

Séjourner à Saumur : les frères Kerr

Correspondance de M. J. Young à Ann Kerr, Comtesse de Lothian, janvier-décembre 1654.

Note de l'éditeur

Les quinze lettres qui suivent (pages 10 à 46) ont été rédigées par le précepteur de deux jeunes aristocrates écossais durant un séjour de près d'un an à Saumur. Elles sont un témoignage de leur vie quotidienne dans la ville. Le précepteur dénommé Young écrit dans un anglais légèrement archaïque plus proche du début que du milieu du siècle et mêlé de «Scots», le dialecte écossais des Lowlands. On prend vite l'habitude des particularités de style qu'il partage avec d'autres épistoliers de son temps, notamment les constructions des verbes au passé et du possessif. Par contre, l'orthographe de ces lettres n'est pas toujours évidente et requiert une certaine patience pour s'y familiariser. On notera «wee» pour «we» et les terminaisons en «-oun» pour «-own»). Mais la langue de Young constitue aussi un des charmes de cette correspondance et nous avons choisi de la conserver. Toutefois, nous avons résolu les abréviations et modernisé ponctuation et majuscules. Pour faciliter la compréhension, dans quelques rares cas, des membres de phrase compliqués ont été légèrement allégés. Chaque lettre est précédée d'un court résumé en français.

L'identification des noms de lieux a posé un certain nombre de problèmes que les cartes et à des guides des postes de l'époque nous ont permis de résoudre. Celle des noms de personnes peut varier. On se reportera aux notes de bas de page, ainsi qu'à l'itinéraire et à la carte donnés en note de notre introduction. Pour désigner la résidence des Kerr à Newbattle, Young emploie l'adverbe «thence».

La double date donnée par Young en fin de lettre est celle du calendrier julien, suivie de celle du calendrier grégorien. Sur cette question et sur les monnaies, ainsi que le change, on se reportera aux notes de l'introduction.

On trouvera à la suite des lettres (pages 47 à 51) des extraits des comptes présentés par Young au retour du voyage.

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Introduction

De 1651 à 1657, deux jeunes aristocrates écossais, fils de Lady Ann Kerr, Robert et William Kerr entreprirent leur «grand tour» du continent, sous la conduite d'un précepteur du nom de Young. Ce dossier présente et transcrit les lettres et les comptes de Young pour la période de leur séjour à Saumur.

Les Kerr et leur précepteur quittèrent l'Ecosse pour séjourner d'abord à Leyde, de mars 1651 à novembre 1653. Ils partirent ensuite en direction de la France et de Saumur (*voir ci-dessous, note 1 pour le détail et une carte de l'itinéraire*). Leur itinéraire les conduisit de Middlebourg à Gand, puis à Bruges. Au passage ils saluèrent plusieurs officiers écossais cantonnés aux Pays-Bas (*voir ci-dessous note 2*). À Bruges, ils prirent une barge pour Dunkerque. De Dunkerque, ils poursuivirent leur route par voie de terre jusqu'à Graveling où ils obtinrent un passeport pour Calais. De Calais, toujours par voie de terre, ils atteignirent Abbeville, passèrent Noël à Rouen et poursuivirent leur route vers Paris, où ils séjournèrent douze jours.

Les trois voyageurs quittèrent Paris le 12 janvier 1654, et suivirent l'itinéraire normal qui devait les conduire à Saumur : en carrosse d'abord, jusqu'à Orléans, via Étampes. D'Orléans, ils descendirent la Loire, en passant par Blois, Amboise et Tours et débarquèrent à Saumur le 20 janvier.

Young et ses deux pupilles séjournèrent à Saumur de janvier à décembre 1654. Les trois voyageurs quittèrent ensuite Saumur pour Angers, où ils séjournèrent de janvier 1655 à mai 1656. D'Angers, ils repartirent vers Paris puis Rouen. Ils embarquèrent à Dieppe pour Rye en mars 1657. Ils rejoignirent alors leur Écosse natale et retrouvèrent la résidence de Newbattle, siège de leur famille au mois de juin de cette année 1654.

Nos deux gentilshommes appartenaient à un important clan écossais, divisé en deux grandes branches et en de nombreuses familles. Robert, né en 1636 et William en 1638 étaient fils de Lady Ann Kerr, fille aînée de Robert Kerr, Earl of Lothian. À la mort de son père, en 1624, elle hérita de son titre. En 1631, elle épousa un autre Kerr, William Kerr, fils de Robert Kerr, Lord of Aucran. William Kerr reçut par ce mariage le titre de troisième Earl of Lothian.

Les deux branches Kerr étaient des « covenanters » presbytériens modérés et loyalistes. La mère des deux jeunes gens insista pour qu'ils continuent à recevoir à l'étranger une solide éducation religieuse. Durant la révolution anglaise, leur père, William Kerr, participa aux négociations avec Charles II, fils du monarque exécuté et réfugié en Hollande. Il combattit dans l'armée des covenanters et ses fils crurent un instant qu'il avait été fait prisonnier en 1654. Homme de la Renaissance, William avait complété son éducation à Paris et disposait d'une importante bibliothèque de 1361 livres dont une large proportion de livres français. La résidence de Newbattle était ornée de nombreux tableaux.

Dans les lettres qu'il adresse à la Comtesse, le précepteur donne à l'aîné de ses fils, Robert, le titre de « Lord », puisqu'il était destiné à hériter du titre de Comte de Lothian. À la mort de sa mère en 1667, Robert devint quatrième Earl of Lothian, puis deuxième Earl of Lothian, à la mort de son père en 1675. Il fut créé Marquess de Lothian en 1701. En parlant du cadet William, Young, le précepteur, lui donne le titre de « Sir », titre d'honneur donné aux gentilshommes équivalant à l'espagnol « Don ».

