

From Goddard Smith 18/2/1741 @ Three Angels London,

Dear Sister,

I did not design to write to you till Saturday but as I am now fixed to leave here Monday, dont care to leave the appointment of my horse at Oxford to a single Post, If the Brown gelding is fit for travel I desire you will send Jack Taylor to Oxford Wednesday next the 24th. It will be right for him to set out by 5 in the morning and then may easily walk back to Kingston Inn or perhaps Faringdon Wednesday night and home Thursday. If the gelding is not fit yet. C^r P^r man Joseph Hopkins ~~and~~ etc. I would not choose one too small. I came hither yesterday and met Mr Downes at ten. He stayed and dined here with Mr Jacob who is just gone to Mrs Watsons and tomorrow at four get into the flying coach with his friends Watson, Killner & Clark for Oxford. He has made his will, I suppose very properly, by a lawyer (for I did not see it) and has paid Mr Pocock 22 guineas for a fine harpsicord which Mrs Betty Joseph has used some years. It is to be sent to Oxford next week. My nephew is quite well I believe pretty wise though he has seen near 20 plays. The last of this house Mr Walker and I went last night to Mr St. Johns to see 70 or 80 maskers who stayed there an hour in their way to the Duke of Norfolks. Among the rest the Prince and Princess of Wales Duke of Cumberland Duke of Saxe Gotha etc etc Their dresses were monstrously fine and very whimsical. Mr & Mrs St John were extremely civil to us and the Prince very intimate with them. He went yesterday to submit himself to the King, so there is an entire reconciliation, and Lord Oxford is quite roused, by³ Earl and many of the most obnoxious are with him, many of the mildest of the late mi^{ny} will be continued with the Duke of Albemarle Mr P^{ny} etc in the opposition, which in the phrase is called the Broad Bottom, That is an attempt to reconcile all party mankind seems to be greatly pleased. Its talked of sending 15000 men to the Queen of Hungary, and pushing on the war with Spain in earnest which has been yet only in jest. I propose to lie at Lion Orchard Monday night and get into the flying coach Tuesday and 6-30 at Brentford and hope to ^{be} at Oxford that night. The 26th at Sulgrave March 2nd or 3rd at Allscot and I hope the 6th at Tockenham I thank God I am very well but very thoughtful about this house because I think the welfare of many ~~early~~ may depend on it. I am sure ~~not~~ depend on my own judgement and prudence which is very little, and yet I foresee there will be much reliance on it, and be my conduct ever so cautious and sincere it will be very subject to censure it not to more substantial consequences. I pray God most heartily to give us directions and am my dear sisters & nieces ever affectionately G. S.

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From Goddard Smith at Lee 6/6/1739

I begin writing to my dear neices whenever I have any thing to say and can find leisure and by that means am not forced to break off by the coming in of company or of dinner. Your mama and brother came to Mr Josephs by water Monday by one o'clock dined there and my chaise brought them hither in the evening but your mama says she designs to add something to this and so I shall leave it to her to say about your Brother etc — Though I began this early in the morning I have no time to pursue it till 4 and it must be at Deptford at 5 but indeed I have as little to say as I have time for it. I recieved Betty's letter and am now equally obliged to you three, I think to go to Lion Orchard with your mama and brother tomorrow to Astread Friday morning to Twickenham Saturday evening and move towards ?? the 14 or 15th but you shall hear again. I must commit the china and purse commissions to Mr Pocock & the etwie (etui ??) to Mr Brown for I cant see London any more Time grows scant. I doubt not the care of all of you, dont take too much Keep Mr Smiths great puppy in the Kennel and if Thomas Blake brings more beegles, secure them, that they may not make their escape. Sure you ought to visit & Dine with Mrs Mordaunt as often as its agreeable to her as you have little company. I suppose you have geese & chicks at fattening & will have some of the 17 ducks, If you write let it be Saturday and direct it to Lion Orchard, I shall be glad if you do Twill give me pleasure, Let the vines in vineyard be watered often enough. Sow cauliflowers, lettuces, Kidney beans etc. I hope your brother is to come with me but am not sure. The whole family are to gather in the best parlour at Mrs A.S. where ^{we} ~~are~~ all dined My Service & my friends to Mrs Charman. I need not say we all are your friends none more than
G. S.

