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room

James J. Wilson
Dominica May
19-1988
from W.

Dominica 19. May 1788.

Dear Sir!

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(10)

Having written the House pretty fully
by this opportunity. I have little to add but to assure you
of the pleasure & experience in being inform'd of the re-
establishment of your health, and of your Mrs. Stewards
safe return to America; & to pray you will do me the
favor to present my most respectful Compliments
to her. - Should the plan I have propos'd take place
with your House. I think with proper attention it
may ~~turn to~~ be productive of mutual advantage
It will be my endeavor to render it as much
so as possible ~~and~~ it can take place after this
voyage. — Mr. Moore has a couple of sheets

of Line. ^{small} Value of Sweetmeats for Mrs. Ascut
of which I pray her acceptance —
With my warmest wishes for your happiness.
I am very respectfully Dear Sir.

Your most Obedt.
Wm. Linn
Blair.

Em (Pm)

New Orleans 25 March 1790.

Dear Sir,

I wrote you a line in January by way of Dominica
merely to acquaint you of my intention of quitting this Country for Philad.
I am sorry to inform you that my expectations in that respect are frustrated
in consequence of the intelligence I receiv'd some time ago from Dominica.
My Friends there concluding I must have quitted this did not write me
particularly. I have only learn'd that my House was consumed by a
fire in the month of December; and that the young Man who did my
business there died ^{unfortunately} a few days after. altho' the loss I sustained in
the House maybe cover'd by my insurance in London (which I trust is
the case) yet in other respects it must be attended with considerable
inconvenience. The death of poor Mr. Lowry I feel most sensibly.
In this circumstanced you will judge of my impatience and anxiety
to return, yet however great they maybe, I have determin'd if
possible to finish my business here before my departure; for this
purpose I am doing every thing in my power, and I hope I shall
be able to accomplish it in the course of next month, when I have
engag'd a vessel to take me up with whatever I may receive. —
The repeated disappointments I have experienc'd in receiving my

James Blair
New Orleans 25th March
1790

my money from Mr Pollock, are almost wholly to be attributed to one cause, namely, the appropriation of his funds to the payment of his old Debt in this Country, instead of making good the engagements from which those funds originated. The former was perhaps a purpose for which ~~Mr Pollock~~ ^{Mr Ball} did not intend them; however it is not less true that it was the end they were destined to accomplish.

Among the numerous proofs of genius and commercial resource which Mr Pollock has exhibited upon this Theatre, & which have been attended with such success this is not the least remarkable, it was probably intended for the dernier Coup - but that perhaps is not yet decided. And that I am not marked to be in any greater degree the victim of his superior talents, or should almost despair of contending against them.

Without a line respecting my business at Dominica for some time I have it not in my power to say anything to you upon the subject; in any part of it that may have come under your direction, I am persuaded you will have done everything for my interest which circumstances admitted.

From the great demand for Honey and grain in Europe, and the prices with you, little and large have been done at the Islands for some time past in that way. and the

Enon (Pm)

troubles in France must have I am sure materially affected our commerce with their Islands - so that being inactive at such a period is perhaps not so much to be regretted. On my part I must only endeavor to fall upon some plan to indemnify me for lost time and labor; without reflecting upon events to which I cannot be recalled, and from which I have acquired such experience as may be of lasting advantage?

I shall write you a few lines before I leave this informing you of what I may be able to effect, and more fully after my arrival in Dominica, where I hope to be in May; and where I shall expect to hear from you. - With my affectionate compliments to Mrs Stewart. I am very sincerely Dear Sir

Your faithful & Obedt Servant
A Blair

General Stewart

Dominica 20. June 1790

Dear Sir

At the request of my Friend Mess^{rs}
Overland & Rigley I beg leave to introduce to your acquaint-
ance Monsieur Marquis of St Lucia who will have
the honor to deliver you this letter.

