

TO RICHARD RICHARDSON, Esq. North Bierley.

" SIR,

Thorndon, Feb. 5, 1738-9.

" I received the favour of your obliging letter in due time, but by different incidents have been prevented returning thanks for it till this time. I was extremely glad of the opportunity your Gardener's being here gave me of furnishing you with any thing that might be agreeable. I doubt not but, when you come to London, if you will favour me so far as to come and see what I have, you will find some other things worth your acceptance. I will defer till that time desiring your assistance with any more Northern Plants; when you see what we have in the Gardens about London you will be able to judge of what you can furnish me with.

" The *Cortex Winteranus*, which you mention, was growing some time ago in the Chelsea Garden; but I never saw it elsewhere, unless I had a Plant of it once, which I am not certain of. The Fern kinds I never yet have been able to persuade any of my Correspondents to send over.

" I beg leave to add my best compliments to your Father; and to assure you that I am, with truth, Sir, &c. PETRE."

REV. THOMAS PETRE * to DR. RICHARDSON.

" HONOURED DEAR SIR,

[not dated †]

" Amidst my many misfortunes of this year, I met with none more afflicting than that of missing your good company the last Saturday. But the so singular goodness of your Lady, in shewing me your Gardens and other endless Curiosities, made me signal amends for that loss, and has laid on me such obligations I can no more forget than re-pay. Since she was pleased to say that she never saw a *Passion Flower*, I hope this (though decaying), will not displease; and if, Sir, you desire a Layer, you may most freely command one at the season, and at all times.—If the box will hold the Layers I took the freedom to mark, I beg the sending them therein.—Honoured dear Sir, with my best respects to your Lady, your most humble servant, THOMAS PETRE."

" HONOURED DEAR SIR,

Wednesday Morning.

" You have here (with my best respects) the effects of my last promises made you at Bierley, where you made me so welcome. The six Roots in one parcel are so many several sorts of Seedlings I raised this summer, and so liked by my Cousin Tancred, that he would needs have a Layer of each sort. In the other two are two Layers of the *Countess of Abingdon*, a most pretty purple *Pickotee*; and two of a very large *Pickotee*, deserving a better name than the *Peterborough*. I send them with more pleasure, because I saw them not (to my knowledge) in

* A Roman Catholic Priest in the family of Mr. Waterton of Walton hall.

† There is not the date of the year to any one of Mr. Petre's letters; so that they are unavoidably arranged by mere chance.

your

your Garden. If those I took the freedom to mark are fit for removing, the sooner they come the more they will be welcome; and if you add a Layer of my *Pyebald* Seedling (I have lost and you abound with), it will add to the many obligations already laid on, honoured dear Sir, ever yours,

T. PETRE.

"I had forgot the two pretty *Painted Ladies*, papered apart."

"HONOURED DEAR SIR,

Monday.

"I have just time to return you my most hearty thanks for the honour of your so kind letter, and so generous present. If the *Sowbread* Root require any different management from the *Rayunculo's*, be pleased to inform me, because unacquainted with it. I have enclosed a dozen of my Flowers, in hopes that some of them may please; and if so, you may depend upon a Layer of any, or all of them, excepting the large pale *Painted Lady*, which was from my Seed two years ago; but this Winter killed all my Layers, and the old Root has not yet the least increase, to my sorrow; the other *Painted Lady* *Dunkirk* is an Under-flower; and so is the small purple one, from my *Pyebald*, whose Top-flower blew very large, and is my top favourite.

"Pardon me this haste; and believe me, honoured dear Sir, your most obliged humble servant,

THOMAS PETRE."

"HONOURED DEAR SIR,

Friday.

"With my hearty thanks for your last civilities, you have at length the effects of my promises, in the present Layers; that had sooner waited on you, had they been sooner rooted; with at least three other sorts I so fully designed you, had I found but the least Layer struck amongst them. If those I took the freedom to mark are ready for removing, be pleased to send them to Huebanke's against Friday next, and care shall be taken of them. I have sometimes, Sir, been thinking that a close matt, well fixed to the pitched boards that support your books, might turn to a good account and prevent their moulding.

"If it lies, Sir, in your way, give me leave to beg a favour at your hands, for a particular friend of mine in London, Mr. Charles Kennet, who in January 1713-14 lent Mr. Fletcher, that lives in Bradford, ten pounds, who promised to repay it very soon; but, though he so often has been wrote to on that head, he has never yet vouchsafed an answer. My being at such a distance, and so entire a stranger to that gentleman, as it disables me from serving my friend, so it gives me the hopes, that (if, or when, it stands with your convenience) you will have the goodness herein to befriend, honoured dear Sir, ever yours, T. PETRE."

