

V.—UNPUBLISHED LETTERS OF RICHARD DAWES,
SOMETIME MASTER OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL AND OF
THE HOSPITAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY IN
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

By J. C. HODGSON, M.A., V.P.

[Read 27th February, 1918].

In the long list of scholars who have occupied the office of master of the Royal Grammar School of queen Elizabeth, in Newcastle, there are the names of distinguished men whose happiness it was to have been heaven-born teachers and moulders of character: others there are who are remembered as men of learning rather than as instructors or administrators. To the second of these classes belonged the brilliant Richard Dawes, fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and master of Newcastle school from 1738 to 1749.

In spite of his failure as a schoolmaster, the reputation of Dawes, as a scholar, is such that he has engaged the attention of biographers¹ so competent for and so skilled in the art of

¹ The most important of the memoirs referred to are:—

Biographical notice in the Rev. John Brand's *History of Newcastle*, 1, p. 96, published in 17—.

Memoir in Kippis, *Biographia Britannica*, second edition, v, pp. 17-21, published in 1793.

Biographical Notes by Thomas Kidd in his preface to *Miscellaneu Critica*, ed. 1817.

Biographical Notice in the Rev. John Brewster's *Memoir of the Rev. Hugh Moises*, pp. 46-47; printed privately in 1823.

Biographical Notice in Nichols, *Illustrations of Literary History*, v, pp. 123, 124, published in 1828.

An Account of the Life and Writings of Richard Dawes, M.A., late Master of the Royal Grammar School and of the Hospital of St. Mary in the Westgate, Newcastle upon Tyne, by the Rev. John Hodgson. Written in 1829 and printed in *Arch. Ael.*, 1st ser., 11, pp. 139, 166.

memoir-writing that the following observations would not have been made, but for the acquisition by Mr. Richard Welford of a series of letters written by, and to, Dawes, which letters throw fresh light on his character.

As an introduction to these letters, Dawes's personal history shall be recapitulated as briefly as possible.

Born at Market Bosworth in Leicestershire and baptized on the 27th of June, 1709, as Richard Dawes the son of Richard Dawes, a maltster in that town, Dawes received his education at the grammar school of his native place from Richard Smith and Anthony Blackwall, successive masters—the latter a scholar famous in his day—and at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he matriculated on the 18th February, 1725-6 as a sizar. His tutor is believed to have been Mr. W. Whitehead. Taking his degree of B.A. in 1729, he was a Whichcote scholar from 1729 to 1733, was elected Dixie fellow in 1731 and proceeded M.A. in 1733. He was a candidate in a contested election of university bedell in 1734 but was defeated. He seems to have resided on his fellowship in Cambridge, at any rate, occasionally, until the 10th of July, 1738, when, on the resignation of the Rev. Edmund Lodge, he was appointed master of the grammar school of Newcastle, to which appointment the corporation on the 9th October following added the sinecure mastership of the hospital of the blessed Virgin Mary.

This hospital, originally founded in or before the year 1170, came to the Crown by the statute 31 Henry VIII for the Dissolution

Memoir by the Rev. H. R. Luard, D.D. in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, xiv; published in 1888.

Richard Dawes the learned Grecian, by Richard Welford, originally printed in the *Newcastle Weekly Chronicle* for May 18th, 1889, and reprinted in *Men of Mark 'twixt Tyne and Tweed*, I, pp. 27-31; published in 1895.

Richard Dawes. By P[eter] G[iles] [now master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge]; printed in the *Emmanuel College Magazine*, v, pp. 49-69 [1894].

of Religious Houses, but apparently was not dissolved. It was dealt with by queen Elizabeth by charter under the Great Seal. The charter and letters patent having been lost, or made away with, by John Raymes, the master who joined the Northern Rebellion; they were renewed by James I by a charter granted 29th of May, 1611. The mayor and burgesses were the patrons and visitors, whose choice of a fitting person to be master was not limited to a clerk in holy orders. In order to make a beneficial use of an effete institution and for the encouragement of learning, the corporation made it a laudable, though not invariable custom to bestow the mastership of the hospital on the master of the school.

Before migrating to Newcastle Dawes had made a name as a scholar by publishing, in 1727, a Greek idyl on the death of George I and the accession of George II; and in 1734 other Greek verses on the marriage of Frederick, prince of Wales. In the latter year he issued proposals to print by subscription a translation into Greek hexameters of Milton's *Paradise Lost*. It was not until after he left Cambridge that he established his reputation as a scholar by publishing in 1745 his *Miscellanea Critica*,² which after obtaining the unanimous commendation of his contemporaries, has—as it has been justly remarked—‘preserved his memory as one of the chief Greek scholars this country has produced.’

It is more than probable that the labour involved by the completion of this monumental work and the seeing it through the press may have caused him to neglect his duty to the school and pupils.

