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Title: Letter from Matthew Boulton to Unknown Recipient

Date: July 18, 1791

Location: I-Purchase-1960-5

Contact:

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Dear Sir

Remarkable as
an incendium NK
mch 1500

Your kind & friendly attention to me
& to our Town at this dreadfull & alarming
crisis I feel with redoubled sensibility & gratitude
Your letter to Mr Russell I have detain'd & shall
endeavour to find some means of conveying to
him where ever he may have taken shelter, for
alas he hath no home. His House no longer
exists. The flames were kindled in his own presence
& he remain'd the last within its walls

Mr Taylors house & offices with all their furniture
is totally destroy'd as well as his new Built House
call'd Mosely Hall in which Lady Carhampton
resided to the day of its destruction. Her household
goods were saved but all her Hay ricks made
a dreadfull flame last night. I send you inclosed
a list of such destructions as I can recollect
at this moment but I hear that other enormities
were committed last night of which I have not
yet received any acc. that I can depend upon

My friend Dr Withering hath been in a dreadfull
situation for 3 Days past as his House was

most certainly down in the Black List
We have thought Neglect & Delay was chargeable
upon somebody in not sending us any Military
succour before ten o'clock last night when
56 Dragoons arrived & 15 more this ~~morning~~ ~~the~~
Morning but I am just informed that the
commanding officer says he cannot act out
of the County a Town of Birmingham at least out of
Warwickshire without further orders from the
Secretary of War & it unfortunately happens
that Worcestershire comes within $\frac{1}{2}$ a Mile of Birmingham
on one side & Staffordshire within $\frac{1}{2}$ a Mile on the
other side. Mr Taylors Houses, Dr Priestlys, Mr
Humphreys, Mr Hawks, Mr Hobsons & Meeting
House with other smaller Houses are in the County of
Worcester & the Mob though much decreased &
enfeebled are yet ~~some~~ breaking the peace in
that County

I thought it my duty to the publick to my
Self & to my Work people (who are near a Thousand)
to attend them closely & by my example & advice
I have the satisfaction to say not one of them
quitted Soho or joined the Mob

I shall forbear to make any Comments upon
any part of this violent ~~business~~ business

Time I hope will bring Truth to Light

I pray God. preserve you from all
such like Dreadfull Calamities & remain

Dear Sir

Your faithfull & Obliged friend

Math. Boulton

Soho 10 July 1791

ex^t. husk & blot

[Faint, illegible handwriting]

see page

AP

line

[Faint, illegible handwriting]

Dear Sir

Your kind & friendly attention to me & to our Town at this dreadfull & alarming cricis I feel with redoubled sensibility & gratitude. Your letter to Mr Russell I have detain'd & shall endeavor to find some means of conveying to him where ever he may have taken shelter, for alas he hath no home. His House no longer exists. The flames were kindled in his own presence & he remain'd the last within its walls.

Mr Taylors house & offices with all their furniture is totally destroy'd as well as his new Built House call'd Mosely Hall in which Lady Carhampton resided to the day of its destruction. Her household goods were saved but all her Hayricks made a dreadfull flame last night. I send you inclos'd a list of such destructions as I can recollect at this moment but I hear that other enormities were committed last night of which I have not yet receiv'd anny acct. that I can depend upon.

My friend Dr. Withering hath been in a dreadfull situation for 3 Days past as his House was most certainly down in the Black List. We have thought Neglect & delay was chargable upon somebody in not sending us any Military succour before ten oclock last night when 56 Dragoons arived & 15 more this morning but I am just inform'd that the commanding officer says he cannot act out of the Town of Birmgm at least out of Warwickshire without further orders from the Secretary of War & it unfortunately happens that Warwickshire comes within $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile of Birmgm on one side & Staffordshire within $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile on the other side. Mr Taylors Houses, Dr. Priestleys, Mr. Humphries's Mr. Hawks, Mr Hobsons & 1 Meeting House with other smaller Houses are in the County of Worcester & the Mob though much decreased & enfeebled are yet breaking the peace in that County.

I thought it my duty to the publick to my self & to my Work people (who are near a thousand) to attend them closely & by my example & advice I have the satisfaction to say that not one of them quitted Soho or join'd the Mob.

I shall forebear to make any comments upon any part of this Violent business. Time I hope will bring Truth to Light.

I pray god preserve you from all such like dreadfull calamities & remain

Dear Sir

Your faithfull & Obliged friend

Matt:^w Boulton

Soho 18 July 1791