Mayor's Court Series XII
[illegible] vol. 45

Series
XII

No. 3

Mayor's court records
" " Private papers
@ Letter books
1798-180

15-10-1798 : 17-3-1801

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Series XII

Ben Roebuck

Mayors Court records

Mayors Court. private papers

(a) Letter books (~~XXXX~~

1798–1801 — Vol No. 3.

Letter Books
Vol-3

Paul [illegible]

My D[illegible] [illegible]dras 15th Oct 1798

[illegible] all your Buſineſs
which has go[illegible] on our own account
and yours th[illegible] the subject [illegible]
depreſsed state of Credit in this place you are well acquainted with, and
you may judge whether there is the smallest chance of its being altered for
the better while there is every appearance of a War breaking out & when it
is uncertain whether the French now in Egypt may not attempt to Come
in Force down the Red Sea and escape by the inactivity of our Squadron
to join our foe on the malabar Coast. We have taken up all the Bills in
our power and have made the best arrangements we could for your Interest
we trust and take for granted there is no penalty on the Government
Bills and that you may be able to settle the matter with the minister—
I must own I have but little hopes respecting the Ameers debt nor has
any thing been done to keep up your Interest with the Omdut or to give us
Consequence with him. You could not, or Mr Boyd have had no diffi-
culty in getting from Mr Dandass Letter to Lord Clive, in those terms
which might have been of eſsential use to your own Buſineſs by Shewing
that we had friends and influence at home, but not one line of support

the sort has ever Come to us beneficial as it might have been to your Interest as well as our own; and easy as it was for you to have obtained it. The Consequence is that we have been left to battle by ourselves and through our own means on every occasion.

Our Politicks here wear a gloomy Aspect of forced to War where are the sinews of it to be procured? and possessed of a Gallant tho' not numerous Army, who is to lead it to action and arrange & Combine all that is necessary on the occasion? Every thing is left to Chance and what will be the Event God only knows.

Your suits will come to a decision before the Recorder and I feel Confident in him you will have an unbiassed judge, & justice done, the decision will I trust be in your favor but should it be otherwise & an appeal is lodged Security must in the first instance be given for of the amount decreed.

I am
My Dear friend
Affectionately Yours.
Signed Benjamin Roebuck.

R. J. Sulivan Esqr

Madras 24th Feby 1799.

My Dear Sulivan.

A letter from the House has refered you to me, relative to the transfer of your Bonds. The Case is as follows; Abbott from his durbar appointment was drawn in by his friends the Omdutt to a very large amount, which has been repaid in toto, since the death of his father:- The Omdutt however wishing to do some justice, assigned ove to him by a formal deed, the Residue of the Bonds in trust, after your debt was discharged according to the deed; you know the uncertainty and fickleness of the Durbar; you know the difficulties, We experience in your Business, With the support even of the Governor, It therefore became necessary to take time by the forelock & to secure as much as possible of a large property which had been Bona Fide advanced to the old Nabob and for which Abbott stands indebted to the House. In doing this transaction I feel I have acted no otherwise, than in a Simular situation I shou have done to you, had our situations been reversed & we have given you the full amount in Cash, which could only have been realized at a period some what distant, You therefore benefit by the Transaction and we rescue some of our Property. Was I to have Acted differently, we might both of us have lost the remains of this fund, there are a number of people looking after it, among others Johnston formerly Paymaster at Madura who is Constantly and Closely at the Durbar, in short it wou have been the same, as if I had followed Benfields Ide to have secured his Ameer's debt in which I have a large Concern, and by that means have lost the Balance of the Persian Bonds, as well as an arrangement for you, to which on every account, you was justly entitled. I promised many years ago (near eleven I believe) to do what I could to secure Mr Stuarts debt. His Highness was however put into Boyds hands, payments were made on that account, His account was denied at the Durbar and ultimately through your Brother & Lord Hobart, settled by them as a present. I considered myself by their transactions free from any part of the Conduct of it, and a duty which I owe to my family and myself, renders it necessary that I should look to the Security of a property, from which I must ultimately expect Payment of a large sum. I am not without hopes still of recovering Payment by other means, for which purpose I shall exert myself to the full, and if I succeed, you may depend and I pledge myself to you that every exertion shall be made by me, to secure some part of your ameers Bond, when in possession some thing may be done & it shall be attended to, but after having secured so large a property as you have, and received Payment of it through my means I trust I am entitled to some Friendship, that I shall experience it from you and that you will be convinced in settling the Accounts with the Durbar. I have stated it as between Man & Man justly

&

and fairly, and that in adjusting the Business with the Hou I have thrown the Balance by the mode of Payment, Considerably in your favor

I am

My Dear Sulivan

Yours most Sincerely

Signed Benjamin Roebuck.

Sir Jno. Call Bart

Madras 26th Feby 1799

My Dear Sir

Once more you see we are at War with Tippoo but a more just and a more politic War was never undertaken and I trust with an Army so well appointed this Campaign-must put us in ~~posse~~ possession of Seringapatam unless the Sultaun comes to our terms which will be depriving him of large parts of his Territory and shutting him up above the Ghauts, Lord Mornington has deserved well of his Country the decisive measures he took to annihitate the French detachment with the Nizam and the line he has pursued with the Marattas has saved India, prior to these Events we were into most Critical state from the mistaken policy of not allowing Englishmen to go into the Service of the Native Powers & their having had recourse to the French to officer their Infantry and Artillery Corps, With the same decision he has acted towards Tippoo who has been playing a double Game and from the measures which will be pursued however the War with France may close which I trust must be honorably to us it will be out of his power to join the French at Maſi or any of their Settlements which may be restored to them he will be completely insolated from the Ocean great exertions have been required to complete the equipment of this Army and this Settlement have very patriotically came forward with a loan of near Five Lacks of Pagodas to enable the army to move it is to be repaid in Three & Six Months. The Scarcity of Specie is prodigious the Pearl Fishery and the Army Chest have totally drained. Madras 12 ℘ Ct Bonds are from 8 to 10 ℘ Ct discoun and the paper of Course bears its proportional discount little is however done in this way The publick Preſsure has almost made a perfect Stagnation of all sorts of Trade. The Spaniards are looking out for our Homeward bound China fleet, but I trust they are of that Strength joined with the Convoy that they will meet them with Succeſs. Our Army marches through the Ryacottah Paſs and will enter the Saultauns dominions the 4th of the Month

I am
My Dear Sir
most faithfully Yours
Signed Benjamin Roebuck

Paul Benfield Esqr. Madras 26th Febʸ 1799

My Dear Friend

Hall tells he has wrote so fully to you about your Suit that it is unneceſsary for me to repeat, The decision we think wrong but it is of a piece with many of the Recorders decisions the most of which are appealed from & four out of five will be reverred, this I trust will be the case with yours. This Recorder has neither hard knowledge or an investigating mind he is a self conceited vain empty man and in his situation will completely expose himself. The present Court sit only one at a time with him so that he does as he pleases.

