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THE LETTERS OF HUGH MILLER, FARMER, WEST FORTUNE, EAST LOTHIAN, 1910-1934

Transcribed by

Margaret S. Cannon

with an introduction by

Heather Holmes

THE EUROPEAN
ETHNOLOGICAL
RESEARCH CENTRE

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The present volume has its origins in a project by Margaret S. Cannon, Hugh Miller's granddaughter, to transcribe and introduce to the public a selection of his letters, an endeavour that recently came to fruition with the publication of *A Farmer in East Lothian*. The editor is grateful to Mrs Cannon for granting the EERC permission to publish the complete collection of her transcripts in the *Sources in Local History* series and for generously sharing her knowledge of the letters and their author.

Mrs Cannon's project was brought to the attention of the EERC by her daughter Dr Heather Haywood on the recommendation of Professor Donald Meek, and it is a pleasure to thank them both.

The editor would also like to thank Dr Haywood for supplying the photographs of the pages from the letter book, and Mrs Cannon for supplying the cover photograph, which shows Hugh Miller and his wife Jane.

EDITING

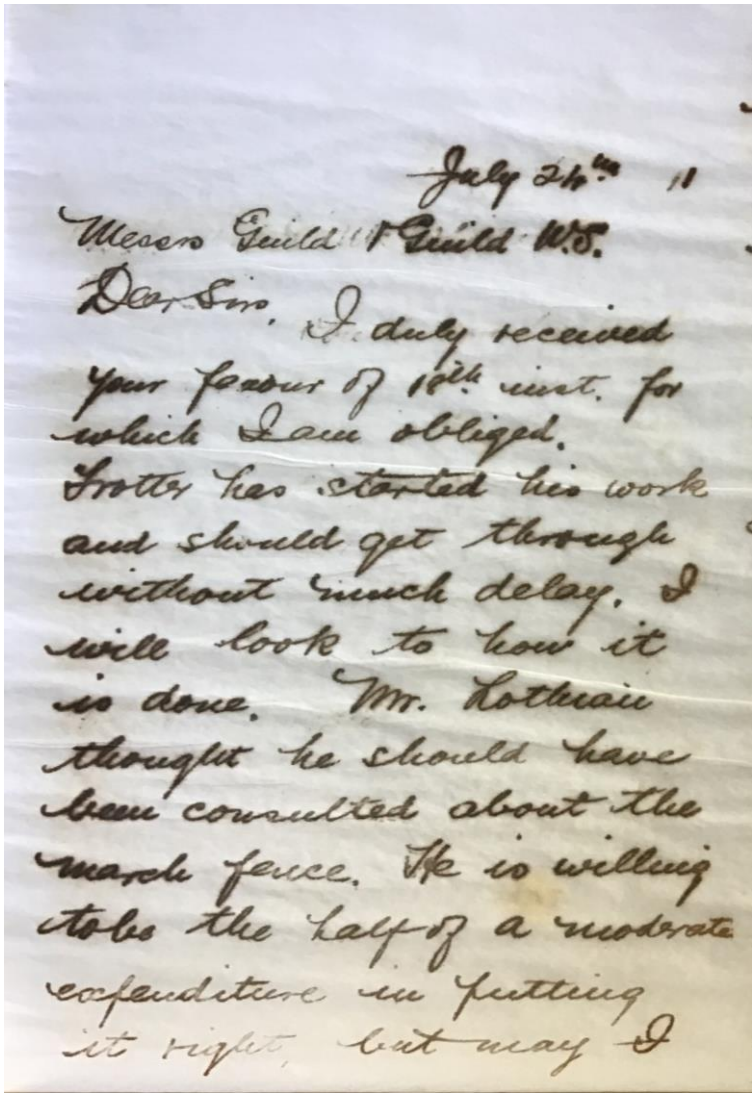
The letters presented here are transcripts of copies that were made by Hugh Miller using a wet letter book. These books, which typically comprised a large number of blank tissue-paper pages bound in hard covers, provided businesses and professionals with a method of making copies of their out-going correspondence. A newly written letter was placed under a dampened blank page of the book, which was then closed and pressed in order to make a duplicate. The great majority of Miller's copies are legible, but there were times when the copying process was not entirely successful, with parts of the duplicate coming out blurred or faint, the latter fault getting worse over time as the ink naturally faded. In this edition, words that can no longer be read are marked [*illegible*] and accompanied by further comment if necessary.

Each letter has been given a header comprising a number by which it can be referenced and the name of the recipient. The original duplicates do not include the full name and address of each recipient, it being Miller's custom to add the name alone immediately above the salutation. In many instances, he only wrote the initial of an individual's first name and occasionally not even that. If the recipient has been securely identified, his or her full name has been given in the header. If there is some doubt or the recipient remains unknown, the form found in the letter book has been reproduced. In both cases, the title used by Miller – 'Mr', 'esq.' etc. – has been included.

The date when each letter was sent has been given in a standard format and placed immediately after the header. Footnotes have been added where comment, explanation or further information was thought useful. This includes, where possible, the full identity of the recipient, but only on his or her first appearance in the collection. A very small number of editorial comments have been inserted in the text. These additions are all given in [ ]. Otherwise, the letters are presented as they appear in the original letter book.

It should be noted that the letter book contains a number of one-line memos to the manager of Miller's bank in North Berwick, usually recording the deposit of a cheque. These letters have not been reproduced here, other than three for the sake of example (Letters 31, 292 & 293).

FACSIMILES



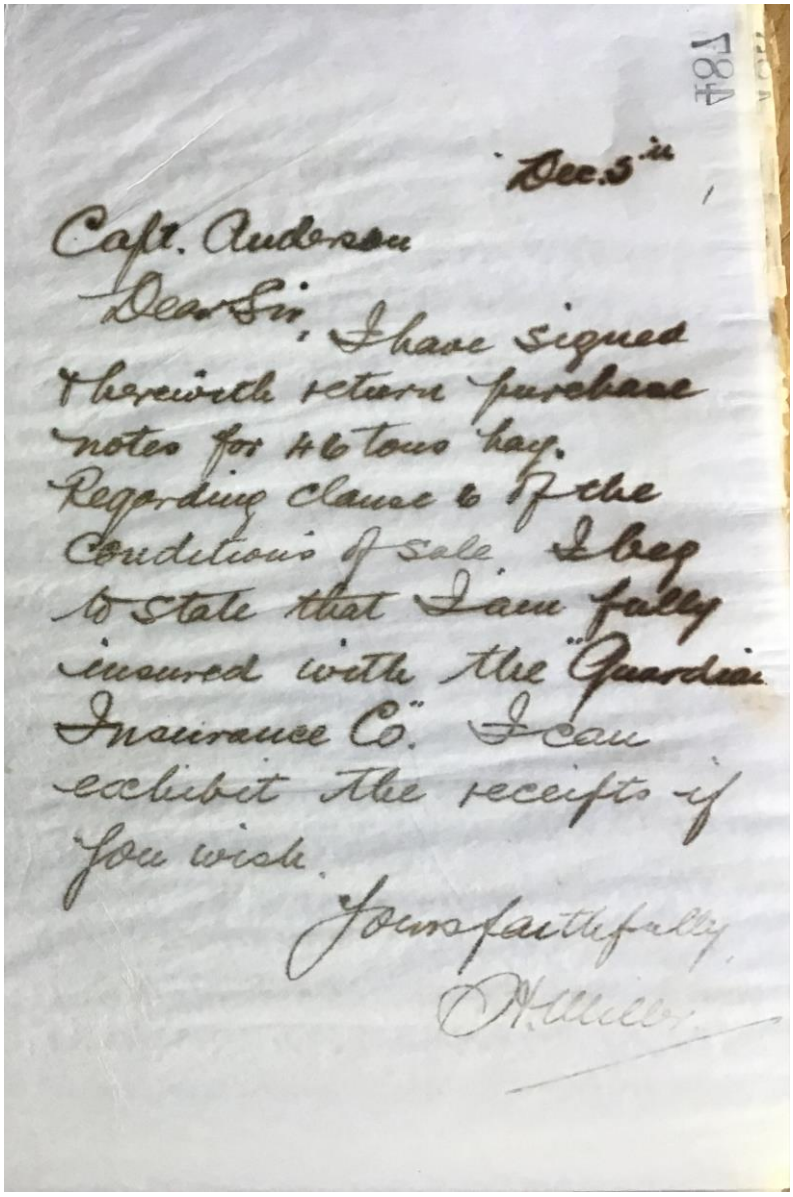
July 24th 11

Messrs Guild & Guild W.S.

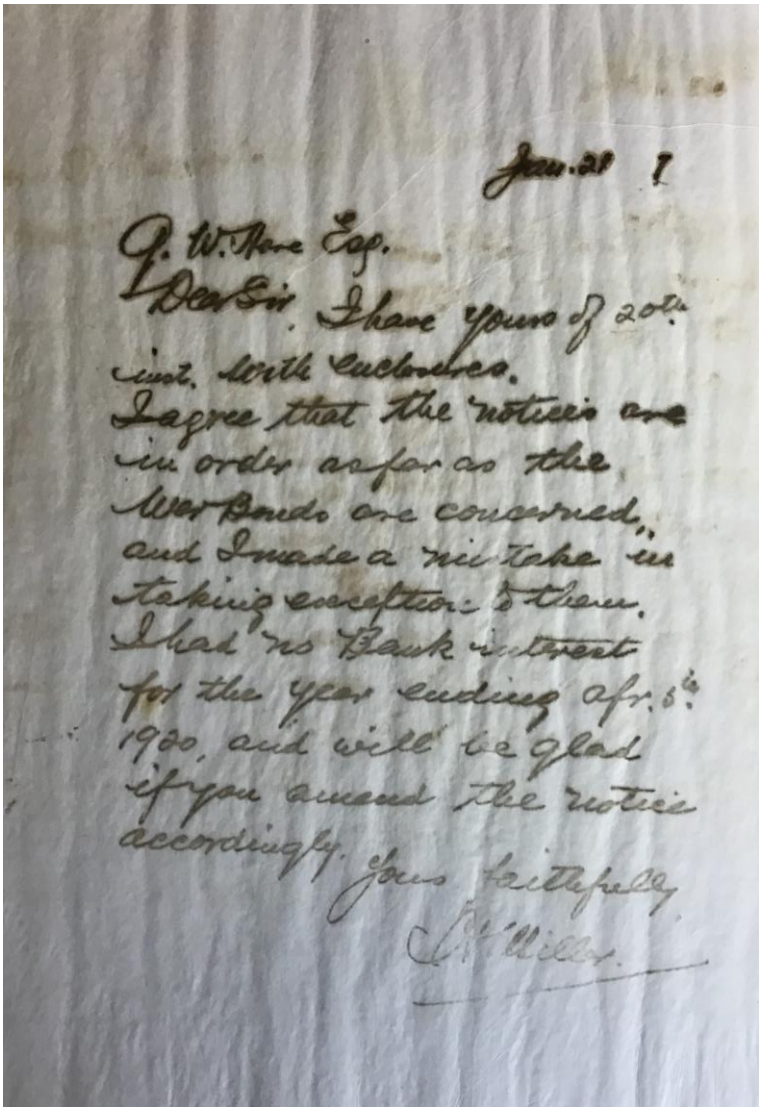
Dear Sirs, I duly received your favour of 18th inst. for which I am obliged.

Trotter has started his work and should get through without much delay. I will look to how it is done. Mr. Lothian thought he should have been consulted about the march fence. He is willing to be the half of a moderate expenditure in putting it right, but may I

Facsimile 1. The first page of the copy of Hugh Miller's letter of 24 July 1911 to Messrs Guild & Guild W.S. (Letter 130). If equal pressure was not applied to a letter book when pressed, some parts of the copy would turn out fainter than others, as can be seen here. (Courtesy of Margaret S. Cannon)



Facsimile 2. The copy of Hugh Miller's letter of 5 December 1917 to Captain Anderson (Letter 511). One of the letter book's pre-printed page numbers can be seen in the top right corner. Some of the words are slightly blurred due to parts of the page being too damp when the copy was made. Note again the faded ink at the bottom of the page. (Courtesy of Margaret S. Cannon)


Jan. 21 1

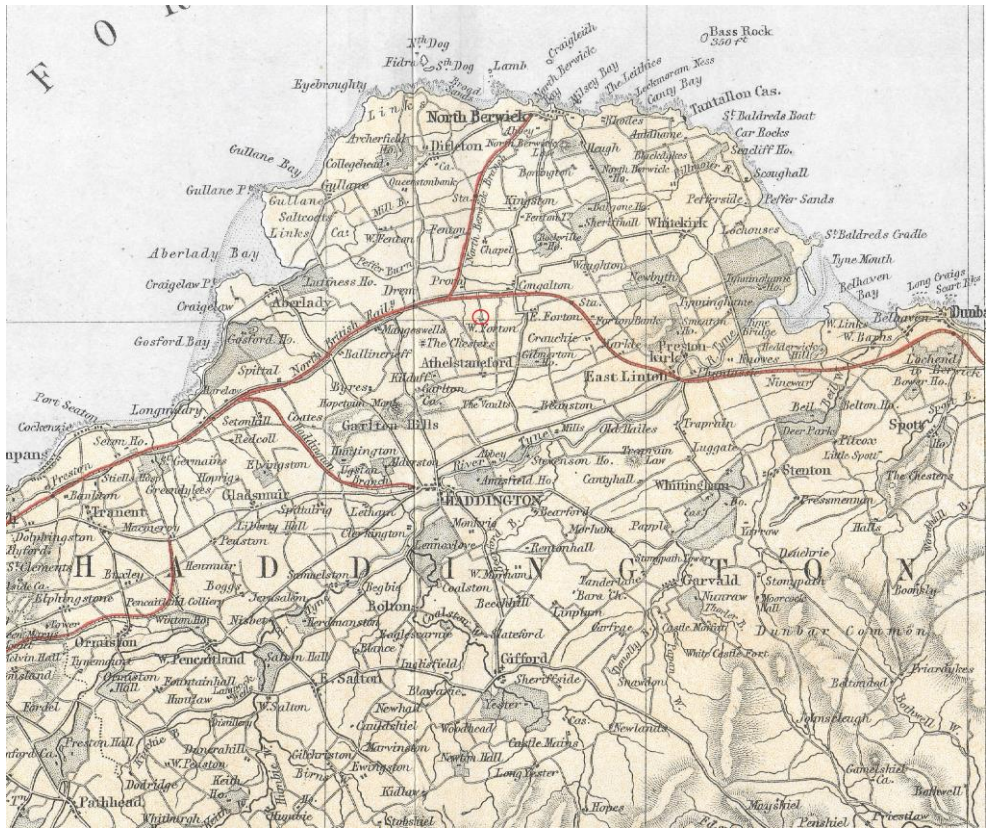
G. W. Hare Esq.

Dear Sir. I have yours of 20th inst. with enclosures. I agree that the notices are in order as far as the War Bonds are concerned, and I made a mistake in taking exception to them. I had no Bank interest for the year ending Apr. 5th 1920, and will be glad if you amend the notice accordingly. Yours faithfully

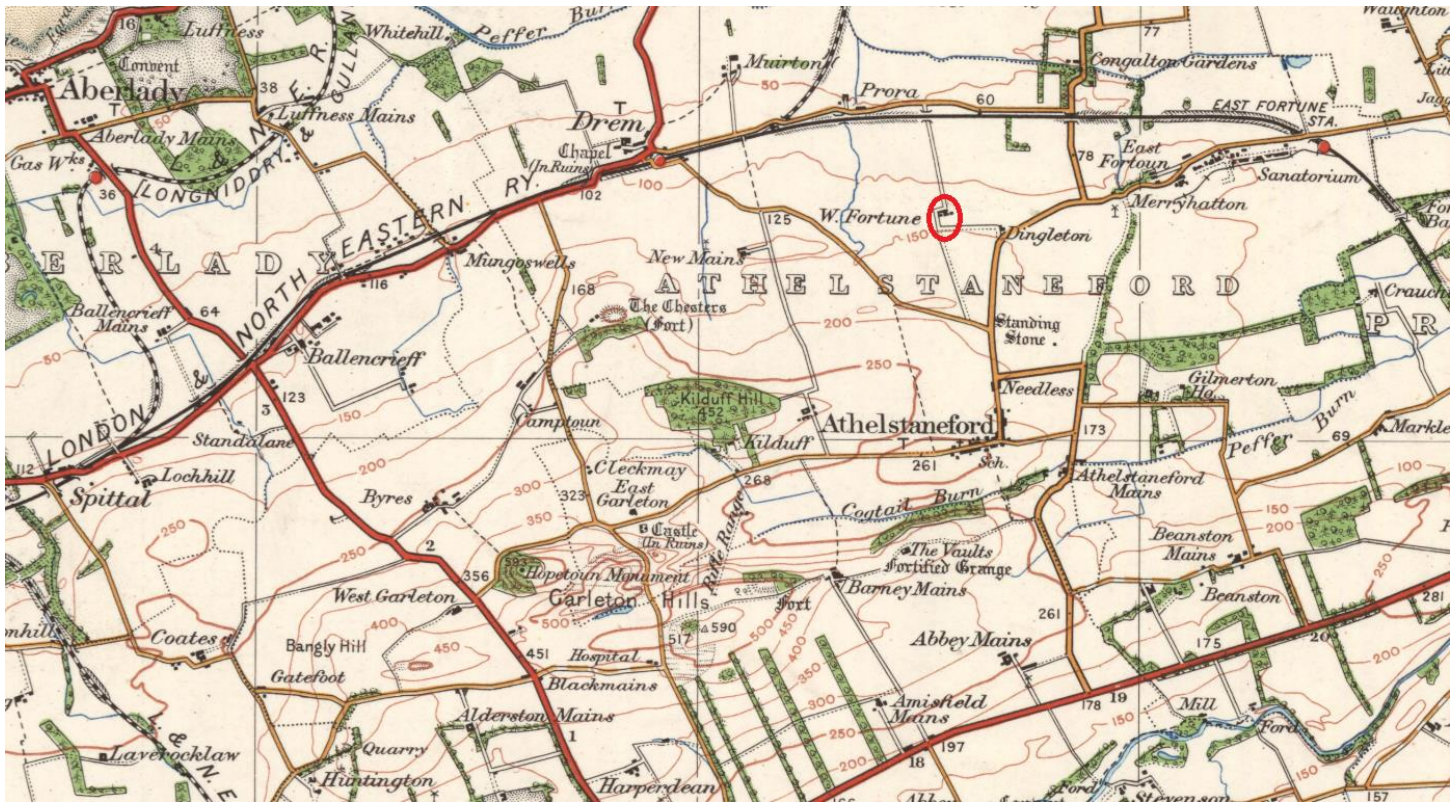
A. K. Miller.

Facsimile 3. The copy of Hugh Miller's letter of 21 January 1921 to George W. Hare (Letter 570). The fine pages of letter books often became crinkled during the copying process. Note again how certain words are either blurred or faint due to copying issues.
(Courtesy of Margaret S. Cannon)

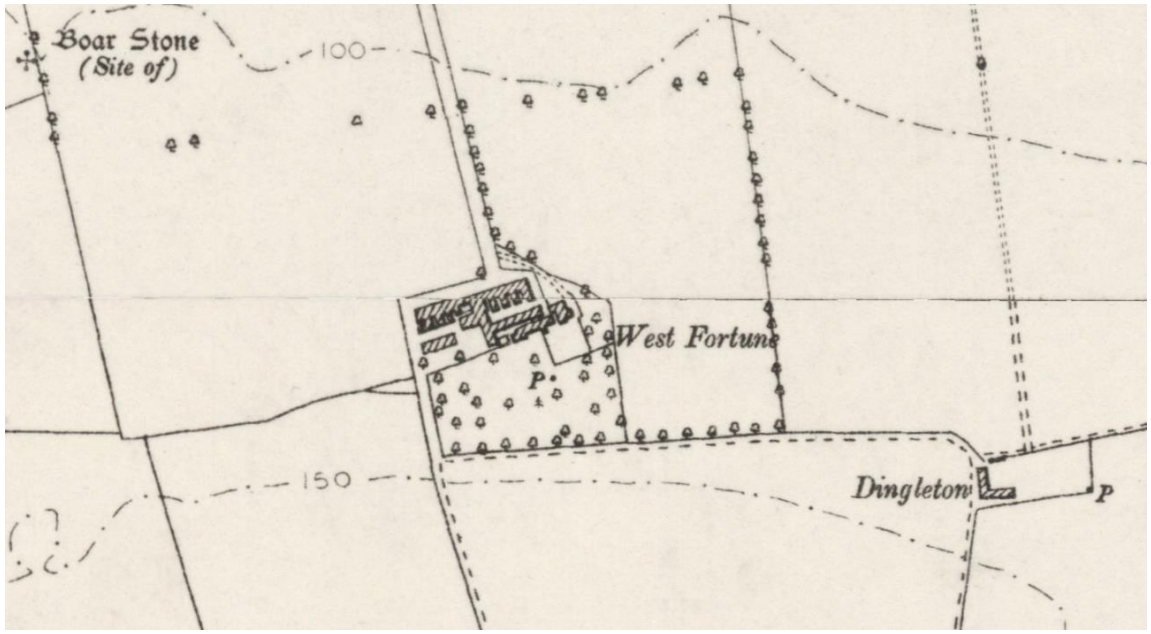
MAPS



Map 1. A detail from Groome's map of the Firth of Forth (1896), showing part of East Lothian. West Fortune (here 'W. Forton') has been circled in red. (*Groome's Gazetteer of Scotland*)



Map 2. A detail from the Ordnance Survey one-inch map of Scotland (1925), showing West Fortune (circled) and its proximity to the railway station at Drem. Other places connected with Hugh Miller's letters, including the farms of Luffness Mains, Muirton, Mungoswells, and Prora, can also be seen.
(*Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland*)



Map 3. A detail from the Ordnance Survey six-inch map of Scotland (1906), showing the house and farm buildings at West Fortune. The cottages at Dingleton are also shown.
(*Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland*)

FAMILY TREES

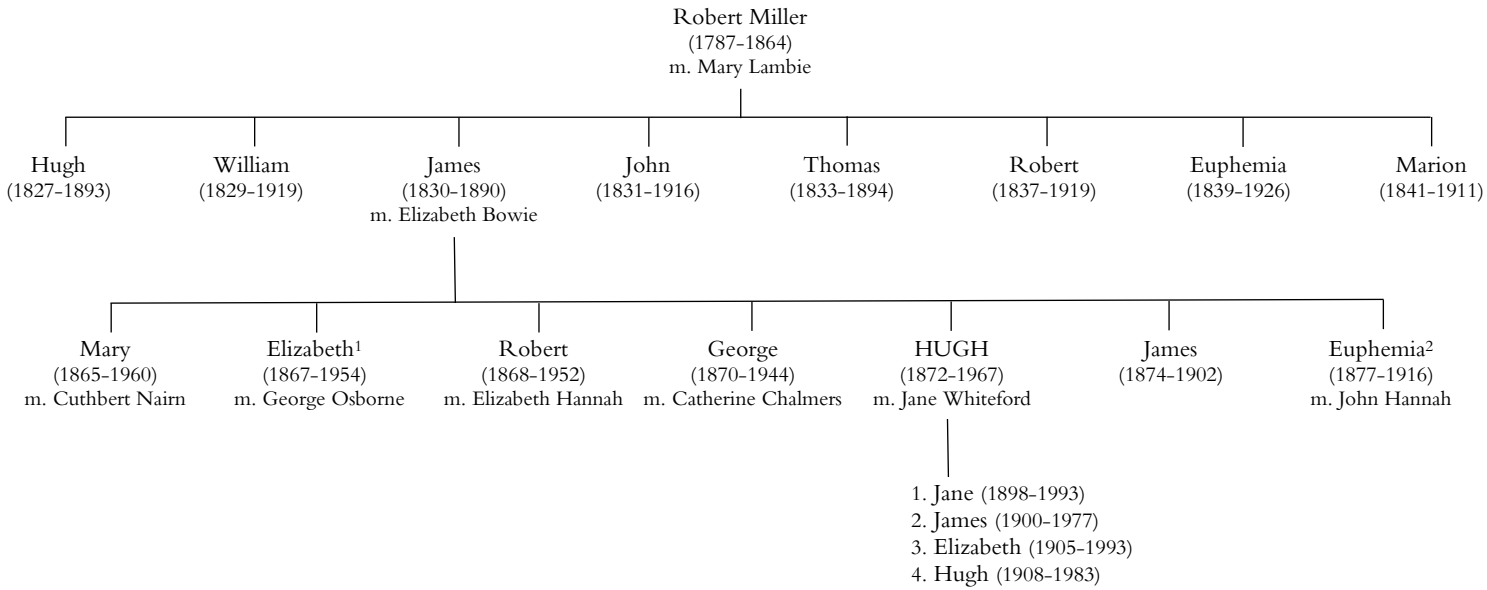


Table 1. Hugh Miller's family tree.

[1] 'Bessie' in the correspondence.
[2] 'Phemie' in the correspondence.

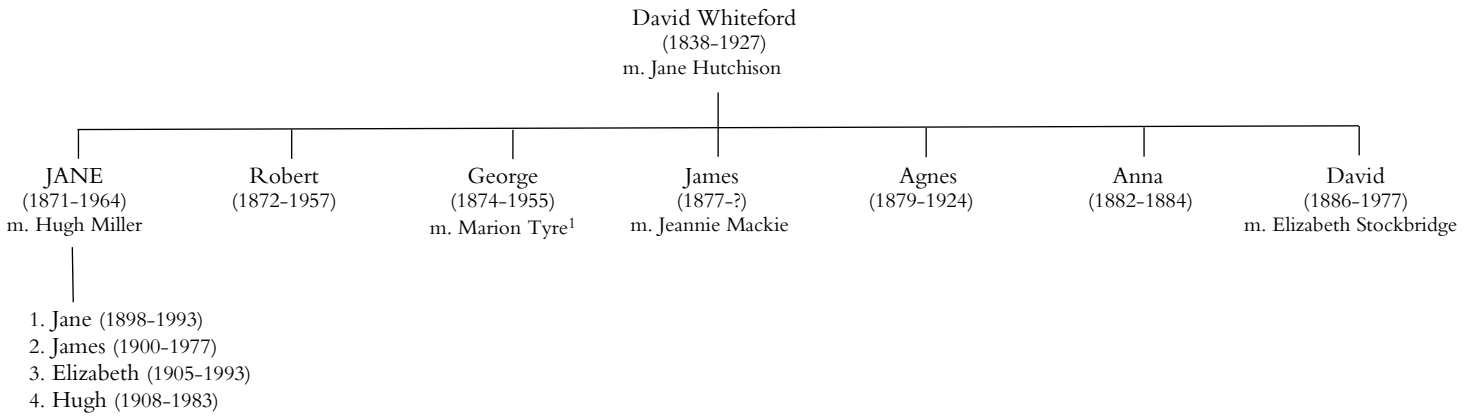


Table 2. Jane Whiteford's family tree.

[1] 'Minnie' in the correspondence.

INTRODUCTION

The 689 letters presented here are transcripts of copies made by Hugh Miller in a letter book. For him, the book would have been a useful record of his correspondence, to be stored alongside his ledgers, cash books, annual valuations, and other documents necessary for the efficient running of his farm at West Fortune, Athelstaneford, East Lothian. For the modern-day historian, however, the letters provide a valuable source of information about the nature and progress of farming in East Lothian in the opening decades of the twentieth century and an insight into the life and character of one of its leading proponents.

Early Years in Ayrshire

Hugh Miller was born on 11 July 1872 at Shaw, a farm in the parish of St Quivox, Ayrshire. He was the fifth child of farmer James Miller and his wife Elizabeth Bowie (see Family Tree). Hugh would have learnt his first lessons in farming from his father, but this tuition was cut short when James Miller died in March 1890, aged fifty-nine years. Not long after, Hugh moved to the farm of Grassmillees, Mauchline, to assist his uncle, also called Hugh. The elder Hugh was unmarried and before his nephew's arrival he had worked the 143-acre farm with two full-time farm servants. As with many dairy farms in Ayrshire, Grassmillees also had a 'bower', a sub-tenant to whom the owner-occupier or chief tenant provided a milking herd along with pasture in summer and feeding stuff in winter in return for payment either in cash or in cheese. One of the benefits of this system, especially for farmers such as Miller who had no wife or children, was that it devolved the daily grind of milking and dairy work to someone else. When the younger Hugh arrived at Grassmillees, his uncle had been in poor health for a number of years. He died not long after, in September 1893. The notice of his death in the *Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald* is worth quoting in full, as it provides details about the part played by the elder Hugh and the Miller family more widely in the agriculture of Ayrshire:

> Mr Miller came of a noted stock of farmers, and his brothers occupy what might be called model farms in different parts of the country. He himself came to Grassmillees about forty years ago, and during his occupancy of the farm it has been looked upon as one of the best managed in the shire. His study of farming must have been very searching, and his knowledge very widespread, as, no matter what kind of season it was, whether wet or dry, it seemed to have no effect on his crops, which were always abundant. As the farm has been a bowing for a good number of years, Mr Miller did not take much interest in cattle or cheese shows, his

principal interest seeming to be to make two blades of grass grow where formerly there was only one.[1]

Hugh took on the farm following his uncle's death and remained there for the next sixteen years, following the established pattern of focusing on the grass crop while sub-letting to a bower.[2]

Arrival at West Fortune

During his time as tenant of Grassmillees, Hugh Miller married Jane Whiteford and had four children (see Family Tree). In the year following the birth of their second son, Hugh left Grassmillees to take on the tenancy of West Fortune, as recorded in the *Edinburgh Evening News* for 30 July 1909: 'West Fortune Farm has been let to Mr Millar, of Mauchline, at £1000, being an increase of £50'.[3] The tenancy of the farm had been advertised on 5 June that year in *The Scotsman*, an important newspaper for announcing farm tenancies for let and the sale of agricultural land and estates. At that time, West Fortune was 'presently occupied by Mr Kirk Mackie, and extending to 464 acres, or thereby of excellent Arable Land. Drem Station is under two miles distant'.[4] Kirk Mackie had only entered the farm at Martinmas 1904, so his tenancy was short-lived. Other farms on the Luffness Estate had not changed hands for decades. Brownrigg, in the parish of Prestonkirk, for example, had been in the 'possession of Mr William Gray for 54 years'.[5]

The advert in *The Scotsman* noted two aspects of the farm that would have made it attractive to bidders: the first was the quality of the land; the second was its proximity to a railway station. Immediate access to the railway network enabled a farmer to obtain heavy materials and buy in bulk more conveniently. It also gave him a competitive advantage when it came to selling his produce, especially to distant markets. For the tenant of West Fortune, the station at Drem opened up markets in Edinburgh, Glasgow, the Borders, northern England and beyond.

Moving to West Fortune would also have presented a 'step up' for Hugh, not only because it was a much larger farm over which he would have full management, but also because it was in a county widely regarded as one of the leading – if not the leading – agricultural districts in Scotland.

There was another reason why Hugh may have bid for the farm: his older brother Robert was the tenant farmer at Ferrygate, which was in the neighbouring parish of Dirleton and also on the Luffness Estate. Robert had moved to Ferrygate at the end of 1901. A displenishing sale was held at Shaw on 12 October and at Ferrygate on 7 November,[6] suggesting an entry date for the new tenancy on or around 28 November. He would have been able to give Hugh detailed information about conditions on the Luffness Estate and what the farm at West Fortune was like. Having a brother nearby, moreover, would have provided a welcome family connection in the area.

Farming at West Fortune and beyond

The correspondence copied into the letter book falls into two broad categories: professional letters and personal letters. The recipients of the former included estate factors, local tradesmen, fellow farmers, and a wide range of firms that supported the agricultural industry. Often brief and matter of fact, they provide evidence of Hugh Miller's farming operations at West Fortune. Comments about life and work on the farm, however, can also be found in many of the letters he sent to family members and friends. Together, the two types of letters offer not only an insight into the workings of a single farm as it developed over twenty-five years, but also a different perspective on the history of Scottish farming during the turbulent opening decades of the twentieth century. This section of the introduction touches on some key topics relevant to the letters.

Ayrshire farmers in East Lothian

Hugh and Robert Miller were not the only farmers from Ayrshire to farm in East Lothian during the period covered by the letters. Elsewhere on the Luffness Estate, the Simpson family had acquired the tenancies of Castlemains (1893) and Highfield (1906).[7] Hugh mentioned visiting Castlemains in February 1911 (Letter 69). In September 1913, he observed that David Bone was 'an offerer for Markle, so Ayrshire is represented again' (Letter 386). Later that month, he informed his brother-in-law John Hannah (a farmer at Girvan Mains, Ayrshire) of the availability of another East Lothian farm:

> In the Scotsman of Saturday, Congalton is advertised to let with entry at Martinmas 1913, so if there are still some Ayrshire men on the hunt for a farm, it would be quite a desirable place, I would say much more so than Markle (Letter 394).

In November that year, another Ayrshire farmer, Allan Stevenson, obtained the tenancy at Luffness Mains. Hugh not only sent a letter to Stevenson congratulating him 'that Ayrshire is to the front again' (Letter 400), but also wrote to tell his own uncle that 'Luffness Mains, the Home farm, has been let to another Ayrshire man, and so the colony extends' (Letter 401).

In some instances, Ayrshiremen became owners of East Lothian farms. In 1919, for example, John Hannah purchased the 556-acre farm of Drem at a cost of £27,000, although to let rather than to work himself,[8] while Hugh bought West Fortune for £20,000. Interestingly, the rent for West Fortune in 1919 was £982 15/, less than when Hugh had entered the tenancy ten years earlier, a reflection of the poor state of the market after the First World War. In 1927, Hugh added to his holdings in East Lothian when he bought the nearby 231-acre farm of Prora, and then again in 1941 when he bought the neighbouring 260-acre farm of Congalton, the two units being worked together by his son James.

The main reason for the migration of Ayrshire farmers to East Lothian was the comparative state of farming in the two counties at the end of the nineteenth century. The great surge in grain imports into Britain from the United States of America had badly affected arable districts such as East Lothian. This increased the number of farms available, as some farmers moved away or quit the business entirely, and made them cheaper either to buy or to let. Being largely given over either to grazing or to dairying, Ayrshire benefited from the importation of cheap foodstuffs, which combined with the boom in demand for liquid milk from Glasgow and other expanding towns in the west, made some farmers wealthy. The labour-intensive and unremitting nature of dairy farming, and the fact that dairy farms were usually small, family-run affairs and the market for them overcrowded, also played its part in encouraging ambitious Ayrshire farmers such as Hugh Miller to look to East Lothian for a fresh start.

Improvements at West Fortune and the factor of the Luffness Estate

When Hugh Miller entered his tenancy at West Fortune, his lease would have stipulated how he was to manage the land, the steading, and the dwelling houses. It was the job of the estate factor, Alexander Guild, to see that he complied with these terms. Any changes or improvements that Hugh wanted to make on the farm, moreover, required the factor's permission and instruction. As well as corresponding with Guild by letter, Hugh discussed matters with him in person either at West Fortune or at Guild's office in Edinburgh or (before 1914) at his farm at Aberlady Mains. Some of these discussions are mentioned or expanded upon in the letters. In one from July 1911, for example, Hugh noted, 'May I take it that you agree to make the alterations in the barn that we spoke of, as that subject was departed from rather abruptly' (Letter 128).

The inconvenience of being beholden to a factor also comes across in the letters. Delays in fixing the farm's fencing had led to escaped sheep 'running all over the place' (Letter 15). Alterations to the barn 'should have been in hand a month ago' (Letter 126). Arrangements for the mill 'should have been in hand some time ago as the work will take some little time and harvest is approaching' (Letter 130). Hugh also had to press to resolve progress with the chaff cutter, the binder house windows and the state of the cottages.

Although no doubt a nuisance to him at the time, that Hugh was obliged to seek the permission of Guild for every alteration at West Fortune does mean that the letter book preserves a record of the various improvements that he undertook during his tenancy. It is evident, for example, that shortly after arriving at West Fortune, Hugh commenced a raft of building repairs. This included work to the binder house, the stable, the cottages, the cattle courts, the bothy, the barn, and the byre. All of this work was undertaken by tradesmen from Aberlady, East Linton, Pencaitland and other local settlements. The actual materials sometimes came from further afield. Fittings for the cow byre were

purchased from James Donald & Co., Kilmarnock (Letter 61). Fencing materials were obtained from J. H. Steele, one of the agents for P. & R. Fleming, fencing contractors, Argyle Street, Glasgow (Letter 316).[9] The estate financed some of the changes to the farm while others were by mutual agreement, with Hugh making a financial contribution (e.g. Letter 438).

A good relationship between tenant farmer and factor was essential in getting such work done, and although Hugh found Guild somewhat long winded - 'he can talk a long while without getting to the point if he so wills it' (Letter 126) – he considered the factor his friend (Letter 399). His professional relationship with Guild did not come to an end when he bought West Fortune in 1919, as he became an arbiter for Guild & Guild W.S. – a sure sign that Guild had come to value Hugh's expertise and integrity. Guild's high opinion was clearly shared by others, as Hugh went on to act as arbiter for a number of other law firms; and in 1932, he was named as a member of the Panel of Arbiters for Scotland.[10]

Crops

The soil across the Luffness Estate, and the district in general, was of a high quality. The general state of the arable land varied from farm to farm, however, as Hugh himself recognised. When the tenancy of Luffness Mains became available in 1913, for example, he commented that, 'there is some fair good land on it, but much of it is very stiff, and it is very badly overrun with game, which in conjunction with the woods is a menace to cropping', further noting that the new occupier of Markle farm 'will not require to go begging for a job for some time to come' (Letter 399). While West Fortune had also required a good deal of work to improve the quality of the land following the tenancy of Kirk Mackie, the letters show Hugh growing a wide range of crops. Barley, oats, and wheat, as well as sown grasses, mangolds, turnips, and potatoes, are all mentioned in the letters.

The arable farming regime pursued by Hugh imposed a seasonal pattern on his working year that would have remained more or less the same throughout the period covered by the letters. Seedtime began most years at West Fortune in March with the sowing of oats and barley and continued through April and into May with the planting of potatoes, and the sowing of mangolds and turnips. Grass seed for grazing and for hay was also sown at this time. As summer progressed, the mangold, potato and turnip fields were weeded and the turnips singled, before attention turned to the hay harvest, which involved cutting, drying and stacking. The early potatoes would also be ready to harvest during the summer months. Depending on the weather, the grain harvest usually began in August. Wheat (which had been sown the previous autumn) and barley were the first crops to be cut, followed by oats. After being cut, the crops were stooked and left in the fields to dry before the sheaves were carted to the yard and stacked. By that time, the maincrop

potatoes would be ready for lifting, as would the turnips and mangolds. Once the fields had been cleared, work began preparing the soil for the next season's crops, the ploughmen and their teams working throughout the winter months.

The crops were grown for both human and animal consumption, as well as for seed. While some of the produce was used on the farm, in particular the turnips for livestock feed, much of it was sold. These transactions are the subject of a number of Hugh's letters, which suggest a wide and varied network of customers. Grain merchants feature prominently, including William Kay & Sons of Edinburgh, whose purchases included a hundred quarters of Waverley oats in March 1912 (Letter 235) and eighty bags of Standwell barley later the same year (Letter 337). The former was to be despatched to Glasgow; the latter was one of a number of deliveries made to the maltings at Athelstaneford. The role of straw as a cash crop is often overlooked, but the letters show Hugh selling it to a forage merchant in Glasgow and to a paper-making company in Inveresk (Letters 263 & 510). Hay was a more nutritious fodder and was given not only to overwintering cattle and sheep, but also to horses, which for at least the earlier period covered by the letters continued to be used across society. Customers for West Fortune hay included a miller in Duddingston (near Edinburgh), a forage merchant in Leith, a butcher in Sunderland, and a hotelier in Reston (Berwickshire). The quantities sold were often large, with one customer buying over 40 tons in June 1919 (Letter 540). Mangolds were sold to agricultural merchants,[11] sometimes to be delivered directly to their customers, as with the thirty or so tons Hugh sold to Boyd & Finlay of Leith in May 1911 (Letter 106).

Potatoes were a major feature of Hugh's business and deserve more comment. He grew a range of well-known varieties, which were chosen partly to ensure a harvest from June to October. Ones mentioned in the letters include Arran Comrade and Epicures (first earlies), British Queen (second early), Majestic (early maincrop), and Up-to-Dates, Tinwald Perfection, Kerr's Pink and Golden Wonder (maincrops). He also participated in trials being conducted under the auspices of the Edinburgh and East of Scotland College of Agriculture designed to test the cropping powers of different varieties and the effects of manures containing potash and magnesia in different forms. The varieties tested by Hugh included Arran Chief, Lochar, and King Edward.[12]

Hugh dealt with the largest and most important potato merchants in Scotland to sell (and harvest) his crops: J. & A. McArthur, G. & D. Maxwell, R. & S. Paton, and the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society. All of them were based in cities, where there was a large demand for potatoes. Another merchant, Reid, Graham & MacRobbie, Girvan, Ayrshire, was in the heart of the early growing district. The merchants purchased potatoes from farmers in two main ways: when they were still in the ground (by private bargain or public sale); or after they were harvested.[13] Throughout the period covered by the letters, Hugh privately sold his potato crop in the ground or by the acre; he

also sold turnips in this way. These transactions largely took place in June and July for the earlies and September and October for the maincrops. His sales could be extensive. In October 1910, he sold 42 acres of Up-to-Dates and in the following June some 18 acres of Epicures, both to the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society (Letters 7 & 116). It is clear that by 1924 he had extended the acreage under the potato crop, as in June that year he sold to G. & D. Maxwell some 135 acres of Epicures (Letter 642). Sale by the acre could be a gamble – as Hugh noted to John Hannah in July 1913, 'I seem to have thrown mine away at £22 per acre' (Letter 381). His comment in the same letter that, 'we are much in need of a little competition among the merchants here' tells a lot about the state of the market at the time.

In agreements between farmers and potato merchants for sale by the acre, part of the bargain was whether the crop was to be lifted by the seller or by the buyer. Both approaches are evident at West Fortune, sometimes in the same year. In a letter of 24 October 1910, for example, Hugh noted, 'I sold the balance of the high field to McArthur at £20 – he to lift them and I have since sold the rest to the Co-op at the same price with £1 up or down but I lift them' (Letter 13). In an arrangement with the Co-op in September 1911 for the sale of 50 acres of potatoes, the merchant provided the squad to gather the crop and Hugh provided the potato digger, horses, and the labour required for all other tasks on the harvest field. It was also agreed that while Hugh would be responsible for putting the crop in pits for storage over winter, it was up to the merchant to remove them from the pits (Letter 149), which would also involve the tasks of dressing or grading them.

Livestock

While there was 'practically no grazing' at West Fortune (Letter 554), livestock feeding was an important part of Hugh Miller's business, occupying him for around eight months each year. The first letter in the present collection confirmed a deal he had made with a client:

> I beg to confirm having let to you about 50 acres turnips to be consumed by cattle on the farm, say £8 per acre, swedes at £9 per acre (nine pounds) and the yellows at £7 (seven pounds) according to results with the right for you to reserve 5/- per acre (five shillings) according to how the crop turns out. (Letter 1)

On 24 October 1910, Hugh commented to John Hannah that, 'We have over 60 cattle in the courts and it will not be long till we are quite filled up' (Letter 13). In the following March, after he had sold a waggon of his own cattle, he still had some eighty of them on the farm (Letter 84). In November 1912, he wrote, 'We have 85 in the courts now, so with these to keep in turnips, fodder and bedding, we know of a job for any odd time we have' (Letter 329).

Around five hundred sheep were also being fed on the farm that winter. Some of them belonged to local farmer William Middlemass, to whom Hugh had let his turnips at 4½d per week for lambs, and 5d per week for young sheep (Letter 313). In 1914, Middlemass tried to win a better price by holding off striking a deal until the last minute (Letter 439).

As this suggests, turnips were particularly useful for over-wintering both cattle and sheep, and they were grown extensively at West Fortune. It was important, however, for livestock to have a varied diet to maintain their well-being – as Hugh noted in November 1915, 'all the cattle would be much the better of some cake as they are inclined to scour with turnips alone' (Letter 467). Cake was a mass of compressed linseed or cotton seed from which the oil had been extracted, and it provided a high-energy winter feed for cattle. Hugh used it in large quantities – during the winter of 1910-1911, for example, the letters record him ordering 8 tons of cotton seed cake and 4 tons of linseed cake. Livestock feeding on such a scale required him to construct a new cattle shed and buy new equipment, as well as secure sufficient feed.

Hugh introduced pigs to West Fortune not long after settling there. In February 1912, he purchased thirty of them from a farmer in Dornocktown, Dumfriesshire, at a cost of £43 10/ (Letter 234). This appears to have been a new venture for Hugh, as he sought the advice of the seller about how best to feed them. Six of the pigs were killed the following August and sold to Hugh's brother-in-law, George Whiteford, who managed a ham-curing business in Stewarton, Ayrshire. Although pigs are not mentioned again in the letters, Hugh was sufficiently encouraged by these initial results to continue the venture after a hiatus during the First World War, as in the early 1920s he put up four new piggeries at West Fortune.

Hugh also appears to have tried his hand at turkey breeding in the years before the war, although to what success the letters do not reveal. Two advertisements in *The Scotsman* show that hens were also kept commercially at West Fortune, something that is not mentioned at all in the letters. The first, published on 11 November 1926, announced the sale of Indian game cockerels and pullets.[14] The second read, 'Customers wanted to take up to ten dozen fresh country eggs weekly'.[15] In both cases applications were to be made to Betty Miller, Hugh's daughter, which suggests that the venture was her own or at least was under her management.

Be this as it may, throughout the time the letters cover, cattle appear to have been one of the focal activities at West Fortune, the *Dundee Courier* describing Hugh in 1934 as 'a large cattle feeding farmer'.[16]

The workforce

In 1911, Hugh Miller noted that he had 'over 20 workers regularly employed' at West Fortune (Letter 81). A list appended to a letter of February 1917 shows a slightly reduced number, no doubt caused by the demands of war (for which

see below). The names of seven female servants appear on the list. It also includes their ages, which ranged from sixty-three to fifteen years old. Although their role on the farm goes unrecorded, they would have performed various duties in dairy, barn and byre, as well as fieldwork. Both the names and the positions of the ten male servants on the list are given. They are also ordered by rank, with the grieve at the head, followed by the cattleman, the shepherd, the ploughmen (from the most senior or first ploughman down to the sixth ploughman), and finally the fourteen-year-old orra boy, the most junior member of the male servants.

The predominance of ploughmen on the list of 1917 reflects the type of farming carried out at West Fortune. Each of them would have been in charge of a pair of horses. The displenishing sale for West Fortune in 1909 stated that there were '14 sets cart and plough harness'.[17] This suggests that there were around fourteen pairs of horses, though this number would have included 'single' horses, that is, ones that were used on their own. The letters show that Hugh both bought and sold horses, although in what number is difficult to say as they tend only to record deals that went wrong, such as the protracted dispute with the dealer Mrs Norris. Some of the sales were of horses too old or otherwise unfit for farm work (Letter 111); others appear to have been bred by Hugh for sale, such as the colt sold to Thomas Purdie Somerville in 1914 (Letter 416). For these home-bred horses, Hugh secured the services of notable Clydesdale sires such as 'Scotland Yet', which was owned by Alexander Guild. In a letter of January 1922, he noted the actual number of horses on his farm: 'My work horses at the beginning of the year numbered 20, at the end of the year – 21; 1 died, 1 destroyed, 1 sold, and 4 bought in (including 3 young horses unbroken)' (Letter 615). By this time, however, they were no longer the sole source of motive power at West Fortune. A tractor was in use there by at least May 1918 (Letter 519), while a list of implements compiled by Hugh in January 1922 included an unspecified number of 'tractors' (Letter 621).

The ploughmen and other full-time farm servants at West Fortune were hired annually. For the May or Whitsunday term, the two main hiring fairs in East Lothian were held at Dunbar and Haddington in the first week of February. Farm servants from throughout the district attended these fair days not just to find employment, but also to enjoy the entertainments that were laid on for the day and to socialise in general. How good a bargain they could expect depended largely on the state of the market and the availability of labour. In a letter of January 1914, for example, Hugh noted that the 'farm workers are talking "tall" regarding the hiring which is approaching next month. Amongst themselves their demands are rather exorbitant' (Letter 410).

Many farm servants moved on after a year or two either to find a position higher up the farming hierarchy or to find better living conditions or wages. In May 1911, there were a number of changes to Hugh's workforce: 'Monday will see a good many flittings on the road, and so we will have some new

brooms for a time' (Letter 109). There were further changes in 1913, with Hugh noting in June that, 'We had a few changes at the term' (Letter 374). Some servants remained at West Fortune for a number of years, however. The grieve, William Anderson, for example, was recruited in 1912 and was still there when the Census was taken in 1921. Three of the ploughmen listed at the farm in May 1918, moreover, had been there for four years. This list and other documents from West Fortune at this time also show the extent to which sons followed their fathers as ploughmen, becoming 'learners' at around sixteen years of age.[18]

By the 1920s, hiring fairs were falling out of fashion, with some farmers preferring to advertise for farm servants in local newspapers. In March 1922, for example, Hugh placed an advert in the *Berwickshire News and General Advertiser* stating, 'double hind wanted for Whitsunday, with workers'.[19] The double hind system was the established method of farm service in East Lothian, whereby servants were hired by the family rather than as individual workers. An indication of this system at work at West Fortune can be seen in the aforementioned list of Hugh's employees, which features two generations of the Anderson, Logan and McGauchrane families.

Farm servants were housed in cottages either on the farm or nearby. By 1919 the cottages were in a poor state of repair, as Hugh reminded Guild & Guild W.S. in a letter of 29 January: 'As you are aware of what the state of the cottages on this farm has been for a considerable time, I desire to lay before you the necessity of something being done' (Letter 537). He referred to the need to improve their conditions as a 'difficulty which threatens disaster to the welfare of the farm', going on to note:

> For the last four years it has of course been impossible to have anything done in the way of building, but now my men who inhabit these houses inform me that they are not going to stay in them. This as you can understand will make it impossible for me to carry on. It is also no secret that the sanitary authority has blacklisted these houses, and no doubt compulsion will be exercised by them to have some thing done at an early date. I however would deprecate any interference from that direction.

The full-time farm servants at West Fortune, that is, those employed all year round, would have been joined at busier periods of the farming year by seasonal or casual workers employed for six months or shorter periods, chiefly to lift and grade or sort the potato crop. This was often done through a contract with a potato merchant. In some of them, the merchant provided the workers, usually squads of Irish migratory workers, consisting largely of women and young people, headed by a gaffer or ganger. Most of them came from County Mayo, especially around Achill Island.[20] The Irishmen celebrating Christmas at West Fortune in 1913 were probably members of just such a squad (Letter 408),

as was perhaps the James Coyle who injured himself while working temporarily in Hugh's service (Letter 612).

As part of his contract with the potato merchant, Hugh would have provided the migratory workers with accommodation. Cottages on the farm were used as bothies, as revealed in a letter of 1911:

> There are two of the cottages at Dingleton that have been used as bothies, in a rather tumbledown condition, and as I am requiring these after the term, I would be glad if you could see your way to give them a touch up. (Letter 95)

By that time, a new bothy had been built on the farm, although storms had damaged the windows (Letter 104). In contrast with the cottages of the farm servants, bothies were only occupied for part of the year. Hugh noted, for example, that at the end of the potato harvest in 1910, 'both bothies are cleared out' (Letter 14).

Such accommodation became subject to housing byelaws under the Housing, Town Planning, etc (Scotland) Act 1919,[21] those in East Lothian coming into force in 1922.[22] They set standards that had to be met both by the employer (the potato merchant) and by the farmer (or other person) who provided the accommodation. In June 1922, Hugh wrote to the Disposal Board and Liquidation Committee in London looking to purchase lockers, trestles for bed boards, tables and table tops from the newly closed aerodrome at East Fortune. He explained:

> my reason for writing you is that I employ a large number of seasonal workers for potato gathering, with the consequent necessity of providing accommodation for them. I understood the sale at the aerodrome was to take place earlier, and I delayed fixing up till now. (Letter 634)

Not all farmers in East Lothian followed the new byelaws to the letter, with one inspector for the Board of Health complaining in 1923 of the want of bedsteads nine inches from the floor in several of the cottages of the principal farms. At a subsequent meeting of the East Lothian Western District Committee, Hugh remarked that, 'it would require an inspector with a loaded rifle and bayonet to enforce such by-laws, and they should be amended'.[23]

For the most part, Hugh's workers are only mentioned in the letters when issues arose. A notable case was Thomas Brown, who in October 1914 was described as a 'deserter', as he had broken his contract of employment with Hugh. A farm servant was expected to complete his 'term' before moving on to his next employer or farm. If he did not, his employer could impose sanctions on him. In the case of Brown, Hugh contacted Barlas & Barlas, solicitors, to state, 'I mean to hold him responsible for any expense I am out to in filling his

place, and the places of those others hired along with him, and I will also object to any other person hiring him' (Letter 440). He also informed Brown's new employer of his desertion, and wrote to Brown himself, advising him to return to West Fortune (Letter 442). Relations soured further when Brown accused Hugh of lying. Hugh demanded a retraction and an apology, otherwise he would see that Brown was dismissed from his new post (Letter 444).

Other farm servants mentioned by name most often appear in letters to the Lancashire and London Insurance Company after being injured in the course of their duties. Examples include Mary (Marion) Fairgrieve, who had fallen off a cart (Letter 142), and William Inglis, who had incurred a poisoned hand and arm at harvest work (Letter 147). These and other cases are a reminder of the physical challenges and hazards that farm servants faced.

Implements and machines

When Kirk Mackie left West Fortune in 1909, the notice for his displenishing sale listed the various implements and machines that were on offer:

> 14 sets cart and plough harness (made by Prentice, Carluke, and only a short time in use), 10 ploughs, 5 double moulded ploughs, 1 double-drill plough and manure sower combined, 2 potato ploughs, 2 potato diggers, 7 drill grubbers, 1 Hunter hoe, 5 sets English harrows, 3 sets Scotch do, 4 set chain do., 2 set saddle do., 1 set Dickson do., 4 land rollers, 1 Cambridge roller, 2 drill rollers, 2 turnip barrows, 1 scarifier, 3 cultivators, 1 manure sower, 2 grain drill barrows, 1 broadcast barrow, 1 potato planter, 1 potato dresser, 2 dung spreaders, 2 hay mowers, 4 hay collectors, 1 swath turner, 3 hay bogies, 1 horse fork, 4 binders, 2 horse rakes, 13 carts, 10 long carts, 2 water carts, 1 hand water barrow, 1 double horse lorry, 1 spring van, 1 turnip cutting cart, 1 hand cutter, 2 turnip slicers, 3 field crop bins, 4 sheep hecks, 2 corn chests (iron), 1 cake breaker, 1 hay baler, 2 metal troughs, 3 wooden barrows, sheep cake and turnip boxes, sheep nets, 3 field feeding troughs for cattle, 3 stack covers, 1 small weighing machine, 1 patent sheep dipper, 1 grain dresser, barn utensils, usual small farm implements, bothy beds; also churns, butter worker, basins, &c; separator, meat safe, incubator, foster-mother, garden frames, roller, tools, &c; ferret house, kennel, moveable henhouse.[24]

The inventory includes all the implements and machines required for ploughing, preparing seedbeds, manuring, sowing, harvesting, and preparing crops either for feeding to livestock or for sale at market. It does not, however, include larger, difficult-to-move or fixed items that would have been taken on by the new tenant, such as the weighbridge later mentioned by Hugh (Letters 153).

Hugh would probably have owned a similar range of moveable implements and machines, at least during the years of his tenancy at West

Fortune. In January 1914, he noted that he had 'paid since I entered here, £992 for implements, besides what I had in use before I came here' (Letter 412), revealing that some had been brought from Grassmillees in 1909 while others had subsequently been bought, perhaps including some previously owned by Kirk Mackie. While this must remain a conjecture, as no detailed list survives, the letters provide a certain amount of evidence of the implements and machines Hugh used at West Fortune.

In January 1922, he set out a valuation for them under four headings: loose tools; ordinary farm machinery; larger farm machinery; and fixed farm machinery (Letter 621). The order of their value is not surprising – the ordinary farm machinery had the highest value (£700), followed by the fixed machinery (£300); the loose tools had the lowest (£50).

As for specific items, potato diggers are mentioned in a number of letters, including one that Hugh received on approval from A. & J. Main for the harvest of 1910 and subsequently returned being unsatisfied with its performance (Letter 5). A letter the following year suggests that he used contract diggers or shared them with his brother Robert at Ferrygate (Letter 126). At the beginning of 1911, Hugh paid £130.2.6 for a new engine for the threshing mill (Letter 46), and later in the year replaced the mill itself with a Clayton & Shuttleworth model (Letter 139), but only after requesting testimonials from other farmers who had purchased one (e.g. Letter 131). Their names had probably been supplied by the manufacturer. Around the same time, he expressed an interest in purchasing a new corn drill but was not satisfied with the price (Letter 184). In 1921, he purchased four carts, a potato riddle, and a plough (Letter 621). Items were also put up for sale, such as a Tamlin incubator for 100 eggs, which he described as being 'in good order'.[25]

Orders for spare parts provide further evidence of the implements and machines being used at West Fortune. These included knives, fingers and bolts for his Thistle Mower (Letter 268) and plough metals for his Oliver 110A plough (a single furrow plough with wooden handles) (Letter 345). Repairs had also to be undertaken. For example, one of his potato diggers required to be mounted with a front wheel and its set of pattern forks replaced (Letter 454). Mower fingers also had to be renewed (Letter 519).

Hugh also adopted new types of implements and machines as they became available. As mentioned, a tractor was in use at West Fortune by at least May 1918. This was an early adoption of the new technology and was probably one of the Fordson tractors that had been imported to Britain from 1917 onwards to help increase farm productivity during the latter stages of the war. Hugh was using it (or failing to use it) with a mower, probably an adapted horse-drawn one. Tractors are among the implements he listed in the valuation of 1922, showing that they continued to be used at West Fortune after the war. By this time, Fordsons were readily available to East Lothian farmers through dealers such as Henry Alexander & Co. in Edinburgh (Letter 657). Tractors were not

widely adopted in the county until the 1930s, however, and photographs from West Fortune show that horses continued to provide the main motive power there at least up until the Second World War.

Hugh was keen to embrace the possibilities offered by electrification both for lighting the farm and for powering machines. In a letter of July 1930, he talked of putting in a private installation at West Fortune having found the terms offered by the Musselburgh & District Electric Light & Traction Co. Ltd prohibitive (Letter 674). In 1933, at a time when farmers across East Lothian and elsewhere were updating their mills,[26] he paid the Lothians Electric Power Co. £10.16.11 for installing an electric motor for his threshing mill (Letter 683), although this was only part of the price, as he had held money back being dissatisfied with the current.

The implements and machines used at West Fortune came from a range of sources. New and second-hand ones were purchased through makers and dealers. They included some of the most prominent ones in Scotland. Allan Bros, Ashgrove Engineering Works, Aberdeen, were engineers, gas and oil engine manufacturers, and machinery oil merchants and refiners. A. Pollock, Mauchline, Ayrshire (A. & W. Pollock after 31 December 1912) was well-known for its carts and its range of food-processing machines and potato diggers. It was also one of the foremost makers of potato diggers in Scotland. A. & J. Main & Co., of Glasgow and Edinburgh, was not only an implement and machine maker and dealer, but also a manufacturer of corrugated iron roofing, iron bridges, bar fencing, and wire netting. It frequently won awards at the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland Show, both for its overall collection and for specific implements such as binders.[27] Thomas Sherriff & Co., West Barns, was already established as an agricultural implement maker in 1852.[28] It was known for its sowing machines and won numerous awards for them from the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland.[29] William Smith & Co., 10 New Broughton, Edinburgh, was an engineer perhaps best known for its weighing machines.[30] John Wallace & Sons, Graham Square, Glasgow, was another leading agricultural implement maker and dealer.[31] By 1913 it had offices at Ayr, Cupar, Lanark and Perth. Robert Wallace, Whitletts, Ayrshire, was a member of the renowned Wallace family of implement makers and was especially known for reaping and mowing machines.[32] As well as patronising these firms, Hugh also bought second-hand implements and machines from John Hannah, including a potato riddle and a cake breaker in 1910 (Letter 25).

The weather

The weather shaped all of the outdoor work on the farm, so it is no surprise that it was a regular topic of comment in Hugh Miller's personal letters. Those written in 1911, for example, contain comments about the uncommonly hot summer and the impact that the resulting drought was having on the health of the farm's root crops: 'We are having very drouthy weather for the past few

days, and everybody is agreed that a good wet day would be welcome … the young plants have had a rather trying time for these few days' (Letter 109); 'turnips and potatoes are very much in need of rain, and the latter especially cannot be a very large crop unless they get moisture soon' (Letter 137); 'The weather is still dry and turnips particularly are suffering much' (Letter 150). The summer of 1913 was not so hot as that of 1911 but there was even less rainfall, and once more the root crops suffered:

> I think late potatoes around here will be the smallest crops seen for a long time, and the same can be said of turnips, which in many cases look as if they will have to be used more as medicine than food. (Letter 385)

The weather also had an impact on the timing of the year's harvests, and the ease with which they were carried out. Heavy rain, for example, made grain harvesting difficult and protracted, as Hugh's letters from 1912 make clear. On 9 August he wrote to his brother George:

> Barley particularly has been very roughly handled by the elements, and we will have one of the most difficult harvests we have seen as far as cutting is concerned. If we had a day or two of sunshine we would get a start made. (Letter 283)

On 23 August he informed George Whiteford, 'This afternoon has been out and out wet giving another set back to the harvest' (Letter 291), and on 6 September he wrote to his uncle, Robert Miller:

> As you say the harvest has had its difficulties so far. We have been 3 weeks cutting 220 acres or thereby, that operation being finished today. Of course, wet weather protracted the work very much. … We had some damage done to a field of wheat with Wednesday's wind. I never saw as much loss with 'shake'. I had between 20 and 30 acres to shear with the hook – barley – being so badly twisted that the machine would not work it. (Letter 300)

The poor weather continued, with Hugh noting to James Whiteford on 29 October, 'We are having broken weather and still a few days' potato lifting. I wish they were all up' (Letter 324). By mid-November, harvesting was 'heartless work now in the short dull days' (Letter 329).

Reports of snow and frost appear occasionally in the letters. An early winter was particularly unwanted, as it could damage the potato crop, as Hugh commented in a letter to John Hannah in September 1911: 'Potatoes are keeping more or less green except some that got frost about a week ago' (Letter 160). It also posed a threat to cattle not yet safely housed in their sheds, as he anxiously observed in October 1910 (Letter 15).

Weekly markets and agricultural shows

Weekly markets were a vital part of farming life throughout Scotland, bringing together farmers, merchants and others involved in the agricultural business from the surrounding district and beyond. The letters show that Hugh Miller regularly attended the market held every Wednesday in Edinburgh. Here he conducted a wide range of business, including making contracts with merchants for the sale of his produce (Letter 163), buying and selling seed wheat (Letter 320), and purchasing manure (Letter 201). In some letters, he informed a merchant of his intention to attend the market in Edinburgh in the hope that they could meet and do business (Letter 108). Markets were also a place where customers and clients could meet in person to discuss any issues that had arisen in their transactions. It was at the weekly market held every Friday in Haddington, for example, that Mrs Norris informed Hugh that she was returning a horse he had sold to her (Letter 262), and on another occasion that he discussed with a representative of William Kay & Sons the problems he was having at Athelstaneford maltings (Letter 338).