Le grand-père paternel des deux jeunes gentilshommes, Robert Lord Aucran était réfugié en Hollande. Les deux frères vinrent le saluer avant leur départ. Il décéda en 1654 durant leur séjour en France. Durant toute la période, le père des jeunes gens connut d'énormes difficultés financières, ses inquiétudes à ce sujet sont sensibles à travers les réponses que lui adressait le précepteur. Il avait hérité de la résidence familiale des Aucran à la mort de son père, mais fut contraint de la vendre pour payer ses dettes. Il transféra ensuite ses biens à son fils aîné Robert.

Du précepteur, qui signe « MJ Young » (Master/Mister James Young ?), on ne sait rien d'autre que ce que nous laissent deviner ses lettres. Il y apparaît comme un homme, sérieux, précis et organisé, qui, durant tout le voyage, bénéficia du respect des deux jeunes gentilshommes et de la confiance des parents. Mais il ne put pas toujours suivre leurs instructions quant à l'itinéraire qui lui avait été recommandé. Il semble qu'il était prévu que les trois voyageurs aillent jusqu'à Anvers et de là fassent la traversée par mer d'Anvers à Londres où ils devaient retrouver leurs bagages, puis de Londres à Calais. Ils devaient ensuite se diriger sur Bruxelles puis prendre la route de Paris. Mais les temps n'étaient pas sûrs.

L'époque est celle de la fin de la guerre de Trente ans et après les campagnes militaires qui venaient d'avoir lieu, des groupes de soldats maraudaient en Flandres. Une première guerre navale allait se déclencher entre Anglais et Hollandais. Young changea donc d'itinéraire et choisit de voyager par mer de Dunkerque à Calais, puis après s'être renseigné localement, il se dirigea sur Paris et eut à se justifier des dépenses supplémentaires que cela avait entraîné. Le séjour de douze jours que les trois voyageurs firent à Paris ne fut pas non

plus du goût des parents et l'on devine, aux explications et aux excuses embarrassées de Young qu'il se fit sérieusement rappeler à l'ordre.

La plupart de ses lettres sont adressées à Lady Kerr. Par son titre, en effet, Ann Kerr était le chef de la famille. Ses réponses à Young ont disparu, mais il est clair qu'elle avait de la tendresse et de la sollicitude pour ses fils, qu'elle se préoccupait de leur éducation religieuse et veillait à ce qu'ils se conduisent en parfaits gentilshommes. À lire les deux lettres que Young adressa à Lord Kerr, il est clair qu'il contrôlait de près l'argent qu'il jugeait nécessaire pour couvrir les frais de voyage et de séjour et qu'il surveillait les dépenses des voyageurs. Young eut du mal à se justifier de dépenses jugées excessives encourues durant le voyage de Leyde à Calais et durant le séjour à Paris.

La correspondance, qui porte sur la période du séjour à Saumur, se répète parfois, car Young adresse ses lettres tantôt au père, tantôt à la mère de ses pupilles. D'autre part, le courrier transitait par Londres, port payé de Saumur à Paris et de Paris à Londres, mais il parvenait irrégulièrement en Écosse et les réponses se faisaient parfois attendre ou se croisaient. Young en pâtit lorsqu'il fut question de décider si le voyage allait se poursuivre vers Montpellier ou si un séjour aurait lieu à Angers.

Le souci constant du précepteur fut de recevoir régulièrement les sommes nécessaires pour couvrir les frais du séjour (*voir ci-dessous notes 3 & 4*). Le prix des pensions était en augmentation constante à Saumur (*voir ci-dessous note 5*). Comme l'indique le Registre de l'Académie, les parents des collégiens s'en plaignaient, mais à plusieurs reprises, le Conseil fut contraint, devant les exigences des hôtes, de revoir à la hausse le barème des pensions. La pension prise chez la veuve Amirault, cousine du théologien était de 12 couronnes, soit 36 livres par mois et par personne, plus 8 couronnes, soit 24 livres pour « the boy », un jeune serviteur écossais dénommé Andrew, soit au total pour un séjour de 11 mois, la somme de 1452 livres (*voir note 2*). La « table » du précepteur et des jeunes gentilshommes était donc copieuse, celle du serviteur plus frugale (*voir note 3*). Mais les pensionnaires durent aussi payer, comme c'était la règle, pour se chauffer et pour s'éclairer à la chandelle (ce qui revint au total à 70 livres).

Soigneux de leur personnes, les trois voyageurs se faisaient faire barbe et barbiche et se faisaient coiffer une fois par mois : la visite au barbier coûtait cher, une couronne («crown») soit 3 livres par séance, au total 33 livres. Les voyageurs avaient apporté avec eux 45 aunes de lin, des chapeaux et pour chacun des jeunes, six paires de souliers, le tout acheté en Hollande. Mais à Saumur fallut aussi compter le blanchissage, le ravaudage ou le renouvellement d'une partie du linge de corps (cela revint à 90 livres). Lorsque vint le beau temps, il ne fut plus possible de porter les lourds vêtements de drap apportés de Hollande. On en acheta qui convenait mieux pour la saison, à un marchand de Saumur et on les fit ajuster par un tailleur. La note pour ces dépenses vestimentaires s'éleva à 587 livres. Les jeunes gentilshommes étaient soucieux d'être vêtus à la mode comme il seyait à leur rang. Young veillait à ce genre de dépenses, mais il déboursa tout de même quelques 185 livres pour des achats de rubans, bas de laine, de lin ou de soie, de gants – certains venus d'Angleterre, ainsi que de brides ou passementerie pour les couvre-chefs. Si l'on ajoute à cela quelques dépenses exceptionnelles, par exemple chez l'apothicaire, on approche les 900 livres.

