

[6 August 1812]

To Lord Westmeath's Agent

Sir

My long residence in Spain having made me neglect for some years my Mother's interests in Ireland I have thought it my duty at her request on my coming to England to investigate their actual state and I accordingly wrote a few months ago to my much esteemed friend Mr. Richard Strange who was executor to my grandfather Mr. Thomas Dillon's Will to inquire into the state of several Debts due both personally and as universal heir of his Father in law Mr. Edward Hussey, and amongst other arrears I find that he has never received the principal of a Bond assigned of £700 on Lord Westmeath's estate due by Ld. Westmeath & Ld. Delvyn jointly and assigned by Miss Clarke to my grandfather Thomas Dillon; but I observe that upon repeated applications Mr. Strange had lately received £100 Irish from you on account of Interest long due which he has punctually remitted to me.

As from the confusion that has occurred in Spain where I lately resided since the invasion of the French our family Papers and accounts have been in great disorder and those in the hands of my Uncle General Theobald Dillon from his tragical end during the French Revolution are no less so, and as my cousin Mr. Lattin who has corresponded with Lord Westmeath several years ago on this business is now detained in France I cannot easily ascertain what amount of interest may have been received formerly by them which however I never received, especially as our Agents in Dublin Mess: Byrnes intrusted with the receipt of this interest as[has?] now been dead I find about twelve years. I am very willing to acquiesce to any letter or document that Ld. Westmeath may possess and can throw any light on this business and for the sake of conciliation I am ready to compromise and think that an offer to settle the account at twelve years interest due at forty two pounds annual interest at 6 pc will be deemed by you a very acceptable proposal, I will even admit of the £100 now received to be included in part of payment and the remainder to be paid in half yearly payments untill the whole arrear of interest is paid off. I give the same instructions to my good friend Mr. Strange whom I beg is at leisure to settle this point with you and I promise to give my full approbation and sanction in my Mother's name to any arrangement he may propose and agree with you. Such is our unbounded confidence in the good advice of this valuable friend of our family that we will rest perfectly satisfied with any disposition that he may deem expedient.

When this matter will be settled between you I expect the favour of a few lines from you on the subject that we may correspond personally afterwards in order to spare every unnecessary trouble to my esteemed friend Mr. Strange.

I remain very truly

Sir your Obt. Fl Sev't.

M.T.L.

Bath 6<sup>th</sup> August 1812

To Mr. Richard Strange

My Dear Sir,

I have lately been favoured with your much esteemed letter of the 31<sup>st</sup> Ultio. covering a bill on London for £86:6:10 sterling, the produce of £95 Irish, which I have already negotiated at a Bankers in this Town, and for which remittance My Mother and myself unite in our cordial thanks indeed we consider it as a gift from your generosity for we could never have seen a farthing of this money were it not for your friendly exertions in our behalf. We only regret the trouble it gives you and would wish to lessened it as much as possible. I thank you much for the detailed information you give me about the origin of the Bond and your good advice on what course we had best follow. I am quite of your opinion that any composition is very desirable especialy as we are so devoided of documents that indeed the whole debt might have been contested but I presume the late payment received is sufficient to renew the validity of the claim. But be it as it will, we would be happy to admit any arrangement and the one you propose seems very plausable. I have copied it literaly in the letter I inclose for Lord Westmeath's Agent which I beg to trouble you with as I neither know is name nor direction.

You will observe by its contents that I have followed your advice in every part of it; as I will be happy to follow it in everything hereafter, indeed I beleive none better.

I have desired to my first cousin Edward Murphy to make the inquiries you mention from Mess. Byrne's sisters in Wexford but do not expect to obtain any satisfactory information from them as women are seldom well-informed on money matters especialy when not personally interested.

I beg you a thousand pardons for all the trouble my last commission of the certificate has given you; I never thought it could be meet with any difficulty but rather I would give it up than give you any further trouble about it.

I cannot but approuve of your reserving £5 to cover usual costs attending all law searches and fear it is even too little but I would remit you immediately any further sum should you disburse it.

I hope my inclosed letter will meet your approbation and beg you will just manage this business at your leisure and convenience sure of our sincere gratitude for all your kind endeavours in our favour.

My Mother desires a particular mention of her grateful regards to you and her kind remembrance to Mrs. Strange.

And I repeat my sincere acknowledgment for all your kindness remaining very truly your Devoted Obedt. Hunble Servt.

Bath the 26<sup>th</sup> August 1812

To the Misses Byrnes:

Madams,

I take the liberty of adressing you this few lines as I have lately been informed by my respectable friend Mr. Richard Strange of Dublin that you had preserved a trunk of papers concerning the affairs of your late Father & Uncle's Banking Establishment in Dublin. As these Gentlemen Mess: James & Walter Byrne in virtue of a power of attorney baring date 9<sup>th</sup> August 1783, enacted by my Father Mr. Michael Langton of Cadiz in the right of his Wife the daughter of Thomas Dillon Hussey where empowered to receive all money and effects belonging to the Heirs of the said Thomas Dillon Hussey my Grand Father and did then receive in trust from Mr. Richard Strange of Dublin the acting executor of my said grandtather several Bonds and securities for money which belonged to the testator and became the property of us his Heirs and amongst these Bonds one particularly of Lord Westmeath & Lord Delvyn jointly for £700 assigned on the 3d June 1749 by Miss Clarke to my grandfather Thomas Dillon Hussey, which document it would be of the highest consequence to my Mother lately come over from Spain at whose request I have taken up this business to trace these papers. I am informed that your Father & Uncle's establishment has been disolved some years in consequence of serious misfortunes and that you have since had the greif to loose them both consequently their affairs must have remained by their death very confused, however as my actual application to you Madams, has not for object to demand any money due to us by them, but merely to obtain what best information you can give me as to the present existence of any of these Bonds formerly delivered to your Father & Uncle merely in trust as our Agent, I would be extreemly obliged to you if you will have the goodness to favour me with an answer acquainting me of what you may chance to know about what became of these Bonds that were never returned to us and should you have preserved as I understand a trunk of papers, you would render us an essential service by taking the trouble to look them over as you might perhaps find amongst them the very document I have before mentioned and about which I am actualy treating with Lord Westmeath. But I require to produce the original document that I can only trace through your hands. I Beg leave to apologize for giving you this trouble but the importance of the subject to my Mother who has lost almost all she had in Spain where she has resided near forty years but is now reduced in order to preserve a scanty independence to pursue the researches from her Father's inheritance which she before considered as trifles and neglected to reclaim for so many years when in affluent circumstances. Such motives will I hope sufficiently excuse the liberty I have taken to trouble you.

Assuring you Madams of the sincere regard and  
respect of your mst Obt. H. St.

Transcription not yet available

*Translation from French*

*Bath 3 Sepr. 1812*

*To Mr. Marchetti*

*Sir:*

*I have just received the undated duplicate of your short letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> July last, addressed to my Mother, to which I replied on the 16<sup>th</sup> of the same month, regretting that I had never received your four preceding ones, nor the Power you said you had sent me. All that was sent to me by Mme. de Li... are four receipts from Mr. Franchi, making altogether 19070 livres without the interest, for it is stated in one receipt that this money was lent without interest, and so it could not be reclaimed. I immediately undertook the recovery of this money by the intercession of my friend Mr. Cologan of the Canaries, writing myself to M. Franchi, who has not replied. I knew that he has vineyards, but that that he is always short of money which is under dispute with all his family, and unfortunately because of the present circumstances we are unable to sue him, because all the debt would be confiscated, but [several lines deleted] so that the payment depends entirely on his good faith, and I am much afraid that he will pay nothing, although I have written to him in the most pressing terms telling him that I have his receipts in my possession and that you had great need of this money, Mr. Cologan might propose that he should pay in wine from his vintage, which we could sell, to enable the payment to be made, and if I can manage to obtain any of it I shall immediately let you know, and put it at your disposal according to the instructions which my sister sent me with the receipts. We have been without any news from her for some months. We are filled with gratitude for your kindness towards her and believe me, my dear sir, that I shall at any time be charmed to fulfil your commissions, and that I shall obey scrupulously your instructions with regard to whatever money it may be that you wish to confide to my care. I do not know if your correspondents here have any of your interests in their hands; it would perhaps be appropriate to let them know your future testamentary intentions in favour of my sister, and also the commission you have given me to recover Mr. Franchi's debt, for if you give them the same commission and they for their part approach Mr. Franchi, he might think that we are not in agreement, nor in good faith in claiming the same debt from two sides, and use it as a pretext not to pay either. Furthermore you should in general do whatever you think best, and in any event believe that my mother as much as myself will regard you as an old friend of our family for whom we ever preserve sincere sentiments of esteem and gratitude, with which I have the honour to be &c.*

