⁶ please to let me know of it . . .

61 Mr. Miles Smith 15 Feb 1726/7.

Since I was with you I have called several times on Gough, who is still as trifling as ever. I find if he is arrested is resolved to be troublesome. I have talked with Mr. Axford who do not care to be concerned in it, so I desire to be excused of getting the money from him since he is so obstinate and do desire you would remit the value of the note.

62 Messrs. Yerbury & Filkes 20 Feb. 1726/7

. . . This day is sent you 6 cloths. Enclosed is two bills, value £36, which hope will duly be complied with to answer our draft on you for the £126 9s. 0d.;

⁴ Tailor of Portsmouth, admitted burgess 27 Dec. 1726: *Extracts from Records of the Municipal Corporation of Portsmouth*, ed. R. East (1891), 378.

⁵ The riots which took place at the end of Nov. 1726 and continued intermittently until the following Jan.; see the article by the present editor in *Studies in the Industrial Revolution*, ed. Pressnell (1960), pp. 67–68.

⁶ Probably Salisbury Fair, normally held from the Vigil of the Annunciation to the morrow of the octave, i.e. 24 Mar.–1 Apr.: Hatcher, *History of Salisbury*, pp. 80, 741. But it seems to have been held a week earlier in 1733, see 105.

but if any of what was sent last or these should not, please to return in your next and the cash shall be sent you next week. That of Mr. Yerbury should have been drawn payable sooner, for he had cash of Uncle Grant 3 weeks since for it. I am very sorry we have been forced to put so hard on you and hope shall not have occasion to do so any more . . .

63 Messrs. Yerbury & Filkes 6 Mar. 1726/7

. . . This day is sent 5 cloths . . . two of 'em gold marks; we have no fellow to no. 922. If no. 775 or 6, gold mark, sent you last year is not sold, send down one of them if you think they will not sell with you. If you have any cloths that you think are unsaleable please to let us know of them. Please to order 6 bags of good wool and as good a bargain as you can; we be not in immediate want.

64 Mr. Burrow 28 Mar. 1727

This day by Bird's waggon have sent cloths. Three of them are what you gave orders for at Bristol fair, but have made some difference in the mixtures. There is a vent broke in no. 1056 sewn up with thread; what damage you sustain we will be accountable. The nearest colour we have to the pattern you sent is no. 2, and may have him in a month's time.

65 Mr. Timothy Fish 10 Apr. 1727

This day is sent to London for you the blue gray cloth ordered for in your last. Have also put up 10½ yards of a good olive colour which we doubt not but will [be] agreeable to you.

No. 936, 24½, 23¼; 999, 10½, 10: 33¼ yds. at 15s. 6d. per yd., £25 15s. 4½d.

66 Mr. John Peachey 10 Apr. 1727

This day is sent you by the London waggon to Winton for you one fine cloth as under. As soon as the light gray come about will send you a pattern; meanwhile what is wanting please to command.

No. 1027, 27¾, 26½ [yds.] at 15s. per yd., £19 17s. 6d.

67 Mr. John Vining Read 10 Apr. 1727

This day is sent you 2 superfine cloths as under. No. [blank] is a little stained by lying against another cloth when wet, but 'tis scarcely discernable; what damage you sustain please to charge to our account. There is an end of twine at the places. We think what is now sent completes your order, except a light gray which will send as soon as possible. When anything else is wanted please to command.

No. 1043, 26¼, 25; 1047, 26¼, 25: is 50 yds. at 15s. 6d. per yd., £38 15s.

68 Messrs. Yerbury & Filkes 1 May 1727

This day is sent you 3 cloths. In no. 1041 is cash and bills value £50, which is to be put to the account of Uncle Grant.

69 Mr. John Wallis

1 May 1727

Yours this day received. The superfine was a little more⁷ than I expected, but thought 'twould be no great matter. As to the price I do not remember anything of 12s. 6d. per yard, for I never sell any for that price.⁸ It is not worth while to return it; please to make use of it and when I see you we shall not disagree. The fine piece was sent you tomorrow a fortnight since.

70 Mr. John Burrow

7 May 1727

This day we sent you by the flying waggon 4 cloths as under, one of which, no. 1029, to no order; my partner thought 'twas a very proper colour so was willing to send it you. In no. 1082 there is two small stains carelessly done by the shearman; what damage you sustain must be allowed you. There is a piece of twine in the list near the place.

No. 1082, 27 $\frac{1}{4}$, 26; 1071, 27 $\frac{1}{4}$, 26; 1029, 30, 28 $\frac{1}{2}$; 1088, 27 $\frac{3}{4}$, 26 $\frac{1}{4}$: is 107 yds. superfine cloth at 15s. per yd., £80 5s.

71 Mr. John Wallis

7 May 1727

I wrote you this day sevensnight in answer to your former. As to the complaint in your last of narrow breadth, it's what I never had before, neither do I know that was so. We make our cloth as good breadth as anybody. I sent the other part of the cloth not far from you and it gave very good content. It will be a great deal of trouble to return it, besides charge; if you can keep it I should be obliged to you and if you make a small abatement . . . shall not dispute allowing it you.

72 Mr. Thomas Paviott

7 May 1727

Yours this afternoon I received. Shall send you tomorrow 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards of superfine drab cloth; it is a very fine bit of cloth and as stout as we could get it made and its fineness hinders its handling so stout as it may be you may expect; but I believe 'twill answer your expectation. We cannot afford it under 21s. per yard. I wonder Mr. Davie should not give due honour to his bill. I gave cash for it and if I have not a bill that will become due the latter end of this month 'twill be a great disappointment to me. I hope ere this he have answered it and that you will remit me by the return of the post.

73 The same

13 May 1727

Yours with a bill for £100 received. The cloth was sent you Tuesday last.

74 Messrs. Yerbury & Filkes

22 May 1727

This day sent you 3 cloths. Mr. Houlton⁹ have had one cloth cut since my last;¹ there is no discovery yet made of action [?].

⁷ Presumably in length.

⁸ But cf. 51 note.

⁹ Probably Joseph Houlton. His family were clothiers in Trowbridge during the greater part of the 18th century.

¹ Cut when fastened on the tenters after fulling, a favourite method of stealing cloth or taking revenge upon a clothier.

75 Mr. Wiggington

29 May 1727

This day is sent you the piece of cloth ordered for when with you. It ought to have been sent sooner; the weaver kept it longer on loom than I expected. It was ready last week, but we had such rains here could not send it to Bath, the water being up. I hope 'twill please you when [it] do come. It's a very fashionable colour and what will wear very well, it being woaded.²

I beg you will advise whether you received mine of the 16th instant, advice of a bill drawn on you for £15 to George Sharpless, he leaving with you a discharge for one Steven Silverthorne,³ which if done beg you would send by the first post if possible; for the man being a labourer is fearely going out to his [work] being liable to be taken up as a deserter not having his discharge to show the contrary. If you could send us a bill 'twould be [a kindness]⁴ to us for we are prodigiously straitened [?].

[*End of the sheet; the next is not continuous with it.*]

76 Mr. Timothy Fish

14 Aug. 1727

Since our last have bought 10 yards of sad gray superfine and have this day sent it you. Dark gray will sell in London to the drapers for 18s. per yard.⁵ If you have not sent us a bill may add this to it, for I gave money for it.

10¼ yds. for 9¾, superfine cloth at 15s. 6d. per yd., £7 11s. 1½d.

77 Mr. John Burrow

30 Aug. 1727

Monday was sent you a white superfine cloth; it's finished to furnish. The price must be £20 10s.⁶ Shall send you a short piece of dark gray Monday. The harvest coming on sooner than expected, could not get the spinning in to make it longer, it being still in the spinners' hands.

(The above omitted sending till 2 Sept.)

P.S. Since the above yours received with 2 gray patterns. We have colours under hand but will not be ready under 5 or 6 weeks.

78 Mr. Thomas Philips

2 Sept. 1727

I received yours. At present have not any dark gray neither shall be able to get any ready under a month or 6 weeks. I have endeavoured to get some of my neighbours' but cannot. If the time I mention will do please to let me know it. I believe middle and light grays will be wanted before long, so if you think shall want any please to let me know it.

79 Mr. Timothy Coles

4 Sept. 1727

I have this day sent to Bristol to be left at the Dolphin Inn in Wine St. directed for you a piece of sad gray superfine cloth. Suppose my partner wrote you that could not get any middle gray of any of our neighbours. They that

² i.e. the wool had been dyed with woad before the final dying. Some colours could only be obtained in this way and in any case the woading made them more durable, but it was expensive; see 94 and 156.

³ Several Silverthorne women appear in the cloth book as spinners.

⁴ Unreadable in the original, being stained by damp.

⁵ George I died on 10 June 1727, and the grey cloth was presumably wanted for mourning.

⁶ Cloth sent to London undyed was always sold by the piece.

had it would not spare it because it yield something better price in London than usual. We have one under hand that will be ready in 5 or 6 [weeks] which, if you let us know speedily, shall be reserved for you.

No. 1118, 17 payable $16\frac{1}{4}$ yds. at 15s. 6d. per yd., £12 4s 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

80 Mr. John Burrow & Co. 9 Oct. 1727

This day is sent you 8 half drab cloths and one sad gray, gold mark, which your father bought here Saturday and ordered to [be] sent this day.

No. 945, drab 26; 994, 23 $\frac{1}{2}$; 1132, 22 $\frac{1}{4}$: 71 $\frac{1}{2}$ yds. half drab at 16s. per yd.; 1152, 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ gold mark at 14s. per yd.

81 Mr. John Burrow 16 Oct. 1727

This day have sent you 2 cloths, one drab gray, fellow to that sent you this day sevendnight, one middling gray to your order of the 27 Aug. Shall send you Monday next the other to the same order and one superfine dark gray made choice of by your father. We have sent you all the dark grays [we] could possibly. We did not think there would be such a demand for dark gray; if had, would have been better provided.

No. 1146, 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ seal, 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ [yds.] at 15s. per yd. Gold mark 1155, 25 $\frac{1}{4}$ seal, 25 [yds.] at 14s. per yd.

82 Mr. Thomas Philips 16 Oct. 1727

Tomorrow shall send you a short piece of very good dark gray, as good a colour as possibly can be made, but 'tis not our best superfine; 'tis a sort of cloth we make for one or two particular customers. It will wear very well, not inferior to most superfine. I have charged it to you but at 14s. 6d. per yard, though could this day have sold [it] for 12d. per yard more; but as you wanted it was willing to oblige you. The light colour you last ordered for is under hand, but 'twill [not be] ready under 5 or 6 weeks. In anything else shall be glad to [oblige].

Seal 21 yds. at 14s. 6d. per yd., £15 4s. 6d.

83 Messrs. Yerbury & Filkes 27 Nov. 1727

. . . Could not send the dove colour cloth till next week for want of drying. Shall then also send a gold mark gray, very near the colour [of] that sent this day fortnight. Have been obliged to draw on you two bills, viz. of the 22nd instant to Steven Crooch for £60 at 30 days after date and of this instant to John Smith or order at 20 days, for £100. Pray send down no. 909.

84 Mr. Thomas Denham 2 Dec. 1727

Above have sent you 4 patterns, 2 half drabs, the other superfine. Have a good variety of grays under hand. Shall be glad to serve you in anything.

85 Mr. Peter Blackaller⁷ 2 Dec. 1727

The second mourning being near I doubt not but you may have occasion [for] some grays; have some very good dark, middling, light under hand. I

⁷ Of Totnes, see 102.

have not had a conveniency to draw on you as you advised me, so beg you would remit a bill for £30, in which you will much serve and oblige.

86 Messrs. Yerbury & Filkes⁸

4 Dec. 1727

Yours received, the contents observe[d]. I did not think you would have insisted on a remittance of £47 7s. 6d. to answer our draft, though I allow 'tis a month before 'tis our right to draw; so I find we must expect no favour from you. Shall be remitted in cash to answer it in due time, if I borrow it of 10 folks. As to the time of payment I find you are fixed, though you both consented when I was with you to pay in 8 months. In our opinion the terms we have hitherto gone on with is very sufficient in the general course of trade (you thought so yourself once); though at present things may [not ?] answer so well . . . [torn] [I will] leave giving a direct answer, leaving you to consider of it and let us know . . . [torn] next your determination, and in answer to which you may expect ours . . . [torn] . . .

87 The same

Trowbridge, 11 Dec. 1727

. . . Enclosed have sent you William Munck's note of hand to Abigail Brewer dated 7th instant at 14 days for £57 15s., of which please to credit our account with £47 7s. 6d. and the other £10 7s. 6d. to account of Uncle Grant. As to payment, since 'tis [?] so reasonable as you say and 'tis not to be done without it, we do submit, but hope you'll give us the same charges [?] for wool. I observe the huge sums you mention that you advanced for us, but you do not mention the consideration you have received for it; and I think there has been more cash paid into your hands from us than we have had from you in the course of two years' trade. I have this day by Bird sent a very good black; shall send no more this year. Desire to know what cloths have been sold since the account. Please also to let us know when we may draw on you and for how much, for cash is very short with us.

88 The same

18 Dec. 1727

. . . This day have sent the cloth you write for. We have [no ?] more of them. You did not in your last as I desired let us know when [we can ?] draw on you. Uncle Grant ordered me to advise you that he shall Thursday next draw on you for £250 to E. Mortimer at a month and if Madock order for the stockings, leaving £35 for them, please to deliver them.

This morning Uncle Grant received yours; if Casier [?] is undoubtedly substantial Uncle will take his note, but not else; would sooner choose to have the £35 laid down.

89 The same

8 Jan. 1727/8

We sent today by Bird two cloths. Shall draw on you next Saturday for £60 . . .

[The sheet ends here and the next opens in 1732.]

⁸ This and the next letter are badly torn and stained.

90 Mr. Webb

16 Dec. 1732

If you have money in London you should pay it to Mr. Richard Yerbury factor in Basinghall Street, London, or send me a London bill. Shall send you some black cloth.

91 Sir Thomas Bury⁹

16 Dec. 1732

Above you have our bill for £18 1s. 0d. on Mr. John Duntze. At present have not occasion for any wool, having bought a considerable quantity at London and Bristol we think on better terms and wool more suitable for our business, this last bag proving very ordinary.

92 Mr. John Duntze¹

16 Dec. 1732

I have of this date drawn on you for £18 1s. to Sir Thomas Bury or order at 30 days. When you want anything more shall be glad to serve you.

93 Mr. Richard Yerbury

[no date]

Yours received, also the bag of wool no. 154, but neither the book nor knife was in it; beg would enquire about them. As under² is the bills drawn on you since your settling the account and with [them] the enclosed note [of] what you had remitted you, which I place as mentioned. We received 6 of the 10 bags yesterday, but our J.U. say they open but ordinary and the tares 2 lb. heavier than you allow; also we shall debit your account for 6 lb. of wool short allowance of tare on the 3 bags PR they being each above 2 cwt., which is always customary to have.

94 Mr. Thomas Saffin³

6 Jan. 1732/3

By next carrier shall send a paper of batts of what we have under hand and I hope such colours as will meet your approbation, and that ere long shall receive your orders for several of them. I must acquaint [you] that the full claret⁴ which are woaded [we] cannot afford under 16s. 6d. per yard, for they do us [at] least 1s. per yard extraordinary.

95 Mr. Thomas Philips

6 Jan. 1732/3

Next week shall send you $\frac{1}{2}$ piece good light gray and shall put up 1 superfine cloth grassy, a colour which is much approved of at London; and in the cloth shall send some batts of what colours we have under hand, which we hope will meet your approbation, and that soon shall receive your order for several of them. The full claret cloths begin to take at London though not much as yet. I must acquaint [you] that woaded full claret cloths cannot be

⁹ Probably the Sir T. Bury of a well-known Exeter family, whose portrait hung in the board-room of the workhouse there: G. Oliver, *History of Exeter*, p. 152.

¹ For Duntze, who arrived in Exeter from Bremen soon after 1718, see W. G. Hoskins, *Industry, Trade and People in Exeter, 1688-1800*, p. 42.

² These particulars are missing.

³ Probably of Exeter. A George Saffin was mayor in 1686: Oliver, *op. cit.* p. 233.

⁴ Written 'carrett' in this and the following letter, but it is probably the same colour as the 'clarrett' of later letters.

afforded under 16s. 6d. for they do us extraordinary 1s. 6d. per yard; there is but few clothiers hereabout have allowed the charge in dyeing as we have.

96 Mr. John Towers of Petworth 22 Jan. 1732/3

This day have sent by way of London 2 pieces of cloth as under, pursuant to your order at 12th Market.⁵ Shall be ready to serve when anything more is wanted.

No. 2268, 13 $\frac{3}{4}$, 13 [yds.] superfine at 13s. per [yd.]. 2223, 15 $\frac{1}{4}$, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ [yds.] superfine at 15s. 6d.

97 Mr. Benjamin Geale, Alton 22 Jan. 1732/3

Have this day sent by way of Salisbury $\frac{1}{2}$ [piece] superfine which [we] charge at 15s. 6d., but if you pay [for] it at fair⁶ shall discount 6d. per yard.

98 Mr. Richard Yerbury 22 Jan. 1732/3

Have [sent] 3 cloths . . . ; one is fellow to no. 2300 sent 11 Dec. and bears the same number, the other two are both to enclosed colour which is a woaded colour and cost a dear price the dyeing, so hope they yield something equivalent. Desire to know what is sold since account and what is your opinion of colours. We have not received the books nor the knife etc. Desire you would send no. 2073 half drab to Mr. Samuel Smith of Winton.

99 The same 5 Feb. 1732/3

Today have sent two cloths, hope you do your best. No. 1341 cost me 12d. per yard the dyeing; we hope you'll endeavour to make the best of it. If it won't fetch 17s. per yard without any allowance leave it to market.

100 Mr. John Burrow 26 Feb. 1732/3

Have this day sent one superfine woaded claret colour; 'twas all we had ready. Have charged it the very lowest can afford it at. Shall send one or two more next week if you will give the price but not else, for there is very little, if anything, got at that price. I have been from home this fortnight so could not send you our batts this week, but intend to do it next week.

101 Mr. Richard Yerbury 26 Feb. 1732/3

You have had 2 cloths of no. 2300; desire you would send them both down next journey. If you would send patterns of what colour people are most inclined to, will send same if we have any of that here.

102 The same 3 Mar. 1732/3

Totnes, 10 Feb., Peter Blackaller to John Jeffries on Sir William Bellis, 30 days' date, £20; Tiverton, 24 Jan., Richard Tucker to Thomas Hone on Sam. Grimes, 30 days' date, £20; Plymouth, 19 Feb., Nicholas Hilliard to Sam. Brint on Will Gardiner Jessua [?], 5 days' sight, £32; London, 14 Dec., 1731,

⁵ The market on Twelfth Day (6 Jan.) at Salisbury, a great market for cloth.

⁶ Presumably Salisbury Fair at the end of March.

Bank Note N.A. 6805 Nicholas Doctor Esq., 3 days' sight,⁷ £50; Plymouth, 17 Feb., J. Cleveland to Sam Brint on Richard Spark, Navy Office, 15 days' date, £18 18s.: [in all] £140 18s.

[On 12 and 14 March cloth is noted as being sent to 17 customers, including two at Southampton and one at Plymouth; and several short lengths up to 3½ yards each, to the 'Three Crowns' in Winchester for Mr. Wells, 'the prices I must leave to your judgment'.]

103 Mr. Chitty 26 Mar. 1733

The cloth that I gave your account credit for at Sarum, no. 2150, we never received; please to let us know who you sent it by and what month.

104 Mr. John Burrow 26 Mar. 1733

We nor Mr. Houlton have not anything near the colours of the two patterns we received Saturday from you. This day have sent 2 cloths and the rest you have ordered for will forward as fast as possible.

105 Messrs. Jos. & Samuel Percivall by London post [no date]

Not hearing of any safe hand going for Bristol I now send you this by way of London, which serves to cover the enclosed note of Mr. John Burrow dated 10 Nov. 1732, payable 10 May 1733, for £258. We have almost as often desired you would return Allin's note as you have acquainted us of its not being paid. Should have had the money for it at Sarum fair the 19th instant if we had the note.

106 Mr. Richard Allin [no date]

I was at Bristol Saturday and took up your note of hand dated the 26 Oct. six days after date, payable to Mr. Will White for £40, from whom I had it. I was obliged to pay 1s. 6d. postage and have paid above 4s. more myself; so desire you will not fail by return of the post of sending a good bill at 3 days' sight for 43s.,⁸ and give orders how you will have your note sent you. If I don't hear from you by first or second post, shall take other measures, for this note is in lieu of your draft in September, so that I have been out of the money seven months.

107 Mr. Thomas Saffin 7 May 1733

Have now sent half piece to one of the two you ordered last for. Should have sent a whole piece, but all we had of that colour is in half pieces except one now on loom. Shall send the other cloth you ordered for this day fortnight.

108 Mr. James Hillow⁹ 7 May 1733

Have now sent half piece pursuant to your order and have also put up 10 yards of the most saleable colour now in London. Doubt not but 'twill please your customers and shall be glad further to serve.

⁷ This is a Bank Post bill, see 306, 339.

⁸ Sic, but see 122.

⁹ Of Tavistock, see 119.

109 Sir Thomas Bury 14 May 1733

Unexpected am prevented of being at Exon. as last week. As under have sent 4 bills value £100 for [which] desire you would procure payment, and if you have of the same wool as the last had from you, please to send 3 or 4 bags.

Thomas Wigginton at 20 days, £30; John Sterrett at 30, £10; William Cock at 40, £40; Peter Blackaller at 20, £20: advised at the same time, £100.

110 Mr. Richard Yerbury 21 May 1733

Have sent you one cloth; desire to know if it's sent out and all an account of sales since I was in town.

111 Mr. John Burrow 21 May 1733

Today have sent 2 cloths as under. The 2 cloths you mentioned in your last would not do for you, please to return them to Trowbridge. We have 2 light gray, one a burling, the other weaving.

112 Mr. John Tozer 28 May 1733

Have now sent $\frac{1}{2}$ piece claret and $\frac{1}{2}$ piece of a full bright chestnut colour which is a very saleable [one] in London. Shall have the water bottled next Monday. I think it should be less trouble to have it by the carrier from Bath, so [you] can send to Bath directly from Broughton. But if you choose to send your own servant, can have it soon put up. So that if [I] don't receive your order by Monday, shall have [it] home and wait your sending for. Was disappointed in my design of being at Exon, so I have put off my journey till latter end of August or beginning of September.

113 Mr. John Vining Read 28 May 1733

Have this day sent one cloth, light ash. Shall send the woaded drake's head colour next week. A bill would now be useful and oblige your humble servants.

No. 2416, 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ for 26 [yds.] superfine at 15s. 6d., £20 3s. 0d.

114 Mr. Richard Lane 28 May 1733

Have today sent $\frac{1}{2}$ piece superfine cloth, the nearest we have ready to the pattern you sent. Have also put $\frac{1}{2}$ piece super which doubt not but will please. We are sorrow[ful] the last proved no more to your liking; we believe it will wear better than you fear. Shall be glad to serve you and will endeavour to do it to your satisfaction.

No. 2418, 10, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ [yds.] superfine cloth at 15s. 6d. per yd., £7 7s. 3d. No. 2410, 14 $\frac{3}{4}$, 14 [yds.] super at 13s. per yd., £9 2s. If you pay for this at Bristol fair or send us a bill before, will discount 6d. per yard.

115 Mr. John Hackman 28 May 1733

We received your former [letter] and today yours of 23rd instant, and have this day (before we received your last) sent half piece of the most fashionable

colour that is now made. Such colour will now sell out of Blackwell Hall for 17s. per yard. If it suited you to send us a bill 'twould be a kindness and would [oblige].

No. 2464, 15½ for 14½ superfine cloth at 15s. 6d., £11 4s. 9d.

116 Mr. Thomas Salt 4 June 1733

[*Sending 23 patterns.*] Above is batts and patterns of good saleable colours. Claret and copper with a good full chestnut such as no. 1–6, 8, 13, 16, 23, are very good. Hope you received the two cloths sent last week and to content.

117 Mr. Richard Yerbury [no date]

Have drawn on you the 1st instant for £65 to the Commissioner of Excise. Shall send you a cloth next week and our colours; but do let's know what you have sold since last account.

118 Mr. Peter Blackaller & Mr. John Sterrett 18 June 1733

If you have underwritten our drafts on you to Sir Thomas no doubt but you must pay them; but I think 'twill be best to postpone payment as long as you can.¹

119 Messrs. Richard & William Yerbury 25 June 1733

James Hillow on Jos. Smith, Tavistock 5 June at 10 days, £12; Rumney, to William Ives on John Hopkins Esq., 15 May, 3 days' sight, £15.

Have this day sent one cloth and in it the two above bills, value £27. Please to let me know if the cloth is sent out and if the colour is acceptable. Can send one or two more and think it's very clear from rows or spots. Shall leave saying anything about the money until have the pleasure of seeing you, when doubt not but shall settle to mutual content.

To send down no. 2109, 2191, 2299, 2317, and any others you judge not likely to sell.

120 Mr. Thomas Philips 25 June 1733

I have this day sent one cloth which is the nearest I have or shall have to the patterns you sent and I believe as near as is to be got. I sent you some batts of what we have coming about the 11th instant in two half pieces cloth, which hope you have received and to content; and that soon shall be favoured with a fresh order for some of them.

No. 2473, 24½, 23 [yds.] superfine at 15s. 6d., £17 16s. 6d.

121 Mr. William White of Hampton² 25 June

Today have sent half [piece] superfine claret; we could not possibly get it ready before. We have not had anything from Allin. We shall [not] send the note any more to London but expect another in the place of it with interest and charges.

¹ Cf. 109.

² i.e. Southampton; but he may be the same man as the addressee of 138 who lived in the Isle of Wight.

122 Mr. Richard Allin Trowbridge, 25 June 1733

We have expected for a considerable time back every post of hearing from you and to have received a fresh note. Now this is to acquaint [you] that if we do not hear from [you] by return of the post with a fresh note and interest, which is 26s. and postage about 4s., you must not expect to hear from us this way any more. So if you regard your reputation fail [not].

123 Mr. John Tozer Trowbridge, 25 June 1733

Have [this] day sent one cloth pursuant to your verbal order and hope shall hear you want of some of the batts you carried hence with you.

No. 2467 26; 24½ [yds.] superfine grassy colour, at 15s. 6d. per yd. £18 19s. 9d.

124 Mr. Samuel Brint³ Trowbridge, 23 June 1733

I received your son's letter of the 22nd inst. this day. The whole cloth last sent is as near your pattern you sent 11 May as 'tis possible to get it dyed, and next week shall send you half piece to that you sent the 23 May, which I confess is not so exact; neither is that colour to be got for the pattern you sent of the woaded full colour which I sold for 17s. per yard; but as but few people would go to the price of them we have not made any of them of late. The 2 half pieces I sent last you mention of returning. If you keep them but a little while I doubt not but you'll find them agreeable colours. If you keep them till I have the favour of seeing you, which I hope for the latter end of August or beginning of September, if they don't do I will take them then. As to the former cloth you mention of being not so good a superfine as it ought to be, I am sorry for it. I don't know [that we] have sent you an ordinary cloth this spring, but if 'tis so shall be ready to make you easy. If you mean the cloth sent you hence the 30 Apr., no. 2421, that is but the super sort at 12s. 6d., which I took to be as good a cloth as ever I sent out of the sort.

125 Messrs. Yerburys 9 July 1733

This day sent 3 cloths which hope will meet a good market. Desire to know if it's sent out. I don't know is any defect in either of them. The dove colour no. 2501 was under stamped; it measured 27 yards from mill, sealed but 26½, and now measures 28 yards, which you must regard in the price. If no. [blank] is not sent out please to return it next week. I have drawn the following bills, viz., 3rd instant, E. Garlick jun. at 20 days, £40; ditto, £20; ditto, Giles Bailey at 20 days, £100, £70, £50, £50; 6th instant, Excise, £100: is £430, which I shall take care to provide for what our account will not answer. As for the 10 bags of wool, 'tis but bare 7 months and I thought our agreement to be nine. Ever since it has been written at the bottom of our account, B.D. nine months after sale. Beg you would let me know what bills you have paid of our draft to Edward Garlick since we settled, and the date of the bill.

126 Mr. Alb. Schaffer⁴ [no date]

I shall send to the Devizes for the sample of wool. If it is not a very good wool the price mentioned is too much.

³ A note in the pattern book shows him to have lived in Plymouth.

⁴ See 153,

127 Messrs. Richard & William Yerbury [no date]

Yours received and have this day sent you [*blank*] cloths. Desire to know what of them is sent out. Thus I state your account :

Have drawn and received £1234 2s. 6d. ; have remitted and paid £636 13s., the balance of our account which will be due to answer £573 4s. 4d., [making] £1209 17s. 6d. ; [balance] £24 5s. 2d. [Add] the 10 bags of wool, £210 12s. 6d. ; so that we are dr. to you, error excepted, £234 17s. 8d., which shall be remitted in due order, or if it suit you may draw for £100 payable as soon as you please.

128 Messrs. Yerburys Trowbridge, 30 July 1733

I was from home when yours of 19th came and did not return till this morning, for I went from Bristol to Frome Saturday, my wife being there, and was in such terrible weather [which] so much disordered me could not come time enough to remit you cash in a cloth as I purposed to do; so have only now sent the enclosed two bills, viz. on Thomas Rogers £50 and on Thomas Masson £30, due 2 Aug. So desire you will raise for us the residue for a month to answer our draft on you and charge our account for the same. Shall endeavour not to mix the accounts so any more. You [say] no. 2299 is sold for £17 16s., was 24 yards; please to let us know the occasion. Send down no. 2109 and 1647; also let us know what luck you are like to have with the dove colours and whether oranges do sell or not.

129 The same 6 Aug. 1733

Have this day sent 2 half pieces orange colour cloth; desire to know if they are sent out and what is used of the cloth lately sent. Saturday I sent 2 bank notes value £75 and in no. [*blank*] £79 17s. 8d. and enclosed bill on Mr. Vanderplank £124 11s. at sight, which will answer for the wool and my drafts on you according to my calculation . . .

130 Mr. Thomas Heathfield 13 Aug. 1733

I received yours at Bristol with a bill for £10 and since, that with the pattern; and have now sent half piece which I doubt not but will be [to] your liking. I purpose to be at Tiverton the latter end of next week or the beginning of the week after, when hope shall receive a fresh order from [you].

131 Messrs. Yerburys 3 Sept. 1733

Have this day sent two cloths as under. [In] no. 2503 is two bills value £34 12s. [and] cash £25 8s. which is to answer our draft for £60. Beg you'll let us know what have sold since no. 2191. Let us know if those are sent out.

132 The same 10 Sept. 1733

. . . Have sent one cloth as under. I had ordered more for press, but seeing by yours such a small account of sales was discouraged to forward them.

133 Messrs. Richard & William Yerbury 17 Sept. 1733

Have this day sent two cloths; had I seen J.U.'s letter before they was gone, should have omitted it. No. 2505 is a good stout dep [?]⁵ and enclosed have sent patterns of some [of] same sort. If they are likely to sell will send what you think will do.

134 Mr. John Burrow 17 Sept. 1733

Have this day sent two deps. Shall have one or two very good white ready in a fortnight's time, with which or anything else shall be glad to serve you.

No. 2525, 21 $\frac{3}{4}$, 20 $\frac{1}{2}$; 2456, 22 $\frac{3}{4}$, 21 $\frac{1}{2}$: 42 yds. superfine deps at 16s. 6d. per yd., £34 13s.

135 Mr. Henry Wise 17 Sept. 1733

This day have sent by Bath carrier one superfine dark gray and shall send in about a fortnight or 3 weeks as good a superfine black (pursuant to your order this day received) as you would desire to see, and shall always be ready to serve.

No. 2534, 25 $\frac{1}{2}$, 24, superfine sad gray at 15s. 6d. per yd., £24 18s.

136 Mr. William Cock 17 Sept. 1733

Today have sent the 3 pieces of cloth pursuant to order when at Plymouth; when anything more is wanted, please to command.

[Other pieces sent to Heathfield & Sterrett.]

137 Mr. John Tozer 17 Sept. 1733

Have now sent half piece claret colour. We are at a loss what colour will be [wanted] next spring; as soon as I am acquainted with it will inform you the same.

138 Mr. William White of Isle of Wight Trowbridge, 17 Sept. 1733

By your [order] to our J. Usher at Woodbury⁶ have this day sent to Salisbury half piece of cloth which hope will come safe and to satisfaction. When anything more is wanted hope you'll favour the order to your humble servants etc.

[Cloth also sent to Thomas Francis of West Cowes and Richard Rudyer of the Isle of Wight.]

139 Mr. Thomas Saffin 18 Sept. 1733

Your favour from Mr. Rich with a bill value £35 on Samuel Grimes is received and your account credited. Enclosed have sent 5 batts, which is very good colours.

⁵ This word is not in any dictionary. It might possibly be a contraction of 'drab' (for drab spelt with a final *p* see *Oxford English Dictionary*) but since the word drab also appears in the letters written in full, this is not certain. The patterns of nos. 2505 and 2525 are still attached to their numbers and show them to have been brown cloths somewhat heavier than the ordinary superfines and very like drabs.

⁶ Woodbury Hill Fair, held at Woodbury Hill in Bere Regis (Dorset), began on 8 Sept. It was one of the most considerable fairs for textiles in the West of England.

140 Messrs. R. & W. Yerbury 24 Sept. 1733

J.U. returned home safe Thursday. This day have sent as under. Desire to know what is sent out. We are in hopes there will be a little. We have a few agreeable light drab just ready which can send if wanted.

Have drawn on you, viz., 20th to Percivalls at 30 [days], £44 16s.; 21st to Excise, £65; 24th to Earle, £45; which makes £154 16s., and £3 remitted short last time, is for the bills left by J. Usher.

141 Mr. Benjamin Collins 24 Sept. 1733

Above is your account dr. £70 18s., cr. £40 10s. You are [to] add what have paid Miles Child. When done please to remit the balance, for we are straitened. Shall send the dep next carrier.

142 Messrs. R. & W. Yerbury Trowbridge, 3 Nov. 1733

Monday we propose to send our book, it being now 12 months since we settled. I have drawn on you for £30 to Mr. Baily at 10 days, and of the 2nd instant the excise. Shall send in the box two bills for this £30 and we hope this account will discharge the £100, but if not will remit. When you find any prospect of trade, hope you will acquaint us with it.

143 Mr. Thomas Philips of Plymouth Trowbridge, 5 Nov. 1733

Have now sent a very good superfine black. I doubt not but you think it has been a long time a coming, but hope 'twill now answer your expectation. I was in hope should have heard you wanted something or other in our way ere this; when you do, the favour of your commands will oblige.

144 Mr. William Parminter⁷ Nov. 1733

We have examined the samples of wool and as things now go the price you mention is too much; for have seen some wool since better in my judgment and cheaper; but to show our readiness to correspond will give 2s. 1d. and 23d. This we do rather to oblige you than ourselves. Your compliance to this will be shown by sending the wool next carrier; if not shall take it for the contrary.

The carriage is $\frac{1}{2}d.$ difference from Bristol in our favour.

145 Mr. James King 12 Nov. 1733

Your bill of £20 paid me at Woodbury Hill drawn by Mr. Wells is returned, which doth give us trouble with charge of postage. By the return of the post send another bill as much larger as you please.

146 Mr. John Vining Read 3 Dec. 1733

Have sent you the drab colour cloth you ordered me to make. You told me by the time your bill was due you would send one for £100; if it suit you now to send it, would be of great service.

⁷ Probably of Bristol. A Henry Parminter owned a privateer there in 1747: Powell, p. 49.

147 [No superscription; ? Yerbury] [no date]

By Bird have sent one cloth. Have remitted you £75. Uncle Grant he will take care to remit 100 in time. Let me know what I may draw on you for. The trust[ees] desire you would send your account soon. I wish you a happy new year. Interim am sir yours to command, John Usher.⁸

148 Mr. King [no date]

I received a bill at Woodbury fair for £20 drawn by Wells. I sent him to London; the answer was, the man had no effects and would not pay him. I wrote you 12 Nov. about it but received no answer. The clergy black that you gave me orders to make 8 quarters⁹ will be ready when you please to have him. My service to Mrs. King, wishing you a happy new year.

P.S. I think to have at the market¹ 12 half pieces of the newest colours. If you want or can think of something, shall be glad to serve you. I suppose you have heard that Brother Jeffries is dead. I've two families to take care of; must desire my friends to help me what they can.

149 Mr. Wells Trowbridge, 31 Dec. 1733

Not hearing from you make me write to know whether your money is paid at London and if it suit you should be glad if you could help me to some money at twelve market. I lodge at the 'Three Lions',² where should be glad to see you. My service to your spouse. I am sir yours to serve.

150 Mr. John Burrow 11 Mar. 1733/4

By Bird's waggon you have sent you the light ash colour, desire you will give me credit for the same. It's the first piece of my making since the death of Mr. Jeffries.

151 The same 24 Mar. 1733/4

Enclosed is patterns and batts coming round; please to give me a line with the numbers. I'll put forward as soon as possible. I have dyed 2 pieces to the colour you sent; shall have them in 5 weeks' time.

152 The same 29 Apr. 1734

Per Bird have sent as under 2 half pieces, was to your order on 21 Mar. I've 2 half pieces of the same and one piece fellow to the whole cloth. You shall have a brown cloth in a fortnight if possible.

P.S. Since the above received yours; have put the colours forward. What light colours you want please to give me patterns. Your answer will oblige.

⁸ This is the first letter signed by Usher after Jeffries's death in Dec. 1733. The trustees (for Jeffries's will) were his brother and three brothers-in-law, of whom Usher was one.

⁹ i.e. 72 inches wide.

¹ Twelfth Day market at Salisbury.

² This stood at the SW. corner of Winchester St. in Salisbury. During the early part of the 18th century it was the principal inn in the town: G. Haskins, *Gilds and Companies of Salisbury*, pp. 313-14.

153 Mr. Alb. Schaffer

5 July 1734

Yours with the sample of wool received. If Mr. Wayland³ will send me 12 bags of wool at 2s. 2d., six months, mark them J. U. Trowbridge, by Bird's waggon. When have used them I'll order for more. I buy my wools at Bristol. If Mr. Wayland will use me well, will deal with him, and can prevail with two of my neighbours that sells their own goods to do the same. If I [can] have the wool, give me a line.

154 Mr. Wayland

Trowbridge, 17 July 1734

Yours received. If you please to send the wools to the 'Bull and Mouth' for Roger Bird's waggon, mark IV Trowbridge; and what the custom is in sending out I'll comply with, and in 6 months you may depend on the money.

[After this date the book has only been used very occasionally. There are several notes of cloth sent to Burrow and country customers in 1735-6 and 1738-9.]

155 Mr. Mann

[no date]

I met with Mr. Bicknell of Bridgwater to call on you for 10 bags of wool that I weighed of; if he can bring 4 more to make up a load let him have it. You may depend on the money in 12 months' time. Your answer whether the wools are loaded [will oblige].

P.S. As for the pipe of wine don't send to Bristol; my mind is altered.

156 [no superscription; ? Yerbury]

5 Apr. 1736

By Bird have sent two cloths. The dark gray must be pressed before he is sent out; he was wet in the fore end. You must not sell him under 16s. 6d. per yard, the woading cost 16d. per pound. You have not the fellow colour in the Hall. If the brown is approved of can send the fellow next week. Let me know whether the gold mark is passed.

[The remaining letters are all of the same date in 1742.]

157 Widow Way of Taunton

29 Feb. 1741/2

I have by my son sent the account that stand on my book. The cloth you returned, dark gray, was but 16 yards; you charged it more, so if you please to pay him the balance he will give a receipt.

158 Mr. John Pain

Above is your account. I cannot wait on you myself, being confined with the gout etc. Please to look at my patterns; if any will do [they] shall be sent on the return of my son. Please to give him a bill, he will give a receipt.

³ Several bills to Daniel Wayland are mentioned in the papers of the Clark collection. He was probably a London Spanish wool merchant. A Mr. Weyland was selling Spanish wool there in 1765 (Som. R.O., Letter Book of Elderton and Hall) and may be identified with one of the principals in the house of John & Mark Weyland, Spanish Merchants, George's Lane, Pudding Lane (Mortimer), who were at the same address in 1738. Schaffer was probably a clerk sent down to sell Spanish wool to the clothiers direct, thus by-passing the factors.

159 Mr. Thomas Heathfield

I am sorry to acquaint you I cannot wait on you myself. Ever since Bristol fair have been down in the gout etc. The bearer is my son; please to look on what he have. If approved of shall be sent you.

160 Mr. John Tozer

This journey I am prevented of seeing you. Am confined with the gout; it is better than to lie on the road as I have. My son John is come to wait on you for what orders you are pleased to give. I have Spanish wool by me.⁴ If you want any thing to make to, send your colour, shall be sent soon; or if you like either of [the] patterns as he have. The price must be 16s. per yard, 15s. 6d. for what he have. What you pay him he will give a receipt for.

161 Mr. Thomas Wiggington

In 6 Oct. 1740 you had a half piece of cloth. You told me you would remit a bill; I have received none. Without you make your payments better I shall be a loser in serving of you. To make me amends, pay part of what was sent you in September last and my son will give a receipt for [it].

162 Mr. Philip Rich

At present am prevented of seeing you . . . Have sent my son John to wait on you. I have some Spanish wool left; if you want any particular colour I'll make you at the price of 16s. per yard as good as I can for the money; being a particular friend I'll give you the making of a piece. I've 4 good whites; they will sell in London for £21; you may have one blacked if you think proper. When I saw you last you told me when I had batts to send you some. I have made no cloth since but with a mixture of English [wool] and that must do now (I won't deceive you). I have a brother by law that make for London; he have a quantity of all Spanish. If you will send me by Jack a pattern, I'll try to get you them of him. He sell in London for 16s. 6d. and 17s. per yard. I mention this purely to serve you.

163 Mr. William Tross⁵

I am confined with the gout; shall not have the pleasure to see you. I have 4 good whites; if you should want one now is the time. I can sell them in London for £21 per cloth and to you when black for 16s. per yard. If you want any particular sortment, send me a pattern, I'll make you. I have a little Spanish wool left; the price will be 16s. per yard. My son John have my patterns of every piece of cloth that I have by me. What is under hand at home are bespoke; by 25 Mar. I shall not have a piece. You must advance your price.

⁴ The war with Spain, which had begun in 1739, was having a disastrous effect on the supply of Spanish wool.

⁵ Of Exeter, where he was sheriff in 1748 and mayor in 1750: Oliver, *Hist. of Exeter*, pp. 234, 240.

I hope you will make me a good payment; he will give you a receipt for what he receive. We can buy nothing but for ready money; the market is on the bridge.⁶

164 Mr. John Sterrett

I have sent my son with all my stock of cloths. What I have under hand are bespoke. The price is 16s. per yard and not save my own [?]. Spanish cloth is advanced in London, you must do the same. Till we have a peace with Spain there will [be] no wool. English wool is advanced £4 in 20. The market is on the bridge. We have but four men that do make cloth in our town; all stand. I hope you will make a good remittance. We can buy nothing but for ready money. My service to your family.

165 Mr. Peter Blackaller

The piece of black have received it. If you want, I have a piece, stouter. Have sent my patterns by my son John, please to despatch him soon. What you pay him he will give a receipt for. Cloth is advanced in London from the factor to 16s. 6d. and 17s. per yard. I shall sell no more Spanish cloth under 16s. per yard. You must advance in your shop, for we shall have no more wool whilst we are at war with Spain.

⁶ The winter of 1741–2 was a time of considerable distress, though less so than the two preceding years. Professor Ashton gives the turning point of the crisis as 1742 (*Econ. Fluctuations in Eng. 1700–1800*, p. 172), but February was too early for the recovery to affect the cloth industry.

PAPERS OF
GEORGE WANSEY OF WARMINSTER,
1731–61

DIARY

166 25 Jan. 1730/1 [aged 17½]. Sent my first cloth to Mr. Acton.

167 5 Aug. 1732. Weighed my crop of wold¹ I had in the new garden, weighed 1 cwt. 2 qr. 9 lb. The whole ground sowed was 161 square yards. I paid away on account of this wold for labour etc. 2s. 1½d. I sold 197 lb. for 19s. 2d.

168 9 Sept. 1732. Computed the value of the wool I have now in house of my own which is £108 16s. 10d.

169 25 June 1733. Paid my brothers 12s. for interest for the £15 I have of theirs to Midsummer.

170 3 May 1734. Received of my father the drawback² for foreign soap used in milling my cloths no. 30–59, 29 cloths in all, 109 lb. at 1⅔d., 15s. 1½d.

171 12 Feb. 1734/5. Father sold for me 3 dozen of card leaves to Mr. Spags and received of him 27s. but as he used to give 10s. a dozen it is 3s. too little which he must pay me more.³

172 28–30 Nov. 1738. These days there has been a very great riot at Melksham. Great number of weavers and shearmen and others being tumultuously assembled together forcibly entered the house of Mr. Coulthurst, ransacked his goods, demolished the house, destroyed his utensils in trade, cut to pieces several cloths, threw out his yarn and wool into the river, cut many of his chains, pulled down his mills, demolished several houses belonging to him, lived upon free quarter upon the people of Melksham, extorted money from many; many families fled for fear of their rage. They proceeded afterwards to Trowbridge, threatened and defied the inhabitants there.⁴

3 Dec. Several companies of foot and troops of horse were sent to the towns about.

¹ i.e. Weld or Dyer's Rocket which gives a yellow dye.

² The duty on the imported soap used in fulling was partly repaid if it could be proved that the soap had been used in the cloth industry.

³ Cf. 26. This is one of several entries. The leaves were the large cards used on the scribbling horse. In spite of George's comment, Spags, who appears to have been a travelling collector of old cards, continued to pay 9s. a dozen.

⁴ This was the great riot commented on in the 'Essay on Riots' quoted in *Gent. Mag.* ix (1739), pp. 7ff. See *Studies in the Industrial Revolution*, ed. Presnell, pp. 71ff.

5 Dec. We were much alarmed at Warminster, hearing that they were that day coming among us, and prepared to stand on our defence. The day before we heard they threatened to come and demolish the houses of our two shearmen, for teaching boys not apprenticed,⁵ which put us in great fear.

6 Dec. Their fury seems to be abated and strength broken.

7 Dec. Many were impeached and taken up at Trowbridge, and at Warminster John Howel⁶ said to be a principal ringleader in the riot at Coult-hursts.⁷

173 10 Sept. 1741. For a week past I have been at Bristol to see my brother and other friends. Monday evening walking by the posthouse, we looked in there and found a letter from Mr. Watts our factor at Barbadoes, advising his having shipped for us 3 hogsheads of sugar, which was an agreeable surprise to us, as I little expected any return so soon, the adventure (of cloth and trimmings) having been sent but about the middle of March last.

Wednesday morning I consulted with my brother about insuring it, and advised him to do it with all speed. About an hour after, meeting him again, he acquainted me the ship that brought it was just arrived; which was still a greater and more agreeable surprise. By this the charges of insurance which would have been about 40s. was saved.

We sold also while I was there a bag of cotton, which, with 2 hogsheads sugar lately sold, was the remainder of an adventure we had sent to St. Christophers.

This money will be of service to me at this juncture, having met with a very bad trade at London this year, much cloth unsold and money like to be very scarce.

Here I was in company with Mr. Lewis a gentleman merchant of Pennsylvania, who gives us good encouragement for sending over woollen goods to that country and New York, himself having partners there, whose house are of good repute; their names Lewis, Annelly & Vanderspiegle. He proposes to clear the account in 12 months and send home bills in return. My brother is also going to send an adventure of cloth to Carolina, according to advices he has received from thence.

Though the trade at London is now discouraging and I have at present much cloth upon hand, I am in hopes that I may, by my brother's means, (if it please God to continue life and health to us both) be able in time to clear off my stock of cloth and find an advantageous vent for as much cloth as I can make, and to go on briskly in my business with pleasure and profit.

Now, if it please God to do this great thing for me: To deliver me out of my present difficulties, to open for me a free and advantageous vent for my goods, and grant me a good trade according to the desires of my heart;

I would never forget in my prosperity, what disappointments for want of sales, what straits for want of money, I have went through in the former part of my trade to this time;

⁵ Towards the end of the century the maintenance of apprenticeship was frequently insisted upon by the shearmen, but this is the only evidence of their attitude at this date.

⁶ John Howel was not among the rioters found guilty at Salisbury Assizes.

⁷ 166-72 come from an early Memorandum Book in the possession of the Rev. J. Wansey.

But would acknowledge the goodness of God in the day of success, and would give thanks and rejoice in his mercy.

I would be just in my dealings with every body;

I would be punctual and speedy in my payments, not taking long credit from any;

I would be charitable to the poor, and would use myself to acts of charity and kindness;

I would be a kind master to all my servants, not be pressing to have my work done at the lowest rates of anybody; but be glad to see the poor live comfortably by my work.

And let this writing, which I have now written in the days of difficulties, be my monitor that when it shall come to pass that God my Father shall show mercy to me, I may not depart from the present purpose of my heart, which is, to show kindness also to my neighbour, even justice and goodness to men like myself.⁶

174 14 Dec. 1742. I was married at Thomas Church, Bristol, by Mr. Oliver, to Mrs. Hester Greene of North Bradley, daughter to the late Mr. William Greene of Southwick, who died in the year 1727, and Sarah his wife . . . With her I receive a fortune of £800 in money.⁹

175 22 Dec. 1744. My brother's apprenticeship with Mr. Hobhouse being this day expired, he made with me a cursory computation of the number of the cloths and pieces of cloth that he has sold or sent abroad since he went to Bristol. We find it to amount to about 250 cloths or upwards.¹

176 5 Jan. 1745/6. The affairs of my trade are, I think, in a better situation than they were at the end of the last year, as I have a lesser stock of cloth upon my hands unsold and some hundred pounds of debts due to me more than then. I have pretty well cleared myself of one unprofitable branch of my trade with Mr. Diston, which brought me into difficulties, and have pretty well established another with Mr. Fludyer,² which seems to carry with it a prospect of much greater advantage. I have made further experience of the trade to Lisbon, which I hope will do well . . .