Agricultural shows were another important feature of the farming calendar. Held throughout Scotland, usually by district or county agricultural societies, they were a time not only for socialising, but also for undertaking business and engaging in competition. The United East Lothian Agricultural Society put on a show each year in Haddington, for which there was a general holiday in the district. Hugh mentions attending the one held in Amisfield Park on 1 July 1911 (Letter 122), which along with various stalls and entertainments featured competitions for cattle, horses, sheep, and agricultural implements.[33] Earlier that year, he had attended the Ayr Show, which was held annually by the Ayr Agricultural Association (Letter 94). Hugh was no doubt among the 'crowds of spectators of a practical turn of mind' whose attention was fixed in particular on the judging of the stock, which included Ayrshire cattle and Clydesdale horses.[34] As well as these large, general shows, there were also a number of smaller, specialist ones held throughout the year. Hugh mentioned attending the Haddington Seed Show held in October 1911 (Letter 174). At this, and subsequent shows, he entered samples of seed grown at West Fortune.[35] The letters also record his presence on a number of occasions at the Scottish National Fat Stock Show in Edinburgh (e.g. Letter 227).

The markets for agricultural produce

The letters provide interesting information not only about the value of Hugh Miller's crops and livestock, but also about agricultural markets in general. Short-term trends for the price of his produce can be discerned. In February 1913, for example, he quoted a price of £4 7/6 per ton of hay to a customer, warning him that the price would be going up as hay became scarcer (Letter 359); and this is what happened, with the same customer being quoted a price of £4 12/ per ton a month later (Letter 366). It is also possible to track longer-

term trends and to assess how prices and markets were vulnerable to national events. The impact that the First World War had on prices, for example, is evident in the comparative prices of a ton of Epicure potatoes in 1913 (£22) and in 1919 (£45) (Letters 381 & 539).

The letters also highlight how farmers needed to be able to read the markets and time their activities accordingly. For potato farmers such as Hugh, for example, it was important to have the crop cleared from the pits and sold before the price dropped at the end of the season. As he wrote to John Hannah in March 1912, 'the Co-op started to turn over the potatoes this week. They are taking very few away, so they seem to have hope of the trade yet' (Letter 239). When there was still a lot of potatoes to be sold in May, he commented that, 'The portion of the old crop that is left, will more or less cripple the trade' (Letter 258). He was similarly downbeat the following January, noting again to Hannah, 'The Co-op people have a fortnight's work at the potato pits yet, and I will not be surprised if the best of the market is behind us' (Letter 347).

Hugh also commented on the market for livestock. Writing to Hannah in June 1911, for example, he observed that, 'The bottom has now gone out of the fat cattle trade, and the end is worse than the beginning. We have a waggon left still, but will be clearing out on Monday' (Letter 114). The price appears to have increased by November 1913, Hugh reporting that a neighbouring farmer 'wasn't anxious, because of the price store cattle had gone to' (Letter 400).

The First World War

Around a hundred of the letters presented here date from the First World War (1914-1918). The first mention of the conflict appears in a letter Hugh Miller wrote to his brother George on 7 August, three days after Britain had declared war on Germany for violating Belgium's neutrality:

> Of course, the one theme at present is the war. It is deplorable that the destruction of life and property accompanied with all the hardships of unemployment and the sorrow of desolate homes, should still be the final means of adjusting differences among the nations. (Letter 431)

Five days later he reflected the patriotic mood of the moment when he declared to his sister Bessie that he would be 'quite willing whenever the need arises to take my place in the defence of our dearly loved land' (Letter 432). In a letter sent to his uncle Robert six months later, he struck a more sombre tone, the enormity of the war having become apparent:

> The horrors of war continue, and with increased armies there is the necessity for increased hospitals, and of course there will be an increased death roll. The highest civilization that the world has ever known, has

> developed into a scientific system of taking human life in the most wholesale manner that the genius of man can invent. Oh the horror of it! (Letter 448).

Thereafter, the letters Hugh copied into his letter book during the war rarely contain any personal thoughts about the conflict. Indeed, most of them make no mention of it all and appear to differ little in content and tone from others in the collection. Some of them, however, either directly or indirectly, show the effect that the war was having on Hugh's day-to-day business and on farming more widely in East Lothian.

In the first few weeks of the war, the army commandeered around 120,000 horses across Britain for use by the armed forces. West Fortune was visited by requisitioning officers on 8 August, but Hugh must have successfully argued that they were all required for agricultural work, as none of them were taken (Letter 432). The first indication in the letters of government intervention at West Fortune comes in May 1915, when Hugh informed one of his customers that the 'government has commandeered all the hay in the district, even where contracts have been made' (Letter 450). In September the following year, he was obliged to request a permit from the local District Purchasing Officer, whose task it was to monitor and control agricultural supplies, to sell straw (Letter 483). The difficulties that could arise from such controls is demonstrated by the correspondence Hugh had with the Board of Agriculture over the sale of offal from the farm in April 1918 (Letters 525 & 526).

By this time, the government had responded to dwindling food supplies by issuing a raft of legislation relating to the pricing, rationing and regulation of various foodstuffs and products. Among them were requisition, supply and pricing orders relating to livestock feeding stuffs, which had a direct impact on cattle feeders such as Hugh. A note of exasperation crept in when he wrote to his brother-in-law in July 1918: 'An ounce of fact is worth a ton of theory, and I think some folks would be all the better of knowing some of the facts concerning cattle feeding, and what controlled prices mean' (Letter 522). He felt that there was 'an injustice that is already making itself felt in a decrease of production of food'. He must have been particularly exercised, as he wrote the same month to Archibald MacNeilage, editor of *The Scottish Farmer*, to comment on 'this vexed subject' (Letter 524). He wanted to speak up for other farmers who would not do that for themselves:

> Every man I speak to here seems afraid to open his mouth to his neighbour on his feeding results, but any information I have got, I assure you is far from encouraging for this kind of food production for next year.

Military recruitment threatened the availability of workers for farm service, especially after the introduction of conscription in January 1916. Tribunals

were subsequently established to hear applications for exemption from military service. In April 1916, Hugh wrote to the chair of the local tribunal, Lieutenant-colonel Main, to remind him that two of his workers had been judged unfit for duty and should be removed from the register (Letter 472). He also submitted an appeal to the tribunal asking for his ploughman John McGauchrane to be exempted from military service, citing the 'Pressure of labour and the impossibility of getting anyone to take his place'. A temporary exemption was granted to 1 June and then extended to 1 August 'on the ground that it is in the national interests that he should remain in civil employment'. Hugh submitted a further application in September, stating that, 'With a shortage of hands already it is impossible to cultivate 450 acres of arable land, and handle the produce of the same with a further reduced staff'. A further temporary exemption was granted till 15 October, to cover the harvest period. A subsequent appeal was dismissed. The tribunal set out their reasons in a statement that provides interesting background to events at West Fortune:

> The accompanying Schedule gives particulars as to the Farm. There are six plough teams and the staff consists of six ploughmen, one grieve, one cattleman, one shepherd and a boy aged 15. When the position of the Farm was considered in June last there were five men of military age on the Farm and they were dealt with as follows: - the cattleman and three ploughmen were granted conditional or temporary exemption, while one of the ploughmen aged 21 was refused exemption. No appeal was made against the decision and the ploughman (Robert Logan) was called up. He however was returned to his civil employment as he did not pass for general service. Two of the men McGauchrane aged 24, and George Anderson, aged 20, who had received temporary exemption on 1 August were again claimed for and it appeared that there were still five men of military age on the Farm, the same number as on the previous occasion. McGauchrane was sent for Medical Examination and he was passed fit for general service. As regards Anderson there were personal reasons why he should remain in civil employment. In view, however, of the coming harvest operations the Tribunal gave temporary exemption to 15th October 1916 to both Anderson and McGauchrane subject to the condition that the Certificate of Exemption should not be renewable or open to variation except on application made with the leave of the Tribunal. Having regard to the fact that Logan has been returned to his civil employment the Tribunal take the view that there will be no difficulty in McGauchrane undertaking Military Service. They take the view that they have dealt most generously with the Appellant. He made no appeal when Logan's claim was dismissed.[36]

McGauchrane, however, was still working at West Fortune in June 1917, when Hugh wrote to Lieutenant-colonel Main to point out that he and another ploughman, John Logan, had been given 'a definite date for … undertaking military service', even though there was a 'new order from the War Office that no more men are to be taken from farms without the consent of the Agricultural Executive Committees' (Letter 500).

Hugh made three appeals to the tribunal in 1918, each time asking for the exemption of a ploughman on the grounds of occupation. The first was made on 12 May on behalf of the aforementioned John Logan, Hugh stating that,

> Logan is the only support of his Father and Mother and Aunt and Sister who all live together with him and have no other means of support. A brother is on active service in France while another brother and sister are both married and have houses and families of their own. Also on occupational grounds I appeal for Logan as a skilled ploughman with knowledge of all farm implements and machinery. If he is taken another skilled man will be required to drive his horses as the staff on the farm is too small to work it, and less than it used to be.[37]

Applications for George Anderson and Robert Gillan followed. Hugh once again cited a shortage of skilled labour, noting the recent decision of his son James, who had been working as a ploughman at West Fortune, to join the Officers' Training Corps at Edinburgh University.[38]

The Women's Land Army had been established at the beginning of 1917 to help farmers cope with labour shortages brought about by enlistment and conscription, and by the end of the war there were around 23,000 'Land Girls' working on Britain's farms. Although there is no direct mention of them in Hugh's wartime letters,[39] that he not only engaged them at West Fortune, but also found their work invaluable, is revealed in a letter he sent to the Ministry of Labour in January 1920:

> I regret to learn that the work in connection with the "Land Army" is likely to be given up. As one of the first in East Lothian to cooperate with this movement, I know the boon it has been both to myself and to others, in enabling the work of the farm to be carried through in times of difficulty. (Letter 553)

Throughout the war, farmers could also apply for soldiers not on active service to be released for harvesting work. During 1916, Hugh not only made applications on his own behalf, but also wrote in support of neighbouring farmers' applications (Letters 481 & 485). Soldiers accustomed to farm work were preferred, and often asked for by name. Indeed, inexperienced hands could be more of a hindrance than a help, as Hugh found in August 1918 when

he was sent 'four boys' from Glencorse barracks. Finding himself 'in a fix for harvest labour', he was obliged to make an urgent appeal to the local Non-Combatant Corps for 'six practical men' (Letter 527).

It was this shortage of skilled labour, rather than a lack of hands, that was the main issue. A Board of Agriculture schedule that Hugh was obliged to complete when applying for George Anderson's exemption in May 1918 lists the following employees at that time:

Men	*Status*	*Age*	*Occupation*
Hugh Miller	m.	46	Farmer
William Anderson	m.	54	Grieve
William Gillan	m.	52	Cattleman
Robert Gillan	s.	19	Ploughman
Charles Campbell	m.	30	Ploughman
George Anderson	m.	53	Ploughman
George Anderson	s.	21	Ploughman
William Simpson	m.	52	Orraman
William Simpson	s.	17	Ploughman
Robert Yuill	m.	43	Shepherd
Robert Steel	s.	16	Orra boy

Women	*Occupation*
Helen Kelly	'assists with cattle'
Marion Lawrie	'farm work'
Clem. Mclelland	'farm work'[40]

Casual Labourers	
John Murray	'assists generally with horse work or anything else'[41]

It should be noted that Hugh appears to have forgotten to record the regular female servants, as included among the exemption papers is the following list jotted on a piece of West Fortune headed notepaper:

Female workers at West Fortune all engaged in work on the farm

M. Anderson	22
C. Anderson	38
F. Gillan	22
J. Gillan	24
A. Simpson	20

That made nineteen employees in all.[42] This was an improvement in terms of overall numbers on the situation Hugh faced in May 1916, when in a less detailed schedule accompanying the application for John McGauchrane he gave his number of workers as '1 grieve, 1 cattleman, 1 shepherd, 4 women, 1 boy, and 6 ploughmen'. However, now only five of them were ploughmen, on a farm that ideally required seven. This was exacerbated by the fact that, when the schedule was compiled, two of the ploughmen were seconded to other farms, as were the cattleman and orraman.[43]

The shortage of skilled labour continued for a number of months after the war had ended, when uncertainties remained about when conscripted farm servants from the county would return to their farms. By the beginning of 1919, there were twenty-one employees at West Fortune, one more than there was in 1914. However, while there had been fifteen regular male servants before the war, there were now only nine, the shortfall being filled by three soldiers and three 'warworkers' (Letter 536).

The Board of Agriculture was responsible for drafting and issuing the schedules that farmers were obliged to submit when applying for exemptions on behalf of their workers. Although no doubt irksome to complete, they now give a glimpse of what was being farmed during the war. In May 1918, for example, Hugh declared the following situation at West Fortune:

Permanent grass	3 acres
Clover and rotation grass	69
Grain crop	325
Green crop	143
Total	540 acres
Horses	14
Milk cows	2
Cattle, stall or yard fed	80
Feeding sheep	500
Pig	1

An accompanying statement shows that the green crop was divided into 78 acres of potatoes and 65 acres of turnips.[44] That there was only one pig on the farm, presumably for domestic consumption, indicates that the pig-rearing activities of earlier years had been abandoned, if only for the course of the war. The number of cattle and sheep would have been higher during the winter months.[45]

The war left its mark in other ways on West Fortune and neighbouring farms. In August 1914 Hugh noted to Bessie Osborne that, 'They are digging trenches on a neighbouring farm to us, and I believe are going to mount

machine guns that will sweep the whole of this valley if this extremity should arise'. (Letter 432).

In September 1915, he reported to John Hannah that 'some 500 acres' of land at East Fortune had been acquired for the building of 'a new aeroplane station', which was to include extensive shedding and a branch railway (Letter 460). Hugh noted the excitement around the development, with the community 'being treated to daily displays of one or two machines'; although he also pointed out the dangers that the station would pose: 'this will be a new target for the Zeppelins when the Germans are able to locate it'. Hugh was soon to be directly involved in the project when an encampment of huts to accommodate some of its personnel was erected on part of his farm. It remained in use until early 1917 (Letters 482 & 491).

The scale of the operations at East Fortune, and the impact it had on the landscape, can be gauged from a newspaper report from August 1919:

> [It] looks like an enormous railway junction. Everywhere there are trollies, and trucks, and tank engines, and lines. There are miles of camouflaged huts. There are signals galore. Aeroplane hangars pop up in the most unexplained places. Above all the tangle of lines and switches and wireless poles the great grey airship sheds rear upwards like giant icebergs in a miniature sea.[46]

Two months later there was 'intimation' that the station was to close. East Lothian County Council protested against its removal,[47] but to no avail, and it closed at the end of March 1920.[48] Hugh's involvement did not end there, however. He had been cultivating part of the air station's land at Muirhouses since 1918 and continued to do so until 1921; and in 1923 he enquired if he could purchase one of its fields (Letter 638).

Hugh Miller the farmer

How might we describe Hugh Miller's character as a farmer based on the evidence presented by the letters alone? If we were to sum it up in a few words, it would be 'a fair man'. This is especially clear in his business dealings. For one, he did not accept poor business transactions or people trying to sell him defective goods. He wrote to sellers who had sold him animals that were unsound or not as described in a sales notice to remedy the situation (e.g. Letter 453). When it came to agricultural implements, he walked away from trade-ins that he considered unjust – as in 1911, when he was unhappy at the deal being offered for a new corn drill (Letter 184). He was similarly dissatisfied with the price of a D. D. & Manure Distributor, which had been agreed with Robert Wallace and then increased by John Wallace & Sons, Glasgow: 'I think no fair minded person could do anything but condemn the action you have taken, and all over a trifle', he observed in a letter to the firm in February 1919 (Letter 514).

Instead of making a deal, he decided to 'work away with my old machine or purchase one of another make somewhere else, and thus obviate the risk of you sustaining any loss on the transaction'.

When it came to calculating the value of his own produce, he was equally scrupulous. 'I have no liking for a fictitious valuation', he stated in a letter to his accountant in January 1922 (Letter 615). When he saw matters that he did not think were right, he could describe them with a pointed turn of phrase. On a valuation of his potato crop in April 1927, for example, he commented that if Mr Hare 'imagines I am keeping down the valuation for the purpose of showing a loss then I can only conclude that there is some twist in his mental capacity' (Letter 661).

His fairness was also demonstrated in the way that he treated his workers. As discussed below, he granted them a half-holiday at a time when other farmers did not. He also put forward what he considered was a balanced case for compensation for one of his workers, Matthew Jones, who had lost part of a finger. On arguing the amount that Jones should receive from the London & Lancashire Insurance Co. Ltd, he stated,

> I am sorry I cannot agree with you as to his incapacity, for there are some things that he will be distinctly the worse of the loss of his finger for. It will materially affect him for sowing either manure or seed, and I think on this ground alone he is entitled to what he asks (Letter 546).

Fair play worked both ways, however, and as the aforementioned pursuit of Thomas Brown demonstrates, Hugh was not reticent about making his own case when he thought an employee had treated him unjustly.

A similar attitude can be discerned in Hugh's personal letters, perhaps most obviously in his religious dealings, with loyalty, comradeship and commitment being shown to those furthering the causes he espoused, and scorn directed at the local parish minister, who was apparently lukewarm, if not hostile, to Hugh's evangelical endeavours at West Fortune. The breach with his Aunt Euphemia adds to this picture of his character (Letters 326 & 330).

Although he can come across as stubborn, and perhaps even rather formidable, Hugh could be humorous in his letters, especially the family ones. In one to his uncle Robert in November 1913, for example, he commented, 'You ask about the mushrooms. Well, they somehow forgot to grow and that was the result of the experiment' (Letter 401).

Hugh Miller in public life

Hugh Miller was one of a number of farmers in East Lothian who entered public life and contributed to developments in Scottish agriculture at a local and a national level. The introduction of the National Insurance Act in 1911 appears to have been the catalyst. The act initiated a system of health and

unemployment insurance for workers based on contributions from employers, the government, and the workers themselves. It was opposed by many farmers on the grounds of cost, its perceived unsuitability to the farming industry, and the effort farmers would be put to collecting contributions from their employees. In January 1912, Hugh had been at the meeting held in Haddington by the East Lothian Farmers' Club to 'endeavour to arrive at a unanimous policy on the question whether farmers should pay the full rates under the Insurance Act or the reduced rates, with liability for wages in case of illness'.[49] Of the two hundred or so farmers in attendance, Hugh was the one to second the chairman's motion that members of the club should decline to pay the proposed six weeks' sick wage to all of their employees. In a letter of 24 June 1912, he reflected on the difficulty of gathering 'a following sufficiently strong to resist the collection of the employee's contribution under the Insurance Act' and proposed his own resolution that fellow farmers might adopt (Letter 266). A further protest against the act was staged on 10 July at the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland's show in Cupar, Fife. Hugh was there, commenting later to his brother George,

> I am wondering what the issue will be after 15th July when the Insurance Act comes into force. By that time there will be a fair body of protesters, and I will be sorry if the protests do not accomplish the desired end. There will be some howling in any case. (Letter 272)

Similar sentiments were subsequently expressed to John Hannah: 'Instead of being passive resisters I think we should all be active resisters regarding some of the unreasonable things that are asked of us' (Letter 277). Later in July, he attended a meeting of East Lothian farmers held at the Haddington Corn Exchange to discuss how best to express their opposition.[50]

In 1913, Hugh got involved in local discussions about the proposed legislation to regulate the hours worked by Scottish farm servants, which included a proposed half-day holiday. As he noted in a letter of 4 June:

> We had a few changes at the term, but I do not hear of so much agitation amongst servants as there was a month or two ago. Farmers themselves are inclined to discuss this coming half-holiday or at least some modified form of it. (Letter 374)

The half-holiday proposal was the main topic of discussion at that year's annual meeting of the East Lothian Farmers' Club, held in Haddington. Hugh's comments to the meeting were subsequently reported in *The Scotsman*:

> Mr Hugh Millar, West Fortune, said he had given a half-day after May till harvest time, and it had been appreciated. He favoured a system of

whole days rather than half-days. Or they might have, say, 12 or 15 days, with stopping at four on Saturdays, except in harvest and potato-lifting times. Most employees liked to get into the town on Saturday nights.[51]

A letter to John Hannah in June 1913 shows that Hugh planned to attend that year's conference of the Scottish Chamber of Agriculture (S.C.A.) (Letter 374), one of two bargaining organisations for farmers in Scotland. Subsequent letters to Hannah reveal that he attended the S.C.A. conference in 1919 (Letter 552) and its annual trip in 1920 (Letter 563). In 1928, Hugh was appointed as representative of the S.C.A. to the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce,[52] and in 1930, he was on the committee that organised the S.C.A.'s two-day excursion in East Lothian.[53] He went on to achieve high office in the S.C.A., being appointed senior vice-president in December 1930[54] and president the following year.[55] He continued to serve as its president until the end of 1932.[56] In this role, he was involved in deputations to and the lobbying of the Secretary of State for Scotland, the Board of Agriculture for Scotland,[57] and the Westminster parliament to get better policies for farmers. This included lobbying on the Import Duties Bill of 1932.[58]

Hugh's involvement with the S.C.A. came at a time when prices for agricultural produce were in steady decline. At the livestock sales held at the Scottish National Fat Stock Show in December 1921, for example, the highest price fetched for a cross-bred cow was £84 10/, as compared with £126 the previous year. One of Hugh's steers obtained the second highest price of the day, £80.[59] This slump, of course, had a direct impact on his profits, as he observed in a letter to his accountant in February 1922 (Letter 622).

Matters did not improve as the decade went on, with production costs for agricultural produce becoming higher than the price that could be obtained for them. Even so, the public was beginning to complain about rising food prices, as the chairman of the East Lothian Farmers' Union (E.L.F.U.) observed at its annual meeting in January 1928, although to his mind 'they failed to realise that farmers were working under difficulties with bad seasons and costs'.[60] To alleviate his fellow farmers' burden, Hugh suggested at this meeting that the annual subscription to the E.L.F.U. be reduced. Elsewhere, he voiced his support for the government taking steps to manage the agricultural markets, as in a letter he sent to Lord Beaverbrook in January 1930, referring here in particular to the potato market:

> Each week our markets here are sinking lower and lower – 10/6 per ton being quoted for good ware potatoes in some of the Fife markets. The case is desperate and yet a sympathetic Government stands by with the means of help at their disposal, and refuse to extend that help to us. I hope for the country's sake that they will not delay till we are past redemption point. (Letter 673)

As president of the S.C.A., he supported the government in its attempt to introduce wheat quotas, general import duties, potato duties (though he thought that these were 'inadequate'), and the regulation of the importation of meat. He recognised that 'there was still a great deal to do, particularly in relation to potatoes and to oats and barley, all of which were selling below production cost'.[61] On standing down as president, he was made a general director of the S.C.A.,[62] and continued to serve on its committees, such as the one appointed in December 1936 to consider the Livestock Industry Bill.[63] Earlier, in 1933, he was involved in their discussions about the Agricultural Marketing Bill that led to the creation of the marketing boards for produce such milk and potatoes.[64] The state of the potato market continued to concern him a year later, when on 11 January he told a meeting of the S.C.A., 'that for many years they had been fighting in the potato business for freedom from a ruinous market which had put a good many farmers out of the door. We wanted freedom from the thraldom of these ruinous prices'.[65]

During this period, Hugh was also involved with the National Farmers' Union of Scotland (N.F.U.S.),[66] the other bargaining organisation for farmers in Scotland. In 1924, for example, he presided over a meeting of its East Lothian Branch held in the Haddington Corn Exchange,[67] and was a speaker at the meeting held by the branch later in the year to condemn the actions of the union's central executive committee.[68]

As one of East Lothian's leading potato growers, his opinion on the state of the potato market was particularly sought. On 2 June 1933, the comments he made to a meeting held in Haddington by the East Lothian Branch of the N.F.U.S. to discuss the scheme to stabilise the potato industry in Britain were reported in *The Scotsman*:

> During the discussion which followed, Mr Hugh Miller of West Fortune, asked, "What has our independence in growing potatoes brought to us this year?" He did not think that question required to be answered. He could take them to many farms in East Lothian where they would find tons of Golden Wonder potatoes lying. Not to speak of selling them, farmers could not even get them away. The scheme that had been put forward had not been formulated so much from choice as from necessity. He did not think that there was anyone on the Provisional Board who would probably claim that the scheme was perfect. He did not think so, but he was going to support it because he thought it was the skeleton of something that might grow into a body some day. A question had been put to him that day, and he wanted to ask if it was the case that a grower of seed potatoes in the East of Scotland was in a more favoured position than a grower in the West?[69]

Hugh also spoke at a public meeting held by the branch the following January to discuss the potato marketing scheme.[70] In April that year, he was appointed a member of the Potato Marketing Board's Advisory Committee for Scotland.[71] On his appointment, *The Scotsman* referred to him as 'a noted agriculturist'.[72] In September 1935, he became the chairman of the committee.[73]

In 1938, Hugh and his brother Robert were among the members of the newly established National Farmers' Union and Chamber of Agriculture of Scotland, a merger of the N.F.U.S. and S.C.A. intended to better represent the farmers of Scotland.[74] In June that year, he was appointed as a member of the potato committee of the new organisation, while Robert was appointed to the cereals committee.[75]

While his most notable public work was done in the field of agriculture, Hugh also served on a number of non-farming boards and committees. In 1932, he was appointed a member of the East Lothian Public Assistance Committee for the Prestonkirk Home Poor Law Institution.[76] Situated in East Linton, the house provided board and lodging for vagrants and the poor from across East Lothian. He was still serving on this committee in January 1938, when he voted against any alteration being made to the scale of relief in the county.[77] In the November of that year, he and his brother Robert were both listed among the nominations for the forthcoming election for the East Lothian County Council;[78] and in February 1939, Hugh's name was added to the Commission of the Peace for the County of East Lothian.[79]

Religious faith

The Christian faith played a large part in Hugh Miller's life. His father, who was described as 'an energetic office-bearer of the Ayrshire Christian Union – a man of ardent piety and zeal',[80] perhaps provided the model. James Miller was also a founding member of the Temperance Electoral Union for South Ayrshire,[81] and Hugh's support for the temperance cause can perhaps also be traced back to him. Hugh's uncle, Hugh of Grassmillees, was an active member of the United Presbyterian Church and 'in his later years took a warm and practical interest in the Ayrshire Christian Union, and was one of those who took a prominent part in establishing a mission hall in Mauchline'.[82] Hugh was involved in the mission hall, too, and continued to take an interest in its activities after moving east. Indeed, he appears to have been asked on a number of occasions to help out at its meetings, although his farming commitments did not always allow it, as he explained to his sister Bessie in February 1911,

> I daresay that you will have heard of the work of grace at Mauchline. It is very gratifying indeed to hear of it, but I feel sorry we have not been privileged to be sharers in the harvest at this time. I think the mission closes tomorrow night. They are having a social meeting tonight which

> they wanted me to go through for, but I did not consider it very suitable or very necessary. They will be more in need of help afterwards, and I may take a weekend trip some time when convenient. (Letter 62)

When they moved to West Fortune, Hugh and his wife became members of the United Presbyterian Church in North Berwick. From June 1911, he also held his own 'little meeting' every Sunday evening in his barn at West Fortune. By December that year it was attracting between thirty and forty worshippers, which he considered 'a nice little congregation' (Letter 208). Two years later it continued to attract new members (Letter 403). He wrote to the home missionary James Garriock not only to ask if he would send some tracts for the congregation but also to invite him to address the meeting. He further noted that, 'if you were inclined to go over to North Berwick on the Sunday afternoon, there is a meeting on the shore for young and old where a goodly number gathers, and where your help would be valued' (Letter 124). Hugh's brother Robert helped organise this seaside mission. Hugh himself joined Garriock as a speaker at Carrubbers Close Mission Hall, Edinburgh, in April 1927 and February 1929.[83] In 1926, his two daughters had appeared at the same venue as duettists.[84]

Hugh was also a keen supporter of the Southern Morocco Mission (S.M.M.). Established in 1888 by a group of Scottish Protestants to bring the Gospel to the peoples of southern Morocco, by 1893 it had 'so developed that now there are twenty missionaries on the field, of whom twelve are male and eight female'.[85] It operated four mission stations, which carried out 'medical dispensary, systematic visitation, and itinerating work in out-lying towns and villages' as well as the usual gospel work. Its first missionary was Cuthbert Nairn, who went on to marry Hugh's sister Mary. Among the subsequent recruits was John Richmond, whom Hugh would have known from his time in Mauchline. Hugh wrote to him in December 1910 mentioning his return to Morocco (Letter 36). There are also letters in the collection to three of the S.M.M.'s officeholders: James Fulton (treasurer), John Geddes (secretary), and Robert G. Munsie (council member). These letters, among other things, show Hugh donating money to the S.M.M., stating his intention to attend their meetings, and asking for assistance to purchase a portable organ to help with his own gatherings at West Fortune.

As with many Scots at this time, Hugh was well versed in the Bible, and he often quoted it in his letters to family and friends. It provided him with apposite phrases for a range of circumstances from condoling with a correspondent who had just suffered a bereavement (Letter 411) to apologising for not answering a letter sooner (Letter 81) and explaining why his brother-in-law should pay his dues (Letter 656).

People in the Letters

The personal letters copied into the letter book offer not only a further insight into Hugh Miller's character and wider activities and interests, but also a glimpse into the lives of those he knew. This section looks at some of the family members who were either recipients of the letters or mentioned in them.

Jane Miller and children

Born in Stewarton, Ayrshire, in 1871, Jane Miller was the eldest of David and Jane Whiteford's seven children. As a young woman, she was an active member of the local Congregational Church, both playing the organ at its Sunday services and teaching at its Sabbath school. She was also a member of the Scottish Evangelistic Society and volunteered at the local Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A., where her harmonium playing was particularly appreciated.[86] She was married to Hugh Miller on 15 October 1896 by the Reverend George Peill of the Congregational Church. The ceremony took place at the Whiteford family home in Stewarton, which was decorated for the day with bunting and an evergreen arch. She then went to live with her new husband at Grassmillees, and it was there that their four children were born: Jane (1898), James (1900), Elizabeth (1905) and Hugh (1908).

Jane was the recipient of one letter copied by Hugh into his letter book and is mentioned in a number of other ones, though not at any length. Passing comment is made of her visits to relatives in Ayrshire (e.g. Letter 202) and of her health (e.g. Letter 209). Hugh occasionally passed on her best wishes and brief messages in his own letters (e.g. Letter 300). In a letter sent to his uncle in September 1912, he mentioned that 'Jane is fairly well suited with a maid' (Letter 300), hinting at the important role she would have played in running domestic affairs at West Fortune. The rhyme with which he began the letter to Jane points to an affectionate, even light-hearted, side to his character not apparent elsewhere.

While Hugh's children do not feature much in the letters either, the limited references to them arguably point to the areas of their life that were important to him. A concern for their health and well-being is to the fore, as might be expected. In a letter of June 1913, for example, he noted that, 'Betty and Hugh have had whooping-cough for a week or two. Betty is over the worst but Hugh takes bad turns yet. He will soon be through the worst too however' (Letter 374). He also mentioned their education in some letters, including one sent on 13 May 1911, in which he told his sister that, 'Betty began school two weeks ago and is liking it well much to our surprise, and of course our comfort' (Letter 105). Indeed, that he took a direct interest in their schooling is shown by the letter he sent to Jim's teacher firmly telling her that he did not agree with the punishment exercise she had given him (Letter 311). His election in April 1912 to the Athelstaneford School Board shows that an interest in education extended beyond his own family (Letter 240).

Mary Nairn and Elizabeth Osborne

Hugh had two older sisters, Mary (b. 1865) and Elizabeth (b. 1867). Mary married Cuthbert Nairn at Shaw farm, Prestwick, on 26 February 1896. As noted above, he was a missionary with the Southern Morocco Mission, and they left soon after the wedding to set up home in Marrakesh. None of the letters in the letter book were addressed to her although she is mentioned in a small number of them. Two of them record visits she made with her children to West Fortune, one in July 1912, the other in July 1913 (Letters 272 & 379). She appears to have been living in Mauchline at this time, although the latter letter talks of her returning to Morocco. It is likely that the trip Hugh took to Morocco in 1927 was to visit her and Cuthbert (Letter 666).

Elizabeth, or Bessie as she was known familiarly, had married George Osborne in 1891. He farmed Faulds in the parish of Newton Mearns, Renfrewshire, and it was here that their four children were born. By November 1910, when Bessie first appears as a recipient in the letter book, George had been dead for twelve years, and she was living with her children in Prestwick. The ten letters to her copied into the book are largely concerned with family affairs, including a rift that had developed towards the end of 1912 between Hugh and his Uncle John's wife, about which he sought her advice (Letters 332 & 333). Some of the letters to Bessie were accompanied by a cheque for £10, being the six-monthly interest on a loan, for how much and for what, the letters do not reveal. The last letter addressed to her in the book dates to August 1914. The following year, she married farmer James Henderson.

George Miller

Twenty-five of the letters were addressed to Hugh's elder brother George. Born in 1870, he was married in 1909 to Catherine Chalmers. Five children followed. George was the manager of the Clydesdale Bank in Ayr, and he used his financial expertise to look after certain aspects of his brother's business. The letters Hugh sent him were often accompanied either by cheques to pay insurance premiums or by documents that would enable him to draft Hugh's annual balance sheet (e.g. Letter 209). While at times more formal than Hugh's correspondence with other relatives, these letters often contain family and other news and convey a brotherly concern for the well-being of George, his wife, and their children (e.g. Letter 68). George's retiral from the bank in 1936 was marked by the following tribute in *The Scotsman*:

> A well-known Ayr bank agent, Mr George Miller, J.P., Clydesdale Bank, High Street, retires today, after a service extending to 51 years. He has been agent at Ayr since 1910. Apart from a period of two years, when he was at the head office, all Mr Miller's service has been in Ayr. During his agency Mr Miller has seen branches opened at Prestwick, Townhead, and Tam's Brig (Ayr). As a citizen, Mr Miller has identified himself with

> various religious and social movements. He was chairman and treasurer of the Committee which was responsible for the building of the Y.M.C.A. Institute in High Street, and in more recent times took a prominent part in founding the Ayr Community Service Club, from the chairmanship of which he retired at the end of last year.[87]

Robert Miller (brother)

Born in 1868, Robert was Hugh's eldest brother. He married Elizabeth Hannah on 19 November 1901 at her brother's farm of Girvan Mains. It was around this time that Robert left the farm of Shaw and settled at Ferrygate. In terms of geographical distance, he was the closest of Hugh's relatives and the lack of any letters addressed to him in the letter book can no doubt be explained by the fact that any business or exchange of news would have been done in person.

Letters sent by Hugh to other relatives, however, did mention events at Ferrygate, including family visits (Letter 13), episodes of ill health among Robert's children (Letter 402), and activities on the farm, such as the start date for the potato harvest (Letter 122). These and other letters suggest that Hugh consulted Robert on farming matters and valued his advice. After he saw Souness & Speirs potato boxes being used at Ferrygate, for example, he contacted the Edinburgh firm to buy some 500 of them for himself (Letter 140). Robert also suggested Mrs Norris as a probable buyer of one or two horses that Hugh wanted to sell (Letter 16).

Under Robert's care, Ferrygate became one of the leading farms in East Lothian, a fact recognised in June 1935 by a party of Devonshire farmers when they chose to visit it on an agricultural tour of the county. The visit was reported in *The Scotsman*:

> The next visit was paid to Ferrygate, near North Berwick, belonging to Mr Robert Miller, an ex-president of the Scottish Chamber of Agriculture. Ferrygate is another large arable farm, of which the special features are a well-planned set of farm buildings and the production of seed oats and early potatoes. The party were greatly impressed with the quality of the fattening bullocks which Mr Miller is preparing for market, and also with his Clydesdale horses.[88]

As with brother Hugh, Robert was prominent in public life. He and Hugh were sometimes reported at the same meetings, and in conjunction with the S.C.A. and the National Farmers' Union and Chamber of Agriculture of Scotland. When Hugh was appointed the S.C.A. representative to the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, for example, Robert was appointed its representative to the Management Committee of the Scottish Plant Registration Station.[89] During the 1930s, he served as the Highland and Agricultural Society's representative to the S.C.A., to the N.F.L.U., and to the

Scottish Land and Property Federation;[90] he was made a justice of the peace; served as the chairman of the East Lothian Clydesdale Horse Breeding Society;[91] and was a member of the East Lothian Education Committee, serving as the convener for its finance sub-committee.[92] Some of his other public activities were summarised in *The Fourth Statistical Account of East Lothian*:

> [he] had been a Director of the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society, a Governor of the Edinburgh and East of Scotland College of Agriculture, a County Councillor and was the Vice-Chairman of the East Lothian Agricultural Executive Committee during the war.[93]

Robert Miller (uncle)

There are twelve letters addressed to Robert Miller, one of three paternal uncles still alive during the early period of the letter book. Robert had been a farmer in Ayrshire, first at his father's farm at Riccarton and then at Caldhame, the lease of which he took up in 1874, and he was interested to receive the latest farming news from West Fortune. He enquired, for example, about the performance of a new mill installed at West Fortune in 1911, Hugh telling him in a letter of 27 December that, 'We have now had a good trial of the mill, and I am pleased to say it is quite satisfactory' (Letter 213). On at least two occasions, Hugh sent him a bag of potatoes. Family affairs also feature prominently in the letters, with Hugh both informing his uncle about events in East Lothian and commenting on news that Robert had given him in his letters. Apart from these farming and familial connections, the two men were united by their interest in Christian missions and most of the letters contain some reference to meetings or to common friends in the cause. Robert Miller died in 1919, aged eighty-two years, in the parish of Dirleton.

John Hannah

John Hannah was born in Maybole, Ayrshire, in 1857. Following his father's death in 1875, he worked the 350-acre farm of Girvan Mains first alongside his brother Adam and then alone. He married Hugh's sister Euphemia in 1900, a family tie that was to be reinforced when John's sister Elizabeth married Robert Miller the following year. The letter book contains some fifty letters sent to John between 24 October 1910 and 31 July 1920, the most to any single recipient. These were also Hugh's most discursive letters.

Their chief topic was farming. They included information about the state of Hugh's crops and local markets, as well as general farming intelligence that would be of interest to John. As both men were extensive potato growers, especially of earlies, one of the subjects that was of particular interest was the potato crop. Hugh sometimes drew comparisons between activities at Girvan Mains and at West Fortune. On 21 February 1911, for example, he wrote,

> I suppose that you will have a good many potatoes planted, and the conditions would be good before the storm. We have not done anything yet but if next week permits in point of weather we will make a start. I think Robert will be half through. (Letter 69)

He commented on 25 May 1911 that, 'potatoes have been growing fairly well, but I hear that you cannot read the drills in the Girvan district, which is a long way in advance of anything here' (Letter 109). On 29 June 1911 he surmised that, 'I suppose you will be in full work with potato digging, at least the supply can hardly cope with the demand in this district' (Letter 122).

The way that Hugh signed his letters to John ('yours affectionately') implies a close relationship, and in them he was certainly open about his business activities. Hugh clearly valued John's advice. In a letter sent to him in January 1914, he enclosed 'for your perusal my balance sheet for the past year', noting that 'I am very much disappointed at the result, and only hope that it may be better next time' (Letter 409). In his letter acknowledging John's comments, he admitted that he had made mistakes in compiling the sheet (Letter 412). Their relationship also had a financial arrangement. Hugh sent John cheques for the payment of interest (Letter 25) and for the repayment of a loan of £1,000 (Letter 474). He also provided advice to John, for example after the latter had purchased Drem Farm in 1919 (letter 552).

At Girvan Mains, John was one of the leading growers of first early potatoes on the Ayrshire coast, which itself was the centre of the early potato industry. He was also a key public figure in Scottish agriculture. Aspects of his career were outlined in his obituary, published in *The Scotsman* on 16 January 1942:

> Death of Mr John M. Hannah
> Prominent figure in Scottish agriculture
> Although noted as a skilful and scientific farmer, specialising in the growing of early potatoes, Mr John M. Hannah, Girvan Mains, whose death is announced at the age of 84, was perhaps best known to the agricultural community through his gift of the estate of Auchincruive to the West of Scotland Agricultural College.
>
> His handing over of the lands situated on the banks of the River Ayr enabled the College to transfer the Dairy School for Scotland and the experimental farm from Holmes Farm, Kilmarnock, Auchincruive, where there is now established, debt free, one of the best-equipped institutions of the kind in the kingdom, with the mansion-house as a hostel for the students in practical framing, poultry-keeping &c. Apart from Auchincruive, Mr Hannah also gave adjoining lands at Kirkhill, now occupied by the Dairy Research Institute, which bears his name.

> Deceased was for many years a leading member of the Ayrshire Agricultural Association. The farm of Girvan Mains is being carried on by one of his sons, Mr J. J. M. Hannah, who is an active member of the National Farmers' Union and Chamber of Agriculture of Scotland, and a governor of the College.[94]

Elsewhere, he was described as,

> … one of Scotland's most prominent farmers, who had been recognised for many years as amongst the most skilful cultivators of the soil in Britain … [he was] a leading grower of early potatoes, a branch of farming in which he excelled. His advice was sought on all questions of potato culture.[95]

The Whitefords

The letter book contains fourteen letters written to members of the Whiteford family, to whom Hugh was related through his wife. Three were addressed to David Whiteford, whom he addressed as 'grandfather' even though he was in fact his father-in-law. David had established the family bacon-curing business in Stewarton, Ayrshire, and later rose to local political prominence as the town's provost. All three letters date to January 1912 and have as their main topic his gift of a pony, which was apparently destined to pull a trap, Hugh noting, 'I trust that as often as we sit behind it, it may lead us in the paths of rectitude and righteousness' (Letter 215).

David remained the senior partner in the family firm until his death in 1926, although for a number of years it had been actively run by his sons, George and James. In 1912, Hugh sent George eight tons of straw and six pig carcases for which he received £32 11/- (Letters 284 & 291). A third letter sent that year hints at a family dispute that Hugh's intervention appears to have made worse (Letter 318). In the same year, Hugh corresponded with James about a horse (e.g. Letter 323).

No further letters to the Whitefords appear in the book until 1925. A year before this, the firm of David Whiteford & Sons, 'Wholesale Bacon Curers, Cheese and Grain Merchants, 2 New Street, Stewarton', had been dissolved by mutual consent following the retiral of James.[96] Thereafter, David and George continued the business on their own account, but within the year the firm had got into serious financial difficulties and on 6 November 1925 the estates of the firm and David and George as individual partners were sequestered. The three letters to George from this time relate to this state of affairs and show among other things that he had asked Hugh for financial help (Letter 654). The family home in Stewarton was subsequently sold to help pay the debts and David Whiteford, now in his late eighties, went to live with his son David, a minister of the United Free Church, at his manse in Ardrossan.

Concluding remarks

Of the 689 letters in the present volume, 509 of them date to between 1910 and 1920; and of them, 243 were written in 1911-1912. After 1922, the number of letters copied annually into the book only reached double figures once and there are no letters at all for 1929. The range of recipients also narrowed after 1920. Most notably, personal letters were no longer copied into the book. The last letters to Bessie Miller, George Miller, and John Hannah date to 1914, 1917, and 1920, respectively.

The installation of a telephone at West Fortune in late 1913 probably accounts for the decline in the number of letters sent by Hugh to family members and friends. There is also evidence that he increasingly conducted his business via the telephone. The first example dates to July 1915, when he received a message about a disputed horse deal (Letter 453). Subsequent letters refer to telephone conversations regarding, among other things, the conscription of farm servants, an order for wheat straw from a paper mill, a potato contract, an arbitration, and the purchase of a motor car (Letters 472, 510, 596, 647 & 667).

Even before the advent of the telephone at West Fortune, the letter book does not provide a comprehensive picture of life on the farm. The work that would have taken place in the milking shed, byre and stable, not to mention the domestic duties that were a vital part of any successful farm, go unremarked, and naturally so, as this was not the purpose of the letters. Indeed, as with all historical sources, to gain the full picture of farming at West Fortune, the letter book needs to be studied alongside other evidence, which in this instance includes not only documentary sources such as newspaper reports, valuations, and tenancy agreements, but also the reminiscences of those who knew Hugh.

So saying, there are few surviving collections of letters by Scottish farmers that are as rich as this one. They preserve fascinating details not only about Hugh's work on the farm, but also about his connections with the wider agricultural community, and with the various businesses that serviced that community. These relationships tell us much about Hugh both as a farmer and a businessman, and the nature of farming in early twentieth-century East Lothian. They also reveal the extent to which market forces, politics, war, and other external factors influence the course of agriculture and the lives of those who work in it. That some personal correspondence was copied into the letter book provides, moreover, a perspective not usually found in such collections. They allow a glimpse at the family life of the Millers and in particular Hugh's relationships with various friends and relatives. They also reveal something of his character and interests, not least his involvement with Christian mission.

Heather Holmes

NOTES

[1] *Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald*, 22 September 1893.

[2] The bower during at least part of Hugh's tenure was one Thomas Gilliland, who won a number of prizes for his cheese.

[3] The let of West Fortune to Hugh Miller was noted in the *Edinburgh Evening News*, 30 July 1909: 'West Fortune Farm has been let to Mr Millar, of Mauchline, at £1000, being an increase of £50'.

[4] *The Scotsman*, 5 June 1904.

[5] *The Scotsman*, 5 June 1909.

[6] *The Scotsman*, 6 November 1901.

[7] Cox, M. 'Farming in the parish of Dirleton, 1945-2000', *The Fourth Statistical Account of East Lothian,* 2001: https://el4.org.uk/parish/dirleton/farming/.

[8] *Aberdeen Press and Journal*, 12 July 1919. It would appear that the sitting tenant continued to farm there for a number of years, but by 1930 it was being farmed by John's son, George Hannah.

[9] Steele started up his own business at Harrison Road, Edinburgh, in mid-1914. It was to become an important agent, selling implements and machines under the strapline 'Everything for the Farm'. See Holmes, H. *Scottish Agricultural Implement and Machine Makers 1843 to 1914: a Directory,* Edinburgh, 2020, 737.

[10] *Berwickshire News and General Advertiser*, 13 September 1932. This appointment was in terms of Section 1 of the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 1923, as read with Section 33 of the Small Landholdings (Scotland) Act 1931.

[11] Hugh won second prize for his mangolds at the Scottish National Fat Stock Show in 1925. The first and third prizes were also won by East Lothian farmers. See *The Scotsman*, 3 December 1925.

[12] *The Scotsman*, 24 February 1922.

[13] Holmes, H. *'As good as a holiday': Potato Harvesting in the Lothians from 1870 to the present*, East Linton, 2000, 30-33.

[14] *The Scotsman*, 11 November 1926.

[15] *The Scotsman*, 31 January 1928.

[16] *Dundee Courier*, 8 September 1934.

[17] *The Scotsman*, 6 November 1909.

[18] National Records of Scotland [NRS], Military Service Appeal Tribunal Records (Lothians and Peebles), Appeal Tribunal Papers, June 1918, HH30/28/10/15, George Anderson; NRS, Military Service Appeal Tribunal Records (Lothians and Peebles), Appeal Tribunal Papers, June 1918, HH30/28/9/51, Robert Gillan.

[19] *Berwickshire News and General Advertiser*, 21 March 1922.

[20] Holmes, 2000, chapter 11; Holmes, H. *Tattie Howkers: Irish Potato Workers in Ayrshire*, Ayr, 2005, chapter 2.

[21] Holmes, 2000, 226.

[22] Holmes, 2000, 227.

[23] *The Scotsman*, 25 September 1923.

[24] *The Scotsman*, 6 November 1909.

[25] *The Scotsman*, 6 March 1917.

[26] Holmes, H. 'New threshing mills erected in farms in the 1930s', *Scottish Agricultural Implement Makers*, 5 October 2023: https://blog.scottishagriculturalimplementmakers.co.uk/new-threshing-mills-erected-in-farms-in-the-1930s-2/.

[27] Holmes, 2020, 482-491.

[28] Holmes, 2020, 682.

[29] Holmes, 2020, 683-686.

[30] Holmes, 2020, 728.

[31] Holmes, 2020, 798-804.

[32] Holmes, 2020, 804-805.

[33] *The Scotsman*, 3 July 1911.

[34] *The Scotsman*, 27 April 1911.

[35] *The Scotsman*, 19 November 1932.

[36] NRS, Military Service Appeal Tribunal Records (Lothians and Peebles), Appeal Tribunal Papers, November 1916, HH30/9/1/30, John McGauchrane.

[37] NRS, Military Service Appeal Tribunal Records (Lothians and Peebles), Appeal Tribunal Papers, May 1918, HH30/28/9/28, John Walker Logan.

[38] NRS, Military Service Appeal Tribunal Records (Lothians and Peebles), Appeal Tribunal Papers, June 1918, HH30/28/9/51, Robert Gillan; NRS, Military Service Appeal Tribunal Records (Lothians and Peebles), Appeal Tribunal Papers, June 1918, HH30/28/10/15, George Anderson. That Robert Gillan was eventually conscripted is shown in Letter 536.

[39] Unless they were the 'warworkers' mentioned in Letter 536.

[40] Kelly, Lawrie and Mclelland might have been the three 'warworkers' Hugh referred to in Letter 536, and perhaps 'Land Girls'.

[41] Murray was described as a 'discharged soldier'.

[42] NRS, Military Service Appeal Tribunal Records (Lothians and Peebles), Appeal Tribunal Papers, November 1916, HH30/9/1/30, John McGauchrane.

[43] NRS, Military Service Appeal Tribunal Records (Lothians and Peebles), Appeal Tribunal Papers, June 1918, HH30/28/10/15, George Anderson.

[44] NRS, Military Service Appeal Tribunal Records (Lothians and Peebles), Appeal Tribunal Papers, June 1918, HH30/28/10/15, George Anderson.

[45] A Board of Agriculture schedule from November 1916 records 100 cattle and 700 sheep at West Fortune. See NRS, Military Service Appeal Tribunal Records (Lothians and Peebles), Appeal Tribunal Papers, November 1916, HH30/9/1/30, John McGauchrane.

[46] *Newcastle Daily Chronicle*, 12 August 1919.

[47] *Dundee Evening Herald*, 15 October 1919; *The Scotsman*, 14 October 1919.

[48] *Edinburgh Evening News*, 31 March 1920.

[49] *The Scotsman*, 20 January 1912.

[50] *Edinburgh Evening News*, 26 July 1912.

[51] *The Scotsman*, 1 November 1913.

[52] *The Scotsman*, 8 November 1928.

[53] *The Scotsman*, 28 June 1930.

[54] *Edinburgh Evening News*, 4 December 1930.

[55] *Dundee Courier*, 4 December 1931.

[56] *The Scotsman*, 17 March 1932, and 2 December 1932; *Dundee Courier*, 1 September 1932.

[57] *The Scotsman*, 10 August 1929; *Dundee Courier*, 8 September 1934.

[58] *The Scotsman*, 19 February 1932.

[59] *The Scotsman*, 2 December 1921.

[60] *The Scotsman*, 14 January 1928.

[61] *The Scotsman*, 2 December 1932.

[62] *The Scotsman*, 2 December 1932.

[63] *The Scotsman*, 24 December 1936.

[64] *The Scotsman*, 20 April 1933.

[65] *The Scotsman*, 12 January 1934.

[66] *The Scotsman*, 12 January 1924.

[67] *The Scotsman*, 12 January 1924.

[68] *The Scotsman*, 29 December 1924.

[69] *The Scotsman*, 3 June 1933. Hugh's brother Robert was among those present who voted against the scheme.

[70] *The Scotsman*, 6 January 1934.

[71] *Dundee Courier*, 19 April 1934.

[72] *Dundee Courier*, 19 April 1934.

[73] *Dundee Courier*, 28 September 1935.

[74] *The Scotsman*, 19 May 1938.

[75] *The Scotsman*, 17 June 1938.

[76] *Edinburgh Evening News*, 24 May 1932.

[77] *The Scotsman*, 25 January 1938.

[78] *Edinburgh Evening News*, 16 November 1938.

[79] *The Scotsman*, 2 February 1939.

[80] *Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald*, 4 April 1890. The Ayrshire Christian Union arranged evangelistic meetings in the towns and villages of the county and also held monthly conferences at which various matters of faith were discussed, talks given, and local initiatives reported.

[81] *Irvine Times*, 3 July 1885. The aim of the union was to give support to parliamentary candidates who were 'prepared to give ratepayers a direct veto and control, over the licensed liquor traffic; and of temperance candidates, members of Town Councils, School Boards and other local bodies'.

[82] *Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald*, 22 September 1893.

[83] *Edinburgh Evening News*, 29 April 1927; *The Scotsman*, 23 February 1929.

[84] *The Scotsman*, 27 November 1926.

[85] *Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald*, 8 December 1893.

[86] *Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald*, 23 October 1896.

[87] *The Scotsman*, 31 March 1936.

[88] *The Scotsman*, 4 June 1935.

[89] *The Scotsman*, 28 November 1928.

[90] *The Scotsman*, 3 November 1932.

[91] *The Scotsman*, 21 January 1933.

[92] *Edinburgh Evening News*, 24 December 1938.

[93] Cox, 2001: https://el4.org.uk/parish/dirleton/farming/.

[94] *The Scotsman*, 16 January 1942.

[95] *Dumfries and Galloway Standard*, 17 January 1942.

[96] *Edinburgh Gazette*, 12 September 1924.

THE LETTERS OF HUGH MILLER, FARMER, WEST FORTUNE, EAST LOTHIAN, 1910-1934

1. R. THOMPSON ESQ.

12 September 1910

Dear Sir,[1]

I beg to confirm having let to you about 50 acres turnips to be consumed by cattle on the farm, say £8 per acre, swedes at £9 per acre (nine pounds) and the yellows at £7 (seven pounds) according to results with the right for you to reserve 5/- per acre (five shillings) according to how the crop turns out. One acre allowed off for black spots in Quarry Field.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

2. MESSRS J. & A. MCARTHUR

15 September 1910

Dear Sirs,[2]

I beg to confirm having sold to you about fifteen acres of British Queen Potatoes at £16 per acre.

3. MESSRS A. & J. MAIN

6 October 1910

Dear Sirs,[3]

I tried the potato digger for a short time today but I regret that it did not give me the satisfaction I had hoped for. The shaws gathered round the neck and

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1 This is the first of seventeen letters to R. Thompson/Thomson regarding the feeding of livestock at West Fortune. There were a number of farmers with this initial and surname in southern Scotland at this time, including in both Ayrshire and East Lothian.

2 J. & A. McArthur, grain and potato merchants, Hunter Street, Glasgow.

3 A. & J. Main, manufactures of agricultural implements and other iron goods, Clydesdale Ironworks, Glasgow.

stuck the machine and some of the potatoes were scattered very wide. I mean to [*illegible* - ?return it] and will let you know.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

4. MESSRS J. & A. MCARTHUR

6 October 1910

Dear Sirs,

I beg to confirm having sold to you about 12 acres Up-to-Date potatoes at £20 (twenty pounds) per acre with endrigs[4] round plot thrown in, I to do the horse work of digging and carting and also take the brock[5] at 17/6 per ton in your option.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

5. MESSRS A. & J. MAIN

7 October 1910

Dear Sirs,

I regret that the digger has not given me satisfaction. It began to skip teeth today and I stopped it at once. It is now at Drem Station. You might let me know if you wish it back to Edinburgh.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

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4 The ends of a field where the plough turned before cutting another furrow. Up-to-Date is a maincrop variety of potato.

5 Potatoes that were considered unsuitable for human consumption or for seed being either too small or diseased.

6. ANDREW POLLOCK ESQ.

10 October 1910

Dear Sir,[6]

I daresay you will have heard from Messrs A. & J. Main regarding the potato digger that I had on approval. The pinions began to skip teeth when it had wrought little more than half a day. Mr Poole proposed that you should come and see it, but while I am quite willing that you should do so, I feel it would be a waste of time, as the machine needs to go back to the shop before it is further tried. I am sorry I have had this experience with the machine as I thought its action to be an improvement on the old system. I found, however, that it missed a screw and also a bar on the frame forward the shaws where these were strong.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

The digger is lying at Drem Station.
H.M.

7. THE SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY

12 October 1910

Dear Sirs,[7]

I beg to confirm having sold you today about 42 acres of Up-to-Date potatoes at £20 (twenty pounds) per acre with £1 (one pound) per acre up or above according to how crop turns out, and half an acre deducted from measurement. Seller to lift and pit them and buyer to lift them out of pits.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

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6 Andrew Pollock of A. Pollock, agricultural engineers, Mauchline, Ayrshire.

7 The Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society had its headquarters in Glasgow, although Hugh Miller dealt with its branch in Leith.

8. R. THOMSON ESQ.

14 October 1910

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter about sheep turnips. I have partly made arrangement about these but not quite fixed. I will let you know definitely, however, in the course of a few days whether they are spare or not. The cattle are all getting on to their feed.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

9. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

15 October 1910

Dear Sirs,[8]

I am in receipt of your favour of 13th inst with fire policy enclosed and I herewith send cheque for £14.0.0 in payment of the premium.

I thought that Mr Guild[9] would probably have been here today to take a look at the fences I spoke of. As I am putting stock in both of the fields next week, I will be glad if you let the matter have your early attention.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

10. D. DALE ESQ.

18 October 1910

Dear Sir,[10]

You might let me know if you have any whitechaff squarehead wheat suitable

8 Guild & Guild, Writers to the Signet, Rutland Street, Edinburgh.

9 Alexander Guild W.S. was the factor for the Luffness estate. Hugh Miller's farm at West Fortune and Guild's farm at Aberlady Mains were both part of the estate at this time.

10 The recipient was perhaps Donald Dale, a corn merchant in Flint, Wales.

for seed as usual, and the price. I will require nearly 60 bolls.[11] You might please send sample. We have had beautiful weather for potato lifting, but today has broken down. There are large breadths of potatoes still to lift.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

11. MESSRS MCGILL & SMITH

19 October 1910

Dear Sirs,[12]

I herewith enclose cheque for £9.10/- in payment of seed account. I thought that I might have been in Ayr before this, and intended looking in but have not been West for some time.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

12. D. DALE ESQ.

22 October 1910

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter also sample of wheat. I do not think it is quite as good as usual. Is this a rubbed sample? If there were more of the small taken out of it in the dressing it would be improved. You might let me know as to this by return and I will let you know regarding it at once.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

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11 A boll was a dry measure widely used in Scottish agriculture. A boll of potatoes contained on average six imperial bushels.

12 McGill & Smith, grain merchants, Kyle Street, Ayr.

13. JOHN HANNAH

24 October 1910

Dear John,[13]

I am in receipt of your letter of 21st inst and will perhaps see you some time in the near future about the two machines. We have a few days potato lifting yet, however, and the weather is not very suitable for the work. We would have almost finished had the weather not broken down. I sold the balance of the high field to McArthur at £20 – he to lift them and I have since sold the rest to the Co-op at the same price with £1 up or down but I lift them. Of course, I do not lift them from the pits. This is a bit of private information. It may be that I have made a poor deal, it may be otherwise.

We have got the engine and pump started and doing quite satisfactorily but the other machine has not been started yet as some of the work is not completed. I expect the engineer back some day soon to see the mill going and try what the engine can do.

We have over 60 cattle in the courts and it will not be long till we are quite filled up. Store cattle[14] are now easier bought.

We had Uncle Robert and Aunt Bessie for a week. They went to Ferrygate[15] today. They are both quite well – for them. Wynne Crosby was at Ferrygate for the week end and was here for a little this afternoon, so they come and go.

I trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

14. GEORGE REID ESQ.

29 October 1910

Dear Sir,[16]

I am in receipt of your letter of 26th inst re cottages. I am sorry I was not here when you called. The state of affairs at the two cottages used as bothies no-one

13 John Hannah was Hugh Miller's brother-in-law. He farmed Girvan Mains, Ayrshire.

14 Cattle that had been obtained for fattening.

15 A farm situated near Dirleton, East Lothian, tenanted by Hugh Miller's brother Robert.

16 The recipient was probably George Reid, who tenanted Eaglescairnie, not far from West Fortune.

can deny. I have urged on the alterations that were agreed upon, ever since these were fixed, but there is practically nothing done yet, except the water turned on.

We have now finished potato lifting and both bothies are cleared out. I thought that Mr Guild might have been here today but he did not turn up.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

15. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

31 October 1910

Dear Sirs,

I am sorry you have not yet been here to arrange about the repair of the fences I spoke of some time ago. I have had sheep on the fields for the last ten days and they are running all over the place. I will be glad if you can let the matter have you early attention.

There are also certain things in connection with the stable that you would have been as well to see for yourself before the work is finished.

I trust that you are arranging to get a start to the shed now as wintry weather may set in at any time.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

16. MRS JANE NORRIS

4 November 1910

Dear Madam,[17]

I have one or two horses to sell, and my brother at Ferrygate gave me your address as a probable buyer. I would like to know at your earliest convenience

[17] Jane Norris, horse dealer, Berwick upon Tweed. Her husband, John Norris, ran the King's Arms, Berwick upon Tweed.

if you would like to take a look at them, as the Hallow Fair comes on the week after next.[18]

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

17. MESSRS JAMES AITKEN & SON

5 November 1910

Dear Sirs,[19]

I have railed today to your address – Duddingston[20] – two waggons second crop hay as arranged.

		tons	cwt	qrs	
61359	28 bales	2	2	1	
59382	28 bales	2	2	3	weighed at Drem

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

18. R. THOMSON ESQ.

8 November 1910

Dear Sir,

Yours of yesterday's date to hand. I have put the big cattle in the boxes on to about 8 lbs of cake and the others are getting about 6 lbs. I am mixing it at the rate of two cakes of cotton cake to one cake of lintseed.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

I think I said to send not more than 35 cattle next week. H.M.

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18 The Hallow Fair was a market traditionally held on 1 November (All Hallows' Day), although in East Lothian it was generally held in the second week of November.

19 James Aitken & Sons operated Duddingston Mills, Duddingston, Midlothian.

20 A village on the eastern outskirts of Edinburgh. It was served by the Duddingston and Craigmillar station on the Edinburgh Suburban and Southside Junction Railway.

19. JOHN A. CARFRAE ESQ.

9 November 1910

Dear Sir,[21]

I am informed by Mr Jasper Hunter that there a number of forms and desks for sale at London Street School,[22] and that you would be prepared to consider an offer for them. I would give a shilling a piece for the forms and sixpence a piece for the desks that are lying outside. He said that there were some others in the school, but if the number is not large, I would take the lot if this offer suits you.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

20. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

11 November 1910

Dear Sirs,

I am in receipt of your favour of the 9th inst and note what you say regarding the stable. I think that the floor should be completed next week.

I saw Whitehead in Haddington today[23] and was asking him about asbestos slates. He says the merchant will not give a guarantee with them and personally he has a poor opinion of them. I only mention this so that if there is a doubt about them perhaps you could get fuller information.

There was nothing arranged about lighting the loose boxes as far as I remember, but I suppose roof lights will be the most economical.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

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21 John A. Carfrae, architect, Queen Street, Edinburgh. He worked largely for the Edinburgh School Board.

22 London Street School, Edinburgh, was undergoing extensive renovations, which included the disposal of old furniture. Jasper Hunter was the school's janitor.

23 11 November was a Friday, the day that the weekly farmers' market was held in Haddington.

21. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

12 November 1910

Dear Sirs,

I am in receipt of your letter of 11th inst regarding the cart shed etc. I expect to be in Edinburgh on Tuesday and will call as you request.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

22. BESSIE OSBORNE

14 November 1910

Dear Bessie,[24]

When writing some letters the other day you were on my mental list but I have discovered that I did not put my intention into execution. I have been trying for some time to get a run westward but have not been able to get away. If nothing comes in my way this week I am looking forward to see you all. Or the most of you. I will not be able to stay a night, much as I would have liked to, but if convenient I will take tea with you on Thursday afternoon and go up to Mauchline with the evening train. I am going to ask my dinner from George that day but if I do not get it I may have a chance with you. Trust you are all well.

I enclose cheque for £10 in payment for interest for half year.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

I expect to spend Wednesday night at Girvan. HM

23. D. DALE ESQ.

16 November 1910

Dear Sir,

I enclose cheque for £51.11.8 in payment of 60 bolls wheat at 17/-. I have

[24] Elizabeth (Bessie) Osborne was Hugh Miller's sister. See the Introduction.

included the carriage of the empty sacks as I suppose you will have been charged with this.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

24. GEORGE MILLER

20 November 1910

Dear George,[25]

I herewith enclose cheque for £6-18-9 in payment of premium of my wages insurance. As you will see, I have added 11/3 to the stated amount.

