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Sneyd Papers

A calendar of correspondence to Lady Chester

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CORRESPONDENCE

To Lady Chester¹

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| 1. | 5 July,
1709 | George Jones to Lady Skrymsher,
at Norbury Manor, near Newport.

The 4th of last month he had by
letter given her a full account
of the plate and monies that he
had then received, and that he had
thereout paid the undertaker's bill,
£179.0.3., and the goldsmith's bill
for rings, £37.5.0., in all £216.5.3.,
and that there remained of her's in
his hands £2.10.3. The 25th of last
month Mr Smith had paid (?) his wife
£20 for her [Lady Skrymsher's] use,
and she had therewith paid Mr
Chamberlayne's bill, £17.15.0., so
that there remained £4.15.3. The first
return of the carrier (?) Yardley,
after his [the writer's] son came home,
he had sent her the rings she had
ordered him to send, and hoped she had
received them, 'though the writer knew
nothing thereof. His wife, himself and
son begged their services to Mr Sneyd and
Madam Honora. |
|----|-----------------|--|

[1. Married to (1) Ralph Sneyd, d.1695, (2) Sir Charles Skrymsher, d.1709, (3) Sir John Chester, d. 1726, (4) Charles Adderley, d.1746].

2. 26 Oct.
1709

The same to the same.

Had had the favour of her letter that week, and one Mr Johnson had yesterday brought him a bill for £100. Returned her thanks for her care and concern therein and the favour of returning it to London. That she might be acquitted from the same he therein enclosed a discharge.

Subscribed, with a discharge to Dame Frances Skrymsher, widow, and executrix of the last will of Sir Charles Skrymsher, deceased, for £100, being three legacies left George Jones, his wife, and son John, by Sir Charles Skrymsher.

Adds a postscript that he was extremely glad she would return and continue at Norbury.

3. 28 Jan.
1709/10

J[ohn] Jones to the same.

Understood that when she had been pleased to pay the legacies his dear uncle had been pleased to bestow on his father, mother and self, she had expected a full acquittance for his, but being then under age that acquittance would have signified nothing. Having promised that at his coming to age he would give her a full acquittance, and having the last Thursday arrived at 21 years, he had thought it his duty 'to offer y^e first fruits y^e Law impowered him with to my first, most worthy, & best of friends, whose singular favours I must ever acknowledge & confess.' His cousins Baldwin were very well and Mr James Skrymsher was in town. His father and mother begged acceptance of their humble service.

4. 26 Sept.
1734

Timo[thy] Sullivan to Lady Chester, at Hams Hall, Warwickshire.

Mr Sneyd was at last taken into the custody of Dr Monroe, 'wch was Occasion'd by his Extravagant behaviour last Tuesday[,] after he Came from the tower[,] att wch place he dined wth Mr Lawton and Master Sneyd'. Perhaps she would censure his ~~my~~ conduct in detaining him so long out of confinement, but let Mr Stevens write what he pleased to amuse her, he had often said he was in the utmost consternation to judge what had to be done, and no longer than last Monday had declared he was as much in perfect senses as himself, and Dr Hollin had often said that his distemper was not bad enough for confinement. Had been removed last night and had been very low spirited ever since and 'Extream angry, tho' he has that conduct that he will not shew his resentment.' Understood that Mr Stevens had sent her a copy of a letter Betty Child, 'out of her sincere resp[ec]t for the family', had sent him, to try to influence him to take the doctor's advice. Had sent James and his horse home, and proposed to stay with him himself, with her approbation. If the doctor did not covet his

[Sneyd's] company, he thought he would be fit to return to the country in less than a fortnight. If she was pleased to favour him with an account, she could direct it to be left at Mr Couran's, linen draper, at the White Hart in Longacre.

5. Burton-on-Trent.
30 Sept.
1734

'Blest' Colclough to the same.

Had been to wait on Col. Whitworth on Friday last, but he not being at home had called on him next day, and acquainted him that Mr Sneyd had had a relapse. He seemed desirous to see how the rental and personal estate stood. Found him very solicitous and had advised on everything touching the dower and the widow. Mrs Sneyd now desired to file her bill, which he hoped would meet with an amicable answer. Had told him that he did not think she [Lady Chester] was for spending any part of the estate, but for preserving it. [The Colonel] had asked him who the younger children were to be maintained by, he had told him by the mother, 'he say'd he beleiv'd so, but not as Mr Sneyd[']s Children, by which I suppos[']d he meant, not in such an handsome manner or suitable to m^r Sneyd[']s family, I answer'd that she might maintain them as she pleas'd, but that I hop'd (and indeed could not suspect) but she would maintain them as her own Children.' Upon that, he had said she should have the guardianship, if she would take the young children and venture Lord Chancellor's allowance. Had told him he thought that would be 'too large a consideration'. That was the chief that happened between them and now he began to think it would be a match and that the Colonel would get what he could under the title dower, and talked of a writ of dower. Had appointed to receive her Staffordshire rents on the 12th, when Mr Audley's executors met him.

6. 14 Nov.
1734

Elizabeth Ches[ter] to [? the same].

