

Philad^a March 16th 1792 —

Sir

I have not the remotest intention of imputing to you any neglect or impropriety of conduct in your transactions as Executor of my late Uncle's Will. The sole motive of this application to you, is to impart my wishes, that if it be possible you would be pleased as soon as may be, to accomplish a final settlement of the affairs of the Executorship.

In perfect confidence of your Friendship Judgment and Integrity the books and papers were all delivered to your hands upon the demise of my late Uncle — Many years have elapsed since that event, and it is also long since, at your requisition, I delivered in, and swore to my Acc^t at the Registers office. Since when I have received no information on the subject of those of those affairs, except from Mr. Lewis, who informed me (at the time I applied to the Legislature for assistance to sell my Estate) that my share of money due on bonds in your hands would amount to a very considerable sum. I am ignorant

of the amount of those bonds, as I find no acc^t of them in the Registers Office, I should be much obliged to you for a particular acc^t of them, viz. the amount of each, principle, and Interest due, with the names of the persons mentioned in the bonds. I am the more desirous of a final settlement as soon as may be, as it is mine and M^r Smyth's wish that the acct presented some time since by D^r Parke may be adjusted, which should have been done long before this if he had not been assured that you did not require payment till a final settlement.

I am Sir with all due regard
and Consideration
Yours &c

Be pleased to present my
affectionate regards to my sister and your family.

Margaret Smyth

Memor^d. On the 12th of April 1792. I made out a particular List of Bonds yet unpaid, & ~~yet~~ remaining in my hands, due to M^r Turner in his own right in the manner required by M^r Smyth in the foregoing Letter & sent the same to Geo^d Campbell the Reg^r with a Letter desiring they might be filed in his office.

B. Chew

1 Feb 1787

Dear Sir

I have examined the Account which Mr. Chew has been pleased to transmit to me through your hands. And am much obliged to you for the trouble I have been compelled to give you on this, & other occasions.

I will not allow myself to doubt or question the Justice or propriety of a single Article. but most readily admit that the balance as stated is due from Mr. Smyth & myself. tho it must be almost impossible for Mr. Smyth to speak with the same degree of certainty that I can, as most of the money was advanced before my marriage. When I was led to conceive I possessed an Estate that made it my duty to persevere in the same stile of living as usual - with a view that my aged Parent should feel as little as possible the irreparable loss she had sustain'd. This mode of living together with the heavy yearly sum for the maintenance of my unhappy sister made my expenses amount to a much larger sum than I was aware of, or my Income would admit - hence the necessity for my frequent

applications to Mr Chew for Money who well knows in
what manner these sums were expended - And here I must
take the liberty to declare to you, that notwithstanding any
reports, or information to the contrary, I have at all times and
do now acknowledge my obligation to Mr Chew for these Bea-
-thional supplies - nor should I have allowed myself to be
so long his debtor, but from a persuasion that before this
time, a final settlement of my late Uncle's affairs might
have taken place, by which a considerable balance would
have been found due to me, much less and the same in amount
I am warranted I think in this supposition from my recollection
that Mr Chew in a conversation with me, did admit
that the sum of £372-8-6 was due to me from my Uncle's
Estate. As part of the produce of Mr Thomas Turner's Legacy
to me - be this as it may, Mr Chew having sent in his bill
the only object for my consideration is, how to discharge it.
even on my present economical plan - such a deduction can-
not be made from my present income - borrowing money
is also very difficult - You know Sir we have long

intended the sale of the Jersey Estate, if Mr Chew will
become the purchaser, it would be most agreeable to
Mr Smyth & myself from partial considerations
which still actuate our minds towards his family,
and the terms of payment may be made easy either
to purchase according to an estimate to be made - Or
by an Annuity - as may best suit the views of the
purchaser - in either case the debt due may be easily
adjusted - but if the Jersey Estate shall not be found
saleable, as it is our first determination not to be in debt
to any person whomsoever I am determined to apply
to the legislature with the concurrence of my Trustees for
power to sell my part of Wilton plantation for which
purpose some overtures have been already made to
Mr Smyth - with my most grateful acknowledgments
for your kind assistance in my behalf. I am Dear Sir
Yours Much Obligd humble servant

