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Patrick Gordon and his Family Circle: Some
Additional Letters

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Patrick Gordon and his Family Circle: Some Additional Letters

Paul Dukes (ed. and intro)

Acknowledgements

The present collection comprises twenty-nine items from the Town Archive of Reval (Tallinn), temporarily kept in the Bundesarchiv in Koblenz. I remain grateful to the Director of the Bundesarchiv for permission to publish these letters, which first appeared in a defunct journal, *Scottish Slavonic Review*, No. 10, 1988. And I thank the Editor of the successor journal, *Slavonica*, Dr Alastair Renfrew, for permission to republish.

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Introduction

The letters may conveniently be included in several groups.

Numbers 1, 2, 3, 27 and 28

These were written by the sisters and brother of William Gordon, whose death in Reval (later Tallinn) en route from Moscow to Aberdeen led to the location of the whole collection in the Town Archive. William's siblings took advantage of their kinsman Patrick Gordon's visit home in 1686 to give him letters for their brother then serving in Kiev. Jean hopes that if the General returns to Britain more permanently to serve James VII and II, William will come with him. She also refers to several personal family and personal matters. Kathren has time only for a quick note, while brother Jo. says little more. Sister L. (her Nos. 27 and 28 give no year, but references to 'lefftenen generall' Gordon as he then was indicate 1686) also concentrates on domestic affairs. This group clearly indicates the advantages and disadvantages of the way of life of close relations. The handwriting, syntax and spelling lead to some obscurity of meaning.

Numbers 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 16, 21, 22, 23 and 29

The second group of letters is all in Patrick Gordon's own handwriting, for the most part clear and careful. They are concerned above all with

questions of money and land, as we shall see when we consider each of them in turn. No.5, to William Gordon, a merchant in Aberdeen and cousin to Patrick, refers to a sum of money due from Captain Gordon, and the possibility of a bond to Nethermuir, that is, John Gordon of Nethermuir, about eight miles north of Ellon, also cousin to Patrick. No.6, addressed to Nethermuir himself, who is also apparently brother-in-law to Captain Gordon, refers to a trunk left in Edinburgh with yet another cousin, Thomas Gordon, and to another letter written to Rothiemay, named John Gordon like Nethermuir, concerning a land deal. A postscript follows on the debt owed by Captain Gordon to Patrick. No.7, to Sir George Barclay, Colonel of Infantry, probably in London, thanks this brother officer for his friendly treatment of Patrick's son, James, and laments developments in Britain, presumably from 1688 onwards. No.11 is the most personal of all the letters in the group, consisting of a complaint to his son John about negligence in sending over reports about the management of the family estate of Auchleuchries and about his own intention still to retire and die back home there. No.12 is to the Laird of Rothiemay, who turns out to be the brother of Captain William Gordon, whose health in Moscow has apparently not been good. Money and land remain the chief concerns of Patrick Gordon, who in No.16, to William Gordon, the Aberdeen merchant, discusses money yet again, but also goes on in a postscript to ask that '5 or 6 paire of the fynest Scottish plaids' be sent to him.

Numbers 21, 22 and 23 are all to Captain William Gordon in Reval. In No. 21, after an obscure reference to Mr Abraham Houtmann, a Moscow merchant, Patrick Gordon reverts to the subject of land, first the transfer of Auchleuchries to his son John, second an enquiry about an estate near Reval which belonged to his deceased son-in-law, Captain Rudolph Strasburg. The Letter also refers to some mathematical instruments and books on their way from England. No.22 is mostly concerned with the business of the two estates in Scotland and Estonia respectively, and with the continuation of Captain William Gordon's journey home, while No.23 is nearly all repetition except for a postscript noting the welcome fact that Gordon has been awarded a 400-ruble per annum pay rise by the joint tsars, Ivan V and Peter I, later the Great. No.29 consists of a memorandum for Captain William Gordon, giving him a list of requests nearly all connected with land, money and lines of communication from Britain to Moscow, but also mentioning Gordon family genealogy.

Numbers 4, 8, 9, JO, 14, 15, 24 and 25

By his first marriage to Katharine Bockhoven, Patrick Gordon had two sons and two daughters, John and James, and Kathenne and Mary: While John removed to Scotland to look after the family estate of Auchleuchries, James remained in military service in Moscow. The second largest group of letters is from James Gordon to a variety of correspondents. No.4 is to his Grand-Uncle James Gordon at Westerton, adjacent to Auchleuchries near the small town of Ellon, itself about fifteen miles north of Aberdeen. Westerton is asked to intercede with brother John at Auchleuchries for a less negligent attitude to correspondence with their father, while James also complains about the troublesome, drunken court life in Moscow and expresses a desire to come home to a restored James VII and II. No.8, to Major MacDougall in London, tells of a change of mind since Tsar Peter has conferred several honours on James and promoted him to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in a regiment of his father's. In No.9, James writes to brother John at Auchleuchries about his father's impatience and his own weariness of life in Moscow (No.9 precedes No.8 in date), and about the death of their sister Mary's husband, Daniel Crawford. In No.10 (also preceding No.8 in date), James voices a similar concern about his life in Moscow to William Gordon, the merchant in Aberdeen, and he repeats his wish to come home to serve 'King & Country'. No.14 is a brief note of acknowledgement of assistance rendered by Samuel Meverell, Patrick Gordon's agent in London, while No.15 is a Memorandum for Captain William Gordon, listing a number of errands to be performed in Hamburg, concerning some young ladies, the nieces of a local merchant named Kenkel, and in London, concerning some former brother officers, as well as the almost omnipresent request for remonstrance to brother John at Auchleuchries. For some obscure reason, perhaps for a measure of security, No. 24, to Captain William Gordon in Reval, is in French. It consists of the latest news from Moscow, including the funeral of Captain Strasburg, sister Katherine's deceased husband, his own disgrace after an incident in the presence of Tsar Peter at the house of the merchant Mr Abraham Houtmann, and so on. It also mentions an engine of war, which is described in an enclosure in English, No.25. James has a more flamboyant style of handwriting than his father's, but most of what he has to say is easy enough to follow, even in imperfect French.

Numbers 13 and 17

These are to John Gordon at Auchleuchries from his two sisters, Katherine and Mary. In No.13, Katherine talks of her three children and of her husband, Captain Rudolph Strasburg, whom she considers to be on

the mend after a serious accident, but who is in fact about to die. In No.17, Mary, already bereaved, laments that Major-General Daniel Crawford and herself had no more than a few months together but that she had soon given birth to a son named after his late father. Both Gordon girls write in a simple, straightforward manner.

