Ref code: GB 172  S[WS]

Sneyd Papers

A calendar of correspondence to William Sneyd
CORRIGENDA

MS. 18, for 'Mr Walker' read 'Mr Walter'.
MS. 32, for 'Gratwick' read 'Gratwich'.
MS. 43, for 'Clipston' read 'Clipstone'.

CORRESPONDENCE

To William Sneyd (d.1695)

1. 26 Jan. 1651/52
   Robert Milwarde to William Sneyd, at Norton.
   Begged his pardon for not writing to him on Saturday, but truly had always been of an opinion that a fine sur concessit was not competent security to the lessees in trust, and he [Sneyd] was bound by covenant to levy no other, nor was there other (as far as he was able to judge) acknowledged by him. Wished all [ ? ]s might be carried forward between himself and sister Sneyd, and conceived the agreement was no disadvantage to him.

2. 17 Apr. 1652
   Jane Sneyd to the same, in London.
   Had received his last letter, 'and should be glad you might come of[f] from the Charge of the fine, but if you thinkes to ease your selfe by bringing the personall estate into question[,] either as liable to the fine or upon a second delinquencie[,] you may do well to consider how farre
these new queries may extend to the real estate and so prove more prejudicial to you... Was sure he well knew she had already paid above the value of the personal estate, and must therefore excuse her if she sought the best remedy for herself. Was still her desire that all differences might be composed in love between them, 'to that end[,] if you please to wait upon Sir or[lando] Bridgman[,] who will be in London the end of the next week[,] and unto whom I referre all things [sic] which concerns me[,] and what shall please to undertake on my part shall be made good...' Adds a postscript, that [as for the] Mr Bowker business, she did not think that ever she should have received such an unkindness from him [Sneyd].

Ro[bert] Milwarde to the same.

Had no doubt that if there were a tenant in tail, with the remainder in tail, and the tenant in tail committed treason and died without issue, that he in the remainder was safe by the former law, 'but I am afrayde this present parliam[en]t for all matters of delinqu[en]ce look[es] upon[et] ten[ants] in taile as ten[ants] in Fee Simple[,] because they hadde power to sell if they pleased by fine or Recovery[,] as the Case stoode. Y[ou]r Brother hadde power by Recovery to have made a sale of K. with out his brother[,] is meaning with him[,] and it was his intentio[n] in Case of refusal[,] and then unquestionably K. hadde been lyable for ever to [?]all Judg[men]t ag[ains]t y[ou]r brother...' Considers the issue further. 'I must Confesse the scruple has been longe in my headde and doe not desire that there shudd be too Curiose a search made into y[ou]'r estate. I writt to y[ou]r mother could be noe prejudice to her. That it was a surrender of Norton, to inable you to suffer a Common Recovery[,] and if 5[000li] were not paid her such a day[,] the Surrender to be Void.1 His [Sneyd's] wife had thought it not material to press his mother in it. Had then thought that a fine from his brother and him competent security, but on second thoughts remembered that the fee simple was in his brother's daughter's hand, therefore a recovery was necessary. Wished there might be amity between his sister and himself.

Jane Sneyd to the same, 'at norton farme or Keele...'

Had received his letter by John Hypsley, and truly much wondered he should so much vary from what he had agreed to concerning (?) Bradwall, it seemed, as she supposed, by some new advice he had found another way, then never thought on when the business was in debate. Believed that it had been intended for her to contribute weekly with him, it would have been then urged by him. He knew there had been no mention of any such thing, neither would she go on on those terms, 'you absolutely agreed[,] Brother[,] before
the witnesses then present[,] to reparing the
roof and to give $501.0.0. towards the rest,
and allow materials[,] this I dare afirm
upon oath...' Had no present money and could
not but take it very unkindly to see his dealing
and uncertainty with her. 'I thanke god and
strangers I hope I shall not want a house[,] though it seems I might for you, I am sure if
I had foresene what ridgednesse and strictnesse
I had I should have bene more wise[,] and it may
be not have wanted a house now...', etc. Her
humble duty to her brother Richard and all her
cousins. Adds a postscript, 'Brother, you have
formerly often tould me, that if I liked not a
towne life, I should come to Keele againe if I
pleased[ :] if you will set it, and admitt of no
other tenant, if you will I will rent it as a
stranger will give...'.

George Parker to the same, at Keele.