In our nation ever since the month of August last has a rebellion been carried on to a great length . . . What will be the end of these things God alone knows; a general alarm and consternation is already spread over the land; a stop is put to trade and payments,³ that our poor are in a miserable condition

⁶ Memorandum Book No. 3.

⁹ Family Book.

¹ *Ibid.*

² Mr. (later Sir Samuel) Fludyer began life as a Blackwell Hall Factor and became one of the richest men in London, dying in 1768 worth about £900,000. He became M.P. for Chippenham in 1754. See Sir L. Namier, *England in the Age of the American Revolution*, pp. 254, 281-3; L. S. Sutherland, *A London Merchant, 1695-1774* (1933), p. 27 n. 5. Fludyer was probably the largest buyer of cloth in the country. It can be no accident that his name appears in each of the four collections of documents relating to clothiers of this period which have survived in Wilts., Glos., and Somerset.

³ The Pretender reached Derby on 4 Dec. and retreated on 6 Dec. For the financial panic at this time see *Gent. Mag.* xv (1745), pp. 631-2, 'The Mischiefs of Groundless Fears'. In spite of the retreat, stocks continued to decline and the turning point did not come till April: Ashton, *Econ. Fluctuations in Eng. 1700-1800*, p. 123.

... [May God] establish our peace and tranquillity again as in former days, that trade may flourish again without interruption and our poor have full employment and a plenty of bread, who are reduced to great want and distress . . .⁴

177 16 Apr. 1746 . . . During this winter an entire stop is for a good while put to all commerce, to sales and payments in the city of London; in consequence of which in the country is great want of employment and money, and miserable distress among the poor. Stocks are fallen very low. Bank stock which I have known at 150 was sometimes at 118 . . .⁵

178 19 June 1746. My brother William has bought of John Slade of Warminster his interest in an estate lying at Nevis in America, being one half of the said estate (Mr. Thomas Wansey having a right in the other half), for which he pays him £20 in hand, £20 a year during his natural life, and £70 as he shall appoint at his death, and he also undertakes to pay his part of sundry annuities and debts due out of the said estate . . .⁶

179 12 Dec. 1748. My wife was inoculated for the smallpox.⁷

180 26 Apr. 1750. This day my son Henry⁸ went to school to Mr. Martin to learn Latin, being 5 years and about 4 months old. It is this day 30 years ago I myself first went to the same school to Mr. Barry.⁹

181 6 Apr. 1752. My brother John set out in company with Mr. Tailor of Sutton and Mr. Goddard of Swindon¹ for Falmouth to go from thence to Lisbon.

17 June 1752. My brother John returned home from Lisbon having landed at Poole . . . the 15th instant. He sailed from Lisbon 30th May.²

182 22 June 1752. My father being about to leave off his trade has given me his workhouse which I have this day taken possession of and have this day set my scribblers to work there; and 24 June I took possession of the little closet adjoining to the wool loft in which I have formerly spent many agreeable instructive and profitable hours; and at the same time I resigned to my brother John the workhouse which I have occupied ever since the year 1737, which is on the other side of the way at a distance from my dwelling house.

Till the year 1737 my business was carried on together with my father in this same wool loft, when in October I began trade for myself, having fitted up

⁴ Memorandum Book No. 3.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Family Book.

⁷ *Ibid.* Two children and two maids were inoculated the following February.

⁸ This child died in 1751.

⁹ Family Book.

¹ There were three members of the Goddard family in Swindon at this date, Ambrose (d. 1755), Thomas (d. 1770), and Edmund (d. 1773). An Ambrose Goddard of Wilts. was admitted a member of the Lisbon Factory in 1756, and was possibly a son of one of them; R. Walford, *British Factory in Lisbon* (1940), p. 72. There may have been a connection with the Goddard of the firm of Jackson, Branfil & Goddard of Lisbon, see Sutherland, *A London Merchant*. Tailor has not been identified.

² Family Book.

from a tenement the workhouse I have lately left, where I have carried on my trade near 15 years and have in that time scribbled about 1,946 cloths, having used about 150 bags of Spanish wool and about 400 packs or bags of English wool. I began with one scribbler and am now increased to 10 and have carried on my business there with much success

Many persons . . . with greater beginnings have since that time miscarried in the same trade I have been in. One remarkable instance of which has happened in a person who occupied this very closet I now enjoy . . . and filled up the place I am now in a few years before me, P. Temple,³ my father's apprentice. He began the world with a plentiful fortune, I suppose not so little as £2,500; but he did not set out with God . . . His plentiful fortune is reduced to nothing; several thousand pounds of other persons' gone with it, large debts being contracted which were never paid. He became a bankrupt, fled for his life into foreign lands where he lived an exile in poverty and disgrace, pined away and perished miserably among strangers.⁴

183 *19 Jan. 1753.* My brother William and I having had a law suit depending at Portugal for near a year with some great persons, viz. the patriarch of Lisbon and the Duke de las Sons,⁵ Duke High Justice of the Kingdom, relating to a debt due to us from Manoel Henriques de Leao amounting for my share to about £137 sterling, for which my friend Mr. Edward French⁶ has seized effects which they would get out of his hands; I have this day advice from him that there is come out a sentence in our favour . . . But that they had it in their power, if they pleased, to put in their embargo against the sentence within 30 days, and may appeal to another tribunal.

Sept. 1753. The Duke de las Sons, Duke High Justice of Portugal, having laid an embargo on the execution of the sentence obtained against him in our favour and appealed to a higher court, we have this month received a decree issued from that court in August confirming the former decree and sentencing the Duke to pay the expenses of the law suit.

The equity of this court is remarkable as the Duke is at the head of the law and has a power of making and unmaking judges.

The judge who issued out the decree in our favour against the Duke was Don Eusebio Tavazes de Cerquera.

May 1754. Received an account from our friend Mr. Edward French at Lisbon that the Duke de las Sons, having again appealed to a higher court, had obtained a verdict in his favour against us. By which the two former decrees

³ One of the Temple family of Bishopstrow. He was bankrupt in 1745 when he is described as 'clothier, woolman & chapman': P.R.O., B 4/11 (Ind. 22644).

⁴ Memorandum Book No. 3.

⁵ *Sic*; should be Lafões.

⁶ Factor at Lisbon. Up to 1759 the firm was French & Kelly but afterwards French & Lister. They do not appear among any of the signatories to documents printed by Walford, but no complete list of the Factory exists and some merchants did not belong to it. French bore the same name as George's grandmother but is never spoken of as a relation. He also acted for some Bristol merchants (Powell, p. 372), and may have been the person referred to in one of Harding's letters (Lord St. Aldwyn's MS. BC/2, to Mayne & Co. 10 Dec. 1757) where a Mr. French is accused, on the report of another merchant, of selling cloth falsely stamped with Harding's mark, a charge which may only reflect the fierce animosities among members of the Factory.

given in our favour are set aside;⁷ the judge, he says, being corrupted by the influence of the Duke.⁸

184 July 1753. It is now about a year since I removed my trade from my old workhouse to that which was lately my father's. I have brought my business nearer home by which I find a great convenience . . . and have gone on this year with success and increase . . .

If it please God to continue the same blessing to me for 8 years to come as he has for 4 years past, I shall have attained that sum which at my first setting out in the world I scarce raised my hopes to attain, but set as a limit to my utmost desires, as what I thought would be abundantly sufficient for all the occasions of life . . .¹

185 1 Nov. 1755.² This day about 10 in the morning happened a most terrible earthquake, so great and of such an extent as no history I have ever read or heard of gives an account of any one so extensive. We have a moving and affecting letter on this dreadful occasion from our friend at Lisbon, Mr. French, dated the 6th instant, giving us an account of this terrible calamity and its dreadful effects . . .³

. . . Greatly does this stroke of God's providence affect our family and much embarrasses me in my affairs. By this terrible blow on Lisbon my brother William, who was engaged in a large trade to that place, will probably lose the fruits of all the labours of his past life. He is in partnership in his trade thither with Mr. Hurlock.⁴ He reckons their joint effects there amount to above £16,000 of which his share £8,000. Besides which he has there on his own account, about £2,000. My brother John has also there about £1,200. I have also there of my own in debts and goods to the amount of £734. [Total of the family's effects there] £11,934, of all which it is very uncertain if anything may be recovered or how much.⁵

186 Dec. 1755. My affairs are at this time in a worse situation than I have known them for many years. By the late earthquake and conflagration at Lisbon, I have about £1,000 in goods and debts there, which am afraid is all lost; my brother, who is in a manner ruined by this blow, is obliged to put a stop to his payments. He owes me about £900 more, and 2 bills for £30 each I

⁷ By the Treaty of 1654 the ancient privilege allowed to English merchants in Portugal of having causes judged by their own Judge Conservador was confirmed, and appeal from his judgment was allowed only to the highest Portuguese Court and was to be settled within four months, but this point was disputed throughout the 18th century: Postlethwayt, *Dictionary of Commerce* (4th edn. 1774), s.v. Portugal; Shillington and Chapman, *Commercial Relations of England and Portugal*, pp. 200, 230.

⁸ Family Book.

¹ Memorandum Book No. 4. His capital in August 1753, according to his inventory, was £4,037. Possibly the sum he aimed at was £6,000 which he could have attained in 8 years by adding £250 per annum to his capital; and he did average this sum: *Studies in the Industrial Revolution*, ed. Pressnell, p. 85.

² This entry is dated on the day of the earthquake but must have been written some time afterwards. The first news of it came from George's packer in London, Joseph Lewis, in a letter dated 25 Nov. This appears to have been the earliest date that the news was known in London: Kendrick, *Lisbon Earthquake*, p. 142.

³ Memorandum Book No. 4. For the letter see 208.

⁴ Hurlock has not been identified. ⁵ Family Book.

have lately drawn on him are, one come, and the other coming back for me to pay; that by the best computation I can make, I have lost at Lisbon, and stagnating in his hands about £1,950 which I can come at no part of. I am also bound for £800 for him to Mr. Maddox, which I don't know how soon may be demanded of me. I have also 11 fine cloths ready which I made for my brother for Lisbon, which lie on my hands and some more I am making for him I am at a loss what I shall do with them.

I have also a bale of cloth worth £150 I had shipped for Lisbon, before I knew of the earthquake and I have sundry pieces of cloth I should have sold brother for the West Indies which am now disappointed in the sale of and lie on my hands and are out of the common way of trade.

My factor Denys De Berdt⁶ has had a very bad trade this year for me; when I settled with him in August, there was but about £50 balance coming to me, since which he has sold but very few cloths for me if any; and Mr. Fludyer on whom is my principal or rather whole dependence is very backward about giving order, having a great deal of our cloth on hand. By this situation of my affairs a considerable branch of my supplies is cut off and a considerable branch of my trade lost, making for my brother and for Lisbon; and very little encouragement to make more for my Blackwell Hall factor, and little wanted by Mr. Fludyer but blues, which are also at this time made to a great disadvantage, indigo being now 14s. per lb. the best; that, being uncertain what to go upon, and doubtful if my supplies which now centre in Mr. Fludyer only will hold out, necessity and prudence oblige me to lessen my trade.

A very great and unexpected alteration from the state of my affairs 3 months ago.⁷

187 1756 [No date, ? February]. My brother William having made a stop in his payments on the first news of this calamity, by the advice of his friends, (from many of whom he has experienced great compassion and kindness in the time of distress) called together his creditors February 10th and laid the state of his affairs before them.

His whole debts amounted to about £22,900; his effects per estimate made of them (Nevis estate valued at £2,500), about £18,500 exclusive of his effects at Lisbon, which, was it to come in without loss, would produce about 16s. in the pound; all this he offered to surrender up to his creditors to be disposed of by them as they thought most proper; either he would submit to a commission of bankruptcy or deliver it up into the hands of assignees, or undertake the management of it himself, and give them his bond for 14s. per £, to be paid as he could get in his effects, at such times as 5 gentlemen they should nominate should, on an inspection of his accounts, appoint. This last proposal, they, expressing their satisfaction in my brother's justice and honour, unanimously

⁶ De Berdt, whose ancestors were originally refugees from Ypres, was a well-known Blackwell Hall factor who acted for several Trowbridge clothiers. He was also a merchant with special interests in America and his firm appears in 1754 as De Berdt & Burkitt, Artillery Court, Chiswell St. He acted as agent for Massachusetts in the critical years from 1765 until his death in 1770 when he was succeeded by Benjamin Franklin, and his letters are in the Library of Congress: *Publ. of the Colonial Soc. of Massachusetts*, xiii (1912), pp. 293ff.

⁷ Wilts. R.O. 314/5.

came into,⁸ that among 50 persons that were there present not one objected, but all concurred with the greatest freedom, and immediately signed a writing acknowledging their consent and approbation, which paper in two days was signed by above 80 persons.

Soon after this my brother received a letter from Mr. Richard Combe,⁹ a gentleman of Bristol, who was then on his travels at Petersburg, dated thence January 20th, in which . . . [he] very generously offers him £500 for his service, whenever he should begin trade again, free of interest till he should be in a condition to repay it without inconvenience, and gave directions to his attorney to pay it whenever it should be wanted. This I look upon as an extraordinary instance of uncommon benevolence and generosity as my brother never had but a slight acquaintance with this gentleman before. Many others of my brother's friends at Bristol have made him generous offers of their present and future assistance . . .¹

188 [No date. 1756.] *What was the State of Brother William's Affairs before the Earthquake.*

His effects in trade, exclusive of his effects at Lisbon, amounted to £16,000; his estate at Nevis was valued at £2,500; £18,500. His effects at Lisbon were estimated at about £9,500. Total of his effects were £28,000. His debts were found to amount to £22,900, so that his net stock was about £5,100. Of this, brother was supposed to have when married, 1744, not less than £1,000; he had with his wife £2,000; he has had with 3 apprentices, I suppose not less than £600: [total] £3,600; and as his estate is encumbered with some pretty large debts, which before his effects could be collected in to pay them must draw a pretty large interest, which would diminish the £5,100 (supposed his net stock) perhaps some hundreds [of] pounds, I cannot see that he has made but very little profit by 11 years very extensive trade, besides living in a very plentiful manner. Whereas in that time, from 1744 to 1755, in my little trade (in which I have not returned more in a year than I suppose he has in 5 weeks, or not a tenth part of what he has in a year) my effects were doubled,² notwithstanding I have 6 children alive besides 2 I have lost, and my brother has not any child. Which is to me a confirmation that more profit is to be made by carrying on a moderate trade such as a man can manage with his own stock, and can himself thoroughly attend to, as I have done, than by carrying on a wide extensive trade on other persons' stock as my brother has done.

How much might Brother William be Loser by the Earthquake.

His effects at Lisbon were estimated to amount to about £9,500. His whole debts amounting to £22,900, his creditors consented to take 14s. in the pound; viz., 5s. March 1757, 5s. March 1758, 4s. March 1759, by which he was abated 2s. in the pound, which on £22,900 amounts to £6,870, which reduces his loss to

⁸ George would have preferred William to have made over his effects to assignees which he considered 'the easiest, safest and most honourable method' (Letter from George to William, 14 Feb. 1756, Wilts. R.O. 314/5).

⁹ Warden, Merchant Venturers, 1757-8; M.P. for Milborne Port, 1772, for Aldeburgh 1774-5; d. 1780: Beavan, p. 335.

¹ Family Book.

² His capital in Aug. 1755 was £4,637.

£2,630; besides which by his composition he was eased of the interest on sundry bond debts from Nov. 1755, to the time the several dividends were payable, which may amount to some hundreds of pounds, that I suppose, this regarded, he could not be loser by this calamity above £2,300. Which loss is also further diminished by as much more as he may receive more out of his debts due at Lisbon at the earthquake.³

189 25 Feb. 1756. Agreed with Mr. Capel⁴ of Gloucestershire to take his son to instruct him in my clothing trade. He is to give me £40 a year while he lives with me.⁵

190 27 Mar. 1756. Began receiving from Sir Samuel Fludyer the Evening Advertiser every post.⁶

191 6 Apr. 1756. Began going through a course of philosophical lectures⁷ with Mr. Griffys, together with Mrs. Wansey.⁸

192 19 Apr. 1756. Set out for London where I have not been since about this time 1740.⁹

193 4 Nov. 1756. Settled my accounts with my brother William which have been depending ever since July 1747. Dr. side of which was grown up to £7,897 2s. 6d.; for the balance of which being £746 16s. 6d.; in consideration of his late losses at Lisbon I accepted his bond to pay me, at 14s. per £, £522 15s. 6d. at 3 several payments; which gives me great satisfaction that this affair, which has been so long depending and many accounts connected with it that have long laid open unsettled and given me great uneasiness are now all settled.¹

194 [No date, 1756–7]. Corn unexpectedly grown very dear. Wheat advanced to 30s. a sack; it afterwards advanced in the following spring, wheat to 38s. and 40s. a sack, barley 30s. and 35s. per quarter, malt sold in Bristol 5s. 6d. per bushel. A very dear time for living; the wants of the poor very great.

Mar. 1757. About this time, the wants of the poor being very great, a collection was made over the town, and was collected about £90 to which Lord Weymouth afterwards added a benefaction of £50, which was laid out in wheat and sold out in meal at a moderate price to the poor.

³ Wilts. R.O. 314/5.

⁴ Capel was the name of several Gloucestershire clothiers but there is no indication which of them this was. The son may have been the Daniel Capel, clothier, of Warminster, who was named as an executor of a will in 1789: Everett, 'Wilts. Wills', v. 43 (Wilts. Arch. Soc. Libr., Devizes).

⁵ Family Book. ⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ This course was advertised in the *Salisbury Jnl.*, 12 and 26 Apr. 1755. It comprised ten scientific lectures illustrated by experiments performed 'with a very large and noble set of instruments'; and the subscription was one guinea per person. The lecture tour had included Bristol, Bath, Frome, and Warminster.

⁸ Family Book, ⁹ *Ibid.* ¹ Wilts. R.O. 314/5.

18 Apr. 1757. This week had a barrel of rice from Bristol, cost 21s. per cwt.; sold it out to the poor at 7 lb. for 1s. to help their present distress; wheat being this month sold at 40s. a sack, barley at 38s. a quarter.

In May sold out another barrel rice at the same price.²

195 *July 1757.* I have this year enjoyed the particular blessing of God's providence on my worldly labours, having, as I believe I shall soon find on casting up my affairs, made a more profitable year than I ever did before³. . . I am now got into as prosperous a trade as I ever was and my loss is in a great measure made up . . . This year has been a year of want and affliction to many, by the dearness and scarcity of provisions . . . numbers have greatly suffered and it's to be feared many have perished for want or suffered extreme distress, and as we are now engaged in war with France many persons of good fortune and credit in trade have suffered great losses from our enemies.⁴

196 *This Fall 1757.* A bad fever prevails in the town and continued to the end of the year . . . I have never known so great a mortality in this town before, but is mostly among the poor.⁵

197 *23 Mar. 1758.* Mr. Foley,⁶ a Lisbon merchant, having bought cloth of mine and brother John's, by which he became indebted to me £203 2s. and to my brother John £289 19s., we have this day an account from brother William, who is at London, that he is slipt away to Lisbon out of the way of his creditors, his affairs being in a bad situation; advising us to send a power of attorney to Mr. French at Lisbon to act for us, which soon after we both did.

This affair looks bad, that I fear we shall be considerable losers by it.⁷

198 *Mar. 1758.* My brother William's second dividend of 5s. in the pound being now soon payable and he being in treaty with a gentleman for the sale of his Nevis estate, for which he is to receive, if they agree, £6,500 down, he seems to have a reluctance to part with it and would fain keep it. He has in his letters to me lately represented the valuableness of it to our family, as that it may be expected to bring in £800 or £1,000 a year and that after him, as he has no child, it would come to my family . . . I have in answer wrote to him that I have no covetous desires towards this estate either for myself or family . . . at which he seems to express his wonder, as if I was deficient in prudence and in regard to the welfare of my own family.

As he wants the value of it much to enable him to pay his dividend, I suppose I could not be of any service to enable him to save it, without my being engaged with him in borrowing near as much money as the value. To this I think I have very weighty objections . . .

² Family Book.

³ His profits proved to be slightly lower than in 1755 and considerably less when expressed as a percentage on his capital (11·5 as against 13·3). He also added less to his capital (£239 as against £325), no doubt because of high prices and, perhaps, his charitable benefactions.

⁴ Memorandum Book No. 4. ⁵ Family Book.

⁶ Foley was among the signatories of the Memorial of the Traders to Portugal in 1756; Sutherland, *A London Merchant*, App. III.

⁷ Family Book. See 212 for the final result.

First, since the death of Mr. Meriweather in 1713 it has been an unsuccessful, unhappy estate to all that has been concerned in it, a source of uneasiness and litigation with little or no real profit, and by its distance from home liable to many impositions and bad management from those that may be concerned in it and by the nature of the product and various accidents of droughts, hurricanes, mortality of slaves, and alterations in prices it's liable to great uncertainties in its profit . . .

Secondly, though my brother has no child of his own, it's not impossible that he may, as my sister as well as all others is liable to mortality, and my brother is many years younger than I am . . .

Thirdly, there is also another consideration of great weight with me. The profits of this estate being to be made out of the labours, slavery, and misery of poor unhappy negroes, equally partakers of the human nature with us, though of a different colour, and I believe unjustly deprived of the common rights of human nature, by being subjected to perpetual slavery, I could with no satisfaction of mind enjoy it. Nor could I expect the blessing of God would attend it to my family, as I am witness it has been the source of much vexation and little satisfaction to those that have been concerned in it for more than 40 years past.

Fourthly, I cannot see how my brother's view could be answered and the estate saved, without my being engaged for perhaps as large a sum as I am worth . . . If I am engaged for him I must be answerable for my engagements, even if it be to my ruin . . .⁸

199 *July 1758* I have this year met with a successful trade and I believe on casting up my affairs I shall find it a very profitable year.⁹

200 *17 Mar. 1759.* Mr. Capel's time with me is out, he having been with me 3 years at £40 per annum for board and instruction in trade. Agreed with him for his board and washing for another year at £22.¹

201 *23 June 1759.* My father having been bound for Mr. John Bennett to Mr. Harbottle for £150 which now with interest amounts to above £180, Mr. Bennett being insolvent, he is called upon by Mr. Harbottle to pay the money. To enable my father to do this, I having £150 of his in my hands, I have this day paid him £100, and my brother John has supplied him with the remainder.²

202 *Oct. 1759.* Brother William has an account from Nevis that his conditional agreement with Mr. Halliday of Nevis for the sale of his estate there to him is confirmed . . .³

203 *15 July 1760.* This year also has been to me in my worldly affairs a year of more difficulty and of less profit and of greater expense than common. We having been now 4 years engaged in a war with France, we have this year had

⁸ Wilts. R.O. 314/5.

⁹ Memorandum Book No. 4. This was his best year when his profit was 13.9 per cent. and he added £369 to his capital.

¹ Family Book.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

a very great trade, which has thrown the country into a strange hurry, even into a kind of madness in trade. Our wages are strangely advanced (particularly chain spinning from 11*d.* a score to 15*d.* and 16*d.*, and some give 17*d.* a score). Our workfolks are grown scarce, saucy, and bad, that I have not been able to make near as much cloth as I used to do;⁴ what I do make is made dearer and with much more difficulty and trouble, that I believe, on the close of this year's account, I shall not find that I have got this year as much as last year by £100, or as in some former years by £200.⁵

204 17 Oct. 1760. Died Mr. John French; he was the first cousin of my father and nephew of my grandmother, by whose death the name of the family is now extinct in this town. His father was a very considerable clothier here, but died when his son was about 16. After his father's death he began trade, but having been bred to learning and imbibed a relish for that, he never gave much attention to trade. He . . . was respected and esteemed as a very sensible man, and one of great honesty and sincerity. In the middle part of his life he was frequently employed among the clerks attending the Parliament house, by which he had an opportunity of getting an acquaintance with many persons of noted character. Whenever any business was wanting from the country to Parliament, he was generally employed and was the principal instrument in getting our Warminster Turnpike, 1727. He was treasurer both for the Warminster and the Bath Turnpikes and had an estate in this town, but was a man of very moderate views for himself as to the world and lived in a very abstemious hermetical manner and affected remissness in his dress like a philosopher that despised outward show.⁶

205 6 Dec. 1760. Brother John has this day an account from London of some of his cloths sold at the most extraordinary price I have ever known either in my own or my father's or grandfather's trade: viz. a second cloth, being a black gray sold at 19*s.* a yard,⁷ and another of the same colour made out of sorri-locks⁸ mixed with coarse Spanish, for which he gave 4½*d.* per lb. spinning the abb, and a thin cloth, sold at 15*s.* a yard.⁹

206 16 June 1761. My son William¹ came from school to settle at home with me, having been at school with Mr. Burgh at Newington Green ever since 23 April 1759, and before at Mr. Griffith's² at French Hay ever since 24 April 1754.³

⁴ In his Ledger he was more explicit and noted that he had made only 191 cloths as against 262 the previous year: Wilts. R.O. 314/2.

⁵ Memorandum Book No. 4. He actually made more, £630 as against £521 in 1759, but less than in 1758.

⁶ Family Book.

⁷ No doubt owing to its being needed for mourning for George II who died 25 Oct. 1760.

⁸ This term, which is not in the *Oxford English Dictionary*, probably denotes the worst type of 'locks', which are the shortest hairs of the fleece. Prime locks, choice locks, etc., were recognized high categories of wool.

⁹ Ledger, Wilts. R.O. 314/2.

¹ William was born in 1746 and was therefore about 15.

² After the earthquake Mr. Griffith had offered two or three years' credit for William's school fees or for those of any other son who might be sent to him. It does not appear to have been necessary to accept this offer.

³ Family Book.

207 *July 1761.* The affairs of my trade through the scarcity, humours, and impositions of workfolks (who have taken the advantage of a brisk trade to impose as much as they can on their masters) has been attended with more than usual difficulties; and I have also this year had none to help me in my trade I could place any confidence in, that the weight of the business has lain very heavy on me. About the fall of last year, a disorder came on my father which, with the difficulties his affairs were brought into, has rendered him very peevish, captious, and wrathful . . . It pleased God, January 6th, to remove [him] out of the world by death⁴. . . With sorrow do I record it, his conduct and his temper have been a fruitful source of great difficulties and trials to me for more than 30 years past . . .⁵

[*George himself died in January 1762.*]

LETTERS RELATING TO THE LISBON EARTHQUAKE

208 Edward French to William Wansey⁶ Lisbon, 6 Nov. 1755

My last was from Lisbon but can't remember what date, that great and populous city having suffered a total destruction by a heavy shock of an earthquake about 10 o'clock the 1st current, which was followed by two lesser ones in a little time after, which, together with an inundation of the river and a fire that broke out in several parts of the city, laid all the churches, palaces, tribunals, houses, and shops in the whole town in the most horrible heap of ruins.

Now nothing can be heard or seen but a lively representation of what is foretold of the day of judgment. Several thousands were buried under the ruins of the houses and those that escaped had all their effects, as well goods as money, consumed by the fire which none dared to prevent, owing to the general apprehension of being destroyed by houses falling on them had they ventured to stop the progress of the fire or endeavour to save any thing they left in their houses, which obliged them to stand unfortunate spectators of the most tragical prospect that I believe ever happened in the world since the deluge. Not one merchant's house of any nation escaped, no more than the noblemen's houses, and every shop in the whole city were burnt to ashes together with the custom house, the king's treasury and all his courts of records: that this country is now, like a new colony, in the greatest want of goods of every species. All the sugars by the last fleets are lost; in short, such a confusion as this most unfortunate as well as fatal accident (or rather chastisement from heaven) has caused can hardly be described, especially by a person whose friends as well as himself are sufferers; so that it would be a vain attempt in me to endeavour to give you an idea of the dire effects of this general calamity, a view of which had brought to my mind the prophet Jeremy's lamentation for the destruction of Jerusalem. All my late fellow citizens that escaped the fire

⁴ He died intestate with his affairs in great disorder.

⁵ Memorandum Book No. 4.

⁶ This and the following letters, most of which are copies of originals sent to William, are all in Wilts. R.O. 314/5.

are now dispersed about the country. There are four or five of the English factory still missing and my poor brother does not yet appear; and all the hopes I have of ever seeing him is that he has gone aboard some of the ships in the river, or on the other side the water, from whence some daily arrive that were thought to have been lost. There is also one of my servants and a lad that wrote in my office missing. I thank God I am alive, and as well as any in my present condition can expect to be. Dear Sir, the thoughts of your loss distracts me much more than my own, for which I see no remedy but christian patience and a resignation to the will of the great God, who now pours down at once so many evils on the world as a chastisement of the sins and wickedness of the present age.

No man living can tell what may be made of the debts outstanding, but the general opinion is that all accounts are now settled. I have still some hopes to recover some of those due from the Brazil merchants, as all the goods that are there now must sell well. I can't tell where to look for any of them; but I have seen several of the shopkeepers, who are all on the same story of a general loss. I saved my life, under God, by going to deliver letters to a captain bound for Boston who was gone down the river, when I felt the earthquake. I made what haste I could to get to my house, but before I came near the city I had the mortification of meeting thousands of people, amongst which were several of our factory, running away for their lives. And when I approached nearer, I discovered the streets quite full of the stones and rubbish, with coaches, chaises, and other carriages stopped, and was eye-witness to their unhappy end; so that it was impossible for me to venture amongst so much danger, which threatened no less than immediate death. About 4 o'clock in the evening I ran the hazard to go to the house, though the street was on fire on both sides and within two doors of mine, when I found the upper stories of my house quite thrown down and everything covered by the ruins. The warehouse and office doors were locked and could not get one soul that would assist me to break them open or save any earthly thing. At last got in through the window and threw out some of the goods by the assistance of two English sailors who I had seen going along the street, and put them into a church which I expected the fire would not reach, with 1,800 hard dollars, all which I believe is lost without redemption, the said church being burnt down to the ground that night. The dollars I received from some of my Brazil chaps a few days before. All the gold was in the second apartment except about 120 Moldores, which I had the good fortune to have in the counting house, which is all I could possibly save. I am still in hopes to get some goods that I put down in the lower lodge, which was flagged as well as the floor over it, when I can get people to dig for them and remove the ruins, as also part of the plate and some gold. I attempted to write you the 4th current, but being overcome with concern which I could hardly surmount couldn't finish my letter, therefore desired Messrs. I. Lynch & Co.⁷ to acquaint you with this melancholy piece of news, but believe this will reach you so soon as they receive my letter, as the packet has been stopped some days. The king does all in his power to help his people, and assures the foreigners that they will meet with all the protection in his power should they remain here, and that he will take off the duties of goods for

⁷ Isidore Lynch & Co., Merchants, Jefferys Square, St. Mary Axe,

some time, that they may expect ready money for all the goods to be imported in future, as there are hardly any of his subjects now trustworthy. When the goods you lately advised me to be shipped in London arrive, I shall sell them immediately, for there is now none to be had to clothe the naked. I have no more than what I had on my back, and several that were at home are worse off, who had not time even to take a coat along with them, being in their morning dress. I think it's now time to finish this melancholy scrawl, and to acquaint you that I am now in the fields about 2 miles from the ruins of Lisbon where I shall remain until I hear from you and my other friends. Everybody is now employed to save some things belonging to the court, that I can't get any to work in search for anything, either at my house or at the church as aforesaid; but may depend I shall omit nothing that can be done to serve you in any shape. I wish the great God may comfort you and assist you to bear so great a loss by your past trade to this place. As for the time to come, none can form a judgment how safe it may be to deal this way any more; it's my opinion it's too considerable a trade for the English to see decay, and that they will always supply this place with goods . . .

209 Edward French to William Wansey

Lisbon, 19 Nov. 1755

My last was 6th current advising the destruction of this city, an account of which, with the fatal consequences thereof, I believe you'll have from Paris ere this or my former letter, which went by a ship bound for Falmouth, reaches [you] . . . The surviving part of its inhabitants . . . are now dispersed about the ruins thereof, some in wooden houses and some in tents made of canvas and old sails after the best manner they can to shelter themselves from the inclemency of the winter season. I am now at a friend's house which suffered no great damage by the earthquake about a small mile from my late habitation. I have not as yet had a favourable opportunity to dig up any part of the ruins thereof, being hindered by rainy weather; and besides I find that several that has been at work at their houses found that they discovered fire, which lay smothered under the rubbish, break out when it got air; and besides, men's labour is as yet too exorbitant, that I am determined to wait until the packet sails. As for goods, I cannot find that any has been saved, either in the custom house, dwelling houses, or shops, but some has found a little cash, part of which was so much melted and disfigured that it won't pass current. I can get no account of the things I put into the church as advised you in my last. The goods and books are no doubt consumed to ashes, as the church was burned to the ground. I am in hopes some part of the silver may be found either melted or whole. The expenses attending searching under the ruins runs high as there are in some parts of the city 3 or 4 houses all in a heap on top of one another. I understand some people took a good deal of pains and put themselves to expenses to little purpose, which is attributed to the servants belonging to the houses as well as the prisoners and galley slaves which got loose and entered and robbed the houses after the first shock was over, finding them all deserted by the inhabitants who ran into the country to save their lives. Several rogues have been lately taken with plunder and hanged. One or two of them confessed publicly that they have set fire to several parts of the city. The convoy does not as yet appear nor no ships arrived from England since the *Shillington* and all

the goods by her were burned, so that we are now in want of all kinds of commodities except provisions which are, thank God, pretty plenty. The first goods that arrive will sell for ready money and am in hopes the extensive credit so long introduced here is now at an end. Some of the Brazil chaps may pay part of what they owe, who have effects there, but as for the city shopkeepers it's my real opinion they are ruined to all intents and purposes and won't be able to pay any part of what is due from them. There are some houses in this factory that lost 200 and 300,000 milreis⁸ in goods and outstanding debts, and such as has done business on their particular account will not be able to stand it. All the bills per the last packet go back protested, which will cause a great confusion in England and oblige several of the drawers to stop payment.

I am now to own receipt of your most esteemed favours 13th and 24th ult., contents observe in every respect and for answer, your ship *William* is not as yet arrived, when she does, will follow your orders relative to her as near as possible. She will be unloaden here as her cargo is much wanted. The king has taken off the duties of rice and fish; the latter sells for ready money, free of all charges except commission, at 3 mil.600⁹ per quintal. I shall employ my best endeavours to dispose of her here as you direct, of which there's no great prospect; and shall keep you duly advised how I proceed. As for the account you require it's now out of my power to furnish them having lost all my books. I had several sales finished ready to be forwarded you. My dearest friend, my heart bleeds for you more than for myself, tho' I have the misfortune to lose my only brother and a pretty capital besides for a single man . . . I have experienced a good deal of friendship and respect from the natives of this country since the late misfortune. Some of my friends about court have tendered me money and some of the trading men proposed to give me some patterns to send for goods (say orders) which I declined accepting of until I hear from you. I sincerely wish you may be able to weather out this storm, if so, am in hopes things will turn out better than they seem at present. Our Judge Conservador¹ who is my great friend, assures me that he will exert himself in obliging every chap that may be able to pay me at least part of what they owe me if they ever are re-established in business again, on whose friendship I think I may depend.

210 Edward French to William Wansey

Lisbon, 10 Dec. 1755

Since my last 19th ult., came to hand your much esteemed favour 18th ditto, contents observe, and for answer, observe you have shipped sundry parcels of goods per different ships now expected from London none of which appeared as yet, which many people imagine the convoy might have been stopped on the first report, per a ship arrived in Falmouth, of Lisbon's being entirely laid under water and three miles round it, which was making bad worse. A vessel sailed from hence for said port 8 days before the last packet, per which have wrote you of the 6th inst. . . . to which have now only to add that have since made a strict search everywhere about the ruins of the city for my customers and met several of them, as well shopkeepers as Brazil chaps, and after discouraging them for some time on the misery of the times and present unhappy

⁸ Taking the exchange at 66d. per milreis this would be about £55,000 to £82,500.

⁹ About 19s. 8d. ¹ See 183, note 7.

situation of this country, asked them what hopes they could give me about the old debts. Some answered they lost all and were worse than beggars and others assured me they would pay me some part of my demand. I have pleasing hopes that some of my friends in the Brazil trade will pay me all they owe me and others part, though only one of them escaped the fire but had his house much damaged by the earthquake. He had the bad fortune to have all his sugars and other goods per the Brazil fleet burned in the custom house. Three shopkeepers with whom I had accounts were buried under the ruins, two of which owed me but a small balance. I trust in God things will turn out better than could have been expected after such a general destruction . . . Should the convoy arrive soon shall esteem your advice if you think it advisable to trust some of my best customers amongst the shopkeepers and Brazil chaps with goods. As the late misfortune has settled all accounts with bad ones, hope they won't meet people fools enough to trust them with any more. For my part I was always cautious who I sold to and will be more so for the future, at least until the place is overstocked with all kinds of goods as it has been for some time past, which I hope won't be the case for many years, which may afford those concerned in this trade a better prospect of advantage henceforward than they have had for some time past. Several that did business for their particular accounts and paid commission for buying goods for them in England and others that stood delcredire² are quite ruined and in all probability will not be able to continue the business any longer. I find some of our spoil-trade are of the number. The delay of the convoy would be a great detriment to the sale of goods were the fleets to sail at the time appointed, as the king has been very exact in sending them away when the time allowed the merchants for loading was run out; either with or without goods all the fleets must sail 1st April in order to fetch home the effects from the Brazils. The duty is again laid on dry fish and all other goods pay the same as always. No rice or any ships from England arrived since the earthquake. The goods per the convoy will sell well especially if they let the Brazil merchants have them payable at the return of the fleet. I have been several days to dig up the ruins of my house but to little purpose, for all the goods as well as household furniture were burned to ashes. I found 160 Moydores which were so destroyed by the fire that they are not worth more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of their first value. I have not as yet found any of the dollars lodged in the church but am informed that the man I delivered them to have put them into a bossett [?] and am in hopes to get some of them if not all when I can get licence to dig in the church, which am promised tomorrow. Shall send you no wine until I receive your further orders; am glad I shipped none on the ship that was outbound for your port. As for the article of sugars you need not apprehend that any will go from hence should there be a demand from the Irish market³. . . This goes per man of war and am sorry I can't send you anything either by her or the packet which is to sail along with her. The duties of the last parcel of goods despatched and the late remittance made you left me in advance for you and now there's no such thing as obliging anybody to pay even a part of what he owes. I have consulted our Judge Conservador

² i.e. del' Credere: see p. xxv.

³ Owing, as he explained, to the Navigation Act which made it impossible to carry goods to Ireland except in English vessels.

about the best method to be taken to recover some part at least of what is due to me, who advised me as a particular friend not to speak to any of my chaps for some time and assures me he will assist me all in his power to make them pay me if ever they are established again in business. He has given me singular proofs of his regard for me which will be very serviceable to me on this and every other occasion . . .

211 Edward French to George Wanseley

Lisbon, 11 Feb. 1756

. . . I have, per a packet arrived the day before yesterday, received your much esteemed favour 24 December, contents observe in every respect and for answer, have not as yet received the letter you advise to have wrote me via Bristol and as the packet is to sail early tomorrow can't send you the informations you require relative to your affairs in my care, which you may depend I shall let you have as soon as possible. Hitherto nothing could be done, for people were in constant dread of their lives by the thoughts of the fatal effects of the first shock of the earthquake as well as the several repetitions of many smaller ones which was felt since . . . I have pleasing hopes that things will turn out better than was expected. I have had the good fortune to find some of the silver lodged in the church last week, which happened to be put in a part thereof where we did not expect; it was the person in whose care I put it not remembering the certain place, being in such confusion and fright which he has hardly recovered as yet. There was not one piece of cloth saved either in my house or the custom house except 38 pieces belonging to Messrs. Wanseley & Hurlock, which were taken out of the river in 45 days after the custom house was burned;⁴ so that all you have to trust to is the outstanding debts, some of which I make no doubt will be paid. At present there's no such thing as pushing any of the customers, but must wait until things are a little more settled and people begin to make a new establishment in their business. I note you proposed sending some cloths from London; if you should, may rest satisfied I shall dispose of them as well as possible. I make no doubt but goods will sell for ready money until the market begins to be once more overstocked.⁵ You know it's not my way to give great encouragement lest I could not render agreeable sales, but believe me I will omit nothing in my power to promote the interest of my friends. I am resolved to trust no-one with goods but such as I can rely on their honour and punctuality. None of the dull chaps, in my opinion, has a chance to follow business until we have more goods at market then we can tell what to do with, which I hope won't be the case for some time. I have got two of my books by accident which was taken out of the church and left in a house in the country, which will be a great help to me to make out my accounts, though I can't expect to form them with so much clearness and certainty as if I had all my books, but shall do as well as I can to put things in

⁴ He must mean cloth with which he was concerned, for Harding also had cloth dug out of the Custom House, which was sent home to be re-dyed: Lord St. Aldwyn's MS. BC/2, to Mayne & Co. 21 Jan. 1758.

⁵ Cf. *Glouc. Jnl.* 26 May 1752, where it is stated that markets in Spain and Oporto are so glutted with English woollen goods that they sell 20 per cent. under prime cost. Harding's letters in 1751 contain many observations on the over-stocking of the Spanish and Portuguese markets, in spite of which clothiers were still receiving plenty of orders.

as fair a light as possible. Pray my compliments to Mrs. Wansey, your good father and brother, and tell the latter I refer him to the contents of this and shall write him soon and to you more at large.

P.S. Please to tell your brother I would not have him send any black cloths of a higher price than 5s. or 5s. 6d. per yard; the fine sort won't answer here, the French and Dutch outdo us greatly in that article.

212 Messrs. Thompson Seward & Co.⁶ to London, 20 Oct. 1757
Messrs. G & J. Wansey

Mr. Lewis has delivered us your letter to our Mr. Thompson of the 17th inst. by which we perceive the justness of your call upon our friends Messrs. Foley & Arbouin, with whom we are not at all concerned; but as our Mr. Richard Seward went over to Lisbon with Mr. Foley and was there satisfied of the solidity and honour of their proceedings (tho' from the late dreadful calamity and the consequences attending it they have been obliged to trespass on the patience of their friends) we doubt not that everything will soon come about; and as an earnest of this good opinion and our desire of assisting you, we will take upon us to honour your draft or drafts at 2 months' sight for the half of what we reckon strictly due to you, which, by an account Mr. Lewis gave us in summer, we look upon to be, to your G. W. £85 9s. 6d. and to your J. W. £129 4s. 9d., as we don't bring in to your account £160 9s. 6d. delivered 14 May nor the £117 3s. the 12 April, being only now barely due.

[*G. W. has noted on this letter: An instance of generosity in one merchant paying the debt of his friend who has withdrawn himself. We did not receive the remainder of this debt till the end of the year 1759 and then in Lisbon wines.*]⁷

⁶ Merchants, St. Mary Hill, London. On the subject of the letter cf. 197.

⁷ Among the papers in Wilts. R.O. 314/5 are two bills of lading dated 1759 for 20 pipes of Lisbon white wine, on which freight was paid at the rate of £3 10s. per tun of two pipes. No doubt this represents the balance of the debt.

LETTERS OF
HENRY HINDLEY OF MERE, 1762-75

[Nos. 213-711 are all dated at Mere.]

213 Messrs. Duve & Möller¹

20 Mar. 1762

My last was 15th inst. when remitted you in bill on Christopher Greve £50 stg., which hope will get safe to your hands. I am this day favoured with yours of 2nd ditto with invoice and bill lading of 1 fatt² of yarn, quantity 235 bundles, per Captain Selby, amounting to mks. 1123.10s., which if right shall be placed to your credit. I observe you have not charged any insurance, so I will get it done in London. I am sorry the last yarn which you thought to have purchased for me proved so very bad that you did not buy it. I shall be very much disappointed as I doubt you will not be able to get the remaining 365 bundles for me; pray get what you can of them to ship in all the month of April, and if you cannot purchase by that time pray let me know it, that I might dispose of the money in your hands some other way; for after the month of April or middle of May there is very little sale for yarn here, and to have it late when cost a high price is the way to lose money.

I have your remittance in bill on B. Joa. Boetefleur³ for £59 3s. 6d. which when in cash shall be placed to your credit.

214 Messrs. George & Thomas Allen⁴

3 Apr. 1762

My last was 16 Jan. the receipt whereof you acknowledged, since am favoured with yours of the 9th ditto and 20 ult., say 20 Feb.,⁵ per the former my account current to 31 Dec. last, balance due to me 1129.mil.804 which is noted accordingly, as is also your remittance on William Stead for 50.mil.000 to your credit. I find oil is above my limits with you; it is expected to fall here every day so I would not choose to have any unless a ship should now be in lading with you for Bristol or Poole, and then not more than 6 pipes,⁶ which if you can purchase at 1800 per Almeda⁷ please to do it and give me timely notice for insurance.

Mr. George Allen I find is safely arrived in London on which I congratulate you.

¹ Of Hamburg: see p. xxvii.

² A container for dry goods, not a specific measure.

³ This should be Boetefeur, presumably the Berkhard Joachim Boetefeur who appears in Payne as living at 8, Princes St. nr. Mansion House.

⁴ Of Lisbon.

⁵ A number of letters begin with a sentence of this kind, which has been omitted in printing later ones.

⁶ The pipe contained 126 gallons Engl. or half a tun.

⁷ i.e. 1800 reits, about 9s. 11d. The Almeda was an olive oil measure of which 26 made one pipe.

215 Mr. William Tatnall⁸

6 Apr. 1762

I have again, without your order, sent you 2 pieces $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{1}{16}$ tick⁹ which I believe will meet your approbation as they are worth the money, otherwise I should not have sent them.

216 Messrs. Duve & Möller

10 Apr. 1762

... Am glad to find that you hoped to ship the remainder 365 bundles of my yarn of the very best sort on Captain Selby and I wish you could make it up to 400 or 450 bundles in 2 half fatts, which pray do if you can get the yarn to content and this reaches you in time; and I must beg the favour of you to insure with you the value of what more you may ship me, as it can be done with you at 3 per cent. and I have given 5 per cent. in London for the half fatt you have already shipped me on Selby. The difference you see is too considerable to be overlooked. I have now 10 pieces of your cloths brought in and expect 8 pieces more in a week's time, when they shall go forward.

217 Mr. William Tatnall

28 Apr. 1762

I am favoured with yours of 17th inst. and in part of your orders have sent you 2 pieces ticks as above¹ which is all I could get worth the money to send this journey. I am promised some more $\frac{3}{4}$ and nails² in a week; if proves to content I will send them. Yard wifes are very scarce being few made; am promised a piece soon. I believe the makers will advance their prices soon, occasioned by the demand and scarcity of workmen.

218 Messrs. Duve & Möller

8 May 1762

... Am favoured with yours of 27 ult. with your remittance in bill of John Elias Munster on Thomas and Edward Forster for £150 sterling at 2 usance³ 8 days, which when in cash shall credit you. I observe you think to get ready the 365 bundles yarn for me in 8 days' time from the date of your letter, which I hope you will do; and pray as soon as shipped send me invoice and bill lading and insure the value with you as it can be done much cheaper than in London.

The fatt yarn by Selby is come to hand and proves good. I hope the 365 bundles will be of same quality, which will encourage larger orders for another year. I shall send up to London in 2 or 3 days' time 12 pieces of cloth to your patterns and have them shipped on first ship; the other 6 pieces when brought in proved so very different from the patterns, and the colours so badly dyed,

⁸ Warehouseman, Ironmonger Lane.

⁹ The first of these fractions refers to the width ($\frac{3}{4}$ yd.). It is probable that the second denotes the width of the stripe.

¹ Missing. Particulars of goods were seldom copied into the Letter Book.

² The nail was $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches, so that this ticking was $29\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide. This width was often called simply 'nails'.

³ Usance was the common time allowed for payment according to the custom of the place on which the bill was drawn. According to Defoe, *Complete English Tradesman*, i. 437, the usance between London and Hamburg was two months, but from 500 and 511 it looks as if Hindley used the word as meaning one month. The usual number of days of grace in London was three not eight.

that I was obliged to return them on the maker's hands. I have bespoke them again and, if proves to content, when ready shall be sent you.

(P.S.) In looking on your account I find the bill for £150 will be near £100 more than will be due to me after the above mentioned cloths are shipped. I expect the 6 pieces which are bespoke in place of the bad colours will be ready in 2 months' time; but they won't amount to more than £50, for your governance.

219 Messrs. George & Thomas Allen 22 May 1762

. . . Am favoured with yours of 24th March and 7th ult., with your remittance in bill on William Stead for 35 mil. which is accepted and placed to your credit. As to wool, I will let you know in due time whether I will have any or not. I hear nothing from Mr. Mark Anthony Richards of Figueira, so I suppose no ship hath offered from that port to Bristol or Poole.

I have had the pleasure of seeing Mr. George Allen here, and he is now got back safe to London.

I wish that Portugal may be permitted to remain neuter in the war⁴ but I see no prospect of it. I doubt not but will do your best to collect in my outstanding debts and remit me, and hope to receive something soon, as Mr. G. A. informs me that all my debtors are esteemed good.

220 Mr. William Tatnall 29 May 1762

The above goods I expect will be with you beginning of next week per King⁵ and hope will please you. I met by chance with the $\frac{3}{4}$ common dye which is a scarce article. I have got 3 or 4 pieces $\frac{3}{4}$ and nails best dye smalls⁶ which I intend to send you next week if you do not forbid it.

221 Messrs. Thomas Harvey & Ives of Norwich 5 June 1762

I have your favour of 31st ult. with bill drawn on me by Messrs. Duve & Möller of Hamburg for £27 4s. 8d. stg. which I have accepted and enclosed return it to you.

222 Mr. William Tatnall 5 June 1762

The 3rd inst. I sent you per King 4 pieces ticks. The $\frac{7}{8}$ is worth the money and are as scarce at present as nails; in short all sorts are scarce and I believe will be so for some time. We are in great want of rain for the flax, and if it does not come in a week there will be a very short crop, which will advance that article.

223 Messrs. Duve & Möller 12 June 1762

. . . Am favoured with yours of 7th ult. with invoice of 1 fatt yarn ready to be shipped on first English ship,⁷ amount mks. 1689. 11s., which if right shall credit

⁴ Spain invaded Portugal in this month, but was defeated by the end of the summer, with the assistance of an English force.

⁵ The London carrier. ⁶ Probably 'small stripe'.