We expect our Army will enter Tippoos Country on the 4th of next month it is the first appointed Army that has ever taken the field in India and there can be no doubt but the fall of Tippoo must be the consequence unleſs he Succambs to the terms offered him which I suppose must be clipping his wings and completely Insolating him he has sent a letter requesting Doveton may be sent to him but it is too late the Army must proceed, and any negotiation must take place before the Walls of Seringapatam. Our Army will enter by the Ryacottah Paſs which is about

90 Miles from Seringapatam The North of India is now free from the Invasion of Zemaun Shaw.

The scarcity of Specie is now greater than ever was known Madras has been emptied to get Treasure for the Army which has wanted with a Treasure Chest of Five Lack of Pagodas Four Lacks have been raised by the Mercantile Houses and the natives of the Settlement 12 ℘ Ct ℘ Paper at from 8 to 10 ℘ Ct discount the rest of Course bears its proportion. When will these Russians allow an end to be made of this ruinous War which is destructive to all sorts of people I think the Publick much Indebted to Lord Morrington for the vigorous measures which he has taken I think he has alone Secured British India by the arrangements with the Nizam and Marattas & the present War with Tippoo which is both just & politic.

I am

My Dear Friend

Yours Sincerely

Signed Benjamin Roebuck

Paul Benfield Esqre

Madras 16 May 1799

My dear Friend

This Packett carries home the most important Intelligence of the overthrow of the Mysore empire & its having been taken possession of by us Your knowledge of the Subject & the Geography of the Country will enable You to estimate its value if we were mad enough we might now with certainty aim at universal Empire in the East. We are in possession of all Tippoo's Agreements & Plans with the French Directory the particulars I have not heard. –

I have been in daily Consultation with Hall trying what is to be done in this Law suit of Punjatoor Chinseroys & I trust we shall still get forward with it on an advantageous manner Nothing however is yet finally resolved upon Nor is the present uncertain & precarious practice of the Court is it easy to decide? We have a Man at the head of the Court who is no Lawyer & decides as he says by equity at all times a very uncertain rule. Hall has lodged his Petition for Appeal which is all he says he can do as yet. – You may depend on it that no other fees shall be spared & no exertions wanting to bring this Business to a happy Conclusion. –

I am My dear Friend Yours Sincerely

(Sigd) B Roebuck

C. J. Stuart Esqr

Madras 17 May 1799

My Dear Brother

Inclosed you have duplicate of my last letter which went overlan the present dispatch Carries the important intelligence of the over-throw of the Mysore Empire and entire possession of it by us. inclos-ed you have an account of the Storm of Seringapatam. We hav in our possession Tippoo's correspondence and agruments with the French Directory the particulars are not yet published.

I foresee you will have much Business from this New cou the decision of the Recorder are not generally approved you kno my opinion of him. I inclose for your perusal some papers and wish for your opinion. I wish you would Consult Mr W. Adam on the subject of the accompanying protest which myself and two othe Alderman gave in, we sent it to Lord Laughborough and Mr Dundas. If we are right, which I trust we are, I would wish to have the Business talked of and known I consider that he has forfeited his word as a Gentleman and I hold no communi-cation with him nor ever will I. If you think it better to Con-sult another Lawyer than Mr Adam follow your own Idea. We cannot send the papers in the Insurance Cause home until the next dispatch. The Court now sits and decids all causes The Recorder and one Alderman, it is not the Spirit of the Charte otherwise there was no occasion for Aldermen for they can be of no use. The Recorder himself has the decision of Every Cause which Certainly was not intended, for in case the whole Bench are in-terested he cannot singly hold a Court. My principal reason for remaining in court has been on your account and to get you a fixed line of Business which I hope to effect Remember me to my Mother & Sister & Kiss fairy for me.

Your Affectianate Brother

Signed Benjamin Roebuck

Sir Jno Call Bart

Fort St Geo: 17 May 1799.

[illegible]
Cornwall

My dear Sir,

The Present Packet carries you the important intelligence of the fate of the Mysore Empire which we may now call our own, it forms a Memorable Area of our Empire of the East & I trust secures it to us for Ever. If we were mad enough we might aim at universal Empire which God forbid. - The defence of our ~~[illegible]~~ Frontiers will now become easy & we shall have an increase of Territory to repay our enormous Military Expenses. -

General Harris has been a most lucky Man without any Talents he has overthrown a Empire but I believe he is a good Man & he had Coll Close & Agnew about him. Men of very Superior Talents & Experience who were his Guides & to whom he had good Sense enough to adhere to. - The Prize Money to himself will be enormous, & to the Army very Great. I can tell you no more on the Subject than the Gazettes which we have inclosed you. We have got into our possession the whole of the French Plans Treaties with Tippo of course all his Correspondence with the French Directory the Particulars are not yet made publick. I &c Benj Roebuck

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p Cornwallis
Sir John Call Bar.t D.o p White Madras 18th July 1799

Dear Sir

In consequence of your letter of the 13th March 1798 requiring a further remittance of £300.— for the completion of the Statue of the Marquis Cornwallis; We have now the pleasure to inclose the first of a Bill of Exchange drawn by Mess.rs Hindersley Watts & Co. dated the 26th Inst. at [illegible] Months sight in your favor for £400 St.g on Mess.rs E. Boehm & Co. which you will have the goodness to receive for the purpose already mentioned. We beg leave to request that the Statue may be sent out by the first opportunity, and by your applying to the Honorable the Court of Directors, We are confident they will readily allow the same to be shipped on one of the Indiamen free of freight.