I got home all right on Saturday night and found things about normal. We have had some days of frost this week, but today has been fresh, and I hope it will be so for some time. I hear of a good fall of snow at Mauchline.

I trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

25. JOHN HANNAH

22 November 1910

Dear John,

I herewith enclose cheque for £46-13-4 in payment of interest – £37-13-4 and of potato riddle and cake breaker – £9 as agreed upon. I do not suppose the railway carriage on the cake breaker will exceed £1, and so you can send it on at your convenience. I got home on Saturday night about six o'clock and was quite cordially received. I found the friends all well that I came across in my wanderings.

I bought two geldings[26] – two year olds – at Ayr on Thursday. Robert is taking one of them.

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25 George Miller was Hugh Miller's brother. The manager of the Ayr branch of the Clydesdale Bank, he looked after his brother's accounts and other financial affairs. See the Introduction.

26 A gelding is a castrated male horse. They are calmer and easier to handle than a whole horse, and so better suited to farm work.

We have at last got a start to the shed and if the weather would be open the mason shapes at getting through expeditiously. We're having frost these days presently it looks like holding.

Trust you all keep well.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

26. MR JOHN HOOD

24 November 1910

Dear John,[27]

I am in receipt of your letter of 22nd inst about the Hall. The proposal that has been made is not a very desirable one from our point of view, but I will not stand in the way of the Hall being used as a soup kitchen, on certain conditions that I think would keep you – the committee – and me right. I think besides the three conditions that I have noted, you could with safety add a fourth, viz That the agreement should hold only till the end of the year in order to see how the matter will work. Unforeseen circumstances may arise that would make it desirable to terminate the agreement.

While I make these suggestions I am not asking you to be bound by them but you should under no circumstances accept of any responsibility in the matter but let this rest with the Board.

As for the gas stove, that is a matter that will rest with the Walkers more than with you but it would surely have been more desirable to have had the soup made outside the Hall if possible, unless the present gas stove could be used for the purpose. That, however, is not our affair. I am sorry I did not see you last week, but if nothing prevents me I will be pleased to be at the children's social when the time comes.

'I will be a source of strength to those who turn the battle to the gate'.[28]

Kind remembrances to all connections with the Mission Hall.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

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27 John Hood, who ran a photographic studio in Catrine, Ayrshire, was a member of the Mauchline School Board.

28 Isaiah 28:6.

Suggested conditions under which Mauchline School Board may have the use of the Mission Hall.

1. That the said Board pay for the use of the Hall at the rate of five shillings per week.

2. That they accept all responsibility concerning damage to the Hall and its furnishings, and the general conduct of the children.

3. That they undertake to keep the Hall clean and put seats etc into their usual arrangement as often as required.

H.M.

27. MRS JANE NORRIS

25 November 1910

Dear Madam,

I have still the black horse for sale and if you could bid me about £40 we might have a deal. I have two two-year olds coming in and so must part with something. I have sold the little mare that you saw along with the black horse. Let me know by return.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

28. JOSEPH LEE ESQ.

26 November 1910

Dear Sir,[29]

I was very much annoyed yesterday to find that one of my men carried the key of the gate into the sand pit from the day before. It was entirely without my

[29] Joseph Lee, farmer, Congalton, Dirleton.

knowledge and I exceedingly regret the mistake and will take care that the like does not happen again.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

29. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

26 November 1910

Dear Sirs,

I saw Mr Baillie[30] today and he said that the bricklayer will be starting here on Monday. I was speaking to him about the windows in the binder house and proposed putting them in the back wall and keeping the door in the original position in front, with your consent.

It is a fortnight past on Wednesday (the 9th inst) since the stalls of the stable were finished. Would you consent to us taking possession by say the 10th December?

There are a few details that I would be glad to have your consent to get done immediately: Viz:

To face up with a plastering of cement, trevis high, the wall of the stall in the East end of the stable. The other end is already done where the wall was cut out.

To connect the conductor pipe from the large gutter at the West gable of the stable, to the stable drain – about four yards.

To get several odd patches of broken plaster repaired, both here and at the cottages.

To get the rhones[31] of the courts repaired where necessary to keep these from being flooded.

Perhaps you may remember that the stable drain is still to carry across the road and Adam tells me that he has no authority to do it. You might please give instructions regarding these and I will be pleased to look after them in your interest.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

---

30 Richard Baillie, builder and joiner, Athelstaneford, East Lothian.

31 Scots for the pipes or gutters at the eaves of a roof designed to carry off rainwater.

30. MR NATHAN MILLER

29 November 1910

Dear Nathan,[32]

I have your letter of 28th inst and hope you will have a good time with Miss Thomson.[33] Your order for 7th and 8th January is a fairly tall one but if nothing comes in my way to prevent me it will be a pleasure to me to be with you at that time and I will do my poor best in the circumstances to fill the gap.

I trust you are all well. Kind regards to all my old friends.

I am, yours faithfully,
H. Miller

31. ROBERT M. MCKECHNIE ESQ.

5 December 1910

Dear Sir,[34]

I herewith enclose cheque for £100 which please place to the credit of my account.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

32. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

5 December 1910

Dear Sirs,

I am in receipt of your favour if 1st inst and have to thank you for the same. I will look after the work of the various drains, and see that they are satisfactory.

---

32 This and later letters to Nathan Miller suggest that he was an acquaintance from Mauchline and a fellow member of the Temperance movement. He can perhaps be identified as Nathan Miller, a quarryman in the town.

33 'Miss Thomson' is perhaps the Edinburgh-born Temperance activist Helen Thomson.

34 Robert M. McKechnie, agent for the Clydesdale Bank, North Berwick.

The bricklayer did not get much done last week, but they have got a start today, and should soon make an impression on the job. I trust that Cuthbert[35] will be ready to proceed with his branch of the work and not detain the bricklayer.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

33. R. THOMSON ESQ.

6 December 1910

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of cheque for £100 to a/c for turnips for which I am obliged.

I have today received four tons Bombay cotton cake and will let you know when I will require lintseed.[36]

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

34. GEORGE MILLER

6 December 1910

Dear George,

I herewith send you a detail of my inventory, income, expenditure etc, and will be glad if you make it up. I fear the result, however, and can only hope that I may not be insolvent. I have entered in the inventory only the portion or value of the potatoes that remains unpaid, and turnips the same.

There is no need to deduct anything from turnips for cake consumed, as this has not really yet taken place and will go into next year's account.

The compensations claim of £627 is included in the rent etc account.

---

35 Walter Cuthbert, joiner, Aberlady, East Lothian.

36 Cakes made from cotton seed and linseed were foodstuffs given to cattle during winter.

I took the value of the engine on the basis of the old engine, as the new one is not payable until the beginning of the year. This accounts for the small valuation of that item.

I think I have given you all the details but if I have omitted anything that occurs to you, you might let me know. We are having fresh weather and very short days.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

35. JOHN HANNAH

9 December 1910

Dear John,

The cake breaker came to hand the other day all right but I have not yet got it set up. The premises are still in a condition of preparation. The shed is going forward now but it will be into another year before we get any use of it.

I was in Edinburgh on the Wednesday of the Fat Stock Show, but was not in on the Thursday.[37]

Would you look through papers if you have Bertram's final award in the compensation case. The document which bears the receipt of payment is not in my possession as far as I can discover, and I am wondering if it may be in yours.

I have just looked the inside of the papers I got from you when I was through and find it is here.

I see W Clark, Shawhill, has gone to his account.[38] Neither the retrospect or the prospect is pleasing to look to.

I trust that you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

---

37 The Scottish National Fat Stock Show was held in the Waverley Market, Edinburgh, on 30 November and 1 December, during which cattle, pigs and sheep were both exhibited and put up for sale.

38 William Clark had died on 6 December, aged 61, at his farm of Shawhill, in the parish of St Quivox, Ayrshire.

36. MR JOHN RICHMOND

9 December 1910

Dear Mr Richmond,[39]

We had the notice the other day of Mr Nairn having crossed the bourne.[40] While sorry that he had to go by the way he went, I can be glad that he has indeed got to the end of the road. Life's battle fought, life's victory won, he thus has gone within the veil, 'hid from the sight of those who follow – till the day dawn'. I suppose you will now be thinking of returning to Morocco, but I hope we may run across you before you go. In any case, I hope to be in Mauchline for the 8th and 9th of January and may run across you then. If you are to be this direction, however, we will be pleased to see you.

With kind remembrances to those who feel their hands empty, but sorrow not as those who have no hope.

I am yours faithfully,
H. Miller

37. GEORGE MILLER

12 December 1910

Dear George,

I have your letter of 9th inst. and am sorry to hear that you have been off duty, but hope that by this time you have quite got over the effects of your disposition.

Regarding your enquiries about my figures etc, as I did not include the new engine in my inventory, I did not include the amount in my creditor list. However, I will give you a note of it if you think it is necessary. It will benefit my balance to the extent of £35 as the landlord pays me this amount and makes me sole possessor of the engine. £1120 represents the value of the turnip crop for both last year and this.

---

39 John Richmond, who was from Mauchline, was a missionary in the Southern Morocco Mission, which had been founded in 1888 to bring the Gospel to the peoples of southern Morocco. Hugh Miller was on the council of the S.M.M. See the Introduction.

40 A euphemism for 'died'.

If it is necessary for you to have my cash book I will send it to you, but in any case, I enclose a note of the totals on both sides if this is of any use to you. I will also detail the items under Rent etc. including all insurance and taxes.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

38. ALEXANDER MANN ESQ.

14 December 1910

Dear Sir,[41]

There is a new horse trough erected near the new stable and I would now like the water led into it. It would perhaps be better if you could find it convenient on an early day to look in and arrange what would be the best course to take. I have had a good many complaints about the spring tap on the cistern at the cottages. It takes several minutes to fill a pail. Perhaps you would have this altered.

I got Mr Guild's sanction to have the rhones etc of the courts and other places repaired, so that matter is all right.

You will likely have the plumber work of the new shed which is now getting on. The brickwork will be practically through this week.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

I might say that I want to take possession of the new stable shortly, and I can't conveniently do so till the water is in the trough.

H.M.

39. MESSRS J. & A. MCARTHUR

14 December 1910

Dear Sirs,

Regarding the Rising Sun seed potatoes which were delivered to me on December 22nd I found on testing them that there is 13 lbs of brock in the cwt,

41 Alexander Mann, plumber, North Berwick.

which means practically one eighth of the bulk. I will expect you to look into the matter.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

40. MESSRS ARCHIBALD HAMILTON & SONS

15 December 1910

Dear Sirs,[42]

This is a rubbed sample[43] of Rival Oats. Everything of course, is in them, large and small. There should be about 80 or 90 quarters of them, and if you can give me a good price, I could thresh them almost at any time.

You can let me know at your convenience if they are any use to you.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

41. R. THOMSON ESQ.

17 December 1910

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of 15th inst.

It was lintseed cake you were to send, as it is now just finished. The 2 tons of Bombay should be at the station on Monday.

I got the 8 cattle all right.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

---

42 Archibald Hamilton & Sons, grain and seed merchants, Robertson Street, Glasgow.

43 *i.e.* the husks had been cleaned off the grains.

42. MESSRS ARCHIBALD HAMILTON & SONS

17 December 1910

Dear Sirs,

I am in receipt of your favour of 16th inst. re black oats sample. I have just called to mind that I put the sample into a bag in which I had a sample of barley at the market on Wednesday last, and omitted to invert it before doing so. There was not a barley pickle[44] in the sample I rubbed. The price is not tempting but I will likely be in the market on Wednesday and will see you there.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

43. GEORGE MILLER

19 December 1910

Dear George,

I am in receipt of your letter of 14th inst enclosing balance sheet. In the circumstances I am glad that things are no worse, but hope the result will be different if I am spared to see another balance sheet. In the meantime accept of my thanks for your trouble.

I hope you are now keeping better and able for your duties.

We have had very soft weather, and very dirty premises for the last fortnight or so, but we have had some drouth[45] today which is improving things.

I see that John Dobbie has crossed the bourne. I always reckoned him as free from 'loop'[46] as anyone I had dealings with.

I expect to be at Mauchline after the New Year, and if I have time will look you up.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

---

44 *i.e.* a single grain of barley.

45 Scots for dry weather.

46 Scots for deceit or trickery.

44. JOHN HANNAH

4 January 1911

Dear John,

I expect to be at Mauchline over the weekend and also Monday night which is the annual social meeting for the young folks there. I might be in Ayr for a short time on Tuesday and if you are there I may run across you.

We are having a turn of splendid winter weather, a touch of frost in the morning sometimes and the ploughed fields like seed-time.

We were able to let the horses hold the new year in their new quarters and I think they will be quite comfortable. The shed is practically ready for the slates but there is much 'redding up'[47] to do.

Trust you are all well and have got safely over the season's festivities so far, and with the compliments of the same,

I am yours affectionately,
H. Miller

45. JOHN HANNAH

12 January 1911

Dear John,

I herewith enclose my balance sheet as at November 28th last for your perusal. The result is not as good as I would have liked but neither is as bad as if it had been worse.

We had a wet day yesterday, the first for several weeks and a good stiff blow from the Norwest at night, and this morning the frost is gripping.

I had about half an hour to spare in Glasgow on Tuesday and managed to call at No 17.[48] Auntie was telling me that Aunt Marion has had a relapse and the doctor holds out little hope of her recovery. I trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

---

47 Scots for tidying.

48 Euphemia and John Smith, Hugh Miller's aunt and uncle, lived at 17 Royal Crescent, Hillhead, Glasgow.

46. MESSRS ALLAN BROS

12 January 1911

Dear Sir,[49]

I herewith enclose cheque for £130.2.6 in payment of engine etc. as per a/c.

In your letter of quotation for shafting etc. of August 29th I understand the belt to drive said shaft was included, but this is comparatively a small affair. I will be glad, however, if you can allow me a luck's-penny.[50]

I am well satisfied with the engine as far as I have tested it.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

47. MR JOHN THOMSON

17 January 1911

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter making application for situation of grieve.[51] You might send me any references you have by return. How long have you been away from farm work and who was your last employer?

Yours truly,
H. Miller

48. MR ALEX RAMAGE

18 January 1911

Dear Sir,

I have your letter of application for situation as grieve. I have not yet seen Mr

---

49 Allan Bros, agricultural engineers, Ashgrove Engineering Works, Aberdeen.

50 Traditionally, a small sum of money that the seller of goods returned to the purchaser for luck.

51 Scots for an overseer on a farm, or a farm bailiff.

Middlemas,[52] but in the mean time you might let me know your age and how long you were in East Lothian. I understand from your letter that you have not been grieve before, but that would not be an objection if you have thorough practical knowledge of all farm work.

Yours truly,
H. Miller

49. ALEXANDER MITCHELL G.P.

18 January 1911

Private

Dear Sir,[53]

I have an application from Alex. Ramage for situation as grieve. Would you consider him a man with sufficient push and capability for such a position. Does he keep sober? You can depend that no bad use will be made of any private information with which you may trust me.

I will be glad to have a reply by return, and thanking you in anticipation,

I am yours truly,
H. Miller

50. MR EAGLESHAM

19 January 1911

Dear Sir,[54]

I have an application for situation as grieve by John Thomson who was with you two years ago. Would you be good enough to give me any information regarding

---

52 Either John or William Middlemas, who jointly farmed Bearford, Haddington, and Markle Mains, Prestonkirk, or Robert Middlemas, who farmed Crauchie, Prestonkirk, all East Lothian.

53 The recipient was perhaps Alexander Mitchell M.B. C.M., physician and surgeon, High Street, Aberdeen.

54 The recipient was perhaps James Eaglesham of Crookston farm, Inveresk, Midlothian.

his capabilities and general character? Is he sober? Has he push? Can he control himself and those under him? I need not say that any information you give me will be treated with the strictest confidence.

An early reply would oblige.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I am yours truly,
H. Miller

51. GEORGE MILLER

20 January 1911

Dear George,

I herewith enclose cheque for £12.12.11 in payment of insurance premium.

We are still having very fine weather. We have only had about one wet day during the last four or five weeks.

I trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

52. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

20 January 1911

Dear Sirs,

If convenient for you I should like to call on Wednesday first, when we could perhaps have accounts squared re the water pump etc. If some time around one o'clock would suit you I would call then.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

53. JOHN HANNAH

21 January 1911

Dear John,

I had your letter returning my balance sheet this morning. I also had the enclosed from the Surveyor of Taxes. He has been 'haggling' away about the interest which I am chargeable with, and as you will observe from his note, asks that the receipt may be exhibited to him.

I will likely be in Edinburgh on Wednesday, and if I had come across you we could, if convenient, have called on the Surveyor, but if this is not to be suitable you might send me a formal receipt for £30 less 30p.

We are having excellent weather, I think about one wet day during the last four or five weeks.

I am sorry you have to go back home on Monday. We would have been pleased to give you lodgings for two nights.

Trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

54. MESSRS ARCHIBALD HAMILTON & SONS

21 January 1911

Dear Sirs,

I have sent you today per passenger train a large sample of the black oats (Rival) when I hope they may prove suitable for your purpose. To procure this sample I have to pass them first through a hand riddle and then through the fanners. I cannot take the last of the robin seed out,[55] but there is not much left. The sample is much stronger on account of the hand riddling.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

[55] Robin, or red robin, was the name given by some farmers to knotgrass, a common weed in arable land.

55. W. B. D. GIBSON ESQ.

25 January 1911

Dear Sir,[56]

I have your letter making enquiry re Richard Ormerod. He is groom-gardener with me, and does anything else he is required for. I believe he is a total abstainer, and is honest and obliging and willing to do what he is told.

His experience as a gardener is not perhaps very large but he can keep things fairly tidy. He is leaving me of his own accord.[57]

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

56. WILLIAM ATKINSON ESQ.

28 January 1911

Dear Sir,[58]

I received the Rising Sun potatoes yesterday. There is a great deal of ware[59] amongst them, but their worst fault is a lot of frosted ones through them. This has taken place some time ago, and they have been lifted very wet from the pit. After they are dry I will dress them over,[60] and I suppose that you will be willing to accept of my word as to the quantity of waste. The bags will be returned forthwith.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

---

56 The recipient was perhaps William B. Gibson of Little Spott, Stenton, East Lothian.

57 Richard Ormerod, who was twenty-six years old, was still at Athelstaneford when the 1911 Census was taken in April.

58 William Atkinson, potato merchant, Trees, Maybole, Ayrshire.

59 Ware was the name given to potatoes that were reserved for human consumption rather than for planting.

60 *i.e.* sort and grade them.

57. MESSRS J. & A. MCARTHUR

6 February 1911

Dear Sirs,

I have your letter of 4th inst. with enclosure which I herewith return. I will see you regarding the matter referred to.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

58. MR MCKERROW

6 February 1911

Dear Mr McKerrow,[61]

I had your letter of 4th inst. this morning, and am glad to know that the mission has been fruitful and that so many have been brought into the fold.

Regarding the meeting on Saturday evening, I thought it better to wire you[62] before answering your letter definitely.

I would be quite pleased to be of any service I could, but to me it seems unnecessary to be at Mauchline for the weekend when you have Miss Thomson with you.

However, if it is to relieve you from a difficulty, I would set my own feelings aside in the matter, and leave it for your consideration.

You might let me know by return what you think on reviewing the matter.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

---

61 The recipient was probably Andrew McKerrow, ironmonger, Loudon Street, Mauchline. He was involved in the Temperance movement in Mauchline, and it is perhaps to this cause that Hugh Miller alludes in the opening sentence. Hugh's uncle, also Hugh, had been a supporter of the Temperance movement and active in the Ayrshire Christian Union. See the Introduction.

62 *i.e.* send him a message by telegraph.

59. R. THOMSON ESQ.

7 February 1911

Dear Sir,

You might send me some more cake, both Bombay and Lintseed. 4 tons Bombay and 2 tons Lintseed suits best for the mixture the cattle are getting. I will require it not later than Monday. If you wish me to draw a waggon of cattle for Monday you might let me know by Saturday, as I might not be at home on Monday and I would get them marked.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

60. MRS FERGUSSON

7 February 1911

Dear Madam,

I have your letter of 4th inst. I thought that mine of January 25th had gone astray. I would take either of the young turkeys, but do not want the old one as I fear that he would be too heavy. Send me what you consider the better of the two and I will remit the price as I have no doubt but the bird will be satisfactory. I am sorry I have no hens to exchange.

I am willing to pay the carriage in the event of being dissatisfied.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

61. MESSRS JAMES DONALD & CO.

10 February 1911

Dear Sirs,[63]

You might please send the following addressed to me at Drem Station, for goods train, at your earliest convenience.

63 James Donald & Co., iron merchants, Portland Street, Kilmarnock.

4 travellers & 4 strong cow bindings, 2 bolts for travellers for a trevis[64] 6" thick.

Also half a dozen straight cart horse bits.

I think I got the like from you before. I want just an ordinary size. If you have not got them do not trouble about them.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

62. BESSIE OSBORNE

10 February 1911

Dear Bessie,

I herewith enclose a cheque for £10 which you may find useful.

I trust you are all well. Our wee boy has been a little out of sorts with a cold for two weeks but he is picking up a little now.

I daresay that you will have heard of the work of grace at Mauchline. It is very gratifying indeed to hear of it, but I feel sorry we have not been privileged to be sharers in the harvest at this time. I think the mission closes tomorrow night. They are having a social meeting tonight which they wanted me to go through for, but I did not consider it very suitable or very necessary. They will be more in need of help afterwards, and I may take a weekend trip some time when convenient.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

63. MRS FERGUSSON

13 February 1911

Dear Madam,

I received all right but am surprised to find that he has a crooked breast. I am

[64] Either a partition separating two stalls in a stable or a cowshed, or more likely in this context, a narrow, strongly built stall formed of rails in which an animal (typically a horse) could be confined in order to limit its movement during shoeing, veterinary treatment, etc.

therefore returning him tomorrow as I would not think of using him for breeding with this defect.[65]

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

64. NATHAN AND BROTHERS AND SISTERS

14 February 1911

Dear Nathan and brothers and sisters, old and new,[66]

I suppose the mission will now have come to an end, and I feel like sending you a line or two which is the next best thing to seeing you all.

I trust you had a good meeting on Saturday evening. I was with you in spirit if not in person. I trust that the closing meeting on Sunday evening in the Temperance Hall[67] registered the beginning of days for some who shall bear witness to the truth of the gospel. And now you will all begin to feel strange and wonder what is wrong when Miss Thomson has left. Some of the younger ones who have come into possession of life may be feeling as if they are left without a mother, but for them, and yes for all there is nothing can solace, sustain and strengthen like the sincere milk of the word, and it will be the duty and the privilege of those who are older to "Feed His lambs".[68] There is one thing that we are perhaps just a little apt to overlook at such a time – like the nine lepers[69] – to return and give glory to God for what he has wrought in Mauchline at this time. The Lord shall count when He writeth up the people[70] – that this and that man was born there, Psa.87 v5-6, and we can depend that He will miss none when He counts. I was impressed by the cheery optimism of our brother, Matthew Dickie,[71] the last Sunday night I was with you.

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65 See Letter 60 for the context of this letter.

66 From the context of the letter, the recipients would appear to be fellow Temperance supporters in Mauchline. See Footnote 32 for Nathan Miller.

67 Probably the Temperance Hall in Mauchline, a prominent building in New Road that could seat five hundred people.

68 Paraphrasing John 21:16, 'He saith unto him, Feed my lambs'.

69 In Luke 17:11-19 only one of the ten lepers healed by Jesus returns to give thanks and glorify God.

70 Psalm 87:6.

71 This was perhaps the clerk of this name who lived in Mauchline.

Regarding the breaking of the day, he said, "it's bound to come", and now it has come. "Oh for a faith that will not shrink".[72]

In such circumstances however to keep us in mind that the enemy is strong, and not far away, for is it not true that regarding every work of grace that "some believed and some believed not".[73] It would not be bad advice for young and old in the midst of temptations and discouragements to remember these don'ts:

Don't look within – at self.
Don't look around at others.
Don't parley with the enemy, but look up whence our help cometh – our help cometh from the Lord.

You may be assured if I have not been a partaker in the reaping at this time, I am at least a partaker of your joy.

With kind regards to all our friends at the Hall.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

65. JOHN CRAWFORD ESQ.

17 February 1911

Dear Sir,[74]

I have a horse I wish to exchange with something else – one of the pair I got from you last year that came I think from Hattrick.[75] He is looking fresh.

Let me know if you could see him, and if you have any useful horses beside you.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

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72 The title of a hymn written by William Hiley Bathurst.

73 Paraphrasing Acts 28:24, 'And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not'.

74 The recipient was probably John Crawford, horse dealer, Manrahead, Beith, Ayrshire.

75 A farm in Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire.

66. MRS FERGUSSON

17 February 1911

Dear Madam,

I have your letter of 15th inst. re turkeys. I enclose two Postal Order's for 28/- and you can send me on a cockerel at your convenience. I am depending that he will be a right bird.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

67. MR STEWART

17 February 1911

Dear Mr Stewart,

I duly received your letter of 8th inst. and have delayed replying to it as I thought there might be some further development of affairs between you and Mr Gordon,[76] as the station master – Campbell[77] – told me when I spoke to him about the matter that Mr Gordon had written you saying you would get the Hall. I am therefore wondering what stage things are at. In the circumstances I took no action about the Hall further than speaking to Campbell. He then told me that it costs them 2/6 every time the Hall is opened, to cover the cost of cleaning, oil etc. However, if it could be got for a week or two surely we could arrange better terms. Campbell said to me he would like very well if you could come, and then he said "he is coming some night or weekend" and it will be accomplished in some way.

It is a great pity that Mr Gordon has so little sympathy for, and so much suspicion of any outside effort. You ask about a barn if the Hall cannot be got. I could not say at present but if necessary, will make inquiry after I hear from you. We are too far away ourselves to have it on the farm. Otherwise I would have been delighted. There is a farm at Drem, right at the station, but I do not know what the accommodation is, neither what the attitude might be regarding such a proposal. The waiting room I do not think would be suitable.

---

76 Reverend William Gordon, minister of Athelstaneford parish since 1900.

77 Jonathan Campbell, station master, Drem.

I hope you will have a good time in Mauchline over the weekend. The mission has been very gratifying in its results.

You might let me know if you have heard anything from Mr G. and I will see then what can be done.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

68. GEORGE MILLER

17 February 1911

Dear George,

I heard from Bessie yesterday that you had been off duty again for some days, and though not back to the Bank you were feeling some better.

I am sorry that these attacks are making themselves so objectionably frequent, but hope that you have now got over this one and will not have a recurrence. May I ask what the doctor said about it this time?

I trust that Cathie and Baby are well.

We have had quite a gale for the last two days but no rain. Tonight, however, is rather inclined to be wet.

I will be pleased to hear of your welfare when it is convenient.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

69. JOHN HANNAH

21 February 1911

Dear John,

It seems a long time since I heard much of your ongoings, so I think we might have an exchange of notes.

You have had great floods in Ayrshire I see, and hear. We were at Castlemains[78] yesterday, and met in with Matthew Howie and his brother from Gullane. He was saying that he they had the worst flood ever he knew of on the place. We have not had as much rain as wet the lee side of the plough

78 A farm in the parish of Dirleton.

furrow. Indeed, the land would now work down all the better of what it has got. The month of June, however, is usually the time we could take some of your superfluous moisture, or all of it for that matter.

I suppose that you will have a good many potatoes planted, and the conditions would be good before the storm. We have not done anything yet but if next week permits in point of weather we will make a start. I think Robert will be half through.

Mrs Fischer is at Ferrygate and they were all over here today. She seems quite well and her shadow does not grow less.

I saw Mr Guild last Wednesday and was asking him how the "Baron"[79] was to be apportioned this time. He said "I am afraid that we are to lose". The decision is long of being issued. He said he saw you at the Stallion Show.[80] I intended once to be there, but could not make it convenient when the time came.

The potato market has surprised the most sanguine of wiseacres. Ours are all away but the seed. The price has ruled around 52/6 for practically the whole season.

I expect John Crawford on Thursday to try and make a deal. I trust you are all well as we are here.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

70. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

23 February 1911

Dear Sirs,

I have only now obtained the information from the station agent re the cement that was used by A. Fraser, or at least that came to Drem to his address. It is as follows - viz

23rd	June	1 ton
18th	August	2 ton
12th	September	4 ton
31st	October	4 ton
14th	November	1 ton
19th	November	1 ton

79 The champion Clydesdale stallion 'Baron o' Buchlyvie'. He was much sought after as a sire.

80 Probably the 51st National Stallion Show, held on 7-8 February at Scotstoun.

These are the station master's figures as he gave them to me. The total is suggestive.

I am trying now to get the roadway in front of the shed made up but it will need a big lot of metal to do it. I was thinking of employing two men to quarry some stones – and break them – from the quarry in the field above the house, as this might be the cheapest way to get stones. If you could see your way to be two thirds of their wages, I would be the other third, and do all the other work. I will be glad to hear what you think of this suggestion. Of course, if the stone could not be got cheaper in this way than at Skade Hill,[81] I would just as soon cart it from there.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

71. MESSRS J. & A. MCARTHUR

4 March 1911

Dear Sirs,

Referring to our conversation yesterday re the Rising Sun seed potatoes I got from you on 18th and 19th December last from Cardross. I found on testing two cwt of them lifted at random from the lot, that there was 26 lbs of diseased ones. This means a total of 25 cwt in 10 tons 17 cwt which is the quantity I got. The dressing of them will cost me 2/6 per ton but I am willing to bear this part of it. The loss apart from this will be

25 cwt @ 2/6	£3. 2.6
Railway Carriage of same @ 11/8	13.7
Total	£3.16.1

I have got as many epicures[82] as I need.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

81 *i.e.* the whinstone quarry at Skid Hill, near Haddington.

82 Epicure is a first early variety of potato.

72. MR STEWART

8 March 1911

Dear Mr Stewart,

I had your letter on Saturday morning, and was sorry that you were not able to come. Hope Mr McKenzie is now better.

I was speaking to the manager of Drem Farm about the barn there, and he is willing to give it for your meeting, although he said that he has no seats, but of course you said you had these. It would be much more satisfactory if you could come and see things for yourself, however, as we could talk better than write about it all. I am very busy but will be glad to see you any time and would meet you at the station. I am usually in Edinburgh on the Wednesdays[83] but as a rule come home with the 1.45pm at Waverley. By letting me know any day would likely suit.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

73. A. RIDDLE ESQ.

9 March 1911

Dear Sir,[84]

Please send me the following garden seeds by return.

3 lbs peas – 1st & 2nd early & late.
½ lb beans.
1 oz turnip rooted beet.
1 oz of a long variety.

Small supplies (1d or 2d worth) of the following -

Dutch and Golden ball turnip.
leek - onion - carrot - lettuce

---

83 A market was held at the Corn Exchange, New Market Road, Edinburgh, every Wednesday.

84 The recipient was perhaps Andrew Riddell, seedsman, Grassmarket, Edinburgh.

parsnip - celery - cauliflower
Brussel sprouts – broccoli [*sic*]

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

74. HUGH CAMPBELL ESQ.

10 March 1911

Dear Sir,[85]

I forgot today to ask you could supply me with some plain sacks. I would be obliged if you could send me anything up to 100 tomorrow. I hope you will have these and rail them at once so that I may have them on Monday morning. If you have not got them would you phone Sawers & Co, Robertson Street, Glasgow[86] and ask them to send 100 to me at once, and oblige,

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

75. HUGH CAMPBELL ESQ.

11 March 1911

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter re bags. I thought that Plain sacks would be a sufficient description of what I wanted but apparently East does not understand West. What I want is 20 stone flour sacks for holding grain – with only one hole – and that at the top. They used to cost 4½d to 5½d but of course they will be cheaper here. If you can send me 100 by return I will be much obliged.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

---

85 Hugh Campbell was the potato salesman at Leith for the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd.

86 Sawers & Co., sack, linen and hessian merchants and manufacturers, Robertson Street, Glasgow.

76. R. THOMSON ESQ.

14 March 1911

Dear Sir,

One of the bullocks has been off his food for a few days. I gave him salts and treacle and oil as well. His medicine acted but he is not coming to his food as I would like. There does not seem to be anything else wrong, and we will try to coax him on. I wired you this morning for some more cake.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

77. JOHN CRAWFORD ESQ.

15 March 1911

Dear Sir,

The horse's heel is now all right, and I will put him on rail on Friday morning. It has taken longer to heal that I expected.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

78. ROBERT M. MCKECHNIE ESQ.

15 March 1911

Dear Sir,

I issued a cheque in Edinburgh today for £346 which overdraws my account. It will be practically squared however, in the course of a day or two. I trust that I have not caused you annoyance in having taken this liberty.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

79. R. THOMSON ESQ.

18 March 1911

Dear Sir,

The bullock I wrote to you about has not come to his food, and I think the best thing to do with him is to get him away. If you were coming on Monday you would see, and I think you could get at least half a waggon if not a whole waggon. If you can't come send me word what to do. The bullock referred to is fair flesh.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

80. JOHN CRAWFORD ESQ.

20 March 1911

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of 18th inst. I am sorry to hear that the horse I sent you on Friday is out of sorts. He was all right when he left here in the morning. You can let me know in a few days how he gets on.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

81. MRS TRAVIS

21 March 1911

Dear Mrs Travis,

Your letter has just come in, and like Pharaoh's butler,[87] I do remember my faults this day, although it is not quite the case that I forgot you as he did Joseph several times. I have purposed sitting down and writing you but of course have not got it done. I suppose that is all the apology I can make. I got your former

87 Genesis 41:9, 'Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "Today I am reminded of my shortcomings"'.

letter all right, and we are glad to hear that you keep so well. It is quite evident that you have not moved away from what we understand as the fundamentals of the Gospel. You ask about the mission at Mauchline. Well, they had a real work of grace and it was refreshing to hear of old fashioned conversions. It was my privilege to be there on the opening Sunday of the mission and take the meeting but I have not been back since then. We have been kept well posted however, about what God hath wrought. Perhaps the greater number of converts were boys and girls in their teens who had been attending the morning meeting, but there were adults too. We were sorry not to be privileged to be assisting with the reaping, but we can at least be partakers of the joy of harvest. You might sometimes remember Mauchline and the interests we have in the gospel there.

I understand that the ministers have not shown much sympathy with the work, another proof that God uses the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty. And so they (the ministers) get left. They lose the privilege – they lose the blessing – aye, and they lose the reward.

Mary's address is Gowanlea, Mauchline.

We have had ten days of rather wintry weather. Seed-time had really begun but for a week things have been at a standstill in that direction. This is an early district and there is much to do. Our house is four or five miles from the sea, and our principal outlook is on cultivated fields. Now I must be drawing to a close and get outside to see what is going on for with over 20 workers regularly employed they need to be looked after.

It is a great pleasure to us to hear from you, and to know that you are so well and happy, and looking forward to "an abiding city"[88] and the presence of the King Himself.

I add the outline of my address at Mauchline. I love the theme of forgiveness. I hope you will be able to follow it.

Yours most sincerely,
H. Miller

82. MESSRS J. & A. MCARTHUR

25 March 1911

Dear Sirs,

I am in receipt of yours of the 24th inst. re five tons or thereby of Rising Sun

88 Hebrews 13:14, 'For we have not here an abiding city, but we seek after the city which is to come'.

seed potatoes. They must be all in bags as I said I would not take them in bulk. You will please see to this.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

83. MESSRS WILLIAM VIVERS & SONS

25 March 1911

Dear Sirs,[89]

If you have the same stock of turnip seed as I got from you last year, you might let me know your price for a cwt. I had a good crop of both L-hall and Gale's Champion, but I like the former best. We are in the midst of seedtime, having been at a standstill for about a week previous to last Wednesday.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

84. JOHN HANNAH

27 March 1911

Dear John,

I don't know that I have anything interesting to communicate, but if I write something I will have the chance of hearing from you.

We had a change of weather, and seeding operations were suspended for about a week, previous to the middle of last week. Since then, we have been getting on. Tomorrow will see the oats all sown. I have double sown 50 acres of Waverley, which has put me a little bit behind some of my smart neighbours. We will still have 70 acres of barley to sow, but if the weather is good it will soon work in.

We had our friend Thomson today and have sent him a waggon of cattle. He will have to get them reduced now, as we have still over 80. He says that he is not to have a shirt off them this time.

89 William Vivers & Sons owned the farm of Dornocktown, Annan, Dumfriesshire.

The black mare has gone terribly lame on the bad leg for a week or two. I don't know whether she will come safely to the foaling or not. I sent a horse to J. Crawford ten days ago and had a letter from him that he arrived hardly able to walk – like a founder.[90] He thought it might be from his stomach, and was to let me know how he got on. I have not heard from him since.

Potatoes are going now and look like paying the holders.

I see Auchenbrain has crossed the bourne.[91] He will be missed in his circle.

I trust you are all well. Jane has been off school for a week, having got cold in one of her eyes. She is getting all right now.

We had Uncle Robert for 10 days doing some small jobs in the house.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

85. MESSRS MCGILL & SMITH

29 March 1911

Dear Sirs,

I am in receipt of your letter of yesterday's date soliciting an order for seeds. I would have been pleased to give you an order, but judging from your price list, I have better value here. I have bought my supply of the best foreign recleaned Italian[92] 22 lbs @ 5/3 per bush. I don't mean you to publish this, however.

You could send me 20 lbs of the No 1 Bronze Top Swede.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

86. R. THOMSON ESQ.

1 April 1911

Dear Sir,

I have received the cattle, and will send for a waggon on Monday.

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90 The colloquial name given to laminitis, a disease that affects the feet of horses.

91 Robert Wallace, farmer, Auchenbrain, Mauchline, had died earlier in the month.

92 Italian is a type of rye grass.

There is a brown one in the boxes that has a swelled jaw and I have called the vet today to see him.

I enclose receipt for cheque, with thanks.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

87. JOHN CRAWFORD ESQ.

[*no date*]

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of 1st inst. The horse never had an accident with me within my knowledge. He went lame for a time about the month of October, and the vet said then that he thought that it was his stifle.[93] I am sorry there is any trouble with him but I will depend on you doing the best you can with him. My own secret opinion is that he was never quite right since I got him.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

88. MINNIE WHITEFORD

4 April 1911

Dear Minnie,[94]

Your letter has reached me this morning with heavy tidings, and I cannot help sending you a line or two.

Your dear Mother has had a good long battle to fight – and one thing is certain, that is it was fought patiently – and now that the victory is hers, I am sure you will not grudge her the rest and the honour and the joy that was awaiting her. But oh the parting! – for your father and the rest of you I will

93 The joint at the junction of the hind leg and the body (between the femur and the tibia) in a horse.

94 Minnie Whiteford was married to Hugh Miller's brother-in-law, George.

not try to express what I feel. The land that is afar off comes very near at such a time as this, and the reality of so many of our loved ones dwelling there in the presence of the Lord, makes earth a paltry place.

The beautiful life which has just closed will continue to wield its influence, and your mother's memory is indeed a precious treasure.

Through the tears of sorrow may you all be able to trace the bow of promise "I will be with thee in trouble".[95]

Our thoughts and our sympathy are with all who compose the sorrowing circle.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

Jane will write you before long. H.M.

89. JOHN CRAWFORD ESQ.

11 April 1911

Dear Sir,

Yours of 8th inst. to hand. You can put the blister on the horse and send him after it is dead, unless you could put him in a grass field. If he has to be kept inside however you may as well send him back, but it is a pity to spend Railway Carriage on him if it can be avoided. I don't know how he has come by this at all. If I had had any suspicion of a hurt, I would have had him blistered long ago.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

90. ROBERT MILLER

12 April 1911

Dear Uncle,

I feel I am under a double obligation to you as I have had two letters from you, so I will send a line tonight although it should be short. We were not much

[95] Perhaps paraphrasing Psalm 91:15, 'He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him'.

surprised to learn that Aunt Marion had gone home to her rest. We cannot grudge her what she has gained but our sympathy goes out to those of her circle who are left behind. I cannot but think of her life as having a beautiful sunset, to rise in another sphere with a light that shall not grow dim. Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written – Death is swallowed up in victory. Oh death where is thy sting, oh grave where is thy victory?[96]

I see Aunt Janet's sister, Mrs Granger, has also crossed the bourne this week.

You asked about Mr Stewart's meeting. Well, it was disappointing as far as numbers were concerned. There was nothing further arranged regarding another meeting.

We have been busy in the fields but the good weather has been favourable for the seedtime. We finished sowing last week and will just about finish up potato planting this week. There is no prospect however of our being out of a job for a long time, and even then I will be able to find something to do I have no doubt. (Surely that is Irish.)

We expect George and Cathie for the day on Friday.[97] Then Jane and some of the children are going West next week, till about the end of it. Then I am due at Mauchline for Sunday the 23rd, and will likely see Ayr Show[98] on the 25th and 26th and so the programme gets filled up and time is not allowed to be heavy on our hands.

Potatoes have now gone to £5 per ton here. A fine handy price and easily counted, for those that are fortunate enough to be holding some.

Aunt Bessie will be in Glasgow this week, but trust you both keep well.

Our kind regards,
Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

91. MESSRS VIVERS & SONS

14 April 1911

Dear Sirs,

I have seen my brother and he wants some turnip seed too. You might send to me at Drem Station 160 lbs XL All and 120 lbs Gale's Champion, and I will arrange with him what he wants.

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96 1 Corinthians 15:55.

97 Hugh Miller's brother George and his wife Catherine.

98 The 76th annual show of the Ayrshire Agricultural Association was held in the association's grounds at Ayr on 25-26 April 1911.

We are having some odd fine days, but more barren ones, and things are very dry, but it has suited the seedtime.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

92. R. THOMSON ESQ.

17 April 1911

Dear Sir,

I am sending the 8 cattle in the morning as you instruct. I hope you have a good trade. If you are coming on Monday, send word and I will arrange to meet you as I will likely be from home next week in Ayrshire and I think Robert will be going too. If you are not coming, I would draw a waggon if you wish.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

93. MR ROBERT G. MUNSIE

22 April 1911

Dear Mr Munsie,[99]

I had your interesting "newsy" letter yesterday, and was glad to hear of your visit to Mauchline and the progress of the work. I am going there tonight for the weekend, so thought I would just send you a line before I go.

Mrs Miller and all the children except Jim were in Ayrshire this week and came home last night. She had a report that was said to have arisen or at least come from the land of the Setting Sun[100] that the Kelvinhaugh Mission friends were going to West Fortune again this year. Well – that may be so – but you

99 Robert G. Munsie was a Glasgow mission worker and part of the council of the Southern Morocco Mission.

100 Another name for Fairyland, perhaps being used here to suggest that the planned visit to West Fortune had been dreamt up or had no basis in fact.

and we would have been likely to know something about it if it had been arranged.

The fact is, I have refrained from saying "trip" as long as possible in the hope that the trail of the serpent over last year's one might in course of time be obliterated. I hope this has had its fulfilment and that things are all running smoothly with you now. I do not think I need to say that if you have any thought of coming back again, we will be very pleased to put what we have at your disposal. But Mrs M. is due to write Miss Munsie and arrange for you coming for a few days when you will be able to tell us what the programme is to be.

We have had very high winds for a week but not as much rain as damp even the surface.

We will have a lot to talk about when we meet, so "I will not with ink and pen write unto thee".[101] Kind regards,

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

94. UNCLE JOHN

1 May 1911

Dear Uncle John,[102]

I got your letter on coming home last Wednesday evening after a sojourn of a day or two in the West.

I was at Mauchline over the weekend, and was at Ayr Show on Tuesday and Wednesday.[103] I was very nearly being your length on Wednesday afternoon but recalled that it was Auntie's day at home and as I would have had a very short time I thought it better not to disturb her if she had visitors. I was along at the cancer hospital to see Andrew Reid, but he was sleeping, and as he is a good deal worse, I did not ask the nurse to waken him. The poor man has suffered a lot but he seems to be very patient in the midst of it all. I trust that for him there will be a light in the valley.

I am sending by the same post a parcel of turnip seed to Mr Gunson.[104]

---

101 3 John 1:13.

102 It is not clear to which of Hugh Miller's Uncle Johns this is addressed: John Miller, East Holmes, Galston, Ayrshire, or John Smith, Hillhead, Glasgow.

103 The annual show of the Ayr Agricultural Association was held on 25-26 April 1911.

104 Possibly John Gunson, nurseryman, Saltcoats, Ayrshire.

Swedes are in very good time sown now. Indeed they might grow too large sown so early, but of course that depends largely on the weather. I sent a little of two kinds, and you can experiment with them. I think however the "Bronze Top" is the finer of the two.

As duty calls me hence I must close up. Trust you both keep well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

95. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

2 May 1911

Dear Sirs,

There are two of the cottages at Dingleton that have been used as bothies,[105] in a rather tumbledown condition, and as I am requiring these after the term, I would be glad if you could see your way to give them a touch up.

Some of the doors are wrenched off, some of the windows broken and fireplaces need to be looked to, but there won't be much expense incurred in the whole job. I believe the man Stewart[106] in Athelstaneford could do the whole thing if you have no objection to him, but of course I have not mentioned the matter to him.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

96. MESSRS J. MONTGOMERIE & CO. LTD

3 May 1911

Dear Sirs,[107]

I loaded today at Drem on account of G. McLennan esq. 55 qrs wheat, and I regret that a few of the bags got a shower on the way to the station. I don't

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105 Dingleton was a small settlement at West Fortune where farm servants were accommodated. See Map 3. The bothies would have been used for seasonal potato pickers.

106 Jasper Stewart, builder and slater, Athelstaneford.

107 J. Montgomerie & Co. Ltd was the proprietor of the Bermaline mills, Haddington.

know to what extent they were wet, but if you get them emptied out as soon as possible, the wheat may not be much the worse, and I will be responsible if it is. Let me know how it turns out.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

97. R. THOMSON ESQ.

3 May 1911

Dear Sir,

Unless you are anxious for cattle on Monday, I think it might be as well to hold off them for a week to get through the turnips while they are good. I would say there are plenty of turnips to keep them all for at least two weeks after this one, but if you are here on Monday you will see. I won't see you beat for some mangolds to finish the last of them.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

98. JOHN HANNAH

4 May 1911

Dear John,

I have seen McKechnie and he says the matter of the overdraft will be all right.

We are getting turnip put in under ideal conditions, and so far a braird will be secured.

We had a good smart shower on Wednesday afternoon but this is the only measurable quantity of rain we have had for a fortnight or so. Excuse the hurried note as I must be hence.

Trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

99. Mr Andrew Reid

6 May 1911

My Dear Sir,[108]

I was passing through Glasgow ten days ago and called at the hospital to see you, but you were asleep at the time, and as your nurse told me that you were weaker, however much I would have liked to speak to you, I thought it would be unkind to awake you. I am sorry that your strength is so quickly going, but I trust that in the midst of your weakness, you find that the everlasting arms are underneath you. You have been called upon to go by a way of much and sore suffering, but it is well to know that having committed your sins, your self, your all to a most gracious Saviour, the night of suffering will be followed by the dawn of a bright, bright morning in the happy land that you have been accustomed to hear about all your life, where there shall be no more pain.

It is not likely that I will have the opportunity of seeing you again in this world, but I look forward to meeting you some day in the other world, in the city where the Lamb is the light. And may the Good Shepherd's rod and staff be your comfort and support in passing through the valley of the shadow of death. With your soul anchored on the blessed fact that the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin, peace, satisfaction, Heaven and Home are our possession, in reality or in prospect.

Now "Goodbye" till the day dawn and the shadows flee away.

Your old master and friend,
H. Miller

100. Mr Robert G. Munsie

9 May 1911

Dear Mr Munsie,

I had your three postcards yesterday – one announcing Andrew Reid's death. Of course it did not cause surprise, and it was not desirable that his life of suffering and weakness should be prolonged. It was very graciously said of the

[108] Andrew Reid would appear to have been a former employee of Hugh Miller, probably at Grassmillees, Mauchline, Ayrshire. A man of this name was listed in the Census of 1911, aged forty-four, living in Mauchline and working as a farm labourer.

Master, "the bruised reed shall he not break, nor quench the smoking flax",[109] and we can rely on the Judge of all the earth doing right.

I would like to thank you for all the interest you have taken in him on my account as that of others. The Lord Himself will see to the reward. "In as much as ye have done it" etc.[110]

I am sorry my message was too late, but till I got your P.C.[111] last week, I did not think of him going so quickly.

I trust you are having good meetings and "signs following".[112]

We look forward to seeing you next month when you can arrange it.

Kind regards to Miss Munsie and yourself.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

101. MESSRS ARCHIBALD HAMILTON & SONS

10 May 1911

Dear Sirs,

Undernoted are the dates of despatch of the various lots of Rival oats, as requested by you today.

January 6	30 bags	216 lbs
January 28	30 bags	216 lbs
February 11	34 bags	176 lbs

Shipping notes enclosed.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

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109 Isaiah 42:3.

110 Matthew 25:40.

111 Postcard.

112 Mark 16:20.

102. MESSRS BOYD & FINDLAY

12 May 1911

Dear Sirs,[113]

There might not be as many mangolds left as I thought when I saw you today. And in the meantime do not sell any more unless you can give me 12/- for them.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

103. MESSRS W. B. MORRISON & CO.

12 May 1911

Dear Sirs,[114]

I beg to confirm having sold to you today twenty tons hay at £4 per ton free on rails at Drem, to be delivered in May or June.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

104. MR WALTER CUTHBERT

13 May 1911

Dear Sir,[115]

The roof was blown off the water cistern at the cottages several weeks ago, and the glass of the windows in the new bothy was blown off shortly after you left it. I thought that I might see you before this, but you might have these attended to at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

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113 Boyd, Finlay & Co., agricultural merchants, Salamander Street, Leith.

114 W. B. Morrison & Co., grain, manure and fodder merchants, Bank Street, Leith.

115 Walter Cuthbert, joiner, Aberlady.

105. BESSIE OSBORNE

13 May 1911

Dear Bessie,

Your letter duly came to hand the other morning. I was sorry not to see you that day Robert and I called at Valepark.[116] It was partly an afterthought the fact of us going out at all as I thought that you might be fully occupied otherwise. We met in with William Knox however which was some small compensation for our disappointment. He knew I was Hugh, although I can't remember having spoken to him almost since I left Shaw.

I hope Jim will soon drop into something to occupy his attention. Betty began school two weeks ago and is liking it well much to our surprise, and of course our comfort.

We look forward to seeing you all when you can come. I enclose cheque for £10 in payment of interest for half year.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

106. MESSRS BOYD & FINLAY

13 May 1911

Dear Sirs,

I have loaded mangolds at Drem as follows:

Per Waggon		tons	cwt	qrs
60852	John Robertson	5	-	-
25391	John Robertson	4	19	-
37282	Mr Wright	5	2	-
61375	Mr Pollock	5	2	-
39781	John Brooks	5	4	-
63027	John Robertson	5	5	-

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

[116] Valepark was the name of Bessie Osborne's house in Park Avenue, Prestwick.

107. R. THOMSON ESQ.

[*no date*]

Dear Sir,

You might send me some cake in the beginning of the week. I don't think three tons would go wrong.

I have not heard from you about the cattle for Monday but will send them at night if I do not hear from you.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

108. MESSRS WILLIAM STENHOUSE & SONS

20 May 1911

Dear Sirs,[117]

I am in receipt of your favour of 18th inst. and will load you two waggons of [*blank*] @ £4 per ton rail at Drem, and trust you will find the same satisfactory. I will likely be in the market on Wednesday and will see you regarding a further sale.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

109. JOHN HANNAH

25 May 1911

Dear John,

I herewith enclose cheque for £30 in payment of interest for the past half year.

We are having very drouthy weather for the past few days, and everybody is agreed that a good wet day would be welcome. The turnip braird was secured where sown before the last rain that we had, but the young plants have had a

[117] William Stenhouse & Sons, corn merchants, Atholl Place, Edinburgh.

rather trying time for these few days. Potatoes have been growing fairly well, but I hear that you cannot read the drills[118] in the Girvan district, which is a long way in advance of anything here.

The black mare had quite a nice colt[119] foal yesterday morning and I hope it may do well.

"Sam Black" is now very nearly all right I believe, and will likely be able for a full season's work.[120] Guild says he has his suspicion that the hurt was wilfully inflicted by someone who came a good long way to do it, but I have no idea of anything further than that. The whole thing is a conundrum. This young horse is travelling in the county here.

I am expecting him (Mr G.) some day to look round the place. He has not been here since the beginning of November, and of course has not yet seen all his property.

I was asking him on the rent day if he would make the structural alteration in the barn if I was to put in a mill. He did not however say yes or no.

Monday will see a good many flittings[121] on the road, and so we will have some new brooms for a time.

I trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

110. R. THOMSON ESQ.

1 June 1911

Dear Sir,

The turnips will be all finished by Monday. I don't know how many more mangolds you will require at Ferrygate, but we might manage to keep one waggon of cattle for another week. I sent six carts of mangolds to Ferrygate this morning and I will have six or eight left, so you will see on Monday what you want.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

---

118 *i.e.* the shaws had grown so much that the drills could not be seen.

119 A colt is a young male horse.

120 'Sam Black' was a Clydesdale stud horse owned by Alexander Guild of Aberlady Mains.

121 Scots for a removal, in particular the act of moving from one residence to another. The term was being applied here to the term removals of the farm servants.

111. MRS JANE NORRIS

1 June 1911

Dear Madam,

I could now part with the shivering horse which you spoke to me about. Let me know if you want him at £10.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

112. MESSRS ALLAN BROS

1 June 1911

Dear Sirs,

I duly received your letter of 19th ult. with estimate for mill enclosed. I have not yet however been able to arrange with the proprietor about the structural alterations of the premises, but hope to be able to do so soon and will communicate with you in due course.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

113. ROBERT MILLER

3 June 1911

Dear Uncle,

I was almost in the act of writing you the other day, but did not get it done, and now your letter has come to hand. Many thanks for your kind invitation to visit you at the convention. While it would be a great pleasure for me to be there, I am sorry that it is not possible for to get away. What with extra hands employed at turnip singling etc, and the majority of our regular hands new this week, my presence here is more or less of a necessity. We had a good many

changes at the term and I hope we may be "nae waur"[122] than before, which is not hoping too much.

We are feeling the drouth a good deal, and some things are suffering. Small turnip plants are having a trying time, and in some cases are rather growing down than up. We hope and trust that relief may be not far off. I daresay that we are all the better of being made to feel our dependence on Him who feeds the ravens.[123]

I have not heard anything from Mr Stewart since that day you saw him here. We are thinking of having a meeting on the farm on Sunday week, when we expect Mr Munsie with us, and we hope there may be a fair response.

Things are moving along quite heartily at Mauchline when I was there, and I have heard nothing to the contrary since then.

Betty started school at Athelstaneford a month ago, and to our surprise and I may say comfort, is liking it quite well.

I trust that Aunt Bessie and Mrs Spence may have a good time at Crieff, and be the better of their change.

I see by the way that bee trouble has been rife over a wide area,[124] and I was wondering how you have fared with your "gentry". They should be giving a good account of themselves this weather.

Kind regards.
Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

114. JOHN HANNAH

9 June 1911

Dear John,

I had your letter of the 3rd inst. with all your news. I had heard from the "Co." people that you were starting a motor car. My worst fear is that you will now not go out and in among your poor friends as before. However, I will keep in

122 Scots for no worse.

123 A reference to Luke 12:24, 'Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?'.

124 Bees across Britain had been dying in large numbers apparently from a disease that had previously been confined to the Isle of Wight.

view getting a run in it sometime, but my chance of this would be improved if you take a run through here and stay for a day or two.

We have had no measurable quantity of rain yet. Last night there was a slight shower that laid the dust, but no more. Things are suffering in many cases and the weak spots are showing all over. Small turnips are having a hard time. Anything that has caught the ground well down is not so bad. We will be more than half singled this week, but I do not know when the last of the other half may be at that stage.

Potatoes are holding their own but not making much progress – that is early ones, but late ones are growing well. I see Jackson has started at Strand.

I am wondering if you know of a pony that would suit me even if it were temporarily. I had the misfortune the night before last of a fall and one knee is fairly badly broken. It was my first experience of the kind, but neither Jane nor I was out of our seat. Of course, the pony was on its knees and did not come down altogether. If you hear of anything that would be like suitable you might let me know.

The bottom has now gone out of the fat cattle trade, and the end is worse than the beginning. We have a waggon left still, but will be clearing out on Monday.

Trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

115. R. THOMSON ESQ.

14 June 1911

Dear Sir,

I herewith enclose your account as requested. I have put in the turnips at £8.15/- and allowed you £10 besides which will help you a little. I have charged nothing for the mangolds that were eaten here. I think you will agree that the turnips were quite a good crop, if only the trade had been better.

I enclose the measurement, but you might return it.

We are having a severe drought and things look serious now.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

116. THE SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY LTD

16 June 1911

Dear Sirs,

I beg to confirm having sold to you today about eighteen acres Epicure potatoes, at £19 per acre, with a reference of £1 per acre up or down in the buyer's option according to the outturn of crop.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

117. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

19 June 1911

Dear Sirs,

I hope you will be able to call soon to make arrangements about the fences etc.

I expect to be down to Aberlady some night soon to see how the mare is getting on.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

118. PROFESSOR A. N. MCALPINE

23 June 1911

Dear Sir,[125]

I would be obliged for an expression of your opinion as to what is the cause of the damage to the enclosed turnip plants. Quite a number are affected in a plot that was singled a fortnight ago. If you consider a reply to be of general interest, you could reply through the Scottish Farmer if you care to do so.

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125 Professor A. N. McAlpine was the botanist to the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, Edinburgh.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I am yours faithfully,
H. Miller

119. WILLIAM ALEXANDER ESQ.

23 June 1911

Dear Sir,[126]

Would you please send me a ten stone bag of oatmeal if you have any beside you. I have never taken to the Edinburgh stuff. There is a hardness and want of flavour about it that I don't like.

We had a fine rain in the beginning of the week, but none too much for requirements.

Mauchline should be looking well this season. We are in the midst of our haymaking.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

120. LIGHTON'S

26 June 1911

Please send the following plants to Drem Station,

100 asters	1/-
40 double carnations	1s 4d
24 dahlias	1s 4d
100 celery	1/-

for which I enclose a P.O. for 5/-. You can make up the difference with stocks or something else.[127]

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

---

126 William Alexander was the miller at Barskimming Mill, Mauchline, Ayrshire.

127 Lighton's, Kirton, Lincolnshire, was a nursery specialising in flower and vegetable seeds. Miller was writing in response to an advertisement he had seen in the *British Weekly*, a religious newspaper.

121. A. CAMPBELL ESQ.

26 June 1911

Dear Sir,

I find that the receipt for two waggons hay loaded today are marked 'Hay damp when received'. This is far too general a statement, and I cannot accept of it. The men who baled it state that it was dry, the man who loaded it states that it was dry and I was among the bales myself and saw no wet bales. While not admitting that any of the hay was damp, the number of bales must be stated.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

122. JOHN HANNAH

29 June 1911

Dear John,

I had your letter of 26th inst. Also the photograph per same post, for which accept thanks.

We have had a good wetting now and things are improved. Last Saturday was one of the wettest days I have seen since coming here. There was a high wind also which left its mark, but things are wonderfully straightened up again.

I sold about 18 acres of Epicures to Campbell before the rain came and I believe I was wrong but it can't be helped now. I expect to get £20 for them. There was a hard bit in the field that had suffered considerably with the drouth, and but for this they would have been more. They are growing well since the rain came. The Co.[128] started digging at Ferrygate fully a week ago.

The late crop is looking well. We are getting through with haycutting, having about 80 acres in the coil. We have still 15 acres to cut. The crop is variable, some fields very light, and others surprisingly heavy.

I got a pony shortly after writing to you last but it is very ill with cold this week and is taking a lot of nursing.

I suppose you will be in full work with potato digging, at least the supply can hardly cope with the demand in this district.

---

128 *i.e.* the Co-operative.

Saturday is the Show at Haddington and this means a general holiday again this week.[129]

I trust you all keep well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

123. JOHN CRAWFORD ESQ.

4 July 1911

Dear Sir,

The horse that was lame has now been going sound for a month. There is a mark left however, where he was blistered. He is otherwise looking very well, but if this is to cut his price I would rather put him into work again. Let me know what you think.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

124. MR JAMES A. GARRIOCK

6 July 1911

Dear Mr Garriock,[130]

I have heard from Mauchline that you intend taking a cycle run "somewhere" on the Fair Saturday which I suppose will be the 15th inst. and I write this to say how very pleased Mrs Miller and I would be, if you cared to journey eastwards, to put you up on moderate terms for the weekend.

We have a little meeting on the farm on Sunday night that we would be glad of your help for, and if you were inclined to go over to North Berwick

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129 The annual show of the United East Lothian Agricultural Society was held at Amisfield Park, Haddington, on 1 July 1911. The increased number of Clydesdale horses on show was explained by the 'influx of farmers from the west country' (*The Scotsman*, 3 July 1911).

130 James A. Garriock was a former banker who had become a missionary, first in South Africa and then in Britain. Based in Glasgow, he conducted services throughout Britain.

on the Sunday afternoon, there is a meeting on the shore for young and old where a goodly number gathers, and where your help would be valued. I saw Robert last night, and as he has some charge of this he would like to know soon if you can arrange to come. We are within twenty miles.

If you have a friend with you, it will be all right.

Now I hope for the sake of auld lang syne – and other things – you will be able to come.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

125. WILLIAM VIVERS ESQ.

6 July 1911

Dear Sir,[131]

I herewith enclose cheque £9.8/- in payment of turnip seed. The turnip crop around here may in the end not turn out so badly, but there are a number of fields that are still very red. I have about 6 acres that will be a little patchy but the rest are looking fairly well. Your seed did not braird so vigorously as some other lots I had. The Gale's Champion was perhaps worse than the X.L.All. There are some very poor fields of oats. And straw crop generally will be deficient. We have about 100 acres of hay in hand, but this week will I hope, see it nearly all in the tramp rick. I hear that turnip in your quarter are making a poor show. They have grown slowly since the rain here, the weather having been cold but yesterday and today are improved.

Yours faithfully.
H. Miller

126. JOHN HANNAH

10 July 1911

Dear John,

We have again had a spell of very hot weather, and things in general could do with a wetting. We had a slight shower last night but it came no quantity of rain. Crop prospects however are very different from what they were three

[131] William Vivers, farmer, Dornocktown, Annan, Dumfriesshire.

weeks ago. Straw crop has stretched amazingly, and while there may be a shortage, it will not be nearly as serious by any means as it once looked. The hay crop although under average, has not been making a high price at the sales – £3.2/- to £3.5/- out of the small rick.

Late potatoes in general are very good, and I don't think in this crop we are below the average. I expect the diggers this next week. I think they will finish at Ferrygate in a day or two. The trade has been not very good for a week but the merchants are quite optimistic about it. I hope their optimism will become a reality.

I had Guild here last Saturday, and managed to get some things arranged but he can talk a long while without getting to the point if he so wills it. He has practically agreed to the alterations in the barn, if I decide to put in a mill. I am thinking of having this done, but it should have been in hand a month ago. If the weather continues as hot as we have had it, there will be harvest in July in some fields quite close to us.

It is a long time since you were here. Could you not take a motor run for a day or two and bring Phemie[132] with you? We would be glad if you could do this. Bertie has been here since the beginning of the week.

I trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

127. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

15 July 1911

Dear Sirs,

I saw Mr Baillie in the beginning of the week and told him he might take a look at the stable (the old stable). He came down and I pointed out to him what we suggested should be done, also the railing for the stair of the bothy and the enclosure for the hot plate. I saw Trotter[133] yesterday, and told him if he had not heard from you he might come over and see the fences in order to save time. The foggage[134] is growing and I would like it fenced as soon as possible. I showed him the trees, and also asked him to include two gates for the field that the horses are in, as these are useless.

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132 Euphemia Hannah. Hugh Miller was her brother and John Hannah her husband.

133 This was probably Thomas Trotter, sawmill owner and timber merchant, Haddington.

134 The aftermath or second crop of grass after the hay harvest.

May I take it that you agree to make the alterations in the barn that we spoke of, as that subject was departed from without a definite arrangement?

