Thomas Pennant to Richard Bull

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From:	Thomas Pennant
To:	Richard Bull
Date:	1797-06-17
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Dear Sir

Downing June 1~~[illegible]~~7th. 1797.

You have been a true prophet of good thin~~[illegible]~~gs. It is singular that the very next morning to the receit of yr cordial should bring the news of the return to Loyalty of of the four first ships:[1] as this brings that of the conclusion of a business so nearly subversive of the british empire. Providence interfered & saved us by instilling a similar spirit into the dutch sailors, & defurnishing the french fleets from the means of annoyance in a crisis the most opportune to us that could ever have been. Let us devoutly return Thanks: & in future strive to suppress that spirit of insolence & pride which has so long characterized the english & which heaven in its mercy has laid on its rod by way of cure.

I truely rejoice that Doctor Turton pronounces so favourably on yr disorder. and long may that be the case. The effect of the Fox-glove on me was most happy four o~~f~~r five doses have effected my cure & I am now as well as ever. The effects of the medicin[2] are ~~[illegible]~~sometimes most tremendous: patients have been known to be brought to nearly deaths door by the very remedy.

The letter press of the *Whiteford* was strangely forgotten. I detain it ~~[illegible]~~ now till I hear whether you wish for more drawings: & took the liberty of ordering one more in the interim. viz. the interior of the old hall at Mostyn.

I cannot live idle. I let loose a secret. The conduct of my countrymen which ended so much to my poor nephew's disgrace, and ~~so~~ with so much infamy to his constituents, has provoked me to draw up an account of their proceedings, ~~[illegible]~~ partly ludicrously, partly with the knowt[3] at the end of my pen:[4] not the moderate one I assure you

This has been a twelmonth of much calamity to me. the death of Sir R. M. with all the misery brought on the county in consequence. The death of a faithful humble companion a most singular humorist in the Pancha[5] way. – I better cd have spared a better man – well may I say. [authorial][6] a faithful servant of 55 years service with my two wives, & the masterof the first.[7] - my Sister. & my good friend Paul Panton. These are to be expected by us whom heaven has spared to a later period than our neighbors.

every blessing attend you & miss Bull. Adieu Dear Sir,
Yr ever obliged &
affect friend

Tho. Pennant

Stamp: (postmark) C JU 19 97

Stamp: (handstamp) HOLYWELL

Richard Bull Esq[r] | Northcot hall | Isle of Wight.

Editorial Notes

[1] On the mutiny at the Nore, see 1201 n. 2.

[2] The final 'e' may be obscured by the binding of the manuscript.

[3] knout, knowt: A kind of whip or scourge, very severe and often fatal in its effects, formerly used in Russia as an instrument of punishment. Examples are dated 1716–1855. *OED*.

[4] This work by Pennant, castigating the supporters of Thomas Mostyn during the Parliamentary election of 1796, has not been identified.

[5] Pennant compares his deceased servant to Sancho Panza, the witty and humorous squire of the eponymous hero in Cervantes's *Don Quixote*.

[6] Pennant leaves an empty gap here, perhaps not choosing to provide the name of the servant in question.

[7] Pennant refers to his two wives, Elizabeth (née Falconer) and Ann (née Mostyn), and to the 'master', in this case the father, of Elizabeth, his first wife.