The length of time since the writer had had the pleasure of hearing from her ladyship made her apprehensive of her having entertained some thoughts perhaps to her prejudice, 'from the Rumours that have been spread about y^e Countrey Concerning Mrs Sneyd, for whos Custom as well as many others I am very much obliged to y[ou]r Ladyship[']s Recommendation,...' Would be sorry to forfeit her good esteem from any indiscreet behaviour of her son, for whose actions she was not answerable for, 'they must Proceed from His own Vanity or y^t Lady's Inducments,...Mr Chester never so much as suspected any affair till he was in formed of it by Mr Boswell[,], who Had Heard out of Staffordshire. the Repeated invitations to my Daughter forced me at Last to Comply with her Paying a visset at Amington, w^{ch} I was very sorry for when I heard how unfitt Mr Sneyd[']s Disorder Had made that Place for Company,...' [MS. imperfect].

7. 11 Jan.
1734/35

Timo[thy] Sullivan to the same.

Had been detained from answering her before by a violent fit of toothache. Assures her that the information about the horses being 'haggled about' was entirely false. Discusses their condition and care. 'Sometimes they may be sent to Drayton[,] w^{ch} is so seldom that it can do them no harm: as far as preventing them going abroad when ordered by My Mistress, or sending the Elm table to Hame; Your Ladyship may as well Command me to quit my service, for if I do the one I inevitably must do the other. I wo'd obey y^r Ladyship as far as in my power without a visible detriment to myself. I run the same risque in writing to y^r Lady^{sp} if my Mistress knew, and wish I had been so much my own friend to quit the family when I was turned out of the receivership[,] for then Young Mr Crew sent by Mr Holford to make me his agent[,] &c[.,] But was perswaded by Mr Sneyd to stay and by runing whose lengths I lost all the friendship I acquired in this Country...' Continues with details of further losses. [Lady Chester] thought he knew something of the contents of Mr Sneyd's will, and he denies it; 'and as to the Coppy hold estate your Ladyship may see by my letter if I ever mentioned Cheshire, and there is Mr Adams[,] Mr Noel or Mr Fenton who can give a better Acc^t. of them affairs then I Can;...' Assured her that, as far as in him lay, he would never see any wrong done to the children of his deceased benefactor. They were all well but Master Dryden, who was much as he was. Adds a further sheet on receiving her second letter. Considers questions of ploughing and sowing. Would not fail to do everything to Mr Sneyd's advantage 'while we stay here[,] w^{ch} is uncertain as my Mistress is Come to no resolution.

My Mistress does not Communicate any of her intentions to me; but by what I can here intends to send Miss Sneyd to a boarding school, where she designs to dispose of the rest I Can't learn.' His mistress supposed Mr Colclough to be her enemy, but for himself he sincerely wished he had the management of affairs 'before Hatrell.' Thought it a great pity that friends on all sides did not use their good offices in reconciling her [Lady Chester], Mr Sneyd and his [the writer's] mistress, and settle affairs so that no law suits should be commenced, but his mistress would never consent to the appointment of Mr Colclough as receiver.

8. London.
10 May,
1735

M. Spateman to the same.

Had had her ladyship's letter and deed enclosed by post, and that day had received from the carrier the other deeds sent by Mr Colclough. As to her ladyship's offer about maintaining two of the children, it had been mentioned to the court when the exception to the report had been heard, but it had not then been a proper time for the court to take any notice, but must be done when the cause came to be heard.

9. Ellenhall.
26 July,
1736
- 'Blest' Colclough to the same.
- Sends her a copy [superscribed] of William Gattaker's letter to him, about money owed him by Lady Chester, and recommends her to give him directions to pay him. 'I will take all the Care I can whilst Mr Sneyd is here, and his bed has been Layn in for above ten dayes together.' Was glad she had come to a resolution and had that post sent to Mr Spateman. Would have been with Mr (?) Port before then, but had waited Mr Adderley's giving him notice that Port was at 'Islam'. If he was over, he would wait upon him.
10. Ellenhall.
26 July,
1736
- The same to the same.
- Mr Sneyd had come there that night much fatigued, so that he would not wait on her, but said she should have a letter by Wednesday's post. He desired that she would send down Robin by the latter end of the week, 'he wrote such lines, which he desir[']d I would inclose to your Lady[shi]p, as your Lady[shi]p Inclos'd to me, so that I did not think proper to send them but to keep 'em.' Was sorry she had ordered Mr Peter to be (?) away from him, 'for it is what he ought not to be, for Mr Sneyd is very ill, and should anytthing happen ill, yo^r Lady[shi]p will be much blam'd, for his misfortune is too plain to every indifferent Eye.' Was really in mind to desire Mr Peter not to leave him until he had a further order from her, 'for God['s] sake Good Mad[a]m[,] Let m^r Sneyd be attended properly and not with such an Indulgency as he has been with, for it is very plain he is worse than Ever.' He [Sneyd] stayed there until Thursday morning. Assured her he should be taken all the Care of imaginable.
11. 6 Aug.
1736
- The same to the same.
- To-morrow he sent up the affidavit in respect of the Commission in Lunacy, and Mr Spateman advised an affidavit from one of the family at Hams [Hall], Mr Sharman, or who else she thought proper, to send to Mr Spateman in Palsgrave Head Court, near Temple Bar, London. The effect of the affidavit should be as under.
- Subscribed, form of affidavit relating to the lunacy of Edward Sneyd of Alington.
[MS. imperfect].
12. Worcester.
18 Jan.
1736/37
- M. Evans to the same.
- The bill her ladyship had been pleased to send had been ready money to her. Humbly thanked her for her generous addition of the two guineas, and flattered herself that the improvements 'Miss' had made would be approved of and that she would be honoured with her ladyship's other commands. By that post she had written to Mrs Chettwood and sent the second half year's

account, and acquainted her with her ladyship's intention of sending for 'Miss' at Easter, and that she had remitted to her the expenses of the last half year.