Bath, 16 septiembre 1812

A Don Carlos Desfontaines de Cádiz

Mi Apreciado Amigo: Con mucha satisfacción le doy a usted la enhorabuena por el levantamiento del sitio de Cádiz que al cabo de 30 meses le dexa a usted respirar un poco de aire de campo cuya privación le debe haver sido mui sensible por tanto tiempo, y además le debuelve la tranquilidad que el bombardeo no havrá perturbado poco. Siento no presenciar el alborozo de la alegría pública por tan feliz sucesso pero aunque ausente me interesco demasiado en el sucesso de la causa pública y en la felicidad de tantos habitantes que me son allegados los unos por lazos de la sangre y los otros por los afectos de la amistad para no tomar una parte mui viva en la prosperidad de Cádiz. Tuvimos últimamente el gusto de disfrutar por tres días la amable sociedad de Mrs Fallon que pasó por aquí en su camino a Irlanda acompañada de Mr L'abblé Gras y de Don Patricio Nelly y los aburrimos con preguntas sobre todos los individuos que nos interesan, en cuyo número fue usted uno de los primeros mencionados y celebramos saber que le iba tan bien con su nuevo almacén que ahora espero prosperará aún más con las demandas para tierra adentro que aumentará el consumo de géneros. La aventura de la comunicación con los pueblos vecinos proporcionará a cada uno la facilidad de reclamar las possessions que tenían y que quizás los franceses havrán confiscado en su ausencia; en este caso estoy yo con respecto a mi casa de Puerto Real que tenía alquilada a Mess Brockman hermanos cuyos señores con la precipitación de su ida se fueron sin entregar la llave de la casa a mi Padre ni pagar los meses que la ocuparon desde 31 de diciembre de 1809 hasta que la dejaron con la venida de los franceses sin hacerme intimación, por lo que tendría derecho de reclamar los alquileres hasta la fecha presente pero me conformaré en esto con lo que hayan hecho otros en igual caso y con lo que sea justo y puesto en razón. Para esta pequeña agencia desearía valerme del favor de usted en virtud de su amistad para no dar tanta molestia a nuestro amigo Don Agustín Butler a quien escribo que se sirva abonarle a usted de m/cta los gastos que pueda ocasionarle las devidas reclamaciones contra los actuales ocupadores en el caso que los franceses hayan dispuesto de ella, lo que ignoro, siendo también conveniente averiguar en qué estado se halla y si necesita algunos reparos indispensables para hacerla habitable para esto podría usted valerse de mi antiguo maestro albañil en quien tengo mucha confianza y se llama José Rodríguez vivía hace dos años nº 139 calle del Hospital de mugeres enfrente de la antigua prevención y es hombre inteligente para qualesquiera agencia que se ofrezca con respecto a recobrar la possession, sé que haría qualesquiera cosa por mí pues lo he empleado varias veces. También es contratista de víveres desde la costa de poniente porque es del pueblo de Lepe y el gobierno lo empleó al principio del sitio para traer víveres de allí. Al mismo tiempo podrá usted a los Brockmans si quieren volverla a alquilar por el precio que la tenían de diez duros mensuales, bien entendido que no quisiera gastar más que lo absolutamente preciso en reparos sin exceder de 1.000 a 2.000 reales de vellón pues rinde poco para gastar más en ella y mi deseo es venderla mui barata quando pueda hallar comprador pues está apreciada en 140.000 mil reales de vellón y yo tomaría 80 mil por ella líquidos de derechos y gastos de venta. Tiene impuesto una hyppoteca por 3 duros

mensuales durante la vida de un clérigo cojo que era capellán del hospicio y se llama Don José Ahumada. Me alegraría saver si vive? Como finca separada de la casa hay un terreno espacioso evaluado en 60.000 ryon que comunica por la espalda y sirve de jardín por el que pago un tributo anual de Ryon 620,,14ms a los herederos de Don Fernando Sánchez que son las de Guiral ese terreno lo cedería por su tributo con la casa sin aumento de precio. La casa está situada en la plazuela de Jesús y es la primera después de la esquina opuesta a la casa de los obispos de Cádiz los títulos deven estar en manos de Don Agustín Butler pues quedaron en poder de mi pobre Padre quando salí de Cádiz.

He creído deberle dar a usted todo este pormenor para imponerle de una vez en quanto es relativo a ella y espero disimulará la molestia de esta comisión, que conociendo su bondad no he temido abusar de ella en esta ocasión. Advierto que no se le deve pagar nada al clérigo Ahumada aunque lo pida por el tiempo que han pasado los franceses en la costa opuesta. Siguen noticias públicas y concluye con expresiones a Mde Berthot y fino afecto de mi Madre sobrina y mío

Bath 16 Sept. 1812

To Mr. Butler

My Dr. Mr. B. I congratulate you very sincerely on the raising of the seige of Cadiz , an event the more pleasing as I believe the enemy was become very troublesome with their frequent bombardment and I hope they have taken a farewell leave of your neighbourhood with a prospect of a further evacuation of territory.

I received in due time your esteemed few lines of the 11 th July inclosing a letter from my sister Christina, for the forwardment of which I return you many thanks, it was particularly agreeable to us as it was the only one from her that reached us since the 1<sup>st</sup> June of last year: this one is of the 24 May from Valentia where she continued to reside, and only states that her house was demolished during the siege, that she lost everything but her life and that was providentially saved by her absence at the time having gone to a neighbouring village. She says her husband was in the capital and that Carmen's husband had then just quited Valentia where he had passed three months. As she complains of not hearing from us I have taken the liberty of troubling you with the inclosed begging you would forward it to her by next opportunity as also trouble you with one for my Aunt Pepa in answer to hers lately received and a third for Desfontaines entreating him to inquire about my house in Port Royal to reclaim it if unlawfully occupied and to endeavour to let it or sell it to the best advantage. I beg you will reimburse him on my account any expence he may be at for these purposes not exceeding 2000 Reales Vellon in repairs besides I desire him to reclaim some months rent that remained due by Mess. Brockman at 200 Reales Von. per month since the beginning of the year 1810 till the occupation of the French who came in February so that with the month warning to quit, must amount at least to two months rent. I have also to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed favour of the 16<sup>th</sup> Ult. just come to hand by which you advise the reception of my last of the 22d. July, the contents whereof I am sorry you consider as conveying severe unfriendly expressions. I certainly disclaim any intention to hurt your feelings, I have too much regard for you to entertain any such idea. But as the unusual length of your silence left me for three months quite ignorant of any proceeding on your part in behalf of our affairs I naturally concluded that you were otherwise too much engaged to attend to them and tantalised as I am by the undecided state in which they have been for these two years back notwithstanding all my efforts to conclude them I may have expressed my disappointment in expressions that betrayed my eagerness in too irritable a manner which I am sure you will readily excuse if you consider yourself for a moment in my situation at a period of my life when I should fix my plans of future existence, thwarted in every idea of this kind by the uncertainty of our affairs with the small fortune to settle with any prospect of ease, and yet prevented from increasing it by my industrious exertions on account of the uncollected state of my poor father's inheritance, suffering the unjust effects of arbitrary spoliation without the reproach of a shadow of crime to provoke it, infine[in short] beholding with regret my most active years pass away in inaction thus depriving me of the means to attain any state of comfortable happiness, before the chilness of old age and all this occasioned by the dilatory conduct

pursued by those authorities who have usurped the right to interfere in our family concerns. Such glaring injustice and unmerited hardships are you will allow calculated to provoke a saint out of patience much more a very frail mortal. In conclusion I beg to state that I have no desire to withdraw my confidence nor my troublesome commissions from your hands as long as you are willing and kind enough to exert yourself in our favour but I must be allowed to urge the necessity of your active exertions[exertions] if we are ever to obtain the conclusion of our unhappy affairs.

My plan of dividing the disposable property which I have carried into effect partly remedied the evil as much as possible on this side, and I expected you would have favoured me with your opinion on the subject before now as you promised but your last letter makes no further mention of it. Yet that rests with yourself as several other questions and commissions contained in my former letters which remain still unanswered. As for the responsibility you talk of with regard to government: no law can make you amenable for what is not in your hands nor apparently in your power besides even of that part you might contrive to make it appear (as every[one] would do in similar occasions) that I have acted against your consent, and that I have seized of your funds in this country sufficiently to cover what you were owing to us. There are many contrivances for such purpose and certainly the importance and conscientious[contentious?] justice of the case sufficiently justifies it, for we should not allow ourselves to be the dupes of knaves as the agents of government frequently are, as least as an instance of their malicious misrepresentation I have been credibly told that the Minister Canganguelles in a report to the Cortes publicly said in December or January last that the House of Langton alone now residing in London owed above six millions of Rials to Government . What he could mean I dont know any more than it is a positive falsehood that I hope you have taken care to contradict to prevent unfavorable inferences with regard to our affairs, that might prepossess many persons against us. I suppose he had laid hold of the credits of some former contracts of the house of Carew Langton with government for timbers and had not taken the trouble to observe the debits that ballanced the same. I cannot account for this strange error otherwise. But as I suppose you heard of it at the time I beg you will acquaint me with the result? I have also observed a late decree of the Cortes issued in June or July last that softens very much the rigour of the former laws of reprisals and I think should apply to my sisters case. I hope you will be so good as to inquire into it whether we can claim this law in their behalf. I observe it is not incumbent on the Regents to interfere in our affairs previous to a sentence being passed in the courts of law. But unless the sistem of administering justice be greatly altered since I have left Spain, I know that strong empeños greatly influenced the decisions of the courts and if such a person as a Regent whom I suppose to be of some consequence from his situation could be induced to speak to the judges as interesting himself in our favour it must produce a very good effect, was it only to obtain dispatch.

With regard to the former accounts sent you of Fanny Brun's expences here which you wrote to me you had credited my Mother's acct. for, from some money remaining of the rents of the house Calle del Veedor, I should observe

to you that in strict justice My Mother's separate acct. should not be paid from such money as it certainly belongs in comon to the testamentaria in favour of which the whole hipoteca on the house now stands and the rent of it should be all applied, but Fany's accts. to a separate acct. of my Mother's with Brun which he should called upon to pay separately. He has wrote lately by a Nuna to his daughter complaining of her neglect of him, which I think is the very reverse as she is sometimes six months without hearing from him, and his omission to pay her trifling expences is quite shamefull considerando que està disfrutando a lo menos del dote que reciviò quando se casò. La pobre Frasquita està mejor de salud pero no de un todo buena. Mi pobre Maman mui inquieta por Carmen que no savemos lo que se havrà hecho en las recientes occurencias; me lisonjeo que se haya quedado quieta en su casa y entonces no tardaremos en recibir carta suya; de mi hermana Fany recibimos una el otro dia del 10 julio en que solo dice que estaba buena con sus seis hijos y su marido sin saver de nosotros por mas ve un año. Mrs Wm. Barron deve haver salido ya de regreso para Cadiz. Dicen que Dna Catalina tambien habla de irse; Mrs Costello no se irà creo este invierno. Mrs Fallon hà llegado buena a Irlanda . Tuvimos la gusta de verla a su paso por aqui y hablamos mucho de todos los conocidos, sentirà ahora haverse venido. Reciva V. afectuosas expresiones de mi Madre y de Franquita y crea V. que lo estima siempre de corazon su agradecido primo.

Las Noticias prometen bien de España quiera Dios que siguan favorables.