Had had some conveyances brought to him to peruse,
which concerned an estate which had been the
inheritance of James Rawly, and now belonged to his
[Rowly's] son-in-law Mr Ford. On view thereof, had
found that when those lands had been made freehold
by Sneyd's father and grandfather, there had been
a heriot reserved on the death of every person
seized thereof of any estate of inheritance. Found
that Rowley [sic], on the marriage of his daughter
to Ford, had conveyed the lands to himself for
life, and afterwards to his daughter and her issue,
who was still living and had 4 sons and 3
daughters, so that the estate of inheritance
rested in her and her issue, and no heriot could
be due on his death by colour of that reservation.
Had perused this, which was dated 22 or 23 years
since. Knew he desired nothing but what was due,
and if he pleased to refer it to his cousin Robert
Milward, 'or any other Councell', Mr Ford would
yield what an indifferent man would adjudge.

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and if he pleased to refer it to his cousin Robert
Milward, 'or any other Councell', Mr Ford would
yield what an indifferent man would adjudge.

Robert Milwarde to the same.

Sneyd had covenanted that the premises granted
were worth (?)£100 per annum, besides all charges
and reprises, so that if by reason of any charge
or reprise the premises became of less value than
£100, he was obliged to make it up. Therefore it
was his advice that by all means be procured an
order from the commissioners, to be directed to
indifferent persons, to survey the premises, and
return their value, otherwise he much feared they
would urge the charitable use upon him. Considers
further possible disadvantages. 'This post fro[m]a
London in formes me that the L[or J Protector hath
with some Contempt refused the Crowne, and the
souldiery have brought a remonstrance into y®
house[,] full of high Language advising the parli[me]nt to make no further addresses to his
highness as to Kingshippe, soe that for any thinge
I Canne Conjecture, we are liked to be govern'd
wholely by the souldiery. and the Maior Generall's.
R. Wilwarde to the same.

17 Aug.
1657

Had perused the deeds made by Lord Audley to his grandfather, and had found, amongst other things, two messuages, supposed copyhold in his ancestor's and one Turner's possession, and all lands belonging to them, etc., passed to his ancestor. The Turners had been in possession above 60 years, paying 8/- per annum rent, which they had constantly paid. 'And I am further informed that Turner hath an old copy but noe rent particulariz'd in't, soe that uppon the whole matter I feare both a Judge and Jury[,] considering the Turners' long possession, will be apt to thinke that ye freehold and inheritance at law of the said copyholds was passed to ye ancestor[,] and as to ye messuage in his possession the copyhold was extinguished but ye Turner's did still remaine copyhold though severed from the manor.' By law, the ancient rent of his copyhold was payable to him. If he could give any probable testimony of a lease made by any of his ancestors to Turner or his ancestors, his title might appear probable.

The same to the same.

20 Apr.
1659

Perceived that when his brother was married and the settlement made on the marriage, the estate was transferred by bargain and sale, and release, of which the deeds he sent him were counterparts. The principal deeds, sealed by his father, are or were in the custody 'of my Cose[n] your sister[s]' friends, for uppon them did depend the strength of her Jointure and the provision made for her daughters.' But if it happened that the principal deeds were lost, which belonged to his sister, 'for the Counterpartes properly belonged to y[er] father and his heires males', he conceived that these deeds should be deposited in some indifferent hands and preserved for both their use. If there were no settlement of the estate in these deeds, his brother was tenant in fee simple, and his estate liable to all judgments obtained against him. Urges the deposit of the deeds for both his and his sister's sake.

9. 20 Nov.
1660

John Caulton, William Bourne, William Dickinson, Richard Podmore, Randull Kettell, John Burslen, John Salmon, Thomas Badley, Robert Burslem, to the same, 'one of the Knightes of the parlement of England...'

So it was that they had had some conference with their neighbours, concerning that money which was left for the bishop's rent, and so it was that there was not above £15 that would be had, 'the Reste is in such men[']s handes as we Canot Compart.' As they would give him a true account at his coming down, concerning the repair of the chancel, the time was not now...
seasonable. They had viewed it with some others, who thought £6 or £6.13.0. would do it sufficiently, but they would keep £8 in their hands for the repair of it, 'yf it neide soe muche[.]' And for the other viji we would Intreat yo[u] worship[,] accordinge to your promise[,] we maye aylie it for the preaching of God[']s word at [(?)] nue Chapell'.

George Parker to the same.

Had received his letter of the 7th, but had formerly been with the Chancellor of the Duchy about his lease. Could have no assurance of renewing it until the surveyor had made his certificate of the value of 'the Castle place' and the perquisites of the courts. If Colonel Shalcrosse had any aim at it for himself, he would put a great trouble on him, 'for hee is a man made upp onely for profitt to himself and see I Found itt in the poore widow[']s case att Newcastle.[.] And therefore yo[u] work will bee to mak him yo[u] frend and then the business will bee easely effected'.