Monsieur Marquis's character fortune &
connections are respectable; and his present voyage to
the Continent is partly occasioned by a desire to visit it
and partly from a wish to remove himself & his
family from the French colonies until things shall
be more settled. This gentleman will have
money sufficient for all the purposes of his tour

Yr^o Obedt^o Serv^t
Jas^o Blair Dated
Dominica June 20. 1790.

unless some objects of Speculation should present
themselves; in which case he may probably have
occasion to use Messrs. Ireland & Rigby's Drafts
or others supported by their signature. - Both
these Gentlemen's character you have been already
acquainted by me. I will therefore only add
that their reputation credit & fortune will render
you perfectly secure in the negotiation of their
Drafts to any amount which they may think
proper to give them in favor of Monsieur Margui
who I beg leave to recommend to your civilities.
And attentions during his stay at Philadelphia.
I am

Ever (Purs.)

With great Respect & Esteem
Dear Sir.

Your most Obedt.

Wm. Stewart

J. Blair

General Walter Stewart
Philad.

Dominica 1st August 1790.

Dear Sir

I was unfortunately detained at Pointe à Pitre by the Weather for several days, so that I did not arrive here untill 3 days ago, and then received your letter of the 23^d May and Duplicate of that of the 26th April. My being engaged in procuring Rum to Ship and the necessity of necessarily sailing to day, allows me but time to write you and perhaps not so fully as I could wish. Almost ever since the date of my last letters I have been in a state of anxiety which I cannot easily describe to you. My endeavors to attach George to business or give him a relish for it have been hitherto unsuccessful. He has alledged in extenuation that the state of uncertainty in which he was as to his Father's intentions respecting him was in some measure the cause, but this cannot be a sufficient excuse. His propensities and conduct upon some occasions has been such as I could not approve, I have been sources of great uneasiness and apprehension to me. Gratitude and affection for his Father rendered it my duty to do every thing in my power for his Son; and my affection for George impelled me to take all the pains I could with him. I have not been so successful as I could have wished. I trust that no blame will be imputed to me. Interest and inclination equally led me to wish a connection with him, and it would have been my pride, and ambition to have exhibited him to his friends as a man of business and

a Gentleman, so that my Disappointment will be doubly felt.
In consequence of our intended connection I went upon a much larger
Scale as to my House, Stores - Servants &c. than I should have done &
have every thing completed; however these as well as other untoward
circumstances I must now endeavor to make the most of. —

The receipt of your last letter as well as the circumstances I allude to
respecting George determined me to accede to his desire of returning to the
Continent — What his father's views for him may be I cannot judge as
he has not said anything upon the subject; I sincerely hope that his
future conduct will be such as to do away any unfavorable impressions
which may have reached his Friends. — His expenses in this
Country have been considerable, altho' I took as much pains as I could
to prevent it. —

Masterbars who returned here
a few months ago has proved a very unfortunate acquaintance to me,
between he, and Messrs. Chollet & Bourdieu who have behaved very ill.
I shall I dare say lose £400 — however I shall do it with great
reluctance, and will ~~make~~ some of them account to me one way or
other — I am afraid he has not been punctual in remitting you
he embarked for London during my absence, without my having it
in my power to say anything to him upon the subject.

I am extremely happy as things have turned out, that you did not
make any farther shipments, altho' a cargo at the time you intended
would have arrived to a good market — The adventure of the Favorite
was ill timed however I am not the less sensible of your good intention
in making it — My best endeavors are ever used for the advantage,
E. W. M. (P. M.)

of those for whom I am concerned, and I am truly mortified when they are not successful, however I can neither command markets nor circumstances. Retaining cargoes on Commission is of all things the most disagreeable and particularly at an indifferent market.

You have now enclosed Sales of the Favorite's cargo ^{at 8} £1270. 11. 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ at your credit with me, as is the balance due upon Stewart Nesbitt's Account, and upon the Sales of the last 200 bbls Flour shipped upon the General Order, and I have only to say that as soon as I can collect the balance due upon these it shall be remitted to you.

