

*The Yale Editions of  
the Private Papers of James Boswell*

RESEARCH EDITION

CATALOGUE  
OF THE PAPERS  
OF  
JAMES BOSWELL  
AT  
YALE UNIVERSITY

By Marion S. Pottle, Claude Collier Abbott  
and Frederick A. Pottle



Volume 2

# *Catalogue of the Papers of James Boswell at Yale University*

For the Greater Part Formerly the Collection  
of Lieut.-Colonel Ralph Heyward Isham

BY

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VOLUME II



EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY PRESS  
Edinburgh

YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
New Haven and London

Yale University, 1993

Edinburgh University Press  
22 George Square, Edinburgh

Set in Linotron Goudy  
by Koinonia Ltd, Bury, and  
printed in Great Britain by  
Alden Press Ltd, Oxford.  
Bound in Great Britain by  
Hunter and Foulis Ltd, Edinburgh

A CIP record for this book is available  
from the British Library

Edinburgh University Press  
ISBN 0 7486 0399 9

Yale University Press  
ISBN 0-300-05410-6

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number  
92-61708

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THE YALE EDITIONS OF  
*The Private Papers*  
of James Boswell



RESEARCH EDITION

*The Correspondence of James Boswell and John Johnston of Grange,*  
EDITED BY RALPH S. WALKER, 1966

*The Correspondence and Other Papers of James Boswell Relating to the*  
*Making of 'Life of Johnson',* EDITED BY MARSHALL WAINGROW, 1969

*The Correspondence of James Boswell with Certain Members of The Club,*  
EDITED BY CHARLES N. FIFER, 1976

*The Correspondence of James Boswell with David Garrick, Edmund Burke,*  
*and Edmond Malone,* EDITED BY PETER S. BAKER, THOMAS W. COPELAND,  
GEORGE M. KAHRL, RACHEL MCCLELLAN, AND JAMES M. OSBORN, 1986

# Cue Titles and Abbreviations

- Adam Cat.: R. B. Adam, *The R. B. Adam Library Relating to Dr. Samuel Johnson and His Era*, 4 vols., 1929–30.
- Analyt. Rev.: *The Analytical Review*, 1788–99.
- Ann. Reg.: *The Annual Register*, 1758–1862.
- Army List: *A List of the Officers of the Army*, etc., 1756–.
- Boswelliana: *Boswelliana. The Commonplace Book of James Boswell*, ed. Charles Rogers, 1874.
- BP: *Private Papers of James Boswell from Malahide Castle in the Collection of Lt.-Colonel Ralph Heyward Isham*, ed. Geoffrey Scott and F. A. Pottle, 18 vols., 1928–34. References are to the editorial commentary only.
- Burke's Reflections: Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, 1790.
- Cal. Merc.: *The Caledonian Mercury*, 1720–1867.
- Corsica: James Boswell, *An Account of Corsica, the Journal of a Tour to that Island, and Memoirs of Pascal Paoli*, 1st ed., 1768.
- Crit. Rev.: *The Critical Review*, 1756–1817.
- Critical Strictures: James Boswell, Andrew Erskine, and George Dempster, *Critical Strictures on the New Tragedy of Elvira, Written by Mr. David Malloch*, 1763.
- Daily Adv.: *The Daily Advertiser*, 1731–98.
- Diary: *The Diary, or Woodfall's Register*, 1789–93.
- Edin. Adv.: *The Edinburgh Advertiser*, 1764–1859.
- Edin. Eve. Cour.: *The Edinburgh Evening Courant*, 1718–1859.
- Edin. Her.: *The Edinburgh Herald*, 1790–1806.
- Edin. Mag.: *The Edinburgh Magazine, or Literary Miscellany*, vols. 1–16, 1785–92; N.S. vols. 1–22, 1793–Dec. 1803. Also: *The Edinburgh Magazine and Literary Miscellany; a new series of The Scots Magazine*, 18 vols., 1817–June 1826.
- Edin. Museum: *The Edinburgh Museum; or, North-British Magazine*, 1763–64.
- Edin. Weekly Mag.: *The Edinburgh Weekly Magazine*, 1768–84.
- Eng. Rev.: *The English Review*, 1783–96.
- Englishman: *The Englishman*, 1779.
- Erskine-JB Letters: Andrew Erskine and James Boswell, *Letters between the Honourable Andrew Erskine and James Boswell, Esq.*, 1763.
- Eur. Mag.: *The European Magazine*, 1782–1826.