13. 23 July,
1737

'Blest' Colclough to the same.

Was sorry he was not able to go to London, if he could have been any wise serviceable to her. As to Mr Verney, he would attend him himself, and would take care that the case was fairly stated to him. Was surprised at her uneasiness, 'for to be sure Mr Chetwode would be satisfy'd that the Case was fairly stated, before he would be concluded by Any Gentleman[']s opinion, And that could not be done without seeing the Case, it was what he had A right to, And indeed his Lawyer had as good A right to draw the Case as I had.' Would take care Mr Dryden's man came well instructed. Mr Taylor and Mr Sneyd were to have seen him on Thursday last. Had paid Taylor £14 for their (?) boards, due mid-summer last, and the dancing master £2.9.0. Taylor gave great hopes of Mr Ralph and said he improved very much and that he had a capacity to learn anything. If she would be easy nothing would be neglected. Had got executions against Burslem and Sparrow, and desired to know who was the under-sheriff of Warwickshire and that Mr Adderley would let him know when he would have it executed.

14. 'Simmonds Inn'.
2 May,
1738

Fran[cis] Eld to the same.

Since he had come up he had appointed Master Ralph's maintenance. Had allowed her, his guardian, from the time she had first had him to mid-summer next, £30 a year, and from then, 'at which time I have stated that he is to be sent to Eaton', £60. Expected her cause would be heard that term, '& doubt not but that all proper directions will be given, that will sett y^e affaires of your family upon a Just[,] easie & Reputable foot;...' Wished she would consider the matter of 'y^e affair of your son Sneyd with Mr Horton', which 'will some time or other be a bone of Contention in y^e family, & produce enmity amongst Relations...' Would wait upon Mr Sneyd and let her know how he found him. Was concerned to hear of Mrs Adderly's [sic] ill state of health.

15. 13 Nov.
1739

The same to the same.

Had searched his office and found he had the lease belonging to her marriage settlement, which she might have at command, but could not find any deed or deeds belonging to her son Dryden's estate, or the annuity payable to Master Ralph. Could not guess where they should be, 'if those Deeds can't be found it will be a most terrible Inconvenience to y^e family, [']tis most amaseing to me that those deeds being produced before y^e

Judges when y^e act of Parliam[en]^t was about to be obtained, that no one concerned...should take care to have them back again...' Had not heard a word from Mr Colclough.

16. Nantwich.
15 Dec.
1739

Ja[me]s Tomkinson to the same.

Mr Hatrell's bills of costs were taxed by Mr Chetwode pursuant to the agreement entered into between her ladyship and him. Had by that post sent Mr Colclough the bills and the deductions, 'who I hope you'll direct to pay the same forthwith', which would prevent the expense Mr Chetwode might be put to for want thereof. That was what he apprehended she had agreed to do.

17. Ellenhall.
29 Mar.
1740

'Blest' Colclough to the same.

Last Monday's post had brought him an account that, on a petition presented to the Lord Chancellor, and on an attendance thereon, his lordship had allowed the payments to Mr Stevens, which he hoped would give her some satisfaction. Had gone through part of his accounts last term, and intended to go through the other the next, but the Master would allow him no more than £50 a year salary, so that he hoped she would let him retain £30 a year out of Mr Dryden's allowance now due. Should be glad to settle all those matters and any attendance and expenses in London about the Act of Parliament. As to the repairs of Keele, etc., he was preparing an affidavit for that purpose. Was sorry to hear that Mr Sneyd was so much out of order. Adds a postscript that Mr Horton could not attend Keele court, nor 'Penkle' [recte Penkhull] as her trustee, and thought she should name some person in the neighbourhood. Adds a second postscript about Mr Higginbotham and the arrears he had collected at Ashbourne.

18. 30 Mar.
1741

Fran[cis] Eld to the same.

Was sorry any difference should have arisen between herself and Mr Colclough over the latter's salary. The salary allowed by the Master [in Chancery] on his being appointed Receiver had not been adequate to the care and pains he must have in the management of the estate. He [Colclough] had mentioned that she had promised to advance him £20 a year more, but the writer had not been privy to it. If he could help to make him any satisfaction from the receipts of Mrs Chetwode's dower, he would be glad to do it. Was sorry to hear that Mr Sneyd was so ill. Adds a postscript that the town of 'Carthagene' was taken and had agreed to pay two million to avoid being plundered.

19. 'Simmonds Inn'.
24 July,
1742

The same to the same.

