

Letter from Morpheus Landlower, Edinburgh, to Henry Pelham; 10 December 1746.

Sir,

If I was to write to you on News or Politicks It is ten to one in these suspicious times if my Letter should come to stand, and yet considering the Freindship that subsisted betwixt us when I had the pleasure of being with you in Jamaica I should be looked upon as unkind if not ungrateful If I did not make some Enquiry about your Health and Welfare in these perilous times and at the same time study to entertain you with something tho' ever so trivial to spin out my Epistle to a reasonable Longitude. As for News I say it would not only be dangerous to meddle in since every Letter now a days on that subject is constructed to contain in it a plot. But besides it would be idle since every thing that happens in this Countrey is most faithfully and ingeniously communicated to the Publick by the dayly Gazetteer, the dayly Advertiser and the St. James Evening Post. Permitt me then to fool away the Remainder of this Letter in narrating to you a Dream of my own which I do verily beleive had never any Existence but in my own Imagination and which for Want of a better subject I shall literally relate to you as I dreamt it.

As you know I am remarkably zealous for the Protestant Succession. I dreamt I enlisted myself Volunteer under the Banner of G-¹ C-pe¹ in his Expedition to the North and as we marched from E-nb-g with

¹ General Cope.

full 400 Carts methought the Army was so well provided with every portable Implement th^t no Officer could complain he was oblig'd to leave behind him his Sculore, Bass Fiddle or German Flute. When I beheld the Magnificence of this Procession What a pitiful Figure thought I to myself must the D-ke of A-g-le² have made in the Year 1715 when he marched against the Rebels with double the Numbers of Forces and had all his Baggage carry'd by 100 horses only and how infinitely must we have encreased in riches since that time to be able to make so important a Parade.

When we arrived at Faskirk, methought we were throwghly sensible that we had forget nothing that was necessary either for Subsistence or Convenience or for Destruction or Defense except a few Muskett Bullets to pepper the H-I-d-rs³ with. But that was a Matter of no Consequence since there was then no Enemy near us and since we had only about 18 miles to send back for them to the C-tle of E-nb-g⁴. Some indeed thought we might save ourselves the trouble of sending back since if the H-I-d-rs did not run away from us we should run away from them, yet the wisest Heads thought it decent to halt a day or two first to rest the weary'd troops 2d not to tempt Providence by too much Security.

When we came to Sterling methought I heard a general Order issued for every Soldier to deliver up his Sword and leave it in the Castle. This to me tho' a young Warriour appeared a very extraordinary Step. But many reasons in Conversation were given for it; some said that Swords were cumbersome and fatiguing to the Men in their March and of no Use in an Engagement, others said it was done to distinguish

² Duke of Argyle.

³ Highlanders.

⁴ Castle of Edinburgh.

the private Men from the Officers, for as we were a marching into a barbarous
Countray no one thought it worth his while to change his Linnen or put
on a better Coat than that of a private Centinel, our ruffled Shirts
fine Cloaths and Brocade Waistcoates being carefully pack'd up in our
Scrutores and Chests from the Inclemency of the Fogs that perpetually
infest these Mountainous Countreys. But the Sword was a proper
Mark of Distinction and pointed out the Patrician from the Plebeian
Blood to the Ladys and Gentlemen we should happen to pass upon
the Road. While others again insisted that it was done because there
was more Safety in our Heels than in our Swords. But be th^t as it
will I thought it my Duty to give implicate Faith in the superior
Understanding of my Commander and so I thought no more of the
Matter till I saw the Consequences at the Battle of Pⁿ⁵ which
I shall relate to you in the Sequel of my Dream.