Bath 30<sup>th</sup> Sepr. 1812

To Mr. Butler

My Dr Mr. B. Since writing to you my last of the 16<sup>th</sup> inst. I have been favoured with your much esteemed of the 25<sup>th</sup> Augt. imparting to me the gratifying intelligence of the raising of the siege of Cadiz of which we were apprized a few days previous to the receipt of your letter by which I was happy to see this fortunate event confirmed and join most cordially in the public joy expressed by all classes on the occasion. I hope you will soon experience the favourable effects of this release by the revival of comerce increased with the free inland communication and the demands for inward consumption. Everything will receive I suppose a new impulse and assume a more promising aspect. Yet I apprehend that our unfortunate affairs will be still more neglected by the pressure of other business and the bustle of organising new authorities in the restored country. However they may become more lenient in their measures and if they could be induced to give up their interference it may perhaps be a favourable opportunity to extricate the affair from their hands. There is another happy circumstance of which you are there best able to judge how far it can be turned to advantage. I mean that by the evacuation of Madrid poor Carmen is now in free correspondance with us. We have just received three letters from her by way of Coruña dated the 17 & 24 Augst. and 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. Her husband followed his fate with his master and she very prudently left her house previously upon which an embargo was laid as being his property and she took up her lodging in a convent where she still remained with all her children untill things assume a settled turn, besides she economises better there the little money which he was able to leave her to enable her to buy food, little as it is, it was all he had to dispose of as he had not been paid his appointments for a long time back. She had been long without hearing from her husband's eldest daughter who had remained in Victoria since her misfortune, but Miguel Alava had the kindness to send word to Carmen that in the intercepted correspondence there was a letter from her to her father stating that she had met with some kind friends who let her want for nothing and that she expected to be brought to bed in the course of Sepr. As she has remained unprovided for she will return a burden upon poor Carmen who is certainly much to be pitied: to give you an idea of her distress, and yet of the noble sentiments of her heart in the midst of her embarassement which make her truly great and interesting I shall just quote a few lines of her letter. [quotation in Spanish]. Her heroic virtue and fortitude certainly deserved a better fate! Perhaps you might direct her to make a personal application for the restoration of her father's inheritance as being her own independent property. I think some thing might be done, and if so it should be done without delay for fear some unlucky event might happen to frustrate the opportunity. She tells me tht she has wrote to you on several occasions but has never received any answer however she was going to do it again to inquire about the effects that she left in Cadiz and she wished should be sent to her as she was not informed that they had been sold but I have explained all that transaction to her in the letter I here inclose beging you would be so kind as to put it in the post office as I understand the correspondence is now free. I have been careful not to name her husband in any direction and have followed her instruction by directing a Dna Maria del Carmen L. under cover Al Marques de

Saluche calle de foncaral, Madrid. She had late accounts from Kitty whose husband was at Saragossa; from my sister she had no letter for four months back but we have just received one from her so late as the 1<sup>st</sup> instant, just stating that she was well with her six children who were all with her and her husband. She complains she has not received any letter from me for 18 months past; altho' I have availed of every opportunity to write to her. I am truly grieved at the melancholy event of poor James Barron's demise which you mention to have occurred at Ayamonte. But what is most unfortunate is the departure of his worthy mother who in the anxiety of her mind just sailed on the 23d inst in the Ma[r]borough from Portsmouth, the very day I received your letter for her which I inclosed immediately to Mrs. Costello with another of mine for Mrs. Barron and recommending every caution in the delivery not aware that they would come too late as I was ignorant of Mrs. Barron's sudden determination but Eustace answered me the next day lamenting his afflicted mother's departure and adding that he had forwarded your letter and mine to her at Cadiz where I hope she has safely arrived long before this will reach you. I beg you will repeat to her my concern for her health, and how sincerely I partake her grief, for altho' the prospects of poor James were not very flattering in this life yet his existence was not less dear to a Mother and such a tender parent as our respectable friend. God alone can afford her that comfort which her poignant grief requires, and I pray sincerely that he may grant it to her. I hope her health will not suffer as I fear it will by the fatigue of the voyage united to the distress of her mind. I suppose she will soon return to this country as the object of her voyage is unfortunately ended tho' it would be more prudent for her to remain the Winter in Cadiz and return in the Spring. When she does return I hope she will be kind enough to bring me the family pictures and my father's fee de Bautismo [baptismal certificate] as also a legalized copy of my father's Will for which I have so often called to you for. And should she come in a Man of War it would be a good opportunity to send me my Box of necessaire containing a few plate articles which you had not disposed off. I would be sorry to be very troublesome to her but knowing her kindness for me I presume she will have no objection to oblige me.

I understand Mrs. Costello intends departing for Cadiz about the middle of Octr. with her two young daughters and Roberto White is to escort them. The Chesterfield packet is just arrived with letters to the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. I have not been favoured with any from you but only received under an unknown blank cover an old letter of the 11<sup>th</sup> June from my sister Carmen the interest of which is removed by her subsequent of much later date.

I am informed the Niño had arrived at Cadiz with 2 millions of Dollars for Particulars and 400000 for government. I hope you have received some remittance for our acct. from Miranda. If so I hope you will avail of the favorable high exchange to remit it here as I take the responsibility upon myself if required: but should you have received nothing my former suspicions will be strongly confirmed as the pretence of obeying your order by only remitting in a Man of War will then be removed, and in such a case I hope you will take immediate measures to remove our interest from his hands as I desired you before or allow me to act for myself in that particular. I send you inclosed a small Note of Fanny Brun's expences during the nine first months

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of this year amounting to £35:4s:5 ½ d which at par of 90 Rvon per £ make \$140:10 Rvon. which I beg you will exert your best endeavours to recover from him stating in my Mother's name that her income is far short of her indispensable expence so she is not able to afford this disbursement and considering how moderate his daughter's expences are managed merely almost reduced to her dress, she calls upon his honour to pay it from the interest of her mother's Dote which he preserves, besides the rent of the house calle del Veedor which I suppose he continues to receive and should he pay anything my Mother desires you would remit it however trifling. The News from Russia is not very favorable: the French have reached Mojaisk within 60 miles of Moscow &c. I have no later accounts from Ireland than my last to my aunt contained. Our affectionate regard to her, Nelly Kelly Desfontaines &&. &c. to himself.

Bath October 1812

To Mr. Richard Strange

I had the pleasure of adressing you a few lines on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August last acknowledging the receipt of your remittance, the produce of £95...Irish, and I now beg to trouble you again to attract your notice to a short paragraph out of a Dublin paper which my cousin Edward Murphy has inclosed to me; it appears from this Note that we should give in our claim on Lord Westmeath at the office of William Roper Esqr. No. 35 Lower Sackville Street to be added to the list of Creditors who are to receive dividends from the trustees in whom are vested his Lordship's estates, or else we may forfeit our wright: if you consider this step necessary I would be much obliged to you to desire your attorney to call at the said office for the purpose of stating our claim and we would be happy to inclose you the amount of any judicial expences that might be incurred. My cousin Murphy also adds tht if you had the goodness to instruct your attorney to make a legal search in the Registry office it is very probable he might find it as an Incumbrance on Lord W's property and if it appeared registered & not satisfied our claim would be just as good as if we had the original Bond provided we could establish Miss Clarke's assignment to my grand Father, which most likely may have been registered also. At any rate under the circumstances which I mentioned to him of various other claims, he would think a general search in the registry office would be advisable as it might lead to some valuable discoveries. If you approve of this proceeding I would certainly be very willing to satisfy you any costs occasioned. I wrote to the Miss Byrnes at Wexford as you advised me, and Miss Ann Byrne politely answered me stating that she had left her papers in Dublin under the care of a person who was then absent from that town for which reason she could not give me a satisfactory information so soon but that she would certainly have them examined and would be happy if any of our papers should be found amongst them, but that she much feared that all her searches would prove fruitless as she had every reason to think that many papers of consequence to her own family as well as to others were destroyed by her late Uncle Walter Byrnes by the derangement of whose affairs all their property was lost.

I hope you will excuse this fuather intrusion on your time and attention of which I am conscious we have already too much abused of# on your kindness to us, which inspires us with sincere gratitude. My Mother desires me to remember her affectionately to you and Mrs. Strange and I remain ever very gratefully Dr. Sir

Your most Obt & obliged St.

#But as you have not mentioned to me any attorney of your confidence to whom I might apply to follow up this business, I am at a loss to whom I might direct myself and consequently still relyed on your goodness for us which [unfinished?]

Bath 18 October 1812

To Mr. Butler

My Dr. Mr. B. Since writing to you my last on the 30<sup>th</sup> Ultio. I have been favoured with your much esteemed of the 16<sup>th</sup> Septr. referring me to your anterior of the 7<sup>th</sup> ditto which I am sorry to observe never came to hand being the first of your letters that I have ever missed. I apprehend it has been misled in the Post office at Cadiz as they are very correct in this country and I have made the proper reclamations without success. Tho' I dont suppose that you copy your letters to me yet if you recollect the leading points of your letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> Septr. I beg you would repeat them in your next. I conjecture from the contents of the following of the 16<sup>th</sup> that it chiefly related to the recovery of my house in Port Royal and I feel grateful for your exertions on the subject in favour of my interest. I had anticipated the event as you will observe by my letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> Ultio. and to spare you that trouble I had beg[g]ed of Desfontaines to do the needfull. but as you have been so kind as to do it yourself, it is equally well done and I return you thanks for all you [have] done and approve of your letting it to Vanderscheren on the best terms you can procure. You will observe it was let before for 200 rs. a month and some advance on the 150 rs. offered would be very acceptable as that low rent will scarcely cover what I must disburse yearly for the same viz. 120 rs. to the Priest Ahumada and 620r. 14 m. to the heirs of Dn Fernando Sanchez whose late administrator was Dn Luis Martini, besides frutos Civiles and other civil taxes without allowing for repairs. The usual conditions of such agreements are that all repairs under 200 Rs. should be paid by the tenant and all those exceeding that sum to concern my acct. My instructions on the subject to Desfontaines will further explain to you my intentions. As for the demand of Dn Jose Ahumada y Lobo I wish to answer it in conformity to strict justice but I cannot afford liberality and as I received no rent during the occupation of the town by the French and by their Decrees the property was even declared confiscated to them I do not beleive that he can have any claim previous to the evacuation of the French for if he had, my right to demand rent from the Brockmanns for the whole time would be equally good, and as a proof that Ahumada had no right to demand anything during that time I remember that at the begining he applied to Zerezuela who wrote to me to know if I chose to continue the payment out of generosity stating that he was not intitled to demand it. To which I answered that by no means to pay it as I was under no obligation to Dn Jose Ahumada and my circumstances did not allow me to be so liberal and the good man was so convinced that he had no right that he has never applied for it since untill now. Therefore I beg you will only pay him for my account 60 Rvon. for month of January 1810 and 180 Revon on the 25<sup>th</sup> Novemr. next when the first quarter since the retreat of the French will be due and the same every three months hereafter, unless from similar cases decided in favor of his claim for the time back you should deem it unjust to retain it, as it is not my wish to comit any real injustice.