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

128. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

17 July 1911

Dear Sirs,

I saw Mr Baillie last week and told him he might take a look at the old stable. He came down and I pointed out to him what we suggested should be done, and showed him the stair of the bothy, and the proposed enclosure for the hot plate.

I saw Trotter on Friday and asked him to come down and see the fence, as he had not then heard from you. The foggage is growing and I would like the fence done as soon as possible. I asked him to include in his estimate two gates for the field that the horse are in, as these are useless.

May I take it that you agree to make the alterations in the barn that we spoke of, as that subject was departed from rather abruptly.

I was asking Mr Callan[135] on Friday if there was any small stuff on hand at the quarry. He said there was plenty. Did you mean me to start and cart some? I could get this done just now rather than later on.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

129. MR WILLIAM MIDDLEMASS

17 July 1911

Dear Sir,[136]

I am in receipt of your letter of 15th inst. I am urging on the fencing as much as I can. The field is 46 acres and the price is £45 as agreed on, but I could not

135 Thomas Callan was the road surveyor (western district) for Haddingtonshire County Council. He also managed the council's quarries in the district.

136 William Middlemas, farmer, Bearford, Haddington, and Markle Mains, Prestonkirk.

promise it to Xmas. We could say till the term and after that till I want it to plough. I suppose that will be satisfactory.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

130. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

24 July 1911

Dear Sirs,

I duly received your favour of 18th inst. for which I am obliged.

Trotter has started his work and should get through without much delay. I will look as to how it is done. Mr Lothian[137] thought he should have been consulted about the march fence. He is willing to be the half of a moderate expenditure in putting it right but may I suggest that you send him a note, which would go far to preserve good feeling as neighbours.

Baillie was here on Saturday and I pointed out the alterations in the barn to him. He said he would send you his estimate for this along with the one for the old stable. As it will not be a serious matter I hope you may be able to sanction it right away so that I may make arrangements about the mill. This should have been in hand some time ago as the work will take some little time and harvest is approaching.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

131. MESSRS R. & J. MCWHIRTER

1 August 1911

Dear Sirs,[138]

Would you be good enough to give me your candid opinion of the mill supplied to you by Messrs Allan Bros, Aberdeen?

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137 Either Peter or George Lothian of Prora farm, which bounded West Fortune.

138 R. & J. McWhirter, farmers, Linfairn, Straiton, Ayrshire.

When was it supplied?
Is it their own make?
What do you consider the quality of the workmanship?
Do you consider it quite equal to an English (Clayton) mill?
You can depend on any information you give me being treated with the strictest confidence.

Please reply by return, and thanking you in anticipation,

I am, Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

132. T. MILLER ESQ.

1 August 1911

Dear Sir,

Would you be good enough to give me your candid opinion of the mill supplied to you by Messrs Allan Bros, Aberdeen?
When was it supplied?
Is it their own make?
What do you consider the quality of the workmanship? And also of the work it does?
Do you consider it quite equal to an English (Clayton) mill?
You can depend on any information you give me being treated with the strictest confidence.

Kindly reply by return and thanking you in anticipation,

I am, Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

133. JAMES HAGGERT ESQ.

1 August 1911

Dear Sir,[139]

As I have been in communication with Messrs Allan Bros, Aberdeen, regarding

[139] The recipient was perhaps James Haggart, farmer, Balsillie, Leslie, Fife.

a mill, they have given me your name as having been supplied with one, within the past two years.

Would you be good enough to give me your candid opinion of the machine and the work it performs. I had really thought of an English mill but having one of their engines the Allans are very anxious to get the order for the mill.

I need not say that anything you state will be treated with confidence, and no bad use will be made of the information.

Kindly reply by return and thanking you in anticipation,

I am, Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

134. D. WALKER ESQ.

1 August 1911

Dear Sir,

Would you be good enough to give me your candid opinion of the mill supplied by Messrs Allan Bros of Aberdeen?
When was it supplied?
Is it their own make?
What do you consider the quality of the workmanship, and also of the work it does?
Do you consider it quite equal to an English (Clayton) mill?
You can depend on any information you give me being treated with the strictest confidence.

Kindly reply by return, and thanking you in anticipation,

I am, Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

135. GEORGE MILLER

10 August 1911

Dear George,

I herewith enclose cheque for £46.18.9 in payment of premiums on the two policies, which I trust you find in order.

I suppose you will now have returned from your holiday and hope you have all been the better of the change.

We are in the midst of harvest and the grain is rushing to ripeness. We will have nearly half of the cutting done today. It is very early cut and will be too easily carted.

The weather has been very hot and it is still very dry. We had a little rain over the weekend (last) but green crops are missing rain very much still.

I trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

136. MESSRS ALLAN BROS

10 August 1911

Dear Sirs,

I am now in a position that I can no longer delay regarding the fixing of a mill. I do not suppose you will be able to supply me with one of your own mills for some time yet, but whether or not would you care to quote me for a "Clayton & Shuttleworth" mill,[140] and say when you think it could be fixed, the earliest possible date being an absolute necessity. Will be glad to hear from you by return.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

137. JOHN HANNAH

12 August 1911

Dear John,

We were sorry your arrangement for coming East this week had to be broken up, but hope that at no distant date you will be able to make new plans to accomplish a visit here. I did not receive your letter till Tuesday morning, and I saw it had been delayed somewhere. We received the tomatoes all right and

[140] Clayton & Shuttleworth, agricultural implement makers and engineers, Stamp End Works, Lincoln.

they are very acceptable, as we have Mr and Mrs Whiteford[141] this week and they have been sharing the pleasure of consumption. Please accept of our thanks. They were sorry you were unable to come as they would have liked to meet you.

We have been getting on with cutting this week pretty rapidly. We started on Monday last, and two days or so in the beginning of the week should almost see that part through. It has been too easily cut in many cases, and will go into small bulk. We have been off cutting this forenoon with "haar"[142] but have got a start for the afternoon if it keeps off. Turnips and potatoes are very much in need of rain, and the latter especially cannot be a very large crop unless they get moisture soon.

Uncle Robert and Aunt Bessie are coming East in the beginning of the week and they will be giving a look in perhaps the week after next.

I trust that Mrs Fischer keeps better. Remember us to her. Also that all the others are well.

Yours affectionately,
H Miller

138. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

19 August 1911

Dear Sirs,

I duly received yours of 4th inst. for which I am obliged. I have arranged with Baillie to start his work on Monday.

Perhaps you remember that the loft at the chaff cutter is still unfinished. As Cuthbert has some wood he left here for that purpose, would you be good enough to ask him to finish his job. I called his attention to the iron roof that was blown off at the cottages but he has taken no notice of it. That is nearly two months ago. Perhaps you remember how the binder house windows were left unfinished, and also certain other odds and ends. I am sorry to trouble you with these details, but they can hardly be allowed to pass unnoticed, and I would be obliged if you would mention them to him.

Thanking you for your attention to the matter of the barn etc. I am,

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

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141 Hugh Miller's parents-in-law.

142 Scots for a cold sea-mist.

139. JAMES DODDS ESQ.

30 August 1911

Dear Sir, [143]

I said to Clayton & Shuttleworth's men today that I would take the mill, to be delivered within a fortnight. You will please see to this but I expect he would tell you today, and I was hurrying for the train and had not the time to see you. The price as arranged is £135, with chaff and cavings blast[144] and all necessary piping and drum belt. Of course apart from what is here mentioned I rely on your word for putting the thing right. You might try to arrange for a suitable buncher[145] for me as it is the first thing I will need.

Send down your man tomorrow if convenient to arrange about the barn wall.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

140. MESSRS SOUNESS & SPEIRS

2 September 1911

Dear Sirs,[146]

Would you please give me a quotation for 500 potato boxes, both made and unmade. My brother at Ferrygate mentioned that he got some from you. The size of those I have at present is 31¼" x 21¼" over all and the corner pieces are 6½" long. I would prefer them this size if possible, the price as arranged.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

---

143 James Dodds, S. & J. Dodds, agricultural implement makers and engineers, Sommerfield, Haddington.

144 *i.e.* a fan that would blow the chaff and the cavings (pieces of broken straw) off the grain with a blast of air.

145 A buncher was an attachment to a threshing mill that bunched together the loose straw.

146 Souness & Spiers, timber merchants, Warriston Saw Mills, Edinburgh.

141. MESSRS ALLAN BROS

2 September 1911

Dear Sirs,

Your letter of 29th inst. has just reached me – having gone astray to a wrong address – with amended quotations for mill etc enclosed for which I am obliged. I have decided however to put in a Clayton & Shuttleworth mill and have placed the order for same locally. Thanking you for your attention and quotation.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

142. THE LONDON & LANCASHIRE INSURANCE CO.

4 September 1911

Dear Sirs,[147]

I beg to intimate that one of my woman workers – Mary Fairgrieve, met with an accident today by falling off a cart. I do not know the extent of her injury but you will hear in due course.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

143. GEORGE MILLER

4 September 1911

Dear George,

I duly received your letter of 1st inst and had not heard of Uncle John and

147 The London & Lancashire Insurance Co. Ltd, Glasgow branch, Royal Exchange Square, Glasgow. Under the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1906, employers such as Hugh Miller were responsible for paying compensation to employees who had sustained an injury in the course of their duties. Employers took out insurance policies to cover the liability.

Auntie having celebrated their Golden Wedding.[148] I can't say I feel particularly enthusiastic regarding a presentation, but if it is to be a family affair, I do not want to stand aloof from the others and so enclose £1 towards whatever you may fix upon.

We are still having very dry weather and everything is suffering. We finished harvest a week ago except a little bit of late stuff which we are finishing now. The crop is considerably less bulk than it should have been.

I trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

144. MR JAMES FULTON

5 September 1911

Dear Mr Fulton,[149]

If it would not be asking too much of you, would you be good enough to purchase a portable organ for me. It is for use in connection with a little meeting we have started on the farm on Sunday nights. If you had happened to know of a second-hand one, that would have done well enough, but if not you could go from £3 to £4 and I suppose that would cover the cost of a new one.

Pardon me taking this liberty but I remembered that you were a doctor of music in days gone by.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

145. HUGH CAMPBELL ESQ.

6 September 1911

Dear Sir,

I have sent you a confirmatory note of sale of the potatoes, and trust you will

148 Euphemia Miller, Hugh Miller's aunt, had married Captain John Smith on 29 August 1861.

149 James Fulton was the secretary for the Glasgow United Evangelistic Association, and the treasurer for the Southern Morocco Mission.

find it in order. Of course there was nothing said about the lifting of them but I think it is only fair that you should assist with this. You can let me know if you agree to the confirmation.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

146. THE SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY LTD

6 September 1911

Dear Sirs,[150]

I beg to confirm having sold to you today about 50 acres growing potatoes at twenty four pounds per acre with an option of one pound per acre up or down in buyer's favour. Buyer to assist with lifting to the extent of gathering potatoes, seller to do all other work of raising.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

147. THE LONDON & LANCASHIRE INSURANCE CO.

11 September 1911

Dear Sir,

I herewith return the enclosed form which I trust you will find in order.

One of my horsemen is also off work with a poisoned arm and hand. He got his hand pricked with something about two weeks ago when handling sheaves at the harvest, and it has now developed into poisoning. Please let this have your attention.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

150 This letter has been scored through in red and blue pen.

148. HUGH CAMPBELL ESQ.

12 September 1911

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of 9th inst. and herewith enclose sale note of the potatoes, and I suppose I must accept the inevitable as gracefully as I can.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

149. THE SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY LTD

12 September 1911

Dear Sirs,

I beg to confirm having sold to you about 52 (fifty two) acres potatoes at £24 (twenty four) pounds per acres with £1 (one pound) per acres up or down in buyer's option. Seller to pit them and buyer to lift them from the pits.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

150. ROBERT MILLER

14 September 1911

Dear Uncle,

I had your letter with enclosure yesterday morning for which accept of our best thanks. I had no idea of taking up a collection for an organ, but all the same we appreciate your interest in the little undertaking very much. What between the forms and the music you will be remembered by what you have done. I had asked Mr Fulton of 64 Bothwell Street to try and procure a suitable instrument for our purpose so I expect we should have it before long.[151]

151 See Letter 144.

The weather is still dry and turnips particularly are suffering much. The potatoes have changed hands but the realisation is not quite up to my expectations. Of course, my expectations were pretty high.

Trust you are both well.

Kind regards to Mrs Spence.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

151. THE LONDON & LANCASHIRE INSURANCE CO.

14 September 1911

Policy No 646210
Accident to Mary Fairgrieve

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of 12th inst. I regret having omitted to state Mary Fairgrieve's age, which is twenty one years. She was building straw on the cart when the accident occurred, which I surely stated under head of the form.

I enclose the form regarding William Inglis.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

152. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

18 September 1911

Dear Sirs,

Mr Callen informs me that he has sent you an estimate for the stones for repairing the road at the cart shed here, and I would be obliged if you could give an early reply, as I could conveniently overtake the work just now.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

153. MESSRS WILLIAM SMITH & CO.

18 September 1911

Dear Sirs,[152]

I have a weigh-bridge here which I think you supplied to Mr Kirk Mackay a few years ago, that I had to remove from its original position, and that I would like set up again. Could you send a man to do this sometime soon? Please let me know.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

154. MESSRS SOUNESS & SPEIRS

18 September 1911

Dear Sirs,

Yours of 8th inst. duly received. Please make up 500 potato boxes and rail them to Drem Station. Would you see that the handles are slightly rounded before putting them together.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

155. THOMAS RUSSELL ESQ.

21 September 1911

Dear Sir,[153]

I am wondering if you could supply me with some fruit hampers for potato gathering. Such as plum or greengage hampers – the round pattern – would suit very well. If you have them you might say what they would cost, and if I could have 100 next week.

---

152 William Smith & Co., weighbridge makers, New Broughton Works, Edinburgh.

153 Thomas Russell, fruit merchant, Bazaar, Glasgow.

I dare say you will recognise the writer. I was formerly at Mauchline.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

156. MR JAMES FULTON

26 September 1911

Dear Mr Fulton,

If you have not yet come across any other organ than those you mentioned in your letter, please do not incur any more trouble, but send me on the better one of the two to Drem Station.

We are still having very dry weather and vegetation of all kinds has suffered much. I am afraid that my "fortune" is where it has always been – somewhere in the great unknown dim and distant future, and I believe there is a big crowd of us trying to elbow our way thither.

With kind regards,
Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

157. THE LONDON & LANCASHIRE INSURANCE CO.

27 September 1911

Policy No 646210
Dear Sirs,

Referring to the accident to William Inglis and to your letter of 16th inst. I beg to state that he has now returned to work, having started on Monday 25th inst. He was two weeks and two days off.

The woman Mary Fairgrieve has not yet returned to work but I expect she will do so before long.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

158. THOMAS CALLAN ESQ.

27 September 1911

Dear Sir,[154]

I saw Mr Guild today and he said I could go and cart the stones for the road at my cart shed. I suppose he will be writing you. You might please have someone at the quarry on Friday morning and I will send some carts then.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

159. R. THOMSON ESQ.

27 September 1911

Dear Sir,

I will be quite pleased to let you have the turnips by the week, but considering the scarcity, the price would need to be 4/-. I would be augmenting their fodder with treacle which might be a benefit to both parties.

You can let me know what your mind is.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

160. JOHN HANNAH

28 September 1911

Dear John,

I duly received your letter of the 20th inst. and I could have liked well enough to see your show at Girvan on Saturday[155] but circumstances are such that I cannot be away at present. We are in hands this week with fixing up the mill and I want to be not far away.

---

154 See Footnote 131.

155 The annual show of the Girvan District Agricultural Society was held in Avenue Park on 30 September 1911.

The drouth still continues. We have had both threatenings and promises of rain but it still refuses to come. You seem to have had quite a good wetting lately.

Potatoes are keeping more or less green except some that got frost about a week ago. We will have to begin lifting however sometime before long.

Trust that are all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

161. R. THOMSON ESQ.

30 September 1911

Dear Sir,

I was in receipt of your letter of 29th inst. for which I am obliged, but I regret that I can not accept of your offer of 3/3 per week for the turnips for cattle.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

162. THE LONDON & LANCASHIRE INSURANCE CO.

30 September 1911

Accident to Mary Fairgrieve

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of 29th inst. with inquiry regarding duration of disablement of Mary Fairgrieve.

I have asked Dr Caverhill[156] who is attending her how long it may be before she will return to work and he says probably a week or two, but can say nothing definite.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

156 Dr Thomas Caverhill was the local medical officer.

163. HUGH CAMPBELL ESQ.

2 October 1911

Dear Sir,

I hoped to see you at the market last week about the lifting of the potatoes. I am making a beginning this week – indeed have begun today to open up the fields. Some of them are down and some of them are green but the season is advancing and I thought I would be as well to start while I could get hands. If you have an opportunity you might look round tomorrow and see what things are like.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

164. R. THOMSON ESQ.

2 October 1911

Dear Sir,

I got your wire this morning, but I had already arranged about the turnips. I trust however that we remain on the same good terms as before.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

165. MESSRS CLAYTON & SHUTTLEWORTH

2 October 1911

Dear Sirs,

The temporary wheels and under works supplied with the mill on September 20th have been returned to Drem Station today, addressed to you at Lincoln.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

166. WILLIAM MIDDLEMASS ESQ.

2 October 1911

Dear Sir,

I hereby confirm having let to you my turnips for cattle and sheep as follows –

Cattle under £12 cost at 3/6 per week.

Shearling[157] sheep on break[158] at 5d per week.

Hoggets[159] on cutter[160] at 4½d per week with 20% back for cake consumed by cattle.

Rape 5d per week for sheep.

I trust you find this in order.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

167. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

3 October 1911

Dear Sirs,

I duly received yours of 29th ult. for which I have to thank you.

It certainly will be my interest to see that as good a job as possible is made of the road. I have already lifted part of the stones.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

---

157 A sheep that has been shorn once.

158 A section of a turnip field that has been temporarily fenced off so that sheep can feed on the crop.

159 A young sheep from the time when it is weaned until it is shorn of its first fleece.

160 *i.e.* the sheep were being fed from the trough on turnips that had been harvested and cut.

168. MESSRS ALLAN BROS

4 October 1911

Dear Sirs,

Would you be good enough to exchange the broad pulley on my engine shaft for one of 3 ft. The present one is 20" and the shaft is 2½". Would you please let me know when I could have it. If you have this size beside you however just send it on.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

169. MESSRS ALLAN BROS

6 October 1911

Dear Sirs,

I am in receipt of your favour of 5th inst and will be glad if you forward to me at Drem Station at your earliest possible convenience a 36" pulley for the engine shaft, 12" broad. The shaft is 2½" thick.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

170. THE LONDON & LANCASHIRE INSURANCE CO.

10 October 1911

Dear Sirs,

Policy No 646219
William Inglis

I am in receipt of your favour of 7th inst. with cheque for £1.19.8 in payment of claim referred to.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

171. MR JAMES FULTON

12 October 1911

Dear Mr Fulton,

I received the organ nearly a week ago, and it is pronounced very satisfactory. Allow me to thank you for your attention and trouble in the purchasing of it, and also to say that we would be delighted to see you for a weekend and give you the privilege of presiding at it and in the pulpit as well.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

172. JAMES DODDS ESQ.

16 October 1911

Dear Sir,

The pulley for the engine has come to hand, so I will be glad if you can have it fixed up. I would be threshing the very first opportunity I have now. I am not satisfied with the position of the blow pipe, and I think it should be altered. I wanted it carried along the straw barn on the top of the joists, but "Harry" put it on the underside. You would not be pleased with the job yourself if you saw it. Otherwise things are well done.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

173. THE LONDON & LANCASHIRE INSURANCE CO.

16 October 1911

Policy No 646210
Accident to Mary Fairgrieve

Dear Sirs,

With regard to the above I beg to state that the whole family of which she is a member have left my employment today, or rather as from the 14th (Saturday),

and have thereby broken their contract, being engaged for a year as from Whitsunday last.

If a further claim for wages is made – and I have little doubt there will be – shall I pay this as I have been doing? Without prejudice to her however, my own private opinion is that there is now nothing the matter with her, but I say this for your own private information only.

Please let me hear from you in course.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

174. MESSRS MCGILL & SMITH

17 October 1911

Dear Sirs,

Your post card to hand. I have nothing but white chaff square head wheat, sample of which I send for same post, price 17/- for 252 lbs. We always make it up to this weight here and I have a lot sitting that was threshed a short time ago. We have a seed show at Haddington for wheat on Friday first and I mean to exhibit a sample then.[161]

If the sample suits you, you might let me know as soon as convenient what you want of it.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

175. MR JOHN GEDDES

19 October 1911

Dear Mr Geddes,[162]

I herewith enclose £2 which you can put to the funds of the S.M.M.

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161 The United East Lothian Agricultural Society's annual show of seed wheat was held in the Corn Exchange, Haddington, on 20 October 1911. Hugh Miller was commended for his sample of squarehead wheat. His brother Robert was among the judges.

162 John Geddes, secretary, the Southern Morocco Mission, Bothwell Street, Glasgow.

I am glad to know that the buckle is meeting the strap, with a little bit to spare, which state of affairs is different from what we have seen.

You will be thinking of extending your boundaries if things continue so favourable.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

176. MR ARTHUR

19 October 1911

Dear Mr Arthur,[163]

It almost seems as if we would drop out of existence toward each other, and I would be very sorry if this were so.

How are you all? We are all well, all growing older, some growing larger, but the number remains stationary.

I thought of being at the Annual Meeting of the S.M.M. a fortnight ago when I would likely have seen you, but at the last I could not get away.

If you could do with a weekend's isolation we would be very pleased to put you up at the old terms, and to keep you from rusting for the time you would be away, we would give you a pulpit to fill on the Sunday evening. I will be glad to hear from you and to see you at any time.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

177. DR THOMAS CAVERHILL

23 October 1911

Dear Sir,

Would you be good enough to let me know if you have seen the girl Fairgrieve since that day you called here. They all left here a week ago, and I will not be

[163] The recipient was probably John W. Arthur, a Glasgow merchant who supported various Evangelical causes, including the Southern Morocco Mission. He was the father of the well-known medical missionary, also John W. Arthur.

surprised although she still claims her wages. From outside reports she seems to be quite well but I will be glad to hear if you have seen her lately.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

178. MESSRS JAMES CRAIG LTD

23 October 1911

Dear Sirs,[164]

I am sending a Brown Clydesdale Gelding two year old warranted sound to your sale on Thursday. I hope there will be a good trade. I will send him from here on Wednesday morning, and you will perhaps see that he is taken off the box at night.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

179. ROBERT MILLER

23 October 1911

Dear Uncle,

I think I promised when you were here that I would send you a bag of potatoes at lifting time, so my promise has been fulfilled today, and I trust you will receive them all right. We finished lifting on Saturday and I was quite glad to see the departure of some of our "friends" that had been with us for longer or shorter.

We got exceptional weather being off only one half day all the time. The crop has turned out quite up to expectations if not more.

We have now got our little organ installed and it is quite an acquisition to the meeting.

The numbers keep up beyond our expectations, now that the darkness has set in at meeting time, so we continue from night to night or rather from week to week while the folks come.

---

164 James Craig Ltd, auctioneers, Burns Square, Ayr.

The mill is now in a condition that we can thresh and we will likely be having a trial of it tomorrow. It has been a "driech"[165] job in the end.

I hope you both keep well – also Mrs Spence.

Kind regards,
Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

180. MR WILLIAM BICKETT

26 October 1911

Dear Sir,[166]

If you happen to know of a good buncher for sale would you be good enough to let me know? I have put in a new Clayton mill, and am going to put a buncher on but have not fixed on a new one yet to see if I came across a good second hand article. Of course I would not fix up a machine that would not be satisfactory. You might let me know from you as soon as possible.

You have had good weather for the backend threshing, at least it has been so here, and I hope you have had your usual good turn.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

181. THE LONDON & LANCASHIRE INSURANCE CO.

26 October 1911

Accident to Mary Fairgrieve

Dear Sir,

Referring to your letter of 18th inst, I wrote to Dr Caverhill, regarding the above, and I enclose his reply for your perusal. In view of what he says shall I pay her any further wages in name of compensation if she demands it? Of

165 Driech has a number of meanings in Scots, including 'dull', 'gloomy' and 'hard to bear', but in this instance 'protracted' is probably what Hugh Miller meant.

166 William Bicket, Campbell Street, Kilmarnock, was a threshing mill owner.

course she left here on the 14th inst and I have heard nothing from her since.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

182. Dr Thomas Caverhill

26 October 1911

Dear Sir,

I am obliged for your reply to my letter, which confirms my opinion of the girl, Fairgrieve. I am informed that her address is

16 Park Road
Tranent

which I think will be correct.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

183. Mr Arthur

27 October 1911

Dear Mr Arthur,

I had your kind letter the other morning. Glad to hear you are all well. Sorry to learn that some people's education – or otherwise the sanctification of their sixth sense – is such a tedious business. Of course we are not privileged in all circumstances just to give such free utterance to our "think" for which a man cannot be put to the gallows, but it is genuine fit that the crowd is so gullible.

We will be glad to see you for the 24th of December and if Mrs Arthur could come with you it would increase the pleasure, without I trust diminishing yours.

You might let me know if we will consider this fixed.

Trust you are all well.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

184. MESSRS THOMAS SHERRIFF & CO.

28 October 1911

Dear Sirs,[167]

I duly received your letter of 21st inst, and thought of seeing you on Friday at Haddington but I was not over. The price you ask for the Corn Drill is very well on the road to that of a new one, and I do not care to make the exchange at the terms you propose. I thought about £5 and the old machine would have taken it away.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

185. MESSRS SOUNESS & SPIERS

1 November 1911

Dear Sirs,

I herewith enclose cheque in payment of 500 boxes per a/c.

You might please make me other 500, but see that the bottoms are closely fitted on as this gives more strength to the box. A few of the sides too are cut thinner than others. Please see to this.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

186. MR WILLIAM BICKETT

3 November 1911

Dear Sir,

I would take the buncher if you would part with it for £10. I find I will be in considerable expense in having it fixed up. Of course, I will expect that the that the broken parts will be replaced.

---

[167] Thomas Sheriff & Co., agricultural implement makers and engineers, West Barns, Dunbar.

Let me know if you accept of this, and if so you can send it on to Drem Station.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

187. THE LONDON & LANCASHIRE INSURANCE CO.

6 November 1911

Dear Sirs,

Accident to Mary Fairgrieve

Referring to your letter of 27th October if you send me a clearance form, I will endeavour to get it signed by Mary Fairgrieve.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

188. MR WILLIAM BICKETT

8 November 1911

Dear Sir,

I have your letter of 7th inst. You can send on the buncher to Drem Station. I will give you £12 but the bargain is to be that the broken parts will be replaced, and that it will work satisfactorily after it is erected.

See that it is put safely on the waggon and it might be as well to send it at company's risk, but you will know whether this is usually done with such articles or not.

Let me know when it is put on.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

189. ROBERT M. MCKECHNIE ESQ.

10 November 1911

Dear Sir,

Will you be good enough to allow me to exceed the guarantee of my overdraft by £200 for perhaps two months? I hoped to have seen you today but am sorry I could not get to North Berwick.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

190. BESSIE OSBORNE

10 November 1911

Dear Bessie,

I herewith enclose cheque for £10 in payment of interest for half year, as I see we have again come round to term time.

How are you all? I hope you have survived last Sunday's storm all right. You would have it worse on the west coast I expect than we had, although we thought it was stiff enough. We are now having more wet weather than we have had all year, but I suppose we can only look for something of that kind.

I have been considering taking a turn westwards sometime before long but cannot at the moment say when I will get it accomplished. Jane has been speaking of doing the same so it will have to be turn about in any case. Will you not manage to accomplish your long talked of visit before the winter is over. I think you spoke of xmas time or new year time before so we hope you will manage to put the matter into execution.

I may say that we expect Mr Arthur for the weekend of December 24th but apart from that there will be no obstacle.

Trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

191. JOHN HANNAH

10 November 1911

Dear John,

I herewith enclose cheque for £26.10/- in payment of interest for the half-year. I have deducted £3.10/- for Lloyd George to be paid as income tax.[168]

I hope you have all survived the storm of Sunday last. It was a wild day here but you would be getting it first hand off the sea. We did not suffer very much, but some little damage could scarcely be avoided.

We are now having more wet weather than we have had all year. There are still a few potatoes to lift but they are in small compass now. It takes than all their time to make 50p on the market this week, with rather a downward tendency.

McConnel late of Glaiswick has taken a large farm near Jedburgh.[169] I happened to come across him yesterday, and he had just fixed the matter.

I have been thinking of taking a run westwards sometime before long, but am not quite sure when, as Jane is talking about doing the same. It will however be either before Xmas or after.

I trust you are all well and that Phemie is quite herself again.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

192. MARY FAIRGRIEVE

10 November 1911

To Mary Fairgrieve -

Please sign your name on the two enclosed papers where you see the red x, and get somebody to sign their name as a witness where you see the blue x on the small paper, and return them to me at once.

H. Miller

---

168 David Lloyd George (1863-1945) was the Chancellor of the Exchequer in Herbert Asquith's government.

169 This was Andrew W. McConnell, who had recently obtained the tenancy of Scraesburgh, a farm of around 580 acres in the parish of Jedburgh.

193. THE LONDON & LANCASHIRE INSURANCE CO.

15 November 1911

Dear Sirs,

Referring to your letter of 8th November regarding Mary (Marion) Fairgrieve, I herewith return the forms which I managed to get her to sign. I trust you will find the same in order.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

194. JOHN MCNALLY ESQ.

16 November 1911

Dear Sir,[170]

I have this morning received your P.C. intimating the dispatch of seven waggons of manure. I have lifted some of it today, but cannot accept delivery as there is far too much rubbish on it. About half of what I have lifted is sea ware. Please say what is to be done with the rest of it.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

195. MRS TRAVIS

18 November 1911

Dear Mrs Travis,

I have kept a letter of yours lying on my desk where I would see it and be reminded of my purpose to write you. I suppose however I need not waste time, ink and paper, and fill up a letter with an apology for not writing, which by the way, is a very frequent occurrence. I did not think however till I consulted my letter book that I have not written you since – I don't think I'll say it.

---

170 John McNally, McNally Bros, agricultural contractors, Fort Place, Leith.

I had your letter of 15th June, and the summer has been and gone since then. You were asking about the drought. Well, things looked very serious about the time you wrote but on June 24th we had a regular wet day, which saved things from disaster.

The months however passed with a persistence in dry weather, and while crops have done amazingly well in the circumstances, some things have suffered a lot. We are all the better of being reminded of our dependence on Him who feeds the ravens.

Just about the time I received your letter we had started a little meeting on the farm on the Sunday evenings. I think about the 10th of June was the first one. We did not know how the invitations would be responded to, but it has on the whole been better than our expectations. There is small facility for getting a meeting place in the village – about a mile off, and absolutely no encouragement but the opposite, on the part of the E.C.[171] minister, who is the only one in the place. Hence the reason we meet under our own vine and under our own fig tree. We may not be beyond the bounds of his displeasure, but we are at least beyond the bounds of his jurisdiction. The last few Sunday nights have been wet and stormy and the number has been small, but there are always some who need the Gospel. We sometimes have a stranger but often we are just ourselves.

We are looking forward to having Mr and Mrs Arthur at Xmas for the weekend when we hope to have his help for the Sunday night. We have just been continuing from week to week as long as the people are willing to come.

Our two eldest children are still going to North Berwick school, while Betty – the third – goes to the village near. Our wee boy is still at home. George has got a brother for his boy at 7 years so the number is slowly increasing.

How are you keeping yourself and also how are all your friends? I hope you have been able to enjoy the beautiful summer, and still fit to visit your old friend Miss Thomson, who seems to be to you – and you to her – a well of water.

I wanted Jane to write you this letter, but she said I was so much better at it, which I question very much. I will have to be drawing to a close but I annex the outline of what I was telling the folks the other Sunday night.

Kind regards,
Yours sincerely,
H. Miller

I may not have room here and so will take another half sheet. Hope you will understand it.

"How shall we escape"![172] HM

---

171 Established Church.

172 Hebrews 2:3.

196. GEORGE MILLER

24 November 1911

Dear George,

I herewith enclose cheque for £9.12/- in payment of the premium of my wages insurance, being 2/- in excess of the stipulated amount.

I trust that you are all keeping well and the family thriving. I once thought of being West for two days about this time, but I will not likely be this year now as far as I see at present.

We have had a space of very broken weather lately, and the drains have got to work again that were idle for so long.

I will be making up my balance sheet shortly, and will be glad of your help to do so, if you are not too busy.

I am sending you a hare in the morning, and hope you will get it sometime tomorrow.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

197. MR WILLIAM BICKETT

27 November 1911

Dear Sir,

I got the buncher all right, but I have not yet got it put up. I hope however it will work well when I do so.

I enclose cheque for £12 which please acknowledge.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

198. MR MCKERROW

27 November 1911

Dear Mr McKerrow,

I duly received your letter of 23rd inst. placing your usual new-year order. It

will be difficult to fulfil, but I will have pleasure in attempting to do so if nothing unforeseen bars the way.

Glad to hear the children's meeting keeps up, and that the Sunday night one is rallying. I trust that you may have a good time with Miss Thomson, but it will be well to forget for the time being her past success.

Trust you are all well. Kind regards, and remember me to all my old & young friends at the Hall.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

199. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

5 December 1911

Dear Sirs,

I am in receipt of your favour of 4th inst with Fire Policy enclosed. I herewith return the receipt for £13 as requested.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

200. MISS MARION FAIRGRIEVE

6 December 1911

Madam,

I have your letter of 4th December and cannot understand what you want. You gave me a receipt for the money I paid you when you were off work here – namely £2.19.2, for six weeks all but half a day. You at the same time discharge me from all or any further obligation. The document is now in the Insurance Co's hands, and has been registered with the Sheriff, so please understand that I am not going to communicate any further about it.

I have only written this for your information, and not as an explanation why I did not send you any money.

Yours truly,
H. Miller

201. JOHN MCNALLY ESQ.

7 December 1911

Dear Sir,

I have your a/c for 131 tons 7 cwt dung, but you have made no reference to the sea-ware etc that I wrote you about, in the last seven waggons that were sent. I cannot say how much there would be of it but I would consider 15 tons a very moderate estimate. I expected to see you in the market yesterday and arrange about it.

If you can promise to send the right stuff, I would take a quantity more, but it will have to be right.

Let me hear from you by return and we will get a/c squared.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

202. GEORGE MILLER

9 December 1911

Dear George,

I should have written you last week acknowledging receipt of 18/-. I know how I made the first mistake of adding 2/- instead of 4/- to the wages premium, but I do not what I can have been dreaming about when I wrote the cheque for £9 instead of £8. The consequences could however have been more serious.

I send herewith the details of my valuation, and will be glad if you can find time to make up the balance sheet. I think you will have all the information necessary, but if not you can let me know.

Jane and the two wee children went to Stewarton yesterday, so the house is a bit quiet.

The weather is just usual – sometimes wet and sometimes dry, but we managed to sow most of our wheat this week after waiting several weeks for an opportunity.

I trust that you are all well and the children thriving.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

203. S. & J. DODDS ESQ.

11 December 1911

Dear Sir, [173]

You might please say if you are now in a position to undertake the fitting of the buncher elevator etc. in connection with the mill, as I am being greatly inconvenienced through the delay.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

204. MESSRS SUTTON & CO.

11 December 1911

Dear Sirs,[174]

Could you give me any information regarding "French Kail"?
Do you supply the seed?
What is the habit of the plant?
Compared with turnip or mangold what is the most suitable time to sow?
Is it a crop that is best eaten on the ground or is suitable for pulling and feeding to stock in the house?
Will it stand frost in the end of the year?

I will be obliged if you can supply me this and any other information regarding it that would be useful.

Might it have a fair chance of succeeding here in East Lothian?

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

---

[173] S. & J. Dodds, agricultural implement makers and engineers, Sommerfield Works, Haddington.

[174] Sutton & Co., seed and bulb merchants, Reading.

205. MR MCINTOSH

15 December 1911

Dear Sir,

I beg to call your attention to the fact that a boy named Herbert Clark from the Marine Hotel,[175] stabbed my boy on the leg today with an open knife. Tonight his leg is very sore, and he is quite lame when he walks. I can make great allowance for boyish pranks, but such hooliganism as using an open knife to the effusion of blood is rather serious. I request that you make inquiry regarding the matter, and unless there is an apology forthcoming, I will press the matter further.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

206. JAMES MCKELVIE ESQ.

[*no date given*] December 1911

Dear Sir,[176]

I beg to remind you of the arrangement that was made in the Spring of this year with regard to the shooting on the farm. You will remember that the agreement was £10 and as I would like to settle with my grieve, I would be glad if you give the matter your attention.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

207. MESSRS ALLAN BROS

18 December 1911

Dear Sirs,

I duly received your favour of 14th inst with your quotation for the gas tank.

175 Probably the Marine Hotel in North Berwick.

176 James McKelvie, Gilmerton House, Athelstaneford.

As you say it is rather expensive but the circular one you mentioned would take up too much room in the engine house. However on reconsidering the size, I think it would be as well to reduce it to hold two barrels of oil only as this may be plenty to store at a time. You might therefore get a tank forwarded of the following dimensions: 3 ft long x 4 ft deep x 16" wide. The price will be less than the one you quote, and I will depend on you making it right with the makers.

I have now had a fair trial of the engine with something approaching a full load, and while it drives the mill all right, I think it has not a very great margin of power. I do not suggest that the engine has less capacity than you stated it to have, but I find it would be convenient for me to have one a little larger. I could then have the option of bruising etc while threshing. If you could therefore without disadvantage to yourselves exchange it for the larger size, it would be an advantage for my work.

I would be glad to hear from you regarding your terms.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

208. MR JAMES A. GARRIOCK

20 December 1911

Dear Mr Garriock,

If it is not asking too much, would you be good enough to send me some tracts for distribution at our little meeting, such as you would have no hesitation in giving away yourself. I would like 50 fair sized booklets, and the rest as you think best.

The little meeting still goes on – storm or calm – dark or light, with of course varying numbers. Last Sunday night we had between 30 and 40 which was a nice little congregation. It has held together better than our expectations, but minds are blind and hearts are hard and impressions seem difficult to make. It is satisfaction however to know that the Lord has promised that "His Word will not return void".[177]

We hope to have Mr Arthur for the weekend next when he takes the meeting on the 24th. I would be glad if you can send the tracts before then for which I enclose £1.

---

177 Paraphrasing Isaiah 55:11, 'So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall'.

If you want a rest for a weekend anytime, we would be pleased to see you, or on any pretext whatever you would be welcome.

With the compliments of the season, and thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

209. GEORGE MILLER

20 December 1911

Dear George,

I received yours of the 16th inst. yesterday with balance sheet enclosed, and please accept of my thanks for your trouble.

I expected the credit balance would have been better than it is. One or two items however in my valuation last year did not realise my expectations. I will have to be thankful for small mercies, and live in hope once more.

I have not had time to pursue the £17.12.6, and cannot think how this difference exists. I will perhaps bring the balance sheet with me when I go West in the beginning of the year. I might try and see you on Monday 8th of January, if that would be suitable for you. I will be at Mauchline over the weekend and have to go back there also on the Monday night.

Jane is feeling some better thank you.

Trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

210. JAMES MCKELVIE ESQ.

21 December 1911

Dear Sir,

I have received yours of 20th inst. with £10 enclosed in settlement of our agreement, regarding the shooting, for which accept thanks.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

211. GEORGE MILLER

23 December 1911

Dear George,

I had your letter and enclosure this morning and herewith return the latter with the information you ask for. The bank interest may amount to £30 to £40, but I did not include it as I have stated that last year it was carried forward into this year.

I hope where things are balanced that I may be able to pay 20p a pound.

There will be some excitement in Ayr tomorrow over the sale of the "Baron".[178] If it had been, or if I had been, nearer I would have helped to swell the crowd.

I trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

212. MRS TRAVIS

25 December 1911

Dear Mrs Travis,

I duly received your last kind letter, and we were glad to know that you are keeping so well and fit.

Christmas has again come round and in a few days more, the sands of another year will have run out, another year of mercies new every morning and His faithfulness every night. We are so apt to take our Father's gifts as a matter of course that we need to pull ourselves to account at times and render to Him his right. It is a great privilege to know Him, a greater privilege to serve Him, but the greatest of all to what we look forward to – that of being ever with Him in His presence whence we shall go no more out but the present is ours for service and He is worthy of the best that we can give, for our time here is but a span.

"The time for sowin; seed, it is wearin' wearin' dune,
And the time for winnin' souls will be ower vera sune.

---

178 The 'Baron o' Buchlyvie' was sold by public auction at Ayr Mart for £9,500.

Then let a' be active if a fruitfu' sheaf we'd bring
Tae adorn the royal table in the palace of the King."[179]

We had Mr Arthur with us over the week-end and he took the meeting last night. Mrs A. did not come. He is one of our old tried, trusted and true friends who year by year are turning fewer. His address last night was on Matt 16:26 "What shall it profit a man etc." Here were his points:

1) A priceless treasure – The soul.
2) A poor equivalent – The world.
3) A possible calamity – It may be lost.
4) A pointed question – What shall a man give in exchange for his soul.

He gave us a very telling address and we leave the issue with the Lord.

With our kind regards and best wishes, and the compliments of the season,

I am yours faithfully,
H. Miller

213. ROBERT MILLER

27 December 1911

Dear Uncle,

Your letter of 20th is before me, and I want to get out of your debt before the year closes. Its sands will now very quickly run out, and we are convinced of the truth that

"The years go speeding past
Forward ever each new one
Swifter speeding than the last."[180]

May we all use those well that we are privileged to see.

We were sorry to hear that your arm continues to give you trouble. You did not say in your letter whether the Crieff treatment had been beneficial of not.[181] We trust that you have got relief and that you will have a continuance of it.

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179 A slightly misremembered part of the hymn 'The Palace o' the King' by William Mitchell.

180 From the hymn 'Winter reigneth o'er the land'.

181 The Crieff Hydropathic Establishment was a hotel that offered water treatments and other therapeutic courses to those in poor health.

The little meeting still continues, with of course a varying attendance according to the weather. We had Mr Arthur with us last Sabbath and had a good meeting, but somehow it seems that impressions as far as one can see, are difficult to make. I suppose that even the master Himself found this difficulty when He was here below. As you say.

We have now had a good trial of the mill, and I am pleased to say it is quite satisfactory. We were having a buncher fitted up last week, and there are still a few odds and ends to erect which when finished will afford a considerable measure of convenience. The grain is turning out fairly well, and the price for barley especially has been very good.

We have had a good long spell of more or less broken weather but the last few days there has been an improvement towards drier conditions.

I expect to be at Mauchline for Sunday week and also be at the annual "spree" with the young folk on the Monday evening.

I trust Aunt Bessie keeps well and also Mrs Spence, to whom remember us.

With kind regards and every good wish for you and yours,

I am, yours affectionately,
H. Miller

214. DAVID WHITEFORD

12 January 1912

Dear Grandfather,[182]

I saw a useful pony this week that the owner is anxious to sell, and had it not been for what was said about your yellow one, I would have bought it. You might let me know however, what you want for your one, as I don't want it on any other condition than buying it. What age is it? Please let me know immediately as I want to be off or on with the other one.

You might send us an Ayrshire ham, spiced the same as the last one, and a little bit larger.[183]

I got home yesterday and found all well. I trust you are all well too.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

182 David Whiteford, Hugh Miller's father-in-law.

183 The Whitefords ran a ham-curing business in Stewarton, Ayrshire. See the Introduction.

215. DAVID WHITEFORD

16 January 1912

Dear Grandfather,

I received your letter yesterday, and was much surprised to learn the conditions on which you propose to send the pony. I never thought of such a thing, but in the circumstances I can do nothing but accept of your kindness on behalf of your beloved daughter, and I trust that as often as we sit behind it, it may lead us in the paths of rectitude and righteousness. I trust also that you may often have a share in the same pleasure here. I do not think you need have any concern regarding the treatment that it will get, and I hope it may have many days of usefulness in store. I never was given to "gush", so please accept of our united thanks for your kindness.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

216. MR PETER MCNALLY

16 January 1912

Dear Sir,[184]

You might try and send me as much dung as possible during the next two weeks, as I have parts of the fields to finish that I wish to get ploughed up.

I hope you will see to this.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

217. WILLIAM TODD ESQ.

17 January 1912

Dear Sir,[185]

As I am getting the pony I spoke to you of when I saw you, I will not require

184 Peter McNally, McNally Bros, agricultural contractors, Fort Place, Leith.

185 The recipient was perhaps William Todd, Arrothill, Dundonald, Ayrshire.

your one. I have told my brother however, that I saw your pony, and I would not wonder if he might have a look at it, if he had an opportunity.

I hope in any case that you will drop on a suitable customer.

We have had two wintry days, and tonight the frost is gripping, with a good "blast o' January win'".[186]

I trust you keep well.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

218. DAVID WHITEFORD

19 January 1912

Dear Grandfather,

I got your letter this morning, your wire this afternoon, and the pony came all right tonight. I have only seen it in the stable but will have a better look at it in daylight. I hope it may do well and serve us a long time.

We have had some blustery weather this week but we seem to be escaping the snow that they are having in places. The land is drying again and we are busy pulling turnips amongst other things.

The ham came to hand all right and we "freed" it tonight, and pronounced it very good.

The weather will be suiting you fine for handling heavy consignments of pigs as you seem to be getting.

I trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

The children are all very much interested in mother's pony.

219. THOMAS CALLAN ESQ.

19 January 1912

Dear Sir,

Could you give me an idea when the Roller will be our length? – as I want to

[186] From 'Rantin Rovin Robin' by Robert Burns.

cart some more metal immediately before it comes, and have at present quite sufficient of a rough road to traffic over.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

220. GEORGE MILLER

23 January 1912

Dear George,

I had quite overlooked sending you the enclosed earlier as it had got covered up with something else in my desk, and escaped my notice. Indeed I purposed paying you when I was in the Bank a fortnight ago, but found I had not the notice with me.

We have had a dry spell of weather, with as much rain as keep the roads dirty, otherwise there has been nothing to hinder work in the fields.

We were sorry to learn that Mrs Barclay had died. Life for a long time will seem little but a voice to poor May.

I trust that you all keep well as we are at present, I am glad to say.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

221. MESSRS ALLAN BROS

24 January 1912

Dear Sirs,

I duly received your letter of 20th December last, regarding the engine, and your proposal to sell it for me. I would be prepared to sell it if you can get me nearly cost price for it as it is practically nothing the worse of being with me. If you have an opportunity of disposing if it on these terms, then the sooner the better for sake of the purchaser.

However if your engineer is in the district I would like him to call as soon as possible, as the valves require a little bit of adjusting. I was reading the book of instructions the other day and thought from the description there given that the adjusting screws required a little alteration. I did and made a bad job of it,

and have not been able to get the full power out of it since. As I have a lot of threshing to do at present, I am a bit handcuffed on this account.

I have your note tonight announcing that the oil tank has been sent on.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

222. R. WYLLIE ESQ.

24 January 1912

Dear Sir,[187]

I have now got the buncher hung and found that owing to its position it would be better to be fixed, consequently I have not used the lifting gear. If it is any use to you, I will send it back, but if not I will remit the price.

Please let me know.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

223. JOHN HANNAH

25 January 1912

Dear John,

I did not take W. Todd's pony as the other one has been sent here as a life-renter.[188] It is needing some rest however before it is asked to do much.

We are having very changeable weather, from touches of frost to hail and snow showers, reverting back to rain with dry intervals.

We have at last got our road rolled, and for the time being the surface is much improved. It was done today, and the weather conditions did not demand the use of the water cart.[189]

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187 The recipient was perhaps Robert Wyllie, farmer, Horse Crook, Haddington.

188 In Scots law, life-rent is the right to receive for life the benefits of an asset (in this case, a pony) without the right to dispose of it.

189 Water was needed when rolling macadam. In the absence of rain, it was usually supplied by a watering-cart.

This is our hiring time[190] and there is considerable dissatisfaction on the part of the men at the prospect of being required to pay 4d per week.[191] It is evident there will be a good lot of ill feeling between employer and employed when it comes to the tax-collecting.

The Co-op has not touched the potatoes yet. I suppose they will be waiting for a big profit.

I trust that you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

224. MESSRS ALLAN BROS

31 January 1912

Dear Sirs,

The tank has come to hand all right, but the tap has not been sent – at least it has not come. Please would you have this posted at your earliest convenience.

I had the engineer the other day, and he put the engine right but I have not been using it much since.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

225. GEORGE VIVERS ESQ.

31 January 1912

Dear Sir,[192]

You can send me the pigs as soon as it suits you, but if you don't get them on

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190 The two main hiring fairs in East Lothian for the May term took place in Dunbar and Haddington in the first week in February. In 1912, the Haddington fair was held on Friday 2 February.

191 Under the terms of the National Insurance Act (1911), all workers who earned under £160 a year had to pay 4d a week to the scheme. This contribution was to be collected by their employers, an obligation resented by many farmers. See the Introduction.

192 George Vivers, farmer, Dornocktown, Annan, Dumfriesshire.

Friday in time to be here before night on Saturday, do not send them till Monday. You might let me know when to expect them. Will they be fit to walk a mile and a half from the station here, or should they be carted?

I got home all right last night, and found the frost gone, but it caught on this morning again.

H. Miller

226. CHIEF CONSTABLE ALEXANDER BORTHWICK

6 February 1912

Dear Sir,[193]

Please send me a licence for the removal of thirty pigs from Annan to the above address.[194]

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

227. JOHN SMITH ESQ.

7 February 1912

Dear Sir,

I noticed that you were exhibiting Waverley Oats at the Fat Stock Show in Edinburgh.[195] Were they regenerated Waverley? If so have you any to offer for seed, and are they free from black oats and otherwise pure? I could do with 35 qrs if they were suitable. You might let me know as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

If you have them please send sample.

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193 Lieutenant-colonel Alexander Borthwick, Chief Constable of Haddingtonshire.

194 Outbreaks of swine fever across Scotland had led to restrictions on the movement of pigs.

195 The Scottish National Fat Stock Show had been held in the Waverley Market, Edinburgh, on 29-30 November 1911.

228. WILLIAM VIVERS ESQ.

7 February 1912

Dear Sir,

I have here your various communications regarding the pigs. I have applied to the Chief Constable here for a licence to have them removed, and will be able to send it to you by Friday I expect. The wheels of government officials move slowly. I hope they will come safely to their destination. Book them to Drem Station, North British Railway and I hope they may do well while they are with me.

We had two very hard nights frost in the beginning of the week, but it is freshening now. Some potatoes have got a nip.

W. Taylor has got a good trade for his horses. Another victim of the stock exchange.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

Let me know when to expect the pigs.
H.M.

229. WILLIAM VIVERS ESQ.

8 February 1912

Dear Sir,

I wrote you last night, and I have the enclosed from the Chief Constable this morning. You can see what he says.

If you return my letter asking for the licence, and the form you are to fill up, direct to him it will save time.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

230. MR ROBERT G. MUNSIE

8 February 1912

Dear Mr Munsie,

It seems a long time since I saw you, and I often wish we had more opportunities of exchanging notes. The last we heard of your on-goings was from Miss Munsie, and since we heard of the 'clearance' at your hall of the undesirable element I have intended writing to congratulate you on the simplicity of its accomplishment. The Devil is both wise and cunning but occasionally he misses his point through attempting too much. I have no doubt however that you will have some further attention from him again. He does not readily take a rebuff.

Well I hope things are moving along peacefully and satisfactorily with you and that you are having signs following the preaching of the Word.

I hear that Miss Thomson is going to Mauchline for a Mission again sometime this month. I hope they will have a fruitful mission. I was there for a weekend at the beginning of the year, and was also at the children's Annual Social. I heard Mr Baird[196] preach on the Sunday and thought that he was growing in years if not in grace and wisdom.

Our own little meeting continues in the loft with more or less interest. We have an average attendance of perhaps twenty five or thirty and sometimes over forty which is quite encouraging.

Mr Gordon – the minister – preached his farewell sermon on Sunday last.[197] He has at last managed to make a change by a majority of two. He goes this week to Aberdeen. I don't know what kind of man may fill his place, but for the most part there is not much regret at his departure.

The Spring will soon come round again, and we will look forward to seeing you as before.

Kind regards to Miss Munsie.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

196 Reverend William Baird, Christian Union Mission Hall, Mauchline, Ayrshire.

197 William Gordon, the minister of Athelstaneford, was transferred to South Church, Aberdeen, on 15 February 1912. He was replaced by Thomas Duncan.

231. MESSRS E. CHALMERS & CO.

9 February 1912

Dear Sirs,[198]

You might please send me 100 sacks similar to what I got on November 18th last year. These were plain flour sacks. Please see that they are whole as they are for holding grain. Send to Drem Station at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

232. MR AULD

12 February 1912

Dear Mr Auld,

I duly received your letter and should have acknowledged it at the time. It will be all right for Sunday 25th inst. and I will depend on you letting Mr Campbell know.

It will be quite suitable to send the blackboard with the children any day, and in the meantime accept of my thanks for your kindness.

I will see you with reference to the canvas shelter sometime when you are over.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

233. C. MANN ESQ.

17 February 1912

Dear Sir,[199]

I got a tank for the oil in the engine house fitted for a tap to screw in, but the

198 E. Chalmers & Co., general merchants, Bonnington, Leith.

199 The recipient probably belonged to Alexander Mann & Sons, plumbers, High Street, North Berwick.

hole is too large – 1¼". I was thinking there might be a short length of pipe screwed into the hole and a tap fixed into it. A ¾" tap would be quite sufficient.

You evidently misunderstood me when you were here last regarding the overflow pipe from the water tank. I would like if you could fix it in sometime soon. It would do if you could screw it into the return hot water pipe, as we would then be drawing off the hottest of the water.

I hope I have made myself plain. A half inch pipe with a stop cock is what we spoke of for the overflow of the hot water.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

234. WILLIAM VIVERS ESQ.

21 February 1912

Dear Sir,

The pigs arrived all right on Wednesday afternoon as arranged. They were very hungry but we have managed to satisfy them I think. The smallest one was to be thrown in, so I enclose cheque for £43.10/-. Is that right?

We had the biggest flood of rain the night before last that we have had since I came here. Things have dried up today however.

Do you think the pigs would come on as well on raw potatoes cut and mixed with meals as on boiled potatoes? There is a considerable difference of opinion as to the necessity of boiling potatoes. They are getting some turnips and meals mixed and they know how to put it out of sight.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

235. MESSRS WILLIAM KAY & SONS

6 March 1912

Dear Sirs,[200]

I have loaded the 100 qrs. Waverley oats to your address – Port Dundas Station,

200 William Kay & Sons, grain merchants, South St David Street, Edinburgh.

Glasgow. There are 160 Railway Sacks and 40 plain Sacks. I still have 20 qrs. You can let me know if you have a customer.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

236. THOMAS CALLAN ESQ.

12 March 1912

Dear Sir,

Your P.C. to hand. I herewith enclose a note of the quantity of metal that I lifted form Skidhill Quarry.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

1911	August	32	carts chips
	September	38	carts metal
	October	38	carts metal
	December	107	carts metal
1912	January	30	carts metal
	February	42	carts metal
		255	

The carts would perhaps not average more than 19 cwt. So to be fair I think you should knock off ten to fifteen carts to make tons.

Yours etc.
H. Miller

237. MESSRS GARTONS LTD

21 March 1912

Dear Sirs,[201]

I find that the two quarters of Waverley oats you sent me on February 15th have

201 Gartons Ltd, agricultural seed merchants, Warrington.

a good many black ones through them. This was not observed till they were being sown. They should have been pure as the sample I bought them from had nothing of the kind in it. Please look into the matter.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

238. MESSRS ALLAN BROS

21 March 1912

Dear Sirs,

I have had the oil tank that you sent me set up, and find that it leaks badly, so much so that I cannot use it. Please look into the matter at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

239. JOHN HANNAH

21 March 1912

Dear John,

I duly received your letter of 12th inst. and thanks for the information regarding the turnips.

You seem to have made slow progress with planting and you will not now have a very early finish. The succeeding weather however has much to do with results. We have not had much rain since "the flood" that morning you were here. There have been showers but nothing to wet the land seriously. We have been sowing oats and barley and have the big half of the potatoes planted. If the weather is favourable now we will have an early finish to the seedtime.

The Co-op started to turn over the potatoes this week. They are taking very few away, so they seem to have hope of the trade yet. The strike however will upset all calculations if it drags on from week to week.

We will soon all be kept in motion by Act of Parliament, however. At

present it means a day of twelve hours to go to Edinburgh, so it is a consideration to go from house.

I trust you are all well. I suppose Phemie will be home again.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

240. ANDREW HENDRIE ESQ.

1 April 1912

Dear Sir,[202]

I am in receipt of your favour of 30th ult. intimating that I have been elected a member of Athelstaneford School Board, and have pleasure in accepting of the honour thus put upon me.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

241. JOHN HANNAH

1 April 1912

Dear John,

If you would care to have a few turkey eggs for setting,[203] I think we could supply you, as it looks as if we might get more than we wish to set ourselves. You can let me know.

Robert Scott had a sudden call. We truly do not know what a day may bring forth.

Since I wrote last, we have had some rain, but nothing to wet the land seriously. Take yesterday, sowing was out of the question but today the land dried greatly.

We have about 30 acres of barley to sow still, but there is one field that I think we will leave for a week or two, to try and get the wild oats killed.

202 Andrew Hendrie, clerk to the Athelstaneford school board.

203 To set an egg was to place a hen on it in order to make it hatch.

Seeding around here is far forward for the 1st of April. Are you well through with planting now?

I trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

242. MESSRS ALLAN BROS

17 April 1912

Dear Sirs,

I have had the oil tank returned and regret to say that it is still leaking. Indeed, I can see no trace of anything having been done to it at all, and it is the worse of knocking about on the railway.

Please advise me what to do.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

243. JOHN HANTON ESQ.

18 April 1912

Dear Sir,[204]

I herewith enclose the dimensions of the belts I spoke to you of -

14 ft x 4 inches five ply
27½ ft x 2 inches four ply.

Send on as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

[204] John Hanton, miller, Giffen Mill, Beith, Ayrshire.

244. PETER MCNALLY ESQ.

19 April 1912

Dear Sir,

I have you're [*sic*] a/c for the two waggons of manure and find that they were paid to you in the January a/c.

I find also that I am overcharged 2 t 17 c 3 q in the February a/c. I had not the Railway Company a/c to check this when I paid you the balance. The two waggons you send the a/c for are charged in the January a/c on the 29th.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

245. MESSRS KENT & BRYDON

22 April 1912

Dear Sirs,[205]

I am in receipt of your favour of 20th inst. with catalogue enclosed.

You might please send me 40 lbs of "Darlington" swede seed, and 60 lbs "Monarch". I hope they may do well as I have some land affected with finger and toe.[206]

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

246. MESSRS ALLAN BROS

24 April 1912

Dear Sirs,

I am in receipt of your letter of 23rd inst. with the Shipley Tank Co's of 22nd enclosed.

---

205 Kent & Brydon, agricultural seedsmen, Darlington.

206 Clubroot, a disease of the roots of brassicas, such as cabbage, cauliflower, and turnip.

The tank was not signed for as damaged in transit, as it bore no evidence of damage that would cause it to leak. I said in my last letter that it was the worse of knocking about on the railway, but this meant that it was getting defaced. The cause of the leakage is defective construction, and it would be difficult to know where to have it soldered. I thought the surest way to have it put right would be to regalvanise it, and I was surprised that the makers returned it without having done this. To say the tank was inspected means nothing if it was not tested with paraffin.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

247. GEORGE MILLER

25 April 1912

Dear George,

I have your letter of 23rd with your kind invitation for next week but I am sorry I will not be able to multiply the nights that I will be away. I hope to be at the show but will not be away for more than two nights at most, and Mary and Bessie have both been asking me to spend a night with them. I hope to see you however on Tuesday.

We too are having very fine weather and growth is far advanced. If there is no check the season will be exceedingly early, throwing as much work on our hands for a time as we will be able to overtake.

Trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

248. MR JOHNSTON

27 April 1912

Dear Sir,[207]

I have hired the man – Little, who is with you, to come here at the term, and

[207] The recipient was perhaps Thomas Johnston, farmer, Pogbie, Humbie, East Lothian.

as I have several changes I would be obliged if you could let him clear on the Monday and I would flit him that day, while the term falls on the Tuesday.

I will esteem it a favour if you can do this, and thanking you in anticipation,

I am,
Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

249. MESSRS ALLAN BROS

2 May 1912

Dear Sirs,

Yours of 26th April duly to hand with address label for oil tank enclosed. I have been from home for a few days, but the tank will be railed tomorrow.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

250. MESSRS JAMES AITKEN & SONS

2 May 1912

Dear Sirs,

Yours of 27th April duly to hand. I have been from home for a few days, hence the delay in replying.

As I will be unable to load hay next week, I hope to see you on Wednesday in the market, when we can arrange about it.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

251. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

2 May 1912

Dear Sirs,

Yours of 1st inst to hand with Insurance a/c enclosed which I have signed and herewith return, trusting you will write sender in order.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

252. THE PUMPHERSTON OIL CO. LTD

2 May 1912

Dear Sirs,[208]

Referring to your letter of 15th April I have now had the oil tried with the engine, and regret to say that it is quite unsuitable. My engine simply would not drive the mill with it. I am wondering if your man left the right stuff, as others who get your oil for their engines say it does quite well.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

253. BESSIE OSBORNE

10 May 1912

Dear Bessie,

I herewith enclose cheque for £10 in payment of interest due about now.

We are having exceptional May weather, and if no check takes place the season promises to be a very early one throughout. We had a nice rain in the beginning of the week which was very welcome, but we will very soon be wishing for more.

I was sorry I missed Bertie that day in the show yard. I looked for him but could not find him in the crowd.

---

208 The Pumpherston Oil Co. Ltd, shale oil works and refinery, Pumpherston, West Lothian.

Jane has gone today to see her mother, but I do not think she intends going further afield at this time. She has the wee half of the children with her.

Trusting you all keep well.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

254. MESSRS JOHN SWAN & SONS

11 May 1912

Dear Sirs,[209]

I am sending you half a waggon of cattle for Tuesday's sale.[210] Two of them are little bit off bloom but I will depend on you looking to my interests in my absence.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

Tar mark on near plate.[211]

255. THE PUMPHERSTON OIL CO. LTD

16 May 1912

Dear Sirs,

I duly received yours of the 4th current, also that of 13th ditto regarding the oil for the engine. I am very reluctant to try the oil further as it made such mess of the valves of the engine that I have not got all the deposit quite cleaned off yet. I used all the sample I got from you.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

---

209 John Swan & Sons were livestock auctioneers. Based in Edinburgh, they had branches in Haddington and St Boswells.

210 John Swan and Sons held a sale of livestock every Tuesday at the Live Stock Mart, Gorgie, Edinburgh.

211 Cattle sent to market were marked with tar to indicate their owner.

256. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

18 May 1912

Dear Sirs,

Referring to the fence that we spoke of on Wednesday, the length is 232 yards, with a gate at each end, and one in the centre.

Might I say that I would prefer larch stobs,[212] unless the iron standards are of such dimensions as make a stiff job.

I enclose the a/c for repairs done at the cottages in May last year, also for two tons of cement for the binder house floor, which you will remember agreeing to.

I was sorry not to get along today to see your potatoes, but hope to do so sometime soon, as I hear they are <u>good</u>.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

257. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

21 May 1912

Dear Sirs,

I am in receipt of yours of 20th inst. with cheque enclosed for £6.12/- in payment of £2.12/- for two tons of cement & £4 for repairs done at the cottages, as per accounts, for which I am obliged.

H. Miller

With reference to the fence, I will arrange to have it put up at the earliest opportunity. I will ascertain what material Trotter has on hand.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

212 Fence posts.

258. JOHN HANNAH

22 May 1912

Dear John,

I herewith enclose cheque of £30 in payment of interest due for the past half year. I am sorry that it is not for the capital but we live in hope.