On constate que dans ce budget, le poste le moins élevé concerne le coût des études, car Young se chargeait lui-même de faire répéter les leçons. Il avait établi un programme d'études et d'exercices assez complet pour les deux jeunes gens dont il avait charge. Les collégiens de Saumur se levaient tôt, à 5 heures l'été et à 6 heures l'hiver, et Young semble avoir adopté ce rythme pour ses pupilles. Leur matinée débutait à 7 heures par la lecture d'un passage de l'Écriture, en anglais en français, suivie de la répétition de leurs leçons. L'heure suivante était consacrée à l'escrime. Ils déjeunaient, puis ils prenaient un cours de danse. Venait ensuite en fin de matinée une classe de français, puis pour l'aîné prenait une leçon de

luth, tandis que le cadet faisait des exercices d'écriture. En début d'après-midi, c'était au tour de ce dernier d'apprendre la guitare. De 14 à 15 heures, ils prenaient ensemble un cours de dessin. L'heure suivante était consacrée au chant et à la pratique de la viole. En fin d'après-midi, ils répétaient leurs leçons puis faisaient la promenade. Le soir, après le souper, Young leur faisait faire la lecture en français.

Le séjour à Saumur fut surtout l'occasion pour les jeunes Kerr de parfaire leur acquisition des arts que se devait de maîtriser le parfait gentilhomme, arts de guerre et arts de cour. Les leçons les plus coûteuses, étalées sur plusieurs mois, furent celles d'escrime et de danse. On remarque l'intérêt que les jeunes Kerr portaient à la pratique d'instruments de musique et au chant. Ce goût marqué pour la musique est caractéristique de l'aristocratie anglaise et écossaise de l'époque.

Par contre, Young eut des difficultés à trouver à Saumur, un professeur de mathématiques. Les mathématiques appliquées, et notamment la géométrie, faisaient partie de la formation des jeunes gentilshommes, car elles étaient utiles pour le calcul de la trajectoire des canons et autres armes à feu et pour la construction de redoutes et fortifications. Chose plus étonnante, Young eut aussi des difficultés pour trouver à demeure, un maître de manège pour les leçons d'équitation que devaient prendre les jeunes Kerr. Il jugeait les montures offertes peu satisfaisantes. Ce fut l'une des raisons qui le décidèrent à passer l'année suivante à Angers.

Les Kerr ne s'inscrivirent pas au collège. Young fit appel à un maître privé pour l'apprentissage du français, mais il se chargea lui-même de leur enseigner l'histoire et la géographie. Les deux jeunes gens ne semblent pas avoir continué à recevoir des leçons de logique, comme ça avait été le cas en Hollande. L'impression qui se dégage de ces lettres est que Saumur fut pour les deux jeunes aristocrates un séjour agréable, mais coûteux. Dans une de ses lettres, Young le précepteur des Kerr écrit : "Wee are very farre from the Germane humour, though our provisions could allow us to follow their way : one Baron of them hath spent more in one night (2500 crounes) upon a ballet (as they call it) since our comeing hither, than ever wee did in two year". On perçoit que la relative frugalité que leurs circonstances financières imposait aux deux jeunes écossais, était pour eux source d'une certaine frustration devant le train de vie que menaient d'autres aristocrates étrangers mieux nantis.

Le séjour que firent les Kerr à Saumur eut lieu en effet durant une période où la ville était devenu un des lieux de séjour favori des riches aristocrates originaires notamment d'Angleterre. Lors de leur séjour, les Kerr partagèrent leur logis avec les trois fils du Chancelier du royaume de Danemark. Ils fréquentèrent aussi Lord Spencer, fils du Earl of Westmoreland, Lord Gerard et Sir John Rayseby. Quelques années plus tard, en 1671, William Paston, qui séjournait en ville, écrivait à Lady Paston : « Saumur swarms with English : My Lady Holand with Adam Loftus and my Lord, Sir Robert Atkins and his Lady, a coach and six horses, a pack of hounds and half a dozen stable horses, and divers other private gentlemen..." (*Historical Manuscripts Commission*, 6th Report, p. 368).

Quelques années plus tard, les choses avaient changé. La jalousie de la populace catholique à l'égard des réformés qui tiraient profit de ces séjours, le ressentiment général envers des étrangers fortunés et de surcroît protestants, puis les poursuites engagées par le Clergé pour obtenir la suppression du culte et de l'Académie créaient pour ces visiteurs venus goûter aux charmes de la région, un climat délétère de plus en plus difficile à supporter. En 1674, Lord Derby, écrivant de Saumur au duc d'Ormonde, lui apprenait que de jeunes aristocrates anglais avaient décidé de quitter Saumur qui était devenue à leurs yeux « a bad town, and not a gentleman in it » (*Bodleian Library, Carte MS 243, f° 101-102*)

Sources : National Library of Scotland, *MS 5785*; National Library of Scotland, *Newbattle MS 5181*; *Dictionary of National Biography*; D. Laing, ed., *Correspondance of Sir Robert Kerr*, Roxburghe Club, 100, 1875, 2 vol.

