

April 11. 1806

CL 14

My Dear L.

As you request me to write often I take up the pen without any other immediate object than testifying how constantly and closely you are in my heart.....

I will follow up your directions as to George and his myrmidons whenever you judge it right to send a positive commission. It strikes me at present as indispensable to keep George who made the engagement with the eight Shaftsmen and must superintend their work and wages till that is completed. If you should not want any considerable quantity of Calamine or ochre before the men will be relieved from this shaft work, I can discharge Georges Idlers any time you please for by this time all their task above ground ought to be completed. I have made some sort of enquiries about the surest and cheapest conveyance from Gargrave to London. One boat owner dealing in Corn, who lives near Burnley but is a bit of a Quaker, wd carry 30 Ton a week to Hull in his own boat and bring his own cargo of corn back. and he would do it cheaply because he is sure of a constant cargo. This man who has lived at Hull the greatest part of his life in that sort of trade but failed his connections in the shipping line at present to London and I have desired him to tender proposals for himself and get information as to the forwarding the articles from Hull. This appears to be an object in the Ease of removal as well as diminution in the wear and tear in the casks and bags by only one shifting from the Canal Boat at Hull into the coaster.

But perhaps I am too forward. However no engagement nor any thing more than Enquiry shall ever be done without your consent and direction. I want however to be prepared for serious and sedulous operation so soon as we are at the hottom of No.44.

.....

(mainly political and domestic)

T.C.

10  
April 17. 1806

CH. 15

My Dear L.

....personal wishes for good health etc.....

There remains now one great and Fundamental point to be looked to and obtained without delay, the acquisition of a proper Superintendent of the Works and at Malham. It appears clearly to me that such a Person shd be procured as either is already acquainted with the ores and minerals or at least has a pretty apt discernment and capacity to acquire knowledge of earths and ochres, for unfortunately they are altogether intermixed by report, in the Beds and will require the most skillfull and tedious attention in their separation. There seems no stratum of entire ochre of any kind as I can judge from the account in yrs yesterdays letter. There are different colours lying in strata and lumps but all are composed of such particles as were sent up and by what Process they may be most readily ridded of the earthy parts must be directed by ~~you~~ Mr Greenup and known to the Superintendent.

I have ordered George to send two of his men to discover fresh specimens and doubt not but Kitchens Cowside will turn up several other ~~mineral~~ beds, and perhaps Dean Moor. The lings, and I hear Kirkby Fell are also likely.

In regard to the last sample of White Calamine I am sorry indeed George failed in the precise details given him, but I wrote in as strong terms as I could the instant I recd your orders and Haworth took it up, waited at the bank of the shaft till George had fetched it out of 44 as he said and has since told me, and which is reckoned the best both in colour and substance, and it was then packed in the box here prepared for it and left at Settle on his return for the waggon. Had I indeed gone up again that Morning I might ~~have~~ not have been able to discover the difference in the quality although in some degree in the colour, but as to the last I shd have had great difficulty in remedying the evil as I must have depended a good deal on what they produced. But the fact was I had no doubt whatever but he wd have fulfilled the order in the most exact and best manner he could and much less did I imagine it wd be of more consequence than the former parcel by the Coach wch wd be first probably shown to the Parties.

Boothman was here yesterday and although he entertains an opinion of a much greater quantity of white than George does It seems more mixed with greyish and brownish specks than what was formerly got from the old mans works and sent to Birmingham.

Had I known you wished a third specimen of white I certainly shd have employed my time at the mines instead of amusing myself with selecting ochres, but having as I conceive executed and completed your wishes as to the Calamine I thought it cd do no harm in sending a little box on my own Head which seemed to me curious specimens.

I expect every moment the Watrice and will forward it to Colne. Had Mr Haworth told me of his going to Burnley I wd have sent to Watson and the Boatmaster to Hull from whom no Tidings have yet been had.

Wd you have more Bags ordered, or how are we to get casks, Bags for about 5 or 6 Toms cost 7£ and upwards besides carriage here and making. Casks to hold about half that quantity cost about 30 shillings, but we must have 40 or 50 times as many to carry on with certainly a constant and considerable supply. I can hear of very few more casks likely to be got here, and all our time will be wasted are we to wait for the return of those from London by water. I heartily rejoice and look forward with the highest expectation and delight for the commencement and of this important and valuable concern and therefor wish to prepare everything in the best manner to get immediately to work and on a great scale the moment the shaft lets us into the heart of the Treasures. I have not seen Jr but Mr Binns has....

personal estate matters.....

T.C.

