

ART. XIV.—*Papers Relating to the Cumberland Election of 1768.* By C. ROY HUDLESTON, F.S.A.

*Read at Lancaster, September 14th, 1949.*

AMONG the Whelpdale papers preserved at Hutton John is a collection relating to the famous Cumberland election of 1768. Most of these papers date from the closing months of 1767 and are addressed to John Richardson, a Penrith attorney, who married the only daughter of Thomas Whelpdale. Richardson succeeded his father-in-law as steward to the Duke of Portland, but in a letter dated from Welbeck, 20 September 1763,<sup>1</sup> the Duke dismissed him, thus throwing Richardson into the arms of Sir James Lowther, whom he fervently supported against the Duke at this election. The letters which follow speak for themselves. Many were written by Sir James Lowther's henchman, John Robinson, of Appleby, and by the latter's cousin, John Wordsworth, father of the poet.

For permission to print the letters I am grateful to my cousin, Mr Ferdinand Hudleston and his trustees.

1. John Fallowfield of Penrith, to John Richardson. N.D. Hon<sup>d</sup> Sr. According to Promise to Sr. James Lowther last Night, in not giving my interest at the ensuing Election till I had acquainted you In Gratitude whereof I inform you that I have been so intreated or rather abused this Day by two Gentlemen who has been well wishers to my Shop these seven years or more, incinuating to me that if I do not give my vote to the Duke's interest I must not expect their Favours nor some more who they know are well wishers to me, in their Power to Withdraw; therefore, as you are not insensible how striking these Things are to Trade (A Slight

<sup>1</sup> Hutton John archives. I hope to deal with the relations between the Duke and Richardson at some future date.

Touch of which I felt lately in Regard to my two sons at your school) desires you<sup>ll</sup> excuse me on that Head; Yet nevertheless shou'd there be occasion in the county of Westmorland I can command three double votes if not more which shall be entirely at your service. . . .

John Fallowfield.

Penrith Tuesday Evening.

2. A torn list of names:—

. . . Blacklock Sen<sup>r</sup> Free.  
 . . . Blacklock 60: 30 Jany 1728  
 Hen: Blacklock junr. Free  
 Jos. Blacklock 60: 1737  
 Jas. Blacklock at London 1733  
 Wm Blacklock 174. .

3. A written list of companies, with dates (? dates of meeting) after each company. Tanners, Butchers, Weavers, Merchants, Taylors, Shoemakers, Skinners & Glovers, Smiths.

4. List which begins:

Graystock

Nicholson Joseph { Mr T Simpson farmer at Barton in  
 Westmorland does not as yet intend  
 to concern himselfe on either side,  
 may be got or at worst will be a  
 split.

Wilson David  
 Wilson John  
 Wilson Richard  
 Wilson Isaac

Dalemain

Pattinson Robert—Mr Hasells Coachman  
 p ag<sup>t</sup> us

Phillipson Christopher

Emont Bridge

Slater Christopher. at Mr Murrays of Broughton—a  
 Bricklayer is wrote to come and  
 work at Lowther

Queries to be answered by the Gentlemen who are desired to  
 Canvass

If any of the freemen are removed from their present  
 supposed place of Abode to Inquire and return to what  
 place they are so removed. Whether any of the sons of

such freemen as reside within their Divisions are of age so as to be capable of taking out their freedom and to return the names and age of such sons.

5. A List of Freemen of Carlisle and Penrith & near it.

[This list is almost identical with No. 4. The extra information it gives is as follows:—]

Wm. Robinson, Penrith, is described as "Bellman to ye Dukes Markett."

M<sup>r</sup> Blain is described as supervisor, Thomas Banks as son of Abraham, William Greenup as "dble Lowther."

Jos. Nicholson is given as of Barton in Westmorland, and David, John, Richard and Isaac Wilson are also under that parish, with a note that they are brothers, one living at Eamont Bridge, and the others at Gridale.

Under Dalemain Robert Pattinson is given as double Portland, and Chris: Philipson is marked as "plum agt us at present. Is one of M<sup>r</sup> Hasell's Labrs but must be furth<sup>r</sup> try'd."

Kettle side.