"I hope I have marked, or that your man at least knows, your two purple *Pickotees*; the smallest whereof I called the *Pett*, the other is not so thick pounc't, but something larger. The box has two Layers of the large *Bezart* you seemed, Sir, so pleased with; two of my best *Bezarts*; two of the *Pick. Crown of Flowers*; two of *Pick. Tallard*; and two of my large purple Seedling."

"HONOURED

"HONOURED DEAR SIR,

"I must die in your debt, it being so impossible whilst I live to return your kindnesses. I am pleased the *Passion Flower* came safe, for I was in pain about the Bud, and thought best to leave it hollow, the Root being so fixed.

"Four of my twelve-penny *Tulips* (with their last year's offsets) having escaped the wreck, come to proffer themselves, if you think them worthy your acceptance and Garden; they were so dashed and doused by the constant rains, that nothing but a floristic eye, like yours, can discern what they might and should have been. I picked up three entire Flowers of the old Roots, and two whole offsets, with some scattered leaves of the rest, but so thoroughly wet and blighted that it was beyond my skill to dry and cure them as usual; in hopes, however, that you may like, I have marked them. I am glad your *Anemonies* and *Raynunculo's* are so prosperous, and the more, because not only my twelve-penny Roots, but all my best stripes are perished; and from your tried goodness persuade myself of a share in those sorts you can best spare, as also of a little Seed (if you get any), against the sowing season; for I am confident that all you so kindly gave me is dead.

"A friend is just now very earnest to have me try common radish water drawn from a cold still, with two or three little lime-stones in it, but I fear it may prove too forcing; and, if finding it so, shall leave it off, and have patience under God's appointments, as well as your goodness. With these impertinences I am, honoured dear Sir, ever yours, T. PETRE."

"HONOURED SIR,

Walton Hall, April 3.

"Give me leave to beg such an alms as you so generously favoured me with the last year, or I am a broken Florist; though not so much by the inclemency of the season, as the severity of some neighbours, who forced me from home, before ever I could find leisure to fence off your Flowers from the fury of the Winter; so that, at my late return, I found my Garden plundered like Preston, and my Flowers worse treated than traitors.

"I beg also leave to assure you how troubled I was, that I could not wait on you when your Garden was so flourishing; though I flatter myself that, if you can spare a choice Layer or two, you will have the goodness to order them to Mr. Huebanck's, for, honoured Sir, your most humble servant, T. PETRE."

"HONOURED DEAR SIR,

April 10.

"After so long a silence, the assurance of yours and your good lady's perfect health and happiness, so heartily wished, will be most highly welcome; and your past favours put me upon begging new ones, by your further advice about the uncomfortable circumstances I am under.

"My Garden is in a manner under the same circumstances with myself. I have lost most of my best *Auriculas* and *July-flowers*. The Woolley Gardener lately brought me some *Auricula* blossoms, some whereof were, he said, an exchange from your Garden;

Garden ; and if any such, or a few Layers, can (with your convenience) be spared, they will be mighty welcome. If your *Passion-tree* has miscarried, I shall be very proud to serve you therein, or with whatever lies within the power of, honoured dear Sir, your most obliged humble servant, THO. PETRE."

"HONOURED DEAR SIR, April 22.

"You have here my hearty wishes of a happy Easter ; and also that you would please at your leisure to call on Mr. Fletcher for the performance of his promise, the fixed time in the favour of your last being now elapsed.

"I should be very glad to hear that the Layers I gave myself the honour to send you are all alive ; for I fear the utter death of my large fine *Bezart*, unless one at least of your two Layers have survived the severity of the season, which here of late has been such, as has swept away the majority of those that had weathered out the winter ; so that (as first beggar) I hope to be served from your fragments, if any you have to spare, and that accompanied by the *Cardinals*, if you judge their Conclave may safely be broke into by Friday.

"Mr. Tancred will be at Walton on May-day ; and, if it stands with your convenience to receive a visit the day following, favour with a line, honoured dear Sir, ever yours, T. PETRE."

"HONOURED DEAR SIR, April 26.

"My hearty thanks wait on you for the honour of your last, with your so kind present, and kinder concern, as well as counsel about *cutting* ; but when, Sir, you consider my threescore years of age, with my complicated ailments, and the rickets in my youth ; also that the so famed Operator is newly dead, and that the want of my wonted journeys and exercises has made me so asthmatical, purse, and unwieldy, my resolves for declining must seem more reasonable, than for hazarding an operation that appears so much above my strength.