My dear L,

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L.R.M.M. 10  
26.16

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The Burnley Drillers return'd on Saty. Nt. and after a very minute & careful Invesigation of the whole Ground again find their former hasty Trial corresponds within 6 Inches of this last. They have ascertained decisively that 44 Chasm is the lowest Point of the whole Work and that the Water from ~~44~~ and The Great ~~Shake~~ Hole & little S. of ~~it~~ falls into 44, and if we can, as is conceived easily, divert the Top Water from the sd. ~~Shake~~ Hole, Watson is pretty clear that the Minerels may be got out of Both these Places & the intermediate Veins which spread in all directions and seem full of Ores in all points. You will perceive by Georges Report enclosed He can find but little White but besides the opinion of All the rest and Boothman with Watson particularly, no Reliance can be placed on His Report. He wants eagerly to take The Works, and said He wd. give £1000 clear for Six Years to come. Boothman said, If he wd. offer £6000 for 60 years He would be nearer the Mark.

There is by all their Accounts such an Abundance of fine Calamine in 44 & towards & in ~~24~~ that if you get 2 or 3 Tons a day (which may readily be done by 3 Sets of Workmen of 2 each - by beginning in Three directions at the Soil of The New Shaft when finished) Half a Century will not probably render it necessary to go back towards 104 which is also full of it.

Watson has written to His Brother and expects an Ans. immedly. but the Concern is of such great Importance that we must first be sure of His Capacity to superintend & of His Integrity in the Management & Conduct of it.

The Shaft had turn'd out very hard, but on Saty. mornng. was opening to Shale again and Boothman declares He never work'd with more industrious & clever Fellows as the Swaldales are. They are got abt. 7 yards soon & He thinks They shall knock it away speedily.

When this is done, We can dash away as You like. I have got 3 Webbs of Sail Cloth making into Bags abt. 130 or 140 Bags - each to contain abt. a Hundred ~~lb~~. This will be nothing, nor do I ~~concern~~ any Bag~~s~~ will stand above one Journey, if the Cal: is to be sent only barely dried. However we can try these.

I have also bought a few good Treacle Casks for a Trifle - & will have them thoroughly Hoop'd - so as to be ready to begin when An Order arrives or at least the Moment we get into this rich Hoyle.

I find Mr George has Sieved, - not as was intended from Raw or even dried Calamine but from the old High - burnt Heep belonging to the Cheedale Cy.

I should not like to discharge Him till the Cal: belongn. to Them is all dispatch'd - nor till we get another Man to Superintend a New Business & Processes which George cannot understand. Another thing is the idle disposition of the present Miners who must generally be changed: but we cannot do without them till Boothman, Brotherton, Old Duke & one Beecroft all good Workmen are got Thro' the Shaft.

~~scive~~ I will go up on Wedny. and see a real Experiment made of The hive both in the Raw State & on a little dried Grey: and also see The Ochre Beds &c, as well as examine the Hillocks whether anything has been disturbed, or if the ~~weather~~ will ~~not~~ admit ~~building~~. A very Cold Easterly Wind prevails altho' the Weather fine in all other respects. I am trying every Corner for Money and trust some way to succeed.

I have not heard from you 2 Posts - Not since ~~the~~ <sup>ye Dining</sup> Dinery Visit to The Arts & Sciences. A line just arrived. I am happy to find all well. Heber dined with me on Saty. & introduced The New Vicar of Skipton - as I fine He had done into Claves Street - Ever Yrs. H.

Best Regards as always.

My Room beset with W. & R. ----- Mondy. 31st May.

I have agreed with King without a Reference & signed by Parker of Clitheroe on His behalf. Mother Binns very ill indeed. Johnny at Melham & Darnebrook.

The Specimen of Sieved is however much whiter its State as delivd. for the Cheedle Cy.

