BRITISH RECORDS RELATING TO AMERICA
IN MICROFORM

General Editor: Professor W E Minchinton

WODROW-KENRICK
CORRESPONDENCE
c 1750 – 1810

in
Dr Williams’s Library
London
(D W L MSS 24: 157)

Introduction by
Colin Bonwick
David Bruce Centre for American Studies
University of Keele

Calendar prepared by
John Creasey
Librarian
Dr Williams’s Library
1982

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BRITISH RECORDS RELATING TO AMERICA IN MICROFORM

General Editor W E Minchinton

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James Wodrow (1730-1810), a Scottish Presbyterian minister, and Samuel Kenrick (1728-1811), a Dissenting English banker, maintained an extensive correspondence for sixty years of their adult lives. Kenrick kept Wodrow's letters and his own letters were returned to him after his friend's death. Thereafter the united correspondence was preserved in the Kenrick family until in 1688 Miss Emily Reid of Hampstead, granddaughter of the Reverend Timothy Kenrick of Exeter (1759-1804) who was in turn nephew to Samuel, deposited two boxes of manuscripts in Dr Williams's Library, London. One comprised largely of notebooks which originally belonged to her uncle John Kenrick. The other box contained the Wodrow-Kenrick correspondence; it has been calendared by Mr John Creasey, Librarian of Dr Williams's Library, and is catalogued as MSS 24:157.

A related group of Kenrick papers was in 1925 in the possession of Miss Laetitia Sharpe of Highgate, a niece of Miss Reid. The papers were later deposited in the library of the University College, London, by Professor Egon Sharpe Pearson under the title Sharpe MSS Kenrick Papers. Much of this material relates to later generations of the Kenrick family from the late-eighteenth century onwards but it also includes a group of letters from Samuel Kenrick to his family. Of particular interest is a correspondence with his nephew, Timothy. A typescript copy of this correspondence is available in Dr Williams's Library.

Further details of the provenance of the Correspondence may be found in Mr Creasey's article 'The Birmingham riots of 1791', Transactions of the Unitarian Historical Society, XIII (1966) 111-13.
The eighteenth century was a great age for correspondence. Many regarded the letter not only as a simple medium of communication but also as a form of literature in itself; the correspondences of men such as Horace Walpole and others, brilliant though they were, were only a few among many. Others were less concerned with the letter as a literary form but found it a useful and often essential medium for elaborate, detailed and often passionate discussion and argumentation. The Wodrow Kenrick Correspondence is a good example of this latter form. It illustrates the culture of its times by showing two highly intelligent, well-educated and articulate men discussing and debating a wide range of topics including, of particular interest, the American and French Revolutions. The correspondence also offers among other things insight into the affairs of Presbyterianism in Scotland, Dissent in England, the University of Glasgow and banking in the rapidly industrialising West Midlands. Here also is a notable example of the operation of that often nebulous phenomenon known as informed public opinion. If the richness of eighteenth-century culture lies in part in the brilliance of Walpole, Edmund Burke and Lord Chesterfield, it also lies in the depth represented by men such as these.

Samuel Kenrick, elder of the two men, was born at his father's house in Ruben, Denbighshire, on 17 June 1728. He was the third of six sons of the Reverend John Kenrick, Dissenting minister of Wrexham, and Sarah, the only daughter of the Reverend Archibald Hamilton, minister of Corstorphine near Edinburgh, and Sarah Wynne of the old Denbighshire family of that name. As boys the Kenrick brothers were given the groundwork of their education by the Reverend Protheroe, curate of the parish, who had the reputation of being a good classical scholar. It seems to have stood Samuel Kenrick in good stead. In 1743 he followed the path of increasing numbers of English Dissenters by going up to the University of Glasgow with the intention of preparing for the ministry; later he abandoned the idea because he did not feel himself able to fulfill the necessary obligations as well as he would have wished. While at Glasgow he spent his vacation with the Reverend Robert Millar, minister of the Abbey Kirk, Paisley, and husband to a cousin of his mother. After the sudden death of his father in 1745 Kenrick was appointed to one of Dr Williams's Exhibitions in the University; he was admitted to the degree of Master of Arts in December 1747. While in Glasgow he watched the Young Pretender, Charles Edward, enter the city in silence and enrolled as a Volunteer in defence of his lawful King and country. It was during these years that he met James Wodrow, a fellow student at the University.

For several years after going down from Glasgow it seemed as if Kenrick had entered on a career as a teacher. In 1750 he was appointed tutor to the two sons of James Milliken of Milliken in Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire; one of the attractions of the post was that the minister of Kilbarchan was Wodrow's cousin John Warner, who was later to figure prominently in the family sections of the correspondence. Ten years later, from 1760 to 1763, Kenrick accompanied his elder pupil James Milliken on the grand tour of Europe, visiting Holland, Germany, Switzerland and Italy. During the course of the tour he met the brilliant philosophers Voltaire, who amused him, and Rousseau, whom he regarded as a misanthrope, and was introduced at the court of Victor Amadeus of Sardinia. Unfortunately his pupil died while they were in Venice but Kenrick remained for some time before returning to Scotland in 1763. The following year he took his younger pupil Alexander on a tour of France and Germany; a second misfortune struck shortly after their return to Britain for Alexander died before they could get home to Scotland.
Although Kenrick reluctantly took a few more pupils, he fairly soon made a decision that determined the course of the remainder of his life. His younger brother had established a business as a tobacconist and snuff-maker in Bewdley, Worcestershire, and about 1765 Kenrick decided to join him. More importantly, the brother had also just begun the first banking business in the county in association with the London bankers Messrs Coutts of the Strand. Bewdley, in the Severn Valley, was ripe for the development of banking for it was close to the heart of a rapidly expanding industrial area. Kenrick evidently established a sound reputation as a banker for about 1778 several leading gentlemen of the town invited him to manage a new and larger bank; he accepted the invitation and remained an active partner until his retirement on 21 July 1810. After fourteen months of retirement Kenrick died in 1811. Mary, his only child and author of a memoir from which much of our knowledge of his life is derived, died the following year. Other members of the family however continued to be prominent in the industrial development of the West Midlands and others in the life of nineteenth-century nonconformity.

The second partner in the correspondence, James Wodrow, came from a family which had long been prominent in Scottish intellectual and religious affairs but he himself was far less active than Kenrick. He was born on 21 March 1730, the ninth son (and fifteenth of sixteen children) of Robert Wodrow, minister of Eastwood, Renfrewshire, and Margaret, daughter of the Reverend Patrick Warner, minister of Irvine, Ayrshire. His grandfather James (1637-1707) had been Professor of Divinity at Glasgow University and his father (1679-1734) had achieved prominence as an antiquarian, historian, preacher and especially as a Presbyterian publicist; most notably he had been author of The history of the sufferings of the Church of Scotland from the Restoration to the Revolution and a vigorous advocate of the interests of his sect. The youngest child of the family, Alexander, emigrated to America where he had an estate and died about the end of the Revolution.

Like Kenrick, Wodrow intended to enter the church but unlike his friend he kept to his original intentions. While at the University of Glasgow he read widely in the relevant subjects and also served in the Volunteers raised to defend the country during the 'Forty-five'. He was admitted to the degree of Master of Arts in 1750, served as University Librarian from 1750 to 1755 and was made Doctor of Divinity in 1758. Licensed as a minister in 1753, he was inducted into the parish of Dunlop four years later and moved to Stevenston in 1759. In the same year he married Louisa Hamilton, daughter of an Edinburgh bookseller; they had six children.

The parish of Stevenston incorporated an area of about six and a quarter square miles on the Ayrshire coast within the presbytery of Irvine. Besides agricultural land it contained coal mines and produced salt and included a harbour and watering place at Saltcoats. In 1755 its population was 1431; by 1791 this had risen to 2425. As parish minister Wodrow possessed a glebe of just over five acres and in 1787 built himself a new manse. A gentle and kind person, he established a reputation as a man of great respectability, uprightness of character and high attainments while at Stevenston; he was also considered to be an excellent lecturer. His intellectual and personal qualities made him an attractive candidate for other appointments but, in spite of his family traditions and close connection with the University, Wodrow preferred to remain a parish minister until his death on 17 December 1810. His only publications were an account of the author's life and lectures which were prefixed to his edition of William Leechman's Sermons, published in 1789; an account of the parish of Stevenston in Sir John Sinclair's Statistical account of Scotland, printed in the same year; and two of his own sermons published in Edinburgh in 1794 under the title The measures of divine providence towards men and nations suitable to their behaviour.
There can be no doubt that for both Wodrow and Kenrick their period at University was the crucial fact in their intellectual development. With men such as Francis Hutcheson, until his death in 1746, and Adam Smith, until 1763, on its staff, Glasgow enjoyed a distinguished reputation. In particular, its Divinity School attracted more students than any other in Scotland, including a number of Dissenters from south of the border. Wodrow and Kenrick were specially influenced by the teachings of William Leechman, who had been appointed Professor of Divinity in 1743. Superficially Leechman appeared to be ascetic but he was a popular teacher; he lectured four days a week during the six-month session and spent an hour on Fridays and sometimes Saturdays listening to discourses. While at Glasgow Leechman got into difficulties on account of his liberal theology, which was considered by some to be heretical, but as a teacher he introduced his pupils to the great controversies of Christianity and then left them to formulate their own judgements. Wodrow always considered attendance at Leechman’s lectures as one of the happiest events of his life; Kenrick declared that he owed all his enlightened and cheering views of Christianity to Leechman (according to his daughter, Kenrick was a decided but unbegotten Unitarian – certainly he admired Theophilus Lindsey who had opened the first avowed Unitarian chapel in London and was one of the first members of the Western Unitarian Society, founded by his nephew Timothy). Although business affairs necessarily occupied much of his attention, Kenrick maintained an active and informed interest in theology for the remainder of his life. He discussed theological and ecclesiastical subjects with Wodrow in Scotland and his nephew Timothy Kenrick while he was a student at Daventry academy and derived much pleasure and comfort from comparing the original Greek text of the New Testament with the Latin, Italian, French and English translations. In 1790 he served as secretary to a delegate meeting of Worcestershire Dissenters which passed resolutions supporting the current campaign to obtain repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts.

Kenrick’s other activities serve to strengthen our understanding of provincial culture, which was in many respects both sophisticated and articulate. He founded a book club in Bewdley and seems also to have borrowed volumes from Dr Williams’s Library in London. He knew William Rose, one of the principals of the Monthly Review, a publication which he and others who lived outside London found invaluable. He met Joseph Priestley while he was minister to the Birmingham New Meeting and was offered a tutorship in languages at the famous dissenting academy at Warrington about 1773 but declined it in the interests of his family. Both he and Wodrow made visits to London; while he was on a trip to discuss his edition of Leechman’s sermons with Thomas Cadell the publisher, Wodrow met one of the outstanding nonconformist ministers of his day, Richard Price.
3 THE WODROW-KENRICK CORRESPONDENCE

The richness of the Wodrow-Kenrick Correspondence as an historical source comprises not only its length but the variety of its subject matter. It begins c 1750 and ends with a letter from Samuel Kenrick dated 28 September 1810. There are no letters for the period January 1761 to February 1768 and another gap occurs between May 1771 and April 1774; otherwise the correspondence is fairly complete. Until about 1774 the two men concentrated on personal matters - their travels and pupils, theology, matters of interest to Dissenters and other private topics. Thereafter there is a long section that is of particular concern to those who are interested in America, for its central theme is a debate over the American Revolution.

What is particularly distinctive about Wodrow and Kenrick's discussion of the American Revolution is that, although they shared the same intellectual inheritance, they took different sides when the imperial crisis came to a head. Kenrick supported the colonists in their resistance to what they considered to be unwarrented intrusion into American affairs; Wodrow was broadly sympathetic to the policies of the British government. In this one is tempted to see the consequences of a difference in temperament; the one energetic, enterprise and articulate; and other cautious and somewhat conservative and preferring a quiet life. Certainly there were already indications by 1771 that the friends would disagree, for Wodrow lamented that English Dissenters were so often to be found supporting the opposition in politics rather than the government. (Wodrow was of course a minister of the Established Church in Scotland while Kenrick and other Dissenters were the victims of discriminatory and outdated legislation in England). Their disagreement plainly caused embarrassment. They were anxious to avoid giving offence to each other but their active interest in public affairs and their intellectual integrity imposed a moral imperative which required them to discuss the most important political issue of the period. Each man was saddened by the stance taken by his friend and tried gently to win him round to his own position but was reluctant to go to such lengths as would impair the strength of their friendship. The product of this unease was a series of letters that were often of considerable length and which explored the problems of the Anglo-American relationship in great detail.

Wodrow and Kenrick had always taken considerable pains to be well-informed on political and other public affairs. They were well-read in such works as William Blackstone's Commentaries on the laws of England and Catherine Macaulay's 'republican' History of England and they set the issues in the broader context of Locke, Hutcheson, Montesquieu and contemporary philosophical authors. They evidently read their newspapers with care and often referred to the various monthly Reviews which they found useful guides to current literature. They liked to keep up as much as possible with the flood of pamphlets stimulated by the American Revolution (well over a thousand different titles were printed on various aspects of the subject in a twenty-year period). Among those specifically mentioned was Richard Price's Observations on the nature of civil liberty, the most important English pamphlet published in support of the Americans, which Kenrick sent to Wodrow with the plea that he should read it. Past sermons published during the war by their friends Benjamin Dawson and Newcome Cappe were also mentioned, together with the sermon The dominion of providence over the passions of men which had been delivered by the recent Scottish emigrant John Witherspoon at Princeton, New Jersey, and later reprinted in Britain. On the other side of the argument, tracts by Samuel Johnson, John Wesley and John Shebbeare were also discussed.
The nub of the matter as far as the American crisis was concerned was that Kenrick regarded the colonies as independent of Great Britain in the sense that Scotland had been (that is, that they were associated with Britain under a single crown but in other respects enjoyed the benefits of self-government); Wodrow looked on the colonies as dependent provinces. The implications of this difference of view were worked out when they came to articulate their views on the colonial conflict. Kenrick believed that American liberties were in great danger while they were entrusted to the British parliament; for Wodrow the experience of a hundred and fifty years suggested that they were perfectly safe. From these positions flowed their respective comments on the course of the Revolution. Wodrow rejected the change that the British government had developed dangerously tyrannous proclivities and argued that since the American colonies were part of the empire they ought to contribute to its support. He laid responsibility for the conflict firmly on American shoulders from the days of the Stamp Act onwards and approved Lord North's attempts to suppress the rebellion of what he regarded as a disaffected minority. Although he regretted the policy of taxation and would have approved the removal of all restrictions on American trade and the grant of representation in parliament, he considered that the authority to levy taxation on the colonists was a lawful prerogative of the British parliament at Westminster and condemned the ineffectuality of successive administrations' attempts to enforce it. Kenrick's attitudes were virtually a mirror image of Wodrow's. He also sought to demonstrate that he was far from expressing the opinions of a small and unrepresentative minority; indeed the letters contain considerable discussion of the condition of public opinion in their two countries. As the war progressed, Wodrow was inclined to view the British government as unfortunate and lacking in foresight rather than wicked and dishonest in its intention. Kenrick was grateful that liberty still appeared to exist on the other side of the Atlantic.