Friction having arisen with the corporation, who were visitors both of school and hospital, Dawes resorted to a two-edged weapon

²In the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1745, p. 504. Amongst the books and pamphlets published in the month of September of that year is ‘*Miscellanea Critica* or sectiones quinque dispartita. Per R. Dawes, M.A. pr[ice] 4s. in sheets. Beecroft and Nourse.’

of offence by lampooning the aldermen, Dr. Adam Askew and other local magnates, in a tract published in 1747, under the title of 'Extracts from a MS. pamphlet entitled the Tittle-Tattle-Mongers,'³ and, it is stated, by instructing the youth in his Greek class to construe the Greek word for 'ass' as 'alderman.'⁴

It is possible that the learning and irony displayed in the tract might have been appreciated in the academical circles of Cambridge, but in Newcastle, those who would comprehend them may be numbered on one hand.

By advertisement in the *Newcastle Courant* in the months of October and November, 1747, Dawes promised, or threatened, other publications. If the pamphlet, in verse, entitled 'The Origin of the Newcastle Burr,' which has long been ascribed to him were indeed from his pen, it may possibly have been written at this period.⁵ The author declaims against his fellow townsmen and asserts that it was by Heaven's decree —

. . . . That, in all future times,
 They shou'd be branded by a mark,
 By which you know 'em in the dark ;
 For in their throat a *burr* is plac'd,
 By which this blessed crew is trac'd :
 And which, when they wou'd speak, betrays
 A gutt'ral noise, like crows and jays :

³ The tract is now very rare. A copy may be seen at the Public Library of Newcastle, but the synopsis of its contents, given in *Arch. Ael.*, 1st ser., II, pp. 153 *et seq.*, will be sufficient for most.

⁴ Long after Dawes's time Kitty Ellison, serjeant-at-mace, and of caustic memory, was often summoned before the magistrates to answer both for words and deeds. At one time happening to pass in the streets an alderman standing on one side and an ass on the other, shoved out both elbows and exclaimed, 'get out of my way aldermen,' for which affront he was summoned before his betters. Having related the fact with great drollery and humour just as it had occurred, he concluded by gravely observing that he had meant no offence to the worthy alderman [Mosely], for if he had called the ass an alderman he had not called the alderman an ass. MS. note by the Rev. John Hodgson.

⁵ The date of publication has not been ascertained, but a second edition was published in London in 1767 and is reprinted in Richardson's *Reprints and Imprints*, III.

Finding that the school was suffering from the inefficiency and inattention of the master, the corporation endeavoured to restrain him between the parallel lines of sobriety of conduct and duty. In consequence of remonstrances Dawes made proposals for his resignation of the school. In a letter, dated 30th November, 1827, written to the Rev. John Hodgson, by Mr. John Clayton, then town clerk, the latter states :—

The official record of the proceedings of the Corporation is so meagre that it will not be of much use to you. It only shows that on the 10th July 1738 Rich^d Dawes A.M. was appointed Master of the Free Grammar School in the place of the Rev^d Edm^d Lodge, resigned, and that on the 9th of October in the same year he was appointed Master of the Virgin Mary's Hospital : that on the 22nd September 1746 Mr. Dawes made a proposal to resign the office of Master of the School, whereupon the Corporation offered him an annuity of £80 per annum for his life in consideration of his resigning both the Mastership of the School and of the Hospital. On the 10th of January 1748 Mr. Dawes made new proposals of terms of resignation. It does not appear what they were but the circumstances of their being made at all raises an inference that the first offer of the Corporation was rejected by him.

The matter was delegated to a committee consisting of Messrs. Nicholas Fenwick, Nathaniel Clayton, Robert Sorsbie, Ralph Sowerby, Cuthbert Smith, William Peareth, Robert Ellison, Richard Wilson, William Graham and others, to consider. They reported that on receiving satisfactory replies to their enquiries ' the committee will think it reasonable to comply to Mr. Dawes' proposals of paying him an annuity of £80 per annum provided that they are advised by their counsel on point of law that they may do it.'

The following letter written by Dawes was apparently addressed to Alderman Nicholas Fenwick as chairman of the committee :—

17 Decr. 1746.

In the other paper which I desire you will lay before the magistrates

you [have] an account of the profits arising from the Hospital within the 8 years which I have been Master, as far as I am able at present to state them, my enquiry concerning the expiration of lives having as yet been made only in part.⁶ But even this, however imperfect it may be, will perhaps suggest to the magistrates a different opinion from what they have hitherto entertained concerning their offer of 80*l.* per ann. for the resignation of bothe the Hospital and School. On June 4th 1748 there will be due 30*l.* for the renewal of Mr. Ilderton's lease, now in the possession of Mr. Allgood's heirs. It is granted for 21 years—5½ of which are now elapsed: and 7 more would have been so on May-day last, had Mr. Ilderton renewed his lease as he ought to have done on May-day 1739. Of this 30*l.* I think myself entitled to 20*l.* at least: for it seems very unreasonable that I should be a loser by the irregular conduct of the lessee. Had he proceeded regularly, I should have received, on account of his lease, 30*l.* on May-day last, besides what was due on May-day 1739. This 20*l.* will augment the yearly profits of the Hospital to 79*l.* Perhaps a farther enquiry may inform us of the expiration of so many more lives as will raise them to 100*l.* With the greatest plesaire I wish you joy of your son's marriage and am, etc., etc., R. Dawes.