Concerning the Newcastle business, the defendants had appeared and taken the copy of the bill, and taken down a commission to answer in the country. As for Turner's Farm, he would peruse his deed of purchase from Lord Audeley after the assizes, and then send for a subpoena out of the Chancery. 'About 2 monethes since my Lord of Manchester[,] Lord Charaberlen[,] searched generall Moncke[']s Cellars[,] lest in stead of Beere and wyne they had beene Barrells of powder and amunition[,] upon wc the Lady Monck went redd hott to the Kirxe and tould him that r a y Lord Chamberlen had more treason in his heart then all the disbanded souldiers and that lordshiPe searched for Powder and amunition that he might be enabled to raise a new Rebellion against him as he had formerly done against his father: my information of this was from a noble lord that was present when she spok the wordes to the Kinge...'

Ellis Foggatt to the same.

That day a letter had come to his hands from him, directed to Mr Chancellor, who had not yet come down to Lichfield. Had presumed to break up his letter and finding therein his desire to aim for a licence to eat flesh for certain [persons] remaining with him, 'whose constitutions are unapt for fishe', had sent 3 licences to be filled up. For the fees of them he would leave it to Mr Chancellor, until Smayd and Hemst at Stafford assizes.

Thomas Sagnall to the same.

Had made a search for John Forde[']s surrender
and payment of his 'FareFee', but in the time that he [the writer] had kept the court, he found none, and in some rolls he had had from Sneyd in Mr Chetwinde's time, and never had any of the rolls in Mr Rell's or Mr Wedgwoode's time. If it were paid it would appear by their own copy, but found, upon discourse with John Sheratt, that he conceived it was not paid when he surrendered, but some time after, which is a thing not usual, & I much question it.' The best course, he conceived, would be to seize, & if they can have it after make it appear they ought to be discharged of it, you will doe them right..." Adds a postscript that the bailiff desired him to send his pleasure [in the above] and he would go along with them or seize.

Rob[ert] Milward to the same.

'In the first place I must begg your pardon, that I have not sooner answer'd your letter, but really we have been in such tediouse and hott debates concerning the means of his Majesties supply, that I am almost excuseable, considering I was tied to the chayre, and have scarce had time to eate or sleepe.' As to his mill business, he would wait on Mr Ellis, and certainly if they obtained not an injunction, they would procure the case to be heard next term. "SP[ ] we have yet fix'd on noe way for his Majesties's supply, but at a Committee of ye whole house debated all, now I hope we shall retorne to an house againe, and fasten uppo[n] some thing[, ] for it's more the[n] time[, ] some, of which opinion I am one, would willingly ease the Lande fro[m] taxes, if not in all[, ] yet in part[, ] by Imposing some thing on the Consumption of such forreign and home Commodities, as are rather matters of Luxurie and ornament, the[n] necessity, but what way will be Concluded on is yet uncertayne. we have noe newes, but what ye Gazet will furnish you with all.'

William Pargiter to the same.

Since his last to him, he had received two from him, to which he would have returned an answer before that, but had expected every day to have conferred with Mr Milward about his business. Had met with him at Westminster Hall, and they agreed to bring a bill on the whole matter, and Sneyd to leave it to the court whether they would make good the last articles, or relieve the children on the first settlement. Was to have further discourse with Mr Milward and to that end had drawn up a breviate for him, but he was out of town, and had carried with him the bill he [the writer] had drawn up, which he had sent him to peruse. That bill had to be altered in many places if Mr Beaumont intended to stand suit. 'I am very sorry you have lost soe much time but I must confess I never thought but yet Mr Beaumont would before this have complied with your.
s[ws] - 7
desires without suit,...' Must now get leave from the Lord Chamberlain to sue him before anyone would dare to serve a subpoena on him. Would speak to a smart [sic] solicitor that would see that done. If Sneyd would procure the bill from Mr Milward and send it to Northampton, he would prepare it for Mr Leete to see the subpoenas served. Adds a postscript that he was to go towards Northampton on Tuesday next.

R.Milward to the same.

In regard most of the business was transacted in Nottinghamshire, and the monies were there, and the deeds were to be sealed there, for avoiding his trouble it was designed that he would pass over his trust in 'Eaton' to Mr Charles Hall of Nottinghamshire, who was a person of great estate and was willing to undertake the trust with his [the writer's] cousin Pigot. The trust had been for raising £2,000 for discharging debts of any he found engaged for his brother William, and £1,000 for his brother William, and this declared only by his brother and son. He freely gave his consent for his assigning over his trust to Mr Charles Hall, and William Prince would engage with him [Sneyd] not to part with the deeds forth of his hands until his [the writer's] brother and son had sealed. Blessed be God, he found himself in a good way of recovery. Humbly desired his service to his lady and all at Keele.

John Beaumont to the same.