Feb 1st 1787

Margaret Smyth

Benjamin Chew Esq^r -

Philadelphia

Mrs Smyth's answer about
dearing a selling Anderson's lot
Sept. 23^d 1786

23 Sept 1786

Mrs Smyth is much obliged to Mr Chew for im-
parting to her the advertisement for selling or
letting the Andover join books. She willingly con-
sents that her share in that Estate may be sold
or let. & for that purpose her name may be in-
serted in the advertisement.

Margaret Smyth

Sept. 23^d 1786

Ant August 12th 1786

(Dear Sir)

I have read your letter with the utmost attention, and find no intimation of relief from my present sufferings - I am grieved to the heart ~~for~~ to be obliged (by a respect I owe to myself & character) to treat those persons with coolness that are in fact my only relations, & from whom I had a natural right to expect protection from the common evils of life, Much less from the heartfelt miseries to which I have of late been reduced, by their cruel conduct towards me - when my dear Uncle (whom I trust I equally revered & loved) left me to the care & protection of your Father - he hardly supposed even he had been in his grace three years I should have wanted provision for myself & family and when on my most earnest entreaty I solicited relief by my own Independent means - means the most honorable, as well as highly advantageous for me to pursue, and which was unanimously approved by the first Gentlemen of the place

who had honored me by becoming Trustees for my Estate
and as I conceive myself at full liberty to dispose of
any part of that Estate under their guidance I shall feel
myself equal to the task. ~~struggle~~ through difficulties that
my tender regard to every branch of your family would have
made me wish to decline - but severe necessity must be my
plea -

I am much obliged to you for your expressions of re-
gard & affection. but had you instead of a ceremonious letter
addressed to Dear Mr. Smyth - have brought a confirmation of your
father's promise to the Trustees to endorse them in their
advisory measures to save me, and for reasons best known
to himself, since retracted. My contract with Mr. Morris would
have been instantly completed, & I infallibly relieved from
insupportable difficulties - without any distant apprehension
of my becoming a burthen in some future day on your
father's family - such welcome tidings would have been
much more acceptable to me than an unexpected refusal,
and absolute refusal tho' couched in terms of elegant professions.

This day twelve months my aged parent closed her eyes
happy dispensation of kind Providence! that permitted not
the last period of her life to be embittered by seeing her
child depending for bread on the casual supply of friends
when it rested with her only connection ever since Feb^r last
and that connection an only sister, to confirm a contract
that must ensure affluence & peace of mind, instead of penury
and extreme misery, consequent to her involved situation.

Alas my mind is too deeply wounded by such unkind
reps to be able to bear a face of gaiety & disengaged deportment
even to my nearest relations. nor can I endure with any degree
of satisfaction the canting of opulence & success, while
I am struggling with adversity & disappointment.

Whenever you wish to change the scene & banish the
cause of our coolness, it is instantly in your father's power
to bury in oblivion all past disagreeable animosity and
prevent (to use your own words) violation of that union
& harmony that ought to exist between us. You & your sister
were & ever shall be dear to me, while ^{I am} you treat me, as I

have a right to expect. My friendship to you all has ever
been a zealous and active Affection, as numerous Actions
can testify - Had my disposition been Mercenary, my being
so constantly a nurse & attendant on my dear Uncle in his
long & painful illness gave me frequent Opportunities of
making the most ample provision for myself - but my
Integrity is my boast - no one can asperse a character
marked with the utmost disinterestedness to my sister &
her children - but as they are the first to throw me from
their protection & assistance - I must endeavor to be ennobled
to my fate - I conceive it an Argument of mean servility
should I solicit further favors - as I have no ~~other~~ & little
save my tears, & they are now dried up by the Anguish & Dis-
tress I have endured for these many months past. I despair
- And must be compelled for resorts to Strangers. They may
produce for me, what a Mother & sister hitherto deny -

I readily wish I could conclude with those endearing
Epithets. I have ever been accustomed to - you well know from
whence mine is the Charge. That constrains me to subscribe
Myself your unhappy relation

M. Smith

Marg. for the Letter & my book
respecting the sum of \$150 loaned
for her by Mary Beaman
March 9. 1786

Amos D. Smith 1786.