As we were entering into the town of Creifmethought I spy'd a
very pretty black Ey'd Wench and my Mouth watered to be at her. When
I came to the Inn I ordered my Man directly to powder my Wig well
knowing that in Matters of Gallantry there comes by many Degrees
more Rhetorick from a good Frontispeice than from the Inside of the
best Pericranium. Powder your Wig Master says he, By God I have
neither white Powder nor Black Powder, But if your Honour pleases
I'll borrow some Powder for your Honours Wig, I know where to get it.
But as for your Honours Gun there your Honour must shift for it yourself
for I ask'd but tother day of Mr Loggerhead's Servant, Mr Scatterbrains
Servant and Mr Frizzleheads Servant and I dont no how many more
but for as much Gun Powder as to shoot as Pidgeon, and ne'er a one
of'em had any and I question if there is any in the Army. But to
pass over the Wit I engrafted on the Wit of my Footman, the Mirth

⁵ Preston, i.e. Prestonpans.

of the whole Army and the Raptures I had in my Sleep, procured by the pondering of my Periwig, with the pretty little Rogue I mentioned to you above, An Embassy is sent back to the Governour of Sterling Castle for a fresh supply of Arms and Ammunition. Arms and

Ammunition was the shadow but Ammunition alone alias Gunpowder was the Substance of the Embassy; and a G-I is highly to be commended for putting a good Face upon things. Then Arms and Ammunition being arrived the Lord be praised. There is nothing wanting now methought to extirpate the H-I-d-rs root and Branch. But softly what shall we do with this additional supply of Arms every Man has a Firelock already and no Man can use two and they are troublesome to carry along. O its an easy Matter that, says the G-I, we'll leave the Arms here at Greif and bring them back with us to Sterling on our return. No Man could oppose a Motion of that kind since the Arms being in our Rear were safe from the H-I-d-rs and since it was certain we were to come the same Road back again. Besides if the H-I-d-rs should get behind us, as Supposition impossible to happen, what would the arms signify to them When we had the Ammunition along with us and it was far better that they should have them than that our Blunder of forgetting Gunpowder should be discover'd which must be the Case if Arms were sent immediately back. But so it happened methought in the Sequel that the H-I-d-rs got behind us and were very thankfull for the Arms tho without the Ammunition.

When we had got full two days march beyond Greif, id as 7 or 8 Miles for as we had nothing to fear and little to gain it was needdless to harrass the Men with longer Marches than 3 or 4 Miles p Diem by which Means we had Leisure enough to make

Discoveries, pass Jokes and say Wages, at this time it was that Jack said a Wager of a Guinea with Tom th^t he would shoot nearer to the Mark with a single BULLET than he would do. The Money methought was stak'd in my hand. Out to the Feild we went and clapt a peice of white paper for a Mark upon a Tree. But alas when the Combatants were going to charge, the Bullets being too large would not fit the Muzells of their Musketts, other Bullets were try'd but all in Vain. In short it came out that there was not a single BULLET in the whole Army th^t would enter their Musketts upon which a general Order was issued for every Man at his Leisure hours (which were not a few) to trim his Bullets with his Knife and such as had no Knives were ordered to do it with their Teeth, And this Accident methought was what afterwards gave rise to the false and calumnious

Aspertion propogated against the innocent Soldiers, after the Battle of Pre-t-n⁶, that they had shot at that Battle with poison'd Bullets. The Bullets in reality, as I thought, being cut, bruis'd and bit to make them enter their peices, made such horrid Wounds that the H-l-d-rs who knew not the real Cause, could attribute it to nothing but Poison or the Devil.

As we were now in an Enemy's Countrey and knew no Disunction among H-l-d-rs, we took it to be our Duty to our King and Countrey to do as much Mischeif as we could, and for that reason we squeas'd and tyranniz'd, we press'd Men and Horses and we laid it down as a Rule to pay for nothing we had. If there was a feild of Corn better than another in View th^t out of our Road and that we had to go thro' other feilds of Corn before we could come at

⁶ Preston.

it, we were sure to pitch our Camp on such and pay nothing for the Damage, and if the Proprietor happened to complain we beat him heartily and cursed him for a Rebel Rascall.