Numbers 20 and 26

These are both to Captain Gordon in Reval from his cousin Major Harie Gordon, also a kinsman of Patrick Gordon. No.20 relates the engagement of the widow Mary to Captain Snivins, although incorrectly naming her first husband as Colonel Strasburg, and goes on to record his own recent promotion from Captain, as well as other recent developments in the wider family of Patrick Gordon. He thanks God that he has managed to avoid the tsar's entourage after three nights of it at Mr Houtmann's, and has now found quieter company. No.26 thanks Captain Gordon for a letter, and goes on to describe the manner in which the tsar's order for Harie to be Major has not yet been confirmed by the appropriate boyar. Harie urges William to write to Patrick. As a whole, Harie's writing presents no great difficulties, although his spelling is more than a little wayward.

Numbers 18 and 19

Finally, two somewhat miscellaneous items, one in a juvenile, the other in a more mature hand. No.18 is from young Alexander Gordon to his brother, Thomas Gordon, Captain of 'The Marr Maid' in Aberdeen, recounting how the General, Patrick Gordon, has put him to school to learn the 'Duch' language while offering him the choice of a future career as merchant or soldier. This is not the Alexander Gordon who rose to high rank and wrote a two-volume work on Peter the Great, but it is probably an early mention of the Thomas Gordon who later rose to be Admiral and Governor of the naval base of Kronstadt. No.19 is from Captain William Gordon's uncle, Paul Menzies, writing on family matters to his sister, Mrs Jean Sempill, widow to the deceased Laird of Pitfodels. It is the only item in the whole collection not written by a Gordon, although even Menzies is related to the family.

The Gordon family tree as a whole, even Patrick's branch of it, appears to possess so many connections and offshoots that even a skilled genealogist might find it baffling. The letters published here provide much evidence of consanguinity, although we must remember that 'cousin' in the late seventeenth century had a broader meaning than is customary nowadays. In any case, the purpose of presenting them here has been to illustrate

the manner in which Patrick Gordon's family circle operated in the late seventeenth century. From Moscow to Aberdeenshire, with several points in between, a network of contacts was used to transact business as well as to maintain blood ties. From this correspondence we learn not only about career developments and prospects, but also about more domestic concerns. There are sidelights on the lifestyle of the future Peter the Great as well as on that of North-East Scottish 'wyfies'. While the letters are less concerned with public matters than those published by Professor Konovalov in *Oxford Slavonic Papers*, XI, 1964 and XIII, 1967, they have their own distinctive character and even peculiar charm.

University of Aberdeen

Letter 1 12 July 1686. *From Jean Gordon in Aberdeen
to William Gordon in Kiev*

Abd the 12 of July 86

My dear brother,

Altho I have nott had the pleasour of a lyne from you dertected to me in pertikolar yett I see of yrs to edenglacie wherin ye mentioned me with kyndness enufe bott I coud never befor now have the ocaasion to acnowledg the favour or asure you of my sincere and constant afection bott I was big with hope befor the liotenant generl came to Scotland that ye had been with him and most now content my self with the newes of yr being well and nixt to the hapiness of seeing you I'm pleased to know that ye have ateaned the good fortoun of such a character from yr commander who is in everything a person in everybodys opinion very capable to judg of meritt and I beg itt of you my dear brother with all the ernistness imagenable and for the gret satsafaction a most afectionatt sister that ye will indeavour to preserve his good opinon of you and in cass he come to serve his own prince and to oblidg his country by afourding his genourous care and conduct for itts preservation, that ye may doe to come along with him and setle among yr relations wher I make no dout bott ye might in tyme aquer both honer and advantag with less toyl or hazard then wher ye are and I'm sure ye wood fynd yr companie very excepttable to all of uss bott my dear brother I take too much upon me when I ofer to advyss you, Yett I hope ye will excuss my afection, if it be nott conform to yr opinion

and inclynation att least to lett uss hear from you mor frequently will be both Justice and Charitie and if ye woud command me in any thing for yr service I shoud take the freedom as a testimony of that frindship I may Justly requer from you, and to tell you any thing of my self would perhaps be mor trublsom then divertisse to you yett since ye mentiunid my resolution of leaving the world in on of yrs I most tell you that itt was a very sincere intention nether left of any possable means unatemped for the acomplishment of that dieing, bott my brother was pleased to cross itt so that he rendered all my indevours ineffectuall and alltho for a whyl I did nott take itt so yett I may belive in kyndness to me since he complyes with any thing for my satasfation in my oun country and gives me the trust, of all his afairs att [home] and liberty to doe as I pleas and after what maner I will, yet being resolu'd to ingadg my self in the bonds of mattrimony I ame not as yett deterrmined to end my lyfe under the Climett I reccuned it and has been railling with the liutenant general and telling him that I cane doe no mor to acknowledg the sence I have of his kyndness to you bott ofer him the dispossel of my oun fortoun and propossed that if he woud send you to see yr frinds I shoud be free to return with you the bearer. Mr Gordon can inform you mor fully of afairs hire then I coud in a letter he intrets me to recommend him to yr aquantance and frindshipe bott I told him I nided nott mention the last since his oun good humour woud be suficiant to procure itt. I belive our brother will or has wrett to you att this tyme bott if he disapoynts you of any kyndness ye expeck or deserve from him, ye are suficiantly revenged of him since he is mor trubled by having a wicked maliciouss wyfie then ye with all yr millatary deficolties yett I'm convinced he means nothing less then all Justice to you and if ye woud wrett to him I'll oblidge my self he shall returne itt with abundance of discracion and if any thing within my pour can be axceptable to you ye may (without complement) asure yr self that I'll perform itt with all the willingness of a most afectionat sister and servant

Jean Gordon

Letter 2 Appended to Letter 1. From Kathren Gordon [in Aberdeen] to William Gordon in Kiev

My dear brother

Thoe I have not tym to wreat you a formall Jeter I hop you never think me forgetfull or behynd in sinser afection with any of the rest whow had

mor tym to tell you it being iust nou going to my hors nor hath tym
nor the satisfaktion to speak with that truely genorous gentllman your
generall to aknouledg my obligation tou him on your account—I hop to
hear from you with the first ocaion of your health and condishion which
is wisht to be prosperous as my oun by
my dear brother.

youre most affectionatly sister to serven you

Kathren Gordon

I most trubl you if ye have ocaion to wrett to our uncle that ye may
present my sincere good wishes and humble service to him.