Mr. Chew.

Mr. Chew

Mr. Chew.

Mr. Chew.

Mr. Chew.

(Dear Sir)

Your friendly care & attention I gratefully
acknowledge & will most willingly accept your kind
offer if a note or any security from Mr Smyth
is required he will most readily give it —

be so good to reserve out of the 400 Dollars
the 100 you were so good to lend me as you may
have use for them

I am sincerely yours

Thursday

W^m L

D^r W^m Smyth. I send you Peter Millers Check on the
Bank for Four Hundred Dollars, drawn payable to W^m Smyth

Dear Sir I shall be happy at all times to see you
particularly at this time in about an hour I shall
be alone in my own room where I will with pleasure
receive you

I am most affectionately
Yours W L

his new little nest eleven

In answer to Mrs Smyth's long Letter of 22^d March 1786 I sent her a verbal Message that I
would wait upon her & converse with her on the very strange & extraordinary contents
of that Letter to which Message she answered by this short Letter to me

Frederick Douglass

Ms. A. 9. 2. 27. 1786
My answer w. 50 Dollars lent

Benjamin Chew Esqr

27 Feb. 1786
Dear Sir I have had every possible means taken by my family to avoid being troublesome to you. Still in hopes of hearing some favorable accounts from the person to whom you applied for Money on Interest but I am now reduced to my staples & the incessant duns of a blacksmith & one or two small accounts have rendered me most distressed - can you afford me a small supply for present relief - & when you are at leisure tell me of some plan that may enable me to exist without being any longer a burden on my friends -

Monday

Wed. Feb. 27. 1786

Yours Most Affectionately

MS

Dr. Mary Smith

I shall in a Day or Two have official
Answer from the Gent. to whom I applied for a Loan to you.
In the mean Time I enclos. you a Fifty Dollar Bank Bill
for your immediate Wants. Had it been in my Power I
would have sent you more, but I want to you I have not as
much more at my command at present. I am

Feb. 27. 1786

Yours most affectionately

Dr. Mary Smith
Copy

B. Chew

hunter or will you point out any other plan where
I may be relieved from the insupportable pangs of
poverty - My wish you well know is to deal with you
but if you allow the offer a great one on the part of
Mr Morris am I not acting a trifling irresolute part
with my future expectations ^{of support} - for one else seems
willing to give so generous a price & it is not improbable
that by ~~these~~ delay he may be inclined to retract.

My spirits are so low & my mind so totally
engaged in this business that I beg you will excuse
my dining to day with you - I wish to be cheerful
& happy when I am to spend the day with my nearest
dearest friends - adieu

believe me yours
affectionately
M. J.

Wednesday morning
Feb. 22. 1786 -

Ms. Smith Feb 22 1786

Benjamin Chew Esq

(Dear Sir)

My hopes have led me to expect every day since I saw you last to hear some intelligence of the sum of Money you had in view to take up for us - but as we have received most mortifying hints that the loans from friendship were long since due - & as our last resources have for several days failed - it is necessary to take some steps with respect to the offer from Mr Morris - What is your final resolution with respect to the favor I asked of you - are you determined to stand

Benjamin Chew Logg

Wm. Smith Feb. 18. 1786

18 Feb 1786

Dear Sir

If you can spare half an hour I shall esteem it a favor if you will step over - I am alone & should be happy to have a conversation on business - I am not sufficiently recovered from my cold to go abroad, or I would wait on you