His wife and he were that day going into Lincolnshire, where, if she liked, they intended, God willing, to live for the future. Their return to Sywell would be within ten days. Hoped they would see him as he went to London, 'that we may discourse our business,...' Had sent for a commission to take his wife's answer in the country, and by that time the term was 10 days old and she might have answered. He would find him as forward as himself to put an end to all their disputes. Desired him to write to her to quicken her in answering, for she would do nothing without his [Sneyd's] instructions. Desired he would take Sywell in his way to London.

The same to the same.

What sums of money Sneyd should pay to Salathiel Lovell esq., of Northamptonshire, for the writer's use, Lovell's acquittance would be his discharge.

W.Gilbirt to the same.

Had received his of the 19th instant, together with 40s. (by Mr Walker). Hoped by such time as
he should go to London that Mr (?) Winnington
would have drawn up the case. 'I would have you
to be here you[']selfe with will put on you['] business [ ? ] forwarded then it will goe in
you[']s absence, & likewise when you are here
you['] selfe if you do not very well approve of
that way of proceeding you may proceed by way
of Peticon[,] & & all you are upon my
Lord of Devon[']s Tryall & I acquainted his
lordship that you would appear here[,] whoe
took it very kindly & therefore I desire yo[u]
will please to appear here att the Tryall;'
It would be about the 6th or 8th of November
before the writer would go for London, and before
that time he would willingly wait upon Sneyd,
either at Stone or 'Mear Lane end', on Monday
week, 1st November.

Row[land] (?) Nicolls to the same.
It was a great satisfaction to him to hear of
Sneyd's, the writer's aunt's, and Sneyd's
family's good health. Had received £100 from
his servant for Sister Kat's use. For the bill
of sale men, he had ordered them to be questioned
in Chancery and the prerogative court. For his
deed he mentioned, he had not yet looked over
those writings, they were in sister Kat's
custody. On her return thither he would 'per use'
them, and if he found any that concerned not her
and himself, they would be sent him.

John Beaumont to the same.
Had received his and did not doubt but his
counsel might tell him that all annuities and
rent charges were to allow their proportion to
the grate taxes that should be laid; 'but had
you put my case Rite, I doe not Question but it
would be there judgement[,] as I am confident it's
yours, that I ought to be accepted in this case,
since for so small a proportion I quitted so
great an estate of so grate a valew... Not
that he had not done so voluntarily, conditioning
with him that what he had agreed should be paid
to him should be without deductions. What he [the
writer] had done for the children, 'particularly
for her you mention', he dared confidently to say,
if her father had lived, she would not have been
so well provided for. Was his satisfaction that
he had done more for the children than could have
been expected. Repented nothing he had done for
them, but would be glad to do more if he were
able, 'but giving this five pounds[,] as you
desire[,] I will never consent; for that will be
to leave a nother to dispose of mine, and not as
it[']s pretended benefitt the Child, but better
enable a loose woman to continue her ill
practices.' If he submitted, it might be a
precedent thereafter. Wherefore he desired him
to order Cross to pay it with what would be due

to him [the writer] at Lady Day next, 'for [his
not paying it so the last half yeare I will make it appeare to you prejudiced me almost twenty pound[s]." Feared not the rantings of a scolding woman, but it would trouble him to have any dispute with him who he had ever found both just and civil.

William Ghetwynd to the same.

Found the affair between them was come to that point that he must either submit to extraordinary security, or by an uncharitable logic, be concluded to have a bad title; and the more to confirm Sneyd's jealousy that it was so, Sneyd had said to the writer that the land had been bought of Michael Biddulph of Polesworth, and Michael Riddulph of Elmhurst was mentioned in the deed. 'Sr I shall never have the confidence to make the least pretence to your friendship, should I once trifle w. or delude you; therefore I do w. Truth & assurance tell you againe, yt I purchas'd from Mr Biddulph of Polesworth,...' etc. Did not imagine his [the writer's] refusal of the bond to be a rational ground of suspicion, rather the contrary, but would comply and seal it, 'being loath that any thing should look like unkind betwixt us; though give mee leave to assure you, yt as you affirm you might have disposed the money to better advantage, so I could (had I dream't of soe much difficulty) have borrowed the little sum, upon little advantage but w. a much easier incumbrance upon... your obedient serv[an]t.' etc.

R.Milward to the same.