I am happy to observe that you were in correspondence with my poor sister Carmen for whom I sent you an inclosed by my last and now trouble you with another. We have just received another letter from her of the 11<sup>th</sup> Septr. acquainting us that she was deprived of all comunication out of the convent

even that of her manservant. She was informed that her house furniture &c. was all confiscated. She was going to apply for leave to appoint a Trustee that might defend her right. She also knew that by a recent decree of the Cortes her Paternal inheritance should be restored to her and she says she had wrote on the subject to you and to Dn. Ignacio Alava. I hope there will be no difficulty nor delay in obtaining this act of justice for indeed she much wants it. She says that some envious persons had denounced that she had a great deal of money and a service of silver, but after searching her trunks they were much disappointed in finding nothing but rags. She says she deprives herself of many necessary articles in order to spare the little money she has for eating. Her little girl was sick with a fever which added to her distress and as she passed herself very restless nights she was becoming extremely thin. I dont wonder at it for she has a very heavy cross to bare[bear] and who ever knows her merit and considers her actual situation must pity and admire her fortitude. We have no later accounts from my two other sisters who have also each their cross to endure.

I must remind you now that the comunication is open with Xeres to apply to Jacobo Gordon for the amount he received for our mules which he acquainted my poor father that he had sold but never remited the produce. Should it be difficult to obtain the payment in cash you might propose him to make it in good wine, which you might either sell there or remit to this country for anything is better than nothing, and it is a debt he cannot refuse to acknowledge having received himself the money. Also I should be glad to know if my poor Father's compadre [godfather] El Procurador [attorney] Dn. Jose Bustamante Davila is still living because tho' he may be still unable to pay his pagaree [bill] of 40000 Rvon. the interest of which has more than doubled that sum yet when he dies we should put in our claim as he has property in houses in the Isla de Leon y primero es pagar que heredar. I am grieved but cannot say surprised to observe that Miranda has remited you nothing by the Niño. I wish my judgement would prove unfounded but I much fear you will receive more good words and fair promises than remittances if you dont take some decided measure about it. However the arrival of the Algesiras and Aria will soon prove the truth and should he remit only a small sum I will be still more uneasy for the rest as he may wish to lull you into security.

We have lately received a few lines from Edward Murphy of the 28<sup>th</sup> Sepr. to enquire after our friends in Spain. He was at home and does not speak of quitting it, nor does not mention his sister who I suppose was well. Please to mention this to my Aunt Pepa with kind regard, as also to Nelly Kelly Desfontaines &c. and to Mrs. Barron if with you as I suppose she is still.

Then follows a whole page of political news from Russia &c.

P.S. I have directed Carmen to write to you for money if she wants it and I beg you to send it as I can send it to you from here should you receive nothing for her acct.

Bath the 10<sup>th</sup> Novr. 1812

To Thomas Barnaby Murphy

My Dear friend,

If I was not so well apprized of your extreem reluctance to take pen in hand, I would indeed have been alarmed at your long silence considering that by your last esteemed favour of the 24<sup>th</sup> June you announced me another letter very shortly and that by mine to you of the 1<sup>st</sup> July I entreated you not to delay it, as I particularly wished to know what I should send you to repair the House that Dr. Ronayne had then lately quited. But I have never known a man like you who refuses to receive money when it is offered to him, tho' I reprove you for it I wish it was the case with many other persons who have demands on me. However I hope you have not at least so far neglected the interest of the poorhouse as to let all the summer pass without repairing that house which of course cannot be let before it is put in proper order, but I rather presume that you have been charitable enough to advance the money expended, and not to abuse of your goodness I am anxious to repay it. But for that I must know to what it amounts and tho' I desired Edwd. Murphy to whom I wrote some time back to acquaint you how desirous I was to hear from you yet I plainly see that you are not easily induced to write and I now make another effort to endeavour to call your attention towards this little concern and as I shall have very shortly to settle an account with my banker in London I would be obliged to you to answer me without delay informing me of what I stand in your debt for that I may draw for it at the same time and remit it to you. Dont forget mentioning wether you got my power of attorney in your favour stamped?

I am happy to inform you that by letters from Cadiz of the 19<sup>th</sup> Ultmo. just received I was apprized of your aunt Mrs. Barron's safe arrival there in the Malborough two days previous after a boisterous and long voyage. She was much dejected on learning the death of her son James for which melancoly event I condole with you but considering the gloomy prospects of his future existence in this World and as I understand that he died Christianly after receiving the rights of the church, his loss is certainly less to be regreted by those who wished him well, tho' it must have been a great shock to his poor mother who went out in the expectation of still arriving in time to see and assist him. I dont know what her projects are as to returning to this country but I am glad that she has got her daughter Miss Kitty with her to attend her. I understand that her youngest son William is shortly going out to Cadiz perhaps to enter in Business with his Uncle Dn. Guillermo, whose family returned on the first accounts of the raising of the seige of Cadiz which has been a most happy event, as it will at all events give the poor inhabitants a releif for the winter at least and the futur fate of the War in the peninsula will much depend on the issue of the campain in Russia where I hope Bonaparte will meet with more difficulties than he expected. The news of the day is that Napoleon himself had arrived at Konisberg on his return to Paris leaving his army after him which will hardly survive a starving winter in Moscow.

Transcription of 0770/1/3/113

I am anxious to know some thing about your little tho' encreasing family; tell me wether my cousin has recovered her spirits, how your child that was ill goes on and I hope some good account of yourself.

My Mother who desires to be kindly remembered to you continues tolerably in health tho' low in spirits as she feels for her absent daughters, the one that was in Madrid has remained there, and refuged herself in a convent as her house furniture &c. was all sold as the property of her husband who has followed the intrusive king: we have had letters from her from September, and she had great hardships to suffer. The other, Christina, as always remained in Valentia where her house was burnt by the shells during the siege and she had a miraculous escape. We have all our share of uneasiness in this world: happy those who bare them with Christian resignation. Please to say everything that is most affectionate from me to your esteemable wife and to her sister and in hopes of hearing very soon from you I remain ever very truly

Bath the 17<sup>th</sup> Novr 1812

To Mr. Butler

My Dr. Mr. B

Since writing to you on the 18<sup>th</sup> Ult. by Mr. Thuilliers, I have been favoured with your much esteemed of the 19<sup>th</sup> Octr. with the pleasing information of Mrs. Barron's arrival. Play tell her everything that is affectionate from us. Eustace has passed a few days here on his way to Ireland for where he sets off tomorrow. I was much surprised to hear that Mrs. Barron has taken a final leave of this country &c. and follows a great deal of political news. I hope general Hill will not be compelled to evacuate Madrid but I apprehend it, and it would be very unfortunate for us if this should take place before the decision of our affairs as it might affect my poor sister Carmen's interest. We have just received a letter from her of the 20<sup>th</sup> October stating that she had sent you her power and desired you to remit to me whatever money you should receive for her account; she remained in the convent and I thought in somewhat better spirits; she mentions your apprehensions for my sister Fany's share but I hope this was before you obtained the transference of our affairs from the Audiencia to the Intendencia as you expected by your last to me. Should they decide anything I hope you would loose no time in settling the particiones quickly so as to make it appear that it was all over should they be tempted to recall the judgement; and should they declare all my sister Fanny's share to be confiscated you might alledge that the expressed intention of my poor father in favouring her with a legacy of 10000 Dollars as well as Carmen being merely for the purpose of affording them more releif in their distress: if they do not allow that sum to be paid to her, we should then not be deprived of it as the intention of the testator would be void and annulled by their decree; this is a point to be discussed with all tenacity possible. I thank you for the exertions you promise to make in our behalf and hope they will be more successfull than those hitherto undertaken. I beg to trouble you with the inclosed for my sister Carmen: it covers one from her little boy at Colledge and should the correspondence with Madrid be intercepted I beg you would keep it by you untill a favorable opportunity offered to forward it.

We are hourly expecting the arrival of the Mary Ann packet from Cadiz, I trust with some favorable information about our affairs. I have no late accounts from Edward Murphy which I beg you to mention with my respects to my Aunt Pepa and our kind compliments to Nelly Kelly Brun Desfontaines &c. I answered you extensively in my formers about my house in Port Royal which I am happy to hear by others is almost the only House in that town which has not been damaged by the french. I wish it could be sold before they returned even for 3000 hard dollars. My Mother who is pret[t]y well and Fany who is better desire to be kindly remembered to you and I repeat myself &c. I have taken the liberty of inclosing you a letter for Brun as he always complains of not receiving ours and have also requested him to send his answer through you also as we are not more fortunate in receiving his in general.

