

## LETTER NO. 36

*To Richard Weekes, 7 January 1802*

St. Thomas's Jany. 7th. 1802,

Dear Father —

I write to acknowledge ye. receipt of ye. Lewis bank note value £10, with wh. I will go with Mr. Sparrow for a good Brussels Carpet, I this day have been asking Mr. Whitfield what he gave for his B.C. that he has in ye. drawing Room he told me 7s. pr. Yd. made up, but at ye. place where Mr. S. recommends me I hope to be able to get one cheaper,

I must confess you very much surprised me when you inform'd me of Mrs. Newnham's giving up Housekeeping, & more particy. of Master Payne who I am, (I was going to say shure you did not suspect) tho: you I believe sometimes thought indifferently of him,

I met ye. Sparrow family yesterday at ye. Liverian Musm. they were there nearly 2 hours but I was there longer, I begin from hearing Dr. Babington Lecture on Minerals to be fond of it & am beginning ye. study of Mineralogy, I bought one of ye. catalogues of ye. minerals of ye. Liverian Museum,<sup>201</sup>

I am going to morrow with Mrs. Attree & Daugtrs. to see Mr. Wilsons collectn. in ye. Minorities who has a very good one, we dined with him at ye. christening at Old Laud, I have only 10 minutes to spare; I think of sending a parcell by Knowles next time.

I remain yours dutifully

H Weekes.

I think with you I had better not leave St. Thomas's for in ye. 1st place it will be unhinging me from my business here, also ye. spending of petty well two guineas down & up,

Master Breads, has turn'd out at last as you expected he would, I hope you will be no looser, but am somewhat affraid of it, I do not exactly understand you when you say that Mr. Bates offers £15.0s, If you mean he will give 15s. more than Breads will,

I will deliver your request to Mr. Holmer with compliments to ye. family,

I think my preparation will be dry enough to send with ye. Femor of ye. Elephant, I have turpented it well as to varnish I believe you have some, — The Elephants bone shd. be macerated for 4 or 5 months tho: it is quite dry yet by this means ye. ligaments will separate nicely & ye. bone become white, when it wd. be much handsomer,

<sup>201</sup> Sir Ashton Lever (1729–80) formed a collection of shells, fossils, and natural objects at his home near Manchester. He moved to Leicester House, Leicester Square, in 1774, but found that he could not afford the upkeep. He offered it for sale through a lottery of one-guinea tickets. The winner was James Parkinson, who moved the collection to Blackfriars. It closed in 1802, and the collection was auctioned.

## LETTER NO. 37

*From Richard Weekes, 8 January 1802, Postscript by Dick Weekes*

Friday Eveng. Jany. 8. 1802

Hampton —

We Recd. your Letter this day, I have not heard from Breads therefore shall send up Hannington, Sunday, or Monday, last Evening, came by Post the Carpenter & bricklayers bills the former £73. The latter £16 besides which there is the Brick, Lime, &c. 25, or 30, £ more but I hope he has paid for some of the materials, am fearful I shall loose my Rent – I said I beleft Bates would give me £150 pr Annum If so I hope I shall not be much looser at last, —

Enclosed I send you Mrs. Newnhams Draft, for £30.7s. which I wish you to go to the Bank, of Messrs. Newnham & Co.<sup>202</sup> & get the Cash, for immediately, & with that money you may go & pay Adcock, his demand on me, is £22.18s. you will take a receipt. & next you may go to Satterleys [ . . . ] him for a Crate of Vials which I promised to pay him ready money for I expect them to Morrow, If you have not money enough send me word & I will send up more.

Wm. Borrer wishes to know if you have carried the plant he left with you to Sowerbys, & what it is. We want a set of Fish & Counters enquire the price of a neat set that be strong & durable, Do you see the operation of Cupping often at the Hospital I wish you would get thoroughly acquainted with doing it so as to draw much blood, look well to the SScarificator see if it be different from ours. —

Dick says there is several questions in our last letter that you have not answer'd do peruse it over again Dick wants Cullens Nosologia<sup>203</sup> if you can spare it, what did the Catalogue cost you of the minerals at the Liverian Museum Dick says he shd. like to have it, I was sent for yesterday to Mrs. Hunters at Henfield who is very ill I prescribd for her meaning that Morgan<sup>204</sup> who had attended her should send the Medicines but he refus'd & has sent in his bill, so now we supply her & see her every day and one or two more in the Village, H. Wickhams Daughter, Mrs. Burt was taken in Labour just as the Small Pox was making its appearance but the Child had no marks of Small Pox nor has it now altho: it was 6 days ago that it was born I have innoculated it its arm rises well and the Woman altho: she has a great crop of pustules is doing very well — Mary Ann wishes you to get her half a Hundred of the best White Chappel Nedles. No. 6 7.8.&9. St. Pauls Churchyard is the place she says – Mr. Cripps's address is J.M. Cripps Esqr. Messrs. Fries & Co: Vienna I had a third letter from him about the middle of December but it was 3 Months reaching me, I suppose he will be home in the spring, this day I was at Stantons & saw several of his dried specimens of plants, but I think many of them not well preservd and some of them I believe have been wetted wth. Salt Water so has some of the Drawing & prints, it wants taking out and Airing but Old Cripps is very particular & dont care to have any of it look'd at, Mrs.

<sup>202</sup> Nathaniel Newnham, President of St Thomas's, was a banker trading as Newnham Everett Tibbets and Everett of 9 Mansion House Street.

<sup>203</sup> William Cullen (1710–90), *Synopsis nosologiae methodicae*, Edinburgh, W Creech, 1780.

<sup>204</sup> Charly Morgan, surgeon-apothecary at Henfield.

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Cripps has a slight attack of Inflammatory Rheumatism, a complaint pretty general in this neighbourhood at present, Charly Morgan gives Bark during the high inflammatory stage of the disorder neglecting the Lancett in Robust habits & country situations, this is horrid practice, nothing but evacuations will do ——

I am got level with Master Paulo, for we have got a pauper belonging to Cleyton (of wh. he is parish Doctor) with the natural Small Pox & one inoculated, which Clayton parish is to pay for, we intend to make what we can of him – Grace's Eye has been bad again but by applying the Leaches twice it is now nearly well.

I Dine with Bridger to Morrow on a Turkey, at 3. oClock must first go to Patcham at apply some leaches to iss Joan Davis, then home then to Henfield, Dick to Broadstreet, H. Wickhams, Poynings &c.&c. Dick was on foot yesterday all round Bolney & lord knows wtere we have not more than 2 Journeys more carrying in of bills.——

Dont forget to go with the draft directly for good reasons & you had better pay Satterley first I think ——

Have you got nothing new to send us down for the use of our shop no Medicine, no Utensil, nothing that we have not got & that would be useful? ——

Be shure you write me as soon as you receive the Letter acknowledging the draft or I shall be uneasy.

We have 2 or 3 Labors a Week the days are short and our business lays wide with snow upon the ground so that we are obliged to walk to some places, so that we are pretty active, but the Doctor & I enjoy good health & spirits. Cappy is an excellent horse & Bobby as sound as a bell.<sup>205</sup> No lame horses since you left us.,

Dear Hampton,

Mr. Campion Junr. of Danny and Campion of Lewes with Ge. Courthope Junr. came through our Parlour to the stable to see Bulle.<sup>206</sup> we ask 45 Guineas for him. and perhaps Ge. Courthope may have him for 40 guineas or a little more we are getting in a little at Danny now. he askd. after you very kindly. Mrs. Campion desidrd to see my father when he went to see one of the servants and had some conversation with him (what a wonder)

<sup>205</sup> The health of the horses was almost as important as their own health, hence the indecision about selling their favourite Bull. In October 1804, Richard Weekes had four riding horses as well as a horse for his gig, ESRO Par 400/113/2.

<sup>206</sup> William Campion of Lewes (1738–1818) and George Courthope were brothers-in-law and uncles to Mr Campion Jun (i.e., William Campion 1770–1855). See *Danny archives*, op. cit., note 117 above, p. xviii.

## LETTER NO. 38

*To Richard Weekes, 11 January 1802*

St. Thomas's Jany. 11th. 1802 –

Dear Father,

I foolishly in my last; mentioned that I did not understand what ye. sum was; wh. Mr. Bates you thought would give pr. Annum but on perusing your letter a second time, (which practice I persue with all I do recieve) I then clearly saw my mistake I dare say you thought it very stupid of me, perhaps the Farm will not be dear at £150,—

If I recollect right, you expressed yourself in the same terms; of old Jack; when he was of ye. age of Bull or perhaps a year older, but I very well remember you were about to sell him to some of ye. Stage Coach Keepers. So that it runs in my mind that Bull will turn out to be a very able working, valuable, & good Horse in an other year or two,

I had heard of Dr. Lewis's being very ill & not likly to live long, from young Ingram, He is gone home to stay 3 Weeks I believe perhaps I mistake when I say gone but he told me in a day or two.

In my last I told you I were going with Mrs. Attree to Mr. Wilsons No. 154 Minories,<sup>207</sup> who I am shure is an exceeding wealthy Man, I walkd to Temple Bare where Mrs. A. is staying & her daughter Mary, it was a very nasty mornng. From thence we took a Coach, & as we rode along takd of this & that, & as you did not speak of Mrs. Newnham's breaking up housekeeping, as a secret I told her that piece of news wh. surprized her amazingly - Well we got to 154, were shewn in by servants in waiting, all in stile, I was introduced & made known & recieved very pleasantly, Mr. W. is a member of ye. antiquarian society, & a curious old fellow very fond of paintings & has got some very valuable ones indeed & numberless valuable curiosities in your way Dr. Dick, most of wh. that I saw containd in a cabinet some what similar to W. Borrers, but much richer all coverd with Tortise Shell with a good deal of gilt about it, He has got several little boxes made of agate, rubies, pearls, precious stones &c &c all in ye. valuable way not so much fond of natural curiosities as of ye. kind of play things as I call them (tho: I do not say that mind you; to any one;) but among all these I saw some nice specimens such as I saw at ye. Liverian Museum of gold, silver, Copper, Antimony needle, in their native state, not oxydated, my Boy, I shall soon be able to converse in mineralogical terms for I am daily getting more & more fond of it, have got a card given to me to ye. European Museum by Mr. Sparrow who has one sent him every year, – But I find I am leaving Mr. Wilson who I like much, He shewd us ye. identicle handle of Mary Queen of Scots Coffin, a small miniture painting (I laughd most astonishingly. about ye. devil over ye. mantle) about this size only a little wider, wh. he had been offerd 20 guineas for, also an other somewhat larger; a portrait of a Lady, which had been offerd 30 for, done by Cooper,

<sup>207</sup> In business as a gun-maker. The painting he owned "by Cooper" was presumably by Richard Cooper (1740–1814), painter and engraver, rather than by Samuel Cooper (1609–1672), the miniaturist.

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a famous painter, He told me he had a very good collection of Fossils and Minerals at his beautifull country house at (I forget where) He does not mind 10 guineas for any excellent portrait or specimen, He appears to have been very much courted by some of ye. great people, for he shewd us several valuable specimens which had been given to him, He made Mrs. Attree a present of a little box of agate set in silver gilt a very pretty present indeed also a piece of agate to Miss A. shaped like an Oyster shell And what do you think he gave me, wh. I thanked him very politely for as you may suppose, A very pretty specimen of native silver Ore with some portion of chrystalline earth adhering to it, (I wish there was more of that) for that renders specimens of that kind ye. more valuable, And as I am not a collector for myself, I will present you with it, Dr. Dick for I believe you have not so good a specimen,

Mr. Wilsons Son is the 3d. best Chess player in Europe, indeed ye. 2d. now; for Fillidore<sup>208</sup> is dead whose portrait he shewd us, so that Count Brule, is ye. first now, – We did not see his Son, Mr. W. desired to be remembered to you but he hardly recollected you at Old Laud,

Young Cline, supped with us on Friday night, Fixott & I supped with him last night, He supps with us I believe to night again, for he takes in this Week, We send for 2 or 3 shillings worth of Oysters, – I have just been calld to a patient of Mr. Clines who was taken in Thursday last struck with Lightning wh. cause has produced blindness, & stupidity with ye. loss of use of his extremitities, his Pulse I find are 160 and involuntarily evacuates ye. feces & urine, I immedy. recmd. blood letting & blister to his back, a young man 20,

Now you see from this a mark of neglect for nothing had been prescribed for him since Thursday he being a Surgeons patient calld, tho: I think a Physicians for the Surgeons of St. Thomas's are not allowed to prescribe for their patients, It is not so at Guys for there ye. Surgeons prescribe themselves, wh. I think is but right,

Attree will be at Brighton sometime next Week I believe, with his Mother & Sister, He rode out yesterday in a Coach for ye. first time, He is about to loose his Thumb nail, & I believe will loose his little one also, Mr. Cooper thinks ye. effect of ye. hot fomenting cloths, —

I will now begin an other subject, wh. is this; that the present paper for discussion before ye. Physical Society (Not ours wh. is ye. Clinical) is on ye. origin of ye. Variola Vaccinae in wh. ye. author Mr. Paslove<sup>209</sup> one of ye. Pupils states some stuborne facts, of its certainly originating from some acrid matter of ye. heels of ye. Horse, Cases he states of farmers servants taking an eruptive complaint very similar to ye. eruptive one from ye. Tetts of ye. Cow, Mr. Paslove is a Glosteshire Man & well acquainted with Dr. Jenner, who honourd ye. society with his company he came in

<sup>208</sup> M.F.A. Danican, known as Philidor, had revived the spectacle of playing several games of chess at the same time blindfold. He died in 1795.

<sup>209</sup> Francis Roger Parslow entered as a pupil under Cooper for twelve months on 3 October 1800. He read his paper on Var. vacc. to the Physical Society on 12 December 1801. On 7 January, the Society's Committee proposed Jenner as an honorary member and decided to ask him to attend during the discussion of Parslow's paper. This took place on the evenings of 9, 16, 23, 30 January 1802, but there is no note of Hampton's speech. Jenner was given a testimonial and diploma by the Society in gratitude, on 20 February, both of which are now in the library of the Wellcome Institute. (See minute books of the Society, and John Baron, *The life of Edward Jenner*, London, 1827, p. 538.)

with Mr. Cooper & immedy. a violent clapping of hands ensued, Dr. Jenner made a bow & took a seat. The Theatre of Guys was filled 200 people, numbers of old Practitioners, some who had just returned from Egypt, Dr. Babbington, Dr. Haighton, Dr. Curry, & many other professors, – I had got introduced by one of ye. young men & when Cooper had took a seat I saw him look at me very much, & presently he addressed ye. chair, Dr. Haight. being president, To ye. following affect, - Mr. President [. . .] say [. . .] there is gentlemen in this society who st[. . .] remarkable cases of an eruptive complaint being taken from ye. heels of a Horse, He will excuse my Mentioning his name I mean Mr. Weekes, - So I'en got up to address ye. Chair also, when I told all that I knew of ye. two men at Wapses wh. you have not forgot I am shure, (I only wish you could have an opportunity of Inoculating one or both of them with both cow pock & Variolus matter, that I might be able to state to ye. society ye. affect.) You will suppose I felt a little trepidation, but before I had done it had vanish & a certain degree of confidence & taken place, – I have this moment recieved yours containg. Mrs. Newnham's draught wh. I will go with to Newnham's Everetts & Co & pay Adcock, & Satterley, (Dr. Jenner comes to ye. society on Saturday next & all that were present I believe) for the paper was not one third discussed, (There has been a subscription opened for Dr. Jenner amountg. to 400 pounds wh. is to by a piece of plate for a commemoration) I meant to send this letter with 3lb. of Cocoa, ye. Elephants Thigh, with some &c's wh. will arrive by Knowles's Waggon with a Letter in answer to yours I have this moment recieved, for I shall be able to morrow & nexday mornng. to exicute your commands, (I can inform you there is no attention paid to cupping here there is only an old Scarificator or two very out of repair, & for that reason is hardly ever recommended<sup>210</sup>) I long to hear from you of ye. arrival of Mr. Breads with his rent, & things settled to your satisfaction, but confess to be somewhat affraid of it, – Tell W.Borrer I took ye. Euphorbia, or Spurge 3 day after I saw him having in ye. interval put it into water wh. very much refreshd it, Sowerby told me it was now in [. . .] wether or not it was an English plant & that he would send his Son with it in a day or two to Sr. Josh. Banks's & when he had clearly ascertainnd what species it was hewould write to inform him — Miss S.Sparrow was married Saturday to Mr. Jacob Wood Gold refiner, I will send Cullen, but cannot spare ye. catalogue of minerals yet but will send it in 3 week or Month, I gave 2s.6d. for it, there is one plate wh. represents the variety of Chystalizations wh. assists a young Mineralogist, & I am cutting out their shapes in cork, wh. I advise Dr. Dick when I send him ye. Catalogue (have patients Dr.) I think I see plainly Morgan; to use a vulgar term does not know wh. side his bread is butterd, – I am glad Dr. D. assists you in Midwifry – I hope you will badger Paulo out of, ye. small pox business – I am glad Graces Eyes are better, You must excuse any more at present for want of room.

Adieu Yours &c.  
Hampton Weekes

<sup>210</sup> "Cupping has been very much laid aside, and the consensus is that in surgery sufficient attention has not been paid to it." George Fordyce, 'Lectures on medicine 1788–9', taken down by Richard Whitfield, vol. 2, p. 67, STHMS M60.

LETTER NO. 39

To Richard Weekes, 12 January 1802

St. Thomas's Jany. 12th. 1802

Dear Father

I begin with apogising for want of time, for I have not long returned from Satterleys with whom I took a bed last night, (The first night I have slept from Mr. Whitfields) When I had got ye. draft cashd, wh. they did immediately at N.E. & Co's I proceeded to Mack S's, who I paid, It was then ½ past one, He told me he had been continually disappointed about ye. Vials but did intend they shd. arrive with this Letter, as I told him I was going to write, He had his niece staying with him from Hastings, (an only daugr). Mack says Weekes mind you mark 150 pr. Annum but however it being just his dinner time I sat down with them & partook of Oysters & Beefstakes, They had intend going to ye. play of Folly as it flies & ye. new pantomime of Haliquin's Almanack,<sup>211</sup> I knew Whitfield was at home so I'en said I would accompany them, & I sat down & wrote a line to W. to say I should not be at home for otherwise he would have sat up untill 12 oClock wh. wd. not have been a pleasant thing beside it was a mark of politeness, (tho: it is not what Don does).

However we went 1st. into ye. Pit, that was full, we then proceeded into ye. 2 shilling Gallery that was uncomfortably full, & last of all were obliged to go to the BOOXES, & of course you know two gentlemen like us must treat ye. ladies, & what do you think it cost me, 15s. & 1s. for S's Maid treated Miss Satterly with ½ hundred of White Chappel Needles in St. Pauls Church Yd. at ye. place were Ann meant the Man is needle maker to her Majesty, I have sent Anns, they were 2s. Miss S. had never seen ye. Monument<sup>212</sup> & very much wish'd to it, that cost me 1s. Miss S. was going into ye. Boro: were I escorted her & came home She has two Brothers one at home with her Father ye. other a Physician at daintry,

I have sent you S's Bill, I have been to day to pay Adcock whose bill was about 10s. less than you thought, owing to ye. difference between ye. ruled paper I brought up with me and ye. Demmy he sent you, in return, I have sent you his receipt also, Mrs. A. desired I would come & dine with her Saturday 4 oClock I told her I must beg leave to be excused staying long after dinner that I must abruptly runaway to our society at Guys in consiquence of Dr. Jenners coming, she said she would not press me then to stay longer than I possibly could, – You may suppose I have been from necessity obliged to cut into your 10 pound note wh. you sent up for ye. Carpet & I now have left £5, – I have been to only 4 Plays since I have been in Town – It will not do it runs away with money – I enquired about a neat set of Fish Counters and Matts such as Dodsons (wh. I would certainly recommend) there were 8 dozen of Fish a complete set 16s, Ivory one wh: turn yellow 10s.6d,<sup>213</sup>

<sup>211</sup> These were advertised for 6 January at Covent Garden. 'Harlequin's Almanack' was performed twenty times in the twenty-five evenings' entertainment that month. *Gentleman's Magazine*, January 1801.

<sup>212</sup> Monument to the Fire of London, at the north end of London Bridge. They would have to pass it on the way to St Thomas's and the Borough.

<sup>213</sup> Counters made of bone, ivory, or mother of pearl. They were in various shapes, of which a fish about 2" long was the most common. They were also used in the game Pope Joan.

*Letter No. 40*

I wrote to J.M.C. on Monday last, & stated to him that you recommended his Prints & specimens to be imposed to ye. Air, I wrote him in answer to his question concerning the plant at ye. Westend of your Town, wh. he concieved to be of ye. 1st Class but I told him I must beg leave to differ with him for certainly it could not be hermaphrodite but must necessarily be Diaecious, I wishd to know of him what ye. people thought of ye. Cow pock, gave him a little politics, & filld entirely a whole sheet & enclosed it in a cover, & paid at ye. forreign office 2s.8d, They enquired of me what it containd, nothing I said but a sheet of paper,

You ask me if I have nothing new to send for ye. use of ye. Shop, but I see nothing of importance you may have numberless new inventions but, why would you have that that is not worth having, I have sent ye. Femor, my last preparation with a bougie passd into ye. membranous part of ye. Urethra, The bulb was so small I could not, inject it with any thing else but Quicksilver wh. however has almost all escaped, It cost me only 1s.6d. for ye. Quick silver wh. however I did not all use, I had thrown ye. Leg & foot away but afterward thought I might as well dissect it also, — I have sent a Map of ye. internal Ear wh. is designed by Mr. Cooper (a great many of ye. young men have had one 5s. each wh. is no very great deal, I thought it very pretty, not that it is of very great importance, that I know of, I do not know how you will like it. — There is also a little drawg. for Ann to cobby, I did it one evening by candlelight so that you see I have not given a good green to ye. foliage - Our streets are coverd with water of Chrystallization - You said you was going to dine with Bridger off a Turkey - I am quite sick of them for we have had 4 we live well here. Mrs. Adcock told me I grew fat to day - I have sent what book I could afford, - & Three pound of Coaco for Dr. D. & three more for yourselves I gave a little more for it than ye. last as there was none in Monument Yard, I gave this time 3s.10d. pr. pound, Tis quite as good as ye. other, Dr. D's is carefully done up with ye. bill & reciept.

That was singular of ye. Child of Mrs. Burts I shall state that to our Society, How is it now?

I shall go to Sparrow's to morrow or next day to look out a Carpet for wh. I must have more cash —

I have sent you down a rough cobby not exactly in ye. language you see it now in but to that effect. It produced two nights discussion.

Yours dutify —

H Weekes.

**LETTER NO. 40**

*To Richard Weekes, 13 January 1802*

St. Thomas's Jany. 13th. 1802

Dear Father

I had last night written a Letter to you to ye. following affect, - Which I have to day open'd.

*Letter No. 40*

I have unthinkingly sent off ye. Box with variety of contents with a Letter filled almost; without putting into it what I fully intended viz: These two receipts, But as I know your post day; & that this Letter will arrive at Hurst as soon as that, would if I had put it in last night, & I have got more to tell you, A question indeed; For I & Mr. Sparrow have been to his carpet Mans, also Mr. Jacksons, And I have chosen a thick, strong, & one wh. Mr. Sparrow pitched upon also one that will not shew ye. dirt, I want to know of you if you mean it to entirely cover ye. Room, Or that there should be a space around of 4,5,6,7, or more Inches, And if you deside upon its entirely covering the room if you have a place cut in it to fit ye. fire place, This last idea Mr. Sparrow objects to in his own mind for then you cannot change ye. sides with ye. Carpet, I took your Letter with me & stated you said ye. Room was 17½ ft. in length, & 13 ft. in breadth, - The newest fashions are ye. dearest, so I chose one very neat a little behind, I have not said yet what ye. price is when made up 6s.6d. the lowest for they dwelt very long indeed upon 6s.9d. but I was coming away when they ascended.