An account of the profits arising from the Hospital in the space of eight years partly received and partly due:—

1	Received of Mr. James Ilderton	£33	0	0
2	Mr. John Lowes	13	0	0
3	To be paid by Mr. Potter according to agreement	35	0	0
4	Due from Mr. Marmaduke Forster for lands and quarry at Bolam by the death of Rev. Mr. Burrell 1½ year rent	120	0	0
5	Due from Mr. R. Carr for land at Whickham by the death of G. and B. Carr at 5 years rent	30	0	0

⁶ At Common Law persons having limited interests, such as tenants in tail, masters of hospitals, etc., might lease for any term; but their leases were apt to be avoided if they were not in possession, or in some cases after their deaths. Then came the great enabling statute of 32 Henry VIII, ch. 28, which empowered such persons to lease providing, amongst other restrictions, that the lease was not to be for more than 21 years, or three lives. These restrictions were increased by the statutes 1 Eliz., ch. 19 and 13 Eliz., ch. 10, but subject thereto that power remained in force up to 1858. Parsons or vicars of private cures were excepted from the enabling Act. See also the preamble, operative part, and first proviso to the statute of Henry VIII; the dissertation by Coke in Liber 1, chap. 7, section 28, of Coke upon Littleton, and the illustrative matter in *Comyn's Digest*, III, p. 249, *Ex inf.* Mr. F. W. Dendy.

6	Due from Mr. Joseph Reay for a moiety of the Owmers by the death of R. Jennison $1\frac{1}{2}$ years rent	9	0	0
7	Due from Wm. Ord Esq for a farm house and 35 acres of land and colliery at Fenham : and a parcel of ground, coach-house and stables in Westgate by the death of Thomas son of F. Buck by a moderate computation ..	100	0	0
8	Eight years reserved rents, with those of Dr. Askew and Mr. Davison amounting to 24 <i>l.</i> per annum	192	0	0
9	Eight year occupation of a house worth 10 <i>l.</i> per annum ..	80	0	0
				0
	8: 612 <i>l.</i> :: 1 year : 76 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	£612	0	0

In the absence of evidence to the contrary it is to be assumed that the following letters, written in the months of January, February, and March, were dated Old Style, which means that according to the New Style, or the modern manner of reckoning, they belong to the following year. If this chronology be correct there is a gap of thirteen months between the first and the second letter of the series, and twelve months between the third and the fourth. But the dating is evidently careless.

[Apparently to Alderman Nicholas Fenwick].

Jany. 17. 1747. [1747-8].

The two cases inclosed amount to a demonstration that the magistrates cannot possibly be losers, but may be considerable gainers, by allowing me such sums as are due for the renewal of leases in consideration of my resigning to them the whole of *my right* in that respect. If they have no objection to a proposal of this kind, I am willing to resign the School and Hospital for an annuity of 80*l.* for life ; with the further condition, that they allow me such sums, or consider me as having such sums in their hands and paying me interest for them. They may appoint some proper person or persons to enquire, 1st, what is the annual value of the several estates of which leases are granted by the Master ; 2nd, what number of lives are now laps'd and how long each of them has been so ; 3dly, what are the respective ages of the lives still in being. R. Dawes.

To Alderman Nicholas Fenwick.

Jany. 5, 1748. [1748-9].

I have waited a day or two in hopes that Mr. Chambers would find a

list of the Hospital leases, which I some time ago sent him. otherwise you would have received one sooner. In the enclosed⁷ the lives which I partly know, and partly am informed, are lapsed, you will find distinguished by a line drawn under them. I think I have likewise heard that either Mrs. Shippen or Mrs. Windsor or both of them, are dead : and Mr. Wilkinson lately acquainted me that one of the lives in Mr. Hauxley Surtees' lease is dropped. Eliz : Coltherd was dead before I came to Newcastle. The profits arising merely from that lapse ($1\frac{1}{2}$ years rent) belong to Mr. Lodge's daughter : but there is due to me $\frac{1}{4}$ years rent for each of the 10 years that I have been Master, which together amount to $2\frac{1}{2}$ year's rent.

Mrs. Pearson had likewise a lease of a brick-work ; but that expired in 1742. Whatever she has received for this brick work (for I hear she lets it) since that time is due to me. R. Dawes.

[To the Committee].

I have written to Dr. Jurin in order to enable me to give the most satisfactory answer to the articles you were pleased to send me : with the same view I shall procure, as soon as I can a late dissertation on the renewal of leases.