After the fall of Lord North's government in March 1782 Kenrick and Wodrow turned largely away from American affairs (there are a few references in the 1780s and more in the 1790s) but continued to discuss the politics of successive ministries and other matters. Always their comments on public affairs were informed by the distinctive approach of liberal religion. The status and affairs of English Dissent and Scottish Presbyterianism were matters of special concern: they discussed the affairs of various ministers, notably Joseph Priestley in Birmingham; the development of Methodism and John Wesley's visits to the West Midlands; and, from 1787, the various attempts to secure repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts. They also wrote of the campaign to abolish slavery and the academic politics of the University of Glasgow. On his side Kenrick mentioned some of the problems of his banking firm and aspects of the social and industrial affairs of his region.

With the outbreak of the French Revolution there was once more a political phenomenon of the greatest importance to attract their attention. Initially Kenrick shared the common belief that the events of 1789 formed a French version of the English Revolution of a century earlier. Later both men were horrified by the September Massacres, discussion of which dominated their correspondence for several letters, and they were both disillusioned by 1794. The rise of Napoleon Buonaparte also alarmed them and they talked about foreign policy, the organisation of the country's defences and the invasion of Ireland. But Wodrow and Kenrick were also deeply concerned about the effects the Revolution was having on domestic political life. Much of their correspondence during this period is concerned with the security
of liberty in Britain. They discussed the Birmingham riots of 1791, pamphlets such as Edmund Burke's Reflections on the Revolution in France and Thomas Paine's Rights of Man and others; the political societies, the government's policy of repression and the trials of the radicals Thomas Fysshe Palmer and Thomas Muir in Scotland. In the mid-1790s they discussed the increase in emigration to America stimulated by official repression and Kenrick retailed reports of the prospects for settlement, news of recent emigrants (notably Priestley and a nephew in Philadelphia) and commented on the treatment meted out to Priestley during the administration of John Adams.

After 1802 the correspondence became increasingly theological and personal in its content, although the two friends continued to discuss the war and politics to some extent.

Additional information about the subjects and persons mentioned can be found in the calendar.
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and letters relating in part to the personalities of the above correspondence:

1875  284-287
5 CALENDAR OF THE CORRESPONDENCE

Prepared by John Creasey

NB There were no letters between January 1761 and February 1768. Apart from a gap between May 1771 and April 1774, during which no letters are preserved, the correspondence is fairly complete. Where a lost letter can be dated the date is added to this list but no number is assigned.

<table>
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<th>C. 1750</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>James Wodrow</th>
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<td>1750</td>
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<td>Samuel Kenrick</td>
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<td>Samuel Kenrick</td>
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<td>Review of James Peirce's 'Essay in favour...of giving the Eucharist to children'. Letter of Tillotson to Burnet, 23 October 1695.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>James Wodrow</td>
<td>Glasgow</td>
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<td>Has a pupil. Asks advice on managing pupil's temper. Comments on fellow students, 'the rest are a pack of Irish Ragamuffins &amp; Scotch Clowns'.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Samuel Kenrick</td>
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<td>Treatment of his pupils</td>
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<td>1751</td>
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<td>Samuel Kenrick</td>
<td>Hume's Essays.</td>
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<td>Samuel Kenrick</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>James Wodrow</td>
<td>Monkland</td>
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<td>On vacation, reading with his pupil. Recommends new edition of Volusene's De animi tranquillitate [Edinburgh, 1751] which he is reading.</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Samuel Kenrick</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>James Wodrow</td>
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<td>Samuel Kenrick</td>
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<td>Samuel Kenrick</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>James Wodrow</td>
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<td>'We have got a new sort of Lectures...on Rhetoric!'.</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Samuel Kenrick</td>
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<td>Difficulties of the post.</td>
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1752

16  James Wodrow   Glasgow   21 January
John Anderson may publish against Hume. University politics.
Glasgow clergy oppose Hume's election [to Chair of logic]. Hume's
political essays, which he has read. The lectures in rhetoric.

17  Samuel Kenrick   Milliken   23 January
Hume's Enquiry concerning the principles of morals.

18  Samuel Kenrick   13 March

19  Samuel Kenrick   Friday, nd but seems 1752
Is reading James Harris's Hermes (1751).

1753

20  Samuel Kenrick   9 August
Death of Mr Scot of Paisley [Rev. Peter Scott, minister of Laigh
church, Paisley, and son-in-law of Rev. Robert Millar].

21  James Wodrow   Glasgow   14 October

1754

22  Samuel Kenrick   31 July

1755

23  James Wodrow   Kilwinning   9 March
24  James Wodrow   Kilwinning   27 April

1758

25  Samuel Kenrick   Glasgow   26 April
26  Samuel Kenrick   7 December
27  Samuel Kenrick   26 December

1759

28  Samuel Kenrick   10 January

29  Samuel Kenrick   13 [March/April]
Reading William Robertson's History of Scotland during the reigns
of Queen Mary and of King James VI... [First edition, published

30  Samuel Kenrick   Glasgow   2 April

31  Samuel Kenrick   York   14 June
His journey thither from Glasgow. Haddington, Berwick, Alnwick
Castle, Newcastle: 'You would think you was in a bee-hive to walk
the streets of this town'. Coal-trade, glass-making, iron-works.
Durham. Met Dr Leechman in the cathedral. Disapproving description
of choral service.
32 Samuel Kenrick London 30 June

33 James Wodrow Dunlop 10 July

34 Samuel Kenrick London 17 July

35 Samuel Kenrick London 12-16 August
Largely a copy of a ms he claims to have been given the look of, comparing English and French characteristics. News of Lord George Sackville.

36 Samuel Kenrick Bristol 29 August
Left London on 17 August for Portsmouth. Fortifications there. Visit to Isle of Wight.

37 Samuel Kenrick Glasgow 15 November

38 James Wodrow Stevenston 2 December

39 Samuel Kenrick Glasgow 5 December

1760

40 James Wodrow Stevenston [ ] April

41 Samuel Kenrick Utrecht 6 August
Left Harwich on 24 July for Belvoet. Journeys in Holland. Experiences at The Hague, etc. The Bibliotheque des sciences et des beaux arts, edited by Mr De Chais [Charles Chais, 1701-85, see F and F Haag, La France Protestant (Paris, 9 vols, 1846-59)] and his son-in-law Mr Macalaine [Archibald Macalaine, 1722-1804, divine, see DNB, XII, 635], the latter remembered at Glasgow in 1745. At Utrecht from 13 August. 'I tell you that the sect of Hennutters or Moravians have their principal seat...abt. 6 miles from hence'. Discussion of them. Description of a Moravian service and funeral. Their mode of singing.
1761

James Wodrow Stevenston 4 January
News of University of Glasgow. Some English pupils there, including 'one West...only son to the Secretary of the Treasury at London...utterly incapable...improvement...since for some years past he has been accustomed to all the Dissipation of London without the least controll' [James West, 1742-95, son of James West d 1772, see DNB, XX, 1241-2]. Glasgow in mourning. Favourable opinions of new King [George III]. Anecdotes on him: 'one might almost already make a collection of his Bon mots'. Maclaine. Anecdote of Scotch ministers waiting upon King in London.

1768

Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 24 February
Last letter he can find that directed to him in January 1761 with an answer drafted but not sent. Wishes to renew correspondence. Settled here 'above two years ago'. Biographical details. Has pupils. Job Orton has settled in neighbourhood. Wrote six months ago to Leechman recommending Orton for a Glasgow DD but has had no reply.

Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 6 October
Hopes of hearing. Orton has now recommendations for the honour from a 'quarter where he is sure of success'. Has been told at Oxford that two thirds of the Scotch clergy are Deists. What is Wodrow's opinion on this.

1769

James Wodrow Stevenston 25 January
Biographical and family details. Has refused offers of removal. Financial matters. Father-in-law left whole fortune sunk in a paper manufacture. Orton. Deists, where they are likely to be, the estimate 'quite outre'. Deism has spread of late. Asks Kenrick's opinion of 'the state of minds of the generality of the literati with respect to Christianity particularly in France, Holland & Italy?'. The Philosophers. Apprehension of increasing Socinianism. Poloni frater. Heresy process in Scotland against Mr Ferguson, minister of Kilwinning [Alexander Ferguson, 1689-1770]. The Confessional. [Incomplete.]

1770

[Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 19 March]

1771

James Wodrow Stevenston 1 May
Discussion of Benjamin Dawson [1729-1814] and the Confessional controversy. Family matters. Ferguson business.

1771

James Wodrow Stevenston 28 January
Case of Orton. Conversation with Leechman on this. Ecclesiastical politics in the Presbytery. Who is William Harris?

1771

Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 31 March
Leechman, Orton, William Pulteney, late Wully Johnstone, Charles Sherriff. Mr Herries. Robert Andrews [d 1766, see DNB, I, 409]. With this is a draft in French of a letter of the same date and a draft, principally in shorthand, of this letter. William Harris.
49 James Wodrow Stevenston 22 May

[Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 2 July]

1774

50 James Wodrow Stevenston 5 April
'the cause of Xian Liberty'. Uneasy about Price, Farmer [Hugh
Farmer, 1714-87, see DNB, VI, 1075-7] and Palmer. News of friends
and family. Leechman. Doings in the University. New farm and
'a high piece of ridicule on Lt. Monbody's 1st vol A Book upon
Hawking...the real author is Sandy Gilles [Alexander Gilles, d 1786]
a preacher in Airshire'.

1775

[Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 27 April Did not arrive]

51 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 19 July
'Our whole attention & conversation are at present engrossed [gap
in ms] affairs of America. What are the sentiments of the wise and
good among you on this head?'.

52 James Wodrow Stevenston 13 August
Health of Warner and Milliken. 'I have neither room nor inclination
to say any thing on American affairs'.

53 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 30 August
Has consulted James Johnstone father and son over Warner's symptoms.
Sends receipt. Various possible treatments, including electricity.
Book society at Bewdley. His introduction of a lace factory at
Bridgnorth, the employment it gives. News of various people. Ansty
author of new Bath guide. Knows Miss Aiken. Was asked to undertake
modern languages at Warrington Academy. Monthly reviewers. America.
Whispered that Price's and Wilton's letters to America have been
intercepted.

54 James Wodrow Stevenston 19 September
Warner. Farming. What is the character of the present Lord Lyttelton?
The Correspondents [a novel, see Monthly Review, LII, 430 ff]. Diffs
over America. Monthly Review. American taxes, their propriety, etc.

1776

55 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 29 January; 18 March
[This was written at two dates. The next had arrived before the
greater part was written.] Warner. Dunlop's farming. The
Correspondents and Lord Lyttelton. America and liberty. Samuel

56 James Wodrow Stevenston 1 February
Warner's illness and remedies tried, including the Electricity

57 James Wodrow Cromla in...Arran 15 June; 24 June
Health of Warner. Communion in Warner's parish in May. Death of
Milliken. Death of his sister Jenny. Family affairs. Health of
his son Gavin. Lyttelton family. America. Description of place
he is staying at.
1777

[Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  18 April]

[Samuel Kenrick  ? London]

58

James Wodrow  Stevenston  1 October
Postal difficulties and delays. America. Disagreements. Wodrow's opinions. Local affairs. Milliken estate to be sold. Enormous debt upon it. Incomplete. [There is a set of shorthand notes of this letter.] Wodrow's arguments on the American war.

1778

59

Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  29 January - 13 February
Answer to the last. America. Division of English county members on American matters. Petitions from various parts of England against the war. Authors supporting the ministry, Johnston, Shebbeare [John Shebbeare, 1709-98, see DNB, XVIII, 1-4]. 'Wesley the canting methodist', etc. Anecdote of Sir John Dalrymple. American rights and wrongs. Has been to London. Met Daniel Noble. His school and preaching, Theophilus Lindsey, Evanson. Jebb and Tyrwhitt have resigned. 'On the other hand we have a multiply. sect called Methodists...Few or no dissenters join them. They are protected by the countess of Huntingdon'. There are drafts of the second and third sheets of this letter.

60

James Wodrow  Stevenston  16 March

61

Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  2 April
Mahogany. News of the Kenrick family.

[James Wodrow  Stevenston  17 April]

62

Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  28 April
Business. Pamphlet by Pulteney, Thoughts on the present state of affairs with America. Mrs Catherine Macaulay's History. Saw the statue of her being erected in St Stephen's Wallbrook last September. Had on it a quotation from The Correspondents which he supposes Dr Wilson has erased but since he has had to take the whole piece out of the church. Projected union with Ireland.

63

James Wodrow  Stevenston  28 May
Sherriff business. Caldwell.
There are some shorthand notes on this letter.

[Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  5 August]

64

Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  13 August
Caldwell. Reminiscenses of tour in 1759. Eulogy of Thomas Wigan who is not named.

65

James Wodrow  Stevenston  21 September
66 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 26 October 1779

67 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley
Last leaf of a letter relating to the Sherriff business which seems to belong about this time.

1780

[James Wodrow Stevenston 20 April]

68 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 8 May
Political and other affairs. Lord North. Andrew Millar the printer.

69 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 12 May
Continuation of last. Affairs in England, etc.

1781

[James Wodrow 25 April]

70 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 9 May
Priestley has accepted to preach at Birmingham once on Sundays. Has published his first sermon asserting his Unitarian principles. He admits children to the sacrament.

71 James Wodrow Stevenston 31 July
Sherriff business. Death of his son Gavin. Leechman's opinion of him. Enclosed is a letter from Robert Dundas, Edinburgh, 30 June, to Wodrow relating to the Sherriff affair which Wodrow was looking after.

72 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 15 August
More of Priestley's coming to Birmingham. His attack on Hume's metaphysical writings.

73 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 29 November
'What do your friends of administration say now of the American war?'

1782

74 James Wodrow Stevenston 23 May

[James Wodrow 18 September]

[Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 3 October]

75 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 26 November
The government and political affairs. On frank a copy of a letter of John Churchill's [post Duke of Marlborough] copied from the ms at Hagley Park, dated 1678.

[James Wodrow 25 November]

76 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 6 December
Delays in letters. Incomplete.

[James Wodrow 16 December]
1783

77 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 9-14 May
Sherriff business. His banking concerns at Bewdley. Their growth
and failures. Invites Helen Wodrow to Bewdley. Society at
Cheltenham. An intended publication by McGill. Fox-North coalition.
Scottish and English differing notions of government.

[James Wodrow 10 September]

78 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 8 October
Scottish and English characters. Grievances of the Poor Law, Church
establishment. Incomplete.

1784

79 James Wodrow Stevenston 15 April
Poor rates. Dissenters in Scotland. Theological questions. Has
not seen Priestley's Corruptions of Christianity. Reviews. Politics.
Support of Pitt. Supporters of Fox, would like to see Fox defeated
at Westminster. Forecasts for poll in Scotland. Mason's English
garden.