⁷ Yarn not being the produce of Hamburg was by the Navigation Act subject to a duty if not shipped in an English ship. It may be noticed that all Hindley's yarn came in English ships but that almost all the cloth was shipped to Hamburg in foreign ships, probably belonging to Hamburg.

you. I have accepted your draft on me for £27 4s. 8*d.* stg. payable to Messrs. Thomas Harvey & Ives, and it shall meet with due honour in payment.

Annexed you have invoice of 1 bale Spanish cloth⁸ shipped on board the *Lady Catherina*, Claes Classen, for your account, amounting to stg. £95 6s. 4*d.*, which if right please to credit me. I hope the remainder of your order, which I was obliged to bespeak a second time, will soon be ready.

On invoice of fatt no. 7 you have undercast 365 bundles at mks. 4.13s., mks. 100; your commission on ditto, 2 per cent., 2; to your prejudice mks. 102.

I am daily in hopes of receiving bill lading and account of insurance of this fatt yarn, and hope you will take care not to ship it at bottom of the ship, so as to prevent its being damaged by salt water.

(P.S.) When you write me on other business, please to note the price of pearl ashes.⁹ The best at your market formerly, I am told, came from Bohemia, but I suppose the war interrupts that trade at present.

224 Messrs. Duve & Möller

9 June 1762

. . . Am this day favoured with yours of 8th inst. with bill lading and account of insurance of the fatt yarn no. 7 shipped on Captain Hazard, likewise my account current, which shall be examined and the several bills which you have drawn on me shall be punctually paid; though if you'll please to look over your sterling account you'll find that you have over drawn, and I expect 6 or 8 cloths more to be brought in soon.

You say you have bespoke 600 bundles yarn more for me, which I take to be your mistake, as I have not ordered for any more and it will be too late for me this year; so pray send me no more . . .

225 Mr. Theodore Martin Liebenrood¹

10 July 1762

I duly received your favour of 8th ult. and observe its contents. The dry weather still continues with us, so that our crop of flax will be very short; had yours been plentiful and prices low I should have given orders for a pretty large parcel. As the contrary happens, I only desire you will take the best opportunity to buy 10 bags of 80 stone each, from 22 to 28 stivers per stone,² of the best quality you can, and ship it on Dutch or neutral ship,³ if such offers, for Southampton, Poole, or Weymouth, preferring the two former places. If no Dutch or neutral vessel should offer, then must be shipped on an English vessel; and please to insure the value. For your reimbursement please to draw upon me payable in London and your bill shall be honoured; and you may draw as soon as you have bought the flax before shipped, as perhaps freight may not immediately offer. Send your first bill to me and let me know to whom in London I must send it to remain for the disposition of its second. I find you

⁸ See p. xviii.

⁹ Calcined wood ash used for bleaching. The name comes from the colour.

¹ Of Rotterdam, see 241.

² Presumably the Dutch 'steen' containing 8 lbs. The Dutch pound was heavier than the English, 91½ Amsterdam lbs. equalling 100 lbs. avoirdupois. See S. Ricard, *Traité de Commerce* (1781), ii. 11, 159.

³ Flax, being the product of Holland, could be shipped on a Dutch ship without paying duty.

have had some refreshing showers of rain with you since the 8th June, so if your new crop should prove better than at first expected, you will please to advise me of it.

226 Mr. George Allen in London

19 July 1762

In a letter from your house of 7 Apr. last am informed you had given orders to Mr. Mark Anthony Richards of Figueira to ship me 6 pipes of oil if freight offered from thence to Bristol or Poole, which I suppose hath not happened; and as I see no prospect of sending any more woollens to Portugal for some time I desire you will contradict that order again, as I should not be willing to have any oil until trade comes again in its usual channel.

I hope you will use your best endeavours to collect in my outstanding debts, and remit me the same as recovered.

Mrs. Hindley joins with me in wishing you and Mrs. Allen a safe and pleasant voyage to Lisbon; and may God protect you and yours from the calamities of war.

227 Mr. Theodore Martin Liebenrood

21 July 1762

The above is copy of what I wrote you 10th inst. which this serves to confirm . . . I am since informed that insurance on English ships from you will cost 6 per cent., on Dutch or neutral only $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., so if you buy the 10 bags flax for me I desire you will let it remain until a Dutch or neutral vessel offers either for Lymington, Southampton, Poole, Portsmouth, or Weymouth. As I am a stranger to you, if you are under the least doubt with regard to my paying due honour to your draft, please only to let me know when you have purchased and I will, if agreeable to you, remit you a bill for it.

(P.S.) There was lately a vessel in lading with you for Lymington, but whether sailed or not I cannot say; or whether Dutch vessels may go on to that port for salt.⁴

228 Mr. John Goddard

31 July 1762

[*Demanding repayment of a debt.*]

229 Messrs. George & Thomas Allen

14 Aug. 1762

. . . As no ship has offered at Figueira that would sail without convoy I find your friend, Mr. Mark Anthony Richards, has not shipped me any oil, which I am glad of; for as the trade to you is stopped, oil must come down in price here; so you will please to order him not to ship any on my account. To this purpose I wrote Mr. George Allen, but whether my letter reached his hands in London I cannot say. I hope this will find him with his lady and child safely arrived at Lisbon.

(P.S.) I find nothing is expected from my debtors till arrival of the fleet from the Rio. I hope they will then pay, and make no doubt but you will use your best endeavours to recover. Pray God send us peace and trade to run in its proper channel.

⁴ Lymington was noted for its salt works: J. Campbell, *A Political Survey of Great Britain* (1764), i. 151.

230 Mr. Theodore Martin Liebenrood 14 Aug. 1762

I am favoured with yours of 6th inst. wherein you say the new crop flax is expected to be better than the last, but prices very high; and therefore you desire my orders to purchase 10 bags at the market price. I make no doubt of your care and integrity is not giving more for flax than the market price and what it is worth; but you must please to consider that our market here will not admit of high prices, therefore I should not choose to give more than from 22 or 23 stivers to 28 or 29; and if you can purchase 10 bags for me of those prices, of pretty good quality, please to do it. If not I must be content without it, for if cost more I must lose by it and that is not the end of trade.

231 Mr. Thomas Price in Gloster 21 Aug. 1762

[*Returning a bill on George Wolf, who will not pay it without advice, and asking 1s. 4d. postage.*]

232 Messrs. Duve & Möller 2 Oct. 1762

. . . I expected to have sent you 6 or 8 pieces of cloth, but the makers have disappointed me as well as themselves, having dyed no less than 8 pieces light blue to a pattern, one of yours, and 6 coppers to another; and I was obliged to return all the blues and 4 of the coppers on their hands, as the colours would not please you; so I shall send you only 4 pieces coppers, which will be in London next week and shipped on first ship, of which invoice per my next. When you want more Spanish please to give me orders.

A peace is talked of and expected in little time which, if happens, I suppose the price of yarn will come down considerably with you as there will be less demand here. I may want 4 fatts of 300 bundles each if you can get them for me as good as the first fatt you sent me, which pleased and was good yarn. I would have them shipped as early in the spring as possible after your river is open, and desire you will bespeak them to be delivered accordingly at the market price that may then govern; and pray give pressing instructions that the yarn be made of fine flax and good colour, and then I hope my orders may be increased next year; but that depends entirely on the quality of the yarn you send me. As soon as I have your answer, I shall remit you some money towards payment of the yarn if the exchange is favourable; and what I don't remit you may draw on me for and your bills shall find due honour.

(P.S.) We have just now account of our taking the Havannah, which may accelerate a peace and thus bring down the price of yarn.

4 fatts each, 300 bundles, prime best triple grown chain yarn of $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $8\frac{1}{2}$ ⁵ per bundle.

233 Mr. Theodore Martin Liebenrood 30 Oct. 1762

. . . I was in hopes freight would have offered to one of the places I mentioned to you and that you would have bought and shipped me 10 bags flax before this time. Our spinning is now begun, therefore should be glad to have the flax shipped, and if no vessel offers to any of the ports named in mine of

⁵ The numbers refer to the size of the yarn measured by the weight of the bundle. Hindley bought, at various times, yarn which weighed from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $9\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. per bundle,

21 July, then you may ship it for Bristol, if freight offers thither; and if your new flax pleases you and you can buy to your content from 24 to 28 or 29 stivers you may purchase in all 15 bags for me and ship it as soon as possible. You may draw upon me as soon as you please, and your bills shall meet due honour.

If you ship on Dutch vessel please to insure the value, and the same on English, provided your underwriters don't ask too large a premium, which if they should pray give me timely notice, that I may get the value insured in London or Bristol.

234 Messrs. Duve & Möller

30 Oct. 1762

. . . Annexed you have invoice of a small bale, quantity 4 pieces Spanish shipped for your account and risk on board the *Lady Christina*, amounting to £31 3s. 2d. which please to credit me. You will likewise find your account current, balance in my favour £46 18s. 2d. which I have this day drawn upon you in favour of yourselves at 2 usance, exchange 35/- which is the current exchange; and enclosed is bill on - Lamp for £100 stg. at exchange 35/1, both which sums you'll please to credit me in new account; and you may please to draw upon me for mks. 102 at current exchange which is the balance due to you in Flemish money, and your bill shall be honoured. I love short accounts which may prevent mistakes. If your friend can deliver you 2 of the fatts yarn to ship before your river is frozen, I should be glad to have them, and the other 2 fatts early in the spring. Pray recommend to him that the yarn is of the very best kind, and then perhaps, if the first 2 fatts please, I may take more in the spring. Please to advise me the receipt of this letter with the bills and their acceptance.

(P.S.) When you want Spanish cloths I shall be glad of your orders.

235 The same

27 Nov. 1762

I have your esteemed favour of 12th inst. with patterns for 16 pieces Spanish, which I will do my best to procure for you; but I shall find it difficult to get the deep blue at 5s. 6d. You should contrive to send me an order for some blacks when you send blues, blacks being what our makers chooses and blues they don't care to make, on account of the dearness of indigo; but when I can have both I can the better manage the matter.

I am obliged to you that you will take care to pick me in 1200 bundles prime best yarn; as we have a peace I apprehend yarn will be cheaper and plentier with you, for we shall not want near the quantity in these parts as in time of war. I doubt not but you will purchase for me as cheap as you can, and if you send me as good yarn as the first fatt was my orders will be increased in future; and please always to remember that I don't regard a stiver per bundle in price so that I have the best yarn. If you can ship the whole 4 fatts in February or March that will do; but pray let them be ready by that time and, if I don't remit, you may draw upon me and your bills shall meet due honour.

I take notice of the copy pattern. The blue is a little too light for the mixture, which shall be taken care of in future.

As soon as you have examined your account current pray advise me how you have settled it.

236 Messrs. Duve & Möller 18 Dec. 1762

. . . Am favoured with yours of 2nd inst. with patterns for 8 pieces Spanish cloths which I will take care to provide as good in quality as possible to be had at 5s. 6d.; and I do assure you that if our makers had a brisk trade they would not undertake to make them at that price, but as the contrary happens I hope to get them to your content. I have given your sterling account credit with mks. 102 at 33/6, £8 2s. 5d. and then the balance is in my favour, £38 15s. 9d. which I have passed to your debit in Flemish account at exchange 35/- in mks. 109.1s., which I desire you will pass accordingly; and, if you don't remit me for the Spanish ordered, they shall go towards the yarn at the current exchange as may govern when they are shipped.

If pearl ashes should fall in price as low as they have been known in times of peace I shall give an order for some by way of trial, but at a high price money would be lost, which is not the end of trade.

237 Mr. Theodore Martin Liebenrood 29 Dec. 1762

. . . As the *Norwich Adventure*, Thomas Watson master, is in loading with you for Southampton, I hope you will have shipped me 10 or 15 bags of flax on him. The spinning season here is now at the height and it's time to have the flax here, so pray fail not of shipping it per Watson, as it may otherwise arrive too late for sale. Whenever you draw on me for the flax, your bills shall meet due honour.

238 Mr. William Tatnall 1 Jan. 1763

I have this day taken the liberty of drawing upon you for £40, payable to Mr. Timothy Budworth⁶ or order at 30 days' date, which make no doubt of your accepting. Ordinary and middling ticks for shipping are some cheaper, but the best goods keeps up in price, flax being very dear. I could send you some $\frac{3}{4}$ and nail, even dyes at 14½d., ditto best dye 16½d. to 17d., $\frac{7}{8}$ 17½d. to 18d.

Wishing you a succession of many happy years, I am etc.

239 Mr. Theodore Martin Liebenrood 1 Jan. 1763

. . . If you have not bought the 10 or 15 bags flax for me, and Watson's ship should be full, then I desire you to purchase only 10 bags if you can do it as cheap as what may be shipped on Watson; and in such case pray give me a line and I will remit you a bill for payment before you ship the flax; or rather, as exchange is this post down to 35/3, I beg the favour of your order to pay into the hands of your brother in London £120 or £130 to remain at your disposition whenever you please to draw, so that I might receive the benefit of exchange; and then I must take my chance of the next ship. The frost here is very severe and I fancy must be so with you, and consequently detains Watson. I beg the favour of an answer and am etc.

(P.S.) If your market should be much advanced then I don't desire a bag of flax and shall only be sorry for having given you and myself unnecessary

⁶ Packer, Bush Lane, Cannon St.: Mortimer. See 241. He seems to have succeeded his former partner, Harding, in the same premises.

trouble. If any expense or postage has occurred to you let me know how much and I will readily order payment.

240 The same 8 Jan. 1763

. . . Am favoured with yours of 28th ult. advising me that you had agreed with Captain Watson to take on board 6, 8, or 10 bags flax for me, and that his ship was detained by the ice. I hope your rivers will be open and bring down the flax before Watson can sail; and that you will have shipped me 10 bags by him. The 6th inst. I paid into the hands of Mr. John George Liebenrood in London £130 stg. to remain at your disposal so that I may reap the benefit of exchange, of which I suppose he has advised you. If you can ship me 15 bags flax per Watson I should be glad to have them, but if Watson should be sailed then I desire only 10 bags, which the money paid in London will, I suppose, be sufficient to pay for; and if you [ship] 15, then you may please to draw upon me for the deficiency, or I will pay it your brother, as you may direct.

241 Mr. John George Liebenrood⁷ 29 Jan. 1763

I have received a letter from Mr. Theodore Martin Liebenrood of Rotterdam of 18 inst. wherein he desires the £130 paid into your hands may be remitted him, so I beg the favour of you to take a bill on Rotterdam for said sum, and remit it to him for my account in a post or two, as exchange most favourable; and I will desire my friend Mr. Budworth to call on you and pay the brokerage, postage, etc.

242 Mr. Theodore Martin Liebenrood 29 Jan. 1763

. . . I have per this post wrote to your brother in London to purchase a bill of £130 and remit you for my account in a post or two. If Watson can take 15 bags flax, then I desire you will purchase them for my account and I will, on your answer, remit you the further needful to pay for them.

243 Mr. William Tatnall 5 Feb. 1763

I duly received your esteemed favour of 4th ult. and the above mentioned 5 pieces ticks have been ready packed for some time, but the carrier deceived me and they did not go forward till 3rd inst. I hope they will please you. I could not get two pieces good $\frac{3}{8}$ small to my mind, so have sent 1 piece broad stripe which I think cheap. $\frac{3}{8}$ that are good are very scarce; am promised a piece in little time. $\frac{7}{8}$ rough, such as will please you, I can't yet get; as soon as I can will send it.

I have this day taken the liberty to draw on you for £50 payable to Mr. Timothy Budworth or order at 30 days' date, which please to accept.

244 Mr. Alexander Maccathy in Makefield,
Bucks. County, Philadelphia 12 Feb. 1763

[About the estate of Maccathy's uncle, the late John Davis.]

⁷ Merchant, 2 Three Tun Court, Miles' Lane, Cannon St.: Payne

245 Mr. John Beaumont⁸ in Makefield, 12 Feb. 1763
Bucks County, Philadelphia to the care of Mr. Edward Pennington in
Philadelphia

[Enclosing above letter and explaining how Beaumont's and Maccathy's
letters came into his hands.]

Sent from London per the *Sally*, Captain Patrick.

246 Messrs. Duve & Möller 26 Feb. 1763

I have not wrote you since the 18th December for want of occasion, and the present is to enquire after the 4 fatts of yarn, when you expect to ship them and about what price may govern at. I hope you will not fail shipping them in all next month as my customers begins to enquire for them and I want to know what answer to give them.

I expect some of your Spanish cloths to be brought in about 14 days and the whole shall be forwarded as fast as possible. I believe all will be sent to London this month.

I beg you will take the greatest care in sending me the very prime best yarn and as cheap as possible, for our demand here is very dull and not half the quantity of yarn in general will be sold as was last year and everyone expects it much cheaper; pray give me a line as soon as you can and let me know what I am to depend upon.

(P.S.) Exchange 33/9, very low.

247 Mr. William Tatnall 23 Mar. 1763

I am obliged to you for your favour of 12th inst. and have this day sent you 11 pieces ticks as above. The 3 pieces nails, 30 to 32, will not displeas you. I will send two pieces more $\frac{3}{4}$ and nails when can get those that are good. I have bespoke a piece of yard wide, as I cannot get one so good as the last under 2s. to 2s. 1d. here from any of our rich stiff makers. Good ticks are very scarce, but I think our manufacturers must alter their hands in little time or else they will have their stock enlarged.

248 Messrs. Duve & Möller 2 Apr. 1763

. . . I was in great hopes that yarn would have been much lower than mks. 4.12s.; as it is not, I wish you would only send me 3 fatts of 300 bundles each and I hope you will ship them on the *William*, Thomas Johnson, who is now in lading with you for London; and please to insure the value, which may be done at $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.; but if you should have bought 4 fatts for me and any inconvenience to you in shipping only 3, then you may ship the 4, though I doubt shall not be able to sell them as the price is so high. When you draw upon me your bills shall be duly honoured.

⁸ Beaumont was one of the inhabitants of a tract of land belonging to the London Company who, in 1753, petitioned to be created a township. Their tract became Lower Makefield: from a history of Bucks. County, by courtesy of Miss J. L. Lyman and the Public Library of Youngstown, Ohio.

I have now 8 pieces blues brought in and next week I expect to send up a bale for you and I will take care to give my friends instructions as to freight and not to ship on an Altona ship⁹ but a Hamburg vessel.

249 Mr. Timothy Budworth

2 Apr. 1763

On enquiry at Bristol last week I find weed ashes¹ are imported from Dantzic. I beg you will enquire the price and let me know; and please to ask if they are not sometimes imported from Hamburg or Bremen.

Enclosed is a bill of William Westley on Timothy Pinfold Esq., £55 7s.; when in cash please to credit me and to send forward the enclosed per first post.

250 Mr. William Tatnall

20 Apr. 1763

I have your favour of 16th inst. and am sorry to find King has left 2 of the trusses behind. I write him this day to detain them no longer. If they should not reach your hands as soon as the above mentioned truss of 2 pieces, I must beg the favour of a line from you. The yard wide is not yet off the loom. I hope the 2 pieces now sent will please. Good ticks are exceeding scarce.

251 Messrs. Braithwaite & Dunn in London²

23 Apr. 1763

[Returning 3 bills drawn on Hindley by Duve & Möller in their favour, which he has accepted.]

252 Messrs. Duve & Möller

23 Apr. 1763

I have your favour of 12th inst. with invoice of 4 fatts yarn, amounting to mks. 5814, and bills lading of 3 of them shipped on the *Thomas and Martha*, Edmund Clodd master, for London; and I find you have insured the amount at 1 per cent., mks. 58.2s., which shall be noted to your credit. You likewise advise me of 3 drafts on me for £366 16s. 3d. at 33/1½ banco,³ mks. 4556.8s. which you say is the balance of account, but I find that you have overdrawn banco mks. 509.1s. being the sterling balance of your account current due to me, as I advised you 18 Dec. last, and you replied to in your letter of 11th ult. that you had noted accordingly, to which letters please to refer. Notwithstanding you have overdrawn I have not hesitated but accepted the 3 bills above mentioned and will pay due honour to them; but the yarn trade will not admit of losing the difference of exchange, which from 35/- to 33/1½ is very considerable; and I might have drawn upon you the 30th October last for £38 15s. 9d. and have had the money to have purchased a bill on Hamburg with the same post at exchange 35/1, which you find I did on John & A. Lampe,

⁹ See 253. Altona, just below Hamburg on the Elbe, was at this time a free port under Danish sovereignty and a resort of merchants of many nationalities. It now forms part of Greater Hamburg.

¹ Weed ashes, like pearl ashes used for bleaching, were obtained from vegetable matter.

² Manufacturers and Merchants, nr. Guildhall.

³ i.e. bank money, as opposed to Hamburg currency, bank money being 16 per cent. more valuable: W. Horsley, *The Universal Merchant* (1754), p. 79. As accounts with England were always kept in bank money (W. Beawes, *Lex Mercatoria Rediviva*, p. 876) and the price of yarn was also quoted in it (J. Savary, *Dict. Universelle de Commerce* (1765), iv. 454), all the sums mentioned by Hindley are expressed in it, whether he mentions it or not.

although I charged the exchange to you at only 35/-. You will please to consider this affair and remit me accordingly in time to pay your drafts, or, if you should not find out the error before I ship your cloth, I will then draw upon you for £40 19s. 8d. as below stated.

I have sent up 10 cloths to London for you which shall be shipped on first Hamburg ship after got ready, and on arrival they will please you, being good cloths and colours and bought cheaper than if I was now to bespeak them at least 3d. per yard. I beg you will not fail shipping my other fatt yarn on very first ship, otherwise I must lose the sale of it.

Dr. to Messrs. Duve & Möller: 30 Oct. 1762 to bill on John & A. C. Lampe, £100 at 35/1, mks. 1315.10; to balance of your sterling account, £38 15s. 9d. at exchange 35/-. mks. 509.1; [total] mks. 1824.11.

12 Apr. 1763, by 4 fatts yarn, mks. 5814; by insurance credited, mks. 58.2; [total] mks. 5872.2.

Balance due to you 12 Apr. 1763, mks. 4047.7 at exchange 33/1½, £325 16s. 7d. You have drawn £366 16s. 3d. Balance due to me, £40 19s. 8d.

253 Mr. Timothy Budworth

23 Apr. 1763

... The 20th inst. I sent up 10 cloths for Messrs. Duve & Möller which they write me are to be shipped on a Hamburg and not upon an Altona vessel, as the latter pays a stader duty on goods; and that freight must not exceed 12 stivers per piece. Below, contents of 3 fatts yarn shipped on the *Thomas and Martha*, Captain Clodd, whose arrival may be daily expected. I have accepted Duve & Möller's drafts on me payable at your house, viz. 12 inst. to order of Johann Peter Roding at 2 usance, £150; ditto to order of Robert Barnet & Son ditto, £97 4s.; ditto to order of themselves ditto, £119 12s. 3d.; [in all] £366 16s. 3d., which I will enable you to pay at maturity.

Please to buy me 2 barrels of weed ashes. Since the before written I see per the public papers that Captain Clodd passed by Gravesend. As I have reason to think my yarn is upon top, I hope it will soon be landed and sent by a Newbury barge;⁴ and please to send the 2 barrels weed ashes likewise per barge. I am sorry to find Monday and Tuesday next are holidays at custom house.

254 Mr. Theodore Martin Liebenrood

30 Apr. 1763

... Am favoured with yours of 1st and 15th February with invoice of 10 bags flax per *Norwich Adventure*, Thomas Watson, amount fl. 1155.11s. which is placed to your credit, and Watson arrived long since and the flax proved to content. I have waited till this time to hear of your having shipped me 5 bags more per Captain Sinclair, who in your last letter you said would soon go for Bristol; but as I have no invoice nor bill lading I presume and hope you have not bought it; and now the season is too far advanced here for its sale, therefore if not bought before this reach you, I desire you will omit it.

We have seasonable weather here for the crop in ground, which if continues shall want none of your country flax next year; but if otherwise I will write you in time. You may remit me the balance when you please.

⁴ The Kennett had been made navigable to Newbury under an Act of 1714 (1 Geo. I, c. 24): *V.C.H. Berks.* i. 377.

255 Mr. Timothy Budworth

30 Apr. 1763

R.A. 498,⁵ 499.

The 26th inst. I sent up 2 cloths as above to be packed with the 10 for D. & M. I hope to hear next post of your having sent forward my 3 fatts yarn per Newbury barge. Below contents of another fatt which may be daily expected; when arrives pray send it to Newbury.

I beg you will please to pay money for the 2 casks weed ashes and get the discount and enquire the price if took 10 casks. It is sold here for 25s. per cwt. after paying 5s. per cwt. carriage.

In the *Peterburg*, Thomas Swarfield master, at Hamburg, 1 fatt no. 13 containing 300 bundles heavy yarn.

256 Mr. Theodore Martin Liebenrood

11 May 1763

. . . Am favoured with yours of 3rd inst. with the state of my account and a remittance for the balance in your own draft on your brother Mr. John George Liebenrood at one usance⁶ stg. £23 6s. 6d. at exchange 35/3, is fl. 246.13s., which is passed accordingly to your credit. I am obliged to you for not buying me any flax at an advanced price, as it is falling here upon our having seasonable rains for the coming crop; but I think the critical time is yet to come, about latter end of this month and the beginning of the next. Our last year's crop is very ordinary stuff so that if we should not have a plentiful and good crop this year flax will be wanted; but in such case it seems probable that you will have but little to spare of old flax, as the demand for Ireland is so great. If any likelihood of our wanting Dutch flax, I shall take the liberty of writing to you.

257 Messrs. Duve & Möller

18 May 1763

. . . Am favoured with yours of 19th inst. with bill lading of fatt no. 13 per Captain Swarfield, who I thank God is safely arrived, as well as Captain Clodd. Fatt no. 10 is come to hand, which proves pretty good, only your correspondent has put in about 25 bundles in it which does not deserve the name of double crown yarn, and are 7 stivers per bundle worse than the rest, which should not be.

If you can purchase another fatt of 300 bundles or 280, of very prime best 3 crown or chain yarn, from 7½ to 8½, at or under mks. 4.12s. the price of the last, you may please to do it, provided a ship is now in loading with you and will be ready to sail in 7 or 8 days after you receive this letter, but not otherwise; for if come not over soon I cannot sell it this year. I think myself obliged to you for shipping my 3 fatts per Clodd upon the top and not in the bottom, as they stand the fairest to come out free from damage, as well as being first landed; and pray if you ship me 1 fatt more I beg you will ship it as near upon the top as possible. If you can ship the fatt now ordered you may draw upon me for the value and your bills shall be honoured, but pray give me a line in answer per return of the mail and let me know whether you can do it or not. I expect bill lading of a bale, quantity 12 cloths, shipped for your account every post, of which invoice in due time.

⁵ This is the maker's mark and number, probably Richard Adlam of Crockerton, near Warminster, see 351, 671.

⁶ The usance between London and Holland was one month.

258 Messrs. Duve & Möller

28 May 1763

... Fatts no. 11 and 12 per Captain Clodd are come to hand and am sorry I have reason to complain of all three fatts. Your correspondent don't deal fair; he puts in too much ordinary yarn and every one of my customers complains of it, and likewise of the tale of threads, some knots not amounting to 80 threads. If he will not alter his hand I must never have any more of this yarn. Annexed is invoice of one bale Spanish cloth shipped on the *Concordia*, John Mathias Carstens master, for your account, amount £94 5s. 1d. which finding right please to credit me on arrival. These cloths will please you. The remainder of your order I hope to send up next week. I have this day drawn on you payable to Mr. Timothy Budworth or order at 2 usance, £40 19s. 8d. being what you overdrawed upon me, ditto £90 on account of Spanish cloth now shipped; and when the other Spanish are shipped I shall draw for the exact balance. You will please to give due honour to these bills. The exchange will be as Mr. Budworth negotiates the same in London.

(P.S.) I suppose the peace will reduce the price of pearl ashes and that some from Bohemia may be purchased, that being the best sort. I shall want 8 or 10 barrels for a trial against next spring.

259 Mr. Timothy Budworth

28 May 1763

I am favoured with yours of 21st and 26th inst. with account charges on my 3 fatts yarn per Captain Clodd at Hamburg, amount £10 0s. 7d. Packing charges on a bale Spanish per Captain Carstens, ditto £3 9s. 11d. which is placed to your credit. The 20th inst. I drew on you for £22 18s. payable to John Adlam or order, which please to accept.

I wish you may not have overstayed the time for sale of the gold. I have yet about 30 Johannes⁷ which will go forward in a day or two, and then I will not trouble you further with that article.

Please to negotiate the two enclosed bills on Duve & Möller the best you can and credit me with £90 and £40 19s. 8d.; and likewise with bill on John Sawell, £10; on Sclater & Sheppard, £10; in all £150 19s. 8d.; and send forward the enclosed for Hamburg per first post. I shall be glad with the account charges on my fatt yarn per Captain Swarfield, in which account pray to remember to charge the wharfrage at Downses of the whole of the fatts.

260 Mr. William Tatnall

31 May 1763

... In part of your order have sent the ticks as above and have taken the liberty to add 2 pieces $\frac{3}{4}$ ths which I think will please, being such as are very scarce at present and well bought. The remainder of your order for shipping I am in hopes of sending up next week. Ticks will be dearer unless it pleaseth God to send us rain in a week or 10 days' time; for without it our present crop of flax will be lost, and we have no old stock that is good and very little of any sort.

⁷ A Portuguese gold coin of 6,400 reis, officially worth 36s. See 263, 266.

261 Messrs. Isaac & Benjamin Lester⁸

1 June 1763

. . . I believe the house of Messrs. Standert & Pawsons at Oporto is in full credit and esteem. Mr. Standert⁹ has told me that he knew the circumstances of the young Pawsons (his partners) were good, otherwise he would not have engaged with them, and you know the private character of Mr. George Pawson¹ in London is much to his honour and credit, and Mr. Standert's is equal to it. Mr. Harding makes them consignments and is in no doubt of their capital. As they are men of very fair reputation I think you have nothing to fear. Mr. Harding hath not sold any of his wines, nor can I see any prospect of his doing it.

262 Messrs. Duve & Möller

15 June 1763

. . . The bill you remit me on William Willy & Co. for £125 stg. goes up this post for acceptance and when in cash shall be placed to your credit. I am in hopes of sending all the blue cloths which I can get to your patterns this week to London, and I have no other patterns from you. You say shall order brown and red, but must first see the blues. I am sorry to tell you, you will be disappointed if you think cloths are now to be bought cheaper, for they are advancing, so that I look upon the blues to be worth 3*d.* to 6*d.* per yard more than I could now get them for. Our hay harvest is at hand and the corn will soon follow; our workmen will soon be in the fields and not in the looms and our makers have large orders. I wish for your interest that you had sent me patterns for what you might want 3 months ago. All I can say is, I will do the best I can when you give orders. I shall be glad to hear how the crop of flax proves in the yarn country, as I may want more yarn against next Spring than I had this year.

(P.S.) I have seen good yarn this year of the following mark **BGNB***

263 Mr. Theodore Martin Liebenrood

20 June 1763

I wrote you 11th ult., since which time we have had very little rain, so that I think we must want a considerable quantity of flax from your side if your crop should prove good and prices not too high. I have had some heavy gold sold in London at £4 1*s.* 10*d.* per oz. and had a small parcel going up when the price fell to £4 1*s.*,² so I ordered my friend Mr. Timothy Budworth to ship it to you, which he has done per the *Queen Charlotte*, George Paris master, being 46 Johannes and 17 moydore.³ On arrival please to dispose of it to my best advantage and place the proceeds to my credit, letting it remain to purchase flax; and as soon as I hear the state of your market, if anything to be done, I shall remit you further in bill of exchange.

⁸ Of Poole: see 274.

⁹ Frederick Standert, merchant, Martin's Lane, Cannon St.

¹ Merchant, Paternoster Row.

² See also 287 and Introduction, p. xxii. The fall in the price in London was due to selling by the Dutch of their holdings of British securities owing to the crisis on the Continent: Ashton, *Econ. Fluctuations in Eng. 1700-1800*, p. 126.

³ A Portuguese coin of 4,000 reis, current in England at 27*s.*

264 Messrs. Duve & Möller

2 July 1763

. . . Am favoured with yours of 22nd ult. with your patterns for 14 pieces blue Spanish, but you don't mention the prices; I suppose at 5s. 6d. and if so I doubt can't get them made for some time, especially the saddest⁴ colour. You will please in your next to let me know the price and then I will use my best endeavours for you. I have sent up for London 8 pieces blues which hope will soon be shipped to you and are all I can get to your last patterns that would please, so I have nothing more except the patterns in your letter now received. I know you don't like white lists and I always order the contrary; the maker made a mistake, but as the colour was good and cloth cheap I could not return it.

The bill you sent me on William Willy & Co. for £125 stg. he would not accept for want of advice; so after staying for the arrival of 2 mails, it has been protested for non-acceptance and enclosed is the protest, by which you may, as I think, get security from the drawer. You'll please to credit me 4s. 3d. for the charge of it. If the bill is not paid when due, I will take care to return it with protest for non-payment.

I have accepted your bill on me and sent it to Messrs. Steman, Otto & Klotz in London. The maker of cloths 588, 592 will not at present make 2 more such under 5s. 9d. or 6s. per yard, for your government.

265 Messrs. Steman, Otto & Klotz⁵

2 July 1763

[*Sending above bill for £29 12s. 7d.*]

266 IB 112, 124, blues sent up per King, 10 May; Ford 444, 445, ditto, 20 June; IA 1775, 1776, Ford 448, 449, ditto per Whitmarsh, 22 June.

Mr. Timothy Budworth

2 July 1763

I am favoured with yours of 28th ult. with protest for non-acceptance of the bill on William Willy & Co. for which you have credit 4s. 3d. Above you have account of the 8 cloths for D. & M. and when sent hence. I hope you will have received the whole ere this. I have accepted Duve & Möller's bill on me dated 21st June, payable to Steman, Otto & Klotz at 2 usance, for £29 12s. 7d. which please to pay at maturity. Since the foregoing, am favoured with yours of 30th ult. and am glad to hear that the 8 cloths are got safe. I shall credit you 72s. for the double Johannes.

267 Messrs. Duve & Möller

16 July 1763

. . . Annexed you have invoice of one bale, quantity 8 pieces Spanish, shipped on Captain Koopmann for your account, amounting to £66 3s. 1d. which finding right please to credit me. I shall not draw upon you till I know the issue of the bill on William Willy & Co., as perhaps it may be paid when due.

(P.S.) Pray when is the proper season for purchasing pearl ashes?

⁴ i.e. darkest.

⁵ Merchants, nr. Richard's Court, Lime Street.

268 Mr. Timothy Budworth

16 July 1763

I am favoured with yours of 14th inst. with account packing charges 1 bale for D. & M. per Captain Koopmann, amount £2 10s. 11d., which is placed to your credit . . .

You are not indebted to me for the trifling presents I have sent, as I give you more trouble than they are worth; and I only beg you'll accept them as a grateful acknowledgement.

(P.S.) I suppose you know Mr. John George Liebenrood. If you should see him upon the exchange, please to ask him if he has any Dutch flax, and the price.

I think the bill on William Willy will fall due 25/28 inst., when, if not paid, you'll please to do the needful.

269 Messrs. Duve & Möller

30 July 1763

. . . I will as soon as possible, and hope in due time, let you know what yarn I shall want. With difficulty I have prevailed on two makers to supply me with the blue cloths to your last patterns at 5s. 6d.; but as our harvest is now begun I can't say when they may be brought in. They shall be forwarded as fast as possible.

Enclosed you will find the bill on William Willy & Company for £125 and protest for non payment. I never knew an instance of a bill upon London returned with protest. I have therefore desired my friend, Mr. Timothy Budworth of London, to settle the charges on this according to custom and to draw upon you at 2 usance for the £125 and expense, which you will please to accept and place to my account; and I think this will be agreeable to your orders in yours of 15th inst. Mr. Budworth will advise you under this cover the further needful of the bill.

270 Mr. Theodore Martin Liebenrood

10 Aug. 1763

I am favoured with yours of 28 June advising the arrival of Captain Paris from London per whom consigned you 46 Johannes and 17 Moydores, which hope you have received and sold. In your next letter please to let me know the proceeds. Enclosed I remit you bill of John Dolignon on Periez & Boognert, £100 stg. at 2 usance, exchange 35/1, which hope will find acceptance. At maturity you'll please to credit me. When you can see good opportunity, I desire you will purchase 30 bags of flax for me of quality no worse than the last, and ship it per first vessel after bought for Southampton, as that is the most convenient port for us; and I suppose Captain Watson or Sinclair would touch there as it is nearer than Weymouth and in their road thither.

Messrs. Pillans & Rose of your place got the start of you last year in sending flax to their correspondent in this country, and am informed they have lately shipped him a considerable parcel; but I suppose it must be at a high price as you write me your old flax was very scarce. I believe they are well acquainted with the captains of vessels who use our southern coast, and I hope you will not this year find it difficult to get freight, so that I may be as early at market as anyone, after your markets are settled and flax to be bought reasonable with you. I only wait a favourable opportunity of exchange to remit you further.

271 The Rev. Mr. William Plucknett⁶ at
Gainsborough, Lincolnshire

3 Sept. 1763

I must beg pardon for troubling you with business foreign from your profession and hope you will excuse me. The crop of flax in our country this year proves but small and I was lately informed that the crop in Lincolnshire is very abundant. If flax grows about Gainsborough, I beg the favour of you to enquire for a proper person who is used to buy flax in your or neighbouring market upon commission (as I suppose such there are) and desire him to give me a line of the sorts of flax your county produceth, the weight and prices it now governs at or may govern when brought to market. I believe I need not observe that our west country flax is exceeding good in quality; and if Lincolnshire is good, of a light blue or whitish colour that will easily bleach and is strong and fine, I fancy a considerable quantity might sell here; and if you can meet with a person of judgement and character, I would remit a bill for the purchase of a small quantity by way of trial. I suppose your river is navigable for vessels into the Humber; pray is there conveyance from you to the Severn without too much land carriage?

[*The letter continues with family matters.*]

(P.S.) I desire to give you as little trouble as possible on this occasion, and what expense you may be at I will thankfully repay; and shall be obliged for an answer.

[*Some pages torn out.*]

272 [*Fragment of a letter to Liebenrood ordering 10 bags of flax, if prices are reasonable, and asking about his gold.*]

273 Messrs. George & Thomas Allen

1 Oct. 1763

I have your favours of 23rd August and 6th September with two first bills of your own draft on Mr. William Stead, each for 60 milreis, which shall be placed to your credit; and I am obliged to you that you will remit me further as fast as you are in cash, as the money will be very serviceable to me, being in want of it. Spanish cloths are very scarce and very bad made and advanced in price, so that no good to be done at present in that article. How long it may continue so I know not; but your market must rise or ours fall before much goods will be bought.

274 Mr. Theodore Martin Liebenrood

8 Oct. 1763

... If a ship offers on going down channel to touch at Southampton, please to write to Mr. Robert Ballard, if to Poole to Messrs. Isaac and Benjamin Lester. I have no correspondent at Weymouth and indeed that port is not convenient, as I cannot get carriage from thence hither without difficulty. I take notice that Captain Watson sailed 24th ult. and that the price of flax with you continues at 27 to 33 stivers. I am contented that you did not buy, and must

⁶ Son of Charles Plucknett: see Introduction, p. xi n. 3. He was curate of Gainsborough 1762–66 and Rector of Maperton (Som.) 1766–82: Venn, *Alumni*.

wait with patience till your market is better stocked and prices may come down. Part of the reason of my pressing to have 10 bags was that such a quantity is a waggon load and it is difficult to get a less quantity from Southampton; at least it will cost much more in proportion. I am obliged to you that in case Watson had stayed till 27th ult. that you would have put 2 or 3 bags on board, that I might have seen the quality of this new crop; but as the prices are so high now I think it better to wait longer, and I make no doubt of your purchasing for me when you see good opportunity and freight offers. I shall be obliged to you if you will keep me advised of your market, that if any good to be done I may remit you in time, especially as exchange seems rising, being now at 35/9.

275 Bought of Henry Hindley 8 pieces tick, viz. 72 yds. $\frac{3}{4}$ & nail best dye, small stripe at 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., £5 5s.

Mr. William Tatnall

12 Oct. 1763

I am obliged to you for your favour of 3rd ult. and this day have sent you per King 8 pieces ticks as above, which hope will please you, and that you will not find fault with my sending 2 pieces $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{1}{16}$ small stripe more than your orders, as they are such as are scarce, though not so good as I could wish. I have bespoke a piece yard wide for you which shall be sent when ready. Our harvest being now over ticks may in little time be plentier, but I don't think cheaper, as flax is exceeding dear. When I can get the remainder of your order to my mind I will send them.

276 Messrs. Duve & Möller

22 Oct. 1763

. . . As soon as the fatt of 250 bundles from 7 to 9 is come to your hands, please to ship it for London per first English ship and insure the value. I hope you will be able to ship me 2 fatts more before your river is frozen. You may bespeak 2 fatts more, 300 bundles each, prime best yarn for me, from 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$, and please to order these from the collector of which I sent you the board. I can find no fault with the first fatt yarn you sent me, and hope that correspondent will this year take care to keep up his credit. I would choose the fatts to contain 300 bundles each. When you see good opportunity please to buy me . . .
[remainder torn out].

[This ends the first section.]

277 Mr. Jeremiah Day⁷

30 Sept. 1769

Above you have my draft on Mr. John Day, £19 1s. 0d.; enclosed is Harry Benson's note, £4 2s. 0d., which hope Benson will pay, as he promised me he

⁷ A Gloucestershire clothier, possibly the man of this name who signed the clothiers' manifesto in 1757 (*Bristol and Glos. Arch. Soc.* lxxiii. 218), but there were other Days in Stroud. This one lived at Nailsworth in the parish of Avening, where, in 1770, Mary Day married J. P. Westley: see 301; Phillimore, *Glos. Par. Reg.* x. 27. Harding was ordering cloth from him in 1757 but the firm was then Day & Fletcher. By 1794 he, or possibly his son, was the principal inhabitant of Nailsworth and the main agent in procuring the establishment of the new chapel of ease there: T. D. Fosbrooke, *Abstract of Records and MSS. respecting the County of Gloucester*, p. 405.

would do it if alive, but if he does not pay it I desire you will endorse it to some shopkeeper or man of note in Tetbury which may be of use, as I doubt he would too easily put off the landlord at the 'Lamb'.

I want in about two months time 2 pieces cloth to the enclosed patterns 6 quarters wide⁸ at 6s. or 6s. 3d. per yard, which desire you will send me.

278 Mr. John Webb⁹

30 Sept. 1769

I wrote to you 23rd inst. to which please to refer. The 26th inst. I drew on you for £50 payable to Mr. Moulton Messiter¹ or order at 20 days' date which please to accept.

Please to send me down Peter Davis's² note and I will give your account credit for it; his mentioning the Duke of Queensberry's disappointing him in money for carriage was a lucky circumstance and which I shall make a proper use of. I am in great hopes of getting the money from Davis's father. Send the note per return of post, and please to advise the price of oil.

279 Mr. John Kingsnorth³

7 Oct. 1769

I have your favour of 28th ult. and in part of your order have this day sent you 2 pieces ticks as above and the rest shall follow as can get them to content, but at present are very scarce.

(P.S.) I have another piece $\frac{1}{2}$ yard same sort as above, which is uncommonly fine for that breadth.

280 Mr. John Gray⁴

7 Oct. 1769

I have yours of 29th ult. with two receipts for £43 4s. 3d. which is placed to your credit. Is any ship now in loading for Hamburg and when will the first be ready to sail thither?

(P.S.) I want my patterns and remnant of cloth. Note the exchange to Hamburg.

281 Mr. John Webb

7 Oct. 1769

I have your favour of 3rd inst. with Peter Davis's note for £3 3s. 0d. which is placed to your credit.

Above is my draft on William Tatnall & Son, £80. When in cash please to credit me.

When will a packet go for North America? I want to write to Maryland per first . . .

⁸ i.e. 54 inches.

⁹ Blackwell Hall factor, Basinghall Street. Webb acted as Hindley's agent in London after the death of Budworth in this year: see 290.

¹ Attorney in Wincanton who acted for Harding.

² A Peter Davis had been landlord of the Ship Inn (now the Ship Hotel), Mere, up to 1756, when he went bankrupt: *Salisbury Jnl.* 5 Apr. and 2 Aug. 1756.

³ Upholder, 57 Friday Street.

⁴ Packer, 26 St. Martin's Lane, Cannon St.

282 Mr. John Farrer⁵ 7 Oct. 1769

I have yours of 12th ult. and observe its contents. Mr. Webb is now at home and I advise you to give him a meeting on the exchange (but not to go to his house) and satisfy him in regard to Peter Davis's affair, as without it the blame will rest with you and may be of disservice to you.

283 Mr. Peter Nicholas Frisquett⁶ 9 Oct. 1769

I have received your favours of 3rd and 7th inst., with a lottery ticket for which above you have my draft on John Webb £14 13s. and I am obliged to you for your trouble. Mr. Rogers readily accepted your bill but I don't hear that it is paid. As soon as I do you may expect a remittance for the value.

[The letter continues with family affairs.]

284 Mr. John Webb 9 Oct. 1769

This for advice of my drafts on you this day, viz., to William Rossiter or order, 30 days, £74 4s.; to Peter Nicholas Frisquett ditto, 10 days, £14 13s.; which please to accept.

285 Messrs. Jones, Havard & Bird⁷ 14 Oct. 1769

I have not been able to get a piece $\frac{3}{8}$ rough at 20d. which you ordered for, but have this day sent the above which cost me 2s. 0d. and with it a good piece slick'd⁸ at 19d. and hope they will please. When you have further occasion please to command.

286 Mr. John Gray 14 Oct. 1769

I have yours of 10th inst. and observe the contents. This day have sent up per Andrews 32 pieces cloth for 2 bales for Messrs. Mayne & Co., Lisbon, to be shipped on very first ship. In Super 3443 is a small parcel which please to deliver to Mr. John Webb. I want these cloths to be shipped as soon as possible.

287 Mr. John Webb 14 Oct. 1769

I have your favour of 10th inst. with Elizabeth Trembley's⁹ draft on me for £8 which is placed to your credit. I have sent up some cloths. In Super 3443 is

⁵ See 358. Possibly the John Farrer, fishmonger, of St. Clement Danes who was bankrupt in 1767. He owned land in Mere which was sold that year (Baker).

⁶ Jeweller, 30 Lothbury (he appears in Mortimer as 'Friquet'). He was a family friend who was often asked to do commissions for Hindley and was named as his executor, but died before him. He may have been connected with Henry Plucknett though he did not succeed him directly in Lothbury, and he seems to have had connections in Wincanton.

⁷ Warehousemen, 7 Mansion House St.

⁸ From Harding's letters, 'slick'd' appears to mean finished as opposed to rough, but the kind of finish is uncertain since 'glazed' is also opposed to rough. But see 677, 'sleeked dowlas'.

⁹ Wife of J. J. Trembley of Geneva: see 290. From letters not printed here it seems that Hindley acted as agent in paying the interest on a legacy of £200 to Mrs. Trembley and her daughters.

a small parcel of heavy money, quantity 24 Johannes at 36s.¹ which I think weighs 11 ounces; please to dispose of them for me as suppose will yield more than in tale.

288 Messrs. Thomas Williams & Co.² 21 Oct. 1769

Above is copy of my last of 9th ult., since am not favoured with any from you. I debit your account current: for freight and primage³ per Gerrard Robinson, £1 7s. 6d.; for £60 insurance on goods per ditto at 2 per cent. and policy 5s. 6d., £1 9s. 6d.; which you will please to credit me and in little time I hope to receive remittance from you.

289 Mr. John Webb 21 Oct. 1769

I hope you have received the Johannes from Mr. Gray. The present is to desire you to send forward the enclosed for Annapolis in America per first packet and to advise me when the packet goes. I think there is one sails every month but don't know the stated days of departure . . .

290 Mr. John James Trembley 23 Sept. 1769

Mrs. Trembley's last bill on me did not meet that punctuality in payment and gave more trouble than I could have wished owing to the death of my correspondent in London, Mr. Timothy Budworth. I hope this will reach [you] in time to desire the bill for interest due 2nd of next month may be addressed to me in Mere payable at Mr. John Webb in Basinghall Street, London, and then you may depend upon its finding due honour . . .

P.S. 14 Oct. 1769

The above I intended to have sent forward 23rd ult. but that post brought me a letter from my friend Mr. John Webb advising me that Mrs. Trembley's bill on me of 2nd ult. for £8 was that day brought to him and that he had accepted it, since which he paid it; and upon my receiving the bill I find it drawn payable at Mr. Timothy Budworth, Bush Lane, London, which you'll please to alter in future.

291 Mr. John Webb 25 Oct. 1769

I have your favour of 21st inst. and observe you had sold my 24 Johannes at 18s. 9d. more than they would fetch in tale and had credited me £44 2s. 9d. for them, which is passed to your debit. Enclosed remit you bill on Thomas Newnham & Co. £172 10s. 5d. which when in cash please to credit me. I want bills on Hamburg for £200; please to consult your broker and if no prospect of [exchange] rising in 10 or 14 days then take £200 for me at 2 usance, best exchange to be had.

¹ See 259 note.

² Of Annapolis, Maryland: see 296.

³ Primage was the captain's perquisite. Beawes, *Lex Mercatoria Rediviva*, pp. 137-8, says that it was generally 5 per cent. though 10 per cent. was commonly paid in Holland in spite of edicts limiting it to five, But see also 313 and 532.

292 Mr. John Gray

28 Oct. 1769

I have yours of 21st inst.; the 32 cloths for Lisbon must be packed in 2 bales of 16 pieces each. I hope in future not [to] send so many. You must send two sets of patterns to Messrs. Mayne & Co. instead of one, which remember to do of the 32 pieces; and if this comes too late to cut them off, then send them the set which you designed for me, but in future I must also have a set. I have this day sent up 9 cloths which put forward as fast as possible, they require haste; and ship them in a bale on first ship to Hamburg for Messrs. Duve & Möller.

293 Messrs. Mayne & Co.⁴

30 Oct. 1769

I had the honour to write you 16th ult. with invoice of one bale, quantity 15 pieces Spanish, per *Henrietta*, Thomas Hill master, who hope is safely arrived. Since have received your favour of 2nd ult. and observe the contents. The patterns for 4 bales Spanish are also come to hand and are bespoke and shall be sent when ready.