From Goddard Smith @ Lee ^{London} 29/5/1739

(1)

Tockenham.

I can now tell my dear nieces that I have at length received a letter (just now) from your Mama, full of cheerfulness and that she is well and I hope everything else. Mrs Pennington came to her yesterday for 2 or 3 weeks, and she says that Monday or Tuesday next your Mama brother and Mrs Pennington design to come hither for two nights. The 7th of June I propose to go to Mr Walker and the 12th or 13th remove Westward and hope to see you in 2 days. Mr Walker said he thought he should come with me for 3 or 4 days. I hope Mr Pocock will for as many weeks, but of this you shall hear more. I told you some paint will be at Marlborough Saturday next and I yesterday bought 3 small hams anchovies capers mustard olives of each 1 lb. Salad oil 1 quart. They will be at Marlborough Saturday too, in a smallish basket. I looked much among china but have not quite fixed. Shall I give 15/- for 6 tea cups and saucers very fine. Buy some handsome image for 9/- all blue and white or cheaper, or any sort of coloured. B & W plates 17/- or 18/- per doz. Shall I give about 20/- for 4 dishes of two sizes the largest fit for 2 large chickens for supper or larger or shall I give 7/6 each for 4 or 6 dishes matched to plates not better than the 4 at 5/- each which are so cheap because there are no plates to them. I don't incline to lay out much money, or do you want any cheap odd china. All this must be answered Saturday next. Bessy may have handsome Ewers ?? from 2 to 3 guineas, ~~and~~ Pinchbeck metal, neatly carved, embossed and double gilt.

There should be two trinkets. Has she any already or no. I have not seen Mr Cart since, so don't know if the green damask can be matched or no, but will soon, and I guess you would not have the blue damask come down till chintz does. Sir G. P. and Mr Smith would have 14 or 15 of M. Edwards cheese if they are certain to make them perfectly good which I much question. The month of ^{May} being lost, talk thoroughly with her and charge her not to attempt it unless she is sure they will be good, at least not to make more than will be so, which may depend on the heat or coolness of the weather. The later prevails at present and I hope you will guard against it at fishing. The gardeners here only set their glasses hollow on brick bars, but don't leave their cucumbers and melons quite open naked. I think I shall defer buying a banyan longer. Money runs away so fast. I have received none yet, but hope I may Friday in Smith field. I hope one of you wrote to me yesterday and that one will largely Saturday, because I can't execute any orders after that, and that will be full late, only I can give orders to Mr Pocock and who with his sister must I believe be my China Factors. I suppose Dr Adams has wrote to you to send for the

Cont.

(2)

To Miss Jacob @
Tockenham.

From Goddard Smith @ Lee 29/5/1739.

mate. I would have her kept well, I suppose on vetches. Send
much about the horses and dogs. William drove me yesterday to
London and in the streets in my chaise very well. My service to
Mrs Charman if she is so good be yet with you, I hope I have
said all I ought. This is the 1st letter I have wrote this morning
and Mrs Smith and her children are come in. I thank God I am
very well and very much your affectionate
Goddard Smith

From Daniel Pocock London 2/8/1743

(1)

