

Since the Revolution. I have the old Folio Set, that was printed, about the Year 1750, I saw some vols. of a new Encyclopedic, Des Arts & Sciences at the Isle of France in my way to Europe in the Year 1786 & in my way back to India in 1791, but I do believe there is another Encyclopedic of Arts & Sciences printed at Paris since those periods that is since the Revolution, or During the time of the Republican Government.

I should also like to know the price of the Memoires De L'Academie Des Sciences & Journal Des Savans that has been published since the Revolution. I have the old set that formerly belonged to the late General Marten of Lucknow.

I should also like to know the Dates & prices of any new works of Arts & Science & Philosophical Discoveries & particularly in the mechanical Arts & Patent Machines that have been published in English French Italian German Spanish, or Portuguese. Since the year 1790 also a good Catalogue with the prices marked of Scientific Books & new Publications. Tacchini had one of the best Catalogues when I was in England. I should like to have one of them sent out with the other books.

Pray what is the present amount of the Subscription to the Royal Institute, for a foundation share & what benefit will it be to my children, my having a foundation share to leave them, or the privilege

(Duplicate)

Dear Sir,

When I purchased your Nicholson's Journal & Philosophical Magazine, &c. &c. a little before you left India about July 1805 (you were so good as to say you would send me out the additional volumes of those works, as they were published) & I promise them to be alluded to in the Enclose Extracts from notes from you that had just fell in my way dated the 8<sup>th</sup> July 1805 - while looking over some old papers for throwing had, but bad health since you left India & being much engaged in public business I have not yet had time to unpack the optical machines &c. &c. I thought of you or been able to indulge myself with the perusal of the interesting scientific books you let me have, till I am anxious to have a continuation of those works in hopes of obtaining more health & leisure a future day.

I also Enclose an Extract of a note dated 13<sup>th</sup> July with a Copy of a Receipt dated 8<sup>th</sup> July for 400. Repees with Extracts from two notes to you dated 5<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> July 1805.

These papers show that I must have purchased several articles which from the above cause have remained unnoticed, unattended to, & uncollected from



the period of my Departure from Calcutta in 1800.

I am now on my Voyage, to the Neighbourhood of Patna, the Dry air of which, I trust, will give me better Health, than I had in the Neighbourhood of Myensing & Dacca of Course, more Leisure to Look over the articles You let me have.

As I have heard nothing more on the Subject, I conclude, the Circumstance is now forgot, but as I wish to subscribe to those works, & to have the Supplementary Volumes, as they come out, & as such purchases require some Ready Cash I have Requested of M<sup>rs</sup> Factors Cockerell Trail & Co to answer Your Bills, as far, as 20, or 30 L for the Purchase of the undermentioned Books, & for subscribing to the Annual Vols as they are printed.

I am Dear Sir  
Your Most Obedient Servant

*Collyer & Co  
Guerriah Haat  
12<sup>th</sup> March 1800*  
Doctor James Dinoiddie

*D. M. G.*

P.S. When you Purchase any Books for me, be so good, as to Let them be well packed up, in a Tin Box, with Hacks, & Hinges, & the Box, Covered with wax cloth.

or other Covering that will protect them from Damp, when the Box is Ready to be Detached. Send a Copy of the Bill & charges to M<sup>rs</sup> Factors Cockerell Trail & Co with the name of the Ship the Books go by, & Directed to the care of M<sup>rs</sup> Palmer & Co in Calcutta, who will forward it to such part of the Country, as I may happen to be in at the Time.

The Books I wish to have sent out for the present, is the Continuation of your Nicholson's Journal from Vol the 8<sup>th</sup> and the Continuation of the Philosophical Magazine from Vol 13.

I Also wish to have & to subscribe for a Complete set of the Repository of Arts, from the Beginning to the Last Volume that is published, & the additional vols to be sent out annually in the same manner, as is done to other Subscribers, to Periodical Works.

I Also wish to subscribe to the new magazine that has been lately published, & which I do believe as Called the Magazine of Arts, Science, & Philosophy, & Commerce, but am not Certain of the Exact Name.

I should Like to know the price, Date, and Number of Volumes of the Last Paris Edition of the Encyclopedie of Arts & Sciences that was published since.



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or advantages attending such Concern in the Original Insti-  
tution, or in its first being Established.

If there is any Separate Work Explaining  
the Nature & Advantage of this Institution, I should like  
to have it.

As it is Difficult, to get Books Properly  
Bound, here, do me the favor to Let the Philosophical &  
Magazine, & Nicholsons Journal be sent in Complete  
Volumes without attending to the Detached & Loose Numbers  
you give me in India, & when any Books are to be  
Bound upon my account, Give the Goodness to let them  
be Bound, in the Cheapest & Plainest manner possible,  
& India, I think, that the Half Binding like the Mag-  
azines that is, in marble paper, with Plain, Leather  
Packs & Corners, are by far the Best, as the Covers  
thus made are not so liable to Gape, or warp, as the  
Glistening, & Expensive Bindings of Books, that are made  
merely for Show, & the Rat & Russia Bindings. However  
Expensive Does not seem to answer the Expectation of  
those, that have Hitherto been partial, to them, for when,  
they happen, to be in a Damp Place, or During the Rain,  
they are as Subject to Rot & Perish, as any other Books,  
& the Binding Does not Protect them, from Insects.

