

24 Aug 1789

Mr James Dinwiddie

44 St. Michael's Street

St James's Place

near Park Lane

LONDON



Dear Sir

I wrote you a few lines two days after we arrived here, you should have heard from me ^{again} (in case you have had I been able to tell you any thing worth postage) since our departure from London no one idea has struck any of us, worth a place in your jottings book. I have heard nothing more of Mr Goodbridge the Philosopher, as my friend Mr Smith has not yet furnished me with the syllabus of his Lectures which he has promised me from day to day. It has just struck me that there was 3 or 6 years ago a patent obtained for a very simple machine for making stockings, it required only the turning a hand, like a hand organ, I believe the inventor's name was Web, but 'am not sure, ^{try} to get a sight of it, I wish very much to have some account of it, tho' it never came in my head all the time I was in London. Please tell me if your ^{father} says any thing of the manufacture of sealing Wax or so you think the best for making the Irish hand, could be obtained, it is very beautiful & takes a fine impression, but is rather too soft! A defect may be easily remedied, if we know the materials commonly used there, by Lampray &c. I am afraid there is so little knowledge to be gleaned here in Philosophical subjects, we shall become as bad as the natives of this place, whose ideas do not lead them deeper than the lower main of Coals (195 fathoms) which they work in this neighbourhood.

I forgot to mention Mr English, the proportions for the Parallel Motion Mill. If you could procure the wheel work of that mill I should be glad to see it. I do not mean a finished sketch, in the meantime

time I should be very glad to have the particulars of the
motion, before Mr English leaves you. in the answer you
was so good as give to the queries relating to that mill,
I did not understand the answer to the question "How
many Bushels will each pair of Stones grind ^{in 24 Hours}?"
The answer says 144. bush. is that amount that each pair
of stones grinds that quantity, viz a bushel in 10 min
utes. This should have been sent off this
morning, but I postponed finishing it till I should see
Mr Smith. I have been at his house and he tells me
he cannot find the syllabus but he is sure that Mr
Groombridge did not lecture on the ^{discovery} new air, and that
the fireworks of Inflammable Air are so fully unknown
here. I think if you are not engaged at present there
can be little doubt but you would make more here
than you can do in London at this season of the year
& your passage on board the Minerva Cap. (which is
now at Sharncliffe dock) will cost you but one Guinea
your expenses here need not be much.

Mr H. & his sisters desire their kind Compl^{ts} may
be presented to you, we shall all be very glad to see
you, or even to hear from you as soon as possible.
If you have any letters for me pray enclose them,
& let me know how much I am in your debt. I beg
you will try to send me the Critical Machine, I have got
an obstinate & painful swelling at the end of my jaw bone
I wish to endeavour to

Newcastle 24 Aug. 1789