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Sneyd Papers

Calendar of Correspondence to the Rev. James Granger from William Cole

UNIVERSITY OF KEELE

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CORRESPONDENCE

To the Rev. James Granger from William Cole (1714-82), antiquary.

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| 1. | 20 Aug.
1769 | <p>W[illia]m Cole to the Rev. [James] Granger, at Shiplake, Oxfordshire.</p> <p>Had an opportunity of sending a letter and a very few odd prints by a friend, Dr Ewin of Cambridge, who was setting off for town and would be at Sir Robert Ladbroke's for a fortnight or three weeks. He and Mr Tyson were now with the writer, from Cambridge, to drink their coffee. Dr Ewin was a virtuoso and a man of fortune, who lived in Cambridge, and might call upon him before his return. 'He has a large Collection of Prints, which Mr. Walpole saw when he was lately at Cambridge, & was very desirous that I should look at them again in order to give you a description of some, he thought, you had not: this I design to do very shortly.' Mr Tyson designed to give the writer a print of his etching of Jacob Butler Esq., 'a Person very rem[ar]kable at Cambridge', in order to send [it] to Granger, with a few others. Assures him that it was with no small pleasure that he thought of his</p> |
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visit to Shiplake, but would have to put it off 'till I am a little forwarder in my Building: which however goes on so well & so much to my mind, that I hope to be comfortably & happily situated there soon after Michaelmas:....'

2. Waterbeach.
15 Feb.
1770

The same to (?) the same.

Thanked him for his last letter, which he should have answered long before, 'but my natural Indolence has as often got the better of my sounder Judgment:....' Was obliged to give him notice that his kind design of seeing him at Milton would have to be postponed to a few months. Was still at Waterbeach, but was obliged to quit that house at Lady Day, otherwise he would hardly have ventured to Milton till about May or June, 'for altho' I have a Parlour, Bedchamber & 2 for my Servants, which have been plaistered ever since last August, & quite dry, yet my best Parlour is yet neither ceiled nor plaistered on the sides, & the other Bedchambers not sufficiently dry to venture to put any Friend in them.' When he was a little settled in his new habitation he would give him notice when it would be safe for him to come. The Iconomania he talked of was very rife at Cambridge, 'where we have many Collectors, who will be exceedingly glad to see you, & are equally chagrined with myself that I am forced to postpone so agreeable a visit. I have not heard of Mr. Walpole these 6 weeks, & begin to think it long ee'r I hear from him: this uses to be a critical Time of the year with him in Relation to Health: & we that are about his Age speak feelingly on that Subject, as I, for these 2 last years that I have lived in this Parish, have about this Time of the year, been attacked with a feverish Complaint that brought me very low both Times: so that I want much to be at my new House on more Accounts than one.' Mr Tyson had just finished a head of the noted justice Dalton in King James I's time, which he had done the writer the honour to inscribe to him. Would send him a plate of it, 'but that I think he had rather present you with it himself, with some other of his Performances, which I know he designs for you.'

3. Milton.
8 June,
1770

The same to the same.

He would wonder that he had not written before that, but the business of moving to an unfinished house, and eight or ten workmen about him, must be his excuse. Had far from finished operations there, however he could safely ask a friend without danger of giving him a cold. They would have an oratorio, the Messiah, at Cambridge on 28 June, three or four days preceding their commencement, 'at which Time that Place will be gayer than ordinary; & if it would suit you to

be here at that Time, we can go over there on a morning, as I am but 3 miles distant, on an excellent Road.' Suggests methods and times of arrival. There were several gentlemen at Cambridge who were in expectation of seeing him. Mr Tyson, in particular, desired his respects to him, '& has some other of his own Performances to present to you when you come.'

4. Milton.
2 Dec.
1770

The same to the same.