N. Una carta fue escrita el 17 Novre  
1812 con los anuncios del contenido de ésta

A Don José Brun

Bath 3 de diciembre 1812

Mi querido Brun, verías por mi última del 17 Novre que te dirixí inclusa a Don Agustín Butler las fundadas esperanzas que tenía de un partido ventajoso para nuestra amada Fanny, éstas se han corroborado hasta el día de Ayer que se realizaron en la propuesta formal de pedimiento que hizo a Maman y a mí de tu hija Don Teobaldo Bourke quien reúne todas las circunstancias favorables para anticipar una feliz unión. Como creo haverte informado en mi anterior es un joven de 27 años de estatura regular más bien delgado que parece disfrutar de buena salud y de un bellissimo índole con el mejor carácter en punto de buena conducta sin vicio conocido buen catholico de religión igualmente que su padre y su madre que son sugetos mui apreciables de distinguido linaje y poseen una hacienda considerable cuyo producto son azúcares en la Isla de San Christóval y no de Santa Cruz como por equivocación te dixé en mi última y lo que me induxo en este error es que el Padre es natural de Santa Cruz donde tenía una hacienda que se vendió a la muerte de su propio Padre y la hacienda que ahora poseen es por herencia de su muger que era hija única parece que en años regulares produce cerca de 7.500 livras esterlinas que son unos onze mil duros de lo que hay algunas rebajas por algunos censos etc pero siempre es una bella possessión que deverá heredar su hijo y desde ahora se obligan a pasarle unas asistencias suficientes para vivir con economía ofreciendo dotar a Fanny con un rédito de 27.000 Reales de Von anuales en adición de lo que ella traiga en caso de viudedad durante su vida siempre que no se vuelva a casar en cuyo caso bolvería a la familia de él. Pero si tienen hijos recaerá en ellos este rédito anual como todo lo demás. Baxos todos aspectos ya vez quan ventajoso partido promete ser y mucho más de lo que nos podíamos lisonjear por muchas razones pero ellos están enamorados el uno del otro y están llenos de la idea de contribuir a la felicidad recíproca de entrambos. En virtud de todas estas circunstancias hemos creído Maman y yo dever aceptar la propuesta en tu nombre expresando que no dudavamos que merecería tu plena aprobación por nuestros informes pero que esperaríamos tu ratificación para celebrar las bodas como es mui regular y te suplicamos no la retardes más que la buelta del paquete que lleva ésta. Porque en atención a que el Padre está en vísperas de emprender un viaje largo y desea verlo todo concluido antes de su ida será preciso que apresuremos quanto haya que hacer de manera que esté todo pronto para mediados de enero que esperaremos recibir tu aprobación que animado como nosotros de un mismo deseo que es contribuir en quanto nos sea possible a la felicidad de nuestra amada Frasquita no pueda desde luego presentar dificultad más estando tú asegurado que como debes estarlo de que vigilo y vigilaré con el mismo zelo que tú pudieras tener para aventajarla en las condiciones del contrato quanto como de mí dependa puedes descuidar que atenderá a su interés y al tuyo quanto permitan las leyes de este pays. Cuidaré que Fany cumpla tu encargo de enviarte su retrato que se sacará así como llegue un famoso pintor que se espera aquí pronto. He notado que en tu carta a Fanny me felicitas sobre mi

elección como si estuviera yo también para casarme pero créeme no hay nada en ello es verdad que me han dado aquí mucha cantaleta sobre una señorita que ya se fue de esta ciudad (pues no creas que sea la hermana de Mr Bourke) y supe que lo escribieron a Cádiz pero la verdad es que mientras nuestros asuntos tan indeterminados no puedo pensar seriamente en contraer obligaciones que no pudiera mantener. Te estimaré digas esto a Mr. Butler para que no se figure que le oculto lo que no existe.

Me parece que será conveniente que les des parte a Tía Pepa Elena Nelly a Don Agustí Butler y a los demás parientes de este enlace pues ya que está convenido cesa el motivo de guardarlo secreto. Estimaré le digas a Don Agustín que no le escribo este corro por no tener tiempo y no haver ocurrido otra novedad que comunicarle. Nuestra buena Maman sigue bien de salud y contentísima de este succeso que tranquilizará mucho su espíritu que aún padece mucho por la suerte de mis hermanas porque recelamos que la buelta de los franceses a Madrid perjudique la esperanza que teníamos de que se salvase su parte de herencia quando querrá Dios que acaven de sentenciar nuestra causa pues mil veces me falta la paciencia quando pienso en la grave injusticia que estamos sufriendo. Recibió Fany tu carta del 19 octubre a la que contesta por la inclusa también te incluso otra de Mr. Bourke que me remitió para ti. Aguardamos con impaciencia tu contestación y quedo siempre

Mañana devemos conferenciar con los abogados y te informaré en lo succesivo de quanto ocurra hasta la conclusión

Bath 20 diciembre 1812

A Don Josef Brun

Querido B. te prometí en mi última del 3 del presente darte cuenta del resultado de nuestras conferencias con los abogados las que hemos repetido por más de ocho días porque teniendo yo tan apecho el conservar quantas ventajas podía lograr a favor de nuestra amada Fany no era fácil conciliar éstas con la práctica de uso que según las leyes Inglesas conceden al marido la propiedad absoluta y perpetua de todos los bienes de su muger que no sean vinculados (pues para éstos ay ciertas reservas en el caso de no haver havido hijos, pero si ha parido uno vivo durante su matrimonio aunque fallezca antes de la madre y ninguno sobreviva a ella también concerva el marido estos bienes vinculados de su muger). Pero todos los demás bienes libres que aquí llaman personales pertenecen sin excepción al marido desde el día que se casa. Y el Padre de nuestro novio reclamava este derecho para su hijo según costumbre general lo que le huviera hecho dueño sin reserva de quanto pertenece y pueda esperar nuestra Fany por ser todos los bienes libres a fuerza de argüir y representar quantos más favorables eran a las mugeres las leyes de España he podido conseguir varias concessiones importantes como verás por la traducción del contrato que acompaña. Siendo la principal el que su marido no pueda malgastar el principal de este dinero y que ella conserve en caso de enviudar sin hijos la plena possessión de quanto ella traiga durante su vida y a su muerte según dispusiese ella por su testamento a lo menos en los 4 quintos; porque un quinto consintió ella que se le asegurase a su marido desde ahora. Y no habiendo aún por las leyes de España heredero forzoso del 5º no me opuse a ello. Pero como el interés de lo que ella trayga como verás por una nota que te remito sería una viudedad mui corta para subsistir el Padre ofreció como te dixé en mi última dotarla además en £300 anuales que son Rvón 27.000 por su vida en caso de viudedad baxo la expresa condición que tu cederías desde ahora el remoto derecho que le expliqué tendrías en España de heredar de tu hija en el improbable aunque possible caso de que le sobrevivieses a ella sin que dexase hijos porque concede esta viudedad del caudal del marido en compensación de que el caudal de la muger se le assigne del mismo modo por su vida al marido en caso que enviude sin hijos, mientras no se vuelva el a casar en cuyo caso o a su muerte se dispondrá de ello según el testamento que haya dexado la muger. Esta recíproca igualdad de esperanzas parece justa según principios de equidad y no puedo dudar un momento que la confirmarás quando reflexiones 1º que lo que cedes es una esperanza fundada en una casualidad remota y poco probable 2º En la grande ventaja que le resultará a tu hija de adquirir la certeza de una viudedad considerable la qual sin esta agregación quedaría mui insuficiente para vivir 3º considerando que ya que tus circunstancias actuales no te permiten darle algún dote de lo tuyo a lo menos no debes privarla (por una reserva de egoísmo interesado que no es propio de tu carácter) de lograr quantos beneficios puede proporcionarle el caudal de su madre. Creo conocer bastante tus sentimientos honrosos y tu amor a tu hija para no dudar que suscribirás gustoso como lo he anunciado a una proposición que deve redundar tanto en su favor Quanto al modo en que piensas verificar el pago

de los RVón 270.000 del dote de su madre que recibistes quando te casastes; aguardamos que lo expresses para el gobierno del novio pues siendo la única partida de consideración que puede esperar recibir antes de la conclusión de nuestros asuntos, cuenta sobre ella para el mantenimiento de nuevas obligaciones porque parece que el Padre no piensa desprenderse de mucho durante su vida. Pero reuniendo un poco de ambas partes piensan poderlo pasar con economía. Así le importa no tanto saver lo que puede esperar en lo futuro quanto verificar sobre que puede contar para empesar. Si llegas a poder vender tus dos casas de Chiclana y Puerto Real te proporcionará me parece el medio de cubrir una buena parte de este pago. En fin esperamos con impaciencia tu respuesta a estos puntos essentielles para poder proseguir en un asunto que tenemos todos tanto apecho por lo que parece interesar la felicidad de nuestra amada Fany que lo desea más que nosotros su salud se ha mejorado últimamente y la de nuestra buena Maman sigue tal cual para entradas de invierno que ya he empezado a hacerse sentir aquí mui riguroso. Viendo que tardaba en venir el pintor que esperábamos nos hemos dirixido a una señora francesa que tiene un pincel mui feliz para semejanzas y además pinta mui bien. Ya ha empezado a sacar a Fany y te remitiremos el retrato por primera ocasión luego que esté concluido. El precio son 8 guineas que son R Von 806 sin marco que podrás entregar a Don Agustín Butler con el importe de las varias cuentas de gastos de Fany que le hemos remitido en varias épocas y hacienden juntas a £ 197 RVon 17.730 desde la muerte de pobre Papá de cuyo importe menos la primera partida que corresponde a la testamentaría está en desembolso Maman cuya renta actual no le alcanza para vivir con la mayor economía y te suplica no te hagas un atraso tan perjudicial pues considerando que no se te carga un cuarto por su manutención has estado gozando del interés del dote de Pobre Pepa desde 17 años que falleció que aunque te corresponden deven a lo menos subvenir a los gastos de tu hija y no devieras estar tan remiso en satisfacerlos pues ya vez por la nota de lo poco que le corresponde a Fany del dinero en Inglaterra que el interés a 4 ½ p cto de esa friolera que es lo que dan los fondos públicos en que está invertido no basta para satisfacer la décima parte además que ahora para fines de año habrá que pagar las cuentas del boticario por toda su última enfermedad que subirá a más de ese corto interés luego has estado recibiendo desde dos años los alquileres de la casa calle del Veedor que en toda conciencia corresponden al beneficio de la testamentaría de pobre Papá según tu solemne contrato con el en desquito de los intereses de tu deuda que si no satisfacen crescerán a un punto que te será luego impossible pagarlos. Todos estos puntos merecen ser atendidos con reflexión pues tu recta integridad lo exige en conciencia y espero que los considerarás devidamente comunicándome lo que resuelvas de la pobre Carmen hemos recibido últimamente carta del 17 Novre había buuelto a su casa pero estaba mui sobresaltada con las repetidas mudanzas de autoridades. Quando querrá Dios que tengamos paz y quietud algo podemos esperar de los grandes sucesos de los Rusos contra el tirano de la Europa que ha sufrido una nueva derrota más completa que todas las anteriores el 17 ulto haviendo él huido a escape del campo de batalla. Recive afectuosas expresiones de Maman y Fany y créeme siempre afectísimo hermano que corazón te ama.

