

From JAMES WELSH Liverpool

To ROBERT WELSH Corehead

Dear Sir

I was sorry to hear by a letter from our Brother David of the great loss of sheep by the farmers in general in the late storm and that you had been one of the greatest sufferers. From the prosperity in that line for years past I thought it a safe business but I find its like every other precarious. However our losses are increased or diminished by comparison. When the war broke out I had a concern in three Ships then on voyages. Two got safe to market and did very well. The third was taken, by which I lost the profit of the voyage but luckily she was retaken, and if she had been carried into a french port I should have lost £500 – as I was insured and underwriters to that amount became Bankrupts – by this & the late failures so universal all over Britain I lost about £600 – but then when one saw many of their neighbours, not only people in business, but those who had their money lodged in Banks totally ruined, we think of ourselves well off in such general havock – and how much deplorable are they in France – thousands not only stripped of their whole property but themselves thrown into dungeons to abide the distant trials of partial judges and Juries – their King, Queen, Priests, Nobles and plebeians guillotined – towns that resist the present rulers burnt and the men women and the children massacred in cold blood – and again the diseases in America & the West Indies bordering on Pestilence by which such numbers have lost their lives this last year, should make the people in this country, instead of murmuring and complaining be thankful to God who has visited us with such light affliction and humbly implore his divine goodness to preserve us from such dreadful calamities -- The great prosperity of trade some years past has led people in general (& no doubt farmers also) greater lengths than their capitals warranted them and the great desire of gain caused such speculations and monopolies as would have been ruinous to the community at large had it not been checked – but its to be hoped that people in general will abate somewhat their luxuries and expences which the present age dignified with the titles of refinement & improvement and take again into their characters honesty and fair dealing or else trade will become very disagreeable in this country – for my part I have not long to struggle with business. Old age creeps insensibly on & makes us very unfit for it – our eyesight failing and our body every night fatigued without labour. Our relish for amusements as journeys of pleasure, plays, feasting, late hours, d..y....ow all done away with which is the case with me and which you in a few years will find to be the case with you. I now wish to stay at home & attend to what I think will be for the future comfort of my children, and here I must mention how highly I am obliged to my late best friend Mr. Rue? for his generous assistance to me in this respect.

You as a Batchelor are free from the anxiety of children which makes your late loss of less consequence. Many people here of easy circumstances retire from business about fifty five years of age. Have you any such thoughts. If your trade grow better you might let your farms & sell your stock to advantage & by putting your money in the funds or on mortgage live comfortably in some town on the interest, as retired if you chose as in the country, and the warm rooms & other convenience are more comfortable to old age than the cold wet damp habitations in the country.

Mrs Welsh talked of a journey to Scotland this summer but as it is very expensive travelling & the times so unpromising I have nearly talked her out of it. If you can pluck up spirits for a jaunt your friends in Bold Street will be happy to see you. This is a long epistle and as we correspond very seldom very few more will in all probability finish which wi[th ex]cuse for it we all join in best respects to all our friends. Our l[itte] James (who is a fine fellow & this day 5 years old) has been very ill but is better --- I am

Yours &c

James Welsh