[Envelope reads]: For Cap: Liwteant William Gordon In Kiow [Both
letters 1 and 2 are on the same sheet of paper]

Letter 3 2 June 1686. *From Jo. Gordon in Ellon
to William Gordon in Kiev*

Ellon the Second of June 1686

Dear Brother

The Lifetenent-Generall haveing passt hire yesterday where I was only
by accident & beeing to goe a shipboord this day I am so affrayd to
miss the opportunitie of saluteing you with this occasione that I can
only tell you in generall that the accompt of yr weelfaire is to the regaird
as weelcome to me as any good fortune that relaites to my self wuld bee.
The Liftenent General who is trewly a persone of so much honor &
worth & of so much goodness towards you hath giv'ne me so favorable
ane accompt of you so far as the short tyme I had the good fortune to bee
with him could allow that you may in the generall assure your self that so far
as I am capable to doe ether my dutie towards you or express my affectione
you may bee confident I say of both I have spoke of yr affaires in
passing with the Lifetenent Generall & settl'd so with him as he thought
fitt so wisshing you much happyness & my dutifull respects presented to
the Liftenent Generalls Lady & childrine till the nixt opportunitie I ad no
further but that I am Dear Brother Your affnt brother & servnt Jo:
Gordone

All frends blisst be God are weel as when you went from Scotland
[Envelope reads]: For Lifenent William Gordone for the pnt [present] At Kiow

Letter 4 6 August 1691. *From James Gordon in Moscow*

to James Gordon at Westerton, Ellon

Most loving Granduncle

My loving respects remembered though I have little to writ here, having written all what was needful in my last to you dated the 2 Jan by the way of Hambourg yet this good occasion of the bearer—Capt Gordon offering, I thought of it the least of my duties to let you hear of my welfare, as also to let you know whow impatient I am to hear of yours. My father is not very well pleased wt my Brother, for his negligency in writeing to him, and acquainting him wt his accost; for it is yr writing in both our favors and his diligencie will encourage my Father to enlarge his estate there, for be assured yr writeing can doe very much—I am everyday wearied more & more of this troublesome, Drunken Court lyfe and base nation, where ther is neither honor to be had nor riches, bot I hope godwilling, so shoon I see his Maties of great Britain his business in a better case, not to stay longer here, wch is only for a tyme.

Dear Granduncle as all my relyance is on you, so I hope this great distance betwixt us shall not make you forget me who shall ever so long I live be myndfull of you.

I hope also you will not be wanting in yr counsels to my Brother and in writing hither in both our favours, for I will assure you that my whole relyance is on you and I wish I may have the happiness to see you shortly in good health, No more desiring to be remembred.

My Loveing Granduncle I acknouledge though I never deserved these goodneeses of you yet since you have been pleased to let me know them I hop you will continue. I rest yr Loveing Grandnephoi

J. Gordon

Mosco the 6 of August 1691

The morrow we Journy wt his Matie to Pereaslau.

[Envelope reads]: For My Loveing Granduncle James Gordon of Westertoun. In Abd. these

*Letter 5 7 September 1691. From Patrick Gordon in Moscow
to William Gordon in Aberdeen*

Dear Cousin

by this bearer you will receive another letter, and I thought fitt in this to advise you, that I am to have from Capt. Gordon 722 merks at white-

Sunday next, which I hope he will not faile to pay, If you have occasion for the money yourself you may keep it and give yor Bond to Netherrnuir in keeping & pay the interest to him, but if it be found fitt to give the money to any other, then give his bond also to Nethermuir, I entreat you to let me heare from you once a year at least, by the Dantzick shipping, pray remember me to all ffriends, I remaining
Yor most affectionate Cousin.,

P. Gordon

Mosco 7 Sept.ris 1691

P.S. I have his bond here, and an acquittance there being registrated there or so is sufficient & it being payed, I shall tear his Bond befor his unkle & ors. [others] [Envelope reads]: For Mr Wm. Gordon Mercht. In Aberdeen

*Letter 6 8 August 1691. From Patrick Gordon in Moscov
to John Gordon of Nethermuir, Aberdeenshire*

Mosco 10 Augusti 1691

Dear Cousin

My last was the 16th of February, and albeit I have no returne to that nor to many of my former, yet I could not omitt to salute you by so sure an occasion as your brother in law, whose sufficiency to informe you of my condition & desires, makes this the shorter, I entreat you to assist my Son in recovering a chest which I left in Edr. by our cousin Mr Thomas Gordon, wherein diverse things of value, I hope the business with Watertowne is ended befor this tyme, seing in your last you did writt to me that it only wanted the declaratour, I have written to Rothemay to assist to gett the holding of the Lands changed. I have not heard from my Son in near a year & a halfe, so being confident of your ffriendship & assistance in my affaires there, with tender of due respects to your fyresyde & all ffriends I remaine

Yor most affectionate Cousin

P. Gordon

P.S. The money which your bror. in law oweth me, being 300 merks Scottish with interest for 8 yeares, and 200 Merks for which he was cation for Charles Gordon, I desire to be given to Wm Gordon our Cousin, in Aberdeen and his Bond for it to be given to you in custody whereof pray advise me as soon as possible.

[Envelope reads]: For His honoured Cousin John Gordon of Nethermuir

Letter 7 *14 August 1691. From Patrick Gordon in Moscow
to M. Georgio Barclaio in London*

Sir

The short acquaintance wee had at London, and the many kindnesses and Civilityes you shewed to my son James whilst he was under your Comand, obligeth me to a thankfull remembrance. I am extremely sorry for the unhappy distractions and miseryes happened in our unfortunate Countrey, God Almighty send peace and tranquility, and that every one may enjoy his owne right without disturbance. The bearer Captaine Gordon, who is dismissed from this service for a tyme will sufficiently informe you concerning the state of this Countrey and of my owne particular, so rendring you thanks for all your kindnes, and wishing that an occasion may offer of showing how much I am

Sir

your affectionate reall ffriend and servant

P. Gordon

[Envelope reads]: Monsieur Le Chevalier Georgio Barclaio Colonell
d'Infanterie

Letter 8 *6 September 1691. From James Gordon in Moscow
to Maj. MacDougall in London*