Bath 19 diciembre 1812

A Don Carlos Desfontaines

Mi Estimado Amigo

Le devuelvo mis expresiones gracias por la eficacia con que ha desempeñado mi encargo acerca de mi casa de Puerto Real y su bondad en enterarme del por menor de su estado actual en su apreciable carta del 6 del pasado, veo y confieso con usted que hay poco que esperar de una possession tan reducida de valor por las varias circunstancias que me enumera por lo mismo importa ya que no produce no malgastar dinero bueno en ella. Apruebo que haya usted hecho los reparos más indispensables para hacerla habitable a un inquilino pero pienso que no se debe reparar la solería del jardín siendo más corto acabar de quitar los pocos que quedan y dexarlo terraplen que enlozarlo todo de nuevo que sería un gasto inútil.

Quanto a la remuneración del casero no me opongo a lo que sea justo y debido pero que hay que considerar 1ro que la propiedad siempre se huviera recuperado a la retirada de los franceses y quanto a la buena preservación parece que no ha quedado mui intacta además lo que habrá hecho probablemente habrá sido insistir que la casa era suya y hacerse pagar por los propios oficiales franceses a quien alquilaba viviendas hallando él su cuenta en ello. Luego si los Sres Bockman se creen dispensados de pagarme el alquiler de dos años y medio por el mérito contrahído con el casero, entonces les toca a ellos remunerar al casero porque les ha eximido de pagar el alquiler. No siendo justo que yo pierda el alquiler por un lado y tenga que desembolsar por otro pagando así por dos lados el mismo servicio. En resumen no me parece fuera de razón exigir que los Sres Brockman paguen los 20 duros devidos por los 2 meses de Enero y Febrero por empesado antes de la venida de los franceses pues no hay disculpa ni razón para que no lo paguen y remunerar con este dinero al casero que bien considerado no merece más pero si usted es de parecer que se le den doze duros más para completar dos onzas lo dexo a su arbitrio. Y quanto a la venta ya veo que no puedo esperar lo que creía y me contentaré de recibir los triste 30.000 RVon que usted menciona libres de polvo y paja siempre que el comprador se haga cargo de la hipoteca de los 360 Rvon anuales impuestos sólo durante la vida del clérigo Don José Ahumada y Lobo. O bien si esta hipoteca sirviese de estorvo a la venta tomaría 40.000 RVon libres de polvo y paja removiendo la hipoteca a la casa de Brun calle del Veedor quedando yo responsable en mi particular del pago de este rédito. Aunque preferiría el primer partido pero en ambos casos si se puede hallar comprador le autoriso a usted en verificar la venta desde luego pues aunque será darla por un pedazo de pan más vale algo que nada siendo así que me cuenta más que produce pues tengo desembolsado 15.000 Rvón en ella desde que la heredé en reparos etc. Don Agustín Butler quedó en ajustar cuentas por lo pasado con el clérigo Ahumada quien se dirigió a él en primer lugar.

Quanto a nuestros desgraciados y eternos asuntos de testamentaría me da mal agüero que usted me haya pedido un poder de substitución para emplear a otro en Sevilla (el que le incluyo tan amplio como cave y en toda regla para los fines conducentes) Porque don Agustín en carta de 19 octubre me había lisonjeado de lograr que pasase la decisión de nuestra causa de la Audiencia

de Sevilla a la Intendencia de Cádiz donde esperaba tuviese mejor suerte pero rezelo por este proceder que no me lo haya podido lograr y que tengamos que andar las andadas. Bien me acuerdo del poco a poco de las cosas de por allá pero a la verdad éstas pasan de pesadas y aunque estoy mui persuadido de la buena voluntad de servirnos de ustedes tres que nos hacen el favor de interesarse por nosotros, sin embargo digo que de la sinceridad de sus deseos no puedo menos de creer que no han dado en la tecla que conviene mover para acelerar el asunto. Ya le insinué a Don Agustín tiempo atrás que quizás convendría cebar algunas ruedas para mover la máquina porque según veo nada han hecho esos jueces sobre el particular desde dos años que lo tienen entre manos y así puede estarse diez más resultándonos a nosotros un perjuicio gravísimo que a veces me apura la paciencia y apuraría la de un santo considerando la injusticia la qual sufrimos. En varias ocasiones he procurado lograr el empeño de los regentes pero Don Agustín no ha tenido a bien presentar y apoyar mis memoriales alegando que no es de la incumbencia de los regente la decisión de este asunto pero no más pays ni tribunal en que no favorezcan los empeños como no me ha quedado nada por hacer por acá suplico a V vea y urga cuanto pueda acelerar la deseada conclusión por allá. Y si en algo puedo servirle en esta tierra mándeme con confianza pues además de las obligaciones que le devo por todas estas molestias crea usted que siempre le he profesado un sincero afecto. Mi madre y sobrina se reúnen a mi en finas expresiones de amistad con la que quedo siempre su aftmo. Para las noticias interesantes de este correo le refiero a usted a mi carta a Don Agustín Butler para evitar repeticiones.

Bath 19 Dicre 1812

A Dn Agustin Butler

My Dr. Mr. B.

I hasten to impart to you the glorious oficial news just received by dispatches from Lord Cathcart dated 25 Ultio. from St. Petersburg and published here in an extraordinary gazette: it is as compleat a defeat of Buonaparte's armies as could be wished &c. &c. Since writing my last to you on the 17<sup>th</sup> Ultio. I have been favoured with your much esteemed 23d ditto acknowledging the receipt of two of my former ones. I presume Brun has before now acquainted you of my communication to him by the last mail of a very desirable proposal for Fany: it is a young man who bears an excelent caracter and altho' he is not rich at present he will inherit a good estate from his Father in the Island of St. Kitts. I flatter myself that he will make Fany's happiness if they are united. I should not expect any obstacle from Brun as he must wish to see his daughter's well estblished with a man of good family and possessed of every desirable quality. A few points of interest still remain to be finally settled with the young gentleman's father who is not a very easy person to deal with on that subject but I hope it will all be arranged to general satisfaction. I had not a moment of leisure left me before the departure of last mail or else I intended to have com[m]unicated to you myself this agreeable event but I desired Brun to tell you of it. As I fear my letters to him might miscarry I take the liberty of addressing them to you when they are of importance. I have sent him a little note of Fany's property drawn out from the liquidation of the money in England which I sent you last March and upon which I have continued to act for altho' you have constantly declined acknowledging the correctness of it, yet as you did not state any defects in it. I have taken it for granted that it is as it should be, and intend to abide by it. I dont know how Brun will manage to return to his daughter the Dowry he received when he married poor Pepa which he should return now or devise some means to pay it by installments for she will want it as her share of the money in England is a mere trifle. I also press him for the payment of those bills which I have occasionally remited you of her separate expences. Unfortunately Fany's best prospects depend on the termination of our affairs when the outstanding credits of the money in America your debt and Brun's debt will be shared amongst us. I apprehend from Desfontaines calling to me for a power of substitution (which I send here inclosed) that your expectations of bringing our affairs from the Audiencia of Seville to the Intendencia of Cadiz must have vanished yet I beg you would not cease to press a conclusion. We have lately received a letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> Ultio. from poor Carmen who was returned to her house but far from being easy in her mind.

Please to acquaint my aunt Pepa that I have no late accounts from Edd. Murphy, and remember us most affectionately to Mrs. Barron and Miss Kitty. I beleive their friends on this side are all well. I hope you will have settled with the priest Ahumada in a manner to conciliate justice without sacrificing my purse that is low enough without further drains. My Mother & Fany join in every thing that is affectionate to you and I remain ever &c.

Bath 21 January 1813

To Richard Strange Esqr.

My Dr. Sir:

I avail myself of the opportunity of an acquaintance proceeding to Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of your much esteemed letter of the 24 Decr. last and to thank you for the further information you had the kindness to give me, the same which you express to have mentioned to my cousin Edward Murphy from whom I have not heard since he saw you; but I observe it would be both expensive and difficult to find out the representation of Messrs. Byrnes so we must leave them alone for the present as we are not likely to want them so soon. In the mean I see you are so good as to call occasionally on Mr. Roper to remind him of this business and if he continues to pay regularly a good sum by installments we may clear the debt in a few years. But a doubt has occurred to me on which I would wish to have your opinion as having been executor to my Grandfather's Will. Wether you think it right and conscienable that my Mother should keep the whole of these payments untill she is covered the £500 which remained due to her of her assignement and the interest on that sum since it was owed to her: or wether she should devide it equally with the children of her sister Fanny, Mde. St. Julien whose son is now living in France and who probably was not paid either his mother's assignement? We know that Mr. Dromgold paid himself all his share and as for My Uncle Tib's four bastard sons they can only come in after we are all paid because my Uncle Tib having heing left universal heir to his oldest brother Edward was obliged to pay the full assignement to each of his sisters before he could inherit anything himself. I am not informed of what may be due to the St. Juliens but he[sic] may perhaps be ascertained from himself. I beg you will excuse my troubling you with this question as it proceeds from a considerable desire of comitting no injustice, and as nobody is so competent to answer it than yourself; however I would be sorry to give you much trouble and I hope you will only have the goodness to favour me with your opinion on the subject at your leisure. My Mother desires to be most affectionately remembered to you and to Mr. Strange whom she hopes has not forgotten her and we both join in our sincerest wishes for your health and happiness this new year and many others following.