Note 1 - L'itinéraire des frères Kerr

I - DE LEYDE À BOULOGNE (15 novembre-16 décembre)

Leyde ; La Haye ; Rotterdam ; Boomhaven (près de Dordrecht), les Kerr y passent avant d'atteindre Dordrecht ; Dordrecht ; Gorkum ; Veere = Camp Veere (en deux mots) en Zélande que les Kerr rejoignent par mer ; Middelbourg ; Bruges ; Gand (détour pour voir la ville) ; Nieuport ; Gravelines (détour pour obtenir un passeport) ; Dunkerque ; Calais ; Boulogne.

II - DE BOULOGNE À PARIS (17 décembre-30 décembre)

Boulogne ; Montreuil ; Tostes ; Abbeville ; Villedieu ; Dieppe ; Rouen (séjour du 24 décembre au 29 décembre) ; Escouey ; Magny-en-Vexin ; Pontoise ; Paris (séjour du 31 décembre au 12 janvier).

III - DE PARIS À SAUMUR (12 janvier-20 janvier)

Paris ; Chartres ; Argenvilliers ; Artenay ; Orléans ; Blois ; Tours ; Saumur.

Note 2 - Les régiments écossais et leurs officiers

Les troupes écossaises cantonnées en Hollande et Zélande dont les frères Kerr rencontrèrent plusieurs officiers lors de leur voyage, étaient constituées de régiments d'infanterie (piques et mousquets) et de cavalerie. D'abord formées en compagnies sous le commandement des capitaines qui les avaient recrutées, ces troupes écossaises au service des États-Généraux, avaient été assemblées en régiments à la fin du 16^e siècle et au début du 17^e siècle. À partir de 1628, trois régiments permanents étaient au service des Provinces-Unies : *Old Regiment* (H. Balfour & Sir W. Broggs), *Lord Buccleuch's Regiment* (1604) et *Earl of Buccleuch Regiment* (1628).

Ces régiments écossais étaient « indépendants ». En 1604, le roi Jacques I d'Angleterre (Jacques VI d'Écosse) tenta d'imposer un commandement unifié désigné par lui, mais cela fut refusé par les États-Généraux : les colonels qui commandaient les régiments recevaient leur commission des seuls États-Généraux.

À cette date, chaque régiment comprenait dix compagnies ordinairement de 150 hommes (200 pour la compagnie du colonel commandant le régiment). Chaque capitaine recevait une somme d'argent pour sa solde et celle de ses soldats, calculée sur la base d'un mois mais dont une partie était payée en arriérés, ce qui n'allait pas sans créer des difficultés. Les capitaines recrutaient leurs propres officiers subalternes.

Ces régiments participèrent aux campagnes du Prince Maurice contre les Espagnols de Spinola qui se terminèrent par la Trêve de douze ans signée en 1609. Les hostilités entre les Provinces-Unies avec les Impériaux reprirent en 1621. L'armée des États était organisée en trois brigades sous le commandement du Prince d'Orange, du Comte Henri de Nassau et du

Comte Ernest de Nassau et les régiments écossais furent intégrés dans celle du Prince d'Orange et du Comte Ernest. Ils combattirent au siège de Bergen-op-Zoom et de Breda, puis aux campagnes de 1635, de 1638 et de 1644-1646. À la fin de la Guerre de Trente ans en 1648, les trois régiments écossais furent cantonnés en Hollande. Un conflit armé opposa en 1652 et en 1655, les Provinces-Unies à la République anglaise de Cromwell. Les régiments écossais, qui ne reconnaissaient comme souverain légitime, que le futur Charles II, alors réfugié aux Pays-Bas, ne participèrent pas aux combats. En 1655, Les États réduisirent leur armée et les trois régiments écossais furent fondus et regroupés en deux.

On trouvera ci-après la liste des officiers que les Kerr ont rencontré durant leur voyage en direction de la France et dont nous avons pu identifier le régiment :

- . Major Willam Murray, était sergent-major du Colonel James Erskine dans le *Old Regiment (H. Balfour & Sir W. Broggs)*; il devint lieutenant-colonel d'un des deux régiments réformés en 1655.

- . Lord Aucran, le grand-père paternel des deux jeunes gentilshommes, réfugié en Hollande.

- . Captain Kerr, probablement un frère cadet de l'un des parents.

- Lady Jane Kerr était mariée à son cousin Colonel William Drummond du *Earl of Buccleuch Regiment (1628)*. Par ce mariage, il avait acquis le titre de Earl of Roxburgh.

- . Colonel John Kirkpatrick commandait *Lord Buccleuch's Regiment (1604)*

- . Colonel Leighton servait dans le *Earl of Buccleuch Regiment (1628)*.

En 1630, le Lord High Chancellor d'Écosse écrivit aux États-Généraux pour demander de résoudre un différent relatif à l'argent qu'il avait reçu pour l'entretien de sa compagnie.

Source : *Papers Illustrating the History of the Scots Brigade in the Service of the United Netherlands 1572-1782... edited by James Ferguson*, Edinburgh, The Scottish History Society, 1899, 2 vol., vol. I 1572-1697

Note 3 - Les monnaies de compte

La livre anglaise (« the pound sterling ») et la livre écossaise (« the pound scotts ») se divisaient en vingt « shillings; le shilling se divisait en douze « pence ». La livre française était divisée en vingt sous, et le sous en vingt deniers.

Les valeurs.

Les valeurs des monnaies étaient calculées sur la base du mark, c'est-à-dire à dire une valeur de compte correspondant à un mark (soit huit onces) d'argent fin. En Angleterre, la valeur du mark était fixée à 160 pence, soit 2/3 de la livre sterling.