Perceived that the present revenue of his [the writer's] cousin Davenport's estate was not above £220 per annum, and out of that several payments to be made, besides a debt of £600 and charge of £2,000 for his [the writer's] cousin Davenport's daughter's portion. How that estate had come to be preserved he knew not, but rather thought it best that it were sold, and so that the daughters, which would shortly be marriagable, would be provided for in some reasonable time, but in case it should not be thought fit to sell the estate, he conceived it best to limit an estate to trustees for some considerable term of years, to the intent that out of the issues and profits they might make such payments and raise such sums as should be agreed, and the trusts performed, the term to wait on the reversion, as also the surplus of the profits over and above what should be sufficient to discharge the payments, and after the expiration or determination of the term an estate might be limited to Jo: Davenport for life, the remainder to his son in tail male, the remainder to (?) Vivian for life, with like remainder to his sons, the remainder in fee to the right heirs of Jo: Davenport. As to what lands should be agreed on for sale, they would have to be limited to the trustees and their heirs for ever, to the intent they might sell them for.
They were glad to hear of any occasion that might give them hopes of kissing his hands at Stoke, and now that parliament was sitting they hoped the honour of his company would not much longer be deferred. Thought that in his last letter he had given an account of the receipt of the bills of £100 and £50, which had been exactly paid according to order, and Mr Gaudern had also paid the £200 due Lady Day 1675. Lady Compton had made two visits to Stoke, 'but I cannot say friendly ones, ye last time my Nephew was not at home, soe ye she spent hir Powder wholly against mee, & because there discretion persons privye to hir behaviour towards mee, I will not give a Judgement of hir deportment to mee, but leave it to be spoke by others, but I think [']twas not a suitable treatment from a Court lady to ye meanest person ye calls him selfe a gentleman:/' Humble duty to his worthy lady, all the good company at Bradwell, Mrs Elizabeth and Mrs Cotten. Adds a postscript about his niece's cheese.

Francis Crane to the same.

Since he had written by the last post, he had received this from Mr Philip Folley, who had promised to pay Arundell £500 there, on notice from Mr Wheeler of so much money received by him from Sneyd, for Arundell's use. Desired, if possible, that it therefore be paid on Tuesday next. If Sneyd pleased to take Wheeler's receipt, it should be a good discharge to him, 'for so much mony in part of my wives portion & I shall give you any further discharge, for soe much upon ye receipt theirof as mr Archbold or any other person you shall intrust here, shall approve of'.

Subscribed, with a note by Fran. Morgan, that (?) he was for the country the following day, 'if my Cos: Arundell had not undertooke it I had not faile of answering ye letters'.

J. Dryden to the same.

Mr Checkly on Friday last had taken his journey towards Wale and would wait on Sneyd on his return. In his absence he [the writer] had been desired to receive from Thomas Baddely the £200 that Sneyd had sent, for which he had given his porter a receipt. The same day had come Mr Crane, who he thought was uncle of a near relation of Mr Arundell, to know if he had received the money from Sneyd, and an order to pay it to Arundell. Next day had come Arundell and Crane for the money, which he had paid, 'but the first Bagge we told
over (wch was sealed[,] as was both[,] wth yo[u]r seal[,] as they was both satisfied yt it was as it was delivered to ye Carreyer) wanted 4s, m[243x752] Arundell[,] m[243x752] Crane & my Selfe told it twice over as carefully as could bee; the other Bagge was right[. ] Had put 4/- to it to make it up. Had been at his cousin Richard Pickering's, who had gone out of town for Cambridge, but his lady had told him he had written two letters to Sneyd about the horse, and that a relation of his would meet Sneyd at Stafford assizes 1 & to take ye Horse or else yt you would send him to Sr Robert Dryden's & hee would send for him there, for hee depends upon the Horse,...'

Subscribed, with a copy of a receipt for £200, 'in part of the money due to mee in right of my Wife to whom he[,] ye said Mr. Sneyd[,] was Guardian...!', signed by Francis Arundell.

Francis Arundell to the same.

Had received his of the 27 February, since which he had received the £200, as he had ordered, and given a discharge for it. Had forborne to give sooner notice in order to advise him also by that post concerning the bill of £500, 'w[243x469]hile Phillip Folio desired should be paid to m[243x469] Wheeler in Stafford Shire upon Tuesday last, upon notice of wch he hath promise to pay ye summe to mee in town, not hearing from you any thing of ye paying of this summe to m[243x469] Wheeler, I went this evening to m[243x469] Folio's lodging[,] I might understand, whether he had received any advice from m[243x469] Wheeler, His agent told mee ye Wheeler had sent word ye he kept home all ye day upon Tuesday last, in expectation of hearing from you, but ye he receive[d] nothing from you[. ] If he would please to pay the £50, according to Mr Folio's instructions, he would accept it. Lady Compton and his wife joined with him in their service to him and his aunt.

The same to the same.

[MS: imperfect] ...his the writer's receipt for £200 returned to Mr Chec[.]...of his expectation for the receipt of the £500 returned... send up the other £100 as Sneyd formerly did... to one Mr Thomas Langham, an apothecary. To-morrow morning the writer intended going home, with his wife and Lady Compton. Entreated Sneyd to favour him with his letter, directed to be left at the post house at Worcester, to be sent to Stoke. Supposed his occasions would in a short time call him to London. If he pleased to give him and his wife the honour of his company as he passed by, they should be most heartily welcome. [Fragment only].