We have the honor to be
Dear Sir
Your most Obd.t humble Ser.ts
Signed. Benjamin Roebuck
Signed. Chas. N. White
Signed. Thos. Cockburn
Signed. Benj.n Sullivan

13

London p Cornwallis
D.o p Whitby Madras August 7th 1799
7 J Dubbli[illegible]

Sir John Call Bar.t

My dear Sir

I am sorry by this dispatch to communicate to you the melancholy intelligence of the death of your brother, we have had the hottest season that has been known for some years past, and he sunk on the 10th of July under the heat of the climate, his nervous frame was shook to pieces, I had often press'd him to pass the few hot months with my brother at Prince of Wales's Island, but he could not be prevailed on to leave Madras, during his last attack, his friends Mr Webbe the Secretary had persuaded him to go to the Cape, but it proved too late, his Will was made many years ago and Mr James Taylor his old partner named his sole Executor, his son Mr Geo: Taylor has in consequence administered to his Estate and taken charge of his effects.—

The Partition Treaty has taken place between ourselves and the Nizam and we are [illegible] in possession of the whole of the Mysore Empire, I send you a copy of the partition Treaty and what has been published by authority, they may afford you some amusement, We have not yet taken possession of Bednore but our Army has marched that way and we expect we shall soon be in possession of it. - A marauder by the name of Doondia who escaped from prison from Seringapatam on the day of the Storm has collected a force and established himself there, plundering the Country. but our Army is nearly upon him and has made a Severe example of two different parties cutting up near Five hundred of them on each occasion and on the latter Skirmish Forty thousand Bunjaras were taken. -

I am
My dear Sir
Yours most Sincerely & faithfully
(Signed) B. Roebuck

P.S. The Territory given to the Rajah
of Cornwallis
[illegible] Dubbi

Paul Benfield Esq. Fort St Geo: 9th Aug. 1799.

My Dear Friend

I cannot express how Concerned I have been at hearing the Losses & disappointments you have suffered. - Situated as we were it was impossible for us to have accepted your Bills for we could not discharge them, and we should most materially have injured ourselves without benefiting you in any respect. - Money was not to be had on any terms and until the Mysore War was Concluded, Specie was scarcely to be seen, Things are now a little better. - We see that had we been able to have redrawn upon you it would have been no benefit to you, and the Bills with reexchange coming upon us would have been a dreadful Blow. Neither at that time could our Bills on you have been negotiated on any terms as your drafts were publickly known in India. - Hall & Mr Grant a very able Man whom he has taken into Partnership think that you will Carry Chingleroy's Cause in appeal and we are taking the necessary measures respecting Annah Swamy's claim upon him as he is now answerable to the Court the difficulty arises from the variety of Assignments which you had made in the Business and which do not appear necessary. Annah Swamy who shuts himself up in his house and will not be seen supports him. -

India is now in a State of Peace and must remain so & I hope by the measure of throwing open the trade that the Publick & Individuals will equally benefit. -

I am My Dr Friend
Yours Sincerely
(Signed) B. Roebuck

London ℔ Cornwallis

Mr Sutton
Shoemaker
Henrietta Street

Madras August 14th 1799.

Sir

Be pleased to send out to Mrs Roebuck one dozen of Dress Shoes the same as you made for her in 98 and which fit her extremely well, and Six pair of Walking Shoes You will be pleased to send them to Messrs Lee's Old Broad Street on producing this Letter to them they will pay you the amount — I request your people may be particular in making them of the Size of the pattern which was sent home last.

I am Sir
(Signed) Benjn Roebuck

(of Dublin

Duplicate ~~℔ [illegible]~~

The Honble John Cochrane. Fort St Geo: October 18th 1799.

My dear Sir

I had the pleasure of receiving your Letter by your Daughter to whom I should have been happy to have shewn every attention you required if the absence of my Brother had rendered it necessary; but in the Society of her Cousin she will find herself very comfortable under his Hospitable Roof.—

I have seen George your Brother you wishes to be appointed Agent for the Merchants residing in the East Indies, I think such an appointment a very proper one and will very chearfully give you every aid in my power when the Business is brought forward, I think there is every necessity for such an appointment — for instance — all Goods used formerly to be landed in the Fort where the Principal Merchants reside [illegible] Rice and every Gruff Articles or the Goods of Nabobs were landed at the Black Town — The Fort is not publick property for there are Houses to the value of Eighty Lacks of Pagodas the Property of Individuals but a Rage has now taken place to make it a Military Garrison and as the Company do not choose to purchase the Property, they wish to render it of no value the first step is to remove the Custom House to a place called the French Prison a Mile and a half nearly to the Northward of the Fort & beyond the Precincts of any part of the Black Town inhabited by Portuguese or Europeans — Is it fair to harass Merchants in such a manner or would it be done in any other part of the World — If you have time I wish you would enquire of this subject at the India House the Merchants gave in a strong Letter but they have not even had an answer to it, I cannot get a Copy of it by this dispatch neither do I wish to appear personally in it except as one of the Multitude wishing as much as possible to remain at Peace — you know Life is here very precarious and Lowell the Naval Storekeeper has not the best constitution indeed he is now very unwell if any thing should happen to him or if you could get me appointed to succed to the appointment I shall feel much obliged and would willingly give any requisite in office for the appointment which might be judged necessary by you having no objection to make a handsome present to them who can procure it for me.–

I am &c. &c.

(Signed) B. Roebuck

Paul Benfield Esq.
My dear Friend

(O. p. Dublin / D. p. Quantship)

Madras 20th Octr 1799

Since my last I have very little to add we have given the necessary Securities in Purgatore Chengleroy's Cause & are become responsible to answer the decree which may be given at home, in the mean time a Plaint is prepared against Chengleroy & will be filed next term this will we trust settle the Business to your satisfaction at the same time it is difficult from the Causes stated in my last & tho' I am master of the account I find a difficulty in making others comprehend it–

The Bengal System of Collectors & Judges is immediately to be introduced into the districts belonging to the Company which are now very large a Treaty is made with the New Rajah of Tanjore & the whole of his Country is to be under the Companys management – the Fort is entirely evacuated by the Companys Troops who are removed to

Vellum the Rajah is only to have people sufficiant for Parade.–

I am my dear friend

Yours very Sincerely

(signed) B. Roebuck –

Major Metcalf

O. p. Dublin
D.

Fort St George 20th Oct. 1799.

Dear Metcalf–

I take the liberty of introducing with this my Brother in Law Mr Stuart to your acquaintance & of requesting your aid in a Business which I have to bring before the Court & which he will explain to you It stands in most fair & unequivocal Grounds & through your kind aid & that of my other friends I hope to recover my property I trust you will excuse the liberty I have now taken & beg to offer my best Respects to Mrs Metcalf – I am My dear Sir

yours very faithfully

(signed) B. Roebuck

Alexr Brodie Esq.

