

51a. (pp. 103-4) to the firm per New York packet 2 September 1772

My last to you was the 29th ult. per Capt Falkner via Philadelphia covering protests for non-acceptance of Turner's two bills on Barnes & Ridgate for £161. Since which yours of the 8 July is come to hand and brought me one first bill for £150 on J. Buchanan who has noted it. Hope-well's and Tilghman's bills are good and placed to your credit. As soon as ever the time expires of the others, you shall have them under protests unless paid. Together with what bills is already returned and those lying in suspense has no doubt baffled your expectations as well as mine and it will therefore require your utmost exertion to replace those and a farther sum of twelve hundred pounds by the first of December to enable me to comply with our engagements like men.

You say in yours of 2nd July you had just discovered an omission in not sending me the second bills for £181:7:2 $\frac{3}{4}$; it's equally surprising to me that you have never discovered a like mistake in not forwarding me the seconds of those remitted 15 February and 10 March amounting to £504:12:0 $\frac{1}{2}$. It's true they are all good but that can't be any apology for your not sending them. I have frequently wrote you of it and you will pardon this plainness in urging the necessity of references to the dates of the letters you write me and those you receive from me, as well as listing the first and second bills you send on the foot of your letters. It's no restriction, but what is strictly observed by all merchants.

51b. I am happy to hear that those young men are likely to do well and hope they will answer your purpose. The books and locket shall come by the next opportunity and hope the latter may remove that coolness you mention which originally was owing to the fellows imposing on me. I am glad to hear C. W[allace] goes on well with the Stadt House [Capitol] and hope he will extricate himself of that undertaking to general satisfaction.

I am uneasy at your complaints about the sales, the more so as it's the only dependence we have to support us through our intentions, should which fail, you well know what a deplorable situation I must be in, having cut off every immediate connection in your place and settled here at a considerable expense which will be a dead loss to me on my return, as well as a disadvantage in setting out anew in the woods. However, I totally agree to acquiesce in your determinations, either in continuing or stopping, it being so much more in your powers to judge how matters are likely to end than it is in mine. One caution I only desire you will have an eye to: not upon any consideration in the world to involve our friends in any scrape. I had rather commence a beggar than be the instrument of distressing a friend, his wife and children.

The appearances so far as I can see are favourable to us here, there being much fewer goods sent to Philadelphia and Maryland this summer than usual. Indeed, there is a stoppage of credit and will be more considerably so when the goods shipped last fall and spring becomes due. We are in credit for any amount and if it is possible for you to enable me to be punctual, we may weather it and to our wish; therefore am of opinion that a few goods early to assort those on hand would not be amiss. You may depend on my using every endeavour to remove those complaints. I am

glad to hear rum sold so quick. You have never acknowledged the receipt of the sugar; it has puzzled me how to act; the bills [of exchange from Barbados] have not as yet appeared.

52a. (pp. 106-8) to the firm per New York packet 7 October 1772

My last was 2nd ult. per New York packet, since which I am favoured with yours 15 July, 13 and 21 August. That of the 15 July covered 2 first bills [of exchange] £105:18:0 which are good and passed to your credit; those of the 13 and 21 August brought me 9 second bills, all of which are accepted except the following: Gassaway on Russell, C. Hodges on Philpot, J. Ramsey Hodges on ditto. and Hemsley & Tilghman on Perkins & Co. As soon as ever the time for payment expires, you may depend on my forwarding them to you under protests. I now forward 3 protests amounting with charges to £220:11:10 which you will place to my credit. I don't recollect ever to have said anything to you on the subject of protests. I therefore now take the liberty to recommend the utmost activity in procuring renewments [new bills to cover the value of protested bills plus penalties]; the disappointment will urge the necessity and no one ought to expect indulgence.

We have had many failures since my last, but none to affect our trade. What will become of your merchants, the Lord only knows; their correspondents here seems determined to ruin them, or at least their credit by protesting all their bills; indeed it seems to be an unvariable rule with some to note every bill that is offered to them. I assure you that the face of everything begins to wear quite a different aspect here. The tradesmen have not that demand for their goods; the merchant can't get around his remittances; the tradesmen's bills are due; they push the merchant; he is soured and swears he will not for the future pay your gentlemen's bills or trust them with goods. Indeed they speak so plain as to say, such a gentleman and such a gentleman owes me the immoderate sum of so much and I can't even hear from him; it won't do; I am determined to push them. Amongst the rest there are a good many of your townsmen so that you may be assured you'll not have such large importations in Annapolis for the future and I think much fewer sellers to oppose us soon. Therefore, I am very desirous to push our scheme, if you find it practicable to make tolerable remittances for a while, when I see that a little time will leave us victorious in the market and I hope crown us with the laurel we so earnestly struggle for.

52b. Your letter 15 July alarmed me with an account of the small pox being in Annapolis. I assure you I was so much hurt by it that I was unwell for a week; the thoughts of having so large a cargo as that is per the *Nancy* to arrive at that dreadful period, promised us nothing but ruin. But the Almighty of his ever goodness has stopped that most dreadful disorder, I am informed by Mr French. In yours 13 August you seem determined to persevere in our original intention and again recommend to me to use all my endeavours. You may depend on it I would rather suffer death than be wanting to the trust imposed in me and I promise you nothing shall be wanting on my part to forward us to the summit of our wishes. Yours of