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W<sup>m</sup> Jones Penrice  
No. 4. Northumberland Court.  
St. Pauls.

London

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1753  
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Blackbook  
John 1707

London 7 1751

Sir,

To  
I am  
with sufficient  
pleasing surprise, with which I received  
your agreeable favour; much less, am I able to acknowledge  
it in terms adequate to its merit. — Accept however  
My sincere thanks for your astonishing & accurate  
Account of the telescopes, & the discoveries, to which  
they have led. — To me it seems doubtful, whether the  
Machines themselves, the phenomena which they  
exhibit, or the industry of the Astronomer, are most  
to be praised, & admired! — I am strongly tempted  
to send your ingenious account, to Mr. Hobbald,  
that it may be printed in his Magazine for Sept:  
An accurate account of these optical machines, or  
of the prodigious views, which they display, so far  
as I know, has been communicated to the People of  
Scotland: it is obvious, that a publication of your  
description, will gratify the literary curiosity & enhance  
the reputation of the writer. — If you should remain  
In London, till the great telescope is finished, I beg  
you will make me a participant of the pleasure,  
which you receive, by communicating, the celestial disco-  
veries, which it produces, or is likely to produce. — As  
an apology for asking this favour, I am obliged for granting

To whom I have  
If you think fit to  
All therefore, that  
Advice, for to that purpose, I do not think  
But merely, to inform you, in what manner, I myself, in  
your interests, & in your situation, would choose to proceed

Of all great towns, my views, would first be directed, to  
my native Metropolis, as the scene of my establishment.  
I have been informed, that Mr Probert feels himself so  
Much better, as to hope that he may be able, to give  
Lectures, during the ensuing winter; but this is far from  
being likely, nor if it should happen, would either  
Prestige, or discredit my enterprise. — It is universa-  
ly known & allowed, that in delivering the elements of  
His science, Mr Probert, with all his eminent qualifi-  
cations, is too abstract, & too profound, to be understood; so  
that even in the character of an exercise teacher, I  
could hope to acquire emolument, & dignity equal to  
my wishes; besides, were the Professors to resume his  
Province, it is far from being probable, that his health,  
will permit him long to continue it.

The young disease, that must subdue at length,  
Grows with our growth, & strengthens with our strength;  
I have seen no comparable trial, within my mem-  
ory, for an academical chair, in this city, but in several  
Instances the Magistrates, & Council have been religiously  
Attentive, to recommended merit. — The general

When a  
to himself deprecating, & wishes for even  
in labours of his office, he chooses ob-  
either well known, or strongly recom-  
As his predecessor, & successor, in his function, such  
Candidates, when represented to the Magistrates &  
Council, as qualified, to supply the impending vacan-  
are seldom if ever rejected. — The constituents  
Professor, enjoys the salary during life, & his substi-  
tute, or Colleague the Perquisites of office. —  
Thus the settlement is negotiated, without political  
Or sinister influence. — Any one therefore  
who wishes to assist or succeed Mr Probert, should  
lose no time nor spare any pains, in cultivating  
An intimate acquaintance, with him, & with the  
Other Professors; yet ought these efforts, to be cautious  
& delicate, lest the persons ultimate views, should  
be prematurely discovered; & by that precipitation  
alone rendered entirely abortive. — From the  
Posture of affairs & the course of procedure, these  
deliberations, if steadily & improved & pursued, so  
far as I can judge, may be little doubt of success.  
But you may meet with friends in London, or elsewhere  
Much better qualified, to counsel & inform you, than  
one in Edinburgh who has been for some time, as much  
a recluse, in the literary, as in the civil world. —  
Mr Blacklock  
I find me in offering his best compl. you cannot be more  
to the desirability of the occasion than I of yours.

Dr Blacklock

Mr Dinwiddie

Doct: Blacklock offers his best compliments to Mr: Dinwiddie and gratefully acknowledges the favour of the tickets sent to himself and Mr: Blacklock, but is sincerely sorry that he will only have it in his power occasionally to improve an opportunity so pleasing and valuable, as the hours from 7 to 9 are the only time of the day when the D: is seriously and indispensibly engaged. Mr: Blacklock's attention to the various and continual exigencies of a family so numerous will likewise prevent her from attending on Mr: Dinwiddie with that assiduity which her own inclination dictates and which the importance of the course deserves. But nothing can prevent the D: and her from feeling the highest sense of obligation, nor from embracing every proper occasion of discovering what they feel.

Had it not been for these obstacles they were fully resolved to have been Mr: Dinwiddie's subscribers and attended his course on the same terms with others who participate its benefit

Chapel street Friday 7<sup>th</sup> of Feb