What I have to observe at present is as follows : 1st. When Mr. Lodge told me the customs of the place he made no distinction relating to lands and houses. Nor have I ever observed any. 2nd: I have always

⁷ There were 20 leases enumerated in the list, comprising :—Spital Croft and ground on north side of school, leased to Mayor, &c., 23rd Sept., 1723 ; Spital Close, &c., leased to Mayor, &c., 23rd Sept., 1723 ; lands in Fenham leased to Thomas Ord, Esq., 9th Jan., 1726 ; coal mines at Fenham leased to Thomas Ord, Esq., 9th Jan. 1726 ; ground, coach-house and stable in Westgate leased to Thos. Ord, Esq., 13th Jan., 1726 ; house in Westgate leased to Mr. J. Lowes, 8th Jan., 1744 ; lands near White Friar's leased to Edward Cook, 1st Aug., 1733 ; lands at Stamfordham leased to Mr. F. Heath, 13th Oct., 1747 ; messuage, land and coal mine at Newbiggen leased to Ralph Bates, 15th Nov., 1735 ; lands in Jesmond leased to Dixie Windsor and Wm. Shippon, 3rd Oct., 1735 ; close near King's Dykes leased to Mr. Joshua Douglas, 28th Sept., 1738 ; coal mines in Jesmond leased to Mr. Fr. Brandling, 2nd May, 1715 ; lands in Whickam leased to Mr. Jn. Carr, 12th Nov., 1726 ; a moiety of Owmers leased to R. Ridley and Mr. Uirick Reay, 28th Sept., 1738 ; the other moiety of Owmers leased to Mr. Hauxley Surtees, 3rd March, 1737 ; house in Westgate leased to Lancelot Allgood, Esq., 12th Jan., 1746 ; lands near Close Gate leased to Mrs. Pearson, 22nd Feb., 1725 ; lands at Bolam leased to Mr. Marmaduke Grey and Mr. Marmaduke Forster, 24th Sept., 1748 ; piece of land in Westgate leased to Mr. R. Featherston, 14th June, 1736 : garden leased to the same 1st Sept., 1724.

proceeded according to what Mr. Lodge informed me was customary, by demanding by way of fine for one life $1\frac{1}{2}$ years rent and for 2 lives 5 years rent 3rd. In a certain lease a life has been lapsed ten years. Can it be thought reasonable, Gentlemen, that the lessee should be allowed to renew on the same terms now, as he might have done immediately after the lapse? If not; whatever additional sum ought to be advanced by the lessee, ought likewise to be allowed by the magistrates for the Master's resignation. 4. In a certain lease one life is lapsed: the 2 remaining lives are very old and infirm, can it seem agreeable to reason, Gentlemen, that the lessee should be allowed to renew upon the same terms as if the remaining lives were young and healthful? 5. I shall deliver the charter and papers relating to the Hospital into the hands of whatever person either the Committee or Mr. Recorder shall appoint to receive them.

As soon, Gentlemen, as I receive Dr. Jurin's answer, I shall send it to you, with such observations of my own, as may appear proper. In the meantime, I am, Gentlemen, &c., R. Dawes.

[From Dr. James Jurin to Richard Dawes].

I am, sorry I am able to give you no satisfaction in the queries you propose.

I know nothing of the custom of renewal in the Hospital, having not, that I remember, renewed above 2 leases, and these upon land, and it now being now above 30 years since that was done, I cannot recollect any particulars, but I think I renewed upon terms considerably easier than what you speak of, &c. James Jurin.

Feby. 14. 1748. [1748-9].

To the Committee.

I shall renew with as many of the lessees as will advance such sums as I shall think reasonable; and for the leases which shall remain unrenewed, I shall be satisfied with what shall be thought reasonable by you. But as I am persuaded, Gentlemen, that you will upon further enquiry be willing to allow more than what you proposed at your last meeting; this consideration induces me to desire that the affair may proceed in the following manner—viz: That the annuity of 80*l.* for life be settled as soon as convenience will permit, and that my resignation take place at the time from which that is to commence—but that you allow yourselves a year after that term, in order to be more perfectly acquainted with the prevailing customs of renewal, and at the end of the year determine the

sums to be allotted for the unrenewed leases, with a year's interest of that sum. Dr. Jurin's memory, it seems, is either so defective, or so complaisant to his will, as to suggest to him the renewal of not more than 2 leases within the 7 years of his mastership: but you will find by the schedule delivered to Mr. Gibson, that he renewed no less than twelve within the 2 last: which is probably a greater number than was ever renewed by any other Master since the Hospital was founded. I should be sorry to entertain an injurious opinion of the Dr., but really, Gentlemen, I cannot help thinking that his memory is in some degree disingenuously obsequious. He seems to me to be apprehensive of some dispute in law, and willing to let it determine itself as well as it may rather than suffer it to give him any trouble.

