

Bath, November 29 1810

To Thomas Barnabe Murphy of Waterford

My dear friend

You have gratified me extremely by the contents of your esteemed favour of the 16th instant, I was indeed a little uneasy from the delay of your answer knowing your punctuality, I feared you might have been unwell, but I am happy to find that the necessary dispositions for settling yourself in a new house were the only motives that prevented you attending sooner to my request. But you have come forward so handsomely in complying with my wishes that I feel greatly obliged to you and will ever consider it as an unequivocal proof of your friendship; Be assured you will always find me ready to support any measure you will deem proper to adopt in the administration of the Poor House. I hope the inclosed power of attorney and formal communication of trust will both meet your approbation, as I have endeavoured to follow every direction you mentioned in your letter.

But before I proceed further expatiating on this business I am anxious to apprise you of the safe return of your aunt and my worthy friend Mrs. Baron who arrived at Portsmouth on the 16th instant in the Atlas British Man of War after a short passage of 12 days. She has brought nothing new from Cádiz but the establishment of a new Counsel of Regency as you must have seen by the papers and the melancholy confirmation of the Epidemic disorder which carried off from 40 to 60 every day. The Blockade was continued by the French without any apprehension for the safety of the place.

I have answered Mr. Langtons letter in which he mentioned it was generally expected that a new Landlord should grant what is termed a running gale of paying six months in arrear which custom I do not approve of in general as it keeps all accounts back. So I do not wish you to grant it to the tenants of Clonmell nor to the Father Hearn But only to Mr Langton on consideration of the particular regard I have for him: Yet to forward the accounts more correctly I expressed to him my wish that he should pay you immediately not only the £ 20 due from last March but also the full £ 20 due last 29 septr. which £ 40 include £ 33,,6,,8 belonging to my Father's account followed by Mr. St Leger until the 29th july and the remaining £ 6,,13,,4 for the other two months to be credited to my new account; And then we shall consider his running gale from septr last till March to be paid only on Septr. of next year.

Altho' I am sorry to give you a little more trouble, Yet as my smalls rents are quite a different concern from the Administration of the Poorhouse, I have to request of you to keep two quite separate accounts both with debtor and creditor, as I keep them myself distinctly; instead of one account of Both together as Mt. St. Leger kept them, crediting my rents and debiting the expenditure of the Poorhouse. Of my wish I shall give you an example at the foot of this letter. You will please to charge all the postages that have any reference or make essential mention of the Poorhouse to its separate account, and the others to mine.

I think it will be proper that you should cause the necessary repairs to be made to the Poorhouse immediately to prevent further damage; as to the extent of them you will be the best judge of what is absolutely necessary for its essential support, without extending to any thing of embellishment because the rents do not afford it. Indeed when I was lately in England I desired Mr. St Leger to retrench the allowance of 3 pounds per annum from every new resident on their admission; But you may allow it to them for the present until I can better ascertain how far I can add to this charity from my own income. I would be glad to have your opinion about the poor boys schooling wether the retrenchment of that expenditure would be more prejudicial to its object than that of the Poor Widows pension, as also if the house rent of the Parish priest could be raised as you hinted to me once and I think would be very essential to secure a greater income to the Poorhouse, as I believe there is no lease granted to him for which reason I have purposely decline mentioning the low rent he pays among the advantages that he derives from the establishment, as an encouragement to his special attendance.

I have not observed in the enumeration of documents delivered to you by Mr. St Leger the lease of Ground rent for the Poorhouse granted by Captn Hassard or his predecessors, nor a later lease of the Back passage which Mr. St Leger told me he had drawn in his own name to prevent investigation about the Poorhouse that might expose it as a catholic charity; this lease he told me was obtained from a Dean & Chapter that could not grant long leases for which it was renewed not many years ago. I wish you to inquire into it as it naturally belongs to the Poorhouse establishment and now my dear friend that I have expatiated so long on serious concerns let me answer your encouraging remark on domestick felicity....