“The pound scotts”, avait la même valeur que la livre tournois. Young utilise dans ses comptes le terme “crown”. Par ce terme, il faut entendre trois livres tournois, soit exactement trois “pound scotts”, c'est-à-dire la valeur de l'écu d'argent, la pièce la plus couramment utilisée dans les paiements en espèce.

Les pièces de monnaie françaises les plus en circulation à l'époque.

L'écu d'or, la “couronne” d'or valant 5 livres 12 sous tournois, soit 9 shillings 4 pence sterling était rarement en circulation.

L'écu blanc “la couronne” d'argent, valait 3 livres, soit 5 shillings sterling.

La pistole espagnole circulait en France. Elle valait dix livres tournois. Young l'eut parfois entre les mains.

Les pièces de monnaies écossaises les plus en circulation à l'époque.

Le dollar or, valant 60 shillings scots, rarement utilisé
Le mark (Merk scots) argent, valant 13 shillings 4 pence scots
La couronne argent (silver crown ou lion) valant cinq shillings scots
Le groat valant 4 shillings scots
La demie couronne argent (half crown) valant deux shillings et demi scots

Note 4 - Les tranferts d'argent.

Pour que les trois voyageurs disposent de liquidités durant leur voyage, Lord et Lady Kerr disposaient de deux instruments. Le premier était une lettre de crédit qu'un négociant ou un banquier du pays, qui servait alors de caution, adressait à un correspondant en France. En présentant cette lettre, Young pouvait obtenir une avance qui serait remboursée, avec intérêt, à ce correspondant. Le prêteur avait ainsi des fonds disponibles pour ses propres transactions auprès du correspondant étranger. Le second était la lettre de change, tirée au bénéfice de Young, pour être passée à un payeur, un négociant qui l'acceptait et payait à Young une somme correspondant à la valeur de la lettre, moins l'agio (intérêt et commission).

La correspondance est loin d'être claire sur les modalités exactes des transactions auxquelles donnèrent lieu les transferts d'argent. Les lettres qu'échangeaient Young et les Kerr, circulaient par l'intermédiaire de Mcmath, un écossais installé à Paris. Mcmath proposa que les Kerr fassent appel pour les lettres de crédit à son correspondant écossais, nommé Kinloch. Mais à Saumur, Young eut connaissance d'un négociant nommé Charteresse (orthographié parfois Charteris), résidant à Paris, qui négociait les lettres de crédit et qui avait un correspondant à Edimbourg, dénommé Crawford. Dans un cas comme dans l'autre, le crédit était très coûteux, mais Young, probablement parce qu'il avait l'expérience de la lenteur avec laquelle les lettres arrivaient, décida de s'adresser à Charteresse.

Charteresse prenait 2 shillings scots d'intérêt par livre, si le montant de la lettre de crédit, était versé d'avance ("aforehand"), à son correspondant d'Edimbourg. Mais pour un remboursement à terme sur trois mois, Charteresse exigeait le double. Young obtint que dans ce cas le taux soit abaissé à 3 shillings, (1 livre = 23 shillings scots), taux qu'offrait aussi Mcmath. Mais Charteresse tenta de revenir sur cette offre et demanda que le remboursement soit fait sur la base du merk scots, soit 26 shillings 8 pence scots par livre, ce qui aurait fait passer l'intérêt du simple au double. Young dut lui rappeler ses engagements. Charteresse très précautionneux exigea que Young fournisse lui-même une lettre de caution sur ses propres biens.

Quant aux lettres de change, elles étaient tirées par un certain "Browne" et leur payeur, leur "tiré", était un négociant de Nantes nommé Boulay. Comme le fit remarquer Young, le change entre monnaie anglaise et monnaie française, était plus avantageux qu'entre la monnaie écossaise et la monnaie française. Aussi suggéra-t-il aux Kerr, que les lettres de change soient tirées par un négociant de Londres, nommé Blackerby résidant à "Broadstreet overagainst Augustine Frieres".

En dépit de ces complications et malgré ses inquiétudes, Young semble avoir eu moins de difficultés à obtenir des liquidités durant le séjour en France que durant le séjour en Hollande.

Note 5 - Les pensions

En 1619, le Conseil de l'Académie avait fixé les prix de pensions annuelles (pour 11 mois sur 12, compte tenu des vacances d'été) que les élèves et les étudiants devaient acquitter : la "table de 100 livres", la "table de 120 livres" et la "table de 150 livres" (Registre f^o 43 v^o –

44 r^o). En 1633, le Conseil notait le nom de cinq personnes qui acceptaient de prendre des pensionnaires à 150 livres (Registre f^o 111 v^o). Cette “table”, la plus coûteuse, était devenue peu avantageuse pour les hôtes. Le coût de la vie ne cessa d’augmenter. Le barème était passé du simple au double en 1664, soit à 200, 250 et 300 livres (Registre f^o 192 v^o).

En 1656, à 360 livres par mois, la pension que payaient nos voyageurs étrangers, était déjà plus chère que celle qu’avaient à payer, huit ans plus tard, les mieux nantis parmi les élèves et étudiants inscrits au collège ou à l’Académie. Alors que ces derniers étaient placés en pension pour plusieurs années, et que leurs hôtes étaient soumis au contrôle du Conseil, les étrangers de passage choisissaient librement et ne séjournaient que quelques mois.

Compte tenu de ces circonstances, la pension de 360 livres par mois, payée par Young et ses pupilles, correspond à la meilleure “table”: pain blanc de froment à volonté; au déjeuner, du beurre ou un œuf; salade et rôti pour le dîner avant leçons et promenade; bouillie de viande ou volaille, le soir au souper; quelques fruits ou un dessert; comme boisson, un demi-setier (soit quatre pintes) de vin pour quatre.