We have had fine growing weather with nice showers occasionally for a week past. The turnip braird is practically secured and other things in general are looking well.

I hear that potatoes are far forward with you and that a very early start is expected to be made with digging. The portion of the old crop that is left, will more or less cripple the trade. There are a good many on hand in this county still.

Tuesday will bring about the annual "jaunt" of the agricultural community here.

We have a good few changes, and I almost begin to cease hoping that the future will be any better than the past. In some directions the men here are past reformation. A total exodus and then an importation of blacks might be a solution of the problem but that would be too drastic for Lloyd George.

I trust that you are all well. There are cases of scarlet fever here and there in the parish and we will be quite pleased if it does not call at our door.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

259. GEORGE T. L. PENNINGTON ESQ.

28 May 1912

Dear Sir,[213]

We, the undersigned, beg to lay before you the fact that very considerable inconvenience has been caused to us by the new arrangement of the delivery of letters from Drem. Under the best conditions we are nearly an hour later than formerly in receiving our letters, and we find that this will seriously interfere with the transaction of urgent business.

We place the matter before you in the confidence that it will receive immediate attention, and that our delivery of letters will be made at least no worse than it was before.

213 George T. L. Pennington, postmaster, North Berwick.

We wanted also to request that an afternoon or evening delivery might be arranged on this route which would only be granting us a service, similar to that enjoyed by others in the district at present.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller
M. Skirving
P. & G. Lothian
Robert Sinclair
Joseph Lee[214]

260. JOHN CLARK ESQ.

30 May 1912

Dear Sir,[215]

If all the same to you it would suit better if you come on Thursday 13th June instead of Thursday next. My brother is to be from home next week, so I thought it would be as well to put your visit forward a week.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

261. WILLIAM VIVERS ESQ.

30 May 1912

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of yours of 24th inst. I will not put in any more pigs at present as these I have will need a good while to make their weight. I hope the price of pork is good when I put them out.

Robert's filly is not in foal. She was served the other day.

Turnips are braided but XL All are distinctly weak alongside other varieties

214 The signees were all local farmers: Mary Skirving, Muirton; Peter and George Lothian, Prora; Robert Sinclair, Drem; and Joseph Lee, Congalton.

215 The recipient was perhaps John Clark, farmer, Westfield, Haddington.

in the same field. I am afraid I may need to reshaw them. We could do with a good soaking of rain again, to keep things going on.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

262. THOMAS C. SMITH ESQ.

15 June 1912

Dear Sir,[216]

Miller v Norris

Mr Guild has sent me your letter to him of 11th inst. and has asked me to reply to you direct.

I have only had one transaction with Mrs Norris previous to this, and she paid me with cash. I ascertained from the banker in Haddington yesterday however that any cheques issued by her that they have cashed have had two signatures although there is a striking similarity between the two.

There was no letter intimating the return of the horse, but there was a telegram, which I regret was inadvertently destroyed. It merely stated that the horse was sent from Berwick with the five o'clock train. I saw Mrs Norris in Haddington that day – May 24th – and she said that the horse was not satisfactory for he stocked in his hind legs when he stood in the stable overnight, and "oor" man[217] says he is too dear, and that she was quite willing to give me a fair price for the horse but if he was to be the price he was sold at she would send him back.

I said to her then that I would not take delivery if she did send him back. I received the said telegram in the evening, and the horse duly arrived. Mrs Norris paid the carriage both ways.

When I sold her the horse, or rather before we concluded the bargain she was offering me £25, and urging me to take it, she struck her pocket and said and here's your money now. When latterly I sold the horse to her she was hurrying to Drem for a train and had not time to give me the money but would send me a cheque the next day. Just as we parted I said "Now the horse goes from me as he stands", she said "Yes that's all right".

---

216 Thomas C. Smith, solicitor, Church Street, Berwick upon Tweed. In his action against Mrs Norris, Hugh Miller was represented by one of Smith's employees, J. G. Stanier.

217 *i.e.* Mrs Norris' husband.

Regarding the stocking[218] of the horse's legs, that was the only fault she had to find with him before ever she bade me a price of £25.

I enclose Mr Guild's letter, and you will see what he says about pursuing John Norris and his wife jointly. This might be the better procedure.

I suppose you will understand that the horse is standing at livery at Drem placed there by the Railway Company at Mrs Norris's instructions.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

263. MESSRS MUNGO GRAY & CO.

19 June 1912

Dear Sirs,[219]

I wired you this afternoon that I had loaded two waggons of wheat straw to your order and asking you to send me an address for it. I expected to see Mr Mungo Gray in the market at Edinburgh but did not see him. When I sold him the straw he said I was to rail the half of it when threshed but the Railway Company had no order and I did not know this till after it was loaded. I trust you will have no inconvenience, through these two waggons being loaded, and in the meantime I have stored up the remainder – about ten tons.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

	tons	cwt	qrs
No 50654	2	9	2
38989	2	10	1

264. JOHN HANNAH

20 June 1912

Dear John,

I think we might have an exchange of notes as it seems a long time since I heard from you.

---

218 When a horse's fetlocks had swollen due to standing still for too long.

219 Mungo Gray & Co., forage merchants and commission agents, Hope Street, Glasgow.

We have had three weeks now with very few days without rain. This afternoon however we are having west wind and bright sunshine which we are very glad to see.

Work on the land is a bit behind in some cases. We have a lot of potatoes needing to be finished off as they are quite wet in the drills. Turnip singling is fairly well in hand but dry weather is required for them too.

We have about 30 acres of XL All from Vivers that have not shown a vigorous growth in braiding, and this being a repetition of last year, I think I will be likely to let Vivers alone the next time.

Cereal crops are looking well on the whole, and there is the prospect of a fair quantity of straw.

I suppose you will now be in full swing with potato lifting. Are crops turning out large? I see James Bone[220] has had a good sale.

I expect Campbell some day soon to see my Epicures, but he does not seem very energetic regarding the prospects.

Is Mary still with you? I hope she is keeping better, and that otherwise you are all well. I was half thinking of paying you a visit sometime soon if I could just get everything to suit, but I hardly think it will be next week.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

265. ROBERT MILLER

21 June 1912

Dear Uncle,

It has been on my mind for some time to write you and ask of your welfare, and get an exchange of notes. Your convention will now be over and I trust you had a refreshing time. The list of speakers seemed all right – tried men and true, and it is no doubt a privilege to come under their ministrations.

How is Aunt Bessie? I trust she was the better of her visit to Crieff, and that Mrs Spence was so too.

We have had very broken weather for three weeks and we are now wishing for some sunshine in order to get work amongst the drills pushed forward. Turnip singling is in progress and should be finished next week.

Crops in general are showing a good cover and there is the prospect of a good quantity of straw. Hay will be short of an average crop, as it was rather late in getting the rain.

---

[220] James Bone, tenant farmer, Robstone and Baronsmill, Girvan.

Potato digging has been in progress at Ferrygate for a week. It has been an early start and will give a second crop a good chance.

How are the bees doing this year? They had a very good month of May and should have had their larder well replenished if everything else was all right.

We are expecting Mr and Miss Munsie today for the weekend. He will take the meeting on Sabbath evening. It was stopped for a number of weeks as Mr Fisher, the county evangelist, was in the parish, but we started again last Sabbath.

We look forward to seeing you again in the course of the summer, when it is suitable for all parties.

Kind regards to yourselves and Mrs Spence.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

266. WILLIAM MIDDLEMASS ESQ.

24 June 1912

Dear Sir,

Referring to the meeting on Friday and the manner in which it broke up, I am afraid it will be difficult to get a following sufficiently strong to resist the collection of the employee's contribution under the Insurance Act.

Would it not be better to frame a conditional resolution, which would not be binding, until a given number had signed it, such as the following -

"I hereby declare & bind myself to refuse to collect for the government, the employee's contribution under the National Insurance Act, on condition that (300, 400, 500) employers in the county of Haddington sign this resolution, and I hereby agree to a penalty of £10 for the breach of the foregoing resolution."

I think it would not be difficult under this condition to get a large number of signatures, and the situation might be saved.

This of course is only a suggestion, that if you think worthwhile, you can put before some of the others.

I would have gone to Haddington today, but cannot get away, so send this if you should happen to be going to the market there.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

267. THE PUMPHERSTON OIL CO. LTD

25 June 1912

Dear Sirs,

I duly received yours of 15th inst. but I will not now be using much oil till after harvest as my threshing is finished for the season.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

268. MESSRS JOHN WALLACE & SONS

26 June 1912

Dear Sirs,[221]

You might please send at once four knife heads for a Thistle mower,[222] No 63-98, also a dozen fingers and bolts. If the steel fingers are the same pattern as the old ones, send them.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

269. THOMAS C. SMITH ESQ.

28 June 1912

Self v. Norris

Dear Sir,

Yours of 7th inst. to hand. I called today at Drem Station and was shown a telegram which the agent received from Berwick Station on May 24th when he

221 John Wallace & Sons were agricultural implement makers and engineers. Based in Glasgow, they also had premises at the Agricultural Implement Works, Ayr.

222 This was not a machine for mowing thistles, but the name given by Wallace & Sons to a model of grass mower and reaper.

asked for instructions regarding the horse on my refusing to accept delivery. It was as follows – "Only instructions sender will give is put horse in livery for night", and the Railway Company therefore did so.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

270. Miss Nimmo

3 July 1912

Dear Miss Nimmo,[223]

I received your letter this morning, and also one from Mr McKerrow. It was with deep regret that I learned of his circumstances and the burdens that presently weigh so heavily upon him, but you have set me a heavy task when you have asked him to call on me for counsel. I feel the gravity of the situation, but at the moment, could not offer a solution of the difficulty. It would be so different to have a talk over the matter.

I did not know that John McN. had gone to the labour colony[224] but am glad to hear of his well-doing. To me however it is too visionary to think of him coming back and being of any use in Mauchline. He will never be safe there. And then I did think that it was premature on George's part setting up business for himself, adding to his father's responsibilities and also increasing his worries. A Job's comforter you will say! – but the facts are just as well to be laid bare. However, that is no solution of the difficulty.

It certainly would be a great pity to sell his house and business if this can be avoided. It seems to me that it would be better first of all to sell George's business if this can be done without much loss of capital, and let him come home for a time and relieve his father, and then perhaps find a situation.

I think I will write Mr McKerrow to this effect, or better still if he would just come through here for a few days change and we would talk the matter over. He might be the better of it.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

---

223 The recipient was probably Mary Nimmo, teacher, Mauchline Public School.

224 Labour colonies were places where unemployed and destitute men could find work in return for board and lodging.

271. MR MCKERROW

4 July 1912

Dear Mr McKerrow,

I am in receipt of your letter of 2nd inst. and before replying to it would suggest that if at all possible, you might come through here for a few days rest and change, when we could talk over the matter much more satisfactorily than corresponding about it. However, if this is not possible let me know and I will write to you at great length.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

272. GEORGE MILLER

4 July 1912

Dear George,

I had the renewal notice of my life insurance premiums yesterday and your note attached. I suppose the payment of these will be in time when you return, unless you are taking a very prolonged holiday. You seem to be seeking pastures new, and I hope you will have a good time and that Cathie and the children will be none the worse of going so far from home.

Things move on here much in the usual routine. We have had for the most part a sunless June with much more rain than was convenient at times. We would now welcome a spell of sunshine which would be beneficial for everything.

Crops are fairly good but some things have suffered for the want of sunshine. We are not cutting hay which I would say barely is an average crop, as it was too late in getting the moisture. If prices only keep as good as they were last year for everything there will be a chance of getting the two ends together this year too.

We expect Mary and her children next week for a few days. She seems to be some better now, and I trust may continue so.

I am wondering what the issue will be after 15th July when the Insurance Act comes into force. By that time there will be a fair body of protesters, and I will be sorry if the protests do not accomplish the desired end. There will be some howling in any case.

Trusting that you are all well and that you will have a good holiday.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

273. MESSRS JOHN WALLACE & SONS

8 July 1912

Dear Sirs,

I have sent you an old reaper as scrap, but you will perhaps find that it is better than scrap. If it is worth doing up, do so and send it back, but I will see Mr Wallace in Edinburgh market about it perhaps before you do anything.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

274. GEORGE MCLENNAN ESQ.

9 July 1912

Dear Sir,[225]

Through a misunderstanding I charged you 39/- for the last 300 qrs. of wheat you got, as I understood I had sold an equal quantity to Wm Kay & Son[226] at this figure, and they reckoned the sale was 38/6. I conceded the 6d per qr to them and will refund you 10/-.

I need not say that it was in good faith that I stated 39/- to you as the price.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

---

225 George McLennan, grain merchant, North Bridge, Edinburgh.

226 Another Edinburgh-based grain merchant. See Footnote 199.

275. THOMAS C. SMITH ESQ.

11 July 1912

Dear Sir,

Yours of 9th inst. to hand with enclosure.

I have made a few corrections in the draft proof, and answered the queries, which I trust you will find in order.

Would it be any use on my part to produce witnesses to state upon what terms Mrs Norris purchased horses from them?

She has bought a good many horses around this district, but I can learn of no one having sold horses to her on approval. I have a brother near who has had several transactions with her, would he be any use? or would outsiders be better? If you let me know what you think of this, I will arrange accordingly. Is the court day the 23rd inst.?

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

276. THOMAS C. SMITH ESQ.

15 July 1912

Dear Sir,

In further reply to your letter of 12th inst. my grieve had no conversation with Mrs Norris regarding the horse, except that he pointed out to her the particular horse that I was going to sell. The horse was working one of a pair, and was unyoked and taken by the horseman, James Towsie, to the road about sixty or eighty yards away to be examined by Mrs Norris, the grieve meanwhile waiting the other horse which was still in the yoke. I have learned however that Mrs Norris asked James Towsie if the horse stocked or [*illegible*] in his legs when he was idle. He said however [*illegible*] as she was moving round the horse at the time, making her examination.

This man is not now in my employment, but I think I could get him as a witness if you wish. If I got him, would it be necessary to have my grieve in attendance as well?

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

277. JOHN HANNAH

16 July 1912

Dear John,

I had yours of the 5th inst. in due course. I went to Cupar on Wednesday and saw what was to be seen and heard what was to be heard regarding the Insurance Act.[227] I do not know how the country will struggle out of the muddle that it has been thrust into. Instead of being passive resisters I think we should all be active resisters regarding some of the unreasonable things that are asked of us. If it 'must be' it must be, but never with good grace.

We are lifting potatoes and we expect to be finished this week. It took me a struggle to make £20 for them, but I expect there will be a fair margin for the Co.[228] considering the market they are having. We have a very good cover of late potatoes, but this is not the case everywhere.

We are in the midst of ricking hay but there is a thick "haar" today, which has stopped the work.

Mary and her children are here, so we have a "snod"[229] little family about us when they are all gathered together. Trust you are all well,

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

278. MR PETER MCNALLY

19 July 1912

Dear Sir,

I have sent you herewith a cheque for £29.11.6 in payment of enclosed a/c. You could send me a few waggons next week, but do not load any before Friday. Some of the first waggons were very wet and mucky. You might see that this does not occur as the horses cannot go on to the heap when it is so wet.

Please acknowledge receipt of cheque.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

---

227 The Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland's annual show was held in Cupar, Fife, on 9-12 July 1912. A protest against the Insurance Act was held there on 10 July.

228 *i.e.* the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd.

229 Snod has a number of meanings in Scots, but 'snug' or 'comfortable' is probably meant here.

279. THOMAS C. SMITH ESQ.

19 July 1912

Dear Sir,

Miller v. Norris

I duly received yours of 16th July, and I have arranged for the man James Towsie to attend the court on Tuesday.

I will be due at Berwick about 9.00 am and will call on you before the court hour if this is convenient for you.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

280. JOHN MCNALLY ESQ.

7 August 1912

Dear Sir,

Do not load any more dung at present as harvest is approaching and I will not be able to cart it.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

281. HUGH CAMPBELL ESQ.

8 August 1912

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your cheque in payment of potatoes, receipt of which I herewith enclose, and allow me to thank you for what you have allowed me more than our bargain.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

282. ALEXANDER GUILD ESQ.

8 August 1912

Dear Sir,[230]

As I have two friends coming across from Fife next week, might I bring them down on Wednesday evening just to look round? If this is convenient you might please say when you would be free, but if not, do not hesitate to say so.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

283. GEORGE MILLER

9 August 1912

Dear George,

I herewith enclose cheque for £46.18.9 in payment of my Life Insurance premiums.

I suppose you will have returned from your holiday, and I trust you have all been the better of the change.

We have had a spell of very broken stormy weather. On Sunday last we had a perfect deluge and a high wind which gave the finishing touch to the grain fields. Barley particularly has been very roughly handled by the elements, and we will have one of the most difficult harvests we have seen as far as cutting is concerned. If we had a day or two of sunshine we would get a start made.

Bessie is now at Ferrygate and we are expecting her here sometime next week.

I trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

230 For Alexander Guild, see Footnote 9 and the Introduction.

284. GEORGE WHITEFORD

16 August 1912

Dear George,[231]

I had your note of 13th inst. and have sent a waggon of wheat straw today. I will arrange to have the six pigs killed on Monday and will send them on Tuesday morning. I think it was understood that they would be sent in their skins.

We are making a start with the binders today.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

285. GEORGE WHITEFORD

16 August 1912

Four waggons wheat straw railed to College Station,[232] to your address as follows –

		tons	cwt	qrs
August 13th	No 62393	2	-	-
August 13th	No 31398	1	18	2
August 13th	No 53226	2	1	2
August 14th	No 53138	2	0	1

H. Miller

286. RICHARD BAILLIE ESQ.

16 August 1912

Dear Sir,[233]

Your note of 12th inst. duly received. If the door you speak of (7' 6" x 4") is

231 George Whiteford was Hugh Miller's brother-in-law. He helped run the family ham-curing business in Stewarton, Ayrshire.

232 A railway station in Glasgow.

233 Richard Baillie, builder and joiner, Athelstaneford.

an ordinary deal door with crossbars, I might be able to work it in. It has to be divided and hinged in the middle to fold round behind the wall.

I may see you however before I need it.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

287. MR PETER MCNALLY

16 August 1912

Dear Sir,

I have you're a/c and have sent you herewith a cheque for £50 to a/c of manure. I do not want any more just now as we are harvesting.

I will see you in Edinburgh market some day regarding the balance.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

288. THOMAS C. SMITH ESQ.

17 August 1912

Miller v. Norris

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, regarding the above case. I will settle with Brown & Towsie.

I am pleased that you have got everything satisfactorily arranged.

I spoke with Mrs Norris in Haddington yesterday and she said we would perhaps have a better deal the next time. I hope so!

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

289. HUGH CAMPBELL ESQ.

19 August 1912

Dear Sir,

Yours of 16th inst. to hand re brock potatoes. I am sorry you have not got a waggon sent to me as the last I have were boiled today, and I have nothing to substitute them for the pigs.

I trust you will manage to send me some on Monday as it is now desperation.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

290. GEORGE T. L. PENNINGTON ESQ.

21 August 1912

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your favour of 19th inst. and am pleased to learn that arrangements have been made for the improvement of the postal deliveries here. Allow me to thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

291. GEORGE WHITEFORD

23 August 1912

Dear George,

Yours to hand with cheque enclosed for £32.11/- in payment of six pigs and waggon wheat straw, for which accept of thanks.

I hope the pigs were none the worse of the delay. You would likely have said so if they were. Your father would be surprised at the weights. He said they would not be six Ayrshire stones.[234] I suppose the weights you mention would be without skin. Is this so?

234 An Ayrshire stone was 24 lbs (*c.*10.8 kg).

I hope the children got safely to their destination along with David today.

This afternoon has been out and out wet giving another set back to the harvest.

I hope Jim remembers the message I sent with him for you.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

292. ROBERT M. MCKECHNIE ESQ.

24 August 1912

Dear Sir,

Please putt to the credit of my account £42.8/- as per enclosed cheque.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

293. ROBERT M. MCKECHNIE ESQ.

27 August 1912

Dear Sir,

Please place to the credit of my account £25.6.6 as per enclosed cheque.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

294. THOMAS C. SMITH ESQ.

27 August 1912

Dear Sir,

Yours of 24th inst. to hand with cheque enclosed for £25.6.6 as balance of amount awarded me by the court in my recent case v. Norris.

I am much obliged to you for the interest you took in the case on my behalf.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

295. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

28 August 1912

Dear Sirs,

I took the liberty of asking Mr Baillie to look over the two stone walls referred to in his two notes which I herewith enclose. Both walls are in a very discreditable condition and are useless as fences as they are.

There are turnips on both sides of the march walls at the cot-lands,[235] and as we will have sheep on our side it would be a great benefit if it were repaired before they were put on.

I think Baillie's estimate quite moderate in both cases.

I have now received my money from Berwick, and enclose Mr Smith's note which you can please return. I have come out very satisfactorily, but the horse will have cost Mrs Norris £45 at least.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

296. JAMES FRENCH ESQ.

28 August 1912

Dear Sir,[236]

Yours to hand with inquiry regarding hay.[237] I will be pleased to supply you with hay as follows –

---

235 Cotlands was a piece of land that lay to the immediate north of Athelstaneford parish church, and adjacent to the southern boundary of West Fortune.

236 James French, hotelier, Wheat Sheaf Hotel, Reston, Coldingham, Berwickshire.

237 Hotels still required large amounts of hay to feed their own horses and those of their guests.

September. 4 tons
November. 4 tons at £5 per ton on rail or £5.6.3 carriage paid to Reston Station.
January. 4 tons

and for

Mar. 4 tons
May. 4 tons at £5.10/- on rail or £5.16.3 carriage paid as above.
July 4 tons

Terms – cash on delivery. I will be pleased to hear from you.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

297. MESSRS JOHN WALLACE & SONS

30 August 1912

Dear Sirs,

Your P.C. to hand re finger bar of mower sent to you for repair.

The machine was made at Whitletts[238] – the last pattern I think that was made there. Mr William Wallace at Ayr will can [*sic*] give you any information you want about it. Your knife for the 5 foot Thistle suits it as I had one in before I sent you the bar.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

298. RICHARD BAILLIE ESQ.

3 September 1912

Dear Sir,

I have a note from Mr Guild, authorising me to have the wall at the end of the

238 Robert Wallace, agricultural implement maker, had been based at Whitletts, a small village near Ayr.

road repaired. You might arrange this as soon as possible.

He has sent your offer for the other wall to Todrick[239] to see if Gilmerton will be agreeable to the half of it. I am hopeful they will.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

299. MR PETER MCNALLY

6 September 1912

Dear Sir,

I had your note of 5th inst. I was anxious to see you on Wednesday as I consider I have been a good bit overcharged on the dung, owing to short weight. You might furnish me the weights of the last four waggons you sent me from Bonnington.[240]

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

300. ROBERT MILLER

6 September 1912

Dear Uncle,

I had your letter yesterday with your kind inquiries for me and mine. I am very well thank you. My side is still a little bit weak for "fechtin",[241] and while I have had a kind of excuse for not doing any heavy work for a week or two, I have never been very far removed from the seat of war.

As you say the harvest has had its difficulties so far. We have been 3 weeks cutting 220 acres or thereby, that operation being finished today. Of course,

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239 Thomas W. Todrick, solicitor and notary public, Court Street, Haddington. He acted as factor for R. A. Douglas and Sir Alexander Kinloch.

240 A station on the Edinburgh, Leith and Newhaven Railway.

241 In Scots this can mean fighting in the general sense, although it was often used to refer to struggles in the battle of life.

wet weather protracted the work very much. Crops are bulky in the most of cases, and we now hope for dry weather to gather them in.

We had some damage done to a field of wheat with Wednesday's wind. I never saw as much loss with "shake".[242] I had between 20 and 30 acres to shear with the hook – barley – being so badly twisted that the machine would not work it. However we are so far through and thankful for that. In the midst of all, there is satisfaction in knowing that there is an unerring, ruling, guiding hand, and promises that cannot be broken.

I am sorry to hear that Aunt Bessie is not so well, but hope she will strengthen to her usual soon. If she was well enough to face the journey we would be pleased to see you both before the days darken down again.

Jane is fairly well suited with a maid, but that "fairly" would be none the worse of a line under it.

I suppose you will be aware that C. Nairn is home.[243] I know nothing more than that bare fact.

Thanking you for your kindly interest, and with kind regards in which Jane joins.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

301. JOHN HANNAH

11 September 1912

Dear John,

I have the impression rightly or wrongly that you owe me a letter, so if that is the case this will put you deeper in my debt. Of course the weather is the principal subject just now, and serves as a theme at any time when the fountain of oratory otherwise has dried up.

The harvest has been a tedious job so far. We got the cutting finished last Friday – three weeks from the time we started. We had more damage done with the wind last Wednesday than with all the rain that has fallen, a field of uncut wheat being very badly shaken. We have got a start to leading but there is much

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242 Corn that has been blown or otherwise knocked from the ear of the plant while still in the field.

243 Cuthbert Nairn was Hugh Miller's brother-in-law and the founder and superintendent of the Southern Morocco Mission. See the Introduction.

to do. If we can get the crop decently saved, it looks as if prices would be fairly satisfactory. A sample of barley last week made 34/-.

The potato crop is very disappointing, a good deal of disease making itself manifest. I sold them the other day at £19. which is a big drop from what I expected a few weeks ago.

If you and Phemie could come through for a few days we would be pleased to see you, as the days will soon begin to darken down again.

Trusting you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

302. MR PETER MCNALLY

13 September 1912

Dear Sir,

Yours of – received yesterday, with the nos. of the waggons of manure. What I asked for and wish to know is the weights respectively of the last four waggons, viz. 51139 - 36127 - 50486 - 52004.

Please let me have this at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

303. ROBERT M. MCKECHNIE ESQ.

13 September 1912

Dear Sir,

Please place to the credit of my account £23 as per enclosed cheque.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

304. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

14 September 1912

Dear Sirs,

I have received yours of the 12th inst. With Mr Baillie's estimate enclosed, for which I am much obliged.

I have accordingly written to Mr Baillie to start the work, and I will see that it is carefully executed.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

305. RICHARD BAILLIE ESQ.

14 September 1912

Dear Sir,

I have now heard from Mr Guild, and I enclose his letter for your perusal and return.

I will expect you to make a first class job, seeing you are hedged about by the two proprietors and myself. If the weather is dry I cannot touch it this incoming week but you can order the lime or in any case by that time we will see you around.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

306. R. THOMSON ESQ.

16 September 1912

Dear Sir,

I had your letter regarding the turnips. I had promised my last year's customer the first chance of them and I have now arranged with him. But for this I would have been pleased to treat with you.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

307. MR PETER MCNALLY

16 September 1912

Dear Sir,

I have received you letter of 13th inst. but you do not give me the information I asked for. You might ascertain from the Railway Company the weight of the four waggons I referred to in my letter of September 13th. If you have it on Wednesday you could see me in the market.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

308. MR PETER MCNALLY

18 September 1912

Dear Sir,

Please receipt and return the enclosed a/c, and I will destroy the one you receipted today.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

309. JOHN HANNAH

20 September 1912

Dear John,

I had your letter yesterday with Willie Todd's enclosed. I feel very sorry for him. The prospect of the enjoyment of health is certainly far from bright.

As to feeding his cast ewes,[244] I think it would be a mistake to force them on in the meantime, unless of course he has to be quit of them in a given time. February and March or around that time is considered the best time to sell

[244] Older ewes, usually around five years old.

ewes, at least so say Middlemas and my neighbour Laird Thomson,[245] so if he starts to feed them now he will have a long keep on them till that time. He might be better to hold his hand for two months yet before giving them much hand feed. It is usually Bombay cotton cake and Pea Bran that Middlemas uses here for all his sheep, but the cotton cake has gone to a big price.

We are having very fine weather, and hope that there will be more to follow. We will have another full day's leading tomorrow and it will take us tight to finish.

We have a good fair bulk – but not a stack to the acre. East Lothian will have to be content to follow Ayrshire afar off. Good samples of barley are making 37/- and 38/- per qr. So if prices hold there will be a chance that this crop will pay its way.

We had Phemie's letter this morning. Sorry to hear about Maggie Craig. You will have heard that Uncle John of Holmes[246] is very ill too. We will be very pleased to see Phemie when she can come.

Trust you are all well,

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

310. MESSRS ALLAN BROS

24 September 1912

Dear Sirs,

I duly received yours of 18th inst. regarding the engine. You suggest a price of £80 if I were to sell it to Mr Riddell,[247] but as this works out as a depreciation of £11.10/- a year, on the prime cost, you surely do not expect the engine to have a very long life. While I would have liked well enough to have exchanged it into the larger size, I am sorry I could not see my way to part with it at the price, and in any case, Mr Riddell would I think prefer to take a new one. My engine is as good today as when I got it, and I it has only done threshing for one season though I have had it for two years.

If any other opportunity turns up of exchanging, we might perhaps consider it.

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245 Probably Robert Thomson, whose farm of Chapel lay between West Fortune and Robert Miller's farm of Ferrygate.

246 Hugh's uncle John Miller, East Holmes, Galston, Ayrshire.

247 Perhaps George Riddell of the neighbouring farm of Mungoswells, Haddington.

Some time ago you spoke of an improvement you had introduced in the valve settings, which increased the power of the engine, and if this could be carried out it might serve my purpose. I will be glad to hear from you regarding this.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

311. MISS KEITH

24 September 1912

Dear Madam,[248]

I am loth to interfere with a teacher in what she considers to be her sphere from an official standpoint, but circumstances have arisen which I consider demands my interference.

My boy, Jim has been set the task of writing sixty lines of poetry as punishment for what seems on the face of it to have been a very paltry offence. He had this task about half accomplished when I discovered what he was doing, and as a protest against such a punishment I have assigned what he had written to the fire.

If there is a recurrence of a similar kind, I will not deal with it privately. I would be the last to forbid correction, but I claim to have some say as to how it is to be applied to my boy.

Please do not infer that Jim asked this of me, and if there is any further difficulty in the matter you must deal with me personally.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

312. PETER MCNALLY

25 September 1912

I sent your a/c a week ago requesting you to receipt and return it. Please do so as I require all those odd things for reference, and I want the dung a/c all in one.

Yours,
H. Miller

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248 The recipient was apparently a teacher at North Berwick High School.

313. WILLIAM MIDDLEMASS ESQ.

26 September 1912

Dear Sir,

I beg to confirm having let to you turnips for lambs at 4½d per week, and for young sheep at 5d per week, with ten per cent refunded for cake consumed by them. Also turnips for cattle at 3/6 per week, with anything further left to your option if cattle do well, and with twenty per cent refunded for cake consumed by them.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

314. ALEXANDER GUILD ESQ.

26 September 1912

Dear Sir,

I had hoped for some time to see you along, and to talk over some fencing matters, and now with 500 sheep on the farm you will understand something of my anxiety for my own and my neighbours' turnips. If you could spare the time, I would like very much to see you, or otherwise to arrange for something to be done. I simply cannot keep them within bounds.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

315. MR PETER MCNALLY

27 September 1912

Dear Sir,

I have received yours of date September 17th tonight, stating disappointment at not receiving a cheque. Unless there is some mistake regarding the addressee of that letter, I am afraid your disappointment will be increased when you receive this one.

It seems to me that you have a very short memory or that you take other people to be a great deal simpler than yourself.

Without any more bluff I will be glad to have the account returned receipted, on which I paid you fifty pounds on August 12th and twelve pounds as balance on September 18th.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

316. JAMES H. STEELE ESQ.

11 October 1912

Dear Sir,[249]

Would you please give me your price for fencing as follows,

Best Larch stobs 5 ft x 3½"

Five galvanised wires No 6

One barbed wire 4 barbs

and oblige.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

317. MR T. TROTTER

14 October 1912

Dear Sir,[250]

I have your estimate for fence on the Drem road, but I think your estimate too high. The stobs would require to be reckoned at 9 ft apart, although some

[249] James H. Steele, Edinburgh and East Lothian agent for P. & R. Fleming, fence contractors, Argyle Street, Glasgow.

[250] The recipient was probably Thomas Trotter, sawmill owner and timber merchant, Haddington.

places could do with more, some would require to be less. If you can take the latter price – £23.10/ – for this, you can arrange to go with it at once. From Needless down to the metal heap will require five wires but no paling.[251]

Let me hear from you by return.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

318. GEORGE WHITEFORD

18 October 1912

Dear George,

I had hoped to see you on Thursday morning on my way to the station, but found you were not in the store.

I felt very sorry at being a disturber of the peace on Wednesday evening, but I thought that I might be able to partly explain away the element of strife. Apparently, I was most unsuccessful in doing so, and for this I am sorry also.

The fault at issue is another illustration of the truth of Apostle James' statement – "Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth".[252]

Do what you can to put out the fire, and so will I.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

319. D. DALE ESQ.

19 October 1912

Dear Sir,

Would you let me know if you have any whitechaff square-head wheat for sale, and if so send me sample and price.

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251 *i.e.* the fence did not require crossbars and panels.

252 James 3:5.

I trust you have not suffered so much with the weather as they did in the Eastern part of England.[253]

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

320. JOHN HOWIE ESQ.

23 October 1912

Dear Sir,[254]

I had your letter of inquiry regarding seed wheat, and as I did not see you in the market today I wired you that I had not any suitable. The fact is, I had red-chaff growing in the same field, and I made up my mind that I would not offer it for seed at all. It was my first experience of red-chaff and I think it is likely to be my last. It was a good enough crop, but we got a very high wind before it was cut, and I thought it much worse shaken than the white chaff.

I have written Dale of Flint asking if he has any. If he has it to spare would you care to have his?

We will scarcely finish potatoes this week. We have too much disease in places.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

321. JOHN HANNAH

23 October 1912

Dear John,

If nothing prevents me I expect to be at the horse sale at Ayr next Thursday, and if it is convenient for you I would go to you in the afternoon. I will try to

253 The summer of 1912 was notably cold and wet. Eastern England was particularly badly affected, with parts of East Anglia under water for much of the autumn and winter.

254 The recipient was probably John Howie, farmer, Newton East, Loudon, Ayrshire.

be on my best behaviour seeing you are now in some degree a representative of the law. I noticed your name in the honoured list the other day.

We have still four or five days digging of potatoes which I could fain run away from. The weather is fairly broken and the land a "plouter".[255]

Trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

322. BESSIE OSBORNE

25 October 1912

Dear Bessie,

I might be on the lookout for lodgings in your vicinity on Wednesday night next, so if you are prepared to "take me in", I might "give you a turn for a little encouragement". You might let me know if this will be convenient for you.

Trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

323. JAMES WHITEFORD

26 October 1912

Dear James,[256]

I expect to go to the Clydesdale sale at Ayr next Thursday, but if I do not get suited, do you want to sell your horse? I suppose the price would be about £60. If you do want to sell him, it would be more satisfactory if you got Douglas to examine him. Is he quiet and true in his work?

I will be glad to hear from you.

---

255 Scots for wet and/or muddy.

256 James Whiteford was Hugh Miller's brother-in-law.

We are having very broken weather and still a lot of potatoes to lift.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

324. JAMES WHITEFORD

29 October 1912

Dear James,

I have your letter about the horse. I will see what there is at Ayr, and phone you on Thursday afternoon.

A horse at less money would do the work all right, and there is considerable risk in putting valuable horses into the hands of men who have neither care nor concern for their welfare.

We are having broken weather and still a few days' potato lifting. I wish they were all up.

I trust your mother is keeping better, and the others all well.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

325. MESSRS WILLIAM KAY & SONS

2 November 1912

Dear Sirs,

I have your letter of 1st inst. also sample of barley. It was not within my knowledge that there was any barley railed to your order in the condition of this sample. By some accident there may have been a damp bag or two, but it is not the case that the sample you have sent is a genuine sample of the barley I railed.

I have fifty bags of the same barley sitting beside me which I sold to you on Wednesday last for Athelstaneford, and you could have a bulk sample of it when it is emptied out.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

326. EUPHEMIA SMITH

6 November 1912

Dear Auntie,[257]

I feel there has been a long silence between us, and if the spell is to be broken some one must take the initiative. I have neither intention nor desire to drag anything unpleasant out of the past, but I regret exceedingly that anything should have come into existence to mar our friendship.

I have little doubt that needless gossip, bearing abundant fruit each time it was told, is largely accountable for misunderstandings that have grown into heart burnings. Now as far as I am concerned, I would be glad to see all the "little foxes" destroyed, that the vine of our friendship may flourish as before, and that all that has caused annoyance on either side will be forgotten. What I say for myself, I say for Jane as well.

I have taken upon myself the responsibility of writing you thus, in the hope that you will receive it in the spirit in which it is written. If so, the end I hope for, will be accomplished.

I trust both you and Uncle John keep well.

Kind regards,
Yours affectionately,
Hugh Miller

327. BESSIE OSBORNE

8 November 1912

Dear Bessie,

I enclose cheque for £10 in payment of interest due at this term. I trust you will be able to pay 20/- a pound and have something over.

Jane is at Stewarton tonight seeing her mother. They think she is keeping some better. Jane is coming back tomorrow.

We were at Ferrygate for a short time yesterday and saw Bertie. He does not look any the worse of his photographic experience. I was going to have said to you before I left, that we had ours taken on the quiet. You will see them by and bye.

---

257 Hugh Miller's aunt Euphemia Smith.

I posted a letter to Auntie yesterday but I don't know whether I've made "a kirk or a mill o't".[258] Please let that little bit of information bide on the paper.

I trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

328. THOMAS DOUGLAS ESQ. V.S.

9 November 1912

Dear Sir,[259]

With reference to the horse you examined for James Whiteford at Stewarton the other day, is he much the worse of the spavin,[260] and would you advise me to have nothing to do with him?

I am partly in a fix, having sold one to be replaced by this horse on the assumption that he was sound.

You might write me by return, and any information you give me, will be for myself only. Hallow Fair takes place on Tuesday and Wednesday and I might pick up something there if the Stewarton one is to be of no use.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

329. ROBERT MILLER

12 November 1912

Dear Uncle,

Your letter of October 22nd has been lying here on my desk, frequently giving my conscience a prick but now I seek to make amends.

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258 The Scots phrase 'mak a kirk and a mill o't' means 'make of it as you will' or 'do what you want with it' and is often used to denote the indifference of the speaker. That meaning, however, does not quite fit the wording here.

259 Thomas Douglas, Portland Road, Kilmarnock, was a veterinary surgeon and the veterinary inspector for the Kilmarnock district.

260 Spavin is an arthritic condition of a horse's lower hock joint.

We were sorry you were unable to visit the East country this back end but trust your visit will keep till another time.

Thanks for all your kind enquiries regarding our welfare.

The harvest was an abundant one of straw, and I am quite satisfied that the grain will not be deficient. We had to "shear" between 20 and 30 acres of barley that we could not manage with the machines.

The Co-op people again have the potatoes, but these are disappointing because of disease. The month of August did the damage here. But for that, the crop would probably have been far too large in the country to insure a decent price per ton.

We finished lifting about ten days ago but there are still a good few here and there to take up.

Mr Thomson has not done cattle this year. He did not have them last year either. We have 85 in the courts now, so with these to keep in turnips, fodder and bedding, we know of a job for any odd time we have.

We are preparing to sow wheat tomorrow if the weather is dry. I mean to sow over 70 acres if we can manage it.

I was in Ayrshire the week before last, and plenty of harvest still out. It is heartless work now in the short dull days.

Our little meeting continues from week to week with as much encouragement as prevents us shutting the door. Is that optimism?

If we can manage to arrange it, Jane and I will be pleased to go to you for a day – perhaps a Saturday when the children would be at home.

Trusting you both keep well – also Mrs Spence.

Kind regards,
Yours affectionately
H. Miller

330. EUPHEMIA SMITH

12 November 1912

Dear Auntie,

I have received your letter of yesterday, and will refrain from making any comment thereon, lest I should be further misunderstood. I only wish to say however that I had nothing but the best intention and hope in writing as I did, and am exceedingly sorry that the purpose I had in view has so miserably failed.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

331. JAMES WHITEFORD

16 November 1912

Dear James,

I have your letter of 14th inst. with reference to the horse. Jane told me you were sending him back to the man you got him from, and I supposed this would be right. I bought one at Hallow Fair last Tuesday.

Seeing there is this 'if' about him I would not care to buy him just now, but if it would be any use to you, I would take him for a while and send you an older horse to do your work, and if there should prove to be nothing the matter, we could arrange accordingly.

However, please yourself in the matter. I just thought it would be a means of getting the horse away from the district where you now have a poor chance of selling him at his value if he is sound.

I trust you all keep well.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

332. BESSIE OSBORNE

16 November 1912

Dear Bessie,

I had your letter this morning, and you would have mine. I only wondered if you had got the cheque.

Well, you ask about Auntie, and thereby hangs a tale. You have had your finger in the pie and you may as well know it all. It would be better however in some respects if you did not know it all, I mean for your own sake. I hope however you will not allow the matter to affect you unduly.

I enclose a copy of my two letters, and also Auntie's letter in reply to my first one, for your own perusal and return. I want you to be frank enough to tell me what you think of my first letter, and if I well deserve all that I got in Auntie's reply. If I have gone about the matter clumsily, one thing is certain, I was making for the "end in view", which I am sorry I have sadly missed.

Read my first letter well before you read Auntie's one, and then read my second when you have read hers.

I have no doubt but you will have food for thought for at least one day when you get through these enclosures.

Trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

333. BESSIE OSBORNE

25 November 1912

Dear Bessie,

I duly received your letter with the sorry enclosures, and meant to write you before this but have not got it done.

I have not said, and have no intention of saying, what I have felt since I received Auntie's letter. As for my manner of signing myself – as far as I can remember, I have signed myself in no other way to any Uncle or Aunt that I have written to. You say that "a welcome awaits me at No 17" [261] [if] I should make a point of calling at an early date. Well I do not feel like doing this at present. My effort toward a reconciliation has been so decidedly spurned and thrown back in my face, that I will think twice before I try again. And beside this, the veneer of piety has almost given me the jaundice.

Auntie pleads innocence and ignorance of any misunderstanding, and as long as she does this in face of the fact she spoke to both Mary and you about it "in the good while ago", she is simply impossible.

I am sorry if other friendships will be in danger of being affected, but hope that these fears may not be realised. I trust too that you will try to forget as much of this as you can, and not bear about an unnecessary burden of vexation of spirit.

Please destroy this when you have read it, and you will perhaps forget about it the sooner.

Trust that you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

[261] John and Euphemia Smith lived at 17 Royal Crescent, Hillhead, Glasgow.

334. JOHN HANNAH

26 November 1912

Dear John,

I herewith enclose cheque for £26.10/- in payment of interest now due. I have deducted £3.10/- which I am charged by the income tax authorities.

I have not heard of a customer for the two-year old, but I do not think your one will need to go a-begging.

We are having fine weather – a little blowy but the land is dry and conditions are very favourable for wheat sowing. Indeed the land is whitening on the top these days behind the harrows.

The Co-op people have started to lift the potatoes and intend going on through them. The market is not coming away as was expected. Today's price is around £3.

You may have heard that Burns has got Hatton Mains,[262] so the potato merchants are forging ahead. David Bow of Dunbar has bought Abbey Mains[263] for £17,000. The rent is £850 but it would make £1000 if put on the market, I think, today.

I trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

335. GEORGE MILLER

30 November 1912

Dear George,

I herewith enclose cheque in payment of the premium of my "Workmen's" Policy. My wage bill amounts to £40 more than the amount insured, so I have added the difference, making £8.18/- which I trust you will find in order.

I suppose you would have your share of the storm on Tuesday. We hadn't as much of it as we expected, but in the end, not so very much damage done.

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262 A farm in the parish of Ratho, Midlothian. It had been bought by Andrew Burns of A. & R. N. Burns, potato merchants, Rosyth, Fife.

263 A farm in the parish of Haddington, East Lothian. It had been bought by David Bowe of John H. Bowe & Sons, potato merchants, Dunbar.

Some stooks badly ruffled and an old roof blown out is the most of the damage we have sustained.

I see from the papers you have had a good fall of snow and very severe frost – 21 degrees. We have here no snow and sharp frost – yesterday I think 12 degrees, so the figures are reversed. I hope it does not last, as we are in a bad position for turnips for sheep not having new storage for them.

I have not yet had time to get my affairs weighed in the balances, but I hope they will not be found wanting, when they are weighed.

I trust you are all well as we are, for which I am thankful.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

336. MR MCKENZIE

5 December 1912

Dear Mr McKenzie,

I duly received your letter, and was exceedingly glad to hear that the cloud had rolled away. I trust there may long be clear skies for you and yours. Sorry to hear that the children's meeting is in a poor state. Hold on if you can!

If nothing unseen prevents me I will be pleased to be with you on Monday 6th January for the social.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

337. MESSRS WILLIAM KAY & SONS

6 December 1912

Dear Sirs,

With reference to the barley I sold to you on Wednesday, I delivered to the Maltings at Athelstaneford 80 bags Standwell barley yesterday.

I told the carter to get a receipt for this quantity, but the foreman at the maltings refused him this.

I wish now to inform you that under existing circumstances I will sell no

more barley for delivery at Athelstaneford, as I prefer to find a market where I will meet with ordinary business civilities.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

338. MESSRS WILLIAM KAY & SONS

20 December 1912

Dear Sirs,

Referring to conversation in Haddington market today regarding the delivery of the barley at Athelstaneford, I am now prepared to prove that a note of the quantity was sent and handed to Webster, and even the number of Miller's bags and the number of the Maltings' bags mentioned in the consignment. The carter also states that he did ask for a receipt at the time and was refused it.

I just mention this in confirmation of what I said in the market today.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

339. GEORGE MILLER

21 December 1912

Dear George,

I herewith enclose a statement of the past year's transactions along with the balance sheet of last year, and will be glad if you make it up as before. I have been long in getting this done – there are so many other things need attention.

I believe John is at Ferrygate tonight till Monday. It has been a wet day and evening or we might have exchanged a call somehow.

I expect to be in Ayrshire after the New Year, and if convenient for you I would stay Friday night January 3rd with you, but if not convenient, do not hesitate to say.

Jane left this morning so I am both father and mother, master and mistress, for the time being – no great job but will get through.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

340. JANE MILLER

24 December 1912

My dear Jane,[264]

I am sending you a line or two,
although I think there's nothing new,
but still I hope you may be glad
to hear that none of us is sad.
but poetry is not in my line,
so I will cease to try and rhyme
and simply say, to see you home
we will be glad the day you come.
It seems that still this rhyme will clink
as from my pen runs out the ink,
but never mind howe'er it goes
whether it's poetry or prose.

Well, how are you getting on/and how is Betty?[265]

I hope you are surviving all your knocking about. You will be at Mauchline when you get this. I sent Mary[266] a pair of fowls this morning, and though in life they were ill, thrawn, temper-provoking beasts, I hope that now their nature will be changed. They were two that would have made a saint say "things", so there is some excuse for a poor sinner like me using kind of strong language.

I was in Edinburgh today as the market was held today instead of tomorrow.

I said to Robert that you had said they were all to come over on Saturday. Was that right?

We have not had much rain today but tonight the keyholes and the window seams are making all the music they can with the wind.

I have to go to Edinburgh on Friday to the court but do not know how long I will be detained. If I am not all the longer, I will get home with you.

Kind regards to all the friends. Trust Mary is better.

Your Own & Always,
Hugh

---

264 Jane Miller was Hugh Miller's wife.

265 Betty was Hugh Miller's daughter.

266 Probably Hugh Miller's sister, Mary Nairn.

341. MESSRS W. B. MORRISON & CO.

26 December 1912

Dear Sirs,

I had your wire yesterday, and your letter followed with order for a waggon of 2nd crop hay. I am sorry I could not get it put on yesterday. It was afternoon before I got your wire, but it is railed today. This waggon has lain for some time in the bales, and the condition of some of it is not just perfect, and if need be I will make allowance for this.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

342. HUGH CAMPBELL ESQ.

31 December 1912

Dear Sir,

I forgot to say today that the workers are making a very poor job of the refuse potatoes, and if they are not going to keep the soft ones out of them I will have to refuse them. I have said all I can to them about it. You might please see to this, as I will be away for a day or two when they start work again.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

343. MR ROBERT SMALL

7 January 1913

Dear Mr Small,[267]

I have your letter of 2nd inst. but have been from home for some days. Hence my delay in replying.

[267] Reverend Robert Small, minister, United Free Presbyterian Church, North Berwick.

I am sorry however that I cannot accede to your request to be a speaker at the congregational meeting, and feel that this is quite outside of my sphere.

I trust you are all well again, and with the compliments of the season,

I am,
Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

344. THE LONDON & LANCASHIRE INSURANCE CO. LTD

8 January 1913

Policy 646219

Dear Sirs,

I beg to intimate that one of my horsemen met with an accident last night, receiving a kick from one of the horses. I cannot presently say what is the extent of the injury as I have not got the doctor's report. I do not think however it will be serious but will let you know in course.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

345. MESSRS JOHN WALLACE & SONS

9 January 1913

Dear Sirs,

Please send the following plow metals for 110A Oliver, at once.

One	doz.	Landsides
Three	"	Sock points
Three	"	Sock wings
One	"	Shin pieces
Three	"	Jointer points
Four	"	Assorted (mainly sock) bolts

To Drem Station

You should send them passenger train as there is a great delay with small goods just now.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

346. THE PUMPHERSTON OIL CO. LTD

9 January 1913

Dear Sirs,

I have your letter of inquiry re the oil you supplied to me for the engine. I regret to say that I could not get the engine up to its power to drive the mill, and had to empty the tank and put in what we had been formerly using. Your oil does not seem to suit this engine at all.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

347. JOHN HANNAH

9 January 1913

Dear John,

I herewith enclose for your perusal my balance sheet for the past year. The result is such as I would be pleased to go on with, so you see my ideas are not very extravagant. A few years like the past one would help to make up the leeway.

We are having very fine weather, and the land in many cases like sowing. We have a big lot of turnips to take up yet, and it will be far on before they are consumed. The Co-op people have a fortnight's work at the potato pits yet, and I will not be surprised if the best of the market is behind us.

I was in Ayrshire over the weekend and found all the folks well that I came in contact with. I trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

348. C. CHARLTON ESQ.

10 January 1913

Dear Sir,[268]

Mr John Middlemass told me today that you were inquiring about hay. I supplied some to Messrs Posgate, Butchers,[269] whom you may know, and would be pleased to supply you with the same class of hay this month at 90/- per ton on rail in bales. You might please say if you can take in a quantity – say ten to twenty tons at a time, as this suits me best.

Will pleased to have your order.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

349. HUGH CAMPBELL ESQ.

18 January 1913

Dear Sir,

I railed two waggons hay to Bonnington Station yesterday.

No	Bales	tons	cwt	qrs
37881	25	1	18	0
64917	25	1	19	0

and trust it will be in time for your requirements.

If you are out before the workers have finished lifting here, we might arrange about lifting my own few, but if you want them (the workers) away I am in no hurry for the potatoes. Sorry there was not a horse available. You might [*illegible*] in mind.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

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268 The recipient was probably Charles Charlton, butcher, High Street, Sunderland.

269 J. E. Posgate & Sons, butchers, High Street, Sunderland.

350. MESSRS JOHN WALLACE & SONS

18 January 1913

Dear Sirs,

The plow metals have come to hand, but the jointer points sent are for the 10A plow, not the 110A as ordered. If you have a customer in the district that could do with these, it will be a pity to return them but you will know best yourselves what to do with them. In the meantime please send at once the correct ones as these were urgently wanted in the order.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

351. MESSRS BOYD & FINLAY

18 January 1913

Dear Sirs,

I am in receipt of yours of this date, and am surprised at the complaint about the hay. It might be there was an odd bale not as good as the rest, but I have delivered over 30 tons this season and yours is the first complaint I have got. However if you have lifted it from your customers I will arrange about the disposal of it on Wednesday at the market.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

352. MESSRS MUNGO GRAY & CO.

18 January 1913

Dear Sirs,

I have your note of threshings December 10th to 17th last. I think this is overcharged but will see Mr Mungo Gray in the market on Wednesday if he is there.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

353. C. CHARLTON ESQ.

21 January 1913

Dear Sir,

I have your favour of a recent date, and find that the carriage of hay from Drem to Sunderland is 15/- per ton for a minimum of 2½ tons. The Railway Company have restricted the size of the load of late, and I can only manage to load about 2 tons on the waggon, so the actual cost will be from 18/- to 19/- per ton. I would make the price 87/6 per ton on rail. Will be glad to hear from you at your earliest [convenience].

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

354. THE LONDON & LANCASHIRE INSURANCE CO. LTD

22 January 1913

Policy No 646219

Dear Sirs,

I herewith enclose receipt forms of discharge in the case of the accident to John Hendrie, referred to in your letter of January 18th.

I trust you will find the same in order.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

355. THE SECRETARY, BRIDGE OF WEIR ORPHAN HOMES

24 January 1913

Dear Sir,[270]

I sent yesterday to the Homes a turkey, which I hope you may find a use for although Xmas is past.

[270] The Bridge of Weir Orphans Home had been established in 1876 by William Quarrier.

With best wishes for all concerned with the Homes,

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

The turkey was killed yesterday. H.M.

356. MESSRS ARCHIBALD HAMILTON & SONS

30 January 1913

Dear Sirs,

I am in receipt of your favour of 29th inst. Regarding the oats, I do not think I could promise more than 160 bags of 112 lbs each in the meantime, as I have another order to fill and I do not wish to leave myself short.

You would perhaps be better to do as you suggest and get 45 bags from Ferrygate.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

357. A. PENMAN ESQ.

1 February 1913

Dear Sir,[271]

If you are about to be requiring hay shortly I would send you a waggon, as I am removing some that I have stacked in the field and may not be baling for some time again.

You might let me know in course. The price would be 87/6 per ton.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

271 The recipient was perhaps Andrew Penman, butcher, West Street, Gateshead.

358. MESSRS J. E. POSGATE & SONS

1 February 1913

Dear Sirs,[272]

I had your note today ordering a waggon of hay, and dispatched the same this afternoon.

No	Bales	Tons	Cwt	Qrs
49692	25	1	19	3

If you could do with another waggon in the course of a fortnight, I would send it on, as I am removing some I have stacked in the field and may not be baling more for some time.

Suit yourself however. The price will be 87/6 per ton.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

359. C. CHARLTON ESQ.

11 February 1913

Dear Sir,

I have your P.C. for two waggons – "if I can lower the price". I am sorry I cannot lower the price, viz. 87/6 per ton on rail at Drem.

You might let me know by return if you wish me to send it on at these terms, as I am getting through with this lot of hay, and there will be an increase in price shortly.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

[272] J. E. Posgate & Sons, butchers, High Street, Sunderland.

360. ALEXANDER GUILD ESQ.

12 February 1913

Dear Sir,

I want two waggons of good hard ashes, and as I remember you speaking to me of getting some for Mr Clark, would you let me know where they can be got, or just order them on and send the charges to me.

I am sorry to trouble you in this but I do not know where I can best get them.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

361. ROBERT MILLER

17 February 1913

Dear Uncle,

Your last letter is more than five weeks old, and as it has lain amongst the unanswered ones hitherto, and sometimes touching my conscience, I want to put myself in the position of placing it on the other side of my desk. But I don't want to fall into the error that I blame others for at times of taking up half a letter or more with an apology for not writing. So adieu to that.

You were talking about wheat sowing in your letter referred to, but that is now a work of the past for this season as far as we are concerned, although some folks are still sowing some this month.

We have had a very open winter, and the young grass fields are fresh and green. The hope of spring – already beginning – and soon the [*illegible*].

We had the Parable of the Sower[273] in the meeting the other Sunday night, and we lament that so little of the seed seems to fall on the good ground. However, Blessed is he that soweth beside all waters. The meeting varies in attendance, but we sow in hope. I suppose that your meeting will still go on, and I trust you are having refreshing times.

We have still a good deal of plowing to do before seed-time, but with lengthening day we get over more ground, and I daresay we will accomplish it in time.

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273 Matthew 13:1-23, 'Behold, a sower went forth to sow; And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side …'.

We have been wondering how you are both keeping, and if it was not for putting me in your debt again, we would be pleased to hear. I will risk the debt question however.

I trust you both keep well and also Mrs Spence.

With kind regards,
Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

362. ALEXANDER GUILD ESQ.

27 February 1913

Dear Sir,

I duly received yours of 19th inst. which I should have acknowledged sooner, but delayed doing so until I would receive the ashes. These have not yet come to hand but they will be in a day or two I expect.

I had not thought of you paying for the ashes, but as you have so kindly offered to do so, please accept of my thanks.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

363. MESSRS WILLIAM KAY & SONS

14 March 1913

Dear Sirs,

I have examined the Binder Barley and herewith send you sample taken from two bags. It is very unsatisfactory and I would not think of sowing it.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

364. C. CHARLTON ESQ.

15 March 1913

Dear Sir,

Mr Middlemas told me you were asking about further supply of hay. If you let me know what you want I will be pleased to give you a quotation.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

365. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

21 March 1913

Dear Sirs,

Yours of 14th inst. reached me yesterday, with Mr Trotter's a/c enclosed.

The fencing is fairly well done on the whole, but there are one or two items which should be pointed out to him (Trotter) in settling his a/c. These I could describe verbally better than in writing. I will look round to your office on Wednesday about 10 o'clock if this would be suitable for you, and point out what I refer to.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

366. C. CHARLTON ESQ.

21 March 1913

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of yours of 20th inst. with cheque enclosed for which I thank you.

I can supply you with hay similar to the last you got at £4 12.6 on rail at Drem, and will be glad to hear from you regarding the same.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

367. MESSRS ALLAN BROS

22 March 1913

Dear Sirs,

Since the cam of the engine was altered, I cannot keep the engine going for any length of time without the lamp, and at the same time, the cylinder gets much hotter than it did before. Otherwise its power seems to be greater.

Is there anything you can suggest to meet this difficulty?

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

368. RICHARD BAILLIE ESQ.

26 March 1913

Dear Sir,

You should have sent the enclosed a/c for £7.10/- to Mr Guild. He saw your estimate and consented to the work being done.

I enclose cheque for £2.10.9 in payment of the other a/c.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

369. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

31 March 1913

Dear Sirs,

I herewith enclose a/c Rennie & Stewart which was sent to me the other day. This is for the repair of the old cattle shed roof which was damaged by the storm of November last, and which you sanctioned me to have repaired.

The a/c is quite in order.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

370. JOHN HANNAH

7 May 1913

Dear John,

I herewith enclose cheque for £30 in payment of interest due at this time.

Would you let me know the full pedigree of my black mare, and say if she is entered in the Stud Book? The foal is doing well, and there are plenty worse ones to be seen.

I hope you are all going the right road also.

We have had East wind and colder weather for a few days, and a good deal of rain in places, but we can stand all the wetness we have had around here.

There are not many turnips sown yet, and still some potatoes to plant.

I trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

371. THE LONDON & LANCASHIRE INSURANCE CO. LTD

17 May 1913

Dear Sirs,

I beg to intimate that one of my workers – Tina Cook – met with an accident on Wednesday last, and will be obliged if you forward the necessary form that I may fill it up.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

372. THE LONDON & LANCASHIRE INSURANCE CO. LTD

24 May 1913

Policy No 646219

Dear Sirs,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of cheque for 6/8 in payment of claim in connection with an accident to Tina Cook.

I regret to say that my grieve has met with an accident also, having got a rib fractured. If you will please send me a form I will give you the particulars.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

373. THE LONDON & LANCASHIRE INSURANCE CO. LTD

30 May 1913

Policy No 646219

Dear Sirs,

I herewith enclose the inquiry form in connection with the accident to William Anderson. It was an overlook that it was not returned sooner. I will report to you in a week or two how he gets on.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

374. JOHN HANNAH

4 June 1913

Dear John,

I had intended for some time to write you asking for your welfare but time slipped past and this was not accomplished, and now you have forestalled me with your letter of 31st May.

The season is a little later here than it was last year, but the country is generally looking well. There has been no lack of moisture, but personally speaking, there has been none too much.

We finished turnip sowing nearly three weeks ago, and we are now ready to begin singling. There will still be a good few to come in places.

Your Italian is costing you 6d per bushel less than it cost us here for our sow-out. As for barley I do not think I could give you much information regarding a catch crop. I would think however, that our standard kinds here would be too late to get a crop that would thresh. If you were thinking of trying some foreign, I have a bag or two of Goldthorpe left that you could have to try along side.

We had a few changes at the term, but I do not hear of so much agitation amongst servants as there was a month or two ago. Farmers themselves are inclined to discuss this coming half-holiday or at least some modified form of it.[274] We are truly living at a great pace and we are not at top speed yet.

I was thinking of being through at the conference of the S Chamber on the 20th of June if nothing prevents me.[275] Would you not manage to give us a look up before that? You will soon have forgotten the way.

I have been in the house and in bed part of two days with a sore throat, which is a little better tonight. Betty and Hugh have had whooping-cough for a week or two. Betty is over the worst but Hugh takes bad turns yet. He will soon be through the worst too however.

Our neighbour Mr Lee died on Sunday morning last, and was buried today in Newcastle. This will doubtless make changes at Congalton.

Sorry to hear your gardener has got beyond the bounds of hope.

I trust you all keep well and that the whooping-cough will long stay far from your door.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

375. THE LONDON & LANCASHIRE INSURANCE CO. LTD

6 June 1913

Policy No 646219

Dear Sirs,

Yours of 2nd inst. duly received, re accident to William Anderson. He is progressing all right, and is able partly to attend to his duties now.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

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274 A bill was presented to parliament in 1913 to regulate the hours of labour of Scottish farm servants, which included provision for a half-day holiday.

275 The Scottish Chamber of Agriculture held its summer conference in Ayr on 20 June 1913. The main topic of debate was whether or not occasional agricultural workers should be subject to the Insurance Act.

376. THE LONDON & LANCASHIRE INSURANCE CO. LTD

9 June 1913

Policy No 646219
Accident to William Anderson

Dear Sirs,

I am in receipt of your note of 7th inst. with inquiry re the above. He was able for part of his duties on June 4th.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

377. JOHN HANNAH

10 June 1913

Dear John,

Yours of yesterday's date to hand. I sent you four bags of barley today. There is a little less than two quarters of it.

This is the fourth day we have had of a boisterous withering cold West wind, and the face of things is changed. I see you have had rain in the West with the gale.

Thanks for your invitation for Friday week of which I will have pleasure in accepting if nothing prevents me.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

378. MR JOHN GEDDES

23 June 1913

Dear Mr Geddes,

I was going to send you £2 for the S.M.M. and I have just received a cheque from Glasgow for £2 which I enclose. I trust all things go well, and that you

are finding your new house an acquisition, even with your prospective responsibility.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

379. JOHN HANNAH

12 July 1913

Dear John,

I duly received your letter regarding William Kerr's son. I have passed on the information to Mr Guild, and he asked me to thank you – stating that he had a great respect for your opinion! In the meantime however he has heard that the man Lyle who was with Robert Todd is in want of a place, and I would think if he could get him he would be well suited. If he wants to communicate with young Kerr, you will hear. He (Guild) was going to be finally off or on with the present grieve at Rhodes[276] today.

We started digging potatoes yesterday, and this incoming week should about clean them up. The crop is fair and with moisture would have been very good I think, but things are now very dry.

Mary and the children are here at present and will be moving on to Ferrygate sometime next week.

Mary seems not to be quite fixed whether she will be leaving for Morocco in the end of August or later.

Trust you are all well,

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

380. MESSRS G. E. LEWIS & SONS

17 July 1913

Dear Sirs,[277]

I herewith enclose cheque for £6.7.6 in payment of a £6.6/- gun and packing

276 A farm in North Berwick parish, East Lothian.

277 G. E. Lewis & Sons, gunmakers, Lower Loveday Street, Birmingham.

case, No 8 block as described on page 25 of your catalogue. You might send it so that I will have it on Tuesday morning as I wish to have it tried that day. Please add a cleaning brush if you can.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

381. JOHN HANNAH

17 July 1913

Dear John,

It looks as if there would be some difficulty in securing Epicure seed around here, and I am wondering what things are doing with you. I think Campbell said yesterday he was getting £5 per ton for shopping.[278] I seem to have thrown mine away at £22 per acre. We are much in need of a little competition among the merchants here.

