

who officiates as minister to the dissenting congregation, partly made up of the company resorting hither for the benefit of sea-bathing and drinking the waters. I am now at Mr. Follet's.

August 12. Sidmouth consists of about a hundred houses, built of mud walls and thatched roofs, except a very few with Cornish tile and with shingies, very low, situated in a bottom or vale; the lands about are under good improvement. On each side stand two ridges of hills, ending in cliffs, the foot washed by the tide. In the town is an old church with a clock and a meeting house. The inhabitants chiefly hired out to the Newfoundland traders, and for the most part in low circumstances. The town is within the manor of Sir Wilmot Prideaux, whose ancestor having mortgaged the estate to the ancestor of a person now insane, the leases cannot be renewed, and therefore the houses are going to decay, none inclining to repair more than necessary at an uncertainty.

TO DR. CHARLES RUSSELL, ANTIGUA.

Sidmouth, August 14, 1776.

DEAR SIR :

Your letter has given me great pain ; people in similar circumstances of distress must be brutal not to feel for one another. Let us endeavor to fortify our minds against despondency ; perhaps our prospects will brighten ; if not, reason and a submissive disposition may greatly alleviate, though they cannot wholly remove the weight of trouble. I sincerely wish you and your connections a removal of the sufferings you are at present under.

You are candid enough to place my demand to the right account. I would sooner have endured hunger than needlessly add to any one's distresses, much less those for whom I am bound by many ties to promote their happiness and interest. Do not remember the demand, consult your convenience ; I have not wanted, although am reduced to a rigid economy, which you know was not my case in New England. This watering place, the resort of much genteel company for sea bathing, is the most frugal place in England ; it is in Devonshire, in the neighborhood of Exeter, and about two hundred miles from London.

Your favors, ever esteemed, ask a continuance of, and remain, etc.

S. CURWEN.

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