(O. p. Dublin / D. p. Quantship)

Fort St George 20th Oct. 1799

Dear Brodie,

I have to ask your kind aid in a demand which we have on the Tanjore Country & with this view to present to you my Brother in Law Mr Stuart who acts for us on the occasion he will explain the case to you which is a fair Mercantile claim by no means in contradiction to any order of the Company you are frequently with Mr Dundass & I trust I may ask your influence with him on the present occasion I should hope Mr Dundass will consider me from some Circumstances entitled to his protection & I hope I deserve your friendship for the very decided part I took when acting for you & my friend Petrie in Chitheads Business which closed that Concern & relieved you from a vexatious Law Suit, I will not take up your time any further nor trouble you with the News of the day, from that you have other Correspondants –

I am My dear Brodie,
With regard
yours very sincerely
(signed) B. Roebuck

of Dublin
P Manship

John Fordyce Esqr.

Dear Sir,

With this I take the liberty of introducing to you my Brother in Law Mr Stuart & to request your kind aid in a Business which he will explain to you It stands in such fair Grounds that I make no doubt I shall have with your Aid & that of my other friends success in the Business. –

I am Dear Sir,
With regard
Your most Obedt. Servant
(signed) B. Roebuck

Sir Jno. Call Bart.
(of Dublin Duplicate) P Manship

Madras 28th. Octr. 1799.

My dear Sir,

Above you have duplicate of my last you will have heard that Mr George Taylor declined administering to your Brother Estate & that in consequence of his communication a Note to me desiring me to take charge of the Effects I had taken the necessary steps but his Brother James Taylor & Mr Robt. Cla Mr James Taylor's Attornies requested to have the management saying that Mr James Taylor would be displeased if they did not take upon themselves this last Office to his friend & Partner I in consequence complied with their desire & your Brothers affairs, are in their hands –

Our political Hemisphere is now bright

hope things will soon resume their usual Channell still however we are in want of Specie & nothing can relieve our distress Circulation but the Importation of considerable quantities from Europe – I am happy to see the Political state of Europe is begining to improve I hope that at last the whole Powers will unite in driving the French within their own bounds & then leave them to settle their own Government. –

Our revenue System is to be on the same footing as it is in Bengal & for this Purpose we are to have Collectors & Judges in all the Companys districts which are now very extensive & to them is added the Tanjore Country for with the present Rajah whom they have lately put on the Musnud a Treaty has been made giving up the management of the Country entirely to us & obliging himself to keep no Troops except what are nearly necessary for his shew & parade & we on our part have completly evacuated both the Forts of Tanjore leaving the Rajah in sole possession & have removed the Garrison to Vellum How far such a proceeding is wise there is much room for discussion, in the present State of Trichinopoly, Tanjore can be looked up as the only Tenable post we have to the Southward & it is certain impregnable to any Native Enemy & would give some trouble to a European Attack. It is true the Southern part of the peninsula is entirely our own. Still a place like that I think ought to have been garrisoned by our Troops. The Musselman Power by the down fall of Tippoo is almost annihilated, in this part of India but as the Hindoos have no Counterprize they will begin to feel more Consequence this is a point which our politicians seem entirely to have overlooked but it appears to me a matter of serious Consideration. I could say a great deal upon it & your long experience

in

this Country from this short out lines will enable you to form a Judgement whether or not I am well founded on my Idea

I am My dear Sir,
Yours most Sincerely &
faithfully
(signed) B Roebuck

of Dublin
Sir John Call Bart. (D pr Manship
Fort St George 20th Oct. 99.

My dear Sir,

Allow me to present to you my Brother in Law Mr Stuart & to request you being so kind as to communicate to him on a Subject of some importance to us & in which your advice may be of very Considerable Benefit Excuse this trouble & believe me to be Dr Sir

Your faithful Servant
(signed) B Roebuck

London
James Strange Esqr. M.P. (O. of Dublin D pr Manship
Madras 25th Octr 99

My Dear Strange

In a former letter I mentioned to you the demand which my friend Roebuck had upon Tanjore by having as a merchant sold a quantity of Timber to the raj Omar Sing at Nagore. in consequence of which his Ship was then clear & ready for the u of Government who employed her on the Public Service then carrying on against Ceylon This Timber the present Rajah possessed himself of, but to this Moment he has not paid one fanam of the Money It has been represented to two different Governments & to Lord Mornington, they all say it is hard, it is a piece Mercantile transact & unconnected with any other discription of Concern, but still they say, we cannot Compel the Rajah to pay. without an Order from the Court of Directors to whom it has been refered. Roebuck has written to all his friends in England, to give their Assistance & he has asked of me to request that favor of you, which I do without hesitation because I know the transaction is as I state it to you, & from the knowledge I have of your Wishes in Roebuck's favor. You know how much I am Interested in his Welfare, on many Accounts unnecessary to enumerate, & how gratifying it will be to me if you can set your Shoulder to this Wish; & help him out of this unjust & unmerited Scrape.

I need not say any more.

I am
my Dear Strange
ever yours Affectionately
(signed) Wm Petrie

P.S. It seems you was at Tanjore at the time of this transaction, & that Baron Teichell was employed on the occasion.

Chas. Stuart Esqre (of Dublin) Madras 20th Octr 1799
My Dear Brother (Duplicate pr Manship

The Enclosed papers are relative to a Claim which we have on Tanjore & which we think must be immediately put into a Train of Payment if proper Exertions are made at Home for the purpose In a Business of this Sort Merchants are not the proper Agents; It must be some one who can give up his time to the Subject. I think upon proper Applications, there can be no difficulty, Our Correspondence sufficiently points out the Case itself Government have spoke very favorably of this Claim in their Letter Home but from the nature of the Court of Directors I expect no Justice except from Motives of personal favor through ourselves or friends, I should hope by the means of Ld Keith you may prevail on Wm Elphinstone and if you will wait on his Lordship & shew him the papers I am convinc'd you will have his aid You have a Letter inclosed to Mr Baring & one for Major Metcalf with whom I was well acquainted some years ago, I also inclose you a Letter for Alexr Brodie, Read it but Seal it

before you deliver it perhaps I may be able to send you some more by the means of O[illegible]
you may Perhaps be able to reach . Mr. Dundass Wt shall allow you five PCent upon
sum Two over in consequence of your Exertion. for without some I do not expect any thing
I was once Sanguine that Ld. Mornington would have put it into a Train but I believe he was
so much pressed for time that the whole of the Tanjore Business was hurried over.