I would wish you to inform me by return of post, if convenient,——

Mr. Sparrow desired to be remembered to you & family, He was not at home when I went first I waited an hour or more, while wh. time Mrs. S- inform'd me among other things of a famous trick wh. some one had play'd her new Son in Law Mr. Jacob Wood, wh. was sending to him as many as 40 coachmen pr. Day as many footmen almost as many as Cooks & house Maids &c. - by means of witing to 4 or five different Offices for ye. express purpose of hireing servants,

I dare say you want to know all my proceedings with Adcock & Satterley, which I have stated in my Letter in ye. Box in Knowles's Wagn. The principal wh. you wish to know is how much money I have to pay for ye. Carpet; which is £5, only for I was obliged to break into your 10 Pound Note to pay adcock, The Vials Satterley assured me shd. set out as yesterday. ——

Dick wish'd me to send him a stiffner for his neck Cloths but we have none different from those at Lewes or Brighton, I ware none oly a foul one, change it as often as I change that is as often as I put on a clean one, I make use of only one neither, so that my neck Cloth appears very small, - Don's is like Jno. Newnham's, & the same observation might justly be apply'd to him as Sr. Jno. Hayes did to Jno. Newnham ——

What would you have me do with my old corded Breeches & a Waistcoat wh. I shall soon leave off - Send them down to old Jock you will say I suppose. I heard Mr. & Mrs. W. talking some days ago of a very shabby young fellow who lived here some time ago who did not give his old Clothes to ye. servant Men but would always send them Home, - I only mention this, But shall determine upon that wh. you judge right, - Dr., I am glad my silk small clothes fitt you so well; I am in no hurry to have a larger pair, For We have no Balls to attend here ——

Mr. Mineralogist, what is ye. great mark of distinction betwixt ye. Carbonate of Lime & Sulphate of Lime. I mean I in ye. shape of their Prisms & Pyramids of Chrystallization? - As I passed over London Bridge The Ice had so collected about ye. cogg's of Water works that Men were making use of hot water thrown from a small Engine, The Thames were frozen over in part as I came from Mr. S.'s, - And the water freezes so fast down all the Hills Gracechurch St. particularly that ye. Dray

*Letter No. 41*

Carts Coaches &c. can hardly get up, —<sup>214</sup>

The King goes to ye. Play of Speed ye. Plough to night at Covent garden, I never was at that house but once, – I have sent my preparation down the reason of my dividing it just below ye. incersion of ye. Femoral Muscles was; that it should be lighter, but I have sent you also ye. Leg & Foot, I do not know if you want any varnish, I think it shd. be done over once more with Spt. Terpentine [. . .] not good, too thick – Satterley sets out [. . .] North journey about ye. 20th. – Mrs. W. brought her little girl home with her on Tuesday last, – We have had a Captain Goatman of ye. Middlesex Militia, he is captain of one of ye. companies, a very merry fellow indeed, about 40 has been in ye. service 22 Years was in ye. American War, He has been acquainted with Mr. W. for many years, – I told Cripps in my Letter to him what new discoveries were making in ye. science of Mineralogy. – I give 2s. a Quire for this paper; money enough I think – Young Cline supped with us off Oysters & stayed until oClock hearing ye. captains laughable stories, — Will you have a portrait of Dr. Fordyce 5s. each? - Dr. do you want any elastic Marble as it is called tho: silicious Earth looking like marble? It is post time so must conclude with ye. compliments of ye. season & love to all —

Yours dutifully

H Weekes

(Ann; Miss S. Sparrow wish'd you to have been her bride Md.)

**LETTER NO. 41**

*From Richard Weekes, 15 January 1802*

Jan. 15. 1802

Hampton

We have recd. two letters from you one on Sunday the other to day Friday your first contains nothing in particular that requires an answer unless it is the subject matter of Cow pox, I have had no opportunity of innoculating those young men but I have not a doubt of their being free from ever recieving the Small Pox, this brings to my mind the case of two other young men John Ball & John Hider who a few years ago lived with Mitchell at Knowlstoath, I sent for Hider this Afternoon I well remember they both came to me complaining of being very unwell & had been some 4 or 5 days, when I saw them they had both an Eruption so like the small Pox at first sight that I thought theu had got that disorder but upon closer examination saw they where confined to the lower part of the Face & neck principally & there was something in the appearance of the pustules upon closer examination wch. did not exactly correspond with Small Pox & I pronounced it not to be the Small Pox, however this allarm'd the Family & they where all Innoculated with the matter of small Pox in 3 or 4 days, Ball & Hider was likewise Innoculated with Variolous

<sup>214</sup> The noon temperature was below freezing from 10 to 17 January, *Gentleman's Magazine*, January 1802.

*Letter No. 41*

Matter 5 times each but I could produce no Small Pox nor would their Arms rise, which at that time I could not account for, upon questioning Hider to day if they had a horse with the grease at that time, he declar'd immediately & without hesitation they had & that he and his partner daily looked after this horse & used to rub in Chamber ley into his greasy heels every day or two. Hiders pustules was principally about his Eyes & Forehead & one in his Eye on the Tunica Conjectiva which was troublesome for some weeks —

If I understand you right you ment to send the receipts in your Letter of to day but have again omitted it keep them till you send another packet by the Waggon let the Carpet be 17½Ft. in length 12½Ft. in breadth so that there will be 6 inches only between the Carpet & washboard next the fireplace; & it will just tutch the Fender, — you must send us a Rug to lay over the carpet before the fire place which ought to be 6 feet in length, dont have any part cut out next the fire place in the Carpet.

I have sent you another 10£ note as I find the Carpet Rug package portorage & will amount to nearly all the Money. send a bit of Elastic Marble & Dr. Fordyce's portrait —

If you have given the Servant a Xmas box send the Clothes down otherwise give him the breeches or waistcoat if you please, you may send a small bottle of Varnish as ours is nearly all done — I recd. a letter from Mr. Holmer to day saying he had recd. my dividend so that you have not been with him as I desird you I shall write to him on Sunday in his letter he expresses himself much hurt at the manner in which you paid him the £10 which he advanced to you over & above the Money he had of mine in his hands, supposing I was angry with him that you refusd his servises in perchasing a book case for you - that you have never call'd on him since from all which he feels himself hurt — Now he is a valuable friend of mine I desire you will wait on him immediately & dine with him tell him it was the farthest from my thoughts & yours also to give him offence that I am exceedingly sorry, that he has misconciev'd the whole & beg his pardon for not calling on him oftener. —

The parcels in the Box arrivd Saturday by the Waggon I have no time to say much respecting them however they give satisfaction, Hannington is just arivd Saturday Eveng. has got all the rent Viz. 90£ up to Michaelmas last, but what do you think the bills for repairs comes to £170 — Breads & his Uncle are coming to Hurst soon I will make him give more rent that is more than £110 pr. Annum or he Shall quit at Michaelmas I have given him notice to quit as I dont like his conduct, I hear [. . .] Uncle Gilbert who is a man of considerable property shall engage to see the rent paid if he has it —

You have sent the Under jaw of some Animal in the box what is it? your preparation is well dissected but the principle thing the bulb of the Urethra by which I mean the head of the Corpora Spongiosa penis next the bladder is not fill'd, so that it dont shew you how to avoid it in cutting for the stone, & it shd. be an whole pelvis make another. — do spend as little money as you can help as I have £70 over & above the rent to [letter incomplete].

## LETTER NO. 42

To Richard Weekes, 17 January 1802

St. Thomas's Jany. 17th. 1802  
Sunday Eveng. 8 oClock

Dr. Sir

'Ere this arrives you will have expressed yourself in terms such as I have often heard you, viz; "Hampton? what is your Head thinking of; I cannot think, it must be wool gathering,

I have this moment discover'd ye. two reciepts not gone a second time, And what put them out of my Head when I sealed the Letter up I do not know tho: I had been runing here & there, & flogging myself because I had not sent them with ye. Box ——

Since my last I have drank tea at Mr. Sparrow's with ye. new married couple & at my departure I was invited by ye. Bridgroom to dine on Tuesday next also to come early to Threadneedle St. & he would be very happy to shew me all over ye. bank, ye. melting of Gold Silver, ye. manner of destroying by Nitrous Acid, every adulterated portion if such there shd. be during the process of melting,

I yesterday dined with Mr. Adcock, with Mr. & Mrs. Pugh 3 Sons & a daughter, about 6 year old that sung two pretty little songs as well as young Blundell, The blue bells of Scotland was one & she observed ye. time better than I could or any of our family except yourself, – There dined also a Miss Warton from Rochester who is on a visit to Mrs. A– she knew my cousin<sup>215</sup> very well, she said ye. oldest daughter did not very well like giving up housekeeping to her new Mother but that now they were vastly agreeable, His Son about 14 she said was with his Father, I could not get much more out of her for she said she did not visit there, tho: she said laughing that they were very gay dressy Girls, but I believe she spoke Ironically, – Miss Warton is 20, 2, or 3, very gay.

There also dined a Miss Flicker about 25 or 6 very fine woman I had seen her once before when I supped at Mr. Pugh's, This young lady is staying frequently at Mr. Pugh's, – I got highly Intimate with these two young Ladies indeed, I went so far as to repeat frequently what you advised me to ye. Miss Woods at Wantley<sup>216</sup> I dare say you know what I mean if you dont Ann does, I dont know if I am blamable for this for I think that is ye. only way to get rid of that nasty mauvais honte wh. I have been somewhat possessed of. An other also there was a young man fron St. Bartholomew's Hospl., his name was Kemble he lived Apprentice, with Mr. Seamour who married Miss Dengate, He knew Miss S. Davis very well he said & had heard her speak of a Mr. Weekes, This young man appears very steady & very genteele, He had a vast deal more diffidence than I had (Ann! do you say this is an amiable quality in a Man? Again; had not I too much of it?) ——

<sup>215</sup> Hampton's uncle, John Capon Weekes, was a physician at Rochester and had two daughters, Sarah and Elizabeth, ESRO Par 400/17/437. A John Cotton Weekes was elected MD Aberdeen on 2 July 1801, and one of his sponsors was J.C. Weekes RN.

<sup>216</sup> A farm near Hurst.

Letter No. 42

I shall call upon Mr. K. just to hear Abernethy Lecture; for He has not done yet; I shd. like to hear him for once, – Cline finishd only yesterday and begins again on Wednesday – His last lecture was on Hernia, In wh. He spoke at great length of that very case of ye. man living within these walls, were the faeces passed out at ye: Groin He also shewd us a drawing in red Chalk of it, wh. I asked him for and he ascended immediately, – There is nothing very remarkable in ye. drawing, only that your having remembered the circumstance I was desirous to sketch it, —

To morrow I go to ye. European Museum with Mrs. & Miss Attree, – Mr. Attree Senr. is coming to Town in a day or two, & they will all go home together, – I assure you this illness will cost Billy a smart penny; what with A. nurse wh. has been in ye. House night & day - Also loosing  $\frac{1}{2}$  a course of Lectures already.

Tuesday Mornng. 8 oClock —

I recieved your Letter at a late hour last night, containing £10 note, & I am going this morning to order the Carpet, & Rugg for ye. Fire place, – But you will be disappointed if you expect it to arrive by ye. next return of ye. Waggon for I am shure it cannot be made strong in ye. time, Neither can I be runing into Leicester Square, for ye. Marble, get Fordyces Portt. with &c's by to morrow, – For I am going to day to dinner with Mr. Wood, & afterward I shall be almost totally confined at ye. Shop for it is my turn to stay to serve out during this Course more particularly – I was not a little astonished at ye. great length you spoke in terms affrontery from me to Mr. H. “As you say it was ye. farthest from my thoughts – He is the [ . . . ] fellow I ever saw I did call & went into his counting house but he nor his Son neither of them were at home, This was 5 or 6 days ago, – When I have happend to call there about tea time he has asked me to take some tea, But I am mistaken If he ever asked me to dinner I am shure he did not, And as to refusing his services of buying me a book case why you do not want him to by a book case (This I assure you puzzles & confuses me very much I do not know what I write) - What had I to do with ye. £10 note if you was determined to pay him? However I will call & dine with him If he asks me, & say what you desire me in your Letter of yesterday.

I did not send an under Jaw of any Animal that I recollect.

the reason of my not recieving your Letter until a late hour last night was, that I was not at home until 10 for I had been with Miss Attree to ye. Phantasmigorea or display of Phantoms very well worth seeing it is at ye. Liceum ye. Strand,<sup>217</sup> Miss Lewis was there with a stranger to me; I spoke to her tho: she was in ye. Boxes & I in ye. Pit, This place is resorted to by all ye. genteele people, Old Fordyce has been there, & would amuse Dick and ye. Girls more than a Play. Wm. Attree waited at Ustinsons & we came home together, His Father arrived there last night, He said he had seen you a few days ago, —

You say I am to try again with an other Pelvis but a dryed preparation of ye. best kind will not convey that good idea that you concieve it will, —

W. Attree, Mrs. & Miss with my self all went to ye. European Museum wh. open every day from 12 to 4 oClock, our tickets will admit us again & again, There are very

<sup>217</sup> Still on the same site.

*Letter No. 43*

fine Paintings wh. comprise ye. whole almost some 1500 Guins. I have got a catalogue of them,

Adieu. Yours dutifully  
Hampton Weekes.

**LETTER NO. 43**

*To Richard Weekes, 27 January 1802*

St. Thomas's Jany. 27th.  
1802

Dear Father

I should have wrote to you four or five Days ago to inform you of what I concieve you must have made in your calculatn. of ye. number of Yds. necessary to form ye. carpet

For ye. stuff of all Brussels Carpeting runs only  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Yd. wide so you will find they necessarily made use of  $37\frac{1}{2}$  with a few Yds. over & above wh. they make a point of sending as it is of no use to them, The rugg comes to £1.7.0 it runs full 6Ft. in length, there were some fringed but wh. came to more money, I only hope it as well as ye. Carpet will meet with your approbation. It was sent yesterday to ye. Catharin Wheel, & I payd for it to Day £13.10s.6d. I would insist upon her throing off packing, portorage & Booking wh. she did after some parley, I have ye. Bill with a stampd receipt wh. if I inclose in a letter you will pay double, so unless you require it directly shall not send it until I get some few other things in readiness, —

I have now left; just 2s.6d., I had an invitation to a dance on Monday Evening last wh. I went to it was at Mr. Mark's were I meet Mrs. Adcock & her niece, with two young ladies who are stayg. with her, The two Pugh's were there also, We made in all 10 couple began at nine & danced until 4, To attend here I necessarily gave order for a pair of silk breeches made large as I had none what ever to go in for Pantaloons and boots wd. not do nor trowsers corded breeches &c. a pair of dancing shoes I gave 6s.6d. for the breeches will come to £2.2.0 I hope that will not appear extravagant, tho: I shd. have wrote to have ask'd ye. favor of you to have granted me them but I only recieved Mr. M's note on Friday Evening. —

I calld on Mr. Holmer one day last Week he was not at home, I called yesterday at his banking house in Monument Yd. wh. perhaps you have been inform'd of, (It is Spooner, Atwoods, & Holmer.) when I began to proceede at large as you desired me, he answerd it was all settled, & about a book case he said he thought he & me went to give order or rather to enquire about one, wh. is an entire mistake of his, for all the enquiry when with him was about the Sofa & that only However I shook him by the hand, & said I did not at all under stand what your letter meant about my giving him disgust, But he said as soon as Mrs. H came home he wd. inform me & I shd. come to dine with him, also at any time if he could be of service to me or to advise with me he should be very happy, This I am very well persuaded of that it is a mear

Letter No. 43

matter of compliment in him when he said he hoped he shd. see me often to dinner with him, for he is a man who has not a minute to spare, You may think what you please of it, He said he had recieved a very polite kind Letter from you & that he esteemed you as a friend as much as any man, —

My buck boots are both gone to be repaired, already – The varnish, with Dr. F's portrait &c. I will send down, some of these days, the portt. I have bought wh. is a very good impression, Mr. W. is very curious in paintings &c has some very good ones —

I will now just relate some few partics. of a case in Guys Hosptl. – It is of a Woman Aet. 43 (a great imposter) this woman has for 3 or 4 Months taken off, her black necklace, as soon as ye. patients were still in bed, & put it tight round her Arm just at ye. insertion of ye. Deltoid Muscle wh. was ye. immediate cause of ye. prevention of ye. absorbents from conveying their proper fluid, her arm all below has been very much inflamed & swelled to ye. size of two Arms [. . .] caused great disorder in her constitution [. . .] produced simptomatic fever & very great irritation, Blisters, Leaches, Poulticing, with puncturing, &c. has been had recourse to, It was only discovered yesterday, She has been doing the same in almost all ye. Hospitals about. It is a most singular circumstance indeed but certainly has been done with a view to impose on ye. charity, I saw her to day when as you may suppose she lookd not a little ashamed of her self – The necklace was on her Neck during ye. day —<sup>218</sup>

Fixott's Father is dead, he has been labouring under a dropsical affection for a length of time brought on by drinking, Fixott is cut up somewhat, but has been prepared to expect it for some time He has been advised not to go home just now, —

I have been looking for sometime for a pelvis but as I informd you before it was difficult to get one worth having unless you put your name down for a subject, wh. will cost £2.12s.6d, & even then you run a hazard of getting a female for you under ye. necessity of taking in your turn such as is brought; you cannot refuse it, —

If I get one will you have me dissect ye. Femors out of their acetabulums, I think it would look very well & would be lighter, (You concieve; how this preparation will look; with ye. Penis injected, & testes) if they will both run; but it is seldom it so happens, if one Vas Defferens runs the other is likely not to it, for I have seen it attempted more than once or twice without succeeding, even when a very high column of Quicksilver was made use of – Dick; I told Sherwood you would be up I thought next Winter, when he hoped you would call on him, - Day; is rather too much of a puppy to make a very cleaver fellow, Young Cline is rather more stilish than I supposed he wd.

We have been making great many Pil. Myrrha c Ferro, to Day also 13oz of Caloml. into one grain pills, we mix ye. Cal: with flower & Syr. Sx. which is no bad way, —

To morrow we have a large party to tea & cards, Mr. W. Fish & counters are pearl, Attree got safe home – I shd. like to stay here my twelvemonth at least. —

I remain yours dutifully

H Weekes.

<sup>218</sup> For other case histories see Richard Asher, *Talking sense*, edited by F. Avery Jones, London, Pitman, 1972, p. 170.

*Letter No. 44*

Fixott and I rowed to see Greenwich Hospital one morning. I got into ye old Bailey [. . .] to hear ye trial of Govr. W.[. . .]<sup>219</sup> thro the interest of Mr.[. . .] Mr. Sparrow did not stay a great while but it being a very interesting trial I stayed until it was over wh. was 14 hours, without eating anything.

**LETTER NO. 44**

*From Dick Weekes, 31 January 1802.*

Hurst Jany. 31  
1802

Hampton

We recd. your letter 28th. Instant, The Carpet and Rug arrived safe Yesterday both of which meet our approbation, —

We dont understand you, when you say (I have only 2s.6d. left) wether that is all the money you have got, or wether it is the remainder of the money send up for the Carpet &c, but thinking it the former case have sent you two five's pound note wh. is to last you till Ladytide or longer. —

You are to buy us some Pearl fish and Counters, as many as you think will be sufficient – likewise a stick of good Sealing wax. —

You seem to be much taken with Miss Sty. – The Scarlitina is a very prevailing Complaint just now about Street and St. Jnos. Common, we are at present very full of business indeed. and have done as much business this month as ever in any month before. a little more than a page pr. Day. – Chas. Morgan had a fracture of the Tibia and Fibula a Compound one the end of the Tibia protruded a very bad one. he sent for my Father to help reduce it the boy is 13. it was about the middle of the Leg. —

You may buy a rug to set the Urn on and send when you send us next a parcel —

Who did you dance with all at Markes's Ball. I know Miss Makoy Mrs. A's niece very well. – What a creature that woman the Imposter must have been, she should have been Blisterd from head to foot. – remember me to Sherwood. —

We like the map of the Ear very much indeed think it well executed, exceptet the Membrana Tympany.

Persevere on in Anatomy, Chemistry, &cc for that is the foundation of the whole.

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<sup>219</sup> Joseph Wall was accused of causing the death of Benjamin Armstrong when Governor of Goree in 1782. There had been dissatisfaction in the garrison over poor pay, and Armstrong had been among a bunch of men who had approached Wall to ask for payment of their due allowances. When asked, the men dispersed peacefully without any suggestion of mutiny. The next day, Wall had summoned the garrison to stand in a circle, and without a formal court marshal sentenced Armstrong to receive eight hundred lashes immediately, from which he died a few days later. Part of the feeling was because the punishment had been carried out by "blacks". Wall was sentenced to death and dissection. In deference to his social status, only a superficial dissection was carried out, the body was not displayed to the public, as was usual, and his wife was allowed to bury him. See *Annual Register*, 1802, p. 365; and macabre reporting in the *Brittanic Magazine*, 1802, 9: 202.

Letter No. 44

When you write you write very well close and small enough. but, when you write Dear Father, & St. Thomas's you begin too low down, and waste a great deal of paper. observe this.

I am glad you have wrote to J.M. Cripps. Mrs Burts Child is dead it had the Apha Alba.<sup>220</sup> and was very full indeed. the Mother is quite well.

Send us some thing new in the Shop way. pads to use in fracture's, and any thing that you thing we are in want of. —

We use great many Deobstr. Pills now. in two Days last week we used six hundred. – besides 100 other's George made 3000 the other Day you must have a fine job making so many Pil. Meicur. gr. i. I dont envy you much in that.

My father used the Ceton needle for the first time yesterday likes it mch. at Henfield on Cornford's Daughter. she was Morgans patient but now ours, and has been this three weeks, with Spina Ventosa<sup>221</sup> we think, in the joint of the Knee. we have apply'd Leaches, poultice's hot, and cold. Ointments, bleeding &c. it was first Inflammatory Rheumatism, (it affected the Knee at first.) We have severall patients at Henfield and Cowfold that were Morgan's. Ann says she liked the Drawing very much. hope's you will send her one more soon for her to copy - the Hurst folks think the Carricature and orignal, it is so well done – Miss Wood of Wantly is married to Mr. King of Lockwood about a fortnight ago. —

Report says Mrs. Newnm. is going to be married to Mr. Tilt the Tutor, very soon, and perhaps is. and again perhaps tis all nothing at all, she has been very Nervous or in Love, or some thing or other, a few Days ago, and had Nervose Medicines to take of. and yesterday my father went up there to see her and Tilt ran out to the stable to say Mrs. N. could not possibly see him to Day. she was great deal better, but S. Bethell was there just going in the door, and you will say if she could see S.B. why could she not see Mr. W. but speak not of this. time will show.<sup>222</sup> —

Mrs. Hunter has had a Typhus this six weeks and is still dangerous, so that Fan, has not been to school since Christmas. my Father attends her as Physician. Fan Grace and all of us, are pretty well. desire to be remembered to you. and all our acquaintance. write soon and long letters. I think the European Museum must be worth seeing. You have not seen the British have you? that is the best worth seeing. get a Catalogue of the British Museum if you can get it cheap. and send down to us. – Send us something good to eat down next time you make a parcel. be saving in your money as mh. as you can. One or two more people have applyd. for the farm by Letter. but we wrote to Bread's offering him the farm at 150£ rent and to pay all Taxes if he can get some person of Respectability responsible for the rent. not otherwise. he may have a lease for 14 Years. but have as yet recd. no answer—

(Mr. Roberts has had large party kept it up till 4 oClock,)

<sup>220</sup> Diphtheria.