Sketch upon an average of the Account of the Poor House per annum

Debtors		Creditor			
£	S	d	£	S	d
39,,			Salary to 13 Poor Widows	Father Hearn's house rent	8,,
10,,			Schooling of Orphans	That you will state as received from me, tho' you may pay yourself partly from my rents recovered there and I will remit you the difference	52,, 10
6,,	10		Ground Rent to Capt'n Hassard		
2,,			Ground Rent of the passage behind the house		
3,,			For sundry repairs and postage on average		
60,,	10				60,, 10

Michael Theobald Langtons Possessions in Ireland per annum

Debtors		Creditor			
£	S	d	£	S	d
44,,	13,,	11	That you will regularly charge me when you pass then to the credit of the Poor house as if I paid it into your hands	From Mrs Jane Langtons heirs in Kilkenny	40,,
				From Col. O'Neils heirs in Clonmell	4,, 13,, 11
£44,,	13,,	11			£ 44,, 13,, 11

Letter encharging him with the Trust of the Poor house to the same Mr. Murphy of Waterford

Bath November 29 1810

My Dear Friend:

I cannot too strongly express my thanks to you for condescending to take upon yourself the direction of the Poorhouse. Altho' deeply lamenting the late demise of my respectable friend Mr. Peter St Leger who for many years so properly administered this establishment in my worthy Father's name and in mine with all the zeal of that ardent charity which so characterized him. Yet I think myself extremely happy to meet in you a person so justly qualified to be his successor as your many commendable virtues are too generally known to require enumeration and I acknowledge myself greatly indebted to your friendship which induces you to accept of this charge which can only be desirable as an occasion to exert your charitable dispositions: it is in this view that I will always consider your condescension to take upon yourself the direction of this Pious institution recommended to my care by my venerated Father as a trust incumbent on the Eldest of our family. The Property which the founder my Grand Father Mr. Lawrence Carew left in Spain for its support having been disposed off by the former government I have only some cash left belonging to it to which I shall add during pleasure what I can spare of my own for the maintenance of such a charitable establishment which I earnestly wish to preserve in the same spirit of regularity as the Pious views of the Founder first instituted it. Accordingly I confirm all the primitive rules of the house desiring you to enforce their observance and where as a severe discipline intended to promote the respectability of the foundation have rendered a few additional regulations necessary, I shall here express all those that are to be followed for your better information. I shall previously observe that the right of admission into the House being solely vested in myself as the only Patron (legally designed by the Founder) I delegate exclusively this right of appointment in you alone as my administrator who are directly responsible for the persons admitted, at the same time as I wish you to pay every attention to the alternate recommendation of the parish priest whenever the person he proposes shall meet with your full approbation having always in consideration that those for whom the Charity is intended are Poor distressed housekeepers; and upon no account can a person who has ever been in service or whose character is impeachable be admitted attending also that any person admitted who may be found begging as a street beggar shall be dismissed. Besides considering that the allowance of three pounds per annum which I confirm for the present during pleasure to each of the three poor widows is not sufficient for their decent maintenance and that even that charity may be discontinued in some years hence I particularly wish it should be considered as a recommendation in the individuals admitted that they should have independently of themselves some little help or be able to acquire it by their industry in needle work, etc. Let it be well understood that every regard and attention must be paid by the resident to the Parish Priest whom I hope in consideration of the Pious ends of the institution and the several advantages that he derives from it will condescend to superintend their morals and general conduct attending to the Rules be regularly observed.

Regulations which I strongly request you to enforce

1^o All persons admitted into this house are every day to assist devoutly at the Holy sacrifice of the Mass.

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2^o They are all duty to frequent the sacraments on the more solemn festivals of the year and in particular on the feasts of St. Patrick Apostle of Ireland and St. Lawrence Martyr.

3^o Every day at a proper hour in the afternoon they are all to offer up their prayers for the founder of this House and for his Ancestors and relatives living and dead; which they are also frequently to observe upon other occasions in the customary devotions.

4^o As the persons once admitted into this house are to live in an united, peaceable & edifying manner, if any of them should be found to disturb or quarrel with the rest, they will be immediately dismissed of the house.

5^o None are to be abroad at any unreasonable hour of the night as opening doors must cause disorder and disturbance.

6^o Children under any charitable pretence whatsoever, as be orphans etc. are not to be brought into live in the house, as the noise would be inconsistent with the good order of the house; Neither shall the individuals that reside in the house be allowed to keep dogs for the same reason just mentioned.

7^o No one shall pretend to dispose of the Room allotted to her in Behalf of any poor friend or relation, or shall take any one to lodge as such: the Room being given for her own personal use alone and only during good behaviour.

8^o Cleaniness is to be observed as much as can be in every part of the House & Yard the contrary being very unbecoming.

9^o No one is to make any alterations in the Rooms or to remove from one room to another without an express leave from the person who has the care of the House; to whose particular injunctions every attention shall be paid every resident in it.

10^o These rules are to be publickly read every year on the 16th March and 9th August and those who do not take care to observe them shall be dismissed.

Signed by Michael Theobald Langton. Actual Patron of the House and directed to Thomas Barnabé Murphy the Administrator of it in his name.