80 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 2 June
Mary Kenrick about to set out for a visit to Scotland. Poor provision
of poor rates in Birmingham 'without exception the most busy
industrious thriving spot in the world'. Shropshire ironworkers near
Glasgow. Decay of liberalism in Scotland. Patronage. Hutcheson in
Political matters in England. Conduct of the Prince of Wales. Prefers
Hayley to Mason or Young.

81 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 13 August
His impressions of Priestley on first meeting him two days previously.

82 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley [Written on the same sheet as a letter to Mary Kenrick and torn off by her and given to Wodrow.]

[James Wodrow 17 September]

83 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 28 September
Change in system of franking letters 'will bring a deal of money to
government'. Mary should now start for home. Reminiscence of en-
listing at Glasgow in 1745. Description of visit to Priestley.
[Incomplete.]

84 James Wodrow Stevenston etc 22, 28, 29 October
To accompany Mary Kenrick and Helen Wodrow to Bewdley. Visits to
Warner and to Mrs Milliken. Ms of William McGill on 'Death' on
which he asks Kenrick's opinion, also a printed sermon. Ms may
be considered doubtful theologically. Hope to publish it anonymously.
McGill lost money in the Ayr bank. Account of the Buchananites,
followers of Elspeth Buchan (with extract copied from Glasgow newspaper,
29 May 1784), and their doings. Death of Haddow. Has drawn up epitaph
for him. Matters on Helen Wodrow's journey to Bewdley. Has been
reading Priestley on 'Necessity'. Hayley's plays. To Glasgow.
Visits Leechman, matters discussed. Mary meets him.
85 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 2-3 December
Mary Kenrick and Helen Wodrow arrived at Bewdley on 19 November. M'Gill's sermon and ms. Will show letter to Priestley when he has opportunity. English dialect. Priestley retains 'marks of the Yorkshire pronunciation both in familiar discourse & in the pulpit'. More on dialect. Haley.

86 James Wodrow Stevenston 7 December
General matters. Visits made. Death of Richard Oswald. His will and vast fortune. His knowledge and judgment of American affairs. Dr Worther'spon: 'I believe he had no other Errand here but to pay his debts & see his friends'.

1785

87 James Wodrow Stevenston 3 January
M'Gill's ms. M'Gill's comments on Priestley in letter to Wodrow. Pauline epistles. Priestley publications. Some critical publications on the Bible about to appear in Scotland by Dr Campbell, Principal Tillyduff and Dr Macknight.

88 James Wodrow Stevenston 7 January
Warner has been very ill. His papers dispersed by a servant. The Countess of Sutherland wants to introduce spinning Jennies to Dornoch. Has tried to discover whether she has imbibed the principles of her aunt, Lady Glenorchy, 'the Head of the Methodists in Scotland'. Will be glad to see Priestley's Answer to Horsley but must read both sides. The clergy of the Norwich diocese have entered the lists against Priestley. Who is the Bishop of Norwich? More news of the Buchanites. Proposals to enlarge the harbour of Saltcoats.

89 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 14 January
Has sent M'Gill's 'Analysis' and printed sermon to Priestley. His reply quoted. Kenrick did not realise that Priestley and M'Gill differed so much in sentiment.

90 James Wodrow Stevenston 19 January

91 James Wodrow Stevenston 6 February
His sister has died. M'Gill has been given a DD by Glasgow. Is of Kenrick's opinion that M'Gill and Priestley do not differ materially on the subject of the ms. 'A most terrible stramash' at present in the College of Glasgow where Professor Anderson, who has quarrelled with all the rest but Dr Reid, has been deprived of his [ ]. He has put himself at the head of the Irish and a few others who have been meeting weekly.

92 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 22 February
Brisbane has given him some account of the business at Glasgow. Astonished that Anderson should so behave. Remembers his stories of jealousies and enmities in which Adam Smith was the principal object during their tour together of England. There is now a second book society in Bewdley.

93 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 21 March
Has been on a tour in Shropshire. State of the country. It has been a tedious and Siberian winter. Has been reading Coxe's Account of Poland and Russia and Rennant's Tour in Cheshire, Shropshire and North Wales.
94 James Wodrow Stevenston 25 March
McGill intends to go forward with publishing his work. Regrets the loss of Kenrick as a preacher. Quotation from a letter of Mrs Leechman's about the Anderson business. Nell Wodrow should soon be coming home.

95 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 27 April
Reading Mitford's History of Greece. Why he did not become a minister. Anderson.

[James Wodrow Edinburgh 12 May]

96 James Wodrow Edinburgh 16 June
In Edinburgh for the Assembly. Glasgow affair. Visits. Growth of the new town. Priestley's first volume (?History of the Corruptions) partly confirms his belief that the English Socinians have not read the Poloni Fratres. Macknight about to publish his Commentary on the Epistles. Most wishes to see a volume of sermons about to be published by Samuel Charters.

97 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 29 June
Anderson. Met with one Hamilton at an inn in Shrewsbury, a vigorous defender of Anderson who told many tales. His opinion of various reviews. Robert Raikes.

98 James Wodrow Stevenston 21 July

99 James Wodrow Stevenston 5 August
Visitors. His brother-in-law, Dr Hamilton. Edinburgh society. Drs Erskine, Robinson and Blair. Macknight: 'Many of these new views are nostrums of his own'.

[Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 22 August]

100 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 19 September
Nell Wodrow is leaving Bewdley. Sends two printed pieces, a sermon at the opening of the Sunday school by Mr Jesse 'a strict Calvinist, & what they call here a Methodist' who 'shudders at the name of Dr Priestley' and one by Mr Wigan 'the most intimate friend I have in England'.

101 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 23 September
Nell has left for Manchester, Mary going with her on the 19th as far as Birmingham. Thanks for pencil sketches.

102 James Wodrow Stevenston 27 September
Worries at not having heard from Bewdley. Boswell's Letter to the people of Scotland. Harry Erskine's remark on it.

103 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 5 October
Answers the last. Opinions of Boswell.

[James Wodrow Stevenston 21 October]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21 October</td>
<td>James Wodrow</td>
<td>Stevenston</td>
<td>Inquiry for two of his parishioners who have commenced brewing. A meeting over the proposal to diminish the number of judges in the Court of session. Dr Leechman unwell with erysipelas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 November</td>
<td>Samuel Kenrick</td>
<td>Bewdley</td>
<td>Directions about the hops. Anderson. Fordey's Addresses to the Deity. Quotations from one of these about Samuel Johnson. Saw a Show in Birmingham. A chess-playing automaton in London.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 December</td>
<td>James Wodrow</td>
<td>Stevenston</td>
<td>Nell has at last arrived home. Leechman's death is at hand. He recovered from the erysipelas but 'was seized suddenly when drinking a dish of Tea in his Dining room'. Progress of the illness. Wodrow's visit to him. A visit by Anderson, by other relatives and friends. Saw Lunardi's ascent from Glasgow on 23 November.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 December</td>
<td>Samuel Kenrick</td>
<td>Bewdley</td>
<td>Reading Melmoth's translation of Cicero's De senectute. Ferguson's Roman history. Has been interrupted by a gentleman just come from Windsor who told anecdotes of the King.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 December</td>
<td>James Wodrow</td>
<td>Stevenston</td>
<td>Death of Leechman. His funeral. Obituary in the newspapers by Mr Arthur [offprint of his included]. Wodrow preached in the College chapel the Sunday afternoon following the funeral. Synopsis and peroration of the sermon. He is an executor and trustee. Mrs Leechman has given him her husband's manuscripts. Anderson's scurrilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 January</td>
<td>James Wodrow</td>
<td>Stevenston</td>
<td>Sorting Leechman's papers. Notes on some of them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 January</td>
<td>James Wodrow</td>
<td>Stevenston</td>
<td>Leechman's papers. [Incomplete]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 February</td>
<td>Samuel Kenrick</td>
<td>Bewdley</td>
<td>Leechman. Belsham's sermon at Timothy Kenrick's ordination. Priestley's 5 November sermon. Of the Dissenting academies only Daventry is now open.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 April</td>
<td>James Wodrow</td>
<td>Stevenston</td>
<td>Death of John Warner, minister of Kilbarchan. Is trying to sort his papers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
115 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 25 April

116 James Wodrow Stevenston 2 May
Letter being carried by a Mr Rose who has been studying at Glasgow;
his father was master of an Academy near London [ie Samuel Rose,
1767-1804, son of William Rose]. Leechman papers. Wesley, Raikes,
the Prince of Wales, water carriage scheme. Boswell's Tour.

117 James Wodrow Glasgow 17 May
Is in Glasgow sorting Leechman's papers. The University is giving

118 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 3 July
Suggestions for Leechman volume. Subscriptions coming in for a 'new
academical institution...in London'. One just started at Manchester.
The older dissenters opposing by letters, etc. Kenrick a Williams
exhibitioner at Glasgow. Rogers the Chairman of the committee.
Jesse's Letters. Opposed to Priestley. A Hutchinsonian. Notes of
his methods. Has just seen Priestley's 'Larger work in 4 vols.'

119 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 20 July
William Rose, once a private tutor at Daventry academy. Married a
daughter of Samuel Clarke of St Albans. Views on opinions of
Leechman's. The Monthly Review, how started and carried on. More
of Raikes. Water carriage schemes. Anecdote of some papers of
Job Orton's.

[Part of this letter published in the Christian Remembrancer, VIII
(1841) 534]

120 James Wodrow Stevenston, Tarbolton, Kirk Oswald
10-15 August
General matters. Hertzell. A carriage propelled by a steam engine
invented at Leedhill.

121 James Wodrow Stevenston 28 August
Raikes. Canals in Scotland.

122 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 28 September
Leechman. University reminiscenses. [Incomplete].

123 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 7 October
Jesse. Priestley's Early opinions. Mrs Rayner. Anecdotes of
[Incomplete].

124 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 16 October
Priestley's Early opinions. Boswell's Tour. Dr Johnson.

125 James Wodrow Stevenston 23 November

1787

126 James Wodrow Stevenston 9 January
to it. A possible heresy charge.
<table>
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<tr>
<td>19 January</td>
<td>Samuel Kenrick</td>
<td>Bewdley</td>
<td>Extracts from letters of 1785 and 1786 from William Richardson [Professor of Humanity, 1773-1814, d 1814] and Wodrow relating to Leechman's illness and death which Wodrow had asked for. M'Cull's book to hand. Priestley to have a copy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 May</td>
<td>Samuel Kenrick</td>
<td>Bewdley</td>
<td>Did not expect Dissenters' petition to be so rebuffed in the Commons. Priestley was present at the debate and has published a 'most spirited letter to Mr Pitt'. 'But Mr Wigan &amp; my other church friends do not go along with the Doctor at all...They think him too violent to do any good to the cause'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 August</td>
<td>Samuel Kenrick</td>
<td>Bewdley</td>
<td>Reading Horne Tooke's Epica Pteronta. Is pleased with Macknight on the epistles. Has seen Priestley's letter to the Jews and Levi's reply and the Doctor's answer, also Madan's attack on Priestley. Wigan is to take pupils.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 September</td>
<td>James Wodrow</td>
<td>Stevenston</td>
<td>Various literary matters. Priestley's controversies with Levi and Madan. Macknight on Thessalonians. Leechman publication at a standstill. Death of Robert Dow [Minister of Airdrossan]. Woodrow appointed to preach his funeral sermon 'which cost at least a fortnight'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 December</td>
<td>James Wodrow</td>
<td>Stevenston</td>
<td>Sends ms copy of a poem by Burns, an elegy on Sir J Hunter Blair. Account of Burns. Macknight's plans for publishing his whole commentaries. Wishes success to Dissenters' second attempt but fears Priestley has harmed the cause by irritating Pitt. Has finished all he intends on Leechman volume.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 February</td>
<td>Samuel Kenrick</td>
<td>Bewdley</td>
<td>Thanks for copy of Burns and account of him. Is glad Macknight is continuing his labours. What Wodrow says of Priestley too true. Sunday schools continue to flourish. Another project, viz, to abolish slavery and the slave trade. Petitions on this, firstly from Cambridge. Oxford will probably follow and co-operate but faintly. Book society at Birmingham. Will buy controversial books, such as Priestley's.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
136 James Wodrow Stevenston 28 May
Scotland too long in being roused over slavery but some towns, the
Universities and the clergy have taken up the cause. Synod of
Glasgow and Ayr have started an application to make 5 November a
day of national thanksgiving. Anderson. Publication not much
advanced. May come to London in August with Richardson. Would wish
to meet Price and Kippis and any who might advance sale of Leechman
volumes in England. Places he would like to see in England. Asks
for advice, etc.

[Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 9 June]

137 James Wodrow Stevenston 3 July
Thanks for information. Probable plans for journey. Has read the
last publication of Dr Reid's. Business in the General Assembly.
Published approbation of petitions on slavery but declined to
petition themselves.

138 James Wodrow London 16 September
Thanks for kindness received at Bewdley. Price and Kippis both out
of town but expected at the end of the week. Christie represents
Johnston as the bookseller for him. Has met many people and been
about the town.

[Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 18 September]

139 James Wodrow London 27 September
Was taken to meet Kippis by Thomas Urwick. Dined with Johnston and

[Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 29 September]

140 James Wodrow London 15 October
Has had his offer accepted by Cadell. Has dined with Price, Dr Rees
and Mr Morgan of the company. Was introduced to Lindsay by Christie.
Joined 'in the reformed English service in his Chapel'. Has also
been to the Sardinian chapel and to the Portuguese Synagogue. Has
met many old acquaintances.

141 James Wodrow London 25 October
Preparations to visit Bewdley. Has a cold. Leechman's sermons.
Last evening with Price who has 'great hopes of the extension of
Liberty from the present struggles in France'. Apprehensions of
the King's health. Has a specially made-up copy of Christie's Essays,
not due for publication till January.

142 James Wodrow Kendal 11 November
News of his journey homewards.

[Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 28 November]

143 James Wodrow Stevenston 25 December
Has been correcting and transcribing three sermons of Leechman's.
Hears from the printer that Urwick has been most assiduous in
attention on him but he has not acknowledged receipt of some copy
to Wodrow. Final news of his journey home. Supports Pitt. With
this is a shorthand copy by Kenrick of a letter from Thomas Christie
to Wodrow, 3 November, which Wodrow sent to Kenrick for him to read.
1789

144 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 16 January
Urwick. Strahan the bookseller. News of other people. Johnstone's opinion of the King's illness. Public liberty. Discussion of a ms of Warner's which Hume had discouraged Kenrick from publishing in 1759 (being then hurt by Hurd's attack on his History of the Stuarts) and which Christie has lighted on. Jesse is publishing by subscription Madan's translation of the satires of Juvenal.

145 James Wodrow Stevenston 5 February

146 James Wodrow Stevenston 8 March
Warner. Put some of his sermons into the hands of Arthur who is best qualified to edit them [ie Archibald Arthur, Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Glasgow, d 1797] but he 'is indolent to a high degree like you & me'. Urges Kenrick to draw up memoir of Warner. Leechman problems. Notice of various recent pamphlets, including one by M'Gill and the reasons for its publication.

