Thomas Pennant to Richard Bull

ID:	1088
From:	Thomas Pennant
To:	Richard Bull
Date:	1789-08-15
Repository:	National Library of Wales
Identifier:	NLW 5500C, no. 78
Editors:	Transcribed by Ffion Mair Jones; edited by Ffion Mair Jones; encoded by Vivien Williams. (2019)
Cite:	'Thomas Pennant to Richard Bull 1789-08-15' transcribed by Ffion Mair Jones; edited by Ffion Mair Jones; encoded by Vivien Williams. (2019) in Curious Travellers Digital Editions [editions.curioustravellers.ac.uk/doc/1088]

Dear Sir

Downing Aug. 15th 1789

Variety of affairs perhaps of not ^the first importance enough to neglect so valuable a friend, prevented me from attending sooner to yr favor of June 18th.[1] It gave me all the satisfaction I could wish. let me apologize for the silence of one month at lest by pleading a painful complaint; & Mrs Pennants illness. hers occasioned by a fall from her horse: but thank heaven we are nearly recovered. casualty's must happen & after the grand climacteric[2] complaints must arrive. I am truely sorry for the nature of yours: ~~complaint~~ for exercise is is the grand preservative: & that I am most thankful I can still exert. & hope soon to mount my steed, the most efficacious of any. I hope miss Bulls[3] keep well. my best wishes attend them. my young family is much dispersed. my eldest daughter is with her good aunt at Ramsgate. My little Boy just sent to Hartlebury school near worcester. My David at the Lakes in Cumberland:[4] & only our little girl left to comfort us. There has been a blessed change of weather. Hay in vast plenty; & a good prospect of corn which I hope will reduce the very unreasonable prices. & quiet the minds of the common people. How happy are we in respect to France, afflicted with every species of misery: & I think will not soon recover its tone: let their speculation be every so fine.[5] To make amends for a dull letter I inclose two proofs of *my London* by way of fore taste. Moses works stoutly for you & engages to send off the work by octr 15th: if you will prescribe the mode. I now conclude with my hopes of hearing from you speedily & that I am

Dear Sir with the truest regard
Yrs most affectly

Tho. Pennant

PS. I mourn for Mrs Mary Mostyn whom perhaps you knew. she remembered Mrs P. & our two little ones in a very handsome manner.[6]

I just hear that Sir W. W. Wynne died 200,000£ in debt. & has added to it a most cruel charge of 84000£. ~~[illegible]~~ to the younger children.[7] his Lady has 2000£ a year jointure. & 3000 oz of plate. By what neglect of his affairs & scandalous impositions this good man without ^~~[illegible]~~ a single vice, has thus perhaps ruined his great fortune in less than 20 years.[8] we reckon those Wynne, or rather Williams a new family originated frm here in the middle of last century; & formed out of that, & a succession of heiresses they married. The late Sir W.s first wife brought what is now 12000£ a year.

Editorial Notes

[1] See 1087.

[2] Pennant celebrated his sixty-third birthday on 14 June 1789, reaching a year of life often supposed to be especially critical. *OED*, s.v. climacteric.

[3]

Elizabeth and Catherine Bull.

[4] See an itinerary for this 1789 tour from Downing to the Lake District and back via the West Riding of Yorkshire to Manchester and Chester, probably in the hand of David Pennant, at WCRO CR 2017/TP9; and an account of it in NLW 2423B.

[5] Pennant's reference to the need to ‘quiet the minds of the common people’, indicates that he was already aware (in August 1789) of the possible repercussions of the early days of the revolution across the channel. For the events of July and August 1789 in France see Jones, *Longman Companion to the French Revolution*, pp. 11–12.

[6] Mary Bridget Mostyn left £2000 to Sarah Pennant, daughter of her niece Ann (née Mostyn), should she survive her mother, and £500 to her brother Thomas. Will of the Honourable Mary Bridget Mostyn, Spinster, of the parish of St Mary le Bone, National Archives PROB 11/1181/156.

[7] Sir Watkin Williams Wynn had three sons and three daughters from his second marriage. *ODNB.*

[8] For Williams Wynn's debts at death, see *ODNB*, which notes a debt of £160,000 and a further £6000 pa in mortgage charges. The twenty years in which Pennant considers that Williams Wynn ruined his fortune presumably began when he came of age in April 1770, immediately taking possession of the fortune of his father, Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, third baronet, the latter having died when the fourth baronet was only five months old in 1749.