

Thomas Pennant to Richard Bull

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From: Thomas Pennant
To: Richard Bull
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Dear Sir

Downing June - 8th. [illegible]9[illegible].

If I was not a first rate patriot I should be angry at Charles Papps Price for diverting your journey to Downing. How happy should I have been with shewing my treasures to miss Bull & her good father. let us not drop all hopes of the pleasure aged as we are. I am tolerably well: walk moderately & ride much & if anasarca¹ becomes impertinent I drive her away with a prescription of my worthy friends Doctor Haygarths. - Pococks drawing &c are yours: still what a debt do I owe you. I make a resolve never to give to the rich my *indoostan*, nor beg them to buy it: but wish to know what you hear of it.

I now send you some Prose & some poetry. the first of an old Dotard justice of 75. a wondrous production. the other, a song sent to our celebration of the Kings birth day on Monday. author unknown² after the exercise & vollies of the morning my son & the whole corps dined at one long table to the amount of 110 fine fellows the parental heart leaped within me to see the festivity & affection of the day. I have now, son, his beauteous spouse, &, charming grandson with me. Tom the Christch: man will joi[illegible]n us the latter end of the month. The lad caught the military flame, & without neglect of his studies joined the mottley military corps. He will never be hurt: but I dislike the clerical rage. I am truely angry at Canterbury when I saw within these three days seven divines gazetted as caplains &c.

[illegible]At Caerwis has been just held an Eisteddfod or Session of the poets, see *welsh Tour vol. I.*³ I am told that their productions were the most stupid imaginable. & their libations in ale most beastly. The season of the welsh poetry has long since been over so I trust that the attempt will never be revived.

You forget answering my query about Th. Philip earl of Pembroke's mother taring her hair at her son's cowardice where is the tale told.⁴

Every good wish attend you & miss Bull must ever be repeated while
 Dear Sir
 exists y^r very affect: friend

Th. Pennant.

Stamp: (frank) FREE JU 11 98; Free L S^t Asaph; S^t Asaph June ^[illegible] 191 eighth. 1798.⁵

Stamp: (handstamp) ST ASAPH

To | Richard Bull Esq^r | North Court | Isle of Wight.⁶

Editorial Notes

¹ Pennant suffers from anasarca, 'A dropsical affection of the subcutaneous cellular tissue of a limb or other large surface of the body, producing a very puffed appearance of the flesh'. *OED*.

² These enclosures have not been preserved with the letter.

³ See *A tour in Wales* (2nd edn., 1784), I, pp. 456–8.

⁴ For this query, with a variant name for the afflicted woman, see [1219](#).

⁵ The final two sections of this frank are handwritten.

⁶ The address is not in Thomas Pennant's hand.