Stephenson William	} all Double Lowther.
Stephenson Thomas	
Stephenson Anthony	

Penrith

Blaylock Henry Sen <sup>r</sup>	} Both Lowther. The Father has 4 more sons—viz <sup>t</sup> John aged 39, Jo: aged 31, James 27, Wm. aged 24.
Blaylock Henry Junior	

Phillipson John Tollgatherer at Penrith Turnpike as yet ag<sup>t</sup> L.

Robinson William Bellman of Penrith Dble Portland.

Smith Joseph Dble Lowther

Wherlings Jeremiah do.

Plumpton

Banks Abraham Dead

Banks Thomas Dble Lowther has a Brother named Rich<sup>d</sup> Lives at Darlington

Skelton

Lamonby

Greenup William

Jonathan Hodgson. Gridale, may [be] in Capt<sup>n</sup> Robinsons list

Blain M<sup>r</sup> E. [Exciseman?]

M<sup>r</sup> Richardson is desired to Canvass the above freemen for Sir James Lowther and to return an Account how they stand to M<sup>r</sup> John Pearson Alderman in Carlisle.

After this is the following note:

“ NB There's one Jonathan Hodgson at Grisdale and — Sanderson at Graystock—pray are they in any . . . Lists

Henry Blacklock the elder has four sons All yet unmade ffree & are of the Skinners & Glovers Company	} viz. John born 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan <sup>ry</sup> 1728 Joseph born 1737 James born 1743 Wm born 1741
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Henry Hodgson of Hutton admitted and made ffree 21<sup>st</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1767 M<sup>r</sup> Benson p<sup>d</sup> 45s. for him has prom<sup>d</sup> them one & one reserved.

Q. S<sup>r</sup> James ab<sup>t</sup> this man he rents 40<sup>s</sup> p. ann of M<sup>r</sup> Fletcher C. . . Sanderson Newbiggin

Adam Dixon Lazonby

6. Note. N. D. & no name of addressee:

D<sup>r</sup> Sir By Sir James Lowther Order I send you a List of the unpolled in Leath Ward he begs you will assist all in your Power in getting them brought up.

yrs ever

Geo Hartley

Cockermouth April 9.

7. John Wordsworth to John Richardson N.D.

Carlisle Wednesday night 8 o'clock.

D<sup>r</sup> Sir As 'tis very probable M<sup>r</sup> Curwen or some of the party may have been at Penrith Sessions, if anything material hath happened S<sup>r</sup> Ja<sup>s</sup> begs the favor of you to give him a Line advising him thereof, & in particular begs that you will enquire & if possible find out what bouth his opponents have taken, and whe'r M<sup>r</sup> ffeatherstonhaugh & who else are with them; & tis desired that you will favor him with a Line p return of the Bearer

I beg my Compliments to all y<sup>r</sup> good ffamily & am D<sup>r</sup> Sir  
Y<sup>r</sup> most ob<sup>t</sup> & Hble Serv<sup>t</sup>

Jn Wordsworth

Be so good as say whe'r the Duke is come or not

[Overleaf]: Carl' Wednesday night 9 o'clock As the Bearer does not return to Carlisle M<sup>r</sup> Richardson is desired to dispatch a Spec<sup>l</sup> Messenger hither with his immediate Answer.

8. George Nicholson to John Richardson.

Honrd Sir With submishon to you theas comes to Lett you know that I am actting for Sir James intrist as much as Lies in my pouer but I admier you dide not give me a call when you were hear in our nighbourhod as you ar shour I have Sir James intrist much at hart I have distributed some papers that came to my hand I fear you ar Lousing time for the other partey is treating hear almost evrey day if Sir James were hear prisent himself I thinke it would be much better hear is a small estate freehold which I can bye which if not bought will go to the other party so I desire your advise, in that afare and I desire you would be so good as Lett me know when you will be hear with the berar from your friend and sarvant to command

George Nicholson

Staffield Sep ye 14 1767.

9. Handwritten circular, signed Jas Lowther & H. Senhouse jun<sup>r</sup> & dated "Whitehaven 21 Sep 1767."

Sir Sir John Pennington having declined offering himself as a Candidate to represent this County in parliament at the ensuing General Election permit us to sollicit the favour of your votes and Intrest on that occasion. If we are so fortunate as to meet with your approbation we beg leave to assure you that we shall ever endeavour to execute the important Trust with great Fidelity & attention to you and your Intrest and with strict regard to the welfare of our King & Country etc.