After you have taken the necessary Steps it will be proper I suppose to address
the Court of Directors by Memorial if you can get acquainted with the Secretary for Correspon-
-dence at the India House he may be of use to you. Mr. Twining can help you & advise you
in this Business & if Brodie will take that Active part which he should do things will I
trust be easy you may also Apply to Mr. Fordyce to whom I write on the subject he can aid
if he chooses from the Magnitude of the Sum you will see it is a considerable object, & as the
Company have taken the Country to themselves there can be no doubt but in equity it ought
to be paid from the first of the Revenues a little Exertion will I make no doubt Carry this
Business for us. – When representing this I think it necessary to state that in a conversation
I had with Lord Mornington on the Subject He said the Claim was a most unexceptionable
one but that if he arranged one he should not know where exactly to stop as he had not time
to enter into the whole Business but that the whole was left open to the Court of Directors
who had it in their power to arrange it. There was nothing put on Record by Lord
Mornington but the letters are on the Proceedings & favorable mention was made of the
Claim in their general Letter.

I am my Dear Brother
Your Affectionately
Signed B. Roebuck

I think you had better get the aid of my friend Mr. R. J. Sullivan if you will
call on him & shew him this I am sure he will give you every Assistance in his
power

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power. Mr. C. Jackson a friend of ours whose Relations are particularly connected with
Mr. Dundass can be of use & has promised to give us his aid in any way by calling
Messrs. Lees you will know where he lives & after a conversation if you tell him what you want
he will do what he can I also enclose you a letter for Mr. Strange on the same Subject
which Seal before you delivered it I also enclose you a Letter to my friend Sir Jn. Call who
has had much experience & will give you his aid. – – – – – –

~~Essex~~
at Mr. Jay's Sandon Place
Near Chelmsford
Essex
Miss Sophia Bromley

of ~~[illegible]~~ Madras January 22d. 1800.

Dear Madam

I have had the pleasure of
receiving your favor dated 19th April 1799 &
am happy that you are satisfied with the
mode in which I have managed your affairs
I acted to the best of my judgment to secure the
whole property so that it might be faithfully
divided in Conformity to your Father's Will
and that you might all have an Independence
Mr. Parks has been obliged to withdraw his Claim
on your Father's Estate and pay the Costs. There is
Now only one other demand from the Estate of
Checappah Chitty that Estate is now settling in
Chancery & in the Course of the year I hope
it will be adjusted & your Property freed from
any

any demand I shall then have it in my power
finally to close every thing and in Eur. the latter
remittances as I have wrote to Sir McCall the
amount will be rather more than Two thousand
Pounds Sterling — I am Dr Madam

Your most obed Servant
(Signed) B Roebuck

E. Garrow Esq.
to the Care of Mr Grey
India House
London
(Off. Manship)

Fort St Geo. 22d Jany 1800
(Private Confidential)

My Dear Garrow

The inclosed Papers will shew you in what manner Govt are endeavour to ruin our Property in the Fort — I have heard from undoubted authority that Ld Clive said we cannot purchase the Property in the Fort at present it is too large but we must wait untill it is lowered by the Steps we are taking & we may then purchase it for a triffle, a Grand Idea for a man to possess at the head of a Govt, it is like Macartneys tricks, I think the Householders will be brought to appoint Agents at home & this matter shall be urged as soon as possible, in the mean time however those interested should be active I shall write to my friends & we must work underhand, for as it is a favorite measure with the quart here they will not spare those who upset their Plan & point out the Absurdity of it. We addressed Ld Mornington a letter last year on the subject of the Removal of the Custom House stating the inconveniance the measure produced to the Merchants & the Injury it would be of to a very Valuable private Property in the Fort. Ld Mornington I believe did not choose to interfere as he thought it belonged to the detail of Ld Clive's Govt & our Letter remained unanswered I have not got a Copy of it nor can I procure one time enough for these Ships you may no doubt be able to get it from the India House — You will see Goldingham is the projector of this Plan he & Topping became Builders & Mechanicks by Intention but Dalrymple got the latter confined to his Astronomy for which the Company pay sufficient & if a hint was given I think he would be kept to his Surveying & Astronomy instead of Contracting for Gun Carriages & ~~running~~ Turning Civil Architect & Engineer for which he has neither knowledge nor experience Our Service is completely done up the Military ride triumphant in every Appointment & Emolument all the ~~diplomatic~~ Diplomatic situation are given them & we are lowered to nothing I think the time will come when those who had adopted the system of completely st running Our Service will repent it. We owe it all to ourselves, for a unanimity & proper measures hurried by the Civil Servants of the three Presidencys with the influence & Weight they must carry with them must have changed things for the better.

I am Dr Garrow
Your Sincerely
(Signed) B Roebuck.

PS. I have thought it as well to inclose the Govt Advertisement respecting the Bankshall Ground between the South end of the Black Town & the Black Town Wall occupying the only place for landing and stowing away Paddy & other Articles which will not bear Carriage You will see by Goldingham's Plan the natives are entirely excluded from Places to contain their Goods & these Bankshalls have been sold & transferred these 40 years from Party to Party the Possessors looking upon the Quit Rent as the only demand which could be made on them & the Court of Directors taking notice of Charles Smith's proposition for disproving of it, have I understand forbid it to be sold without their Sanction. The Natives mean to petition Govt but it will be of no Avail thus all sort of Private Property & the convenience of the Merchant is sported with. Having a large Fleet we are plundered by a few Small Privateers because Govt will not address the Admiral to have Cruizers off the Mauritius & he is now so old tho a very good man that he is quite inactive. Two Cruizers off the Mauritius & Ceylon would protect our Trade from a single Island

Yours truly
(Signed) B. Roebuck

chas Stuart Esq

My Dear Brother   Ship Manship 22d January 1800

I enclose you duplicates of my Letters by the 1st dispatch relative to a demand we have on Tanjore. I think if you can get acquaintance with Sidney or Willes the two Secretarys of Correspondence or examiners of India Records it might be useful not only on this occasion but on others & Turing may perhaps put you in the way of it. Pray attend to this point. I see by the complexion of the Court that you will have many appeals & you will always have one side of the Question.