Edward Checkly to the same.

Had received his with a bill of exchange for
£107.10.0. As soon as Warwick assizes were past he would make up his account and send it down, because the next assize they should have the other (?) trial with Sir John Knightly, 'and then we shall know what to bright [sic] for,...'

Subscribed, [by (?) William Sneyd], 'this 107[.1]0. is the last of my Cousen Ka: Sneyd [sic]'s 1[.1][00]li. porcn[.], wch she assign[.1]d me to pay to Mr Chekly.'

Samuel Leadbeater to the same.

Had been yesterday with Mr Francis Moseley, who was much troubled at the great charge that Mr Davenport was at upon the account of suitors, ' & requests you to be Instrumentall for the Tableing [sic] Miss Eliz: either with him you selfe or else where[,] for I conceive she unhandsomly casts off[.] f Mr Davenport of Calveley[,] wch as Mr Moseley & my selfe both thinke to be the best of any that as yet we have heard of, upon the way as I was going yesterday[,] to overtake[.] a messenger from her[,] to goe this morning w[.] one Mr Davis of Manley[,] to view his estate, wch as I am informed hath bene in her Company but Three tymes & all within this fortnight, I Acquainted Mr Moseley of it & he was of the same mind with me[,] not to goe till she had made a more orderly end with Mr Davenport[.] this Mr Davyes is meanly des[ic]ended[,] onely is well Educated & lately come from University[,] his father[,] as I am informed[,] hath 4001[.] per annum & marred [h]is mayd & hath Already two daughters by her[,] wch seems to me to be a great hindrance[.] to his heire,...' Mr Moseley had thought it fitt for him forthwith to send Mr Daniel a letter concerning it, ' & to manyest that if she desented that it was her owne doing & not relacons...' Considers further details. Had found Sneyd's with Mr Unwin's letter at his house and would inform himself concerning it, and then repair to him to see what could be done, 'but pray if you thinke fitt require Mr Middleton to put him on to Answer our Bill...' Mr Moseley and he had fixed on 1 February to come to Keele.

Viscount Cullen to the same.

By the enclosed [missing] he would see what his requests were in parliament. By that settlement mentioned in the bill, he [Sneyd] and Mr Thomas Cokaine had an interest in Elmesthorpe (which in the bill he desired might be disengaged from the entail) and Rushton for 99 years, to raise portions for daughters, to be paid them after the writer's death, if he did not dispose of them in marriage in his lifetime. To recompense the settling of that, he tied himself from the power of settling a jointure of 2500 per annum upon a second wife, and from the power of waste in Rushton, in both which he had a liberty by the settlement. He and his wife had a present
interest in Elmesthorpe, for their lives, and
he charged Elmesthorpe with £2,500, for a
portion for his daughter, and he concluded
his bill that if he preferred her not in
marriage in his lifetime, then the same
provision which was made for her out of
Elmesthorpe and Rushton, should be saved to
her. The courtesy he asked was very mean, but
might prove of great advantage to his son,
'for by my being able to prefer my
Daughter in Marriage in my life time[,] I
may save him a good part of that 5l[,]000
which otherwise she must infallibly have, if
not Married in my lifetime. Besides which I
shall bee able to give my son an Education
fit for him, which by reason of the present
debts upon me & paying my Sisters
proson[,] I am not at present able to doe'.
If these things were very unreasonable he
would not have confidence to desire his
furthering them with some of the Members
of the House of Commons by signifying that he
was well pleased that it should pass, 'and
Please to send up this inclosed Bill that
yor Freinds may see that it is the same with
what is already read in the House...'

Subscribed, '3T/ It is my Earnest desire that
this Bill passe For I am very well
assured it is for my advantage,
Therefore Begg you[u]T utmost furtherance in
it[,] by which you will Oblige me to bee for
ever...' etc. [Signed] Charles Cokayne.

31. Coleshill.
19 Dec.
1679

Had come out of London on Wednesday morning
and that evening had come to Lichfield, but the road
was very bad and his horse not in very good
condition. Intended, God willing, being at
Newcastle the following night, though he hired
another. Would not have him give himself the
trouble of coming thither, 'the way being so
foule, & no moonlight'. Designed, some time
the following day, to 'Holines Chappell'. Had
enclosed a bill [missing], which he might
consider at his leisure.

32. Gratwick.
13 [blank],
1681

E. Bayly to the same.

Had entreated his uncle Norman and his son,
and could not understand by their answers
what they intended doing, but to prolong time,
and was very doubtful there was but little care
taken by them, 'yt troubles me very much that
you[,] from whom I have received soe much
civility from[,] should through their
carelesenes be disappointed of yor moneys...'