<sup>221</sup> Tuberculosis of the knee.

<sup>222</sup> Local society was shocked. Mrs Newnham, the widow of a local landowner, had fallen on hard times, been swindled by her bailiff, and now proposed to marry her children's tutor. "On the 4th inst at Brighthelmstone, by the Revd Mr. Hudson, the Rev Mr. Tilt MA of Trinity College Cambridge, to Mrs Newnham widow of the late George Lewis Newnham of Newtimber." *Weekly Advertiser or Lewes Journal*, 15 February 1802.

*Letter No. 45*

Have had a Ball at Westown ten couple my father and old Marshall danced old Borrer Mrs. B. Son's and Ds. all our family except Mrs. W. Borrer's of Woodt, Fosters Beckett. we had a very comfortable dance and supper kept it up till two o'clock. Will Wicks in Livery turnd. up with blue. have no more to say so must conclude

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I remain Yours &cc  
R Weekes Junr.

**LETTER NO. 45**

*To Dick Weekes, 1 February 1802*

St. Thomas's Feby. 1 1802

Dr. Brother —

Yours, containing two five pound Notes, I this morning recieved, And think it somewhat strange of you to suppose I could have 2s.6d. left of your £10 note, when I plainly inform'd you I gave £13.10.6d. for ye. Rugg & Carpet. — I have been just now and purchased a complete sett of Fish, Matts & counters, value 16s. I think you will like them much. I will as soon as possible get ready an other package.

I have this mornng. reciev'd a very polite Card from Mr. & Mrs. Adcock inviting me to a dance on Monday next. — Day, & Ingram, also have recieved one who both intend going I believe —

Miss Makoy, you speak of was not at Mr. M's dance, I danced with Mrs. M. Miss Warton, Miss Frickr. Miss Cockborne, Miss Robinson &cc, We changed partners only every 3 dances, I recollect we had one pretty dance called ye. new dash, it is quite new.

Mr. Cline's favorite remedy for Spina Ventosa is Tartar Emetic Ointment 1 gr to an oz. if not strong enough it is made stronger. — Our Cowpock paper was finished being discussed, on Saturday eveng. last, it afforded me great entertainment as it would every practitioner, There is in agitation some present to be voted to Dr. Jenner for his attendance at Guys Theatre, Dr. J. concludes from all he has been able to inform himself that if matter is not taken early either from ye. Cow or any human subject that it is more than probable you will have ye. spurious pustule produced, that is after ye. 7th. or 8th. day of Inocn. with Variol. Vaccin.; the matter containd in ye. pustule undergoes a considerable change that is in a manner decomposed if he might be so allowed to express himself

Again, ye. areola, arrising prematurely, that is before ye. 4th. or 5th. day, indicates your having ye. spurs. kind. (wh. I think was ye. case in Jenners Children)

We have had 4, operations to day at Guys Hospital by Mr. Cooper, ye. 1st. two were steatomous tumors where he dissected out ye. cyst with out previously making an oval incision [. . .] he made only one then taking a hook in ye. usual way, (remember these were not large, and were in ye. face also) if on any other part of ye. body & large most likly he would make an [. . .] incisn.

Letter No. 45

The next was ye. opern. for a fistula lacryms, in wh. he 1st. made a small incision with ye. point of ye. scalpel then gently pushed a pointed probe diagonally thro. ye. os Unguis, leting it remain sometime then withdrawg. it & introducing a silver pin about an Inch or  $\frac{3}{4}$  long not pointed, & with a broad head so that ye. head rested in ye. internal canthus of ye. eye, This by experience is found to be ye. best practice (I will send you down one or two of these Pins, – Then we had a hearty Irishman brot. on ye. table to have ye. leg amputd. (It was strongly suspected he had been drinking) When ye. operation is completed ye. tourniquet is not taken off quite but kept on in readiness to tighten, in case an hemorage shd. arise, – I do not see any thing at present to send you down that is new, If you think Coopers probe worth having write me word, they charge as much as 7s. for it when a comm. one wd. do just as well, It differs only in there being a point wh. slides after it is introduced as far as ye. tympanum, — There is also Coopers fracture box for thigh or Leg, it is somewht. clumsey tho: I do not know perhaps you wd. like it, tho; perhaps not, when I tell you it is £1. 1s.0d,

Also there is made an Improvement (tho: triflg.) in ye. Nipple Glass such as My Father let Nurse Beaty have, you wd. not like it I believe, – I have it in my mind to send you down a little Sabinae Powder for making into an Ointment for keeping open blisters, I think it is neater among genteele people than ye. Ung. Episp. M., it is not so active, I shall send you down a little first, also some of our famous adhesive plaister spread on Linnen & Cloth, to make use of in ye. fashionable way, for healing all incised wounds by 1st. intention, — For all terpetine applications are condemnd. here, – If a finger has been cut off almost and only hangs by a portion of integuments they will attempt to join it on again – This has been done by 1st intention (tho: rarely) – We use carded wool to put between simple fractures & ye. splints, instead of Tow, wh. is very neat I assure you – They are getting into ye. mode of placing ye. lower extremities of patients that are fractured, when lying on their backs, to raise their Knee perpendicularly a little, not throwing ye. Knee out laterally so much, – & putg. pillows (small ones) directly under ye. Knee and Thigh.

Dr., do you write as I do exactly - then you w[. . .] just as much more in as you do, for you stretch it out as far as ever you can somewhat in this way (observe this) as you observe to me —

It still remains a mistery with me, how, & in what way ye. Newnham's do & will proceede, I wish you would inform me more particularly about ye. vicinity of Hurst? – more about Breads, Dodsons, Campions & paine's, House that was to have been,

I have given my breeches to a needy servant who I did not give a Xmas box to. – When do you come & stay a day or two? tell Ann I have not as yet been to Monkhouse's, I suppose you have my Spring flowers peeping up their heads? & ye. Aconites blown, have you sold Bull? how does old Jack stand it? Has Teddy had a new horese lately? – I am now drawg. ye. muscles of ye. upper extremity, I have a great itch to have a fellow who draws for Mr. Cooper to draw me a famous representation of parts of ye. pelvis like what I have dissected excellent plates He will charge me 5s. or 10s., Ask my father if it is worth while? if he thinks it will help to illucidate ye. parts wh. I have dissected? The great knowledge in these things is in ye. actual dissecting it, much more than in ye. preparation after being completed & you

*Letter No. 46*

will say so when you have tried it, – Answer this question soon for I wish to have his opinion, —

This work of Duverneys, a large Folio is worth 15 or 20 guines, – Poor Governor Wall was excuted at last, contrary to ye. generall opinion, I was very near to him during ye. whole of ye. trial, He caught himself up when ye. jury return'd to give their verdict.

We have no Scarlatina here, nor very little Typhus, Our principal are Rheumatism & Consumption. That was a good idea of yours or my Fathers of placing ye. Notes at full length almost for they cannot so readily find it out wh. was ye. case this time I paid only 6d. Be carefull how you wafer it —

My Father has said nothing more of Dr. Hayes, I saw a sett of Chess men to day very large indeed made for Peter Thelluson<sup>223</sup> Heir at law of ye. famous Thelluson who made so curious a Will, He left in his Will that his money shd. lye for 2 or 3 Centurys untouched It was attempted to overturn it but without effect in ye. court of Chancery, However these Chess men are of Ivory cost 50s., that is £2.10.0 — The King is 7 Inches high — adieu yours &c

H W.

**LETTER NO. 46**

*To Richard Weekes, 9 February 1802*

St. Thomas's Feby 9th. 1802

Dear Father,

I have I believe with this Letter, sent all what you entertained any wish for, excepting ye. elastic Marble, about wh. I went to Humphrys (the place were Dick's Museum was purchased) and ye. price struck me as exorbitant & I would not have it, for a piece, just large enough to shew the elasticity & wh. was only 6 or 7 Inches by 3 or 4, He asked me £3.3s.0d, for so shall leave you to consider if I was not right in not accepting it, I was half a mind to send you down a piece of native Copper value 8s. but thought 2y. that perhaps Dick might have some or that It would not please, – The begining of April they begin a sale again when if you or Dick will signify any particular specimen to me I will purchase it at ye. auction, Or Dick might; with you leave make it convenient to come up – However these native specimens are such as you have been desirous of, particularly when you wrote to Hornby I remember —

I have sent you one more drawing of my own, with a sheet of ye. original french explanations marked by ye. Alphabet, Grace or Ann will explain them to Dick I dare say for it is concise & nearly a nomination of ye. muscles, I found it did not shew well at all ye. Ink upon ye. red Chalk – Mr. Birch saw me drawing them & he told me he would if I calld upon him shew me a fine brazen figure of ye. Muscles, He is our 2d. Surgeon —

<sup>223</sup> Peter Thelluson died in 1797, leaving more than £600,000 in trust for the eldest surviving son of his grandchildren. The will lead to the passing of the Thelluson Act in 1800, which restrained testators from devising property for accumulation for more than twenty-five years.

*Letter No. 46*

An other drawing I have also sent of the Hernia of ye. very man you remember were the Feces passed out at ye. Groin He lived nine Yrs. after in this Hospital, – I have taken the liberty of sending you down a few Charicature to enliven ye. walls of ye. Surgery; That was a whim of mine wh. I think perhaps may not meet with your approbation: from that number; having took I got them cheap; 1s. each; however I do not get any more, The Apothecary is a pretty good one in wh. your friend Mack alias Crape is considered – I was last night dancing at Mr. Adcocks he said he had an order from you wh. would arrive with this Letter, We had at one time as many as 15 couple, After sometime I discovered ye. sister of an old school fellow, a Miss Warner, There were too many for one sett so a cord was extended down ye. room & two setts were formed, We had Sauseages (I believe it is so spelt for I have looked into my little Dicty. also in a Latin one but could not find it) Jellys, Tartletts &c. but no regular supper wh. was best, – Miss Macoy is ye. niece of Mrs. Adcock with whom I danced she remembered you Dick she dances like Ann somewhat, I danced with Miss Warner 4 dances, Miss Wills, Miss Gwyn, a Welch lady she did not know ye. gwyns of lewes, miss fricker, miss white sister o a young Man an Apprentice living at Mr. A's, – Ingram, Day and Verrel were there, The last I never saw before He does not seem a very bright young Man, but on ye. contrary rather; We kept it up till 3 oClock when I came & sleep't in ye. dressers Room —

I recieved a Letter yesterday from W. Attree wrote with his left hand, in wh. he inform'd me his hand is but very very little better this his expression I could not help starting back like Old Phyl, at Abara Cadabara, when I read of Mrs. Newnhams marriage with little Tilt, but I think it must be accounted for in ye. way wh. in Attree accounts for it, that is; its being Leap Year in wh. proposals for marriage are allowed to be made by ye. Ladys, – I long to hear from you how, & what they are agoing at, Attree tells me also that young Newnham is going in the Army – I have been solicited to accompany Mrs. W. her Sister Osborne & Husband to go to Drury Lane to night to see Love in a Village I believe, They are genteele people & I think I shall go, as I have not been a great while —

Governor Wall was exposed at Bartholomews for 2 days with ye. Pectoral, & part of ye. deltoid Muscles dissected only, none of ye. Viscera expose'd, & 50 guineas were then given to some friendly society for his body by Mrs W. – this is as near ye. truth as I can get, from the young Men there.

Dr. Fordyce told me the other day that that was an Insect upon ye. leaf, saying nothing more hardly about it, (He meaning as you will suppose more properly ye. nidus of an Insect), The old Dr. finds it as much as he can do to go all round ye. Hospital, He goes both feet upon one step upstairs generally —

We have two cases now of Aortaral Aneurism & ye. rojection of ye. tumor in each is rather on ye. right side of ye. sternum but as large almost as Fanny's Head, in one ye. integuments are very Thin, indeed & must rupture soon, —

I was helping inspect an anasarous subject on Sunday, but we found nothing remarkable in him no schirrosity of ye. Liver, Spleen, or Pancreas, which often attends Anasarca, This man had been labouring under Intermitting Fever for some months previous, but how this should produce Anasarca, with ascites I do not know, only accounting for it by ye. fevers producing a very debilitating affect, He was about

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40, One chap feeling about in ye. Thorax exclaim'd he had found ye. cause out at last, wh. appeard to be only a little eminence proceding from ye. body of ye. ninth Vertebra laterally & a little to ye. right side, (we are given to understand that any obstruction to Venous blood will be a great cause for dropsy) The accounted for it so that this eminence obstrd. ye. blood passing in ye. Cava & Vena Azygos —

This same fellow made all ye. Vicera out to be schirrous, so you percieve he was a very talking fellow, – As to eminences proceding from ye. bodies of Vertebra is no uncomn. thing —

The few lines of Peter Pindars that I have sent you I copped out of a new publication or pamphlet — lines addressed to ye. Marquis of Blandford in wh. ye. author quotes these lines, —

The new mode of curing ye. varix of ye. Vena Caphena major is by cutting down to it a little above ye. Knee, then passing two ligatures around ye. Vein an inch distant from each other, & dividing ye. Vein midway between, The external incision is made about an inch & ½ – Dick you shd. endeavour to gig about with Ann & Grace, it does not signafy what ye. step is so as it is easy & quick, – observe this —

Persevere in Mineralogy & chemistry, – I have been introduced to an assay master & am going to see him work in a day or two —

Adieu Yours &c

H W —

The day I went to enquire about ye. elastic Me. I called in 9 took a peep at ye. Panorama & saw Constantinople.

I stood 2d last night & in consequence my partner called ye. 2d. dance, We had each of us ticketts.

**LETTER NO. 47**

*To Dick Weekes, 10 February 1802*

St. Thomas's Feby. 10th.  
1802

Richardus —

I have began as you see an other Letter, but do not know if I shall be able to say much more than I have, —

Mrs. Whitfield, Mr. & Mrs. Oe., Mr. Wade, & myself set out in a Coach last Evening about 6 oClock for Drury Lane (Mr. Wade, is Brother to Mrs. Whitfield & is about my age, shorter & thiner, a very comic young man his countenance bespeaks it strongly) He is in Chambers, bringing up to ye. Law, He has been staying here a fortnight for a spitting of blood with a degree of Cough, but wh. has now ceased,

When we got to ye. Theatre, we saw ye. board hung up over ye. Pitt door on wh. was written Pittfull, so we en poasted to ye. Boxes, all wh. were also full, or places

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taken that we could get no were but in ye. upper teer wh. ye. Ladies did not very well relish.

. However we saw very well, but could not so well, hear, or see the changes of countenance, – Mrs. Billington play'd Rosetta, admirably well, & Kelley young Meadows, but in this character he is much exceeded by Incedon at Covent Garden who sings much better, Kelley is a good judge of Music, but no voice hardly – Young Walsh, ye. famous singer a few years ago at this Theatre, as a boy, was in our Box, He used to draw as great a House as any of ye. actors, until his voice broke & he now has an excellent base voice, however he is engaged now & was coming out, last night in ye. character of Hawthorn, wh. di[. . .] performed, —

The Anatomist was ye. after piece, wh. was a little pleasing tho: truly fasical, our party thought it rather stuff towards ye. latter part & so we come away rather before it was finished, – We also kept ye. Coach or there would have been no getting one else, (cost 11s.6d.)

Now to ye. contents of ye. Box, I have sent you some very good Emp. Adhaesivum spread both on Linen & Paper, now you will try it both & give me an account how you like it, it is spread on old sheetg. of ye. Hospital what is always used here, & nothing is better I gave only 2s.6d. for it – Sealing Wax, Pearl Fish & Counters, Two caustic Bougies 6d. each, for strictures in ye. Urethra, in wh. way we cure some here I will not say all or most, for they may be said to be a very excellent or a very dangerous remedy, however they are pretty generally had recourse to were there is no active inflamns. – Two silver Pins, for fistul lacrymalis, (I do not suppose you will use them very soon) An Urn Rugg very handsome I think 7s. – The Pins were 2s. each – 4oz of P. Sabine to make trial of for perpetual blisters, tho: this is not ye. best mode of prepareing it, for gathering ye. twiggs of ye. shrub drying them & bruising them they shd. be boiled in ye. adeps, or Ung. Cerae, Native grain Platina  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an Ounce as a sample for I think you ought to have some it cost me two shillings at Humphrys, Charicatures, I thin ye. green specimen is oxyd of copper combined with what acid I will not confidently ascert but think ye. carbonc. – A drawg. of most of ye. Muscles of ye. Arm this took me a great while in doing & if you do not take care ye. red Chalk will deface ye. clean paper soon, It shd. not be roled up I think any more, however you will do what you please with it, A drawg. of ye. Hernial case you have hear'd my Father talk about, (this put in your lock'd draw in ye. Surgery) Two gills of brown spirit Varnish, 1s. a gill, (do not mix it with ye. Copal's as that is an oil Varnish, But this is what is prefered here for preparations. Some Fluoric acid I expected to have sent you but it is now 4 oClock & it is not sent me by Mr. Accum<sup>224</sup> of old Compton St. of whom I have sent you some account about, he sells it at 6d. an ounce I orderd only 6 oz it is contained only in Leaden Bottles. Mr. A. told me he had once a Hogshead of it, but at present he had not any but as Monday last he was going to make some & would without fail send me some, (however dinner is ready)

<sup>224</sup> Friedrich Christian Accum (1769–1838). German pharmacist. He lectured and wrote on chemistry and the adulteration of food. See Leslie G. Matthews, 'London's immigrant apothecaries, 1600–1800', *Med. Hist.*, 1974, 18: 262–274, see p. 270. In 1803, Accum published *A system of theoretical and practical chemistry*, London, Kearsly.

*Letter No. 48*

Just returned from my dinner to resume my Pen, Day; has been fortunate to day in having a capital subject brought in, and as such he means to make a Skelton of it. – I have subscribed to Mr. Accum's new publicn. an account of wh. I have sent you an account of also a list of ye. subscribers names I shall [. . .] mine among the rest, it comes of[. . .] 3 Months will be printed on straw paper will cost each subscriber 12s. any thing in his way I will get you at any time, ——

You did not say what you thought of my Breviary of Arteries, if it was too prolix or not I do not know how you could abreviate it more without entirely leaving out small branches, ——

As for something to eat which you talk about I do not see any thing new, so you must mention those things — (Mrs. & Mrs. O'e are gone)

Ladies I do not see any thing new neither in dress, reath's of Roses, round ye. head, also round caps, – Gold cord passed easily thro: ye. hair, Hair tippetts forming a triangle upon, or between ye. shoulders, So concluding with

Love & affection

Yours truly,

Hampton Weekes

When I last saw Mr. Holmer he said he would inform me when his Wife returned & I should dine with him but I have not heard from him.

Dick write a long letter & close, or ——

**LETTER NO. 48**

*From Richard Weekes, 11 and 14 February 1802. Continued by Dick Weekes*

Hurst Feby. 11 1802

Hampton

As I have not wrote to you sometime I embrace this opportunity of informing you we like the Carpet pretty well if it had coverd the whole of the Room I shd. have like'd it better & perhaps the colours are almost to light for us that is for a common sitting room, Mrs Newnham is married to Tilt, about a Week she has been to church but nobody has Visited her, nor I believe will not, Johnny has the Scarlet Fever, they continue to hold the farm but think it will not do long, Mrs Bull of Pangdean is a patient of ours believe we have securd that house she has had an abortion, I am frequently asked abt. Will Attree what whas his case & how is he I hear he carries his Hand in a sling supported with a large splint or board & has very little motion in his fingers, Chs. Morgan told me a few days ago it was taken off but I find that is not true Charly & I have got a bad compound fracture at Henfield Town, my patient at Henfield continues very bad with the swelling of her Knee believe it is Spina Ventosa I have made two Setons & she is taking Opium & Digitalis, Dick & I do work

confoundedly do a Page & a half a day, many days, never less than a page he is gone upon Bull to Binwells above Bolney, Bull has a very bad Cough, the Captain is lame, the first Horse that has been lame since you left us, Bobb. is washy & thin. John Breads has been down, I believe I told you I sent Hannington for the rent & which he paid, what do you think the repairs & building the new Stable came to, more than £160. I have paid it tis all settled. & Breads has signd an agreement for a new lease to commence from Michaelmas last, for 7 years at 150£ pr. Annum he is to plow the large field of 14 Acres call'd the pill rug field the farther part of the farm, I have securd him now & at an advanced rent that he cannot do any mischief but I have no opinion he can stay in it long, but there are many people wanting it, some have been down twice about it, but I could not get rid of Breads well without his doing mischief, as Dick & I promised him the farm again last year, —

Feby. 14 We have returnd the Fish & Counters by the Carrier they will not do are to thin, get some that are as thick again of some sort or other, I think 4 dozen or Fish is enough, if you cant get some to your mind I can get them for less money at Bri'ton, the Platina is of no use unless it was in the Matrix or state in which it is taken out of the Mine, buy no more as we want nothing so much as Money —

I suppose in one month more I must send Mr Whitfield half a years Salary for your Board, let me know that, Your drawings in red Chalk of the Muscles is not worth the time & trouble of doing – All plates of the Muscles tell for nothing unless the outline is strongly marked — Your Naturalist's pocket Magazine is a mere ketch penny book to take in the unwary & please Children – Talk to me abt. a situation for yourself do you know of any Surgeon or Apothecary in extensive practice that wishes for a young man like your self as a partner to take an active share in business, talk to Whitfield & Cline abt. it & else where when opportunity offers.

Miss Sergesson is Married to some Rip in Town, Harry Farncombe of Bletchington is Dead, Dr Fordyce's plate is not well done his bauld pate is not seen.

Grace desires me to say they like the urn Rug very well

A Sandwhich was taken from Lord Sandwich sleeping between two whores, like a slice of Ham between bread & butter, Sandwich is a borough in Kent —

Majorca I am sticking up the Caricatures in the Nursery they are funny enough.

Have you forgott Major come up in the Surgery. let us hear you Osteology Myol. &c. persevere on in Myology, Chemistry &c I would wish you to buy me and I will pay you again when I see you a little Fulminating Gold, a Phosphoric pencil, and a little Philosophical Ink, about a shillings worth of each not more of Accum with directions how to use them and send them wth. The Fluoric Acid oz.iv of wh. is suffict, Counters &c. Satterleys Vials were the worst ever we saw. We all join in love and I remain Yours

&ccc. R.W.J.

Write soon and send the few remaining articles in the next package —

LETTER NO. 49

*To Richard Weekes, 17 February 1802*

St. Thomas's Feby. 17th.  
1802

Dr. Sir —

Your Letter I recieved dated ye. 11 & 14, also to day the pearl Fish &c, I have been changing them for strong Ivory ones 6 dozen Counters & 6. doz Fish wh. will I hope meet your approbation,

As I have not time to answer every particular in your Letter, I will confine myself to ye. most important parts, — The 1st. wh. is; you bid me Talk to you abt. a situation for myself, As to that I am very ready to embark in any situation wh. you approve, either far or near, Over Sea or at Home — I have to day heard of a situation in Devonsh. from Mr. Stanley who is also looking out, It is he says a tolerable good one, A young man of his acquaintance went to settle there But as he was going to marry a girl in some other County were there was also an opening for a Apothecary & so left this opening where he had been but a very little time, Now I do not know what sort of a Face you may think this situation puts on, There is no Medical Man there at present & it is a Market Town, If you think it worth enquiring about do inform me to that effect, Stanley will not go; because he intends settling in Town —

Tho: you make mention of a Partnership I have this moment made the enquiry of Mr. W. who made answer that he at present did not know of any one, but if he shd. he wd. take ye. opportunity of informg. me, wh. I thanked him for, — If this is what you principally determine me for; perhaps I shall have to wait sometime for a good thing — If you have no objection I shd. not dislike hazardg. a trip to ye. East or west Indies, or to China in particular as there is more to be got in that passage, By your writing to Dr. Hayes; or let me wait on him, & without loss of time if you will agree to it for I want to be doing. —

Either of these I shd. as well as comg. home again, For Dick & you seem to manage the business very well without me.