Found himself under greater difficulties to answer her letters than anyone he corresponded

with, because of the great sense he had of her well wishes to him. 'I have ever been an admirer of your sex, in my early days, from what I saw, soft, agreeable, & pretty, as I advanced, from the Pleasure I found it was capable of affording, so I hope providence hath at last directed me to single out one with whome I shall spend the remainder of my Life in happyness & peace;...' Continues on this theme... Concludes that he would take care of her affairs before him 'as my own'. Adds a postscript that Mrs Arblaster joined her compliments.

20. Longdon, Nr.
Lichfield.
30 July,
1742

R. Wilmot to the same.

Had given her letters according to her directions and hoped their answers would be his vouchers. Expresses his gratitude to her for her opinion of him concerning her grandson Sneyd. 'My Lady[,] if You do alter your mind in behalf of a Private Tutor, I will not prescribe to Him my own method but give Him the same advice my own Father laid before me: w^{ch} was to act as became a man descended of generous Parents...' Describes how he would proceed if he went to Oxford. Had come from Cotton the day before, where all were in perfect health. Adds a postscript that he purposed to remind his friend of Weddington of her ladyship's advice and to tell him of her well wishes.

21. 24 Feb.
1742/43

Fran[cis] Eld to [? the same].

Had found her lease for a year and would send it or bring it. Had written to Mr Colclough to complete his letters of administration, without which he could not give her a title to the Bradwell estate. Colclough had insisted ~~only to~~ security to indemnify himself against costs, to, which the writer thought silly, but as he had insisted she must get somebody. Was ready to make his report of the debts. Asks if the money she bid for Bradwell could be brought into the account, until that was done he must be at a full stand. His wife had waited on Miss Sneyd. They hoped she would give her leave to spend a Sunday afternoon with them.

22. 'Simonds Inn'.
19 May,
1743

The same to the same.

Had given her his word he would pass her report the first thing he did, 'and accordingly have given directions to my Clerke[,] as it will be a long[,] tedious & laborious thing[,] to draw it up in the whitson weeke, when no other business will interrupt him; a thing very unusuall to oblige[,] Clerkes who worke so hard all the year & have but little time for relaxation[,] and it was with difficulty I prevailed on him[,] but he hath promised it,....'

As for Bradwell, he took it it was hers, and that she was entitled to rent from Michaelmas last. As such he had charged Mr Colclough with the purchase money, so she must manage that estate as her own. Was sorry to hear she had had a relapse. If her son Ralph did not take good security for the resignation of the livings, he would think all round him blameable, 'which had he rather do[,] provide for one of his Brothers by his own fortune, or supplycate an other (who[,] perhaps[,] may deny him) to give [h]is brother subsistence[?]'

23. 'Lighford'
[recte Leeford].
30 Aug.
[c.1743]

[Mrs] A. Eld to the same.

Could not sufficiently demonstrate the obligations she had laid her under by Miss Sneyd's company, and had parted with her with less reluctance as she [Lady Chester] had given the writer word to send her back after the races, which ended on Thursday. The Master would send for her from Lichfield on Friday, if she could not send her on horseback to 'Wousley Bridge', where the writer would meet her and take her on, 'and also come to hams in my way to London'. Wished her pleasure at the races and begged her compliments to Mr Adderley.

24. 'Simonds Inn'.
15 [MS. imperfect],
1743

[Francis Eld to the same].

Upon receipt of hers, which had surprised him, much knowing that he had done everything in his power relating to the creditors of her son, he had sent for Spateman, to know the reason why Mr Colclough had not paid the bond creditors, who had informed him that an order for that purpose was still wanting from the Lord Chancellor. Had been angry with him for not having procured it long since. That day they were settling Mrs Chetwood's [sic] dower, 'who demands dower out [of] the Coalworke that is said to be [i]n your Ladyship[']s Joynture'. Requests the jointure deed. 'I shall soon finish that affair & deliver your Grandson from any sollicitations of his Mother[']s on that account;...' Would do justice to all parties and should be glad if he was fortunate enough to please all parties.

25. Sedgley Park.
19 Sept.
1744

'Ward' to the same.

Took the first opportunity of giving dear Lady Chester an answer to her obliging letter of the 16th instant. Was many years since he had received her ladyship's commands for the care of Mrs Harrison's unfortunate daughters. The whole burden had lain upon him, except £40 which Lord Dudley allowed. The whole expense, with very frugal management, amounted to upward of £130, which he would not have engaged in had she not promised him her assistance. 'It

was a great act of Charity for y^e Children must otherwise have been maintained by y^e parish.' Hoped when Cousin Sneyd came home he would let his son have the pleasure of seeing him. Her ladyship might imagine, from what he had said at Lichfield, that his hands were full of business, but if he could get a spare day he would pay his respects at Hams before going to London.

Subscribed, a receipt dated 25 September, 1744, by John Barker for £30 from Lady Chester.

26. 12 Nov.
1744 Ann Topping to the same.

This was the first opportunity of sending her ladyship's hood, 'the wetther hath bin so bed & I have had goods damaged by Rene...'
27. Almington.
15 June,
1745 E[dward] Sneyd to the same.