I enclose you Invoice of Punchon Rum shipped on the Olive Branch Bagg for New York and ^{at 8} £645. 18. 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ your debit and addressed to Geo. W. C. Knackan, and C. Bates who goes in the vessel, and who I have requested to assist George in the sale. The Proceeds to be immediately remitted to you. The Rum is of a fine quality High proof & as the prices quoted at New York were 8/6 to 8/9. I hope it will be a saving remittance. Be that as it may, I had no alternative Gold must have lost considerably, and Bills you do not approve; Sugars there is not a prospect of being sold upon 1 Dollar I could not procure. I did not imagine you would have sold Bills below par, when your correspondence would have allowed your remitting them where they would have been placed without a loss.

George carries Punchon Rum with him, in part of the Robert's cargo, and I shall as soon as I can make further remittance to close these adventures.

Wm. J. J. J.

causes which have conspired to defeat my intended connection with
George. I have the consolation to reflect that I have not anything to
reproach myself with upon the occasion. Whatever doubt or suspicion
may have been pressed upon his Father or whatever vices he may have
for him. I hope he will live to make amends for any imprudence
he has committed to disappoint the malice of his Enemies and be
a comfort to his Friends. On my part I have now to look out for
such connections and support as will enable me to do some business;
and make up for the misfortunes I have experienced and the time I have
lost. I shall write a few lines to Mr. McEnachan by this
opportunity and pray that you will communicate to him as much
of this letter as you think proper; fully satisfied that I need not
be more explicit upon a subject which is painful to me; & of which
you can form a proper judgment. Relying upon your
friendship and good offices I will only request you to ~~transmit~~ ^{send} my
affectionate regards to Mr. Howard & the Family; & to believe that
in every instance I shall be happy to merit your good opinion
and receive the esteem and attachment with which I am.

Dear Sir!

Yours faithful & obedient servant

Wm. W. Blair

I write to New York by this opportunity
and hope to recover a part of the sum I owe upon my House which I shall
request Mr. Smith to remit to you when received. You do not mention
having received the ship upon the General Order when she put into New York
in January 1791. You have 5 Boxes of high proof them on board
the ship *Harlequin* Capt. H. Whitney for New York consigned to
Messrs. Smith & Co.

Wishes for your welfare and happiness - Believe me
Sincerely Dear Sir

Your obliged & obed^t Servant.
Blair

Dominica 8th May 1791.

Dear Sir

My letter to the House by this opportunity generally
inform you of my situation. Few circumstances have given me so
much pain as my being under the necessity of detaining the Brigg
at a time when I knew her prompt return to be so necessary
however that it was not to be foreseen and could not be prevented
by me. It arose from the application of some funds which
would have hastened my little remittance to purpose for which
they were not destined and to which they ought not to have
been appropriated. I was determined to keep her in order to
effect the reentry of a part which I have now accomplished.

I find this Island considerably changed for the worse ^{since my absence} &
indeed the decline of its trade may be traced to the disturbances
in the French Islands which are not yet entirely over.
I have determined to let the collector make up my
Accounts collecting and paying my debts the first object

of my attention, and shall leave nothing in my power untied
to ~~achieve~~ accomplish these ends as soon as possible. I am sorry
to say that there has been very little attention paid to
collecting during my absence a circumstance that has &
will greatly injure me. I have great pleasure in
informing you that our friend George has hitherto behaved
himself very well. I have been so anxious & unsettled since
my arrival that I have not had it in my power to settle
him to any regular plan of study &c. But as I move into
abode I have taken in a few days. I intend to endeavor to
fix him to a daily course of reading and accounts; and I am
not without hopes of his doing yet well. Nothing on my
part will be wanting. I reflect with a mixture of pleasure
and pain upon the happy moments I have passed under your
hospitable roof the contrast I experienced serves to impress
them strongly upon my memory, and the numerous little
disappointments and vexations I meet with increases my

disquiet and mortification. Some change must shortly
take place in this country, and for the better - but of that
I shall be able to judge by and by - for the better it
must be to make it a desirable place of residence.
I expected to have been able to send you some good Ad Rum
by this opportunity but that article did not escape the
fire &c. - Captain McClachlan has a call and calls off line
for you. For every thing respecting the Brigg I refer you
to my letter to the House, and can only repeat to you that
no circumstances of temporary advantage shall induce
me to wish to continue a trade at the expence or
inconvenience of my friends. Happy when it can be
productive of mutual advantage asaverse to it upon
any other terms. I shall write you as occasions offer
and expect to hear from you. I beg you will remember
me kindly to your Mother and all your neighbours without
omitting the Amiable Miss West. With my warmest

to her and your sweet little family. I am Dear Sir
Your Obedt & faithful Servt. Blair.