147 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 20 March

148 James Wodrow Stevenston 20 May; 23 May
Has received reply from Urwick. Problems of the second Leechman volume. Hopes for the success of the work. M'Gill. Business in the Synod. Has been reading Dr Campbell's 'Large book'.

149 James Wodrow Stevenston 5 August

150 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 10 August
Thanks for letters. Delay of the book. Mr Fownes of Shrewsbury had called on him to enquire. Urwick, M'Gill's Appendix. The Old Meeting, Shrewsbury. Bishop Hurd will not enter the lists with Priestley. Hurd and Dr Samuel Parr. Warburton's works. Campbell's work. [Incomplete].

151 James Wodrow Stevenston 9 November
Macknight's endeavours to publish. M'Gill. Synod proceedings. Sends copy of verses 'The tattered garland' printed at Glasgow and by Burns but from an imperfect copy. Has discussed publication of a volume of Warner's sermons with Mr Arthur. Notes on the personalities etc in 'The tattered garland'.

152 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 16 December
The Leechman volumes to be published today. Fownes of Shrewsbury has died. Will endeavour to promote Macknight. M'Gill. An election coming. Bishop Horsley of St David's has cautioned his clergy against voting for those who voted for the repeal of the Test Act in 1787. Priestley's sermon on 4 November last. Price's revolution sermon.
1790

[James Wodrow                Stevenston                5 January]

153

Samuel Kenrick                Bewdley                    24 February
Thanks for letter of 5 January. Has received copies of the Leechman volumes. Reactions to them. Has received no subscriptions for Macknight. Dr Campbell, M'Cull. Invectives now poured out on Price who 'seems to smile with sovereign contempt'. Next Tuesday Fox will introduce petition for relief from Test and Corporation acts. Its chances of success. This is written on a printed folio sheet with resolutions passed 'At a meeting of delegates from the several congregations of Protestant Dissenters, in the county of Worcester, held at the Angle-inn, Kidderminster...27th of January, 1790' and signed by 'S. Kenrick, secretary'. He has added in ms 'The 2nd Meetg. The Resolns. were much fuller in the 1st'. Relates to repeal of Test and Corporation acts.

[Samuel Kenrick                Bewdley                    11 May]

154

James Wodrow                  Edinburgh                  2-3 June
In Edinburgh for the Assembly. Pleased at reception of Leechman volumes. M'Cull settlement. Resolutions on Test Act passed at the Assembly.

[James Wodrow                Stevenston                23 July]

155

Samuel Kenrick                Bewdley                    25 September
Written on a printed folio sheet 'At a numerous and respectable meeting of the Worcestershire district of Protestant Dissenters, held at the Star-and-Garter, in Worcester...24th of August, 1790...it was unanimously agreed...'. Refers to this meeting. Sermon preached at it by Robert Gentleman. Ben Dawson and Priestley. With this is a single small sheet of a letter, possibly part of the letter of 14 July. This mentions review of a sermon by Belsham in the Monthly Review for August 1790. Quotation from the sermon relating to M'Cull. Their member a near relation of Pitt's.

1791

156

James Wodrow                  Stevenston                10 January

157

James Wodrow                  Stevenston                21 February
More about the Memorial and its treatment by the government. Letter of Dundas's. Mrs Leechman very unwell

158

Samuel Kenrick                Bewdley                    1 March
Gratification at work of the Scotch committee. The Roman Catholics are also petitioning. Ben Dawson tells him that but for the Dissenters meddling the Established Church would have been reformed before now. The Duke of Grafton thinks the present time inopportune to press for reform of the Church services because of the agitation over the Test act. Burke asks opinion of a work published at Edinburgh, Reflections on the revolution in France with a view to the civil and religious constitution of Scotland. M'Cull. Finlay. Comments on the Scotch committee.
159 James Wodrow  Stevenston  28 March
The printed Memorial has just reached him. Sends copy for Kenrick and another for Mr Lyttleton. Its spread in Scotland. It is reported to be held up in London until the Roman Catholic business is settled. Writing the account of Stevenston for Sir John Sinclair's Statistical account. Asks information. What Kenrick has said on the Ministry confirms his fears that nothing will come of the Memorial. The book mentioned by him in the last letter by 'a Mr Tennant an Airshire Preacher' but, like Priestley, 'He has a bee in his Bonnet'. Priestley's answer to Burke.

160 Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  20-21 April
Burke has called forth many pamphlets by his writing. Paine's Rights of man. Comments on it. Capel Lofft's answer to Burke analysed in the Monthly Review. Roman Catholic bill still before the Commons. Sir George Elliot presented the Memorial on the 18th. Discussion of the survey for Sir John Sinclair. Coal and ironstone mines in Staffordshire, etc. Takes Wodrow to task for being too kind to Burke.

161 James Wodrow  Stevenston  29 April
Business of the Memorial. Royal instructions to ambassadors abroad concerning France. Possibility of war in India. Fate of the slave bill. Glasgow Slave society has written to Wilberforce. Business of M'Gill.
With this letter two printed papers referred to in it. 'Part of the substance of a liberal and most excellent discourse, addressed to...the synod of Glasgow and Ayr', Glasgow, 1791. "An interesting case. Extracted from a letter to a clergyman in London'.

162 Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  18 May
Commineration on non-progress of the Memorial. Mrs Barbauld's Address to the opposers of the repeal of the Test Acts. Paine. Thanks for printed papers. Had not seen instructions for ambassadors. Reflections on France. The London Constitutional Society has purchased the copyright of the Rights of man and is to spread it. India. Slavery. Wilberforce burned in effigy in Bristol. Priestley. Has just published three discourses, including funeral discourse for Price. Burke has fallen foul with the Unitarian Society for its drinking his health. Whig Club in Ireland has ordered twenty thousand copies of the Rights of man.

163 Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  10 June
Looks for news of the Memorial in the General Assembly. Priestley has invited Joseph Berington to preach a charity sermon at the New Meeting. He has just published the correspondence between Berington and himself, with a sermon on the Resurrection. Two letters transcribed. Criticism of Bishop Horsley. Horsey criticises Priestley, Lindsey, etc 'with what Jease...charges all the umethodist clergy of the church, with preaching nothing but "moral essays" & making themselves apes of Epictetus'. The Baptists. Revolution in Poland. France. The Unitarian Society has been denounced in the Commons by Burke.

Improvements in the post services. Must let Test Act business lie still for the present. Opinions on French revolution. Flight of the royal family and their return, General Assembly. M'Gill. The Unitarian friend in Glasgow. Has received a list of Unitarians but the only name in Scotland is 'the Revd Thos. Fish Palmer of Dundee'. Priestley has called on Burke when in London who said he had read only Paine's answer to his Reflections and 'the man seemed to him to be mad'. Has heard of death of Mrs Milliken.

An account of the riots in Birmingham during the last week. [Printed in the Transactions of the Unitarian Historical Society, XIII (1965) 111-13].


What will foreign nations think of the riots, particularly the French. Hostility towards the Presbyterians 'imputing to us imaginary political crimes and calling us Republicans...to connect to it a plainer word King-Killers'. All the effect of withholding repeal of the Test Act. William Russell's visit to Pitt. Imputations against Russell and Priestley in an anonymous letter. Likely charge against them. Refuted. Counsel sent down to prosecute the rioters but only five convicted out of seventeen. If things do not improve it is expected that many families will emigrate to France or America. Christie on the French revolution. With this letter an enclosure, a quarto folded sheet, with [printed] Priestley's 'To the Congregation of the New-Meeting in Birmingham' dated from London, 4 August 1791. On this Kenrick has copied, 1 Priestley's Address to the young persons of the same congregation; 2 An address to Priestley from the ministers of Great Yarmouth; 3 An advertisement from a newspaper, Birmingham, 20 August, signed by Thomas Lee, junior, secretary to the committee of Protestant dissenters in Birmingham, regarding certain forged letters. Kenrick adds a note that a copy of the forged letters was shown to Russell by the Secretary of State, 'Such barefaced villainy at the end of the 18th century, in England!'.

Answers two last letters. Has been busy with both company and the harvest. Reflections on the late disturbances. Some riots in Scotland during the last few years. Would Kenrick consider moving to Scotland. Price estates are fetching. Comments on Priestley's Library and mss. Assistance given by Kenrick's nephew. Accounts of the Birmingham trials have led them to pronounce the juries 'packed Juries'. Troubles with a new postmaster. Priestley's manner of treating adversaries. Current good harvest weather.
1792

170 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 4 January
Public attitude towards Birmingham riots. Doubts cast by some on Priestley's valuation of his apparatus. Kenrick justifies him. Two lenses. Kenrick does not intend to buy a Scottish estate. Birmingham sufferers will apply to Parliament for redress. Priestley's sermon to Birmingham congregations read by another. Since printed. Resumé of it. An Appeal to be issued. A sermon by Schofield. The handbill 'the pretended cause' of the riots. A sermon preached by Priestley at Hackney. Is there to be a second edition of Leechman volumes: 'I have been afraid they are out of print'.

171 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 21 March
Priestley's Appeal now out. Opinions on it. Priestley has succeeded Price at Hackney but there has been a secession. Trials of the claims of the Birmingham sufferers made against the respective Hundreds in which the damage occurred. More than a third of the claim generally struck off. Mr Taylor's claim at Worcester, other causes at Worcester the next week. Priestley's. 'The baleful influence of ecclesiastical bigotry' does not want the perpetrators uncovered. The slave trade. Prospects of its abolition. Petitions for the same. The Bishop of Llandaff's charge. Remarks on it. The Birmingham congregations still worship together. Two of their ministers are young men and Unitarians, Edwards and Jones.

172 James Wodrow Stevenston 23 March
Stray reflections. Death of Gilbert Lang [Minister of Largs, d 30 December 1791]. Has read Boswell's Life of Johnson. Has heard that a small Unitarian society has risen at Glasgow. Presbytery has petitioned on the slave trade, also the town of Saltcoats. Some people have given up the use of sugar and rum. Mrs Leechman very delicate. English juries still partial. 'The Emperor's death looks like a providential deliverance to the French reformers'.

173 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 10 April
Can give results of the Worcester and Warwickshire trials. The behaviour of the neighbourhood still continues, only the day before a blackguard in Bewdley shouted out 'Church and King' at the approach of Mr Taylor's coach. Reflections on the age and the spread of liberty. Mrs Wollstonecraft's Rights of women. News of neighbours met by Wodrow, Wigan, etc. The Methodists are violent anti-revolutionists but all join for the abolition of the slave trade. Has read Boswell. Unfortunate outcome of the Worcester and Warwick trials. Priestley handled roughly in the box.

174 James Wodrow Stevenston 30 May
Thanks for letters and papers on the slave trade. Mrs Leechman very weak. Comments on the riots trials. Slave trade. Bishop Watson's Charge. Two congregations have arisen at Glasgow, one, under Palmer, Unitarian, the other, under Spencer, Arian. Numerous, probably on account of the McGill affair. Spread of liberty owing to the French revolution. People reading newspapers more. Government against measures of reform. Dundas burned in effigy. Government resolved not to listen to complaints lest they are stripped of power as was Louis XVI. Anecdote of Price. Passing of Libel Bill. The Society for Reform. Sets of Leechman still remain but there has been negligence in distributing them.
175  Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  2 July
Government will rebuild the New Meeting at Birmingham, granting £1800 for this. Whitbread's motion in the Commons for an enquiry into the cause of the riots in vain. An answer to Priestley's Appeal in the name of Burns but a composite work. Comments on it and on Curtis, one of the authors. Curtis and Dr Parr. Curtis has sent some papers of Priestley's to Pitt. Has just received a letter from Lord George Gordon in Newgate, expressing his fears of the restoration of Popery. Does not know how he found him but knew his brothers, the Duke and Lord William Gordon, in Italy. 'One thing is pretty clear, that generous liberal sentiments are not now the passport to the mitre'. Horsley. Spread of liberal ideas. 'Paine will do wonders'.

With this letter a printed 'Address to the members of the established Church' agreed to 'At the annual meeting of the Association of Protestant Dissenters, of the county of Worcester held...the 9th of May, 1792' and signed by Kenrick.

176  James Wodrow  Stevenston  9 October
Unitarians at Glasgow. Public disputation held by them from which the Established clergy stayed away. Squibs in the papers. Sends an off-print of an advertisement on the Unitarian side. The Unitarians number about fifty. The spirit raised by Paine's writings spreading, medals are being issued at Edinburgh bearing maxims. Continental affairs, suppression of liberty in Poland, invasion of France. The massacre of prisoners there 'no man of reason or humanity will ever attempt to defend'. The King of France. Fears about France. Mrs Leechman.

177  Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  29 October
[Only part of this letter survives, the first sheet is missing.]
Comments on the French massacres in reply to Wodrow. Agrees that Paine and Christie seem to have mistaken the character of Louis XVI: 'To me there seems to be a great resemblance between him & our unfortunate Charles'. What would old Frederick say could he see the Prussian defeat by the French. Comments on the state of France. Somerville's History. Four volumes of the Statistical account of Scotland. The French National Convention. Subscription for the French refugees. Gossip from London over the Ministry. The King and the Prince of Wales want to go to war. Trouble is expected in Ireland. Burke's son has gone there. The Prince is much in debt, so is Fox.

1793

178  James Wodrow  Stevenston  2 January
Literary battle with Curtis. Has been sent some Odes printed in Birmingham. French conquests. Trial of Louis XVI. Charles I. Scottish affairs. Meetings 'on the same plan with the friends of people in England'. Counter meetings. Affairs in Ireland. Sir J Sinclair pleased with his account of his parish. Enclosed is a printed satirical ballad 'An Address to the Synod of G****W and A****, on their late meeting [etc]'.

179  James Wodrow  Stevenston  7 March
Has not heard lately from Kenrick and hopes he is well. Longs to hear sentiments on 'various political Phaenomena...the present singular War...the foul Murder of poor Lewis'. His own opinions. Does not approve of invasion in France. Possible reasons for rearming in England. Affairs in the British Isles. Mrs Leechman died in October.
180  James Wodrow  Stevenston  27 June  
Death of his only brother, Patrick, minister of Tarbolton. Settling the affairs of the Leechmans. To Edinburgh for the Assembly. His mother-in-law unwell. Sufferings of the Dissenters and prospect of a number of them leaving England. Comments on Kerrick's letters. France. People seen in Edinburgh. Visited William Dun, minister of Kirkintilloch, during his three month imprisonment, now at an end. The charge against him, etc.

181  James Wodrow  Stevenston  24 August  
Sudden death of his wife on 16 August. French affairs. Muir's trial comes on on 30 August.