Annexed you have invoice of 2 bales, quantity 32 pieces Spanish cloths shipped on the *Camberwell*, John Forbes master, for Lisbon on your account, who pray God send safe; the amount cost £267 4s. 4d. you will please to credit me and to debit me for the said sum which I have this day drawn upon John Mayne Esq.

I buy as many cloths at 5s. 9d. as possible and you will find these 2 bales per Forbes cost less, but they are such a bargain as I cannot expect to meet with again and you must set them against such as have and will cost more than 5s. 9d.

I have some more cloths in warehouse and expect to send up 2 or 3 bales in 10 or 14 days' time, of which invoice when shipped.

294 John Mayne Esq.⁵

30 Oct. 1769

Your esteemed favour of 23rd ult. came duly to hand with the patterns for 46 pieces cloths from Messrs. Mayne & Co. of Lisbon, of which the needful care shall be taken. I have bought and shipped said gentlemen 2 bales of 32 pieces cloths on the *Camberwell*, John Forbes master, for Lisbon, the amount cost whereof is £267 4s. 4d. for which sum have this day taken liberty to draw upon you at 20 days' date payable to Mr. John Webb or order, which you will please to accept and place to the debit of Messrs. Mayne & Co.

Mr. Harding, who is in pretty good health, desires his best respects to you . . .

295 Messrs. Jones, Havard & Bird

4 Nov. 1769

I have your favour of 26th ult. with orders for 2 pieces yard wide ticks at 22d., not higher. Very few of this width are made but am promised one in 10 days' time which shall be sent and the other as soon as possible.

This day in part of a former order have sent you 8 pieces ticks as above; could not get a piece $\frac{1}{2}$ yard common dye to send at 10d. so have sent a very

⁴ An old established firm of merchants at Lisbon who had been correspondents of Harding under the title of Mayne, Burn & Mayne. For one partner, William Mayne, who had retired in 1757 and became M.P. for Canterbury 1774–80, see Namier, *The Structure of Politics at the Accession of George III*, p. 100 n. 1.

⁵ Merchant, 3 New Broad St.

good best dye at 11*d.* and 2 pieces best dye $\frac{3}{4}$ and nails at 16*d.*, which at present is a low price for that sort. Wish they may please.

296 Messrs. Williams, Bellamy & Williams⁶ 4 Nov. 1769

I have received a letter from Messrs. Thomas Williams & Co. of Annapolis date 28 Aug. last advising me that they had remitted you the 11th and 21st of that month a 1st and 2nd bill for £110 stg. requesting you to permit me to draw for the same when paid. I am therefore to desire you to inform me when said bill will be due and when I may draw upon you for the same.

297 Mr. John Gray 4 Nov. 1769

I duly received yours of 28th ult. with packing charges and bills lading of 2 bales cloths shipped on the *Camberwell* amounting to, when right added, £10 3*s.* 0*d.* which is placed to your credit.

I have this day sent up a parcel in paper per Andrews for you; it contains only 2 bits of board and must be packed in the bale of 9 pieces Spanish for Duve & Möller, or if it comes too late then send it per the captain and remember to send D. & M. the bill lading by the ship and not per post.

298 Mr. John Webb 4 Nov. 1769

I wrote you 30th ult. with my draft on John Mayne Esq. £267 4*s.* 4*d.* which hope came safe. Since am favoured with yours of 31st ditto with bill on J. F. & P. D. Tonnies in Hamburg for £200 stg. at 2 usance, exchange 33/-, which is placed to your credit with 4*s.* brokerage. This is a low exchange. I shall be obliged to you if you'll consult your broker about the Hamburg exchange, as I shall want to remit all the money I can raise in a month or 6 weeks' time and would willingly take the best opportunity.

Above you have bill on Jones & Co., £41 2*s.* 0*d.*, which please to credit me, and this day have drawn on you £32 8*s.* 6*d.* payable to Mr. Peter Nicholas Frisquett or order at 10 days' date which please to accept and to send forward the inclosed for Hamburg per first post.

299 Messrs. Duve & Möller 4 Nov. 1769

I am favoured with yours of 26th September with patterns for 12 pieces Spanish cloths which are bespoke and will take care they shall be ready in March next.

Nine pieces Spanish to your former order are now in London, I expect account every day of their being shipped. Hope to send up the remainder in 10 days if can be dried, but we have at present continual rain.

I take notice that you have standing the 2 fatts yarn from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $8\frac{1}{2}$ from a new collector, which you say is good and at my service. Enclosed I remit you Amsinck & Burmeister's bill on Messrs. Tonnies for £200 sterling at 2 usance, exchange 33/- which if you will accept of towards the two fatts yarn you may ship them to me per first [ship] and insure their value. I can't expect to find sale for them before March or April and the only inducement for my having them is to see the sort of yarn and to govern by in what I may want in the

⁶ Linen drapers and calico printers, 27 Poultry.

spring, for I have just cause to complain of your correspondent who shipped the 2 fatts no. 30 and 31 at mks. 4.4s. that he does not send you as good yarn as to some merchants in London, having lately seen a fatt of yarn of his stamp that was 6*d.* sterling per bundle better than the best fatt I had of his last year. I shall be glad of your opinion in regard to the exchange which is now down to 33/- and I would willingly take the best opportunity of remitting. As the profits on yarn is very small I shall not draw upon you for the Spanish cloths but place the amount towards the yarn at current exchange.

Pray advise me how your crop of flax proves and what price yarn may be at.

300 Mr. Thomas Price of Gloster 4 Nov. 1769

[*Sending ticks which are scarce and in great demand, and advising of bill drawn payable to Jeremiah Day.*]

301 Mr. Jeremiah Day 4 Nov. 1769

I have received a letter from you without date (which think no trifling omission in my friend Mr. John Westley)⁷ and, enclosed, Harry Benson's note for £4 2*s.*, which money I suppose lost.

Above is my draft on Thomas Price of Gloster for £22 2*s.* which when in cash please to credit me, and if Benson's note had been paid it would have been the balance due to you.

If you cannot send me the crimsons at 6*s.* 6*d.* then omit them and let me know per return of post whether I am to expect them or not.

302 Mr. John Kingsnorth 11 Nov. 1769

I have your favour of 6th inst. and have given your account credit with 10*s.* for damage on 2 pieces ticks wetted . . .

303 Messrs. Williams, Bellamy & Williams 11 Nov. 1769

I have your favour of 9th inst., and according to the liberty therein given me have this day drawn upon you for £110 payable to Mr. John Webb or order at one month, which when due you'll please to pay on account of Messrs. Thomas Williams & Co. of Annapolis in Maryland and debit those gentlemen accordingly.

304 Messrs. Jones, Havard & Bird 11 Nov. 1769

. . . Have received your favour of 5th inst. and in part of your order have sent you this day 3 pieces ticks as near to your prices as I could get. Am promised a yard wide and 2 pieces nail common dye next week which hope to send you; the latter sort is in great demand and I think are bought too dear.

305 Messrs. Duve & Möller 18 Nov. 1769

. . . Annexed is invoice of 1 bale, quantity 9 pieces Spanish cloths, shipped on the *William*, Robert Reddeff master, amount £70 14*s.* 2*d.* which have placed

⁷ See 277, n. 7. Westley possibly came from Mere where there was a family of that name (Baker), but Harding also corresponded with a W. Westley of Bristol who appears to have been a linen draper.

to your debit at exchange 33/2 as it now governs. These cloths are good and I think will please; the blacks are worth 5s. 9d. per yard, for your government; the remainder 8 pieces hope to send up next week. You may please to provide for me 14 fatts yarn as below mentioned; and desire they may be shipped early in the spring and the value insured. Pray recommend to your correspondent that they send none but the best 3 crown sort made of fine flax of good length in reel and number of threads and good colour to white. I would have 6 fatts to come from the best collector and the rest from the persons whose marks you will receive in paper with this bale cloth per the *William*, one of which you have sent me yarn of formerly and I have seen very good yarn from that house this year, though I must say that the collector of fatts nos. 30 and 31 can send good yarn if he will, but he has not done you justice or served you equal to his London friends.

I have heard that your crop of flax proves fine this year, so you will take care to have the yarn of the full weight ordered. I shall be remitting you bills for payment of the yarn as can meet a favourable exchange and what I may not remit you may draw for and your bill shall be honoured.

Five fatts of 300 bundles each from 7½ to 8½ per bundle, 1 of 300 8 to 9, 1 of 150 4½ to 5½ [and] 200 5¼ to 6, *of this collector; 7 of 300 each 7½ to 8½ of the marks sent you or 5 of them and 2 from your old friend of mks. 4.4s. if you can place confidence in him; 14 fatts exclusive of the 2 ordered 4th inst.

306 Mr. John Webb

18 Nov. 1769

. . . Enclosed remit you bank post bill⁸ no. 7116, £100; John Standerwick's note, £27; when in cash please to credit me £127 and please to take a bill or bills on Hamburg for me in 14 days' time for £400 and send me down, or may defer it a week longer if exchange is rising . . .

307 Mr. John Gray

25 Nov. 1769

I received yours of 13th inst. with charges on 1 bale **DM 71*** shipped on Capt. Redeff with bill lading amounting to £3 3s. which is placed to your credit.

This day have sent up per Andrews 32 cloths as above, the first two bales of 12 pieces each for Messrs. Mayne & Co., Lisbon, per first ship, and the other 8 pieces for Messrs. Duve & Möller of Hamburg per first ship; and remember to advise me the exchange when you send me the bill lading.

308 Messrs. Jones, Havard & Bird

25 Nov. 1769

I have this day sent you the only piece of yard wide tick could get; if approved will endeavour to send you the fellow piece when off loom, to which pray your answer; but don't expect to get a piece between this price and 23d. which is above your limits. The common dye nail is not so good as I could wish but is the only piece could get, as few are made.

The workmen are now all in loom and I think ticks will be plentier in 14 days or 3 weeks and then shall have more choice. If you should want some best

⁸ Bank notes originally payable after three days but from 1739 after 7 days, designed to reduce the danger from highwaymen.

dyes $\frac{3}{4}$ and nail or $\frac{7}{8}$ and will please to favour me with orders I will do my best to serve you.

309 Mr. John Webb

27 Nov. 1769

I want a lottery ticket for a friend warranted undrawn; please to send me one by return of post. I have this day drawn upon you for £30 payable to Mr. Richard Jesser or order at 30 days' date, which please to accept.

310 Messrs. Thomas Williams & Co.

2 Dec. 1769

. . . The clothiers in this part of England act as if they were sure of a repeal of the American duties.⁹ They are making superfine cloths everywnere, even almost all the town of Frome, so that I can't get but very few cloths as low as 6s. per yard for the Lisbon trade and am told there are superfines made already not worth 11s. per yard and in all probability worse will be made; and you may have wretched stuff sent over to America. You will see by our public papers that petitions are preparing and some sent up and presented to the king; what effect they will have time will show, but we hope for the best.

311 Mr. Thomas Brown

2 Dec. 1769

[*About the recovery of a debt from Edward Chaplin, a minor.*]

312 Mr. John Webb

6 Dec. 1769

Contrary to my desire and inclination as I want money in your hands to remit to Hamburg, yet to serve a friend I drew on you 4th inst. for £70 payable to Mr. Moulton Messiter or order at 10 days' date, which please to accept.

313 Messrs. Duve & Möller

9 Dec. 1769

. . . I am this day favoured with yours of 24th ult. with invoice and bill of lading of 2 fatts yarn per the *Hamburg Merchant*, John Barclay master, amount mks. 2623.8s. which is placed to your credit. You charge primage on mks. 2700 at $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. which I presume is for insurance and brokerage,¹ and shall not insure on this side as I desired you to do it in mine of 4th ult. when gave orders for these 2 fatts; and wish they may arrive soon in London that I might see their quality.

Enclosed I remit you 2 bills viz.: Ben Kidney & Klein on John Friedrich Berendt, £200; P. Amsinck & Burmester on J. F. & P. D. Tonnie, £200; in all £400 at $2\frac{1}{2}$ usance, exchange 33/1 which hope will find acceptance; and when in cash please to credit me.

I shall soon remit more bills towards the yarn.

⁹ The Townshend Duties imposed in 1768 on certain commodities imported by the American colonies. As a result, widespread non-importation agreements were made there and the duties, except that on tea, were withdrawn in April 1770.

¹ See 288, note 3. Presumably the insurance and brokerage charges amounted to the difference between mks. 2632.8s. and mks. 2700. The rate of primage is very low. In 532 it is over 7 per cent.

314 Mr. John Webb

9 Dec. 1769

. . . I have 2 fatts yarn shipped at Hamburg as below mentioned; please to advise me when arrives and to send forward the enclosed for Hamburg per first post.

In the *Hamburg Merchant*, John Barclay master, at Hamburg, *2 fatts no. 1, 300; no. 2, 300; [in all] 600 bundles heavy yarn, to be sent to Newbury by first barge.

315 Messrs. Mayne & Co.

11 Dec. 1769

Since my last respects to you of 30 Oct. have received your esteemed favour of 31 ditto with patterns for two bales cloths of 15 pieces each, which I have bespoke of IG² at 6s. per yard, though with difficulty at that price, the colours being in general very dear. The sad blues dyed up to your pattern would cost 2s. per yard the dying and the very lightest colour is grained.³

I wrote you in my last that I had bespoke the 4 bales cloths to your patterns but the maker hath returned me one pattern (which he did not particular observe) and will not make it under 7s. per yard, cochineal being too dear at present to get it dyed and made into tolerable cloth under that price. Enclosed is a part of that pattern, pray let me know if I shall give 7s. per yard for it. If your shopkeepers will have such colours they must give a price accordingly or go without them.

Annexed is invoice of 2 bales Spanish cloths shipped on the *New Trimmer*, John Wellen master, for your account, who pray God send safe. The amount being £209 6s. 8d., I have this day drawn upon John Mayne Esq. which you will please to note accordingly. The bale of 4 browns and 8 blues hope to send up in 10 days' time. I observe what you say of oil; the last 2 hogsheads were good but there has been large quantities imported from Mogador⁴ and sold at £33 per ton, and is esteemed better than Portugal oil. If any opportunity should offer I will certainly embrace it in giving you orders for some, and when the price is broke with you please to advise me.

316 Messrs. Duve & Möller

13 Dec. 1769

. . . The remaining 8 pieces Spanish cloths are now shipped on the *Anna Margareta*, Carl Carstens master, for Hamburg, who pray God send safe. The amount cost as per invoice annexed is stg. £63 6s. 3d. which I have carried to the debit of your account at exchange 33/1 in mks. 785.7½s. which if right you'll please to pass in conformity. These cloths, though retarded by unforeseen accidents which hope will not happen in future, are good and worth the money at last. I hear nothing of Captain Barclay and indeed could not expect it as the wind is contrary.

317 Mr. John Webb

13 Dec. 1769

Above is my draft on John Mayne Esq. £209 6s. 8d.; when in cash please to credit me and to send forward the enclosed for Hamburg per first post.

² Probably the mark of John George of Frome: see 486.

³ A grained colour involved the use of cochineal which was expensive.

⁴ On the coast of Morocco. Oil shipped from this port was known as Barbary oil.

I should be glad to know the price of Gallipoly⁵ oil and Mogador, if any at market.

318 Mr. Richard Woodward jun. of Dublin 16 Dec. 1769

[Tells him of the death of his grandfather, Mr. James Down of Mere, and the circumstances of his widow.]

319 Mr. John Webb 19 Dec. 1769

. . . If you can send me a bill on Hamburg by next Tuesday's post for £200 please to do it, but would not have it afterwards this year because of our agreement in accounts; and to save you all the trouble I can, you may expect your account current from me at end of the year.

Mrs. Hindley presents her compliments to Mrs. Webb and hath sent her a turkey which hopes will prove worth her acceptance. It is sent per Andrews' waggon and I expect it will be at Gerrard's Hall⁶ Saturday evening. If brought to your house I insist upon it that you don't pay the carriage (which I have done), nor even a single farthing for portorage, but I should be glad to know if portorage is demanded . . .

320 Mr. Thomas Rowley⁷ 30 Dec. 1769

Annexed is your account current, the balance whereof appears due to me £299 1s. 5d., which finding right please to credit me in a new account accordingly. You have my best thanks for your favours of the past year, and wishing you many happy years I am, etc.

321 Mr. John Kingsnorth 30 Dec. 1769

[In similar terms; balance due £242 15s. 11d.]

322 Messrs. Jones, Havard & Bird 30 Dec. 1769

[In similar terms; balance due £241 7s. 1d.]

I have credited your account with 3s. for your servants which please to give them, that they may return all my wrappers per Andrews.

323 Messrs. William Tatnall 30 Dec. 1769

[In similar terms; balance due £195 19s. 8d.]

324 Mr. John Webb 30 Dec. 1769

[Sending account, balance due £288 14s. 5d.]

Let me know your expense of postage which I will give you credit for in the new account . . .

325 Messrs. Duve & Möller 1 Jan. 1770

Since my last of 13th ult. am favoured with yours of 8th ditto with bill lading of 1 piece Spanish shipped September 1768 on John Classen, which was

⁵ From the district of Otranto in S. Italy.

⁶ Gerrard's Hall in Basing Lane was the inn where the carrier had his headquarters.

⁷ Warehouseman, 23 Princes' St., nr. Mansion House.

charged with 3 marks for freight. I hate such impositions and will write my packer to reprimand, and to take care for future. Some time ago Mr. Harding advised Mr. Wolffenden's heirs that he had quitted business; they then desired him to recommend them to a person for purchasing Spanish and Mr. Harding recommended me; but as I was in correspondence with you I did not second Mr. Harding's recommendation or write to Mr. Wolffenden's heirs, as I imagined their trade might fall into your hands, which I suppose will happen, as they have given me no orders. Captain Barclay is arrived, but the yarn not yet come to hand; as soon as it does will write you the needful. Enclosed I remit you bill of Ben Kidney & Klein on John Friedrich Berendt for £200 at 2 usance 8 days, exchange 33/2, which hope will find acceptance. I shall soon remit further.

326 Mr. John Webb

1 Jan. 1770

I am favoured with yours of 30th ult. with bill on John Friedrich Berendt for £200 stg. which shall be placed to your credit with 4s. brokerage. I shall be glad to have your answer to the account current sent you that might agree in and fix the balance.

Inclosed are two bills, viz.: William Rigby on Fuller & Co., past due, £16 3s. 6d.; Peter Butt on John Gathorn, 10 days' sight, £11 11s.; [in all] £27 14s. 6d. Please to credit me in a new account.

I see my 2 fatts yarn were sent to the wharf and you hoped to let me know per next post what barge they goes by for Newbury; pray order the person who lands them to acquaint you when the barge is actually gone off with them, for the promises of the wharfinger is not to be depended upon . . .

327 Mr. Jeremiah Day

1 Jan. 1770

Please to send me in 2 months' time 2 pieces scarlet cloth 6 quarters wide at 8s. per yard. The pattern is cut from one of the cloths I have bought of you . . .

328 Mr. John Webb

6 Jan. 1770

I have your favour of 2nd inst. and am glad you have found your account right and carried the balance of £288 15s. 5d. to my credit in a new account; and I have credited you in a new account £2 8s. 11d., postage of letters to 30 Dec. 1769. I have the gross weight of my 2 fatts yarn per Captain Barclay and will credit you with £4 1s. 11d. paid for freight and primage. Pray send me the charges of landing and let the person who lands them go to Kennet Wharf and enquire if Stevens's barge is gone off for Newbury and when he went . . .

329 Mr. William Eagles⁸

13 Jan. 1770

I have yours of 6th inst. ordering 2 pieces $\frac{7}{8}$ ticks at 14d. and 16d. per yard, which cannot be executed. The price of $\frac{7}{8}$ ticks is from 16d. the very lowest (and very few of them made) up to 2s. per yard, so that Mr. Perks⁹ must have made a mistake, or his friend abroad never bought a piece of tick in his life.

I can send 2 pieces $\frac{3}{4}$ and nail ticks at 14d. and 16d. if they will do.

⁸ 2 Counterslip, Bristol (Sketchley).

⁹ Merchant and shipowner of Bristol (Minchinton, pp. 186, 188, 189).

330 Mr. John Webb

13 Jan. 1770

I have your favour of 6th and 11th inst. and find the bill of 15 May was a draft of Duve & Möller to J. Schubacke for £200 paid by you, and not a bill taken by a broker.

Your account is credited with £1 7s. 6d. charges at custom house on my 2 fatts yarn . . .

331 Messrs. Duve & Möller

17 Jan. 1770

I am favoured with yours of 2nd inst. with invoice and bill lading of one fatt yarn shipped on the *William*, Robert Reddeff master, for London amounting to mks. 1281.6s. which is placed to your credit, but you have not charged the insurance nor mentioned that you would insure according to my orders which I wish you had done, as I know not what to do on this side; for if I insure and you do the same it will be throwing money away to no purpose. Therefore I shall not do it but desire you will, on receipt of this letter, if not done before; and in future pray charge the insurance on the invoice.

I observe this fatt no. 32 is a sample of what your correspondent promised to do in future, so I wish for its arrival that I may see and determine accordingly. The 2 fatts by Barclay are not yet come to hand, but expect them in 10 or 14 days' time. The exchange riseth a little, being at present 33/3, so in little time shall remit further.

I expect the cloths to your past patterns in 20 days' time; as soon as brought in shall be forwarded.

332 Mr. John Gray

17 Jan. 1770

I have yours of 13th inst. wherein you say you have omitted several charges, which amounts to £36 17s., of packing for the latter part of the year 1768 in my account current sent me the 2nd inst.; and desire me to add it to that account. Your letter of 13th inst. surprised me as every charge hath been paid, ever since 6 Jan. last, in my bill on Mr. John Webb at 20 days which I dare say Mr. Webb gave due honour to; and I desire you will look back to my letter of 4 Mar. 1769, wherein I acknowledge a receipt from you, dated 14 Jan. 1769, in full to 31 Dec. 1768. If you keep such wretched accounts it will be dangerous to have any account with you and indeed I shall not care for the trouble of it.

Above is my draft on Mr. John Webb for £40, for which send me a receipt . . .

333 Mr. John Webb

17 Jan. 1770

I have a fatt of yarn shipped at Hamburg on Captain Reddeff; when he arrives please to advise me . . . This day have drawn on you for £40 payable to Mr. John Gray or order at 10 days' date, which please to accept. He gives me a great deal of trouble by keeping very bad accounts . . .

In the *William*, Robert Reddeff master, from Hamburg 1 fatt **DM** no. 32, quantity 300 bundles heavy yarn; when landed please to send it to Andrews' waggon at Gerrard's Hall Inn, Basing Lane.

334 Mr. John Kingsnorth 20 Jan. 1770

I have your favour of 13th inst. wherein you say are much in want of the $\frac{3}{4}$ tick broad stripe. I have examined your letters for some time back and cannot find any order for such a piece of tick. If you want a best dye $\frac{3}{4}$ broad stripe I have one bespoke and it shall be sent you as soon as out of loom, which may be in about 11 days . . .

335 Messrs. William Tatnall & Son 20 Jan. 1770

I have your esteemed favour of 4th inst. and have given your account credit for 1s. 6d. a yard short measure; don't find that you mentioned it last year . . .

336 Mr. William Eagles 27 Jan. 1770

I have your favour of 20th inst. and yesterday I sent 2 pieces ticks as above, per Green¹ at 'White Lion', Thomas Street, for Mr. John Perks, directed to you, which hope you'll receive in time; and please to deliver the bill parcels to Mr. Perks.

337 Messrs. Mayne & Co. 29 Jan. 1770

. . . Am favoured with yours of 25 Nov. and also a letter without date bringing me patterns for 6 bales Spanish cloths which I have bespoke but not without difficulty, as very few interfines are made by such as will give content. Almost all our manufacturers are making superfines and pushing the business in a mad manner as I think.

Annexed is invoice of 2 bales Spanish cloth shipped for your account on the *Hunter*, John Kennedy master, who pray God send safe. The amount is £174 16s. 6d. which I this day draw upon John Mayne Esq. These cloths are good and will give content and gain reputation, but there should have been 2 pieces to the pattern sent you in my last, which could not get under 7s. per yard, so did not send them. Am offered 9 or 10 cloths to the 2 enclosed patterns, a bargain; they are 6 quarters and half wide and I fancy might be bought at 6s. 6d. If you think the colours will sell and give me orders I will purchase them for you, but not unless can do it very cheap.

(P.S.) My next will carry invoice of the bale blues and browns and of 2 bales more to patterns.

338 Mr. John Gray 29 Jan. 1770

I have yours of 27th inst. with packing charges of 2 bales Spanish cloths no. 45 and 46 per *Hunter* with bill lading amount £6 9s. which is placed to your credit. By Andrews have sent up 10 cloths which put forward, but not number or pack them until further orders, as I want to send up two pieces more to go with them.

¹ John Green was the Bristol to Mere carrier.

339 Mr. John Webb 29 Jan. 1770

. . . Above is my draft on John Mayne Esq., £174 16s. 6d.; please to credit me and to send me down a bank bill² for £50 and 3 ditto for £10 each. Desire they may not be bank post bills and that neither your nor my name may be mentioned on them.³

340 Mr. John Webb 3 Feb. 1770

I have your favour of 1st inst. with 4 bank bills value £80 which is placed to your credit.

Am obliged for your information of Captain Reddeff being froze up at Hamburg, which is confirmed to me from thence.

341 William Chafin Grove Esq.⁴ 10 Feb. 1770

I take liberty to lay before you an affair which I think concerns you much more than it does me or any one in this parish. Farmer Wickham (I imagine) seems determined to break through the customs of our fields. On the 30th ult. he put in a flock of sheep into Mere Mead with an intent to feed the whole and (from a covetous disposition) to pen them at night on his own piece of 4 acres in that field. I have twice in my time impounded his sheep from that ground and he by unfair means got them out of the pound. As I thought he might this year be playing the same game, I spoke to the hayward, Harry Butt, and told him if Wickham's sheep were impounded and he let them out without consent I would prosecute him, as he had been guilty of it the last time I impounded them. Mr. Spinks was with me when I spoke to Butt and I recommended to him, as he rented a considerable part of the mead, to prevent Wickham from feeding off it contrary to custom. I was from home the 30th ult., but that day Spinks got 20 of Wickham's sheep into the pound and Wickham has replevined⁵ them and threatens a law suit. If Spinks gives up the point, your lands at Brimley furlong, when sown to wheat, must suffer greatly, and not that only, for if the farmers are permitted to alter the custom of Mere Mead I suppose they will likewise do it in Doggerells Acre which is now in your hand or belongs to you.

My ground in Mere Mead wants a perch of being 2 acres, but I should be unwilling tamely to suffer an imposition and will gladly bear a proportion of the expense in defending this suit if Wickham commences it. Spinks is only a renter, but his landlords, Mr. Hill of Sarum and Mr. Edward Barnard, should pay their proportions. You will please to consider the case and give such directions as you think proper.

If I had known when you might have been expected at Zeals I would not have troubled you with this narrative. I [am] sorry to take up any part of your

² i.e. a bank note.

³ Bank post bills commonly gave the name of the persons for whom they were destined: J. M. Holden, *History of Negotiable Instruments* (1955), p. 257.

⁴ Of Zeals, nr. Mere; M.P. for Shaftesbury.

⁵ i.e. regained possession, through the sheriff, on giving security to submit to law. An action for replevin seems to have been unusual at this date: Holdsworth, *History of English Law*, iii. 283, 285. See 345.

time from that more weighty matter, the good of your country. I rejoice to see the initials of your name amongst the very respectable and glorious minority,⁶ and I am with the greatest respects and esteem, etc.

(P.S.) I believe the contents of this letter to be true.

(signed) Robert Butt

Thomas Barnard, aged 80, when a boy kept sheep 12 or 13 years, says he never knew Mere Mead fed when the wheat in Brimley furlong was up.

Hanable Glover, aged 80, Harry Frith, near 70, Joseph Butt, 60, confirms the above.

(signed) Henry Hindley
Robert Butt

342 Messrs. Duve & Möller

10 Feb. 1770

. . . Am favoured with yours of 19th inst. with patterns for 2 pieces blacks at 6s. and 2 pieces at, I think, 8s. 6d., but as the figures are not plain I am at a loss to know whether it may not be 5s. 6d. which please to explain.

The two fatts yarn per Barclay are come to hand but they do not please me, having too many ordinary bad flax bundles in them. I hope the fatt per Reddeff will prove better. Am glad you did not wait for my answer before you bespoken my yarn ordered.

I expect to send up the 12 cloths to your patterns next week.

343 Mr. John Webb

10 Feb. 1770

Please to order Mr. Gray to ship the 10 cloths for Lisbon to Messrs. Mayne per first ship, without waiting for 2 more cloths.

Enclosed remit you bills, viz. on Glyn & Hallifax, £15 0s. 0d.; on Cooper & Anderson, £19 11s. 0d.; 3 bank bills, 50, 20, 10, £80 0s. 0d.; [in all] £114 11s. 0d. I have this day drawn upon you for £22 11s. 6d. payable to Mr. Henry Clark or order at 20 days' date, which please to accept and to send forward the inclosed for Hamburg per first post. Beg the favour of you to pay the Rev. Mr. Chapman's tenths⁷ as between this and Lady Day. You have the proper account of them in mine of 1 Apr. last.

The 6th inst. I drew on you for £30 payable to Mr. Richard Adlam or order at 30 days, which please to accept.

Please to send me a bill on Hamburg for £200 at best exchange you can get.

344 Mr. John Webb

12 Feb. 1770

[Enclosing another bill, on Paul Perry & Co.]

⁶ On the address in reply to the King's Speech, when a motion was proposed and lost to insert words signifying an intention to enquire 'into the causes of the unhappy discontents which at present prevail in every part of H.M.'s dominions'. Voting took place on 9 Jan. 1770.

⁷ Chapman was rector of Silton (Dorset), a few miles from Mere: Hutchins, *Dorset*, iv. 106. The tenth part of every living, formerly paid to the Pope, had been annexed to the Crown by Henry VIII; but by various Acts in Queen Anne's reign the tenths from livings of over £50 per annum had been assigned to the augmentation of poorer livings, thus forming Queen Anne's Bounty.

345 William Chafin Grove Esq.

12 Feb. 1770

I had the honour to write you last post and am now to inform you that Wickham has given notice to Spinks by Mr. Hill of trial at the county Court in Devizes⁶ the 20th inst. I shall apply to Mr. Messiter to-morrow to do the needful and hope it will meet your approbation. It might be of service if you will order Mr. Robert Butt to assist in this affair. I am with great esteem, etc.

346 Messrs. Mayne & Co.

19 Feb. 1770

. . . Annexed is invoice of 1 bale Spanish cloths shipped on the *Love*, Abraham Passmore master, amounting to £86 4s. 8d., who pray God send safe; for the amount I have drawn as usual on John Mayne Esq. This bale contains 8 blues and 2 browns; the other 2 browns when brought in did not prove to content, but am promised 2 pieces in a few days which will order to be packed in the next bale but the patterns set separate.

I expect to send up 2 bales more, quantity 24 pieces, this week if the continual bad weather we have lately had does not prevent drying some of the cloths.

347 Mr. John Gray

19 Feb. 1770

I have yours of 16th inst. with bill lading and charges on 1 bale no. 47 shipped on the *Love* to Lisbon amount £3 9s. which is placed to your credit.

I have sent up 12 cloths as above for one bale for Lisbon to Messrs. Mayne & Co. which put forward but not ship them, as I shall send up 12 more this week for another bale.

348 Mr. John Webb

19 Feb. 1770

I have your favour of 17th inst. with two bills viz.: Langkopf, Molling & Reisch on Widow Barge and Mr. Piper, £160; ditto on John Christopher & Christopher Lang, £40; [in all] £200; which shall be placed to your credit with 4s. brokerage.

Above you have my draft on John Mayne Esq. for £86 4s. 8d. which when in cash please to credit me.

You don't acknowledge receipt of mine of 12th inst. with the bill I then remitted you on Paul Perry & Co. for £27 11s., which hope came safe to your hands . . .

349 Messrs. Duve & Möller

19 Feb. 1770

. . . I hope you have insured my fatt yarn on Captain Reddeff and that he is sailed from you.

Inclosed herewith I remit you 2 bills, viz. Langkopf, Molling & Reisch on Widow Bagge [*sic*] and Piper, £40; ditto on John Christopher & Christopher Lang, £160 [*sic*]; [in all] £200 at usance 8 days, exchange 33/1, which when in cash please to credit me. Your 12 cloths to patterns are now in my warehouse and will go for London this week.

⁶ This was the Sheriff's Court, which is said not to have been much used in the 18th century: Holdsworth, *op. cit.* i. 72. There is no information about the result of this action.

Please to order for me 1 fatt of 300 bundles yarn from $6\frac{3}{4}$ to $7\frac{1}{4}$ to be sent off immediately from the best collector * or if he will send it of exact 7 lbs. per bundle would be best. This fatt I am much in want of and requires the utmost dispatch; and 1 fatt of 300 bundles $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $8\frac{1}{2}$ from the collector **DM** and hope he will send it good.

I find the exchange keeps down, but intend to remit you £4 or £500 more in 10 or 14 days. I hope you will begin to ship my yarn in little time.

350 Mr. John Gray

24 Feb. 1770

I have this day sent up per Andrews 12 pieces cloth to be shipped on first ship for Hamburg to Messrs. Duve & Möller, and 12 pieces **IG** to be shipped on first ship for Lisbon to Messrs. Mayne & Co. with the other bale sent up the 17th inst. for them.

In Sept. 1768 you shipped one piece cloth on the *Fortune*, John Claessen, and agreed, or the captain charged, the freight one dollar which is 48 stivers;⁹ but should have been only 12 stivers, therefore ship no more on him unless he will allow the imposition of 36 stivers. Enclosed is the bill lading which you may show Captain Claessen.

351 Mr. John Webb

28 Feb. 1770

I duly received yours of 22nd inst. with the second bills therein mentioned. The present for advice of my drafts on you, viz.: 24th inst. to Richard Adlam 2 bills 30 days for £16 11s. and £15; 26th ditto to John Hooper or order, 20 days for £15; which please to accept.

[Several pages torn out.]

352 Mr. William Salmon¹

5 May 1770

Messrs. John Butt, Edward Jukes & James Jukes have desired me to remit you £6 for their fines, they not having opportunity of sending the money; nor have I any correspondent in Devizes to draw upon. Am therefore obliged to send you the above bill on Mr. John Webb which will be punctually paid. You'll please to acknowledge receipt hereof to, Sir, etc.

353 Messrs. Stephen Wolffenden's Heirs & Evatt²

5 May 1770

I have your favour of 24th ult. with patterns for 12 pieces Spanish cloth in I bale, which I will endeavour to provide for you on the best terms possible but cannot get anyone to undertake them to be ready in less than 4 months. All are for single pieces (except the very sad blues which is an extravagant dear colour) which the manufacturers always object to.

I make no doubt of your punctual remittance and only assure you that Mr. Harding never had, nor shall I ever get, a week's credit for any cloths

⁹ See 325. One rix dollar equalled 3 marks or 48 stivers.

¹ Attorney and Town Clerk of Devizes, d. 1775 (or possibly his son who succeeded him in the post). See W.A.S. Libr., Devizes, MS. Diary of George Sloper, f. 112. There is no clue to the reason for these fines, but Salmon was very probably clerk to the County Court.

² Of Hamburg: see 325.

purchased for you, but are obliged to pay for 2 or 3 pieces at a time as the makers bring them in; for they cannot give credit till a bale is ready.

Mr. Harding desires his compliments, and I am with respect, etc.

354 Mr. John Andrews 5 May 1770

I have a fatt yarn sent to your inn beginning of this week, and desire you will give orders to your bookkeeper to have it loaded and sent down next week.

355 Mr. John Webb 5 May 1770

I have your favour of 30th ult. with gross weight of my 11 fatts yarn. Ten of them you say are on board James Crookson's barge who would leave the quay as Wednesday morning last. I was in hopes to have had one line from you this day mentioning that the barge did actually go off that morning, as I had then opportunity of getting carriage for the whole 10 fatts next week, which I cannot now do as am not certain they will be at Newbury. I beg to know per return of post when Crookson left London. Captain Thompson has had fair winds and I was in hopes to have heard of his arrival. As soon as he does arrive pray give me a line.

Please to advise me when the America packets are sent from the office in London . . .

356 Mr. John Gray 7 May 1770

I have yours of 4th inst. and would have 2 bales cloth shipped on each ship to divide the risk. I have sent up per Andrews 11 cloths more, as above, which put forward on receipt but not pack them, as I have to send up another piece to make up the bale, 12 pieces, for Messrs. Mayne & Co.; and hope may be in time to go with the 2 last bales for Lisbon.

I observe what you say of Captain John Classen [*sic*]; he may depend upon never having any more freight from me unless he makes an allowance. I have 30 or 40 cloths now in making for Hamburg.

As soon as you have shipped these 5 bales to Lisbon I will remit you the balance to 31 Dec. last year.

(P.S.) If you can enquire the character of Messrs. Smith & Isherwood³ pray do and let me know when you write upon business, as I am in no haste to know.

357 Messrs. Ivyleafe & Bletchly⁴ 11 May 1770

I have sent you per Green yesterday 2 pieces ticks as above which hope will please. The broad stripe is the only piece could get; they are very scarce and we have no choice. I don't think can get any common dyes at least for a month or two, and then not under 15*d.* per yard, which I should think will be too high . . .

358 Mr. John Webb 12 May 1770

I have your favour of 8th inst. and am glad to find the barge went off the 2nd inst. You should order the person who lands the yarn to attend at

³ Warehousemen, 7 Great Eastcheap (Payne).

⁴ Linendrapers, 3 High St., Bristol (Sketchley).

Kennett's Wharf and to advise me when the fatts are sent in, and also when the barge is gone off with them. Farrer was punctual in that article and if he had lived would have saved you all trouble. I have credited you £9 17s. 8d. for wharfage, etc., paid on my 11 fatts yarn.

As I have but little to write Mr. Gray, desire you will tell him to ship the last 11 cloths in one bale, as I shall not send up another to pack with them. Enclosed remit you bill on Thomas Newnham & Co., £104; on Jones & Co., £45; [in all] £149; when in cash please to credit me.

I hope Andrews hath loaded my fatt yarn and that I shall soon hear of Thompson's arrival . . .

359 Mr. John Gray

14 May 1770

I have yours of 11th inst. with packing charges on 2 bales Spanish cloths shipped on the *New Hunter* amounting to £7 17s. 6d., which is placed to your credit. Pray ship the remaining 3 bales as soon as you can, as I shall not send up another piece to pack with the 11 pieces.

You'll remember Messrs. Isherwood & Smith.

360 Messrs. Mayne & Co.

14 May 1770

. . . Annexed is invoice of 2 bales Spanish cloths to your patterns shipped on the *New Hunter*, John Kennedy master, who pray God send safe; and then I believe the cloths will please. I have this day drawn upon John Mayne Esq. for their amount, being £216 2s. 7d. Three more bales Spanish cloths are now in London and will be shipped on the next going ship, of which invoice in due time.

361 Mr. John Webb

14 May 1770

I wrote you last post and remitted in 2 bills £149; since am favoured with yours of same date advising me of Captain Thompson's arrival which am glad to hear; and desire the utmost dispatch may be given to the fatt per him and that it be directed as mentioned in mine of 21st ult. and sent to Andrews. Pray send me the gross weight and account when sent to the inn.

I have accepted Duve & Möller's draft on me of 20 Apr. payable to Mr. Peter Mohr or order at 2 usance for £137, which please to pay when due.

Above is my draft on John Mayne Esq., £216 2s. 7d. When in cash please to credit me.

Your account is credited £22 10s. 8d. for freight etc. paid on my 11 fatts yarn.

362 Mr. B. Barnard⁵

18 May 1770

I have received a note for carriage and wharfage of 14 fatts yarn which I think is cast wrong, as the weight is pretty near what weighed at king's beam; you charge a little more, but I cannot make the whole amount to more than £12 1s., for which you have my draft on John Webb. You'll please to send me a receipt, and if any mistake I shall be ready to settle it.

Please to deliver my 2 remaining fatts to Mr. Davis's man.

⁵ He seems to have been the wharfinger at Newbury: see 373, 383.

24 Jan. 1770, 2 fatts yarn, 45 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb.; 11 Apr., 2 ditto, 47 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lb.; 12 May, 10 ditto, 227 cwt. 3 qr. 19 lb.; [in all] 321 cwt. 0 qr. 2 lb. at 8*d.* [per cwt.], £10 14*s.*; London and Newbury wharfage, 4*s.* per fatt, £1 8*s.*;⁶ [sum] £12 2*s.*

363 Messrs. Mayne & Co.

19 May 1770

. . . The present serves for cover to the annexed invoice of 2 bales more Spanish cloths shipped on the *Diana*, John Cobb master, amounting to £189 18*s.* for which sum have this day drawn upon John Mayne Esq. In bale no. 52 are 9 pieces to your patterns for single pieces and one piece dyed white sent as a sample, being a late invention. I hope these 2 bales will please; another bale is in London and will go per first ship.

(P.S.) Since the above your esteemed favour of 27th ult. is come to hand with patterns for 2 bales Spanish cloths of 10 pieces each which will do my best to provide, but don't think shall get the high grain colour, as it will cost 7*s.* to 7*s.* 6*d.* per yard. I observe what you say of bales no. 41 and 42; they were made of as good wool as any cloths I have sent you since, but I know they were not well dressed; and I returned the greatest part and had them dressed again and after all they did not please me. However it is well I took them, for if I had returned them on the makers' hands they would not have made a piece more for me, and they have since made good cloths; and the greatest part I have sent you since is from them. I will do my best to keep up the quality of the cloths, but it is difficult to get any made, we have such a demand for superfines that interfine patterns will not go down. I am not anxious to send you the full quantity ordered; but if was to return more than I do on the makers, I should soon sit still and buy none.

364 Mr. John Gray

19 May 1770

I have yours of 15th inst. with packing charges and bill of lading of 2 bales Spanish cloths no. 52 and 53, shipped on the *Diana*, John Cobb master, amount £7 3*s.* 0*d.* on which is an overcharge of 1*s.* 6*d.* for drawing E.A.45, as I never knew more than 1*s.* charged for drawing a forrell on,⁷ unless you charge extraordinary on account of the number, for drawing its head on, which I see no reason for.

365 Mr. John Webb

19 May 1770

I have your favour of 15th inst. advising that my fatt per *Hambro Merchant* went by Andrews Saturday last, which am glad to hear.

Below contents of 2 fatts yarn shipped on the *Charming Polly*, Captain John Barclay; when he arrives please to advise me and let the 2 fatts be sent per Newbury barge.

Above is my draft on John Mayne Esq., £189 18*s.*; when in cash please to credit me.

⁶ See 373, where this mistake is acknowledged.

⁷ The forrell was a strip woven across the end of a piece of cloth to show that it was a complete piece. Pieces were sometimes made with forrells in the middle so that they could be divided into half pieces; in this case the ends would have to be tidied up and possibly the number worked on the second piece, which may be what is meant,

Yesterday I drew on you to Mr. Daniel Rossiter or order, 30 days, £149 8s. : to B. Barnard or order 10 days £12 2s. ; which please to accept.

(P.S.) Please to send me down Duve & Möller's drafts on me and your account shall have credit for them.

In the *Charming Polly*, John Barclay master, at Hamburg, 2 fatts, DM no. 35 quantity 300, * 33 quantity 300: 600 bundles heavy yarn to be sent to Newbury per first barge after landed.

366 Messrs. William Tatnall & Son 19 May 1770

One of the $\frac{3}{4}$ and nail common dyes being brought in, have sent it you and with it a piece of best dye for package; the other common dye shall be sent when out of loom. Your observation on the piece sent 21st ult. is very just; and the piece now sent is not so stout as I could wish, but we have only Hobson's choice.

367 Mr. John Webb 23 May 1770

I have your favour of 18th inst. with Messrs. Duve & Möller's draft on me dated 13 Mar. last, payable to Messrs. Gurnell, Hoare & Harmanns at 2 usance for £400, with which sum your account hath credit; and also with 19s. for charges of landing 1 fatt yarn per Captain Thompson; this fatt did not go per Andrews from London the time you advised me, and must beg the favour of you to send to the inn and see if it is gone, and if not to get it loaded per first waggon.

I have accepted Duve & Möller's draft on me dated 11th inst. at 2 usance payable to Mr. Theodorus Amsel Oppenheimer or order for £209, which please to pay when due and to send down their draft on me for £115 18s. 10d. when paid.

(P.S.) Beg the favour of you to buy a ream of best of foolscap paper and half a ream of best post such as this is, and to send it to Mr. Gray's and order him to send it in canvas with my patterns and remnants of cloth per Andrews.

368 Mr. William Salmon 23 May 1770

I wrote you the 5th current with my draft on John Webb in Basinghall Street, London, at sight for £6, being for the fines of Messrs. John Butt, Edward Jukes & James Jukes; and desired you would acknowledge receipt of the [same]; since which am not favoured with any from you. The present is therefore to desire you will let me know if said bill came safe to your hands or not, and if you have received it that you will send proper discharges to the above gentlemen under cover to, etc.

369 Messrs. Mayne & Co. 26 May 1770

. . . The present is for cover to the annexed invoice of 1 bale Spanish cloth shipped on the *Dutchess of Manchester*, James Casey master, amounting to £101 9s. which have this day drawn for upon John Mayne Esq.

370 Mr. John Gray

26 May 1770

I have yours of 22nd inst. with packing charges and bill lading of 1 bale quantity 11 Spanish cloths shipped on the *Dutchess of Manchester* for Lisbon, amount £3 17s. which is placed to your credit.

Enclosed remit you bill on James Standerwick, £32 10s. 0d.; my draft on Mr. John Webb, £12 1s. 6d. Above you'll find to be balance to 31 Dec. last, £44 11s. 6d., for which send me a receipt accordingly.

Let my patterns be got ready and remnants of cloth to send down, with some paper which I have desired Mr. Webb to buy for me.

(P.S.) The bill on Standerwick is due.

371 Messrs. Duve & Möller

26 May 1770

I am favoured with yours of 8th inst. with invoice and bill lading of 2 fatts yarn shipped on the *Polly*, Captain John Barclay master, amounting to mks. 2550, which is passed to your credit.

Almost all my yarn is come to hand and I have great reason to complain of fatt DM 34; it was not from 7½ to 8½ and of very bad colour and coarse flax, not near so good as the fatt sent as a sample, and am sorry to see no. 35 coming from this collector per Barclay. Pray buy no more for me of this man, for he is not to be trusted and sends me the worst of his yarn.

The 4 fatts no. 72 to 75 is good yarn and gives content, but it is the wettest or dampest yarn I ever handled, so much that some bundles are rotten. Pray caution this collector of it. I wish to have as much as possible of this sort in future, and should be glad if one of the last ordered was from this man.

The price of yarn falls every day in London. Let me know what the collector of 72 to 75 now demands for his and what sorts or weights he may have on hand.

(P.S.) When you have shipped my other 2 fatts yarn pray send my account current. I have accepted your draft on me to order of Theodore Amsel Oppenheimer for £209 stg. Messrs. Wolffenden Heirs & Evatt has sent me patterns for some cloth, which I could not refuse accepting to purchase for them.

372 Mr. John Webb

26 May 1770

I have your favour of 24th inst. with my bill on you to William Salmon. Your account hath credit £1 17s. for freight etc. paid on my fatt yarn per Thompson.

Above is my draft on John Mayne Esq., £101 9s.; when in cash please to credit me. Have this day drawn on you for £12 1s. 6d. payable to Mr. John Gray or order at 10 days' date, which please to accept.

Beg the favour of you to buy me an Act of Parliament passed this sessions entitled, An Act to continue an Act for granting a bounty on British and Irish linens exported,⁸ and to send it me with the papers . . .

⁸ 10 Geo. III. c. 38. This Act also continued the exemption from import duty, first allowed in 1756, of brown linen yarn.

373 Mr. B. Barnard

28 May 1770

I have yours of 23rd inst. and see my mistake in the wharfage which should have been £2 16s. instead of £1 8s.; but had I known that the price of carriage had been advanced by the proprietors, I would have ordered my fatts another way, as the high charge on wharfage in London and Newbury brings it within a small matter of the price I have been offered to have them brought wholly by land carriage.

It must now serve to teach me better another year.

I expect the arrival of 2 fatts in London every day, which, if you'll bring down at the usual price of 8*d.* per cwt., I will order them to Kennett Wharf, and likewise two more which I expect in a month's time, to which your answer by return of post to Frome as usual. Below is my draft on John Webb for £3 2*s.* for which send me a receipt.

374 Messrs. Thomas Williams & Co.

2 June 1770

I am indebted for your favour of 21 Feb. last and have drawn upon Messrs. Williams, Bellamy & Williams (agreeable to their permission) the 4th ult. at 6 weeks' date for the balance of your account, being £91 15*s.* 5*d.* which make no doubt of their paying.

Am glad to find the goods by Captains Johnstone and Robinson are got safe to your hands. The ticks were as cheap or cheaper than now to be bought; indeed I could have sent some lower priced, but not cheaper according to the quality. I am sorry to find Mr. T. C. W. was disappointed in cargo consigned him at Philadelphia, but nothing will operate on the minds and inclinations of our worthy law makers but firmness and resolution on your side; an union well cemented, a link of which chain cannot be separated; and therefore the resolves of the committee should be cheerfully complied with.⁹

When matters are settled, if you determine to have any dry goods from England, I shall always be ready to serve you to the utmost of my power.

I beg the favour of you to send the inclosed to your kinsman in Philadelphia and desire him to deliver it himself. It is for a man who went from this country in debt and he owes me money. This letter is from his wife and beg your kinsman will press him to give answer to it and that your kinsman will send his answer under cover to me. I will pay the expense and postage etc., and beg you'll excuse this trouble.