33. Knipersley.
16 Jan.
1681/82

John Bowyer to the same.

Was heartily sorry he could not wait on him
and Mr Leveson Gower on Friday or any day that
week. Wished the reason were not too apparent, 'for I have a great could upon me and a sore throat...'. Hoped Mr Leveson might defer his journey longer and then they might meet and make an end of the business referred to him. No man in the world wished more than he [the writer] to have a good correspondence and entire friendship with the family of Keele, and nothing should be wanting on his part to promote those ends. 'I shall not therefore meddle any more with keeping a Courte Leete for Tunstall till it be finally decided by Mr Leveson[,] to whom it is referred...'.

'For what is due to you from mee for amerciements in not appearing att your Court[,] God Forbid[,] if itt bee i quitt due to pay[,] tho' I should hinder you of a Penny[,] shall I bee: I suppose my father never payed any[,] how itt comes to be my due I am to Learne[,] but shall entirely submitt all to ye decission of ye worthy Freind and mine Mr Leveson...'

Edward Cheekly to the same.

Mr Smith, at the writer's coming to London, had shown him a letter which had come from Sneyd, wherein the latter desired to be satisfied whether satisfaction was acknowledged on the judgment which the writer's father had obtained on Sneyd's brother Richard. 'Sr[,] as to this I doe not know of any other Judgment but what was against Richard Sneyd of Stafford Sqare, if he bee the person that you mention in your Letter...' Could assure him that the judgment was satisfied, for when the writer was in Staffordshire he had given him a release of errors on the judgment, so that there remained nothing due, except 18/-, being the charge for entering the judgment, which he had promised to pay. The writer had forgotten to speak to [William] Sneyd when he had been at his house concerning some monies he had laid out for Mr Walters, for writs, books and several bottles of metheglin, which came to above £14, besides £100 which he supposed he had heard he had received of his father. Knew not how to get the money unless he would be pleased to be assistant therein.

Jo[hn] Large to the same.

When last with him at Keele had told him he had the counterparts of Mr Mainwaring's leases, but that in case Mainwaring should fail to pay the charge, there would be occasion to make use of the counterparts upon further proceedings, whereupon Sneyd had been pleased that he should keep the counterparts till the remainder of the debt and costs had been
36. Nantwich
[recte Nantwich].
10 Aug.
1694

Cleared. However, had therewith sent the counterparts, and should there be occasion, would send thereafter for them.

John Gouldsmyth to the same.

Had received his by Mr Austin. Had perused both deeds of enfranchisement and taken an abstract of that to Mr Lawton, both being to the same effect. Until he had prepared the papers he could not tell how the case would fall out. Considers the issues, including that of the heriots [estate unspecified]. Adds a postscript that he had seen his note to Mr Fenton relating to Walklett, and Mr Fenton's answer, concerning a dispute with a tenant. [MS. imperfect].

37. Shelton.
10 Sept.
[1694].

(?)C. Fenton to the same.

In obedience to a letter received on Saturday from his friend Captain Sneyd, he had read over the papers and therewith returned them to him. Clearly agreed that Mr Gouldsmith's opinion was sound concerning Mr Lawton's heriots, but could by no means approve his advice to file a general bill in equity against the long lease purchasers, for reasons given. Adds a postscript that his son humbly thanked him for his retaining fee, and would be ready to serve him in that or any other concern he was capable of performing.

38. 21 Sept.
1694

John Gouldsmyth to the same.

In answer to his of the 12th instant (for not answering which he begged his pardon, having been at 'Cholmeley' [recte Cholmondeley], he had received his opinion and found no occasion for the retracting of anything therein, further than that the facts and circumstances were different from the apprehensions he had of them. Gives his opinion on the question of there being a heriot due to Sneyd on the estate in 'Guide Coate', on the death of Mr Lawton; and on the question of copyholding.

39. 1 Oct.
1694

The same to the same.

In answer to his that day, he would not have an opportunity to do anything as to Mr Mainwaring's deed until he went to Chester, which would be at the assizes. But as to the deed of enfranchisement to Mr Lawton, had returned it, being the same he had perused before, relating to the same lands, which old Mr Lawton swore were settled, so was of the opinion that no heriot became due in respect of them on Mr Lawton's death, and thought it adviseable for him not to begin any suit in respect of the heriots until some case fell out in which he should think himself injured by the denial of them.
40. 'Amarton' [recte Amerton].
22 Jan.
[2nd half of 17th cent.]

John Norman to the same.

[About a young mare 'great in foole', which Norman has sent him].

Dorothy Wyrley to the same.