My dear L,

LRMM ✓  
CL 17 12

Soon after my letter was dispatched yesterday I read both yrs of the 17th and th in which several Passages have affected and surprised me much. I cannot conceive how I can be accused of any the slightest Imputation of Neglect or Inattention to your correspondence or concerns. Not an Instant has in any one Instance been delayed putting in execution so far as the use of my Hand and Tongue and personal Attendance cd. enforce every Tittle you have wished to have looked to. Not a Morsel of Calamine has been meddled with - of any Colour since your Report of its immense value and I stopt the Calcination of what we have from that The Fine Grey may and must have been refined, so as to make The Inpenetrable - for unless George is the greatest Villain alive - not an ounce of White has been sent to Cheadle since 1 June separated from the rest of all Colours - Grey and Brown together and mixed by Calcination inseparables. In deed we have generally seen what has been brought up, so mixed in its raw state that it wd. be very difficult to pick any Quantity of White out, after its Carriage to Malham, and therefore I think all the light Colourd may be so washed and refined by chemical Process as to produce the coarse Paint you mention. This renders the whole concern much more valuable and so far as we cd. see by farther greatest part in 104 seems of the light Grey cast. I have no opinion whatever left of George Tenant, and therefore also am readily enough disposed to imagine He may have selected The White in the Mines and kept it there till it might be conveyed away in Bags privately. But this Theft is liable to conviction from Brotherton or any other workman with whom He has quarrelled or whom He may offend or whom after His Discharge future Interests may induce to report what They must have seen. However it is lucky indeed you have discovered some underhand and iniquitous dealing and discovered the intrinsic Value of Articles likely to produce an immense addition to The Family Fortunes. Surely I need not attempt to express to You in every line I write - how sensibly I participate in every good and in every Prospect of Good that can befall You. If I did not the active and instant Pains I have taken to execute every wish and Order you have sent must have been either the most hypocritical or senile in the world. As I have repeatedly told you I wrote to Geprge the next day after your first communication in the most precise and peremptory manner I cd. devise. I was afraid of his Inactivity and Inattention - and determined to have the Wishes which are as much my own (believe me as You will) executed punctually and promptly that I have gone up twice in a very short Interval and once before to see whether and how far He had obeyed the Directions repeatedly pressed upon Him. Proper Persons also - at least the most proper I cd. hear of, were immediately procured to ascertain the best grounds and surest Means of setting out in the Accomplishment of a Concern of such Magnitude and real Importance and in defiance of Georges obstinate resistance Brotherton was re-instated and is, apparently at least, as hearty in the cause, and assuredly is as hard at Work as the best Men we have or may employ in so suspicious a Fraternity.

These Works now will require a Person of much more Activity and zealous Superintendence than George ever had and which seems nearly expired. Besides He is entirely under the Hatches of Two or Three of the most ignorant and idle Workmen he has about Him., and I have more then once discovered connivances and secret Intimations to each other in my presence which have confirmed the suspicions and Information previously received. Mr. Shaw mentioned to me at Burnley, that in His Conversation with Watson, The Driller He had said "The Works wanted such a Man as His Brother who had been the Sub-Agent to The Duke of Bridgewater in His Mines and Works 14 yrs at Worsley", and Shaw understood him to mean This Brother was at liberty any day He chose and if terms were acceptable He was sure He wd. be glad to come. I replied an active and intelligent Man was certainly wanted but it was a very delicate thing to have any knowledge or Participation in enticing a man away from a most honourable Master, and especially from one of the earliest acquaintances I had in life - but if The Man shd choose to offer himself I thought it might be considered whether a Letter might not properly be written to Lord Bridgewater asking Him if The Man was fairly at Liberty, and if so, then requesting The Favour of his Character and Abilities - but I was confident your Lordship would not say one word to him until some such Steps was taken

Mr. Greenap seems to be equally intelligent and fair and I am clearly of opinion, it is much better to proceed under a verbal Understanding than any written Engagement only it shd be declared explicitly in presence of such Man as Mr. Oddie or Forster what that Understanding and the terms were. I also like His disposing of the Articles by Commission best - because it is His Interest to get the highest Price He can for each article.

\* You will consider the Carriage from Malham to Hull will be abt. £1.11.6. per Ton - viz. 3 H to Gargrave and 20 H. to Hull - and from Hull to London besides Insurance during War I have no means of ascertaining here.

As to The Cheadle Co. we are under no kind of obligation to continue a Supply farther than if They wd. advance to such Price for the Calamine fit Only for making Brass, as Mr. can get elsewhere it is generally thought right to give old customers the Choice. As to The White, and indeed I shd. hope and expect the light Grey too must be out of question. Shd. their Boys arrive - They have abundance of Calamine paid for in their Room in the Calcination House. I saw it last Week and examined if much White cd. be separated from it. It struck me as impracticable - but I cannot pretend to know or guess wh ingenious and skilful artists may achieve.

In one Letter you mention I shd. receive orders abt. The Ochres which are of the Highest Importance almost to commence and regard - for I understand there is great Abundance in several Places and no difficulty in getting it and at little Trouble and Expense.