Young Ridge is just going out a second time, — & if it shd. turn out to be all Dickey with me, why I cannot die but once. I have a wish, for you to determine on this or something soon for I have not a great while longer to stay to complete my Year,

Mr. W. says if you will send him the money for me ye. Middle of March it will do very well.

You seem very much do dislike, ye. Platina & ye. Pocket Magazine, I am informd from very good authority that Platina is found never in any other state, I have seen it in several places but never in any other way & in that state exactly is it taken out of ye. mine & from thence called native Platina, However I will enquire of Dr. Babington who knows all about it.

As to ye. naturalist's Pocket companion; I happend to see it in a window & thought it as good a Flower, Bird, & animal, for Ann to draw as any thing I could send, & that alone induce me to send it, (But I do not send her any more mind that) —

This, sett of Fish & Counters cost 12s, and are considerably stronger than ye. others. —

Yesterday morning 11 oClock came in a woman about ye. Middle age 43, who had menstruated 3 Weeks before; of a Melancholic temperamt. weakly; had had a crural Hernia on each side for some years, both wh. had been reducable. (She had however borne 3 or 4 Children) But on ye. 14th. inst. in ye. Mornng. as she was bringg. out from ye. Milk house some, 2, or 3, Milk pails she felt a sudden pain at ye. right, rupture, also an increased enlargement there with a pain in ye. abdomen these symptoms encreased, a Surgeon was sent for who stupidly applyed a poultice but however, sent her up to ye. Hospital, And during ye. day of yesterday every means were employd to reduce it without effect, shuch as warm bath; (were she remaind an Hour) after wh. in 2 Hours,  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz of Nicotiana in solution was injected wh. raised ye. pulse to 120, they were before standing at 110 almost ye. Whole of ye. day, however they soon sunck to 110 again, Mr. B. not being able to come Mr. Cooper operated & I had a very good sight indeed, He did not make his external incision quite so high up the abdomen as you did nor so extensive, Now it appeard that inflamn. had took place so rapidly that adhesion had began from ye. great inflamn, both between ye. sack. & Fascia, also between ye. intestine & sack, wh. I saw very evidently, the stricture appeard to be very great as there was (incipient sphacelus,) tho: hardly that neither, but inflammation proceded to ye. last stage almost, that ye. Intestine lookd much darker than Maskal's & there was a larger portion descended also, but no Omentum, There was a good deal of deeper coloured serum, (if I may so express myself) discharged when he made ye. puncture thro: ye. sack, Now it appears entirely to depend upon ye. violence of ye. stricture, wether a person shd. be operated on in 12, 24, 48 Hours, 5 days or a Week, In this woman there had only two days &  $\frac{1}{2}$  elapsed, & it appeard very evident from ye. blackness of ye. Intestine that it had been defered too long, In Maskall you alayd longer, & instances have occured at these Hospitals were there has been 10 days elaps before ye. operation was had recourse to.

What will you say this depends upon if not from ye. violence, or mildness of ye. stricture will you say there is a greater disposition in one patient to inflamn. than an other? if so how will you distinguish such a patient. —

I was present to day when Mr. Cooper examined her body with young Cline and 4 or 5 more, Mr. C. did it in a clandestine manner for her friends had objectd to its being done, — I percieve that you have not been acquainted that she was dead, After ye. operation was completed, wh. he proceded to in ye. same way that you did making his finger his director, However after he had partially divided Pouparts Ligament (in an oblique direction inward rather) the intestine would not readily pass in until as Mr. Cooper said he seperated ye. recent adhesions from ye. inflamn. that had taken place, And after wh. it was reduced & immediately a great quantity of ye. same colourd fluid was discharged, but rather darker, & good deal more than Maskal had, At this moment Mr. C. said "Gentlemen I once in this operation saw  $\frac{1}{2}$  a pail full discharge when having introdd. ye. Intestine", — two sutures were then made & she was carried to her bed her pulse at this time 120, — 30 drops of Tra. Opii was given her but she got not a wink of sleep all night. Mr. Whitfield & I went round 8

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oClock this Morning (wh. is our usual Hour) & we immediately saw how it would terminate, she had facies Hipocatica cold, wett extremis, Pulse 170 as near as I could ascertain, for they were fluctuating & hardly perceptible, She died about 1 oClock, but spoke to ye. last, almost.

At 4 oClock Mr. Cooper came up into ye. little dissecting room, & dispatched someone after her pretty soon, He laughd with us and said that Mr. Polhill, a great Tobaconist at St. Margarets Hill, (with Whom this woman had been living), had sent word that she shd. not be inspected, (Mr. P. is also a governor of this Hospital) But ye. answer shd. be to him that she had been open'd before his message had arrived, but wh. was not ye. case, (This shd. not be told to your country Neddy's, neither to any one.) so we were very merry about it, – He took out both Hernia's part of ye. Pubis & Illium's – (Mr. Polhill has a country house at Mitcham where this woman was at ye. time. –) There appeard universal Intestinal & Peritoneal Inflamm. & the part of ye. intestine wh. had been containd in ye. stricture began to mortify, Also was there at this part a small opening thro: & some of ye. feces had discharged, And from this openg. Mr. Cooper supposes most of ye. fluid proceeded, But your question would be, how came this openg? that I am not quite acquainted of, It was at ye. part where Mr. C. introduced ye. blunt pointed bistory It might be cut in this way, or in ye. introducing it, for Mr. C. used some force in ye. endeavour to reduce it, & ye. Intestine being tender gave way, But let this be as it will she did not die from that opening but from Mortification havg. began wh. I have no doubt in the world would have been the case if this opening had not been, – There was incipient adhesion begining between several of ye. intestines from coagulable lymph being thrown out by ye. exhaling arteries, And had she lived 24 Hours longer they would have been united together very strongly.

adieu, Yours dutifully

H Weekes.

**LETTER NO. 50**

*To Dick Weekes, 3 March 1802*

St. Thomas's Marh. 3d. 1802

Dear Brother

'Ere this arrives I dare say you have partook of a piece of roast beef & plumb pudding & drank my health; as I am now 23 ys. of age.

The reason of my not sending you a package last Week was, that I had not recieved ye. Fluorc. acid, – neither have I at present indeed; tho: I have been enquiring about it 3 times ye. other end of ye. Town – but will send 4 oz as soon as I can get it Accum's excuse to me is that there is only one place that he knows of where they make ye. leaden bottles & they are & have been so very busy —

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As to Fulminating Gold it is too dear to think about, being made of ye. best of Gold dissolved in Nitric Acid & prepared in a peculiar way & precipitated, It is as much as a guinea an 1 oz,

So have sent you an other fulminating preparation, viz. 10gr. 1s.'s worth It is a preparation of Quick silver combined with nitric acid & precipitated in Aether: Vitri:  $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. is sufficient to shew as an experiment, In ye. following manner, place it upon a flat Iron then press ye. particles gently together, (for it has rather better effect than when they lie loosly) then with a smooth Hammer strike it plump, – dont hit sideways, & it will explode —

In ye. Phial is some philosophical Ink, – over (As to phosphoric pencil, it is only a piece of ye. Phosphorus in stick.) With this Ink you write with a new Pen, & suffer it do dry in ye. Air, when it does not appear evident but by afterward exposing it to ye. fire it turns green, & looses its green colour in a great measure at getting cold again, – It is Nitrate of Cobalt – I changed ye. Platina for an Echinus shell & a poor piece of native copper Ore, but so it is I am well persuaded as in one part there is ye. vestige of ye. matrix —

I have sent also ye. bones of an upper extremity, one which I have just finishd dissecting, I was a very nice one for Muscles & nerves, all of both wh. I examin'd. one by one, ye. nerves by Winslow, Muscles by Innes, I have left on ye. Omo Hyoideus as Mr. Cline & Cooper, go so far as to say that ye. only use of ye. ligament wh. passes over ye. notch in ye. superior Costa Scapula is to give rise to this Muscle, but you will see that in this instance it is arising full  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch from it, I found it quite pleasant tracing their origin & incertion I assure you having had a pretty satisfactory idea of them before, You will think that Authors have not been prolix enough when you come to dissect, for I found some varieties wh. I concieved might have been spoken of, such as tendons of ye. Extensor Carpi Rads. brevior going off laterally to be inserted into ye. tendon of ye. Et. Ci. Rs. Lr. before its insertion, also have been more prolix about ye. small head of ye. flexor longus pollicis Manus, wh. lookd exactly like a large Lumbricalis Muscle.

These bones are much stronger marked than those of old Pegg you will find —

Who do you think I took up a Pen to write to a day or two ago, Cousin J. Weekes of Rochestr. & Evans, – Young Attree called here yesterday with a message to me from his Brother W. & told me he saw my Father at their House a few days ago & that he was very well, – I have been expecting an answer to my last Letter some days past.

I have also sent you a testis with ye. Vas. defferens & Epididimis injected with Quicksilr., your Father will say it is not worth a farthing because ye. Epidids. is detached from its natural situation, this I did to examin it more attentivly, If I succede with an other I will leave it in a more natural situation, but I have try'd 3 or 4 before I could succede, for you cannot get ye. Silver to run. – I wish you to examine it, take it out, and look attentivly for it is hardly worth keeping I unfortunatly went too close to ye. convolutus. in one place & was obliged to pass two ligatures.

Mr. Whitfield has been so good as to oblige me with some cuttings of a famous Pear called Gancells Buragot,<sup>225</sup> they are superior to ye. Pear of an Hour I mean ye.

<sup>225</sup> Gansel's Bergamot and Nonpareil were dessert pears ripe in October and November.

*Letter No. 51*

brown bury, Also famous Nonparaile, Mr. W. has written a label upon each, mentioning. their being Planted from a pipp to a certainty, – I could not help doubting it when he told it me, however they are excellent I assure you, I would very much wish you to ingraft some of ye. cuttings of ye. Gs. Burgamot, & Nonparaile if you can possibly. out of respect to Mr. W. for he is a very worthy fellow, as you will think, if you succeede me, there are some others equally valuable wh. are labeld also ——

To return to Muscles again, – I find in my copy several inaccuracys Dr., first ye. Teres major arrisg. from ye. lower part of ye. inferior Costa Scapula that is rougher & thicker than ye. rest & from its inferior Angle, (this is just) then comes ye. word internally this is rong in every sense of ye. word, for it has its attachment quite at ye. edge I assure you. ——

Next I find a mistake in ye. number of Interossei muscles, I have only 6, tho: there are seven distinct, & Innes's account I found a very just one, & very pretty it was dissecting them.

I have found out an other Sussex Man from Hailsham his name is Sennock, he seems a very genteele young fellow, He is very well acquainted with Tiltstone of Mousekoomb, & we are going to spend this Eveng. with him at ye. ½ Moon in ye. Boro: for Tiltste. is staying there ——

Tell my Father I am afraid I shall not be able to get an other Pelvis for injecting without paying very dear for it, – Also ask him if I shd. prepare myself an Arm for bloodvess, against I go into business or if I am to have one of his. I remain yours affectiony.

Hampton Weekes.

I saw ye. King & Royal Family the last time he was there, I had a front seat, with crowdg. in getting in.

**LETTER NO. 51**

*From Dick Weekes, 3 March 1802*

March 3d 1802

Dear Brother ——

Enclosed we send you a note of Thirty pounds to pay Whitfield for board Lodgg. &c the deficiency you must make up out of your own pocket. The fish and Counters we recievd. they are trumpery things in my opinion ——

We shall soon expect another package or Letter from you containing Fluoric Acid Pencil &c.

Nobody has yet visited Mrs. Tilt I believe. – Hurst is as dull as ever – Old Phill Nicholas<sup>226</sup> is dead and buried. our patient with Spina Ventosa is better. Morgans

<sup>226</sup> 28 February 1802, Philadelphie Nicholas was buried at Hurst.

*Letter No. 51*

fracture is going on pretty well. We are full of business and have used 3000 of Deobstruent Pills in the month of February —

To morrow is your birthday we intend keeping it in the usual manner – I intend writing a letter in a few Days to Sowerby concerning a specimen or two which I mean to send him of very minute fossile Shells found at Bolney in digging a sawpit 3 feet below the surface in Argillaceous soil. a few inches deeper was found a very thin layer of yellow Talc – Wm. Borrer is going to town in a few days and he will bring the letter and minute fossile shells with a few detachd. Periwinkle shells with him – I think the shells in the Specimen I intend sendg. to Sowerby are Tellina or tulip shells some Muscle and Dentatia several of which are open —

How do you get on with Dissections you say not a word about it in your Letters. remember that is the ground work of it all. but you will say it is easier to give than to follow the advice I now give you – This Day is Cripps's birthday.

We have a patient with Hydrocele we are curing of it by injection with the Apparatus you sent us. we Injected it last Thursday in the usual manner there is now great tension and pain and the Scrotum is Oedematous, we have given him a purge and my father desires you will make enquiry's how to go on with him. and send us an answer by return of Post. the Man is Old Batchelor of Pin land. am afraid he is almost too old for it. beshure dont you forget to answer this Letter immediately for we know not how to proceed with him – is it proper to let the fluid out. or will it be taken up by Absorption. it filled again immediately almost. —

Our Anne talks of coming up soon to stay a few days with Sparrow and Adcock we will send word when she will come – We have had a little Ball at Thos. Herriotts Ditchg. made by Redman, I & Wm. Ellis Holmwd Whiteman &cc. about 8 or 10 couple Mr. & Mrs. Wood East End Miss Ellis Andrews Hamshar's Marchant Holmwood &cc. were there some very pretty girls I assure you. it cost us abt. 8 shillings each we kept it up till ½ past three o'clock and were very jovial – I have been to Brookes Stephns. wife Edward's Westmeston Stedman Viner Mills Plumpton, Denman Hurst some with my father some witht. I have nothing more to tell you — go to Sowerby soon and find out what they fossile [. . .] are by name and whether they are fresh water or [. . .] Shells and tell me what you see there all —

I am learning Bottany again now the flowers are coming out now —

I remain Your's &cc.

R Weekes —

NB. We are spoke to to attend the wife of Jno. Dennett Woodmancoat in two or three months. she is pretty round. are you not surprised Major we are getting all the Henfd. business almost. Send me something or other curious in my way, – We want an Apprentice very much. there is quite enough for three. and you must work well when you come home.

(Write soon beshure)

LETTER NO. 52

*To Dick Weekes, 4 March 1802*

St. Thomas's Marh. 4th. 1802

Dr. Brother —

Yours containing a Bank note value 30 pound I this moment recieved, with wh. I will pay Mr. W. & remit his receipt in a day or two,

And with making up ye. deficiency with my money, paying for my silk Breeches, sending you down this that & ye. other, going 3 times to ye. play last Month, Washing, loosing 8 or 10 shillings at learnng. ye. game of billiards, nearly paying for tables 6d. a rubber wh. is three games, I never bett or play for any thing, however I dont want any for myself this month, but you must not commission me any farther, if you do I shall break — I have sent you a box of bones of an upper extremity with some &c's by Knowles, — As to your case of ye. Scrotum becomg. Oedematous after ye. operation, strikes me to be of a novell nature I shd. like to know if there was effusion into ye. cellular membrane before ye. operation, for it has not been so in either case that I have seen operated on, for that is not a characteristic of ye. disease The seat of ye. lump is in ye. tunica vaginalis testis only. I have just been asking Mr. Cooper & he says by no means puncture it, but suspend & poultice it if you think there has been too much inflamn. excited, — But he says the great danger is in not exciting enough He says also an Oedematous tumifaction is by some as a common occurrence, He says that he thinks you are young hands at it & perhaps have thrown a little of ye. menstruum employ'd into ye. cellular membranes,

We use in 3 Wees 1 Gallon of Emetic Wine my Boy, — I think you shd. inform me some time before Ann comes up as I shd. announce it to Mrs. Sparrow & Adcock &c — Miss Sparrow is married & Sarah is at School, so I do not know how she will be entertaind.

Write soon again, (excuse haste)

I remain Yours affectionately

H.W.

LETTER NO. 53

*From Owen Evans, 7 March 1802*

Little Hampton March 7th. 1802

Dear Weekes —

Be assured your Letter afforded me great pleasure in hearing you are so pleasantly situated; as also yr. very interesting communication. — I was sorry to hear of Mr. Attree's misfortune, he must have suffer'd very much; as well as the great

Letter No. 53

disappointment in not being able to pursue his Studies; surely the exciting cause of the Disease cd. not long remain unknown, as it must either proceed from the puncture, or some previous slight evasion of the Cuticle so as to come in contact wth. the Morbid Virus. – You say the patient Mr. Cooper operated on for Hernia died the next day; did you observe in the Dissection that there still remained adhesion of the Intestine to ye. Hernial Sac above the Abdominal Ring almost (or perhaps quite) out of reach of the finger, which could not be readily disengaged by the Operator even after the division of the Ring, without continuing the Incision considerably higher up? A Case similar to this was related to me not long since by Dr. Sanden of Chichester whch. was Operated on there by Mr. Guy of that place, & on Dissection they found the adhesion alluded to; there was not the least discoloration of the intestine in the Operation but the patient died the next day as the Strangulation still remained in the upper part of the Sac. – I am afraid in these Cases of Strangulated Hernia we often wait too long, anxious to reduce the Intestine by putting in execution the various remedies, to avoid the Operation if possible; & then loose our Patient, by the Mortification taking place before we are aware of it. Thus you see died the other day that great man the Duke of Bedford;<sup>227</sup> there Weekes would have been a fine chance for a Young Man to have step'd in & performd the Operation long before Sir Jas. Earle cd. possibly have reached Wooburn; which had it been done in time wd. most probably have saved his Life. I have had some curious Cases lately of Chronic Infln. of the Mucous Membrane of the Bladder producing Symptoms exactly similar to Stone & which had been mistaken for that Disease, but which are too long to describe here, so will wait till I have the happiness of seeing you.

You will much oblige me by making enquiry & sending me a Book (by the Arundel Coach from White Horse Fetter Lane) the Author I really cannot tell you, but it is on the Common Sore Leg in which he strongly recommends the use of adhesive plaister in the form of ye. 18 tail Bandage. Mr. Aby. informed me of this & said likewise there was a Dr. Blair writing a new System of Surgery<sup>228</sup> which God knows is enough wanted, cd. it be done by those whom are well able, but cannot sacrifice their whole time to it. – When do you leave Town? as I have a favor to beg of you if it can be done without any inconvenience to yr. own affairs, & that is, to superintend my business for me for a few days during a visit to Town which Mrs. E. & I wish to make in May if possible. As to yr. looking out for a situation I am not at all surprised, I know exactly how you feel from Sympathy; you most certainly shd. not be in any hurry except an advantageous situation shd. pop in yr. way. Going out of the Country you know must depend entirely on the sort of situation as well as the advantages likely to accrue therefrom, no doubt there were many very good situations both in the Army & Navy

<sup>227</sup> Francis Russell, Duke of Bedford, died 2 March 1802 at Woburn House aged thirty-seven. He had been well until a fortnight previously, when he developed an inguinal hernia that became strangulated. Sir James Earle operated, but the duke died a few days later. *Annual Register*, 1802, p. 385.

<sup>228</sup> William Blair (1776–1822), surgeon to the Lock Hospital and Finsbury and Bloomsbury Dispensaries; wrote on the health of soldiers, vaccination, and venereal disease, but never a system of surgery.

*Letter No. 54*

during the War but now I suppose that is all at an end. Adieu Dear Weekes. Mrs. E. joins with me in every good Wish

Yours truly

O. Evans.

Shall be happy to hear from you shortly.

**LETTER NO. 54**

*From Mary Ann Weekes, 10 March 1802. Continued by Dick Weekes*

Hurstperpoint  
March 10 1802

Dear Hampton —

Your Letter by the Post. & Package, by the Carrier, arrived safe, Your Echinus, was broken in a number of Pieces. We had Beef &c on your Birthday in Honor of the day Mr. & Mrs Cripps came. as the Servant was driving her down a Lane called Dunton Lane, the Chaise overturned She Sprained. her Wrist, & Bruised her Arm, very much. Mr Cripps informed us Mr Clark Mr J.M.C. Tutor, would return to England a Married Man you have seen by the Papers his Mother is lately Dead. did we tell you? Miss Sargeson was Married; the Person is the Son of A Builder; in London where she Loged, she would not Marry him, except he took Orders. As for your Cuttings of the Famous Pear, & the Famous Nonparreil, they are of no use to put in our Garden, to be eat up with the Canker; We shall give them away — You let Mrs Sparrow know I talk of being in Town About Easter, & let me know when it will be most Agreeable. Also send me thier Number &c. what did you say to Mr J Weekes? To day we have been makeing Orange Wine. — Dick desires me to say he is very busy Posting the Book more than 40 Pages, in a month, Raikes called here to night he is soon going to Oxford. Mr. Newnham, is going to turn out a Stag next Monday he had it from Parham Sr. Cesil Bishops<sup>229</sup> the Dodsons are going to Stafordshire, this Spring the old Doctor is nervous, still. he has not done duty at church. these three months, Dick likes your Drawing very much he thinks you do it very well, he desires me to say they have not had time to read a Sylable of your Breveory of Arteries yet. he says he made last week 2 Cong. of Tinct. Senae and 2 of Corticis C. one of Rhaei Opii C. and ½ a Cong. of Lavend. C. and Assaefaetidae My Boy. Major 4000 Pills — &cc We have Innoculated Will for the Cow-Pox it is going on very well — we like you to send us down Seeds of every thing that is rare. Your

<sup>229</sup> Sir Cecil Bishop owned Parham, an Elizabethan mansion near Pulborough, Sussex. It was common sport to turn a stag out from a private park on to the South Downs for hunting.

Letter No. 54

Snow drops, Aconites, & Crocus's look butiful, I should like to have some more little Drawings when you can spare time to do them, our church Clock this instant strikes nine, Grace & I walked up the Hill<sup>230</sup> to day & your Sister Mary Ann is quite tired. Mr Campion has sent again to try Bull, Papa is so well pleased with him now that he sent word 50 Guineas at the Stable Door, before he had asked him but 45 & the Horse went down to Danny once or twice, there is a young Lady staying at Dany she had sprain'd her foot they sent for Papa. I cannot think of any thing else to say to you to night ——

I remain Your Affectionate

Sister M A Weekes

PS You are to mind when you direct your Letters, that you put. Hurstperpoint. Brighton. because owing to your not doing that. Your last Letter was missent & one or two of Wil Borrers — My Father thinks if you were to take a good sketch of the Muscles, that are divided in the operation for the Stone & the parts adjoining in the Pelvis. it would be worth doing. My Father is going to have his Portrait taken by Johnson, the Man who has ben here you know some time, my Father sat, this morning half an Hour for the first time it is to be about the size of Dr Fordyce. write soon to us write close, tell us of all your adventures & of every thing entertaining.