My friend Hall has entered into Partnership with Mr Grant a Solicitor for home & you will have all their Business they are at the Top of their Profession. I long to hear from you relative to the Cause of the ~~Warrant~~ Marzoret I hope the ~~division~~ decision will be out by the first dispatch.

Verdarajah sends home a Cause on appeal. The Circumstances are the most [illegible] I have seen the whole is detailed in the Papers but it seem to me to rest on this point The Company have made out a Bond for a Sum which Mackay was possessed of in the name of the Executor to Mackays Estate the judgement Creditors demand the Bond it is delivered into Court & handed over among them & sold to appellant by a Bonafide sale. It was not for appellant to enquire whether Mackays estate had any right to the Bond or whether the House had or had not been mortgaged to a third person or in whom the Claim for the House rested it was enough for Appellant to know the Company had granted a transferable and negotiable Paper to Mackays Estate & that he came by it by fair Purchase after it had legally been delivered over to the Estate. The Company should not have issued negotiable Paper unless satisfied that they paid it to the Person who had a right to receive it they cannot ~~receive~~ recover from Mackays Estate & not from the fair Purchase of the Paper. This is my Idea & I shall be sorry if it should in the end turn out otherwise for it will make a great hole in Verdarajahs Property the trusts but

all

all in you & have every confidence in your exertions & in this I know he will not be deceived. Mr Hindesley goes home who is his Opponent a very worthy man & with whom I am intimate this will not however make me see justice otherwise than I conceive it Hindesley is acting in the Business for an Estate.   I am &c (Signed) B Roebuck

P.S. This is a Letter on Business I shall write a few private lines. Pray be punctual in Correspondence I enclose you a Bill at 30 days sight for 130 £ for which you will give Verdarajah Credit on account of his Suit, he has purchased the Bill himself & brought it to me.

(Signed) B. Roebuck.
22d Jany 1800

My Dr Brother

Inclosed you have extract of my Letter of the 21st This will be delivered to you by Mr Proctor who is a friend of Verdarajahs & who will speak to you about the Business & with whom you will be so good as to communicate on his Law Suit The 2d of the Bills is inclosed for 130 £ Sterling.   Yours (Signed) B. Roebuck

Paul Benfield Esqr M.P.   Ship Manship   Madras 22d Jany 1800

My Dear Friend

Inclosed you have the Letter of Messrs Hall & Grant respecting Punyatore Chingelroy's Law suit the Variety of transfers & assignments made for what I never knew have puzzled the Business extreamly, Grant is a most excellent Professional man & I have urged him all in my power to hasten the Business, I have a clear recollection of the Circumstances & have fully explained them to him & I shall do what lies in my power to make him keep his word & ~~fill~~ file his Bill the next Term. What is an hindrance is, that Annah Sawmy is in league with Punyatore Chingelroy he keeps himself shut up in his house & refuses to see either Mr Abbott or Vial with assigning any Reason for such Conduct.

Notwithstanding what I wrote home to the Creditors & also to Individuals

not

& we hope the measures we have then adopted after the most mature Consideration will meet with your approbation.

It is necessary to mention that we must equip him with a Saddle Horse a Bandy Horse & Bandy & other necessaries for his Apartment this may amount to from 250 to 300 £.

We are &ca

(Signed) B. Roebuck

J. Bannerman

Cl. Irving

Sir Jn. Call Bart. pr Manship

Fort St. Geo: 22d January 1800

Dear Sir

I have before me your kind favor of the 10th June last, respecting Bromley's Estate, this year will bring every thing to a Conclusion, the Affairs of an Estate Claiming in my opinion unjustly as a Creditor on the Bromley's Estate are in Chancery and as it will be adjusted I trust in a few months, it was impossible to bring it to a Conclusion sooner.

I was in hopes to have heard from you or some my other friends at home respecting what I wrote to you of my Claim on the Cre[illegible] for my Services in their affairs they are all decidedly of one opinion respecting me, we only wait to hear from home on the Subject, I shall feel much obliged by your interesting yourself in the affair — The Statue of the Marquis Cornwallis is arrived safe the Indiaman which carried it came Singly in the river of Bengal in such a Sickly State that had she fallen in with a Privateer, which at the period of her arrival made many Captures at the mouth of the Ganges, our Statue would have gone to the Mauritius. The protection of our Trade is shamefully neglected with a Fleet of Ships which we now have in India the Mauritius ought to be block'd up the year round, and we should not lose a single Ship by Capture — Our Admiral says this Service should be performed by the Ships [illegible] the Cape, and so many Ships of that Squadron have been sent to India perhaps they are not equal to a relief; Two heavy frigates at a time would do the Business completely; and the Islands would surrender to us. —

Unless more Treasure is sent to India we shall want Coin for Circulation; the Court of Directors reckon the Dollars sent to China as a remittance of Specie in France if Trade was encouraged to its full extent and protected instead of ~~having~~ being Cramp'd as it is in every way. I think more remittances might be made to China from India than we are at present. I think our Governments get every day more arbitrary and spoil with the Property of Individuals. I remain &ca

(Signed) B. Roebuck.

Madras 23d January 1800

Sir Jn. Call Bart.

pr Manship

D. of Mr. Kindersley

Sir

We have the pleasure to inform you that the Statue of Marquis Cornwallis has just arrived safe at Madras from Bengal and we trust will very soon [illegible] fixed in its proper place. In our last of the 16th July we inclosed you a Bill drawn by Messrs. Kindersley Watts & Co. in your favor for £400 Stg. Copy of which [illegible] inclosed. And we have now drawn on you for £350 in favor of Mr. Kindersley which we request you will honor, at the same time you will be pleased to pay the balance to Mr. Banks after deducting any charges you may have been put to, which we trust will be fully sufficient to answer the Principal and Interest of Mr. Banks's advance.

We cannot close this address without expressing on the part of our Constituents their best thanks for your particular attention to their Wishes, to which we beg leave to add Our Own, & that you will also be pleased to convey our [illegible] of Mr. Banks's attention in forwarding the despatches of the Statue.

We have the honor to be &c

(Signed) B. Roebuck.

