

DAVID (disinherited) STEWART'S LETTER

N.B.

The following is taken from a letter written by David Stewart to his cousin John Dundas of Duddingstone. It was sent from 'The Moon, Plough Street, Whitechapel, London,' dated September 9th 1712, and was folded into thirds then half, and sealed, so as a result some words were 'burnt out'. The seal was in quite a few pieces but resembled a pair of arms clasped at the wrists; a signet ring sized seal.

"I went in according to your directions to Captain Pyns' in shade \_\_\_\_\_ Phames and delivered his letter sayme tyme. afterwards I went for an answer which was that 5 pounds being the sume, and ~~he~~ that he ought to have it being a servant (-) in the transports, Captain Pyn was offered the money providing he would give his note for it, which he did, and received the money, but the master went to sea just after with his note, and so till his return (which will be 2 months hence, he cannot pay you the money. This is all the satisfaction. I can give you at present. I was sadly surprised that night with the sight of my ounce Alexand' coming to my lodging and threatening in a most violent manner telling me I was a damned Presbyterian, was running to the gallows, and that I should have stayed at home with Mister Dick and turned Prespertonian Minister, and that was running to Hall, and so ~~without eith~~ hearing me or acquainting me what he mean'd, left me with these words that he would write to my father, so that I am amas'd at what to make of it. I could not acquaint my father lest I should displease him.

My service to all friends and I am yr affectionate cousine, Dd Stewart

P.S. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

I hope you'd be so kind as when my uncles letter comes to my father, you'll acquaint him \_\_\_\_\_ and desire him not to be too \_\_\_\_\_ rigidly censorious before he s. \_\_\_\_\_ nly and doesn't you will send account of what it is and my father \_\_\_\_\_ about it for really I dont know what to make of it. I am favoured it for the \_\_\_\_\_ the moon in plough s. \_\_\_\_\_ of Whitechapel. "

THE NEIGHBOURS' LETTER (of Newhalls)

The following are extracts from an Andrew Dunbar of Leuchold, to the Laird of New Halls, written on the 14th November 1706. At that time it would have been John Stewart, the one who did the disinheriting.

" Sir, I could not have believed that a man with your character would have been tainted with so much ill neighbourhood as I have received from you these 2 years bygone; as yet you doe persist in yr same. I doe by this beg your lady her pardon for my rude refusal of her desire, which I assure you I would not be willing to doe in a business of greater value, had I not resolved to have shown my willfulness as much as you doe yours; but since my wife is pleased to frustrate my design at her, twice sending her, I doe succumb to it at this time; however I must warn you that I would not have expected that a man of law to goe so willfully in the face of an act of parbait as you doe ..... (and he goes on and on getting nowhere till) ..... and since I am very well informed your father never suffered a neighbours sheep to feed on his ground, I doe remember about 3 or 4 years you came to my house ..... ( etc, etc, etc ) ..... for I assure you your plough shall not turn upon my ground ~~as~~ this year as it did yr last in my absence of my wheat if I should watch on it every day ..... and for an answer hereof, I expect your silence. I shall take for an answer to conclude as we were yesterday taught amongst many other good exhatations to be praying for yr unity of Christs' Church and let us not incapacitate ourselves from being such by disuniting as Christian neighbours.

Greetings all from your much prejudiced neighbour, A Dunbar.

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(The two originals of these can be found in the Scottish Record Office, under the heading " An Inventory of the Douglas Collection, Volume 18, pages 42 and 43 ".)

London, September 9 1712

I recd according to your directions to Capt  
Pyns in Middletham & delivered his letter  
some time ago & I recd an answer  
which was that 5 pounds being the sum, &  
he that ought to have it being a servant in the  
Transports (as Pyn was offered the money  
providing he would give his note for it,  
which he did, and receive the money but the  
Master went to sea: just after with his note,  
& so till the return (which will be  
two months hence) he cannot  
money, this is all the satisfaction  
you at present. I was sadly surpris'd  
- might w<sup>th</sup> the sight of my uncle's  
- echinating words & threatening in a most  
violent manner telling me I was a can'd  
Presbyterian, was running to the Gallon's &  
that I should have stay'd all home w<sup>th</sup>  
Mr Dick & learn'd Presbyterian humor &  
that I was running to Hell, & so about either  
reassuring me or so much as acquainting me what  
he meant, left me w<sup>th</sup> these words, that he would  
write to my father, so that I am amaz'd what  
to make of it, I can not acquaint my father  
w<sup>th</sup> it, I am your affectionate son  
John

I hope you'll be so kind as to  
write to my father & let him  
know what you say & that  
I am your affectionate son  
John

neighbour's sheep to feed on his ground. I do remember about 3 or 4 years ago  
you came to my house & importun'd me by all y<sup>e</sup> bonds of neighbourhoo & brother-  
hood as Elders that my road to y<sup>e</sup> Church might be rectified friendly among our-  
selves which I willingly complied with, so now I do importune you in your cur-  
charge, if you designe to live in good neighbourhoo, to let us fall on some metho-  
d to red our marches & have headriggs on each side of y<sup>e</sup> road, for I assure  
y<sup>e</sup> plough shall not turne upon my ground this year as it did y<sup>e</sup> last in  
my absence on my wheat if I should wait on it every day which if you fail  
to doe I will seek a legal perambulation; your answer hereof I expect  
& your silence I shall take for an answer, and to conclude as we were  
yesterday taught amongst many other good exhortations to begeth  
for y<sup>e</sup> unity of Christ's church so let us not incapacitate our selves from  
being such by disuniting as Christian neighbours y<sup>e</sup>ch is all from

your much prejudged neighbour  
An: unbait

Leuchold Nov 14<sup>th</sup> 1706

I could not have believed that a man of your character  
would have been tainted with so much ill neighbourhood as I  
have received from you these 2 years bygone, & as yet you do persist  
in y<sup>e</sup> same. I do by this beg your lady her pardon for my rude refusal  
of her desire which I assure you I would not be willing to do in a  
business of greater value, had not I resolved to have shoune  
my willfulness als much as you do yours: but since my wife  
has pleased to frustrat my designe at her twice sending to her  
I do succumb to it at this time, however I must tell you that I  
would not have expected that a man of law or (I may rather  
say above law & good neighbourhood both) to see so willfully w<sup>th</sup>  
y<sup>e</sup> face of an act of parliament as you do (viz) act 11 part 1. Sec 2. In  
y<sup>e</sup> narrative whereof is That all heritors & possessors of lands  
houses & others shall cause herd their whole bestial both in  
winter & summer & in y<sup>e</sup> night shall keep them either in houses  
or inclosures that they may not destroy their neighbours  
ground or planting &c. under y<sup>e</sup> penaltie of half a mark to be  
quietes for ilk beast beside y<sup>e</sup> damage & that it shall be lawfull  
to detain y<sup>e</sup> beast till y<sup>e</sup> same be payed & also expenses in keeping  
thereof. I hope you do not believe this act to be in disuetude  
since that to this day it is observed all beest (ramen water &c  
as I am verie well informed your own father never suffered a

Henry's sheep to feed on his ground. I do remember about 30 or 4 years ago