Begged his pardon in that she troubled him, but understood Mr Pigot was dead, for which she was very sorry. He might please to remember that William Willmer had made Sir Charles Compton and himself [Sneyd] and Mr Pigot trustees for his estate. Now they were both dead she heard that Mr Beaumont intended to try if he could get him [Sneyd] to relinquish ['relinquish'] the trust, which she besought him not to, 'for the poor boys!' sake'. Heard that if he got that settlement he would cut down his woods and plough up all his grounds. Pigot had written to her the previous Whitsuntide, that there should be a meeting of Sneyd and Beaumont [sic] and himself, 'and that ther should be 300l a year set out for raising portions for the 2 Daughters[,] but I Canot heare of anithing that is doun[,] I have bin in harforsheer all thi3 winter and now I heare mr Beaument and his Lady are goon to London[.] I have not bin at Siwell above this 2 years[,] nether have I ani hart to goo there'.

Heard that Mr Beaumont intended to give up housekeeping and to take his lady and the poor children to Lincolnshire, 'which I feer will not bee well for the childern...'. Adds a postscript that the children were all well, although she herself went not to Sywell, yet she sent to see her lady and them.

Subscribed, copy letter, William Sneyd to Dorothy Wyrley, undated.

Had often been a remembrancer to his brother Pigot, 'acquainting' him he was nearer related to the children than he was, & wondered he would not Act according to the trust, & that I would joyne with him,...' Had given order to Mr Leete to prefer a bill against Mr Beaumont, knew not how the suit was stayed, 'but since my brother Pigot[']s decease I writ to mr Leete to wayte on you & to receive yo['] directions, what you would have done in it, & to acquaint you that being [sic] there is noe Trustee left but my selfe[,] I should Act according to yo['] directions for the best advantage for the children.'

41. 'Clipston[,] this 8 of aprill[.]
[2nd half of 17th cent.]

J.Driden to William Sneyd, at Keele.

Questioned not but that 'ere that he understood the misfortune his drainers had met with on the way, 'being informed by returne of one of them, that ye other 12 designed to goe forwards,...' Was very fearful, unless they had a guide, there would be nothing effected. Had he received the least intimation of that disturbance in the west, he would not have sent them down, 'but man
proposes, god disposes. I wrote by the men a few lines in hast, wh I perceive were broke ope at Leicest. and I should have thought, yd particulars of that letter should have evidend yd designs to be no wayes dangerous, yd name of Sneyd, carries that loyalty wht it, nothing dishonourable can be imagind by any of the family.'

Dorothy Wyrley to the same.

Had been at Sywell and had spoken with Mr Beaumont. about the children, 'who seems to bee veri willing to Consent to ani thing that shall bee reasonabell [.] I Ganont exques m7 Beaumont in all things but that hee may bee faulty[,] but I belive ther is a great deal more charged upon him then is true'. Desires Sneyd to go to Sywell at the time of the assizes, that 'if ther bee ani thing that m7 Beaumont and you to doupt of ther will bee Counckell that will deside it'. Urges him to persuade Pigot, 'my Lady[']s Brother[,] to Com with you'. Found her lady very passionate against her husband but not at all willing to leave him.

Mr Ellis was of opinion that the decree, as the writer had drawn it, would be binding. Certainly the Scots were up in Galloway, 'and headed by a prespyterian, and truly I looked for noe lesse when I heard such reports of ye papists as was in 1641. I hope the King's forces in Scotland will be able to suppresser them... In the decree (or rather, intended decree), it was most chiefly on the prerogative, and it seemed that Mr Ellis had never perused it before.

Kat[herine] Sneyd to the same.

Had shown Mr Checkly his letter, who had told her he had given Sneyd an account 'when he was content to receive the hundred pound'. Hoped he pleased to pay him £109, so much she owed him, hoped he remembered there was so much due to her. Was sorry it would not be her good fortune to see him when he came to town, but intended on Monday following beginning her journey towards Shropshire. Begged her service to her aunt and adds a postscript,that she had forgotten to write him word that Mr Checkly would furnish her with the £40, and that he was to receive the whole £109.

Rob[er]t Audeley to the same.

Presents his respects and gives thanks for his kindness to him at his last visit, respects to the Captain and his lady, his cousin William and his lady. Was 'Necessyted to Make known to you yt my Circumstances are Reduced to such an Ebb yt I am Forced to Give over my Dealings y I was
In by ye reason of Debts which I was Involved in & Lay so heavy upon me:...' Was out of employment and begs the favourable assistance of himself or the Captain. Entreats his advice as to what business he might be fitt for, 'in ye Mean[time,] Sr[,] Lette me Desire you to send by my Brother Lewis[,] who is the Barer of this: a Letter of Recomendation on My Behalf unto Esquire Dreyden[,] who is an Eminent person here in Huntington sheire[,] who May be very Likely to Imploy me himself or att Least to helpe me to an Implyment in this Countray where I am acquainted already with the Countray Fashion:...'}}