It will take us till Tuesday or thereabouts to finish. We are still very dry, and the crop is not so large as we could have wished, but at least doing well at the price. We are just finishing the ricking of the hay which is a good crop all over.

I trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

382. MESSRS MCNALLY BROS

21 July 1913

Dear Sirs,[279]

I could take a few waggons manure this week – not more than 40 tons per day, and please see that the weight is put down for every separate waggon that I

278 *i.e.* potatoes that were destined for the shops and domestic consumption.

279 McNally Bros, agricultural contractors, Fort Place, Leith.

may have some cheque on what I am getting. I am going to spread it on the land so please send me stuff suitable for this.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

383. MRS MARY LEE

28 July 1913

Dear Mrs Lee,[280]

I have your note regarding the sand that I lifted from the sand-pit. I am sorry that the note of the quantity has been mislaid, but it is pretty well on my memory that it was 35 cart loads. This is the information I gave to Mr Watson.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

384. THE SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY LTD

9 August 1913

Dear Sirs,

I am in receipt of cheque in payment of potatoes, but it appears that I am charged for 9 cwt of seed more than I got. I understood that I received 30 tons, and I am charged for 30 tons 9 cwt. I spoke to Mr Campbell about it after I got the invoice.

Please inquire into the matter.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

[280] Mary Lee, widow of the aforementioned Joseph Lee, farmer, Congalton.

385. JOHN HANNAH

28 August 1913

Dear John,

I see from the Herald, under "Ayrshire Coast Notes", that the drought of 1913 has now broken up. This may be the case as far as the Ayrshire coast is concerned but it is certainly not yet taken place here. We had a shower last Thursday night, that looked like the beginning of a break in the weather, but since that the clouds have rolled away, and there is at present no appearance of rain.

We finished cutting on Tuesday night last and have begun to stack. Barley and wheat have cut up perhaps beyond expectations but oats as was foreseen are very poor. There was a sale of barley made yesterday in Edinburgh market at 34/-, so the trade for it looks all right to begin with.

I think late potatoes around here will be the smallest crops seen for a long time, and the same can be said of turnips, which in many cases look as if they will have to be used more as medicine than food. In the midst of it all however, we have much to be thankful for.

Jane and the children except Jane have been at Stewarton for about a week. We are hoping to see them home on Saturday. I suppose you will be gathering your wanderers home sometime soon now too.

We had Uncle Robert and Aunt Bessie for ten days, and the latter seemed the better of the change. They both move very slowly now.

I never heard another word from Guild about William Kerr's son. I don't know what arrangement he made.

I trust you all keep well.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

386. JOHN HANNAH

1 September 1913

Dear John,

I had yours of 30th August this morning, and since writing you on the 28th August we had fully an inch of rain – as much as we want at present. It began with thunder in the early hours of Saturday morning, and continued more or less all day. Today has dried things a little but we have done no harvest work.

If Mr Meikle is coming through to Markle,[281] I will be pleased to be of any service I can to him, if he just lets me know.

I enclose the a/c for the barley. How has it done compared with the foreign?

I forgot to say that David Bone is also an offerer for Markle, so Ayrshire is represented again.

Trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

387. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

11 September 1913

Dear Sirs,

I have two fences requiring to be repaired, and would be glad if you could either look at them, or give instructions regarding them.

I meant to have seen you some time ago about these, but have not had an opportunity of doing so.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

388. JOHN HANNAH

13 September 1913

Dear John,

I had your letter of yesterday, this morning, and later in the day I got the box of tomatoes and grapes for which accept our thanks.

We will be pleased to see you next week, and I will no doubt do my best to keep you right among the shorthorns. Of course we will expect you to stay Thursday night as well.

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[281] A farm in Prestonkirk parish, East Lothian. John Meikle of Trolorg and Camregan, Hurlford parish, Ayrshire, was looking for a farm in East Lothian for his son Jack. Hugh Miller assisted him in this search, as shown by subsequent letters.

The weather broke down yesterday morning and has been as unlike harvesting as you want it. This has been a soaking day. We have still 50 acres of barley out, and it will take some drying after today.

I trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

389. MR WILLIAM WEBSTER

15 September 1913

Dear Sir,[282]

Please give the bearer the 24 Railway bags that were sent with barley on the 12th inst. and also a receipt for the barley.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

390. MR HUNTER

19 September 1913

Dear Mr Hunter,

I had your letter yesterday. I got the parcel with the pipe all right on Wednesday. Thank you very much for troubling about it.

The weather has been very backward for harvest. We have got nothing done for a week.

Do you know if your brother would still have any thought of the potatoes? I do not know his address, so if you like to send the message to him asking if he still cares to look at them, he might let me know at once. If he is filled up there is no harm done. I would like to hear from him at least before Wednesday.

Glad to hear that you are having good times at the chapel.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

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[282] William Webster, maltster, Athelstaneford Maltings, East Lothian.

391. R. HUNTER ESQ.

26 September 1913

Dear Sir,

I have yours of yesterday regarding the potatoes. If there had been the prospect of getting them away off the graip,[283] I would have been pleased to have a deal, but as you have your hands filled for some time, perhaps it will be better to let the matter stand over in the meantime. If I do not sell them I will keep you in mind.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

392. MR JOHN GEDDES

26 September 1913

Dear Mr Geddes,

If nothing prevents me I hope to be at the meeting on Wednesday evening next, and will have pleasure in accepting of Pastor and Mrs Findlay's invitation to tea at Cranston's at 5.30.[284]

I trust you are all well, and that the addition of triplets to your family is not proving a burden greater than you are able to bear.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

393. MESSRS MCNALLY BROS

27 September 1913

Dear Sirs,

Do not exceed 150 tons manure to me in the meantime. When you have this

283 *i.e.* harvested immediately, a graip being a type of fork that was often used to lift potatoes.

284 There were a number of Miss Cranston's Tea Rooms in Glasgow.

quantity on rail, see that you stop loading at once. Rather be under the quantity than over it.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

394. JOHN HANNAH

29 September 1913

Dear John,

In the Scotsman of Saturday, Congalton is advertised to let with entry at Martinmas 1913, so if there are still some Ayrshire men on the hunt for a farm, it would be quite a desirable place, I would say much more so than Markle. It is returned in the year book at about £500, and is 300 acres in extent

We got our harvest finished last Thursday, and both before and since we have had very poor harvest weather – such as you could carry a candle about outside.

Mr Simpson got a sudden call.[285] He went to bed on Friday after Congalton sale, and on Sunday morning became unconscious, and died on Wednesday night.[286]

395. T. PHILIP ESQ.

16 October 1913

W.D.7508
Demurrage a/c 18/-

Dear Sir,

I have your letter with a/c for 18/- enclosed.

The consigner in this case continued loading manure after I had ordered him to cease, and I took delivery of these extra waggons for his convenience,

[285] James Simpson, Castlemains, Dirleton, had died, aged seventy-three years.

[286] The rest of the letter is illegible due to the ink having faded or failed to copy.

and for that of the Railway Company. I therefore do not consider that I am in any way responsible for the demurrage.[287]

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

396. J. ROBERTSON ESQ.

22 October 1913

P. McNally decd.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of 21st inst. re manure transactions with the above P. McNally.[288]

I squared my account with him on September 18th 1912, and had no further transaction with him.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

397. THE NORTH BRITISH RAILWAY CO.

29 October 1913

There falls to be deducted from the enclosed a/c for manure carriage £5.14.11 representing the carriage on 57 tons 8 cwt 3 qrs of which the consignment was short.

I have therefore deducted this amount from my a/c and trust you will find it in order.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

---

287 Demurrage was a charge payable to the owner of a container transport for a delay in unloading goods. In this instance, Hugh Miller was being charged by the railway company for not unloading a shipment of manure in proper time.

288 Peter McNally had died of pneumonia ten days earlier.

398. CONTRACT MANAGER

31 October 1913

Proposed Exchange at Athelstaneford

Dear Sir,

I have your favour of 30th inst. with enclosures which I have signed and herewith return.

I wish a wall instrument supplied with an extension bell, and trust the work will be proceeded with as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

399. JOHN HANNAH

12 November 1913

Dear John,

I herewith enclose cheque for £26.10/- in payment of interest due at this time, being £30 less £3.10/- of income tax. I am sorry I cannot conveniently reduce the capital at present, but I live in hope of doing so.

I saw my friend Guild yesterday, as it was rent day. He gave me a lot of information with a few extra adjectives added. It is quite true he has lost the factorship and he had to pay his own rent to the new factors yesterday. It so happens however that he remains factor for West Fortune only, this place being left to Lady Mary and he being one of the trustees. The young man seems to be like many more – in desperation for money, and he blames Guild for certain terms of his father's will, passing everything that he possibly could to Lady Mary.[289]

There are many changes taking place at Luffness. Luffness Mains, the home farm is to be let at once, so that will be another sudden in going. There is some fair good land on it, but much of it is very stiff, and it is very badly overrun with game, which in conjunction with the woods is a menace to cropping.

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289 Henry Hope of Luffness (1839-1913) had died on 25 October. The farm of West Fortune had been left to his wife Mary (*c.*1845-1935) rather than to his son George (1886-1917).

David Bone has now taken possession at Markle,[290] and he will not require to go begging for a job for some time to come. I would much rather tackle West Fortune over again.

By the way, is Phemie not going to get that jaunt carried out? We have been expecting to hear of her coming.

I hope to send the potatoes tomorrow, and if they do not suit you, you can gift them.

I trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

400. MR ALLAN STEVENSON

19 November 1913

Dear Mr Stevenson,[291]

I had a letter from Mr Hannah this morning, in which he stated that you had got Luffness Mains, and congratulate you that Ayrshire is to the front again. Mr Hannah mentions that you wish to let the turnips and if I can be of any use to you in the matter I will gladly be so. I spoke to Middlemass today, who has my turnips, and asked him if he would care to have the turnips at Luffness Mains. He said he wasn't anxious, because of the price store cattle had gone to. He said however that if you got no one else, he would take the turnips, if he could make terms with you.

If it would further matters any, I would be pleased to see you here to arrange for you to meet Middlemass and you do not need to book for a night's lodging elsewhere.

Middlemass is always in Haddington on Friday, and in Edinburgh on Thursday, but could be seen by arrangement between these days.

If you want me to do anything you can let me know.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

290 David Bone had moved from the farm of Fenwickland in the parish of Ayr.

291 Allan Stevenson had become the new tenant of Luffness Mains, Aberlady.

401. ROBERT MILLER

26 November 1913

Dear Uncle,

Your letter is before me and in order to put you in my debt I will just answer it. We were pleased to hear that you were both keeping well, and hope you will get comfortably through the dark winter days.

The farm that David Bone got is not the one you are thinking about. It is about three miles from here near East Linton.[292] Then we are getting new neighbours at Congalton[293] – the farm next to us on the way to North Berwick.

Perhaps you noticed from the papers too that our old laird had died at Luffness, and this has made many changes there. Luffness Mains, the Home farm, has been let to another Ayrshire man, and so the colony extends.

You ask about the mushrooms. Well, they somehow forgot to grow and that was the result of the experiment.

Robert's arm is now about all right, but Elizabeth has been in bed for some days with a bad throat. Little Mary too is affected. James had his turn last week and is now running about. I hope they will all be well soon.

Dr Chapman was in Edinburgh on a Saturday afternoon recently, and Jane and I heard him.[294] He is a wonderful evangelistic force. We look forward to hearing him again when he comes to Edinburgh.

We had Phemie and her little girl for two nights last week. They are all well at Girvan Mains.

Our little meeting still goes on, with as much encouragement as we have ever had. Between blindness, ignorance and self-righteousness, the need of a plain blunt gospel is great. We are glad to have a place in your remembrance as Sunday evening comes round.

We will be glad to hear of your welfare when you feel inclined to write.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

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[292] Markle farm, Prestonkirk.

[293] Following the death of Joseph Lee, the farm of Congalton was bought by Joseph G. Scott.

[294] The American Presbyterian evangelist John Wilbur Chapman addressed the Edinburgh Evangelistic Association's annual convention held at Carrubbers Close Mission on 8 November 1913.

402. GEORGE MILLER

29 November 1913

Dear George,

The premium for my workmen's compensation policy is now due and I herewith enclose cheque in payment of same, for £9.19.6, which I trust you will find in order. Whatever else may come or go, the wages go on, and seem to go up for ever.

We have had very high winds of late, but very little rain. The land presently is like March, and we have great difficulty in getting any quantity of straw tramped into muck in the courts. We have seen it otherwise and it may happen again.

There has been a run of bad throats at Ferrygate, and Robert told me today that the Doctor said he would be a Dutchman, if it were not scarlet fever with little Mary. I hope he will have to change his nationality.

Our maid is away home with a bad throat too, which in a way may be a blessing in disguise, as it keeps my hand in the way of kindling the fire and milking the cow. All things considered however, I hope she will be back soon.

This was the sale day at Luffness Mains, and Allan Stevenson takes possession on Monday. Two of his brothers were there with him today.

David Bone has also taken possession at Markle, as Ayrshire is on the increase around us.

I trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

403. MR JAMES A. GARRIOCK

8 December 1913

Dear Mr Garriock,

I am wondering how you stand now regarding these two Sundays that you said you were keeping free. I am hoping that your arrangements will permit of one of them being given to us here. We are all looking forward to you coming and will be glad to have a confirmation from yourself.

We are having interesting meetings, and some shy people coming that have never been before. The preaching devolves very much on me, and while I value the privilege, I will rejoice to give place to you.

Did you notice Miss McGregor's death about three weeks ago? The old circle of friends is closing in.

Will be glad to hear from you.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

404. MR ARTHUR

8 December 1913

Dear Mr Arthur,

I sent you a PC this afternoon asking if you got my letter, and now I have yours tonight. I regret very much that you cannot come and am exceedingly sorry for the cause. You will surely now have had enough rough experience with boating in connection to the Horse Isle.[295] I am glad the result was not worse.

I trust the rest and the proper treatment will put the disorder right, and we will look forward to you coming sometime later on. Keep a weekend open when it suits you and let me know.

I always felt that an allowance should be made for colour in the report of the Glasgow Mission. Glad to hear however that it is not all "paint". That stuff is easily made up and costs some folks little.

I was looking forward to you being here to give me a Sunday. I am left very much to myself as far as the preaching is concerned and while I value the privilege, I am always glad to give place to another. There are one or two in North Berwick who come over occasionally, and afterwards I am angry at myself for having asked them. I daresay this will coincide with some of your own experiences.

We are having the most interesting meetings this winter that we have had, and with the assurance that the Lord has promised to bless His word, we have the conviction that our labour is not in vain in the Lord.

If you had any scraps that you thought might be of use to me I would be glad to have them, but mind, I can't go with Saul's armour.[296]

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295 Horse Isle is a small island off the coast of Ardrossan, Ayrshire.

296 *i.e.* something unfamiliar or unsuited to him.

I will be glad to hear from how you get along.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

405. MR JAMES A. GARRIOCK

15 December 1913

Dear Mr Garriock,

I duly received yours of the 10th inst for which accept thanks.

We will be delighted to see you on February 22nd as you suggest, and in the meantime we will be glad to have a mention in your remembrance at the throne of grace. I trust you will have a pleasant time in the North in the midst of your old haunts. I delivered your message to Ferrygate. Robert's arm is now all right.

With kind regards,
I am, Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

406. MRS TRAVIS

17 December 1913

Dear Mrs Travis,

It is a long time since I wrote you, and I have often had a guilty conscience for my sin of omission, but I need not fill half a letter with an apology for not writing, so please forgive the past.

I hardly know where to begin, but am wondering how you are keeping. I have heard of you from Bessie but not for some time now. I hope you are still "feckfu"[297] and able to get about as you did formerly.

We have had a very mild winter here so far, with no rain to speak of for two or three months. The days are now very short and our children don't see their home in daylight as they are left in the morning before it is light and not home till after dark, at least the two oldest ones. Jane is travelling to Edinburgh this year, and Jim goes as before to North Berwick, and Betty goes to the village

[297] Scots for managing.

school near us, and only our "Benjamin"[298] is at home through the day. He will have to trot off next year.

Our little meeting on the farm on Sunday evenings is still going on, and we are perhaps having the most encouraging meetings this winter that we have had. The desperate need of a simple, blunt Gospel is most apparent all around us. The cloak of self-righteousness is in many cases double thick and heavily lined, and with the parish church person[299] to brush it down once a week, the wearers are wonderfully well pleased with themselves. Perhaps you will sometimes remember us at the throne of grace.

I will enclose a note of what I was telling them in the meeting last night. If you can be bothered writing we will be pleased to hear from you.

Jane sends her love and hopes you keep well.

Yours most sincerely,
H. Miller

407. MR WILLIAM EDINGTON

24 December 1913

Dear Sir,[300]

I am in receipt of your letter of 23rd inst regarding the carriage of manure which I did not get delivery of.

I am quite prepared to pay the carriage on the manure referred to, whenever the Railway Company delivers the same to me at Drem Station but not till then.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

408. GEORGE MILLER

25 December 1913

Dear George,

I have your letter, and with regard to my bank overdraft, I have simply put

298 *i.e.* their youngest child.

299 *i.e.* the Church of Scotland minister.

300 William Edington, station master, Drem, London & North Eastern Railway Co.

down a wrong set of figures, and did not test them before I enclosed the note to you.

The amount of overdraft is quite right, and you will see from the note where the mistake is. I am sorry it is not an omitted entry of £362.

There was a discrepancy of £8 or £9 crept into my cash that I was never able to trace but made an entry to balance. There is no discrepancy apart from this that I am aware of.

This is Xmas day, and our Irishmen are celebrating it by being off work, and I suppose, consuming as much whiskey as they can get on the outside of. At least this will be the case with some of them.

I trust you all keep well.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

The fire the other night was not at Fentonbarns but at Muirfield.[301]
H.M.

409. JOHN HANNAH

6 January 1914

Dear John,

I enclose for your perusal my balance sheet for the past year. I am very much disappointed at the result, and only hope that it may be better next time.

We are having a wintry snap of weather again today, snow showers and frost tonight. We have had no rain since last Spring to affect either drains or springs, and some people are carting water to supply their need.

They say that Aberlady Mains is to be put into small holdings,[302] and Ballencrieff let alone, but those that live longest will see most.

I hope you have all got over the New year festivities, and that you are otherwise all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

---

301 Fentonbarns and Muirfield were both farms in the parish of Dirleton, East Lothian.

302 Alexander Guild, the factor for the Luffness Estate, was to relinquish his tenancy of Aberlady Mains at Martinmas 1914, and there had been reports in various newspapers that it was going to be divided into smallholdings.

410. GEORGE MILLER

16 January 1914

Dear George,

I had almost forgotten that my insurance premium is due, but I have not yet exceeded the days of grace. I enclose cheque for £12.12.11 in payment of same.

Things are very quiet here just now – nothing particular taking place, except that farm workers are talking "tall" regarding the hiring which is approaching next month. Amongst themselves their demands are rather exorbitant.

I trust you are all well as we here are.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

411. MR TAYLOR

19 January 1914

Dear Mr Taylor,[303]

It is with deep regret that I observe from the list in the "Scotsman" today the death of your sister Mrs Johnston,[304] and I only send this note to say how much I feel for you and for all those she has left behind her at home. Truly "His ways are not our ways".[305]

May you all on whom this stroke so heavily falls, prove the sufficiency of God's promised grace.

In deepest sympathy,

I am,
Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

---

303 The son of Thomas Taylor of Midfield, Eskbank, an iron merchant.

304 Agnes Johnston had died at Duns on 17 January.

305 Paraphrasing Isaiah 55:8, 'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord'.

412. JOHN HANNAH

21 January 1914

Dear John,

I am in receipt of your letter of 19th inst. and with regard to the matter of Sundry Creditors in my balance sheet, I find that I have inadvertently put down last year's figures – £930 – instead of £950 as I made it up, and my sundry debtors I have put down at £110 instead of £120 as it should have been, making my balance of course £10 worse than it appears.

With regard to the valuation of my implements, I find that I have paid since I entered here, £992 for implements, besides what I had in use before I came here, so I do not think my valuation can be so very far out.

We are having very fine weather with sometimes a smell of frost in the air.

Trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

413. J. WILKINSON ESQ.

23 January 1914

Dear Sir,[306]

I am in receipt of your letter of 22nd inst. and herewith enclose the a/c you ask for. You will perhaps recall that I paid it on the day I called with Jasper Hunter the Janitor,[307] when I was looking at your saw benches.

Mistakes happen in the best hands, and I do not need to say I accept your apology.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

306 The recipient was perhaps John Wilkinson, whose machinery and tool shop in Leith Walk, Edinburgh, was not far from London Street School.

307 See Letter 19.

414. WILLIAM WALLACE ESQ.

31 January 1914

Dear Sir,[308]

If you could find a customer for my old D.D.[309] manure sower, I would give you an order for a new one. I could do with one with a larger hopper than what I have. The old one is in good working order, and laid past thoroughly clean. I would take £6 or £7 for it.

You might let me know if you have an opening for it.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

415. WILLIAM WALLACE ESQ.

5 February 1914

Dear Sir,

I have your letter of 3rd inst. regarding D.D. manure sower. I think I will work away with the old one. At the price you mention – £5 – it is hardly worth parting with it.

I might be in Ayr on Tuesday, and if so, will look in and see you.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

416. THOMAS P. SOMERVILLE ESQ.

14 February 1914

Dear Sir,[310]

I beg to confirm having sold to you today a yearling colt by "Scotland Yet"[311]

---

308 William Wallace of agricultural implement makers and engineers John Wallace & Sons.

309 *i.e.* double drill.

310 Thomas Purdie Somerville, farmer, Sandilands, Lanarkshire.

311 A Clydesdale stud horse that until recently had been owned by Thomas Purdie Somerville.

out of a mare whose pedigree I enclose, for the sum of one hundred and forty pounds Sterling (£140), said colt to remain with me till the spring at your risk.

It is understood that I get a free service of "Scotland Yet" for my mare, if he has not gone to his season when required.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

417. WILLIAM WALLACE ESQ.

16 February 1914

Dear Sir,

I wired you today as follows, "Can't wait longer on Sower. Send plows and markers complete as arranged at once or must cancel order". I expected to hear from you before this regarding the sale of the old machine, but as I do not suppose you will have sold it, I have wired you as above. If you should have sold it and can let me have a new one by return, of course that arrangement will stand, but in any case I must have either the parts for the old one or a new machine at once. Let me know how matters stand.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

If you should be sending a new machine, I would take the larger hopper. H.M.

418. JOHN HANNAH

20 February 1914

Dear John,

I am sending you some iris bulbs, but am not quite sure of the pretty one that you wanted. There are two kinds growing in the clump so I will put in some of both, and you will be sure to have the right one.

The weather keeps favourable for being on the land. We are planting a few Golden Wonders[312] today and tomorrow and mean to plant Epicures next

312 Golden Wonder is a maincrop variety of potato.

week. I suppose you have had some mixed weather which would interfere with your planting operations.

I was sorry to hear from Phemie the other day that your arm is still troubling you. I hope you will get it put right before you leave for America.

I had Purdie Sommerville round last week. I sold him the colt at £140. I wanted more but was unwilling to let go the bird in the hand. He is to remain with me till the Spring. You will know that Sommerville has sold Scotland Yet to the Aberdeen people.

What are the faults of Scotland's Victor?[313] I only had a broadside look at him that day at the show. James Weir says he is the best horse ever was at Sandilands.

I don't expect to have a foal of any kind this year. I could have done fine with a full brother of the last one.

Trust you are all well.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

419. MR MCGILL

23 February 1914

Dear Mr McGill,

I was in Kilmarnock one day recently and met a man with whom I had a little acquaintance, quite accidentally. He was saying he heard a man in the cross on the Friday before "blawin aff some big anes"[314] regarding me. The words that were repeated were words that I spoke to you when you were here last summer, and as far as my memory serves me I said these words to no one else. I suppose you will know what I refer to, but I would like to hear from you if you know anything about who gave currency to the statement that was made in the cross.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

313 A Clydesdale stud horse owned by Thomas Purdie Somerville.

314 In Scots 'blawin off' usually means boasting or exaggerating, while 'big anes' can mean stories or lies.

420. T. PHILIP ESQ.

6 March 1914

R.T. 775/814

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of 4th inst. enclosing a/c for carriage of manure said to have been received by me at Drem, and which you state I have refused to pay.

I beg to state that I have not refused to pay the carriage of the manure I received, as ascertained by your own weights at Drem. I have only refused to pay for what I did not receive, and regret that I cannot accede to your request to remit £5.14.11.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

421. MR T. BROWN

10 March 1914

Dear Sir,[315]

I received your letter of application last night, and went to Spott this forenoon and saw Mr Stenhouse.[316] He informed me that he was not going to let you free, so I thought there was no use seeing you today. If your mind is made up to leave and if you can satisfactorily arrange with Mr Stenhouse, then I would try and make an agreement with you.

You might let me know by return how you stand.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

315 This was probably the farm servant Thomas Brown of Letters 441 and 444, who was subsequently hired by (and then fell into dispute with) Hugh Miller.

316 James Stenhouse, land steward, The Doon and Spott Mains, Spott.

422. JOHN HANNAH

17 March 1914

Dear John,

I suppose if your former arrangements still hold you will be thinking of getting your bag packed to cross the water.

I hope you have had a turn of better weather and that your planting is now well advanced. We have had rather broken weather for ten days and plowing being about finished we have been getting little done on the land, and even now only the very driest is in anything like condition.

I do hope your arm is better now, and that the others are all well, and that you will have a safe and prosperous voyage.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

423. J. BLACK ESQ.

18 March 1914

Dear Sir,

Would you be good enough to stop the 11 pm Thursday train – Edinburgh to North Berwick – at Drem on Thursday 26th curt.?

An early reply will oblige.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

424. ALEXANDER GUILD

19 March 1914

Dear Mr Guild,

I would have liked to see you and explain in detail the matter concerning the cutting of the trees. I am renewing this portion of the roadside fence of the

little grass paddock which lies between the road and the railway at my own expense, as you have done a good deal of fencing for me lately, and the cutting of the sticks was, I considered a necessity to get the wires put in their place.

The trees are not yet removed, and I will not remove them till I hear that my explanation is satisfactory to Mr Hope.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

425. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

19 March 1914

Dear Sirs,

I am in receipt of your letter of 18th inst. referring to the communication you have had from Messrs Blair & Cadell.

The trees referred to by Mr Hope are situated on the roadside north of the railway and east of my own avenue. I am renewing a portion of the fence there which has been in a very dilapidated condition since I came to West Fortune, and in order to get a run for the wire I cut down two or three ash seedlings that were straggled about. These I may say are of absolutely no value, and in removing them I had no intention of doing anything that would incur the disapproval of either you or Mr Hope to whom I trust this explanation will be satisfactory.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

426. THE LONDON AND LANCASHIRE INSURANCE CO. LTD

29 April 1914

Policy No 646219

Dear Sirs,

I beg to inform you that one of my employees met with an accident on Monday last – 27th inst. Please send me a form and I will give you details.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

427. HUGH CAMPBELL ESQ.

3 May 1914

Dear Sir,

I have about a waggon of potatoes to spare, and could rail them if you send me an order. There will be about 5 tons of the seed left over – I mean your undressed seed. Is this now to go for feeding?

I would like to get the pits cleaned up, and when convenient get our a/c squared.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

I used half a ton of manure extra over your field. H. M.

428. HUGH CAMPBELL ESQ.

6 May 1914

Dear Sir,

Yours of yesterday's date to hand. I used 30 tons of planting your field. The half ton of manure costs £3.6/-. The balance of the seed left for broke is 5 tons 8 cwt.

I have railed the waggon of 'ware'[317] today, and the weight is as follows: 3 tons 12 cwt.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

429. [*no name given in the letter book*]

11 July 1914

Dear Sir,

On bringing in the cow this morning to send her away, I found she had a thick

317 Potatoes intended for human consumption.

quarter – the far fore one – so did not think of sending her to you in that condition.

If I get her anything like right in the beginning of the week, I will send her on but if not, I will perhaps see you on Wednesday.

I do not know how she has come by it at all as she has never had a weed[318] all the time she was milking.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

430. THE SCOTTISH CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY LTD

3 August 1914

Dear Sirs,

Thanks for cheque in payment of potatoes but there is a slight discrepancy in the amount I am charged for the seed.

I had 40 tons @ 75/-	£150. 3.9
I am charged	£150.11.2
An overcharge of	7.5

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

431. GEORGE MILLER

7 August 1914

Dear George,

I meant to have written you a few days ago, enclosing cheque for my Insurance premium, which however was not done. I do so now enclosing cheque for £46.18.9.

I suppose you will all be back from your holiday and I trust you are none the worse but the better of it.

---

318 A fever.

Of course, the one theme at present is the war. It is deplorable that the destruction of life and property accompanied with all the hardships of unemployment and the sorrow of desolate homes, should still be the final means of adjusting differences among the nations. But I suppose we need not wonder so very much at the state of affairs which only verifies Christ's words, that "Nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom".[319] It is well to know that the Lord reigneth and that He can make even the wrath of man to praise Him.

We began cutting oats yesterday, and I expect we will get straight ahead in the course of a day or two.

We heard from Bessie that Jim had been asked to go out for home defence. I was saying that she would be glad in any case that he had not got away to Service.

I trust you are all well and I am glad to say we are.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

432. BESSIE OSBORNE

12 August 1914

Dear Bessie,

I have been wondering how things are progressing as far as Jim is concerned. I know you will be having an anxious time, but I trust and pray that you will in the special circumstances have all the needed grace and strength. I was just thinking the other day that Jim[320] is the first soldier of the Miller connection as far as I know, but before this present strife is finished it is difficult to say how many more of us may be added to that list.

> "For Romans in Rome's trials
> Spares neither child or wife
> Nor limb nor life
> In the brave days of old."[321]

319 Matthew 24:7.

320 This probably refers to Bessie's son James.

321 A slightly misremembered verse from 'Horatius' by Thomas Babington Macaulay.

For myself I will be quite willing whenever the need arises to take my place in the defence of our dearly loved land.

There is evidently nothing being left to chance in this defence. They are digging trenches on a neighbouring farm to us, and I believe are going to mount machine guns that will sweep the whole of this valley if this extremity should arise.

When you can see your way to come we will be glad to see you. You will be just as well in one place as another as far as Jim is concerned.

We are busy with harvest work, and the weather is good.

Tell George that none of our horses have been commandeered, although we had a visit of the officers on Saturday.

We will be glad to hear from you when convenient.

Jane is at Stewarton for a day or two this week, but I don't know whether she would get to see you or not.

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

433. MR WILLIAM EDINGTON

21 August 1914

Dear Sir,

I find in the statement of the enclosed a/c that there is a difference of 22 tons 3 cwt 3 qrs in the weight of manure received here compared with the weight at North Leith. I therefore consider that the carriage on this quantity should be deducted, but without prejudice I am willing to pay the half of it. I have therefore deducted £1.2/- – the carriage of 11 tons – from the a/c, which I trust you will find in order.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

434. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

18 September 1914

Dear Sirs,

I saw the man Small today, and he showed me a communication he had from

the firm who quoted him for fencing wire, stating that the price of this article is on the increase. He would be glad – and so would I – to hear from you that he is to proceed with the work here, so that he may place his order.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

435. MESSRS MCFARLANE & COCKBURN

19 September 1914

Dear Sirs,[322]

The five year old horse has a quite decided stringhalt. Bannatyne saw him today and confirmed this.[323] Let me know if you want him in on Tuesday morning.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

436. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

24 September 1914

Dear Sirs,

I am in receipt of your favour of 23rd inst. with regard to the fencing on West Fortune.

While I quite appreciate the desire on the part of Mr George Hope, that everything possible should be allowed to stand over for the present, it will occasion me very considerable trouble and expense if this fencing is included in that category. By mutual agreement it has already been deferred, and I find that the lack of these roadside fences is an unending source of annoyance and expense, and I trust that this side of the question will appeal to Mr Hope's trustees.

---

322 McFarlane & Cockburn, horse dealers, Grassmarket, Edinburgh.

323 William Bannatyne was a veterinary surgeon based in Haddington. Stringhalt is a gait abnormality in horses caused by a neuro-muscular condition.

As I am most anxious however to have the work done, I would be willing to pay for the fencing according to the estimate and deduct the amount from my next Whitsunday rent, if this would be any advantage.

I will be glad to hear from you at your earliest possible convenience.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

437. JOHN HANNAH

16 October 1914

Dear John,

I received the horses all right on Tuesday afternoon. I think they might have been here in the morning, but they were evidently delayed. The four year old horse will be the dearest of the bargain, at least he looks like that at present. I took the brown colt that Robert[324] bought, as he thought he could do well enough without him.

I have not arranged with Middlemass for the cattle turnips. He seemed to want out of them this year, or to make his own terms. I am communicating with Thomson and he would take them, but will want his own terms too.

If I don't arrange with him, I was thinking of trying them myself on credit with Swans. Do you think I should?

Turnips are scarce and I want to tramp course[325] as much straw as possible, and by supplementing the turnips with cut hay I think this could be managed.

We had a little rain last Monday night which laid the dust in the potato field, but that was about the extent of it.

I enclose cheque for £138 in payment of the horses, which I think is correct.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

---

324 No doubt his brother Robert Miller of Ferrygate.

325 This was a method of storing straw that involved laying it along the length of the straw-barn in mows of 5 or 6 feet and tramping it down. Once a mow reached the roof of the barn, another mow was started. When stored in this fashion, the straw could easily be taken away in forkfuls.

438. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

17 October 1914

Dear Sirs,

I will be glad to hear from you regarding the proposed fencing. The time is wearing on, and I am having the usual difficulty of keeping stock in the fields.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

439. JOHN HANNAH

21 October 1914

Dear John,

I had your letter of 18th inst. yesterday, and I thank you for your offer to accommodate me regarding the cattle. I feel however more than sufficiently indebted to you already, and are reluctant to accept of your kindness. In any case I do not expect that I would have the cattle realised in March, and inconvenience would probably arise thereby.

Swan would charge 5%.

I expected Thomson yesterday or today to see the turnips, but he wrote me saying he had taken another lot and would not take any more at present. I have an idea he wanted to be coaxed. Middlemass kept me hanging on till he thought I would lay them at his feet, and I had in the meantime arranged about the sheep turnips. Of course, the combination that has the sheep turnips is not exactly the same as that which had the cattle ones. As far as I can see, I am now pretty well shut up to putting the cattle in myself.

It just occurred to me that if you would be in Edinburgh any day soon you might come out for a night, or if that is not convenient, I would try to meet you, and talk the matter over.

I trust you are all well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

440. MESSRS BARLAS & BARLAS

29 October 1914

Dear Sirs,[326]

I have your letter of 27th inst regarding the man Thomas Brown. It seems strange that I never had a complaint from him regarding the house he occupied – and further – he examined the house and its surroundings himself, before I engaged him. On Monday morning last he told me that he was not going to start his work and would give me no satisfactory reason why. He has therefore deliberately and unjustifiably deserted his service, and I mean to hold him responsible for any expense I am out to in filling his place, and the places of those others hired along with him, and I will also object to any other person hiring him.

As to his wages, I find that his woman worker has been overpaid one shilling per day for twenty four days at the potato lifting, according to his [*illegible*]. The actual balance of his wages is therefore

	£2.6.6
less overpaid	£1.4
less insurance	.11
	£1.4.11
	£1.1. 7

This however I hold at present against any expense I am put to by his desertion of service.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

441. MR THOMAS BROWN

31 October 1914

Dear Sir,

I am giving you this opportunity of returning to your service and fulfilling your contract with me. However awkward you may think this to be, you will find

326 Barlas & Barlas, High Street, Dunbar, were solicitors.

it will be the simplest way out of the difficulty you have voluntarily got into. I have written Mr Hope regarding the matter.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

442. W. WESTON HOPE ESQ.

31 October 1914

Dear Sir,[327]

If I am rightly informed, you have taken into your employment a man named Thomas Brown, who deserted his service with me on Monday last.

I am not clear with him – having not paid him his wages in full, and am giving him the opportunity of returning to his place.

If he misrepresented his position to you, I trust you will now understand how matters stand.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

443. MESSRS BARLAS & BARLAS

31 October 1914

Dear Sirs,

I have your letter of 30th inst. regarding Thomas Brown. The only satisfactory arrangement he can make with me is to return to his work and fulfil his contract. I have written him, giving him the opportunity to do so. I have also written Mr Hope of the Knowes,[328] to whom I understand Brown has gone, telling him the position of matters.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

---

327 W. Weston Hope was the tenant farmer at Knowes, Whitekirk, East Lothian.

328 See Letter 442.

444. MR THOMAS BROWN

6 November 1914

Dear Sir,

I have your letter with the charges against me of telling lies.

Unless you withdraw these charges and give me an apology, I will demand your immediate dismissal by Mr Hope, whether you return to my service or not.

Unless I have this on Monday first, you will be dismissed on Tuesday.

Yours truly,
H. Miller

445. GEORGE MILLER

26 December 1914

Dear George,

I am sending you a statement of my affairs, and I will be glad if you will make up my balance sheet as before. I cannot get the final account balanced by over £86. I do not understand this as both my cash and bank a/cs balance all right. The strap is not far through the buckle this year, but I have allowed 10% for depreciation, and allowed nothing for straw and I do not think I have overvalued the stock and crop.

I suppose you will be busy with your balance now till the end of the year.

We have had some frost this week, with about the worst roads for two days I almost ever saw. A little rain fell and immediately froze making everywhere almost like a curling rink.

This is a new piece of history that Bessie is making. It is all very interesting and I trust may be very satisfactory. Have you met your new brother-in-law yet? I would like to see him soon.

We expect Mr and Mrs Arthur tomorrow for a few days.

I trust you are all well and with the Season's Greetings,

Yours affectionately,
Hugh

446. WILLIAM JACKSON ESQ.

30 January 1915

Dear Sir,

I beg to call your attention to the matter of the distribution of sacks at Drem Station.

While appreciating the difficulty there is at the present time of supplying the public with the necessary number of sacks, it seems unfair that one person should receive practically a monopoly of them. It is within my knowledge that one man has got upwards of 1000 of North British Railway Sacks this week – specially consigned to himself – and while I have had 300 on order for more than a fortnight, I have not got one.

As this matter is very urgent I trust you will be able to give it your immediate consideration.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

447. W. DRUMMOND ESQ.

12 February 1915

Dear Sir,

Yours of 10th inst to hand with inquiry regarding hay. The lowest price I would take for delivery this month is 90/- per ton on rail, in steam pressed bales.

Please reply at your earliest as I have several other inquiries and I will not likely be able to supply them all.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

448. ROBERT MILLER

15 February 1915

Dear Uncle,

It is now a considerable time since we had an exchange of letters, but the fault

is entirely on my part as I should have written you ere this. We have been hearing a little of you however from time to time, and I trust you are both in your usual again. We heard of Aunt Bessie's upset from Ferrygate, but the last we heard was that she had got over it.

Some of our connection are passing through deep waters. The death of the little boy at Fearn will be a sore grief to the father and mother, coming as it did so unexpectedly and so suddenly. This is one of the things in our earthly life that with our finite vision we are not able to see through.

The horrors of war continue, and with increased armies there is the necessity for increased hospitals, and of course there will be an increased death roll.

The highest civilization that the world has ever known, has developed into a scientific system of taking human life in the most wholesale manner that the genius of man can invent. Oh the horror of it!

We feel that we are again approaching the Springtime, and with a few dry days we will soon be thinking of getting out the potato boxes.

I sent a small bag of "Golden Wonder" potatoes to you today, and hope they may turn up all right in due course.

With kind regards to Aunt Bessie and remembrances to Mrs Spence,

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

449. J. P. DICKSON

20 February 1915

Dear Sir,[329]

On Friday last (12th curt.) I sent you a letter Express post – for publication in your issue of the 13th curt. if you received it in time.

Would you be good enough to let me know if you received that letter, and if so for what reason you have not published it, as I meant you to put it in this week, if it was too late for last week's issue.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

329 J. P. Dickson, editor, *Kilmarnock Standard*.

450. WILLIAM BINNIE ESQ.

13 May 1915

Dear Sir,[330]

I expected to hear from you before this regarding the hay but I am sorry that I cannot now send any more as the government has commandeered all the hay in the district, even where contracts have been made. It is a pity you did not take all you will require when I wanted to send it, but hope you will have sufficient to put you through.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

451. WILLIAM GEMMILL ESQ.

21 June 1915

Dear Sir,[331]

I duly received your letter of 10th inst. with reference to a situation for a young lady. I purposely delayed answering, on the chance that I might hear of something suitable, but so far have not been able to learn of anything. If however I should hear of an opening that might be suitable I will be pleased to let you know.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

452. WILLIAM SIM ESQ.

9 July 1915

Dear Sir,

I have had the horses I got from you this week examined by a Vet. Surgeon

330 The recipient was perhaps William Binnie of Birnie Knowe farm, Oldhamstocks, East Lothian.

331 William Gemmil, farmer, Greendykes, Gladsmuir, East Lothian.

here and he is of the opinion that the bay horse has stringhalt. I will send you his certificate if you wish it.

As there was one price named for the two horses the simplest way will be for me to return them both.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

453. WILLIAM SIM ESQ.

10 July 1915

Dear Sir,

I have just had your phone message and am surprised at your attitude regarding the horses. The horses were sold to me as one valuation to be correct, and it does not matter who gave a certificate of soundness, if one of them is not sound.

I enclose V. S. [332] certificate of unsoundness of the bay horse and will be glad if you give instruction as to his return. Otherwise both horses will be sent back to you. I do not wish to put you in the public or do your horses any harm, but you ought to have told me at the time I saw them that the bay horse had been examined and was rejected for stringhalt.

I will expect to hear from you by return.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

454. MESSRS JOHN WALLACE & SONS

5 August 1915

Dear Sirs,

I have sent today to your address a potato digger to be mounted with a front wheel, and also a set of new pattern forks. I have returned a set of ordinary forks which you can retain and credit me with, but please return the set of forks that is on the digger at present.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

---

332 Veterinary Surgeon.

455. MESSRS JOHN WALLACE & SONS

14 August 1915

Dear Sirs,

I am in receipt of your quotation of the 16th inst. for the repair of potato digger. Please carry this out as you suggest, with the new sock and adjustable graips etc.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

456. B. MCKIE ESQ.

8 September 1915

Under Bolton

Dear Sir,

Mr Steven has handed me today the copy of your letter of 13th October 1913 to Mr Nicol regarding the termination of the tenancy, which was quite explicit.[333] This supplies information which was withheld at Saturday's meeting.

I had not your address or would have written earlier.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

457. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

10 September 1915

Dear Sirs,

I am in receipt of your letter of 8th inst. confirming the arrangement come to at our meeting on Wednesday, regarding the taking over of the sheep dipper at my waygoing, which is quite satisfactory, and for which accept thanks.

---

333 The farm of Under Bolton, North Berwick, had been tenanted by Thomas and William Nichol. The new tenant was John Steven.

I will be pleased to see you on Saturday to arrange about the fences.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

458. G. MERCER ESQ.

18 September 1915

Under Bolton

Dear Sir,[334]

Yours of 16th inst duly received. I am sorry I am not yet in a position to give you full information regarding the hay sold by Mr Nicol.

I have heard nothing from Stenhouse's representatives about the quantity they got, but the weight tickets in my possession total 64 tons 3 cwt 2 qrs. Then W. B. Morrison & Co. had 33 tons 11 cwt 2 qrs and Mr Watson Samuelston[335] had 11 tons – in all 108 tons 15 cwt.

This is not all the hay that was sold and I am trying to get fuller information regarding the quantity.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

459. A. D. MACDONALD ESQ.

18 September 1915

Dear Sir,

Having been appointed arbiter in the Under Bolton reference, would you be good enough to let me know the quantity of hay you have got from Mr Nicol since July 1913?

334 The recipient was perhaps George Mercer, farmer, Cousland Park, Cousland, Midlothian.

335 R. S. Watson, Samuelston Eastmains, Gladsmuir, East Lothian.

I am sorry to trouble you for this, but I cannot get the information satisfactorily in any other way.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

460. JOHN HANNAH

24 September 1915

Dear John,

I have received yours of 23rd inst. with cheque enclosed for £1000, for which accept of my thanks. I enclose receipt for the same which I hope you will find in order – if not – I will correct it, but I think these are much the same as the terms were last year.

The new income tax will impose a burden which should be shouldered without complaint. We may well pay in money when so many are paying in blood.

We have just finished harvest today except an odd few acres. The weather has been very slow this week.

There is quite a little excitement in the district here, over a new aeroplane station which is being formed on East Fortune. Fully a week ago some officers arrived and took possession without saying they wanted it. They have taken 500 acres, and already we are being treated to daily displays of one or two machines. They say a branch railway is to be run into the ground, and extensive shedding to be erected. [336]

This will be a new target for the Zeppelins when the Germans are able to locate it.[337]

I am sorry Phemie is not gaining strength more quickly, but I trust she will continue in the right direction. I might be through at Ayr colt show on the 8th of October, and if so I would be pleased to look you up if quite convenient for you.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

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336 The air station at East Fortune was home originally to a small number of fixed-wing aircraft involved first in fleet support and then in intercepting Zeppelins. The station expanded rapidly in 1916 following the decision to make it the base for a fleet of airships. The Royal Naval Air Station East Fortune formally opened on 23 August 1916.

337 There had been a succession of Zeppelin raids on Britain in 1915, although the first attack on Scotland did not occur until 1916.

461. CHARLES FRASER ESQ.

25 September 1915

Dear Sir,[338]

I will require 600 lineal yards of larch paling, and 60 yards of the heavier stuff for gate bars. Also ends for 16 gates 3' 1" in length. You might mortice these for four bars making the spaces between the bars 5". 6". & 7" wide respectively.

Let me know when you have it ready.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

462. ALEXANDER SWANSTON ESQ.

13 October 1915

Dear Sir,[339]

Referring to our conversation in the market today, I will put the turnips on offer to Mr Stevenson[340] @ 4/3 per week and will allow ten per cent off for cake.

If he cared, I would sell him the cattle I have in, but he can please himself about this. Of course I would like to know at once what he decides.

I could take the cattle in by the end of next week.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

463. JOHN STEVEN ESQ.

15 October 1915

Dear Sir,[341]

Would you be good enough to furnish me with the acreage of the fallow break

338 Charles Fraser, joiner and timber dealer, East Linton, East Lothian.

339 Alexander Swanston, farmer, Myreside, Haddington.

340 Subsequent letters (464, 467 and 469) suggest that the correct spelling of the subject's name was Stephenson.

341 John Steven was the new tenant of Under Bolton farm.

you got possession of on Under Bolton, and would you see that Mr Nicol agrees to this acreage? I do not suppose that there can be any dispute about this, but I have not a note of the fields you got fallow. Please state if any of the said fallow land was ploughed when you got possession of it.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

464. J. STEPHENSON ESQ.

18 October 1915

Dear Sir,

I have you letter of Saturday regarding the turnips.

I am sorry I do not see my way to give 20% of the cake but I will give the cattle some refuse potatoes which this year will be very good feeding. The cattle, if we arrange, will be looked after as if they were my own.

Regarding the cattle which I have in the courts, I thought they should be a little more than cost price, but seeing the stores are a little easier, I would take cost price for them. They cost £20 a piece.

Please wire me tomorrow on receipt of this, as I wish to know before Wednesday that I may get some cattle at Edinburgh.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

465. WILLIAM MURRAY ESQ.

19 October 1915

Dear Sir,[342]

Enclosed is the proposed finding in the Under Bolton arbitration which I trust you will find satisfactory.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

342 William Murray, solicitor, Richardson & Gemmel, High Street, Haddington.

466. WILLIAM MURRAY ESQ.

20 October 1915

Under Bolton

Valuation of Manure – Straw, & Fallow land.

	£
1152 9/27 yards manure @ 5/6 per yard	316.17.10
One half whereof	158. 8.11
1859 7/27 yards straw	65.10
(say 62 tons: 50 tons @ 25/-; 12 tons @ 5/-)	
75.194 acres fallow land @ £1.5.5 per acre	95.11. 2
	319.10. 1

Hugh Miller (Arbiter)

467. J. STEPHENSON ESQ.

10 November 1915

Dear Sir,

You might please let me know if you are taking over my 24 cattle, as it is time they had some cake, and I wish to get them started.

Indeed all the cattle would be much the better of some cake as they are inclined to scour[343] with turnips alone.

Please let me know by return.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

468. JAMES FLEMING ESQ.

11 February 1916

Dear Sir,

I herewith enclose cheque for £92 in payment of horse. I had him in the plough for the first time yesterday. He had cold after he came home but was

343 Scour (diarrhoea) is a common health problem in young cattle.

not very bad. He seems all right in his work, but I have not yet had a test of his wind in his work as I did not wish to put him to it when he had cold. We had some snow in the beginning of the week, and the land has been very dirty on the surface since.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

469. J. STEPHENSON ESQ.

22 February 1916

Dear Sir,

I had your note this morning asking about the cattle. The heifers are being fed on both sides of the court, and I do not consider it is necessary to do this in the other courts where the cattle are agreeing. If you think they are not doing well enough, I know they are eating more than four baskets of turnips per head per day. I think the cattle are doing exceedingly well, considering all the cake they are getting, and I can see that so much interference will not be conducive to the attendant interesting himself in them.

I have told him however to put some turnip on the other side.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

470. JOHN HANNAH

22 February 1916

Dear John,

I got home last week all right, and got the pictures safely conveyed as well. We have now got them hung up, and the large one recalls many tender memories. We both thank you for parting with it, and while we do not need the picture to remind us of Phemie,[344] yet to look on it brings very vividly to our minds the dear life

[344] Euphemia Hannah, Hugh Miller's sister and John Hannah's wife, had died on 14 January, aged thirty-eight years.

that has gone, and particularly her last visit here when she spoke about the pictures. We often speak of the happy time we had then and I have no doubt that

> "Within the veil we'll clearly see
> That all on earth had need to be
> To bring us safely home".[345]

May the Lord Himself make His grace to abound to you and yours.

We are having cold blustery weather, with occasional showers of small hail. The land however is drying now and should soon be fit for working. Indeed I think Ferrygate will have made a start.

The Jersey cow[346] calved yesterday – a bull calf – and a very weakly one. I do not suppose you wanted it unless it was a heifer.

J. Thomson is getting some sheep next week at 1/- per [*illegible*]. They had a very bad time for two or three weeks, but are doing a little better now that the land is drying.

I trust you all keep well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

471. MESSRS MUNGO GRAY & CO.

29 March 1916

Dear Sirs,

I received your cheque in payment of a/c enclosed, which I return herewith discharged. There was a slight error however in the writing of the amount on the cheque which is as follows – "One hundred & fifty and five". The figures for the amount were all right.

I paid in the money today and said I would let you know of the mistake. Will you please put the matter right at the bank as I thought it was hardly worth while returning the cheque.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

---

345 A slightly misremembered verse from the anonymous poem 'The Other Side'.

346 A Board of Agriculture schedule from 1918 recorded two milking cows at West Fortune. See the Introduction.

472. LIEUTENANT-COLONEL ROBERT MAXWELL MAIN

24 April 1916

Dear Sir,[347]

Referring to our conversation on the phone today regarding the two men – Alex. Sanderson and Thomas Ingles – in my employment, I beg to remind you as requested, that in your opinion they are both unfit for military service. So that you may accordingly have them marked off the register.

Alex Sanderson
No. on group card 26
No. of group 13

Thomas Ingles
No. on group card 116
No. of group 1

I am,
Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

473. MESSRS MACKINTOSH & BAIN

8 May 1916

Dear Sirs,[348]

Yours of 4th inst. duly received with Dividend warrant enclosed, which I have signed and herewith return.

I am wondering how the affairs of my late uncle[349] now stand, and also if the trustees of his estate are under any obligation to you. The reason I ask this is that I cannot remember having seen a note of your expenses, nor that these were discharged, and I would only like the matter made satisfactory for myself.

---

347 Lieutenant-colonel Robert Maxwell Main, former commanding officer of the 7th (East Lothian) Volunteer Battalion Royal Scots and a solicitor in Haddington, was the military representative on the East Lothian Recruiting Tribunal. The tribunals were established to hear exemption applications from compulsory military service. See the Introduction.

348 Mackintosh & Bain, solicitors, Bank Street, Kilmarnock.

349 John Miller, who had died earlier in the year.

I will be glad to hear from you at your convenience.
Please note that my postal address is Drem, not Luffness.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

474. JOHN HANNAH

12 May 1916

Dear John,

I herewith enclose cheque for £1030.13/- in repayment of loan of £1000, 330 interest due at this term, and 13/- which I think should pay the commission. They charged me 10/6 on the last draft for £1000 which I sent you, and the charge was the same when I cashed the last cheque you sent me for £1000. I used to think the commission was less on a draft than on a cheque, but I have evidently been mistaken.

I trust you will find this in order.

The land is drying up a little yesterday and today, but this afternoon broke down again, and tonight looks as if it could rain without much effort. We will soon have had a year of wetter weather than the west.

We will look forward to seeing you and Elma on the 27th. Would you not bring some of the boys with you? We would like if you could, and it would be a nice day's outing for them. We will expect you as early as you can come, but Jane says we will make dinner-time to suit.

I will send the horse by the 7.30 train on Monday morning. Thanks for the use of him and I hope he will not be the worse of his change of air.

I trust you all keep well.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

475. THE LONDON & LANCASHIRE INSURANCE CO. LTD

8 June 1916

Policy No. 646219

Dear Sirs,

Referring to yours of 24th May re accident to Philip McNulty, his arm is better and he would have returned to work on Monday last the 5th inst. but has been confined to the house since then with a bad cold.

My total liability to him therefore is wages for three weeks less one day @ 26/- per wk. and he asks nothing more.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

476. JOHN D. HOPE ESQ.

14 June 1916

Dear Sir,[350]

I am in receipt of your letter of 13th inst. re cutting the hedge sides.

I will not willingly destroy any partridges nests, but I consider the prevention of weeds seeding on cultivated land is of more importance than the preservation of a few partridges. I think too that it is rather hard that our ploughmen should be called up for military service and gamekeepers allowed to knock around watching a few nests of partridges hatching out.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

477. C. O. BEAUMONT

24 July 1916

Dear Sir,[351]

Perhaps you will pardon me taking the liberty of asking if it would be agreeable to you that a service should be held in the hall at East Fortune on a Sunday evening. If so I would be glad to arrange for the same.

---

350 John D. Hope, MP for Haddingtonshire (1911-1918). He lived at Kilduff House, Athelstaneford.

351 Flight Lieutenant Ernest F. Beaumont, Royal Naval Air Station East Fortune.

In suggesting this I have no other object than the welfare of the men.

If you care I would be pleased to call on you at your convenience and talk the matter over.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

478. GEORGE MILLER

26 July 1916

Dear George,

I had your letter some time ago with the Insurance notices enclosed. We also had a card from Cathie from Dalmellington. I hope you have all had a good holiday.

We have had real summer weather here for a week or ten days, thunder going about at times, but we have so far escaped any cloud burst.

We are now cutting hay in the tramp rick and we want dry weather still.

Uncle Robert has been in these parts for a week or two, but is going home soon. I think he is the better of the change, but he is a lonely old man.

I herewith enclose cheque for £46.18.9 in payment of premiums, which I trust you will find in order.

I trust you all keep well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

I forgot.

479. C. O. WATSON

9 August 1916

Dear Sir,

There is a man Frank Anderson whose address I subjoin, concerning whom I write to ask for a month's leave for the harvest. His father is in my employment

and I would consider it a great favour if you can consent to him getting off. I would not require his services for the harvest till nearly the end of August.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

Address referred to –

7078 Pr. F. J. Anderson
195th Brigade Sigl. Sec. R. E.[352]
Terling Camp
Terling, Essex

480. MR MERCER

16 August 1916

Dear Mr Mercer,

I happened to be calling on Mr Guild today, and before parting he told me that there is a claim lodged or to be lodged of £350 against Mr Ogilvy for miscropping[353] etc. at the Brunt.[354] He asked me on the spot to say whether or not I thought any claim was valid. He also said that he had already offered £15 for the cutting of the hedges. I suggested to him that if I were in Mr Ogilvy's place I would be inclined to offer a lump sum of £50 and no more. I do not know whether you would be of this opinion or not, but considering everything and the men you are up against, perhaps 'discretion is the better part of valour'.

I wanted to let you have this information at first hand, so that you would not misunderstand me if you heard it from any other source.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

352 The 195th Brigade, Signals Section, Royal Engineers.

353 In some agricultural tenancy agreements, a penalty was payable for miscropping, *i.e.* sowing a crop out of rotation.

354 The Brunt was a farm on the duke of Roxburghe's Broxmouth estate near Dunbar. Charles Ogilvy's tenancy had come to an end at Whitsunday 1916.

481. LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DAVID G. WEMYSS

29 August 1916

Sir,[355]

I herewith enclose letter from Mr Glendinning,[356] requesting that two of his former employees, who have been called up, should be sent to him for the harvest. He omitted to mention this when he sent in his application form.

If you find it possible to send Mr Glendinning these two men, it would no doubt be a great convenience as well as a great favour to him.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

482. THE O. C. R. E.

21 September 1916

Dear Sir,[357]

With reference to my communication with Lieut. Cullen regarding a supply of water for the War Department Hutments[358] at West Fortune – I am prepared to supply water at the rate of 2/- (two shillings) per 1000 (thousand) gallons as shall be registered by a reliable meter belonging to you, the water to be pumped by an engine of twenty horse power.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

---

355 Lieutenant-colonel David G. Wemyss, Royal Scots, Glencorse Barracks, Edinburgh.

356 Probably James Glendinning of Ballencrief farm, Dirleton.

357 The initials suggest that the letter was sent to the Officer Commanding Royal Engineers helping to expand the air station at East Fortune.

358 An encampment of huts providing temporary housing for personnel connected with the air station at East Fortune had been erected on Hugh Miller's farm.

483. LIEUTENANT ANDERSON

23 September 1916

Dear Sir,[359]

Will you be good enough to grant me a permit to sell forty tons of oat straw to Messrs Mungo Gray & Co. I wish to thresh this from the stook, and will be glad to hear from you at your earliest convenience.[360]

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

484. ROBERT MILLER

1 November 1916

Dear Uncle,

I had your letter the other morning and am glad you have accomplished the sale of your house. It will be one little burden off your mind and for the future will simplify your other arrangements.

Every step in life is part of an unknown road, but being in the company of the very best guide we have the satisfaction of knowing that He will lead us right. And we have the assurance that He will stay with us, for has He not said – "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee".[361]

We have had broken weather but have now got the late potato crop lifted. It is the smallest I have ever handled.

The war news from the East has been gloomy for the past week,[362] and the end is not yet. May He who alone can – intervene.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

---

359 Lieutenant Anderson (the Captain Anderson of Letters 511 and 531) was the District Purchasing Officer for Supplies for East Lothian.

360 Farmers had to inform the District Purchasing Officer for Supplies of their returns of hay and straw so it could be assessed for army use before it could be offered elsewhere under permit.

361 Hebrews 13:5.

362 Hugh Miller is perhaps referring to the setbacks suffered by the allies in Romania.

485. WILLIAM BRUCE ESQ.

10 November 1916

Release of Soldiers for Agricultural Work

Dear Sir,[363]

I have your letter of 7th inst. with enclosures referring to Mr Bone's application.[364] I do not think there is much to report after reading over his form of inquiry. He was however rather late in getting his harvest finished, which considerably delayed his potato lifting and other work.

I know of no farm around this district that is not in arrears with the season's work, and wheat sowing will in consequence be at a disadvantage.

If possible, I think you should consider this application favourably.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

486. MR MCKERROW

10 November 1916

Dear Mr McKerrow,

I duly received yours of the 4th inst. with the usual "New Year's Order" and I will be pleased to do my poor best to fulfil it.

I see from your note that you are holding the Children's Social on the Sunday this time. A new departure surely!

You mention Sunday 8th January, but my reading of the calendar is that the 8th of January is a Monday. You might please confirm the dates.[365]

Sorry to hear of the deep waters you have been passing through. I am sure you will be proving that underneath are the everlasting arms.

---

363 William Bruce, secretary and executive officer, District Agricultural Committee for East Lothian, George Street, Edinburgh.

364 Farmers could apply to the District Agricultural Committees for the release of soldiers to help with agricultural work at busy times of the farming year. The Mr Bone referred to here was either Thomas Bone of East Fenton, Dirleton, or David Bone of Markle, Prestonkirk.

365 Miller was correct – 8 January 1917 was a Monday.

I enclose a cheque for £5 towards the funds of the Hall.
Kind regards to all the faithful. "Greet the friends by name".[366]

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

487. JAMES B. SMALL ESQ.

15 November 1916

Dear Sir,[367]

Did you find a mistake in your cash today? I think I am £2 short.
My transaction in the Bank was as follows -

Mungo Gray & Co's cheque	£102
Wm Kay & Sons' cheque	£124.4/-
Lieutenant Fairniechough's cheque	£5

I paid in £225 and if my memory serves me right – for I was in a hurry – you gave me £3.2.9 cash.

Of course, if your cash is correct, the mistake will be mine.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

488. GEORGE MILLER

2 January 1917

Dear George,

I meant to write you before the year closed but did not get it done. Time slips past with well oiled wheels.

366 3 John 1:14.

367 James B. Small worked for the Clydesdale Bank in Edinburgh.

Thanks for your offer to put my balance sheet in order. I have not got it made up yet, and I will see how I get on. I enclose cheques in payment of premiums as per enclosed notices (£12.12.11).

I think I would perhaps see the articles by Smith that you enclosed. They do not impress me however, and I do think it is a pity of those who go to him for their theology.

I trust you are all well and with every good wish for the fateful year on which we have entered.

I am,
Yours affectionately,
Hugh

489. ARCHIBALD MACNEILAGE

25 January 1917

Sir,[368]

In your leading article of last week on "Bread v. Meat" quoting from "The Glasgow Herald", you make reference to the appalling waste of food stuff by the liquor traffic. It would no doubt be difficult to paint the picture with as dark a background as the reality, and the evidence of the need of reform is so overwhelming, that it seems almost unnecessary to make any suggestion, but if the Executive Food Production Committee[369] which has been formed all over the country would take up this matter, and forthwith send to the Government a protest against this waste, it would at least like "Old Barbara Frietchie of Frederick Town"[370] show what side they were on, and incidentally might strengthen the hands of those who have a difficult and heavy task to deal with.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

368 Archibald MacNeilage, editor of *The Scottish Farmer*.

369 Later renamed the War Agricultural Executive Committees, these committees were established throughout Britain in early 1917 tasked with increasing agricultural production. Their remit was subsequently extended to include agricultural manpower issues.

370 Barbara Frietchie was known mainly through a poem by John Greenleaf Whittier, which depicted her waving a Union flag at some Confederate soldiers who were passing through her hometown of Frederick during the American Civil War.

490. ROBERT M. MCKECHNIE ESQ.

14 February 1917

Dear Sir,

I herewith enclose cheque for £100 which I wish put into the War Loan. Will you be good enough to negotiate this for me as I am not too well acquaint with the procedure.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

491. T. HONEYMAN ESQ.

16 February 1917

Dear Sir,[371]

Some time ago you got some information from me in connection with the huts erected on this farm – regarding the damages done. The huts are now being removed and as I have not yet made any claim I intend doing so now. Would you be good enough to give me any information that would be helpful in this direction, as it is difficult to know what department to communicate with?

Anticipating your reply,

I am,
Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

492. T. HONEYMAN ESQ.

21 February 1917

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your favour of 19th inst, for which I thank you, but I would feel obliged if you would state the basis of your valuation of £10.1.6. You

[371] The recipient was perhaps Thomas Honeyman, Board of Agriculture for Scotland, York Buildings, Queen Street, Edinburgh.

surely do not mean this to represent the value of the barley crop, not to speak of the young grass that has been destroyed.