Mr Batchelor of Pin Land who we operated on for the Hydrocele was going on very well, for the space of four or five days, when very unexpectedly. he was taken with a locked Jaw — & expired. the third day. We used Anodynes, & the warm Bath, which had no effect, he was too old a Subject for it. being seventy. & a Weakly, Man,

What does Cooper mean by saying we are young hands at it? we will operate with the First Surgeons in London, for the Hydrocele? it being oedematose we considered a thrifle did not want you to metion that to Cooper, we knew as well as Cooper that the inflammation was wanting to be excited. —— but here the inflammation was so great as to cause apprehensions of it's coming to Supperation — and therefore we applied Leeches & Vestio, & Laxatives, to prevent supperation's coming on —— When you have an opportunity send half an Hundred of Quills. Ellis's are so bad there is no writing with them, Borrer will not take the Paper any longer, we miss the new very much without it we do not know how the world goes —— Poor Fill. Niacolas. is dead — Dame Gander is turned out of the Work House, I can think of no more to tell you — Adieu

March 11 — 1802

Queen Anns Farthing sold for seven hundred & fifty guineas ——<sup>231</sup>

<sup>230</sup> Wolsonbury Hill, the nearest part of the South Downs to Hurst.

<sup>231</sup> Only three farthings were minted during the reign of Queen Anne. In February 1802, one was sold for four hundred guineas and another advertised in the *Morning Chronicle* for seven hundred and fifty guineas. Recorded in the *Weekly Chronicle or Lewes Advertiser*, 22 February 1802.

## LETTER NO. 55

*To Richard Weekes, 12 March 1802*

St Thomas's March 12th. 1802

Dear Father,

I have inclosed a Letter which I the other day recieved from Evans [Letter 53]; on account of a favor wh. he intreats of me in May, Now wether it will meet with your approbation entirly or no; I cannot tell until you answer this Letter, Our course of Anatomical & Surgical Lectures will not terminate until quite ye. latter end of May, before which I myself shd. not much like to go, however what your dictates are I shall obey, There is no impediment to my going ye. beging. of June, that I see, As to Whitfields concent I make no doubt that he would object to it for so short a space of time, — The expences wh. I shd. incur in travling by ye. Coach, would be (I antisipate) repaid sufficiently with 2 guineas that O E. might present me with, tho: this is entirly a matter of speculation, However a determind answer from you shortly I hope to recieve, —

I was ye. other day favord with a Poenis from one of ye. Pupils, (pretty large) & I have injected ye. corpora Cavernosa with yellow wax; & ye. corpora spongiosa with red, including ye. bub & glans, It has been usual with us to inject ye. corpora spongiosa & glans by fixing ye. pipe into ye. Vena magna ipsius Poenis but in this instance I have done it by ye. vena tegmentorum, & there has been regurgitation of ye. injection by ye. Vena magna ips. poens.; so that both Veins are shown, To inject ye. corpora cavena. I fix ye. pipe into one of ye. crus poenis & pass a ligature round ye. other to prevent ye. injection from passg. out, so that you see by throwg. it in on one side you may distend that on ye. opposite, — I shd. liked to have injected on upon ye. subject, in that case I shd. have saved one of ye. crus entire, however when you beg a thing or have it given to you you must take it as it comes, It was a black man 6 feet 2 Inches high.

Mr. W. is every now & then troubled with a Sick head ach, & I was called up to him the other night about two oClock, got 15 grs. of Ipecac, & waited ye. opperation so that he has done very little in ye. Shop this Week past, — The Surgeons have just commenced a new mode of practice with respect to Varix of ye. Vena Caphena major wh. is making an incision down upon ye. Vein & passg. a ligature round it, I cannot speak to ye. success of it yet, but it is principally done to take of ye. column of blood, — If Thos. Gander was to come up I think we sh. cure him, by ye. new mode of Straping old Ulcers, — (I will shew you when arrive

Mr. Cline perform'd it yesterday for ye. first time he amputated, also & cut for ye. Stone when he extirpated two ye. size of large marbles, The appearances of ye. first strongly indicated that there was an other, Then was brought in an other; a Child 3 Years old in whom Mr. C. could not pass a staff, sound, or Bougie, So that there remains a doubt wether there is stone in ye. bladder, or if it is a diseased prostrate, — Our Demonstrator Mr. S. has these 4 days pass'd been giving ye. Arteries, & his language is so good that it is quite pretty to hear him, also he gave a discription of two

or three branches wh. Mr. Winslow if I remember right does not make mention of, one is ye. transversalis faciei going off from ye. temporal Artery & crossg. over ye. Massiter muscle, a 2d. is ye. profundus temporalis going off from ye. internal maxillary & passg. perpendicularly up under ye. Zygomatic process to Anastomose with branches of ye. temporal — A third is ye. Iliolumbalis; an Artery going off posteriorly from ye. upper part of ye. Internal Iliac, then passg. outwardly & is going to join ye. circumflexus Ilii, wh. is comg. off from ye. external Iliac opposite ye. giving off of ye. Epigastric artery generally (but we every now & then see these two Arteries arising by one common trunk) The circumflex. Ilii & ye. Iliolumbalis; surround ye. crista of ye. Ilium, — Saunders; is a very clever fellow, & a sensible, but I was present yesterday when he discovered what he had not before known wh. was ye. anterior Tibial nerve's not passing the same course with ye. anterior Tibial Artery but bifurcating at ye. Poplitea with ye. posterior and then passing round ye. outer side of ye. head of ye. Fibula, afterwh. only a small portion of ye. nerve dips down with ye. Artery —

I have just received your Letter; or I would [. . .] Ann, & Dick's, wh. however pleased me much, B [. . .] I begin answering. I will just, tell Ann that I drank tea with Monkhouse's family the other Eveng. but unfortunately Miss; & her friend a Lady staying with her were engaged out, she ask'd after her kindly, I walk'd with Jno. M. to ye. House of Commons but they had broken up & I must go again — I am very glad you are having your Portrait taken, tell Dick I have drank tea once with ye. Boys at Cherrys in their school room, particularly with Myrian I am getting more & more acquainted with them, I go sometimes & play Billiards with them with Mead, Addams, Myrian, & Faithfull,<sup>232</sup> 4th. monitor he said he knew Dick, he's a clever fellow, Doctors day is on ye. 30th. instt, probation day was yesterday, we are all going together to see Mrs. Stokoe who lives by ye. River Thames about 5 or 6 miles up I forget ye. place — The eveng. I was there they went up to complain their suppers were too small, I found ye. same rebellious spirit existing that ever there was, They give 40 guins. pr. Annum & find their own Tea in an Afternoon, So one and ye. other has his tea kettle & tea things, I am learning. Myrian Chess & he knows Baggammon for he know's it well, (I do not know if I have spelt it wright for I cannot find it in my Dicty.)\* You did not say at last, if old Batchelor died, you left him with sayg. he had a bad trismus & that you employ'd ye. warm bath &c, but I conclude he did die, as they seldom get ye. better, — A Queen Ann's farthing was sold yesterday for 750 guineas — \* I beg your pardon Dr., I see upon looking again, that you did mention it. — As you do not take ye. Paper I must write oftener & give you a bit of news now & then The opinion is here that we shall go to a war again<sup>233</sup> — I am heartily glad about Bull, for a Horse of his frame must be good for something, & he certainly only wants age — as for ann's knowg. ye. number I do not suppose she

<sup>232</sup> Thomas Mead attended Merchant Taylors' School 1793–1802, where he was head boy. Scholar of St John's College, Oxford, BA 1806, MA 1810. Vicar of Great Staughton, Huntingdon. Richard Adams — no further details survive of him or Myrian, which could be a nickname. Francis Joseph Faithfull, at Merchant Taylors' 1796–1802. Scholar of St John's College, Oxford, BCI 1811; Rector of Bishop's Hatfield, Totteridge, 1819–55; tutor and chaplain to the Marquess of Salisbury.

<sup>233</sup> This did not happen until April 1803.

*Letter No. 56*

would go alone from ye. Inn, either myself or Mrs. Sparrow to a certainty will send some one, Mrs. S. said she shd. be glad to see her, however I will have a little more tak with her about it — I will endeavour to illustrate ye. parts concerned in ye. operation for ye. stone as well as I can, — I have no room to say what I wrote to Jno. Weekes, but if I recieve a Letter from him will send it to you —

H. Weekes

(all I wish of you is to write as long a Letter to me as this; & not such ½ Letters Ann; I am only sorry I have not more room to answer your kind Letter, However [. . .] wish you, to accept my thanks, & love to all —

**LETTER NO. 56**

*From Richard Weekes. Continued by Dick Weekes [n.d. ? March 1802]*

NB. You cant say but what this is full now Sir——

Hamptony

In your Letter of march 3d. you say you are 23 years of Age that's a mistake you are 22 years old.

We recd. the cuttings of the Apples & Pairs have grafted some & given some to Bethell & promised the rest to Mr. Bridger, I have no objection to your going to Evans for a Week but I shall also want you I believe for about the same time sometime in the Summer while I go into Kent — You had better get a blood Vessel subject if it is not too late as I did & that will show all the blood Vessels, you had better sell the Penis that you have injected it is an indecent preparation & cannot be exposed at least it is not proper it should, You write on Anatomical subjects & express yourself like a Veteran I think you will get too deep for the Doctor & I. we can hardly follow you but go on acquire all the knowledge you possibly can & put down the heads of subjects and all curious remarks upon paper, I will never operate again for the radical cure upon so old a subject as old Batchelor. Mrs. Turner is dead of Cowfold died of Typhus – cant you get to be Demonstrator you shd. exercise yourself at it – If you can get a small Pelvis of a male subject try your luck a second time to inject the Penis in scitu distend the bladder & rectum & shew the parts concernd in operating for the Stone – I dont mind the expense

Was obliged to use the perforator yesterday for Mrs. Holman at Wick Child lay with the Face to the Pubis, & unusually large the Waters had been run off 9 or 10 Hours, so would not run the risk of turning but opened the head, this is the tenth time tthat I have used that instrument in delivery the 1st died all the rest are alive and well so far as I know. Dick & I do fagg confoundedly we do half Charly morgans business nearly we enter a Page or Page & half every day, are now pretty busy with Cow Pock,

innoculated Mr. Hughes's family at Mockbridge, Randels's Wife sister & Chd. in Town &c. Mary Ann is with Mrs. Tilt who has had a sore throat but is better. Anne Recd. a very polite letter from Mrs. Sarah Wood of London inviting her to come soon, and send her word when she will come whh. Anne will do and let you know too, when she will come. Our painter Johnson is going in a Day or two to take the Drawing of all the Urns Patirae &c. of Mrs. Newnham Tilt I mean and mine that where dug up on Beeding hill on Painted Canvass. they are to be of the exact sise and Colour — Are not you surprized to hear of Mrs. Turners Death? All that you have to get for us now is the quils fluoric Acid and a Pholas shell or two and any other little cheap shell that you think I have not got or any thing else for it is variety that I want to set of my Cabinet with. if you see any perfect very small Shells if cheap. purchase some and send me. I suppose you will soon want more money. if you have not much of a Package to send us send it by the Coach and I will pay for it – My father & I share all the Cow Pox Money betwen us. we charge 10s.6d. each. Mr. Wood & family of Wapses are a going to have it Chasmore of Portslade &c.

I now begin on quite another Subject Majorca, enclosed in this parcel wh. I shall send off tomorrow pr. Coach. a letter to Sowerby which has been wrote a fortnight ago, thinking to send it by W. Borrer Junr. but thought this Morning I would send it to you, for to help to him and tell me what he ways all. you will read the Letter first and then Wafer it and carry it with the Specimens to Sowerby of Lambeth. I gave Feron a specimen or two and he thinks it very pretty. because the Shells are so very minute. not able to be discern'd well without a good Glass. and above all to think of Bolneyshire producing such a thing?

Do you ever see any ancient or Roman Urns Coins &c. in the Windows of Shops? there is a curious Shop If I remember right, just before you come to the Manshion house of the same side of the way in Bucklersbury Street shure; as you go from Suffolk lane; to the Manshion house —

Of what Genus those Shells are am not certain but think some of them are Cypraea or Cowries. on the lower side of the Specimen's they seem to be Open resembling Patella's or Limpets. – Major Magweed write soon and long Letter to Our Dick as you used to call me – it rains hard to Day and being Sunday the Shop this morning is pretty quiet. so I shall write on – Young Browme is staying at Westown.<sup>234</sup> Sally B. is taking Deobst. Mist. Mary B. the Bark. but they are now pretty well. your plants are arrived so many as twelve wh. have taken care of. —

Should like to have any curious foreign seeds of any kind to look at as they are handsome. —

I went and Vscio'd Old Sayers HHth. this Morng. before breakfast a foot – he has broke a rib or two.

Take great care you do not let the surfaces of the fossil Shells in Limestone touch one another. you may shew this fossil to Whitfield most likely he would like to see it thro: a glass for it is the minutest fossil I have ever seen before. you might save one little bit and shew now and then to one and the other, if they are at all Curious. not otherwise.

<sup>234</sup> Westown was synonymous with Pakyns Manor, the home of the Borrer family.

*Letter No. 57*

Old quaner is pretty well and are likewise the Horses & ourselves thank God. I was at Henfield the other Day see Miss Foster & Jane Beckett they are both pretty well. askd after you and so do great many people – We have had plenty of March Dust now lately – Do you send me something in the Conchology way soon beshure. Remember us all to Sparrows family &cc —

We had yesterday a 10.£ Order from Satterley – Graces portrait is taking by Johnson for 10s.6d. —

All send our love's to you & Am Yours &ccc

R W. Junr.

(excuse haste) Amen.)

**LETTER NO. 57**

*From Grace Weekes, 21 March 1802*

Sunday Morning  
March 21th. 1802

Dear Brother

I now take up the pen to write a few lines to you, This is my mothers birthday if she was now alive, she would be 46 years old we keep it on roast beef our usual birthday dinners —<sup>235</sup>

Dick desires me to say that there was a very beautiful young lady staying at Danny a few days ago by the name of Moreland she sprained her foot and Papa was sent for and attended her in her own room, A few days after Dick called and was introduced in to the parlor she has been staying at Dany for these 3 months but is now gone — Mrs. Baker fell down in a fit last week and is not yet recovered, her sister Miss Anne Wilson is staying with her, I don't think she will live long, she grows very thin, & goes off surprisingly — I shall be very sorry if she dies, for then I am sure we shall lose our best of neighbours — yesterday we had 3 carp presented to us by Mrs. Marchant of Little Park - one of which I carried in to Mrs. Baker I asked her how she found herself now she said she did not know that anything was the matter with her but that she was as weak as water - the other 2 sent to Mr Bridgers of Albourne —

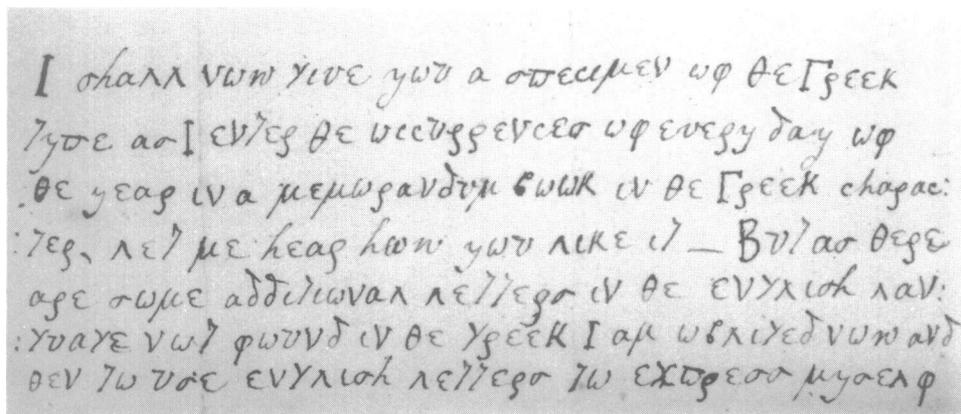
Mrs. Holman was yesterday brought to bed of a fine girl Papa was with her 2 nights and a day this is her 11th child I hope she will have no more — You seem to have quite forgot your little Richy for you never ask after him

My Fathers portrait is very much like and mine will be finished to morrow I dare to say you wonder why I am drawn before my brother or sister but I assure you there is a reason for it, and that is, because Papa thinks I am so like my mother therefore there is to be a dimple in the chin

<sup>235</sup> Charity Weekes (née Hampton) died on 6 June 1786.

Letter No. 58

[An insertion by Grace Weekes follows, which she writes in a mixture of Greek and Roman characters. This is reproduced here in facsimile.]



[I shall now give you a specimen of the Greek type as I enter the occurrences of every day of the year in a memorandum book in the Greek character, let me hear how you like it — But as there are some additional letters in the English language not found in the Greek I am obliged now and then to use English letters to express myself.]

We want a small portable Thermometer to ascertain the degree of heat of a warm bath occasionally ask the expence of one Dr. Fordyce's portrait I percieve is very like him except the hair he had no hair on his head hardly & was then as bauld as Mr. Marshall but perhaps it is meant as a Wig Shew some of these fossile shell stones to the Doctor or give him a specimen

LETTER NO. 58

To Mary Ann Weekes, 28 March 1802

St. Thomas's Marh. 28th. 1802

Dear Sister —

Since my last I have been dining with Mrs. Sparrow at No. 74 West Smithfield, & I told her you intended waiting on her when it would be most convenient, That would be to morrow, then she said or any time, for she had, no engagement neither should she have, but shd. be very happy to see you at any time, she only wishd me to let her know when you would come, Now her daughter comes home for a Week's Hollidays, on ye. day before good Friday, & she says she shall stay a few days over ye. time if you come, However it appears as convenient a time as any & the best, for you to fix upon a day or two before goodfriday, but you will write me when, & by what Coach, you

Letter No. 58

mean to come, & where ye. coach puts up, For there is Charring Cross. Swan & two Necks Lad lane, & Laurance Lane.<sup>236</sup>

This Dick, must learn by going to Brighton & enquiring & taking a place some little time before you come, And you may as well postpone your writing to me untill Dick has done this — For otherwise I shall not know where to meet ye. Coach, Mrs. Sparrow offer'd to send or come to meet you but I think giving her that trouble is unnecessary. Tho: upon 2d. thoughts I think you may as well write to me & say wether that time will suite you or no & what your Father says about it, I have seen Mrs. Sparrow twice since you have talkd of comg. about Easter; & ye. last time, she told me that her daughter sarah, (Mrs. Wood) said to her when she told her you was comg., Why Mother, Miss Weekes is not comg. to pay you a visit, I thought she was comg. to see me, & Mrs. Sparrow told me she felt  $\frac{1}{2}$  afronted, So that after staying a Week or so, With Mrs. S. you must go & stay some days with Mrs. Wood, — I say this because I think it somewhat necessary you shd. be apprised of it, — I dined with Mr. Holmer yesterday & meet a Mr. Atwood who is my age tho  $\frac{1}{2}$  a head taller, is Son to one of Mr. Holmer's partners, is a fine young Man comes from Birmingham, did not know young Hamper, young Holmer & I mean to go when ye. Prince of Wales's business comes before ye. House of Commons, he knows a friend who can get him in, Wm. is a fine young Man, — Miss Farendons are staying there now, All ye. family are in mourning, Mr. & Mrs. Holmer askd kindly after our family, I drank tea with them 4 days before, —

I went ye. other Eveng. to call upon ye. Marriotts, But ye. Ladies were going out to tea, however I took a cup of Coffe with old Marriott, & look'd into ye. newspapers, Miss Marriott ask'd if you were comg. to Town if you were; she said she hoped to have ye. pleasure of seeing you to spend a day or two or something to that purpose, But I told her I believ'd not, For you know it would not do at all to go there, For old marriott is in very reduced circumstances, So I would not have you think of that & I dare say you think so too —

As I was perusing a newspaper (The Observer) I thought perhaps my Father might like to have it once a Week it seemd a very good Weekly paper & He may have it every Week for 3d.  $\frac{1}{2}$  ye. (lowest price,) It is a Sundays Weekly Paper & it would arrive at Hurst every Wednesday, I told Marriott to send it every Monday night untill farther notice so that if my Father does not like it he has only to signify ye. same to me, But I thought as He had been so long accustom'd to perusing a News Paper He might perhaps like it, Marriott sends papers in this way into York & some other place, The Paper itself; for rapping Paper, is worth a  $\frac{1}{2}$ , It will always arrive clean for there are not many people see it on Sunday, Also it will arrive postage free that is it ought to do, as there was an Act of Parliament pass'd to that effect last year I think,

Tell Dick, ye. Fluoric Acid has not arrived yet — St. Saviours 12 Bells are going charmingly, They ring every Monday for a Leg of Mutton & Turnips, A legacy left

<sup>236</sup> The Golden Cross at Charing Cross and the Swan With Two Necks in Lad Lane, which had stables above and below ground, were two of the great coaching inns of London. See E.W. Bovill, *English country life 1780–1830*, London, Oxford University Press, 1962, for details of the inns and mails.

