Richard Bull to Thomas Pennant

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From:	Richard Bull
To:	Thomas Pennant
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Dear Sir

Stratton Street Jan^{y}. 3. 1791.

These, I trust, are not my last words, but they are the first I have been able to write since December 12th. on which day I left Northcourt, very ill indeed. We came over in a violent gale of wind, and I grew worse, and worse, all the journey, and as soon as I came to London, sent for D^{r}. Turton, who found me in a putrid fever, and till within these few days I have never left by bed, except to have it made. He says there have never been any Symptoms of danger, and I am beginning to gain strength, but it has left me very low, and has taken away almost all the little hearing I had. I have said a great deal more than there was occasion for, because I wish'd to excuse myself as well as I can for not answering your letter, which I was allow'd to see only a few days ago. a few things in your last letter, and in that ~~[illegible]~~ last ~~[illegible]~~ which came since my return,[1] require some sort of answer, and then I must finish because I have a painfull Rheumatism in my wrist, which I am with much difficulty, and my head is very weak, and rambling.

The best authenticated heads of Cranmer, are that in the *Heroologia* and that Engraved by Virtue from Holbein. Granger always prefer'd the first.[2] - with respect to the Ships – I with pleasure inform you, that a sett ~~are~~ have been publish'd, (I think in 1788) done neatly in mezzotinto, upon a small Quarto paper, from a cutter to a first rate, with their heads, and ornaments upon detach'd plates. they consist of eight prints,[3] which I will get for you if providence designs me the powers of acting again, for myself, or my friends

I enclose, the old Balloon –[4] it was long, very long ago that I tore it out of a book, which I gave to Granger, without taking any account of it, not imagining I should ever have occasion to make any enquiries about the matter, – 'twas ~~[illegible]~~ before the Ballooning rage began that I bought the book. pray send me the print back again, or bring it when you, come to town, because I am frequently ask'd for it. –

my daughters[5] are both well. – they were born to be nurses, and for nothing ~~highter~~ higher, but their abilities were never call'd into action before. I sincerely hope you, and yours continue in good health. If you can read this, 'tis all I expect from it.

Adieu my
Dear Sir, believe me, sincerely your

Rich^{d}: Bull

Marginalia

Endorsement on top of first page in Thomas Pennant's hand: answ[d]

Editorial Notes

[1] Bull refers to letters 1114 and 1115.

[2] Bull perhaps intended to refer here to the portrait of Cranmer in Thoroton, *The antiquities of Nottinghamshire*, recommended by Granger in *A biographical history of England*, vol. 1, p. 95.

[3] Bull responds to a query in 1114. For a comparable set of ten prints held at the British Museum, entitled 'Des Ports d'Angleterre' (The ports of England) (1788), by Antonio Suntach after Thomas Milton, see here [accessed 29 September 2018].

[4] For this print, see 1115, n. 1.

[5] Elizabeth and Catherine Bull.