- Fasti Scot.*: Hew Scott, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, 7 vols., 1915–28.
- Fettercairn Catalogue*: *A Catalogue of Papers Relating to Boswell, Johnson and Sir William Forbes Found at Fettercairn House, a Residence of the Rt. Hon. Lord Clinton, 1930–1931*, ed. Claude Colleer Abbott, 1936.
- Freeman's Journal*: *Public Register*: or, *The Freeman's Journal*, Dublin, 1763–74.
- Gazetteer*: *The Gazetteer and London Daily Advertiser*, 1756–96.
- Gen. Adv.*: *The General Advertiser*, London, 1776–?90.
- Gen. Eve. Post*: *The General Evening Post*, 1733–1822.
- Gent. Mag.*: *The Gentleman's Magazine*, 1731–1907.
- Hyde Collection*: The Hyde Collection, Somerville, New Jersey.
- Isham Catalogue*: *The Private Papers of James Boswell from Malahide Castle in the Collection of Lt.-Colonel Ralph Heyward Isham: A Catalogue*, ed. Frederick A. Pottle and Marion S. Pottle, 1931.
- Jurid. Rev.*: *The Juridical Review*, 1889–.
- Letter to the People, 1783*: James Boswell, *A Letter to the People of Scotland, on the Present State of the Nation*, 1783.
- Letter to the People, 1785*: James Boswell, *A Letter to the People of Scotland on ... Diminishing the Number of the Lords of Session*, 1785.
- Letters JB*: *Letters of James Boswell*, ed. C. B. Tinker, 2 vols., 1924.
- Letters SJ*: *The Letters of Samuel Johnson, with Mrs. Thrale's Genuine Letters to Him*, ed. R. W. Chapman, 3 vols., 1952.
- Life*: *Boswell's Life of Johnson, Together with Boswell's Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides and Johnson's Diary of a Journey into North Wales*, ed. G. B. Hill, rev. L. F. Powell, 6 vols., 1934–50; vols. v and vi, 2nd ed., 1964.
- Lit. Anec.*: John Nichols, *Literary Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century*, 9 vols., 1812–15.
- Lit. Car.*: F. A. Pottle, *The Literary Career of James Boswell, Esq.*, 1929; reprinted 1965, 1967.
- Lit. Illust.*: John Nichols and John Bowyer Nichols, *Illustrations of the Literary History of the Eighteenth Century*, 8 vols., 1817–58.
- Lloyd's Eve. Post*: *Lloyd's Evening Post*, 1757–1808.
- Lond. Chron.*: *The London Chronicle*, 1757–1823.
- Lond. Mag.*: *The London Magazine*, 1732–85.
- Mirror*: *The Mirror*, Edinburgh, 1779–80.
- Monthly Rev.*: *The Monthly Review*, 1749–1844.
- Morn. Chron.*: *The Morning Chronicle*, 1769–1865.
- Morn. Her.*: *The Morning Herald*, 1780–1869.
- Morn. Post*: *The Morning Post*, 1772–1937.
- North Briton*: *The North Briton*, 1762–63.
- Oracle*: *The Oracle and Public Advertiser*, 1789–98.
- P&N*: Frederick A. Pottle, *Pride and Negligence: The History of the Boswell Papers*, 1981.
- Polit. Reg.*: *The Political Register and Impartial Review of New Books*, 1767–72.
- Pub. Adv.*: *The Public Advertiser*, 1752–94.
- Pub. Ledger*: *The Public Ledger*, 1760–1836.
- Reg. Let.*: JB's register of letters sent and received.
- St. James's Chron.*: *The St. James's Chronicle*, 1761–1866.

Scots Mag.: *The Scots Magazine*, 1739–1817.

Seward Letters: *Letters of Anna Seward: Written between the Years 1784 and 1807*, ed. A. Constable, 1811.

SJ's Journey: Samuel Johnson, *A Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland*, 1st ed., 1775.

Star: *The Star and Evening Advertiser*, 1788–1831.

Tour: Boswell's *Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides*. References are to the fifth volume of the *Life* (q.v. this list) unless otherwise indicated.