Letter No. 59

them by somebody, — I went ye. other day in ye. mornng. with an intent to inoculate Mr. Jacksons little boy thro: his desire, A day wh. is rather a leasure one to me I mean Wednesday but when I got there Mrs. J. was at breakfast, & I knew it would not do unless He was at home from her timidity so She wishd I would dine with them ½ past 3 So I said I would, for Mr. J. would then be at home, And what did I do but go & call upon a steady young Man at No. 126 Fleet Street, a Bartholomite, who I had meet at Adcock's, & who had invited me, but he was not at home then I came back to St. Bartholomew's Hptl, & found him, And went thro: ye. usual routine of studies there with him so that I lost nothing, First went into ye. dissectg. Room, wh. is much neater than ours, nicly strewd with sawdust, I there heard a Demonstrn. from a Mr. Laurence,<sup>237</sup> a young man who lives with Abernethy, But is not so cleaver fellow as ours. (Ours is ye. first fellow in this Kingston There is Fife at Edinborough but he is not equal to him I mean Saunders) I then went round ye. Hospital with Long; ye. Surgeon, — & at 1 oClock Abernethy Lectured, & very well too, full as well as Cooper and I think better, His Eye caught mine directly He came in as I sat with Mr. Kemble, It was on ye. structure of ye. Heart & its appertinances, at great length, He said in one year He had found ye. foramen ovale open 13 times to a greater or less extent, And in every case as far as he could recollect, there was morbid action going on in ye. Lungs, But he did not go so far as to say how this shd induce it, After Lecture I went up and spoke to him told him who I was & that Evans was with my Father, He said he shd. be very happy to shew me any thing at any time, or to see me at ye. Hospital, — It was by this time after 3, And away I posted to Jacksons, But behold after all Mr. & Mrs. J. could not make up their minds to have it done, And I would by no means persuade them to one thing or the other; I had got some good matter

Ann; When you come do not drop a word of this to Mrs. Sparrow for they were to know nothing about it, I remain Yours affectiony. HW --

I tell Dick ye. source of animal heat is acertaind ask him if he knows it, It is a Chemical operation ———

LETTER NO. 59

*To Richard Weekes, 29 March 1802. Postscript in Greek/Roman to Grace Weekes*

St Thomas's Marh. 29th. 1802

Dear Father ———

Your parcel I recieved yesterday wh. came by ye. Coach to Laurence Lane I have been this Mornng. before breakfast into St. Pauls Church Yd. to a Mathematical

<sup>237</sup> Later Sir William Lawrence (1783–1867). For his relationship with Abernethy see George Bettany, *Eminent doctors*, London, 1890, p. 303. It is quite possible that the young Benjamin Brodie attended the same demonstrations. "During his first season in London [i.e., 1801] he attended Abernethy's course on Anatomy" *ibid.*, p. 289.

instrumt. maker to enquire ye. price of a portable Thermoneter, but I saw none that pleased me there & I came back to a Mr. Blunts<sup>238</sup> opposite ye. Royal Exchange, were I saw some of ye. exact kind for a Medical Man to carry in his pocket with safety, with degrees up to 120 upon a Box Wood scale enclosed in a strong mahogany case I am shure ye. exact thing wh. you want, The price 15s, Tho: some there were upon an Ivory scale £1.1s.0d., but not at all better, And from ye. immersion of ye. Ivory in water it would become yellow; Blunt told me He sold them frequently to Medical Men ———

I have now just breakfasted, off nice hot Roll wh. Mrs. W. has every now and then made But our constant breakfast is dry toast; & butter it ourselves, — Mrs. Whitfield senr., her Son Thos. & Mrs. W. junr.'s sister in Law are all stayg. here, very good sort of people all of them ———

I am now going to hear ye. first Lecture on ye. Alkalies, from Mr. Allen, after wh. away I go to Sowerby's, — Grace, I think writes ye. Greek Type very well, & If I have time, ye. latter part of this Letter shall be address to her, in answer, but do not know, for Tuesday's we serve all the House with medicines, I hope to have an opportunity of shewg. Dr. Fordyce some of Dick's fossil shells, wh. are very beautifull indeed The old Dr. breaks fast I think. He has had lately an attack of sore throat, And He says He has lived an artificial life these 10 years ———

Bill Holmer, called on me yesterday while at dinner, to ask me to come & dine at their House to meet a young party to morrow; when I told him I would, Tho I was going to take my tea with Thos. Snelson at Vauxhall but shall write him a 2 penny post Letter to say Thursday Eveng.<sup>239</sup> will suit me, Thom is a tollerable chemist it being one of ye. departments in his line of business ———

I was last night in company with Mead Myrian & faithfull, playing Billiards, behind ye. Bank, but I find I must learn no more for I believe it has cost me £2.2s.0d. upon ye. whole, we are charged 2s. 6d. an Hour by candle light, & a dish of Tea or Coffe wh. we have instead of Punch or Spirits & water, — I shall soon know baggammon What with one amusement & ye. other lately I have spent very near all my money, Tho: 1.10.0 went to Whitefield, To my washerwoman, shoemaker, Taylor, &c I owe 2.10.0, pretty well perhaps when you read this you will think I have been too extravagant, & if so; for ye. future I will abstain from all amusement

As we do not dine 'till four my stomach feels empty & I go & eat 6d. of Oysters sometimes I have not been to a play since ye. King saw ye. cabinett, wh. was a month ago full ———

past 3 oClock; have just done serving ye. House Having been to Sowerbys this mornng. with ye. &c's of Dick's, Sowerby wrote an answer to Dick while I was there, which I read, And He sent inclosed in his letter, a small animalcule wh. He found among 100's more, in ye. summer time in a standing poole, perhaps he may be mistaken But they appear to me to be very like indeed tho: somewhat larger, He said He had never recollected having seen them pictured or spoken of in any author

<sup>238</sup> T. Blunt, *Mathematical Instrument Maker to His Majesty*, 22 Cornhill.

<sup>239</sup> The twopenny rate obtained for letters posted and for delivery in the Cities of London and Westminster, and the Borough of Southwark.

*Letter No. 60*

He had pictured it while alive and was somewhat like this with small antennae or Horns projecting, this; magnified to twice or more as large again, Dr. Fordyce did not come to day, had a pain in his stomach I shewed it to Whitfield who seem'd des[. . .]s of having a piece so I gave him one, As to the detached periwinkle shells, Sowerby there differs from you, & thinks them to be of ye. Genus he has mentiond & not of ye. genus Turbo, He gave me one wh. I will send you to compare with a Turbo or periwinkle shell,

Again as to talk you are quite mistaken for it is nothing more than Gypseous Crystal, or Sulphate of Lime, That I was shure of directly I saw it, Talk is not so frequently found in this Kingdom, As to its being laminated all Gypseous Crystal is so almost, Sowerby, made a memorandum where it came from & I dare say you will have your name in some publication, for he never saw any of it in a fossil state before — His way of explang. it to me was that it must have been found were a pond had once been So that these little fish as I call them became fossild by a change taking place, But this might but I think not very likly to be ye. case.

I said I thought it to have been a primitive stratum of fossill shells ye. same as Periwinkle, He shewd me many kinds of smaller shells than those, wh. you must come & see some of these days, Sowerby is now employg. himself in Skining different kinds of fish & preparg. them very natul.

So conclude my Letter to you & remain yours dutify. H W. Amen

(as Dick says)

[To Grace Weekes, in Greek/Roman characters on the same principles as the insertion in Letter 57, p. 143]

My dear Sister Grace, you write very well indeed I only advise you to go on, I am verry glad to hear you talk about little Richy, though you do not say if he is well I have not any doubt of your taking every possible care of him, I have one thing to beg of you, that is to persuade my father not to sell Bull, this last wish of mine you may keep to yourself and not explain it to every one—I should very much wish to see my fathers portrait and yours

I remain  
Your dutifully  
H. Weekes

**LETTER NO. 60**

*To Dick Weekes, 30 March 1802*

St Thomas's Marh. 30th. 1802

Dear Dick ———

Having ½ an hour to spare I have embraced ye. opportunity of writing to inform you I am very busy indeed dissecting from mornng. 'till night, A capital bloodvessel

subject 4 feet long perfectly lean tho: a female; shd. have rather preferred a male (but I must not touch upon complaint for it is late in the season) however I had not bought it ½ an hour before I was offered 10s. 6d. for my bargain by Pugh, & Fixott, there has been only two such subjects dissected before this winter, What do you think; I injected it myself, the reason was Saunders was poorly & Davy too busy & there was no time to wait as ye. weather was very warm, But no one could have injected it better even ye. middle of ye. anterior Crural nerve had run, I was all day Sunday at it & constantly ever since I shall be more than a Week at it to a certainty, Mr. Whitfield was so kind as to ask Mr. Birch for his key of a private dissecting room up in the garret where I am all by myself, It is were ye. Whitfields used to dissect. — I took away ye. condyloide & coracoid processes of ye. left side of ye. inferior maxillary bone yesterday to shew ye. continuation of ye. external carotid Artery & I succeeded very well in ye. attempt, for I have seen ye. Artery often cut in sunder, The small ramifications of arteries have not run so capitably as I wished about ye. Head. I have dissected ye. Mesenterica superior & collica dextra & sinistra & left them in, as my Father did one, I do not expect to exceed him, in my attempt I assure you, I have found no remarkable varieties hitherto, such as ye. obturator comg. off from ye. epigastric instead of ye. internal iliac wh. has been ye. case in two instances this Winter, The arteries of ye. upper extremities are ye. most subject to variation, & in a very remarkable manner very often, The Lungs were diseased & hydatids both upon ye. surface of ye. Liver & Spleen, also an incipient aneurism at ye. curve of ye. Aorta, I have saved rather more of ye. Splenic artery than my Father has, I have saved ye. stomach & secum with its appendix, & distended them with Air the vessels in both have run beautifully.

I paid 2. 12. 6 for it, I borrowed ye. money of Mr. W. for it, as it is ready money business,

Holmer's are in mourning. for his mother young H. calls on me often seems fond of associating with me I spent a very pleasant evening there last Wednesday there was Miss Pidgeon & her Brother, two young Youngs, A Mr. Green nephew of Mr. H's, A Miss Bryant from New Market who has been staying some time with Miss P. two Miss Farendons A Miss [ . . . ]bridge & her Brother, Miss H. & Wm. & myself so [ . . . ] was a good round party of us we [ . . . ] tea play'd cards; at our table sp[ . . . ]ation, at their vigint une, & limited loo, We were all of us very merry, Wm. came for me to come & take a cup of tea with him Sunday night as his Father & Mother were at Godstone & his sister & ye. two F's were all alone, so we all walked to ye. Magdalen,<sup>240</sup> But I shd. have told you Wm. brought me a note from his Aunt Green inviting me to tea & Cards next Friday, (but a little dance I was given to understand was to be expected instead of Cards) If my hands stink as bad as they do now I am sure ye. girls will nose me, I ought to have a new coat to visit in for my black has been mended more than once under ye. shoulder, but ask my Father about wearing powder, as I have got a little tail again, & whether he will pay a guinea a quarter for me during my stay in Town as it is much ye. practice again;<sup>241</sup> My Hessian will not last me much longer than

<sup>240</sup> A charity in St George's Fields, Southwark, "for the reception of fallen prostitutes". William Dodd, *State of the Magdalen Hospital*, 4th ed., London, 1769.

<sup>241</sup> Powder tax for the wig, which was not repealed until 1869.

*Letter No. 61*

Easter I believe, my Father used to say what use is it? or it dont signafy of a farthing what you wear here (meaning at Hurst) but at St. Thos.'s, while I do stop I think I shd. dress as a genteele young Man, for grandeur commands respect, We had a case of Trepan on Sunday, nothing so simple, By & by there will an other course of Midwifry begin again; I do not know if my Father will think it worth while attendg. or no; one thing is there will be no other Lectures to interfere at all, I am well persuaded it is nearly a Theory & not  $\frac{1}{2}$  equal to what my experience has taught me, The course is £3.3.0. I believe — We had a second variety of Hernia brought into ye. dissecting room the other day wh was that ye. Sac & its contents had pass'd down out at the Ring & on ye. inside of ye. Epigastric artery & it appeard to have been an old Hernia, On the other side of ye. same man was an old Hera. also wh. had pass'd on ye. outside of ye. before mention'd Artery ———

adieu Yours &c H Weekes.

This is [. . .]Day at Mercht. Taylors; [. . .] have not been able to [. . .] account of my pretty little [. . .] female ———

I gave Dr. Fordyce a piece of your fossil & he seemd pleased.

I see by ye. Lewes, that you have withdrawn ye. advertisement for an Apprentice, also that Newnhams Stag broke his leg, There were illuminations in ye. high streets last night for ye. defe. treaty wh. was signed on Saturday last.

**LETTER NO. 61**

*From Grace Weekes, 31 March 1802. Continued by Richard Weekes; postscript by Dick Weekes*

Hurst. Marh. 31st. 1802

Hampton

My Father has been confined these 3 or 4 days with a sprained ancle, but is now pretty well recovered and is gone out on horse back to day for the first time, I will tell you how it happened — he was coming down featherbed lane (if you know were that is) upon old Jack who fell into a quicksand up to his shoulders, and threw papa over his head the old horse trying to get out fell on my father's foot and sprained his ancle he with great difficulty got on his horse again and galloped all the way home he was obliged to have his boot cut off it was so swelled — he borrowed Dr. Dodson's crutches, and left them of but yesterday so now he walks with a stick it is his left leg and the same which he broke about 15 years ago — I am desired to say that you are to discontinue the newspapers for by the time that we have them they cost us 6d or 1s and besides t'is old news by the time it comes to us, So the definitive treaty is signed at last I daresay there is roaring doings in London pray tell us all about it in your next letter Dick says we are going to have illuminations at Hurst to night if we are we shall have 3 candles in each of our windows Mr. Campion is carrying faggots up the hill and

*Letter No. 61*

has ordered 10 cheeses to be carried up and I don't know what all on account of the peace Mrs. Cripps's house at Stanton's was illuminated last night from top to bottom and Lewes was all in a blaze Mariann was not at home when your letter came she has been staying at Newtimber for more than a week but George is gone after her and I expect her home every minute so I shall leave her to finish this letter. Dr. & Mrs. Cook are come to Hurst but the Dr. is gone home again ——

Dr. Dodson's family set off for Staffordshire to morrow I believe —— I hope you will firmly keep your promise of not playing at billiards again for you know that has been the ruin of many a fine gentleman — Pray don't run in debt neither but pay every body their due and if you have not money enough left let us know and I dare to say papa will send you some for you know he hates the thoughts of running in debt the old Post is come to town therefore you must excuse a long letter this time, Dick has fagged hard since papa has been confined yesterday he went upwards of 50 miles and went to a groaning last night down to wineham but that is included in the 50 miles I am &c. Grace Weekes.

Hampton I dont know what Grace has wrote, but I have here enclosed you a £10, Note & I wish you to spin it out as far as you can, as to Billiards, let that alone & every thing else that entice's Money out of your pocket, wair Hair powder if you please & I think you shd. have a new coat this Spring, dont run about too much it unhinges your mind for business, while you are dissecting live well Drink Porter & Wine & always eat heartily of Animal food at least once aday & keep your Stomach full —— as for boots I think it is time they where left off and shoes where substituted for them as being much cooler & pleasanter for Summer, this letter will reach you by the penny post as Dr. Dodson will take it to Town for me the family is going into Staffordshire diew stick close to business & keep your Money Say I

RWeekes

We are Inoculating for Cox Pox now very much write soon and tell us something or other that will amuse us ——

Genl. Hilman is failed with the Natural Small Pox. Old P. attends. I Inoculated Mrs. H: with Vaccine Matter which hope will take effect before the Natural small Pox.

I am &cc

RWeekes Junr.

LETTER NO. 62

To Richard Weekes, 2 April 1802

St. Thomas's Aprl. 2d. 1802

½ past 3 —

Dear Father

Your Letter by ye. 2 penny post I have this moment recieved, tho: It has been arrived longer; containing a 10 pound Note But I am this moment returned from dissecting where I have been since between 6 and 7 this mornng. only comg. down ½ an hour to breakfast, It is a nice subject indeed I have found one variety in ye. fore Arm it is a branch comg. off from ye. bifurcation at ye. Elbow & wh. supplies ye. fore finger & inside of ye. middle finger next adjoining., I hope to find ye. other Arm more natural, I have been offerd £4.4s.0d. for her already, I hope to make a good thing of ye. internal pudental Artery, —

I will take more care of this money & play no more at billiards, nor pay for only that that is necessary, —

I am sorry for your misfortune but hope it will not last long, I dare say old Jack was frightnd enough,

I am not quite so sanguine in ye. Cow pox as I was for do you know the very matter that I was going to inoculate Jackson's Chld. with, has proved spurious, from wh. circumstance I am shure no one can possibly tell at ye. time ye. matter shd. be taken wh. is wh. I hope Ann will not hint this to any one for I shall get in disgrace by ye. Sparrow family, (I did not at all know it at ye. time) — Our illuminations are not very spirited; indeed have not been general, not even in ye. Boro: ye. Mansion House & India House were very grand on Tuesday night, But we expect a generall illumination at ye. ratification & not 'till then, I will desire Marriott not to send ye. Paper any longer —

Grace writes a very pretty Letter indeed — Our injector has an arbitrary law. that is he pretends to charge as much if we inject ourselves as if he injects, provided we make use of his injection, his demand on me is 10s.6d. ? £1.1s.0d. if it had been 4 inches longer, however I will ask Cline & Cooper about it, I think if I pay him for his injectn. his trouble &c it is enouh.

I must be going in a minute or two & dress & call Holmer to go to Mrs. G.'s

Fixott is going to be examin'd at Surgeons Hall but is no more capable than Grace does not know so much of Osteology as she does, — But this is the case with ½ of those who do pass I assure you —

Excuse haste; & accept my sincere thanks for ye. ten pounds —

HWeekes —

LETTER NO. 63

*From Mary Ann Weekes; postscript by Dick Weekes; 6 April [1802]*

Hurstperpoint  
April 6th

Dear Hampton —

I write this to acquaint you Dick has taken me a Place, in a Coach that puts up at the Swan, & Two Necks, Lad Lane<sup>242</sup> — the Coach-Man Daniel, you are to be sure and meet me there soon enough: be there by  $\frac{1}{2}$  after four or 5 o'clock; as the Coaches get in very soon now. they go by Stone-pound, as soon as 3 o'clock many times. next Tuesday 13th. instant is the day I have fixed on, (some time ago) Mrs. Wood wrote me a very civil Letter to invite me to Bishopgate Str & desired me to let her know the day I fixed for going, I have written too & told her I will go & see her after I have been to Smithfield. my Father desires me to tell you, you, are to write by return of Post, if you can, to acknowledge the receipt of this Letter — also you are to enquire the price of a good Weather Glass & the pocket Barrometer, The Dodsons are all gone into Staffordshire, We do not regret thier absence at all. last Wednesday I returned from Newtimber, they have retrenched certainly; but not enough, I fear. Colonel Newnham & his Wife, where staying there, whilst I was there, they went from thence, to thier House in Town. in Sun Street, Mr. & Mrs. Tilt Mr. & Miss Newnham, are soon going to Town, to see them. there is a report of Captain Bingams taking Mrs. Beards House, a Brother of Bingams of Wesmeston, he is a Sea Captain, he seems to complain too, of the Taxes, being very high: therefore I fear poor Campion: will not easily get a Tenant, they are cleaning, & Painting, the House in order. Dick has had Drawings, taken of the urns, dug up, on Beeding, Hill, Jhonson has taken those at Newtimber, & Mr Duglas, has sent Drawings of those two, in his possession,

NB. forgot to send by the Post have therefore sent it by the Coach. let us know wether we shall bespeak you a Coat of Keating and what Colour &ccc —

P.S. We have let the Gates this year for £35 more than last Year my Boy. —

Dr. D. desires you will write soon and a very long Letter indeed. have been to 3 more Labours 2. at Vineham one at Plumpton.

I think we shall purchase a good Weathr. Gls. and Barrometer you are to look out for one of each — I have been beyond Cowfd. a mile and to Ditchg. to Day & my father to Bolney Sadlescomb. Withdean & Albourne, and are uncomon busy indeed with Cow Pox. are going to Inoculate at Nailards<sup>243</sup> again a month hence. Mrs. W. gets worse very fast. My father is midling. I am &ccc

RWeekes —

<sup>242</sup> Two different companies advertised coaches that left Brighton in the season every day at eight and nine o'clock in the morning and arrived in London at about six o'clock the same evening. *Brighthelmstone Directory*, Brighton, Edward Colby, 1800; William Blow, *Brighton and its coaches*, London, Newnes, 1894.

<sup>243</sup> John Nailard kept a private house at Bolney for vaccination. ESRO Par 252/12/1.

## LETTER NO. 64

To Mary Ann Weekes, 8 April 1802

½ past 8 oClock  
post meridian  
St. Thomas's April. 8th. 1802

Dear Sister ———

I have this moment recieved your two Letters, wh. have arrived too late for you to recieve an answer by Friday's post, however as there is one post day more before you set out, at wh. time I make no doubt that you will recieve this, ———

In the first place you may rely upon my being in readiness to recieve you at Lad Lane on Tuesday next, when if it proves a fine afternoon we shall have a pleasant walk to Smithfield, I will go to morrow & take your Letter to Mrs. W. & also inform Mrs. Sparrow when you intend comg. (for it was her desire that I shd.) ——— Mrs. Wood, I am shure will be very glad to see you, Her Husband is a Yorkshire Man & is in partnership with his elder Brother who is married, & there is also a young Brother in the business besides, who is about 22 or 23, by no means an assuming, or bright young man ———

You write me word by my Fathers desire that I shd. enquire ye. prizes of a weather glass and a pocket barrometer, I suppose you mean ye. pocket Thermometer if not I must beg of you to explain when you come to Town, I wrote word a convenient pocket Thermr. was 15s, ———

How does my Father like ye. income Tax being about to be repealed,<sup>244</sup> ——— but perhaps he will not be a saver by it, for they mean to touch up ye. windows, again & substitute other &c's ———

Ann; do you mean to let ye. cockneys know that you are like as one of them? or do you mean to look as I have often heard Dick say that He supposed Chub would, look, at old Pauls's ———

You must excuse my paying you so ill a compliment, — But it is not what I have ye. most distant idea of, your looking like old Chub ———

Tell Dick I have just been writing to Keating (for I promised him I would) for an other good black Coat, & I have taken ye. liberty of writing for a couple of pair of Nankin breeches, for ye. Summer as none I had, And I have strictly enjoind him to make them, & Coat large every were & told him that was ye only fault I had to find of him ——— I have been to Marrott's to desire him do discontinue ye. Papers, & paid him. Tell Dick also that ye. Fluoric acid is not arrived as yet, & I will not go after it in a hurry again for I went 3 times. ———

I have this night pretty well finished my dissection (tell ye. Dr.) and I say He never will see a better, I do not know what my Father will say to it, But I think I can see him now looking at it with an Eye wh. I cannot exactly express, That is at ye. time that

<sup>244</sup> On 6 April, it was proposed in the House of Commons to abolish income tax, which was thought to be a proper resource in time of war, but not a peace tax. *Annual Register*, 1802, p. 387.

mine is surrounded by his Liliptions, as they will look, — The only advantage in his, is of their being more easily turned about, But then I have an advantage wh. I think much over ballances that, wh. is that in mine, You see the arteries as thro: a magnifying glass when compared to his, Also in a large subject ye. Arteries do not so soon (if ever) become obliterated, — I have been up every mornng. before our family (that is any of the servants & work'd 'till breakfast time) Immediately after wh. I have gone up again & stuck at it every day 'till 6 at night (that is as long as I could see) only comg. down to dinner at 4 oClock — It has run well every where except at ye. extremity of each Toe, The teath are excellent indeed, I have exposed some arteries wh. my Father never saw perhaps — The Mesenteric Artery is beautifull from its size I have taken out both Kidneys but saved ye. arteries for some length, — Tell Dick to inform me wh. Kidney is always lower than the other? & what ye. most probable reason is? — As soon as It is dry enough & varnish'd I had better send it down as I may have it stolen —

Now Ann; about Mrs. Green's dance, I went & called Holmer & we walk'd, The ladies Miss H. & ye. Farendons were gone before, we got [. . .] Acre, 8 oClock, & upon entring ye. drawg. room [. . .] forward to me & I bowed respect & a few words [. . .] between us & so forth, They were then at Tea, Miss H. making Tea, I soon began talking to her & engaged to dance ye. two 1st. dances with her, The two next with ye. pretty Miss Farendon Louisa, (Mary Ann F. is lame & could not dance Her lameness arrose from her sister in play pushing her down upon her Knee & breaking ye. Knee) Mr G.<sup>245</sup> is a coach Maker in a very large way in partnership with Hatchett & Co. He did not enter into ye. spirit of it much for he was døaf, There were two Miss Birches & two Broths. who were Coach makers also, A Miss Winchell, Her Father a Gold beater in ye. Acre in a large way too, Miss White, who was like one of my Aunts at Horsham, one who I enquired but little about, tho: I danced with her once because she was sitting down Two of ye. gentlemen at one time were tossing up who shd. dance with her, (by the by not a verry genteele thing between ourselves) Miss Stanton who lived in ye. neighbourwood, And others which I cannot recollect, However we danced some times 10 couple, There was A Mr. Booth & Lane, Attorneys in Fenchurch St,<sup>246</sup> one gentleman in brown silk stockings, but wh. did not look well, I was in powder black coat white waistcoat, & black small cloths and black stockings. We kept it up 'till 3, retired for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an Hour to take sandwiches, We danced in ye. ding. Room, I took  $\frac{1}{2}$  a bed at Mrs. G's with young Holmer, & in ye. mornng. we came home, & in our way He shewd me their Iron Manufactory,<sup>247</sup> wh. pleased me much & wh. was in a very large way, making Anchors, cutting cast Iron in a lathe by means of a steam engine of ye. strength of 10 horses, I took some of ye. Iron & base metal chips meang. to send Dick as they are rather curious. Wm. came & look'd at our dissecting Room by his father's wish & stared as much as his Father when He first saw a black snail at Hurst. —

Miss H. hopes you will spend a few days with her when you come, — Tell my Father Cline senr. recommends large bougies to be introduced into the Osophagus

<sup>245</sup> E. Green, Coachmaker, Great Queen Street.