Dear Sir

You charge yourself with a fault you are not guilty of, therefore I cannot, nor is it my interest to admit your plea, for some accident sometime or other may prevent me paying that due regard to some future favour I may hope for from you so soon as I ought and as is always my Inclination to do, I rejoice you have had such an agreeable journey, I have been near my Lord Pomfrets, but had not then heard of the fine antique statue of Cicero which I am informed is there & perhaps you have seen. I have also been at Northampton Harborough & Leicester where there is said to be a fine piece of Roman mosaic in a vault or cellar & well preserved. If I go on thus much farther I shall expect to be called Vermin & have my abode appointed amongst old Stones & rubbish instead of having the pleasure to see a fine Stud of Horses or Kennel of Hounds & indeed my taste don't rise so high for believe me, Scarlet was fitter for me & I for Scarlet. I am convinced I can Trisk over a horses head with great agility & have a marvellous alacrity towards sinking as saith the learned Martinus Scribberus, but I think it is by no means appearing in a graceful attitude. We have no news here at present. I hope to see Lee this week. Tryday last I called in passant on Mr Sparrow. He told me the master had signed the Report. I suppose that which you gave in, & was to sign that for the Childrens maintainance & Ambroses the same night. I wish I could give you any satisfaction as to my own affairs the reason I mention nothing of them is because I would not dash your wine with bitter. Your kind letter came in a good hour, it gave me spirits when I had nobody to converse with but my own gloomy thoughts. Surely I am a fool or a coward that I cannot get the better of them. I might have made this agreeable tour with you for what service I have been able to do here. It would have been an advantage to my health but ~~that~~ had I went, the Blatant Beast would have roared after me neglect of business I am like an ass that must bear every burden laid on me, & my reward to feed on thistles. I have obeyed your commands as well as I can to write once more to you, and you greatly indulged me by an expression, that you have a vast deal more to say to me, that thought is a feast I shall live upon till my Lord Chancellor decrees when I shall be so happy as to see you at Tockenham. I find myself very deficient in address when I would mention the high esteem I have for your Noble friends but where sincerity is yet looked upon with a favourable eye I must make it pass instead of Politeness & beg my duty to the Earl & Countess to Lord & Lady Andover though I have not the honour of a personal acquaintance. My best services attend you & Mr Jacob & wish you a safe & pleasant journey. I want room to tell you how much I am Dear Sir yours
S. Porto Cavallo is taken. etc etc Daniel Pocock

From Theo Hodges Sulgrave 23/1/1735.

I cant tell in what manner to make apology for not answering. Dear Mr Smiths letter sooner for I have neither hurry of business nor the fatigue of company to complain of.

Though I think we have had as much company as usual this very dirty ~~weather~~ weather for we have had so much rain that the roads was never worse. Mr Woodcock left us this morning. He came to fetch his daughter who has been with us some time. He told us that all our friends in that part of the world are well and that Mrs Bushell has a very fine daughter to her great joy. I hear that some of your neighbours Mr Seymour now inhabits the Great House at Lenchwick ?? I fancy they are but little talked of yet though we hear that talks of inclosing which in my opinion cant please no honest man for their poor are very numerous and to take their small priveleg away maybe called Barbarity. My sister has spoke to your tenants but they have not yet paid your rent. My sister Lydia has lately parted with her old tenant R. Wilson who has rented the estate near 20 years. He parted upon a mere trifle. She insisted upon his carrying some thorns to New Mound the close he rents, which was all he parted for.

Poor Mr D'avers has been lately very much out of order and as we hear much worse than ever he was before. Whether it is through rough management or the violence of his disorder, I am not a judge for none of the family ever so much as mentioned his name to us and when we have told them what common report says, they seem to regard it but little. The news now is that Barker (D'avers) is now in London and that he sent a coach for his Father last week and I am apt to think its true though we have never heard from any of them since the first week in Xmas, then they two or three days with us. The country people are busy in giving their opinion about his usage. Some say one thing some another but common I aim is often too Lavish in the report, but I'll be done with this dull discourse knowing its very disagreeable to your taste. I have but just more to add the best respects of this family wishing this and many succeeding years may attend you with all the happiness this world can afford which is the wish of your affectionate sister

& humble servant

Theo Hodges

If you hear of anything of Mr _____ shall be glad to hear

From Sam Adams of Alscot 8/1/1735.

To your
@ Tockenham

Dear Sir,

It was no small satisfaction to me to receive a letter from you & to hear you & your friends are well. I thank God my wife is & has been perfectly recovered above these 4 weeks. And Mr Leake is out of any present danger though much weakened as you will easily believe by such a long & dangerous illness.

I have waited for some time to learn, if I could conveniently by where Mrs S — is, & whether she will be in London this winter. And can at present know no more than that she is now at L — de —. When I can hear more you shall from me.