I remain Dr. Sir with true regard and gratitude  
Your most obt. Hle. St.

Bath 22d Enro 1813

A don Joséf Brun

Mi querido Brun hace pocos días que recibimos tu favorecida del 28 Dicre con cartas separadas para Dn Teobaldo Bourke para tu hija y para su confesor y para mí. Tu respuesta es conforme a la que esperaba pues no podía dudar que mereciese tu aprobación un partido que vajo tantos aspectos se deve considerar como ventajoso y que en toda probabilidad hará la felicidad de nuestra amada Fanny. Quanto a tu solicitud para que intermedie la aprobación de su confesor me ha parecido mui en su lugar que tomases las disposiciones más acertadas para assegurararte que su voluntad era libe y desimpresionada de toda influxo nuestro por lo que he cuidado que se observase puntualmente tu disposición en ese particular. Ella entregó tu carta al Revdo Mr. Ainsworth quien tuvo una conferencia con ella y nos ha comunicado después que daba su plena aprobación del enlace lo que confirma la tuya pero se ha diferido algo la celebración con motivo de la ausencia del padre quien como te avisé tenía que emprender un viaje que no podía diferir y su hijo le ha acompañado parte del camino por cuyo motivo no te podrá contestar por este correo a tu carta que le enviamos pero no duda que lo hará por el próximo. También le observaré a su regreso lo que me dices tocante a no poder entregarle ahora la legítima de su madre que recibistes quando te casastes y que expressas estar invertida en casas las que conozco que seguramente no se pudieran enagenar ahora sin grave quebranto pero entretanto que puedas verificar el pago del capital esperará que le pagues el interés moderado del 6 p.cto. sobre dho caudal desde el día que se case pues así me lo tiene dicho anteriormente quando le insinué que savía que no te hallavas con fondos en dinero contado para hacerle el pago de una vez pero que ignoraba de qué modo pensabas pagárselo. Te dixé en mi última del 20 del pasado que su padre no le prometía más que una asistencia bastante corta durante su vida porque tiene que economisar el dote de su hija y con la guerra han producido menos las haciendas de azúcares por falta de mercados. Por lo que me dixó entonces que contaba que a lo menos le pagarías puntualmente el interés de ese dinero mientras no te convenía desembolsar el capital lo que hallo mui justo porque le haría falta para mantener sus obligaciones y no podría dispensar de ello mientras su padre vivía a cuya proposición aguardo tu contestación. Me anuncias que en tu próxima me hablarías más extensamente sobre ese particular por lo que la aguardo para comunicarle más detalladamente tus proposiciones. Don Agn Butler en su última de 31 dicre me avisa que la Regencia havía expedido la orden para que nuestra causa pasasse al Tribunal de Guerra nuevamente creado en Cádiz creo que Dn Ignacio Alava es uno de los vocales es probable que conoscias los más de los otros; así espero que solicitarás de ellos la pronta y favorable decisión que tan injustamente se nos ha detenido hasta ahora para que podamos en virtud de ella concluir las particiones del dinero de América etc. y entonces Fanny podrá percivir algo más por la parte que le corresponde. No olvides avisarme el estado de este desgraciado asunto, que nos perjudica tanto a todos. Siguen noticias políticas etc. Estimaré que comuniques estas noticias a Dn. Agustín Butler a quien no escribo este correo por no tener nada particular que comunicarle. Te incluyo una carta de Fany expresiones de Mamá y mías etc.

5 Feb

1813

A Thomas B Murphy exrivi algunos renglones el día 5 Febro 1813 instándole a que me escriba y informe del estado de mi cuenta con él

Bath 17 Febro 1813

A Dn. José Brun

Mi querido Brun: Hemos extrañado mucho carecer de carta tuya por el último paquete que salió de Cádiz el 29 Enero. Pues en tu última recibida fha 28 dicre me anunciabas otra a la que te referías para detalle de asuntos de interés que por la precipitación en que escrivias aquella no podías entrar en por menor y sólo anticipabas la información de que por tener el dote de la legítima de tu hija invertido en fincas no podrías verificar su entrega por ahora en efectivo lo que nos sirve de gobierno pero lo que aguardamos saver, es qual seguridad propones dar a tu yerno para el puntual pago de los intereses sobre dha cantidad? La necesidad de aclarar este punto es lo que ha retardado la boda. Porque el padre del novio quiere ver asegurado y realizado a lo menos en parte el caudal de Fany antes de firmar su obligación por el pago de la asistencia que ha prometido por su parte la que conoce ser insuficiente sin alguna agregación al mantenimiento del nuevo matrimonio. No dudo que el primer paquete que aguardamos en breve nos trayga alguna proposición satisfactoria de tu parte sobre este particular, pues eres Padre demasiado tierno y sobrada probidad para privar a tu hija del goze de lo que le pertenece por derecho aunque no te halles con dinero contado para la pronta entrega de esa cantidad me parece que se pudiera sugerir algún recurso que le proporcionase el medio de verificarlo como sería tomar dinero sobre hipoteca de las quatro casas calle del cuartel de Marina y si lograses vender de algún modo las de Puerto Real y Chiclana ya que no tiene cuenta conservarlas en un estado tan precario el producto pagaría parte de los RVon 270.000 que le debes. Y para pagar el interés del resto pudieras ceder el alquiler de alguna otra casa que cobraría el agente de Mr. Bourke pues aun te queda tu sueldo con que vivir y es justo estrecharse para satisfacer las obligaciones de honor y justicia. También vivimos aquí con suma economía pero en conciencia primero es pagar que disfrutar o heredar. El Novio te ha escrito con fha del 5 del presente en contestación a la tuya y yo te he escrito también el 22 del pasado una que espero hayas recibido. La pobre Fany está muy impaciente que todo se concluya pues cada día se aman más los novios y no dudo que serán mui felices según todas las apariencias. Uno de los retratos de Fany se ha concluido y se va a empezar el otro creo que te lo podremos remitir por las de Costello que hablan de regresar a Cádiz en Abril; espero que hayas entrego Rvón 1512 su costo como prometiste s pagarlo en letra a la vista a Dn Agustín Butler como te lo avisé para que nos lo remita. Cedo la pluma a Fany Mama y yo te aseguramos de nuestro afecto.

Bath 17 March 1813

A Dn José Brun

Querido Brun Mal podía anticipar que el resultado de mis desvelos para asegurar la felicidad de nuestra amada Fany en la conclusión de un casamiento efecto de sus inclinaciones y en nada atraído por mi persuasión como ella lo puede atestiguar en honor de la verdad me hubiese merecido parte una colección de improperios a qual más insultante y tanto más sensibles se dirigen a herirme en el punto que más me precio que es mi desinterés personal en el manejo de los asuntos confiados a mi cargo. Pero no quiero fixar la atención en tus expresiones ofensivas porque conozco que todas provienen del grosero error en que estás de que yo he manejado este asunto con el fin de preservar en mi poder los bienes que deven pertenecer a tu hija. La sola sospecha de crearme capaz de tal intento es en sí bastante insultante y concuerdo contigo en que merecería esto y mucho más si fuese capaz de urdir tal plan. Pero pronto te desengañarás quando sepas que lexos de apetecer el cargo de guardián de los bienes de tu hija lo consideraba como un cargo de gravosa responsabilidad del qual nunca me podría resultar un ochavo de utilidad pero sí mucha molestia y sólo consentía en aceptarlo por hacerle favor. De lo que pronto te convencerías si conocieras la naturaleza y facultades de este cargo de guardián según las leyes de este pays. Y es preciso informarte que introducen aquí guardianes en todo contrato como requerimos testigos. Y así lexos de ser una novedad que yo haya sugerido te puedes informar y sabrás que todo casamiento celebrado en Inglaterra donde se hace alguna provisión en beneficio de la mujer se estiende con la misma forma de guardianes cuya expresión no es quizás la propia para introducir la voz Ynglesa de Trustee que más bien significa testigo de confianza con autoridad para obligar a ambas partes al cumplimiento de un contrato no sólo matrimonial pero de cualesquiera otras naturaleza de ajuste, etc. Se nombran de ambas partes de modo que uno fiscaliza el otro y como la firma de ambos es requisita nada puede ejecutar uno de por sí. Además que los bienes no permanecen en sus manos pero sólo atestiguan la inversión de estos mismos bienes. En suma es una forma de la ley que es general en este pays. Y el pensar que las leyes de Castilla se han de observar en un contrato celebrado en este pays es un absurdo porque no es practicable. Sólo se puede modificar algunas de las leyes del pays por condiciones expresas acordadas por ambas partes pero ya que no apruebas las que yo arreglé con el padre de Mr. Bourke te refiero al mismo Dn Teobaldo Bourke para que se avengan V sin mi intervección que en nada deseo introducir en asuntos que no son míos personales u puestos a mi cargo por legítimo derecho. En este particular nunca pensé disconvenir de los tuyos como tutor y curador de tu hija. Me alegro que hayas procurado adquirir informes de la persona y qualidades de Mr. Bourke porque no puede resultar más que en su favor y hallarás que no es ni un loco calavera ni un tonto de capirote pero un joven de talento y conducta mui capaz de manjar sus propios negocios, y que no se somete a otra tutela que la que las leyes inglesas imponen al más cuerdo e inteligente de sus ciudadanos. El padre de Mr. Bourke no se oponía a esta forma de guardianes pero sólo a que se concediesen las ventajas de bienes vinculados a los bienes personales de tu hija. Extraño que no hayas advertido porqué cláusula el novio dotaba a tu hija

quando por extenso está explicado que el padre como poseedor actual del mayorazgo y en sucesion el hijo dotan a tu hija con la viudedad annual de £300 que el padre se obliga a pagarle desde ahora por escritura.