Had hoped there would have been no more occasion for his mentioning Molly, 'and that you would have done suspecting me so groundlesly, and so injuriously to a modest and discreet woman.' Defends her and the rest of his servants. Was short of money. Was sorry for her ill state of health, 'but for the Sorrow which has disturb'd your rest I am not sensible that I have given y^e least occasion for it, and I hope never shall.'
28. Almington.
22 June,
1745 The same to the same.

[MS. imperfect] ...to delay going to London. Was sure he had the greatest reason in the world to be impatient for a discharge, 'since I am so obnoxious [sic] to every impudent Lyar, and so much noise is made, so much Uneasiness given me for Nothing.' All that she said about Molly was void of foundation. Desired she would immediately send the affidavits and letter of direction which she lately received from Mr Eld. Complains of her inconsistency and defends Molly's housekeeping, 'I assure y^ou I neither want y^ou'r assistance nor any other person's to manage my affairs either within doors or without. Pray, Madam, don't make such a Fool of me...', etc.
29. Eccleshall.
26 June,
1745 E. Antrobus to the same.

Had been at Nantwich to pay off Mr Massey's mortgage, but to his great surprise he had insisted on being paid £350, notwithstanding he had before told him that he believed £50 of it had been paid in Mr Sneyd's time. He said he expected Mr Sneyd to produce a receipt from his father for the £50, otherwise he would not take less than the £350, so he had been obliged to bring the money back until that could be adjusted. Had been very angry that he had not before told him of what he insisted on, that they might have searched for a receipt. 'When Mr Sneyd Comes over on this side, I propose to

search all the Papers at Keele in order to find it if possible, for I make no Doubt but it has been paid,...' Massey's father had called it only £300 in his will and the late Mr Sneyd had paid only £15 interest for many years, which was the interest on £300 only. Thought proper to let her ladyship know of 'this unluckly Delay'.

30. 2 July,
1745

Fran[cis] Eld to the same.

Had been favoured with hers and had been sorry to hear that her son had had such an influence on her letter that she had mislaid his directions and lost the copies of the affidavits, and desired to send him fresh instructions. Believed her son designed to be in London the later end of that month. Was impossible for him to prevent the commissions being superseded, but she could prevent it by refusing to make an affidavit that she conceived he was quite recovered from his indisposition, or excuse herself from his having been so long absent from her. Mrs Eld presented her respects and hoped she would allow Miss Sneyd to spend a month with them at Leeford.

31. 24 Oct.
1745

Ann Sneyd to the same.

It was with the utmost gratitude that she wrote, to enquire after her health; and she was extremely concerned to find she was not so much improved as she ought to be, 'when your Ladyship is so obliging to be at y^e expence of my [be]ing here: but I do assure you I will take the utmost pains in my improvements that is in my power; and with m^r, and m^{rs} Lally[']s good care I hope when I have the honour of seeing your Ladyship, you will think me as much improved as my Sister.'

32. Drayton.
28 Oct.
1745

[?]. Mainwaring to the same.

Her ladyship had sometime since mentioned to his wife that she had a farm in hand and, if it was then unset, he believed he could help her to a good tenant. Thomas Atkins of Polesworth, butcher, was the person who applied to him, for a farm for his son-in-law John Gramely, son of William Gramely of Austrey. Atkins was a very honest man and had assured him that Gramely the father and he 'will enable the young people to begin the world so farr as to Stock a Farm of £100 a year.' They would wait on her on 6 November, on notice from him that the farm was to be disposed of.

33. Oct.
[? 1745]

[Grand-daughter of Lady Chester] to the same.

Thanked God she was now able, under her own hand, to acquaint her she was got much better, and returned her thanks for all her kind enquiries. Had suffered a great deal since she had been there. Was going out in the coach, which the doctors had said she must do if she would be well. Her sister Horton had written to her [Lady

Chester] about a week ago, which letter she feared she had not received. She and her husband had been very good nurses to her. Sir Philip and Lady Musgrave were frightened away from their own house on the account of the disturbance in Scotland, and were to come to 'Orgrave' [recte Orgreave]; he had gone to parliament and she stayed there all winter, so they would have a neighbour they did not think of. She [Lady Musgrave] was big with child, as was Mrs Turton. The latter, she fancied, would not be very agreeable news to Miss Kitty and her brother, who, she heard, intended her cousin Sneyd a visit at Keele. Sir Thomas and Lady Gresley, she believed, dined with the writer on the morrow. They had been very hot [sic] on going to Bath some time ago, but had done with the thought of that for the present. Was sorry to hear poor Charles had been so much out of order. Jack came on fast and she fancied he would be much such a one as his brother Kitt. [MS. imperfect].

34. Eccleshall.
19 Dec.
1745

E. Antrobus to the same.

Could not get any certain account about the French till he came to that place. Now found that none were landed but were expected soon. It was certain that we had taken 3 of their transports, with men and arms, and it was hoped the rest would meet with the same fate. All seemed to be quiet there and he did not hear any other news worth mentioning. They were very impatient to hear a good account from the Duke. Had called twice that day at Mr Sneyd's, who was removed from Mr Baker's to Pall Mall, but could not meet with him at home. Had enquired of the person who was to petition the chancellor to have his lunacy superseded, but he said it could not be done before the latter end of next month for want of Mr Horton's consent coming by the last post, as had been expected. Adds a postscript that he had ordered the tea at Mr Baker's; and that he had just heard that Admiral Townshend had taken 22 Martinico ships and sunk 10 more.