Mosco the 6 of 7ber 1691

Sir

My kynd respects to you, haveing this good occasion of my Couseing Capt. Gordon, who travels for Scott, I would not let it pass w'tout saluting you wt a lyne, and recommending him to you, as also to let you know of my arrivall here on the 23 of 7ber 1690, yet wt no intention of takeing service, bot his Tzars Majestie being once by my Father, conferred severall great honnours on me; by my Fathers persuations I consented to serve for a tyme and was graced Lt. Cornll to my Father's first Elected Regt; any other particulars you desire to knou since my departure from London, the bearer will informe you of them, to whom pray shou all the kyndness lyes in yr powr, and you will infinitely oblige him, who desires to be remembered to yr bedfellow, and all freinds and rests

Sir Your humble Freind & Servt

J. Gordon

[Envelope reads]: For Major MacDougall In London

Letter 9 *6 August 1691. From James Gordon in Moscow
to John Gordon at Auchleuchries, Ellon*

Dear Brother

In my last by the way of Hambourgh dated the 2 of Jan: I acquainted you of my arrivall her on the 22 of 7ber 1690, as also of my Engagement here; wherefore I have bot little to say here; only this occasion of Capt. William Gordon offering I thought it the least of my brotherly duties to acquaint you of my welfare, and also to let you knou hou impatient Father is, I, and all your freinds are to hear of yr welfare and I will assure you ye anger my Father very much In being so negligent in writeing to him, and if you would have that he should supply you wt monneys for the buying of Birnis, you must shou yr self worthy of it by yr diligence in writeing to him often & sending yr exact accots of every thing, and be assured it will be a great encouragement to him to supply you wt monnys. Doe nothing of Importance wtout the advice of our Honnoured Granduncle Westertoun and get him to wnt in yr favour concerning that, for I will assure you that he can do much by him; I am here every day more wearied of this Troubolsome Drunken Court lyfe, and Barbarous nation, bot yet I live In hopes to be ridd of it shortly. Our Brother in law Major Daniell Craufuird who was maried to my sister Marie dyed the 15 of May and left one Sonne behinde him called also Daniel. No mor bot desiring to be remembred to both our unkles & their bedfellous & all freinds, I Rest

Yr Loveing Brother J Gordon

Mosco the 6 of August 1691

The morrou we are to Journy wt his Majestie to Pereaslau.

[Envelope reads]: For My Loveing Brother John Gordon In Auchleuchries
These

Letter 10 *6 August 1691. From James Gordon in Moscow
to William Gordon in Aberdeen*

Loveing Cousin

My kynd respects to you. Excuse me that wt my last to my Granduncle and Brother, I did not writt to you, bot the want of tyme hindered it, though I have not much more nou, being to journey wt his Tzaar's

Matie to Pereaslaw the morro, yet this good occasion of Capt Gordon offering, I thought it the least of my duties to let you hear of my wellfare and let you knou the desire I have to hear of yours. As for any other thing you desire to knou I doe not doute bot my Loveing Granduncle & brother has letten you knou by my last. I live alwayes in good hopes to be quite of this base service shortly and come and be serviceable to my King & Country, for her ther is neither riches nor honnour to be gained here which I never knew so well as at present. I hope you will not be wanting in yr advise to my Brother, and in yr writeing to me who wishes to see you shortly and in good health, & bedfellow to whom I pray present my service and remember me to all freinds especially to all my dear comarads in that service

I Rest Yr Loveing Couseing & humble Servt

J. Gordon

Moscou the 6 of August 1691

[Envelope reads]: For My Loveing Cousin Mr William Gordon Mercht in Abd.

*Letter 11 8 August 1691. From Patrick Gordon in Moscow
to son John at Achleuchbries, Elion*

Mosko 8 Aug 1691

Loveing Son

My Last was the 5th of May pr post by the way of London, at which tyme I was resolved not to have written to you any more, because of your negligence in not giving me returns. Yet by such an occasion as this of Capt Wm Gordon I have been persuaded to writt once more, and because you may have understood my mynd sufficiently out of my many former, I need not here enlarge, only this you shall know, that, I expect an accot of the rents and how you dispose of them, do not tell me of your living lyke my son, or that I shall give you possession or declare what I will give you, wee have many examples there of Parents not declaring or quitting possession so long as they Live, and yet their sons have gott honourable matches, witnes this Pitfoddells his Father & others, and your negligence & udutyfulnes confirms such practice & my opinion the more, as I have told you often: my Father upon that which I have allowed you lived very honourably and payed the publick dues for the whole Land besides, and you may have heard that it was my portion and my brother James his too, It is your good Comportment, which may move me to allow you more as

others, I have desired Capt Gordon to take a view of the lands & of a particular place which I would have for a retireing dwelling & buriall, writt to me in your next concerning it, It is a clay barren place lying betwixt the two stripes as you go to Westertowne, I have written for some things, which you should send to me, but you are in this as in other things. I have no more but desire you to amend your wayes as you would have me to continue
Your Loveing Father

P Gordon

P.S. The businesse with Watertowne I hope is ended and that you have recovered the trunke from Edinburgh, consult with ffriends about getting the holding of the Lands changed.

[Envelope reads]: For My Loveing Sonne John Gordon Auchleuchries

*Letter 12 5 September 1691. From Patrick Gordon in Moscow
to the Laird of Rothiemay*

Mosko 5 7bris 1691

Sir

With much ado we have gott of your brother for a tyme; he hath been alwayes tender and sickly here, I wish his Geniall Aire may recover him. He hath a project of putting his Patrimony in Scots Pearles which according to the Comon opinion would render considerable advantage, he and I have made up our accots so that he remaineth owing to me 300 Merks with the interest for 8 or 9 yeares as also 200 Merks Scottish as cation for Charles Gordon with the interest for 5 yeares the 1700 Merks which according to his letter to you was advanced to him he hath restored so that if it be payed to my order there it must be restored, so that I have only to receive 722 Merks Scotish, which I desire may be delivered to Wm Gordon in Aberdeen son to Patrick Gordon of Cults, and if he hath not occasion for it then to any other responsible person, & the Bond delivered to John Gordon of Nethermuir, who may advise me thereof. I have a project of getting the lands of Achliuchries holden of he king, If it be found practicable there, I doubt not but you will give your assistance in perswadeing the Earl of Erroll to sell the superiority; the manner of the holding of these lands you will be pleased to learne from your brother in law Nethermuir. as to the concemes of this place, give me leave to referr all to the relation of your brother, so taking leave I remaine

Your most affectionate humble sert

P Gordon

[Envelope reads]: For the Laird of Rothemay these presents.