Yours affectionately

W. S.

Saturday Morn.
Feb. 18. 1786

Ms. A. 9. 2. 1785
copy my answer to W. 56 dollars
last time same day

9 Dec 1785

Dear Sir I am Compelled to Ask the favor of you to
lend me a small sum for a short time we have expected
every Moment for several past days the remainder of the
rent due from front street he promises whenever I send
to him to Come the next day relying on his word I have
been since last Saturday on two dollars & at present
I am without a single farthing so that you will allow
necessity not my wife makes me thus troublesome to you
as soon as I receive with one hand I will thankfully pay
you with the other
Yours most affectly

Friday Morning recd Dec. 9. 1785 - see the answer
B. then I will pay a copy

MS

Dec^r. 9. 1785. M^r. Chew presents his Compliments to M^r. Smyth &
sends him Twenty Dollars. a Fifty Dollar Bank Note

Copy

B. Chew

4 Oct 1785

(Dear Sir) I return you with My warmest Acknowledg-
-ments the Thirty Dollar Bill - I have struggled hard to
avoid changing it - I ~~am~~^{am} at last relieved from the
severest Trial I ever yet experienced - poverty I find
may be supported when it produces kind friends Your
Timely aid has made the deepest impression on My
grateful heart & I hope never to forget the repeated
Instances of your friendship which I wished yesterday
to express in person but Company prevented -
Monday Evening believe me Yours Most affectionately

^{He}
recd October the 4. 1785 the above Letter with the 30 Dollars
I lent the 1st of October which I only enter'd in my cash Book
of Expenses, but never chang'd in with it

M Smyth

B. Chas. Esqr

Mr. Smyth, Oct. 4. 1785
with the 30 Dollars I lent him
the 1st of October

Benjamin Chew Esq

Dear Sir

6 Jan 1785
Thursday Morning

I begin to think we are never to know an end of our difficulties - last evening the Deed was signed & the Mortgage presented this Morning in consequence to Mr Roberts who hesitates about the certainty of our paying the Interest ~~ably~~ regularly -

I consider this only as a caution in Mr Roberts who does not know the Character of Mr Smyth or myself - he will never forfeit so sacred an Engagement as I conceive this to be - he says if you will pass your word for the Money is ready - will you confer this further favor on us - & rely on it we shall in no instance ~~shall be~~ be unprepared at the appointed day - Yours &c M Smyth

M^{rs} Smyth's Letter & my
Answer Jan 6. 1785
respecting my being Security
to Mr & Mrs Roberts for a Debt
of £1000. he lent her £900. My
brother's of £1000. I should
have

Copy of my answer

Jan^y 6. 1785.

D^r M^r Smyth.

My Eyes will scarcely
serve me in assuring you that I will with the
greatest Pleasure remove the Obligation M^r Roberts
makes, or any other he can make to complicating
the Business in hand. I will value him immedi-
ately & am very affectionately

To M^r Smyth

Yours &c

B. Chew

Note. I went on M^r Roberts & entered into an
Engagement to him to see the Interest on the Mortg.
M^r & M^{rs} Smyth gave him for £1000 p and him prime-
tially as it became due in case they did not pay
it, which was the sole land on which he would lend
them the Money-

B. Chew

Jan^y 6. 1785

The Copy of the Obligation I gave M^r Roberts is as follows viz^t
Whereas Frederick Smyth & Mary his Wife of the City of
Phil^a by their Deed bearing even date here with have mortga-
ged to Hugh Roberts of the same place a house & Lot in front
Street in the City for securing to the M^r H. Roberts the
Repayment

the Repayment of the Sum of £1000 lent
them by him with the Interest thereof. And
Whereas the M^r Frederick Smyth & Margaret his Wife
have agreed with the M^r Hugh Roberts to give him
further personal Security for payment of the
Interest of this principal Sum punctually as
it shall become due & payable on the M^r Mortgage
Now these Presents Witness That I Benjamin
Chew of the City afo^r Do hereby promise & covenant
for myself my Ex^{rs} & Adm^{rs} to & with the M^r H. Roberts
his Ex^{rs} & Adm^{rs} to assign to pay to him or them the
Interest that shall accrue on the M^r Mortgage
if the M^r Frederick Smyth & Margaret his Wife
shall refuse or neglect to pay the same. Witness
my hand & Seal the 7th Day of Jan^y 1785 Done.