I do believe, but am not Certain, as I  
cannot get at the Rank that contains the Books.  
Just.



Just now, to Examine them, that there <sup>are</sup> 20 Complete Vols of  
Nicholson's Journal & 10 Complete Vols of the Philosophical  
Magazine.

There is a very old Book, Called The Moon  
in the Moon that I wish much to see. Be therefore so good,  
as to send it, with the other Books, as I have often heard  
it mentioned, it is said, to speak or allude, to some scienti-  
fic Matters, under the Mask of Fable which the Chase  
men of that Day, were afraid to Publish as Facts.

I do believe it was Wrote by a Priest of  
Rank of the Name of Goodwin, or Goddwin, but am  
not Sure.

Possibly it may be some thing in the Manuscript  
of Bishop Wilkins, Secret & Swift Messenger a work,  
that I bought when I was in London in the Year 1790.





Additional P. I. Wrote in the Sunderban. -

Have the goodness, to send with the Books, Two or Three Pairs of Spectacles of Different Magnifiers - or Progressive Powers, adapted to the Eyes of men who have passed upwards of Forty Years in India & feel the Injurious Effects of a Long Residence in a Hot Country. -

My Right Eye has, of Late been very Dim & weak in Consequence of a violent Inflammation & is still very weak. I am obliged to wear a Black Silk <sup>screen</sup> over or on the Side of my Right Eye to protect it from the Glare or Strong Light of Day or Candles -

When Reading I am obliged to defend my Eyes from the Shining Glare of the Silver Spectacles on the Front & Sides by a Card paper Screen covered with Black Silk. Some thing like the Side Blinks that is fastened to the Bridle or Head Straps of Coach & other Carriage Horses. -

I am Induced to Enclose a Muster of such Screens as I use as possible, some of your Friends that are Annoyed with sore or weak Eyes may receive the same Benefit that I have received from them. -

I have Given Muster of them to several Gentlemen who are highly Gratedified by the Idea as a thing they have been long & in want of & say if the Invention  
was



was Communicated to any Optician in Europe, it might be the means of Introducing in the Construction & use of Spectacles a Convenience & a Comfort that has not as yet been brought in to Common practice, or perhaps known to the Generality of those whose Infirmities, or who's Years, Compel them to use Spectacles.

Possibly these Front & Side Screens may be made of Black Horn, or what is not so liable to warp or Break plates of Copper, or other very thin & Light Metal covered with a Dark Black Colour that absorbs the Surplus Rays of Light without any Degree of Varnish, or Shining Substance about, or near them. Such as is used to Colour the Inside of Optical Instruments.

I made several Experiments for shutting out & Excluding all the External Light from the Front, Side & Top of the Spectacles for the Purpose of converting the Spectacles into a species of Camera Obscura, but have not been fortunate enough to Hit upon any mode, or plan more Convenient for weak Eyes & for Common use than the Enclosed Master Simple as it is.

To shut the Light out from the Top of the Spectacles a Semicircular, or Concave Screen may be made in the Shape of the Fore head, & can be jointed by Hinges to the front screen, & lay in a Sloping, or Horizontal Line, as may be found most Convenient from the Front

Front Screen to the Fore head, this may be made to Lap or Double up on the Inside, over the front Screen when the Spectacles are folded up to be put into a Case.

The above Fancy is from the Idea that the more the Intervening Light is Excluded from between the Eye & the Spectacle Glasses the more distinct will the objects appear to sore weak or Infirm Eyes - whether young or Old.

N<sup>o</sup> 1.

This Front Screen is placed between the Eye & the Spectacles & fastened to the Front Side Stems near the Hinges on each side, & should be so made as to take off & put on without Difficulty whenever Required.

N<sup>o</sup> 2, 3.

Side Screens, on the plan of Coach Horses Eye Blinkers.

This Side Screens slide up & Down the Stems, or Side Holders of the Spectacles with an Inside Flap, or valve that Lays against the Front Screen to conceal the Shining of the Hinges & to shut out the Light from the Right & Left Corners of the Spectacles Dark Enclosure.

N<sup>o</sup> 4.