Letter 13 5 September 1691. *From Katherine E. Gordon Strasburg in Moscov to John Gordon at Auchleuchries, Ellon*

Dear brother,

This good occasion of the bearer Captain Gordon offering, I thought it the least of my duties to let you hear from me, and acquaint you of my Impatience to hear from you; I need not trouble you with particulars, not doubting bot what concernes you, brother James, hath largely written to you, only to show you that God almighty hath blessed me with one sonne theodorus, and two daughters, Anna, and Elizabeth. I doubt not bot Father has acquainted you of the great accident that befell my husband Last winter by powder; bot now blessed be God is on the mending hand (though few expected that he ever should recover) and desires to be remembred to you. I cannot end without acquainting you of father's great displeasure at you for yr not writing oftener to him wherfore I hope in tymes comming you will amend that fault by yr future diligence which I schall be Glad to hear of, hoping also that when you writt to Father you will not forgett to Lett me have also a lyne from you who Rests, dear brother

Your Loveing sister

Katherin, Elizabet, Strasburg

born Gordon

Mosco the 5 of September 1691

[Envelope reads]: For My Loving Brother John Gordon in auchleuchries these.

Letter 14 6 September 1691. *From James Gordon in Moscov to Samuel Meverell in London*

Mosco the 6 of 7ber 1691

Sir

Salut, want of occasion has kept me so long silent, wherfor I am very glad of the offer of this occasion of my cuseing Capt Gordon, wherby I may make some worthy acknowledgement of yr many great kyndnesses shouen to me, and also render you harty thanks for them; and acquaint you of my arrivall her on the 23 of 7ber 1690 blessed be God in good health, wishing

to hear the continuance of yrs. I hope when an occasion shall offer you will also be so kynd, as to let me have a lyne from you also. I doe not doubt bot my Father, has acquainted you of my engagement in this service, No more bot desiring to be remembred to yr Family and all freinds I rest

Sir your humble Servt

J Gordon

[Envelope reads]: For Mr Samuel Meverell Merchant In London

*Letter 15 6 September 1691. From James Gordon in Moscow
to Captain William Gordon [in Reval]*

A Memorandum for Cuseing Capt Gordon

Not to forget, when he comes to Hamburg to get himself acquainted wt Mr Kenkels neeces, and writt to me concerning that.

To speak wt my brother sharply concerning his negligencie in writieng to my Father.

To doe what lyes in his powr to get me my Comission from my Cornll Sr George Barckly or at least a testification, and send it to me by the first post, and to tell to all that I am resolved shortly to returne.

To remember me to all my Comarad officers Capt Colleson, Seton Lt Steuart, Craufuird, and my Dear Comarad Ensigne Robert Seimpell, & Doctr Elfin [crossed through] Alfioni and acquaint them of my being here.

If you meet wt Ensigne Alxr Innes, be pleased to speak to him concerning that 3 lib. Sterling he oues me, if ye get it from him, pay Mr Robert Seimpell wt it, if he will not have it, deliver it to my Brother.

I hope you will be so good as to bestowe a halfe of sheet of paper at least once a year, and acquaint me: qt passes there.

Your humble Servt

J Gordon

Mosco the 6 of 7ber 1691

[Envelope reads]: A Memorandum for my Couseing Capt. Gordon

*Letter 16 8 August 1691. From Patrick Gordon in Moscow
to William Gordon in Aberdeen*

Dear Cousin

my last was the 16th of February with, enclosed to ffriends, which I hope

is come safe to your hands, this sure occasion makes me trouble you againe. If any ships have gone from Aberdeen to Danzick I know not, for I have not had a word from no body there in more as a year, the bearer Capt. Gordon is indebted to me 300 Merks Scottish with interest for 8 yeares, as also 200 Merks upon the accot of Charles Gordon, all which I have desired to be delivered to you, a note for which written to be due to me, you may give to Nethermuir to whom I have written. You being nearest occasions & knowing them may writt oftener, which I entreat you to do hereafter, so desireing to be remembred to all ffriends there especially to your fyre syde, I remaine

Yor affectionate Cousin & Sert

P Gordon

Mosco. 8 August 1691

P.S. Gett my Son to send 5 or 6 paire of the fynest Scottish plaids, or if he delay send them your self & put them up to my accot. Patrick Forbes & James Adies are my correspondents in Dantzick.

[Envelope reads]: For Mr William Gordon Mercht In Aberdeen

Letter 17 4 September 1691. *From Mary Gordon in Moscov
to John Gordon, Auchleuchries, Ellon*

Dear Brother

My kynd respects to you, this good occasion offering I thought it the Least of my duties to Salute you by it with a lyne I doe not doubt bot Father has acquainted you of the death of my dear husband uho parted from this lyfe on the 14 of may this year haveing lived together only 7½ months and in place of that loss has blessed me with a sonne called after his Faber Daniell Craufuird borne on the 9 of July 1691 wherfor I am left a poor widdow with a fatherles child bot yet I put my trust in almighty God uho I hope will not leave me In the meantym I hope that uhen you uritt to Father you uill not forget to let me have also a lyne from you which be assured will be a great comfort to me who am at presnt comfortless. no more bot hoping you will not forget me who rests

Dear brother

your Ioveing sister

Mary Gordon

Mosco the 4 of 7ber 1691

[Envelope reads]: For My loveing brother John Gordon In auhleuchrien thes.

Letter 18 5 September 1691. *From Alexander Gordon [in Moscon]
to Thomas Gordon in Aberdeen*

Dear Brother

This being the first occasion I find since I came from Dantzick I wold not feal to salut you and all frinds and let you knou of my condition Generall Gordon by uhom I liue and to whos keindnes I am very much obliged keeps Me at the School wher I learne to reckne and to reade and ureat the Duch-language and uhen I shal be perfect in thes he will giue it Me in my chois ether to be a merchant Or souldier and imploy his moyen to engage me in seruice accordengly praye present my affection and respects to my sister and to her husband and children and to my Grandmother also to Willam Monro and his bedfellow my Cousine and all frinds uho shall axe for me which-being all at present I remain your dear brother your Must affectionat brother And seruant

Alexr Gordon

Anno 1691 September the 5 daye:

[Envelope reads]: For My Loving Brother Thomas Gordon Capt of The Marr Maid of Aberdene

Letter 19 8 September 1691. *From P. Meneses [Mençies] [in Moscon]
to Jeane Sempill at Pitfodels, Aberdeen*

Much Honored & Deare Sister.

