

Thomas Pennant to Richard Bull

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From: Thomas Pennant
To: Richard Bull
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Dear Sir

Downing oct^r 2[illegible] 1792.

The alarming color of my wax and paper is caused by the death of Lady Mostyn a very heavy loss to the young part of the family: But M^{rs} Pennant & I have also felt most severely for our little girl who suffered a severe illness: but thank heaven she is now got quite well; & we are told that she will feel the good effects even of her disorder the rest of her days.

I am sorry that Moses should this time disappoint you: but he thinks that he has not done work sufficient to send to you next month: but assures me that you shall have the whole in February. He has been diverted both from your work & mine by the importunity of some of the Mostyn family & its allies to copy some miniatures of their sweet faces which he does most admirably.¹

I thank you for the hint about M^r Windham's drawing of Peking. It is above my views: but may properly attend the magnificent account that will follow the return of our ambassador. Ld Macartney & I exchanged letters. I was impertinent enough to give him a few hints which he received candidly.

Congratulate me on having only two or three days labor to complete my *magnum opus* of (now) fourteen folio M.S. I could not resist making the complete *Tour of new Holl&and*, & visiting our unfortunate brave in Port Jackson. No Bull's head tempts the happy passenger in: but all is squalor, poverty & starvation. The more I read & the more I see of the wild plan, the more I admire its extravagance.

I join most heartily with you in your opinion of the Jacobins. The French now run amuck as much as an Indian furious with bang;² & especially after the retreat of t[illegible]he Germans *after* ^from their senseless inroad.³ The True policy w^d have been to have left them French to themselves: they must have fell to pieces in a little time: but now intoxicated with the dispensation of heaven, (which they will misinterpret) they for a time will become the pest of Europe. You see people perhaps just arrived from Paris: Pray tell me the real present state of that capital: does any thing commercial go on; or does the interest of the national debt continue to be paid.⁴ If the last is done, their resources cannot have faild [illegible] them

Long may old England remain as it is. neither rich nor poor can wish for better days. —

Best wishes attend you & fair daughters.⁵ Adieu
 Y^{rs} most truly

Th. Pennant.

I fear to hear my respected friend & y^r fellow collegian Paul Panton is among the losses of these few months, many of which I deeply deplore.⁶ the lot of age!

Editorial Notes

¹ The National Library of Wales lists in its online catalogue six miniatures by Moses Griffith. They are described as W. Edwards Esq, n.d. [116x85mm]; Bel Lloyd Jr, n.d. [97x70mm]; ?TP, n.d. [110x74mm]; Portrait of a child, n.d. [73x 53mm]; Doctr Thorseby, 5 April 1796 [113x 86mm]; and Rev R. Williams, Fron, n.d. [95x 73mm].

² '[B]hang, bang' is the 'native name of the Indian variety of the common Hemp which in warm countries develops narcotic and intoxicating properties'. *OED*.

³ The advance of an army made up of Prussians, Hessians and French émigrés was halted by the French (led by Charles-François du Périer Dumouriez and François-Christophe Kellerman) at the battle of Valmy in the northern French department of the Marne, on 20 September 1792. Jones, *Longman Companion to the French Revolution*, p. 162.

⁴ On the difficulties under which the French economy laboured during 1791, due to a fall in the value of the livre, see Michel Vovelle, *The fall of the French monarchy 1787–1792*, trans. by Susan Burke (Cambridge, 1984), p. 163.

⁵

Elizabeth and Catherine Bull.

⁶ Pennant may have been simply expressing a fear, here, or had otherwise been misinformed. His friend Paul Panton who, like Bull, was an alumnus of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, did not die until 1797.