182  Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  28 August  
Death of his brother William at Wrexham. Difficulties over his will and English law of inheritance. Found a letter of his father's dated 1735, enquiring of educational prospects in Scotland for his five sons, etc. Late difficulties in banking since the last letter. Little Scottish church news in newspapers. 'The flattering prospect of improvement & general happiness is still far off'. The Critical Review appears to be its opinions. Emigrations to America. William Wells, minister of Bromsgrove, has gone, with his wife and eight children. Account of him. Trial of a Baptist minister at the Cornwall Assizes. Friend's trial at Cambridge. Will not join application for Test Act repeal.

183  James Wodrow  Stevenston  28 September  
Notes on Scottish law of inheritance. 'Defection from Whig principles' in Scotland also 'yet only amongst what you call the great vulgar'. Some emigrants from Glasgow 'Manufacturers, Bleachers etc'. Two agents from America have been 'on purpose to entice them'. Sentences passed on Muir and Palmer thought to be uncommonly severe. Jasper Wilson's letter to Pitt? Who is he, a Liverpool merchant? Visit from McGill. Discussion of a place in England for the education of George Brown, a youth of 18 who has stayed with his tutor at Wodrow's for the last three summers.

184  Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  7 October  
Answers to queries regarding the further education of George Brown. Recommends Hackney New College. Belsham's abilities. Knows two other pupils there. Declines to speak of his affairs at present. Praise for the French.

185  James Wodrow  Stevenston  12 November  
Reasons why notice has not hitherto been taken of last letter. George Brown will attend Hackney. Wodrow is going to the north of Ireland for three or four weeks. The war. Thomsons' Bank in Glasgow 'has given way' and fears are expressed for the Union Bank at Paisley. No employment opening to the cotton manufacturers. Has read Thoughts on the present failures and Mrs Barbauld's Discourse on the fast.
186  
Samuel Kenrick    Bewdley    10 January
George Brown has not appeared at Hackney and Mary has heard from
Helen Wodrow that he has gone to a school in Kensington. He has
never received a letter from Mr Maclellan. Liberty in France
still proclaims "that her Cause is invincible". Muir and Palmer's
trials. Comments on these. Failure of British forces against the
French. Enthusiasm of the latter. Toulon and other expeditions.
Muir and Palmer have been visited in their confinement. A subscrip-
tion is on foot for Winterbottom of Plymouth. Fox's friends have
raised a subscription for him. 'Jasper Wilson' is Belsham. Comment
on Pitt. Asks for an account of this strange convention at
Edinburgh'. 'Have you seen Knox's Narrative?'. Wigan has obtained
this frank from [Edward Winnington, 1749-1805, MP for Droitwich]
'a steady well informed patriot & the warm friend of Fox & his
glorious cause'.

187  
James Wodrow    Stevenston    22 January
George Brown has been placed under a M Chauval at Kensington because
his other guardian has heard unfavourable reports of Hackney and the
dissensions there. He spent five weeks in Ireland with Arbuckle at
Donaghadee, the visit being more or less confined to that place and
Arbuckle's acquaintance. He missed Dr Hutcheson, the clergyman of
the place, and grandson of their old professor, who was with his
family in Lisburn, but met his sister. Made one journey to Belfast.
Was introduced there to a Dr Halyday [Alexander Halyday, MA, MD,
c 1728-1802] whom Kenrick may remember at Glasgow but he did not.
He is the principal physician in the neighbourhood. Trade and
manufactures there. Preached at Dr Bruce's meeting-house. Many
Dissenters there. Political state of Ireland very quiet, perhaps
a deceitful quiet. Large militia. The Papists. Knew nothing of
the convention at Edinburgh till he saw notice in the Irish papers:
'a set of conscientious wellmeaning enthusiasts'. Comments on the
trials. He has represented Muir as 'a vain Enthusiast and bigot'
because he was active in the prosecution of M'Gill. Is exhausted
on the state of things in France. 'Their present Govt. is a most
ferocious Despotism'.

188  
Samuel Kenrick    Bewdley    22 March
George Brown and Hackney New College. Explains affairs as he knows
them and rebuts criticisms. Things have not gone so well there
following the public change of opinion in France. Comments on Irish
visit, remembers Halyday well. Trials in Scotland and public affairs.
The gullotine preferable to Botany Bay. The character of Muir, now
suffering with an avowed Unitarian. Agrees no English or Irish jury
would have convicted Muir. William Russell has just called and
reported that he, Priestley and Lindsey had been to Newgate to see
Muir and Palmer but that they had been taken away that morning at
3 am. They saw Winterbottom. His circumstances. Eaton's trial.
News of Priestley from Russell. Priestley is to go to America, where
his sons have already gone. He is to leave on 25 March in the
Sampson though there is an uncertainty as Mrs Priestley has been
unwell. Horne Tooke. His means of evading the Alien Bill on behalf
of Count Zenobia. Muir and Palmer. Anecdotes of Muir's father,
George III and Louis XVI. Benjamin Flower. Various new newspapers.
Cambridge Intelligencer, etc. Quotation from Flower's paper
concerning a meeting at Sheffield on 28 February, with resolutions
passed and the hymn sung.
James Wodrow  Stevenston  31 March
Has been writing and preaching and is now polishing a Fast sermon for the press. Has been to Ayr to assist Dalrymple and stayed with M'Cullin who read him part of a ms account of his persecution. Open speaking and writing have been checked by the Edinburgh trials. Spirit of disaffection. Farmers and better tradesmen beginning to see its dangers but 'the meer Mob' remains attached to the French. Counties begin to take up arms.

[Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  7 April]

Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  28 May
'War & bloodshed abroad, terror, suspicion & alarm at home, continue to be, in the modern cant phrase, the order of the day, here & in France'. Reflections on this and on prospects for emigrants to America. Plans of settlement. Hopes it is true what he is told that the city of New York 'has settled £400.-.- on our exiled hero, before his arrival'.

James Wodrow  Stevenston  16 June
Thanks for three letters. George Brown now a Lieutenant in Col. Fullarton's Regiment of Foot. Fullarton's health. Francis Hutcheson. Great numbers of poor in Ireland and no poor rates there. Visit of his brother-in-law, Dr Hamilton of Aberdeen, and other guests. Disagrees with Kenrick who has paralleled the trials in England and Scotland with those of France. Thanks for printed trials and for additional information. Juries. His regrets at the treatment of Priestley. Horne Tooke. Muir's father, with whom he is acquainted. Newspapers. Would like to have the Cambridge Intelligencer. The meeting at Sheffield, disapproves of the resolutions there and other like acts. Does not wonder at the Government's alarm. His sermons have been neglected by Creech, picked as the best bookseller in Edinburgh.

Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  28 June
Remarks on state of affairs. Monthly and Critical Reviews. Anecdote on Irish poor. Will not journey to Scotland unless he has to take up residence there, more suitable for him than America. Maintains has parallel between factions in France and England. The story of New York's settling money on Priestley not true, a letter from a congregation at New York inviting him to be their pastor at a salary of £400 arrived after he had sailed to join his three sons in Philadelphia. William Russell is immediately to sail and has bought some 30,000 acres. Horne Tooke's Diversions of Purley. With this letter a draft of the first page.

James Wodrow  Stevenston  17 or 18 July
'Any attempts of mine to moderate...the fire & enthusiasm' of Kenrick's 'are likely I find rather to heighten the tone or make the fire flash more vividly'. The trials. Professor Hutcheson. How far were Palmer and the others intending to carry their reforming schemes, particularly universal suffrage? Fears of a French invasion, which would first be attempted in Ireland. A necessity to arm the country, especially as troops are still thrown on to the continent. Monthly Review. The French government actuated more by internal strife than foreign enemies.
Samuel Kenrick                  Bewdley                   21 August
Thanks for letter and for copies of Fast sermons. Cannot refrain
from 'complaining where I feel myself & many deserving fellow
citizens injured, & condemning blunders...which threaten misery
& destruction to this deluded & distracted kingdom'. More
reflection on Muir and Palmer. Agrees about arming: 'arms in the
hand of all our...yeomanry...wd be a much better security of our
liberties than any house of Commons, we have yet seen'. Story
from a German officer of the means of disposing seriously wounded
in battle. Thinks Wodrow caught apprehension of the French invasion
when in Ireland. Has been hurt by the Monthly Review's 'base
partiality respecting Dr Priestley'. Two friends of his have lately
visited Scotland and had to endure a long sermon from John Burns
in the Barony church.

With this a draft sheet of reply, fuller in some details than the
actual letter. Freely grants his mind has been soured by events
and rapid approaches to despotism. Religion in France. 'Even
Robespierre, alas! now no more'. His relation Robert Millar saw
Maggy Lang burnt for witchcraft at Paisley hardly a century ago.

James Wodrow                  Stevenston                  10 September
Ill health of his daughter Helen. The Cambridge Intelligencer.
Reproves Kenrick for his violent opinions. Asks the name of the
German officer. Did not get his notions of a French invasion in
Ireland but has had them since 'the beginning of this mad war'.
Puts less trust in the Navy than Kenrick. Extract from a letter of
'one Ryves near Limerick, married on a niece of Mr Baillie's'.
What does Kenrick think of new French leaders? Has read preface
to Priestley's Fast sermon and feels sympathy for English dissenters.
Brief comment on sermon. 'Would wish to know Dr Pr. sentiments
about the general Judgment and the end of the World'. Trials of
Wat and Dowie at Edinburgh.

Samuel Kenrick                  Bewdley                   18 October
The Cambridge Intelligencer. Wodrow's sermons. Peter Pindar and
Captain Morris are 'never called in question, while poor Mure &
Palmer &c are doomed to drag on a dreary existence'. Anecdote on
George III's refusal to pardon Dr Dodd. Resolves to keep in the
future 'entirely clear of all subjects of this sort of [ie
political issues]'. Did not ask name of German officer. Appreciates
extract from Ryves. William Russell, on his way to America, taken
off his ship by a French privateer on 19 August and taken to Brest
where confined.

James Wodrow                  Stevenston                  15 January
Death of Rev. Malcolm Brown, minister of Kilbirnie. Wodrow asked
to preach his funeral sermon. Helen appears better. Discussion
of their differences. General reflections on the state of affairs.
Hardy acquitted at his trial.
Comments on points in Wodrow's last letter. Visit to Dr Johnstone of Worcester. Ministerial agents, alarm of plots against the state kept up. More about William Russell's being taken by the French: 'And now that he should suffer still harsher usage from the French Republic, for wch. he had suffered so much here, hurts me beyond expression'. Wigan has gone to London to attend anatomy and other lectures. Notes from a letter from John Kenrick from Philadelphia, 18 November 1794. Reflections thereon. 'A different sketch of the state of America from two spirited young emigrants, friends & disciples of Dr P'.

Illness and death of Helen Wodrow in Dublin on 12 July. Some troubles in Ireland: 'Parties of the Defenders as they call themselves have committed considerable ravages in the County of W. Meath... yet no troops have as yet marched towards them'.

Sympathy. Illness in Roberts family. Wigan at home at present. 'As to the state of public affairs, I see no prospect of their melioration, while the present ministers & their measures continue'. Serious corn shortage in England.

Replies to points in Kenrick's letter. Advice for the editor of the Cambridge Intelligencer. Is reading Belsham's Memoirs of the House of Brunswick, asks for information on Belsham. Had two visits lately from a Mr Varily who 'seemed perfectly acquainted with all the people of Bewdley... had come from England with Col. Montgys new raised... regt. to get the chaplainry he said... seemed as little cracked is probably a methodist Preacher'.

A plentiful harvest with most favourable weather to ripen and gather it. Price of wheat has fallen. 'It is pretty evident now that light is beginning to shine even in our darkness. The empire of terrorism - alias toryism - is greatly on the decline'. Has read a pamphlet from Scotland under the name of Charles James Workan. Bewails 'the loyal - military - mania that has pervaded the whole Island, not only in regular regiments, but in the various questionable shapes, of volunteers, fencibles &c never before heard of. Nor have the ministers of religion... escaped the pernicious contagion... they boldly introduce the most sanguine & unchristian innovations, & consecrate on their sacred altars the ensigns of bloodshed'. Ben Dawson says this is the abomination of desolation spoken of. At Dumfries a Dr Burnside has performed 'the same inhuman & unchristian ceremony'. Cambridge Intelligencer. Flower clearly has friends to assist and protect him. Robert Hall, Robinson's successor. His method of preaching. Flower and he lodge in same house. Hears that the Cabinet is divided into three Juntos which he specifies. The growth of infidelity, particularly amongst those who called themselves rational Christians. Gilbert Wakefield seems to have led the way but he is no infidel. Godwin carried it further. He is 'a solitary hermit secluded entirely from the world, devoting his whole time to writing'. Paine's Age of reason. Now published in America and Priestley has written a reply, a continuation of his Letters to a philosophical unbeliever and Letter to philosophers and politicians of France. This philosophical unbeliever has been discovered since his death to have been [Henry] Dodwell, who wrote a pamphlet fifty years ago entitled
Christianity not founded on argument. Priestley's Letter to the French written at the suggestion of Madame Roland. People in America continue to meet with encouragement. A friend has met in America 'a language now almost obsolete in England...the popular established orthodox language of that country'. Anecdotes of Priestley from the same correspondent.

203 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 25 September
The Roberts invalids better. The Cambridge Intelligencer. William Belsham. He has received assistance from the Duke of Grafton for his Memoirs on the house of Brunswick. Account of Mr Vicary, not Varilly. Jesse appointed to the living of Ribbesford, the parish church of Bewdley, and has turned out the chaplain there and is rigidly exacting his tithes. Jesse has taken his Master's degree at Cambridge at the same time as Paley his Doctor's degree. The latter had held down his head when the Orator addressed him 'in a most pointed discourse in defence of the divinity of our Saviour'. Paley once proposed as a text for a sermon before Pitt 'There is a lad here which hath five barley loaves...'. Reviews of Paley's Evidences.

204 James Wodrow Stevenston 9 December
A good harvest and continued good weather but the prices of the necessaries of life continue high. In Ireland everything is higher, except beef. The Irish are eating potatoes and buying as many as they can in England and Scotland but they resist the shipment of grain to England. Disapproves of Bills before Parliament. Approved of arming the country against a French invasion 'not however of a partial but general arming'. The consecration of colours. Many ministers have done it and some have printed their prayers on the occasion. The Cabinet. The growth of infidelity. Had been increasing in France till the Revolution which event, by drawing attention, has increased it in England. Godwin. 'The progress of infidelity & of the belief of these fanciful Theories of Government will gradually cure itself'. Paine's Age of reason is 'one of the silliest & most childish books against revealed Religion I ever read'. He gathers from a note of Mary Kenrick's that Joseph Skey is to come to Edinburgh. He will give him letters of introduction to one or two.

205 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 21 December
The harvest, prices of corn. Barley has gone up. They are baking their own bread and using a mixture of wheat and rye flour. Meat is on the advance in price. Landlords are raising rents and the labouring classes are suffering in consequence and the poor rates increase. 'And still our rulers persist in saying that we are in a most flourishing situation'. Iniquity of the Fast. William Russell now in America. Mr Wells. Passing of two disgraceful Bills. Paine. 'And is it not curious...that Dr Priestley should bring that vilest of monsters Robespierre to confute this infidel in his answer to Paine's Age of reason published in America?'. Joseph Skey. Reeves and Arthur Young. The loan. Paul Benfield. The mob has pelted Pitt with mud.