Was too conscious of his neglect before he received his letter on Friday. Could only atone for it by immediately sending the hasty observations he had made in his first reading of his book. Mr Ashby had told him of his design of a supplement, 'which we all rejoice at exceedingly.' Had been in hopes of calling on him from Caversham last month, but was prevented by a cold. Hoped for better luck soon. Had got a frank the other day for Mr Tyson to send him his little tract, and would have sent it himself had he known of his design. He had given him three, and if he wanted one for a friend, would send him one.

Subscribed, with notes on (?) Biographical History of England....

5. Milton.
10 July,
1772

The same to the same.

Had not Mr Walpole informed the writer of his late illness and recovery, perhaps he might not have had the trouble of the letter, which was partly to congratulate him on his better health, partly to apologize 'for my vile Taciturnity', and chiefly to lay in some sort of excuse to make him when he had the pleasure of seeing him, 'as Mr. Walpole tells me I am to be so happy, on the first of September. Mr. Walpole very kindly judges of us by himself: when other People are up on the wing after Partridges, he well knows our Game lies in his Cover at Strawberry Hill.' Had frequent opportunities of enquiring after him from Mr Ashby, who had much delighted him some time ago 'with the Expectation of seeing a Continuation of your Biography.' There was a most elegant print of Mr Mason, the poet, who had given a few of them to his friends at Cambridge. The present Vice Chancellor had promised to get him one. Would endeavour to procure him one if he had it not. They had been never so gay as for that last fortnight at Cambridge, with oratorios, etc., 'the Mesd[emoise]lles Lindley from Bath &c. [,] but such was my Insensibility I never once went there all the Time.' Found Mr West was dead. Took it for granted that his fine collection of heads would remain in the family. 'The Rage for Head-hunting seems to be cooled at Cambridge: at least I don't hear so much of it as I was us[ed] to do.'

6. Milton.
17 Oct.
1774

The same to the same.

Had received his letter rather later than he would have done had it been directed to him there and not at Alderman Bentham's. Was sorry to put him to the expense of his letters during that vacation of parliament, as he had several franks by him for him. It was very unlucky that Granger was to be from home probably all the time he meant to be at Burnham. Had engaged himself to be at Strawberry Hill in the last week of that month, and from thence to Dr Apthorpe's at Worplesdon in Surrey. Thought of spending a month or more at Burnham, 'where I purposed to have begged the Favour of you to have inducted me, if the Distance betwene us would have made it convenient to you to have returned: for I have not so much as a Bed of my own at Burnham: & as as [sic] all other Things correspond, am afraid it will prove too inconvenient to me to make any long Residence at this Time, till I can get my Things more closely about me.' Was sorry for his account of Lord Mountstuart's collection being so complete and perfect. Had flattered himself for some time that his lordship had had an-eye on buying his [the writer's], not that Mr Gulston had ever told him so, but by induction from other authorities. 'I was led to believe that such a Design was on Foot: accordingly at Mr. Gulston's request I made a complete Catalogue of all my Prints, Heads & Antiquarian Prints, all together & sent it to Mr Gulston 4 or 5 months ago: if he meant not to purchase them, I rather wonder he has not returned the Catalogue.' Had asked 1/- each, which would have come to about £160. Had been offered £130, but had stuck to his original plan. Would be obliged to him if he would mention it to any gentleman collector. If the writer stayed beyond November, he might depend upon his seeing him at Shiplake, where he much longed to come. Had had a letter from a young pupil of Mr Bartolozzi, to beg he would give him a few hours to take his picture. If he meant to engrave it also, 'I necessarily fall under your Notice, & shall take more than ordinary Care how I disoblige you. To be serious: if the young Man means to do me that Office, as it was without my own seeking, it is probable I may have the Vanity to let him do as he pleases.' Had met Mr Farmer and Mr Tyson, who both desired to be remembered.

Subscribed, with notes on (?) Biographical History of England...

With, postscript, dated 21 Oct., that he would have written more but their elections had taken up his time and were over, thank God. Was going to dine with Sir John Cotton. Was to set out on Monday, if well, but should hardly reach Burnham until the week after.