Univ. Mag.: *The Universal Magazine of Knowledge and Pleasure*, 1747–1803.

Univ. Scots Almanack: *The Universal Scots Almanack*.

Waingrow: *The Correspondence and Other Papers of James Boswell Relating to the Making of the "Life of Johnson"*, ed. Marshall Waingrow, 1969.

Walpole's Correspondence, Yale ed.: *The Yale Edition of Horace Walpole's Correspondence*, ed. W. S. Lewis and others, 1937–83.

Whitehall Eve. Post: *The Whitehall Evening-Post*, 1746–1801.

World: *The World*, 1787–94.

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VOLUME II



## SECTION C

### *Letters to Boswell and Others*

This section consists of letters and other MSS. not written by JB. Unless otherwise stated, the handwriting is that of the author. A few MSS. in JB's hand have been included: some copies made by him of documents composed by others, papers dictated to him, and Johnsonian material taken down by him in conversation with the contributors (e.g. Dr. Adams, Dr. Taylor). Further explanatory notes in regard to Johnsonian material will be found under the heading 'Johnson, Samuel' in this section.

The arrangement is alphabetical under the authors' names. For convenience, two communications regarding Corsica, sent by John Dick for JB's information, and two inscriptions by Fra Giulio are entered with other Corsican documents of an official nature under the heading 'Corsica'. Manuscript poems for which the authorship has not been established are grouped together under the heading 'Verses'. MSS., unless otherwise designated, are letters; letters written to persons other than JB have the name of the recipient immediately following the name of the writer.

At the end of the alphabet will be found several entries under the heading 'Unidentified'.

C 1] ABERCROMBIE, JAMES. 25 January 1792, Philadelphia. 4 leaves, 5 sides written on. Signed: Jas. Abercrombie. Seal. Addressed: James Boswell Esqr. of Auchinleck. To the Care of Mr. Charles Dilly, Bookseller, London. This letter was enclosed in C 2.

An American admirer of SJ and of the *Life* presumes to address JB and to transmit copies of two letters written by SJ to Americans, one to Mr. B—d (Phineas Bond), the other to Dr. William White, Bishop of Pennsylvania. He enumerates the Johnsonian books in his own library, and asks about other publications by or about SJ. He inquires whether any sermons by SJ other than those 'left for publication by Dr. Taylor' have been found. For reply see L 1.

C 2] ABERCROMBIE, JAMES. To Charles Dilly, 26 January 1792, Philadelphia. 2 leaves, 1 side written on. Signed: Jas. Abercrombie. Seal. Postmarks. Addressed: Mr. Charles Dilly, Bookseller, Poultry, London. Pr. Ship Bristol Via New York. Endorsed by JB: 'From Mr. Abercrombie Philadelphia.

25 Janry. 1792. Answer Within'. Text slightly damaged by tearing around seal.

Asking Dilly to forward the enclosed letter (C 1) to JB. JB's endorsement shows that this letter was used as a wrapper to C 1 and L 1.

C 3] ABERCROMBIE, JAMES. 10 October 1792, Philadelphia. 4 leaves, 8 sides written on. Signed: Jas. Abercrombie. Wrapper, with seal. Addressed: James Boswell Esqr., London. Endorsed: 'James Abercrombie Esq. Philadelphia 10 Octr. 1792'. A reply to L 1.

He has ascertained from Bishop White that SJ's third letter to an American was written to the Rev. Jonathan Odell, and is making efforts to obtain the letter and possibly others. He thanks JB for his promise of a copy of the second edition of the *Life* and for John Courtenay's *Poetical Review*, which he has received. He sends JB a copy of Francis Hopkinson's *Miscellaneous Essays* and mentions Judge James Wilson's *Introductory Lecture to a Course of Law Lectures*. In America the acquisition of property is more eagerly pursued than the advancement of literature; political prejudice is still strong against SJ, and Abercrombie knows of nothing written about him there. He would like two pamphlets, 'a Criticism on Gray's Elegy, said to be written by a Mr. Young' and mentioned by JB in the *Life* as the best imitation of SJ, and 'the Funeral Sermon preached before the University of Oxford, by Mr. Agutter'. For reply see L 2. See also C 26.