10. John Pearson to John Richardson.

This morning I was favour'd with yours of the 27<sup>th</sup> Inst; the general days in the year for makeing of ffreemen in this City is the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March and the 21<sup>st</sup> Septem<sup>r</sup> before which times they must be admitted a Brother of one of the Companys and produce a Certificate of their Brotherhood to the Corporation when they come to take up their freedom otherwise they will not be Admitted but the Corporation may admit them to their ffreedom at any other meeting if they think fit only the 25<sup>th</sup> March & 21<sup>st</sup> of Septem<sup>r</sup> are the general days; As to Joseph Blacklock the son of Henry he was made a ffreeman of this City on the 21<sup>st</sup> Inst. amongst many others that day and I hope you will secure

him in Sir James's Interest and also Mr Blain your Supervisor in Excise

I am with respect [etc. etc.]

John Pearson

P.S. Mr Jackson presents his Compliments to you & intends to be with you at the Sessions but Mr<sup>s</sup> Jackson does not come.  
Carlisle 29<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1767.

11. J Robinson to John Richardson.

As a Return of the ffreemen in your Neighbourhood is much Wanted. Be so good as let us know by the return of ye post if you can . . . how these stand upon the Canvass, a List of whom were delivered to you sometime ago & you will much oblige us. All here are well & very busy. We have no news since ye Duke came.

Carlisle 10 Oct. 1767.

12. John Wordsworth to John Richardson.

There is a Freeman of Carlisle who hath in all our Lists and Letters been hitherto forgot to be named to you: tis one Adam Dixon a Taylor in Lazonby made free of the Taylor's Guild the 21<sup>st</sup> Mar 1761. You'll be so obliging as apply to him personally & solicit his votes & Interest in favor of Captn Elliot & Govr Johnson & if possible fix him so y<sup>t</sup> he may be *secure* & be so kind as see him as soon as you conveniently can. Sir Jas is out on the Canvass of the County. Mr Robinson desires to join me in Comp<sup>s</sup> to all at Bp yards & I am D<sup>r</sup> Sir [etc. etc.]

Jno Wordsworth

Carlisle 13 Oct 1767.

13. Same to same

Mr Robinson being much engaged desires me to write to you. He received the favor of your's inclosing a return of the Canvass of the Freemen in your Neighbourhood, with ye Names of others intituled to their Freedom & for your Care herein we are greatly obliged to you & doubt not you will continue to use every means in your Power to promote the Interest of S<sup>r</sup> Ja<sup>s</sup> and his ffriends. Nothing further is *immediately* wanted, but as it is natural for us to trouble our ffriends when we have occasion for their Assistance, you may expect to hear from us soon. In the meantime it will be well, if you possibly can, to secure Joseph Nicholson, Mr Thos Simpson's ffarmer, or at least to split him before

M<sup>r</sup> Simpson hath urged Matters too strongly with him, and with regard to the four Wilsons to try without delay, the most likely expedient to come at 'em and if possible before M<sup>r</sup> Howard's Influence hath been employed agt us with those of Grisedale. Christo: Phillipson I fear is irrecoverable, but may be tried And with regard to the Blacklocks I doubt not you will take the greatest Care of 'em. We are very busy here & go on with great success both in the County & City. M<sup>r</sup> Robinson will have the pleasure of writing to you or seeing you soon. He desires his best Comps to yrself M<sup>rs</sup> Richardson & all y<sup>r</sup> ffamily & you'll please also to accept the like from D Sir [etc etc]

Jn Wordsworth.

You mention one Sanderson of Graystock; we have no such pson in any of our Lists; you'll therefore be so obliging as enquire particularly of w<sup>t</sup> Guild he is ? how he became intitled to his Freedom ? & w<sup>t</sup> he has really been admitted to his Freedom, as 'tis most likely he has not yet taken it up. You may let Henry Hodgson of Hutton have the £2. 5. 0. he had of M<sup>r</sup> Benson & if he wants a little . . . may lend it him upon his note & the like to secure . . . of the ffreemen Banks of Darlington will be sent for in Time. There is one Joseph Hodgson of Dale near Kirkoswald a ffreeman, the son of Jonathan Hodgson of Faughhead in Hayton, You'll please to apply to Joseph & endeavour to secure him.