I will be glad to hear from you on this point before making up my claim.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

493. List of Workers on West Fortune

26 February 1917

List of Workers on West Fortune

Males

William Anderson – Grieve	Age	52
Peter McGauchrane – Cattleman	"	65
Jamie Duncan – Shepherd	"	43
Charles Campbell – 1st Ploughman	"	30
John McGauchrane 2nd "	"	26
George Anderson "	"	49
Robert Logan "	"	21
George Anderson (Jr.) "	"	20
John Logan "	"	18
Robert Steele – orra boy	"	14

Females

Maggie Anderson	"	20
Chrissie Anderson	"	16
Mrs Steele	"	36
Maggie Walker	"	63

Lizzie McGauchrane
Katie Anderson } Girls of 15 years
Mary Logan

Hugh Miller

494. MESSRS GUTTRIDGE & CO.

8 March 1917

Dear Sirs,[372]

The lost heads and plucks have never turned up, and the Railway Company state that they were delivered to you. I enclose their letter to Messrs Dewar & Davidson,[373] also the latter's letter to me for your perusal, which will show the position they take up. I will be glad if you sift the matter out as far as possible.

I hope to send you 45 sheep heads and plucks for Monday's sale. Hope you get a good trade.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

495. MISS QUARRIER

17 March 1917

Dear Miss Quarrier,[374]

My brother spoke to me the other day about a communication he had from you regarding potatoes. I really had sold all I had to spare to a merchant, but I arranged all right with him and have sent you a waggon (four tons) today. They are much smaller than we get in ordinary times, but you will find the quality all right.

In the course of a week or two I could perhaps send you other four or eight tons. I hope this quantity will put you more than an arm's length from famine. I would have sent you a larger quantity but I must not break faith with the merchant to whom they were already sold.

I will send the a/c for the lot after they are railed.

These are trying times we are passing through and the difficulties of maintaining your large family, will be much increased, but when we 'Consider

372 Messrs Guttridge & Co., meat salesmen, Central Meat Market, London.

373 Dewar & Davidson, hide, skin and tallow merchants, New Markets, Gorgie, Edinburgh.

374 The recipient was probably Mary Quarrier, who, along with her sister Agnes, ran the homes established by their father for orphans and others at Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire.

the ravens'[375] and remember the Hand that feeds them we conclude that our Father has a deeper interest in us. Jehovah-Jireh.[376]

With kind regards,
Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

496. MESSRS GUTTRIDGE & CO.

22 March 1917

Dear Sirs,

Referring to my letter to you of the 8th inst. Will you be good enough to let me know if you have been able to trace the heads and plucks that went amissing from my first consignment of mutton to you on February 5th last?

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

497. MESSRS GUTTRIDGE & CO.

21 April 1917

Dear Sirs,

I have delayed writing you in the hope that I would have heard from you regarding the 80 heads and plucks[377] that went missing about February 5th last. On inquiry here I learn that the Railway Company can prove delivery to you of these goods. That information must be either right or wrong, and I will be pleased to hear what position you take up regarding it, so that I may know how to proceed regarding their recovery.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

---

375 Luke 12:24.

376 The place where Abraham offered his son Isaac as a sacrifice, although as a phrase it had come to mean 'the Lord will provide'.

377 The internal organs of a sheep.

498. MISS QUARRIER

26 April 1917

Dear Miss Quarrier,

I have today sent you another waggon (4 tons) of potatoes which I trust will reach you all right. I am sorry I cannot send you any more than this as my stock is now exhausted. I enclose a/c as requested. The potatoes were sold at £11 per ton, but I am charging yours at £10 which I hope will be satisfactory to you.

The future months are not bright at the moment, concerning our food supplies,[378] but The Lord reigneth, and the assurance the earth and the fullness thereof belong to Him, gives us confidence that we shall not want.

May the Lord bless you and yours.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

499. JOHN HANNAH

11 May 1917

Dear John,

I herewith enclose cheque for £510.6.9 in payment of

loan of	£500
interest	10
commission	.6.9
	£510.6.9

which I trust you will find in order and I thank you for the use of the service having got his cousin in the R.G.A.[379] awaiting orders, Bertie thinks he will be sent to France before long.

They are still planting potatoes at Kinnears and I have no turnips sown.

---

378 In January 1917, Germany had introduced a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare in order to starve the United Kingdom into submission. Voluntary rationing had been introduced in February 1917 in an attempt to alleviate the strain it put on national food supplies. Compulsory rationing followed on certain items in late 1917 and in 1918.

379 Royal Garrison Artillery.

We got the turnips almost finished yesterday except a few endrigs, and I have had as much rain as braird the new [*illegible*] them, and it is still inclining to rain today.

Campbell was saying to me on Wednesday that he would buy my potatoes next Wednesday. I bantered him that I did not think he would be able to buy them. Should they be worth £50? I don't think he will give me this as he will have bought Ferrygate at easier terms, I think.

We were sorry to learn from Bessie that Miss Young has had a relapse. She does not look like getting quickly over her illness.

I trust the children are all keeping well.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

500. LIEUTENANT-COLONEL ROBERT MAXWELL MAIN

19 June 1917

Dear Sir,

John McGauchrane and John Logan, both in my employment, have received notice to attend at Haddington on Monday next, "as definite date for them undertaking military service must now be fixed".

I herewith enclose the particulars of my male employees, and you will observe that I have one horseman less than I had at May 28th.

In any case I see there is a new order from the War Office that no more men are to be taken from farms without the consent of the Agricultural Executive Committees. I will likely see you on Friday about the matter.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

501. JAMES W. WATT ESQ.

23 June 1917

Dear Sir,[380]

I had your letter and samples of seed two weeks ago.

---

380 James W. Watt, farmer, Newmains, Athelstaneford.

Is the imported Italia Irish seed? and what weight and growth is it?

I spoke to you some time ago about getting access through your field on to the Drem road. I would be glad if we could get this arranged now as I will have a gate way to make in the hedge.

I am quite prepared to pay any damage I do, as also for the privilege.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

502. A. BUTTER ESQ.

15 July 1917

Dear Sir,[381]

I am in receipt of your favour of 11th inst. with reference to the land of Muirhouses,[382] for which I have to thank you.

In the event of any developments taking place, I will be glad to hear from you.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

503. J. H. WHITE ESQ.

20 July 1917

Dear Sir,

I have your wire asking "Why sending such small loads straw to Oakham,[383] incurring unnecessary carriages, and unnecessary use of stock". I don't know why you complain now about the weight of the loads of straw. I began loading

381 The recipient was perhaps Captain Archibald Butter of Newton Hall, Gifford.

382 Muirhouses was a farm in Athelstaneford parish, East Lothian. It had been bought along with the adjacent farm of East Fortune in 1915 by the Admiralty as the location for a new air station. Although its farm buildings were demolished, Muirhouses was never used for aeronautical purposes, its lands instead being let out for cultivation and grazing. These lands appear to have been managed for the Admiralty by A. Butter.

383 Oakham is a town in Rutland, England.

on June 26th and finished on July 13th and if you had any fault about the loads why did you not complain sooner? In any case I suppose you will be aware that the Railway Company have a gage for the height of loaded waggons, and I had to go by that.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

504. MESSRS GUTTRIDGE & CO.

8 August 1917

Dear Sirs,

I will be glad to hear from you regarding the lost heads and plucks which went amissing about February 5th last. The Railway Company state distinctly that they were delivered to you and I cannot understand why you have delayed to settle for them.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

505. A. BUTTER ESQ.

3 October 1917

Dear Sir,

Mr Kennedy has asked me to send you an offer for the stack stands[384] at Muirhouses and I herewith do so.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

384 Stands, made of metal, stone or wood, on which corn and hay stacks were built in order to keep the lower part of the stack dry and to exclude rodents.

506. A. BUTTER ESQ.

3 October 1917

Dear Sir,

I hereby offer for the stack stands at Muirhouses, thirty in number, the sum of forty five pounds (£45) Sterling on condition that the stands are complete when delivered. I will undertake their removal.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

507. A. BUTTER ESQ.

15 November 1917

Dear Sir,

I hereby offer for the two fields on Muirhouses that are to let, the sum of fifty pounds Sterling (£50) for one year as from Martinmas first according to the condition set forth in your letter of 9th inst.

Hugh Miller

508. A. BUTTER ESQ.

15 November 1917

Dear Sir,

Referring to our conversation on Wednesday regarding the two fields on Muirhouses that are to let, taking into consideration the facts that the tenancy is only for one year, and the tenant has the upkeep of the fences, and these are in a neglected condition, I think £50 is a fair offer, and hope you can accept of this.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

509. A. BUTTER ESQ.

21 November 1917

Dear Sir,

Referring to our conversation on the phone this afternoon, regarding the fields at Muirhouses – if I take the one I may as well take the other – unless you wish to give one to some one else. If you care I would stand in up to £80 rather than miss them, allowing about 4 acres off for the wireless and the road – this would be equal to 53/ per acre for 30 acres.

If you wish me to send you a formal offer for this amount you can please let me know.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

510. THE PAPER MANUFACTURING CO., INVERESK

28 November 1917

Dear Sirs,[385]

Regarding our conversation on the telephone this evening, I hereby offer you from twenty to thirty tons wheat straw, steam baled free on rail at Drem Station, at £3.10/- per ton. Delivery as soon as I can get a mill to thresh it, which I expect will be about the second week in December weather permitting.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

511. CAPTAIN ANDERSON

5 December 1917

Dear Sir,

I have signed and herewith return purchase notes for 46 tons hay.

---

385 The recipient was probably the Inveresk Paper Co., Inveresk Mills, Musselburgh.

Regarding clause 6 of the conditions of sale, I beg to state that I am fully insured with the "Guardian Insurance Company". I can exhibit the receipts if you wish.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

512. MESSRS GUTTRIDGE & CO.

17 December 1917

Dear Sirs,

I duly received your favour of 12th inst. re the missing heads and plucks. As the Railway Company state that they have your signature for delivery, I do not think I should stand to lose anything, but in the circumstances I will accept of £5 in settlement of my claim. I trust this will meet with your approval.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

513. A. BUTTER ESQ.

12 February 1918

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 11th inst. accepting of my offer of 27/6 per acre for land to be cultivated at Muirhouses.

Regarding the conditions of let – if the Admiralty reserve the right to terminate the tenancy at pleasure, they should be liable to the tenant for compensation for any loss he may sustain. If this were added the conditions are quite in order.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

514. MESSRS JOHN WALLACE & SONS

13 February 1918

Dear Sirs,

I am in receipt of your letter of 12th inst. and you are certainly quite frank regarding the price of the D.D. & Manure Distributor, but I think your frankness is quite unbecoming in a firm like yours. I ordered the machine from Mr Robert Wallace early last year, and the price was left to him, as he could not at the time say what it would be. Latterly he did put down the price, and now you are not satisfied with his figures. I think no fair minded person could do anything but condemn the action you have taken, and all over a trifle.

However I am glad to say I can either work away with my old machine or purchase one of another make somewhere else, and thus obviate the risk of you sustaining any loss on the transaction.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

515. MR LEYS

20 February 1918

Dear Mr Leys,

Your letter of 15th inst. is before me, and regarding the proposed Life Policy, I think with all deference to my brother's[386] advice I will have the one payable at death or age 60 – premium £76.0.10.

I have not yet had time to see the doctor but hope to do so as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

386 George Miller, manager of the Ayr branch of the Clydesdale Bank. See the Introduction.

516. CHARLES RITCHIE ESQ.

9 April 1918

Dear Sir,[387]

With reference to 78 sheep sent by me to Messrs Dewar & Davidson last week to kill, and which were allocated by you as follows[388] –

48 to Centl. M. M. Co.[389] &
30 to Edinbr. M. M. Co.[390]

I find that in my returns I am charged in name of commission £4.3/- on the former and £1.16.2 on the latter.

This is surely quite out of order and I will be glad if you give the matter your early attention with a view to recovering these amounts.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

517. MESSRS DEWAR & DAVIDSON

20 April 1918

Dear Sirs,[391]

I beg to acknowledge receipt of cheque for £277.15.4 in payment of 78 carcases of mutton consigned to The M. W. M. S. Association, Birmingham.[392] I note the deduction they have made on the carcases and have written to Mr Ritchie on the matter. I hope however they may remit the difference to you.

In the meantime, I do not accept of the cheque as payment in full.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

---

387 Charles Ritchie, deputy livestock commissioner, Balmoral Hotel, Edinburgh.

388 A shortage of meat during the First World War resulted in the government regulating and controlling its supply. Ritchie was one of a number of commissioners tasked with overseeing the distribution of carcases.

389 The Central Meat Market Co. Ltd, Edinburgh.

390 The Edinburgh Meat Market Co. Ltd, Edinburgh.

391 Dewar & Davidson, hide, skin and tallow merchants, New Markets, Gorgie, Edinburgh.

392 Midlands Wholesale Meat Salesmen's Association, Birmingham.

518. CHARLES RITCHIE ESQ.

20 April 1918

Dear Sir,

I have today received from Messrs Dewar & Davidson cheque for £227.15.4 in payment of 78 carcases of mutton allocated by you to The M. W. M. S. Association, Birmingham.

They have deducted 141 lbs of mutton of 5269 lbs. I do not think you will expect me to accept of this and will be glad if you will take steps to recover the difference of 141 lbs @ 1/1 £7.12.9.

Messrs Dewar & Davidson's weights were promptly advised and invoiced, and these were never challenged.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

519. MESSRS JOHN WALLACE & SONS

9 May 1918

Dear Sirs,

I have sent you three mowers for repair. There are two bags attached with finger and [*illegible*] sections, which I got from you last year but did not put on, as I though it better to send the machines to you. I think the fingers want renewing but there are some good enough ones through them which you might return as they could be useful for later on. If however you think that some of the fingers would be quite satisfactory with a grease I will leave that to you. I also want the knives filled [*illegible*] settings.

Look specially to the brackets for holding the ends of the connecting rods into the knives. Some of these are loose. The [*illegible*] to which the front seats are attached come down on the top of the tractor wheel. Please see that these are set up. The end of [*illegible*] poles has got split at the back end with the bolts getting loose on one occasion. This would be better of an iron plate or perhaps one on each side rivetted on. Though I mention these things I want the machine put absolutely right.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

520. CHARLES RITCHIE ESQ.

11 May 1918

Dear Sir,

I have now received the balance of the mutton which was deducted from the lot that went to Birmingham, but I have not heard further regarding the amount deducted in name of commission, by the two Edinburgh firms, viz.

£1.16.2 by The E. M. M. Co. Ltd
and £4.3/- by The C. M. M. Co. Ltd

As it is well enough understood that this must be paid, and this fact was corroborated by you, I cannot understand the delay in settling it.

I will be glad to hear from you on the matter.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

521. A. BUTTER ESQ.

25 June 1918

Dear Sir,

Referring to the stack stands which I purchased from you at Muirhouses, there were thirty altogether and three of them I think were quite useless as stands. The remainder had been in use and up till last year had been quite serviceable, but sometime last summer the pillars were all pulled from under them, and the bars being rusted in their sockets, a good deal of damage was done by the breakage of parts.

I considered that it would be possible to erect only about two thirds of the total number – the remainder being scrap. By the time I got possession of them, there were a good many parts missing which it is impossible to replace at the present time.

I quite agree that had the stands been handed over to an incoming tenant without displacing them they would have had a different value.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

522. JOHN HANNAH

1 July 1918

Dear John,

I am sending you herewith for your observations my balance sheet of my cattle transactions for the past season. An ounce of fact is worth a ton of theory, and I think some folks would be all the better of knowing some of the facts concerning cattle feeding, and what controlled prices mean. I have allowed nothing for the dung, but have charged nothing for the straw, which may not please everybody, but as a commercial transaction I think it is about fair. The hay is both underestimated in quantity and undervalued. The quantity would easily be ten tons more and the price I got from the government amounted to £6.2.6. Turnips and mangolds would have been worth more than double the estimated cost of production, but I have allowed £2.6/- to go against any residual value of the manures used in growing these crops.

I was thinking if I could get another half dozen men to make up a similar balance sheet, and let these be published, it would ventilate an injustice that is already making itself felt in a decrease of production of food.

If you have any alterations to suggest I will be pleased if you will do so, as I want to be quite fair on both sides.

I quite forgot on Saturday evening before hanging up the phone to ask if you have fixed up with Miss Goer.

We are still having it very dry and strong winds are sore on everything.

I trust you are all well.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

523. THOMSON ESQ.

3 July 1918

Dear Sir,[393]

On the 11th of April last I consigned 78 sheep to Messrs Dewar & Davidson –

[393] This is the first of a number of letters addressed simply to 'Thomson esq.' (see Letters 525, 526 and 538). Given the topic, the recipient was perhaps Frank Thomson, inspector of livestock, Board of Agriculture of Scotland, York Buildings, Queen Street, Edinburgh.

to kill. Those were allocated by the Live Stock Commissioner – Mr Ritchie – as follows:

48 carcases to The Central Meat Market Co. Ltd – Edinburgh
and 30 carcases to The Edinburgh Meat Market Co. Ltd – Edinburgh.

The Government was paid the usual charge of 1/6 per head, but my complaint is that these two companies each charged commission again on their consignment, the former £4.3/- and the latter £1.16.2.

I think this is quite an unjust charge and I will be glad if you will look into the matter and let me know what is right, and who should pay.

I enclose for your perusal and return the statements of both lots of sheep.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

524. ARCHIBALD MACNEILAGE ESQ.

10 July 1918

Dear Sir,

I have been making up a balance sheet of my cattle feeding transactions for the past winter, and would not object to put it in your hands for publication anonymously – if you care. I think with facts before you for a text you could preach a powerful sermon on this vexed subject.[394] Every man I speak to here seems afraid to open his mouth to his neighbour on his feeding results, but any information I have got, I assure you is far from encouraging for this kind of food production for next year.

If you favour the idea, I quite believe I could get another one or two to submit their balance sheet as well.

Will be glad to hear from you.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

394 See the Introduction for the impact that wartime legislation regarding foodstuffs was having on cattle feeders such as Hugh Miller.

525. THOMSON ESQ.

23 July 1918

T/A.D.K.

Dear Sir,

I have your favour of 19th inst. and in reply beg to state that the offals referred to were sold by Messrs Dewar & Davidson who accounted to me for them.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

G./A.P.

526. THOMSON ESQ.

9 August 1918

Dear Sir,

Yours of 1st August duly to hand.

With regard to the offals of 78 sheep in question, I stated in my letter of July 23rd that these were sold by Messrs Dewar & Davidson who accounted to me for them.

I do not see that the particulars of these offals has anything to do with the matter. Also, what I asked in my first letter of July 3rd was, who should pay that commission.

Other firms got sheep from me under exactly the same conditions and no commission was charged. I will be glad if you will give me the information that I asked for, and return the enclosures I sent to you on July 3rd.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

527. THE OFFICER COMMANDING 3RD SCOTTISH CO. N.C.C.[395]

22 August 1918

Dear Sir,

As I am in a fix for harvest labour I am wondering if you could do anything to help me out of a difficulty. I have over 300 acres of grain to harvest and could do with six practical men. If you can possibly meet me in the emergency, I would esteem it a great favour. As the matter is urgent I would be glad to hear from you at your earliest convenience. I may say that I have had four boys sent to me from Glencorse,[396] but am sorry they know nothing about the work, and are not like picking it up. My farm is about four miles from your camp.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

528. A. BUTTER ESQ.

9 October 1918

Dear Sir,

In reply to your latter of 2nd inst. regarding the cultivation of land on East Fortune Airship Station, I agree to continue this for Crop 1919 on the same terms and conditions as arranged for this season.

With reference to the two northmost fields on Muirhouses, I have found these fields disappointing in their return. This coupled with the fact that I am unexpectedly being charged income tax on the double rental makes this land very expensive to hold. However I am willing to continue to cultivate the two fields at a suitable rent, and considering that there is a considerable area deducted by the wireless station and the sand pit, I think £60 (sixty pounds) fairly represents their value.

I will be glad to hear from you at your convenience.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

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395 Non-Combatant Corps. This corps was formed following the introduction in 1916 of compulsory military service to accommodate men who had no objection to serving in the armed forces but for religious or moral reasons did not wish to fight. They were employed in a range of manual labour. The 3rd Scottish N.C.C. were based at East Linton.

396 Glencorse Barracks, near Penicuik, was the regimental depot of the Royal Scots.

529. MESSRS BOND & SONS

28 October 1918

Dear Sirs,[397]

The heifer "Halsall Maiden" no 98 in the catalogue of sale held on the 18th inst. at Ipswich, and described as served on July 14th 1918, is today in season,[398] and is consequently not conform to warranty. The seller is therefore due me £4.2/- according to the conditions of sale.

Please give the matter your attention.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

530. A. BUTTER ESQ.

2 November 1918

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your favour of 31st ult. and note that you have accepted my offer of sixty pounds (£60) for the two north most fields on Muirhouses on the same conditions as formerly.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

531. CAPTAIN ANDERSON

5 November 1918

Dear Sir,

I have a quantity of hay to offer you for the Government, and will be glad if you can examine it at any time at your convenience.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

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397 Bond & Sons, auctioneers, Butter Market, Ipswich.

398 *i.e.* the cow was not in calf as expected when sold. See Letter 533.

532. THE NORTH BRITISH RAILWAY STATION AGENT, ST BOSWELLS

5 November 1918

Dear Sir,

On September 5th when a waggon of lambs off Upper Huntly Wood bought by me at Swan's sale was being loaded, one lamb got its leg broken. The Railway officials took it out of the waggon and retained it. This lamb cost me 53/6 and I will be glad to have this amount refunded.

I cannot understand why you have refused to settle with Swan's people on my behalf.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

533. MAJOR CUTHBERT L. BLUNDELL

8 November 1918

Dear Sir,[399]

The heifer – Halsall Maiden – which I purchased at the Red Poll sale at Ipswich on 18th ult., number 98 in the catalogue is not in calf. She was in season ten days ago. According to the conditions of sale you will be due me £4. 4/- which is ten per cent of the cost price.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

534. D. HUTCHISON ESQ.

4 December 1918

Dear Sir,

On November 5th I wrote to the Station Agent at St Boswells, claiming 53/6, the cost of a lamb which I bought at Swan's sale on September 5th and which

399 Cuthbert L. Blundell, Halsall, Lancashire, was a cattle breeder.

got a leg broken in the North British Railway Company's hands,[400] and was appropriated by them. He has not acknowledged that letter, and I ask you who are on the spot to collect this for me.

You are conversant with all the circumstances, and I do not need to detail these.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

535. C. H. CLARK ESQ.

20 December 1918

Dear Sir,[401]

Please register my prefix with the R.P.C.S.[402] as "Fortune", for which find value for 10/6 enclosed.

I am not quite sure if you transferred the bull Marham Jester 11172 – no. 174 in the catalogue of the October sale to my name. If not, please do so.

My heifer – Mendham Belle 25788 had a bull calf on November 20th. Please register this as "Fortune Aerodrome".

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

536. JOHN LORNE MCLEOD ESQ.

3 January 1919

Dear Sir,[403]

With reference to The Ministry of Labour forms E. D. 405, these do not appear very suitable for a farmer's requirements, but I herewith annex the number of

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400 A sale of around 8,000 lambs had been held at the Central Auction Mart, St Boswells, on Thursday 5 September.

401 C. H. Clarke, Ipswich, was the secretary of Red Poll Cattle Society.

402 Among other things, the Red Poll Cattle Society maintained the breed's herd book (an official record of pedigrees).

403 John Lorne MacLeod, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, and chairman of the Ministry of Labour's local advisory committee for Edinburgh and district.

my employees before the war – viz. 15 men, 1 boy and 4 women and presently, 9 regular men, 3 soldiers, 1 boy, 5 regular women and 3 warworkers. I have however at present 80 acres more land than I had before the war. I require all the hands I have and could well employ other two or three men if I had accommodation.

Farmers in East Lothian are in a dilemma at present regarding demobilisation. We do not know whether to expect the young men back in the spring or not. Our hiring takes place at the beginning of February and we do not know how to arrange. We will naturally seek to hire our full compliment of men in February and there is a great probability of many of these young men not finding employment on the same farms as their parents when they return. If you can render any light to solve this problem, I am confident you will do so.

I have already applied for two young men to be demobilised but have heard nothing of my application. I attach their names and addresses and will be glad of your assistance to get them returned to the land.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

The two names referred to are:

No. 3225521 L/CPL George Gillan
8th Royal Scots
C. Coy. No 12 Platoon
B.E.F.[404] France

No 44270 Pvt. Robert Gillan[405]
18 Scottish Rifles
Attached to 145 Coy. A.S.C.[406]
B.E.F. France

These men are both plowmen and their work awaits them whenever they come home.

H.M.

404 British Expeditionary Force.

405 For Robert Gillan and his conscription, see the Introduction.

406 Army Service Corps.

537. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

29 January 1919

Dear Sirs,

As you are aware of what the state of the cottages on this farm has been for a considerable time, I desire to lay before you the necessity of something being done.

For the last four years it has of course been impossible to have anything done in the way of building, but now my men who inhabit these houses inform me that they are not going to stay in them. This as you can understand will make it impossible for me to carry on. It is also no secret that the sanitary authority has blacklisted these houses, and no doubt compulsion will be exercised by them to have some thing done at an early date. I however would deprecate any interference from that direction.

The annual hiring is approaching, and I am at my wit's end to know what to do either to get new servants or to retain those I have.

I lay these facts before you in the hope that you will give them the consideration that is due to them, and that you will see your way to do something to help me out of a difficulty which threatens disaster to the welfare of the farm.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

538. THOMSON ESQ.

20 March 1919

G/A.P.
Dear Sir,

Referring to your letter of 1st August last, I wrote you on August 9th asking you to return to me the enclosures I sent to you at an earlier date regarding the details of sale of 78 carcases of mutton. You have never acknowledged this request, and as I have now ceased to hope for any assistance from such government departments, I again request you to return to me the papers referred to, and I will fight my own battle without that department's help.

It is clearly a case of the victimisation of the producer again.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

539. MESSRS R. & S. PATON

11 July 1919

Dear Sirs,[407]

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your note confirming sale of about forty acres of Epicures at Forty five pounds (£45) per acre.

Also, that you have sold back to me 30 to 40 tons seed at Six pounds (£6) per ton, or Five pounds (£5) per ton if crop turns out well.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

540. A. R. MILROY ESQ.

18 July 1919

Dear Sir,

I have received your cheque for £87.6.11 in payment of hay delivered on 19.6.19, and for which I herewith enclose receipt. It appears to me however that the 5% allowance should have extended from November 5th 1918, the date on which I requested the hay to be inspected – till the present date when the bill is presented to me for signature.

I trust you have not overlooked the other hay transaction for 40 tons 1 cwt 3 qrs supplied on June 5th - 9th last.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

541. MESSRS GARTONS LTD

15 August 1919

Dear Sirs,

I regret to inform you that the eleven qrs of Abundance oats I received from you under invoice dated February 7th last have turned out to be badly mixed

[407] R. & S. Paton were potato merchants with premises in North Bridge, Edinburgh, and Hanover Street, Glasgow.

with barley. I am exceedingly disappointed at this as I meant the product for my next year's stock of seed. I thought of roguing[408] the crop but found it was impossible to do so satisfactorily. The crop is now ready for cutting but the barley will still be seen in the sheaves.

I will be glad to hear if you have any suggestion to make on the matter.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

542. ROBERT M. MCKECHNIE ESQ.

19 August 1919

Dear Sir,

I have been thinking for some time that it would be more convenient for me to have my Bank Account in Edinburgh as the most of my business is done there and I am always in on the Wednesdays.

I have spoken to Mr Inglis of the High Street branch, and I would be glad if you would arrange to have my account transferred there as early as convenient.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

543. MR FRANK M. INGLIS

23 August 1919

Dear Mr Inglis,[409]

I herewith enclose cheque for £472.2.8 being the balance at my credit at North Berwick, which I desire to be transferred to your branch at High Street. Mr McKechnie suggested that I might do this and that you would no doubt arrange matters.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

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408 To free a crop from inferior, diseased, or otherwise unwanted plants or seedlings.

409 Frank M. Inglis was the agent for the Clydesdale Bank, High Street, Edinburgh.

544. ROBERT M. MCKECHNIE ESQ.

23 August 1919

Dear Sir,

I have yours per Mr McCulley of 22nd inst. I have accordingly sent Mr Inglis a cheque for £472.2.8 being the balance at my credit with you. I think my Bank book is with you at present, and I would be glad to have it at your convenience for reference.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

545. THE LONDON & LANCASHIRE INSURANCE CO. LTD

30 August 1919

Policy No 6462219

Dear Sirs,

Referring to yours of 15th inst., Matthew Jones returned to work on the 22nd Aug. He is able for his work although his finger is still tender.

He has informally made a claim for £10 for the loss of the part of the finger, which seems to me to be not unreasonable.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

546. THE LONDON & LANCASHIRE INSURANCE CO. LTD

12 September 1919

Policy No 646219

Dear Sirs,

I duly received your communication of the 4th inst. regarding the compensation to Matthew Jones. I am sorry I cannot agree with you as to his incapacity, for there are some things that he will be distinctly the worse of the loss of his finger for. It will materially affect him for sowing either manure or seed, and I think

on this ground alone he is entitled to what he asks. I may say that he had larger ideas of compensation to begin with, but I advised him to reconsider the matter and restrict the amount to £10.

I trust you will see your way to meet this claim, as I consider it is only justice toward the injured man.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

547. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

14 October 1919

Dear Sirs,

I hereby offer to purchase the farm of West Fortune for twenty thousand pounds sterling (£20,000), according to the conditions set forth in your communication of 6th inst.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

548. MR ALEXANDER GUILD

14 October 1919

Dear Mr Guild,

I herewith enclose an offer for West Fortune, which I think you will consider ample.

I will be glad to hear from you after your meeting on Thursday. I suppose it would be quite in order for you to carry through the transfer for the buyer.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

549. MESSRS HUGH BAIRD & CO.

31 October 1919

Dear Sirs,[410]

I delivered a quantity of barley into the maltings at Athelstaneford this week, and I am sorry that again I have to make a complaint regarding the man Webster. He seems to take a delight in keeping my carts standing over a meal hour, although they are forward in time enough to be emptied. This took place on Tuesday last.

I have only to say that however suitable the delivery may be into the maltings otherwise, I will sell no more barley for delivery there, unless I get a guarantee that matters will be different from what they have been.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

550. MR ROBERT SMALL

8 November 1919

Dear Mr Small,

Your letter of 5th inst. was awaiting me on coming home last night.

Thank you for the kind expression of appreciation therein, and I also thank any others who think me worthy of taking office in the eldership of the church.[411]

I cannot however see my way to accept the request you lay before me so please accept of my refusal to do so.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

410 Hugh Baird & Co., brewers and maltsters, Posil Road, Glasgow. They owned Athelstaneford Maltings, Athelstaneford.

411 Hugh Miller and his wife were members of the United Free Presbyterian Church in North Berwick.

551. THE LANDS VALUATION ASSESSOR

18 November 1919

Dear Sir,

The enclosed will explain my object in writing you. The rent paid by me for the land in question for the past year is £60. The figures in the valuation roll were for the previous year.

Would you please have this corrected.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

552. JOHN HANNAH

29 November 1919

Dear John,

I have you letter of 27th inst. and note what you say regarding the fence between Drem and Mungoswells.[412] I think you should delay the fencing at least till there is an opportunity of meeting McDowall on the ground, as he suggests in his letter. Even although the Whitehill man has the Western portion for this year, you might be able to make terms with McDowall for his portion of it and then a temporary fence would serve the purpose for the coming grazing season. It will not likely strike McDowall that you would be willing to purchase his bit unless this fact is made known to him. I happened to see David Brown at the station this morning and he was speaking about the grazing. He says there is a good spring on the Drem portion – at present just a bog that he had to fence round when he had his horses in it before. A little work would make a good watering place of it, and if the [*illegible*] McDowall's bit would be left without water. Everything considered I am convinced that a single ownership of that piece of land would be best.

However, if your mind is made up to have it divided, I would like if you would allow me to do anything I can in the way of supervising the erection of the fence – or anything else – in recognition of your kindness to me from time to time. There is only one local fencing contractor that I know of, and he can make quite a good job. In the meantime, I could ask him what fence such as

412 John Hannah had purchased Drem farm in July 1919 for £27,000. Andrew McDowall was in the process of buying the adjacent farm of Mungoswells.

you mention would cost per yard. For horses however I think it should have a barbed wire on the top in any case.

Then regarding the grazing, I hardly see that you can go past Brown and give it to Robert. Brown took an early opportunity of speaking about it, and I think your tenant has the best right to it. Brown will be disappointed if you put it past him.

I have had a good laugh over Campbell's letter. He has everything cut and dry, and almost suggests that he might be willing to let you the shooting on Drem, when he gets it in order. He certainly thinks he is in, and I am afraid you will require all the diplomacy you can muster if you want him out.

Jane thanks you for your kind invitation but she does not feel like going from home just now. Her face – I am glad to say – is some better but is a good bit from being right yet. I trust that a little time will put it right.

If you are to be at the Fat Stock Show, or the S.C. Conference[413] next week we will be pleased to see you.

It is quite current in the public that Bertie has got Seggarsdean.[414] I suppose Guild said so to someone on Wednesday, but as far as I know there is nothing official yet.

The weather is the chief lament at present. If we had a long drought we are now having the rain[415] [*the surviving part of the letter ends here*].

553. MISS MCDONALD

3 January 1920

Dear Miss McDonald,[416]

I regret to learn that the work in connection with the "Land Army" is likely to be given up. As one of the first in East Lothian to cooperate with this movement, I know the boon it has been both to myself and to others, in enabling the work of the farm to be carried through in times of difficulty. These difficult times seem to be always with us – and I fondly hope that something may be done to continue in some form this most useful organisation.

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413 The annual show of the Scottish National Fat Stock Club was held in the Waverley Market, Edinburgh, on 3-4 December, and the annual conference of the Scottish Chamber of Agriculture in the city's Goold Hall on 5 December.

414 A farm in Haddington parish, East Lothian.

415 The rest of the letter is illegible due to the ink having faded or failed to copy.

416 Miss McDonald, Agricultural Organising Officer, Ministry of Labour.

With the compliments of the season,
Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

554. MR E. E. MCCLINTON

16 February 1920

Dear Sir,

I duly received your letter of 7th inst. and would have replied sooner but I had not the necessary information regarding board and lodging. This can be had in the village of Athelstaneford – about a mile away – for 35/- per week.

My farm is about 500 acres, all arable, sheep and cattle feeding for eight months of the year, but practically no grazing.

I do not propose either to pay wages or to charge a fee, but if you apply yourself to work, the benefit in this direction will be more yours than mine.

If you think of accepting on these terms, you might please let me know, and you could make a start at any time.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

555. MESSRS GUILD & GUILD W.S.

3 March 1920

Ruchlaw Mains Reference[417]

Dear Sirs,

I have noted my acceptance of the appointment of arbiter in the above reference.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

417 Ruchlaw Mains is a farm in the parish of Whittinghame, East Lothian.

556. MESSRS COWAN & DALMAHOY W.S.

3 March 1920

Ruchlaw Mains Reference

Dear Sirs,[418]

I have noted my acceptance of the appointment of arbiter in the above reference.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

557. MESSRS COWAN & DALMAHOY W.S.

6 March 1920

Ruchlaw Mains Reference

Dear Sirs,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 4th inst. with enclosures as stated.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

558. MESSRS MAXWELL, GILL & PRINGLE W.S.

10 March 1920

Ruchlaw Mains Reference

Dear Sirs,[419]

Referring to our conversation today, I herewith enclose the claims and counter claims etc. in the above reference.

I should be glad to have the matter proceeded with as soon as convenient.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

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418 Cowan & Dalmahoy, Writers to the Signet, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh.

419 Maxwell, Gill & Pringle, Writers to the Signet, Rutland Street, Edinburgh.

559. DAVID MAXWELL W.S.

19 April 1920

Ruchlaw Mains Reference

Dear Sir,[420]

I am in receipt of your favour of 16th inst. and will be glad to have the proposed meeting postponed, as I may not be able to be in Edinburgh on Wednesday.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

560. JAMES FLEMING ESQ.

23 April 1920

Dear Sir,

I only observed today that the horse you sent me on the 13th inst is a windsucker.[421] Please give me your instructions regarding his return.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

561. MESSRS R. & S. PATON LTD

30 June 1920

Dear Sirs,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your note confirming sale of about 40 acres growing Epicures at eighty pounds (£80) per acre. Also that you agree to give me 50 to 60 tons Epicure seed at Market price.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

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420 David Maxwell, Writer to the Signet, Messrs Maxwell, Gill & Pringle.

421 Wind-sucking is an abnormal, compulsive behaviour whereby the horse arches its neck and sucks air into its windpipe.

562. JOHN ALISON ESQ. M.A.

22 July 1920

Dear Sir,[422]

I have received your letter of 21st inst. and am disappointed with its contents. I certainly did not understand that you made it a condition that my boy was to board with Mr Ford, and I do not think I can be blamed in concluding thus when there are other housefuls of boys boarding in Edinburgh who attend George Watson's College.

I have arranged with Miss Imrie, Warrender Park Road,[423] to board my boy, and will be sorry if you refuse to take him on this account. I trust that this arrangement and the explanation I have made may be quite satisfactory to you, and I will be glad to hear that the enrolment of the boy as a pupil will hold good.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

563. JOHN HANNAH

31 July 1920

Dear John,

Your letter of 29th inst. was awaiting me on coming home last night from the S.C. trip,[424] and I think I can give you a little information regarding the house in question.

Drem people have had this house for at least twenty years, being included in their cottages. It happens to be in the block that Baillie the joiner bought when the property was sold. Drem people have it let at present to Mrs Hardy, and it seems that Baillie is trying to get the rent when he can. It seems to me that the responsible party is the seller, as he could not terminate the right of

422 John Alison M.A. F.R.S.E., headmaster, George Watson's College, Edinburgh.

423 A street in the Marchmont district of Edinburgh. At this time, George Watson's College was located in Archibald Place.

424 The Scottish Chamber of Agriculture's summer conference had been held in Stirling. It included a day's excursion touring local farms by motorcar. For Hugh Miller's involvement with the S.C.A., see the Introduction.

occupancy by your tenant during the currency of the lease. If he has any recourse at all, it surely must be to the Marquis of Linlithgow.[425] I know Baillie very well and could talk the matter over with him if you wish.

We had quite a good time at the trip – also some evidence of the need of Prohibition.

Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

564. CHARLES WEATHERILL ESQ.

19 August 1920

Dear Sir,[426]

I am in receipt of your communication regarding the inspection of my potatoes, and I must say I am disappointed with the report. I am sorry I had not the opportunity of explaining to the inspector that there had been a mistake in planting the Tinwalds,[427] and I intended the mixed portion to be left out altogether.

As for the Majestics these were rogued,[428] and I challenge the inspector to find 0.5 per cent of rogues amongst them.

The Golden Wonders were not rogued but these I am not concerned about.

Then I have 2 acres of Arran Comrade, and 2½ acres of Kerr's Pink which are as near as possible pure.[429] Why are these not referred to in the report?

I consider I have not been fairly treated by the Board, and will be glad to have your observations.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

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425 The farm of Drem had been the property of the marquess of Linlithgow, at this time Victor Alexander John Hope (1887-1952).

426 Charles Weatherill, secretary, Board of Agriculture for Scotland, York Buildings, Queen Street, Edinburgh.

427 *i.e.* Tinwald Perfection, a maincrop variety of potato.

428 *i.e.* the potatoes were checked and any unfit for use as seed removed. Majestic is a maincrop variety of potato.

429 Arran Comrade is an early variety of potato. Kerr's Pink is a maincrop variety.

565. A. BUTTER ESQ.

4 September 1920

Dear Sir,

I have your communication with reference to the cultivation of Muirhouses land for which I thank you.

I am willing to continue the occupation of all the land that I at present occupy, but with reference to the aerodrome portion, I would like to point out that continuous white cropping[430] is not good management, and yet the expense of green cropping[431] and cleaning is prohibitive, where it is held on such short tenure. The two North fields I have had under a rotation of crops.

I may look in on Wednesday and talk the matter over.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

566. J. HANDFOUR ESQ.

15 September 1920

Inspection of Potatoes

Dear Sir,

Referring to your letter of 25th August, if you will be good enough to send out your Inspector by appointment to meet me on the ground and point out the rogues in the Majestics plot, I will be glad to take them out. I may say that I have gone through them again and removed anything I could find that was wrong. I also took an expert over them, and he was perfectly satisfied with their purity and would have bought them for seed purposes on the spot. In these circumstances I trust you will be able to meet me, and that you will find the potatoes worthy of being certified.

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430 *i.e.* growing grains, such as barley, oats and wheat, which were known as 'white crops', as they turned white or yellow when ripe. Growing them continuously depleted the soil of certain nutrients and encouraged the build-up of certain pathogens and pests.

431 *i.e.* growing vegetables, such as peas, potatoes and turnips, which were known as 'green crops' after the colour of their leaves when harvested. Growing them in rotation with white crops replenished and improved the structure of the soil and reduced the build-up of certain pathogens and pests.

Regarding the Tinwald Perfection – I was prepared all along and never thought of anything else than to scrap the mixed drills and I trust you will see your way to certify the balance of them.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

567. A. BUTTER ESQ.

27 September 1920

Dear Sir,

Referring to your letter of 1st September regarding the cultivation of the two Northwest fields on Muirhouses. While I am willing to continue the occupancy of these for another year, it would be an additional incentive to increased production if the tenure was extended to four or five years. If therefore you can see your way to grant this, I would form my plans of cropping accordingly.

I will be glad to hear from you at your early convenience.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

568. MESSRS R. & S. PATON LTD

2 December 1920

Dear Sirs,

If convenient for you I would be glad to have a square up of our accounts.

The price of the Epicure seed I got will remain to be adjusted as this was agreed on at Market price. The total measurement of Epicures is 43ac. 2rds. 14pls.[432]

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

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[432] In the Imperial system, there were four roods in an acre and forty square poles in a rood. An imperial acre is equivalent to 0.4047 hectares (4,047 square metres).

569. MESSRS G. K. JOHNSTON & SMILLIE

29 December 1920

Dear Sirs,[433]

Further to our conversation today, I now enclose the other income tax form. The rent of the farm is £982. 15/-. This does not include £3. 3/- which I annually paid to the proprietor for insurance on the buildings, before I bought the farm, and which I do not think I should be charged on now. The shooting is valued at £40. There will be a deduction to make for Bank interest which I have paid, and I will send the certificate of this to you in a day or two, as I have not yet received it.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

Value of cottages £37

H.M.

570. GEORGE W. HARE ESQ.

21 January 1921

Dear Sir,[434]

I have yours of 20th inst. with enclosures.

I agree that the notices are in order as far as the War Bonds are concerned, and I made a mistake in taking exception to them.

I had no Bank interest for the year ending April 5th 1920, and will be glad if you amend the notice accordingly.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

433 G. K. Johnston & Smillie, chartered accountants, Albany Street, Edinburgh.

434 George W. Hare, H.M. Inspector of Taxes, Edinburgh.

571. MR R. SMALL

26 January 1921

Dear Sir,

I herewith enclose cheque for £14.4.10 for waggon of coals on January 7th, but I am so disappointed with the stobs that I have not put in the price of them.

I have looked for you, both at Edinburgh and Haddington, for the last two weeks to speak to you about them.

There are very few in them that I would care to put into a fence, and you should surely know by this time, that I would have refused them if I had seen them before they were sent on.

I will send them anywhere near at hand or else pay the carriage on them back to Longniddry.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

572. MESSRS R. & S. PATON LTD

26 January 1921

Dear Sirs,

Referring to my call at your office three weeks ago when you paid me £1000 to account on our transactions. I offered then to make a concession of £200 if you settled the balance forthwith. This you arranged to do the following week, but as it has not been done, you will not expect me to continue my offer indefinitely. I will be glad to hear from you on the subject.

Would you please send me a note if the various items as the 4 tons 2 cwt of Majestics you got in April and the Epicure tops in August and also the Epicure seconds (24 cwt) and Epicure thirds (27 cwt) in December were left to you to make the price.[435]

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

435 'Tops' are the ware taken off the potato crop; 'seconds' are the next size down; 'thirds' are the smallest potatoes.

573. MR GEORGE K. JOHNSTON

29 January 1921

Dear Mr Johnstone,[436]

I am in receipt of your letter of 28th inst. with enclosures for which I thank you. I now enclose the receipts for the income tax I paid last year. I had no other income last year than what my returns showed, which is the same as the current year except what I am charged under schedule A, and I do not understand why the Inspector of Taxes is suspicious of me concealing information from him, when he has got a correct return.

I entered into an arrangement with the Bank for an overdraft when I paid for the farm. I became owner of the farm on May 29th 1920, and had no money borrowed except from the Bank.

I do not think there is any further information I can give you, but I may call round on Wednesday morning about 10 o'clock and see how matters stand.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

574. MR GEORGE K. JOHNSTON

2 February 1921

Dear Mr Johnstone,

According to arrangement I herewith notify you regarding the interest of the Funding Loan. This is payable on May 1st and November 1st so that for the year 1919-20 I only received one payment and that on November 1st 1919. The amount was £38.5.4 from which was deducted £11.5.6 of income tax. This investment was negotiated on July 8th 1919.

Of course, I received £60 less £18 on May 1st and again on November 1st 1920, but I suppose that will be accounted for in my next return.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

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436 George K. Johnston, chartered accountant, G. K. Johnston & Smillie, Albany Street, Edinburgh.

575. MESSRS R. & S. PATON LTD

25 February 1921

Dear Sir,

I have your favour of 25th inst. with cheque enclosed for £218.14.6 which squares up the transaction of 43 acres 2 roods 14 poles of Epicures, and for which I thank you. There still remains outstanding some Majestics and some Epicure seconds which I would be glad if you can get squared up. The price of these was I think left to you, although I think £14 a ton was spoken of for the Majestics.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

576. MR ALEXANDER GUILD

7 March 1921

Dear Mr Guild,

I duly received your letter of 3rd inst and I have today examined the straw at Nairn's Mains.[437] The stacks generally are in an unsatisfactory condition, and the value of the straw as fodder is very much deteriorated – a considerable quantity of it being quite unfit for this purpose.

Two of the stacks have evidently been built on the top of the broke (chaff leavings).

If the stacks as they stand had been all straw, built in the usual manner, I would estimate the quantity at 16 tons, but I consider that a fair estimate of the straw in bunches is 10 tons, and the broke 5 tons, while part of one stack looks like rakings and is in very bad condition which I put at one ton.

The tops of the stacks have suffered from the wind and consequently have taken in rain in places. I am,

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

437 A farm in Gladsmuir parish, East Lothian.

577. MR ALEXANDER GUILD

19 March 1921

Dear Mr Guild,

I have been to Brownhills and herewith I enclose my report of the farm, which I hope will suit your purpose. I have set down what I consider would be a fair adjustment of the claim in so far as I have knowledge of the facts. If you want to ask me anything that I may have omitted I will be pleased to give you any further information I can.[438]

My brother and I quite fell in love with the farm when we went over it, and I am convinced that for an early cropping place it will rank amongst the best. The best crop of turnips I have seen this year was in a field next the shore. The one drawback is that there is not a house for the tenant.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

578. MINIMAX LTD

19 March 1921

Dear Sirs,[439]

Referring to your letter of February 2nd I have pleasure in stating my satisfaction with the extinguishers you supplied to me last year. I used three – which were all I had – in extinguishing a fire in a cattle court in June last, and since then I added another two to my number.

My opinion is that as a first aid in extinguishing outbreaks of fire they are a great success.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

438 For Hugh Miller's work as an arbiter for Guild & Guild, see the Introduction.

439 Minimax Ltd, manufacturer of fire extinguishers, Feltham, Middlesex.

579. A. BUTTER ESQ.

23 March 1921

Dear Sir,

Referring to your letter of 7th October last regarding the manuring of the Muirhouses land, I beg to state that I have completed the manuring of the two Northmost fields with farmyard manure with an estimated quantity of fifteen tons per acre, in preparation for a potato crop.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

580. MR JOHN WRIGHT

7 April 1921

Dear Sir,[440]

Please take notice that your occupancy of the home at Dingleton will terminate with your service at May 29th next.

Yours truly,
H. Miller

581. A. BUTTER ESQ.

19 April 1921

Dear Sir,

According to agreement I beg to intimate that I have completed manuring the two Northmost fields of Muirhouses with a total of 21 tons of early potato manure.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

440 The recipient was one of Hugh Miller's farm servants.

582. WILLIAM DAVIDSON ESQ.

9 May 1921

Dear Sir,

I am sorry I could not get to Berwick on Saturday, but hope to do on Saturday next, when I shall be glad to meet you and make arrangements for the valuation at Horncliffe Mains.[441]

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

583. JACK MEIKLE

9 May 1921

Dear Jack,[442]

I have both of your letters and I do not think you should vex yourself by asking everybody's opinion about the arbitration at Horncliffe. Mr Wood may be all right but I would like a man who is decided in his own opinion. After all, Mr Pringle of Branton was recommended by an outsider before ever Davidson offered his name to me.

I think it is likely I will take a run to Berwick on Saturday and try if possible, to arrange matters then.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

584. JACK MEIKLE

14 May 1921

Dear Jack,

I found Davidson rather stiff regarding the appointment of an oversman,[443]

441 A farm in Horncliffe parish, Northumberland.

442 Jack Meikle, son of John Meikle, farmer, Trolorg and Camregan, Hurlford, Ayrshire.

443 A person appointed as an arbiter in a dispute.

and after trying him every way with Wood, and after he refused, I offered to toss for Wood and Pringle. However he said that he would not, and I told him that I would go to the Board and ask for the appointment of an arbiter. He just assented to this, and for a little time I left him to think the matter over.

The awkward thing about it is that the Board[444] would have appointed a man in the district, who would not have been merely oversman but sole arbiter. Upon further consideration and after further inquiry about Pringle, I accepted him, and in the meantime have arranged next Saturday morning for the valuation.

You might send me the lease as there are one or two things I want to look at again. Davidson is having the submission prepared and is going to send it to me and then I will forward it to you for revision.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

585. JACK MEIKLE

19 May 1921

Dear Jack,

Referring to our telephone conversation last night, I have the feeling that it would be better for me to withdraw from your arbitration, as you are evidently dissatisfied with the arrangements that I have made for the oversman. I am quite willing to withdraw if you can find some one else to act for you.

On the other hand, and for several reasons I would be willing to do my best to help you, but it must be on the understanding that there is no further reflection on any decision that I may come to.

You might let me know in course what you decide. As I have not yet received the submission from Davidson, I am phoning him tonight cancelling the arrangement for Saturday in any case.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

444 If necessary, an application could be made to the Board of Agriculture of Scotland to appoint an oversman or arbiter during a change of tenancy.

586. A. BUTTER ESQ.

20 May 1921

Dear Sir,

Further to our conversation on Wednesday last regarding the house known as Merryhatton near East Fortune – I notice that the house is standing vacant, and as I am in need of temporary accommodation, I would be glad to know if you would let it to me. I think a rate of 7/6 per month would be a valuation similar to others in the district.

In the event of the Air Ministry[445] requiring the house at any time, I guarantee there will be no difficulty in their acquiring it.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

587. WILLIAM PRINGLE ESQ.

25 May 1921

Horncliffe Mains

Dear Sir,[446]

Your favour of 21st inst. with submission enclosed, I only received last night.

I would like to point out that there are two items in the submission which the lease does not bind the incoming tenant to take over, (viz) the oil engine and the grist mill. I have no doubt but Mr Meikle will be willing to purchase these from Mr Embleton if the price can be agreed up, but I think it is only business that they should be deleted from the submission.

I hope to meet you at Horncliffe Mains on Saturday first when I hope we shall be able to arrange matters. 10.30am will suit me quite well.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

Submission enclosed

445 Responsibility for the air station at East Fortune had shifted from the Admiralty to the Air Ministry following the latter's creation in January 1918.

446 William Pringle, farmer, Branton, Alnwick, Northumberland.

588. THOMAS W. TODRICK ESQ.

27 May 1921

Dear Sir,[447]

I have now received from Mr Baillie an estimate for the repairing of the march dyke between my land and the Cotlands, which I herewith enclose for your perusal.

I am anxious to have this dyke repaired as the breaches are always inclined to extend, and I trust you will sanction the acceptance of the estimate.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

589. JACK MEIKLE

31 May 1921

Dear Jack,

I have your letter of 28th inst. and am a little surprised that Embleton has sold the engine already. Of course, knowing that it was not bound to be taken at valuation he would no doubt have an alternative arrangement made for the disposal of it before Saturday. I think in the end however you will not stand to lose much on that head.

I have no doubt but the fences are giving them some thought, and I think I was right in refusing Davidson's proposal on Saturday. Nothing would have pleased them better and it was quite evident that Davidson was both sorry and angry. He was like a bear outside.

They are taking a great interest in the saving of expenses by their proposals, but it is not difficult to see what is behind these.

I hope you have had sufficient rain now for crop requirements. We have had none too much.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

447 Thomas W. Todrick, solicitor and notary public, Court Street, Haddington.

590. WILLIAM PRINGLE ESQ.

1 June 1921

Dear Sir,

Referring to our meeting at Horncliffe Mains on Saturday last, I wish to lay before you one or two facts regarding the mill. A new mill such as the one in question can be got for a little over £400, and the agents state that there is to be a reduction of 25% on the present price, as no one will buy mills at the current figure. Surely this fact cannot be ignored in arriving at the value of the machine, and considering that it has done at least seven or eight years' work, I am firmly convinced that I made a very generous offer.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

591. JACK MEIKLE

11 June 1921

Dear Jack,

Yours of 9th inst. is before me. I have not heard anything at all about the mill since that day I was at Horncliffe Mains. If there had been anyone there examining it, you surely would have seen or heard of them.

Regarding Embleton's claim, I do not think it would serve any good purpose – but the opposite – to ask for it. I think however you should get your claim formulated and have it in readiness to be lodged before the two months are up. Perhaps they are waiting to see your claim before lodging theirs. The 12th of July at 12 o'clock will be the latest date for lodging.

I have been wondering if you should not make a claim for £50 for the state in which the pasture was left. It was swept absolutely bare, and the lease binds the tenant not to have more than the usual head of stock on the pastures during – is it the last three months of the tenancy? I don't know how much pasture there is but you should I think claim £1 per acre anyhow.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

592. JACK MEIKLE

16 June 1921

Dear Jack,

I have yours of 14th inst. with draft of your claim enclosed. I have looked over it and you will see the altered and added figures I have put in. I have the conviction that we will have to ask a bit more than we expect to get, as this may be the only way in which we will get fair treatment.

I think you should now get your claim made out, but you might leave the figures out for the present, to see if you get Embleton's claim.

It would have been all the better if you could have had your claim typed and have at least one spare copy.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

593. JACK MEIKLE

1 July 1921

Dear Jack,

There is a little matter with reference to the removal of the engine which I wish to lay before you.

Section 20 of the Agrl. H. Act says

IV "the tenant shall not remove any fixtures or building without giving one month's previous notice in writing to the landlord of his intention to remove it".[448]

[*illegible*] and here follows the procedure to be followed.

Now I think if I were in your place, I would let Embleton know what the law is, and if you were still anxious to take over the engine – failing an agreement between you – you could get the Board to appoint an arbiter, as I would not on any consideration accept of Davidson.

448 The Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 1908.

I am merely putting the matter before you, but I think it would be a good thing to bring them to their senses.

It is still very dry here, but good hay-making weather.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

594. CHARLES J. MUNRO ESQ.

1 July 1921

Dear Sir,[449]

I enclose an account which the above firm are owing me. If you will be good enough to send me the usual form, I will have it signed.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

595. MR DUNLOP

2 July 1921

Dear Mr Dunlop,

Like Pharaoh's butler – I remember my fault this day. At Ayr Show[450] you asked me to look over my list of fixtures which I left to J. Brown when I left Grassmillees.[451]

I find that the water trough in the court is not included, as that was the landlord's property, and should not have been removed by the tenant.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

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449 Charles J. Munro, chartered accountant, Romanes & Munro, Frederick Street, Edinburgh.

450 The Ayrshire Agricultural Show had been held in Ayr on 26-27 April.

451 A farm in Mauchline parish, Ayrshire, previously tenanted by Hugh Miller.

596. JACK MEIKLE

2 July 1921

Messrs R. & S. Paton Ltd

Dear Jack,

Further to our telephone conversation this evening, I do not think you should take Embleton's threat to remove the engine lying down.

We did not refuse to take the engine but only refused to have it included in the submission with the fixtures that the lease bound you to take.

My advice for the present would be for you to write to Embleton and object to him removing the engine until Section 20 of the Agrl. H. Act is complied with.

There might then be a possibility of dealing with him, but if not, your position will be no worse.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

597. JACK MEIKLE

8 July 1921

Dear Jack,

I have yours of 5th inst. My idea in objecting to the removal of the engine without a month's notice, was that Embleton would probably have come round to treat with you for it. However, if you think from his attitude that it would only be making more difficulties without accomplishing anything, it may be just as well to let the matter drop.

Have you had their claim served on you yet? I suppose you will be getting yours ready for dispatch tomorrow.

It is still very dry here. We had a slight rain for two hours on Wednesday but it is not now seen.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

598. GEORGE K. JOHNSTON ESQ.

11 July 1921

Income Tax Return

Dear Sir,

I have now received from the Bank the certificate of the amount of interest payable by me for the year ending April 5th 1921, which is £388.10.5, and which I herewith enclose.

The other details are as follows -

From 5% War Stock £5

From 5¾% Exchequer Bonds £5.15

Interest on Deposit Receipt £69.5.8

These will complete my return.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

599. JACK MEIKLE

11 July 1921

Dear Jack,

I duly received yours of 7th inst. with Embleton's claim enclosed. I would like to look into it for a day or two and will return it then to you.

The vouchers will be returned to Davidson when you have finished with them.

I don't think you can do any thing else than apply to the Board for an arbiter, and then keep as much as possible out of Davidson's hands. The Act says that the Board will appoint an arbiter "on the application in writing of either of the parties", so that the procedure is quite plain.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

600. JACK MEIKLE

11 July 1921

Dear Jack,

I have now gone over your claim and adjusted it as I would have done if I was arbiter. I think you will be able to follow the notifications I have made. It will be an indication to whoever is appointed arbiter, what our opinion is.

The £8.11.7 is deducted on the basis of compound cake and oats being put in at too high a rate. I cannot find a voucher for the 5 tons compound cake in the last year although nos. 5 and 6 for lamb food and bran do not seem to be entered at all. Then there are no vouchers or proof of the oats and beans – homegrown I suppose – having been consumed on the farm. This will require to be produced.

My figures of course are based on the quantities being correct, and I consider I would be allowing ample at this amount.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

601. JACK MEIKLE

14 July 1921

Dear Jack,

I have just been ringing up Allan asking if he would go your length on Saturday, so we have arranged to leave here at 9.15 on Saturday morning. We will see you probably at the market at Berwick between 11 and 12 o'clock.[452] If you are not to be there you might let me know.

I hope you might have Embleton's claim beside you, as I would like still to adjust some items as I went over it rather hurriedly.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

452 A market was held in Berwick upon Tweed every Saturday.

602. JACK MEIKLE

2 August 1921

Dear Jack,

I have yours of 1st inst. I think it would be better to have the valuation made before you start cutting. It might only be a source of greater contention if part of the crop was in the stook.

Tuesday next week would be a suitable day for me, and failing that, Friday or Saturday. You might see what you can arrange and let me know as soon as possible.

We are just ready to begin cutting but have still some hay to stack.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

603. JACK MEIKLE

22 August 1921

Dear Jack,

The enclosed will speak for itself. Let me know by return if you have any other proposal to make than to apply jointly to the Board for the appointment of an arbiter. Please return Davidson's letter.

We are having the most trying harvest weather I have ever experienced here.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

604. THOMAS W. TODRICK ESQ.

25 August 1921

Cotlands March Dyke

Dear Sir,

This dyke has now been repaired and I have settled with Baillie according to his offer, viz. £39. 17/– the half of which is payable by you (£19.18.6).

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

605. MESSRS F. D. COWIESON & CO.

6 September 1921

Dear Sirs,[453]

I am in receipt of your price list of imported timber and would be glad if you would send me 20 battens 16' x 6" x 2" at the price mentioned viz. 2½d per lineal foot. I suppose 16' will go into a waggon – if not just send 15' lengths. Consign to Drem Station urgent.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

606. MESSRS F. D. COWIESON & CO.

20 September 1921

Dear Sirs,

Please find cheque enclosed for wood as per enclosed account.

Please send me the following if you still have it on hand -

20 battens	6" x 2"	14' to 16' long
20 battens	10" 6½" x 2½"	14' to 16' long
30 yards sarking	6" x 5/8"	14' to 16' long
10 yards sarking	6" x ¾	10' long
10 yards flooring	6" x ¾	14' to 16' long

all as per price list of 30th August last of new imported timber.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

453 F. D. Cowieson & Co., engineers and building contractors, Charles Street, Glasgow.

607. A. BUTTER ESQ.

7 October 1921

Dear Sir,

I wish in the meantime to give up the occupancy of the cottage at Merryhatton. The man I intended to put in to it considered it too far from his work.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

608. WILLIAM HENDERSON ESQ.

10 October 1921

Dear Sir,

Some of the march fence between Congalton and this farm have become rather dilapidated, and the time has now come when something would require to be done, as it is impossible to keep stock on their own side of the fence. From what Mr Scott told me the other day I have no doubt but you are aware of what is necessary, consequently need not go into details.

If you agree to half the expense, I will see that the work is carried out satisfactorily and as economically as possible, consistent with a substantive job.

As the matter has become urgent, I will be glad when I hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

609. MESSRS STIRLING & BURNET

12 October 1921

Dear Sirs,[454]

Cotlands

I have yours of 11th inst. and hereby confirm the arrangement entered into

454 Stirling & Burnet, solicitors, Court Street, Haddington.

between Bolton and Herkes, viz. – the former to pay the latter (£25) twenty five pounds in settlement of disturbance and unexhausted improvements claims, and the grass seeds sown to be paid for over and above this.

I think both parties are quite satisfied with this arrangement.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

610. MESSRS F. D. COWIESON & CO.

18 October 1921

Dear Sirs,

Please find cheque herewith in payment of enclosed account. There is evidently an overcharge of £1.1.3 on the Railway Company which I have deducted. The total charges of the Railway Company are £1.8.9.

I trust you will find this in order.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

611. MESSRS STIRLING & BURNET

18 October 1921

Dear Sirs,

I have yours of 17th inst. with reference to the sowing of the grass seeds on the Cotlands. You are right in thinking that the Grass Seeds account only is to be paid for. This is the agreement I made with Harkes. There was no mention made of sowing and harrowing.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

612. J. S. PROCTOR ESQ.

9 November 1921

Policy No 646219
Accident to James Coyle

Dear Sir,[455]

The enclosed letter will so far speak for itself. The man was in my employment for about three months – August, September and October. About the middle of October or thereabouts he racked himself lifting a too heavy weight. This was in course of his employment but was quite voluntary on his part and I may add unnecessary. He told me at the time he was feeling ill, and I urged him to go to the doctor but I suppose his Irish reticence kept him from doing so, and I have no doubt but what he says in his letter is substantially correct. In these circumstances would you consider doing something for him, as it was only through his laxity at the time of the accident that there was no claim made.

I will be glad to have your observations on the matter.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

613. FRANK M. INGLIS ESQ.

10 November 1921

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of 9th inst. it would take me some time to make up a balance sheet at the moment, but I herewith enclose a copy of my last year's balance sheet as at November 28th. Of course, there is considerable reduction in values since then, but I have never followed the high market values of the last few years in making my valuations, consequently the drop will not be so great in my stock. In the balance sheet herewith, you will observe that my Insurance Policies are not entered, as I have always left them out of my

[455] J. S. Proctor was the manager of the Glasgow branch of the London and Lancashire Insurance Co. Ltd.

balance sheet as I have also done with all the house furnishings. This perhaps is not good book-keeping, but it is a safe policy for me to follow.

I enclose a note of the Insurance Policies I have on my life.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

614. THE LONDON & LANCASHIRE INSURANCE CO. LTD

18 November 1921

Accident to James Coyle

Dear Sir,

The accompanying form gives all the information that I can give, and of course you have the man's letter which I sent you.