Note 6 - Les dates

Jusqu’en février 1582, le calendrier utilisé par les européens étaient le calendrier julien, un calendrier plus lunaire mais solaire, introduit par Jules César et amendé par l’Empereur Auguste. L’année fut désormais calculée sur les équinoxes, mais elle était trop longue d’une période de presque deux jours et demi sur deux siècles et le calendrier devint de plus en plus décalé par rapport aux équinoxes.

Le concile de Trente décida de réformer le calendrier. Lorsqu’il devint pape en 1572, Grégoire XIII chargea l’astronome jésuite Clavius de cette réforme. La bulle du Pape qui promulga la réforme fut publiée en février 1582. Pour que l’équinoxe de printemps coïncide à nouveau avec la date du 21 mars, la bulle décida que le lendemain de la Saint François soit le 5 octobre devint le 15 octobre, soit un décalage de 10 jours. Des ajustements furent aussi introduits pour les années bissextiles.

Le calendrier grégorien “nouveau style” fut adopté dans les pays catholiques dès 1582, mais en 1752 seulement en Angleterre et plus tardivement encore dans d’autres pays protestants.

En Angleterre et en Écosse toutefois, l’habitude fut vite prise, en particulier par tous ceux qui voyageaient, de donner les deux dates, en faisant précéder parfois la date grégorienne de “NS” (New Style).

Young donne les deux dates dans ses lettres à la suite de sa signature. Nous les conservons à cet endroit, mais nous ne donnons en en-tête que la date utilisée en France.

Lettres

Lettre 1, Saumur, fin janvier 1654

Avant le départ, Young s'occupe de faire rapatrier en Écosse des affaires de la grand-mère des jeunes gens, décédée à Anvers. Séjour de 4 jours chez Lord Aucram; départ définitif de Leyde pour Rotterdam. Voyage par bateau de Rotterdam à Gorkum rendu difficile par le mauvais temps; reçus par des amis et relations; les deux jeunes gens malades pendant la navigation sur la Meuse vers Maastricht. Passage en Flandre espagnole, visite de Bruges et de Gand; de Bruges à Dunkerque, via Nieuport; de Dunkerque à Calais via Gravelines. Passeport et escorte. La région est dangereuse, on y court le risque de rencontrer des soldats qui dépouillent les voyageurs. Il en est de même en Basse Normandie. Le plus sûr a été de passer par Rouen pour rejoindre Paris.

Séjour de 12 jours à Paris; logement Faubourg Saint Germain, "À la Ville de Venise où sont aussi descendus plusieurs gentilshommes anglais et allemands; la conduite des deux jeunes gens n'a pas, semble-il, été sans reproche; cela ne se reproduira pas.

Voyage en coche jusqu'à Orléans en passant par Étampes; mauvais temps à Paris, coche pénible. À partir d'Orléans, descente de la Loire, en passant par Blois, Amboise et Tours. Arrivée à Saumur le 20 janvier. Pension prise chez Mme Amiraut.

[f^o 24] Madam,

My last was from Leyden Oct[ober] 16/6. The first from your Ladyship since, is this (from Newbattell Feb[ruary] 18. 1654) which I have reveived by this post. This is to give an full account of our journey hither, I written before fully, frequently and very particularly of most otherthings that concerne us. After the receipt of our money (Oct[ober] 15) from M^r Mortoune, I went from Leyden for Antwerpe the 17 to bring from thence the things were left there by my Lady Lothian at her death. By contrarewinds calmes, and mistie weather, I was full 8 dayes upon the water. The goods I brought to Rotterdam, to Misse Nisbets' house, wherewee left them (I given to Lady Jean what was appointed for her), to be sent by Cap[tain] Kerr, with a trunk and casse of books of ours unto Scotland with the Gentlemens' portraits by the first safe occasion. I returned to Leyden October 29 after dispatching [deux mots illisibles] what was needful. Ere wee could remove, wee went to Amsterdam to take leave of my Lord Aucram November. 4. Wee stayed 4 dayes with his Lordship and left them in very good health November 8. Wee were ne-cessitat to stay at Leyden till the 13 for our clothes and other things, before wee could [un mot raturé] have them readye.

The 13 wee went to the Haghe. The 14 and 15 the Gentlemen took leave of the courts thereand came to Rotterdam. The 17 wee took the marckett ship of the Bosch¹ at Delfts' Haven (ther being none togoe from Rotterdam till the end of the week), but the storme constrained us to returne to Rotterdam. The 18 wee came to Dordrecht. The 19 wee could reach no further than Gorkum. The 20 the winde and stream still against us leaving Gorkum upon our right hand, and (about two houres above that) with much a doe, came to Bouckhowen at night, then by Croevecoeur wee came to the Bosche the morning.

After four dayes stay, and very much kyndnesse, from Major Murray, his wife, and sonnes and daughters, wee came the 25 to He[u]sden² to take leave of our very real friend Captain Kerr, it being impossible for him at that tyme to leave his guariesone to accompagny

¹ L'embouchure de la Meuse.

² Forteresse dominant la Meuse.

us. For some of the them being to goe against the Lottherings towards Mاسترخت, he was necessitat (to his owne great regrate and ours) to be constantly present.

Wee took leave of him the 26. And came, with great difficultye, at night to Dordrecht. The Gentlemen had their stomachs well purged by the way, for, it bloweing somewhat hard, the water, to be so narrow, was very troublesom, the waves goeing as if it had been a great sea. The 27 the wind being faire, wee shipped for Zealand, and being one night upon the water, we came the 28 to Campwere³ and saluting S^r Thomas Cunninghame in passing; wee came to Middelburg that same night.