13 Oct. 1767.

14. Endorsed " Col Robinson's Lre abt ffreemen 20 Oct. 1767." The Letter you wrote to M<sup>r</sup> Wordsworth came to me I have exam<sup>d</sup> abt Mathew Sanderson & found him out in ye old Lists as you describe. I must own it is bad to be finding out new ones every Day & Sure I am it is very disagreeable to me, but it cant be helped, it is occasioned by Mistakes in Extractg ye ffreemen, ffinding out their habitations they are so fluctuating a Body & markg some off dead that appear since alive. Pray what part of Scotland does Cap<sup>n</sup> Carruthers of Crossfield come from & what connections has he there. Be so good as tell me that we may get some applications to him to engage him warmly for us. The parson & is family all well be at ye March for Croglin this Mornng. . .  
Carlisle J. Robinson  
20 Oct. 1767.

15. Endorsed "Lre from Col Robinson 3 Nov 1767" in ink and in pencil "Hen Probyn Esq<sup>r</sup> Milk Street London. M<sup>r</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Noble Penrith Cumberland."

I am just come in draggled & wet most heartily from Canvass I therefore can't say much only beg to remind you that ye Quarter Day for ye Blaylocks our ffreinds is on Thursday next & that we beg you will send them hither in due time as on ffryday we may make them ffree

J Robinson

Tuesday night 10 o'clock Nov 3<sup>d</sup>

16. Addressed to John Richardson & dated Gamblesby 6 Nov 1767

S<sup>r</sup> Jas desires that you will send a pson over to Plumpton immediately on rect hereof & tell . . . Stephenson to be at Croglin Hall to-morrow morning early where he will find S<sup>r</sup> Ja<sup>s</sup> & he must [at ?] the same time bring all the Lists belonging to his district

J Wordsworth

We don't go to Aldstone

17. Endorsed "Thos Stephensons Lre 6 Nov 1767" and addressed to John Richardson.

I was favour'd with yours the moment I Dislighted and shall take care to be there time enough to meet Sir James Lowther at wch time and Place shou'd be glad to see you and am with the greatest esteem . . . Tho<sup>s</sup> Stephenson.

18. To John Richardson. 7 Nov. 1767

Croglin Hall Sat morning  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 9 Sir James desires me to present his Compliments to you & thanks for your care about the Letter wch came from M<sup>r</sup> Robinson as also in sending to Tho<sup>s</sup> Stephenson. Mr Robinson's Conjecture that Lady Mary was ill arose from some Apprehension y<sup>t</sup> she had expressed at Brayton of S<sup>r</sup> Jas's being so, but I have the pleasure to tell you that they are both extremely well. S<sup>r</sup> Jas desires you'll please to pay the Bearer for his trouble & that you'll give him something handsome

Tommy Stephenson is not yet arrived altho' tis near 10 10 o'clock sir Jas desires me to present his best Comp<sup>s</sup> to yself and all y<sup>r</sup> good Family. . .

Jno Wordsworth

S<sup>r</sup> Jas's serv<sup>t</sup> who came from Carlisle is to go there ag<sup>n</sup> with the Letter y<sup>t</sup> Wallis will shew you for Col Robinson [Seal. a shield with 3 bells on it. Crest a stag].

