

Cap^t Matthew

London Decemb: 9th 1695

Yo^r. of y^e. 21th of June last with y^e. Inclosed from Cap^t Burrell
I received yesterday together with y^e. Copie of the same date
& contents for which I returns you thanks. And in answer
thereto I must say that I approve and verry much esteeme
y^e. Person you nominate, and am sorry that I cannot say so
much of this proposalls w^{ch} come farre short of w^{ch}. Expected
The bare land without house or Slaves was lot for a hundred
pound Sterling secured to be payed in London: whith therent
now offered will no wayes counterwaite besides that nothing
is reckoned for my Slaves nor for y^e. provisions or fano: that
are or may be growing when y^e. Lessee should enter. And more
over the Ruines of my houses & workes are valluable in regard
of y^e. Materialls they will furnish for new buildings for I
will remember y^e. trouble and charge of bringing Stones toge-
ther for such uses: And y^e. Spouts to convey y^e. Water cannot
be much Ruinated which cost me a considerable summe
of Sugar w^{ch}. altogether considered makes me hope my
Plantation may deserve a farre better Rent then
what is offered by y^e. first Article, the second is very
hard upon me proposing y^e. at y^e. Expiration of the
Terms of y^e. Lease I should allow for y^e. Sugar workes or
other buildings w^{ch}. y^e. Lessee for his use or conveniencie
shall erect, w^{ch}. according to such Appraisements as I have
seene may swallow many yeares rent at one Gulpe: or
good reasons I have reason to be cautious of such an Article
least it should bring me in Debt in y^e. and Moreover it
is not practicable & has scarce one President in my
Knowledge or remembrance nor have I heard of such an
one as y^e. third to allow four Moneths before y^e. obligation
of y^e. Lessee commences for what reason I cannot tell
but, can easely foresee y^e. disadvantages that may
accrue to a Lessee upon such an unusual concessions
The fourth will admitt of little dispute but y^e. fifth is as
severe as y^e. second for as y^e. word Meliorations formerly
devoured many a fair Plantation so now the word
Improvements w^{ch}. is of y^e. same nature seems ready to
make a pray of mine: at y^e. expiration of the Terms
Not that I think Cap^t Burrell would be unjust but he is
mortall, as well as I and not knowing w^{ch}. what hap

I may fall it behooves me to provide for if worst as every body does in
ye like case. As to y^e Sixth Article y^e securitys are good if in England
for a security there is not comparable to one in the place I live in
yet that Objection would soon be removed upon y^e Consideration of
y^e Credit & Integrity of y^e Principall. The seventh I should agree to
with some more security for the execution at lease with some great a Capt. Burr
a latitude sufficient to receive my whole rent when it is made
liable to Defalcations upon every Misfortune of Wars I think it
is enough for me to run y^e risque of my rent upon the sea and not
upon y^e land before it is made mine by payment to me or my order
as by the said Article is provided. Thus I have shew'd you my
opinion of y^e Proposals and of y^e case that I think might be made
of them not that I suppose Capt. Burrall would take his advantages
to the Rigour but it behooves me to act cauttiously & securely in a
Domis of this nature and I hope my Planes in this Matter will
not be misconstrued or ill taken

Ist my Inclinations as to y^e renting my Plantation are not altoide in
in y^e least but I would not nor never designed to put my Interest out
of my hands & out of my power of resetting it for little or no
profit nor would you I think advise me to itt I would accept of
a reasonable rent upon reasonable conditions as in my opinion
those offered are not on my side by any means I pray give my
humble service to Capt. Burrall and his Lady & tell him I hope he will
not expect I should condescend to such conditions as are not
Customary nor usuall in y^e like cases wch would be a reflection on
my judgment should I about to things so apparent to my prejudice.
There is one thing that I must observe w^{ch} is that he takes no notice
of y^e Piratinny Negroes which tho' they are not able to work in
15 years if they live will be fine young slaves and will at least be
exported at y^e ends of y^e Lease If Capt. Burrall were willing to
secure me six score pounds a year to be payed in In London to me
or a hundred pounds p^{annu} during the wars & six score after y^e
wars is ended I would accept itt from him because I have some
knowledge of him and of his Character w^{ch} is the cause I have been
so reasonable in my proposals to him which I sende here enclosed
of which I think he cannot disapprove tho' I am sensible of the
Difficultie of getting a good Tennant on reasonable termes in this
hazardous time of Wars yet when we come to have a peacoffain
in hopes I may obtoyne both with more ease In y^e time
I acknowledge my obligations to you for the care you are pleased
to take of my interest and for your good desires

some more Sugars on my attempt for Idout That ^{by} Cap^t.
Rider will come short home or that I shall have a bad acco^t.
of it but yo^r. Kindnesse was Nevertheless and I thank you for
I would have sent you a Coppy of a Lease such as Mr. Dolue
had but know not whether my proposalls will be accepted
by Cap^t. Burrall if they be Desiro that a just account may
be taken of y^e present condition of my Interest and of y^e
Indigos workes & of all buildings standing and of plants
growing upon my Plantation as Sugar Canes Indigo
and Cotton &c. All w^{ch}. I leave to yo^r. good Management
that I may have a true state of my Interest when he enters
upon it which he may doe if he pleases upon Signeing
and Sealing to Articles (in order to a Lease) betwixt
you & Cap^t. Willott as my Attornies & Cap^t. Burrall
drawns according to my proposalls or it may be I may
sende you a Coppy of a Lease such as I would grant by
w^{ch}. will doe no harme tho' we doe not proceed And if
Cap^t. Burrolls mind should alter or that he should be
unwilling to become my Tennant on those reasonable
Termes I have proposed Desiro that you will continue
to oblige me in yo^r. Care of my Interes which Desiro that
it may pay you not onely yo^r. necessary charges on my
Store expended but also rewards you & Cap^t. W^m. Willott for
yo^r. trouble therein only Desiro an' accompt once a yeare
and y^e tenth of y^e. Increase is to be divided betwixt you
as you two agree & I shall still thinke my selfe much
obliged to you If I should lett it I must still be beholding to you
to see y^e. Quality & weight of y^e. Sugar to be consigned to me
And it is most proper for my Tennant whosoever he may
be to have the trouble of Shipping it, for I would not account
my Rent to be payd to me till it be shipped for my acco^t.
I hope I shall heare by the next ships how you goe on in this
affair and you will add to those obligations by which I am

yo^r

Yo^r. Most faithfull humble servant

Christopher Jefferson

I think I shall not freight being at 11 p Cent to take a whole
shipp. I am not but that you may have it as reasonably in yo^r parts by sundar
then by Cap^t. Smith a great shipp designed for y^e. Islands upon whom other
it taken besides others that are hired

M3N

Ch. Deafferson

⁶
Capt Mathias Dodgthgo

41
no
41