Thither wee had sent our boy straight from Leyden, with our trunk, books, our hats, and some other small things, which wee intended to have caryed with us to London, and had provided these things in Holland, knowing certainly wee could not have them, at that tyme, at so easie rate at London, nor any where ells. But meeting with letters there which our friends at Leyden (according to the order wee left with them) had sent after us which appointed our journey to this countrey, wee were necessitat to leave our trunk and hats with M^r Spang now minister to the English congragation at Middelburg (it being impossible to cary them over land to this countrey, and then ther was no passage by sea), to be sent after us when the passage should be safe.

Our letters appointed us to goe either by Bruxelles to Paris, or by Dunkercke to Calais. So after the best information wee could finde, the way of Dunkercke being believed to be the safest, we resolved to hold on that course, and putting the money (most of it) which wee had into French gold, wee came the first of December to Vlissing⁴. Here wee were enforced to stay by continual storme until the 5. And then in passing to Sluyce in Flanders the Gentlemen had their stomachs well purged again. The passage is but of three houres sailing, yet the sea being trubled by the storme that had been so before, wee were all mighty sick.

At Sluyce wee saluted Ensigne Erchlin who had furnished us at a very easie rate some tyme before, and passing by S^t Anna's fort (the first place that belongs to the King of Spain there), wee came to Brugges that same night. The 6 wee spent in seeing the towne. The 7 wee turned out of our way, a dayes journey by water, to see the famous towne of Ghent. For it was fitting to condescend that much to the Gentlemens' desires, being so neer and not knoweing if ever they should have so good occasion to see it again. It is the greatest in Flanders, and the chieffe townes of Brabant wee had seen the year before.

Wee had come (to adde that by the way) from Bosche to Antwerp, has it not been that the wagon way was then very deep, and that ther was some danger by the Lorraine souldiers that way. The 8 wee saw Ghent. The 9 wee returned to Brugges, and missed Coll[onel] Leightour (as wee understood when wee came to our lodgeing) in his passing with his wife to Ghent, being then returning from London, and going to Holland. The 10 wee stayed also at Brugges. The 11 wee came to Nieuport and in passing, saw the place of the famous battle of Nieuport⁵, and the town of Ostend at a distance (because of the time in passingtwixt Ostend and Nieuport by land, wee did not goe to it). The 12 wee came to Dunckercke. And hithertill all our journey was by water, and safer than betwixt Newbattle and Edinburgh.

³ *Veere en Zélande où des troupes écossaises avaient un camp. Durant les guerres de toute la période, des régiments écossais combattirent comme mercenaires au service des différentes puissances européennes. Les officiers que rencontrent les Kerr en faisaient partie Voir note 2 de l'introduction.*

⁴ *Flessingue sur l'Escaut que les voyageurs traversent pour atteindre Sluis ("Sluyce")*

⁵ *À cette bataille, le 22 juillet 1600, entre les troupes espagnoles et celles des Provinces-Unies pour contrôler la bouche de l'Yser, l'Archiduc Albert failli être tué d'une balle de mousquet.*

The 13 wee were taken up in procuring a letter from the Governour (the Marquise de Leda) to goe to Graveling. The 14 wee came by wagon, with the drummer major of Dunkercke to Graveling. And that same night procured the like letter from the Governour (a Spaniard) to goe to Calais. The 15 wee came by wagon and the drummer major of Graveling, with our escort, to Calais where the Governour (the Comte de Charaut) gave us present liberty to goe, knoweing of what countrey weewere, and what wee intended.

The 16 wee came with the messenger (being now in French ground but yet not past danger) to Bulloigne. The 17 dyning at Monstreuel wee came at night to Lamponne. The 18 Dyning at Abbaville wee came at night to ville D' Ew. From Dunckercke hithertill wee were every houre in fear of being robbed (at least) but through the Lord's good providence, had no rancontre. The fear was both in that it is a frontier countrey twixt the French and Spanish guariesons and in that at that tyme of the year, the souldiers wereroveing up and doen, coming from the fields, and not fully settled in their winter quarters.

The 19 wee came to Diep. Here being passed the most dangerous part of our journey, and the Gentlemen being wearie, our bussienesse also ende, wee rested the 20. And having little left, took five hundreth franks from M^r Mel, which upon my Lord's letter to him, he readiely answered us. And, what so ever was our fault in taking so much, deserveth to be thankfully and readiely repayed unto him. Wee did not know what wee might need ere wee should come this length, nor how our bill of exchange would be answered at Nantes (wich wee sent away from thence), and intending to provide what wee had most need off in passing at Paris, wee tooke so much from him.

Our letters did indeed appointed us to goe from Diep thorow Low Normandy, but findeing that way not to be so safe, nor so ready in the winter as by Paris. And I that liberty by our letters as to take what way wee founde to be most safe, wee have been so unhappy to choose that way that hath brought us so much displeasure from thence, and of which wee will repent our selves so long as wee are abroad. The 21 being the Lord's day, wee went to the French congregation here. The 22 wee expected the messenger from Calais to have gone with him to Rouen. But he not comeing, wee hyred horses our selves and went the 23 dyneing at Tost, wee came to Rowen at night. The 24 wee spent in seeing the toun. The two nixt dayes being the chieffe dayes of Noël, ther was no travelling, for the messenger did not goe. We wer lodged at M^r Tod's house whom wee found a very honest and kind countrey man. The 27 being Saturday wee stayed, and the Lord's day followeing [f^o 26] the 29, wee parted with the messenger for Paris, and dyning at Esquy wee came at night to Maigny. The 30 dyning at Pontoise wee came at night to Paris, and were lodged at La Croix de fer rue S^t Dinnys.