19. Endorsed " 8 Nov 1767." Col. Robinson to John Richardson.  
 Carlisle Sunday Afternoon  
 Inclosed you have the Covers part directed by Capt<sup>n</sup> Elliot & part by me as desired S<sup>r</sup> Jas got here las<sup>t</sup> night very well. I am . . . yours most affectionately whilst J Robinson
20. John Pearson to John Richardson.  
 Carlisle 12 Nov 1767.  
 One Christopher Slater who lives near yeoman Bridge is a ffreeman of this City and also a freeholder of this County being informed he has lately been working in Scotland & passed through this place yesterday on his return Home and hearing that he had not engaged his votes to any Person; I therefore take the Liberty of informing you there of in order that you make an early application to him in favour of Sir James Lowther's Interest.  
 [Black seal. a shield with 3 suns. crest a bird]
21. John Pears to John Richardson  
 Carlisle 12 Nov. 1767  
 I have made what Enquiry I can but can find no such man as Hugh Gurnal. . if this had not happened should have wrote you to night Leting you know y<sup>t</sup> Chris: Slaiter of Ement bridge went from here yesterday and proposed to be at Hesket last night in his road home he was apply'd to here for his vote as a ffreeman and also for his vote as a freeholder for the Intrest of S<sup>r</sup> James he gave for answer he would promise nobody as his wife had sent to him to promise no person till he see her so I could wish you would Loose no time in seeing him as he pretends he is just coming from Scotland and has been asked by no person  
 My Complim<sup>ts</sup> to your Best part and Mr<sup>s</sup> Whelpdale and hopes you'l Except ye same  
 NB Razor Grinder ye parson has taken [?] up and ye mare is in ye Castle yard.
22. Jno Barker to John Richardson. Lowther 25 Nov. 1767.  
 One Geo Brown of Newbiggin a freeholder who has been importuned by Lawyer Milburn for his vote & he answered if he coud help into Excise both he & his friends woud. The Lawyer promis'd to let him know in a few days but as he never heard from him since & is about a month ago has

reason to doubt the performance so is come here to se if any woud write to Sir James & state his case & if any Encouragement on this side both he & his friends will vote for Sir Jas. . . .

23. Col. John Robinson to John Richardson. Carlisle 11 Dec. 1767

[Christopher Slater's return to Scotland & asking Richardson to secure him]

"Your journey into Lancashire I hope proved a pleasant one. The parson & his family here are all well."

Black wax seal. 3 boars' heads.

24. Col. John Robinson to John Richardson. Carlisle 13 Dec. 1767.

I have no doubt of your care of Slater. If he can be kept off until our friend returns I hope he may fix him entirely by constant employ. . . Nothing to our prejudice you may be assured hath passed relating Inglewood on the Contrary I expect it wou'd move as last week & I daily hope to receive some agreeable accounts, when I do any communicable to you, you may be assured to hear. Your acct of the Conversion of Blaylock is very pleasing. I suppose it is Joseph Blaylock a shoemaker at Penrith who you mean. If not pray what other Blaylock it is We have a minute of one John Blaylock of Great Salkeld nephew to Cap<sup>t</sup> Benson & marked as a friend of yours to be made free pray is there such a man or is it only a Confusion among the names of the Blaylocks. Can anything yet be made of the Wilsons If not see if you can persuade them to come & talk with M<sup>r</sup> Sturdy. All are well at the Parsons. I hope to wait on you in my way from Whitehaven to which Place I go on Tuesday or Wednesday next. . . As you have been so lately at Lancaster I must conclude you will have compleat Lists of ye freemen there but hav<sup>e</sup> rec<sup>d</sup> sev<sup>l</sup> observations from thence, I inclose an extract of them relat<sup>s</sup> y<sup>r</sup> neighbourhood as superfluity can't hurt you. . .

25. Same to same. 15 Dec 1767

If I am not mistaken Will Nelson is a near relation of the Nicholsons of Linstock. He is of Barton & ye rest of that family. There is a young man also a schoolma<sup>r</sup> now at Staines. If Will coud apply & secure them it wd be well; and if *they will all go together* in one Body as our friends.

He may engage for ye young man at Staines or which other of ye family they choose, a place of 50<sup>l</sup> a year salary besides perquisites much more; not to be had on promises but instanter in hand before the time. I wish therefore my D<sup>r</sup> Sir you w<sup>d</sup> put Will upon this Bus<sup>s</sup> & get him to exert himself or what other friend he can set on for ye purpose as strenuously as possible. We work away & I hope to good effect. I go for Whitehaven to-morrow My best wishes to you all & believe me my D<sup>r</sup> Sir y<sup>rs</sup> most ffaithfully whilst  
J. Robinson