"I have been, Sir, searching amongst my *Passion Layers* ; and of some scores, I have not half a dozen alive ; my old root is also dead ; but I have sent you the very best I could find. My very *Tulips* have been all in the South sea ; and out of thousands not half a hundred have escaped, and of them not half a score good ones remain. The best of all my many doubles are reduced to the enclosed pair, a root whereof, if you please, shall at the season be at your service, since two of both have escaped the so universal slaughter.

"If your success, Sir, has been better, so as to be in a condition of sparing me a few good ones like those I once saw of your friend's that were just flowering, it will highly oblige me. I not only carefully mark the Roots when in flower, for fear of mistakes ; but generally save, and dry the Leaves, the better to observe their wondrous variegations, to the better sometimes, and often to the worse ; and, to my sorrow, I shall now have more leisure for this amusement, since so disabled from all riding, or even walking any lengths, much more from working and weeding as formerly amongst my Flowers.

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"The hail on Wednesday demolished all my little stock of blown *Tulips*; the enclosed laid a day and night in the walks; are much less and nothing like what they were last year.—Give me leave, Sir, to ask, if I may drink Mountain wine? Doctor Prescott says, Sack is the safest, if not only wine I ought to use. True, I take but little of any, I am most for water and honey. Your tried goodness makes me thus troublesome.

"With my hearty wishes of all health and happiness to your dear self, good lady, and all yours, I remain, honoured dear Sir, ever yours,
THOMAS PETRE."

"HONOURED DEAR SIR,

April 29.

"You have Mr. Waterton's and my hearty thanks for your late present. The Fish were very fine, afforded us a noble feast, and swimmingly washed down in your good health.

"Your Layers and *Cardinals* were no less cordially entertained, with a care answerable to their character and your kindness; and, as soon as our hot-bed is filled, their Eminencies shall profoundly rest therein.

"I am in pain about my appointment, and your kind promise of being at home on the second of May, because I just now understand that Mr. Tancred's visit is primary to the Sessions at Pomfret, where, with the rest of the Catholics of this Riding, that day is fixed for their registering, as we hear; if not, and we can wait on you, it shall be before noon, or not that day: and so shall write on the Friday following, to fix, if possible, the desired time of personally assuring you how profoundly I am, honoured dear Sir, ever yours,
T. PETRE."

"HONOURED DEAR SIR,

May 10.

"The concern in yours of the third (and which I got not till the eighth) was very kind; but could it be comparable to ours, in the loss of your dear company, and the trouble we gave your good family and lady? (to whom my best respects.)

"To add to my misfortunes, your kind present has been plundered and exchanged (somewhere) for such trash as I never saw: possibly I may in time find out the thievery. I am just asking Esquire Ireland (who kisses your hands) to wait on you next Monday; and, though he should happen to be hindered, I hope nothing will prevent me from personally then assuring you how profoundly I am, honoured dear Sir, ever yours, THO. PETRE."

"HONOURED DEAR SIR,

June 23.

"Had I in the least been apprised of the late honour you did me, our Table, as well as my Garden, had been in better order to have received you; my surprize was great, but not comparable to my pleasure, from so kind a visit. It made me forget not only some particulars relating to, but the very pains themselves; though, upon the following alteration of the weather and change of the moon, I paid dear for the happiness of that day. At present, however, I am much better; and as well (I believe) as ever I am like to be; since, as my life grows shorter, my pains,
I am

I am persuaded, will be sharper.—I please myself with the thoughts of soon seeing your so kindly promised varieties of *Tulips*, *Raynunculo's*, &c. ; and beg they may not set out too early in the week, but so as to be fresh against Fridays, when some of our family are generally in Wakefield. Soon after your leaving Walton, I got the favour of yours from Wakefield ; and the milk diet there mentioned is very agreeable.

“ The assurance of your and your lady's good health, will be highly welcome. With my best respects to her, I am, honoured dear Sir, your most obliged humble servant, THOMAS PETRE.”

“ HONOURED DEAR SIR,

July 29.

“ Your silence to my letter of thanks for the honour of your visit makes me fear a miscarriage, or your want of that health I so heartily wish you, and impatiently wait for an account of. My state is rather worse, especially upon any alteration of the moon or weather ; and see no hopes of help. Mr. Perfect of Pomfret has newly brought me a posey of his *Carnations* ; but I hear yet nothing of your promised *Raynunculo's* and *Tulips*, and sometimes fear a miscarriage. Most of my best sorts are dead, and I have but two of yours alive, and in as poor a condition as myself ; however, had I a posey of yours, by comparing them with my own, possibly we might both be furnished with some new sorts. I should be glad to hear you have got a recruit of *Raynunculo* seed, and to share therein, that I might once more make a trial. Whenever you favour me in this kind, if directed to be left with Mr. Naylor, in North-gate, they will come both safer and sooner than formerly to, honoured dear Sir, ever yours at command, THO. PETRE.”