You will observe, Gentleman, that, notwithstanding his affected forgetfulness, he is however inclined to remember such circumstances as would tend to discourage me from depending upon any evidence that he could give. I am, &c., R. Dawes.

March 9th, 1748.

To the Committee.

The book, which you receive with this letter, will inform you that $1\frac{1}{2}$ years rent for the renewal of a life is less than half of what is strictly due. You will see that the sum due for 7 years laps'd in a lease for 21 years (at 5 per cent interest) is 2y. 3q. 2m.; and for renewing one life in a lease for 3 lives, the same sum is due with the addition of $\frac{1}{4}$. Now $\frac{1}{4}$ is equal to 5 months, which added to the sum gives 3y. 1q. 1m. Surely, Gentleman, the demand of $1\frac{1}{2}$ years rent is very moderate; when that of 3 years and 4 months is actually due. This consideration you will find enlarged upon in the letter which begins p. 87. In all probability it is owing to this book, that the demand which was originally only one years rent is now almost universally rais'd to that of $1\frac{1}{2}$ year, as Laurence in his dissertation asserts it is. The different value of lands and houses is mentioned p. 49 as considered at the time of purchase. But there is no intimation in the whole book that any distinction is made at the time of renewal.

With regard to Mrs. Windsor, you know, Gentlemen, that were I not to resign, it would be in my power to take the chance of my own life against the two remaining ones in the lease; and if I outliv'd them both to become tenant in her stead by granting a lease to some friend and having his property transferred to me. If you are still unwilling, Gentle-

men, to make any allowance on account of the great age of those lives, I desire you will continue to me the chance of becoming tenant. In this case you will have nothing to pay for the life which is lapsed. I believe Miss Pearson will think proper to comply with my terms, as I have, with your leave, offered her the privilege of changing her two remaining lives gratis. If she does not, I must desire, Gentlemen, that you will consider the above proposal as likewise made with regard to her. Perhaps Mr. Carr, in whose lease two lives have been lapsed several years will likewise oblige me to apply for the chance of my own life against his. And now, Gentlemen, having partly in this and partly in former letters made such observations and requests as I thought necessary, I leave the merits of them to be considered and determined by you, and am, Gentlemen, &c.

R. Dawes.

June 10th, 1749.

On the 19th of June, 1749, the committee, on an amended report, recommended that on Dawes resigning both school and hospital he should be granted a pension as retiring allowance of £80 per annum, and that these should be paid to him 'for the fines of such leases, where one or more life or lives are dropt, in the proportions following, to wit for one life for lands one year and a quarter rack rent, and for one life for houses one years rack rent and so in proportion for two years lapsed.'

Sept. 9th, 1749.

To Mr. Wm. Gibson [the Town Clerk].

Dear Sir,—Having in vain sought for my memorandum of the bounderies of the Hospital lands at Fenham, I have applied to Mr. Coulson, and am by him informed that the name of the person that shewed me the lands is Edward Byers; that he lives at Blyth, and that his father farmed the lands many years. As this person seems to be the most properly qualified to acquaint us with the bounderies—the number of acres, and their yearly value, I shall write to him tomorrow, by a special messenger, and send you his answer. In the meantime, I am, &c., R. Dawes.

On the 25th September, 1749, a bond was sealed for securing to Mr. Dawes this annuity, and he accordingly resigned both offices. But he was still dissatisfied, and on the 30th November

he made a further and lengthy communication to the committee.

To the Committee.

You have heard the lessees and their agents concerning the particular sums to be allowed with what regard you thought proper. Give me leave now in my turn to mention the lowest sums which I shall ever willingly accept of, and to represent to you how reasonable and moderate they appear to me.

1st. Corporation Lease. I shall indeed just mention the Corporation's Account; but I think it would be more exactly stated thus. For a life lapsed $1\frac{1}{4}$ rent = 12*l.* 10*s.* For (if I am not mistaken) 2 years since the lapse, would be one third of a years rent = 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

2d. Mrs. Windsor. I think no sensible man would not rather have only one life remaining in his lease of a moderate age and constitution than the two very old and infirm ones which now remain in that of Mrs. Windsor. If so it is a plain consequence that these 2 lives ought to be considered only as *one* moderate life. I shall accordingly be satisfied with what your general proportions for 2 lives lapsed, viz^t 4 years rent = 128*l.* The sum due, according to Laurence, is 5 years rent = 160*l.* I had rather, Gentlemen take the chance of my own life against the 2 remaining ones than be allowed 5 or even 6 years rent, and you could not reasonably refuse me this privilege, should I insist upon it.