The Concave Fore head Flap when folded up with the Front & Side Screens takes up more space between



between the Glasses & the folding Stems, or Head Holders  
than the Generality of Spectacles will conveniently  
admit of. —

To Remedy this Inconvenience I had the  
Side Hinges taken off & a pair of Double Hinges or  
Joints added to them, about a Quarter of an Inch  
Long with Hitching Catches, or Stop projectors about  
the Teeth, or Lips of an Inch Thick to prevent  
the Side Holders opening wider than is Required to give  
them a firm Spring Hold of the Head or Temples. —

This gives sufficient Room between the  
folding Stems & the Glasses to admit of all the  
apparatus to fold up Snow Hat & even but requires  
a Case some thing thicker & more Roomy than those  
that are used with Common Spectacles. —

## Memorandum

I have a great Idea, that Sliding  
Tubes may be made, without, or if requisite, comparatively  
small magnifying Powers, that would Enable weak Eyes  
to read small print, without the sides of their Eyes being  
annoyed, by the Glare of a Candle, or any other Light —

This Tube may be placed, on a  
Claw foot - elevating, & sliding Stand in the manner of a  
Telescope with an Universal Joint, & an adjusting Quadrant,  
that has the means, of fixing the Joint, in any Position, that  
may be required, or it may have a Horizontal movement, by  
two circular Parallel Plates, of about 1, or 2 Inches Diameter  
with adjusting screws —

The Book, or News Paper, which  
I do believe, is the smallest Print, in General use, in England  
and <sup>by</sup> no means calculated, for sore, or old Eyes, must be  
placed, in a Frame, made for the Purpose, with side Slides,  
or holders, something like Ivory Paper-knives, or Slice, to keep  
the Leaves of the Book flat & even —

This Book, or News Paper Frame,  
& that Description of Light, that passes  
must be exposed, to a moderate Degree of Light, that passes  
through a green Shade, or Glass, I should conjecture, will best  
answer the purpose, as, it will give a pleasing green Tinge, to  
the Book, or Paper, but must be so managed, as not to  
disturb.



disturb, or fatigue the Eyes in the smallest manner—

Possibly a Large Black Screen with this optical apparatus placed in the Center might answer the Purpose of defending the Eye from the surplus Light & the whole apparatus might be placed on a Table or in such other manner as Experience may prove to be most convenient—

The above I must confess is a mere Fancy & conjecture on my Part for I have not succeeded in any Experiment. I have as yet attempted to construct what I was tempted to call a Square or oblong Telescopic Spectacle Tube, or a perspective Reading Tube for weaker Infirm Eyes—

Possibly the Book or News Paper was made to slide through a Box something in the manner of a Camera Obscura or of a Magick Lantern some Light may be thrown on this Subject & of course some advantage drawn from the Experiment—

Possibly the Letters of a Book or of a News Paper &c. &c. by means of Glasses & Reflectors may be thrown in Large Characters on a Wall or on a transparent Screen & read with facility by those who could not read small Print without Difficulty even with Spectacles & have the advantage of being read by a Large Company at one & the same time—

There

There is a Story in some old French Book the Name of which does not at this moment occur to me of a man being drove out of his House by observing some strange Letters wrote on the Wall he made a Copy of these Letters & went to all Coffee Houses in Paris to get them Explained till at last he met with a Jew who told him it was a Notification to leave the House as it would soon fall Down—

Possibly this Jew himself for what will not Jews do for Gain was Interested in getting the man out of the House & made use of some similar optical apparatus to cause his Removal & was too deeply interested in the Secret to publish the Means by which he succeeded & might succeed again—

— Such things were —

If this Idea corrected & communicated to any Ingenious Gentleman who is familiar at Court or who has Access to his Majesty whose Eyes I understand are very weak or to any of the Royal family by their Encouragement & Countenance a means may be found out of giving to his Majesty the Gratification of Reading on a Wall or on a Screen as a Species of Jest of what he is told such Papers as would be inconvenient if not painful to him to pore over by Candle Light—

Ingenious



Ingenious, & Sagacious Men,  
who have Leisure, at Command, require, but a first Flint  
to accomplish the most Interesting Discoveries, & an Apparatus  
of this kind, might not only be useful, to our Sovereign - but  
gratifying to all the Elders of the Land - who may happen to  
be subject to the same, or to similar Infirmitus, & can afford  
to Indulge their Fancies - or to provide for their wants, of  
every Description -

Forgive my Community - such  
wondering Flights in hopes, that some Superior Genius  
may catch at the Thoughts, & give this Fabrick of Fancy, a  
Solid Form - & a Name -

If such should ever be the Case  
the Child, yet unborn, may live to thank, or speak well  
of the Man, of happy Faculties - & many such no doubt  
there are, in England, who first succeeds in the construction  
of such an useful, & so very desirable an Instrument -

A Reward was offered, by any of  
the Public, encouraging Societies, for the Discovery of the  
Best & most convenient Means, or Mode of Reading, small  
Print, upon a Wall, or, on, a Transparent Screen to admit  
of its being read by one, or, a Numerous Audience, at once, &  
the same time some happy optical Discovery, & Improve-  
ment might be brought to Light, which could not, be  
accomplish'd, by Individuals, or hop'd for, by any other Means.