In this manner did I Dream we proceeded and in this Manner conquer our Enemy's till a Pannick seiz'd which made us fly as it were over a ten Days wented March in the space of two for in one Day we marched 24 long Highland Miles and in the next 20. In this last day it was that I fancy'd to myself th^t I was no longer able to undergoe the Fatigue of marching and was left behind and seiz'd as a Prisoner by the Rebels.

As I was now a Prisoner of War, I thought I was carry'd South along with them the said Road as I had come; But I was so kindly dealt with th^t I used often to enter into familiar Chat with them, sometimes endeavouring to point out to them the Improbability of Success and to shew them the Mischeifs they were going to bring upon themselves and their Countrey by introducing Popery and arbitrary Power which would infallibly be the Consequence of their success and sometimes exhorting them to be peaceable, to lay down their Arms and return home as the only method to appease the Presentment of their much injured and angry Sovereign. "Sir" sayd they in answer for I remember their Words as well as if I had been awake, "We are neither so ignorant nor so mischeivous as you apprehend us and tho' our Estates are not so great as many of you Whigs, Yet we have more Virtue and such as they are they are sufficient not to mantain us comfortably at home but to give all of us that are Gentlemen a liberal Education in France, We know the World perhaps better than you do and it is the Sensibility of our Wrongs that has rous'd us to Arms". And here they gave

me a distinct Catalogue of all the pretended Greivances for 20 Years by past and concluded with their own particular Case as follows, "Have we not been" sayd they "like slaves rob'd of our Arms, our Defence, the Birth right of every free Agent, Have they given us anything in return for them but scorn and Contemp? Have they encouraged us in any Branch of trade, Manufacture, or Fishery and if any sham Law has been carry'd over their Bellys Has it not been always clog'd with so many difficultys and Provisoes that it render'd it of no Effect. We will have" said they "a King of our own who shall have no seperate Interest from ours, he shall owe his Crown to us and in Gratitude he will make our Country his H-r-nk-ws-n". In short they talk'd so wildly on these Matters and made such Game of me for being so simple as to beleive that our Laws Libertys or Religion were in Danger th^t if they had not otherwise been very civil to me I should have been frightned out of my Witts with their Way of talking. They were at great pains methought to wheedle me to kiss their Prince's hand for so they called him, But by what Authority I know not. But I told'em roundly that I would as soon kiss the Pope's Toe, still they kept up their good Humour and smil'd at the Prejudice of my Education. The story was told to the P-ce⁷ and he often jok'd me about the Pope's Toe, and indeed to tell the Truth he us'd to make as free with his Holyness as anyone about him. In short the longer I was with them methought I lik'd them the better. But I thank God it was only a Dream. As for the

⁷ Prince.

P-ce himself (for as I am still as it were a Prisoner in Imagination and that it would not be mannerly to name him by any other Appellation than the form of speech used there) he is handsome, he is manly sedate and quick, he has a good deal of Cheerfulness but not many Words, he likes better to hear others talk than like some Baboons I have seen to engross the Conversation to himself, he cares not for eating above once a Day or for more than three hours sleep of a Night. He does all his Business and writes his

Letters while others are asleep. He is capable of any Fatigue and is the first to wade thro' a River and go wet shoe'd all the Day. As he had no Tents he often lay all night in the open Feilds with no other Covering but the Canopy of the Heavens, and often methought I have seen him of a morning when others had scarce rak'd up their Eyes, set his shoulders to an Oatmeal sack to help it on the Horses Back such being the only Food they had for many Days. As for the Men they were temperate and sober. I never saw nor heard any of them being drunk and they lived upon Oatmeal, Potatoes, Onions and Apples. Neither was it known that a Robbery or Theft was committed during the whole course of that tedious March from the H-I-ds to E-nb-g. Methought I saw one day some of the Men gathering a few Turnips off a Feild by the Wayside and that they were severely rebuk'd for it by their P-ce. Methought I saw them another time as they were in a Corn Countrey and no Grass Feilds in the Neighbourhood oblig'd thro' necessity to lie all Night in a feild of Pease but th^t next Morning their P-ce paid Double the Damage. These Circumstances methought were so good and mild that notwithstanding of my violent Principles I could almost have wished th^t I had been