B. Chew Seal

Seal & Delivered
in presence of

John Penn
Peter Miller

I forgot to tell you Mr Smyth saw
 Mr Shipper last evening & from the opposi-
 tion he gives to the signing of the deed - we
 may wish perhaps the only opportunity
 we may have of securing this money
 I wish ^{the signing the deed} ~~something~~ could be determined
 on immediately as it is permi'd agreeable
 to the Trustees advice & my approbation
 as this afterthought seems to bespeak
 a distrust for which there can be no
 foundation

sent Dec^{on the} 29. 1784.

D^r Mrs Smyth.

I send you by Bob Fifty Dollars
 which from a hint Mr Smyth lately gave me
 respecting your present Family Wants I should
 have deliver'd you myself this morning before the
 Recd of your Letter had I not been prevented by
 company's coming in upon me. As to the other
 Matter you mention, you know I can take
 no part in it. It will be unfortunate indeed
 if the money now in your offer should be lost
 by any Delay. I am affectionately

Dec^r 29. 1784.

Yours

B. Chew

10 English Guin ^s	---	17. 10. 0
3 span ^{ish} Dollars	---	1. 2. 6
small money	---	2. 6
sent by Bob	---	£ 18. 15. 0 equal to 50 Doll ^s

Copy to Mrs Smyth

27 Dec 1784

(Dear Sir)

Monday Morning

Our affairs at length begin to bear a more favorable Aspect. Mr Miller has just been here & tells me Your friend Mr Hugh Roberts has now in hand a thousand pounds which he is willing to let us have on mortgage provided his son approves - Perhaps a word from you may secure this sum effectually nothing therefore now remains but to adjust matters with the Trustees

as the present deed now in hand has been drawn exactly conformable to the notes received from Mr Shippen in the name of the Trustees I hope there will be no delay in executing it. to avoid a renewal of those painful moments my late situation occasion'd. I hope I need make no apology for the trouble I give you in requesting you to see Mr Roberts as early as possible

Mr Smith's L^{tr} Dec 27 1784
My dear Sir

M^r Lewis

as your opinion of the securities will have
weight with him to determine in our favor
Yours Most sincerely

M Smyth

What steps I shall take with
respect to M^r Shippen will it be
necessary for me to write to him?

Dec^r. 27. 1784. I went to M^r Hugh Roberts & presented our letter to
him. he would lend M^r Smyth £1000 on a Mortgage for the
House & Lot in Front Street, and ~~and~~ I engaged H. that he should
receive Interest on the Money from this Day, as the Drawing
the Writings would be attended with some unreasonable
Delay →

B. Chew

My brother's Letter to me
written March 14. 1784 -

Mr. Smith

14 March 1784

Dear Sir

Mr. Smith is here - & I wish you to
see him as My particular friend - let us
Conversation of past times produce a
Coolness between two persons so dear to
me - let me receive you as My brother
convinced you are disposed to promote
My Happiness in every way -
I know not what I write come & let me receive

with all the fearfulness & good will
My heart prompts me to at this
moment — pray dear Mr. Chew
consider how much I shall owe to
your friendship on this occasion
Come alone if you please