Dominica 8 May 1791.
James Blair

Dominica 8th May 1791.

Dear Sir,

By letter to the House by this opportunity
and to Mr. M. Clanchan to which I in some measure refer
you sufficiently explain my present situation and views
I cannot but repeat to you that the detention in the Brigg
has met with here has been a source of great pain
and uneasiness to me. As I have been circumstanced it was
not to be avoided, and if it was a consolation I can only
say that I hope such a circumstance cannot happen
again. In respect to the Brigg I cannot urge the
continuance in a trade attended with inconvenience to you
I rely upon your best endeavors to get me as well
rid of her as possible. When the trade promises more
advantages it may be able to take it up upon better
terms; and I need not hope assure you that it will

afford me real pleasure to cultivate any plan which
may promise mutual advantage - The only terms upon
which I wish to do it - I can only at present add that
every thing in my power shall be done to close our
adventure here as speedily as possible - My return
to this Country has been under singular disadvantages
and the disappointments and vexations I met with
have disgusted me not a little - however I must
get the better of them shortly - In the time that it
will take me to wind up my little affairs in this Country
I shall have it in my power to judge of the pros-
pects attending any establishment here, and will commu-
nicate my sentiments to you upon them and other subjects
and shall expect to be favored with yours occasionally
and with every advice you may consider necessary.

It is with pleasure I inform you that I have not yet
had any reason to find fault with George's behavior - It

is true the same nonchalance and inactivity disengages
him but as I have not yet got so settled as to be able
to try him by a regular constant habit of employ-
ment, I do not think so much of it, and I shall leave
nothing unattempted to bring him to a train of thinking
and the habits of business. of my prospects of
success in this respect I shall inform you.

I momentarily expect my friend Mr. Taylor of Antigua
here to endeavor to fix the loading of a ship or two here
for Europe which I am to do for him - if it can be
effected upon the terms he wishes, and after the
Hurricane months if I propose making a little tour
of the Islands with George. I shall address you
particularly any little private matters ^{or sentiments} of my own as
they may occur - Cap. M. Glenachan has sent
of Limes a barrel of Old Rum, and a barrel of Sweetmeats
for Mr. Stewart with my most affectionate remembrance

Dominica 24 Septem 1791.

Dear Sir,

I had the pleasure to receive your obliging letter of the 26. July accompanied by a lb of fine Beef for which I thank you. As I have written fully to the House by this opportunity and am straitned in point of time I must refer you to my letter which contains every thing I consider interesting - Our friend George will I hope do justice to your good opinion & friendship of which he has always been sensible - He told me he would write you by this opportunity - I am happy that I have at last got rid of the General & of

Dominica 24 Sept 1791

James Blair

to

Alfred Mervitt

Hope that it may prove an opening to ~~some~~ good
fortune in other respects — The circumstance
of my forbidding your paying the Captain any
money was in his opinion an offence never to
be forgiven and was the cause of my experiencing
such treatment as I did not expect & believe
have not deserved from him — Having pretty
fully explained the whole of this matter in
my letter to the House of this date. I shall not
tarry farther upon a subject so disagreeable
You will do me the justice to believe that it
was my wish and intention to be serviceable to
him and that if I had not the means of
being so it was more my misfortune than

Edm (Pm)

my fault — I cannot say that the explanation
of this affair which I have given should have
any other effect than justifying me in your
opinion — I have a thousand thanks to return
you for your friendship & attention to my
Brother Arthur indeed I have more acknow-
ledgments of this nature to make on my
own Account than it would be pleasing to
you ^{to} receive. I will therefore only assure you
that I am very sensible of it; and
Very sincerely Dear Sir

Your Res^t &c
Edm Blair