With this occasion of my Nephew Captain Williame Gordon I would not omitt to salute you most affectionatly & let you know whou much I desire to heare of your good health & weallfaire, as for me I'm still alive wt my Wiffe & 4 Cheildrein Magnus, John, Andreu & Catharine. All my Cheildrein of my first Wiffe being dead. I pray Late me heare from you, whou it is wt & your Daughter & my Deare Neece whou I pray God Allmighty to bliss. Thus referring you to the bearer & desiring to be most kindly remembred to all our deare Freinds & relations praying for excuse of this my biessness Committing you & your Deare Daughter to the Protection of the Allmighty God I rast Deare Sister

Mosco ye 8th of 7ber 1691

Your most Loving Brother & humble Servtr

P. Meneses

[Envelope reads]: These to my much Honored and very Loving Sister Mrs. Jeane Sempill Wyfe to the deceased William Laird of Pitfodels p.fl.q.d.e.[?]

Letter 20 22 January 1692. *From Harie Gordon in Moscow to William Gordon in Reval.*

Moscou ye 22 Janua 1692

Honnored Cousen

yours of ye deat ye 10 december: 91 I receaued ye 22 January 92, which put me in too Diferent extasies, the on of Joye, the other of Grife, Joye in respeck of your safatie And present health, which god knoues Is wished as my owen. grife in respecke of your misfortoun of being beat back, And brought to greater chargis, yet god knoues whats best for man patiens. Sir you shall knou al the neues we hau hear is not worthy of ye rehersing, being only whats public to all, colonel Strasbourg is ded and buried the 7 of this Instant, and Marey ye young widow, Is hand fastit to on capitain Sneuens. And as to my ouen bussenes its not worthy to truble you with, but to obey your comands, you shall know that his Maj Has greaced me for major to ye butirie Regiment, (your old frynds) and that I thank god I continou in good health, hooping in short tym, for promotion, the generals son Isupoes may be collonel befor this coms to your hands; I continou as yet in generall Gordons feamaly, thogh I supoes not much longer. On thing I forgot that is, the generals sister in lawe that was in the feamalie is mared to Lyonfelt. I thank god, I am not trubled with the Royal companie only saw 3 nights be houtman, which almost head been my death, after I beged pardon and shanked of. So that Now I live in ease only pass my tym Som tym by your ounckle, or by kiling Housen, pristouf, or Livengstoun, which Is al my companie: saue som tym by The patter, the fations are hear as formerlie; Sir this is the largest description I can giu you at present, and begs to know wherin I can serue you, or satesfye you further, which shall always be his studie to gaen, Sir the honnor of your fryndship so obligeth me to mack Som worthy acknowledgmt that I am all full of will to serue you, and as full of Default in the performance; I will therfor waet the tym and occation, wherin by: your command I may signallize my obedience, which shall always, and wherso ever I be, make me apiere as I am

Sir that is,
your loueing cousen, and humbl servant,
whill I am.

Harie Gordone

P.S. The generall I supoes hath obeyed your deseyr as to Mr Mauerrall
befor this cam to his hands.

—pardon me to renew our speach at pearting, which I doubt nothing of but
you will observ your promes, in not Mentioning of such a person as I, till such
tym as I shall giu you further notec, and if any suchthing should fal in the
by, you may giu me Acompt ther of (I mean) in any conferment of myn:
I beg you may let me hau A lyn from your hands befor your departur
from reueill, with acompt of your condition; I head not tym to mit with
your ounckle or any of ye rest of your frynds yet they are all in good
health.

[Envelope reads]: For Capitain William Gordon lodging in the foortoun
of revel

In the lubecks Taveran Revele.

Letter 21 *29 January 1692. From Patrick Gordon in Moscow
to William Gordon in Reval*

Mosco 29 Ja.ry 1692

Sir,

I am very glad to hear by yours of the 10th of December from Revall,
that you have recovered your health in some measure, your stay there
cannot be helped. Only leave of your melancolious thoughts, and keep
your self at moderate excersize, about 3 weekes ago I gott Mr Houtman
satisfyed, since you went from hence I had letters from my ffrriends in
Scotland, whereby I have been obliged to send a disposition of the
Heretable right of the Lands of Achliuchries to my eldest son John,
which I have sent by Mr Pendek who went from hence a fortnight ago
for England, wee were something perplexed not to heare from you,
after you were past Narva, for Mr Loftus from thence informed me
that you were past that place, whilst you are there, you can do me a
great kyndnes wch is this, There is a place neer to Revall called Rokill
wch belonged to one bilou Strasburg, my son in law his Grandfather
who had 4 sons who all except my son in law his father being the
youngest are deceassed without children, so that, as wee are informed,

the lands should belong to my son in law his son (he himself to our great loss & grieffe being deceased the 4th Instant) That place is inhabited now by the widdow of Joachim Strasburg my son in law his uncle, and she is married to One Ruit Mr. Branhoffe, I would most willingly be informed of the following particulars. how farr & which way it Lyeth from Revall, of what extent and what value it may be either yearly or if to be sold or wedsett, If engaged at present by way of wedsett or otherwise, If reduced or not, If Pawres belonging to it and how many or if only a Hoffe, by what meanes wee could attaine it, yet all this must be carryed so close that they gett not the least least notice of it, for feare of preveening us, if it be not farr of, you would do me a kindnes to take a jorney to it yourself, but keep all close, there liveth in Revall one John Lanting a dutchman, to whom Mr Munter hath written concerning it by my desire, if you can come to speake with him, he may assist you, the same Lanting hath received from England for me some Mathematicall Instruments and books, I admire he sent them not by Mr Munster, yet I hope they are now upon the way by some other occasion, so not doubting your diligence and that you will give me sufficient information, I remaine

Yor affectionat Cousin & Servant

P. Gordon

P.S. I shall have occasion to writt to you ere you go from thence, & shall not faile to writt againe to Mr Meverell in your behalfe.

[Envelope reads]: For Capt. William Gordon at his Lodging in the Lubecks Tavern in the suburbs of Reval.