bred and born a J-c-b-te⁸. But then again when I began to reflect th^t all publick Money and the Revenue of the Customes and Excise were uplifted by unhallowed Hands my softness and Moderation gave Place to the Transports of Fury and Revenge.

In short when we got to E-nb-g methought I mix'd among the Croud and made my Escape to my Old Freinds and former Princples which by the by led me as I thought into a most confounded scrape a few Days after. For the very same Devils th^t had run away South from our Army when they had but taken a trip to Inverness came upon us of a Saturday (I shall never forget the Day of the Week as it was before the sun rose in the Morning which I had not seen for seven Years before) and had the Rudeness to salute us with a Volley from the very Musketts we had had the Complaisance to leave for them at Greif, a sorry Reward for the favour conferr'd and a Specimen of what we may expect from the Pope and his Adherents. We had indeed the Ammunition as I told you before, But it seems they had got enough to do our

Business th^t I do verily beleive they had not much more else why should they have flung their peices immediately upon discharging of them and run like a parcell of wild Bulls. We indeed to nick them did the very same for we flung away our peices and run too, But as ill Luck would have it we run the wrong Way and they ran the right. In short we were all Hickety Pickety in a trice and such of us as were in the Way got many a sad Knock o' the Pate for leaving their Swords behind them at Sterling as I dreamt to you above which they might have saved had they brought them along with them. In

⁸ Jacobite.

the Hurry of my story, I had almost forgot to tell you w^t I dreamt concerning the Wisdom of our Engineers which was this that some put in the Powder into the Cannon but forgot the Ball while others to make sure of the Ball put in the Ball first and the Powder afterwards. The noise I heard and Terrouer I was in wak'd me out of my first Sleep, When I found it was but a Dream I turned me on my other side and fell asleep again and dreamt another Dream like a Sequell to the former which I shall communicate to you in my next, I am

Your most obedient H^{ble} Ser^t

Edinburgh the 10th Dec^r

Morpheus Landowper

1746.

Sir

If I was to write to you on News or Politics It is ten to one in these suspicious times if my Letter should come to Hand, and yet considering the Friendship that subsisted between us when I had the pleasure of being with you in Jamaica I should be looked upon as unkind if not ungrateful If I did not make some Enquiry about your Health and Welfare in these perilous times and at the same time study to entertain you with something tho' ever so trivial to spin out my Epistle to a reasonable Longitude, As for News I say it would not only be dangerous to meddle in since every Letter now a days on that subject is constructed to contain in a plot. But besides it would be idle since every thing that happens in this Country is most faithfully and ingenuously communicated to the Publick by the daily Gazetteer, the Daily Advertiser, and the St. James's Evening Post. I will give then to seal away the Remainder of this Letter in relating to you a Dream of my own which I do verily believe had never any Existence but in my own Imagination and which for Want of a better Subject I shall literally relate to you as I dreamt it.

As you know I am remarkably zealous for the Protestant Succession I dreamt I enlisted myself Volunteer under the Banner of G-L-C-100 in his Expedition to the North and as we marched from E-nb-g with full 400 Carke I thought the Army was so well provided with every portable Implement if no Officer could complain he was oblig'd to leave behind him his Scrubber, Bass Fiddle or German Flute. When I beheld the Magnificence of this Procession What a pitiful Figure thought I to myself must the D-ke of A-g-le have made in the Year 1715 when he marched against the Rebels with double the Number of Men and had all his Baggage carried by 100 horses only and how infinitely must we have increased in riches since that time to be able to make so impudent a Parade.