375 Messrs. Duve & Möller

2 June 1770

Since my last of 26th ult. am favoured with yours of 22nd ditto with invoice (but no bill lading) of 2 fatts yarn shipped on Captain Alexander Scott,

⁹ This presumably refers to the non-importation agreements. After the repeal of the Townshend Duties much argument took place in the American colonies over the question of whether the policy of non-importation should be continued until the repeal of the tea duty. Philadelphia did not formally renounce the agreement until Sept. 1770, nor Maryland until Oct.; but it was not completely observed: A. M. Schlesinger, *The Colonial Merchants and the American Revolution* (1918), pp. 233-4. T. C. Williams & Co. may not have been in agreement with non-importation. Later they figured as consignees of tea which was burnt at Annapolis in Oct. 1774, although in this case it had been ordered when there was no ban: *ibid.* pp. 245, 389 ff.

amounting to mks. 2492.2s. which is placed to your credit; and I have also my account current which shall be examined, and, if right, noted in conformity. I have accepted your draft on me to order of Johann Christian von Alvorden for £204 13s. 6d. and sent it to Mr. John Dunn in London. Observe what you say about the 2 fatts per Scott and hope they will prove as good as that collector assures, but I much doubt it. Captain Barclay is arrived in London.

The low exchange is much against the yarn trade, but must be contented with neighbour's fare, and the common run of business. I expect the black cloths will soon be brought in, when all possible dispatch shall be given them, of which you may expect advice in due time.

376 In the *Charming Betsey*, Alexander Scott master, from Hamburg: 2 fatts DM 36 quantity 300, 37 quantity 300; 600 bundles heavy yarn to be sent per first Newbury barge.

Mr. John Webb

2 June 1770

I have your favour of 29th ult. with Duve & Möller's draft on me for £115 18s. 10d. for which your account hath credit. I am sorry Andrews's book-keeper gives so much trouble. Please to advise me the cost of the paper and Act of Parliament and if not sent from Mr. Gray's beg you will send with it a book, *The Art of Angling*, by R. Brooks, M.D., third edition, price 3s., printed for T. Lowndes in Fleet Street.

Am glad the *Charming Polly* is arrived and hope to hear soon of the 2 fatts by her being sent by Newbury barge and that the barge is gone off. Above is account of 2 fatts more shipped on the *Charming Betsey*; when she arrives please to advise me . . .

377 Mr. John Webb

4 June 1770

Inclosed I remit you two bills, viz. Joh. Diedk. Boetefeur on Benjamin Mee, Son & Casson, £180; Stephen Wolffenden Heirs & Evatt on Jos. Hillman, £21 14s. When in cash please to credit me £201 14s.

I have accepted Duve & Möller's draft on me dated 22 May payable to order of Mr. Johann Christian Von Alvorden at 2½ usance for £204 13s. 6d. which please to pay when due, which I think will be about the 8 Aug. next. Beg the favour of you to take out a wine licence for John Perman¹ and send it to me.

Hope soon to hear of the barge being gone off with my 2 fatts yarn for Newbury. Have this day drawn upon you for £5 5s. payable to Mrs. Mary Barnard or order at 10 days' date, which please to accept.

378 Messrs. Jones, Havard & Bird

4 June 1770

I have your favour of 2nd inst. and according to your desire have sent your account current balanced to that day, and is in my favour £240 7s. 2d. which finding right you'll please to credit me in a new account.

Whenever I can be serviceable please to command.

¹ Landlord of the Ship Inn: *Mere*, p. 130.

379 Messrs. Stephen Wolffenden's Heirs & Evatt 9 June 1770

. . . Your orders for 14 pieces Spanish cloths to patterns are with difficulty bespoke and shall be sent when ready and all good dispatch given them, but our makers are all making superfines and don't care to touch anything else, and especially such sad blues as your pattern, which colour is exceeding dear. I will take care to have the cloths numbered and packed as you direct.

380 Mr. John Kingsnorth 9 June 1770

I have your favour of 31st ult. and am obliged for the liberty given me of drawing upon you for the balance to 30 Dec. last, which I have this day done in £142 15s. payable to Mr. John Webb or order at 30 days' date. The piece $\frac{7}{8}$ broad stripe being out of loom, have this day sent it with a piece small stripe, which I hope will please as they are the best can get.

381 Mr. John Webb 9 June 1770

. . . If you have not sent me Perman's wine licence per post, pray send it with the papers at Mr. Gray's, and if (when you go to the Exchange) you will call at Mr. Peter Frisquett for a few fishing lines, which (as he is an angler) I have desired him to buy for me, and send them likewise in the paper, I shall be obliged to you.

Please to advise per return of post when the letters for Jamaica and the West Indies are made up at the general post office, and how often, and to send forward the inclosed for Hamburg per first post.

(P.S.) Next post hope to hear of the barge being gone off with my 2 fatts yarn to Newbury.

382 The same 13 June 1770

. . . Am favoured with yours of [9th inst.] with account freight etc. paid on my 2 fatts yarn per Barclay, amount £4 2s. 2^d. which is placed to your credit, as also £1 8s. 10^d. for sundries sent to Mr. Gray's. Am sorry my 2 fatts yarn remains in London for want of a barge, but hope to hear soon of their being gone for Newbury.

Enclosed I remit you 3 bills viz.: Tyndale & Co. on Amyand & Staples, £60 16s.; William Boulting on Richard Harper, £17 7s.; William Fryer & Co. on Hanson Clark & Co., past due, £15 0s.; [in all] £93 3s.; when in cash please to credit me.

383 Mr. B. Barnard 16 June 1770

I have yours of 31st ult. and observe the contents. Two fatts of my yarn hath been at Kennett Wharf some time and remains for want of a barge. You know despatch is the life of trade, and hope you will have observed it by sending a barge to London and that my fatts may soon be with you, as otherwise I may lose the sale of the yarn this year. Mr. Peter Davis's waggon from Amesbury will set out for Newbury at a short notice for these 2 fatts, therefore pray write him as soon as ever you are certain of their being with you.

384 Messrs. Jones, Havard & Bird 18 June 1770

I have yours of 15th inst. wherein you demand 12s. 5d. for short measure. I am very cautious in buying ticks as I measure both sides of every piece and pay by the shortest side. This sum of 12s. 5d. is more than has been abated upon all the ticks that I have measured for 20 years past. You'll therefore please to let me know what pieces they were and when sent up, that I may endeavour to get redress from the makers. I will credit you 2s. damage in carriage. As to abating 8s. 11d. odd pence on each parcel is what I cannot comply with; it is such a mode of settling accounts that I have never been used to, and indeed what the profits on ticks will not admit of.

385 Mr. John Gray 18 June 1770

I have sent up per Andrews 10 cloths as above for one bale for Messrs. Mayne & Co., Lisbon, which get ready but not ship it till further orders, as I may send up cloths for a bale or two more to go with it. Have you sent the paper etc. per Andrews?

(P.S.) I can't send up any more cloths in less than 14 days, so if a ship will sail for Lisbon before that time, you may ship this bale and not wait for more.

386 Mr. John Webb 20 June 1770

I am favoured with yours of 15th inst. and am glad to find my fatts are gone for Newbury. Your account hath credit £1 14s. 6d. for wharfage etc. paid on them. The paper, wine licence, etc. is come to hand; let me know the charge of the licence.

The present is to enclose you a small bill on Joseph Roake £10 almost due; if not paid return it. I have not endorsed it.

The 18th inst. I drew on you for £30 1s. payable to Mr. John George or order at 30 days, which please to accept.

387 Mr. John Kingsnorth 23 June 1770

I have your favour of 14th inst. and am sorry you think the broad stripe $\frac{3}{8}$ too dear. We have very few broad stripes made and consequently little choice. I was obliged to give as much for it as the small stripe, which latter I know was the best piece . . .

388 Mr. John Webb 25 June 1770

. . . Shall be obliged if you will enquire what account there is of the *Charming Betsey*, Alexander Scott master, whether sailed from Hamburg or not. Please to send me down 8 bank post bills of £10 each, will be £80; and one bank (not post) of £25.

389 Messrs. Mayne & Co. 30 June 1770

. . . Annexed is invoice of one bale, quantity 10 pieces Spanish cloths, shipped on the *New Trimmer*, John Wellen master, for Lisbon on your account, amount £82 2s. 7d. for which sum have drawn upon John Mayne Esq.

This is the last bale to your patterns for single pieces. I have several cloths now in warehouse to your patterns for 30 pieces IG but the continual rains we have had, together with a scarcity of spinning interlines, hath prevented the makers from completing one bale; however I hope to send up 15 pieces next week.

390 Messrs. Smith & Slack²

30 June 1770

I am obliged to you for your order in Mr. Harding's letter and have sent you this day per Andrews 9 pieces ticks as above, which hope will please. The remainder of your order shall be sent in little time. Mr. Harding has sent 3 pieces, part of your order.

391 Mr. John Webb

30 June 1770

. . . Inclosed I remit you 4 bills viz.: William Standerwick on Jane Standerwick, £13 0s. 0d.; Francis Wyatt on Richard Wyatt, £10 0s. 0d.; Samuel Shoel on Thomas Nibbs, £8 10s. 0d.; Samuel Geard on John Brookman, £9 14s. 0d.; above my draft on John Mayne Esq., £82 2s. 7d. When in cash please to credit me £123 6s. 7d.

Pray tell Mr. Gray that I have received his letter with bill lading. Please to send forward the enclosed for Jamaica per first packet which I think is next Tuesday, and let me know if any postage is paid.

392 Mr. Thomas Price³

3 July 1770

I duly received yours of 6th ult. and have this day sent to Bristol 2 pieces ticks as above, directed to you to be sent by Humphries's trow. Whenever you may give me another order pray mention by what trow or waggon I am to send the goods. Common dyes are very scarce and in much demand. I suppose you make use of $\frac{3}{4}$ ticks and you should join those orders with common dyes.

393 Mr. John Gray

7 July 1770

I duly received yours of 28th ult. with account charges and bill lading of 1 bale H*⁴ 55 shipped on the *New Trimmer* for Lisbon, amount £3 9s. which is placed to your credit.

I have sent up 8 cloths per Andrews as above for a bale to be shipped on first ship for Hamburg to Messrs. Duve & Möller, which put forward accordingly, and when you send me the bill lading be sure to note the exchange to Hamburg.

[*Three pages cut out.*]

394 The same

4 Aug. 1770

I duly received yours of 14th ult. with packing charges on one bale D & M* 74 shipped on John Classen, amount £2 17s., which is placed to your credit.

² Cotton merchants and wholesale upholders, 13 Lad Lane, Wood St. (Payne). See above, p. xxiii.

³ Of Gloucester; see 231.

⁴ The mark (H in a square) of Harding of Mere, which on quitting trade he must have allowed Hindley to use.

This day have sent up 23 cloths as above, the first 13 pieces for Mayne & Co., Lisbon, to be shipped with the bale of 14 pieces sent up 28th ult. The other 10 pieces in a bale for Messrs. Duve & Möller of Hamburg.

395 Mr. John Webb

4 Aug. 1770

I have your favour of 2nd inst. with Duve & Möller's draft on me for £209 which is placed to your credit. Since my last have drawn the following bills on you: 30th ult. to Mr. John Adlam or order 30 days, £13 7s. 6d.; 1st inst. to Mrs. Mary Barnard ditto 10 days, £5 0s. 0d.; 2 ditto, to Mr. Richard Adlam ditto 30, £16 15s. 0d.; Edmund Adlam ditto 30, £14 19s. 0d. John George ditto 30, £38 0s. 0d.; 3 ditto, John Maxfield ditto 20, £13 5s. 6d.; which please to accept.

Mr. Harding hath been very ill and confined to his bed almost 2 months past, but is now on the recovery. I beg the favour of you to buy for him some portable soup⁶ made from beef, about 5s. worth, and to send it to me per Andrews's flying waggon; I think he has waggons sets out almost every day.

396 The same

13 Aug. 1770

I have your favour of 9th inst. with Duve & Möller's draft on me for £204 13s. 6d. paid by you for which your account hath credit, and also 5s. for portable soup.

397 Messrs. Duve & Möller

18 Aug. 1770

My last respects was 25th ult. with bill of Benjamin Kidney & Klein on John Frederick Berendt for £140 stg. at 33/3 to which please to be referred. Since am favoured with yours of 24th ditto with patterns for list of the cloths, which I shall observe. I take notice you have obtained abatement on fatt no. 34 of 1 stiver per bundle, amount mks. 18.12s., which is placed to your debit, and thank you for your care on this head. The 2 fatts per Scott are come to hand and proves better than no. 34, but not up to what I expected from the character given it.

Annexed you have invoice of 1 bale, quantity 10 pieces Spanish cloths to your samples on 10 Apr. last, shipped on the *Peter*, Henry Heldt master, amount £83 4s. 4d., which have this day drawn upon you at 2 usance, payable to Mr. John Webb or order at exchange as he shall negotiate the same in London, which you'll please to accept.

398 Mr. Thomas Rowley

18 Aug. 1770

I have your favour of 14th inst. and in part of your order have sent you 9 pieces ticks as above. The remainder shall follow as soon as can get them. Our hay harvest is but just ended and the corn begun, so that all the workmen are in the field . . .

399 Messrs. Mayne & Co.

18 Aug. 1770

. . . Mr. Edward Mayne honoured me with his company one day the week before last on his journey to London, and gave me patterns for 2 bales Spanish

⁶ See J. C. Drummond and A. Wilbraham, *The Englishman's Food* (1939), pp. 373-4.

cloths which I will endeavour to provide as soon as possible, but shall find difficulty to do it to content.

Annexed is invoice of 2 bales, quantity 27 cloths, shipped on the *Hunter*. John Kennedy master, amount £238 18s. 6d. which have this day drawn upon John Mayne Esq.

These 27 pieces Spanish are to your sample for 30 pieces **IG**. The other 3 pieces when brought in did not please me and I returned them on the makers' hands.

400 Mr. John Webb

18 Aug. 1770

Above is my draft on John Mayne Esq., £238 18s. 6d.; on Thomas Rowley, £100 0s. 0d.; enclosed is my draft on Duve & Möller, £83 4s. 4d.; in all £422 2s. 10d. which when in cash please to credit me.

Your servant will do well in your absence to consult the broker about the bill on Hamburg to get it negotiated at as low an exchange as is possibly to be obtained, and then I think he may endorse it per procuration.

Pray advise me how this bill is negotiated.

Please to send me down per first post a bank post bill for £50 . . .

401 Mr. John Gray

18 Aug. 1770

I have yours of 13th and 16th inst. with packing charges on one bale **D & M*** no. 75 shipped on the *Peter* for Hamburg, amount £3 9s. 0d., and on 2 ditto **H*** 56, 57 on the *Hunter* for Lisbon, ditto £8 9s. 6d. which is placed to your credit.

402 Mr. Thomas Penington⁶

25 Aug. 1770

I have your favours of 16th and 21st inst. with orders for **I & D*** 10 pieces bed tick, 36 yards each, 13d. to 15d., **S & I*** 5 pieces bed ticks 13d. to 15d., these pieces I can send from 14½d. to 15½d. in about 3 weeks. The order **H & G*** 9 pieces ¾ and nail, 12½d. to 13½d. cannot be complied with, as there are none made of so low prices, nor hath been for near two years past. Please to let me know if you can stay 3 weeks or a month on the first two parcels above mentioned.

403 Messrs. Webb & Co.

25 Aug. 1770

I have yours of 22nd inst. complaining of the ticks sent you and demanding an abatement of ½d. per yard on 4 pieces, 280 yards, 15s. 10d. (which amounts only to 11s. 8d.). I assure you that at the price charged I get no more than an ½d. per yard, and they were well bought. As they are with you I must comply, for the profit will not admit of paying back carriage. The ½ yard and piece ⅔ of 74 yards I know not at present where to buy as good for less than 11d. and 18d. I can only say that no person in this country can send ticks cheaper than myself, that I am content with ½d. per yard profit; shall always be ready to serve you but cannot do it for nothing.

⁶ Merchant and shipowner of Bristol: Powell, pp. 144, 148, 242–3.

404 Messrs. Tatnall & Son 1 Sept. 1770

Having met with 2 pieces low $\frac{7}{8}$ ticks which think worth the money, have sent them to you with 2 pieces $\frac{3}{4}$ nails as low as I can get at present.

The orders from New York⁷ will, I doubt, rise the price of our manufactures, though I can see no just reason for it.

405 Messrs. Smith & Slack 8 Sept. 1770

[*Sending ticks.*]

Mr. Harding is perfectly recovered after an illness which confined him 2 months to his bed; he desires his best compliments to you.

406 Mr. John Kingsnorth 8 Sept. 1770

On my return from Bristol fair, I found your favour of 1st instant and in answer, I cannot say when I may be able to get any fine glazed nail ticks. Have bespoke some long ago, which when brought in proved thin and not so good as those last sent. Our workmen are all out in the fields at harvest; when they are got into the looms again I hope to have some choice of goods, though the makers have had a good fair⁸ and large orders yet unsupplied, which has advanced the price. I will always do the best I can to serve you and wish to do it to content.

407 Mr. Jeremiah Day 10 Sept. 1770

I promised myself the pleasure of seeing you at Bristol fair, but you being gone home I paid the balance of your account to Mr. John Westley, who make no doubt hath acquainted you of it.

Jonathan Webb, my tenant at Tetbury, owes me, viz., left unpaid to 29 Sept. 1769, £1 6s. 0d.; one year rent which will be due 29th inst., £4 0s. 0d. I shall be obliged if you will call, the first opportunity, upon the landlord at the 'Lamb' (whose name I don't know) and receive from him what money the tenant hath paid him, and to let me know how much it is.

I find by Mr. Rigg that there is a person in Tetbury would buy my house, but mentioned not at what sum he offered. The house is in good repair and valued to me at £100; pray be kind enough to ask what the person would give for it. A line in answer, as soon as convenient to you, will oblige.

408 Mr. John Webb 10 Sept. 1770

I have 2 fatts yarn shipped at Hamburg on Captain Hall, who was to sail 1st inst., and may be daily expected; when you hear of his arrival pray give me a line. In the *Charming Polly*, John Hall master, from Hamburg 2 fatts D & M no. 1 quantity 300, no. 2 quantity 300; 600 bundles heavy yarn to be sent to Newbury per first barge.

⁷ The non-importation agreement collapsed in New York in June 1770.

⁸ i.e. at Bristol.

409 Mrs. Sarah Price, Gloster

15 Sept. 1770

I have your favour of 9th inst. and am sorry to hear of the loss of your husband, pray God comfort you under your affliction. According to your desire, have ordered the bill which I drew on your late husband to be returned to me.

Please to let me know if I may draw upon you in 2 months time for the sum of £24 5s. at one month's date, in all 3 months, and you will oblige etc.

410 Mr. Jeremiah Day

15 Sept. 1770

. . . Last post brought me a letter from Mrs. Sarah Price of Gloster, advising me of the death of her husband, and desiring I would withdraw the bill on him for a small time; so I desire you will return me the draft on Mr. Thomas Price accordingly and, in lieu of it, above you have my draft on Mr. John Webb for £24 5s.

If you can without much trouble let me know in what circumstances T. Price hath left his family, I shall be obliged to you, and also for an answer to my last letter concerning my affair at Tetbury.

411 Mr. Thomas Rowley

15 Sept. 1770

I have your favour of 4th inst. with your draft on Jos. Whitear for £8 15s., of which the needful care shall be taken and if paid placed to your credit. Yesterday I sent you 8 pieces ticks per Andrews as above, the best and nearest to your orders could get. Am promised a piece or 2 of rough $\frac{3}{4}$ and nail next week; if the workmen don't deceive they shall be sent. Our harvest is not yet over and ticks are advanced; the 1st inst. at Bristol fair they sold at high prices.

412 Messrs. Duve & Möller

15 Sept. 1770

Am favoured with yours of 11th and 31st ult.; per the former, patterns for 12 pieces coppers at 6s. which will bespeak as soon as possible; but at present we are in the midst of harvest and the workmen all out in the fields. Am sorry no. 824 proves coarse. I think the colour good, and as much copperas is used in dyeing blacks, it will always make the wool harsh. I wish could get an abatement, but our makers hath so great demand it cannot be done; and I find very great difficulty at present to get any cloths made at the price you want them.

Your latter letter brings me invoice and bill lading of 2 fatts yarn per the *Charming Polly*, John Hall master, amount mks. 2395.8s. which is placed to your credit; and observe what you say, of being obliged to pay for these 2 fatts before my bill of £140 and the value of bale no. 74 fell due. I assure you with truth, that I am always in advance for the cloths, as am obliged to pay for 2 or 3 pieces at a time when brought in; and often have paid for 10 pieces and waited a month after for 2 pieces more to complete the bale, the clothiers I buy for you of being necessitous and can't stay for their money until they complete an order. As your crop of flax, I suppose, is now taken in, I should be glad to know how it proves.

413 Mr. John Kingsnorth 15 Sept. 1770

I have your favour of 7th inst. and in part of your order have sent you 3 pieces ticks as above, which are the best I could get. They are advanced in price; whether may come down again after harvest can't say, but at present the makers hath not a piece in hand. Hope to send you more in a week.

414 Mr. Edward Russwell 20 Sept. 1770

I have your favour of 13th inst. and in answer Mr. Boddy left me that house in Tetbury in satisfaction of a bond for £100 principal money and about of 15 years interest. I have reason to think that he valued the house at £100 and that he should pay me thereby the principal. I am informed that the house is strongly built and in good condition. It lets for £4 per annum, which, as money goes now, pays a pretty good interest.

If you will accept of the house at the price of £100 it is at your service; if not, you may let me know your price and I will soon determine and give my final answer.

[*End of book.*]

415 Mrs. Sarah Price 13 Feb. 1773

I wrote you 21 Dec. last that I was informed by my friend Mr. William Williams⁹ of Bristol that the two trusses, quantity 5 pieces ticks, sent you from hence 31 Oct. last were lost, since which I have desired another friend in Bristol to enquire about them; and he has wrote me lately that the trow was not lost, and hopes that the ticks are got safe to your hands, which I wish may be true.

This town is 36 miles distant from Bristol, so that I could not find time to go thither and make enquiry myself about the ticks; but as I intend being there the 1st of next month, at the fair, I beg the favour of a line from you per return of post, to let me know whether you have received the ticks or not, that if not I may endeavour to find out what is become of them when I am in Bristol.

(P.S.) If you have not received the ticks I am afraid there is some roguery amongst the porters in Bristol which I can't attempt to discover until I have your answer to this.

416 Mr. Edward Hatherell¹ 15 Feb. 1773

I have yours of 13th inst. by your waggoner, but am surprised to find no fatt for me, as my friend in London advised me 11th inst. that my 2 fatts were sent to your inn and would both go that day according to your bookkeeper's promise; but instead of 2 fatts of mine he has loaded one for another person; this [is] setting out in a bad way, and if I could know your intentions for the future I would take care that you should not disappoint me too often.

Mr. Lock thinks you will send the fatts for Milborne Port² down this road, as it will not be much out of the way for the waggon to turn off at Charlton

⁹ Of Nicholas St., Bristol: see 584. Not in any directory.

¹ Carrier, of Andover: see 448.

² These were Hindley's fatts: see 419.

Hawthorn. You may send your waggon what road you please, as that is no difference, but I want the fatts down. I have more fatts coming from Hamburg, but if mine are to be brought down when you have nothing else to carry, I shall order them another way.

417 Mr. B. Barnard

15 Feb. 1773

I have 2 fatts of yarn put on board George Dell's barge at London for Newbury, who was to depart 11th inst. I should be glad to know if he did leave London at that time and when he may be expected with you, so that I may not send up a waggon in vain. Am promised a waggon to go after them, to be at Newbury the 27th inst., by which time I think the barge must be with you; in mean time should be glad to have your opinion thereon.

(P.S.) Please to direct to me via Bath, as your post goes down that way and we have a post from thence.

418 John Mayne Esq. & Son

20 Feb. 1773

I have your esteemed favour of 16th inst. with an enclosed from your house at Lisbon of 16th ult. and 2 sets of patterns; that for 22 pieces are under hand from same maker as last 2 bales sent per *Diana*, and I will try to get I G to make 2 bales of the other set, of which will acquaint you the issue in little time. I note the contents of both letters and shall be as particular and curious in getting the cloths to satisfaction as possible; and if but small orders are come over, I hope to please in quality, though am afraid I G will not come under 6s. if others do. I do not know what priced cloth I G makes at present but I did not imagine any fault could have been found with the 10 fine Spanish sent in Jan. 1772, per *Diana*, as I don't know any better maker in England than the person I bought those cloths of.

I am obliged to you for noting the crop of oil at Lisbon, as I have not yet disposed of the 2 pipes.

You have my best wishes for success in your present partnership, and I am with great respect etc.

(P.S.) I shall be obliged if you can inform me how the last vintage proved at Madeira and the price of wines, for I find if don't take wines I shall have nothing.

419 Mr. Edward Hatherell

20 Feb. 1773

I have this day an account from London of another fatt of yarn being sent to your inn, viz., D. & M. no. 54 for Mr. Charles Longman at Horton, which place is about 2 miles from Charlton Hawthorn and one mile out of the road from Charlton to Yeovil. I desire this fatt may be brought down as soon as possible after the two for Milborne Port.

420 Messrs. Duve & Möller

20 Feb. 1773

. . . Am favoured with yours of 3rd, 8th, 22nd, 26th ult., and 5th inst. with invoices and bills lading of 1 fatt yarn no. 54 per *Active* amount, mks. 1166.10s.; of 6 ditto no. 55 to 60 per *Hambro Merchant*, mks. 6999.12s.; which sums are

placed to your credit, and I have accepted your draft on me to Messrs. John Dunn & Co. for £300 stg. which shall meet due honour in payment, as shall likewise what you may draw further.

You say nothing about the fatt of 400 bundles fine yarn nor of the fatt 300 bundles 7 to 8, but hope they are under way, which pray let me know.

I observe that there are large orders for yarn with you, but you don't mention for what part of the world. I think it cannot be for England, as we have a miserable trade all over the kingdom and especially in these western parts, so that I wish may be able to sell what yarn I have ordered.

Pray forward all the rest of my yarn as soon as possible. The *Griffin* and *Active* are arrived, but the yarn not yet come to hand.

421 Mr. John Madox³

20 Feb. 1773

Your brother Mr. Charles Madox called upon me yesterday on his road to Shaston, when he was well. This day I have a letter from Mrs. Price of Gloster advising me that the ticks came safe to her hands long ago; and the reason given for not writing me so and answering Mr. Williams's letter was saving the expense of postage, a very laudable motive indeed, whereby I have given you a great deal of unnecessary trouble for which beg your excuse but return thanks.

Your brother hath got me a bed at a private house in Thomas Street for the fair, and where I told him I should lodge next Sunday sennight; but as some business will fall in about your fair which will keep me at home, I don't think to be in Bristol at the fair, which pray inform Mr. Charles of.

Mrs. Hindley joins with me in sincere respects to Mrs. Madox and yourself.

422 Mr. John Webb

20 Feb. 1773

. . . I should be glad to know if the barge with my 2 fatts for Newbury did go off on the 14th inst.

Enclosed is Edmund Harvey's note, £67 6s., which hope will be punctually paid, but if not you may give him 2 or 3 days' time. You have also lottery ticket 15,147, which believe you'll find is a prize; let me know when it will be paid. Beg the favour of you to pay Mr. Chapman's tenths and to send me a receipt.

I have 6 fatts yarn shipped at Hamburg on board the *Hamburg Merchant*, John Barclay master, as per account below; if you can get me £600 insured on goods per him at and from Hamburg to London at not exceeding 2 per cent. please to do it; but am not willing to give 3 per cent. and think the underwriters ought to return one per cent. on the two policies already done for me.

I have this day drawn on you to Mr. Francis Brixey or order at 30 days' date for £15, which please to accept . . .

423 The same

22 Feb. 1773

. . . Enclosed is bill on Bradley & Paley, £29 6s., which I am desired to send up in time and hope will be punctually paid. I hope to hear from you per next post that the barge with my 2 fatts did leave London the 14th inst., or when did go off for Newbury; but if you should not have wrote me Tuesday last,

³ Possibly John Maddocks, sugar baker, 4 Redlodge St., Bristol (Sketchley)

pray give me a line per return of post, Thursday next, and let me know the day the barge left London, as it will govern me in sending a waggon 60 miles to Newbury after the 2 fatts; and I want the yarn but would not send a waggon in vain.

424 Mr. Barnard

25 Feb. 1773

This day your favour of 21st inst. came to hand, by which find your directing to me via Bath will do, and which you'll please to remember in future.

The bearer, Farmer William Maidment, comes for my 2 fatts per Dell's Barge, D. & M. no. 50 and 51, which please to deliver him. I expect more fatts to arrive in London very soon, which shall order to Newbury; and then send you a London bill for the whole.

425 Mrs. Andrews

27 Feb. 1773

I expect the arrival of some yarn at London by the very first ship. If you think proper to make a trial of my sort of yarn, please to give me your orders per the bearer; the price of $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $8\frac{1}{2}$ per bundle is 8s.

426 Mr. William Williams

27 Feb. 1773

I have your favour of 23rd inst. and enclosed is your account according to desire; I could not have sent it sooner per post. As I have business in the yarn trade at home, it prevents my being at your fair.

I have sent down some brown cheese cloths which you are welcome to at $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ per yard, and the bearer, my young man, will order them to you, if you think proper; they are very good and cost me full $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ per yard. I wish you would send me $\frac{1}{4}$ yard of the sort you make and if I can get any made for you at a lower price I will do it.

Both Mrs. Hindley and self are very much obliged to you and Mrs. Williams for your kind invitation to Bristol. We return thanks, would be glad to wait on you both here, and wish you an enjoyment of health.

427 Mr. Henry Morgan⁴

27 Feb. 1773

I am much obliged to you for paying Mr. William Thomas of Margam⁵ for his order for the 2 firkins butter, and should have desired my good friend Mr. Rigge to have repaid you the money in due time, if William Thomas had given me any account of his having sent the butter to Bristol; but as I have received no note or line from him and one of the casks is for Mr. James Harding, I must beg the favour of you to send me William Thomas's note or a copy of it, that I may receive of Mr. Harding for his cask. If you cannot find the note please to say so to the bearer that I may write to Margam for one. Pray excuse this trouble and believe me to be etc.

(P.S.) I have some very good brown cheese cloths at the fair; if you want any the bearer will send them to you.

⁴ Wholesale linen draper, 10 Bristol Back.

⁵ The connection with Margam (Glam.) is explained by the marriage of Harding's niece, Jane Beach, to the Rev. Thomas Talbot, second son of John Ivory Talbot of Lacock, who inherited the Mansell estates at Margam.

428 Mr. Thomas Webb⁶ 27 Feb. 1773

Please to send me 2 pieces $\frac{7}{8}$ Irish linen, about 16*d.* per yard. Let it be stout, fit for schoolboys' shirts; the bearer will pay for them and also the balance of account due from etc.

(P.S.) Wish you what you don't expect, a good fair.

429 Mr. James Conner⁷ 27 Feb. 1773

I hope this will find you and Mrs. Conner in good health. I shall be much obliged if you can inform me how the last vintage proved in Madeira and the price of wines there, as I have a small matter due to me in that island and imagine shall never get any part of it unless I do take wines . . .

430 Mr. Joseph Rigge jun.⁸ 27 Feb. 1773

I have your esteemed favour of 9th inst. with Mr. Morgan's receipt for £7 15*s.* 4*d.* which is placed to your credit. I should not want the notes of the butter from Mr. Morgan, but one of the two casks belongs to Mr. Harding and I can't get the money of him without the note, of which I have wrote Mr. Morgan per the bearer.

Enclosed is your account current which hope is right; the bearer will pay you the balance.

Business at home prevents my being at your fair. Mrs. Hindley joins with me in sincere respects to your good self and Mrs. Rigge, the little maid and all friends in Redclift Street and Ashton.

431 Messrs. Ivyleafe & Bletchly 27 Feb. 1773

You have my best wishes for a good fair, but I doubt they will be ineffectual. If I can serve you in ticks please to command me; if a piece of brown cheese cloth lies in your way, I have some at the fair and the bearer will send it to you.

432 Mr. Charles Madox 27 Feb. 1773

I have already acquainted your brother that the ticks got safe to Gloster and am sorry to have given you and him so much trouble about them.

If Mr. John Madox can enquire and inform me how the last vintage proved at Madeira and the price of wines there, I shall be much obliged . . .

433 John Mayne Esq. & Son 1 Mar. 1773

I had the honour to write you 20th ult. that your set of patterns for 22 pieces Spanish were bespoke at 5*s.* 9*d.*, since when I have prevailed on the maker I G to accept of the whole order for 48 pieces at 6*s.* and he promises to make them very good and says shall not get 5 per cent. by them, so I hope it will once more be in my power to give content to the buyers in Lisbon.

⁶ Wholesale linen draper, 23 Wine St., Bristol.

⁷ Merchant, 45 Princes' St., Bristol.

⁸ Joseph Rigge senior was a sugar refiner and lived in Lewins Mead, Bristol, but there is no mention of a son in any directory.

434 In the *Hamburg Merchant*, John Barclay master, from Hamburg, 6 fatts D. & M. no. 55 to 60, quantity each 300 bundles heavy yarn, to be sent per Newbury barge.

Mr. John Webb

1 Mar. 1773

I have your favours of 25th and 27th ult. and above is account of my 6 fatts yarn shipped on the *Hamburg Merchant*. I expect 3 or 4 more will be shipped on him, of which account shall be sent you in due time. If you cannot get the insurance on goods per Barclay under £2 2s. per cent. you may give that price for £600.

435 Messrs. Donaldson Searle & Co.⁹

6 Mar. 1773

I duly received your favour of 5th June and observe the contents. By this time I hope you have sold all my goods consigned you from Lisbon per Messrs. George & Thomas Allen, and that you are in cash for the same. If so, pray send me an account of sales thereof, with a remittance in bill at best exchange you can get; but if you are not in cash for my account to remit me in bill of exchange, then you may ship my balance in wines per the *Blaze Castle*, Captain John Smith, for Bristol, who proceeds from you to Barbadoes. I have been told that your last vintage was very good, which is my inducement for ordering wines; and desire what you ships for me may be of that vintage and of the best quality, fit for the London market; and if you charge the more for them, I shall be content, provided the wines deserve it. You'll please to send me invoice and bill lading per packet, for my government as to insurance.

436 Mr. John Madox

6 Mar. 1773

I have your esteemed favour of 2nd inst. and observe the contents. My small concern at Madeira is about £50 stg., and have ordered Messrs. Donaldson & Co. to ship me wines for it per Captain Smith, per whom please to send the 2 enclosed letters (one of which is from Mr. Harding who will not have wines), and desire his care of what is shipped for me, and you'll oblige etc.

437 Mr. John Webb

6 Mar. 1773

I wrote you 1st inst. with contents of 6 fatts yarn per Barclay upon which goods hope you have made £600 insurance at £2 or £2 2s. per cent. Enclosed is bill on S. & W. Salts for £34, which when paid please to credit me. Please to send me down one bank [bill] £20 and one of £10, and you'll oblige etc.

438 Mr. Henry Martin at Bruton

9 Mar. 1773

[*Sending Harding's assignment of Richard Martin's mortgage to Farmer Balch. Mentions that Harding has been out of trade for some years.*]

439 Mr. Jeremiah Day

13 Mar. 1773

Annexed are patterns for 17 pieces cloth full 6 quarters wide for the Lisbon market, which I want to assort [with] some other colours made in this country,

⁹ Of Madeira: see 436.

which, as the times are, I can buy very good at 5s. 9d. The people in Portugal are very good judges of cloth, as you may see by the directions they [put] at bottom of these patterns. If you can make these cloths at 5s. 9d. which you have done formerly for Mr. Harding, pray do it for me now, but if not, the utmost I can give is 6s. per yard.

We find that running fine wool¹ is coming down in price in this country, as well as spinning, and make no doubt but it is the same with you and that cloth can now be made good. These cloths are wanted to be about 24 yards each if you can make them so; but if not, then of the usual lengths. The scarlet to be at 8s. per yard and all the rest 6s.

You have also a pattern of livery cloth, crimson; pray let me know the price of a stout piece of that colour – I mean a half piece of about 20 yards.

Your answer to this letter is desired immediately.

(P.S.) I have some money due to me in Gloster which I intend to draw for to your order in very little time.

440 Mr. John Webb

13 Mar. 1773

Your favour of 9th inst. is come to hand with 2 bank bills value £30 which is placed to your credit, as is also £10 15s. 6d. for premium and policy of £600 insured on goods per *Hamburg Merchant*, John Barclay master, from Hamburg to London.

Enclosed I remit you 3 bills, viz.: Duntze, Praed & Co. on Gosling & Clive, £10 0s. 0d.; Molesworth & Co. on Biddulph & Co., £24 0s. 0d.; William Williams on William Shepherd, £10 0s. 0d.; which when in cash please to credit me in £44 0s. 0d.

Pray pay Mr. Chapman's 10ths and send me the receipt.

441 Mr. Thomas Rowley

15 Mar. 1773

I have not had the pleasure of a line from you for a long time, which am afraid denotes a bad trade; but when you want ticks I hope to have your orders. This day have taken liberty to draw upon you for £150 payable to Mr. John Webb [or] order at 30 days' date, which please to accept.

442 In the *Hamburg Merchant*, John Barclay master, from Hamburg 4 fatts D. & M. 61 quantity 300 bundles heavy yarn, 62 quantity 300 ditto lighter ditto, per Edward Hatherell's waggon; 63 quantity 300 bundles heavy yarn, 64 quantity 300 ditto, per Newbury barge.

Mr. John Webb

15 Mar. 1773

. . . Above is my draft on Thomas Rowley, £150. Having 4 fatts yarn more shipped on the *Hamburg Merchant*, Captain Barclay, above you have account of them. Said ship may be expected every day; when arrives pray advise me.

¹ A medium grade of wool, the fourth of the nine or ten sorts into which carding wool was divided. It does not figure in Luccock's list of grades (J. Luccock, *The Nature and Properties of Wool* (1805), pp. 142–3), but it was a well recognized category in Wilts. and Dorset: cf. Letters of T. C. Colfox 1805–42, in the Dorset R.O.

(P.S.) I have accepted Duve & Möller's draft on me of 5th inst. payable to their own order at 2 usance for £200 sterling at your house, which, when due, please to pay.

443 Mr. John Webb

20 Mar. 1773

... I was in hopes to have heard of Barclay's arrival from Hamburg. If there should be no account of his being in any of the out ports, then please to get me £400 added to my policy of insurance on him. Enclosed I remit you 5 bills, viz.: my own draft on Mr. William Tatnall, jun., £140; William Boulting on Richard Harper, £50; Jos. Featherstone on Smith & Co., £28 10s.; William Evans on Hale & Toye, £20; William Woods on William & Thomas Cholmley, £10; when in cash please to credit £248 10s.

I am mistaken in saying had received none of your favours, as I have yours of 16th current with receipt for Mr. Chapman's tenths, amount 15s. 6d., which is placed to your credit.

I want 8 half pieces stop list Gloster cloths to the enclosed pattern if you can get them worth the money; I suppose they are now cheaper than they have been. You'll please to order them into Mr. Gray's for Duve & Möller of Hamburg, to whom please to send forward the enclosed letter per first post.

444 Messrs. Duve & Möller

20 Mar. 1773

... Am favoured with yours of 5th and 9th inst. with invoice and bill lading of 4 fatts yarn, D. & M. 61 to 64, shipped on the *Hamburg Merchant*, John Barclay master, for London, amount mks. 4590 which is placed to your credit; and your draft for £200 stg. is accepted and sent to Messrs. John Dunn & Co.

I have your pattern for 8 pieces red Spanish, which shall provide on best terms possible.

You may please to order the widow for 3 fatts of 300 bundles each yarn 7½ to 8½, and 1 fatt, 300 bundles, 7 to 8, to be sent off immediately, as no delay can be admitted. If she cannot do it soon, then you may take them of * provided he does not demand more than mks. 3.13s. The excessive bad trade we have had here, which still continues, made me afraid of ordering sufficient in the spring, and now I find myself short of yarn; but I had rather have too little than too much. Pray give me your answer to this as soon as you can let me know when and of whom I may expect these 4 fatts.

(P.S.) You'll endeavour to get these 4 fatts from one or both the collectors I have mentioned of, if possible to do it in time; if not, then make up what can't get from them of the best collector you can, as no time must be lost.

445 Mr. John Keen of Mark²

27 Mar. 1773

[*About sending a colt to Little Elm.*]

Mr. Gatcomb's drover comes up to Long Lane this day sevensnight, if you can contrive to send me a line by him.

Mrs. Hindley begs you to send her 8 or 10 seeds of the long green pumpkin, in your letter.

* One of Harding's tenants at Mark (Som.).

I have told Mr. Harding of your intention to live at Tolney Farm, but cannot get a grant for repairing it as yet, but shall try him again.

446 John Mayne Esq. & Son

27 Mar. 1773

I should have acknowledged receipt of your esteemed favour of 9th current before this time, if could have fully replied thereto. The patterns for 24 pieces Spanish I have endeavoured to get made and can have them undertaken at 6s. per yard for the white, yellow, and green; the light blues and browns 5s. 9d., the scarlet at 8s. 6d.; but the mazareen blue³ (of which 11 pieces are ordered) cannot be had under 6s. 6d. per yard, and those dyed in cloth, for it is almost impossible to dye such a colour in the sort of wool that must be used for cloth of that price. The maker declares they will cost him 6s. 4d. per yard and that nothing but the badness of trade should induce him to accept the pattern. You will please to let me have your determination on this matter. Enclosed is a pattern of the blue which you may show to any dyer, who will inform you what a difference in cost there must be in that and a brown. I have often mentioned this to your house at Lisbon, and that they should not accept of such extravagantly dear colours, unless the buyers would give an advance accordingly, some little favour to keep down or answer for the advanced price upon the blues is 6 pieces brown and 1 piece light blue at 5s. 9d.

I can buy a livery crimson in grain, 8s. 6d., without grain, 7s. 6d.; ditto dark blue, 7s. 6d. to 8s.

The favour from your house at Lisbon of 10th ult., mentioning the patterns for 24 pieces Spanish, I have received, and to which the foregoing is a reply. I thank you for advising me of the vintage at Madeira.

447 Mr. John Webb

27 Mar. 1773

I am favoured with yours of 24th inst. with gross weight of my 10 fatts yarn per Captain Barclay, and account how forwarded. As soon as you can get the charges of landing, freight etc. of my 4 fatts per *Griffin* and 1 fatt per *Active*, and these 10 per Barclay, pray send it. When you receive the £20 for lottery ticket advise me. You'll please to purchase the 8 halves stoplist cloth at money price,⁴ and to pay for them accordingly.

448 Mr. Barnard

29 Mar. 1773

I have an account from London of 8 fatts yarn being put on board P. Smith's barge, and that he sailed 24th inst. I think if I send up waggons from hence this day sennight that the barge will be with you by that time, provided he went from London 24th inst. according to my advices; which I should be glad to have confirmed by you per return of post, as am in want of the fatts.

If you will be so kind as to write a line to Mr. Edward Hatherell at New Barn near Andover and advise him when the barge will be with you, he may send his waggon for 2 of the fatts in proper time.

(P.S.) The marks and numbers of my fatts are D. & M. no. 55 to 60, 63, and 64; you may send any of the fatts per Hatherell except no. 57. Pray direct to me via Bath.

³ A deep rich blue,

⁴ i.e. cash price,

449 Mr. Edward Hatherell

29 Mar. 1773

I expect some fatts of yarn will be at Newbury by this day sennight, and have wrote to Mr. Barnard to advise you when the barge would be there, so that, if you thought proper to bring me down 2 fatts in a waggon, you might not be at a loss when to send for them. The barge (as I am advised from London) went off 24th inst. and I should think would be at Newbury by next Saturday, of which suppose you can easily get information from thence; but desire you will give me a line per return of post, and let me know whether it will suit you to bring me down 2 fatts next week or not, that I may act accordingly in sending waggons from hence.

450 Mr. John Webb

3 Apr. 1773

I have your favour of 30th ult. with account charges on my yarn £33 19s. 3d. which is placed to your credit. When you have paid the freight of the 4 fatts per *Griffin* please to advise me.

Please to send me 4 bank bills of £10 each and one of £15.

451 Mr. John Keen

5 Apr. 1773

. . . Have this day sent the colt to Furfords at Little Elm, and hope he will get safe to Mark. I have had him shoed, to prevent his hooves from being broke. You best knows whether the shoes should be taken off again when turned out into the moor⁵ or not.

I think you will do well to write a letter to Mr. Harding acquainting him of the time you intend living at Tolney, and also what reparations are wanted in the dwelling house, and then I will endeavour to get a written answer from him, as I believe it the best method you can take; but be sure to write to him and not to me . . .

452 Dear Fanny⁶

5 Apr. 1773

I received yours of 23 Mar. in due time, and hope your hand is well; had your feet kept due time the accident might not have happened. I have a letter from Mr. Webb, who tells me you are grown very much, so I must suppose your clothes don't fit unless you can let down a tuck, or stretch them out; but this matter falls under the care of your Mamma, and all I shall say in it is, that I am quite against your having a stiff stay. In everything else I shall acquiesce to Mrs. Frisquett's prudence and opinion; and what she will please to lay out for you I will repay whenever I know what it is.

You do not say a word about your music master, nor how you spend your time, except in tumbling down to Her Majesty the Queen to show your loyalty. I suppose you may now and then think of Mere, but don't say anything of coming home. I think the visit has already been long enough to tire your friends. Your Mamma joins in sincere respects to Mr. and Mrs. Frisquett, and I am your affectionate,

Henry Hindley

⁵ i.e. Sedgemoor.

⁶ Hindley's daughter, aged about 14. She afterwards married a member of the White family of Mere.

453 Mr. Edward Hatherell

7 Apr. 1773

I have yours of 5th inst. with one fatt yarn from London, but you don't say a word about the other in London when that will be brought down. As to my fatts at Newbury, I can always send waggons for them and you are not to bring any more from thence, as I have agreed for their carriage. It was from what Mr. Lock told me that I wrote to you about the fatts at Newbury; he said it might be of service to you in giving back carriage to your corn waggons.

In your letter of 2 Apr. per post you wrote me the 2 fatts from Newbury would be here Tuesday, but now find the time is altered to Thursday; surely you should be a little more punctual in business.

I sent two waggons from hence last Monday for Newbury, so that I have only two fatts now there and a waggon will go for them next Monday, therefore you are not to send your waggon for them. I want to see my other fatt from London very much.

454 Messrs. Duve & Möller

10 Apr. 1773

. . . Am favoured with yours of 30th ult. bringing me invoice and bill lading of 3 fatts yarn shipped on the *William*, John Lamb master, amount mks. 3787, which is placed to your credit. I have also my account current which have examined and find wrong, as you have not brought to my credit the bale no. 81, quantity 10 pieces Spanish cloths, per Adrian Jansen, as per invoice 23 June 1772, amount £80 7s. 9d. at exchange 33/3, mks. 1002.5s.; and you charge me mks. 7. 10s. for 43 days' discount on my remittance of £100 at 33/11 sent you 26 Dec. last, which is an overcharge, as you had mks. 1002.5s. in your hands near 6 months before. You will therefore please to send me another account current rightly stated and carry the balance to my credit; as I have, for your honour, accepted your draft on me to Diodaty Pappe & Co. for £55 1s. 11d. and sent it to Messrs. John Dunn & Co. in London.

Enclosed you have the account current, which I now observe is not signed.

I see you intend to write 31st ult. for the 4 fatts yarn; if not too late I would only have 3 fatts, and those to be $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $8\frac{1}{2}$ per bundle, which please to note.

455 Mr. John Kingsnorth

10 Apr. 1773

I have your favour of 6th current, and according to direction have this day drawn upon you for £40 7s., payable to Mr. John Webb or order at 10 days' date, which when paid will be the full balance of account due to me.

If ever you are inclined to open another account with me, I will do all in my power to give you content.

456 Mr. Thomas Rowley

10 Apr. 1773

Yesterday I sent you per Hatherell 2 pieces tick as above; the $\frac{7}{8}$ was to pack with the yard wide, which last piece is fine and good colour but wants more substance, but if had been stout would have cost more than 21d. . . .

457 In the *William*, John Lamb master, from Hamburg, 3 fatts D. & M. 65 quantity 400 bundles light yarn, send per Hatherell; 66 quantity 300, 67 quantity 300 bundles heavy yarn, per Newbury barge.

Mr. John Webb 10 Apr. 1773

I have your favour of 6th inst. with 5 bank bills value £55, which is placed to your credit.

Above is account of 3 fatts yarn shipped on the *William*, John Lamb master, when he arrives please to advise me . . .

458 The same 15 Apr. 1773

. . . Cash is very scarce with us,⁷ for which reason, and as a substitute, must desire you will send me down 8 bank bills of £10 each.

459 Mr. Jeremiah Day 23 Apr. 1773

. . . You may make the white, yellow, green, and scarlet cloths to my patterns sent you (as to the blues I have bespoke them here). Let them be worth 6s. per yard and made in 3 months' time.

Above is my draft on Sarah Price, £21 4s., on John Webb, £5 16s., [in all] £27, for which please to send me a receipt in full as per account below.

I D 26714 measured 33.½ at 8s. 6d., £14 4s. 9d., 26690 measured 33.¾ at 8s. 6d., £14 6s. 10d., [in all] £28 11s. 7d. Deduct 5 per cent. for measure,⁸ £1 8s. 6d.: £27 3s. 1d. Carriage and portorage from Bristol, 2s. 7d.: £27 0s. 6d.

460 Mr. Samuel Barrington 26 Apr. 1773

I have your favour of 21st inst. At present have not a bundle of yarn unsold, but I expect some in about 3 weeks' time. If that will be in time for you pray let me know it and I will reserve 60 or 70 bundles. The price is 8s. per bundle, but I will not pay more than half the carriage to Hatch.

You need not send me up a bill for the last yarn; when you come up to Shaston will do for payment.

461 Mr. Thomas Rowley 1 May 1773

Wanting money in London, I have this day taken liberty to draw upon you for £100 payable to Mr. John Webb or order at 30 days' date which please to accept.

The piece yard want nail⁹ is in loom and as soon as ready shall be sent you. When other sorts are wanted, please to give me your orders.

462 In the *Hawk*, John Hall master, from Hamburg, DM 39 to 42; 4 fatts each containing 300 bundles heavy yarn to be sent per Newbury barge.