Letter 22 12 February 1692. From Patrick Gordon in Moscow to William Gordon in Reval

Sir

my last to you was Recomendend to Mr Loftus, being an answer to yours of the 10th Dec.ris, haveing then written to you at Large of diverse concernes, I have only herein to add that I have written pr ffriend to Mr Meverell to affoord you ten Libs Ster: if you call for it, yet when I consider the great way & large expences whereat you will be in going to London, I thought fitt to advise you to go with the first shipping to Elsenuir & there stay if it were 6 weekes for any occasion for Scotland, which will be easier, better cheape & secure, because the ships tradeing thither are furnished with Danish or Swedish passes. I shall

be very glad to heare of your arrivall thither in health, wherefor I entreat you when you come to Edr. or Abd. to writt to me immediately addressing your letter to Mr Sam Meverell Mercht in London, I have as I told you befor sent a disposition of the Heretable right of my Lands to my eldest son John, reserving only three thousand Merks for a portion for one of my sons who may come thither as also 300 Merks yearly dureing the naturall Lyfes of me & my wyfe, which Last with what you are indebted to me, I have allotted for a fonds of a portion for my youngest son Peter, which if duly payed and well improved may in tyme grow to be considerable, I have intrusted it to your brother in law Nethermuir, and my Cousin of Cults, when my unkle shall not be able or willing to be troubled with it. I durst not molest the Earle of Abd. with more as the direction & inspection of it, my earnest desire to you is, that when you come thither, you will not only informe your self of what is done in it, but assist to settle it and give an accot as soone as possible, that the small thing and the encrease of it yearly may be settled in the hands of honest and responsable men, and the notes or obligations kept in the custody of uninterested persons with my eldest son, so that it will be a great hearts ease to me to heare & be assured, that it shall be forthcoming, I rely much herein upon your industry and diligence, and assure you that you will do me a great Courtesy, and put a great obligation upon me, by contributeing to the Settlement of my affaires in the forsd particular, and giving me tymely and particular information thereof. I writt to you in my Last to enquire of the condition of a house & Lands called Rockill near to the place where you now are, which belongeth by right for want of heires male to my Grandchild Theodorus Strasburg. I expect to have hereof information from you, as also to heare from you as often as you can dureing your stay there. I have nothing more, but to comitt you to the protection of

God Almighty remaining

Yor affectionat Cousin & Sert P Gordon

in great hast

[Envelope reads]: For Capt Wm Gordon at Reval Ich versoeke deses te expediren aen Mr Loftus in Narva recomende a Sr Jaques Meyor Novogrod

Letter 23 19 February 1692. From Patrick Gordon in Moscow
to William Gordon in Reval

Mosco 19 Feb: 1692

Sir

Since mine of the 20th Ja.ry in ansr to yours of the 10 Dec.ris and myne of the 12th instant, I have yours of the 3d Ja.ry. I am glad you keep your health and that that Climate suits with your constitution better as this. I did writt to you at large in both my former to the which I have litle to add only to desire you to be carefull of all I recommended to you, especially of selling a fonds for my yongest son and that the obligations be given into the hands of these who are not concerned with my eldest son. My unkle I am loth to trouble in his extreme old age. If the Earle of Aberdeen would accept thereof it would be well, the most troublesome part I desire Nethermuir & yong Cults to take upon them. My things sent from London enquire for, as also concerning my Grandchild Strasburg his inheritance of Rockill neer that place, I shall writt as yet to you befor you quite that place, and hopes you will not omitt to writt to me so long as you are there, as also from London of Elsonure, and from Scotland as soone and oft as you can. Haveing nothing else at present I remaine

yor affectionate Cousin & Sert

P Gordon

P.S. I forgott to tell you that their Maties have graced me with an addition of 400 rubles yearly to my pay in money.

[Envelope reads]: For Capt William Gordon lodging in the Lubecks Taverne in the suburbs.

Letter 24 19 February 1692. In French. From James Gordon in Moscow to William Gordon in Reval

Moscou le 19 de Feb 1692

Monsr le Capt

Votre Lettre du troisième de Janvier J'ay receut, et suis extremement bein aise d'entendre de votre bonne santè, priant le bonne Dieu pour la continuation de votre bonne santè; voila le discription de cet Engin, pour laquelle vous m'auez priez dans votre Lettre. Je suis bien aisé d'avoir cett occasion par laquell Je vous peut tesmoigner le grand desir que J'ay de vous servir.

Depuis votre depart d'icy, il'ya n'a une grand changement icy; mon beau frere Le Colonell Strasbourgh estant mort le 4 de Jan-r; îi estoit magnifiquement enterrè, Sa Majestée en person l'ayent conwoyée, avec

son Regiment, au place d'enterement, luy et tous Jes officiers allant en Deuell, et tous Jes boyars qui sont de sa compagnie; sa mort est cause que notre maison n'est pas en tel estime au pres de sa majestèe comme auparavant.

Moy Je suis un peu en disgrace au pres de sa Majestèe, a cause que J'ay en question, en presence de Sa Majestèe, avec Le Colonel Delauzier, sur un Wesherinskie, chez Monsr Hauteman; ii est marriez et retourne a Courskte; c'est pourquoi Je ne frequent pas la Cour tant qu'auparavant.

Monsr le Generll Major votre oncle est fort fashèe que vous n'avez pas escrit a luy; Votre Lettre a Monsr le Colonel Little John J'ay rendu avec les medecins a luy, il estoit bien aise d'entendre de votre bonne santè en vous remerciant pour cet amitiè vous l'avez montrè, il se porte come auparavant; J'ay faite vos baisez-mains a tous ceux que vous m'avez priez de faire; ils vous saluent tous; pour le Lt Colonell Crafuird ii n'est pas icy, nous n'avons non plus rien entendue de luy: Le Colonell Levenfelt est marriez avec Maria Jacolina, la belle seur de ma bell mere; vous avez cogneu mons Jeebrandt qui est Banquerut, rnaïs Sa Majestèe l'envoye a China dans la qualite d'Envoye extraordinaire, Ma Seur Marie est fiancè a Monsr le Capt Snewens. notre cousin estoit graccè de Sa Majestèe Major, et le boyar il dit asteur [sic] peur que Sa Majestèe a Contre-comandèe de l'inscrire pour Capt, ses affaires rest com ca jusq au retour de Sa Majestèe de Pereslaw; J'espere que vous m'honorerai avec une Response avec le premier occasion et vous m'obligerai de rester toujours

Monsr votre Serviteur J. Gordon

Je ne doute pas de votre soin de mes instruction a vous adieu

[Envelope reads]: A Monsr Monsr Le Capt Gordon Lodging in the Lubecks Tavern in the fortune of In Rewell these

Letter 25 [enclosed inside Letter 24]

An engine or invention wherby horsemen may easily brake in into battallions of foot albiet they be guarded wt pikes or Spanish Ritters.