<sup>246</sup> Messrs Booth and Lane, Attorneys, were at 3 Craven St., the Strand.

<sup>247</sup> Holmer Bunnet and Pik, Ironmongers, 165 Borough.

*Letter No. 65*

instead of a Probang when there is obstruction I will send a couple, I think they are neater —

I think my Father does amasing well with the Gates, Is the broad lane completed yet? Adieu I remain

Yours affectionatly

HWeekes.

**LETTER NO. 65**

*From Dick Weekes, 10 April 1802*

Hurst — 1802  
April 10. —

Major —

My Father desires you will get us a neat Gig directly not new but second hand.<sup>248</sup> be very particular as to the Tire of the Weels. and get sombody to go with you such as Mr. Green or some one that understands something about it. Let it be one that will hold two or three people and not a narrow thing you may get one for 15. or 20 Guineas harness & all. let it be a second hand one and send it down as soon as possible pr. Knowles —

Let it be strong and one that will bear fagging for our Bob to draw. we have it to carry Mrs. W. out in as she gets worse very fast.

NB. you must send word if you find one that will answer the sample and the price of it harness and all. & we will remit you the Cash. — You are to get us one or two good Penknife's such as are us'd in Offices about Town. for we can get none that will mend a Pen. —

You are to get the things all well packd up in good strong Boxes and see that they are packd. up safe and well —

Miss Anne thinks of going from Town to Glocester and stay a Month or two [ . . . ] Mrs. Cook who is staying at Hurst. beshure you are at the Swan 2 Neck's in Lad Lane in time. We are very busy indeed now. —

NB. A good Gig consists in the strength & goodness of the Weels. we dont want one with a head to it. let it be neat & Strong beshure Amen so be it

J.M. Cripps they say is in Paris or Amiens and is expected home in few Weeks —

P.S. You are to buy the portable Thermometer and a Barometer and send down as soon as possible for we are in immediate want of it — you must proceed in this business immediatly and send us word as soon as you can

<sup>248</sup> Mrs Gaskell, having been brought up as the daughter of a surgeon-apothecary, made her hero, Mr Gibson, ride in a gig. See *Wives and daughters*.

*Letter No. 66*

I fancy a good Barometer will cost £1. 11s.6d. buy it at Furgessons in Fleet Street. a very good one ——

I am Dearest Majorca  
your Afecionate Brother  
R Weekes Junr.

Hurst is as dead as ever

We keep fagging on

NB. Peruse this & other Letters again & again —— We expect an answer from you to Day. about meetg. Miss A. What said Dr. Fordyce to the minute fossil? What says Sowerly all? When did you see him? How does Cline do? Have you purchasd. those few shells yet for me? send down something new for us.

Hampton in Black Friars Road is the greatest Variety but if you dont take care you will be much taken in, go to a Coach makers you know Mr. Green ask him about one, that is good & strong

**LETTER NO. 66**

*To Richard Weekes, 15 April 1802*

St. Thomas's April. 15th 1802

Dr. Sir ——

Last night Mr. Holmer & I packed ye. Harness well up in a Bag, sewed it together, & fastened a matt wh. entirly coverd ye. Chaise & sewed ye. directions on upon ye. matt & gave strict charge to ye. carter &c were Mr. H- went with me, I have sent ye. Stomach of my subject & ye. secum with its appendix both wh. are injected & varnished in ye. large travling Box & ye. Key of it is in ye. small driving Box & of wh. Mr. H. had lost ye. Key, Mr. H. desired me to say you would find it sometimes convenient to drive without ye. driving box perhaps, or travling trunk; as they both could be removed at pleasure The shafts are Lancewoods of ye. best that are made,

Ann has given me £20.5s.0d, & ye. over plus I am not able to make up, moreover I am in immediate want of a Hat, & tho: there is no hurry to pay for my Boots, these two things are all that remain with me to pay for, I shhall now proceede to lay before you my late expences since my last remittance, & after these things are payd for meang. ye. Boots & Hat I shall be in want of nothing more for myself

Letter No. 66

	£	s.	d.
In ye. first place paid Mr. Whitfield what I borrowed for my subject	2.	12.	6
Once to an Orotorio	-	6	-
Office penknife	-	2	6
½ hundred of Quills	-	2	6
Pocket Thermometer	-	15	-
Hair dressg. before I began powder	-	1	-
For washg. 3 Cloths for dissg.	-	1	-
Porter for myself	-	-	6
Porter for Mrs. Weekes	-	11	6
Waistcoat from Mr. Evans	-	18	-
Paid for ye. Observer	-	1	-
Lost at Cards	-	6	-
Letters	-	1	6
For Bagg, Puff, Powder & pomatm. wh. will be of use to Dick	-	5	-
Hackney Coach	-	2	6
Injectg. Poenis	-	2	6
Oysters & Porter for myself while dissecting	-	2	-
Tarts also, while Do.	-	2	-
Absent from necessity from ye. Clinical Society	-	1	-
½ a guinea wh. I had borrowd of Fixott	-	10	6
Two Quires of Paper	-	2	11
Mr. Greens Maid	-	1	-
½ price to see Mrs. Jordan with Wm. Holmer in 3 weeks after marriage	-	3	-
A strong Hook & knife for dissecting	-	3	6
A pipe &c with Tiltston twice	-	2	6
Charity Sermon	-	1	-
Shoemaker & Taylor	-	14	-
Tarts with W. Holmer when comg. from ye. Skyographama.	-	1	-
Paid washing	-	8	-
	<hr/>		
	9.	1.	5
I have got	0.	11.	6

So that there are a few shillings wh. I have neglected to put down I think, — I shall wait with your 20.5.0 & not give that to Holmer but with ye. full.

I trust you will be pleased with my subject if you are displeas'd with this —

You desired me to keep my stomach full while dissecting &c —

I am just return'd from Breakfast where I heard Mr. W. say that Dr. Fordyce told him He could not live but a little while, ye. Dr. has not taken in himself for twice, & does not come regular at all —

*Letter No. 67*

I went to Smithfield yesterday mornng. to enquire of Ann if she had any thing to send, & she has sent her Hat & some pairs of Stockings for Grace, — Sparrow has just bought a good second hand Charriott & a pair of good Strawberry colourd Horses, 6 & 7 years old, & Ann is not a little pleased to ride about, —

Holmer hinted to me that it was rather an unpleasant thing to purchase any thing for any body else, when we were looking after a Gig. But I think you would suppose Mr. H. ye. last man who would, endeavour to take you in in such a thing, He desired me to assure you that all ye. Ironwork was very strong & good.

Adieu Yours dutifully H W.

If I shd. go to Lady Mayoresses Ball next Monday I must have a new Hat — & that is all I want. Tho: I forget; there is ye. powder licence.

**LETTER NO. 67**

*To Dick Weekes, 17 April 1802*

St. Thomas's Aprl. 17 1802

Dear Dick

Yours containing a five pound & a one pound Note I this mornng. recieved paying eightence for the Letter, immediately upon wh. I went to ye. Bank where Mr. Holmer almost always is & payd him, Twenty five pound four shillings, He gave me no receipt for it but suppose he will write & siganfy ye. receipt of it to my Father, tho: I did not understand so from him ———

I this mornng. also recieved my Coat & small clothes, from Keating wh. fit me very well, — I suppose my Father will write to me tomorrow. Ask him how he would advise my sending down my subject, wether in a neat case wh. it might in future stand in to keep it from ye. dust or only in a rough box like such as I have sent other things down in & so He thinks it worth a case to get John Goll<sup>249</sup> to make one afterward What do you think they told me a neat case of common white deal would come to, with ye. corners only just moulded a little to ease them, why five or six & twenty shillings. But now I think of it that Box will do very well wh. old Peg took up her lodging in. There is a case of Hydrocele in Guys Hl. wh. was operated on Monday last but there is a great degree of inflamn. come on ye. Scrotum is very much enlarged & inflamed looks very bad, They keep him in bed & lay ye. Scrotum on a little pillow They have given him nothing since but one dose of physic, have not blooded him & are not so anxious as my Father was about old Batchelor, tho: I do not know how it will tirminate, there appears a good deal of irritation to have taken place, In this Man the complaint had existed some years but he was not more than 45 or 50, But I think it always succeeds very well in younger men & in those were ye. complaint has not been long standing, I take this case to proceede somewhat like yours, & I will tell you how it terminates ———

<sup>249</sup> Carpenter at Hurst.

*Letter No. 68*

I shall dine with Ann to morrow at 3 o'clock, Ann has not bought her a beaver Hat for they were so dear 1.11.6 she told me. But she has substituted a Bonnett covered with purple silk, — The same day at Guys that ye. Hydrocele was operated on Cooper operated for Poplitaecal aneurism & ye. lower ligature 1st. come off & afterward ye. upper one twice & ye. poor fellow had nearly blood to death Cooper was somewhat intimidated, ye. operation was 1 hour about, But ye man is tollerable.<sup>250</sup> Adieu.

HWeekes

Ann; intends calling on ye. Holmers & Mrs. Whitfield, & Adcock perhaps on Wednesday next. I hope Grace & Fanny are well, tell Grace I enquired after ye. Canary.

Write me a long Letter Dick when you write again & tell me how you like Brass, & Bull I hope you will not let Champion have him or any such proud puppy. I am afraid Brass wants as much looking after as ye. Horses.

**LETTER NO. 68**

*From Richard Weekes, 17 April 1802. Continued by Dick Weekes; postscript by Grace Weekes*

Hurst April 17 — 1802  
Saturday Evening.

Hamptony ———

Herewith I enclose you another Ten pound Note which I hope will last you some months to come be careful of it & Husband it well ———

I like the Gig very well it appears to be all very compleat we have washed it & put it into our Coach house & are runing Bob in Bartleys Cart for a day or two. believe shall go out on Monday tell Mr. Holmer I like my bargain. ———

The Stomach you sent down is capitally well injected the Thermometer is very good, you may get me a good Barometer if you will but there is some niseness in packing it so get the people where you purchase it to do that, it must be in a Case

When do you think of passing your examination at Surgeons Hall enquire all about it, & the prise both for Town & Country, you shd. go & dine with Dr. Hayes Old Burlington Street & make my Compts. & talk about the Newnhams Tilt &c ———

Your Drawing of the Bladder &c I like much can you draw all the Muscles that are divided in Lythotomy & in the order in which they lay I shd. like to see them all upon

<sup>250</sup> Accounts of operations such as this and the difficult bladder stone extractions show that some surgeons were willing to attempt operations other than the "quick, simple and desperate". Porter, *op. cit.*, note 38 above, p. 303.

Letter No. 68

paper, I am glad Miss Nanny got safe to Town, Tillstone call'd here in his way home & told us all about it, do send me down by the very first coach to Stonepound 3 or 4 Ounces of Extractum Ligni Campechensis, or send a little from your shop — The Porter is come but I have not tasted it — where did that Perriwinckle come from I mean where was it taken from fresh Water I suppose let me no the place, I should like to have all the Articulations of the Upper & lower extremities just the joints Viz. The Hip Knee Ankle Wrist Elbow & Shoulder to shew the Ligaments of the joints removing the Capsular Ligaments, I know they used to be preservd in Spirits but they would show very well dry, if you could buy a Subject that had been dissected for the Muscles it would come cheap perhaps but it is too late now, I suppose — I am sorry Dr. Fordyce is so near his end. I wonder what he will do with his Museum think he will give it to some Person, What is that you have sent us down it appears to be a bit of a Crucible & What is the other thing? what are those Chips the large ones are Iron I suppose but what are the others. — Be as much in your business as you can I am affraid we engage too much of your time runing about Town —

We have 24 Parish bills this year the amount is £184 pounds am going to Inoculate a party at Nailards again in May he sent to me desireing me to do it — The Flowers in the Garden begin to look gayly all those you sent down grow, so do some of the Grafts I believe altho: it has been too dry for them, I have put all the bones you sent into a wooden case & naild them up at the east end of the Stable to bleach —

adieu — RWeekes—

After we have got the Barometer Major I think we are in want of nothing else. take great care of your money for we ha[ve] but very little. and you know how [little] it is to get. much more so; to keep it [little] you have got it. remember us all [little] Miss Anne when you see her. and [little] you have an opportunity tell her [little] me. money is slippery stuf. & that [little] must be very saving for we have [little] more to spare for her. nor you [little] dont be too extravagant in your [little] for what will it signify. when [little] at the age of Dr. Fordyce what [little] now wear. I am afraid you are a [little] extravagant. and not quite so many Tarts Oysters &c'sc's. in your next bill if you please Sir. We keep fagging on but no money can we save. you run away wth. it so. — Persevere my Boy in your Studies or else when you are examined at Surgeon Hall I fear the allwise examiners will raise a perspiration & perhaps of the frigid kind. or a Diarrhoea. fainting, &c Observe this and fag on — My old School fellow Bartlett Tillstone calld. on me Thursday last with his Uncle he is apprentice to a Druggist in Cripplegate

We are all pretty well except Mrs. W. & she is not worse to Day

I am Respectfully Your Friendly & Loving

Brother —

RWeekes.

*Letter No. 69*

[. . .]mes Dripping  
[. . .]nes here to stay  
[. . .]w Days Monday  
answer this Lettr. soon

Be Pleased to tell my sister that I received my things safe and like my stockings much Pray tell her to write soon and to let me know how much she gave for my Stockings and why she sent down her cloak and all about it — Pray give my love to her and accept the same from your affectionate sister Grace Weekes —

P.S. send us a Cheap Wafer Seal ———

**LETTER NO. 69**

*To Richard Weekes, 19 April 1802*

St. Thomas's Aprl. 19th 1802.

Dear Father ———

In ye. first place, I will begin by thanking you for your kind remittance of a Ten pound Note wh. arrived safe & unknown from ye. Post Masters, You are got just into ye. way of folding up a Note to arrive without being found out by the knowing ones, Dick did not manage it so well for they found out both, & chargd 6d. for each & Letter too, wh. they have a right to do. ———

I think it very probable I shall be able to make this money last ye. time you specify, unless you commission me to purchase for you, I have been to one respectable mathematicians, to day to enquire about a Baromr. but they told me that for a guinea & ½ I might have a tollerable neat one but that for 2 guins. only, would be quite a comn. thing, So I went to Blunts were I had ye. Thermr. & orderd a very neat one at 2 guineas, ye. lowest price & I could not make him through in ye. case, which he charged 3s.6d for, However I think you will be pleased with it. it is a kind he sells a great many of & neat enough for any body. There is a passage in your Letter, viz. "I am affraid we engage too much of your time runing about Town, Which is very true, particularly at this time, By and by after Lectures are over I shall have more time to excicute your commissions. — Our chap in ye. dissecting Room (who. recieves ye. money for Saunder's injecting) was at, me to day about payg. him, & I told him I would not be imposed upon, So I gave him 7s. for his injection & trouble in heating Ye. Water &c, I could not give less.

I told Mr. Holmer that you liked your bargain very well, And he said that Mr. somebody A coach maker I forget who, told him it was worth £30 to send to Paris for they cannot make them there. — I dined at Sparrows yesterday with Ann, who did not seem quite in spirits, I told her to fancy she had a 100 pound in her pockett & look big.

Sparrow & Wood between them have got 4 tickett's for ye. Ball to night one for Mrs. & Mr. W. one for Miss Sparrow & one for Ann, these were all they could get, I for my part do not feel very anxious to go myself.

We all walked after tea last night to see ye. Egyptian Hall at ye. Mansion House were they are to dine in to day were ye. Cloths were laid & elegant decorations, We should not have got in only Sparrow made interest of Oldsworth ye. City Martial's man. the same Man who let us in at ye. old Baily. I thought it very well worth seeing once

You hint of my going to be examin'd, wh. rather surprised me for I never heard you speak of it before But I shall be as ready to go as you can be to authorise me. the prise for Country is 14 guineas within 3 or 4 shillings For Town 25, or 26,<sup>251</sup> it is thought a respectable thing to have passed, Pugh is going to pass for Town. ———

I will find out Dr. Hayes if I can & dine with him. I have sent you some Extr: Haematoxilum, as it is now call, & wh. is very genuine, I asked Mr. W. for it who was very ready to oblige me with it. ———

It strikes me that Dick never recieved any Letter from Sowerby, (He wrote one while I was there & mention'd his giving me that shell wh. I sent you. And wh. is not of ye. Genus Periwinkle but of one very nearly allied to it, It was taken out of ye. fresh water near Town with many others, If Dick faggs at Conchology he will find it out, or otherwise write to Sowerby again Also compare that shell with a Periwinkle & I am shure that a professed Concholgyst would discover the difference, Sowerby enclosed in his Letter one of ye. minute fish wh. he thought was of ye. same kind as Dicks famous fossil found at Bolney. ———

I dare say at Hurst you never heard mentiond such a person as an Essay Master; He is one whose business it is to examine into ye. nature & properties of Ores & various metallic substances, All gold that is melted or Silver is 1st. sent to him to declare if it be pure or no, before it is sent to ye. Mint So if a small piece of 5 or 6 carrots value is given to him he will accurately state to you what ye. value is of many 100 weight, of that wh. this piece came off from, If any new Mine shd. be discoverd, A piece of ye. Ore is sent to ye. Essaymaster for him to say wether such a mine would be worth working or no & what ye. produce would be, Now this Man when he has got any metal, for instance Gold & Silver mixd or any other metal therewith combined, He first [ . . . ]ighs it accuraty. in scales that would turn with ye. 150th. or [ . . . ] part of a single grain (I went one eveng. & stayd [ . . . . . ] Mr. Johnson in Maiden Lane Cheapside,<sup>252</sup> [ . . . ] Mr. Wood introduced me to, I was very much amused indeed, & that night he had 20 peoples or more to Essay) After weighing it he raps it up in a piece of sheet lead, or Tin but ye. 1st. he prefers, on account of its melting & oxydating more readily, then puts it into one of those tests as he calls them wh. is put into a kind of oven called a Muflin wh. is surrounded with burng. Charcoal & Coak &

<sup>251</sup> The price for practising in Town (i.e., in the City of London or within a radius of seven miles), was £31 10s., with an annual payment of one pound. For practising in the country, the fee was 15 gns, together with a promise to pay the difference should he take up practice in Town. Bye Laws, Ordinances, Rules and Constitution of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, 1802.

<sup>252</sup> J. Johnson, Assayer of Ore and Metals, 7 Maiden Lane.

Letter No. 69

ye. Melting begins, & ye. Lead & any base metal is all absorbed into that test ye. one that is brown 1/2 way down is oxyd of Lead & some other metal become vitrified wh. is always ye. case after previous oxydation — Each of these tests can only be used once & when he gets a cart load he sels them to smelters who get all ye. metal out of them again that they have absorbed, they are made of calcined bones. the round one is one wh. they have in use at ye. Tower, You will wonder pehaps why that the Gold & silver do not become absorbed, The reason is that they neither of can be oxydated, & in that case they of course would not waste if they were to be continued melting any time you might please. Well after ye. Essaymaster has done this he lets his tests cool gently & then he proceeds to do with that wh. is left as I have specified in an other paper — Dr. Babington is his Lectures on Mineralogy often speaks of these men, which made me anxious to find one out, wh. I concieve has benifited me. — Dick by all means should when in Town take every opportunity of seeing these things as a professed Mineralogyst. — The small chips are brass wh. are taken off ye. cannon that Holmer's people cast at their manufactory. sometimes they have a 100 Men at work at a time.

I have sent a Wafer seal by Dicks desire wh. cost	- 2 -
Barometer	2 5 6
Hair powder Licence.	1 1 -
For Hessian Boots	2 2 -

So that with these things you know how much I have out of my 10 pound. Have nothg. more to buy now, ———

I have seen Ann this mornng. 20th. they left ye. Mansion house little after 12, they did not dance it was so crowded I am not at all sorry that I was not there, ———

Ann means to write soon, She told me her, head dress cost 24 or 25 shillings, She is comg. to call on Mrs. W. Holmers &c on thursday — Dr. Dick concieves I am too extravagant in my dress, If he comes to Whitfields he must have ye. same idea of neatness that I have ———

I remain yours truly HWeekes.

I do not fea[. . . . .] wrs Dick; My Father [. . . . .] up his 14 guins. in about a mo[. . . ill pass, I make no dou[. . . . .]xott has been out ever since Sun[. . . . .] mornng. upon a Hack

## LETTER NO. 70

To Richard Weekes, 15 May 1802

St. Thomas's May 15th. 1802

Dear Father

I have just broken open the Letter wh. I had enclosed in the case containing my subject it being written badly & having something more to say; I shd. have sent it with ye. Key last wednesday but ye. waggon was too full however by next Saturday I think you will have it arrive. Also an other box containing a capital set of male bones, The man a sailor & about 30 more or less He died from inflamn. of ye. mucose membrane lining ye. Trachea & wh. was very violent threatning suffocation & ye. operation for Bronchotomy was performd by Mr. Cooper in this Hospital just about ye. middle of ye. Thiroid Cartilage ye. haemorrhage was considerable & after ye. operation he seem'd to breath thro: ye. orifice but very partially, The parts affected were taken out to be examined after death (and wh. took place in 1e. hour after) Mr. Cline senr. being present myself & half a dozen young men & He said how was it possible by performg. ye. operatn. so high up & indeed above where ye. strictured part really was; that ye. patient shd. experience relief whereas had it been performd just above ye. upper bone of ye. Sternum (wh. is were he recommends always) It wd. have been giving ye. man a much greater chance for his life, Tho: Cline says in his Lectures that he never saw ye. operation prove successfull but once & that was in croup. — I have given only 15s. for these bones wh. are very strongly markd. & such as I am very much pleased with I have sent them home to be macerated & bleachd. when they will be ready for articulation —

You must know I was very lucky in getting these bones, of one of ye. dressers named Wardroper who was Apprenticed to little Quennel at Arundel, He is going out on ye. establishment to ye. East Indies.

I had askd him for ye. first refusal, his demand was 1.1.0 but I got them for 15, & think myself well off.

My little female I hope will please, she is 4 feet 2 inches I wont say how dissected, But I thought worth a case to keep off dust &c I think if Hamper was to touch ye. case over with a mahogany colour; it would do ye. wood good & more effectually keep out dust, but perhaps you may think different.

Also you will have arrive a well injected testis of a Watchman upon London Bridge, shewing ye. Vas defferens, Epididimis & as fortune would have it one of ye. absorbents well filled & all in its natural possition altogether very valuable & of my own performance, The 1st. wh. I succeded well with for you may try 20 & not succede so well —

Also a tooth of ye. uper right side of ye. jaw of an Elephant, — And one of my rough books as a Specimen how I take down all ye. Physicians cases every Week.