Este caballero acaba de partir para la Ysla de Sn Christobal para dar una vuelta por sus haciendas así no podré entregarle el nuevo contrato que me remites para él pero lo he entregado a su hijo que te contextará sobre el particular lo que le parezca pues yo me desentiendo desde ahora de toda intervención en el asunto ya que lejos de merecer tu confianza me sospechas de atender sólo a lo que me puede ser útil. Afortunadamente [some words missed] no depende mi fama del juicio precipitado e illiberal [one word missed] en esta ocasión has querido formar de mí pero estriba sobre fundamentos [one word missed] sólidos qual es la opinión de rectitud e integridad que mi conducta general en quantos asuntos he transigido me ha adquirido en el concepto de las personas con quienes he tenido que tratar sin que jamás tuviesen que alegar cosa alguna que impugnase mi delicadeza y pundonor.

En quanto a las particiones y liquidación de la testamentaría de mi difunto Padre se harán con toda rectitud y justicia y lo que yo he hecho aquí subsistirá porque he observado en mi arreglo el derecho español como era justo y no intento abandonar mi derecho de manejar el asunto como albacea que soy nombrado en el testamento y como tal atenderé a los derechos de tu hija con la misma imparcialidad que a los de mis hermanas y a los míos propios. Me insinúas que saldrán las cuentas mui diferentes de las que me esperaba pero yo creo que serás tú más bien el errado, pues fundas tu cálculo en una evaluación sumaria del caudal que dexó mi pobre Padre sin deducir los créditos incobrables, y sin advertir que dispuso por legados a mi Madre y otras varias mandas de gran parte del 5º de su caudal. Pero sea qual fuese cada uno de los herederos recibirán la parte que le corresponda con equidad así que se realice y que se concluya el juicio pendiente sobre las partes de mis hermanas. Deseo que observes la misma integridad en la entrega de los Rvón 270.000 que recibistes, quando corresponda a tu yerno en dinero efectivo como lo recibistes y no en casas pues en igual especie y forma estás obligado a devolberlo quando se te exija el total por entero y no por mitad como mencionas porque desde que murió tu esposa, quedastes sólo depositario de aquél dote como administrador y tutor de tu hija a quien el día que se case o sea mayor de edad le corresponderá recibir ambas mitades a cuenta de las legítimas paterna y materna de su Madre sin esperar al fallecimiento de su abuela por la misma razón que si aún viviese su abuelo tendrías lo mismo que entregarle la primera mitad que ofreces pagar ahora. Su derecho en este particular es claro y no me puedes citar ley en contra. Ya que consultas tanto a tu conciencia para todas tus decisiones espero que no la consultarás menos para pagar lo que debes a no hacerlo se deduciría claramente que sólo la haces más servir de pretexto para eludir toda entrega de intereses, lo que no quiero suponer sin prueba deseo que pruebes lo contrario.

Como no tengo secretario que me copie mis cuentas y mis cartas podrás recibir de Dn Agustín Butler el arreglo de la liquidación que he hecho aquí pues le he escrito que te la comunique para tu gobierno y además se evitan portes excesivos como el de cinco duros que nos costó tu pliego por contener tanto papel blanco y sobres que cargan con otras tantas cartas y aunque

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pagamos con gusto el porte de las cartas que deseamos sentimos malgastar en portes inútiles.

Me prometes contextarme por separado sobre los demás asuntos domésticos cuya carta estoy aún aguardando. Recive afectuosas expresiones de Maman y de tu hija y créeme siempre tu affmo hermano.

Bath 17 Marzo 1813

Dna Catalina Barron

Mi apreciada Amiga, me ha dado V tan repetidas pruebas de su afecto para nosotros que no temo abusar de su bondad molestándola de nuevo para que se sirva interponer su influxo y mediación en un asunto que me interesa vivamente por lo que amo a mi sobrina cuya felicidad depende de su éxito; sé que ella ha sido siempre una gran favorita de V y se [two words missed] mí en esta ocasión para solicitar de V que vea a su Padre y trate de persuadirle que consienta en términos admisibles a su enlace con Dn Teobaldo Bourke que es un joven dotado de mil bellas prendas y calculado para hacer su felicidad.

Ha de saber V que quando le participé a Brun este partido pintándoselo como un partido ventajoso como lo será en lo futuro aunque mientras viva su Padre escasea de bienes nos contestó enviándonos su consentimiento porque creyó que era bastante rico para no pedirle el dote que corresponde a su hija; pero así como le impuse en segunda carta que no podría dispensar de ese dinero para mantener sus obligaciones y participándole al mismo tiempo el contrato que yo había convenido con el Padre del Novio de repente suspende su consentimiento y buscando por pretexto desprobar las condiciones aregladas conforme al uso de las leyes Ynglesas. Me escribe la carta la más insultante acusándome de no haver tenido otra mira en esta boda que assegurar la retención en mi poder de los bienes de su hija porque yo debía ser uno de los trustees del contrato y porque no entiende la naturaleza de esta forma general de las leyes Inglesas que introducen Trustees o guardianes en todos los contratos de qualesquiera naturaleza que sean (como V quizás habrá tenido ocasión de observarlo durante su estada en Inglaterra) de esto deduce las conclusiones las más disparatadas sobre que yo quiero poner en tutela al novio quien no puede ser otro que un tonto de capirote para consentir en ello etc y me retracta toda intervención en el asunto enviándome en substitución del contrato convenido, otras condiciones de su dictamen que son inadmisibles por exigir primero que se case según las leyes del derecho de Castilla lo que en Inglaterra ni Mr. B. ni nadie querrá consentir en una cláusula cuyo extento ignoran, siendo así que en todo pays donde se celebra un contrato se extiende según las leyes de aquel pays donde se deve observar. Por consiguiente es lo mismo que si [one Word missed] en otras palabras pondré tales obstáculos que no se verificará; lo que es mui cruel para su hija que lo tenía ya consentido por hecho habiendo recibido su primera aprobación.

Si como lo dice me sospecha de miras interesadas, no deseo tener más intervención en el asunto, que se entienda directamente con el Novio; sólo deseo que se convenga en que se celebre según las leyes del Pays y que no oponga impedimentos insuperables intentar persuadirlo a que se preste a estas razones que usted le podrá argüir mejor que yo es quanto deseamos de V y le suplicamos tenga la bondad de procura convencerle con al eficacia que le es propia, no dudando que su talento y el carácter de V logren más [text missed] del que podríamos lisonjearnos de qualesquiera otra persona. La idea de vivir con una madrastra del nacimiento y educación de la actual esposa de Brun le es tan repugnante a Fany que está mui resuelta a no

consentir jamás a ello prefiriendo en todo extremo tener que ganar su vida en este pays antes de someterse a tal necesidad y estas no son ideas que le hemos imbuido pero nacidas de su propio pensamiento. Convendría darle a entender a Brun que si no se prestase a dar su consentimiento a este enlace con buena gracia, no está en su poder ni en el nuestro impedir a su hija que se case sin el por la Iglesia lo que daría todo derecho de reclamar sus bienes maternos, pero importa mucho que no crea que sea sujeción nuestra y que imbuimos a su hija con tales ideas como en realidad no lo es pues tanto mi Madre como yo sentiríamos mucho que tomase tal paso considerando el consentimiento de un Padre en esta materia como un requisito muy deseable y una fuente de bendición pero también sería cruel que ella sacrificase su felicidad al capricho de su Padre y así no podríamos responder de las resultas. El está muy preocupado con esperanzas muy exageradas del caudal que le corresponderá a Fany que no será más de la mitad de lo que se tiene figurado y esto le hace quizás ser más tenaz en este punto considerándola como un partido muy ventajoso en quanto a bienes no siendo así porque se lleva del gran caudal [part of page missing] se supone dexó mi pobre Padre, sin advertir que se comprenden en el balance [part of page missing] deudas incobrables y que dis[.]uso en legados a mi Madre &ca de gran parte del quinto.

Luego exceptui a Fany de la mejora del 3º de modo que lo que lo le vend[.] a corresponder no será tanto. No lo creo menos errado en otra mate[...] de intereses y des que promete entregar solo la mitad del dote que recibió con mi hermana, luego que se case su hija y la otra mitad dice que no le corresponderá a el pagarla, hasta que fallezca mi Madre, por haberse expresado ser aquella dote en parte de las legítimas Paterna y Materna de mi hermana: es muy verdad que se deben considerar los 270 mil reales que recibió en parte de las legítimas Paterna y Materna de su esposa. Pero no creo por eso que exista ley alguna por la qual se deva deducir que le corresponde de derecho la retención de aquel dote hasta la muerte de los padres; porque cesando en el día que se case ó sea mayor de edad su hija, su calidad de tutor curador y tenedor de bienes pues ella entra entonces en la plena posesión y goze de todos sus derechos. Desde luego debe ella recibir todo lo que se corresponde por muerte de su Madre; y así como, aunque estuviese viviendo mi Padre hubiera el tenido que entregar el dote que recibió a su hija por ser ese dote por su naturaleza un pago hecho en vida anticipando a cuenta de la herencia. Lo mismo digo que deberá entregar el total del dote que recibió aunque viva mi Madre. Yo así lo entiendo; pero le suplico a V tenga la bondad de informarse qual es la ley y de avisarme para que me sirva de gobierno. Como también si no está obligado a pagar ese dote en la especie que lo recibió quiero decir en efectivo porque así lo recibió, y no en valor apereciado de una casa como propone. Siempre que en el día no se pudiese realizar la venta de esa casa por igual valor. Conosco que solicito de V. una comisión desagradable pero espero que condescienda en cumplirla y me disimule la libertad que he tomado en nombre de mi Madre y sobrina, conociendo quan importante es para su felicidad. Supongo que Brun le dirá a V. como a nosotros que ha consultado teólogos y abogados y son de parecer que no puede en conciencia consentir con los artículos que yo había convenido con el Padre del Novio, la única cláusula que podía consernir

su conciencia deve ser la petición que le hacemos de ceder su derecho de heredero forzoso de su hija según las leyes de España en el remote caso que ella falleciese antes que el y sin dexar hijos. Pero enhorabuena que no renuncie ese derecho, pero quanto a lo demas no puede decir con verdad que el dever de su conciencia se opone a ello; pues el confessor de su hija aquí opina que es caso de conciencia que niegue el su consentimiento al casamiento en el estado actual de las cosas. &c &c