*Burn this*

26. Same to same. Whitehaven 20 Dec. 1767.  
I got here last night & found your Letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> . . . I am glad Blacklock is come back to us. I w<sup>d</sup> have told much to have lost him. . . The Nicholsons & the Wilsons are become great Cards & your attention to secure them will be very kind for such Bodies of ffreemen tell deep now wee are I hope getting a Head. I hear as yet no bad News ab<sup>t</sup> the fforrest, nor have I have [sic] reason to expect it. on the contrary hope for good.  
I will speak to M<sup>r</sup> Spedding ab<sup>t</sup> ye Lancaster ffreemen & I hope to call on you on Wednesday in my return from hence. We then talk ffully ab<sup>t</sup> them. . .
27. John Pears to John Richardson. Carlisle 21 Dec 1767  
I understand you have ye County Sessions open at Penrith and as I may have some difficulty in getting Quallified as I am afraid M<sup>r</sup> Aglionby will not appear at our town Sessions I should take it as a particular favour if you would speak to M<sup>r</sup> Cooke to make an Adjournment to Carlisle, Sometime ye next week and to send down ye Rolls I should take Care to Send them Carefully Back Again I would not ask this favour if I thought it was not practicable so I apprehend ye Dean and M<sup>r</sup> Jackson would have no objections in doing so much for me if it can be done would save me trouble in going to Cockermouth your Answer in this affair will be very obliging and also to Let me know if M<sup>rs</sup> Richardson got ye Salmon I sent by the post on Satturday morning and I assure you I am in great Spirits and hope things will go well at Carlisle as to our Election.

28. Col. Robinson to John Richardson. Whitehaven 22 Dec. 1767.  
I hope to leave Whitehaven to-morrow morn<sup>g</sup> & to be with you to-morrow Night in good time, and if you will give me leave I will bring my friend Capt<sup>n</sup> Stables to take a Bed also with you. To show also frankly I treat you & hop<sup>e</sup> you w<sup>d</sup> do ye same with me I have ordered a Horse of Mine to be br<sup>o</sup>t to your House from Carlisle to-morrow afternoon & left for me & I have also ordered my serv<sup>t</sup> to meet me at your House from Appleby with ano<sup>r</sup> . . .
29. Same to same. Appleby 31 Dec 1767. [About persons not rated within Penrith] We are all as well as can be in this pinch<sup>e</sup> weather. . .
30. Same to same. Appleby 2 January 1768.  
I was yesterday fav<sup>d</sup> with yours and again ano<sup>r</sup> to Day The stile of one my D<sup>r</sup> friend widely different from the other. When you wrote your ffirst I am sure it was late in the Even<sup>g</sup> for a Moments recollection w<sup>d</sup> have told you that the Clerks at Whitehaven are not to find out by their researches the Rates of ye freeholders, a work indeed of impossibility for them almost, but that the Agent of ye Division are to return to them the specifick Rating of Each freeholders that is either by himself, Tenant or some other Person. If your Gent<sup>n</sup> had done so, you w<sup>d</sup> not have had so much trouble which I am sorry for giv<sup>g</sup> you and w<sup>d</sup> to God they w<sup>d</sup> mind their Instructions half so carefully & attentively as the Clerks at Whitehaven do their Duty, it w<sup>d</sup> save us all greatly for really they are negligent in this respect. It was a pleasure to me however to find by yours today that you had discovered the Whit<sup>n</sup> Clerks were not so much to Blame & I thank you most heartily for the Lights you have given them, which you sh<sup>d</sup> not have had the trouble to do, if it c<sup>d</sup> have been obtained from the agents who were frequently wrote to for it.  
On this head I will not add more however till I have the pleasure of seeing you. But proceed to ye next w<sup>h</sup> seems to have given my honest friend Disgust. That is not known certainly ab<sup>t</sup> Inglewood &c. And in this too I hope I shall convince him We have not been distrustful or Wrong. Rem<sup>r</sup> what I said to you when at Penrith. It was suff<sup>t</sup> then & it was all I c<sup>d</sup> say on a Certainty. W<sup>d</sup> you have had us