Also a specimen of our corroborating plaister spread on linnen for you to try, & let me know if you approve of it in preferance to leather —

Ann dined here yesterday & each of us lost 2s. at Cards, (Afterwards Wd. & his

*Letter No. 70*

Wife lost 4s. a piece) — Ann lookd very well & conducted herself very well said but little; wh. was best as you must know ———

I have been once since I last wrote to ye. play with Ann & ye. Woods & once with her & ye. Holmers They seem all to have behaved very well to Her as I dare say you have been acquainted with. ———

Old Fordyce continues very poorly almost entirely confined to his House, I put ye. question ye. last time I saw him about Dicks fossil but he said he had been too poorly to make enquiry about it, When ye. Dr. dies he will be much lamented by all who knew him & when ye. old one is gone we shall not have a better I assure you. ———

I tell Dick I have been once with W. Attre to ye. Callonian sale wh. began last monday & to continue 15 days from that time, I then bought two very rare shells indeed; a War club from ye. Friendly Isles, & 7 or 8 mineral productions wh. dick had not got, — perhaps you will say I ought to have kept ye. money in my pocket but my wish has been & will continue to be; to endeavour to enrich Dicks collection. I have not said also there are 4 specimens of coral wh. he has not got. All these I will send down in a Week or two I mean only to keep them whilst I satisfy myself what they are as I flatter myself I soon shall. ——— I; to prevent being called a shabby fellow dinn'd with our society at its anniversary dinner — 40 of us sat down to dinner [. . .] George & Vulture Cornhill, There was only about half dozen ye. worse for liquor & those were bravado fellows who took a pride in drinking every glass and more too, it cost each of us 13s. a piece & we all but 8 or 10 broke up between 9 & 10 oClock. ———

Now I shall state for your approbation my expences since my last. One evening to Perks Coffe House to see ye. Lewes paper this cost me sixpence. Went into a Pastry Cooks with Attre this 1 shilling. Letters 1s. — 1s. purse for money. Wafer seal 2s. Porter twice 1s.

For ye. Box containg. ye. fresh bones I owe 4s. for & a one pound note to Attre

	£	s	d
Illumination night and Woods maid	-	3	-
Greenwich Fair	-	1	6
Clothes from Keating havg. returnd some being too small	-	1	6
Gloves	-	2	-
To ye play ½ price with young Verrel	-	3	-
Varnish	-	1	-
Case Lock & hinges	-	15	-
Two Bougies Oesophagus	-	1	-
Bones for Skeleton	-	15	-
A Coach for Ann to Holmers	-	2	-
Bottle Wine	-	3	6
Twice to ye. Play	-	12	-
Shells Corral Club &c	1	2	-
	£4.	2.	6

*Letter No. 71*

All ye. money I have in ye. world is 3 shillings — It makes a difference having no money for bleeding or Cow pox.

Two pair of Cotton stockings tho: I have bought & paid for these I wanted much. I have promised Mr. Whitfields Brother who is steward of ye. Merchant Taylors dinner on ye. 10th. of next month that I would be there, each tickett will be 10s.6d. — This you will consent to I hope. —

I have just learnt from our firs Surgeon who is ye. master of ye. corporation of Surgeons that the fees are expected to be raised ye. next time from £13. 18s.0d to 15 guineas with an extra crown for a beedle wh. has been a constant coustom, Now He tells me that it is not quite certain that this will take place next time but he thinks it probable, so if you wish me to run ye. hazard I shall be very ready. & If I am turn'd back, I shall be very consious that there has been more than one more ignorant fellow than myself who has passed; You ought to come to a final determination soon as ye. examination next time will be on ye. first Friday in next month. —

One of ye. shells is a bivalve indeed both ye. one an *Ostrea Malleus* of Linaeus, or Polish Hammer very curious, The other a Saddle placuna or plate Shell from Tranquebar also very curious. If these thing shd. prove objectionable; Attre will be glad to take them as he is purchasing great many minerals 5 or 6 pounds worth. I remain Yours dutiffully

Hampton Weekes.

I saw Anns Letter from home last night, In wh. I saw ye. warmth of affection with wh. Grace expressed herself towards me & I can only compensate for it by sending her ye. same in return . . . . .

I hope her little Bird is in good health. I often think of her I assure her & hope I shall ever continue so to do.

I shall send a bit of stick Lac; & Ann has given me some ristbands &c wh. I shall also send.

Cline has orderd cold water to be applyd to Attree's hand instead of greasy applications wh. seems to agree very well. —

P.S. I have jus learnt Dr. Fordyce is much worse, & one of our Sisters are sent for to nurse him.

**LETTER NO. 71**

*To Richard Weekes, 19 May 1802*

St. Thomas's May 19th. 1802

**Dear Father**

I take this opportunity of writing to inform you that Mrs. Wood & my Sister call'd

*Letter No. 71*

here yesterday; & I then saw your Letter to Ann & the contents wh. all arrived safe, for my part of wh. I thank you for & I will take more care in future if I can, but it has been this; that I have seen a thing, that I have thought Dick wd. like & there has not been time to write or to have an answer from you if you approved of the same, I remaind in doubt sometime wether Ann shd. have £10 or £5 but she & I concluded that splitting one of the five pound notes between us would be better than she having £10 So She is in possession of £7.10 wh. she said would do very well, I hope I shall not have to pay the extra charge next time at ye. examination at Surgeons Hall, & the contents of my next I dare say will be that I have or have not passed, So that you will be able partly to judge if I have made good or bad use of my time I say partly for with most of ye. examiners it is a truly fasical sort of examination, There is no minutia of Osteology or Miology Arteriology &c For these are things if you were to ask them they could not tell you

I hope all my Boxes have arrived safe with their contents some of which are valuable, The subject shd. have air now & then, There is nothing to do in taking it out but lifting it off the hook & bringing it out by the Head & upper part of the body first as the case is none too long It will want a little dusting soon perhaps. ———

I have got a snout of a Saw Fish in good preservation having the perforation remaining where the instrument passed by wh. they are kill'd, This I flatter myself will not cause Dick to be displeasd at all, This was killed in June last off Princes Island on the western coast of Africa, The body of the fish is from 6 to 12 feet long & must be very tremendous things in the Sea

Attreee has got 250 or 300 specimens like Dicks but as yet knows very little of Mineralogy or Chemistry wh. is Brother to it, Dick I am afraid knows systematically; very little about his collection of minerals. (I have sent two scales of the saw fish.)

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Mr. Cline has this day finished his last Lecture. wh. was on the diseases of the Bones (it being the fifth under that head) after wh. he said Gentlemen "This is the last Lecture I have to give; Mr. Cooper will finish his on Bandages & Dr. Haighton will give 4 or 5 on ye. gravid Uterus, when ye. Lectures will all close. And Gentlemen I thank you for your kindness and attention And wish you success, & happiness, He then bowed, and there followed a universal clapping & stamping with feet, And I saw in young Cline's countinace; sympathysing joy on the occasion. — In the case of inflamn. succeeding ye. operation for Hydrocele there has been very fetid puss collected and let out 3 times since ye. operation, He continues a bed with threatning degree of simptomatic fever, He takes Bark and Wine & I do not know but what a cure will be brought about after all ———

I have some thoughts of writing to Evans to night to say that after the Lectures & previous to my being at Surgeons Hall there will be a Week intervene if that will do otherwise he must stop untill the 6th. or 7th. of June before I can come, The 10th. of June ye. Merchant Taylors dinner will be held when I want to be in Town myself,

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Dr. Fordyce is not worse; One of our Sisters are constantly there to nurse him.

I have bored holes in the bones & I trust you will find them as good as I have spoken, I think you should not mix them with the others for fear of some mistake.

*Letter No. 72*

They are quite clean enough for maceration, & In the country will make very white bones but not so in Town on account of the Soot wh. is constantly attaching itself to them

Mr. Whitfield mention'd to me that I [ . . . ] would go into the country for a Week or fortnight if I pleasd. only to take the opportunity while Fixott was in Town wh. will be until the latter end of July ———

I have sent a lock of my hair for Greypin alias Gipp as Dick calls her in his Letter to Ann. enclosed with a bit of stick lac for Dick. ———

Coopers Lectures on comparative Anatomy are very entertaining & instructive, He shews us some very good preparations of various kinds.

Young Verrell, & young Holmer wear rings on their little fingers as well as several of our young men, but I will not get me one because that would be an expenditure of superflus. money. I begin to feel as if I had pretty well exhausted my stock of intelligence. Mrs. Wood told me yesterday she never heard a lady talk so fast or so much as Mrs. Cook. I shall be happy to hear how my Boxes arrive. — I remain  
Yours dutifully Hampton Weekes

I drove two nails in to ye. door because I was afraid to attempt to lock it by a pick again. ———

**LETTER NO. 72**

*From Owen Evans, 23 May 1802*

Little Hampton May 23d. 1802

Dear Weekes ———

I confess my neglect in not answering your former Letter before this; ——— but trust you will pardon me when I tell you that I have (of late) been particularly hurried, & you can easily form an Idea of my time; (every thing you know, going through one pair of hands,) even in my little business keeps me constantly on the Alert. ——— I assure you I much regret not being able to accept the opportunity of yr. most kind intentions to assist me during our former proposition of taking a trip to Town; which from many circumstances is now totally impossible for me to accomplish. Nevertheless I hope & trust to have the pleasure of seeing you at Little Hampton when you leave Town, which will afford me great pleasure & then we shall have more time to talk matters over. ——— The Book arrived safe & am particularly obliged to you. If you shd. see Satterley will trouble you to get him to remit you the Money for it, & place to my Acct. If not so when I see you shall with pleasure repay you Mrs. Evans begs to unite with me in every good wish & I am

Dear Weekes

Your sincere Friend  
O. Evans.

N.B Pray excuse this Short Letter.

LETTER NO. 73

*From Dick Weekes, 28 May [1802]*

Hurst May 28

Dear Hampton

Sitting in the Shop it came into my Head that I would write to you and acquaint you that all the packages arrivd. safe and much to our satisfaction —— I have not time to enter into particularities but cannot omit telling you. that the Blood V:S: is capitally done Indeed. but have had no time to examine it or look at your Varieties of Arterys or rough book or hardly any thing else. we are so very busy.

Mrs. Dennett Woodmancoat is Delivd. of a Son an heir to the great joy of Jno. D: he tipd. us 5.5.0. she had a very easy time my father goes there every Day. we have the Hues's business of Mockbridge. and gain on Morgan. 20. Variolus patts. go out in a few Days from Nailards. have been to Boly. Comn. to see Kings Childn. with Scarlitina and shall go severall times more. they belong to Hurst. ph. Chas. Goldsmith is dangerous with Ptysis pulmon: we Inoculate good many wth. Vaccine. You are not to purchase any more curiossitys my father says. write to us soon and often. we did 2 pages & ½ yesterday and 1. & ½ shall do to Day my Boy. Nann is gone I suppose to Glocester. Tom Holman<sup>253</sup> & Mrs. Baker are dead and buried. send me a Cocoa Nut with plenty of Letters round it soon by Knowles with the price of it with few eatables for father. —— Mrs. W. is rather better but think she will not hold June out. I have been to Reeves's wife Twineham Grn. 15th Child Case [. . .] and Burtenshaw's Godley's mill. Na. have you any Emp. Simp. Spread on Linn. the Emp Robs. answers very well as does Adhaesiv. send us a good Stock of each and Blisters ready spread if you have any. and any thing of the kind that is handy and cheep. and tell us how they are spread. we gave Sattly. an order 1st. of May and soon shall have one for Adcock. our Garden is full of flowers. and looks well but the Cherries about us are all blighted. and Apples too. Mr. & Mrs. Tilt have been ill good while. but are now well send us down any thing that you think will be handy for us. a thing to keep Vaccine & S: pox matter in and any thing that will be handy ——  
We are all well and join in love ——

I am &cc

RWeekes Junr.

<sup>253</sup> Buried 3 April. ESRO MF 346.

## LETTER NO. 74

*From Richard Weekes, 29 May 1802*

Hurstperpoint May 29th. 1802

Hampton

I have had no time to answer your Letter till this afternoon as we have been unusually busy we have had 6 Labours this week Dick with one myself with five one of which was Mrs. Dennett of Woodmancoat she has got a Son — £5.5.0 — Dick has informd you the packages came safe the Bones are in the Cage but I have not seen them the bloodVessel subject is capitally well dissected without flattery the best I ever saw I think, but I have not looked very minutely at it yet, it is so offensive we could not keep it in the Surgery so have put it in the Granery & set the door open every day to give it air, How does your small Pox & Cow Pox Gentry carry their matter if I judge right there is a little case with a concave glass in it, to deposit the matter on so that my moistening the point of a lancett with it you can inoculate without the thread or Adhaesive plaister — I have seen a red morocco case of this sort not larger than a half crown piece, enquire at the instrument makers how do your people spread their Emp. Adhaesiv. on the linen? do you learn that we may do so likewise, How do you dispence medicines to out patients, send a Trachea down without the Muscles let it be perfect with the Epiglottis & if you please the Os Hyoides adhaering, Send me all the particulars of the Institution of the Corporation of Surgeons, if you can, procure the State or Charter for their incorporation, you will have a certificate of your being a Member, sift it to the bottom, tell us all the examiners, with all their questions & your Answers detailed at full length, I have no doubt of your passing, & I tell you what it will be like, like the Fable of the Mountain in Labour & at last out came a Mouse, it is only a terror to stupid & sheepish fellows, but not to such as you — have you call'd on Sr. John Hayes — if you do, make my respects to him & speak of the wonderful alteration at Newtimber Mr. & Mrs. Tilt have both had a bad ulcerated Sore throat Tilt looks poorly Mrs. Cameron & Mrs. T.'s Maid have had it also, The Colonel & his Lady & family have been staying there lately John is with his Uncle at present so is Louisa. — the Colonel wishes John to be a parson but he dont like it, Old Tissington lives in Bines house & manages the farm

We shall think of you on Friday next I suppose you must take your Money with you, but dont spend your Evening upon drink or the playhouse but sit down & write us a long Letter & put it in the post the same night then we shall have it Sunday Morning what priviledges has a member of the corporation of Surgeons in his practice? I have not yet reciev'd the half years rent of Breads, there has been a sale & I desidrd Wollett the Attorney of Rye to pay the Money in London to you Viz. 75£ or at one of the Brighton banks if so you pay it in to Mr. Holmers hands, till you hear from me, I wish I had parted with that fellow as you desidrd (Breads) I fear I shall have much trouble & expence in getting free of him — I think of your remaining in Town till Christmas when I shall send your Brother to take your place, therefore you had better engage it for him in time —

*Letter No. 75*

Dick says he has bled 20 people in one Week which is more than you ever did & yesterday he drew 6 teeth not stumps he says, we keep on Inoculating for the Cow Pock, had 19 lately at Nailards with small Pox — but all this you have heard before Dick informs me so that I am at a loss what further to say — Hanington told me you look'd poorly take care of your self Sobriety temperance & chasteity are all condusive to health, remember these are cardinal Virtues & without Virtue there is no such thing as happiness in this life.

Your situation at a public Hospital must have enabled you to see how necessary it is for a medical [. . .] to have a thorough knowledge of his profession but it is in private practice only that you can see the necessity of Address, attention, & assiduity without which few men get on in life, & still fewer get fortunes, indeed, but few professional men do get money not but that much money may be got often but few of them will Fag they have been brought up in idleness, this has not been your Case you have seen much practise, hence I expect great things from you — but I have not leasure to write anymore upon this subject nor is it necessary for all this has been impressed upon your Mind long ago, with all the force that I was able I have only one thing more to remind you & that is the necessity of keeping money in your pocket & without that there is no friendships in this World & whoever boasts the contrary is totally ignorant of the ways of man —

We are all well & unite in well wishes for your success on Friday next —

Yours sincerely

R Weekes

**LETTER NO. 75**

*To Richard Weekes, 4 June 1802*

St. Thomas's June 4th. 1802

Dr. Sir —

This evening  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 oClock I am to be at Surgeons Hall, And The event of my proceedings there I will state in full in an other part of this Letter. — But I now shall humbly entreat your forgiveness of my late extravagance, I am fully fix'd & determined to proceede no farther in such manner, And were you this time to over look & forget it I should once more be very happy and comfortable, But at present I feel far removed from it, For notwithstanding I have bought minerals (wh. Attree cannot take for at this time he has not 20 shillings; & has borrowd 15 or 20 pounds since he has been now in Town with wh. he has bought minerals boots &c &c) lather breeches &c, I have, paid for. but I owe Fixott 2.2.0 & Mr. Whitfild 10s. 6d for a tickett to the Merchant Taylors dinner ye. 10th. instant. & about £1 for books, my washerwoman 17s. & Taylor 8s. — This is all I owe I assure you. —

The passing at ye. Hall will be 16. 2. 6 wh. I have by me &; that is all I am in possession of.

The powder licences have not been left at each house yet, so that I have not been calld upon for ye. guinea but suppose it will be in a day or two. — I will foresee how I shall feel if you do not forgive it, But if you should; You may rely upon my word & honour that you shall have no cause to it again. — Saturday Morning —

As you said it would prove, A mountain in labour & out wd. creep a Mouse.

To detail at length ye. simple questions, in Anatomy & Surgery wh. Long of Bartholomews & Forster of Guys askd me woud appear ridiculous.

Mr. Long first began on Surgery, But before I was desired to walk to him I was askd by Keate<sup>254</sup> one of the Governors what my name was where I had been educated, at what Hospital & how long I had been at St. Thomas's, if I had attended Mr. Cline & Coopers Lectures, Where I lived who I served my apprenticeship & how long & in what part it was situated, Then said Keate you did not know Sir I suppose that it was necessary to bring proof confirmative of your being 22 years of age, "No I said, — Now only since Wednesday last, The court of examiners have sworn before a sitting of magistrates that they would not allow any one to pass under two & twenty wh. He supposed I had not heard of, Then said ye. Master (our senior Surgeon<sup>255</sup>) will you walk to those two Gentlemen

And Long's 1st. question was, What is a compound fracture? a division of a bone with one or both extremities protruding thro: ye. integuments, well says he what wd. you do in such a case if you were calld in to a patient? I would reduce it & place the limb in a relaxd possition, (very good Sir) But said he if you found the bone could not be returnd thro: ye. orifice in ye. integuments? I would enlarge ye. opening, But if even that faild? I would saw off ye. extremity of ye. Bone, If said he you found great tention & feverish heat about your patient? I wd. bleed freely, give him physic, & ye. saline draught, (very good Sir) Then said he if matter was to form and emaciation, Symptomatic fever, & spasm were to arise? I would administer ye. bark & Opium, & lay aside ye. Saline draught, & apply poultices, (very good Sir) But if spasm was to encrease, also, ye. discharge, & ye. man continue to emaciate? I would amputate, (very good Sir) — Now said He if you were, calld to a man who had falln out of a hayloft & appeard senseless & stund? I would immediately examin his head accurately, you would bleed him first would not you, yes I said, Then said he if you found fracture with depression? I would shave his head, & make a crucial incision thro: ye. scalp down to ye. part, well said he would you apply ye. trephine upon ye. depressed part? no certainly not, Well Sir you seem to answer all these questions very well, [ . . . ] What is [ . . . ] Hydrocele? a collection of serum in ye. tunica va [ . . . ] testis, & is to be ascertain'd by its pellucid [ . . . ] when of any magnitude particy. by pla[ . . . ] candle on one side of it. But said he in an incipient state? That would be difficult I said to distinguish from schirrosity of ye. testicle, Said he you are not quite provided with that answer, I said I had not provided myself with questions & answers by rote, I still thought it very difficult to distinguish ye. two, Said he you wd. find it at

<sup>254</sup> Thompson Forster (d. 1824), senior surgeon at Guy's. Thomas Keate (1745–1821), surgeon to St George's Hospital.

<sup>255</sup> I.e., George Chandler.

Letter No. 76

ye. bottom of ye. testicle, (I will be obliged to you for an answer on this head) What is a hernia said he A protrusion of intestine, or Omentum or both, under pouparts It. thro: ye Abdl. ring. at ye. umbilicus. Thro: the foramen Thyroidia, & sometimes thro: the integuments of ye. abdomen & then calld ventral Hernia? how would you perform ye. operation for Inguinal Hernia? I then pretty soon told him about old Maskall not mentiong. his name & ye. success of ye. operation, wh. made him stare a bit, Pray how did your Father divide pouparts ligament? He made a fore finger of his left hand his director & only partially divided ye. ligament, Sir I see said he it is quite unnecessary to ask you any more questions, Mr. Forster will you put some anatomical questions to him —

“Pray sir what are ye. parietes of ye. abdomen? The cuticle cutis, cellular membrane, muscles, & peritoneal coverg. Now Sir we will go thro: ye. viscera of ye. abdm. what appears in situ after cutting thro: ye. integuments? this I told him wh. you I dare say dont wish to be troubled with as well as every anatoml. question, Pray what are ye. muscles of ye. abdmn? these also you do not want I am shure Now Sir we will go to ye. Thorax what are its contents these I told him, Tho I had hardly patients to hear his stuff. What are ye. muscles of ye. Thorax, These also I satisfied him Sir says he I find you are quite competent to answer any question, Sir said I excuse my asking you a question (And I believe he thought I was going to put an anatomical one to him for he colourd up amazingly) pray sir do you not remember being in company with my father, dear me Sir yes I hope he is very well &c Then he said to ye. Master this gentleman has pass a very good examn. indeed, very well sir said he Adieu, I than [. . .] Oath & Kissed ye. Bible wh. I [. . .]ised to me send you, & ye [. . .] with ye. Rolls Charter, wh. [. . .] “etcetera” &c. master has prom[. . .]

Would you wish me to get my certificate frame? Fixott has his wh. cost him 14s.

I have learn this mornng. that ye. hair powder [. . . . .] to be taken off, This my hair dresser tells me.

LETTER NO. 76

*To Richard Weekes, 8 June 1802*

St. Thomas's June 8th. 1802

Dear Father

Yours containing a 10£ note has safely come to hand, for wh. I return you my most sincere thanks for, hoping that by ye. exertions of both body & mind by and by that I may be able to repay in duty toward you ten fold or more. I mean to pay my debts directly (& powder tax as soon as it shall be demanded for I believe my hair dresser is mistaken that instead of its no longer continuing a Tax, it is only to be levied with ye. assessed taxes; so that there are to be no longer any public offices to grant it as

*Letter No. 76*

formerly) When I shall have left between 4 and 5 pound, wh. I wil! keep fast in my pocket. Dr. Fordyce I hear has died worth about 10000,<sup>256</sup> & His collection of Shells is to be sold by private contract if any body will by them for £1000 pound, & if not to be exposed to public auction; what a pitty! And I suppose ye. minerals &c will be disposed of in ye. same manner It was all left to his daughter that was married named Bantam her husband a captain in ye. army, She took no delight in it, it is said, tho: perhaps, he is very poor, that I think is not unlikely.

I have been making enquiry of our instrument maker who has no such thing as a case with glass for variolous or vaccine matter, neither has he ever sold any, however I will enquire farther, — I shall be able to put you into a way to spread ye. different plaisters on linen when I take a trip down for a few days, wh. I believe Mr. W. would wish me to do if I do go before Fixott goes wh. is ye. latter end of July, for when he is gone there will be no one but me to assist him, I have mentioend your intention of my stoping 'till Christmas & then Dick's comg. up, wh. he promised me shd. take place

Mr. W. expects a young man soon as lodger only, like Attree; he is comg. out of Devonshire

I am busying myself with copying Mr. W.'s Surgical lectures of Clines, every day, & do not mean to write any Anatomical Lectures at all for that I think would be time lost.

Will you have ye. goodness to inform me in your next if you wish me to have my certificate framed or not?

I have heard or seen nothing of Wollet of Rye. — I intend calling soon on Dr. Hayes [. . .] I have passed. I shall not be able to get a [. . .] now I believe easily. — I am quite confident that there was only one bloodvessel subject that was near equal to mine, & I am glad it meets with your approbation. — Also I am very glad to hear you have got so many good families more that you had and that you gain upon Morgan, who I think has not acted quite like a gentleman since he has been there.

I begin to feel a wish to be at him again —

I remain

Yours dutifully

H Weekes

(please to desire dick to remember me to W. Borrer junr.)

<sup>256</sup> He died on 23 May. For obituary, see *Annual Register*, 1802, p. 509.