Thomas Pennant to Richard Bull

ID:	1193
From:	Thomas Pennant
To:	Richard Bull
Date:	1797-05-26
Repository:	National Library of Wales
Identifier:	NLW 5500C, no. 128
Editors:	Transcribed by Ffion Mair Jones; edited by Ffion Mair Jones; encoded by Vivien Williams. (2019)
Cite:	'Thomas Pennant to Richard Bull 1797-05-26' 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/1193]

Dear Sir

May 26th 1797

I am now on a ramble in search of health & am now at the hospitable mansion of Bevere the mansion of our friend Nash who presents to you every good wish. I find benefit already by the good air: & chearful converse of the family. My Asthma is quitting me: but let me confess a swelling in my left leg: for that I instantly applied to the worthy old æsculapius of Worcester. his medicine already seems to take effect: the famed one of the Fox-glove which makes even the dire hydrops sink before.[1] I am happy in wanting fears of disorders. I doubt not but I shall do well: but am not foolish or sanguine enough to think that in the 71th year, I must feel an abatement of good health. the best I can expect is the gentle, the gentle decay!

From hence I cross to Lichfield to a good brother in law ^the Revd Doctor Falconer, & stay there a week from Saturday next ^i.e. to morrow. If have leisure I shall be glad to hear there of our welfare & that of miss Bull & also of the receit of the *Whiteford & Holywell* from John Ingleby. He certainly is not a moses Griffith, but being an honest man & object of charity, I hope you may endure his labors. Chiswel's end was a heavy loss to him. Should you wish for any drawings on uniform qto leaves I could furnish him with materials.

The times now I own look inauspicious but I hope many of the reports are the result of the pannics of the times

_____ falsis terroribus[2] implant. may Ireland prove a bug bear: but I fear it. my countrymen are said to have drawn blood.[3] I have twice within these 10 days dined in wales with their commander who happened to be in this side the water. but he knew nothing of the affair. Mrs Pennant join with me in prayers for the health & safty of you & yrs.

Adieu Dear Sir
Yr obliged & ever affect. friend

Tho. Pennant

I shall be at Downing June 6th.

Stamp: (postmark) A MA 27 9[illegible]

Richard Bull Esqr | Stratton Street: Piccadilly | London.

Editorial Notes

[1] The practitioner to whom Pennant refers here, jokingly linking him with Aesculapius, the god of healing in ancient Greek religion and mythology, is unidentified. The Shropshire-born physician, William Withering (1741–99), was alerted to the benefits of using foxglove, *Digitalis purpurea*, in the treatment of 'hydrops' or dropsy in 1775, a view confirmed by his friend and fellow physician John Ash the following year. *ODNB* s.n. William Withering.

[2] 'unreal terrors, false alarms'. For the lines from Horace quoted here, see Jon R. Stone, *The Routledge Dictionary of Latin Quotations*, p. 264.

[3] This is probably a reference to the Antient British Fencibles, a regiment raised by Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, fifth baronet, in 1794 and disbanded in 1800. It became notorious for the part it played in the suppression of the Irish Rebellion in 1798, where it was involved in the battle of Arklow on 9 June. See Löffler, *Welsh Responses to the French Revolution*, p. 171.