Make a stellagie, or plate forme pointed like to a Ravelin, under the Middle wherof to the point almost, must be a long beam of 4 or 5 fathome long, to this must be an axed 2 axetrees one under the

plateforme and another behind it as near as possibly, on those must be Cattrols, or strong wheels, and in the end of the long beam, behind must on Cattrols, or wheel, round the borders of this plateforme, must be a parapet or breastworke, made and covered wtout, plats of strong steel, and so high as may cover a man & a horse or more, to the longe beam— & must be made pieces of wood or iron, betwixt the Catroll, at the end, & the 2 which are immediately behind the plateforme, to wch the horses 2 or 3, on each syde may be yoaked for drawing, the horses must be strong and couragious—who upon plain ground, where battals are usually drawn up will brake any body of Foot, though never so weall guarded, the horse squadrons must follow immediatly, and whou shoon this engin hath brok through the Spanish Rtters or pikes, and brought the Battallion in confusion, they must fall on, and so easily ruin them, on the plateforme may be, wyde Cannon load med wt Cartouches, web will doe: them more harme, and doe the effort easier. From the wings may be lights, blinds of thin bourds to hinder the sight of the horses and Riders when thy come in war.

Letter 26 *19 February 1692. From Harie Gordon in Moscow
to William Gordon in Reval*

Dear Cousen

Sir After the recept of yours from Revell of the 3 January by which you Honnored me so faer, that if I have done you any acceptable service, think it was but the shadow of what I deseyr to show you, by reall effects. Thogh the service I hav down you, be but small; yet the dcseyr I Hau head to acknowledg the honnors I Hau receaved from you ar great without Meashur: dear Sir I hoop you accept the Will, for the deed of him, who after his Aryvel at this pleac, found the foord.

In evere respeck, acording as my good frynd Had discribt in respeck of yr netour, polasie, And kyndnes; Its hard to knou if I stay Hear or not as yet (be caus) [sic] after that his Majestie head greaced me for major, the boyar would not Insert in the books for Mor as captain, acording as I cam in the Land from whom It flous the Lord knous, but in the next I shall be mar positive, which shall be within two posts, or on, his Majestie being at present in Perislaw so tht We expeck him 22 or 23 of this Instant, all your frynds ar weill at this pleac, only I admyr you hav

not wreat to your ounckle, for I ashur you that he is were much grived,
all our exterordener neues, I gav you acompt of in my last, and In the
nixt you shall hav a fuller, which shall be in all heast and In the mean
tym I rest

Dear Cousen

your most Loving cousen and humbl serant whill I am Harie Gordone
Sloboda a Mosco ye 19 Febr 1692

[Envelope reads): For Capitain william gordon present At his lodgings
in The Lubecke Taweren in the foortoun of Revell.

Letter 27 8 July [1686?] From L. Gordon, Aberdeen,
to 'Brother' [William Gordon]

Abn the 8 of iule

dear brother

Tho I kno it cannot signeffie much too you yet I most give ye this smal
testemone of my affection too ashoure ye that I receved the good news
of yr welbeing with a greatt dell of satesfaction and I hoop you doe not
queastion my earnest wisheses for the advancment of of yr forton evere
way, and in my opinion you may alrede estime your selff vere hape
by being in companie with such a fyne man as I teak lefftinen generall
Gordon too be I cannot tell you how much you ar oblidge too him for
his characktour of you amongst the rest of yr other tys too him, and
I am persuaded if youll doe yr self the kindnes too teak his advise and
indeovre too dooe by his exampell you may coom too be an honor
too yr nation as he nou is, he says he spok bot litell of yr affers to yr
brother so that it sims he intends to refer partickloers till nis nixt cooming
which I wish with all my heart may be prosperously and Im shour all
that has concern in you has reason too doe so, for his faver to you who
was a mir streanger too him may convince pipel how much he has of the
princepalls of generositte. I shall expect to hear from you when he cooms.
I belive you will have a greatt loss bye pearting with him, so that it ware for
yr satesfaction and intrest. I wish you cuid coom alongs with him. All your
frinds and sisters ar well and be confedent ther is non of them with greater
sencerite

dear brother

your most affectionat sister and servante

L Gordon

Letter 28 [inside Letter 27; same handwriting]

pray Jett us hear from you with the first occasion our sister wartell and I joyns our intrest that when this cooms to yr hands you may ashour the Leften gerall of our kind remembranc and lekways tell him that tho I had not the confedance to meak him a formall spitch at pearting yet Im shour non wished him a better voyage. Adoue I am in heast as you may iudg by this I hop Mr Gordon and you shall be vere good frinds. I min mine r, noors son who is a vere well houmer'd young man

Letter 29 6 August 1691. *Memorandum from Patrick Gordon for William Gordon*

Memorandum for Capt Wm Gordon

When it shall please God to bring you to Scotland pray take the pains and go to my habitation; and take a view of the lands and see in what condition they are as to the tennants & buildings. & what the new dwelling house is which he hath built. as also that place which I have designed for a retirement & buriall place, whereof I would have a Cart with the exact measure, as also if your leasure serve you a Cart of the whole Land.

Put my Sonne in Mind of making an end of the business with Watertowne, of recovering the trunke from Edinburgh. and show him how he irritates me by his negligence in writeing to me, & not giving me me an exact accot of the rents of the Lands and tell him, that my Father lived very honourably upon that which I have allowed him & payed the publick dues for the whole Land, that I have more Children as him, & may dispose of that Land as I please.

Desire your brother to assist in getting the holding changed, to be holden of the king, as also to gett the business wt Watertowne ended with the help of the Earle of Aberdeen & Nethermuir.

Let me hear from you as soone as possible, by the way of London, my Correspondent there is Mr Samuell Meverell, in Dantzick Patrick Forbes & James Adie. In Hamburgh Robert Jolly in Rotterdam James Gordon, In Riga Georg Frazer, in Narva Thomas Loftus & Thomas More.

Bestow on me at least once in a yeare a sheet of paper by the shipping to Dantzick, wherein informe me of my particular busines as above, give me

notice of the condition of particular friends and as much of the publick as you can. If you see my brother John, tell him I wonder that he doth not writt to me the restoring him his bond for 400 Merks deserved at least to be acknowledged, neither can he be ignorant how nobly I dealt with him, when I was there.

If the history of the Gordons be publick which Mr Pat Gordon was compileing, let one be sent me.

[In another hand below this: James Oglbie of Blairack grandfather to Gen: Gordon to inquire whence descended]