35. Eccleshall.
23 Dec.
1745

'Blest' Colclough to the same.

Had received hers, to which he had not answered, because of Mr Antrobus being so soon at Hams, for whom, he doubted not, she had made enquiry. Had received last week from Mr Smalbroke a copy of Mr Sneyd's petition to the Lord Chancellor, to supersede the proceedings of the Commission of Lunacy, in which he found her and himself parties, and that they were to certify his perfect recovery, and so on, 'which I can't do, For I am sure was he so, he would not Expose himself in such a manner as he does, by taking with him to London such a woman as he has, by whose artifice onely, I suppose this affair is push'd on, that she may the more readily ruin him & his Estate, and I suppose her affid[avit]

(without Lord Chancellor knowing her Character) is to have great weight.' She [Lady Chester] would excuse his being so free on that subject. She [the housekeeper] had it in her power in his present situation to hurt his estate, 'but so soon as the disability is remov'd, I am afraid some hasty act will be done he can't revoke.' Had been informed yesterday that it was not with her privity that he and his housekeeper had gone to London. Had by that post written his thoughts to Mr Antrobus, 'and I wish, if Mr Sneyd succeeds, yo^r Lady[shi]p will not bee too soon sensible of the mistake.' Hoped they might do without using his name.

36. Eccleshall.
30 Dec.
1745

The same to the same.

Gives a statement of account between Samuel Growcott and Lady Chester, with comments. Growcott was a very poor man and was called on for money every day. Awaited her further orders. Hoped no one could blame his conduct to her son, Mr Edward Sneyd, whom he had indulged in every reasonable and commendable request. As to her good opinion [MS. imperfect]...of the maid, he heartily wished she might not be[]...[? d]eceived in her, 'but I think any indifferent person, upon seriousl[y] weighing the whole together, may readily discern, what your Lady[shi]p does not.' Most heartily wished it might answer Mr Sneyd's good, and extricate him [the writer] from a troublesome administration. Would write to Mr R. Sneyd by the next post. Would send Mr Ed. Sneyd a bill by Wednesday.

37. Cotton.
11 Mar.
1745/46

M.Add[? erley - MS. imperfect] to the same.

Her ladyship's commands of writing to her was obeyed with the greatest pleasure, though it was not yet in her power to give her any intelligence of Mr Sneyd, as the continual snows had prevented his coming according to his promise. Thomas had gone for him to Keele the day after they had arrived at Cotton, but they had heard nothing from him. They waited every day for the snow's going, that they might set out for [MS. imperfect], when the writer would write again. The writer's Uncle and Aunt Adderley and Cousin Jenney were well, and her grandfather. The day before they had left Hams they had dined with Mrs [MS. imperfect] and Mama had ordered them to send Lady Chester a piece of silk she had chosen, for a gown. They had rested at Lichfield before setting out for Cotton. All their friends there were in perfect health. [MS. imperfect] Horton thought to be with her in Easter week and not sooner. Jack, the boy, was one of the largest children she had ever seen and as heavy as her brother Ralph. Had heard at Lichfield that there was £10,000 settled on Mr Sneyd 'of Bishon[']s' younger children, and that Sir W. Ba[gg]ott was [? one - MS. imperfect] of the trustees. The two daughters that had been ill were greatly recovered. [MS. imperfect] 'at Burton &

hear abouts that the Rebells attempt makeing us an [MS. imperfect], & some people are in fear of it, but to be sure unjustly for tis [MS. imperfect] for them to come into England while the Duke is so near them [MS. imperfect] you hear y^e Hannaverians [sic] are sent for, & the Hessians countermanded.'

38. 28 Mar.
1746

R. Sneyd to [his grandmother] the same.

Had been 'set down' to write to her when he had received hers, and was sorry to find she thought he had so little regard for his uncle. Had dined with him yesterday and had found him very well, but for a small 'humour' in his eyes. Mr Mabbot, Miss Cotes and Miss Garlington and his sister had been with him, Lady Delves would likewise have done him the honour, but as she was no horsewoman it had been impossible for her to come to Keele. Had returned with them to Doddington, where he had stayed a fortnight. On the 25th of that month they had had company at Doddington, 'it being y^r birth day, my Lady toasted y^r Health.' The roof of his house was very subject to let in wet and he had sent for Baker to survey it. Would bring his opinion to Hams with him. Was surprised she should think he would do anything at the house without first consulting her. Expected Colclough there to-morrow and would fix a day with him to receive his rents. The tenants did not complain nearly so much as they did. Had ploughed the lower end of the park and was carrying a ditch and quick-set hedge round it. Found more pleasure in improving his estate than in hunting. Had received £50 from 'Elest' Colclough since he had come there. Had paid his workmen, kept his house and did not owe sixpence in that country. 'We hear y^e Rebels are increased in y^e numbers, & design to pay us another visit, but I fancy they will find no small difficulty to pass by y^e Duke.' [MS. imperfect].

