Thomas Pennant to Richard Bull

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From:	Thomas Pennant
To:	Richard Bull
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Dear Sir

Downing Nov^{r} 8th. 1793[2]

First let me exonerate my breast from what lies heaviest on it; by answering the question what will the *M.S. (of the isle of Wight)* come to? I think 2^{d} a ~~[illegible]~~ page, the price of transcribing. I really never make anything of my friends: & in the present case, did imagine I did you a pleasure by the offer; but finding my mistake beg leave to withdraw it.

You will forgive my eccentrical benevolence in the petition I preferred to you in favor of my widow & her ten orphans. the print may be found this month in the shops: so I urge my request no farther; but lament it was made so mal a propos.

I hope you met with the fragment I sent to M^{r} Clarke. I read it carefully but so far ~~I am~~ am I gone that I do not profit the lest by it: but go on with greater fury than ever. I really rather incourage the mania, for I find it an innocent one & does more good than harm by alleviating the cares of winter life. With gratitude I think of Don R^{de} de Toro for supplying me so amply at various times for the food of this delicious frenzy. my endeavours have always been to repay him: but alas the ballanc is greatly against me. there is not a portfolio I open, but I see something I have owed to him.

Notwithstanding I am marrying a son with some expence in the out-fit I can find something for my follies, my friends ~~[illegible]~~ or my country, else I should think myself poor indeed! David went to town yesterday; & if the lawyers will permit, will cease being a bachelor next month.

M^{r} Clark will I dare say answer my queries respecting Godshill.[3] I have left a blank to fill with the epitaphs. for the M.S. is fairly copied & is mightly illustrated with prints. It is fine work for winter evenings: part is past in that employ: & part with playing whist with my little girl of which old Greybeard[4] is as fond as she can be.

a salutary fit of the Gout has favored me with a visit about a fortnight. it only shackles one foot & leaves hands & spirits free I hope you & the ladies[5] are free from every complaint & rejoice to hear the good account of them.

Pray do not trouble yrself about any more materials for the *isle of Wight* as the work is complete: yet still I c^{d} wish the further account of Sir Richard Worseleys shire[6] for that may come in by way of preface.

Adieu Dear Sir, and think me ever & truely
Y^{r} affect: friend

Tho. Pennant.

Marginalia

At the bottom of the last page, in Richard Bull's hand:

Epistola objurgatoria[1] | from my friend Pennant, Rich[d] Bull

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Editorial Notes

[1] The year is added in Richard Bull's hand.

[2] Pennant received a letter from Richard Clarke, dated 6 December 1793, referring to accounts with which he had favoured Pennant respecting Godshill and Newport churches. See WCRO, CR 2017/TP189/50, Richard Clarke to Thomas Pennant, 6 December 1793.

[3] A wistful reference by Pennant to his own advanced age.

[4]

Elizabeth and Catherine Bull.

[5] Worsley's *The history of the Isle of Wight* was published in 1781. This reference to a further account may indicate that Pennant was aware of Worsley's work on the *Museum Worsleyanum*, the first part of which was published in 1798 but dated 1794.