3d. Mrs. Pearson. The several sums due from Mrs. Pearson are, according to Laurence: 1st, for 1 life lapsed $1\frac{1}{2}$ years rent = 84*l.* suposing the yearly rent to be 56*l.* (Mr. Chambers told me it was 60*l.* 2d, for $10\frac{3}{4}$ years since the lapse ($\frac{1}{4}$ rent being due for each year) = 150*l.* 3d., for the privilege of changing the two remaining lives 2 years rent = 112*l.*; in all 346*l.* By your own proportions, Gentlemen, $1\frac{1}{4}$ rent = 70*l.* was due when I came to Newcastle, and the compound interest of that sum, from that time to Midsummer last, (omitting the accumulation of some fractions) = 43*l.* 3*s.* 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* Now these two sums give 118*l.* 3*s.* 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*—surely the lady's most strenuous advocate will be willing to allow this much at least. The only attempt towards assigning a reason why no allowance should be made for the time since the lapse of 1 or 2 lives, as far as I understand, is this; because I have had my chance of the lapse of 2d. or 3d. lives respectively, but is in Milton's language "semblance of Reason not sub." First it is putting affair upon mere chance, for the regulating of which calculations have been made by no less a man than Sir Isaac Newton. If you

are in the right, Gentlemen, poor Sir Isaac has taken a great deal of pains to settle the proportions for dividing a cipher. Add to this that general custom allows, according to Laurence, $\frac{1}{4}$ years rent for each year after the lapse of a first life ; and $\frac{1}{2}$ years rent after that of a second. Again besides the consideration of the interest of the money, is it not self-evident, Gentlemen, that the chance for the lapse of a 2d life grows continually better as the time increases since the lapse of the 1st? And is it not equally evident that I ought to be allowed an equivalent for resigning this better chance to you? You perhaps do not intend to make any advantage of the chance growing better : but that is nothing to me. Your intended kindness to the lady should not interfere with my right. But further you might, Gentlemen, with just the same reason refuse to make any allowance on account of the lapse of the lives themselves, because I have had my chance for the leases renewing before I resigned. And further still ; the seeming reason is absolutely inconsistent with your own determination in the case of Mrs. Windsor. According to your proportions $1\frac{1}{4}$ years rent only is due for the life lapsed in her lease ; and yet you have allowed 3 years rent. For what reason, Gentlemen? Most certainly for no other reason than this, because the chance of a 2d. or 3d. life is better in proportion to the great age of those that remain. Now according to the above reasoning you might have said, that I have had my chance for the death of one or both of these old persons and . . . ought to be allowed nothing on account of their age. That Miss Pearson ought likewise to pay something considerable for the privilege of changing the 2 remaining lives is indisputably certain. But it is time to conclude this article : I have reason to believe that Mrs. Wren (Mr. Lodge's daughter) will be pretty well satisfied with 40*l.* for her share ; and I am willing to take for mine 100*l.* instead of 262*l.* due according to Laurence. Without either this allowance or the chance of my own life against the two (with Mr. Town Clerk's leave) not very good ones remaining in the lease, I shall not think myself treated with impartiality.

4. Wm. Ord Esq. I am greatly surprised, Gentlemen, that you should be persuaded to value Mr. Ord's plantations and grass plots at the yearly rent of 15*s.* per acre. I dare say Switzer would rate them at 3*l.* at least, perhaps at 4, 5 or 6*l.* But the gentleman, it seems, told you a notable tale, that these lands were in his memory (perhaps 30 years ago) so indifferent as not to be worth more than the above mentioned low rent. In a word, Gentlemen, unless the present value be made the

standard, there can be no standard at all. This is a truth demonstrably certain, in spite of the quirks and quibbles of all the lessees and agents in the kingdom. But it is time to propose some other numbers. I am willing, Gentlemen, to consider the gardens &c. as consisting of only 15 acres, and to take 4 years rent of them at the rate of 1*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.* each =90*l.*; and 4 years rent of the other 20 acres at 15*s.*=60*l.* In the next place let it be supposed that Mr. Ord's 2*d.* life has been lapsed only 2 years since the importunity of agents, who seem to make it a point to manage not only me but you too, Gentlemen, has prevented my being allowed time to be informed of the precise term;—a years rent will be due on this account. I am willing to take $\frac{2}{3}$ *ds* of that rent=24*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* As I think I have demonstrated in my last letter that no difference ought to be made in the proportions for land and houses at the time of renewal, I presume you will allow 4 years for the coach-houses &c. especially as I make no objection which I might fairly do, to the rent stated by Mr. Ord. This will be 32*l.* These sums with 5*l.* for the colliery amount to 211*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* I desire, Gentlemen, either this sum or the chance of my life as above.