Dear Sir

Philad^a Jan^y 31st 1784

I am at last happy in a safe Opportunity to you
to convey a letter of the utmost importance - which
has been laying by expecting every day would pre-
sent some person I could trust - or bring you
to the door - impatiently have I wished to see you
& when the weather Moderated for a few hours - I pre-
-pared My full heart to Communicate all its little
wanderings to you - but the very season & Elements
seem to oppose My favorite wish - by your note
yesterday to Peggy. I fear it may be yet some
days - & this distresses me as it may appear I have
been negligent to Inform you of every future
plan - but to the inclosed Letter wrote at the
Moment I refer - & to Peggy who will prove to you

I have not been one moment inattentive to sacred
Duties - As strong word - but admit it on the present
occasion - As I mean to assure you, & My dear sister
that I never did mean, nor will I ever consent to
any change in life - that shall divide our former
friendship - There are a variety of incidents
that were not foreseen when you was in town that
have occasionally occurred that have served to
hasten a determination on my part - sooner
by many months than I could have desired -
but so it is - & has been since the creation of the
world - women are not to be trusted to their own
guidance - ever susceptible to flattery & adulation
even our first Mother yielded to temptation when
shut out by Omnipotent power - - but my conduct
& plans I hope my dear friend you will approve.

And join your Endeavors to secure my happiness
which must depend on my sister & you giving your
hearty concurrence & countenance to a person
~~with~~ whom for my sake you must esteem & regard
as a sincere friend to us all - Let us my dear sister
preserve harmony & perfect confidence - your late
affectionate
conduct towards me secures my grateful acknowledg-
ments - & let me on this & every future count
testify my earnest desire to merit your kindest
regard -

I am told your private business require
your being in town immediately - I wish it may
be so - as I am extremely anxious to see you &
my sister if it were possible would at this time be
more welcome to me than ever - can it be accom-
plished for one or two days? - My finances are very
low as you may suppose - My Mother cannot
leave, she all this & a thousand other concerns

of infinite Moment would relate to you over your fire-
side - but this cannot be - will you exert yourself
very both of you to come to Mine - there you will
read my heart - but let me not trust to paper expres-
sions that are liable to mis construction - I mean
to prove myself your affectionate sister

I was called off to Mr Knish that has taken
Wilton Farm who has been often here to speak with you
you mentioned securing Post & Rails at Burlington -
he wishes to know by letter if you have succeeded &
at what price - A person here offers to procure them
@ 95/ & 9^d a post - this I promised to inform you
& to request you to write to him your directions -

Miss Louisa, Sister
wed. Feb. 3. 1784

Dear Sir

on coming home & revolving over
our present unhappy circumstances. I find
no source of relief - nor any friend ~~besides~~
besides yourself to apply to for relief
what can be done? to extricate our Name
from being disgraced at the publick bank
for the small sum of two hundred Dollars
which at this hour would save us from
the pain that the unhappy disapprobment
from Mr Fisher's neglect has brought upon
us -

The only means I can possibly suggest
is to offer my plate - but even ^{here} arises a doubt
whether any one will lend me the sum in
advance so that I might redeem it when in my
power

if you by seeing G Roberts or
Mr Fisher early could prevail on them, or
any of your Friends to lend us on a note
payable with Interest in a month. Then
we may be enabled in that time

to take up the sum propos'd or if you
can devise any other Method pray
advise Me for I am incapable now
of thinking coolly on so important a
subject tis late when I go to
bed but with a Mind more distressed
than I ever felt before poverty is a
sting I never felt ^{the} this Day felt in
equal force tis a poison I have no
remedy for unless friends alay its
poignant Darts with the Oyl & Wine
of Friends hip

Benjamin Franklin

M^{rs} Lawrence's most grateful Compliments are
returned to M^r Chew, for the trouble he has
so kindly taken in her affairs, requests to
know what are the Charges of recording
the Power, & begs leave to assure M^r Chew,
that her attention to the harimony of his
agreeable Conversation, would have so completely
~~intoxicated her; that present gratification~~
that present gratification would have absorbed
future views — & the toils of the Toilet
have been spared.

Wifs Wm Wg

Saturday Afternoon

24
Miss Cowart's Letter
at the proposed marriage

2/11/18