C 4] ABERCROMBIE, JAMES. 17 May 1793, Philadelphia. 4 folio leaves, 8 sides written on. Signed: Jas. Abercrombie. Wrapper, with seals. Addressed: James Boswell Esqr., London. Endorsed: 'James Abercrombie Esq. Philadelphia 17 May 1793. Answer Within to this, and to his letter of 10 Octr. 1792'. A pencilled note in an unidentified handwriting reads: 'Cham—Corps etc.'

Though he has had no answer to his last letter, he ventures to write once more. A letter from the Rev. Mr. Odell is quoted in which Odell says his letter from SJ was lost. Abercrombie transmits, however, a copy of an account written by Dr. Benjamin Rush of his meeting SJ at Sir Joshua Reynolds's in 1768, where Goldsmith also took a share in the conversation; Dr. Rush also recalls dining in company with JB at Sir Alexander Dick's, and has received from the Rev. Mr. Hall at Leghorn some original letters 'from eminent characters' to Dr. Smollett, among which was one from JB (see \*L 1162). From a letter from Dr. Armstrong to Smollett, Abercrombie points out that *Cham* not *Chum* is the correct reading of the word (*Life* i. 348); he also sends the pun on *corps* from *Ménagiana* (*Life* ii. 241). He hopes a correspondent in *Gent. Mag.* is right in believing JB is to write about Sir Joshua's tour to the Netherlands. He asks if JB has learned for whom SJ wrote the sermon he mentioned. Abercrombie has received two fine engravings, one of JB and one of SJ. He sends by the ship *Pigou* three late (unnamed) publications, but 'a curious Dissertation on the Elements of written language' with some severe strictures on SJ (by William Thornton, M.D.) could not be sent, as it was still in the press. For reply see L 2.

C 5] ABERCROMBIE, JAMES. 22 August 1793, Philadelphia. 2 leaves, 2 sides written on. Signed: Jas. Abercrombie. Seal. Addressed: James Boswell Esqr., London. Endorsed: 'James Abercromby Esq. Philadelphia. August 22. 1793'.

He is now sending Thornton's essay (*Cadmus: or, a Treatise on the Elements of Written Language*) mentioned in his last letter, and presumes JB has already received the packet he sent by the *Pigou*. For reply see L 3.

C 6] ABERCROMBIE, JAMES. 28 June 1794, Philadelphia, Pine Street, No. 101. 2 leaves, 2 sides written on. Signed: Jas. Abercrombie. Seal. Addressed: James Boswell Esqr., London. Endorsed by Alexander Boswell: 'Jas. Abercrombie Philadelphia'.

Abercrombie mentions his letter dated 15 Dec. (1793), which contained his thanks for JB's present of a copy of the second edition of the *Life* and announced his entering holy orders. He sends Dr. Rush's account of the fever which prevailed at Philadelphia, saying that in it Dr. Rush differs from Dr. Lettsom and other physicians as to the source of the sickness. He is sending this by Dr. Coxe (John Redman Coxe), a young man of respectable connexions and a former pupil of Dr. Rush.

C 6.4] ABERDEEN. 'Diploma Abredonense Pro Joanne Boswell Armigero. 1764'. 17 May 1764. In Latin. Signed by Robert Thomson. Written on the inside of a folded leaf of parchment; on a red ribbon inserted in slits at the lower edge is moulded a wax casing containing an impression of the city seal. The title as quoted on the outside.

The burgess ticket refers to John Boswell as a Captain in the Regiment of Scots Fusiliers ('Sclopetarionum'); his rank was actually first lieutenant.

C 7] ABINGTON, FRANCES (BARTON). 14 June [1791, London]. 2 leaves, 2 sides written on. In the third person. Seal. Addressed: James Boswell Esqr. Endorsed: 'Mrs. Abington'. JB has copied his reply (L 4) on side 3.

The actress regrets being away from home when JB called and expresses her pleasure at 'the handsome manner' in which he mentioned her in the *Life*.

[?ABOYNE, CHARLES GORDON, 1ST E. OF. *Elegy on Adam Gray*], see M 344.

ACCADEMIA CYRNAEA, see CORSICA. ACCADEMIA CYRNAEA.