1791

[James Wodrow Stevenston]  

35
206  Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  17 March
Ayrshire politics. State of the markets 'everything is much dearer than when I wrote last'. Examples of prices. Approves of increase in Spirits. Price of labour has risen but not in proportion to that of the necessities of life. News from America. Priestley's Observations on infidelity. The '2. late obnoxious Bills'. The New Annual Register. John Anderson, Hartley's Observations on Man. It is circulated by a 'Society of Unitarians...in the West of England, of which I am a member'. Flower writes that the circulation of the Cambridge Intelligencer is 2500 but thinks it may decrease with increased price. Recommends the Watchman, published at Bristol by Mr Colleridge.

207  James Wodrow  Stevenston  14 May
Hopes letter will reach before dissolution of Parliament &not cost Sir A F or you more than 'it is worth'. A difference has taken place between Sir Adam and the Ministry; anecdote showing it. Fluctuations in the markets. 'The war I cannot think of without some decomposure & depression of mind'. Does not think America 'perfectly secure in the present crisis'. Fell from a horse a fortnight ago.

208  Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  19 August
The election and reflections thereon. The local candidates, Mr Jesse. Scene at Bewdley chapel when Jesse attempted to officiate there. Remembers a similar scene in the parish church of Govan 'at the moderation of the call of the well known Wm. Thom'. A good harvest and fine weather. The War. Gibbon's Memoirs. Discussion of some letters therein. 'Our Premier & his Junto are at their wits' end. It is plain they are afraid of meeting parliament'.

[James Wodrow  Stevenston  31 August]

209  Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  24 September
The war. William Thom of Govan. John Horne Tooke. Clothing and carpet business brisk. Price of corn still high; it has got into the hands of rich farmers and merchants 'who are able to keep up or lower the price at pleasure'. Possibility of a land tax.

210  James Wodrow  Kirkoswald  20 October

211  Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  23 November
Agrees about the war. Two decisions about elections. Thellusson. Pitt and Dundas got drunk at his house on the day of the last Past. Opposition to Government in Devon. Thom and Tooke, the latter kept from the Bar on a legal quibble by Lord Mansfield. Caldwell. A tour made years before in the south of England. Another view of Ireland from Mr Maxwell, son-in-law to Lord Mount Norris. Jacobinism there. Roscoe's Life of Lorenzo: 'the production of a most industrious liberal minded man'. His song 'O'er the vine covered hills and fair valleys of France'. Markets keep up. Grattan 'such a furious firebrand, since his return flying piping hot out of Burke's firey furnace'. Retirement of Washington. Burns. Gibbon's 'Miscellaneous posthumous work'.

[James Wodrow  28 December]
1797

212 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 20 January
Cold weather. High price of coal because waterways frozen. Corn mills also had stopped but things now improving. George Tierney declared elected at Southwark. 'Beastly intemperance' of Pitt and Dundas. Pitt 'has boldly undertaken the arduous task of amending our Poor Laws', 'Our friend & fellow Collegian Dr [William, d 1805] Campbell', on his opinions. T F Palmer, Ireland. Extract from letter of Ralph Eddowes's from Philadelphia, 3 May 1796. [Priestly had just left Philadelphia; his sermons; local conditions, etc.] A visit from William Morgan.

213 James Wodrow Stevenston 19 April
Franks. Political horizon considerably changed and darker in some places. Ireland. The attempted invasion at Bantry Bay. The conditions in Ireland worsen, particularly in Ulster. Letter from Caldwell quoted. Some Irish have come to Scotland. England unprepared for invasion. Some volunteers training. Financial fears. Runs on the Banks. Erskine's pamphlet. 'There never was such a winter & spring here in the memory of man'. Death of his nephew, a naval Captain, after imprisonment in Guadalupe.

214 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 6 June
In spite of change 'our prime minister still keeps his place' but his obstinate struggle 'becomes every day more hopeless'. Petitions for the removal of ministers gain ground. The nobility and principal gentry and clergy 'servilely ministerial' for they and their dependents 'have all lucrative posts & places'. Meeting at Birmingham on 31 May, a 'sly Birmingham. wag' had distributed a paper listing various such posts. Particulars of the meeting 'from a freeholder who was upon the spot'. The size of the Navy 'enormous & Useless' but less harmful than the Bank of England and the Standing Army 'as dangerous engines in the hands of the weak & wicked ministers'. Talks of the Bank and increase in banking of late years. 'I & my brother were the first bankers not only in Worcestershire, but thro' this west side of England, from Bristol (& Bath perhaps) to Liverpool - in which compass...there are near one hundred now'. Many crashed in 1793, remarks on one of these. Late Bank affairs.

215 James Wodrow Stevenston June
Thanks for account of Warwickshire meeting and for remarks on Banking. Remarks on Samuel Parr. Comments on war. Has been four weeks in Edinburgh and one week in Glasgow. Notes on people met there including his brother-in-law Dr Hamilton, from Aberdeen. Dr Blair. Dr Macnigle unwell. Old Dr Erskine. Thomas Somerville, 'now a violent Defender of the necessity of propriety of all the ministerial measures'. He is now preparing a second volume of his political history: 'I warned him of the danger of infusing any tincture of his Tory principles into such a book'. Other people. 'The rage for building [in Edinburgh] has not been checked by the war. The new town is now extended to the westward of the castle...'.

[Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 25 July]
216 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 2 October
Conversation with Miles Peter Andrews, MP for Bewdley. The war and finances. Pitt's difficulties. 'A new & bold speculation in the Funds'. The 'late military operations in Scotland, in support of the new militia act'. Militia was formerly not to be trusted in Scotland but now forced on it. Militia will always be an evil from the effect it has on the men, who return 'dissolute, debilitated, dishonest debauchees'. Seems that the government is raising them in order to have a military protection for itself. A recent charity sermon at Bewdley for the education of the poor, which some oppose. 'This last revolution in France', Barthelemy and Pichgru.

217 James Wodrow Stevenston 25 October
Refers to the letter of 25 July. begs to continue hearing news of Priestley. Ben Dawson. Has only got one subscription for Somerville. Read Wilberforce's late publication ['A practical view of the prevailing religious system] in Edinburgh. 'Perhaps I have more allowance to make for his methodism & Calvinism not that I have the least tincture of that leaven'. Discusses book. Regrets that 'our friends Drs Price Priestley & good Lindsay...represent all direct Worship paid to our Saviour to be a kind of Idolatry'. 'How different the Ideas of the first Socinians'. Has read Wakefield's 'Letter to Wilberforce'. The accounts of the Militia troubles exaggerated, nothing would have happened had 'smallest pains been taken to spread an abstract of the Act of P. among the lower ranks'. A bloody business at Transent but juries have acquitted the rioters. His spirits dampened by the new French revolution. Treatment of Barthelemy and Pichgru, what would Kenrick say if Pitt seized the minority of the Lords and Commons, confiscated their estates and sent them off to Botany Bay?

218 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 14 December
Information on Priestley visiting France is unfounded. Another plague at Philadelphia. Ben Dawson. His three brothers, Abraham, Eli and Obadiah, are all dead. Professor Robinson's books against Freemasons, etc now announced as in a second edition. Belsham will soon enter the lists against Wilberforce. 'I never understood before that Dr Price was a Socinian. He had a long friendly controversy...with Dr Priestley'. Discussion of Wodrow's sentiments in the last letter. Trinitarian questions. Wakefield's publications. The Monthly Magazine.

1798

[Samuel Kenrick March]

[James Wodrow 23 March]

219 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 5 October
More of Ben Dawson and his brothers, though Ben has ceased his corrspondence. Dawson and Blackburn and the Feathers Tavern petition. More concerning Professor Robinson's book against the illuminati. More in the Socinian question. Priestley has met with discouragement in America: 'the same spirit of terrorism that was artfully created through this country in 92 & 93 is now fomented in the center of America, under the auspices of the New President Adams- wth. his Anglican new formed faction'.

38
Priestley pursues his literary pursuits. Has adopted some 'very peculiar notions on prophecy'. Dr [Alexander] Geddes. Affairs in Switzerland. Gibbon's posthumous volume. 'Ireland seems to have made a very narrow escape'. Does not share Wodrow's view and fear in Britain and Ireland being swallowed by the tyranny of Europe; fears rather a failure of resources culminating in a military despotism. We have a navy and a standing army. Nelson's victory at the Nile.

220 James Wodrow Stevenston 7 December
Robinson's book. Kenrick should read Wilberforce and Belsham's reply. The worship of Christ: 'I am doubtful whether it be warranted in Scripture - I mean direct personal address to him'. Wakefield's Evidences and his answer to Bishop Watson. Does not approve of Godwin or of his life of Mrs Wollstoncraft. The European situation.

1799

221 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 16 March
More of Robinson. His impressions of the views of the critics of the work. Belsham on Wilberforce. 'Must entirely decline the discussion respecting our Saviour's present situation - as sitting on God's right hand &c'. Wakefield's Evidences. Johnson the publisher really in view of the prosecutor, not the author. Wakefield has received a letter from Bishop Watson. Other writers. Mrs Wollstoncraft. Hears from someone who knew him that Godwin 'is more disgusting, if possible, in his habitation, person & mode of life than in his writings'. Has read the first volume of Priestley's Sermons on natural religion. His horrible pictures of heathenism. How strong must have been Gibbon's predilections to be 'so fond of showing a marked predilection to such abominations'. Without justifying the French, they have had every provocation. The sermon preached at the last Fast.

222 James Wodrow Stevenston 20 March
Monetary affairs. Old acquaintances. Archibald Maclaine. William Ritchie now minister at Kilwinning and an acquisition to the area. Ritchie was in Paris with a pupil during part of 1792. He saw Gibbon frequently when with a pupil in 1782-3. Anecdote of retort by Gibbon. Various books. Fencible regiments to be discharged if they will not serve overseas. Left only with 6000 half-trained militia and a number of Volunteers. Would have approved the scheme of Union with Ireland had it been proposed in peace time and likely to be carried through without bloodshed.

[Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 31 March]
[Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 1 October]

223 James Wodrow Stevenston 16 October
Health of various people. Glasgow greatly enlarged of late. Cloth and linen. The Cambridge Intelligencer. Sunday Schools in Scotland purely catechetical, with no need to teach scholars to read. The Assembly provoked over 'a set of hot brained enthusiasts... the Society for propagating the Gospel at home. Their Missionary Preachers' have gone out to many villages, inciting the people against their ministers, etc. The Assembly should take no notice of them. Matthias and The pursuits of literature. Articles in reviews. Dr Richie. Dyer's Life of Robinson. Petitpierre's Thoughts on the goodness of God.
1800

224 Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  18 January
Growth of the coal industry in that area in recent years. Gilbert Wakefield has received 4800 guineas since his condensation. Michael Dodson has bequeathed 5500 each to Priestley, Belsham, Lindsey and Wakefield. Although poor rates have increased at Bewdley yet a sum has been raised to distribute coals and soup to the needy. Is sorry to hear that rational Christianity is on the decline. Various reviews and books. Longs to see Dyer’s Life of Robinson, knows Petitpierre’s book.

225 Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  27 April
Shortage of food and high prices. Fears of insurrections by the colliers and manufacturers. Small farmers paying in taxes and tithes as much as their rents. The landlords of the higher class of farmers are demanding advances of rent: ‘The reason assigned... is the new unprecedented imposition, the income-tax’. Most of the money raised by this has come from land-holders. The government aims to suppress sedition in Ireland by transplanting Irish militia and volunteers to England and vice versa and by sending malefactors into the Navy. But the Irish will merely spread sedition here. Recent alleged scene in the market at Worcester. Account of the poor rate.

226 James Wodrow  Stevenston  23 May
Has obtained an assistant, Laurence Miller. He will divide Sunday work with him and ‘set him to what we call visiting or teaching from house to house’. He and Margaret are shortly going to Edinburgh. A lawsuit there on behalf of his young relation Warner. Mr Brisbane of Milton has been declared factious. Promises a paper on the Stevenston colliery. Robinson’s Village sermons.

[Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  14 June]

227 James Wodrow  Edinburgh  12-14 July
Recent augmentations of stipend. The General Assembly and business in it. ‘A spirit of bigotry & intolerance has been increasing among our Clergy for fifteen or twenty years past in civil & Ecclesiastical matters’. The extensions of the city of Edinburgh.

228 Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  1 October
Harvest and weather, the scarcity and price of food. Better crops then expected. Miss Roberts has married Col. Spens, eldest son of Dr Spens of Edinburgh and grandson of Mr Milliken. An added postscript from Mary Kenrick that the marriage is not known in Bewdley and please do not let it beyond his own fireside.

1801

229 James Wodrow  Stevenston  20 February
Margaret Wodrow is unwell: ‘There is what they call an influenza or epidemical cold going about’. Comments on scarcity of goods and fluctuating prices. Doubts monopoly and speculation blamed by Kenrick for this. Gilbert Blane’s An enquiry into the causes and remedies of the late and present scarcity. The situation in Scotland as he sees it. Prices. Spens-Roberts marriage unknown. Match between a Miss Margaret Monrow and a Mr Drummond, ‘the only son of Drumond, the Banker who died 10 or 12 years ago’. Various deaths lately, including M’night and Blair. Milliken House was burnt down by some accident last harvest. Magill’s son has drowned himself in a fit of insanity. Brief remarks on public affairs.
Samuel Kenrick, Bewdley, 28 September
What has happened to Warner's ms. His likeness to Hartley. Pistorius on Hartley. The various causes of the 'late most extraordinary rise in prices'. Poor rates and other taxes. Has not seen Blane's pamphlet but is no stranger to his character. What can be expected without the return of peace? Current prospects of peace. Napoleon's demands and the government's do not agree. Is grateful for comments on affairs in Scotland. 'It is well known here that a few rich men have regulated our markets for 20 miles round at their pleasure. These same arts...are practiced above in our stocks, under the direction of a body of...rich individualists, who are thus enabled to furnish our ministers with the means of undertaking so many ruinous & fruitless expeditions'. The method now of selling corn. Plentiful crops this year. 'I do not see the conduct of the French & their first consul in the unfavourable light in wch. he appears to you'. 'What do you think of the downfall of the Popish Hierarchy wch. our most zealous Fathers so often prayed for & Mahometism wch. seems to be at its last gasp in Europe'. Now opening for spread of true Christianity and this brought about by infidels and atheists. Priestley and Horsley concur in this last belief. 'If the restoration of the Jews to their country should take place...what a glorious era will arise'. Can say no more at present of Miss Roberts and the Colonel.

1802

Samuel Kenrick, Bewdley, 6 February
'And so we have the prospect of Peace at last'. Laing's History of Scotland. Mentions in this of Wodrow's father. Is there no memoir of him? Hume's and Smollett's Histories. British Almanack for 1802. The information in it. Asks for explanation of the '3 religious sects wch. have arisen since we left Scotland...what is the ground of their dissent from the established church!...and next I find you have 5 Bishops in 7 dioceses [etc]'. Dr Campbell of Aberdeen's Lectures on ecclesiastical history. Death of Gilbert Wakefield.

