

London Saturday 4 of clock -

My dear General.

I have very little time but I will give you as much of it as I can - At Eleven this morning I called on Forbes, who went thro' all your packet of Papers & I left with him your marginal notes upon them, that he might have time to consider and advise on the result - I did not get from Ely place till after one - I then came into the City & after having talk'd with Mr. Felix Clay on the subject I got introduced to Mr. Wildman - with him I have not long parted - He behaved very civilly & communicated very unreservedly the substance of his dispatches both from Ockwood & Tyson - The first he seems to have so ill an opinion of, that he returned his draft for £140 - very lately - He certainly is very much involved & almost intricately in debt - Of Tyson's property he gives no better account - He shewed me a letter from Tyson dated but a few days after his to you - (Feb^r) in which he says that Mess^{rs} Dennistoun of Glasgow having

advanced a small sum for his accommodation, He should
be obliged to open his consignment of Sugar to Wildman's House
about 10 Hogsheads - tho' at this very time he is buying you up
with an idea that such is his credit with them that they will
guarantee an annual payment of £1200 a year - In short it is
very clear to me that you can have no further dealing with
either of them & that the sooner you ~~can~~ supersede Pickwood
the more it will be for your Interest - This is Mr. Wildman's
opinion & he mentions a Col Phillips a Brother in Law of Mr. Sharps
as one of the properest men on the Island to succeed him -
Respecting the Bill - it must be paid - because that being done
by an accredited Agent of yours you will be ultimately answerable
for it - the Sugars will be a sufficient indemnity if Pickwood
can be depended upon to send them - but of this there are great
doubts - tho' it is but justice to say that he talks in his Letter
to Wildman of sending them to him on your acc^t & writes to him
on the subject as he has done to you - Mr. Wildman therefore
will accept the Bill, subject to the guarantee you offer on
the Estate if the promised Sugars do not arrive - so far therefore
I hope I have negotiated well for you - for so I left the matter
when we parted - but suppose the Sugars sent to some other
port - or to some other Merchant - what will be your loss then?
both Money & Crop!!! however we

must have all the advice we can have of intelligent Men to clear you
of the better scrape in which this Man's imprudence has involved you
for as Wildman said, "nothing was ever more imprudent than to take a
West India Estate into hand, on which not a single Negro of your own Estate
~~is~~ I must not omit to mention that as a peace offering to Wildman & to
induce him to pay the Bill, Pickwood intimates that in the event of his coming
Treaty with Tyson being disapproved, you will probably cultivate the Estate, &
than then he shall take care to recommend the consignments to be made to him -
I told Mr. Wildman that I thought myself in honor bound to assure him
that I knew you would never hold the Estate on your own account - he
replied if you did it might make you £2000 per year, but he should
not recommend you to do so - In short my good friend I must tell you that
Wildman said it would suit L^d Romney better than any other Man, but
that if ^{it} were once disposed of its Negroes, & suffered to be untenanted
one year, you would not get 6 years purchase for it - The Olayes &
who have interested themselves very much in the business, strongly advise
you to ~~open~~ reopen your negotiation with L^d Romney, thro' the mediation
of L^d Tho' Newce, or some other commercial friend, either for let or sale
but as to asking 20,000 they say you had better not attempt - according
to Pickwoods acct. if you could get the rental up to a £1000 per year to get
any sum above £1200, but not less, you will get it its full worth - In proof
The M^r. Wilton, of Devonshire Place, of whom I spoke to you before, has since
I left Town, sold his Estate, ^{in Jamaica} with the Stock of 200 Negroes & Crop for £36,000
it made him 3000 a year, just 12 y^{rs} purchase Stock included - he told
my Bro^r. his reason was that having been 12 years in the Island he did
not want to go there again, which he thought he should be obliged to do
if he kept it - For the same reason my good friend I advise you to follow the
example - if you cannot agree with Lord R - you see very plainly
there is no chance of getting a tenant you can
depend upon - & if one

My dear Sir — accept my best thanks for observations in my
business & the early information you have sent me thereof —
My prospects appear to be dark & gloomy in extreme —
God only knows how I can extricate myself from the
difficulties I am thrown into. Run inevitable Run
stares me in the face — what to do with Redwood & Dyson
I know not — w^d it not be advisable to leave ^{of} matter
under the direction of Mr Wildman if he w^d take the

~~Concern Management of the Concern —~~ *
~~Should you not be able to~~
~~provided you cannot open a fresh treaty with~~
~~La. Tho' leave —~~ I beg to give me serious
Concern to be oblig'd to leave a house that has been
connected with me & my family for at least a Century
past. & of whose sterling Honor and integrity I have the
highest opinion — If you have no chance of
Commencing a fresh treaty with La. Romney Altho' it is

allowed the Separation of my Property from his ~~Land~~
~~deterioration~~ of ~~deteriorate~~ his Lordships greatly
will determine ~~in a~~ ~~for~~ ~~my~~ ~~self~~.