C 8] ACCADEMIA DEGLI ARCADI, ROME. Diploma of membership [c. 17 May 1765]. 2 folio leaves; a printed form with portions (containing names and the date) written in by hand. Signed with the initials of Miréo Rofeatico (Michele Giuseppe Morei), Custode Generale, and in full by Filillo Liparedò, Sotto-Custode. The seals of the Arcadia and of the Custode embossed. Wrapper, with seal. Addressed: All' Ill[ustriss]mo Sig[no]re, Sig[no]re P[at]rone Col[endisse]mo, Il Sig[no]r Barone Giacomo Boswell —Venezia.

JB is admitted to membership in this Republic of Letters, his sponsors being Carillo Maratonio and Filandro Lampidiano (the Abbé Peter Grant); henceforth his name in the Arcadia is to be Icarus Tarsensis. The handwriting resembles that of Camillo Paderni (see C 2147). The document is dated in terms of the Arcadian calendar.

C 9] ADAMS, SARAH. 9 May 1786, Oxford. 2 leaves, 2 sides written on. Signed: S. Adams. Seal. Addressed: James Boswell Esqr., London. Endorsed: 'Miss Adams about Dr. Johnson. 1786'. A reply to L 5.

She is sending a copy of the rules which JB requested. Her father, Dr. William Adams, has been too unwell to search for letters or papers relating to SJ, but if anything be found hereafter worth communicating, he will be very glad to do it.

C 10] ADAMS, SARAH. 13 June 1787, Oxford. 2 leaves, 3 sides written on. Signed: S. Adams. Seal. Postmarks. Addressed: James Boswell Esqr., Great Queen Street, London. Endorsed: 'Miss Adams of Oxford'.

Miss Adams has been unable to find the little memorandum she made of SJ's water-drinking 'Regimen' and his writings; if she finds it in the country she will send it. She asks if he has seen No. 13 of the *Olla Podrida* on SJ's biographers. In a postscript she asks JB to make arrangements with his neighbour John Opie to have Dr. Adams's picture sent to Oxford.

C 11] ADAMS, WILLIAM. 1 May 1778, Oxford. 2 leaves, 1 side written on. Signed: W. Adams. Seal. Postmarks. Addressed: To James Boswell Esqr. at Genl. Paoli's, South Audley Street. A reply to L 6.

He will always be glad to see JB in Oxford. He much regrets that he missed seeing General Paoli at Shrewsbury.

C 12] ADAMS, WILLIAM. To Samuel Johnson. 27 May 1780, Oxford. 2 leaves, sides 1 and 3 written on. Signed: W. Adams. Seal. Addressed: Dr. Saml. Johnson.

Information about Shenstone.

C 13] ADAMS, WILLIAM. Anecdotes of SJ. [c. 11–15 June 1784, Oxford]. 7 leaves, 10 sides written on; side 8, however, contains an anecdote told to JB by Charles Howard of Lichfield (see C 1554), probably during one of JB's visits, which took place at the end of April and again the last of June in 1784. In JB's handwriting.

These notes about SJ were taken down by JB from conversations with Dr. Adams during his visit to Oxford with SJ in June 1784. Most of the notes are written hastily, as if made during the conversation; the only portion dated (sides 9 and 10, dated 15 June 1784) is more carefully written; and the account of the first night of *Irene* on side 10 is expanded from a rough note recorded in J 93 (entries for 11–15 June).

C 14] ADAMS, WILLIAM. 17 February 1785, Oxford. 4 leaves, 8 sides written on. Signed: W. Adams. A reply to L 8.

Dr. Adams has searched 'the College Books' and gives JB 'all the little Materials' he can concerning SJ. These include accounts of SJ as a student at Oxford and reminiscences of his early efforts in literature and other projects, closing with his last visit to Oxford and his final remembrance of Pembroke College. JB made extensive use of this letter in the *Life*.

C 15] ADAMS, WILLIAM. 28 March 1785, Oxford. 2 leaves, 3 sides written

on. Signed: W. Adams. Seal. Postmarks. Addressed (by Sir Charles Preston): James Boswell Esqr., James's Court, Edinburgh. Franked: London twenty ninth March 1785. Free Chas. Preston.

He tells JB what letters from SJ he has, gives him also some more anecdotes and information about the Doctor, and entrusts JB with a commission to inquire about a Scottish physician named Grieves (John Grieve, M.D.).