Mr. John Webb 1 May 1773

I wrote you 28th ult. for £50 bank bills. As the wind hath been fair for the *William*, Captain Lamb, I was in hopes to have heard of his arrival and am

⁷ For the reasons for this shortage see Ashton, *Econ. Fluctuations in Eng. 1700-1800*, p. 129.

⁸ Cf. deduction of 3 per cent. in 585. It is possible that this deduction was a recognized allowance in place of the over-measure sometimes given, cf. 20, 26, but this is a conjecture. Both 5 per cent. discount and 21 yards for 20 were given for superfines in 1770: *Salisbury Jnl.* 3 Dec. 1770.

⁹ i.e. 33½ inches wide.

uneasy about him. If there is no account of his arrival on Lloyd's list, please to get me £300 insured on goods on said ship at and from Hamburg to London, if to be done at or under 2 per cent.

Above is account of 4 fatts yarn shipped on the *Hawk*, John Hall master; when arrives please to advise me and let the fatts be sent for Newbury.

Enclosed is my draft on Thomas Rowley, £100; Duntze, Praed & Co. on Gosling & Clive, £10; Richard Bridges on Thomas Streatwells, £9 2s.; which when in cash please to credit me.

Pray send me the account of freight and primage paid on my 4 fatts yarn per *Griffin*.

As soon as Mr. Gray has shipped the cloths for Hamburg please to give me account of cost . . .

463 The same 3 May 1773

. . . Am glad to hear that the *William* is arrived and my 3 fatts landed; one of them, viz. no. 65, I ordered per Hatherell and hope it is sent per him, and the other 2 per Newbury barge.

The *Hawk* may be soon expected. As soon as any account of her arrival, pray give me a line.

I have this [day] accepted Messrs. Duve & Möller's 3 drafts on me dated in Hamburg 28th ult. at 2½ usance, payable to Wolff, Leven & Popert or order at your house for £99 11s. 7d., £145 4s. 7d., £100; in all £344 16s. 2d. which I will take care to remit you in time.

464 Mr. Barnard 3 May 1773

I have 2 fatts yarn DM no. 66 and 67 sent to the wharf for the barges, but by a letter from London dated 1st inst. my friend writes me that the wharf is so full of goods he can't obtain a promise when my fatts could be sent off.

Andover fair is the 12th inst. when I can have a waggon to go from thence to Newbury for these 2 fatts, if they will then be with you; therefore must desire you to give a line (via Bath) and let me know if you have any account of these 2 fatts, when they will be at Newbury; and whether I may venture to order the waggon to go from Andover fair for them, as I am much in want of the yarn but would not send up a waggon in vain.

I expect the arrival of 4 fatts more in about 10 days' time, which I shall order to Newbury, and then will pay for the whole.

465 Messrs. Tesdale, Webb & Co.¹ 5 May 1773

I have not had the pleasure of a line from you for a long time past, which do not know the reason of as I hoped to share some of your favours. At this time ticks are pretty low and I have some by me and should be glad to serve you with ¾ and nails, best dyes, 15d., ⅞ ditto, 16½d. to 17d., such as would please, and other sorts in proportion. I do not think they will [be] cheaper but the contrary, if any demand should come from America.

¹ Wholesale Upholsterers, 29 Gracechurch St. (as Webb Tesdale & Co.).

466 Mr. John Gray

8 May 1773

I have yours of 4th inst. with bill lading and packing charges on 1 bale D & M* no. 82 shipped for Hamburg on the *St. John Evangelist*, amount £3 9d. 6d., for which have credited you £3 5s. 6d. as you have overcharged pressing etc. 6d. per piece. I never paid Mr. Budworth more than 4s. per piece for cloths to Hamburg; and will not now pay 5s. 6d. for half piece Glosters of 22 to 23 yards each.

Above is my draft on Mr. John Webb for £10 out of which I desire you will pay Mr. Crutchley² for dying, upon his allowing the customary discount and sending his receipt accordingly.

(P.S.) Please to advise me the exchange to Hamburg as it was the 4th inst.

467 E. Isaac Elton Jun. Esq.³

8 May 1773

I am favoured with yours of 6th current offering me 10 to 20 pipes barbary oil at £45 per ton, for which I thank you; at present I have no occasion, nor do I see any prospect in trade to speculate in oil.

468 Messrs. Duve & Möller

8 May 1773

Since my last of 10th ult. am favoured with yours of the 6th and 20th ditto. By the latter have invoice and bill lading of 4 fatts yarn shipped on the *Hawk*, John Hall master, for London, amounting to mks. 4417.4s. which is placed to your credit and I have accepted your drafts on me for £344 16s. 2d. and sent them to Messrs. John Dunn & Co. from whom I have this day a letter acknowledging their receipt; and they have sent me your draft on said gentlemen payable to my order, dated 27th ult. at 2 usance 8 days, for sterling £79 0s. 4d., which when in cash shall be placed to your credit. They mention that you intended writing me per next post, so I shall soon expect to hear from you; in mean time this will hand you invoice of 8 pieces red cloths shipped for your account upon the *St. John Evangelist*, Hein Wettegrove master, amount £46 15s. 10d., for which sum I have this day drawn upon you at 2 usance payable to Mr. John Webb or order at exchange as he shall negotiate the same in London, which please to accept. I hope Wettegrove will arrive safe with you and the cloths please.

469 Mr. John Webb

8 May 1773

I am favoured with yours of 6th current with gross weight etc. of my 3 fatts yarn per the *William*, and should be glad of the charges of landing them, freight etc. as soon as paid. Please to send me down Duve & Möller's draft on me of 5th March last for £200, which you'll find was paid this day. Enclosed is my draft on them for £46 15s. 10d. which please to negotiate at as low exchange as you can. I have this day drawn upon you for £10 payable to Mr. John Gray or order at 10 days, which please to accept. He hath sent me down a bill parcels of the 4 stoplists at 9 months, so you'll please to pay for them and advise me the discount, which should have been done at the time bought.

I hope soon to hear from you of Captain Hall's arrival . . .

² Jeremiah Crutchley, Dyer, Clink St., Southwark (*Lowndes Dir.* 1772).

³ Merchant and shipowner of Bristol: Minchinton, p. 187, n. 50.

470 Mr. B. Barnard

10 May 1773

I wrote you 3rd that I had 2 fatts yarn DM 66 and 67 sent to the wharf in London, since which am advised they were put on board William Ward's barge and that he left London the 5th inst.

This you'll receive by a messenger from Andover and to which your answer is desired, to know when my 2 fatts will be at Newbury, as I shall have a waggon next Wednesday morning that will go from thence for them, provided the barge will be with you Thursday or Friday next; so pray write a line per return of messenger (directed to Mr. William Way) and mention when the 2 fatts will be with you; then he may govern accordingly in ordering the waggon from Andover fair for them or not.

471 Mr. John Webb

15 May 1773

Your favour of 13th inst. is before me and I observe the contents.

Your account hath credit for the 4 stoplist cloths, £37; for freight etc. of yarn, £17 2s. 5d.; and for Duvé & Möller's draft on me 5 March last, £200 0s. 0d.

The 11 inst. I drew on you to John Maxfield or order 30 days, £22 14s.; to Richard Adlam or order, £20; Above is my draft on William Tatnall Jun. £60, which when in cash please to credit me.

Pray what postage did you pay for the letter to New York sent up in mine of 1st inst. ?

I hope to hear next post from you of the arrival of Captain Hall, with my 4 fatts yarn.

472 Mr. John Gray

17 May 1773

I have this day received a letter dated 15th inst. signed (for you) Robert Gale, the contents whereof is very trifling, to say no worse of it. I have nothing to do with the presser nor his charge, but repeat what I wrote you 8th inst. that I never paid Mr. Budworth more than 4s. per piece for all charges on cloths to Hamburg and will not now pay you 5s. 6d. per piece as I think 1s. per piece too much advance, and I never before heard the distinction about dyed cloths; but to set you right in this matter I refer to your own charge of 14 June 1768 wherein you charge for pressing etc. 8 Glosters at 5s., which were dyed cloths.

If you don't think it worth your trouble to pack my cloths at 5s. per piece as usual without troubling me with overcharges, let me know it and I am in no doubt of having it done for less.

I see Mr. Crutchley had rather stay till his bill for dying is due than allow a discount; let him therefore stay the very last day of the time, which I suppose is not less than 12 months; and he shall never dye another cloth for me.

(P.S.) If ever you write me again, pray be more careful of your paper and not send a clumsy whole sheet to be charged as a double letter.

You may place the £10 remitted you 8th inst. to my credit in account, advising me that you have so done.

473 Messrs. Tesdale, Webb & Co. 19 May 1773

Your esteemed favour of 13th current came duly to hand, and in part of your order have this day sent you 6 pieces ticks as above, which hope will please. The 2 pieces $\frac{1}{2}$ yard shall soon follow.

(P.S.) I beg the favour of you to order my wrappers sent up long since, to be returned per Hatherell.

474 Mr. John Webb 19 May 1773

. . . Enclosed you have 2 bills, viz. Hugh Butts on Thomas Nalder & Co., £40; Thomas Daniell on Brown & Co. (overdue), £30. When in cash please to credit me £70. I hope to hear per tomorrow post from you of Captain Hall's arrival in London or on the coast.

475 John Mayne Esq. & Son 22 May 1773

I am honoured with yours of 18th inst. with two sets of patterns, one of 17 whole pieces, the other 24 ditto of 48 half pieces; the latter for 48 half pieces are bespoke of same maker of 28 pieces (which were approved, at 5s. 9d., except the blues, greens, and scarlet. I intend soon to try to get the 17 pieces undertaken by a good maker, and will in due time acquaint you the needful.

The sad blues are agreed for at 6s. 6d. and they with the other colours to patterns IFC are now under hand.

I have now in warehouse 9 pieces Spanish, part of an order for 22 pieces in 2 bales; and the residue expect will be brought in 14 days, when they shall be sent up.

Am obliged for your advices from Madeira. Barbary oil was lately offered by Elton & Co. of Bristol at £45 per ton, clean racked and entirely free from foot,⁴ provided the offer was accepted by the 12th inst.; but whether they found sale for any quantity I don't know. In this country there is no great demand for it. Rape oil is brought to such perfection, and I believe mixed with olive oil, that it keeps down the price.

476 Mr. Jeremiah Day 22 May 1773

I desire you will send me in 2 months' time 8 half pieces cloth to the enclosed patterns, which let be made stout and cut low⁵ for Lisbon market; pray take care to dye them well and even or suant.⁶

(P.S.) When the 6 pieces cloth wrote you for the 23rd ult. are ready, send them to the 'White Lion', Thomas Street,⁷ to go from thence per James Green, Mere carrier; and when these now ordered are ready, send them also per him.

477 Mr. John Webb 24 May 1773

. . . Am sorry to hear that Captain Hall is not arrived, hope there will be some account of him soon.

⁴ The refuse which collects at the bottom of a cask of oil.

⁵ i.e. cut close in the shearing so as to leave a very smooth surface.

⁶ 'suant' means evenly dyed. ⁷ In Bristol.

The 21st inst. I drew on you to John Dunn or order at 20 days, £14 11s. which please to accept.

My house at Tetbury I sold some time ago to Mr. Dolby of that town.

478 John Mayne Esq. & Son

29 May 1773

My last respects to you was 22nd inst., since which I have bespoke the 17 pieces cloth to patterns at 5s. 9d., and hope they will prove good when brought in.

If you have any of same sort of oil as the last 2 pipes, and the price is not higher, you may please to ship 2 pipes for me on first vessel for Bristol, sending me bill lading thereof. If the price is not so high, I doubt not of your charging it accordingly.

479 Messrs. John Dunn & Co.

29 May 1773

I had the honour to write you a few lines the 8th inst. in answer to yours of 5th ditto, wherein you say Messrs. Duve & Möller informed you that they would write me per next post, which if they had done, it must have come to my hands long since; but I have not received a line from them to this day at which admire, especially as they shipped me 4 fatts yarn upon the *Hawk*, John Hall master, per bill lading dated 20th ult., and advised me that said ship would sail at the end of that week. I don't find that Hall is arrived, notwithstanding we have had fair winds to have brought him over long since; and if anything had happened to prevent his sailing at the time, I think Messrs. D. & M. should have advised me of it. Pray have you heard from them lately, or do you know anything of the *Hawk's* sailing and when may be expected to arrive. Your answer will very much oblige, etc.

480 Mr. John Gray

5 June 1773

I wrote you the 17th ult. to which have received no answer. Above you have my draft on Mr. Webb for £2 9s. which I make the balance due to you, for which send me a receipt in full; but if you persist in the overcharge, I have desired Mr. Webb to pay you accordingly.

481 Mr. John Webb

5 June 1773

I have your favour of 3rd inst. by which am glad to hear of Captain Hall's arrival in the river and hope he will soon land my 4 fatts yarn, as the season for their sale is almost over. As soon as the barge goes off with them for Newbury, you'll please to advise me. If you will please to call at your bankers you'll find Duve & Möller's draft on me of 30th March last for £55 1s. 11d., which pray send me down.

The 2nd inst. I drew on you to Jos. Rigge jun. or order, 14 days, £15 2s. 9d.; this day to Richard Baker or order, 10 days, £8 18s. 9d.; ditto to John Gray, or order, sight, £2 9s. 0d.; which please to pay, and if Mr. Gray demands 4s. more I desire you will pay it him upon his giving a receipt in full to be sent down to me.

482 Mr. John George⁸

7 June 1773

I expect the arrival of some oil at Bristol in a week's time, which shall order to your house, and sell at same price to you as the last, though am advised that in all appearance that article will rather rise than fall. I hope soon to have 2 bales cloths from you. Please to acquaint Mr. Treasure of it.

483 Mr. Thomas Clements⁹

7 June 1773

I expect the arrival of some oil in Bristol in about a week or 10 days' time, which shall sell at same price as the last, though it is rather rising than falling. Please to acquaint your brother of it.

484 Mr. John Gray

12 June 1773

I wrote you the 5th inst. with my draft on Mr. Webb for £2 9s. to which I expected an answer and receipt by this post, as it is customary to acknowledge receipt of bills by return of post; but I have only yours of 5th inst.

By Hatherell's waggon have sent up 19 cloths as above for two bales to be shipped to Messrs. Mayne & Co. per first ship to Lisbon. Besides the proper mark and no. on the top of the patterns there must be the letters above mentioned on the order of each set of patterns, which let be put accordingly.

485 Mr. Barnard

14 June 1773

I have advice from London that 4 fatts yarn DM 39 to 42 were sent to the wharf, and would be put on board a barge on Saturday last for Newbury, but don't mention the master's name; pray give me a line per post via Bath as soon as you possibly can, and let me know when these 4 fatts will be with you, that I may lose no time in sending waggons for them, as the season for sale of yarn is almost over.

These are the last fatts I shall have for some time, therefore as soon as they are despatched send me my account by one of the waggons and I will remit you a London bill for the amount.

(P.S.) If you have opportunity of sending a letter from your market Saturday, to be put into the posthouse at Andover that day or Sunday morning, it will come to my hands on Monday morning.

486 Mr. William Williams

14 June 1773

I have 4 casks of oil marked * shipped at Lisbon¹ on the *Hope*, Thomas Brown master, for Bristol. As soon as arrived I beg the favour of you to order them into the 'White Lion' in Thomas Street for James Green, to be carried to Frome and delivered there to Mr. John George; and pray excuse the trouble thereof.

I hope you will find [a way] to dispose of my cheese cloths to your content, as I cannot get such made cheaper than formerly, nor under 3½d. per yard prime cost.

⁸ Of Frome, see 486.

⁹ *Ibid.*, see 567.

¹ Hindley's clerk wrote 'London' in both places in this letter, but it is clear that Lisbon was meant.

Mrs. Hindley joins with me in sincere respects to your good self and Mrs. Williams, and we hope this will find you both in good health.

(P.S.) I am informed that Captain Brown sailed from Lisbon the 7th inst. If you can [get] these 4 casks oil weighed and send me the weight of them I shall be much obliged.

487 John Mayne Esq. & Son

14 June 1773

I have your esteemed favours of 5th and 12th current; per the latter account of 4 casks olive oil, shipped, for my account, on the *Hope*, Thomas Brown master, from Bristol, amount £65 5s. 7d., which is placed to your credit.

The 11th inst. I sent up 19 pieces cloth for 2 bales MGB and AGB; the patterns were for 22 pieces, but the dyer missed 2 pieces to one of the colours, and I returned one piece being injured in milling, so there are only 19 pieces instead of 22. They are from same maker of the 28 pieces which were approved; and hope these will likewise give content.

I soon expect 3 or 4 bales to patterns from the maker IG which shall be forwarded with all good speed.

488 Mr. John Gray

14 June 1773

I wrote you 12th inst. with account of 19 cloths sent up for Lisbon and I also wrote you the 5th inst. and remitted you my draft on Mr. Webb for £2 9s.; this day have received yours of 11th inst. with a receipt only [for] the sum £2 6s. 9d.; pray from whence or on what account arrives this difference of 2s. 3d.? I am at a loss to keep accounts with you more than with any one with whom I am concerned, and as I wish to have my books clear, must desire an explanation and my account sent as it stands on your books.

489 Mr. James Hook

19 June 1773

I shall be much obliged and it will be an additional favour, if you will please to buy an harpsichord for me. I am not in haste, as think it may be in your way to get a good one of some person or other who may be removing into country and not want an instrument in London, or other motive, whereby, at second hand, one may be got equal, perhaps superior, to a new one. I would give from 15 to 20 or 25 Guineas, whether with single or double row of keys (if a chance of the latter should happen); and everything else I leave to your good judgment. Whenever you have fixed upon an instrument, I beg the favour of a line, and will immediately remit the money and let you know by what conveyance to order it for me.

Mrs. Hindley joins with me in sincere respects to your good self, Mrs. Hook and Mrs. Madden.

490 Mr. John Webb

19 June 1773

I have yours of 17th inst. with gross weight of my 4 fatts yarn, which you say were put on board a barge Monday last, but don't mention the master's name nor when he left London, which I should be glad to know per return of the post.

Enclosed is Duve & Möller's draft on J. Dunn & Co., £79 0s. 4d.; it falls due the same day as their drafts upon me,

As soon as you have paid the freight and charges on my 4 fatts, please to advise me how much . . .

491 Mr. Samuel Barrington 24 June 1773

I have your favour of 21st inst. with Mary Miler's note of hand for £24, which when paid shall be placed to your credit. The carriage of the yarn cost me 8s. 8d., whereof I have charged your account with 4s. 4d. which you may pay to Mr. Nicholas Brown² when you see him.

I am sorry for your misfortune and you have my best wishes for a speedy recovery.

492 Messrs. Duve & Möller 26 June 1773

I have your favour of 15th inst. with patterns for 4 pieces sad coppers with blue and 2 half pieces Gloster cloths at £9 10s. The former will take at least 3 months to provide. The Glosters may be procured sooner, if you would have them sent separate, which please to let me know; but you'll consider that the shipping charges of 2 half pieces will be as much as of the whole. I am sorry the dressing of the last reds does not please, but don't know where to get cheaper goods.

The 4 fatts yarn per *Hawk* are not yet come to hand, so cannot advise you how they please as to quality. I expect them in 10 to 14 days' time.

I observe that you had a fatt of 300 bundles yarn, 7½ to 8½ per bundle, from the widow; as I like her yarn shall be ready to take a fatt off her hands, but she should come down to a market price, for yarn is now sold at 4d. stg. per bundle cheaper here than at spring of the year and the demands for it are over, as the whiting season is past or almost so. If the fatt in your hands is equal in goodness to what I have had this year from the widow and she will take mks. 3.9s. or 10s. for it, you may ship it per first ship and draw upon me for it and your bill shall be honoured, though don't expect to sell it this year. As I endeavour to be regular in my books and accounts, I must desire you will send me my account current properly signed.

493 Mr. Barnard 26 June 1773

I have yours of 22nd and 23rd inst. Please to send my 4 fatts yarn as below mentioned, and pray send my account per Maidment's man: DM 39, 41 per Maidment's waggon, 40, 42 per Hatch's waggon.

494 Mr. John Webb 26 June 1773

I have your favour of 21st inst. The Gloster cloths are arrived at Hamburg; their fineness of wool and spinning is approved, but the dressing so very bad as to render them unsaleable.

This day have drawn upon you for £5 payable to Mrs. Mary Barnard or order at 14 days' date, which please to accept and send forward the enclosed letter for Hamburg per first post.

[Several pages torn out. The first part of the next letter remaining has been torn away.]

² Of Zeals. His name appears in the list of debts owing drawn up after Hindley's death,

495 [Duve & Möller]

[Nov. 1773]

. . . please to credit me. If any demur let the needful be done and return it to John Mayne Esq. & Son,³ London; these friends write me that good paper on Hamburg is very scarce and this bill the only one to be got at present that was esteemed safe;⁴ but they will look out for more and send me as soon as possible. In mean time I shall be glad of your opinion about exchange, as they advise me to be drawn upon.

Above you have my order for 14 fatts yarn all from the widow, as I cannot sell the yarn **DM**, therefore pray send me no more of it; and you must insist upon the widow's keeping up the quality of her yarn in goodness of flax and spinning and length of skeins and tale of threads, for none but the very best yarn will sell to content, our demands here being exceeding dull and trade and payments excessive bad; therefore we hope prices will fall with you. You will please to get this order for me as low and cheap as the market will admit, so that I may not be undersold by the London merchants; and let the yarn be shipped as early in the spring as possible.

We have lately an Act of Parliament passed in respect to the breadth of all carriages which are to be made narrower than formerly,⁵ so that I believe must order the fatts to be made longer and less in the diameter, of which more by my next.

The cloths to your patterns are now in warehouse and will be sent to London next week; as soon as shipped you may expect invoice thereof.

496 Mr. John Gray

13 Nov. 1773

I hope you have bought the Gloster cloths and got them dyed to the pattern sent you, as I shall send up some cloths next week for Hamburg to pack with them.

Please to pay 15s. 5½*d.* at the Tenths Office when you happen to go or send that way, and send me the receipt, and keep the directions by you to serve in future . . .

(P.S.) When you write, note the exchange to Hamburg.

497 Mr. Charles West⁶

17 Nov. 1773

I have your favour of 8th inst. advising of a piece tick returned, and 1 yard damaged, for which your account hath credit, £5 2s. 0½*d.* . . .

³ Webb died in Aug. 1773, and Mayne was acting as Hindley's agent for procuring bills.

⁴ The severe crisis resulting from the failure of the Ayr Bank in 1772 spread to the Continent in the autumn of that year and was affecting Hamburg at the beginning of 1773. Trade was depressed for the whole year but November seems rather late for difficulties to have arisen with Hamburg bills: see Ashton, *Econ. Fluctuations in Eng. 1700-1800*, pp. 128-9.

⁵ An Act to explain and reduce into one Act the general laws now in being for regulating turnpike roads, 13 Geo. III, c. 84. No vehicle was to have a pair of wheels further apart than 4 ft. 6 in. inside measurement, and the weight to be carried was limited, a heavy toll being imposed on weights over the limit. The former condition could not be enforced (see 502) and was withdrawn in 1774, and the Act was also modified by substituting a graduated toll on additional weights: 14 Geo. III, cc. 14 and 82.

⁶ Merchant, 35 Bucklersbury.

498 John Mayne Esq. & Son

22 Nov. 1773

I am favoured with yours of 20th current with bill of William Mollison on Charles Metcalfe of Hamburg, for £170 stg. at $2\frac{1}{2}$ usance, exchange $34/8$, for which I thank you and is placed to your credit. I see exchange is fallen. I am in no haste for the remainder if you think it may rise again.

499 Mr. James Henry Bohmen Jun.⁷

27 Nov. 1773

I duly received your favours of 4th May and 9th September and observe their contents. Our linen trade is so very bad and dull that we shall want but little foreign yarn the next year; notwithstanding, to make a trial of your sort, you may send me early in the spring 2 fatts of prime best 3 crown sort of 300 bundles each, from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $8\frac{1}{2}$ per bundle, provided you will send it of the very best fine flax, of good colour to whiten, and of good length of skein and full tale of threads, and that the price delivered at Altona don't exceed mks. 3.9s. or 10s., [or] as much under as your market will admit. You'll please to send it to John Daniel Baur Esq. & Son at Altona, to be shipped on an English ship to London; but of this I shall write to them this post, and remit them a bill for payment at $2\frac{1}{2}$ usance, according to which time you are to regulate your draft on them for payment. If you can't send me such yarn as above desired, you will oblige me much not to send any.

500 John Daniel Baur Esq. & Son

27 Nov. 1773

I take liberty to enclose you bill of William Molleson on Charles Metcalfe in Hamburg for stg. £170, dated 19th inst. at $2\frac{1}{2}$ usance, exchange $34/8$, which when in cash please to credit me; but if any demur you'll let the needful be done and returned to my friends John Mayne Esq. & Son in London.

I have ordered Mr. James Henry Bohmen jun. of Hildesheim, to send for my account to your address 2 fatts of yarn, which on receipt of you'll please to ship on first English ship for London, sending me bill lading thereof; and please to accept his draft on you for the value of said yarn, which will not amount to more than this bill now remitted you, as I think; but if it should come to a little more, please to draw upon me for the same and also your charges, payable by Henry Hoare Esq. & Co. in London; and your draft will meet due honour.

Please to advise me the receipt of this bill.

(P.S.) Your old correspondent, Mr. James Harding, desires his compliments.

501 Mr. John Gray

27 Nov. 1773

The 24th inst. I sent up per Hatherell 8 cloths as above, which with 2 pieces white Glosters at £9 10s. are to be shipped on first vessel for Hamburg to Messrs. Duve & Möller. I expect to send up next week 20 cloths more for Hamburg, to be shipped with the other 2 half pieces Glosters ordered 27th ult. Pray advise me the exchange to Hamburg and send forward the 2 enclosed letters for Germany Tuesday next.

⁷ Of Hildesheim, see 500. Flax was cultivated in this independent bishopric in the neighbourhood of Hanover, but it had at this time little commerce with the Hansa towns; Savary, *Dict. Universelle de Commerce*, v. 474.

502 Messrs. Duve & Möller

11 Dec. 1773

. . . Annexed you have invoice of one bale quantity 8 Spanish and 2 half pieces red cloths shipped on board the *St. John Evangelist*, Hein Wettgrove master, amounting to £81 7s., which please to credit me at exchange [blank]. Two pieces Spanish to your patterns at 5s. 6d. when brought in missed the colour so much that I returned them on the maker's hands.

Please to order 100 bundles yarn $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6, to be added to one of the fatts of 300 bundles $4\frac{3}{4}$ to $5\frac{3}{4}$, which will make 400 bundles in that fatt; and you may order the fatts of same length and diameter as usual, for I find the late Act of Parliament in respect to carriages cannot be complied with. I note what you say as to exchange, and shall order my friends in London to take bills for me accordingly.

503 Mr. John Gray

11 Dec. 1773

I have yours of 9th inst. with account cost of 2 pieces Gloster cloths amount £19 5s., and of dying them £2 10s. 6d. likewise bill lading and packing charges of one bale **D & M*** no. 83 shipped on Hein Wettgrove, amount £3 11s. 0d., all which is placed to your credit; but you forgot to mention the exchange to Hamburg.

By Hatherell's waggon you'll receive 22 cloths as above; the first 9 pieces in one bale, the other 13 pieces with 2 half pieces reds in the second bale, marked and numbered as above directed; and when ready let them be shipped on first vessel for Hamburg, consigned unto Messrs. Stephen Wolffenden's Heirs & Evatt, to whom send patterns and bill of lading per the ship. Am sorry Mr. Gray is again ill of the gout.

(P.S.) . . . Send me down my patterns as I want them.

504 Mr. William Tatnall jun.

15 Dec. 1773

I have your favour of 7th inst. and to your order sent 8 pieces ticks as above, which hope will please. On the other side is your account current, the balance whereof is due to me, £451 18s. 5d., which finding right you'll please to credit me in a new account . . .

505 Mr. William Thomas, Margam

20 Dec. 1773

Mr. Harding and myself received our 2 casks of butter 24 Nov. last, but the notes and receipts did not come to hand till this day, although the money was paid by Mr. Morgan 13 Nov

I apprehend there must be a mistake in the charge of these 2 casks, as they weighed only: Mr. Harding's, 1 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lbs. is 164 lbs.; mine, 1 cwt. 2 qr. 0 lbs. is 168 lbs.; [in all] 332 lbs. You charge Mr. Harding 186 lbs., mine 190 lbs., [in all] 376 lbs.; 332 lbs. is what they weighed, 44 lbs. difference, or short in weight, which is 22 lbs. per cask. They may shrink 2 lbs. per cask but not 22 lbs. I suppose on examination you may find the error; and as Mr. Talbot^o is at Margam, and I suppose will be here before he leaves England, you may settle the matter with him.

^o Thomas, son of the Rev. Thomas Talbot deceased, of Margam. See 535.

506 John Mayne Esq. & Son

25 Dec. 1773

I have your esteemed favour of 23rd inst. with a letter from your house in Lisbon and patterns for 56 pieces Spanish cloth, which shall be provided in the best manner possible. Next week I hope to send up 24 pieces for 2 bales; and have got in warehouse 36 half pieces, great part whereof hath been brought 3 months ago, and yet I cannot make up one bale, but must wait until the whole are ready in order to make a proper assortment.

I hope you may find [opportunity] to take a good bill on Hamburg before the exchange drops. Am obliged for your directions to Mr. Gray to pack the red cloths in yellow buckrams for Messrs. Duve & Möller. These friends advise me that Messrs. John Dunn & Co. are good drawers on Hamburg. Wishing you a merry festival and a succession of many happy years, etc'

507 Mr. Thomas Rowley

27 Dec. 1773

According to my usual custom about end of the year, I herewith send your account current, the balance whereof appears in my favour to be £470 4. 3d., which, if found right, please to credit me in a new account . . .

508 Messrs. Duve & Möller

1 Jan. 1774

. . . I . . . sent you invoice of 8 [pieces] Spanish and 2 half pieces red cloths shipped on the *St. John Evangelist*, amount £81 7s. 11d., which is carried [to] your debit in account at exchange 34/9, mks. 1060.11s. which you will please to pass accordingly to my credit.

Enclosed I remit you 2 bills viz., William de Drusina & Co. on Francis Henry Zerran, £150; ditto on M. H. Ohmann & Co., £50; [in all] £200 at 2 usance, 8 days, exchange 34/9, which please to credit me.

In my last I advised you that the fatts might be made of the usual length and diameter, but I think it will not be right to have them so wide, as I now desire you to give orders to have no more than 250 bundles of heavy yarn to be put in each fatt, and then the diameters of the fatts may be less; but you may order the 2 fatts of fine yarn, one to contain 300 bundles and the other 400 bundles. The reason of this alteration in quantity of bundles heavy yarn is because we are limited to a certain weight in our land carriages;⁹ therefore desire you will give directions accordingly to the widow.

John Mayne Esq. & Son of London adviseth me that they had received a letter from you and had given directions to the packer to send the red cloths in yellow buckrams; but whether your order came in time to have it done, I cannot say.

I shall soon remit you further and am wishing you many happy years.

509 John Mayne Esq. & Son

1 Jan. 1774

. . . Am favoured with yours of 28th ult. with your remittance in 2 bills, viz., William de Drusina on Francis Henry Zerran, £150; ditto on M. H. Ohmann, £50; [in all] £200, which is placed to your credit with 4s. brokerage.

⁹ See 495, note 5.

The wet weather we have lately had hath prevented 2 pieces cloth, part of the 24 pieces mentioned in my last, from being brought in; but hope to send them up next week. I have paid for these cloths and the greatest part of the 36 half pieces for some time; therefore if exchange to Hamburg is likely to fall, I shall be obliged for bills, amount of £400, if it suits with your conveniency. I mean £400 in all with what is at present in your hands; but if exchange is rising, then no haste.

I remitted the bill you sent me of £170 on Hamburg to John Daniel Baur Esq. & Son of Altona 27 Nov. last, which they have not acknowledged the receipt of. They used to be very punctual formerly, so that I think their letter to me must have miscarried; at least I hope nothing worse hath happened. If you will please to enquire about that house and favour me with a line, it may be a satisfaction to me.

[Several pages torn out.]

510 Mr. William Williams

7 Mar. 1774

I find you have taken my 21 pieces cheese cloths that were unpacked in your warehouse and of which my young man gave you a bill of parcels. He hath brought me a sketch of my account with you, wherein you have omitted bringing to my credit 6 pieces cheese cloths, quantity 431 yards at $3\frac{1}{2}d.$, £6 5s. 8d., 3 Mar. 1772. If you will please to remember, I had 12 pieces cheese cloths at your house 1 Mar. 1772, which I offered to you at $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ per yard; we unpacked them and 2 Mar. you picked out 6 pieces of which I then gave you a note; and the other 6 pieces you said might remain with you unpacked and if you could take them before the next fair you would do it. You will see by the state of your account, which I have given you once or twice since that time, that I have always charged those 6 pieces in the accounts and you have never objected to it. I make no doubt if you will examine your books from 2 Mar. 1772 that you will find those 6 pieces are sold or that they are now in your warehouse; as I have sent you the 21 pieces (bought and delivered now by my young man) since 3 Mar. 1772. You charge me £1 11s. 9d. freight of 4 hogsheads oil, but I could not tell whether the hallage was included in that charge or not. On the other side is your account current as it stands in my books; the balance is due to me £17 12s. 1d. which I know nothing to the contrary but that it is right and should be glad to have it confirmed by you; and desire you will carry said balance to a new account.

511 John Daniel Baur Esq. & Son

12 Mar. 1774

. . . Am favoured with yours of 22nd ult. with bill lading of 2 fatts yarn shipped for my account on the *King George*, Tyleston¹ Woollam master, for London, and account of your charges thereon, amount mks. 7.6s., and I find you have paid Mr. Jacob Henry Bohmen jun. his draft on you for my account, banco mks. 2175, [less] your commission $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent., 7.4s., banco mks. 2182.4s.; all which sums are placed to your credit.

¹ This name might be Jyleston, and is once written Fyleston,

I am pleased to hear that my remittance of 27 Nov. last in bill on Mr. Charles Metcalfe reached your hands in due course, of which you say advised me the 17 Dec. year past. This letter never reached my hands and has occasioned trouble on this side, it being the only letter I have known to miscarry for many years; however all is well at last.

512 Mr. Richard Longman

12 Mar. 1774

I have yours of 7th inst. and am sorry to hear that you cannot pay me before Whitsuntide, as it must be a great disappointment to me. I believe the trade is very bad and indeed find it so, but that has no influence on the price of yarn in Germany, which is risen there 4*d.* per bundle. I have no yarn arrived (nor has there been any ship from Hamburg this year), but I expect the arrival of some in London every day. If you will let me know what quantity you may want, I will take care to supply you of the first yarn I get down.

513 Mr. Stephen Bagg²

12 Mar. 1774

I have your favour of 9th inst. with orders for 2 pieces striped bedtick, common dye, the same widths I sent you 14 Dec. 1770; *also one piece of better, the same in quality as I sent you one piece of at same time.* The latter piece or order I am at a loss to understand.

Please to note that on 14 Dec. 1770 I sent you 2 pieces ticks, viz., 72 yards $\frac{3}{4}$ common dye, small stripe, 72 yards $\frac{3}{4}$ and nail, ditto; 23 Mar. 1771 I sent you 2 pieces tick, viz., 72 yards, 28 inches wide, common dye, small stripe, 68 yards, $\frac{3}{4}$ and nail, best dye, small stripe; if you now want 2 pieces same sorts as the 2 first mentioned and one piece of $\frac{3}{4}$ and nail best dye, same sort as the 68 yards last mentioned, I can soon send them; but if either of the 3 pieces is to be only 28 inches wide, that must be made on purpose. I wait your answer.

(P.S.) The prices are lower than those sent you as above mentioned. I only want to know the breadths.

514 John Mayne Esq. & Son

12 Mar. 1774

. . . Last post brought me a letter from John Daniel Baur Esq. & Son of 22nd ult. advising me that they wrote me 17 Dec. last and acknowledged receipt of my remittance in bill on Charles Metcalfe for £170 which was since paid, so that the miscarriage of that letter (an instance I never knew before) had occasioned a great deal of trouble to you, which hope you will excuse.

I have a letter from Messrs. Duve & Möller's of Hamburg advising me that they should consign you 2 pieces of red cloth. If they should do it, please to give the bill lading to Mr. John Gray who shipped those cloths and is the proper person to clear them at the Custom House on their being returned. Messrs. Duve & Co. should have consigned them to Mr. Gray and not have troubled you about it.

² Shoe and saddle warehouse, 83 Redcliffe St. (Sketchley).

515 Mr. John Gray

12 Mar. 1774

I duly received yours of 22nd ult. with packing charges and bill lading of 2 bales Spanish cloths no. 95, 96 shipped on the *New Trimmer* for Lisbon, amounting to £11, which is placed to your credit.

Please to enquire at the insurance offices and let me know the lowest premium from Hamburg to London, as I may want £5 or £600 done in a little time. The premium in Hamburg of insurance to London is 1 per cent. Pray give me your answer to this per return of the post. Advise the exchange to Hamburg.

Messrs. Duve & Möller's of Hamburg finds so much fault with the 2 pieces red cloth sent them that they intends to return them to be new dressed, and says will consign them to Messrs. Mayne & Co. If they should do it you must clear them at the Custom House, as they were shipped in your name . . .

516 Henry Hoare & Co.

12 Mar. 1774

Enclosed I remit you 7 bills, viz., my own draft on William Tatnall jun., £250; ditto on Thomas Rowley, £120; Duntze, Praed & Co. on Hallidays, Duntze & Co., £20; ditto on ditto, £11 10s.; Peter de Vial on John Poilard, £20; John Brown and Sons on Joseph Hawker, £20; H. & W. Toye on Smith, Wright & Gray, £25 13s.; in all £467 3s., which when in cash please to credit me.

517 In the *King George*, Tylstan Woollam master, from Hamburg, 9 fatts raw linen yarn, viz., * no. 5, 314, D. & M. no. 73-79.

Mr. Jonas Whebell³

12 Mar. 1774

I have bills lading of 9 fatts yarn shipped in the *King George*, Captain Woollam, but no invoice is yet come to hand, so that I cannot give the particulars of bundes etc. in each fatt, nor direction how to forward them from London. I suppose this ship is sailed, and as the wind is now fair may be soon expected; therefore if you will take care in landing and forwarding my goods, and above all in inspecting the fatts on coming on shore to see if are not damaged, you may enter these 9 fatts supposing them to have 300 bundles in each in case I should not send you up their contents before the ship arrives, though I hope to do it in time.

As soon as ever you hear of Woollam's arrival at Gravesend or in the river give me advice of it per post.

(P.S.) I think to be in London when this ship arrives.

518 Mr. Thomas Webb⁴

16 Mar. 1774

I received per Green our carrier 4 pieces broad cloths from Mrs. Dyer; and per Green you will receive them again, as they will not do for me. I think in all my life never to have seen cloths put out of hand in so slovenly a manner, three of them rowy,⁵ the whole full of spills and dirt, not fit to be seen. I wish your

³ 12 Sherborne Lane (see 523). His name does not appear in any directory.

⁴ If this is the same man as the Webb who appears in 428 he was a woollen draper in Bristol.

⁵ Uneven, with lines of raised wool not properly shorn down. Spills are rough hairs which should be picked out of the cloth.

sister may not suffer by such carelessness in her workmen; it is worth at least 7s. per cloth to put them in condition fit to be seen by any buyer. I have paid carriage from Bristol and back again, as below mentioned, which you'll please to credit me.

(P.S.) If the cloths had been clean, the colours and quality would not have done for me at the price charged.

Carriage, 4 cloths from Bristol 1 cwt. 3 qr., ditto to Bristol 1 cwt. 3 qr.; 3 cwt. 2 qr. at 2s. 4d., 8s. 2d.

519 Mr. Hugh Grove⁶

21 Mar. 1774

Reverend Sir,

I think myself much obliged, that you will give me and other trustees resident here your assistance in the distribution of the forest money;⁷ and agreeable to your time fixed, they have notice of attending at the George Inn on Thursday next by 3 o'clock in the afternoon. If you will favour me with your company at dinner that day at 2 o'clock, it will be a further obligation conferred on,

Reverend Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant.

520 Mr. Thomas Rowley

23 Mar. 1774

. . . I thank you for accepting my draft. The wrappers are not yet come to hand. Wish it may be in my power to get off the 2 pieces fine linen for you but scarce expect it, as our country people can't afford to clothe themselves in fine linen.

521 Mr. Jonas Whebell

26 Mar. 1774

I have yours of 22nd inst. advising me of the arrival of the *King George*, Tylstan Woollam master, from Hamburg, with my 9 fatts yarn. As yet I have only received invoice of 7 of them, so that I can't give you the contents.

Send 1 fatt, the lightest, to the Swan Inn for Hatherell's waggon or, if the bookkeeper will engage to bring down 2 fatts next week and 1 the following week, then send 3 fatts into the inn, the lightest, and the rest by Newbury barge; and take care to see that they are sent off per the first barge, for if the barge should go off from London Monday or Tuesday next I shall have opportunity of getting the fatts soon home from Newbury; therefore I desire you will not fail of writing me next Tuesday's post and let me know if the barge is gone off, or when will depart; and at same time send me the gross weight of the fatts, as I always want it to regulate the sale of the yarn.

As soon as you have landed and forwarded these 9 fatts, send me the account charges thereon, and I will immediately send you a bill for the amount; and for the freight let the captain apply to Mr. John Gray in Martin's Lane,

⁶ A member of the Chafyn Grove family of Zeals. He was rector of Melbury Abbas (Dorset) from 1775 until his death in 1792.

⁷ The Forest charity of Mere, which applies also to Zeals, consists of about 80 acres of land in Gillingham given as compensation for the surrender of certain rights of common by the inhabitants of the parish at the disafforestation of Gillingham Forest in 1628. The proceeds are now distributed in money in December of each year: *Mere*, p. 139.

Cannon Street, who will pay it; and I desire you will examine the freight note and if right charged and cast mention it at bottom of the note. The freight is 20*d.* per cwt. gross.

522 Mr. John Gray

26 Mar. 1774

I have got 9 fatts of yarn arrived in London per the *King George*, Tylstan Woollam master, from Hamburg, and I have wrote Mr. Jonas Whebell who will land and forward them to me; but I desire you will pay the freight and primage and when done to send down the note and receipt. Let Whebell examine the note before you pay it, as he knows the weights of the fatts. Enclosed I remit you bill of John Hadfield jun. on Adey Sheppard & Co. for £27 6*s.* which when in cash place to my credit . . .

523 In the *Hamburg Merchant*, John Barclay master, from Hamburg, 1 fatt D. & M. no. 81, quantity 250 bundles heavy yarn.

Mr. Jonas Whebell, no. 12 Sherborne Lane

28 Mar. 1774

I have now got my invoice from Hamburg and if this reaches in time I would have my 9 fatts yarn per *King George* sent forward, viz., D. & M. no. 79 by Hatherell, the first waggon; 78 by ditto, 73 or 74 by ditto, provided the book-keeper will engage to forward them next week at furthest; 73 or 74, 75, 76, 77, *5, *314, per first Newbury barge.

I have one fatt shipped on Captain Barclay as above, which enter on arrival and I will let you know how to forward it . . .

524 John Mayne Esq. & Son

30 Mar. 1774

. . . Cloths to your patterns are now bringing in, and when a bale or two are complete they shall be sent up to London; but shall soon want fresh patterns to keep the clothiers in work, and must bespeak some of the same colours over again or lose the makers, which am unwilling to do as goods are now made good; and indeed I have already been obliged to do it and a bale of the makers T & IC⁸ (the marks objected to by your house) now stands ready in my warehouse, which I intend to send on my own account.

I shall be much obliged to you if you will remit a bill or bills on Hamburg for £200 stg. on my account to Messrs. Duve & Möller (to save time of sending the bills to me), and the balance of my account to me in bank bills of about £20 each.

525 Messrs. Duve & Möller

30 Mar. 1774

I have your favour of 18 inst. with invoice of 8 fatts yarn per the *King George* and *Hamburg Merchant*, amount mks. 9561.4*s.*, in which you have under added mks. 20.6*s.* commission, so when right is to your credit mks. 9581.10*s.* I observe what you say about the widow and that yarn is rising in price. Hope soon to receive invoice and bill lading of the remaining 6 fatts of my orders, especially as I find shall want 4 fatts more of 300 bundles each, 7½ to 8½, to be sent me with all the expedition possible. I would willingly have them from the

⁸ Probably Thomas and James Clement of Frome, see 567 and 606.

widow as no other yarn will give content, but if you cannot get them from her soon, then may send 2 of them from DM and the other two from her. I have desired John Mayne Esq. & Son to remit you on my account £200 stg., which you may discount when occasion, and for the rest draw upon me and your bills shall be duly honoured. Your draft for £44 is accepted and sent to Messrs. John Dunn & Co.

I note what you say of the cloths sent T. Evatt, that they were all very fine colours and you must have the misfortune quite alone. I answer that they were dyed and in every shape manufactured the same and by the same people (who are brothers and make in conjunction) as yours, nor did I see one farthing per yard difference in quality. His reds and yours were bought in London at same time and place as yours, and he has not complained of any of his cloths.

As soon as the 3 cloths per Barclay arrives they shall be inspected and if anything can be done to alter them for the better, it shall be done; but I much doubt it, as am afraid the wetting and rising a wool will take off the colours, and then the remedy will be worse than the disease.

I will bespeak the 10 pieces to your patterns and will endeavour, as I wish, to get them to content; and also 2 pieces reds at £9 to £9 5s.

Please to use all diligence in getting the 4 fatts yarn now ordered as quick as possible, and you'll oblige etc.

526 In the *Hamburg Merchant*, John Barclay master, from Hamburg, 1 bale IMS containing 3 pieces red cloths, 1 of them shipped on the *St. John Evangelist*, Hein Wettegrove, 5 May 1773; 2 ditto on ditto, 9 Dec. 1773. Freight to be paid Captain Barclay is 3s. for the 3 cloths.

Mr. John Gray

30 Mar. 1774

Messrs. Duve & Möller hath returned from Hamburg per the *Hamburg Merchant*, John Barclay, 3 pieces of the red cloths shipped on them as above, to be new dressed, as they are unsaleable on account of their being so thin and thready. As soon as you have got the cloths, let the cloth drawer examine them and give me his opinion of what can be done; and then I will order about them . . .

527 Mr. S. Bowyer¹

2 Apr. 1774

. . . The present is to inform you that I intend, God willing, to be in London beginning of next week, and will wait upon you Wednesday or Thursday to settle the late Mr. John Webb's account. I wish to be fortunate in finding you at home, and that you will be so good as to have the account in order for settling.

528 Messrs. Duve & Möller

8 Apr. 1774

My friends John Mayne Esq. & Son did not remit you as advised in my last, on account of my being in London.

Enclosed you have bill of Claus Heide & Co. on Conrad Mathiesen Esq. in Altona for £200 stg. at exchange 34/7, which when paid please to credit me.

¹ Of Warwick Court, Grays' Inn, see 532. He appears to have been Webb's executor.

Captain Barclay is arrived but the 3 red cloths not yet landed, so can say nothing about them.

I hope you will give the quickest despatch to the yarn ordered in my last. This week I saw in London 2 fatts, D. & M. 75, 72, which came to Marsh Reeves;² whether you had their orders before mine or not I cannot say, but find a break in the numbers of the fatts you sent me which these 2 would have filled up.

529 Mr. B. Barnard

15 Apr. 1774

I have account from London of 4 fatts yarn went from thence 1st inst. per barge, and also of 4 more that went off 6th inst. per Parker's [?] barge; please to send 2 fatts per Farmer Lydford's waggon (whose driver will deliver this), viz. D. & M. 75, 74 if Parker is arrived, if not then no. 79.

(Similar note sent with Farmer Jukes's waggon for fatts 76 and 77.)

530 Mr. Jeremiah Day

15 Apr. 1774

I am in great want of the cloths ordered from you, as I have now 3 bales of medleys in my warehouse waiting until your cloths are come to hand, which is a great hindrance to me. Pray forward them as fast as possible and you'll oblige etc.

531 Mr. S. Bowyer

15 Apr. 1774

On my return home and examining Mr. Webb's account, I have found out the error or difference of 20s., viz. in his letter of 3 July 1773 he charged paid freight £8 18s. 9d., landing £3 7s. 6d. I credited him accordingly in the sum of £11 6s. 3d. but it is 20s. underadded, the 2 sums making £12 6s. 3d. so that Mr. Webb's book is right; only I beg leave to observe that the freight is overcharged 14s. 3d., which (as I make no doubt of his paying) I do not object to on his account; but I must endeavour to get the money returned by the person who received it of Mr. Webb, and to that end beg the favour of you to look for the freight note among Mr. Webb's papers and to let Mr. Jonas Whebell have it, who I have wrote to to apply to the ship's husband on that account. Mr. Webb promised me to do it, but I suppose it slipped his memory. I shall order Mr. Whebell to call after 10 days.

Mr. Webb's books and mine does now agree except in the article of postage, in which I made a small error at your house, viz., the postage for the whole year 1772 was £3 12s. 6d.; as Mr. Webb died in August 1773, the proportion is for 8 months or 2/3rds of the year, which amounts to £2 8s. 4d. instead of £2 14s. 4d. which you'll please to examine, but then you are to charge me with the postage paid since his death. When that is done please to mention the balance, and I will draw for it and settle the account in my books in conformity.

(P.S.) Enclosed you have Mr. Webb's letter wherein the mistake arose, and which will serve to point out near the time the freight note was paid, which you'll please to let Mr. Whebell have.

² Marsh Reeves & Co., Manchester Warehousemen, 33 Cateaton St.

532 In the *Friendship*, John Mitchell master, from Hamburg, 2 fatts, D. & M. 80 quantity 250 bundles heavy, 82 quantity 300 bundles light, raw linen yarn.