I certainly should prefer letting or selling my property
to Lord R. in preference to any other person provided
he would give me an Eligible ~~Price~~ ^{price} for it - which
he ~~was~~ ^{seem'd} never disposed to do - Richwood Valued of
Estate for sale as you may remember at 17,000 -

and after your statement I should feel my self justified
in taking that sum as ~~at~~ ^{least} 16,000 - a less sum
than 15,000. which comes nearly to L.R. calculation of 15 2/3% Purchase
I cannot think of ~~that~~ - in that case ~~it~~ ^{it} would

be expected to receive the 6, or 7,000 - the remainder to
be paid off in 10 or 12 years ^{as may be convenient} during which time the
Interest to be paid Regularly half yearly

as Sr. Tho. & Ld R must now be convinced
~~an~~ ~~improvement~~ ~~has~~ ~~been~~ ~~made~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~value~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~property~~ ~~as~~ ~~the~~ ~~valuable~~
~~has~~ ~~been~~ ~~made~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~value~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~property~~ ~~as~~ ~~the~~ ~~valuable~~
~~has~~ ~~been~~ ~~made~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~value~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~property~~ ~~as~~ ~~the~~ ~~valuable~~
the ~~price~~ ~~paid~~ ~~for~~ ~~it~~ ~~is~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~expected~~ ~~they~~ ~~would~~ ~~offer~~
a fair Rental especially as they ~~would~~ ^{will} be assured by you

that of Estate is Conditionally Let for 1,200 ff Annuum —

It his Lordships will give that Rent for a lease of 14 Years
~~and~~ ~~ready~~ ready to enter into a treaty with him for it —
To reduce the Rent One or two hundred Pounds sooner than let it

to into Other hands — at an uncertainty. At all events get
* out of them the utmost they will give either to Hire or Purchase
that we may determine hereafter accordingly —

after all it is some consolation to learn that Mr Holden our
will accept the draft — under any guarantee. So for it cheers
my mind from the corroding agony I have experienced ever
since I knew of it — as to the imprudence of
Redwoods conduct I am well assured. & by that means

may be taken to prevent my further suffering there.
from ~~is~~ ~~is~~ is my firm determination not to engage
in the negotiations of the estate — If a treaty cannot
be entered into with Mr Romney — ~~for~~ ~~and~~ ~~by~~ ~~reason~~ ~~of~~ ~~his~~ ~~own~~ ~~fault~~
to produce securities what is to be done — Make every

Enquiry under that head — & if it w^d be safe to
allow him to occupy as a yearly Tenant till

Other arrangements could be made — Every thing
relative to these points you can be advised by G.
York

of Mother & Mr. T. Clay for their kind advice —

I hope this business will not detain you ^{in town} longer than you
woud you — If Lord R. is attending his duty in Parliament
I sh^d. May see him & give you his ans^r. previous to
y^r return — Ignorant as I am of every thing relating
to Trade & West India Concerns — I trust you will
do all you can to extricate me from engaging
therein — ^{I hope you will receive denuncions abt^{ly} before you leave town} What delightful weather for those that can
enjoy it. which I hope you do — The Ladies join me in
best wishes & believe me yr^s truly

D. R. April 4. 1819

of course if you receive denuncions any time you will
make a point of seeing the papers concerning Forbes & Wilman

A copy of your letter to
Rev^d Mr Hall in ans^r to the
of 30th April relative to his
I'm happy to hear on my
West India Concerns
April 4. 1819

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The Property is dismantled it will fall into decay. Write to me therefore by return of post before which I will not attempt to see S: Tho' Neale - & tell me what I shall say to him your offer to let - & your offer to sell, in distinct terms - but believe me if you do not agree with L^r R - the chances are that you will have the Estate on your hands, with a necessary embarkment of at least £8000. My Bro^r:s, Felix Clay, & J. deane together yesterday alone & we conveyed the matter most imprudently, & for the opinion of its being best for you to part with it we seemed all certain - As it is I fear you will

General Leffroy
Dullingham House
near Newmarket.



New York Hall. April 3. 1819.
I'm happy to favour on West India
business



be ultimately a loss, & materially so. however take my advice & let it be the last. However at all events write to me by return of post - I must leave Town on Wednesday morning but if I can do you any service I will stay till Thursday - but nothing else shall detain me - I am to see Brookes as I return out of the City - I write this in Clay's Counting House - My Brother would have paid the Bill rather than you should have been disappointed. However it will come now thro' a proper channel - My best wishes attend you & yours -

J. H.

J. Mather & Wm. T. Clay for their kind advice
I hope this business will be settled in Town