C 16] ADAMS, WILLIAM. 18 July 1785, Oxford. 2 leaves, 1 side written on. Signed: W. Adams. Wafer. Postmarks. Addressed: James Boswell Esqr. at Genl. Paoli's, Portman Square.

An immediate journey to Shropshire deprives him of the hope of seeing JB at Oxford.

C 17] [ADAMS, WILLIAM. 17 November 1785, Oxford]. 2 fragments of the letter, one with both sides written on, the other, 1 side written on, with a note by JB.

The fragments each measure about  $2\frac{3}{8}$  by 3 inches; they are shown to be parts of the same letter by the chain-lines and folds, and the date is supplied by JB's quotation in the Advertisement to the *Life* (*Life* i. 8–9). The excerpt in *Life* iv. 416 n. 2 is probably also from this same letter. JB's note on the second fragment (which contains practically nothing of Adams's letter but his closing formula of compliment) suggests that in the missing portions (as in C 18) Adams asserted that SJ intended him, not the Rev. George Strahan, to have the MS. of the *Prayers and Meditations*.

C 18] ADAMS, WILLIAM. 12 July 1786, Oxford. 2 leaves, 3 sides written on. Signed: W. Adams. Seal. Addressed: James Boswell Esqr. Endorsed: 'Rev. Dr. Adams'.

He has looked repeatedly for letters of SJ but finds none of the least use to JB. The subject of his last correspondence with him was an edition of Xenophon's *Memorabilia Socratis*, of which undertaking he gives details. He adds some particulars of SJ's early life and ambitions; and regrets that Strahan has unadvisedly published the prayers, which were, he says, 'designed, and in the Envelope were directed to me, as Dr. Scott told me'. In a postscript he refutes Mrs. Piozzi's saying that SJ 'never attended his Tutours Lectures'.

C 19] ADEY, MARY. 26 February 1785, Lichfield. 3 folio leaves, 6 sides written on. With these, 2 folio leaves, 4 sides written on, described below. Signed. A reply to L 9.

Miss Adey sends some anecdotes about SJ, in one of which Richard Greene figures. She is surprised SJ did not remember Lucy Porter and JB in his will. Several Lichfield people are mentioned, and she speaks with affection of the Friary, where she and her aunt Mrs. Cobb had lived twenty-three years. The enclosure was a copy of SJ's letter to Joseph Simpson (*Life* i. 346–47), and in a long and personal note subjoined Miss Adey, who was a relative of Mr. Simpson, remarks on the situation which occasioned the letter; JB sent this with necessary directions to the printer as a Paper Apart of the MS. of the *Life* (see M 145 pp. 218–20).

C 20] ADEY, MARY. 21 July 1791, Lichfield. 2 leaves, 4 sides written on.

Signed. Wrapper. Addressed: James Boswell Esqr., To The care of — Courtenay Esqr., M.P., London. Endorsed: "Miss Mary Adye Lichfield".

The purpose of the letter is to introduce Mr. Molesworth, a friend of hers and a great admirer of the *Life*. Her aunt has had a fall and is suffering a great deal. They have read the *Life* 'with Admiration and delight'. Mr. Hector has consulted about Mrs. Cobb's lameness. Mention is made of SJ's monument in the Cathedral and of Richard Greene's failing health.

AERSSSEN, see SOMMELSDYCK.

C 21] AGAR, WELBORE ELLIS. 31 May 1791, Custom House [London]. 2 leaves, 1 side written on. Signed: W. E. Agar. Wrapper, with seal torn away. Addressed: To James Boswell Esqr., Portland Street, No. 47.

JB had applied to Agar on behalf of an old college mate, Alexander Dawson, son of Professor Dawson of Edinburgh. Agar replies that he will appoint Dawson to the post of extra tide-waiter.

C 22] AGAR, WELBORE ELLIS. 3 June 1791, Custom House [London]. 2 leaves, 1 side written on. Signed: W. E. Agar. Wrapper, with seal. Addressed: To James Boswell Esqr., Great Portland Street.

Concerning JB's application for employment in the Customs for Alexander Dawson. See L 10.