James Wodrow, Stevenston, 6 April

[James Wodrow, Stevenston, 14 July]

James Wodrow, Stevenston, 27 August
Worried at not hearing from Kenrick. Dr Ritchie to leave the district for St Andrew's parish, Glasgow. Dr Finlay and principal Davidson continue at the College and are likely to do for some years more. Has a sore leg still. Account of the progress of James Alexander Haldane and his brother Robert and their religious activities. 'They call themselves the congregation and others call them the Haldanites'.
Samuel Kenrick    Bewdley     24 September
Memories of Erskine. Benjamin Bell. Beneficent effects of commerce. Death of the Duke of Bedford. Laing. C J Fox has gone to Paris, presumably to study King James's papers. His reception by Napoleon. Kenrick esteems Talleyrand. It is rumoured that the King cannot bear the name of Pitt. John Hume. Anecdotes of him. News of Priestley. Wigan has made Priestley a handsome present but Wigan's most intimate friend, a clergyman, cannot endure to hear the name. Wigan has resigned his orders, having received a fortune from his brother. His eyes are bad and he no longer reads and intends to travel and attend lectures on chemistry in London during the winter. 'And you still persist in giving no quarter to Buonaparte?'. Wigan and Kenrick's nephew think as Wodrow. Eulogy of Napoleon. A Mr Round. His estimate of the Emperor of Russia 'far from what our newspapers represent him - not crazy like the magnanimous Paul but a poor silly insignificant creature'.

Samuel Kenrick    Bewdley     25 October - 8 November
Has not been able to discover much of Mr Fellowes, author of Picture of Christian philosophy. Long extract from a letter dated 8 July 1802, from William Russell. He has established a chapel for Protestant worship on his estate near Caen. Dr Beddoe's cow-house cure for consumption. Another brief extract from a letter from William Russell in France, 21 August 1802. [Sheets five and six of this letter sent with the next because of weight.]

Samuel Kenrick    Bewdley     10 November
More about the religious position of the Protestants in France. Fall of the papal power there. Various anecdotes. A different view of the Emperor of Russia from that of Dr Rowand given to a Col. La Harpe. Wigan thinks Rowand probably more correct.

1803

James Wodrow    [Stevenston]     [February]
Has not written through procrastination and illness. Is now better. Instead of chewing now smokes a pipe every morning and finds it clears his head. Thanks for comments and particulars from France. The law suit remains in status quo. 'You seem to entertain...apprehensions of your Corsican Hero as the great Civilizer of France and of the world. I never found your ideas so eccentric, nor your partiality so strong towards any other Tyrant'. Bell. He has sent him a pamphlet he has published anonymously on the salaries of schoolteachers. His assistant has left but he has another, a Mr Henry. Newcome Cappe's Essays. A note from Margaret Wodrow to Mary Kenrick at the end.

Samuel Kenrick    Bewdley     23 May
Has given up smoking. Smoking-rooms. Has had no more intelligence from France. Names his correspondent for the first time as Russell. Wodrow had supposed it Taylor. The destruction of Taylor's property in the 1791 riots. Has just been told that Napoleon has told Lord Whitworth that 'if Malta was not given up - he should invade our Island'.

42
Discussion of France and Napoleon. The general opinion is that Napoleon intends an attack on this country but that it will be ineffectual, though he may make an impression in Ireland. The English country is so hedged and ditched and walled that it is not open like Germany, Switzerland and Italy. Our regular troops and, although recently people were complaining of taxes, over £500 has been raised in a few days in Bewdley to support a volunteer association. This is done everywhere around. With the invasion report all gold and silver coin has disappeared from circulation. Copper has become so dear that Boulton and Watt's copper coinage is melted down and sold. A dry summer with fine harvests of wheat but turnips and potatoes have failed. Apples but few pears. A note from Mary Kenrick to Wodrow on the address sheet: 'As your Letters are always a cordial to my Father I hope it will not be long before you write to him'.

Notices Kenrick has not forgotten our old Scotch dialect...It is going fast into disuse even here from the associated idea of vulgarity'. Has given up smoking save when he feels his health requires it. Disappointed in hearing no more of Protestantism in France. His assistant has a brother there. The new Edinburgh Review. Its reviews. Proposes to drop subject of Buonaparte but proceeds on to it. Likelihood of a serious struggle. Local ports have offered all their vessels to the government should the French land. 'Never was there such a long tract of fine weather in my remembrance'.

Asks Kenrick to write. March and part of April have been very severe. 'What can be the reason of the continued delay of the long threatened invasion?'. Gold and silver disappeared from use also but now back in circulation again. Believes people hoarded or buried it against the invasion. His recent reading. Parr's Spital and Fast sermons. Belsham's Sermons. 'I suppose this Gentleman will now be considered as at the head of the liberal party of English Dissenters, and he deserves it especially since the death of...Dr Priestley'. His account with Benjamin Flower is settled.

[The first sheet is missing.] Does not recollect Ralph's Candide but read Voltaire's 'jeu d'esprit with that title' in 1799. Wodrow says 'Let us drop Bonaparte! But instead of leaving him you bring him upon the stage'. Anecdote of Napoleon's meeting with a group of Englishmen after the Peace of Amiens. Kenrick's opinions on France - 'the most civilized nation in Europe' - and of the French language. Criticises Wodrow on French barbarity. Neither does he agree with Wodrow on Switzerland. His memories of the canton of Berne. Weather has been lately favourable. Wigan has now left the area and lives principally in London. As to the invasion, 'We are all here on the alert'. Gold and silver continue scarce. Banks pour forth notes and in lieu of silver 'in Birmingham & our great manufacturing towns, they issues tickets of lower denominations. But this it is expected will soon by superseded by silver dollars new stamped by Boulton & Watt...at 5/- each'. Asks Wodrow to continue his notes of his reading. Has a letter of his of 1749, Erasmus's Colloquia, Dr Parr. Kenrick's opinion of Belsham 'directly contrary to yours'.
James Wodrow  Stevenston  29 December
Did not receive letter until September as was away from home for
four months from mid-May. Since then the harvest, the Sacrament,
etc have not left him time and inclination to write. Went to
Edinburgh for the General Assembly. Called on Kenrick's friend
Dr Spence whom he had only once met fifty-five years before. Had
news of Kenrick from him. Notes on some journeyings in Scotland,
people met. Made almost same journey on horseback thirty seven
years ago. Aberdeen much increased in size. Godwin's Life of
Chaucer. Differences between Highlanders and Lowlanders. Erskine
still Spoken in some Ayrshire parishes in his time. Edinburgh
Reviewers improve but he condemns 'their dictatorial & sarcastical
spirit'. Two anecdotes of Charles James Fox and Napoleon. The
French controversy. Who is John Corry of Manchester, author of
memoirs of Priestley?

1805

Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  [10 April]
They have corresponded 'above 54 years'. Is glad Wodrow met Dr
Spens. Anecdote told him by Spens of a 'Dr Webster, minister in
Fife' [probably Thomas Webster, sometime minister at Kinloss
easter]. Webster's views of the Bath Dissenters. Comments on
Wodrow's tour. Anecdote of Lord Mansfield's matriculation at
Mention of Dundee brings a long complaint over the trial of F
Palmer. Has read Lord Teignmouth's Life of Sir William Jones.
Priestley's life to be written on a larger scale by his son and a
Mr Cooper. [The third sheet of the letter is missing. It
announced the death of Timothy Kenrick, minister at Exeter and
nephew of Samuel Kenrick.] Timothy Kenrick an intimate friend
of Priestley's and like him 'had first imbibed the dark gloomy
religious notions of Calvinism', in his case learnt from a Baptist
minister at Wrexham who had been educated at Aberdeen where the
Baptists have funds like the Presbyterians at Glasgow. More
information on Timothy Kenrick. His children are 'very promising,
particularly his eldest son'. Mr Carpenter to succeed him.

James Wodrow  Stevenston  21 May
Has kept Kenrick's letters. The current state of preaching in
Aberdeen. 'Episcopacy was once the prevailing mode there' but
suspects it has declined since the Revolution in the North but
increased in Glasgow and Edinburgh 'its Genius being more suited
to Opulence & distinction of ranks, than that of humble Presbyter'.
Rebukes Kenrick for his warmness on Palmer and Muir trials.
Misfortunes of Dr Robert Small, minister of Dundee. Business in
the General Assembly. [Sir] John Leslie's work on heat produces
a charge of atheism.

Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  24 June
Keeps all Wodrow's letters: 'I have the pleasure & pardonable vanity,
to think they may be perused with advantage, by some of my
surviving Friends, & add a gleam, however faint, of lustre to
my memory, in deserving the correspondence of such a Friend'.
Does not remember the correspondence of his English tour of 1759 but gives a reminiscence of Dr Johnson whom he saw at the Oxford Encensia that year for the only time, also an anecdote of Johnson told him at the time. Thomas Warton. The character of James I. Dr Small. Mary Kenrick sends Wodrow '3 pair of our fashionable Bewdley candlesticks'. How to clean them.

247
Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  1 October
The time they have lived through, particularly the last twenty years. Is reading Priestley's posthumous Notes on the New Testament. Corn harvest has been good but hops and fruit have almost entirely failed. [By mistake Mary Kenrick wrote on the frank a note to Col. Spens in which she describes some philosophical lectures she has been attending, given by a Mr Walker. She encloses a sheet to Wodrow explaining what happened with, as a peace offering, a copy of verses by Catherine Eddowes on the death of Priestley.]

248
James Wodrow  Stevenston  19-24 October
Thanks for two letters and the candlesticks. Explains why he has not written before. Mary Kenrick's mistake pleased him. Could she visit them in Scotland? Talks of various old college companions. Thomas Warton. Dr Johnson. Has been reading three volumes of Essays by one Knowles. The British and Foreign Bible Society 'the most liberal attempt to spread Xian knowledge that ever was made'. £35 collected from his parish for it. Has read lately the Anti-satisfactionist by Richard Wright. He showed it to Dr Magill who stayed lately ten days with him with his daughter. A good harvest, still digging potatoes.

1806

249
James Wodrow  Stevenston  18 February
Visits and visitors. The Leslie trial. The new ministry.

250
Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  22 March
Cannot spare Mary for a visit to Scotland. Never goes far now and is awkward and uncomfortable at any chit-chat and confined in the Bank with only one old musty clerk as morose as himself. But he has his books to speak to him. Catherine Eddowes daughter of the man he met at Chester. Notice of Eddowes. Is sending him Timothy Kenrick's posthumous sermons and some pamphlets of a society of Unitarian Christians in the west of England, founded by Timothy Kenrick in 1793. There is another so-named society in London to which the Duke of Grafton and clergy of the Established Church belong. Dr Law, late Bishop of Carlisle, a professed Unitarian. Dr Disney, who was Lindsey's co-pastor and successor, has left the Society on Belsham's appointment to it. Timothy Kenrick's sermons were written in shorthand and have been transcribed by his son 'who is now qualifying...for his father's profession, under Mr Kentish'. Unexpected defeat of W H Lyttelton in the Worcestershire election.

251
Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  29 September
Did the last letter and parcel arrive safely? Comments on the fellow students mentioned by Wodrow. Ben Dawson, Urwick, Black, Adam Ferguson. Does not know an author named Knowles, did Wodrow mean Towers? 'Our late extraordinary bloodless conquest in South America'. The British and Foreign Bible Society. Clergy
in his locality. The sale of rights of presentation. Value of the Scottish Statistical account. No great expectations from the Life of Priestley continued by his son and the account of his writings by 'his Friend Judge Cooper...a professed infidel'. Priestley's last work 'is very incorrect...a long list of errata & on miserable American paper'. Notice of Richard Wright. Visits from Miss Makinlay and from Wigan. A note from Mary Kenrick on the frank. Her father is very busy as his 'old cross-grained but useful clerk' is unwell and there are no hopes of his recovery.

252 James Wodrow Stevenston 11 October Waited on receiving the parcel of books and pamphlets. Thanks for these. A long discussion of Timothy Kenrick's sermons and of points in them. Kenrick is right in his conjecture [Joseph] Towers. The capture of Buenos Aires. 'Why are you silent about Mr Fox's death?'.

1807

253 James Wodrow Stevenston 5-7 January Queries on old college friends, Ben Dawson, Thomas Urwick, William Davenport, Daniel Noble. Writings of the two Samuel Bourns, Fawcett's Sermons. Swiss and German sermons, has Beaasabbre and Zollkoffe. Second report of the Bible Society. Clergy on Scotland, size of stipends. Monthly Review's reviewing. Magill has not been able to visit him. Other visitors. Sermons on the death of Fox by Belsham and another. His assistant's brother has at last been able to get out of France. His impressions of its present condition. Just called away to preside at the laying of a foundation stone of a Masonic lodge in the village.

254 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 25 February Thanks for sentiments on Timothy Kenrick's Sermons. Discussion of John Kenrick who wishes to go to Glasgow the next winter as a Dr Williams exhibitor. Apart from his merit his great-grandfather was known to Dr Williams. Asks for information as to whether there is a vacancy at Glasgow on the Williams lists, etc. There is also a brother whom he hopes will in time be qualified for the same award. Dr Williams. Old acquaintances. Dawson. Urwick. Davenport. William Gaskell. Davenport. Newcome Cappe. The spread of Unitarian beliefs, particularly in South Wales. 'As to politics & the present ministry - 'tis too wide a field for me to enter into'. Whitbread's project to reform the Poor Laws. Little news of foreign affairs comes through.

255 James Wodrow Stevenston 7-9 April Has written to Dr [Robert] Findlay at Glasgow about John Kenrick and copies much of his reply about the Divinity scholars and the regulations of Dr Williams's Trustees. Urges him to do less work in the Bank and to get a new clerk. In spite of his age he has been chosen a member of the General Assembly. Death of Magill. Mental illness in his family.

256 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 13 August Returns general thanks for the information from Dr Findlay. John Kenrick has been recommended to try Jena. At present he is in Exeter. He has lately been in London and is known to some of Dr Williams's trustees, including Dr Belsham who is his stepmother's brother. Thanks for solicitations about his own work. He carries on, not finding it easy to break off an old habit. Is happily settled at Bewdley, where 'we came...wth. my worthy relation & second Father to Mr Millar of Nielston above forty years ago'.

46
Miss Roberts not yet married. Has lost his old clerk but got a new young one. Is partly deaf and makes conversations 'ending in cross purposes- to the amusement of those who have ears to hear'. The late ministry. Rev James Hull's Travels in Scotland. 'You have long seen what a false prophet I was with regard to Buonaparte & his Iter boriale'. Prospects of invasion in Ireland. Marketing habits.