“ HONOURED SIR,

August 3.

“ It seems an age since I had the happiness of seeing you ; and since our last transient interview at Wakefield, I have been so obstinately tortured with the stone, and find the least riding so racking, that, being out of all hopes of ever more reaching and regaling myself in your Garden, give me leave to beg a posey, and a sight of those last *July-flowers* from your friend mentioned at our last meeting at Huebanck's, where I shall be overjoyed to see them, and, much more (upon the least previous notice) to wait upon your dear self. I have been so cheated with the London Gardeners, that I take the freedom to inquire whether your friend would be so kind as to help me to the best sorts, upon sending the names, and paying for them upon delivery ?

“ My best respects to Madam Richardson ; and Mr. Perfect just now telling me of his designs of waiting on you this night, in haste, I am, honoured Sir, ever yours, T. PETRE.”

“ HONOURED DEAR SIR,

Walton Hall, August 10.

“ Impute this my so uncommon silence to sickness, and your silence to my last, where I so begged your advice concerning the state I was then under. Often have I inquired after yours and your worthy family's good health (that is so justly dear to me), and which I shall be so truly glad to hear of. But my present

present inquiry is, to know if some of my *July-flower* Seedlings (from inuch the best Seed I ever sowed) will be acceptable to you and your worthy neighbour, Doctor Stanhope. If so, I could wish some servant might be sent with a basket for them, against the first quarter of the moon, when I shall be re-transplanting of them, and by that means I may also have the pleasure of a posey of yours and Doctor Stanhope's Flowers. The favour of your answer will oblige, T. PETRE.

"A Layer of my bloted *Hedge-hog Hollin* is at your service.

"I have also some bold *Auricula's*, raised from Mr. Wentworth's of Woolley's Seed, which you may most freely command; but I beg, dear Sir, that you would not give yourself the trouble, unless you really think them worth fetching. My endless obligations make me proud of assuring, by any means, how much I am, honoured dear Sir, ever yours,

T. PETRE."

"HONOURED DEAR SIR,

August 27.

"The account Mr. Waterton lately gave me of your good health was all pleasure, as your kind inquiries after mine was all goodness. My pains, Sir, are not only racking disorders, but often mount violently up to my head; and as they daily increase, and my days shorten, my miseries must sharpen. My curiosity put me upon purchasing the book I take the freedom to send, in hopes it may remind you of something that may chance to do me service; it is prettily penned, but his grand proposition seems not fully proved.

"Unless, Sir, your Seedlings prove better than mine, I am sorry I sent them. I have saved your *Pett Pickotee*, but lost both your *Bezarts*. A roguish Gardener, whom I was forced to employ, stole half of your six *Tulips*, and two of the remaining three proved both of a sort. Your fine *Raynunculo's*, and most of my best *Tulips*, fell also into his hands; so that I shall be glad of an offett from my own, or any such sorts of *Tulips*, if any can conveniently be spared, with a layer of your two *Bezarts*; and, as I have some good sorts still left of *July-flowers*, the more freely you command them, the more you will oblige, honoured dear Sir, ever yours,

T. PETRE."

"HONOURED DEAR SIR,

October 4.

"Your silence to my last, which presented you with some Seedlings, makes me dread some sickness, or that those Carnations I was so choice of, and so carefully sent, came not safe to your hands: My uneasiness, however, on this head, is not comparable to my concern for that health I so heartily wish you, and which I must never have; for my pains grow not only much sharper, but more frequent than formerly. My grand catholicon, I am persuaded, must be patience. I have too often trespassed on yours; and shall be glad to know if my Seedlings came safe, and your thoughts on Cawood Seedlings, whereof such various reports have been sent to,

"Honoured dear Sir, ever yours,

T. PETRE.

"HONOURED

"HONOURED DEAR SIR,

October 9.

"With my hearty acknowledgments for your last favours, you have here the effects of my last promises; which had sooner waited on you, had my Layers been sooner struck. They rise so weak, that I am forced to send two old Roots of my two pretty sorts of *Painted Ladies*, with about ten more varieties, all differing from any I found with you in flower. I have lapt up two in a Hart's-tongue leaf, for my friend your Gardener, viz. *General Talmash* and *Westminster Grafton*, because I am persuaded he will admire them. Though they stood me to 12d. apiece, I would not give (as to myself) that price for a thousand of them.