I may say that he got quite equal to £2 extra from me before he left, on account of the condition he was in, and I thought that would be the end of it. I do not think however that he will be difficult to settle with.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

615. MESSRS JOHNSTON & SMILLIE

7 January 1922

Dear Sir,

I have your letter of 6th inst. with enclosure, which I have signed.

The amount of the subsidy which I received was £522 but I think there should be set against this for the present – the fact that I have paid £361.13.6 of Income Tax which I am not due.

My work horses at the beginning of the year numbered 20, at the end of the year – 21; 1 died, 1 destroyed, 1 sold, and 4 bought in (including 3 young horses unbroken).

I enclose last year's balance sheet, but am not willing that the assessor should have access to all the figures there, as he has nothing to do with the

profit of last year. You will see from that balance sheet that I have cut down the valuation of my horses to what they were in pre-war days, which I think I am entitled to do. I have no liking for a fictitious valuation.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

616. JACK MEIKLE

16 January 1922

Dear Jack,

I had your letter this morning, and in any case, I meant to write you. I have had notice of the appointment of an arbiter – Noel Villiers – Estates Offices – Wooler, but I do not know anything about him.

I think it would be as well to get a move on as soon as possible, and get something done. I note the points you mention in your letter regarding the extra acreage ploughed for white crop. I think however when the outgoing tenant's a/c is presented to you that it will be quite easily seen and proved whether or not he has exceeded his rights, and if so – by how much. I think you should insist on getting his statement of acreage as soon as possible, so that it may be laid before the arbiter oversman when necessary.

I hardly think it is worth your while coming here as we can exchange notes when we meet, but if you are along in any case, I will be glad to see you. I have a copy of the "claim" – indeed I suppose the original, and you can get it when you wish it, but I will retain it for the present. Will be glad to hear how things go.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

617. JACK MEIKLE

19 January 1922

Dear Jack,

I have yours of 17th inst. and enclosure from Villiers.

Tuesday 7th February will as far as I know suit me all right for the hearing. You might please communicate this to the arbiter. He will likely want the claim but in any case, I want to look over it again before I part with it. We can arrange to have a chat on the morning of the 7th February before the hearing.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

618. WILLIAM PRINGLE ESQ.

19 January 1922

Horncliffe Mains

Dear Sir,

I have your letter of 16th inst. with enclosure.

There is a discrepancy with regard to field No 49. The acreage of this field was given as 20.927 on the valuation day, and you have put it down as 25.449. This 5 should evidently be a 0 as your summations are all right taking the field at 20.449 acres. Then I make out the harvesting to be £321. 5 taking 128½ acres @ 50/- per acre.

I agree generally with the statement on the understanding of course that the harvesting costs and the price of the grain have yet to be determined.

The other matters are quite in order.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

619. WILLIAM PRINGLE ESQ.

20 January 1922

Horncliffe Mains

Dear Sir,

Further to my letter of yesterday, I have discovered that there is a larger proportion of the farm in white crop than the lease provides for. I suppose you

will agree that this matter will come up for discussion at the final settlement, along with the other points referred to.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

620. JACK MEIKLE

20 January 1922

Dear Jack,

I have your letter of 18th inst. and I think you would be quite right to have Smith's help in the hearing by the arbiter.

Pringle sent me for my approval a statement of the acreage and quantities of the grain crop, also the amounts agreed upon for ploughing etc. I accepted of the statement generally with one or two corrections, subject to certain points to be discussed at the final settlement.

I was surprised to see the amount charged for the threshing machine viz. £229.17.6. This sum is put down without comment. I am glad Davidson had the sense not to take my offer that day we inspected it.

You will be getting this a/c from Pringle immediately, so I need not go into any further details. He deducts harvesting at 52/- per acre. But of course, that will be adjusted along with acreage, price, etc. at the final award.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

621. MESSRS JOHNSTON & SMILLIE C.A.

23 January 1922

Farm Accounts

Dear Sirs,

I return herewith the letter to you from the Inspector of Taxes dated January 20th 1922, which you sent me for perusal. With regard to the remarks contained in that letter, I beg to give you the following information:-

I hereby certify that the accounts are a true and correct copy of the transactions, not only as disclosed by my books, but of the actual transactions pertaining to the farm for the year. As you are aware, you have not seen or audited my books. I have no objection to submitting the books to you, but I understood you to say that a Taxpayer was not bound to go to the expense of having his books audited.

I keep a cash Book and a Ledger, as well as a Book recording the position with Debtors and Creditors and the result of the whole transactions are correctly reflected in the Statement of Accounts which I sent you. I just keep the one Bank Book which of course is kept for business purposes.

Implements – The following is the allocation of items of Implements:-

(a) Loose Tools £50
(b) Ordinary Farm Machinery £700
(c) Larger ditto Tractors etc. £150
(d) Fixed ditto Mill etc. £300

There were bought during the year the following –

4 Carts	£192
1 Pot. Riddle	£1.12.6
1 Plow	£3.10
	£197.2.6

and there were sold some old plows etc. amounting to:

£22.10.6
£174.12

This gives the sum of £174. 12 which appears in the accounts.

The farm is arable. The acreage is 464 – and 35 acres of this is pasture. It was the same at the beginning and end of the year.

In addition to this there are about 80 acres of admiralty land in crop. This was so at the beginning and end of year.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

622. MESSRS JOHNSTON & SMILLIE C.A.

1 February 1922

Dear Sirs,

With reference to your letter of 30th January and also enclosure from the Inspector of Taxes, regarding growing crop at the beginning and the end of the year. I beg to state that at the beginning of the year, turnips and mangold were valued at £915, and at the end of the year £710. These are all the growing crops, wheat and young grass being taken in both instances at the cost of the seed sown.

The drop in valuations is accounted for in a large decrease in quantity as well as the slump in prices.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

623. THOMAS C. SMITH ESQ.

4 February 1922

Horncliffe Mains Arbitration

Dear Sir,

I have now prepared a revised statement of the above claim. I think you will be able to understand it with my notes of explanation. I have set out in these figures, what I consider would be a fair award to both sides.

The matter of £100 in the counterclaim that you referred to today in our telephone conversation, I suppose will be the £100 I put down as an estimate for clearing the hedge sides all over the farm, as the hedges are so overgrown that the fields have not been cultivated as they should have been, and the uncultivated parts have in consequence become foul. This is not good husbandry on an arable farm. The case of a grazing farm would be quite different as far as the growth of the hedges is concerned.

I enclose also a letter from Messrs Gray & Taylor[456] showing the decrease in price of manure for this year. I do not think this will be required as it will

[456] Gray & Taylor, manure merchants and seedsmen, Croft Street, Dalkeith, Midlothian.

be accepted by all concerned that there is a substantial drop in values. You are however better to have it.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

624. JACK MEIKLE

20 February 1922

Dear Jack,

I have yours of 17th inst. with Pringle's statement enclosed. I note what you state regarding the amount of crop that Embleton left. This will come up at the final settlement – I forget when this takes place.

I am exceedingly disappointed with the barley field that you refer to. I thought it should have come out about 5 qrs in any case. However, you will see how the crop turns out on the whole.

I was disappointed with the manner in which Smith conducted the case on Thursday. If I had thought that he was not going to reply to some of [?Pieray's] allegations, I would have interrupted and protested at the time myself – even at the risk of a breach of etiquette. I felt bad that he had got away with all he said without a word of contradiction. The matter is now in the melting pot and we will have to wait and see what comes out of it.

We have a cover of snow today, and if you have the same it will not be very suitable for Villiers making his inspection.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

625. SIR IVAN CARSON

20 February 1922

Dear Carson,[457]

I had your letter of 6th inst. on Thursday the 9th inst. and the same morning your name was in the paper as having been kidnapped the day before.[458] I am

457 Sir Ivan Carson, farmer, Killyreagh, Enniskillen, and former high sheriff of Fermanagh.

458 Sir Ivan had been abducted from his home by members of the I.R.A. on 8 February.

exceedingly sorry for the unfortunate circumstances in which you have been placed, and I would have written you at once but did not know where you might be. I have been watching the paper each day for your name among the released but am sorry I have not yet found it. I hope however that you are now safely home, and that you will not be further molested. We here are much annoyed that the Loyalists of the North of Ireland should be subjected to such rough handling, but hope that you will be able to hold your own. Promises from the government are not sufficient. We have a whole host of unfulfilled ones over here too.

With best wishes for your safety and welfare.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

626. J. S. PROCTOR ESQ.

22 February 1922

Policy No 646219
Accident to James Coyle

Dear Sir,

Referring to my letter to you of November 9th last, and also that of November 18th when I sent you the particulars of the accident, would you be good enough to let me know if you have done anything in the matter, as I have had several woeful letters from Coyle in which he states he has heard nothing whatever from The Insurance Co.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

627. MESSRS JOHNSTON & SMILLIE C.A.

23 February 1922

Income Tax

Dear Sir,

The enclosed will speak for themselves, but my reason for sending them to you in the first place is to draw your attention to the fact that they have allowed me

nothing for the payments I made under schedule A. Will this be coming all right, or should attention be drawn to it now? In any case I enclose also the two vouchers for the sums I am not yet allowed, viz. £116.4/- and £24.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

628. MESSRS JOHNSTON & SMILLIE C.A.

1 March 1922

Dear Sirs,

I have your letter of 28th February with enclosure.

I quite follow you in the details you set out except in the matter of tax on £18 of stipend. I am not aware of having been asked to pay anything on this, and the sum deducted when I paid the interest on the bond was for the half year £82.10/-. I rather think that the minister who gets the £18 should pay the income tax thereon. If I am not understanding the position, I will get an explanation sometime when I am in your office.

At your convenience would you send me a copy of the abstract of my balance sheet – Liabilities & Assets – as adjusted by you from my figures.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

629. MESSRS JOHNSTON & SMILLIE C.A.

2 March 1922

Dear Sirs,

Further to your letter of February 28th I now enclose certificate from The Clydesdale Bank regarding the Funding Loan. I have today received from the Taxes Department a cheque for £214.14.6, the sum for which they have received the receipts I sent to you on 23rd ult.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

630. JOHN MEIKLE

30 March 1922

Dear Mr Meikle,[459]

I received the enclosed award from Jack this morning, and he asked me to send it on to you.

I am a bit disappointed with Villier's findings, as those seem very one-sided. I think he has distinctly erred in items 4 and 5 of the counter claims. In No 4 he admits liability by awarding £20 which does nothing like represent the damage sustained. In No 5 he allows nothing, although the outgoing tenant's failure to lead out the dung was a distinct breach of contract. If these two items had been dealt with on the same lines as the outgoing tenant's claim, the findings would have been nearer equity.

I suppose the only thing to do now, is to pay and look as pleasant as possible.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

631. JACK MEIKLE

30 March 1922

Dear Jack,

I had yours of 29th inst. this morning with Villier's award enclosed, which I have now sent on to your father.

I am worst pleased of all with his award or rather findings in Nos. 4 and 5 of the counter claim. In No. 4 he admits liability by the outgoing tenant, but £20 does not represent the damage done. In No. 5 he condones a distinct breach of contract by the outgoing tenant through his failure to lead out the dung. The matter however is a fixture now and I hope you will be able to forget about it. The only thing to do is to pay and try and look pleasant.

I am not to charge you anything as witness in this affair, but sometime if you could get hold of a small salmon, we would feast to the memory of Noel Villiers!

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

---

459 John Meikle, farmer, Trolorg and Camregan, Hurlford, Ayrshire.

632. ALEX SPIDEN

14 April 1922

Dear Sir,[460]

Please take notice that your occupancy of the house at Dingleton will terminate with your services on 21st May 1922.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

633. WILLIAM HENDERSON ESQ.

22 May 1922

Congalton March Fences[461]

Dear Sir,

I have now had these fences repaired and enclose statement of expenses, which I trust you will find in order.

What was serviceable of the old fences I retained – as there were some stobs that had a grip of the ground and the top wires have, I think, a few years wear still. From three to four wires in the bottom are new throughout.

I would point out that if the ditch in Congalton field that marches with me – north of the Railway – were cleared and backed up against the fence it would go far to prevent sheep creeping through.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

460 The recipient was a farm servant employed by Hugh Miller at West Fortune.

461 March fences were those that ran along the boundary of a farm. West Fortune and Congalton shared a boundary and so a fence.

634. THE CONTROLLER, D.B.L.C., EARLS COURT EXHIBITION, LONDON

29 June 1922

East Fortune Aerodrome

Dear Sir,[462]

I am in want of some material such as will be for disposal at the above aerodrome.[463] I am quite close at hand and have seen the following, Viz

Item		
204 Lockers	2' x 2' x 18"	(Total stock 147)
161 Trestles for bed boards	26	
89 Tables – folding damaged	6' x 2½' x 2½"	Total 19
90 Table tops	6' x 2½"	15
91 Table tops	4' x 2½"	2

I could take 20 of the lockers, and the total of the other lots referred to.

My reason for writing you is that I employ a large number of seasonal workers for potato gathering, with the consequent necessity of providing accommodation for them.

I understood the sale at the aerodrome was to take place earlier, and I delayed fixing up till now. I would be glad to know if you can offer me these items, and on what terms.[464]

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

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462 The Controller, Disposal Board and Liquidation Committee, Earls Court Exhibition, London.

463 The Disposal Board had been established in 1919 to sell surplus military materials and stores. It had various sections, selling everything from furniture and equipment to huts and machinery. It was wound up in 1924 having realised £625 million.

464 An auction of office and domestic furniture and equipment was held at East Fortune on 30 October 1922.

635. A. BUTTER ESQ.

2 August 1922

Dear Sir,

As the season advances, it is desirable that I should have some idea regarding the continuation of the tenancy of the two North fields on Muirhouses. They are sown out for temporary grazing after harvest, and as the fences require a considerable expenditure, I would be glad to know if the Air Ministry could consider granting a lease of at least five years, or as an alternative, if they were willing to sell, would they entertain an offer from me, as I can hardly be expected to do permanent fencing under the present conditions.

There are also considerations regarding the future of these fields that makes it desirable there should be something of a more permanent nature in the tenure. I would be glad to have your observations on the matter.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

636. A. BUTTER ESQ.

2 August 1922

Dear Sir,

I herewith enclose note of the manures applied to the land at Muirhouses, and also a letter regarding the tenure of the two fields which we spoke of today.

I will be glad to hear at your convenience how matters stand.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

637. A. BUTTER ESQ.

2 August 1922

Dear Sir,

Herewith I append a note of the manures applied to the land which I hold from the Air Ministry for this season's crop –

	Tons	Cwt
To the two North fields on Muirhouses	4	10
Aerodrome land	15	
A total of	21	5

of compound grain manure

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

638. CHARLES WEATHERILL ESQ.

25 September 1923

East Fortune (Muirhouses)

Dear Sir,

As I understand there is a probability of small holdings being formed on the above lands,[465] my object in writing you is to ask if you would be willing to sell me the small field of 8.163 acres No 188 O.S.[466]

I bought my farm some time ago and have occupied the above field for six years, and my reason for asking you to sell it is on account of the difficulty of getting crops driven off my land which has a considerable hang toward the North.[467]

The acquisition of this strip of land would enable me to get access to the road at any point on the East side of my farm.

I trust you will be able to entertain this proposal and will be glad to hear from you thereanent.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

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465 The Board of Agriculture of Scotland had purchased around 600 acres of land at the former East Fortune air station from the Board of Disposal with the intention of creating twenty smallholdings.

466 *i.e.* Ordnance Survey.

467 *i.e.* the ground sloped downwards at the north side of the farm.

639. THE PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD

18 October 1923

Dear Sirs,[468]

Would you please give me the following information under "The Agrlr. Credits Act".[469]

1. Can a loan be arranged for any number of years less than sixty.

2. What would be the annual payment.

3. If the borrower wished to pay off the loan earlier than the agreed on date, what would be the sum payable at ten, twenty and thirty years for £12,000.

I will be glad to hear from you at an early date.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

640. CHARLES WEATHERILL ESQ.

1 February 1924

East Fortune

Dear Sir,

I have your favour of 30th ult. accepting of my offer of £130 for the land at East Fortune, for which I thank you.

I agree to remove from the lands at 1st November next with the reservation of right to enter the lands to thresh any crop which may be unthreshed at that date. I trust this is satisfactory to you.

468 The Public Works Loan Board, Old Jewry, London.

469 Agricultural Credits Act, 1923. It facilitated the advance of money and the grant of credit for certain agricultural purposes, through the Public Works Loan Board.

Regarding the small field of 8.163 acres No. 188 on the O.S., I would be glad to know if you are now in a position to negotiate a sale.[470]

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

641. MR ALEXANDER GUILD

13 March 1924

Dear Mr Guild

I regret to inform you that I have had a small fire on the premises, the piggeries at the cottages having been burned yesterday. They were four in number, built of wood and roofed with lath and tiles. A small boy has got access to matches, and everything being like tinder the place went like a straw stack.

I put these houses up about three years ago and estimate their value at the time of the fire at £20. I will be glad if you forward this information to the 'Guardian'.[471]

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

642. MESSRS G. & D. MAXWELL

21 June 1924

Dear Sirs,[472]

I have your note of confirmation of sale of about 135 acres of Epicures. Of course, any reference that was mentioned in the sale, was understood to be in the option of the seller.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

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470 By this time, the air station at East Fortune had been replaced by a sanitorium.

471 *i.e.* Guardian Insurance Company.

472 G. & D. Maxwell, potato merchants, Trade Lane, Dundee.

643. CHARLES WEATHERILL ESQ.

25 October 1924

No 26573A
East Fortune

Dear Sir,

I have your letter of 24th inst. re the grazing of the seeds on the above lands.

The fencing between Mr Scott and myself is a difficulty, but to simplify matters I have agreed with him to offer for my piece of land, less a portion of 8 or 9 acres to the south of Muirhouses old steading, and he has agreed to include this in his offer, as it will take only about half the fencing under this arrangement.

For the portion now referred to, I offer the sum of £17 Sterling (seventeen pounds) as from October 18th curt. till November 21st next.

As it will take some time to get the fencing done, as also to procure nets, I would be obliged if you would phone me on receipt of this, whether or not my offer is acceptable.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

644. CHARLES WEATHERILL ESQ.

19 November 1924

East Fortune

Dear Sir,

Further to my conversation with Mr. P. A. McWilliam today regarding the grazing on 22 acres of the above land for next season terminating at Martinmas 1925, I hereby offer the sum of £66 (Sixty six pounds Sterling).

The situation of the two fields with the road between makes it rather an awkward grazing, but having had possession of the land and as it lies more conveniently to me than to anyone else, I can see my way to work it.

I understand that the land will be fenced in time for stock in the spring and that water will be supplied.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

645. MR HOPE

13 January 1925

Dear Mr Hope,

I thank you for yours of 10th inst. with cheque enclosed for £10.5.8 in payment of the taxes on the shootings levied on the occupier. This squares up shooting season 1923 to 1924.

The same taxes for season 1924 to 1925 amount to a total of £8.19/-.

If convenient it would be better to have this brought up to date.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

646. GEORGE WHITEFORD

16 March 1925

Dear George,

I am in receipt of your letter of 13th inst. And we are sorry to hear of Grandfather having a cold, but hope he will soon be in his usual good health again.

Your letter otherwise has given me much concern, and it is exceedingly unfortunate that you find yourselves so hampered financially, but I pointed out the position to you before and I am sorry I do not see my way any clearer to accede to your request than I did at that time. To be quite frank I hardly think it is business to ask anyone to become surety at the Bank in ignorance of the real state of affairs. Has it not occurred to you that it would be advisable in the circumstances to put your affairs in the accountants' hands, and get to know exactly how you stand? If things are as you say, you would be in a much better position to retain the confidence of your customers as well as the confidence of the Bank. Of course, this is your affair, but I am only suggesting what I would do myself in such circumstances. It would let you know exactly how and where you stand, and perhaps also show where the shortage has arisen. If the shop is still doing as well as you indicated some time ago, would it not be advisable to drop the ham trade altogether, and devote all your energy to the bakery? I am exceedingly sorry to again refuse your request but there are several considerations which compel me to do so.

Kind regards,
Yours affectionately,
H. Miller

647. MESSRS G. & D. MAXWELL

1 May 1925

Dear Sirs,

I beg to confirm contract made by telephone today to grow two tons of Majestic potatoes on the following conditions, Viz - G. & D. Maxwell to supply seed and manure, pay half the cost of lifting the crop, and supply me with at least the workers when my own crop is ready for lifting.

H.M. to do all necessary cultivations and receive half of the resultant crop of Majestic Potatoes.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

648. MESSRS COWAN & DALMAHOY W.S.

12 September 1925

New Mains

Dear Sir,

I have your letter of 10th inst. with enclosure, and I hope to make an inspection of the above farm at an early date.

It will simplify matters if I personally arrange a day for the convenience of both parties.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

649. MESSRS MACKAY ROSS & CO.

12 September 1925

Dear Sirs,

The barrel I ordered from you about August 27th has come to hand, and I regret to say is not satisfactory.

First of all, it is not the length you offered me and that I agreed to take – being only 4' 9", and then it has two fractured staves.

Had it been sound I would not have complained about the length, but these two weak staves would be on the underside when mounted on the cart as they are opposite the bung.

Please let me know what you think is best to be done in the matter.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

650. MESSRS KINNEAR, MOODY & CO.

15 September 1925

Dear Sirs,[473]

With reference to your ad in yesterday's Scotsman of material for sale at Fountain hall – would you please let me know the length and thickness of the shuttering, also what kind of wood it is composed of, and the price you are asking for it.[474]

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

651. MESSRS MACKAY, ROSS & CO.

16 September 1925

Dear Sirs,

I have your letter of 15th inst. but I do not see that the barrel you offer me can have the capacity of 160 gallons. Anything less than this will not suit my purpose. I would rather take one a little larger than one smaller.

I trust you will be able to give me one that will be suitable.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

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473 Kinnear, Moody & Co., building contractors, St Vincent Street, Glasgow.

474 Equipment, huts, shuttering and timber used during the construction of Fountainhall reservoir, near Pencaitland, East Lothian, were being sold off.

652. MESSRS KINNEAR MOODY & CO.

19 September 1925

Dear Sirs,

With reference to my call at Fountainhall yesterday – I would take 150 of the shutters if you can make the price 3/6.

Please let me know if you accept of this, and I will send you the cheque before lifting them.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

653. MR WILLIAM EDINGTON, LONDON & NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY CO.

19 September 1925

Dear Sir,

I have your demand to pay 2/2 on account of my son travelling without his season ticket on a date in July last.

The circumstances have already been fully explained, and as there was no defrauding of the Railway Company by the ticket being used by any one else, I am not going to pay what I do not owe.

There is another matter that I wish to call your attention to. A waggon of lambs railed at St Boswells on Thursday afternoon last were not delivered to me at Drem till 12 o'clock next day. I consider they are 2/- per head the worse of the long and unnecessary confinement in the waggon. This will work out to a total of £4.16. And I will be glad to hear from you on the matter.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

654. GEORGE WHITEFORD

17 November 1925

Dear George,

I have your letter of 16th inst. but have difficulty in understanding its contents. Am I to understand that you wish me to come good for whatever you may

offer to your creditors in order to affect a settlement? If so – I consider your request preposterous and cannot entertain it, as I have no idea what your liabilities and assets are.[475]

I expect to be in Ayrshire this week, and if I have time I may be in Kilmarnock on Friday and will hear how you get on.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

655. HENRY SMITH ESQ. C.A.

23 December 1925

Messrs D. Whiteford & Son Sequestration

Dear Sir,[476]

In connection with the above, would you be good enough to send me a copy of the valuation list of furniture at Ashbank, Stewarton, and which I understand you have given the firm the option of buying back.

I shall then let you know immediately whether I am taking it over or not.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

656. GEORGE WHITEFORD

26 December 1925

Dear George,

I have today received a copy of the inventory and valuation of the furniture from the trustee. I will not do anything definite till I hear how the sale of the house goes.

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475 The estates of David Whiteford & Sons, ham-curers, Stewarton, and David Whiteford and George Whiteford, the partners thereof, had been sequestered on 6 November.

476 Henry Smith, chartered accountant, Smith & Wallace, Bank Street, Kilmarnock, had been elected trustee on the estates of David Whiteford & Sons, David Whiteford and George Whiteford.

David was telling me going home on Tuesday evening the position of affairs regarding the bill for £500 which he and Robert were let in to signing on the assurance that the £300 bill would thereby be cancelled. I think Robert and David have been very badly treated in this, and now as a 'quid pro quo' I want to ask you – if I buy the furniture at £109 – or such part of it as may be arranged – will you get Euphemia or her successors to guarantee the payment of the £500 bill when she becomes a beneficiary under the will of the late Captain John Smith – our uncle?[477]

I do not think I am asking anything unfair or unreasonable in this – for I do not think – to use a scriptural term you should be 'eased' and your two brothers 'burdened'[478] with the payment of this amount. They may have to go on paying this off for years, and I do think they should have some guarantee that they will get their own back.

You might let me know what you think of this proposal.

I trust you are all well.

Yours sincerely,
H. Miller

657. MESSRS HENRY ALEXANDER & CO.

19 April 1926

Dear Sirs,[479]

I am in receipt of your letter of 17th inst. regarding a Fordson Tractor, and have only to state that I made no such arrangement with your Mr Malcolm.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

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477 Captain John Smith, the aforementioned husband of Hugh Miller's aunt Euphemia. He had died in 1915.

478 The reference is to 2 Corinthians 8:13, 'For I mean not that other men be eased, and you burdened'.

479 Henry Alexander & Co., motor engineers and Fordson tractor dealers, Nottingham Place, Edinburgh.

658. TRANENT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD

1 November 1926

Dear Sirs,[480]

I have today received from Mr J. Thomson a note of the salvage of five lambs which were disabled by one of your vans on October 1st, and herewith I enclose a/c for the damage sustained by the flock through the negligence of your driver.

I trust you will find the matter in order and will be glad to have your cheque.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

659. A. W. YOUNG ESQ.

29 November 1926

Dear Sir,

Please arrange at your earliest to measure the following at Wintonhill, Pencaitland.[481]

		Turnips
1. Field	Witchesknowe	Swedes
2. Field	Longriggs	Yellows. The grieve will point

out the parts consumed by the outgoing tenant.

3. Field	Little Chesters	Swedes
4. Field	Forehill	Swedes

All the endriggs to be excluded from the measurements. Also two dung heaps in different fields. The grieve will point out the various subjects.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

480 Tranent Co-operative Society Ltd, Head office, Bridge Street, Tranent.

481 A farm in the parish of Pencaitland, East Lothian.

660. MESSRS DUDGEON & FARMER W.S.

31 December 1926

Wintonhill Reference

Dear Sir,[482]

Referring to the copy of the letter from Messrs Melville & Lindesay W.S.[483] which you handed to me on Wednesday, the arbiters met today and considered the situation. I do not think it is necessary to go into the details of the letter referred to, but I have only to say that the arbiters were unanimous in condemning the attitude that Mr Todd[484] has assumed, and they consider that it is due to them that that letter should be withdrawn. They also decided that they could see no reason why the "findings" should be interfered with.

Mr Todd complains of the absence of details in the "findings", but he is bound to admit that he possesses all the details that it is possible for him to have.

I am, Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

661. MR GEORGE K. JOHNSTON

23 April 1927

Dear Mr Johnston,

I have your letter of 22nd inst. regarding the valuation of my potato crop. Evidently Mr Hare[485] wishes to charge me with income tax whether I have any income or not. Fortunately, I am now nearly through with my potatoes and can give you the sums I have so far realised for them.

My actual sales have amounted to £533.15/ – and I consider I have

30 tons of ware left which at present is worth 150

482 Dudgeon & Farmer, Writers to the Signet, Moray Place, Edinburgh.

483 Melville & Lindesay, Writers to the Signet, George Street, Edinburgh.

484 James Todd was the incoming tenant of Wintonhill farm.

485 H. M. Inspector of Taxes for Edinburgh and district. See Letter 570.

Then I would use for seed 20 tons @ £3.60

making a total of 743.15

This makes a loss of 516.5

on the valuation of the crop at November 28th

If Mr Hare imagines I am keeping down the valuation for the purpose of showing a loss then I can only conclude that there is some twist in his mental capacity. If he is not satisfied with this statement I will ask the special commissioners for their decision on the matter.[486]

With reference to the 1925 valuation of £1100 for potatoes – the realisation of that crop was £1157.15/- apart from what my farm people got as their perquisites.

I enclose the Bank certificate for interest.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

662. MESSRS LAWRIE & SYMINGTON

29 April 1927

Dear Sirs,[487]

I have your letter of 27th inst. with Mr Armstrong's enclosed.

I think it will be as well to let the matter stand over till we see how many of the H.B. hoggs[488] prove in lamb. As far as I can make out just now there are three, and if this is all it will not be a serious matter to settle.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

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486 Special Commissioners were civil servants who performed various functions under the tax acts, including hearing appeals from tax payers against assessments on income from trade.

487 Lawrie & Symington, auctioneers and cattle agents, Hyndford Road, Lanark.

488 Half bred hoggs. A hogg was a young sheep, usually between weaning and first shearing.

663. MESSRS LAWRIE & SYMINGTON

6 October 1927

Dear Sirs,

On Tuesday 4th inst. I bought Gelding No 262, and now reject him as not being conform to warranty in his work. He will not pull in the cart.

I phoned you to this effect today and now confirm the telephone message.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

664. MESSRS LAWRIE & SYMINGTON LTD

15 October 1927

Dear Sirs,

Gelding No 262 at your sale on 4th inst. was returned to James Anderson, Campbelton, Twynholm on 13th inst, not being conform to warranty in his work. I returned him carriage forward, but I paid 17/6 carriage from Lanark to Drem, and the Veterinary Surgeon's fee for examination which is £1.1/-. I will be glad to have the remittance of his price which is £55, along with these two items.

Yours faithfully,
H. Miller

665. JAMES ANDERSON ESQ.

19 October 1927

Dear Sir,

I have received from Messrs Lawrie & Symington the price of the Gelding No 262 returned to you, and they refer me to you for payment of my outlays in connection therewith. These are as follows

Vet's fee	£1. 1/-
and Railway Carriage Lanark to Drem	17/6
Total	£1.18.6

for which I shall be glad to have your remittance.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

666. MESSRS THOMAS COOK & SON LTD

8 November 1927

Dear Sirs,[489]

When I booked with you on January 25th last from London to Casablanca I was assured that I would get a direct connection at Gibraltar by the "Bland Line". I failed to get this connection and did not use the outward portion of my ticket between Gibraltar and Casablanca. I will be obliged therefore if you will let me have a refund of that portion of my ticket which was unused and which I herewith enclose.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

667. MESSRS JAMES ROSS & SONS

10 December 1927

Dear Sirs,[490]

Referring to our phone conversation today I hereby confirm the order for a 1928 Model fourteen Hillman saloon car painted maroon, delivered here as early as possible in January, for £300 and my old Rover Car, this price to include a bulb horn fixed underneath the bonnet.

489 Thomas Cook & Son Ltd were travel agents.

490 James Ross & Sons, motorcar dealers, Tollcross, Edinburgh.

We spoke of tipping headlights but I am not quite sure if you meant to include them in the transaction. Please let me know about this and also the position of the tipping lever. Is it an obstruction for getting out and in the car?

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

668. JAMES ANDERSON ESQ.

24 December 1927

Dear Sir,

I wrote to you on October 19th asking for the refund of the expense I was put to in connection with the purchase of your gelding at Lanark sale. The amount is £1.18.6 and I will be glad to have your cheque. There is no good reason why I should require to ask this twice, and you know I am entitled to it. I trust therefore you will have it settled immediately.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

669. BOARD OF AGRICULTURE OF SCOTLAND

10 August 1928

East Fortune

Dear Sirs,[491]

Referring to your letter of 13th inst. I have now seen the representative of the Water Committee and have agreed to pay £1 per annum to them when a connection with their water pipe is made.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

491 Board of Agriculture of Scotland, York Buildings, Queen Street, Edinburgh.

670. MESSRS G. & D. MAXWELL

5 October 1928

Dear Sirs,

I beg to confirm having sold to you today 100 tons – more or less – of King Edward Seed, also 40 tons – more or less – of Majestic Seed – all to be dressed by 2¼" by 1¼" riddles at Five pounds (£5) per ton – delivery October – December.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

671. MESSRS LAWRIE & SYMINGTON LTD

11 October 1928

Dear Sir,

I wired you today, "Horse 114 of Tuesday's sale rejected for work – writing."

He refused in both cart and chains, and he also has the vice of striking out when he is being fed in the box or being approached in the stall. Mr Brown told me the latter fault after the horse was sold, and I said to him this ought to have been disclosed before the sale, and then I never would have bid for him.

I will be glad to have your instructions.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

672. SAMUEL BROWN ESQ.

20 October 1928

Dear Sir,

I have your letter of 19th inst. and in addition to the faults already complained of, I have discovered that the horse is a windsucker. If you are not aware of this you will see it if you watch him quietly in the box.

I have communicated with the Auctioneers and have been instructed by them to return the horse to you. I am therefore sending him on to you on Monday morning.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

673. LORD BEAVERBROOK

29 January 1930

Sir,[492]

I am in receipt of your favour of 21st inst. and in reply I have only to state that I have no objection to the publication of anything I said in my former note to you, if you consider it will further the cause we aim at. Each week our markets here are sinking lower and lower – 10/6 per ton being quoted for good ware potatoes in some of the Fife markets. The case is desperate and yet a sympathetic Government stands by with the means of help at their disposal, and refuse to extend that help to us. I hope for the country's sake that they will not delay till we are past redemption point.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

674. H. C. BABB ESQ.

4 July 1930

Dear Sir,[493]

I have received your letter of 2nd inst. re Electric Current for which I thank you. I am sorry however the terms are prohibitive from an economic stand-point. I can put in a private installation for a very much less initial outlay, which would give me sufficient light for the farm.

---

492 Max Aitken, 1st Baron Beaverbrook, was the editor of the *Daily Express*.

493 H. C. Babb, manager and chief engineer, Musselburgh & District Electric Light & Traction Co. Ltd.

I would have been glad to discuss the matter further if there was any chance of a compromise, but if £350 is your final offer I am afraid it would be fruitless.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

675. MESSRS BARLAS & SHARPE

9 October 1931

Dear Sirs,

I have your letter of 8th inst. with submission enclosed.

A good long time ago at Mr Broadfoot's[494] request I consented to act for the parties concerned in the submission, but a claim for damage said to have taken place two years ago, can only be a matter for consideration at the hearing, as no trace of this may now be visible. I will endeavour however to make the most of it in the circumstances.

For anything I know I could arrange for an inspection of the subjects on Sat 17th or Monday 19th October. If the landlords wish to be represented at the inspection they will have the opportunity on either of these days at 10.00am. Please [*the remainder of the letter is illegible*]

676. MESSRS DUNDAS & WILSON

15 October 1931

Whitekirk Arbitration

Dear Sirs,[495]

I have your letter of 14th inst. I am sorry I was from home today and did not get your letter attended to till late.

---

494 Probably Robert Broadfoot, farmer, Whitekirk Mains, East Lothian, as this letter appears to relate to the following correspondence regarding an arbitration at Whitekirk. Barlas & Sharpe, Dunbar, were solicitors.

495 Dundas & Wilson, solicitors, St Andrews Square, Edinburgh.

If the Landlords wish to lodge answers to the claim by the Tenant, before the inspection, I will be glad if you will place these in my hands within one week, and I will if you wish, delay the inspection till Tuesday 27th October.

Please let me know if you wish me to make this delay.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

677. MESSRS DUNDAS & WILSON

21 October 1931

Whitekirk Arbitration

Dear Sirs,

I have your letter of 19th inst. and have arranged Tuesday 27th inst. at 2 P.M. for the inspection. I note that you will lodge answers to the claim within the appointed time.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

678. MESSRS DUNDAS & WILSON

23 November 1931

Whitekirk Arbitration

Dear Sirs,

I have your letter of 19th inst. With reference to No 2 item of the Landlords' claim.

I cannot agree that the tenant lifted gravel from the pit without consultation with the landlords' representatives, as it was stated at the inspection that the tenant had spoken to Dickman before lifting the gravel and he (Dickman) did not demur.

Regarding expenses – I think I have dealt leniently with the landlords, seeing their claim has failed. The expenses extend only to the Arbiter's fee and to that of the clerk.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

679. MESSRS DUNDAS & WILSON

28 November 1931

Whitekirk Arbitration

Dear Sirs,

The tenant has made no representations against the proposed findings in the arbitration, and I will now be glad to hear from you if you wish to have a final award issued. As there is no alternation in the proposed findings I hardly think it is necessary to incur further expenses in the matter.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

680. JAMES T. S. DOUGHTY ESQ.

19 January 1932

Preston Mains[496]

Dear Sir,[497]

As oversman in the valuation of this farm I herewith send you the findings.

I have noted in pencil the totals for the turnips which you can check. You will observe that No 1 field is subject to a deduction of half an acre, No 2 to one acre and Nos 3,4,5 to two acres.

Turnips	£408. 2. 6
Ploughing	£ 16.16
Manure	£164. 2
Grass Seeds	£016. 9. 4
Total	£605. 9.10 which should be paid by the incoming tenant, to the out-going tenant within fourteen days.

Arbiters' and oversman's fees each £5.5/- - total £15.15/-.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

496 A farm in the parish of Prestonkirk, East Lothian.

497 James T. S. Doughty, solicitor, Ayton, Berwickshire.

681. JAMES T. S. DOUGHTY ESQ.

27 January 1932

Preston Mains

Dear Sir,

I have your letter of 23rd inst. and cannot agree with Mr Cockburn's view regarding payment of the Turnips, Dung, Seeds and Ploughing. It may be some time before the other claim is settled, and there is no reason why the outgoing tenant should not have the price of these items now. I will therefore be glad to know that you have instructed payment to be made.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

[*Pages 653-661 are missing from the letter book*]

682. MESSRS REID, GRAHAME & MCROBBIE

16 July 1932

Dear Sirs,[498]

I have your letter of 11th inst. regarding the two waggons of potatoes.

There is much I might say but perhaps it will be better left unsaid. I agreed to be responsible for the former waggon, never for a moment thinking that the price was to be quartered, but as promised, I herewith send you cheque for £26.12.8 which you say is the loss.

Regarding the latter waggon, if you say this is fair treatment to me then I have nothing more to say on the matter. This however I will add, I had several other customers getting the same potatoes at the same time, and I had no other complaint whatever the whole season. I am only sorry now that I did not ask for the potatoes to be returned.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

498 Reid, Grahame & McRobbie, potato merchants, Girvan, Ayrshire.

683. THE LOTHIANS ELECTRIC POWER CO.

24 January 1933

Dear Sirs,[499]

Herewith I enclose cheque for £10.16.11. I have deducted from the account £8.8.9 part of which I admit I owe, but as you are aware I am not satisfied with the consumption of current for the power. This installation is consuming more than double of any similar installation in the district, and I consider therefore that I should not be called upon to pay this inflated charge. I had hoped that the matter would have been corrected before this.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

684. MESSRS CROMPTON PARKINSON LTD

2 February 1933

Dear Sirs,[500]

The Lothians Electric Power Co. installed an Electric Motor to me on the farm in October last, details of which are as follows:

No 12311092, H.P. 25, Rev. 930, Volts 400, Phase 3.

I am not satisfied with the motor as it is taking the double of the current to run my threshing mill, of any other motor driving a similar outfit in the district.

Could you suggest any reason for this. It takes 18 to 19 units per hour, in spite of the fact that the drum of the mill is mounted on ball bearings.

I will be glad if you can solve the difficulty.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

---

499 The Lothians Electric Power Co., electrical engineers and supplier, High Street, Musselburgh.

500 Crompton Parkinson Ltd, electrical engineers, Wellington Street, Glasgow.

685. H. C. BABB ESQ.

3 February 1933

Dear Sir,

Referring to your letter of 26th inst. and also that of 31st inst. with enclosures, I have only to say I am still not satisfied with the results of running the motor. It may be that the speed of the mill is a little more than the speed the makers state it should be run, but the reduction of the speed would obviously not put matters right.

I beg to refer you to the terms of contract of 11th July last, where you agree that the motor is to be to my satisfaction. I again state that I am not satisfied, and if you have now said your last word on the matter, then I am afraid the only course is for you to remove the motor. I think it is quite unreasonable on the part of the Power Company to ask me to accept of this installation that is costing double for current of any similar installation in the district.

I may say that in the mean time I have written the makers asking if they have any observations to make on the situation.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

686. H. C. BABB ESQ.

9 February 1933

Dear Sir,

I duly received your favour of 6th inst. and am accordingly having the mill tested at a reduced speed, although I have no expectation that this will put matters right.

Regarding my cheque for the way leave and current, please do not imagine that I wish to shirk my obligation, but I now consider that we would be better to have the question of the motor settled and then we can settle accounts.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

687. MESSRS AITKEN LILBURN & CO.

17 May 1934

Dear Sirs,[501]

I have been communicating with Messrs B. E. Cooper & Co. Ltd., Australia House, London, about the possibility of exporting potatoes to the British West Indies. They state they are known to you, and asked me to get in touch with you, about getting a sample case sent to Trinidad.

Would you be good enough to tell me when the sailings are for that port – or I should say – Port of Spain – and give me any instructions that you think necessary.

Of course, this is only an experiment, and it will all depend on the cost of freight and what the potatoes can realise whether there can be further business or not.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

688. MESSRS B. E. COOPER & CO. LTD

17 May 1934

Dear Sirs,[502]

I thank you for your letter of 14th inst. and I am now endeavouring to arrange to send a sample of potatoes to Port of Spain. I have written to Aitken Lilburn & Co. of Glasgow, and have asked their instructions as to getting a sample shipped. I am thinking just to send it to The Trinidad General Sales Co. and ask them to take charge of it.

When I have anything further of interest, I will communicate with you.

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

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501 Aitken Lilburn & Co., shipping company, Buchanan Street, Glasgow.

502 B. E. Cooper & Co. Ltd, importers and exporters, London.

689. THE TRINIDAD GENERAL SALES CO.

24 May 1934

Dear Sirs,[503]

Messrs B. E. Cooper & Co. Ltd. of London have been communicating with me about sending potatoes to the B. W. Indies, and recommend you as reliable consignees. The season is almost past now for our Main Crop potatoes, and it might be questionable whether our early crop varieties would carry successfully or not, but as an experiment I am sending you a sample case from Glasgow by the S. S. Magician on the 30th curt. I have made up a case in two divisions of 29 lbs each of "King Edwards" and "Majestics". I hope they may arrive in good condition, and I would like you to give me a full report of how they have stood the journey, and whether they are acceptable or not, also how the sample could be improved upon. If they have not kept well on the journey I would rather you did not offer them on the market at all, but if they reach you in a sound condition, please do the best you can with them on a competitive market.

If it can be made worthwhile, I have no doubt it will lead to further business.

Would a bulk shipment carry well in sacks?

I am,
Yours faithfully,
Hugh Miller

503 The Trinidad General Sales Co., commission agents, Port of Spain, Trinidad.

APPENDIX

The recipients of Hugh Miller's letters who can be identified are listed below. Where there is some degree of conjecture, the name is given in [ ].

James Aitken & Sons	Millers, Duddingston Mills, Edinburgh	17, 250
Aitken Lilburn & Co.	Shipping company, Buchanan Street, Glasgow	687
Henry Alexander & Co.	Motor engineers and Fordson tractor dealers, Nottingham Place, Edinburgh	657
William Alexander	Miller, Barskimming Mill, Mauchline, Ayrshire	119
John Alison	Headmaster, George Watson Boys' College, Edinburgh	562
Allan Bros	Agricultural engineers, Ashgrove Engineering Works, Aberdeen	46, 112, 136, 141, 168, 169, 207, 221, 224, 238, 242, 246, 249, 310, 367
Lieutenant, then Captain, Anderson	District Purchasing Officer for Supplies for East Lothian	483, 511, 531
[John W. Arthur]	Glasgow merchant and supporter of Southern Morocco Mission	176, 183, 404
William Atkinson	Potato merchant, Trees, Maybole, Ayrshire	56
H. C. Babb	Manager and chief engineer, Musselburgh & District Electric Light & Traction Co. Ltd	674, 685, 686
Richard Baillie	Builder and joiner, Athelstaneford, East Lothian	286, 298, 305, 368
Hugh Baird & Co.	Brewers and maltsters, Posil Road, Glasgow, and owners of Athelstaneford Maltings	549
Barlas & Barlas	Solicitors, High Street, Dunbar	440, 443
Barlas & Sharpe	Solicitors, High Street, Dunbar	675

Flight lieutenant Ernest F. Beaumont	Royal Naval Air Service, East Fortune Air Station	477
Lord Beaverbrook (Max Aitken)	Editor, *Daily Express*	673
William Bickett	Threshing mill owner, Campbell Street, Kilmarnock	180, 186, 188, 197
[William Binnie]	Farmer, Birnie Knowe, Oldhamstocks, East Lothian	450
Major Cuthbert L. Blundell	Cattle breeder, Halsall, Lancashire	533
Bond & Sons	Auctioneers, Butter Market, Ipswich	529
Alexander Borthwick	Chief Constable for East Lothian	226
Boyd & Finlay	Agricultural merchants, Salamander Street, Leith	102, 106, 351
Thomas Brown	An employee of Hugh Miller	421, 441, 444
William Bruce	Secretary and executive officer, District Agricultural Committee for East Lothian, George Street, Edinburgh	485
[Captain Archibald Butter]	Newton Hall, Gifford, East Lothian	502, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 513, 521, 528, 530, 565, 567, 579, 581, 586, 607, 635, 636, 637
Thomas Callan	Road surveyor (western district), Haddingtonshire County Council	158, 219, 236
Hugh Campbell	Potato salesman, The Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd, Leith	74, 75, 145, 148, 163, 281, 289, 342, 349, 427, 428
John A. Carfrae	Architect, Queen Street, Edinburgh	19
Sir Ivan Carson	Farmer, Killyreagh, Enniskillen, and former High Sheriff of Fermanagh	625
Dr Thomas Caverhill	Medical officer, various East Lothian parishes	177, 182
E. Chalmers & Co.	General merchants, Bonnington, Leith	231

[Charles Charlton]	Butcher, High Street, Sunderland	348, 353, 359, 364, 366
C. H. Clark	Secretary, Red Poll Cattle Society, Ipswich	535
[John Clark]	Farmer, Westfield, Haddington	260
Clayton & Shuttleworth	Engineers, Stamp End Works, Lincoln	165
Thomas Cook & Son Ltd	Travel agents, with branches in various locations	666
B. E. Cooper & Co. Ltd	Importers and exporters, London	688
Cowan & Dalmahoy	Writers to the Signet, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh	556, 557, 648
F. D. Cowieson & Co.	Engineers and building contractors, Charles Street, Glasgow	605, 606, 610
James Craig Ltd	Auctioneers, Burns Square, Ayr	178
[John Crawford]	Horse dealer, Manrahead, Beith, Ayrshire	65, 77, 80, 87, 89, 123
Crompton Parkinson Ltd	Electrical engineers, Wellington Street, Glasgow	684
Walter Cuthbert	Joiner, Aberlady, East Lothian	104
[Donald Dale]	Seed merchant, Flint, Wales	10, 12, 23, 319
Dewar & Davidson	Hide, skin and tallow merchants, New Markets, Gorgie, Edinburgh	517
J. P. Dickson	Editor, *Kilmarnock Standard*	449
S. & J. Dodds (also James Dodds)	Agricultural implement makers and engineers, Sommerfield Works, Haddington	139, 172, 203
James Donald & Co.	Iron merchants, Portland Street, Kilmarnock	61
James T. S. Doughty	Solicitor, Ayton, Berwickshire	680, 681
Thomas Douglas	Veterinary surgeon, Portland Road, Kilmarnock	328
Dudgeon & Farmer	Writers to the Signet, Moray Place, Edinburgh	660
Dundas & Wilson	Solicitors, St Andrews Square, Edinburgh	676, 677, 678, 679

[James Eaglesham]	Farmer, Crookston, Inveresk, Midlothian	50
William Edington	Station master, Drem, London & North Eastern Railway Co.	407, 433, 653
Charles Fraser	Joiner and timber dealer, East Linton, East Lothian	461
James French	Hotelier, Wheat Sheaf Hotel, Reston, Coldingham, Berwickshire	296
James Fulton	Secretary for the Glasgow United Evangelistic Association, and the treasurer for the Southern Morocco Mission	144, 156, 171
James A. Garriock	Home missionary and member of the Christian Brethren, Glasgow	124, 208, 403, 405
Gartons Ltd	Agricultural seed merchants, Warrington, England	237, 541
John Geddes	Secretary, Southern Morocco Mission, Bothwell Street, Glasgow	175, 378, 392
William Gemmil	Farmer, Greendykes, Gladsmuir, East Lothian	451
[William B. Gibson]	Farmer, Little Spott, Stenton, East Lothian	55
Mungo Gray & Co.	Forage merchants and commission agents, Hope Street, Glasgow	263, 352, 471
Guild & Guild	Writers to the Signet, Rutland Square, Edinburgh	9, 15, 20, 21, 29, 32, 52, 70, 95, 117, 127, 128, 130, 138, 152, 167, 199, 251, 256, 257, 295, 304, 365, 369, 387, 425, 434, 436, 438, 457, 537, 547, 555
Alexander Guild	Factor for the Luffness Estate, East Lothian, and until Martinmas 1914 tenant farmer at Aberlady Mains, East Lothian	282, 314, 360, 362, 424, 548, 576, 577, 641
Guttridge & Co.	Meat salesmen, Central Meat Market, London	494, 496, 497, 504, 512
[James Haggart]	Farmer, Balsillie, Leslie, Fife	133
Archibald Hamilton & Sons	Grain and seed merchants, Robertson Street, Glasgow	40, 42, 54, 101, 356

John Hannah	Hugh Miller's brother-in-law, and farmer, Girvan Mains, Ayrshire	13, 24, 35, 44, 45, 53, 69, 84, 98, 109, 114, 122, 126, 137, 160, 191, 223, 239, 241, 258, 264, 277, 301, 309, 321, 334, 347, 370, 374, 377, 379, 381, 385, 386, 388, 394, 399, 409, 412, 418, 422, 437, 439, 460, 470, 474, 499, 522, 552, 563
John Hanton	Miller, Giffen Mill, Beith, Ayrshire	243
George W. Hare	H. M. Inspector of Taxes, Edinburgh	570
Andrew Hendrie	Clerk to the Athelstaneford School Board	240
[Thomas Honeyman]	Board of Agriculture for Scotland, York Buildings, Queen Street, Edinburgh	491, 492
John Hood	Photographer, Catrine, Ayrshire, and member of Mauchline School Board	26
John D. Hope	Kilduff House, Athelstaneford, and MP for Haddingtonshire (1911-1918)	476
W. Weston Hope	Farmer, Knowes, Whitekirk, East Lothian	442
[John Howie]	Farmer, Newton, East Loudon, Ayrshire	320
Frank M. Inglis	Agent, Clydesdale Bank, High Street, Edinburgh	543, 613
[Inveresk Paper Co.]	Inveresk Mills, Musselburgh	510
[Thomas Johnston]	Farmer, Pogbie, Humbie, East Lothian	248
G. K. Johnston & Smillie (also G. K. Johnston)	Chartered accountants, Albany Street, Edinburgh	569, 573, 574, 598, 615, 621, 622, 627, 628, 629, 661
William Kay & Sons	Grain merchants, South St David Street, Edinburgh	235, 325, 337, 338, 363
[Miss Keith]	Teacher, North Berwick High School	311
Kent & Brydon	Agricultural seedsmen, Darlington, England	245

Kinnear, Moody & Co.	Building contractors, St Vincent Street, Glasgow	650, 652
Lawrie & Symington	Auctioneers and cattle agents, Hyndford Road, Lanark	662, 663, 664, 671
Joseph Lee	Famer, Congalton, Dirleton, East Lothian	28
Mary Lee	Congalton, Dirleton, East Lothian	383
G. E. Lewis & Sons	Gunmakers, Lower Loveday Street, Birmingham	380
The London & Lancashire Insurance Co. Ltd	Glasgow branch, Royal Exchange Square, Glasgow	142, 147, 151, 157, 162, 170, 173, 181, 187, 193, 344, 354, 371, 372, 373, 375, 376, 426, 475, 545, 546, 614
The Lothians Electric Power Co.	Electrical engineers and suppliers, High Street, Musselburgh	683
Professor A. N. McAlpine	Botanist to the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, Edinburgh	118
J. & A. McArthur	Grain and potato merchants, Hunter Street, Glasgow	2, 4, 39, 57, 71, 82
Miss McDonald	Agricultural Organising Officer for Scotland, Ministry of Labour	553
MacFarlane & Cockburn	Horse dealers, Grassmarket, Edinburgh	435
McGill & Smith	Grain merchants, Kyle Street, Ayr	11, 85, 174
Robert M. McKechnie	Agent for the Clydesdale Bank, North Berwick	31, 78, 189, 292, 293, 303, 490, 542, 544
James McKelvie	Gilmerton House, Athelstaneford, East Lothian	206, 210
[Andrew McKerrow]	Ironmonger, Loudon Street, Mauchline, Ayrshire	58, 198, 271, 486
Mackintosh & Bain	Solicitors, Bank Street, Kilmarnock	473
George McLennan	Grain merchant, North Bridge, Edinburgh	274
John Lorne MacLeod	Lord Provost of Edinburgh, and chairman of the Ministry of Labour's local advisory committee for Edinburgh and district	536

McNally Bros (also John McNally and Peter McNally)	Agricultural contractors, Fort Place, Leith	194, 201, 216, 244, 278, 280, 287, 299, 302, 307, 308, 312, 315, 382, 393
Archibald MacNeilage	Editor, *The Scottish Farmer*	489, 524
R. & J. McWhirter	Farmers, Linfairn, Straiton, Ayrshire	131
A. & J. Main	Manufacturer of agricultural implements and other iron goods, Clydesdale Ironworks, Glasgow	3, 5
Lieutenant-colonel Robert Maxwell Main	Military representative on the East Lothian Recruiting Tribunal, and solicitor, Paterson Place, Haddington	472, 500
Alexander Mann	Alexander Mann & Sons, plumbers and ironmongers, High Street, North Berwick	38
[C. Mann]	Alexander Mann & Sons, plumbers and ironmongers, High Street, North Berwick	233
Maxwell, Gill & Pringle (also David Maxwell)	Writers to the Signet, Rutland Street, Edinburgh	558, 559
G. & D. Maxwell	Potato merchants, Trade Lane, Dundee	642, 647, 670
Jack Meikle	Farmer, Horncliffe Mains, Horncliffe, Northumberland	583, 584, 585, 589, 591, 592, 593, 596, 597, 599, 600, 601, 603, 616, 617, 620, 624, 631
John Meikle	Farmer, Trolorg and Camregan, Hurlford, Ayrshire	630
[George Mercer]	Farmer, Cousland Park, Cousland, Midlothian	458, 480
William Middlemas	Farmer, Bearford, Haddington and Markle Mains, Prestonkirk, East Lothian	129, 166, 266, 313
George Miller	Hugh Miller's brother and agent for the Clydesdale Bank in Ayr	24, 34, 37, 41, 51, 68, 135, 144, 196, 202, 205, 210, 220,

		247, 272, 283, 335, 339, 402, 408, 410, 431, 445, 478, 488
Jane Miller	Hugh Miller's wife	340
[Nathan Miller]	Quarryman, Mauchline	30, 64
Robert Miller	Hugh Miller's uncle	92, 113, 150, 179, 213, 265, 300, 329, 361, 401, 448, 484
Minimax Ltd	Manufacturer of fire extinguishers, Feltham, Middlesex	578
[Alexander Mitchell]	Physician and surgeon, High Street, Aberdeen	49
J. Montgomerie & Co. Ltd	Millers, Bermaline Mills, Haddington	96
W. B. Morrison & Co.	Grain, manure and fodder merchants, Bank Street, Leith	103, 341
Charles J. Munro	Chartered accountant, Romanes & Munro, Frederick Street, Edinburgh	594
Robert G. Munsie	Glasgow mission worker and council member of the Southern Morocco Mission	93, 100, 230
William Murray	Solicitor, Richardson & Gemmel, High Street, Haddington	465, 466
[Mary Nimmo]	Teacher, Mauchline Public School, Ayrshire	270
Jane Norris	Horse dealer, Berwick upon Tweed	16, 27, 111
The North British Railway Co.	Head office, Waterloo Place, Edinburgh	397, 532
Bessie Osborne	Hugh Miller's sister	22, 62, 105, 190, 253, 322, 327, 332, 333, 432
R. & S. Paton	Potato merchants, North Bridge, Edinburgh, and Hanover Street, Glasgow	539, 561, 568, 572, 575
[Andrew Penman]	Butcher, West Street, Gateshead	357
George T. L. Pennington	Postmaster, North Berwick	259, 290
Andrew Pollock	Partner, A. & W. Pollock, agricultural engineers, Mauchline, Ayrshire	6

J. E. Posgate & Sons	Butchers, High Street West, Sunderland	358
William Pringle	Farmer, Branton, Alnwick, Northumberland	587, 590, 618, 619
J. S. Proctor	Manager, London and Lancashire Insurance Co. Ltd, Royal Exchange Square, Glasgow	612, 626
Public Works Loan Board	Office, Old Jewry, London	639
The Pumpherston Oil Co. Ltd	Shale oil works and refinery, Pumpherston, West Lothian	252, 255, 267, 346
[Miss Quarrier]	Bridge of Weir Orphan Homes, Renfrewshire	495, 498
Andrew Reid	A farm servant formerly employed by Hugh Miller	99
[George Reid]	Farmer, Eaglescairnie, Bolton, East Lothian	14
Reid, Grahame & McRobbie	Potato merchants, Girvan, Ayrshire	682
John Richmond	Missionary, Southern Morocco Mission	36
[Andrew Riddell]	Seedsman, Grassmarket, Edinburgh	73
Charles Ritchie	Deputy livestock commissioner, Balmoral Hotel, Edinburgh	516, 518, 520
James Ross & Sons	Motorcar dealers, Tollcross, Edinburgh	667
Thomas Russell	Fruit merchant, Bazaar, Glasgow	155
Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society	Head office, Morrison Street, Glasgow	7, 116, 146, 149, 384, 430
Thomas Sherriff & Co.	Agricultural implement makers and engineers, West Barns, Dunbar	184
James B. Small	Agent, Clydesdale Bank, Edinburgh	487
Reverend Robert Small	Minister, United Free Presbyterian Church, North Berwick (Abbey Church)	343, 550
Euphemia Smith	Hugh Miller's aunt	326, 330
Henry Smith	Chartered accountant, Smith & Wallace, Bank Street, Kilmarnock	655

Thomas C. Smith	Solicitor, Church Street, Berwick upon Tweed	262, 269, 275, 276, 279, 288, 294, 623
William Smith & Co.	Weighbridge makers, New Broughton Works, Edinburgh	153
Thomas P. Somerville	Farmer, Sandilands, Carmichael, Lanarkshire	416
Alex Spiden	A farm servant employed by Hugh Miller	632
Souness & Spiers	Timber merchants, Warriston Saw Mills, Edinburgh	140, 154, 185
James H. Steele	Agent, P. & R. Fleming, fence contractors, Argyle Street, Glasgow	316
William Stenhouse & Sons	Corn merchants, Atholl Place, Edinburgh	108
John Steven	Farmer, Under Bolton, Bolton, East Lothian	463
Allan Stevenson	Farmer, Luffness Mains, Aberlady, East Lothian	400
Stirling & Burnet	Solicitors, Court Street, Haddington	609, 611
Sutton & Co.	Horticultural seed and bulb merchants, Reading, England	204
John Swan & Sons	Livestock auctioneers, Edinburgh and Haddington	254
Alexander Swanston	Farmer, Myreside, Haddington	462
[Frank Thomson]	Inspector of livestock, Board of Agriculture of Scotland, York Buildings, Queen Street, Edinburgh	523, 525, 526, 538
[William Todd]	Farmer, Arrothill, Dundonald, Ayrshire	217
Thomas W. Todrick	Solicitor and notary public, Court Street, Haddington	588, 604
Tranent Co-operative Society Ltd	Head office, Bridge Street, Tranent	658
The Trinidad General Sales Co.	Commission agents, Port of Spain, Trinidad	689
[Thomas Trotter]	Sawmill owner and timber merchant, Humbie, East Lothian	317

William Vivers & Sons (also George Vivers and William Vivers)	Farmers, Dornocktown, Annan, Dumfriesshire	83, 91, 125, 225, 228, 229, 234, 261
John Wallace & Sons (also William Wallace)	Agricultural implement makers and engineers, Glasgow and Ayr	268, 273, 297, 345, 350, 414, 415, 417, 454, 455, 514, 519
James W. Watt	Farmer, Newmains, Athelstaneford, East Lothian	501
Charles Weatherill	Secretary, Board of Agriculture for Scotland, York Buildings, Queen Street, Edinburgh	564, 638, 640, 643, 644
William Webster	Maltster, Athelstaneford Maltings, Athelstaneford, East Lothian	389
Lieutenant-colonel David G. Wemyss	Royal Scots, Glencorse Barracks, Edinburgh	481
David Whiteford	Hugh Miller's father-in-law	214, 215, 218
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James Whiteford	Hugh Miller's brother-in-law	323, 324, 331
Minnie Whiteford	George Whiteford's wife	88
[John Wilkinson]	Machinery and tool merchant, Leith Walk, Edinburgh	413
John Wright	A farm servant employed by Hugh Miller	580
[Robert Wyllie]	Farmer, Horse Crook, North Berwick	222

FURTHER READING

A valuable companion volume to the current collection is to be found in *A Farmer in East Lothian*, privately printed, 2024. In it, Margaret S. Cannon introduces a selection of Hugh Miller's letters, which are arranged into thematic chapters and accompanied by notes on family, local and farming history. It is illustrated throughout with photographs of Hugh Miller and his family, and of farming at West Fortune.

For a contemporary description of East Lothian, see Muir, T S. *East Lothian*, Cambridge, 1915. For Athelstaneford, see Duncan, T A. *Athelstaneford, a Poet-haunted Parish*, Edinburgh, 1934, and Martine, J. *Reminiscences and Notices of Fourteen Parishes of the County of Haddington*, Edinburgh, 1890, 21-35.

A concise overview of agriculture in Britain during the period covered by the letters can be found in Perren, R. *Agriculture in Depression, 1870-1940*, Cambridge, 1995. Symon, J A. *Scottish Farming, Past and Present*, Edinburgh, 1959, provides some specifically Scottish context. Moore, A G. *The Gateway of Scotland, or East Lothian, Lammermoor and the Merse*, London, 1912, contains a chapter on 'Farms and farmers in East Lothian'. See also Ewing, C M. A geographical description of East Lothian, *Scottish Geographical Magazine*, 28.12 (1912), 624-641 and 29.1 (1913), 23-35, the first part of which has a section on farming.

Holmes, H. *'As good as a holiday': Potato Harvesting in the Lothians from 1870 to the present*, East Linton, 2000, provides a detailed insight into what was an important aspect of Miller's output. See also the same author's *Tattie Howkers: Irish Potato Workers in Ayrshire*, Ayr, 2005, which is useful for John Hannah and the wider Ayrshire scene. Much of Miller's potato crop was sold to the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, for which see Flanagan, J A. *Wholesale Co-operation in Scotland: the Fruits of Fifty Years' Efforts, 1868-1918: an Account of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, compiled to commemorate the Society's Golden Jubilee*, Glasgow, 1920.

Chapters on farm servants, rural housing and other topics relevant to the present collection can be found in Fenton, A and Veitch, K, eds. *Scottish Life and Society. A Compendium of Scottish Ethnology, volume 2: Farming and the Land*, Edinburgh, 2011.

Comment and reports about farming affairs in East Lothian and beyond can be found in contemporary volumes of the *Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland* and *The Scottish Farmer*. Newspapers such as *The Scotsman* and the *Haddingtonshire Courier* also carried farming reports, as well as other news related to the material found in the letters.

For other relevant works, see the notes to the Introduction.

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