When we arriv'd at Tathine I thought we were ^{with} thro'ly assur'd that we had forgot nothing that was necessary either for Subsistence or Convenience or for Destruction or Defense except a few Musket Bullets to pepper the A-L-d-w with. But that was a Matter of no consequence since there was then no Enemy near us and since we had only about 10 miles to send back for them to the G-Me of E-nb-g. Some indeed thought we might awe ourselves the trouble of sending back since if the A-L-d-w did not run away from us we should run away from them, yet the wisest Heads thought it

decent to halt a day or two, first to rest the weary'd troops & not to tempt Providence by too much Security.

When we came to Sterling we thought I heard a general Order issued for every Soldier to deliver up his Sword and leave it in the Castle This to me tho' a young Warrior appeared a very extraordinary Step. But many reasons in Conversation were given for it; Some said that Swords were cumbersome and fatiguing to the Men in their March and of no Use in an Engagement, others said it was done to distinguish the private Men from the Officers, for as we were a marching into a barbarous Country no one thought it worth his while to change his Linen or put on a better Coat than that of a private, Gentles, our ruffled Shirts, fine cloaths and Arisacke Waistcoats being carefully pack'd up in our Serutons and Shirts from the Inclemency of the Dogs that perpetually infest these Mountainous Countries. But the Sword was a proper Mark of Distinction and pointed out the Politician from the Hebian Blood to the Rades and Gentlemen we should happen to pass upon the Road. While others again insisted that it was done because there was more safety in our Stabs than in our Swords. But be it as it will I thought it my Duty to give implicit Faith in the superior Understanding of my Commander, and so I thought no more of the Matter till I saw the consequences at the Battle of Len which I shall relate to you in the Sequel of my Dream.

As we were entering into the town of Criff we thought I spy'd a very pretty black Ey'd Wench and my Mouth water'd to be at her, when I came to the Inn I order'd my Man directly to powder my Wig well knowing that in Matters of Gallantry there comes by morning Legions more Ethelouch from a good Dutch's price than from the Inside of the best Pericranium. Powder your Wig Master says he. By Gad I have neither white Powder nor Black Powder, But if your Honour please I'll borrow some Powder for your Honour's Wig, I know where to get it. But as for your Honour's Gun, there your Honour must shift for yourself for I ask'd but latter day of M^r Loggerheads's Servant, M^r Scatterbrain's Servant and M^r Disthead's Servant and I don't no how many more but for as much Gun Powder as to shoot a Pidgeon, and nor a one of 'em had any and I question if there is any in the Army, But to pass over the Wit I engrafted on the Coat of my Footman, the Milli's of the whole Army and the Captures I had in my Steep, procured by the powdering of my Pivwig, with the pretty little Rogue I mention'd to you above, An Embassy is sent back to the Governour of Sterling Castle for a fresh supply of Arms and Ammunition. Arms and

Ammunition was the Shadow but Ammunition alone, alias Gunpowder was the Substance of the Embassy; and a G-l is highly to be commended for putting a good Face upon Things. The Arms and Ammunition being arriv'd the Lord be praised, There is nothing wanting now methought to activate the M-l-d-w and our Branch. But softly what shall we do with this additional Supply of Arms every Man has a Firelock already and no Man can use two and they are troublesome to carry along. But an easy Matter that, says the G-l, will leave the Arms here at Cref and bring them back with us to Melling on our return. No Man could oppose a Motion of that kind since the Arms being in our Power were safe from the M-l-d-w and since it was certain we were to come the same Road back again. Besides if the M-l-d-w should get behind us, a Supposition impossible to happen, what would the Arms signify to them when we had the Ammunition along with us and it was far better that they should have them than that our Blunder of forgetting Gunpowder should be discover'd which must be the Case if Arms were sent immediately back. But so it happen'd methought in the sequel that the M-l-d-w got behind us and were very thankfull for the Arms tho' without the Ammunition.