run ye Risque of sayg we had it & left a chance of being defeated? W<sup>d</sup> not have been wrong, nay greatly prejudicial to us? It had when I saw you passed at ye Board of Treasury, but ye warrants were not signed. and after ye warrants were signed, it was not sure till the grants passed. These transactions transpired to sev<sup>l</sup> & everyone wrote their own Sentim<sup>ts</sup> on it & propogated ye Stories but w<sup>d</sup> you have had you or me to have talked ab<sup>t</sup> it or to have said it was so, till it was compleat beyond a Chance of ye effect of a Caveat & till ye Grants had passed Surely not my D<sup>r</sup> Sir. Reflect but a moment & you will see the propriety of it—and I am convinced your good Sense will own it. These things made S<sup>r</sup> Ja<sup>s</sup> & us all necessarily lay by till a Doubt remained not—not diffidence or Distrust of our ffrriends. But prudence & Necessity Least we or S<sup>r</sup> Ja<sup>s</sup> ffrriends might draw on [sic] the Sarcastical Laugh of our opponents & the proud Exultation and Triumph of those who wish to trample on us all. Thank God. that is past and this Evening not half an hour ago I rec<sup>d</sup> a Letter that the Grants are past and that S<sup>r</sup> Jas hath them laying by Him being finished on Wednesday last and will be at Lowther tomorrow night when I hope I shall have the pleasure to meet you on Monday and rejoice with you heartily thereon as S<sup>r</sup> Ja<sup>s</sup> calls on me to-morrow and carries me with him to Lowther. You may now therefore with Confidence answer the Inquiries made of you with<sup>t</sup> Danger or hazard of Contradiction. Facts & Truth are always our Basis & will I doubt not carry us through all crowned with victory. It will be a pleasure to me to hear y<sup>t</sup> my honest ffrriend is satisfied and it will add to what I feel on this business if he thinks we have not acted wrong but with prudent Caution which I flatter myself he will do. Will you allow me to desire one Thing more of you in respect to yese Ratings & that is that you will take ye Trouble to expressly order the Agents to make ye returns of ye Rates & those added or appeal with all possible Expedition to Whitehaven. You have I daresay taken great pains with Chris<sup>r</sup> Slater & I rejoice that you have succeeded. Miss Richardson & we are all as well as this weather will allow us to be, pinchg cold & deep snow. . .

31. John Sturdy to John Richardson. S<sup>t</sup> Nicholas near Carlisle  
1 Feb 1768.

Jonathan Hodgson of Grisedale (who himself and three Bro<sup>rs</sup> and an uncle are all freemen) had some time ago a difference with a neighbour which according to my Information occasioned one John Wren near Keswick to interceed so farr in the affair as to prevail with M<sup>r</sup> Wm. Atkinson of W<sup>th</sup>aven who's Jonathan Hodgson's Landlord to let his ffarm to one Tho<sup>s</sup> Sowerby near Keswick at the yearly Rent of £12 which rent Jonathan Hodgson is willing to give, for as he has a sheep stock Heafed upon the ffarm, it will be a considerable expence and loss to him to remove. The measures that has been used to keep M<sup>r</sup> Hodgson upon the ffarm you'l know from the inclosed I am apprehensive M<sup>r</sup> Hodgson will be at Penrith Market tomorrow and if so you may learn from him if M<sup>r</sup> Spedding's Letter to Joseph Wren has had any effect and if you or any of S<sup>r</sup> James ffriends has any acquaintance or influence w<sup>th</sup> Joseph or John Wren who are Bro<sup>rs</sup> and one of them I'm told is an Agent or Bayliff for S<sup>r</sup> Jam<sup>s</sup> I hope they will assist in getting this matter accomodated and prevail with Sowerby to assigne the Lease or Article if any to Hodgson and if they are backward in this, I should be glad to know upon what Terms Sowerby would assign the Article or Lease for I would gladly have M<sup>r</sup> Hodgson kept upon the ffarm. The reason of my giving you this trouble is my having no acquaintance at Penrith who could assist effectually in this affair.

Hodgson Jonathan at Griesdale a Freeman

Do	Henry near Hutton	Do	Bro <sup>r</sup> of Jonathan
Do	Richard at Brough under Stainmoor	Do	
Do	Joseph near Kirkoswald	Do	
Do	Jonah at Cumwhitton uncle to	Do	

Put a seal upon the Inclosed.