"In hopes of an equivalent, I have added half a hundred *Raynunculo's* and *Emynies*; with three roots of *Double Pinks*, that have been flowering since May.

"Be pleased to let me know when you would have the *Double Yellow Rose*; I had sent it now, but that I thought it rather too soon. Give me also leave to beg at least one Layer of my *Crown of flowers*; for I have but two, and those so poor, that I fear they will die this Winter. I have yet less of my Seedling *Pyebald*, or the first pot in your Garden, viz. only one, but well rooted. One there was amongst your London Flowers, which you were pleased to mark yourself for me; and that I beg may be put up apart, with what Layers the two above-mentioned Flowers can conveniently furnish me. With my best respects to Madam Richardson, I am, most faithfully, &c.

T. PETRE."

"HONOURED DEAR SIR,

October 15.

"I received the favour of yours just as I was going to York, from whence I am just returned. I am heartily sorry for your mentioned indisposition, and shall be truly glad to hear of your perfect recovery. My pleasure would be infinitely more perfect, were I more able to serve you. I have sent the best Layer I could find amongst the *Passion Flowers*, with a couple of those July-flowers I found not amongst yours, viz. the *Anne of Great Britain*, and the *Dunkirk Painted Lady*; neither were they in Doctor Stanhope's collection. I have saved but very little Seed, but send it with great pleasure, because I know it to be good.

"I find myself under such chronical and complicated infirmities (so unfitting me for the Garden), that I design, as soon as possible, to part with all my Flowers, far cheaper than I bought them in. Your goodness being answerable to your interest and insight, you will, I am sure, do your best to befriend on this head, Honoured dear Sir, ever yours,

T. PETRE."

"HONOURED DEAR SIR,

Oct. 20.

"I am doubly in your debt for the favour of both yours, with the so welcomed box, for which you have my hearty thanks; and I am doubly unfortunate, both in being from home when you were so kind as to call at Walton, and for being also (as I fear) incapable of complying with your last desires; for Mr. Waterton who is yours, and very sorry he knew too late of your kindness

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in calling) assures me he fished that whole day to no purpose ; and believes the Otters have been as fatal to him as to yourself ; though I am rather of opinion, that the abundance of his Coal-pit water (he is now forced to let into the dam) is a far greater destroyer of his fish. He designs upon the first floods another fishing ; and if then he is successful, my endeavours shall not be wanting to serve you.

“ My last was run up in such haste, that I forgot Mr. Fletcher’s affair ; and your silence makes me fear his greater forgetfulness of one who so befriended him in his distress. Your further efforts on this head will further oblige, honoured dear Sir, &c. T. PETRE.”

MR. ISAAC RAND* to MR. SAMUEL BREWER †.

“ DEAR SIR,

Haymarket, Sept. 18, 1718.

“ In order to repair your loss, I send you, by the flying waggon of this day, a box containing the Plants mentioned on the other side ; amongst them, I doubt not but you will find some that you desired. I hope they will come safe ; I went with them myself to the carrier’s last night, and saw them booked. You will excuse the imperfections of some of their names ; I believe you will by them easily know what they are. I shall not forget to furnish you some Seeds, and though I send these now, it is not with an intention to debar your intended visit. When I shall have the happiness of seeing you at the Garden, I shall be very glad to supply you with what I can. I am able to judge nothing by the samples you sent. We have two Capsicum ; that perennial one is with a very small upright fruit, commonly called Birds-pepper at Barbadoes ; the other has hardly made fruit yet ; I know not if it be the same with yours,—if not, I should be glad of it. I never knew any of the Melongenas hold the winter, though they seem very sturdy plants ; they are commonly called Bringelle’s, but perhaps, this may be only a Solanum. Our gardeners have lost both the Henbane and Lotus, though the latter grew well, and we had made three or four Plants of it. Mr. Lloyd and his whole family have been in the country all this summer, and are still, else I had sent you his direction sooner ; his house is James street, by Covent-garden.

* An Apothecary in the Haymarket. He was appointed in 1722 Lecturer and Demonstrator at the Chelsea Garden, being the first who filled that office after Sir Hans Sloane’s donation. He published, in 1730, in 8vo, “*Index Plantarum Officinalium Horti Chelseiani*.” The list contains 518 plants of the *Materia Medica* ; and specifies the part of each used in Physic. He also published “*Horti Chelseiani Index Compendiarius*, 1739,” 8vo.—Houston gave the name of *Rand* to a West India shrub of the *Pentandrous* class, figured by Sloane : and it is retained by Linnæus. Pulteney, vol. II. p. 103.

† Of whom see before, p. 288.

“ We