5. Mr. Allgood. I can see no reason, Gentlemen, why Mr. Allgood should pay less than $1\frac{1}{4}$ years rent for the life lapsed=25*l.*—and $\frac{2}{3}$ of $\frac{1}{2}$ years rent (instead $\frac{1}{2}$ a years rent really due) or $\frac{1}{3}$ year's rent=6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

6. Mr. Carr. Mr. Carr is to allow according to your proportions, Gentlemen, for 2 lives, 4 years rent=32*l.* I am persuaded it is 8 or 9 years since the lapse of the 2*d.* life. Pray let Mr. Carr declare the true state of the case. The compound interest in 8 years comes to 15*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*—in 9 to 17*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* Laurence, in the former case, allows 8 half years rents, and in ye latter 9. I am willing to take $\frac{2}{3}$ of the sum due in the former=21*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* If Mr. Carr is not disposed to agree to this, I desire the same chance as above.

7. Ed. Cooke Esq. Mr. Cook has granted a lease of his close for 30 or 31 years to the Brick-layers Company. The yearly rent which they pay is 22*l.*; and the Steward of the Company declares that according to the best of his judgement it will be worth 21*l.* yearly at the expiration of their lease, about 15 years of which are to come. I am willing, Gentlemen, either to take 80*l.* as 4 years rent, or the above repeated chance.

The affair is submitted to your determination by, Gentlemen, &c.,

Nov. 30th 173[4]9.*

Richd. Dawes.

* [The 3 instead of 4 is an evident mistake.]

This led to a final report to the court of common council :—

We have duly weighd and considered the matter with respect to the several above named lessees, and have enquired into the respective rack rents, or yearly value, of the premises comprised in the several above mentioned leases :—and have also duly considered the remonstrance sent this day by Mr. Richard Dawes in a letter to Robt. Sorsbie esq.,—and have had recourse to our report made herein on the 26 day of October last past and do abide by the same :—and see no cause to alter or recede therefrom, and do recommend it to the Common Council that the respective sums within mentioned be paid by the lessees for the renewal of their leases, as within mentioned, with interest for the same from the 24th day of June last past to the time of their paying, or offering to pay, the same, and think it proper that the Revd. Henry Featherstonhaugh, Master of the said Hospital do renew such leases on payment of the said fines and interest. All which we humbly submit to the Common Council. Ralph Sowerbie, Cuthbt. Smith, Wm. Pearith, Robt. Ellison, Wm. Clayton, Richd. Wilson, Wm. Graham.

Dated this 30th day of Novr. 1749.

A letter, dated 23rd of September, 1750, deals with business details.

Sept. 23, 1750.

Sir,—On the 7th inst. Mr. Cuthbertson made me an offer of the sums to be paid by Mr. Allgood and Mr. Ord together with what I think only a trifling part of the interest due. He insists that the report of the committee, drawn up on the 16th of October last, is of a determinative nature. To me, on the contrary, it seems to be very plain that the Committee themselves never thought it so, since they met again on the 30th of Novr., and in the Report of that day thought proper to insert the words " or offering to pay " which had not before been made use of. It is likewise evident from another consideration that the Committee did not entertain so high an opinion of their report since they, in express terms, *humbly* submitted it to the next Common Council. As the offer made on the 7th inst. was the first since the report was confirmed by the Common Council and as I was then willing to take the sums offered with the interest then due, supposing a former offer made before the 30th of Novr. to be of no force. I *humbly* in my turn submit, to the determination of the next Common

Council whether I ought not to receive whatever interest will on the same supposition be due at the time of the first offer that shall hereafter be made. Perhaps, Sir, it may be thought hard upon Mr. Ord to pay interest for money which has for a considerable time lain dead to him at least, in Mr. Cuthbertson's hands. But let it be considered that it was no fault of mine that the money was called in too hastily ; and surely it would be very hard, if I should be obliged to pay for the blunders of his agents. If it be asked, Sir, how the magistrates shall oblige Mr. Ord to pay the full interest, since his agents have cunningly (as they think) rectified their blunders by getting his lease renewed before I am paid ; I answer, that you may set it down to his account, and insist upon his advancing it together with *compound interest* at the time of his next renewal.

Give me leave, Sir, to take this opportunity of declaring that whatever my opinion may be of the report of the Committee, I am very well pleased that I have resigned, even on the present conditions, and that I think myself, upon the whole, much obliged to the magistrates of Newcastle—they are accordingly desired to accept the thanks of their (and in *their* is included *your*), &c. Richd. Dawes.⁷

After his resignation Dawes retired to the riverside hamlet of Heworth Shore, in the parish of Jarrow, where he continued to enjoy the annuity secured to him by the Corporation until the year 1766, when he died, and was buried in the chapel-yard of Heworth, the spot being marked by a rude stone with the following inscription :—

In memory of Richard Dawes late Master of the Grammer (*sic*) School at Newcastle who died on the 21st of March 1766 aged 57 years.

In the *Newcastle Courant* of 29th March, 1766, there was the following notice :—

Saturday died at his house at Heworth Shore near this town Mr. Dawes formerly Master of the Grammar School here and Fellow of Peter-house Cambridge.

The Rev. John Hodgson, who, when perpetual curate of

⁷ No cover or address to this letter is found among the papers.