When we had got full two days march beyond Cref, id est 7 or 8 Miles forwards we had nothing to fear and little to gain it was needless to harass the Men with longer Marches than 3 or 4 Miles of Day by which Means we had Leisure enough to make Discoveries, pass Schar and lay Wagers, at this time it was that each laid a wager of a Guinea with Tom G. he would shoot nearer to the Mark with a single Bullet than he would do. The Money methought was staid in my hand, Out to the Field we went and clapt a piece of white paper for a Mark upon a Tree. But alas when the Combatants were going to charge, the Bullets being too large would not fit the Muzzles of their Musketts other Bullets were try'd but all in vain. In short it came out that there was not a single Bullet in the whole Army G. would enter their Muzzles upon which a general Order was issued for every Man at his Leisure hours (which were not a few) to trim his Bullets with his knife and such has had no Amos were order'd to do it with their Teeth. And this Accident methought was what afterwards gave rise to the false and calumnious

Assertion propagated against the innocent Soldiers, after the Battle of Dr-1-n, that they had shot at that Battle with poisoned Bullets. The Bullets in reality as I thought, being cut, bruis'd and bit to make them enter their peices made such horrid Wounds that the M-l-d-s who knew not the real Cause, could attribute it to nothing but Poison or the Devil.

As we were now in an Enemies Country and knew no Division among M-l-d-s, we took it to be our Duty to our King and Country to do as much Mischief as we could, and for that reason we squacard and burn'd, we prof'd Men and Horses and we laid it down as a Rule to pay for nothing, we had if there was a field of Corn better than a rather in View the out of our Road and that we had to go thro' other fields of Corn before we could come at it, we were sure to pitch our Camp on such and pay nothing for the Damage and if the Proprietor happened to complain we beat him heartily and curst him for a Rebel Howcatt.

In this manner did I think we proceeded and in this manner conquer our Enemies till a Rumour said which made us fly as it were over a few Days went'd March in the space of two for in one Day we march'd 24 long Nightland miles and in the next 20. In this last Day it was that I resolv'd for myself if I was no longer able to undergoe the Fatigue of marching and was left behind and seiz'd as a Prisoner by the Rebels.

As I was now a Prisoner of War, I thought I was carry'd South along with them the same Road as I had come; But was so kindly dealt with, y^e I used often to enter into familiar Chat with them sometimes endeavouring to point out to them the Improbability of Success and to shew them the Mischief they were going to bring upon themselves and their Country by introducing Luxury and arbitrary Power which would infallibly be the consequence of their success and sometimes exhorting them to be penitible, to lay down their Arms and return home as the only method to appease the Discontents of their much injured and angry Sovereign "Sic" sayd they in answer for I remember their Words as well as if I had been awake. We are neither so ignorant nor so mischievous as you apprehend us and tho' our Estates are not so great as many of you think, yet we have more Virtue and such as they are they are sufficient not only to maintain us comfortably at home but to give all of us that are Gentlemen a liberal Education in France, Lockhart