Mr. Jonas Whebell

18 Apr. 1774

. . . Above is account of 2 fatts yarn shipped on the *Friendship*, John Mitchell; when arrived enter the same, but can't now give directions how to forward them, as I expect more fatts to be shipped on first ship that comes directly to London, Mitchell being bound to Yarmouth and London.³

I mentioned to you when in London that Mr. Webb had sometime past paid too much freight on some fatts for my account; and on settling my account with executors it appears to be viz., 10 June 1773 he charged paid freight on 4 fatts per *Hawk*, John Hall, £8 19s. These 4 fatts were DM no. 39, 21 cwt. 2 qr. 11 lb.; no. 40, 23 cwt. 4 lb.; no. 41, 23 cwt. 1 qr. 11 lb.; no. 42, 23 cwt. 18 lb. Gross weight 91 qr. 16 lb. at 20d. per cwt., £7 11s. 11d., primage⁴ 12s. 8d.: £8 4s. 7d.; overcharged, 14s. 5d. As you entered and landed these fatts, you can refer back for the time of Hall's arrival, and I desire you will apply to the ship's husband for repayment. I have desired Mr. S. Bowyer in Warwick Court, Gray's Inn, to let you have the original freight note paid by Mr. Webb upon your calling for it any time after 10 days from this date. When there is any account of the *Friendship's* arrival at Yarmouth, pray give me a line of advice.

533 Messrs. Isherwood & Smith

20 Apr. 1774

. . . [Sending ticks] Observe what you say about discount, but the profit on ticks will not admit of it . . .

You are not to pay any portorage.

(P.S.) Am offered 2 pieces superfine $\frac{1}{2}$ yards which can send you at 11d. and are the best I ever saw. If you think proper to have them, please to give your order soon.

534 Mr. Jonas Whebell

23 Apr. 1774

I have yours of 21st current and observe that the *Friendship* arrived at Yarmouth and is sailed from thence for London. As soon as she arrives and my fatts are landed, send them immediately to the 'Swan' for Hatherell's waggon, which will save the charge of watching on the quay.

I am obliged that you will endeavour to recover the overcharge or error on the freight of the 4 fatts per *Hawk*.

535 Thomas Mansell Talbot Esq.⁵

30 Apr. 1774

I am honoured with yours of 18th instant and observe the contents. I imagined that the alteration in your Uncle J——'s will was more in your

³ The words *On his arrival if you can find out to whom D. & M. no. 81 comes, pray advise me* have been erased here.

⁴ See 288, 313.

⁵ Of Margam, see 427, n. 5, 505. Harding, whose great-nephew he was, left him £3,000 to be paid out of the principal and interest due 'on a mortgage made to me by his late father of divers tenements and lands in Wales'. This mortgage was taken over by Beach, and with unpaid interest amounted to £33,390 in 1779. It seems to have been secured on the copper works at Margam: Lord St. Aldwyn's MS. BA/5.

favour than you mention; as it now stands, the chance or contingency must be allowed to be better for you than before, though I believe you will not put too great dependence upon so casual a matter; what may happen in future, in respect to your uncle's mind or otherways, is in the womb of time. I can only say that you have my best wishes for everything ending to your content and satisfaction.

As to the mistake in the weight of the butter, if William Thomas cannot account for it I am sure it is not to be done here; but he is not to make good 22 lbs. each cask, because some waste I think there always will be, therefore suppose 6 lbs. for each to shrink, then if he deducts or allows 16 lbs. each on the next year's casks it may set all right, which you'll please to acquaint him.

Am sorry I was prevented from the pleasure of seeing you when here, but hope to pay you my respects when you come in June. Your uncle is the same as when you saw him . . .

536 Mr. John Gray

30 Apr. 1774

I have yours of 26th (suppose should be 28th) inst. with account of freight paid on my 9 fatts yarn, which shall credit you £17 8s. 11d., and also for the charges on the 3 halves red cloths £1 6s. 9d.; [in all] £18 15s. 8d. Am glad to see the red cloths so well. I see 2 of the reds are very dull colours, which you must remember to let the dyer know, as I shall soon want 2 pieces more. You may buy 2 half pieces white Gloster at £9 or £9 5s. and get dyed to the enclosed pattern, and when ready ship with the 3 half pieces to Messrs. Duve & Möller of Hamburg per first ship.

I have sent up 24 cloths for Messrs. Mayne & Co., Lisbon, which get ready and ship on first ship to them; and all the difference you are to make is to let the bale of 13 pieces be numbered 1, which observe.

537 Mr. Jonas Whebell

2 May 1774

I have yours of 30th ult. with gross weight of my 2 fatts yarn per *Friendship* and observe what you say of the land surveyors⁶ insisting on having the fatts pitched and opened. This is a new demand, and I think his Majesty ought to be at the expense. The commissioners should have been informed that formerly the fatts were larger, weighing from 27 to 30 cwt. each; but I know it will answer very little purpose to contend or remonstrate to those gentlemen and therefore must endeavour to reap what advantage possible from this additional expense. To that end I desire you will examine the fatts strictly on landing, and, if any appearance of damage by the fatts being discoloured, to have that end opened; and if the yarn is fresh wetted, to take it out and send it to the whitsters, and have the salt water washed out and the yarn dried, which if you had done to 3 or 4 of my fatts per *King George*, Tylstan Woollam, it might have saved me £15 or £20, as I have near 160 bundles damaged in them; and in particular fatt no. 79 had 70 bundles damaged, which fatt had both heads out on the quay and part of the yarn repacked into the fatt was damaged, which if attended to might have led to a discovery of the whole 70 bundles.

⁶ Customs officials whose duty it was to attend at the waterside and inspect the Land Waiters who examined, weighed and measured the merchandise landed.

I expect 8 or 10 fatts more per first ship from Hamburg, but my last letter from thence of 8th ult. says no ship was then in lading directly for London. If you can enquire if any ship was in lading since, and when expected might sail, pray advise me . . .

538 Mr. John Gray

4 May 1774

. . . Above is marks and numbers of 13 cloths for one bale more for [Messrs. Mayne & Co. Lisbon], which put forward to ship with the other 2 bales on first ship. The number of this bale must be 98. You must not make any alteration of the numbers on the cloths, but let them run on regularly from the last number.

Pray give Mr. Stevens⁷ orders to let the 2 halves Glosters be stout cloths and well covered, to prevent their being sent back again. Herewith you have my draft on Henry Hoare Esq. & Co. for £30 and I desire you will pay Jeremiah Crutchley for his bill of dying . . .

539 Mr. Jeremiah Day

9 May 1774

I wrote you 15th ult. that I was in want of the cloths ordered, as I had medleys ready and waiting for them; since which time have not received a line from you. Pray let me know whether you intend to send the cloths or not.

540 Messrs. Isherwood & Smith

11 May 1774

. . . Since ticks have been so low, we have very few common dyes made, so have sent 2 pieces best dyes at 14*d.* instead of them. The $\frac{1}{2}$ yards of 11*d.* I mentioned to you are sold by the maker at that price, your letter not being in time. When I can meet with a piece better than those sent you 20th ult. will send it.

541 Mr. William Winter, jun.

11 May 1774

I have returned the piece of $\frac{7}{8}$ tick, as I never will, if known to me, buy a piece at a longer length than it measure. It is now almost two years since you had the last yarn of me, and I expect you will pay me the balance in money in 10 or 14 days' time; if not I will endeavour to get it as the law directs.

542 Mrs. Sarah Price

14 May 1774

. . . To your order have this day sent to Bristol by our carrier 2 pieces tick as above, which wish safe to your hands and that they may please you.

Please to observe that, upon delivery of these goods at Humphry's warehouse on the quay at Bristol, I look upon them as yours, as I will not run the risk of the barge from thence; and if you should in future give me any orders, you must mention per what conveyance you would have them sent from Bristol, for without such directions I desire to be excused from sending the goods.

⁷ Cloth Drawer in London, see 616.

543 Mr. John Gray 14 May 1774

. . . Enclosed I remit you bill of Thomas Brown on Thomas Pickford, value £20, which hope will get safe to your hands, as it is due. You'll advise me the receipt and give my account credit for it.

Please to pay Mr. Jonas Whebell £1 17s. 6d. for his charges of landing my 2 fatts yarn per *Friendship*; and when the freight note of them is brought to you (examined per Whebell) pay that also and send me the receipts. Does Whebell enter and ship the bales to Lisbon and Hamburg, which let me know.

(P.S.) When the 2 halves white Gloster are bought I desire you will pay for them and take the discount.

544 In the *Hawk*, John Newby master, from Hamburg, 2 fatts D. & M. 83, quantity 300 bundles, 84 quantity 300 ditto, heavy yarn to be sent immediately to the Swan Inn for Hatherell.

Mr. Jonas Whebell 16 May 1774

I have yours of 7th and 14th inst., per the former account charges landing my 2 fatts yarn per *Friendship*, amount £1 17s. 6d., which have already ordered Mr. Gray to pay you.

Am glad to hear that the *Hawk* is arrived, though my invoice came to hand but this day of the 2 fatts above mentioned, which pray send to Hatherell's inn, and advise me when he will load and carry them. Please to observe if there are any more fatts by *Hawk* marked D. & M. and who they come to . . .

545 Mr. Thomas Croft⁸ 16 May 1774

I have your esteemed favour of 13th inst. with patterns for 40 half pieces Spanish cloths for Oporto, which shall be provided in the best manner possible, and hope to give content in all, except the blues at 6s., the pattern sent being dyed in cloth and so rich a colour as cannot be dyed in wool even at 1s. per pound, which 6d. per yard advance will not pay for; therefore must get them done as near to pattern as I can . . .

546 Messrs. Mayne & Co. 16 May 1774

. . . The present is to cover invoice of 2 bales Spanish cloth no. 97 and 98 shipped for your account on board the *Diana*, John Cobb master, amounting to £20 12s. 9d. for which I shall value myself upon John Mayne Esq. & Son. I think and hope these cloths will give content on arrival, and also 2 bales more which are almost complete now in my warehouse, for IIG and AC which hope to send for London in 10 days' time, waiting only for 4 pieces to be brought in.

You have also, enclosed, invoice of one bale Spanish shipped on *Diana* to your address upon my own account, which please to dispose of to my best advantage. These cloths I was obliged to bespeak for want of patterns to keep the makers in employment, and though they are marked IC and TC yet I think them of good quality.

⁸ Merchant, 14 America Square, Minorities. The Crofts were, and still are, one of the oldest firms of English merchants in Oporto.

547 Messrs. Duve & Möller

16 May 1774

I have your favours of 8th ult. and 6th inst., per the former bill lading of 2 fatts yarn no. 80 and 82 shipped on the *Friendship*, John Mitchell, who is arrived, but no invoice come to hand. Per your latter have invoice and bill lading of 2 fatts no. 83 and 84 shipped on the *Hawk*, John Newby master, amount mks. 2486.4s., which is placed to your credit; and he is also arrived.

I observe you have got 2 fatts of 600 bundles, part of the 1200 bundles ordered in mine of 30 Mar. in your warehouse, and expected the other 600 in 14 days or 3 weeks, and that 1 fatt, no. 85, with 300 bundles 8 to 9, would be with you in a few days. If you will please to examine my letter of 13 Nov., you'll find I ordered 4 fatts of 300 bundles each, $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $8\frac{1}{2}$, from the widow, but you have shipped only 3 of that weight, and one of them contained only 250 bundles, so it looks as if I should be short in that order 350 bundles, and also 100 bundles 8 to 9; for though I desired at one time that only 250 bundles might be put in a fatt, yet I did not contradict the quantity of bundles ordered in the whole, but only an alteration in package. You'll please to advise me per return of packet whether you expect another fatt of 300 bundles (at least) from the widow to my order, in time to be shipped on Captain Barclay with no. 85, or not.

The 3 red cloths are near dressed and my packer says are much better for it; they will soon be reshipped and also 2 pieces ordered in your last of 18 Mar., of which the further needful in my next.

(P.S.) Not having my order from the widow shipped earlier has been hurtful in sale this year, as I cannot sell any yarn to content but hers. Am afraid how the 1200 bundles ordered 30 Mar. will prove, unless it comes from *.

548 Mr. John Gray

16th May 1774

. . . Am favoured with yours of 14th inst. with marks, nos., etc. of 30 cloths in 3 bales shipped on the *Diana*, John Cobb master, with packing charges amounting to £11 12s. 3d. which is placed to your credit; and also £4 19s. 11d. for freight paid on my 3 fatts yarn no. 80 to 82; but you should have sent me down the freight note and receipts, and also Crutchley's receipt for dyeing.

I believe made a mistake in mine of 30 Apr. in ordering 2 half pieces Glosters at £9 or £9 5s. to be bought, as it should have been 2 pieces instead of 2 half pieces; so let another whole piece be bought if you have only bought one whole piece already, and get dyed and ship them with the 3 halves returned as soon as you can to Hamburg, for Messrs. Duve & Möller . . .

(P.S.) Please to buy the *Substance of the Evidence Delivered to a Committee of the Hon. House of Commons by Mr. Glover*,⁹ printed for J. Wilkie, no. 71, Paul's Church Yard, price 1s. 6d. . . .

⁹ Richard Glover, poet, Hamburg merchant, and former M.P., of Martin's Lane, Cannon St., see *D.N.B.* The pamphlet was a recapitulation of the three-hour speech in which he summed up at the bar of the House of Commons, in April 1774, the evidence on the linen industry, given before a Committee of the whole House, *Parl. Debates*, 1743-74, Vol. VII, p. 178ff. See Intro. p. xxi.

549 Mr. Edward Hatherell

16 May 1774

I have ordered 2 fatts yarn, D. & M. 83 and 84 to be sent into your inn at London and expect they will be there next Wednesday. Pray give your book-keeper orders to send them down per first waggon or waggons, as I want them very much.

(Wrote him again 18 May per George to same purport.)

550 Messrs. Duve & Möller

23 May 1774

. . . Am favoured with yours of 13th inst. bringing me invoice and bill lading of 3 fatts yarn shipped for my account on the *George*, John Barclay master, amount mks. 3672, which is placed to your credit, but I want the invoice of 2 fatts per *Friendship*, John Mitchell.

I observe that the widow promised to send the remainder of my order in 14 days from the date of your letter, which hope she will not fail of doing as it's high time it was done, the order for it being given to you 13 Nov. last. I see 2 of these fatts per Barclay no. 20 and 21 are part of my last order for 1200 bundles, and that the collector asketh 4 weeks' time to deliver the remaining 600 bundles, which am afraid will be too late; therefore I will be content with only 300 bundles if can get that part to ship with the remainder of the widow's.

Your draft on me for £150 shall meet due honour.

551 In the *George*, John Barclay master, from Hamburg, 3 fatts heavy yarn: D. & M. 85 quantity 300 bundles; MP* 20 quantity 300, 21 quantity 300. Send D. & M. and either of the others per first Newbury barge, the other per Hatherell.

Mr. Jonas Whebell

23 May 1774

I was in hopes to have heard from you this post that one or both of my fatts per *Hawk* had been sent to the 'Swan'. Next post, suppose, will bring advice from you.

Above are marks, number etc. of 3 fatts yarn shipped on the *George*, John Barclay master, who I hope may soon arrive; and then send the fatt from the quay as above directed.

(P.S.) As soon as there is any account of Barclay's arrival pray advise me.

552 Mr. Thomas Croft

23 May 1774

I have this day received a letter from Mr. John Gray wherein he mentions that you would be glad to have the cloths to your patterns in 6 weeks' time, but I think it too soon, as am always unwilling to push the makers because the consequences may be bad; but if they have proper time so as not to hurry the spinners and workmen it will prevent all excuses for making goods inferior in quality. Your patterns are in hand and I expect the cloths in 8 weeks from this date, the blues at 6s. the others at 5s. 9d. I could have got the blues dyed in cloth at 5s. 9d. but they will not wear so well as if dyed in the wool; and such are always preferred at Lisbon and make no doubt of their being so at Oporto.

553 Mr. Jonas Whebell

28 May 1774

. . . I have a line from the bookkeeper at the 'Swan', advising that neither of my fatts were sent in the 21st inst. which is a great disappointment; and if I have no account from you per next post to tell when I may expect the 2 fatts, am afraid my customers will supply themselves from others and I shall lose the sale. Hope the yarn is not damaged, but when no advice of the causes of delay comes, the mind is apt to suggest something bad, which uneasiness you might have prevented by writing three lines to, etc.

554 John Mayne Esq. & Son

28 May 1774

I have your esteemed favour of 26th current with patterns for 87 pieces Spanish cloths, which shall be provided in the best manner possible; and due attention given to what is wrote on the papers which contain the patterns. I cannot yet complete the 2 bales mentioned in my last, for want of 2 pieces which are not yet brought in, but hope to send them up next week.

Am glad to hear that you will have no loss by the failure of Messrs. Gain-aults of Lisbon.

(P.S.) When you write me again please to mention the price of oil.

555 Mr. S. Bowyer

30 May 1774

I have this day a letter from Mr. Whebell advising me that you could not find any freight note per *Hawk* in 1773 paid for my account per the late Mr. John Webb, which am surprised to hear, as I always thought him very regular in his accounts; and hope on a second inspection you will find it and send it to Mr. Whebell, for he cannot recover the overcharge without showing the note to the ship's broker. You'll find the receipt wrote upon the back of a bill of lading, as Mr. Webb wrote me 5 July 1773, and if you will refer to his copy book of letters of that date it will confirm what I say, as will likewise my account on his book, wherein he charges me, 16 June, with freight paid, £8 19s. and is his last charge for freight. I wish the error was settled and beg you will endeavour to find the receipt.

556 Mr. Edward Hatherell

4 June 1774

The 25th ult. I sent up 3 pieces of tick to Messrs. Isherwood & Smith of Cannon Street, who write me that 2 of them are so wetted and stained in carriage as to be quite unsaleable. They will therefore be returned to you. I give you this information that you may order your bookkeeper to sell the ticks in London by taking them from Isherwood & Smith or else they will be sent down to you; for I shall not give myself the trouble to write to my friends in London to settle any damage with him, as he useth me in a vile manner in respect to my fatts. I should have thought, and so would any reasonable man, that those who first began to send goods by your waggons should have been served preferable to a person that never sent anything by them (nor indeed by anyone else); but he leaves a fatt of mine behind to bring down one for William

Thick,¹ a man whose name he never heard of before and may not again these 12 months. Whether this is fair treatment I leave anyone to judge.

557 Messrs. Isherwood & Smith

4 June 1774

I have your favour of 31st ult. advising that the 2 pieces $\frac{7}{8}$ roughs are so wetted in carriage and stained as to render them unsaleable. You'll therefore please to pack them up in a wrapper and direct them to the carrier, Mr. Edward Hatherell, at New Barn near Andover, and send him a bill parcels at the price charged . . .

[Some pages torn out.]

558 [Fragment of a letter to Whebell about yarn on the Hamburg Merchant, Richard Strong master, to be sent by Hatherell.]

559 Mr. John Gray

9 July 1774

My last was 2nd inst. with an enclosed for New York, which advise me whether you paid the postage of or not.

I have this day drawn upon you for £1 1s. 6d. payable to Mr. Jonas Whebell or order, which please to pay, and also the freight of 1 fatt yarn D. & M. no. 86 per the *Duke of Gloster*, Marlow Sutherland master, from Hamburg, and send me the account accordingly and also of the 3 fatts per *George*, Captain Barclay.

I shall soon expect to hear of your having shipped the bale of cloths to Messrs. Duve & Möller of Hamburg . . .

560 Messrs. Isherwood & Smith

11 July 1774

I have your favour of 9th inst. complaining of the piece $\frac{7}{8}$ rough tick at 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., at which I own myself surprised as I think it a good piece of goods and worth the money charged; however to oblige you I have given your account credit for 2s. 10d. on account of that piece, though my profit on the whole will not bear such a deduction.

561 John Mayne Esq. & Son

11 July 1774

I have your esteemed favour of 9th inst. with patterns for 24 pieces cloth in 2 bales 'which are for a customer that will not have of any other maker than those of IG fine'. If this is the person's fixed resolution, he must have none, as IG does not make any cloths of this sort; but as the colours are good I will bespeak them of others if you think proper, except the orange colour, which must be dyed in cloth as it cannot be done in wool to anything like the beauty of the pattern. You will please to think of this and give me your opinion.

I note the price of oil for which and your observations on that article am much obliged to you.

¹ Of 'Saterford' (?) and presumably a tick manufacturer. He owed Hindley some £43 on the latter's death in 1783.

562 Mr. John Gray

13 July 1774

I have yours of 14th inst. with marks, number, etc. of 12 pieces cloth shipped in one bale **D & M*** no. 85 to Messrs. Duve & Möller in Hamburg, amount £4 0s. 9d., also account of 2 drafts paid by you to Mr. Jonas Whebell, amount £3 15s. 0d., and freight receipt for 3 fatts yarn per Captain Barclay, amount £6 7s. 5d. for all which your account hath credit.

It is well that as soon as you have paid the freight of fatt yarn **D. & M.** 86 you will send my account current . . .

563 Messrs. Duve & Möller

16 July 1774

. . . Am favoured with yours of 28th ult. with invoice of 3 fatts yarn per *Duke of Gloster and Hamburg Merchant*, amounting to mks. 3047.4s. which is placed to your credit; and I have also my account current balanced by your draft on me for £149 14s. 7d., which bill I have accepted and sent to Messrs. John Dunn & Co. I hope the *Hambro Merchant* may soon arrive and then I shall be content, without having any more yarn this year.

Annexed is invoice of one bale, quantity 12 pieces Spanish cloth, shipped on the *Hansa*. Johan Mau master, for Hamburg, amounting to stg. £100 14s. 2d. which wish safe to your hands, and then I hope the cloths will please. In little time I expect 10 pieces more to your last pattern which shall be forwarded to London and shipped as soon as possible. I have this day drawn upon you for £124 14s. 0d. payable to John Mayne Esq. & Son or order at 2 usance, which please to accept and balance therewith your sterling account current.

564 John Mayne Esq. & Son

16 July 1774

. . . I have this day taken liberty to draw upon Messrs. Duve & Möller of Hamburg payable to your order for £124 14s. at 2 usance, which beg the favour of you to negotiate and to advise me at what exchange.

565 Mr. John Gray

23 July 1774

. . . The 20th inst. I sent up per Hatherell 12 cloths as above, which ship to Messrs. Mayne & Co. in one bale as above mentioned, marking the bale **H*** no. 2. Please to acquaint Mr. Croft that I am now buying his cloths and shall send them up next week or the week after.

566 The same

25 July 1774

. . . This post brought me a letter from Messrs. Duve & Möller of Hamburg complaining of the red cloths sent them, which they say will return again to me as being unsaleable there on account of their thinness. What I can do with them I know not, nor had I ever such a complaint before. Pray consult your drawer and let me have his answer per return of the post that I may write Duve & Möller upon it. Enclosed is the letter from **D. & M.** received this day, which you may show to the person who bought those cloths and get his answer.

567 Mr. Barnard

26 July 1774

I duly received your favour of 7th inst. which should have been answered sooner had it not been forgot.

Above you have my draft on Henry Hoare Esq. & Co. for £9 8s. 11*d.* which you will find agreeable to the account sent me, and for which you'll send me a receipt accordingly.

(P.S.) Write me via Frome, to be left at Mr. Thomas Clement's.

568 Mr. Jeremiah Day & Son

27 July 1774

I duly received yours of 20th ult. and hope in 3 weeks' time I shall receive the cloths bespoke of you.

You may make me 3 pieces cloth to the annexed patterns at 5*s.* 9*d.* or, at most, 6*s.* per yard, but I should choose the 2 pieces at 5*s.* 9*d.*, as I buy others of dearer colours for. You must get them ready in 2 months' time from this date.

569 John Mayne Esq. & Son

30 July 1774

. . . I have a bale of Spanish cloths now in hand at Mr. Gray's which expect will soon be shipped to your house in Lisbon on my proper account, being bespoke when I had no patterns from you to continue the makers. Pray do you know whether Captain John Cobb is arrived at Lisbon, as I have not a line from your house about the bale of cloth consigned them per him 16 May last?

I have this day taken liberty to draw upon you for £9 17*s.* 6*d.* payable to Mr. John Gray or order at sight, which please to pay.

570 Mr. Thomas Rowley

3 Aug. 1774

. . . The remainder of your order shall be sent as soon as possible, but at present the workmen are out in the fields haymaking.

571 Mr. John Gray

6 Aug. 1774

I have yours of 2nd inst. but you forgot to enclose Dube & Möller's letter in it, which do not fail of doing per return of the post.

The 1st inst. I drew on you to Mr. Jonas Whebell for £1 18*s.* 6*d.* which please to pay; and as soon as you have paid the freight of my yarn send me the receipts.

By Hatherell's waggon I sent up Wednesday last 19 pieces cloth, each quantity 2 half pieces, which on receipt of put forward, applying to Mr. Croft for the mark and numbers. I think it is best to ship them in 2 bales as above. They are stout good cloths and I believe will give content at Oporto . . .

572 Mr. Thomas Croft

6 Aug. 1774

I duly received your favour of 28 May last, and Wednesday last I sent up 38 half pieces cloth to your order, which have given Mr. Gray orders to ship in 2 bales for Oporto. You will please to do the further needful, but let Mr. Gray send me all the charges of packing etc. which will be best.

I believe these cloths will give content at Oporto, as they are stout and good; the blues cost 6s., the others 5s. 9d. per yard. You may please to inspect them at Mr. John Gray's. When I have the account charges from Mr. Gray, you shall [have] the invoice.

573 Messrs. Duve & Möller

8 Aug. 1774

Since my last of 16th ult. am favoured with yours of 15th ditto complaining of the bale red Spanish cloths, which am sorry to hear, as there is no getting stouter or better under £10 10s. to £11 white. It is owing to the East India Company's orders, who gave directions to make them 48 to 50 yards; those bought for you were some of the cloths left, being odd cloths, and the factor sold them 30s. to 40s. [per] piece under the price current. I have no complaint from Messrs. Wolffenden's Heirs & Evatt of the red cloths sent them, which were of same sort, nor can I do better; therefore I think you will do well not to return those cloths. You now order 4 pieces at £9 10s. which I cannot buy, and would advise you to try Messrs. John Dunn & Co. to buy them for you.

Your last order for 10 pieces Spanish are now bringing in and hope to send them up to London next week.

574 Mr. Robert Swyer

13 Aug. 1774

I was from home the beginning of this week when your favour of 9th inst. was delivered, in answer to which I think no objection can be made to the payment of the bank bill received by Mr. Harding, as nothing material is defaced but if you find a difficulty ariseth from the other bills which you have paid away, please to inform me of it in time, and the necessary shall be done.

575 Mr. Thomas Croft

27 Aug. 1774

. . . Annexed is invoice of 2 bales containing 38 half pieces Spanish cloths shipped on board the *Arabella*, Thomas Bradshaw master, for Oporto amounting to £192 16s.; for which you will please to credit me; and I have this day drawn upon you for said sum, payable to Henry Hoare Esq. & Co. at 20 days' date, which please to accept. I think these cloths will give content at Oporto as they are very good, but the charges upon half pieces are more in proportion than upon whole ones. Your order was for 40 half pieces, but 2 half pieces blue proved too ordinary when brought in and I returned them on the makers' hands.

576 Messrs. Isherwood & Smith

31 Aug. 1774

. . . Have this day sent you per Hatherell 6 pieces ticks as above, the best I could do at present. The best dyes are in place of common dye, as the latter are very scarce, and Bristol fair begins next Thursday where the makers have sent their goods; and the wheat harvest being begun we shall have very few goods made for some time.

(P.S.) Am promised a yard wide in 10 days' time when it shall be sent you.

577 Mr. Thomas Croft

5 Sept. 1774

Your favour of 1st inst. was received in my absence, otherwise it would have been answered last post. I am now to say, that I never bought any cloths (except for Mr. Budworth) without charging a commission upon the whole, the same as to you; nor did I ever omit the charge of carriage to my knowledge, as it is what I pay here. If your friend at Oporto doth not approve of the charges on my invoice, I beg to be excused from the commission, as I never will execute it on any other terms. Indeed the charges on half pieces is much more in proportion than on whole pieces, as I pay only 5s. per piece for pressing, tilloting etc. whole cloths, whereas the half pieces are charged at 4s. I do not think you can get the charges in London for so little as I have charged with my commission thereon included, my commission amounting to no more than 4s. 6d.

[One page torn out.]

578 John Mayne Esq. & Son

10 Sept. 1774

... Am obliged to you for delivering the bill lading which you received from Messrs. Duve & Möller to Mr. John Gray, and note the further contents of your letter. Next week I hope to send up some cloths to London on your account.

If Mr. Donaldson or Searle of Madeira is in London, I beg the favour of you to show him the enclosed accounts and to ask what is to be done in the affair. Neither Mr. Harding nor self have had any letter from them since 7 Apr. 1773, but I hope the goods are sold before this time, as they were sent from Lisbon in 1769. Please to excuse the trouble given you and you'll much oblige, etc.

579 Henry Hoare Esq. & Co.

21 Sept. 1774

The present is to convey your account current, the balance whereof is in my favour £327 0s. 8d. which on examination, if found right, you'll please to credit me in a new account and advise me of the same, that I may pass it accordingly.

580 Mr. John Gray

21 Sept. 1774

I wrote you 10th inst. when remitted you in 2 bills, viz. on Tim Lacey £10, on S. Bowyer £3 9s., in all £13 9s. 0d. Since am not favoured with any from you, but think you ought to advise the receipt of the bills per return of the post and is very wrong not to do it.

I have this day sent up 20 cloths per Hatherell, which put forward but not ship, as I shall send up 20 more next week to go with them.

581 Mr. Moulton Messiter

24 Sept. 1774

I hope this will find you at home and that you will go with me to Wedmore on the day appointed which I think is next Tuesday; therefore if you would go to Mark Monday next and so come back to Wedmore Tuesday morning, I think it would be best, to which pray your answer.

(P.S.) I will wait upon you when you shall appoint.

582 Mr. Moulton Messiter 25 Sept. 1774

I have your favour of this date and at present have a full stop put to my proceedings, as Mr. Harding will not have anything to do in it; so unless you can come hither Monday next, tomorrow, by 11 o'clock in the morning, not before that time as I don't expect he will be up, I believe the affair will be dropped.²

583 Mr. John Gray 26 Sept. 1774

. . . Below you have account cost of the 7 half pieces cloth returned from Hamburg, which show to Mr. Stevens and ask him what he will give for them. Indeed I think he ought to take them himself, as I suppose he took them of some particular friends to clear their hands; and now the loss is likely to fall upon me. I should be glad of his answer.

Account loss of 7 half pieces Gloster cloths dyed red and returned from Hamburg:

No. 2, 21¼ at £9 5s. white, £4 12s. 6d.; 903 and 904, 21¼ at £9 10s., £9 10s.; 905, 906, 907, and 908, 24 at £9, £18; dying red at 28s. per whole piece, £4 18s., setting at 2s. ditto, 7s., £5 5s.; pressing, tilloting, etc., 7 half pieces at 5s., £1 15s.; [in all] £39 2s. 6d. Charges on returning the first 3 pieces and reshipping them, £1 6s. 9d., ditto the 7 half pieces, £1 0s. 4d.: £2 7s. 1d. Packing and shipping charges to Hamburg.

584 Mr. William Thomas 26 Sept. 1774

I desire you will send to Bristol to the care of Mr. Henry Morgan on the Back 2 casks of butter, one for Mr. James Harding and the other directed to me.

You may draw for the amount of the 2 casks upon Mr. William Williams in Nicholas Street, but you will remember to make a proper allowance for the mistake on the 2 last casks.

(P.S.) You may write a letter to Mr. James Harding and advise him when you have sent the 2 casks.

585 Messrs. Jeremiah Day & Son 1 Oct. 1774

In answer to yours of 29 Aug. I have at last examined the 11 pieces cloth sent me, which are the foulest goods I ever inspected and has cost a great deal of trouble and expense in getting merchantable, having been to this day getting them picked and cleaned. Below you have the lengths and charges upon them here, but they must be drawn³ in London, and what that charge will be I know not; but in future you must send me clean cloths that are 6 quarters wide and stouter milled or not strained, for these are very ordinary. I have now in warehouse sad blues, very full colours, at 5s. 9d., much better goods than your greens. Your answer I shall expect per return of the post.

ID 28890 md. 35¼ big spun, off 3d. per yard at 5s. 9d., £10 2s. 8d.

28893 md. 35, 28883 md. 35, 28866 md. 33¾, picking 1s. each [at] 6s., £31 2s. 6d.

² There is no clue to the nature of this business but it seems to have concerned Harding's property at Mark.

³ i.e. inspected for holes made in fulling or shearing, which were then sewn up with silk.

28867 md. $33\frac{1}{4}$, narrow, off $\frac{1}{2}$ yd. picking 2s. 33; 28860 md. $33\frac{3}{4}$ ditto 2s. $33\frac{3}{4}$; 28870 md. $36\frac{1}{2}$, narrow, 2 lists off $\frac{1}{2}$ yd. picking 2s. 36; 28868 md. $36\frac{1}{4}$, ditto off $\frac{1}{2}$ yd. picking 1s. $35\frac{3}{4}$; 138 $\frac{1}{2}$ at 6s., £41 11s.

28884 md. $33\frac{1}{4}$, 28892 md. $34\frac{1}{2}$, 28873 md. 35, narrow off $\frac{1}{2}$ yd. each picking 1s. each; 102 $\frac{3}{4}$ [yds.] 101 $\frac{1}{4}$ at 8s. 6d., £43 0s. 7d.

[In all] £125 16s. 9d. Discount 5 per cent. for measure,⁴ £6 5s. 9d., picking and cleaning as above, 13s.: £6 18s. 9d. [Balance] £119 18s. 9d.

586 Mr. John Gray 8 Oct. 1774

. . . The 7th ult. I sent up 10 cloths for Hamburg which to this day you have not so much as advised the receipt of, though they ought to have been shipped by this time.

The 21st ult. I sent up 20 cloths for Lisbon, which you have not mentioned receipt of. The 5th inst. I sent up per Hatherell 20 cloths as above, which let be shipped with the 20 pieces sent up 21st ult. to Messrs. Mayne & Co. of Lisbon per first ship, and let these cloths be carefully inspected and drawn.

587 Messrs. Duve & Möller 10 Oct. 1774

. . . The red cloths are arrived in London, but what I shall do with them cannot say. Annexed you have invoice of one bale no. 86, quantity 10 pieces Spanish cloth, shipped on board the *Lady Christina*, Henry Hilks master, amounting to £83 15s. 10d. stg. which please to credit me at exchange [*blank*]. Part of these cloths were brought in and paid for in July last, but I could not get the whole complete till this time, and now they are not up to the prices bespoke at; but I think them worth the money charged and which I gave.

Please to give me the prices of yarn and your opinion thereon.

588 Mr. John Gray 10 Oct. 1774

Since my last of 8th inst. have yours of same date with bill lading and packing charges on 1 bale, quantity 10 Spanish cloths, shipped on the *Lady Christina* to Messrs. Duve & Möller in Hamburg, amounting to £3 10s. 3d. and also J. J. Trembley's bill on me for £8 stg., for both which sums your account hath credit.

I should be glad to know what you have done or likely to do with the red cloths from Hamburg, and what Mr. Stevens says about them. Please to acquaint Mr. Mayne that I shall send up 2 bales of cloths more for their house at Lisbon this week, so he may divide the risk as he thinks proper . . .

589 Messrs. Mayne & Co. 15 Oct. 1774

. . . Annexed you have invoice of 2 bales containing 20 pieces Spanish cloth shipped for your account and risk on board the *Hunter*, John Kennedy master, amounting to £184 10s. 9d. for which sum I shall value myself upon Edward Mayne Esq. These cloths I think will please and 4 bales more will soon be shipped to same patterns, of which invoice in due time. The cloths to your other patterns are now bringing in and shall be sent up and shipped as soon as possible . . .

⁴ Cf. 459, but it is possible that the discount may have been taken for narrow breadth.

590 Mr. John Gray

15 Oct. 1774

I have yours of 14th inst. (which should have been 13th) with marks, numbers, etc. of 2 bales Spanish cloth shipped on the *Hunter*, John Kennedy master, consigned Messrs. Mayne & Co. in Lisbon, amounting to £6 9s. 6d. which is placed to your credit. Send me down the 2 yards cloth cut off, by Hatherell, and at same time send 2 pairs of picking irons⁵ of the best sort.

Last Wednesday I sent up per Hatherell 17 cloths as above, which ship with the 2 bales already sent up to Messrs. Mayne & Co., Lisbon, and remember to put the letters on patterns as ordered. These 2 bales, no. 102 and 103, should have had A.G.B. on them.

I should be glad to hear from Mr. Stevens about the red cloths.

591 Edward Mayne Esq.

15 Oct. 1774

I have your esteemed favour of 13th inst. acquainting me of the death of your worthy father, John Mayne Esq., which am sorry to hear; pray God prepare us all to follow.

I find you have spoken to Mr. Donaldson and shewed him the invoices sent you 10 Sept. last, who says that part of the goods has been sold and the accounts rendered Messrs. Allen of Lisbon; but surely the account of sales should have been rendered to Mr. Harding and me, to whom the proceeds ought likewise to have been remitted of the goods consigned them on our accounts, of which beg the favour of you to tell Mr. Donaldson, and desire him & Co. to send us the account sales. Please to advise me how to direct to Messrs. Donaldson & Searle in London.

Enclosed is a letter for your house in Lisbon with invoice of 2 bales Spanish cloths shipped on the *Hunter*, John Kennedy master, amounting to £184 10s. 9d., for which sum you'll please to credit me. Four bales more of Spanish are now in London and I expect will soon be shipped, of which invoice in due time. At present I have no patterns from you but what are bespoke, so that if none should come to my hands in a post or two I must bespeak a bale on my own account to keep the makers employed.

592 Mr. Thomas Rowley

26 Oct. 1774

I have your favour of 19th inst. and have this day sent you 4 pieces ticks as above which hope will please. At present they are scarce and advancing in price. We have had a long harvest, and plenty of apples now employs many workmen making cider. The piece of $\frac{1}{2}$ yard rough has been on loom a long time; as soon as off it shall be sent you and the remainder of your order . . .

593 Messrs. Isherwood & Smith

26 Oct. 1774

I duly received yours of 8th and 18th inst. and have this day sent you 2 pieces ticks as above, which hope will please; but they are very scarce and advanced in price, so that I cannot send you any $\frac{3}{4}$ and nails, best dyes, at 14d. per yard.

I observe what you say of the yard wide. If you return it 'twill be the first piece ever returned on my hands; but you may make it up in one of my

⁵ Picking irons, referred to as burling irons in 600, for picking out knots and hairs from cloth.

wrappers and send it to Mr. William Tatnall in Ironmonger Lane, letting me know per post when it is sent.

(P.S.) Please to return my wrappers per Hatherell.

594 Messrs. Mayne & Co. 29 Oct. 1774

. . . Annexed you have invoice of 2 bales, quantity 20 pieces Spanish cloth, shipped on the *New Trimmer*, John Wellen master, for Lisbon, on your proper account and risk, amount £185 6s. 5d. for which sum I shall value myself upon Edward Mayne Esq. I am in want of patterns to continue the makers and hope to have some from you soon. Two bales of Spanish cloths more are now in London, of which invoice in little time . . .

595 Edward Mayne Esq. 29th Oct. 1774

. . . I take notice what you say of Mr. Andrew Donaldson to whom beg the favour of you to send the enclosed letter after perusal and sealing it. I shall be obliged to you for a bill on Hamburg for £170 and for other bills on same place for £700 stg. in 10 or 14 days' time, according as the exchange may be most in my favour; if rising, the longer delayed the better.

596 Wrote Andrew Donaldson of London Sat. 29 Oct. 1774

Goods per *Minerva*, 105 mil. 292, ditto per *Fluge Faama*, 70 mil. 495, on account of Henry Hindley, from whom the same correspondence hath been carried on with Messrs. Donaldson, Searle & Co. as with Mr. Harding.

597 Mr. William Tatnall 5 Nov. 1774

I cannot yet get 2 pieces $\frac{3}{4}$ common dye to send you nor a yard wide, except the above mentioned, which I am informed was sent from Isherwood & Smiths, and hope will please. A lower priced one is on loom and shall be sent as soon as possible.

598 Messrs. John, James & John Lodge⁶ 5 Nov. 1774

I have your favour of 1st inst. and in answer, Mr. Harding's business hath been in my hands for some years, but I cannot at present enter into any further engagement for the Lisbon trade than I am now under.

599 Messrs. Duve & Möller 5 Nov. 1774

. . . I take notice what you say of yarn, that the crop of flax proves pretty well. You may order the fatts below mentioned from the widow, who, I hope, will send me of the very best yarn, as I can sell no other to any content.

I have ordered bills to be taken for me in London for £7 or £800 in 10 days' time, which shall be remitted you.

Two fatts of 300 bundles each, 8 to 9; 2 of 300 each, 7 to 8, none above 8; 8 of 300 each, $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $8\frac{1}{2}$; 1 of 400, $4\frac{3}{4}$ to $5\frac{3}{4}$: 13 fatts. Of the above you'll please to order 1 fatt 8 to 9, 1 fatt 7 to 8, 2 fatts $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $8\frac{1}{2}$ to be sent off as soon as possible to be shipped early in the spring.

⁶ Packers, 12 Little St. Helen's.

600 Mr. John Gray 5 Nov. 1774

I have yours of 27th ult. and 1st inst.; per the former account charges and bill lading of 2 bales Spanish cloths shipped on the *New Trimmer*, John Wellen master, for Lisbon, amount £6 9s. 6d. which is placed to your credit.

You may send the burling irons as soon as ready. I have not yet heard from Mr. Stevens . . .

(P.S.) Of the person you ask the course of exchange at Hamburg enquire if John Daniel Baur Esq. of Altona is not dead and in whose name that house now stands, and advise me.

601 Edward Mayne Esq. 7 Nov. 1774

. . . Mr. Donaldson hath not yet answered the letter, but hope he will soon.

Enclosed is a letter for your house in Lisbon with invoice of 2 bales Spanish cloths shipped on the *Friendship*, Captain John Cormack, on their account and risk, amounting to £157 7s. 9d., which is placed to your debit, and which you'll please to credit me.

Mr. Gray's man notes the exchange to Hamburg 5th inst. at 34/3, 2½ usance, so I suppose it rising, and desire you will defer taking bills for me 10 days, if you see the exchange getting up.

I have a letter 1st inst. from John, James & John Lodge of London advising that they are directed by their correspondent at Lisbon to enquire after the fabric of Spanish cloth formerly known by the name of Harding of Mere, and to know if I will execute any orders they may receive, as they don't doubt a regular demand; to which I have answered that I could not at present enter into any further engagement for the Lisbon trade than I am now under.

I think Lodge & Co. are packers in London, and wish they may not fish out the makers I buy of and advance the price upon me, to prevent which I must bespeak 2 or 3 bales immediately upon my own account to keep the people employed . . .

602 Messrs. Duve & Möller 12 Nov. 1774

. . . The present is to enclose you two bills viz., Claus Heide & Co. on Ryberg Thygesen & Co., £145; ditto on ditto, £130; £275 stg., 2½ usance, exchange 34/4, which hope will find acceptance. I shall soon remit you further.

603 Edward Mayne Esq. 12 Nov. 1774

. . . Am favoured with yours of 8th inst. with 3 bills viz., £170, £145, £130 drawn by Claus Heide & Co. on Ryberg, Thygesen & Co. in Copenhagen, payable in Hamburg, at 2½ usance, exchange 34/4, which is carried to your credit with 9s. brokerage.

I have also a letter from Mr. Donaldson to Mr. Harding which is delivered him.

The 3 sets patterns I have received, which are for single pieces and therefore difficult to get made. Some of the colours are dyed in cloth and are very dear in dying, which am afraid your house in Lisbon did not think of. I will do the best I can with them and get them as soon as possible.

I have received a letter from your house at Lisbon dated 26 Oct. with account sales of one of my bales of cloth sold at 1080 reis⁷ which is a low price, but I must be content.

I think John Daniel Baur Esq. of Altona hath been dead some time, and beg you to enquire in whose name that house is now carried on . . .

604 Mr. John Gray 12 Nov. 1774

I wrote you 5th inst., since have yours of same date with account charges on 2 bales Spanish cloths no. 106 and 107, shipped on the *Friendship*, John Cormack master, for Lisbon, amount £5 14s. 0d., and cost of 2 pair picking irons 4s. which is placed to your credit. You have not advised me about John Daniel Baur's house in Altona, which I want to know . . .

605 Edward Mayne Esq. 14 Nov. 1774

. . . Mr. Harding seems willing to have his affair in Madeira settled by wines shipped to Barbadoes, where he had formerly for correspondents Messrs. David Minvielle & Sons. He begs the favour of you to enquire whether any of that house are living, and if not that you would recommend a house in Barbadoes to him.

606 Mr. Charles West 16 Nov. 1774

This for advice of my two drafts on you yesterday viz., to Mr. James Clement or order 30 days, £53; to Mr. Thomas Clement or order ditto, £12 14s.; [in all] £65 14s., which please to accept; and when paid will be the balance of account due to me.

Ticks are rather rising in price. Wherein I can serve please to command.

607 Rev. Mr. John Chapman⁸ 17 Nov. 1774

I intended myself the pleasure of waiting on you yesterday, but was prevented by a fall.

The bearer waits on you with a bank bill of £30 and my note of hand for £100, the latter payable on demand.

You will likewise receive £18 for one year's interest of £600 due this day.

608 Mr. James Henry Bohmen, jun. 19 Nov. 1774

My last respects was 26 Feb. Since am favoured with yours of 18 Mar., 30 May, and 16 Sept., and observe their contents. The plenty of corn with you may a little raise the price of yarn, but I think our demands in England will not add to it.

⁷ i.e. reis per covedo, a Portuguese measure containing about three quarters of a yard: Postlethwayt, *Dictionary of Commerce*, s.v. Portugal. In the fifties, Harding's cloth of 5s. 9d. a yard had sold for 1150 reis per covedo, 'which according to the risk and high insurance in wartime they ought to fetch' (Lord St. Aldwyn's MS. BC/2, to Mayne & Co., 23 Mar. 1757) and once in 1760 he got the same price (*ibid.*, to G. Allen, 19 Jan. 1760); but at other times he seems to have been satisfied with 1100 reis and once allowed it to be sold at 1080 reis for cash (*ibid.*, to G. Allen, 19 June 1760).

⁸ See 343. He owned land in Swanage (Hutchins, *Dorset*, i. 661) and had presumably lent Hindley money.

The 2 fatts yarn you sent me last year was not made of so good flax as I had from others and therefore did not give so good content; but I am willing to buy once more your sort of yarn and therefore you may send me 2 fatts of 300 bundles each of $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $8\frac{1}{2}$ per bundle, provided you will send me of the prime best 3 crown sort, made of good flax and of full length and tale of threads and good colour to whiten. I this day remit to John Daniel Baur Esq. & Son £170 stg. in bill of Claus Heide & Co. dated in London 8th inst. at $2\frac{1}{2}$ usance on Ryberg & Thygesen & Co. in Copenhagen payable in Hamburg; and you may please to draw for the yarn accordingly upon John Daniel Baur Esq. & Son; but pray remember I am in no haste for the yarn, but only desire it may be shipped in the spring of the year.

609 John Daniel Baur Esq. & Son

19 Nov. 1774

Enclosed I remit you bill of Claus Heide & Co. on Ryberg & Thygesen & Co. in Copenhagen payable in Hamburg at $2\frac{1}{2}$ usance, exchange $34/4$, for stg. £170, which hope will find acceptance and payment.

I have ordered Mr. James Henry Bohmen jun. to send me 2 fatts yarn to your care, to be shipped for London when they reach your hands. You'll please to ship them accordingly and to pay their draft on you for the amount, which I suppose the bill now remitted will be sufficient to do. If not you may please to draw upon me for the balance and your bill shall be duly paid.

610 Messrs. Duve & Möller

19 Nov. 1774

. . . Enclosed I remit you two bills viz., Paul Weideman on Ryberg & Thygesen & Co., £250; Wormald & Fontaine on Gottschalk & Salomon, £60; the first at $34/4$, the latter at $34/2$, which hope will find acceptance. I shall soon remit you further but bills are scarce at present.

611 Edward Mayne Esq.

21 Nov. 1774

I have your esteemed favour of 19th inst. with bill of Spitta & Guth on Herman Conrad Schar in Hambro for £115, which is placed to your credit; and I beg the favour of another bill on Hamburg for £100 or £140.

The patterns received this day I have bespoke and they shall be sent when ready; but several of them are dyed in cloth and will cost 6s. to 7s. per yard. I cannot think why your house do not refuse those colours, surely there are none else will accept them; at least I think so.

I can not get an answer from Mr. Harding yet; he desires his compliments.

612 Mr. Jeremiah Day & Son

23 Nov. 1774

Above you have patterns for 18 pieces, which I hope you can make for me at 6s. per yard, except the 2 first patterns which are grain colours, to which your answer per return of post. I find shall have a little demand for these colours if I can get them worth the money. Below you have my draft on Henry Hoare Esq. & Co. for £50, which advise receipt of.

613 Mr. Andrew Donaldson 23 Nov. 1774

The 29th ult. I wrote you a few lines at foot of Mr. Harding's letter, whereby you'll perceive the amount of my concern at your house in Madeira per the *Minerva and Fluge Faama*, amounting to, in Lisbon, 175 mil.787. As to the returns for these goods, you may please to ship me wines of the very best sort, cost what they will, to London, sending me invoice and bill lading thereof. I am very anxious to have the prime best wines, and hope you will comply with my request.

614 Edward Mayne Esq. 23 Nov. 1774

. . . This day have sent up 21 cloths for 2 bales to Mr. Gray, which hope will get safe and be shipped to your house in little time. I cannot get Mr. Harding to have Madeira wines, so beg the favour of you to deliver (after sealing) the enclosed letter to Mr. Donaldson, in which you will very much oblige, etc.

615 John Talbot Esq.⁹ 26 Nov. 1774

I am honoured with yours of 24th inst. and observe its contents. You may please to pay the half year's interest before 19 Dec. next into the hands of Henry Hoare Esq. & Co. in Fleet Street, taking a receipt from them for £175 on Account of Mr. James Harding, which receipt you'll please to send him; and you may depend upon having a proper receipt sent you for the half year's interest.

616 Messrs. Duve & Möller 28 Nov. 1774

. . . Enclosed I remit you two bills, viz., Thomas Clough on John Hanbury & Son, 34/2, £217; Spitta & Guth on Herman Conrad Schar, 34/3, £115; in all £332 stg., which hope will find due payment.