The Blue Copper Ore I fear will be a very scanty supply, unless we can by opening The Old Copper Miners Works again and getting out their Leavings find more than we at present know of. The Moment we can accomplish and attend to The the Hills - for the must be watched. Yr Instructions shall be obeyed, and as it will not take many days probably I will go up for part of the time at least and see that George really observes the operations. No one at present can stand it and indeed there is not a Drop of Water in the Beck where it can be done.

I was much surprised to find not a single Drop nor appearance of Water in any one part of The Works we went through. The whole were as dry as the Calcination House almost, and as I mentioned yesterday, n t) that account besides. it seems adviseable to get something out of 104 where especially The Water occasionally frequents: but in all these things I only mention them - and wait for your determination after due conference with Mr. Greenap

Pursuit of the extremity of Boothmans last Push - at N.E. end of 44 towards the projected drift must necessarily be delayed till The New Shaft is finished - as no Progress can be made without Wood which will then be set down close to the spot - whereas at present it wd. be almost an endless Task to get what will be wanted, thro such Passes as the Men are obliged to crawl, Indeed I begin from what I saw to entertain great Doubts of ever accomplishing that Design - For if old Johnnys

18  
LRMM 12  
21 19

My dear L,

With the Deeds belonging to Stoke Cliffe which it will give me great pleasure to hear is well sold. You will find the Specimens, of My Chemical Preparation of Ochres from Kitchings Cowside. Seven from different Strata on one Bed - and the other dug out of another Place and leading to Another Hill. Many of the colours are beautiful but the Yellow - last discovered seems the finest and at the same time most consistent and ~~same~~. Pray report to me all the decisions on each.

Nothing has been done abt Mrs. Crosses since the Sale day. A Difficulty has arisen whether The Three Trustees can sell or whether all the Parties interested must concur. It was understood however that Yr. Lordship shd have the first Chance of being Purchaser whichever way it turned out. A line to The Capt Ellis's wd not now be amiss from Yr Lordship. It was Young Ellis of Bolton who told me the Particulars of this yesterday.

I forgot above to mention an Experiment made by Mr. Binns on The Ochre which produced the small White Marble enclosed in a corner of the Box. A Lump of the Raw Ochre was boiled only, and the Water siped off which left the Cake to harden as you will see it. This is what I thought and wrote upon " A rare specimen" or some such Word and of which there appears a great deal.

indeed

It will give me great satisfaction/to see Mr. Greenap on the Spot so soon as the New Shaft is down. as Matthews House must be converted into such compartments as will best answer our necessary and respective Purposes. I must apprehend the Market or Means of A Great Sale for we shall certainly be able to produce as much calamine as can be disposed of (be it as large as may be) the moment our Shaft is completed - and as to The Ochres - I can get a Ton a Day myself readily enough - the Sorting excepted - and of course you may multiply Hands to what extent you will.

We are busy preparing Bags and Casks - but the Quantity of these must be immense to carry away daily and constantly (or we shall still deal in Trifles ) the various species of each Article.

The Time to discharge George and his Friends will be when the connection with the Cheadle Cy. is terminated - or at least when an entire New Preparation of the Ores is about to commence. He knows nothing from me of what is intended. but I suspect He is well enough acquainted with experimental modes of applying Calamine to its most valuable purposes. His Son furnishes Bennets of Sheffield with a considerable quantity of Hard some of which He says is White although Hard ~~some-ef~~ and I think from this He mentioned to me the Grinding and Sieving as He called it for making paint. He knows Paint has been made of White Calamine I am sure - but I have uniformly told him I did not know to what purpose Yr Lordship now designed to apply it. I hear nothing yet of Watsons Brother - and doubt whether He may be at liberty to come or if so, whether He may be qualified to superintend and prepare so large a Concern as I trust this will be. Abt a Ton & Half or 2 Tons of Ochre I got Mallinson to lead from Kitchings into The Coach House at Malhamwater to be safe as well as dry, and kept as under none of which could have been vouchable for if left on Heaps at the Bed. The Rock in the New Shaft between 8 + 9 yds deep has set in terrible hard and altho the Fellows work like ~~they~~ they get on with great difficulty and much slower than before. However we shall soon work Him away by sticking closely and unceasingly to Him.

We have the greatest Hopes from the effect of a general Diversion of The Top Water from every Sink or Shake Hole we can discover - The Weather has been dry for a Fortnight and therefore till we have a strong fall no Judgment can be formed decisively of the attempt. Pray tell my good Westm. Friend I recd His kind Remembrance with sincere pleasure and altho we are parchd for want of rain which he complains of - We are perishing from a cold Easterly and North Easterly Wind.

I believe I mentioned that old Carr has provided for the Arncliffe