257
James Wodrow
Stevenston
3–5 October
Will be most happy to see John Kenrick if he comes to Glasgow. He may be there in the winter as there is a talk of Dr Findlay resigning and there may be an election in the Faculty. Two men are suggested, [Gavin] Gibb and [James] Couper, Professor of Practical Astronomy. Two posthumous works of Dr Campbell of Aberdeen John Kenrick should read. Business he attended in the Assembly. Was troubled in Edinburgh with a cough. Great loss to the Assembly that Henry Erskine, though in Edinburgh, was not a member of it. A meeting with him. Sir H Moncrieff. Kenrick's relations in Scotland. Mr Brisbane died three weeks ago, his sister, Mrs Jeffrey, died some years ago leaving an only daughter, a minor, living with Dr Gavin Gibb aforesaid. The son of the former owner of the estate has laid claim to it, that his Guardians had no power to sell it during his minority. Henry Millar of Neilston. Did not know he had any part in settling Kenrick at Bewdley. His daughter Mrs Napier of Blackstone was at Saltcoats this summer with some of her family for sea-bathing. Her eldest son, Lieutenant Colonel in the 92nd regiment. Distressed by the Baltic expedition. Erskine, the Prince of Wales and the slave trade.

258
Samuel Kenrick
Bewdley
3 November
Prospect has arisen of his terminating the Bank partnership. John Kenrick has gone to Glasgow with three students from Liverpool who have been there before; the classes he expects to attend. He has 'completed the inspection' of his father's Exposition of the historical writings of the New Testament, which has been published at the desire of the Exeter congregation. He is taking a copy of this to Glasgow as a present to the University from Carpenter. How will it be received there? Mentions Dr Findlay. William Richardson. John Couper (his predecessor at Milliken); James Barr. Growth of Glasgow University. Coments on Assembly business. Brisbane and his Scottish relatives. Henry Millar was his guardian on his going to Scotland in October 1743. His house at Paisley his home in Scotland until he went to Milliken in 1750 and after until he left Scotland in September 1765 and came to Bewdley. Millar journeyed to Bewdley with the Kenricks and Miss Smith (now Mrs Hutcheson of Maybole). They arrived at Bewdley on 19 September. Their reception in Bewdley. Millar's health improved and he returned to Scotland but died soon after. His daughter, Mrs Napier. A cask of apples is waiting him and books will be put in it. He introduced a Book Society to Bewdley in June 1767 which continues under his direction ' & tho' a poor player I have introduced here the...game of chess'.
1808

259  James Wodrow  Stevenston  18 March
The cask of apples arrived about a week since, having been four
months at sea. Some apples had perished and begun to ferment
and the juice had penetrated the books, though without greatly
damaging them. Discussion of Timothy Kenrick's Exposition and
his memoir by John Kentish, also of a confutation of Wilberforce's
Hereditary depravity. Who is the layman who wrote it? John
Kenrick visited them at Christmas. He was able to impart
information on various people. Samuel Bourn the younger, Joseph
Fawcett. Results of free enquiry. Findlay has read T Kenrick's
sermons. There is now no talk of his retiring. Note on
Professor John Simson and the processes against him. Character
of McGill in the Monthly Magazine. James Barr. His brother
[probably William] involved in body-snatching when at the
University of Glasgow. This produced a riot and a sentence of
futation passed against Barr. The Napliers. A new edition of
William Craig's Sermons.

260  Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  19 March
Thanks for the attentions to John Kenrick. Various delays in
the sending of the cask of apples. Is pleased to hear from John
of the flourishing condition of Glasgow University. Remembers
the rectorial election of 1743, a similar contest to that of
1807, the philosophers were in dispute then. Interrupted by a
call from John Simson who, with Thomas Telford, has just built
a new bridge at Bewdley and is planning an 'Equally handsome
town or Court House'. Their engineering works.

261  Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  13-15 April
Little notice taken of Timothy Kenrick's posthumous work in the
reviews. Is pleased with Dr Findlay's sentiments. The author
of the confutation of Wilberforce is Dr [Thomas] Cogan, a
physician at Bath and author of the Treatise on the Passions.
He is brother to Mr [Elezzer] Cogan, master of a private academy
near London and reckoned the best Greek scholar in England after
Porson and Burney. Thinks he met their father in 1749. Professor
[John] Young has written to Beleshon on John Kenrick. The Church
Methodists have a great following, chapels are being built for
them in all places. Fellows attacks them and says that they are
antinomians 'But they are all trinitarians & Tories in politics,
devoted to church & King'. Their spirit towards others and
their 'over weening self conceit'. The numerous good works of
the Rev [John] Cawood, the assistant curate of Bewdley, his
catechising and teaching of the young, etc. Had lent him Henry's
History of Great Britain but he declined the loan of Lardner's
works. He is a follower of Pitt whilst Jesse follows Fox. News
of Ralph Eddowes in Philadelphia. Favoured and protected by
Jefferson. Copy of a letter from Jefferson to Eddowes, 18
John Simson and his times. Remembers the bodysnatching mob in
Glasgow. Ben Dawson's brother Eli was then a student of anatomy
there and obliged to fly. He afterwards conformed and became a
chaplain on a man-of-war and was at the taking of Quebec. The
second part of Ben Dawson's Dictionary has arrived. A lost ms
journal of John Millar's, lent to Warner and never returned.
Hopes soon to have the bank off his hands. A postscript on
Methodism in Bewdley and its pastor Thomas Burton. Richard Wright
of Wisbech continues his labours. An article in Vidler's
Repository.

48
James Wodrow  
Stevenson  
262  

[Samuel Kenrick  
Bewdley  
28 April]

James Wodrow  
Stevenson  
263  
5 July
Thanks for two letters, a copy of the second has been sent to the Earl of Buchan. Various visitors. Dr Hamilton of Aberdeen, Robert Boog of Paisley. Fox's James II. Account of his correspondence with Lord Buchan over a projected work. Precis of information sent of past Professors at Glasgow, etc. The work to be called 'Anecdotes of printing and academical literature at Glasgow during the last century, collected by the Earl of Buchan for the benefit of the family of Robert Foulis, Printer'. The Earl says the book is to be dedicated to Wodrow and Robert Anderson, whom he knows and who is the Earl's literary assistant; has sent him a copy of the dedicatory epistle. John Kenrick has not yet returned from a visit to Staffa and the Isles. Fox has done honour to the memory of Wodrow's father. 'What a spirit of noble enthusiasm in kindled over the whole kingdom of Spain'.

James Wodrow  
Stevenson  
264  
13-16 July
More about Fox's James II. Robert Boog's opinion of it. Boog has the missing Diary of John Millar's Kenrick mentioned and has sent it to Wodrow. Kenrick may borrow it but Boog wishes to retain it. Suggests Simson may convey it. Notes items in it and remembers people mentioned. Arrangements for John Kenrick. Letter from Robert Anderson. Lord Buchan's book will not be published for some time. Information on this. The war in Spain. Comments on the Methodists and Evangelical preachers. Late favourable weather.

Samuel Kenrick  
Bewdley  
265  
16 August

James Wodrow  
Stevenson  
266  
31 August-2 September
Letters. Lord Buchan's project. James Buchanan. Memories of him. The sentence on Francis Stone. Does not think Bishop Porteus related to the Captain. The execution of the latter. John Kenrick has been with them four or five weeks. He has 'never met with a young man of his years...I was better pleased with'.

49
267 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 27 September
Fox's James II. Poulis and Lord Buchan's project. Andrew Poulis and stereotyping. Early printing towns. Antwerp in 1761. The Improved Version of the New Testament under the direction of Joyce and Belsham. The war in Spain. 'This mysterious business in Portugal'.

268 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 14-19 October
Letters of 13 July and 31 August now received from Simpson. The Millar ms. Paisley in 1746. Enumeration made in that year by Robert Campbell. Poulis. Robert Ury. The war in Spain. Napoleon 'the proud tyrant of Europe'. Buchan's life of Sir James Stuart. Discussion of matters concerning Stone's trial. He is assured that one of the Edinburgh Reviewers is he who succeeded Priestley at Birmingham in 1792 and wrote against Horsley as the 'Welsh Frensholder' [i.e David Jones]. George Kenrick has called at Bewdley on his way to join his brother at Glasgow. James Grahame's poems. There are two sheets of drafts for this letter. News from John Simpson. Sir J Sinclair's Statistical account. The Bishop of London and Francis Stone. Clerical Freeholds. Bishop Horsley's profligate son: 'no man who knows him wd. trust with a shilling'. The selling of livings, etc.

[James Wodrow Stevenston 19 October]

269 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 29 November
Thanks for letter of 19 October, the day on which a packet was sent by John Simpson with a copy of the Improved Version. George Kenrick has now joined John at Glasgow. Clerical belief. Erasmus. Now takes the Edinburgh Review. An article by Godwin in the Monthly Magazine for August. Opposite view taken by one Villers, a member of the National Institute of France. The rest of this letter is missing.

270 James Wodrow Stevenston 23 December
John Kenrick. He has been to see Edinburgh and executed a little business there for Wodrow. The Improved Version. The Unitarians; meant no disrespect by calling them a sect. Erasmus. Luther. Has read Villars. Newcombe Cappe's devotional Sermons. Almost despairs of the Spanish cause.

271 James Wodrow Stevenston 28 December
Villers. Newcombe Cappe's Sermons.

1809

272 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 12 April
273 James Wodrow Stevenston 5-6 June
Thanks for present of some home-made wines. John and George Kenrick have been with them for three or four weeks and with them part of the time a fellow student, John Wood. His father, Ottiwell Wood, a retired merchant of Manchester, and two sisters have also stayed. John Wood had first been intended to follow theology but it now seems he will pursue the law. John Kenrick. His essays. begs Kenrick to leave the bank.

274 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 27 June
Idea of banking first impressed on his mind at Glasgow in 1743. The progress of the Bank from 1765. [The rest of this letter is missing.]

[Samuel Kenrick Bewdley July]

275 Samuel Kenrick Bewdley 3 October
Archibald Kenrick and John Kentish much impressed with their visit to Wodrow and with his administration of the Sacrament. Political affairs. The Tories. The new Quarterly Review 'under the direction of Mr Scott the Poet' has attacked the Improved Version. How is Richard Wright?

276 James Wodrow Stevenston 16 December
Has been busy thinking to draw up a Memoir of his father. Unfortunately Robert Wodrow's two clerical sons and three eldest sisters had never done this, nor had John Warner. He knows little of his father, 'an Infant only four years old on the day of his death'. This begun for the second edition of the Perth Encyclopaedia. Has been looking into the drafts of his father's correspondence, five or six volumes from 1698 to 1731; no replies to him have survived. Ottiwell Wood has sent him the four volumes of George Walker's Sermons. Pleasure in seeing the Kenricks and Kentish. Richard Wright has had little attention drawn to his Scottish mission.

1810

277 James Wodrow Stevenston 9 April
Has had news in Mary Kenrick's letter to Margaret. Their health. Simpson has been unwell. John Hendry, his assistant, is like to leave to succeed John Duncan at Ardrossan. Difficulty of finding another. William Burns, a parishoner for six or seven years, a manufacturer of magnesia, is a close student of the New Testament. He was educated amongst the 'Methodists, and the strictest Calvanistick sects here & has from conversation with them a... thorough & accurate knowledge of their peculiar principles, manners, foibles'. He published near two years ago a pamphlet On the morality of the gospel and is printing another, attracted by the controversy between the Barrister and the Methodists in the Monthly Review. Johnson the bookseller seemed much pleased with his letters and his ms. The memoir of his father has reached the conductor of the Encyclopaedia who thinks it may have to be cut down. He will send Kenrick a separate copy.
[This letter is endorsed by Mary Kenrick 'This was the last letter my Father ever read from Dr Wodrow who died the 17th Decr 1810 after a few days illness...']
Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  19 September
Wodrow's father. Anecdote of Harley's reading his folio history in 1715 or 1716 whilst imprisoned in the Tower. Harley's Library. Has no news of the *Biographia Britannica*. Dr Enfield is dead and Dr Aiken embarked on other undertakings, work either broken off or completed. John Kenrick has just left on the way to York as third tutor. He had preached at Exeter and at Plymouth, the latter place 'the fountain head of Methodism, the fixed residence of Dr Hawker, the doughty champion of that flourishing sect'. A congregation of rational Unitarians has succeeded the Presbyterians there. The Edinburgh Review. Some of those who call themselves Northern critics are Englishmen. Archibald Kenrick. John Kentish. Richard Wright. Is glad to hear from his daughter that he has a new assistant. Jesse cannot find an assistant for his parish near Birmingham. Wigan has called with some scientific gentlemen: [George] Saw 'a celebrated zoologist, the English Bufon' and [Parkinson, a metallurgist, son of the man who won the Lever Museum. Wigan lodges in Kensington in the apartments occupied by Tallyrand when he resided in England. He is at last rid of the Bank. Banking problems and the issue of paper money. Growth in the number of banks. The rest of the letter is not preserved.

Samuel Kenrick  Bewdley  28 September
John Simpson has called on his way to inspect a house which had been burned down and which he is to rebuild. Thanks for copies of William Burns's Inquiry. Grammatical oversights in it. Why does Burns talk of Socinians and not come out and say Unitarians?

Additional items found with the above correspondence

John Warner (1713-87), Minister of Kilbarchan, from that place to Samuel Kenrick, 9 March 1774
Millican family. Improvements on the loch side. Business in the Presbytery. Parties in England. Has not read Monboddo. His own publication [Letter to the west country farmers]. James [Wodrow] has written something that way. 'O rare Ben Dawson live for ever... James talks of writing him. Price and Farmer are in the right to have no master but X Jesus'. James lost a son last year named after Warner's father and a week ago his wife bore a dead son. [Letter possibly not complete.]

Richard Price to James Wodrow, Hackney, 20 January 1790
Thanks for reports on the Widows' Fund, two volumes of Leechman's Sermons and McGill's thanksgiving Sermon. Is sending him the second edition of his Discourse of 4 November 1789 to the Revolution Society in London 'by a Gentleman who is returning to Scotland'. 'Never perhaps did an event happen more favourable to civil and religious liberty than the late Revolution in France. A glorious prospect seems, as you say in your letter, to be opening. A Spirit is gone forth which is likely to shake to the foundations the long establish'd fabrics of superstition and tyranny'.

52
282 Printed. Queries drawn up for the purpose of elucidating the natural history and political state of Scotland. 4pp, quarto, dated Edinburgh, May 25, 1790. Presumably drawn up by Sir John Sinclair.

283 Sir John Sinclair to James Wodrow, London, 9 January 1793
A card in the third person with a printed paper, dated 28 December 1792, regarding contribution to the Statistical account.

Letters relating in part to the personalities of the above correspondence

284 John Kenrick Harrogate 8 September 1875
To Sarah, widow of George Kenrick

285 Marianne Kenrick (d 1888, daughter of Achibald Kenrick and widow of Samuel Kenrick, 1790-1854) Edgbaston 8 September 1875
To Sarah, widow of George Kenrick

286 John Kenrick York 24 October 1875
To Marianne, widow of Samuel Kenrick

287 Marianne Kenrick Brighton [31 October 1875]
To Sarah, widow of George Kenrick
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