You are not a stranger to my thoughts upon that affair. It is certain if you are willing to try your fortune, you may do it with more secrecy in London than the country. And I should think it no hard matter for you to learn whether she is in Town or not. I see no harm if you should inquire for her at Councillor Hardings. If she is not there, your inquiring after her may make some atonement etc. And if she is well disposed may encourage her coming up to London.

My nephew Knightley has £12-10-0 to lay out in plate being a christening present to one of his children. The pieces he has fixed upon is a servitor & a sauce-boat, For the latter he is willing to allow £5-00 & £7-10-0 for the other. Whether the coat of arms or only the crest will be most proper to be engraved on each of the pieces of plate is submitted to your judgement. If you will be so kind to him & me as to lay out this money for him. If you in any respect dislike his proposals or want further directions be so good as to write to him about them & direct to him at Preston near Daventry. Mr Wood will pay you the money as soon as wanted. I have been once a hunting since Christmas but had little diversion. Could meet but with one Hare & that offered us little sport.

Hares are grown more scarce than ever in this country. Perhaps our Great neighbour may think upon taking some care to Preserve the Game by punishing Neglers ?? etc. Otherwise his being seated at Barrington will yield but little diversion. Upon second thoughts if you are in earnest (& it is time you should know whether you are not) I think you should inquire after Madam etc. If upon that she should come to London I believe were you ~~to~~ would think it some encouragement. And the best apology you can make to her is, that you were unwilling, for her sake as not as your own, to resolve the old discourse by waiting upon her in the country. Having been formerly so unsuccessful in your addresses, & therefore chose to do it in London. And thus you have the Reverend D. ... ? annotations upon a fair Lady. If I am mistaken in my judgement, you will

From Sam Adams of Al Scot 8/1/1735

(9)

To Yoddrara Sm.
@ Tockenham

consider who it is you have employed in writing them &
ought to excuse Dear Sir,

Your very affectionate Well wisher &
humble servant

Sam Adams

I must beg the favour of you
to get me a seal cut whilst you
are at Lee & your judgement upon it
Pray my humble service to Mr & Mrs Ann Smith

From M.D.

(1)

To Youdan

I thank my dear brother for the kind letter and the care for my 1/2 young in the Lee affair. It is my opinion that J. Mapson only designs to growl us to his own terms and indeed we have bred him to it by giving him entirely his own humour. Here was his Brother in law Richard Stratton and he says he never mentioned leaving the estate nor does the reason of the thing make me think he does design it. He has taken some pains and made some improvements I believe, and to be sure will enjoy the fruits of it if he can, besides he cant stock any other bargain, and his trade can never answer so well but if he goes to the truth, he cant leave it at his pleasure. To be sure I'll not abate him a shilling of the £90 a year. There is no reason to ask it, on a dairy estate. The trade was never better. We have no reason to grant him any more favours and if I must let it for £80-00 it shall not be to him. I've no reason to be so fond of him, I well know what our reputation is with regards to tenants, and particularly mine to him. There are enough to be had, and if I abate the rent it shall be to one that behaves like a rational creature. Mr Frampton was complaining that a person of character at Berwick was turned out of an estate about the value of this, and I then wished him at sea. I have courage enough to part from J. Mapson, it being 1/2 months to ladyday. I send this because you desired it, but I think to accept my Fathers invitation and remove my camp to you about the 1st Tuesday in December till after Xmas. I have been very industrious to get you some chocolate and sent John with yours to Mr Lob but they both answer in the negative yet. The inhabitants of Babb are somewhat inconstant. We are very better folk having planted 94 trees and fenced 2 1/2 well, having 1/2 more fine ones to do the same. The trees are all likewise well set in the garden. The 2 borders made in the nursery. I have sold the sheep for £11/10/- and let the grass to Xmas. Killed 2 fat porkers and am in treaty for my cow at £4-10-0. The cider is to be finished this week, and the ploughing in December. I've persuaded my old man 10^d a day is enough. Will carried the pots to Chippenham for 1/2 doz of candles 1 doz of ^{Besom's} and other good things. Jack must come tomorrow morning. Jane is making a visit

If Thomas Mapson's stock wastes my girls must lose
if not he will chose to stay

Jackey Ayliffes performance is extraordinary pretty