C 23] AGAR, WELBORE ELLIS. 30 June 1791, Custom House [London]. 2 leaves, 3 sides written on. Signed: W. E. Agar. Wrapper, with seal torn away. Addressed: To James Boswell Esqr., Great Portland Street. A reply to L 11.

Thanking JB for his present of the *Life* and inviting him, Courtenay, and Malone to dinner the next day.

C 24] AGAR, WELBORE ELLIS. 17 February 1795, New Norfolk Street [London]. 2 leaves, 1 side written on. Signed: W. E. Agar. Wrapper, with seal. Addressed: To James Boswell Esqr., Great Portland Street. Endorsed by Alexander Boswell: 'Concerning Alexr. Dawson who was at College with my Father'. A reply to L 12.

A note acknowledging receipt of JB's letter asking for a promotion for Dawson, but stating that the writer is at present too ill 'to enter upon any Custom House business'.

C 25] AGNEW, NATHANIEL, AND ALEXANDER BURTON. 17 June 1772, Wigtown. 2 leaves, 1 side written on. Signed: Nathl. Agnew; Alexr. Burton. Seal. Addressed: James Boswell Esqr., Advocate, Edinburgh.

The Town Council of Wigtown ask JB to represent them at the Convention of Royal Burghs. For reply see L 13.



C 25.2] AGNEW, PATRICK. To Alexander Boswell (Lord Auchinleck). 6 November 1749, Merton. 2 leaves, 2 sides written on. Signed: Pat. Agnew. Seal. Addressed: to Alexr. Boswell Esqre. of Affleck, at his House In Edinburgh. Endorsed: 'Mr. Agnew of Dalraige, 6 Novr. 1749'.

Introducing and asking Alexander Boswell's patronage of his nephew Patrick Kincaid. He mentions his children Jean and Alexander.

C 26] AGUTTER, WILLIAM. 17 October 1792, No. 7 Furnival's Inn Court, Holborn [London]. 2 leaves, 2 sides written on. Signed: W. Agutter. JB's reply (L 14) is copied on side 3. Wrapper, with wafer. Addressed: James Boswell Esqr., Portland Street. Endorsed: 'Rev. Mr. Agutter, 17 Octr. 1792 Answer Within'.

He is enclosing a copy of his *Christian Politicks* as a testimony of his admiration for the *Life*, and offers corrections and remarks for a second edition. His sermon on SJ's death, mentioned in the *Life*, is not yet printed.

C 27] AIKEN, ROBERT. 23 February 1786, Ayr. 2 leaves, 4 sides written on. Signed: Rob. Aiken. Seal. Addressed in the handwriting of a ?clerk: James Boswell Esqr. of Auchinleck, London.

Robert Aiken, a writer in Ayr, was the friend and patron of Burns. In this letter he mentions the solicitation of JB by the Society of Procurators (see C 1843), and himself seeks JB's advice on the division of the estate of a man who has died in Russia. JB's answer to Aiken is not preserved, but the summary of it in Reg. Let. under 5 Mar. reads: '—that the Russia money left by Aitken is to be paid as I shall advise and that I am now getting it ascertained whether the law of Russia or of Scotland is to regulate the succession—that I wish well to the children of the deceased brother and he should try to get an amicable allowance'.

C 28] AIKEN, ROBERT. 18 September 1786, Ayr. 2 leaves, 2 sides written on. Signed: Rob. Aiken. Addressed: James Boswell Esqr. of Auchinleck.

The writer laments that although 'within six Miles of Auchenleck' he was prevented from paying his respects to JB. John Boswell of Knockroon will inform JB of 'the Business of the humble surveyor'. (Aiken was for many years Surveyor of Taxes in Ayr.)

AITKEN, EDWARD, see C 409.

C 29] ALEMBERT, JEAN LE ROND D'. To Topham Beauclerk. [1762 or 1763, Paris]. 2 leaves, 1 side written on, with address and endorsement on side 1. In French. In the third person. A small portion containing one letter in the writer's name has been eaten away. Wafer. Postmarks. Addressed: A Monsieur, Monsieur Baucklerc, à l'hôtel de Tours, rue du Paon. Endorsed by JB: 'D'alembert'.

D'Alembert regrets that an engagement prevents his dining with Beauclerk and Langton on that day.

C 30] ALEXANDER, CLAUD. 5 March 1787, Ballochmyle. 2 leaves, 2 sides