C. N. White

T. Cockburn

B. Sulivan

Chs. Strart Esqr. of Alva Fort St. Geo: 14 April 1800

My dear Brother

Two of our Ships which carry letters of Marque
have made a Rich Capture, the Papers for her condemnation leave
this ~~by~~ the ships under dispatch & you must get the needful done
Our Vessells are not fitted out particularly for Cruizing. the
Commanders Officers & Seamen have the same Wages as if they
did not carry Letters of Marque. The acquisition of property
in that way not being looked upon as any Reason for decreasing
their Wages in time of War, Ships are obliged to be equipped
for defence & for the same reason they have letters of Marque
to benefit themselves of what fortune may throw in their
way - We make no Agreement with our Captain Officers
or Ships Company for what Proportion they are to have..
Queries - to what proportion are they entitled to, Captain
Officers & Crew & what Proportion are we entitled to, what
is the ~~Captain~~ Custom with Ships fitted out for defence
& which have letters of Marque but which are not
merely Privateers such as many of the West India Traders
& all the East India Ships are - I particularly wish to know
how the Owners the Officers & Crew Share of the India
Men I will thank you to be very particular in your
enquiries - This Subject & to address the Owner at
seperate & particular letter on the same not mixed
with other Subjects &

Yours Affecty

(Signed) B Roebuck

Chas. Stuart Esqr. (or overland)

Madras 29th April 1800

My Dear Brother

Above is duplicate of my last, I now inclose you a Bill for
£400. – No. 1 Hunter & Hay on Hamilton & Gouray London, dated 27
Instant which Sum is for the above purpose & for which you will be pleased
to credit Messrs. Roebuck Abbott & Co. –

Yours affectionately

(Signed) B. Roebuck

P.S. Mr. Hall says he will remit you overland.

Madras 1 Septr. 1800

Chas. Stuart Esqr.

My dear Brother

Accompanying this, you will receive
Document relative to demand we have on the
underwriters on the Ship Princess Royal which
was our property the Case in our Opinion does
not seem to have been understood & as the matter is of magnitude
and of importance to us we must request your best exertions
on the subject perhaps you may find it complicated
& may be in that line of Business in which your
may not have had so much Practice as other
Solicitors of your Judge that our Interest will
at all be benefited by your calling on the
aid of another Solicitor. We do not mind
the expence & request you will do it let
it have a fair & full Investigation & be

brought regularly before Council. Our Friend [illegible]
Stuart Hall has addressed you a letter upon
the Merits but as I think a case from him
also was on board the Ship & who knew all
which passed may be of use to guide you
in your research I have requested he will
draw one & have it ready to go by this Dispatch
you will observe we have two demands, the
one is on the Underwriters of the Freight one
part of which was payable at home as stated
in the Charter Party the other on the Under
writers of the Block for damage the Ship
sustained at Sea. The account of this was
made out by Mr Adamson of Bombay a
man of experience in Business & who had no
interest to mislead him his opinion coincides
with that of other Merchants here as well
as our friend Hall & I should think we
cannot all be wrong. You will call on
Messrs Lees for any Paper you may want
as they perhaps have many belonging
to the Transaction but cannot offer you
any explanation. The Ship was originally
taken up for the Voyage in Bengal by
the Company after a full & minute Survey
of course she was judged Sea worthy by
every

every one in Marine Yards. [illegible] & [illegible] when
they [illegible] the price. This point it is necessary
to attend to —

I
Remain &c

John Turing Esq. Off Apollo Sept. [illegible] B [illegible]

My dear Turing

I make no manner of doubt but some
of your other friends are much better Correspondents than I
am [illegible] to the Changes which are almost constantly
taking place here. Our friend B— will write you res-
pecting himself & Jack I trust has done the same. We
are perfectly satisfied with him in every respect & I am
convinced he will do well.

You see the large Empire we now have
but the possession of [illegible] it will not stand here
we shall still have more & Great Britain will possess
Provinces as large as the Russian Empire.

How far she will be able to manage them
upon the present System of Equality she is intro
ducing is with me a matter of doubt my opinion is it will
not be [illegible] out by a Conquering [illegible]
natives themselves into whose minds this infusion
that pernicious Doctrine of Equality. They must

hold their Countrys as the Moors did as Conquerors or they must relinquish them. Upon this Subject I have thought much, & am more & more confirmed in my Sentiments. Our Service is ruined & debased & we have as no point of Ambition to look to which would excite a man to action & while Palaces & Colleges are building (for you will hear one is established at Calcutta for all Languages & Sciences Eastern & Western for Company's Servants educated at the latter) those who are not permitted to act but are mere tools & can never rise higher on the present footing they have every appearance of being men without rank & without fortune, barely independent & with such proposals with such views on the human mind to be brought forward into great Action most. Certainly not & those who think it is are not acquainted with human nature. All the system is wrong except that point of insisting on the Servants learning the native languages but that is not all a Boy under

standing

[illegible] a little Malabar is not fit to govern the Servant & then however increasing Equality supplies his Labours & keeps him in check.

My best Compts to Mrs Tenny & the rest of your family. I am &c (Signed) B Roebuck

Copy [illegible]

Rt Jas Sulivan Esq Madras 2d Sept 1800

My Brother & his Wife have arrived & due honor has been paid to the Bill which you was so kind as to endorse for him. I may perhaps say with propriety to you that considering my situation I have done much for my family. I have assisted my Eldest Brother with Sums of Money & he still wants more, my Younger Brother is in the Navy. I allowed my Father 500 a Year the latter years of his life & my Mother has now from me 300 £ a Year & when she wants more she applys to our Agents who let her have it. I have before paid Considerable Sums for Ebenezer who got part from my Agents & had he come out as I desired him instead of staying at home he would

now

[illegible] have him in a much better situation. Sorry
he is. As at to do for him I know not of
his expectations at Ceylon are not very good & I
do not think he has the proper letters to Mr.
North. I have advised him to write home & to
endeavour to procure the reversion of the Master
Attendant Ship here. Lascelles is Master Attendant &
Captn. Rees is appointed his Successor as it appears
a distinct thing it may perhaps be easily procured
& it is worth asking for. I have advised him also
to ask the appointment of Deputy Master Attendt.
which in the mean time with what might be
put in his Way would do very well for him. My
Interest certainly is not requisite to procure the
latter place & I am sure he will have your aid
as far as you can interest your friends, perhaps
you would get Mr. Hastings to help him on the
occasion with his friends at the India House
if so I trust you will be so kind as to do
it. I see our Conquests make a brilliant
Figure you will also find that we having

