

Thomas Pennant to Richard Bull

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From: Thomas Pennant
To: Richard Bull
Date: 1792-09-17
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Dear Sir

This day the Letter annexed was returned to me.¹ You see my attention: It was not my fault that it did not find you at Brighthelmstone as you had said you will be.² I cannot now add more than my wish that I was young to unite in a crusade against the infidels of France.³ Heaven must leave them (not as it did David to his choice of Evils)⁴ but to the united Judgements of the sword famine & pestilence. The destroying angels are now hovering over the most detestable of countries.

Adieu

Y^{rs} most faithfully

Tho. Pennant
Downing Sept^r. 17th 1792.

with the same P.S.⁵ Pray let me know how you & y^{rs} do.

Editorial Notes

¹ This appears to refer to [1155](#).

² See [1157](#), where Bull explains his absence from Brighton when Pennant's letter arrived.

³ Pennant probably refers to the September Massacres of 2 September 1792, when aristocrats and priests were murdered.

⁴ 2 Samuel 11–24 relates how David committed adultery with Uriah's wife Bathsheba, then sought to destroy the evidence of his guilt even as far as ensuring the death of Uriah. God allowed him to make a series of mistakes, the 'choice of Evils' to which Pennant refers here.

⁵ Cf. [1155](#), where the postscript reads 'Pray write soon'.