Jarrow, had opportunities of conversing with aged parishioners who remembered him, writes :—

Besides the proud and moody temper in which he loved to indulge being one powerful cause of driving him into retirement, I have thought it probable that he loved to live in a lower and easier walk of life than that of a graduate of Cambridge from some natural prejudice against polished society, and a dislike to encounter the labour of dress and neatness which characterize the deportment of well bred men

The humble neighbours amongst whom he lived seem to have regarded his harmless eccentricities as the effects of insanity, and after his death it was reported that he had committed suicide. This may have been so, metaphorically, but in a literal sense the report was false, for the Rev. John Hodgson in the year 1818 notes :—

Mary Parkin of Bill Quay told me she knew him well and was at his streeking, and he had no marks about him of having put an end to his life by violence. He had none or very few visitors; few came near him but his own servant.

Dawes's claims of distinction of learning have been briefly but admirably summed up by one, in every way qualified to do so, in the following words :—" He was quite among the outstanding Greek scholars of the eighteenth century. . . . His *Miscellanea Critica* was in the fore-front of scholarship in its own day. Among other things it treated the lost Digamma in Greek words, it insisted upon accuracy in the use of Greek moods and tenses, it contained emendations of his own, and it criticised with erudition recently published editions of some classical writers." ⁸

⁸ Dr. Wight Duff in *Proceedings of Newcastle Society of Antiquaries*, 3 ser., VIII, p. 125.

PEDIGREE OF DAWES.

RICHARD DAWES, of Market Bosworth, = Margaret Reaner,
Leicestershire, maltster. | mar. 17 June, 1708, at
Market Bosworth.

Richard Dawes, bapt. 27 June, 1709, at Market Bosworth; of Emmanuel Coll., Camb., matric. 18 Feb. 1725-6, B.A. 1729, Fellow 1731, M.A. 1733; Master of Newcastle Grammar School and of St. Mary's Hospital, 1738-1749; died 21 March, 1766, bur. Heworth; will dated 11 March, 1761, pr. 1766.	Benjamin Dawes, = of Walsall, co. Warwick, bap. 13 July, 1711, at Market Bosworth, died before 11 March, 1761.	Jane, wife of Bagnall, of Atherston, co. Warwick; sole executor of her brother's will.
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Josiah Dawes, named in his uncle's will.

WILL OF RICHARD DAWES.

In the name of God Amen. I Richard Dawes of Heworth Shore in the county of Durham, gentleman, being of sound and perfect mind and memory do make and publish this my last will and testament in manner and form following (that is to say) first I do order and appoint that all my just debts and funeral expences shall be fully paid and satisfied, and that three silver table spoons marked T.B. be returned to Coulson of Jesmond Esqr. they belonging to him. Also my silver cup weighing thirty three ounces four penny weight or thereabouts, six silver tea spoons, one mourning gold ring, fines appointed and agreed by the magistrates of Newcastle on Tyne to be paid to me by several lessees under the Master and Brethren of the Hospital of the blessed Virgin Mary in Westgate mentioned in the Town's Books, with interest for the same sum and sums of money due for the said fines at the rate of five pounds p. the hundred, a large collection of books and also all and singular sum and sums of money goods and chattels whatsoever I do and bequeath to my sister Jane Bagnall wife of Mr. Bagnall of Atherston in the county of Warwick and to my nephew Josiah Dawes son of my late brother Benjamin Dawes late of Walsall in the county of Warwick equally share and share alike, and I make and appoint my said sister Jane Bagnall sole executrix. In witness whereof I have to this my will set my hand and seal the eleventh day of March 1761.

Richd. Dawes (L.S.)

Witnesses William Mills, Henry Wilkinson. Proved at Durham 1766.

Alderman Hugh Hornby, writing about the year 1774, states that Dr. Anthony Askew, who had been one of his [Dawes's]

scholars, bought his library, which was deemed valuable on account of his manuscript notes in many of the books.

Dr. Askew died at his house in Hampstead on the 28th February, 1774, and his library of printed books and collection of manuscripts were dispersed: the sale of the former beginning 13th February, 1775, and that of the latter, on the 17th March, 1785. Copies of the sale catalogue are at the British Museum.

The Rev. John Hodgson, unable to trace any of Dawes's MSS., made a personal application to Mr. Adam Askew, eldest son of Dr. Anthony Askew, and received the following reply:—

7, Wimpole Street, June 15, 1825.

I received your letter reminding me of the promise I had made you in the North of sending any papers I might have that related to the famous Richard Dawes. I have hunted high and low to find anything relating to him, but alas! in vain. Neither do I recollect any thing I ever had except a pamphlet entitled the Tittle Tattle Mongers, of which I cannot at present find a copy, tho' I recollect I had several, but alas! it had been written by Dawes when he was in a great rage and contains much trash and low stuff. I wish for your sake I had been more successful but so it is.

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