a fresh addition of Territory from the Nizam, are
ensured by him & have that Country at our
devotion. Ld. W. is attempting the same with
the Marattas. I fear he will not succeed with
the latter as he has with the Nizam, still with
all this encrease of revenue & Territory our Expences
exceed our income. — Our Military Expences for
the present Year are estimated at more than 67
Lack near five times what they were in the Year
1777. My decided opinion is that in the Way
the Country is now managed we shall not keep
it 20 Years. The most despotic System is observed
towards Europeans of every description a total
disregard to right Property & Liberty while on the
other hand with the Iron hand of Govt. some-
times exerted against the Native, he is taught
the Sweetness of Liberty & the enjoyment of Pro-
perty & tho every exertion is making at home
to counteract Democracy. We are doing
every thing in our power to infuse into the
mind of the Native Equality. Have we not
experienced from the Moors the way to
keep

keep Possession of this Country for Centurys ~~it~~
who has overset the Moorish Empire but the
English. Had it not been for us The Successors
of Hyder in the South & the Tartar Chiefs in
the North would have subdued every Hindoo Powr

Origl pr Apollo
(Duplicate)

Fort St Geo. 2 Septr

Dear Maxwell

We have had the pleasure of receiving the favor from your House & yourself the former dated 1 Augt the latter the 27th Febry last & we also received a Consignment of Wine with other Articles from our friends at Home. The Claret in Magnums was most excellent & you know I am a good Judge & would not flatter you on that head – Stockdale always kept up his Character & his Wine always had a preference & the Wines frequently had a superior flavor in the beginning of the Season, but Stockdale could always be depended on as sound good Wine at the end of the Season – I shall be obliged by your sending me three Chests of Magnum such as you can recommend for my own use that is 17 dozen of Magnums. – I mean to address my friends Messrs Lee's on the Subject if you will speak to them they will settle it with you & send it out on a Small Ship belonging to our House which will return soon after you receive this. Jones had some very fine Burgundy brought out by Smith of the Dublin from the late Mr. Stockdale. I scarcely think it is a Wine in general to be trusted but if you have any belonging to your own house which you can recommend I should wish to have 6 Dozen, A half Chest if you shew this letter to Messrs. Lee's it will be sufficient. ~

I am My dear Maxwell
Yours &
Roebuck

P.S. After what I have said I need not add that I shall feel a pleasure in rendering you any Service in my power here, remember me to your Brother the Colonel. ~

J. De Le Pocher Esqr.
Madras

My dear Pocher

The enclosed Papers will shew you clearly how the Balance stood

---

~~to M. Wilson~~

Pr Apollo
Dupe

Madras 6 Octr.

William Lee Esqr.

Dear Sir,

I must take the liberty of troubling you to send me out a few Articles by the Ship Apollo for my Private use. I have wrote to my friend Mr. Maxwell requesting that he would send me three Chests of Claret & apply to you for payment. I must beg of you to send me out 4 Chests of Carbonells Claret for my particular use & to procure for me half a Chest of Port from Carbonel, be pleased also to procure for me from Hoffman a Box of Sweet meats contg. Six 5 lb Jars of black Currant Jelly, I have to request that it may be perfectly black & no red mixed with it, One Dozen Jars of the same size of Rasberry Jam & Eight Jars of the same Size of Damsens. I must trouble you also for a Parmezan Cheese a Stilton Cheese put up in lead & a dozen Hams these latter must be carefully packd & Capt Browne must be desired to keep them in a cool place I hope all these things will come out by the Apollo but I request in future that whatever is sent to me if it does not come in our own Ships may come in a direct Ship.

Fort St Geo: 2 Sept 1800 Yrs Sincerely
B Roebuck

P.S. The ~~Stilton~~ Stilton Cheese ought to be pack'd up new in order to keep to this Country I have taken the liberty of requesting a small parcel cons Muslins for the Honble Mrs Boscawen St James Palace to be directed to your care which I must request the favor of you to get cleared out pay the Expences & send to her.—

6th Octr.—

I trouble you with duplicate of my last I beg to observe that the Wine from Carbonell was most shamefully pack'd & great Breakage was the Consequence. I lost in one Chest near 7 Dozen, from this Circumstance all Wine for this Country ought to be packed with Straw Ropes as formerly & not loose Straw as it is now packed with, please to speak about this to Mr Carbonell The Wine is good but not superior which I hoped would have been the case be so kind as to speak to Mr Carbonell respecting it — I must trouble you to add to my other Commissions a Box of Pipe Macaroni | Yrs

B Roebuck

Dalgleish

Fort St Geo. 17 March 1801

James Dalgleish Esq
Bo'ness Scotland

My dr Sir

I am under the painful necessity of communicating to you the Melancholy Intelligence of my Brother Williams Death he was carried off by a Nervous Fever after 10 days Sickness on the 18th at Night I have lost a most affectionate Brother & a good Man he was just arrived from Persany to pay us a visit Heavenly Will. I enclose a Bill found among his Papers & shall remit you annually for the support of his Child.—

I shall be happy to hear from you when convenient.— I beg to offer my best Compts to Mrs Dalgleish.

Dalgleish

Yours Dr Sir with regard
Yr Obed Serv.
B Roebuck

N.B. A Bill for £ 20.13.3 drawn by Lieutt Saml Williams on the Commissioners of the Navy @ 10 days Sight. —

you on such a business but it is absolutely necessary the Estate was insolvent and deeply indebted to me which was my reason for administering to it. — I am &c
(Signed) B Roebuck

Calcutta
Henry Abbott — Fort St Geo: 10 Decemr 179[illegible]

My Dear Sir
I trouble you with the enclosed letter to Mr Fairlie and Mr Gregory please to read them & forward them and if you will be so good as to call on Mr Fairlie and speak to him on the subject, I shall be obliged to you. The Inventory of Mr Lang's Effects was taken by him & he also given in the Account Current Copy of which he has sent me if any thing further is wanted — much have time & it must be done, as I am bound to save my Friend Gregory harmless after you have seen Mr Fairlie you had better perhaps speak to your Law Gentleman who I believe is Mr Raban — Mr Fairlie knew the state of Mr Langs Estate that it was greatly involved and that I was the Principal Creditor almost the only one, I administered to recover my own property — I have his Books and Papers here which were sent me round by Mr Fair to which I shall have recourse if necessary

Tho

tho' after the documents which have been given into Court by Mr Fairlie I should suppose it is unnecessary — I request an early answer & am
(Signed) B. Roebuck