39. 29 Mar.
1746

E[dward] Sneyd to the same.

Had looked over the writings and had found the security for the £1,300, but knew nothing of the bond she had mentioned. His nephew had dined with him yesterday, bringing Mr Valentine Chetwood with him. Mr Colclough had received part of the Michaelmas rents, but there was a large arrear behind, of £229, of which he had received about £70 on Lady Day, 'and if the Tenant for Broad-wall Park pays as I expect[,] I shall send Mr Colclough £100 to put out for me.' Had sent money to pay his solicitor's bill in town, and £20 on another account. Describes further expenses.

40. Almington.
7 Apr.
1746

The same to the same.

Was very sensible of her goodness and as ready to make grateful returns. Knew she wanted to see her. Would not fail to wait on her on May Day.

Had perused the writings and missed nothing of consequence but the statute merchant, which Mr Colclough told him was for £4,000, 'tho' the [mo]ney lent upon it was but One, which I shall readily acknowlege.' [MS. imperfect].

41. Eccleshall.
20 May,
1746

'Blest' Colclough to the same.

Had been at Keele last week, where he had found Mr Sneyd very prudently employed looking after his workmen mudding the pool. He was up every morning early and stayed with them all day, avoiding being hurried with company. His whole leisure he disposed of in riding about his grounds and estate, and admonishing the tenants when he saw anything amiss. If he continued thus he would be a desirable young gentleman. Had got a good land security for her at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, 'but the money must be £250'. Asks for £200, the other £50 'will be made up out of Mr Blackwall[']s;...'.

42. Almington.
21 May,
1746

E[dward] Sneyd to the same.

Had been two or three days at Keele, where his nephew was busy cleaning a pool. 'He seems to have a Genius for making Improvements, with discretion enough to keep it within bounds, and I don't know a place where there is more Room to exercise it, or where it is more wanted than at Keel. Scarce any has greater natural B[ea]utys...' She must encourage him by lending him £600 or £700. Had told him everything she had ordered, 'the best Chamber Hangings were taken down whilst I was there.' As he [the writer] had not yet seen Mr Colclough, he could not say anything more of what they had talked of at Hams. His garden was sadly burnt up and he could neither expect crops or fruit till he had covered it all over with marle. [MS. imperfect].

43. Hatton Garden.
24 July,
1746

Fran[cis] Eld to the same.

[Relating mainly to an account taken by the writer of the personal estate of Dryden Sneyd, but MS. imperfect]. Concludes, that he had put 'the affaires of your family to rights & extricated your family out of an infinity of difficulties in to which I hope they will come no more,....'

44. Atherstone.
6 Dec.
1746

Tho[mas] Shaw to the same.

To her ladyship's supposed enquiry, how her grandsons behave, and what improvements they made, his answer was, their behaviour in general was commendable, they were quiet and peaceable with their schoolfellows, orderly and observant of their master's directions. 'I press them on in y^e School as fast as I can, and as y^r Capacities (which your Ladyship knows are not y^e Brightest) will admit of. as Neddy is designed for y^e Clerical Order, I have no doubt

upon me, but He will attain in due time a Competent Stock of School Learning, & knowledge of y^e Languages, to Carry Him decently thro['] y^e university.'

45. 9 Apr.
[dated c.1749]

R[alph] Sneyd to [his grandmother] the same.

As the post had waited for his last letter he had been obliged to break off in a very abrupt manner. Now returned his best thanks to her for so obligingly executing her kind gift to him. The writings were now finished and he hoped on Easter Tuesday or Wednesday 'to be married to y^e woman of all others I adore, & y^e week following we set out for Staffordshire.' Had had one fit of the ague. Sir Walter had come to visit him and brought his apothecary. Was now as well as ever. Had not sold Mr Horton's horse. Sir Walter, Lady Bab and Miss Bagot sent their best regards.

46. 4 July,
1749

Eliz[abeth] Sneyd to the same.

By her 'prentice she had sent the 'bag holland[,] which is worth more monny the bredth and fine ness cannot be bought for 5/6d, it will improve in the wash it being much siled and shews to grate disadvantidge[,] but I beg your Ladeship will inspect into it when washt'. Had also sent what remained of the dark chintz. Adds a postscript with an account.

47. Almington.
3 Mar.
[18th cent.]

E[dward] Sneyd to the same.

Was obliged to her for the favour of her last letter. Complains of his eyes. Would be glad of his nephew's company. Knew of no reason why he [the writer] should be displeased with Mr Colclough, other than he was to blame for suffering some of the tenants to fall into arrears. [MS. imperfect].

48. Cotton.
6 Mar.
[18th cent.]

'E. [(?)].A.' to the same.

Believed her ladyship would want to have an account of the writer's sister Horton, whom she feared to leave before she was something better. The complaint she had had at Hams she had had all last week, and yesterday it had begun to be rather more and the writer had therefore sent for Dr Wilks. Mr Hector thought it was hysterical. Would write again after the doctor had been, which she believed would be on the morrow. If she was better the writer should be at home some day next week. The writer's brother and sister Horton desired their duty and service.

49. 17 Mar.
[18th cent.]

E[dward] Sneyd to the same.