I have a letter from John Stevens of London dated 24th inst. advising me that he had offered the red cloths as they are at £9 per cloth, but could get only £8 to be offered for them. What to do in this case I know not, but foresee a great loss. Stevens is the cloth drawer in London who bought those cloths.

617 Mr. John Stevens 28 Nov. 1774

I have yours of 24th inst. and observe the contents. You must be a judge of those red cloths, and I hope you will get as much for them as you can. One half piece cost £9 5s., 2 half pieces £9 10s., 4 half pieces £9, per cloth white. Pray do you know what trade the purchaser intends them for? I must leave the whole to your best endeavours to get me off with as little loss as possible.

618 Edward Mayne Esq. 28 Nov. 1774

I am favoured with yours of 26th inst. with bill of Thomas Clough upon and accepted by John Hanbury & Son of Hamburg for £217 sterling at 2½ usance, exchange 34/2, which is placed to your credit.

I observe what you say about difficult and dear colours in the patterns, of which will write you again in a little time.

⁹ M.P. for Marlborough, 1747–54, eldest son of John Ivory Talbot of Lacock, d. 1778.

619 Messrs. Mayne & Co. 12 Dec. 1774

. . . Am favoured with yours of 26 Oct. with account sales of my bale no. 1, quantity 13 pieces Spanish cloth, per the *Diana*, John Cobb master, the net proceeds 454 mil.960, which is placed to your debit. I see the cloths are sold at 1080¹ which is a low price, but I must be content; and hope soon to receive account sales of my other bale cloths per *Tagus*, Captain Innes.

Annexed you have invoice of 2 bales, quantity 21 pieces Spanish cloths, shipped on board the *Helen*, John Cockburn master, for Lisbon, on your proper account, amounting to £185 0s. 11d. for which sum shall value myself upon Edward Mayne Esq. of London. I think these cloths very good and will endeavour to get all the patterns received of same quality.

620 Edward Mayne Esq. 12 Dec. 1774

. . . I have bespoke the difficult colours which are dyed in cloth at 6s. per yard, except the scarlets and crimsons which will cost 8s. 6d. and hope to have them good. Enclosed is a letter for your house in Lisbon with invoice of 2 bales Spanish cloths, no. 108 and 109, shipped on the *Helen*, John Cockburn master, amounting to £185 0s. 11d. for which you'll please to credit me; and I shall be obliged to you for bank bills for the balance of my account, of £20 each, and also for the enclosed bill of James Ford on Andrews & Fisher for £40 if accepted. I have 15 cloths now in warehouse paid for, which hope to make up 2 bales in 14 days' time, when they shall go to be shipped.

621 Mr. John Gray 12 Dec. 1774

I have yours of 3rd and 10th inst.: per the latter packing and shipping charges on 2 bales Spanish cloth H* 108 and 109, per the *Helen*, John Cockburn master, amount £6 15s. 6d. which is placed to your credit.

I desire you will please to pay 13s. 6d. for my premium of insurance at the Royal Exchange Fire Office, and send me down the receipt. It was due 4 Oct. last . . .

622 John Talbot Esq. 19 Dec. 1774

I have your esteemed favour of 17th inst. and above you have Mr. Harding's receipt for the half year's interest. He hath received a letter from Mr. Christopher Talbot acquainting him of his success at All Souls.²

623 Edward Mayne Esq. 24 Dec. 1774

I have your esteemed favour of 20th inst. with 10 bank post bills, value £201 7s. 1d. for which your account hath credit, and I have also my account current balanced with said remittance; but you have therein omitted charging me, 12 Nov. last, with 3 bank bills then remitted me, value £50, which I have credited you and which you will please to debit me accordingly. As soon as the

¹ See 603.

² Younger son of the Rev. T. Talbot of Margam and nephew of John Talbot. He was elected to a fellowship at All Souls 11 Nov. 1774, as Founder's Kin: ex inf. the late Sir Edmund Craster, Keeper of the Archives at All Souls. Harding, whose godson he was, left him £4,000.

patterns comes to your hands from Lisbon, you'll please to forward them to me. I hope to send up 2 bales Spanish in 10 or 14 days, waiting only for 2 or 3 pieces cloth, which hope the holidays will not prevent bringing in.

Wishing you a merry Festival and a succession of many happy years, etc.

624 Mr. Thomas Rowley 31 Dec. 1774

Above you have your account current, the balance whereof is in my favour £596 10s. 2d., which I have carried to your debit in a new account; and after examination, if you find the same right, you'll please to credit me accordingly . . .

625 Mr. William Tatnall jun. 31 Dec. 1774

[*In similar terms; balance £359 17s. 0d.*]

626 Messrs. Isherwood & Smith 31 Dec. 1774

[*In similar terms; balance £154 15s. 2d.*]

627 Mr. William Tatnall jun. 7 Jan. 1775

I have your favour of 3rd inst. advising receipt of your account current which you find right except 3s. 6d., which I have credited you. Am sorry there is no vend for ticks, which am afraid will continue until the affair with America is settled. The piece yard wide is not yet out of loom, but hope it will be in a week . . .

628 Henry Hoare Esq. & Co. 11 Jan. 1775

I beg the favour of you to send me down 4 bank post bills of £100 each per return of the post.

Mr. Harding is at present dangerously ill.

629 The same 16 Jan. 1775

. . . Mr. Harding is this day much better. I wish he may continue to mend.

630 Messrs. Duve & Möller 21 Jan. 1775

. . . Am favoured with yours of 5 and 25 Nov. and 13th ult.; per the former, patterns for 12 pieces Spanish cloth which I bespoke 21 Nov. last, and when ready shall be sent you. I see you have agreed with the widow for the yarn I ordered at mks. 4.10s. which is so high a price that nothing will be got by it, but I hope the yarn will be exceeding good so that I may get credit by it, for nothing else can be expected.

I hope my letter of 28 Nov. hath reached your hands. If not, you will do well to stop payment of the 2 bills therein remitted you, of which annexed you have copies to serve in case of need.

631 Mr. John Gray 21 Jan. 1775

I wrote you 18th inst. when sent up 27 cloths per Hatherell, and next week intend to send up 2 pieces more to pack with them. Pray what does Mr. Stevens say about the 2 red cloths? I must think myself ill used in that affair . . .

632 Mr. William Tatnall jun. 25 Jan. 1775

... The remainder of your order shall be sent as soon as possible but I assure you ticks are scarce, the makers having lately had a demand; and foreign dowlas being much advanced in price, the looms are turning to that article; though I should think, the exportation to America being stopped, ticks will in little time be plentier.

Mr. Harding is at present ill and not expected to live many days.

633 Mr. John Read³ 31 Jan. 1775

If you will examine your account, you will find that you owe me about £70 for 18 months, which it is high time was paid. I must therefore desire you will send me over a bill or cash for the balance of your old account.

634 Messrs. Rowley & Ellis 1 Feb. 1775

I duly received your favour of 16th ult. complaining of the 7/8 4 hedle,⁴ which I cannot buy here under 2s. 4½d. per yard, so you will do well in future to order that sort from Fordingbridge. You may please to let me know what you abate me on that piece.

This day per Hatherell have sent you 2 pieces ticks as above, and will send the rest of your order as fast as possible. The ½ yard rough will not be out in less than 14 days, and when it is I am afraid how it will prove after being so long on loom.

The 30th ult. I drew on you for £81 17s. 0d. payable to Mr. James Clement or order at 30 days' date, which please to accept.

(P.S.) I shall be glad to know in your next what my lottery ticket no. 11994 will sell for. I suppose it a prize of £20.

635 Messrs. Mayne & Co. 18 Feb. 1775

... Am in hopes of receiving soon the account sales of my bale cloths per *Tagus*, Captain Innes.

Annexed you have invoice of 2 bales, quantity 29 pieces Spanish cloth, shipped on board the *New Trimmer*, John Wellen master, for Lisbon on your proper account, amounting to £238 18s. 0d. for which sum shall value myself upon Edward Mayne Esq. of London.

I hope to send the cloths to patterns sent me 4 and 22 Oct. last in a month from this date, perhaps some of them in 14 days' time; and I shall soon want other patterns to continue the makers in employment, as I think them deserving.

636 Mr. John Gray 18 Feb. 1775

I have yours of 14th inst. with bill lading and account charges on 2 bales Spanish cloths H* 110 and 111, shipped on the *New Trimmer*, John Wellen master, for Lisbon, amounting to £9 12s. 6d. which is placed to your credit.

³ Of Gillingham (Dorset). At Hindley's death his debt was some £64.

⁴ The normal method of weaving ticks round Mere was on a three-treadle loom. A few corded ticks were made on a four-treadle loom 'in imitation of the Flanders but far short in beauty, and is sold very dear; but in my opinion those that are made rough of three treadles ... will keep in the feathers full as well': Lord St. Aldwyn's MS. BC/2 to J. Fisher, 26 Apr. 1752,

Above is my draft on Edward Mayne Esq. for £40 4s. 0d. which is the balance of your account, so pray send me a receipt in full accordingly.

(P.S.) Will not the red cloths sell for clothing the Army going to America, which ask Mr. Stevens?

637 Messrs. Jeremiah Day & Son 21 Feb. 1775

I hope by the time this may reach your hands that the cloths I ordered may be ready to send for Bristol. The purport of this is to desire you to order them to the White Lion Inn, Thomas Street, as usual, but direct them to go from thence per Richard Newton instead of James Green, which pray let be done.

At Bristol fair I intend paying you the balance of account.

638 Messrs. Rowley & Ellis 22 Feb. 1775

I duly received your favour of 15th inst. and have given your account credit with 2d. per yard on the 67 yards 4 tredle tick, which brings too great a loss upon it to me.

This day have sent you 7 pieces ticks per Hatherell as above, and the remainder of your order shall follow as soon as possible. At present there is a considerable demand and ticks are rising in price.

639 Henry Hoare Esq. & Co. 25 Feb. 1775

Enclosed I remit you bill of Mayne & Co. on Edward Mayne Esq. for 240 mil. at exchange 66d., is £66, which when in cash please to credit me.

It pleased God to take to himself Mr. James Harding the 21st inst.; may we all be prepared to follow. His nephew and executor, William Beach Esq., desires his compliments to you.

640 Messrs. Mayne & Co. 25 Feb. 1775

. . . Am favoured with yours of 4th inst. with account sales of my bales Spanish cloths by the *Tagus*, Robert Innes master, the net proceeds 429 mil.350, which is placed to your debit; and I have your remittance on Edward Mayne Esq. at exchange 66d. 240 mil.000, which is placed to your credit . . .

No patterns from Edward Mayne Esq. are yet come to my hands, but I hope will soon.

641 Edward Mayne Esq. 27 Feb. 1775

I am honoured with yours of 25th inst. with 11 bank post bills amounting to £148 14s., which is placed to your credit, and your account balanced therewith.

Last post brought me a letter from your house at Lisbon dated 4th inst. with a bill on you for 240 mil.000, exchange 66d., and I was in hopes of receiving some patterns from you which they mention to have sent. As soon as they come to your hands please to forward them to me. They say nothing to me about the green cloths, but I shall observe your directions . . .

642 In the *Hambro Merchant*, Richard Strong master, at Hamburg, D. & M. 1 fatt no. 88, quantity 300 bundles fine yarn, to be sent per Hatherell's waggon.

Mr. John Gray

4 Mar. 1775

Please to let me know if Mr. Jonas Whebell is living, and if he is, give him the account of the above fatt yarn, which desire him to land and forward per Hatherell's waggon to me as soon as landed. I have 4 fatts more shipped on the *London*, John Barclay master, of whose arrival desire Mr. Whebell to advise me.

643 Mr. Jeremiah Day & Son

13 Mar. 1775

I find you missed my young man at Bristol. Enclosed I remit you bill on Sir Charles Raymond & Co., £50, which pray acknowledge receipt of.

I hope the cloths are sent to Bristol by the time this reaches you, as all the rest to go with them are brought in; and that they will be good and prove worth the price.

You'll remember to direct them for me to be sent from the 'White Lion', Thomas Street, per Richard Newton.

644 Messrs. Duve & Möller

18 Mar. 1775

. . . Am favoured with yours of 3 and 17 Feb. with invoice of 1 fatt yarn, no. 88, shipped on the *Hambro Merchant*, Richard Strong, amounting to mks. 1377 which is placed to your credit; but I think it a very high price, mks. 4.8s. for yarn of $4\frac{3}{4}$ to $5\frac{3}{4}$. I see you have shipped 4 fatts on the *London*, John Barclay, and hoped to ship one more on him, of which I shall soon expect to receive invoice. Am sorry you could not get more yarn from the widow, as she is more to be depended upon than others, and my dealers have been used to her yarn.

The cloths to your patterns are now bringing in, so that I cannot get more than 3 or 4 pieces made to pattern of list sent me. As yet the red cloths are not sold nor can I say when they will . . . [*the rest torn out*].

[*Some leaves torn out.*]

645 Mr. John Gray

26 Apr. 1775

I have this day sent up 23 cloths for 2 bales as above, which when ready ship to Messrs. Mayne & Co., Lisbon; and next week hope to send up 2 or 3 bales more.

Pray ask the office keeper for the account of insurance I ordered him to make on the *Hawk*, John Newby master, from Hamburg, which was £500 at 1 per cent., and send me account of it . . .

646 Mr. Jonas Whebell

1 May 1775

I have yours of 29th ult. advising the arrival of the *London* and *Hawk* from Hamburg, and hope soon to hear that my yarn is landed. Pray be curious in inspecting the fatts that they are free from damage, as I have insured them in London,

Be so kind as to enquire the price of yarn of some principal importer in London and send it to me. I think Prior Harford & Co.⁵ does considerable. Your answer per return of post will oblige.

The price of yarn of 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 5 $\frac{3}{4}$, 7 to 8, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$, 8 to 9, best 3 crown yarn.

647 Henry Hoare Esq.

1 May 1775

. . . I have this day accepted Jeanne Elizabeth Jennings's and Jeanne Gabrielle Trembley's draft on me dated in Geneva 15 Apr. last payable tomorrow to the order of Messrs. les frères Eynard & Lagrange, for £204 13s. 4d. stg. payable to you, which beg the favour of you to pay and to send the bill to me; and your account shall have credit for the same.

I had some reason to think (from conversation with Mr. Fangoin)⁶ that your kinsman, Richard Hoare Esq., might have occasion for some money in this country, and therefore kept £3 or £400 by me which he would have been very welcome to; but my stay in London was much longer than expected, and I believe he was returned from Stourhead before I got home. If he is not supplied, that sum is at his service.

648 Messrs. Lucadore & Co.

1 May 1775

Enclosed you have Jeanne Elizabeth Jennings's and Jeanne Gabrielle Trembley's bill on me for £204 13s. 4d. stg. payable tomorrow, which I have accepted.

649 Messrs. Duve & Möller

6 May 1775

. . . Am favoured with yours of 7 [and] 24 Mar. and 25th ult., with invoices and bills lading of 4 fatts yarn per *London*, John Barclay, amount mks. 5603.10s.; of 4 ditto per *Hawk*, John Newby, amount mks. 5641.14s. which is placed to your credit; and I have accepted your draft on me for £200 stg. and sent it to Messrs. John Dunn & Co. of London.

I observe what you say of the widow and I think her very wrong in endeavouring to go from her word and engagement for the 9 fatts at mks. 4.9s.; but must leave you to do with her the best you can. There are 4 fatts now unshipped of my orders given 5 Nov. year past, viz. 1 fatt 8 to 9 and 3 fatts 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$, which hope soon to have invoice of from you.

If you cannot get me the 2 fatts of 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ordered in my last in a month's time from this date, and at less than mks. 5 per bundle, then omit them, as shall not care to sell yarn for nothing or perhaps a loss . . .

650 Messrs. Jeremiah Day & Son

6 May 1775

I have yours of 31 Mar. and 7 Apr. last and have examined the cloths sent me, of which have returned you 4 pieces and 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ yards of scarlet cloth. The 4 pieces are too bad for me, no. 29448 rowy, 29458 spotted, 29463 very thin, and 29445 very unsuant dyed and spotted.

⁵ Merchants, 26 Budge Row.

⁶ Hoare's agent on the Stourhead estate. His name frequently appears in the estate accounts, now in Wilts. R.O. The Fangoin family, of Huguenot origin, lived at Wolverton near Mere (Baker).

The cloths I have taken as above, if you approve of the prices. If not I will order the 4 pieces at 5s. 9d. to be delivered to your order in London or sent you from thence, as you may direct. One cloth, no. 29469, I was obliged to get dressed in Frome, as it was left excessive high in wool that it would not do to send abroad, and it is now the best piece dressed in all the parcel. I never saw cloths so foul and bad set out of hand in all my life. They were begun to be perched⁷ Monday 24 Apr. and was not finished until last Monday 1 May. You'll take care to send me no more cloths so foul in future, for if you do, I must send them to Frome to be cleaned, or else back to you.

(P.S.) The 4 pieces cloth returned are directed for you to go from the 'Swan' in Maryport Street⁸ per Nailsworth carrier.

651 Edward Mayne Esq.

6 May 1775

The 26th ult. I sent up to Mr. John Gray 23 cloths, and the 3rd inst. 54 cloths, and have ordered him to ship them all to your house in Lisbon, but you will please to give directions on what ship or ships you would have them put on board, to divide the risk.

The cloths to your last patterns are in hand, and I shall soon expect them to be brought in; and shall want patterns to continue the makers in little time.

Mr. Elton of Bristol asks £52 per ton money⁹ for his Gallipoly oil; pray what is the London price?

652 Messrs. Duve & Möller

31 May 1775

. . . Am favoured with yours of 18th inst. with invoice and bill lading of 2 fatts yarn shipped on the *Hambro* [*Merchant*], Richard Strong master, amount mks. 3276.12s., which is placed to your credit; and hope the widow will send you 2 fatts more of 7½ to 8½ soon, as it will [be] very late and the season for sale and whiting will be over in little time.

I have great reason to complain of fatt * no. 49, which was sent as yarn of 8 to 9 lbs. per bundle, but did not weigh so heavy as D. & M. 89 and 92, and the yarn made of coarse flax with a great many foxy or red coloured bundles in it which never can be whitened; so that I expect to lose by it. Indeed I would not give mks. 4.4s. for such stuff and have this year seen better at mks. 4.3s.

Annexed you have invoice of one bale, quantity 9 Spanish cloths, shipped on board the *Love and Friendship*, Jacob Taakes master, for Hamburg, amounting to £72 4s. 7d., which please to credit me at exchange 34/3. The other 3 pieces turned out so bad in colour that I would not take them . . .

653 Edward Mayne Esq.

31 May 1775

I am honoured with yours of 27th inst. and observe the contents and how you have ordered Mr. Gray to pack the cloths; but he should be careful to set the patterns according to the instructions I gave him, which I hope is done right, but think you would do well to examine into it.

⁷ i.e. hung up in order that the wool on the surface might be raised with teazels prior to being shorn.

⁸ Bristol. ⁹ i.e. cash down.

Enclosed is a letter to your house in Lisbon with invoice of 5 bales, quantity 54 cloths, shipped on the *Love*, Abraham Passmore master, amounting to £502 10s. 7d., which sum you'll please to credit me; and I have this day drawn upon you, payable to Henry Hoare Esq. & Co. or order at 30 days' date, for £682 4s. 11d., which when paid will be the balance of account due to me.

I should be glad to receive some patterns from you soon; if not must bespeak some cloths upon my own account, as I would willingly keep the makers employed.

654 Mr. John Gray

31 May 1775

I have yours of 27th inst. with charges on 5 bales Spanish cloths shipped on the *Love*, Abraham Passmore, for Lisbon, amount £16 19s. 10d., and of 1 bale, quantity 9 Spanish, shipped on Captain Taakes for Hamburg, amount £3 3s. 3d. which is placed to your credit.

I hope you have made up the patterns and put the initial letters upon them according to directions I sent you and not as the cloths are packed, which pray let me know, I mean those for Lisbon . . .

I desire you will send me down all the remnants of cloths cut off, per Hatherell's waggon, as I want to return them to him, having changed my carrier.

You measure the cloths very slack, at least more so than used to be done, which pray take care of in future . . .

655 Mr. William Tatnall jun.

31 May 1775

I have this day sent you per Andrews 4 pieces tick as above which are all I can yet get at 15d. per yard; and doubt must charge 15½d. for the remainder of your order, as they are in demand and none on hand.

656 Mr. Jonas Whebell

31 May 1775

. . . In yours of 27th inst. you say, my '*last fatt per Harvey's waggon set out last night at 11 o'clock*', but that waggon came by my door this day with a fatt of yarn in it for another person, and mine is left behind; so that the bookkeeper must have given a false information to the person you sent. This is trifling with me in an unfair manner and may lose the sale of the yarn. I desire you will go yourself and see if my fatt is gone or not; and if not, take it from the yard and send it per Andrews's waggon either from the '*Saracen's Head*' or Gerrard's Hall Inn, advising me what you have done in it.

657 The same

5 June 1775

I have yours of 3 May, but it should have been June, and observe the contents. Am glad my fatt yarn * no. 4 went per Harvey last Thursday.

My fatt D. & M. no. 91 came to my hands per Harvey's waggon the 17th ult. I hope the *Hambro* [Merchant], Captain Richard Strong, may soon arrive from Hamburg.

658 Mr. John Stevens

5 June 1775

I have yours of 3rd inst. and observe you had sold my cloths at £8 10s. each, but you don't say how many pieces. On the other side is the account cost of them, which I suppose Mr. Gray shewed you. Pray did you ever apply to Messrs. Fryers & Co.¹ for an abatement or allowance to be made on these cloths? If not you ought to have done it, as you took a thorn from their feet and put it into mine. Pray let me know whether they will consider of this matter or not.

(P.S.) Let me know how many pieces of mine you sold to Richard Willis Esq.²

659 Mr. John Gray

5 June 1775

I have yours of 3rd inst. with a letter from Mr. Stevens and account of freight of yarn per the *Hawk*, £10 7s. 3d.; ditto per the *London*, £10 7s. 9d.; £20 15s., which is placed to your credit.

660 Mr. Charles Pinhorn, Master
of the Post Office in Shaston

8 June 1775

This morning Mr. William White sent me a note, the contents whereof are as follows: 'Inform Mr. Hindley that with regard to the boy's returning from Cary through Gillingham Wednesdays is by order of the office, which he must adhere to. Yours etc., T. Adams'.

I am therefore to desire you will inform me what office it is Mr. Adams means, whether the General Post Office in London or that of Shaston. I think the office in London should know better, as it is a day which leads to the foreign post of Hamburg, Amsterdam, etc. Your answer will oblige.

(P.S.) Our principal manufacturers in this place and Bourton must be distressed, as the London waggons goes up Wednesdays from this town, but not before 10 or 12 o'clock in morning.

661 Edward Mayne Esq.

10 June 1775

. . . Hope in little time to receive some patterns, as otherwise must bespeak some cloths for Lisbon on my own account, for I am unwilling to lose the makers, as may not get such again.

I shall be obliged to you for the price of Gallipoly, Barbary, and Lisbon oil in London per return of post, with your opinion thereon.

662 Messrs. Rowley & Ellis

14 June 1775

. . . As soon as I can get 4 pieces $\frac{3}{4}$ and nail rough they shall be sent, but our manufacturers have large orders and have risen their prices 1d. per yard or more, owing to the orders from Mr. James Standerwick,³ the reason for which, or how he has such a demand, I am at a loss to conceive, as I think but little can go to America.

¹ Probably Fryer, Webb & Fryer, Blackwell Hall factors, 15 Aldermanbury.

² Merchant, 1 Crescent, Minorities.

³ Haberdasher, 74 Cornhill. See Intro. p. xxi. His father and brothers were tickmakers in the neighbourhood of Mere: Lord St. Aldwyn's MS. BC/2, to W. Tatnall, 19 Feb. 1759. Later Standerwicks intermarried with a later generation of Hindleys.

663 Mr. William Tatnall

14 June 1775

. . . Our manufacturers have large orders and have risen their prices 1*d.* to 1½*d.* per yard. I believe Mr. James Standerwick hath been the principal cause, having had (as I have heard) a large order for America, which I should have thought he might have supplied from last Bristol fair.

664 Mr. Charles Pinhorn

14 June 1775

The above is copy of what I wrote you 8th inst. to which have received no answer. The post boy this morning at half an hour after 8 o'clock told me his order was to return back by way of Gillingham, which I will give a just representation of at the General Post Office if continued one week longer, on which you may depend.

665 Mr. Jonas Whebell

19 June 1775

I have yours of 15th and 17th inst. with account charges on landing my 2 fatts yarn per *Hamburg Merchant*, Richard Strong master, amount £1 19*s.* for which you have above my draft on Mr. John Gray, the receipt of which please to acknowledge.

You give me the gross weight D. & M. 93, 20 cwt. 0 qr. 25 lb. which I think and hope is your mistake, as I suppose must weigh 23 cwt. 0 qr. 25 lb., please to examine this matter and advise me.

666 Mr. John Gray

19 June 1775

Enclosed I remit you Thomas Coffin's bill upon Robert Albion Cox for £15, which credit me; and this day have drawn upon you for £1 19*s.* payable to Mr. Jonas Whebell or order, which please to pay, and also the freight, average, etc. of 2 fatts yarn per *Hamburg Merchant*, Richard Strong master, and send me the account.

Pray advise me the days that the post goes out for Amsterdam and Hamburg, etc., which is 2 days in the week; and when and how often in the week for Lisbon and the day or days. Advise me the Post Master General's name, as I shall want to write to the office. Pray are you acquainted with any of the officers? . . .

667 Mr. Charles Madox

19 June 1775

I got home well with my boy Saturday evening and hope this will find you in good health.

Am willing to have some America flour. If you will buy 4 casks for me of your partner pray do it, and send by Richard Newton's Kilmington waggon. I think you told me there were 3 sorts of flour. I would have 2 of the middling. As to paying for it, let your brother do it and draw upon me payable to your sister, and then he may remit her the less. Pray send 2 casks of best flour and 2 ditto of the middle sort, unless you think the best sort cheapest.

668 Mr. William Way⁴

24 June 1775

With this you'll receive copies of the appointment of trustees for the Bell House,⁵ which I hope will be sufficient for you to govern by in a fresh appointment of trustees. The original of these drafts I should think must be in your custody or in some hands of your town. If Mr. Robert Gapper⁶ of London is the only representative of the trust now living, I suppose he will appoint a new one without too much solicitation, and when that is done I shall be ready to treat with the gentlemen appointed, for the addition of two lives into the house.

669 In the *Duke of Gloucester*, Marlow Sutherland master, at Hamburg, 1 fatt D. & M. 95 quantity 300 bundles heavy yarn. When arrived send per Andrews's first waggon, either from the 'Saracen's Head', Friday Street, or Gerrards Hall Inn.

Mr. Jonas Whebell

26 June 1775

I wrote you 19th inst. with my draft on John Gray for £1 19s. and desired to know the right weight of fatt no. 93; since none from you.

Above you have account of 1 fatt yarn per *Duke of Gloster*, which on arrival forward as above directed.

670 Henry Hoare Esq.

28 June 1775

Enclosed I remit you on account of William Beach Esq. 10 bills, viz., Nathaniel Elias Cosserrat on Agassiz Grillet & Co., £15; Thomas Hopkins on Ashmore & Badger, £13 11s.; Christopher Irwin on Weatherall & Eaton, £10 16s.; John Brake jun. on John Yeatherd, £15; John Vicary on John Knights, £10; John Winson on William Callon, £10; Duntze Praed & Co. on Hallidays & Co., £15; ditto on ditto, £10; ditto on ditto, £10; ditto on ditto, £15; in all £124 7s., which you'll please to advise me the receipt of, and him also.

I duly received your favour of 22nd inst. with John Henry Baur & Rode's bill on me of 17 Mar. last, paid by you, for £25 12s. 2d., which is placed to your credit.

671 Mr. William Gayner

1 July 1775

I have your favour of 26th ult. and observe the contents. Mr. Isaac Elton hath deferred his resolution too long, as my customers are almost supplied and the crops abroad are promising, so that I would not give more than £44 per ton at present and that price for only one pipe, which if he thinks proper to send me, I will immediately remit him for; but I don't desire you to press him for it as it is a matter of small import.

⁴ Probably of Wincanton where there were several Ways in 1791. Cf. 470 where (if the same man is intended) he may have been attending Andover fair.

⁵ The former Bell Inn in Wincanton of which Henry Plucknett had taken a lease in 1752. It was still in the possession of Mrs. Hindley at her death in 1824; but the two further lives were never added to the lease.

⁶ Probably Robert Gapper Esq., Barrister-at-Law, second son of Abraham Gapper of Wincanton. The Gappers were a well-known legal family there in the 18th century: W. Phelps, *Somerset*, i. 165.

(P.S.) If the pipe of Barbary oil is sent, let it be directed or marked RA., Crockerton,⁷ by Blake's Warminster waggon.

672 Messrs. Tesdale Webb 8 July 1775

I have this day sent you 2 pieces tick as above, which hope will please. They have been and now are advanced in price and very scarce, which I suppose will be the case till after the corn harvest. The remainder of your order shall be sent as soon as possible.

673 Mrs. Spinks⁸ 8 July 1775

Mr. Grove hath paid for newspapers for you, for the years 1771 and 1772, £4 4s., and from 1772 to 18 May 1775, £6 5s. 3d.; [in all] £10 9s. 3d.; let me know if I shall repay him £10 9s. 3d. which I will do if you order it, as think it will be hurtful to your house if the papers are not continued in it.

674 Mr. Jeremiah Day & Son 10 July 1775

I wrote you 6 May last to which have received no answer. The 4 pieces cloth were duly returned to go from the 'Swan' in Maryport Street and hope you have received them.

I should be glad of a line from you to know when may expect the cloths I ordered from you, because part of the others to go with them are now in my warehouse. Pray give me an answer per return of post.

675 Anthony Todd Esq.⁹ 10 July 1775

I take liberty to send you the enclosed letter from gentlemen and tradesmen of this neighbourhood and make no doubt of having relief in regard to the post being ordered to return through Bourton and this parish Wednesday in the afternoon, the regular post road, as it gives every subscriber and others a great deal of trouble to send letters that day; which I must think owing to the ignorance of Mr. Pinhorn in ordering the boy to return per way of Gillingham out of the post road. I have wrote him upon it (of which letters enclosed are copies), but he has not been pleased to give me any answer.

676 Messrs. Mayne & Co. 15 July 1775

. . . Am favoured with yours of 23rd ult. with your remittance in bill on Edward Mayne Esq. for 240 milreis, exchange 65½d., which shall be placed to your credit.

Annexed you have copy of my letter wrote you 25 Feb. last; how it should miscarry and not reach your hands I cannot account for, as it went up per same post as the letter from William Beach Esq., which you have answered.

(P.S.) I see you intended sending me patterns for 60 pieces Spanish cloths per the *Helen*, which when comes to hand shall take care to bespeak; but our

⁷ Probably Richard Adlam of Crockerton, but he does not appear to have belonged to the branch of the family which owned (or leased) Crockerton Mill: Gunn, *Nonconformity in Warminster*, p. 37.

⁸ Landlady of the Angel Inn, Mere (Baker).

⁹ Secretary of the Post Office: K. Ellis, *The Post Office in the 18th Century* (1958), pt. 3. The result of the appeal is not known.

clothiers have large orders and I doubt shall be obliged to advance the price to 6s. per yard, but shall consult E. Mayne Esq. on this head.

677 Mr. Charles Frederick Bentley¹

15 July 1775

I duly received your favours of 3 Feb. and 8 Dec. 1774, and have now before me yours of 15th ult., and observe their contents. You say can send good $\frac{3}{4}$ sleeked dowlas² from rix dollars $4\frac{7}{8}$ to rix dollars $6\frac{7}{8}$, which are too high priced for our market and my sale; as they ought to be good from rix dollars $4\frac{1}{4}$ to $6\frac{1}{4}$. Indeed the dowlas from your country have come so dear and ordinary that it is very difficult to sell them, and at present very few are sold and less will be, as we have many manufactured in these parts and the trade increasing very fast, being stouter, better made goods than yours and as cheap, so that at present I cannot engage in anything from you; but should an alteration happen I may write you for some.

678 Messrs. William Westley & Son

15 July 1775

I have your favour of 8th inst. with your draft upon Mrs. Spinks,³ but she hath been gone from this town some time and lives at Codford. When I see her will demand the money and let you know the success.

679 Mr. Peregrine Stockdale⁴

15 July 1775

I have yours of 13th inst. with $2\frac{1}{4}$ yards superfine blue cloth, which I herewith return you again, as it has no less than 3 rows in it which think you ought to send to Mr. Tugwell.⁵ You may send me $2\frac{1}{4}$ yards of same cloth if free from rows. I never saw a superfine cloth so badly picked and set out of hand.

680 Messrs. Duve & Möller

19 July 1775

. . . Have received your favours of 16 [and] 20 June and 7th inst.; per the former invoice and bill lading of 1 fatt no. 95, per the *Duke of Gloster*, amount mks. 1491.12s. which is placed to your credit. I have bespoke the 13 pieces Spanish to your patterns, which shall be sent when ready.

I find yarn is risen to mks. 5.4s. so am glad you will not send me any more. The red cloths are sold in London to Richard Willis Esq. for the Turkey trade at £4 5s. per half piece; 7 half pieces amounts to £29 15s. at 9 months' credit from 1 June, so when paid for will send you account thereof.

It is well that you will send my account current with a remittance for the balance, in which you give me credit for the 9 pieces Spanish cloths per Jacob Taakes, stg. £72 4s. 7d. exchange 34/3 . . .

¹ Probably of Hamburg.

² Sleeked or sleeked dowlas was densely woven and made solely for the English market: J. J. Oddy, *European Commerce* (1805), p. 404. Harding was buying dowlas in 1750 at R.D. $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{1}{2}$, and up to 1760 it had never been above R.D. 4 to $6\frac{1}{2}$. Some of it he sold in England at 21s. to 30s. per piece: Lord St. Aldwyn's MS. BC/1 to J. Thornton, 20 July 1751.

³ A different woman from the addressee of 673, probably the widow of Robert Spinks, carpenter, d. 1772 (Baker).

⁴ Woollen Draper, 41 High St., Bristol (Sketchley).

⁵ Probably a clothier of Bradford-on-Avon where there was a family of Tugwells in the industry at this time.

681 Mr. Jonas Whebell 19 July 1775

. . . All my fatts of yarn (except no. 95) are safely come to hand, and that I expect tomorrow. Above is my draft on Mr. John Gray for £1 1s., your charges in landing no. 95.

682 Messrs. Jeremiah Day & Son 19 July 1775

I wrote you 10th inst., since none from you, but am daily expecting an answer as the cloths I have bought remains in warehouse until yours come in; but if you have not dyed them and you cannot send them to me in 14 days' time, let me know it, as I will do without them.

Above you have my draft on John Smith for £80, which advise receipt of per return of post.

683 Mr. William Tatnall jun. 19 July 1775

. . . I cannot get good $\frac{3}{4}$ and nails to send under $16\frac{1}{2}d.$; if you would give that price for broad stripes pray let me know it.

(P.S.) Please to return my wrappers per Andrews.

684 Messrs. Domingos Roiz de Almeida & Co. 22 July 1775

Mr. Thomas Croft of London hath conveyed me your favour of 2 June the contents whereof I observe. In about a month's time I hope to ship the cloths to your patterns having some of them, about 26 half pieces, now in my warehouse. As soon as shipped I shall draw upon Mr. Croft for the amount and he will send you invoice etc. thereof.

685 Mr. Thomas Croft 22 July 1775

I have your favour of 20th inst. with an enclosed from Messrs. Domingos Roiz de Almeida & Co. of Oporto, to which I have given answer in the enclosed to them, which, after perusal, please to seal and send them per first post.

If their answer and resolution had not come in time, I intended to have sent the cloths to your house in Oporto upon my own account; and indeed I have paid for all I have now in warehouse and hope the rest will soon be brought in, so that the whole may be shipped in a month, of which invoice etc. in due time. If you think proper to write to your house at Oporto to send me some patterns for 2 bales Spanish cloths of 12 pieces each, I may send them on my proper account, and perhaps, when a good vintage, take one half in wines; to which pray your answer . . .

686 Mrs. Spinks 24 July 1775

I have yours of 23rd inst. and will pay Mr. Grove his demand, and Mr. Rothwell when I see him. Have cautioned Mr. White about Swainsford Ground.

687 Edward Mayne Esq. 24 July 1775

I have your esteemed favour of 22nd inst. with patterns for 61 pieces Spanish cloths to be bespoke, which should be glad to get at 5s. 9d. per yard, but am

afraid cannot do it at present, as I offered that price with patterns for 24 pieces on my own account to send to Lisbon when had not patterns from you, but could not get them made by the maker I esteem, as wool is much risen in price. You will please to consider of this and let me know whether I may give 6s. per yard for these cloths or not. I am very unwilling to rise the price but think shall be obliged to do it, as our wool staplers are mad.

I am obliged to you for your notations on the price and Safra⁶ of oil.

(P.S.) Beg the favour of knowing the exchange to Hamburg when you answer this letter.

688 Henry Hoare Esq.

24 July 1775

I have your favour of 18th inst. with bill of John Vicary on John Knights, value £10, returned for want of advice, which is placed to your credit . . .

[Some pages torn out.]

689 Messrs. Mayne & Co.

26 Aug. 1775

. . . Annexed you have invoice of 3 bales, quantity 30 pieces Spanish cloth, shipped on board the *Hunter*, John Kennedy master, amounting to £282 4s. 1d. for which sum I shall value myself on Edward Mayne Esq. in London. You will find 3 or 4 pieces cloth wanting to the patterns sent me, which I could not get to content and therefore omitted them. What are sent you'll find exceeding good.

I have received patterns from E. Mayne Esq. for 61 pieces Spanish cloth, the greatest part whereof are under hand and the whole shall be as soon as possible, but the common colours will cost 6s. per yard; therefore I think you ought to make an advance on these now sent which cost 5s. 9d. Our makers have large orders and wool is much risen in price. How long it may continue I cannot say.

690 Edward Mayne Esq.

26 Aug. 1775

. . . I shall be obliged to give 6s. per yard for the cloths to the last patterns, the price of wool being much raised, though I cannot conceive the cause, or for what part of the world there are such large orders for our manufactures.

691 Mr. John Gray

26 Aug. 1775

I have yours of 24th inst. with account charges on 3 bales, quantity 30 Spanish cloths, shipped on the *Hunter*, amount £9 10s. 6d.; and also account of freight paid on 3 fatts yarn per Captains Strong and Sutherland . . . £6 1s. 4d. which is placed to your credit . . .

692 Edward Mayne Esq.

28 Aug. 1775

. . . Am favoured with yours of 26th inst. with an enclosed from Messrs. Mayne & Co. of Lisbon of 2nd inst. and patterns for 16 pieces Spanish cloths, which I will endeavour to provide in the best manner possible; but find the people in Lisbon are got into extravagant dear colours, for which they ought

⁶ No explanation of this term has been found.

to pay. As to finding fault, I never knew it otherwise in the Lisbon buyers and all I can say is that I will do the best I can to prevent it, though I suppose without success.

693 In the *Hamburg Merchant*, Richard Strong master, at Hamburg, 1 fatt DM no. 44, quantity 300 bundles heavy yarn. Send per first Newbury barge after landing.

Mr. Jonas Whebell

2 Sept. 1775

I duly received yours of 17th, 22nd, 29th, and 31st ult. ; per the latter account of charges in landing my fatt yarn no. 43 per *London Merchant*, amounting to £1 Is., which I have ordered Mr. John Gray to pay when you call for it.

Above is account of one fatt no. 44 shipped on the *Hamburg Merchant*, Richard Strong, who was to sail from Hamburg the first fair wind; but when that will happen I cannot say, as the wind seems fixed at W. and SSW. in these parts, with rain. As soon as you hear of her arrival pray advise me. I hope the people will cover my fatt no. 43 on board the barge, otherwise am afraid it will be wet and damaged.

694 Mr. Thomas Croft

2 Sept. 1775

I have this day sent up to Mr. John Gray 22 half pieces Spanish cloths to be packed in one bale for your friend in Oporto, which is one half his order; the others shall follow in 14 days' time, waiting only for 4 half pieces sad blues which are not yet ready. I suppose you will ship the cloths and if you think proper may let those now sent up remain for the others and ship the whole together, of which you'll please to acquaint Mr. Gray.

695 Messrs. Duve & Möller

2 Sept. 1775

. . . Am favoured with yours of 1st and 22nd ult. per the former invoice and bill lading of 1 fatt yarn per *London [Merchant]*, amount mks. 1491.12s.; per the latter ditto of 1 fatt yarn per *Hambro Merchant*, amount mks. 1491.12s. which is placed to your credit; and I have accepted your first bill of exchange on me payable to Messrs. Johann Christian von Alvorden & Co. for stg. £163 13s. 1d. and sent the same to Messrs. John Dunn & Co. to remain at disposition of its second.

I will endeavour to give you my orders for yarn next month, in time for the widow.

696 Mr. John Gray

2 Sept. 1775

I wrote you 26th ult. when remitted you a bill on James Standerwick for £20, since none from you, which is surprising that you cannot advise the receipt of a bill sent you per return of the post. It is what no merchant in London would have been guilty of.

This day have sent up per Andrews 22 half cloths to be packed in one bale, D.R.A. no. 2, the cloths to be numbered 39 and so on as they come to your hands. Advise Mr. Thomas Croft of it who perhaps will look at them; and I suppose he will ship them to his friend at Oporto . . .

697 Mr. Peter Frisquett 2 Sept. 1775

I intend to send my son Christopher⁷ up to London by the coach, Monday next, and suppose he may be at the Saracen's Head Inn, Friday Street, Tuesday evening. Indeed if the weather should be very bad or if the coach should be full, he then will not go from hence till Wednesday and be in London Thursday. I shall take it as a favour if you would be at the inn, as the boy is quite a stranger. Mrs. Hindley will write Mrs. Frisquett by the boy . . .

698 Messrs. Jeremiah Day & Son 6 Sept. 1775

Above you have patterns for 5 pieces cloth, which pray send me with the others already bespoke and at same prices. Give me a line of the receipt of this letter with patterns.

699 Mr. B. Barnard 11 Sept. 1775

The 2nd inst. I had a fatt of yarn, DM no. 43, sent per barge from London for Newbury, which I hope is got safe; but the continual rain we have had since is the occasion of this, to desire you will let me know in what condition it came to you.

I expect the arrival of another fatt every day at London, which I have ordered by barge to you, and will send for them in time; but desire you will take care [to] keep the fatt no. 43 in good condition until the other gets to your hands, and pray let me have your account when I send for the 2 fatts.

700 Messrs. Rowley & Ellis 13 Sept. 1775

I have your favour of 6th inst. with orders for 20 pieces tick which shall be sent as soon as possible, but our harvest is not yet over and the workmen are out of their looms.

This day have sent you 2 pieces $\frac{3}{4}$ and nail, best dyes, at 16*d.* which are worth the money and cost me 15*d.* per yard.

701 William Beach Esq. 19 Sept. 1775

I have your esteemed favour of 18th inst. and observe the contents. Above you have my draft on Henry Hoare Esq. & Co. for £400, which have drawn at 10 days' date to prevent loss, in case you should be robbed on the road, which hope will not happen.

I have also a copy of Mr. Hilman's letter on the affair of Fear,⁸ and congratulate you on the success; but must desire you will not pay him the £50 subscribed until I have been at Mark and talked with the tenants there.

I intend to wait upon you next Friday morning, and if can be of any service in London will attend you thither . . .

⁷ Christopher was just over 14. From 706 it looks as if he was to be apprenticed to Frisquett. In later life, after meeting with difficulties in England, he went to Russia, where in 1795 he was employed in a cordage store in Cronstadt belonging to the American consul. Subsequently he went to Lisbon, but returned to Russia in 1813 and died shortly afterwards: from a series of letters, the first three of which are in Wilts. R.O. 372/5 and the remainder in the possession of Captain Maggs.

⁸ Fear was one of the tenants at Mark, but no light can be thrown on the 'affair'.

702 Mr. Thomas Croft 23 Sept. 1775

. . . The remaining 22 half pieces cloth are gone for London this day and wish may reach Mr. Gray's hands in time. It was impossible to send them sooner as I waited for 4 halves sad blues. As soon as are shipped or I can have account from Mr. Gray, you may depend upon having the invoice sent.

703 Messrs. Rowley & Ellis 2 Oct. 1775

. . . Very few ticks have been made lately owing to the wet weather we have had, which have kept the harvest long in hand and the workmen much longer employed in the fields than usual.

(Signed for Hindley by William Webb.)

704 Mr. Thomas Croft 7 Oct. 1775

Annexed you have invoice of 2 bales, quantity 44 half pieces cloth, shipped on board the *Kirby Hall*, James George master, for Oporto, amounting to £209 19s. for which you'll please to give me credit; and in little time I shall draw upon you for said sum. I make no doubt but the cloths will give content.

705 Henry Hoare Esq. 9 Oct. 1775

On examining and settling your account current on my books I find the balance due to me this day is £753 8s. 6½d. which you will please to examine; and, if right, note it in conformity to my credit in a new account, advising me the same per return of the post, as I want to make you a further remittance.

706 Mr. Peter Nicholas Frisquett 16 Oct. 1775

I have your favour of 10th inst. (which came when I was from home) and observe the contents. Above you have my draft on Henry Hoare Esq. & Co. for £52 3s. which please to advise receipt of.

I hope my son Christopher will turn out to your satisfaction. I see that I am to find washing, which beg Mrs. Frisquett will keep account of and Mrs. Hindley shall pay her . . .

707 Mr. James Henry Bohmen 21 Oct. 1775

I have your favour of 3rd inst. and observe the contents. You may provide for me 2 fatts of 300 bundles each of the very best yarn, of 7½ to 8½ per bundle; and when ready send it to Messrs. John Daniel Baur & Rode of Altona for my account, upon whom you may draw for the amount; but I would not have the yarn shipped till spring of the year as I have not yet remitted them money for payment, but intend to do it in 14 days' time, waiting the benefit in exchange; but then the bill I remit will be at 2 or 2½ usance.

The last yarn sent was made of too coarse flax, being spilly and bad colour. I do not now limit you in price but expect the best yarn your country produceth, which will serve for my government in future.

708 Messrs. Duve & Möller . . . 21 Oct. 1775

. . . This week have received the 2 fatts of yarn **DM** 43 and 44, which proves too bad for my sale; and I never desire to see any more from this collector as his yarn will not do for me, which pray observe.

You may bespeak for me of the widow the yarn below mentioned and I hope she will send it all good, especially as I expect a bad trade for our linens next spring; and in course, if yarn is not very good, it will meet a bad sale.

I expect to begin remitting you for payment of the yarn in about 14 days, waiting only for the benefit of exchange.

Two fatts of 300 bundles each 8 to 9, 2 of 300 7 to 8, 9 of 300 $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $8\frac{1}{2}$, 1 of 500 $4\frac{3}{4}$ to $5\frac{3}{4}$: 14 fatts.

709 Mr. John Gray 21 Oct. 1775

I duly received yours of 5th inst. with account packing and shipping charges on 2 bales Spanish on the *Kirby Hall*, James George master, for Oporto, amounting to £10 10s. 6d. which is placed to your credit. Please to send me my account current and I will remit you the balance, and to send forward the 2 enclosed letters per first post for Germany.

710 Mr. John Smith 23 Oct. 1775

. . . Have this day sent you 2 pieces ticks as above which I think will please. The worst of them cost me 15d. per yard present money, so that I shall not be able to send you more under 16d. per yard. I don't know what you think of trade, but to me it is very mysterious . . .

711 Messrs. Rowley & Ellis 3 Oct. 1775

. . . The remainder of your order shall be sent as soon as possible but the makers ask very high prices for their goods, even more than I charge you . . .

[*Remainder of book torn out.*]

Among the loose letters in the collection in the Wiltshire Record Office, most of which deal with Beach's money-lending operations, are the two following, addressed to H. P. Hindley:

712 From F. W. Möller, Hamburg 8 Mar. 1785

We have in due time received your esteemed of the 7th past and enclosed send bill of loading and invoice of 1 fatt yarn shipped on board the *Ann*, Thomas Potts, amounting to mks. 1632 for which we have debited your account. We have standing ready 2 fatts no. 117 and 118 but can't get them shipped because our river is full [of] ice and unnavigable; but we expect it shall be in a fortnight. We are in advance of these 2 fatts having already paid them, for our neighbours . . . [*obscured by seal*].

We have this day drawn on you £125 16s. 10d. payable in London to our own order, exchange at 34/7, mks. 1632 which balance this account. These mks. 1632 makes at 35/3, which is the exchange in London hither, £123 9s. 2d., so that you had [had] a benefit of £2 7s. 8d. if you had made us remittance.

Hamburg, 8 Mar. 1785

Invoice of one fatt yarn shipped on board the *Ann*, Thomas Potts master, bound for London, for account and risk of Mr. Henry P. Hindley, merchant in Mere.

1 fatt containing 200 bundles best brown yarn from 5 to 6 lbs. at mks. 5.4s., mks. 1050; 100 bundles 8 to 9 lbs. mks. 5.8s., mks. 550: mks. 1600. Commission at 2 per cent., mks. 32: mks. 1632.

Duve & Möller

713 From F. W. Möller, Hamburg

11 Sept. 1787

My last was on 21 May when I sent bill of loading of the remainder 2 fatts yarn. Since which I have not been favoured with any from you.

We shall get very fine yarn this time, since the crop of flax generally has, on account of the very fine weather, turned out exceeding well, but how their prices will be I can't mention with certainty as yet, since the spinnery is but just commencing; however I believe that the same will be near up so [?] as this spring. The sooner you send me your order the better, as the widow shall have more time to collect the best yarn for you. She has already wrote me thereabout. Can you use yarns of the quality as enclosed patterns? They has been sent me from a friend in Bohemia which send a great quantity thereof to Holland.

Pray is it impossible to get Spanish cloth as before? I should be glad to know the cause.

GENERAL INDEX

References in Arabic figures are to the numbers of the entries, not to pages; those in Roman figures are to the pages of the introduction. In the case of partners only the name of the first is indexed. The names of persons mentioned only in connection with bills or notes of hand are indexed under these headings, but bills drawn by persons who appear in other capacities will be found under the relevant name.

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