NLC 1839/2

The World perhaps better than "you do and it is the Sensibility
of our Wrongs that has caused us to Sume" And here they gave
me a distinct Catalogue of all the pretended Grievances for 20
Years by part and concluded with their own particular Charge as
follows "Have we not been "said they" like slaves rob'd of our Sums
our Defence, "the Birth-right of every free Agent, Have they given
us anything in return for them but Scorn and Contempt? Have they
encourag'd us in any "Branch of Trade, Manufacture, or Fishery
and if any "Sham Law has been carry'd over "their Bellies Has it
not been always clog'd with so many Difficultys and Provisions
that it render'd it of no Effect. We will have "said they" a King of our
own" who shall have no separate Interest from ours, he shall own
his Crown to us "and in Gratitude he will make our Country
his *At-ri-ut-ur-n*". In short they talk'd so wildly on these
Matters and made such Game of me for being so simple as to
believe that our Laws Liberties or Religion was in Danger &
if they had not otherwise been very civil to me I should have been
frighten'd out of my Wits with their way of talking. They were
at great pains wth thought to wheedle me to kiss their Ance's
hand for so they call'd him. But by what Authority I know not.
But I told 'em soundly that I would as soon kiss the Pope's Toe,
still they kept up their good Humours and smild at the Prejudice
of my Education. The Story was told to the L^d and he often
jok'd me about the Pope's Toe, and indeed to tell the Truth he
us'd to make us free with his Holyness, w^{ch} any one about him.
In short the longer I was with them wth thought I lik'd them
the better. But I thank God it was only a Dream. As for the
L^d himself for as I am still as it were a Prisoner in Imagin^{tion}
and that it would not be mannersly to name him by any other
Appellation than the form of speech us'd there) he is handsome
he is manly sedate and quick, he has a good deal of cheerfulness
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is the first to wade thro' a River and go wet shod all the Day.
As he had no Tent he often lay all night in the open Fields with
no other covering but the Canopy of the Heavens and often
methought have seen him of a morning when others had
scarce rack'd up their Eyes, set his shoulders to an Oatmeal sack
to keep it on the Snows Back such being the only Food they had
for many Days. As for the Men they were temperate and sober
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upon Oatmeal, potatoes, Onions and Apples. Neither was it known
that a Robbery or Theft was committed during the whole course
of that tedious March from the A-l-ds to E-nb-g. Methought
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by the way side and that they were severely rebuk'd for it by
their Lee. Methought I saw them another time as they were
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oblig'd thro' necessity to lie all night in a field of Pease but y^e next
Morning their Lee paid double the Damage. These Circumstances
methought were so good and mild that notwithstanding of my
violent Principles I could almost have wish'd y^e I had been
bred and ban a A-c-b-le. But then again when I began to
reflect y^e all publick Money and the Revenue of the Customs and
Excise were upstifed by unhallow'd Hands my softness and
Moderation gave Place to the Transports of Fury and Revenge.
In short when we got to E-nb-g methought I mix'd among
the Crowd and made my Escape to my old Friends and former
Principles which by the by led me as I thought into a most
confounded scrape a few Days after. For the very same Devils y^e
had run away South from our Army when they had but taken
a trip to Inceings, came upon us of a Saturday (I shall never
forget the Day of the Week as it was before the Sun rose in the
Morning which I had not seen for seven Years before) and had
the Audacity to salute us with a Volley from the very Muskets
we had had the Complaisance to leave for them at Quif, a sorry st ^{id} ^{id}
for the favour conferr'd and a Specimen of what we may expect
from the Pope and his Merchants. We had indeed the Ammunition
as I told you before. But it seems they had yet enough to do our

Business, tho' I do verily believe they had not much more,
else why should they have flung away their pieces immediately
upon discharging of them and run like a parcel of wild Bulls,
I've indeed to nick them, did the very same for we flung away
our pieces and run too. But as ill Luck would have it we run
the wrong way and they ran the right. In short we were all
Nicklely Licklely in a trice and such of us as were in the Way
got many a sad Knock o' the Pale for leaving their Swords
behind them at Skirling, as I dreamt to you above which they
might have saved had they brought them along with them. In
the Hurry of my story, I had almost forgot to tell you w^t I dreamt
concerning the Wadon of our Engineers which was this that some
put in the Powder into the Cannon but forgot the Ball while
others to make sure of the Ball put in the Ball first and the
Powder afterwards. The noise I heard and tomorrow I was in waded
me out of my first Sleep, when I found it was but a Dream
I turned me on my other side and fell asleep again and dreamt
a nother Dream like a second to the former which I shall
communicate to you in my next I am

Your most obedient M^t Serv^t

Meiphew Vandeloop

Edinburgh the 10th Dec^r

1716