'Good Lord, Madam, how strang[e]ly you misunderstand my Letter!' Had told her in the plainest terms that 'as Lord Chancellor had order'd you a certain allowance for my maintenance,

which you was not accountable for, what remains of it in Mr Colclough's Hands is yours if you please. I have a particular account of all the Moneys y^t I receiv'd from Him or You, And as That is short of seven hundred pounds, the Allowance in six years must rise to double that Sum. And therefore, tho' you have put out 200 200li[,] there must be some Hundreds left in Mr Colclough's hands.' What the latter wanted to know was whether she would take it herself or let the writer have it, as he was unable to make an account without it. 'And therefore, Madam, your Consults are unkind Imaginations of y[ou]r own, without any foundation. You are too apt to have such, and I believe to declare 'em,...' Complains of the behaviour of her servants towards him. Was nowhere so ill used as where he had least reason to expect it, which was in her house and his nephew's. Professes his affection for his brother's children, which were 'as dear to me as if they were my own,...' Adds a postscript in which he speaks for George Bowler, who could do the work she had in mind at Keele, instead of a fellow at Birmingham.

50. 6 Aug.
[18th cent.]

E[dward] Sneyd to the same.

Was favoured with hers and would observe her directions with regard to Molly, and would visit his neighbours. Heard that she was going to Catton and if she would write to him from there he would make his nephew and niece Horton a visit. Would rejoice greatly to see her at (?) Alington after so long wishing for that pleasure. Molly was still in bed and very weak, and the gardener had a fever. Had heard nothing of 'the great Squire' since he had gone into the moors, but expected a visit from him before long.

51. Coleshill.
[18th cent.]

(?) J. Kynnersley to the same.

The writer's staying some days longer at 'Chickley' than was intended, and being obliged to be at home that evening, prevented the writer from visiting Hams. Had had the satisfaction, when setting out from Lichfield, of leaving Sir John and the writer's sister very well, who charged the writer with their best compliments to her ladyship and Mr Adderley.

52. [18th cent.]

R[alph] Sneyd to [his grandmother] the same.

Dared say his dear grandmamma was very uneasy at his absenting himself so long from Hams. Hoped Mr Colclough had informed her of the reason. His [the writer's] eyes were now open and he saw with no small concern all his former extravagance, '& the greatest pleasure I now have is y^e improvement of my estate.' Would leave it to his sister and Ned to speak for his economy. Had sent for Mr Colclough and Mr Antrobus, and intended to settle four score pounds a year on Neddy, besides Wolstanton and Keele, and £2,000 on Billy. If his brothers

were not come from school, begged she would lend Ned her mare and one other, and he would go to Atherstone for her. Would look upon it as the happiest visit he ever knew to see her at Keele. Begs compliments to Mr Adderley.

53. [18th cent.]

R[alph] Sneyd to [his grandmother] the same.

As he imagined the time for the breaking up at Atherstone was near, he had sent horses for his brothers. Had written to his uncle and two or three other gentlemen to be at Keele on Tuesday 10th, '(wch is my birthday)', at which time he intended to make a settlement on them and should be glad of her advice how to conduct it and whom to nominate as trustees. Had been at Sir Watkin William's for a fortnight, where he had been shown more civilities than he could have expected. Sir Watkin had been so obliging as to make him a present of a couple of horses, one of which was the finest hunter he had ever seen, the other he had sent to his sister. Had sold two horses lately and had a chapman for another. Intended to bring his brothers up to Hams and spend some time with her. His uncle was wintering his heiffer. Had stayed a week at Keele and had never seen his uncle better. Was to take his hounds over to Almington when his brothers came to him. His best respects to Mr Adderley, who, he hoped, had thoroughly recovered his fall. Adds a postscript with compliments to Mr Bowyer, Mrs Adderley and Miss Polly. Promised himself the honour of Mr Bowyer's company that Christmas. [MS. imperfect].

54. [18th cent.]

[? - MS. imperfect] to the same.

Had been very glad to hear by her husband that her ladyship and her [the writer's] father were both well. They were hourly expecting Mr Sneyd 'in order for York'. Her sister and she intended to undertake the journey with them. Heard that Lady Babb Bagot was breeding again. Mrs Thynnersley had gone to 'Kedliston' [recte Kedleston]. Her father, mother and sister desired their humble service. Asks that she might tell Betty, when anybody went with a wagon to Birmingham, that they would bring a hamper of Cheltenham waters.

55. [18th cent.]

L. Adderley to the same, 'at Catton'.

Her servant was in great haste and would scarce give her time to acknowledge her kindness. Would certainly see her before she left 'Cutton' [recte Catton]. Believed she would have Leigh to receive her rents in Derbyshire, her reasons for which, with the rest of her affairs, she would communicate when they met.

Subscribed, with a postscript signed (?) 'H.S.', assuring her that she had the highest sense of all her indulgences.

56. [18th cent.]

John Sha[MS. imperfect] to (?) the same.

Her tenant Edward Richards, having applied to the writer in his behalf, he the more readily did it as he was persuaded that her ladyship took pleasure in doing good, and would not willingly ruin a poor, distressed family. Describes the circumstances. Rejoices to hear of her health by Mr Gill.