The 31 wee went to the faux bourg of S^t Germain and lodged the rest of the tyme wee, stayed there. A La Ville de Venise, neer unto M^r Mackmath, M^r Kinloch his correspondent, unto whom wee delivered my Lord's letters which was directed to M^r Kinloch. Ther were at our lodgeing, my Lord Bullenbroock, my Lord Mandevile, their Governours, and severall others of English gentlemen, who were returned from Italie and had stayed at Paris 6 month, and none of them had seen any other court than wee saw. My Lord Bawaird and his brother in passing did no otherwayes than wee did, nor doe any other of condition any otherway. Ther were also at our lodgeing severall German Comtes and gentlemen to whose civilityes wee were in that tyme much obliged. Wee bought only a black broydered belt and hat for my Lo[rd] Kerr, both which were very necessair. And though wee know that men doe not goe naked at Saumur, yet wee finde that many of them doe send for such things as those from Paris.

I written so much before of our leaving or stayuing at Paris, I only adde that, if in stead of the praise wee expected and indeavoured to deserve, our present unsatisfaction as to our selves in occasioning such displeasure there and after our behaviour more to your wills, shall be ever able to procure your pardon, wee shall think our selves well satisfified. Whither

that letter come to M^r Thomson or not, he is neverthelesse, as wee conceive, your real friend. If the weather had not been very unseasonable, wee had not stayed therehalf so long.

Wee took places in a carosse at last, (the unseasonable weather still continuing) though it be the most expensive and incommodious way of travelling wee have not yet had experience of, and parted from Paris Jan[uary] 12 1654) and came to Chatre[s], Jan[uary] 12. The 13, dyning at Angerville, wee came at night to Estampes. In these tounes, and in all this way, wee saw much ruin and was occasioned by the late trouble here⁶. The 14 dyneing at Artenny wee came at night to Orlean[s]. The 15 & 16 wee saw the toune. The 17 wee came by water to Blois. The 18, by water, passing by Amboise to Towers. The 19 by water Aux Trois Valets. The 20 in the morning by water hither. Thus it hath pleased God to bring us, in a season very hard for travelling, and through a great part of our way very dangerous, very safely hither; without any inconvenience, or one shower of rain all the tyme wee were upon horse back. Aftert three dayes' stay at an inne wee took in pension with Madam Amiraut for 12 crouns a piece a month and 8 for a boy, ther being none cheaper.

This cometh by M^r Chartres his addresse, I received your La[dyship] by the same.

(Signature manque, lettre incomplète ?)

**Lettre 2,
Saumur, 30 janvier 1654**

Lettre à Lord Kerr, père des deux jeunes gentilshommes: voyage de Dieppe à Paris via Rouen, le chemin le plus sûr.

Séjour de 12 jours à Paris, visite à la Cour du Roi au Louvre, mais pas au Palais Royal. Dépenses inévitables, étant donné les circonstances du voyage. Questions d'argent: il est préférable d'émettre lettres de crédit et lettres de change indirectement par l'intermédiaire de correspondants londoniens, car le change est ainsi plus avantageux.

À Saumur, logement pris chez la veuve Amiraut où résident aussi des français et des hollandais. Le coût du séjour se montera à environ 250 livres par mois.

My Lord,

The last from these parts, of Octob[er] 18 and 26, I received at Midelburg in Zealand, with the bill of 600 francks and letter of credit of 1800 frwhich were sent for this countrey, and wrote from thence the nixt day (November 29/19) and from Dunkerck with Troop, Decemb[er] 24/4 and from Diep very fully December 20/10 by M^r Mel his addresse. This, I doubt not, are come safe, I repete nothing. The way of Paris was I to us at Diep, as the radyer and safer (in regard of the season) than that of Basse Normandy. At Rowen wee were stayed by the holy dayes of Noël. At Paris wee stayed twelve dayes, both in regard of the weather (being unseasonable) and of the Gentlemen their earnest desire to see what was most remarkeable in their passing. M^r Thomson of the Garde de Marche, your Lo[rds]hips friend, was very kind to us. His advice and information were very steadable unto us. By him wee saw the King of France his court and were confirmed by him that it was not fitt for us to visit any court els, for the Gentlemen would not have been so welcom at the Palais Royall as they were at the Louvre⁷. Wee desire to be thankfull to them that have been kind to us, and doe therefore intreat your Lordship would write two lines unto him when yee take occasion to write unto us. He is your Lordships reall friend.

⁶ Ravages causés par la Fronde.

⁷ Résidence officielle du Duc d'Orléans, Monsieur, frère du Roi

Wee were two dayes at Orleance and came hither January 20/10 1654. It hath pleased God so to order our course, that though wee have come slowly, wee have had neither rain, nor cold, nor any inconvenience in all our journey.

At Paris I delivered your Lorship's letter to M^r Kinloch, to M^r Macmath, his brother in law and correspondent. He offered very readiely to furnish us, so farre as the letter he received did cary. But being furnished before by Mr Mel at Diep, wee only gave him thanks for his kind offerre. Ther is one M^r Chartresse in this countrey (as wee hear a very honest young man) whose correspondent at Edinburg is M^r Gray. He furnisheth money here at an easier rate by 5 sou in the livre than others ordinarily doe. But the most profitable way of remitting money to this country is by remitting from thence to London and from London it cometh hither with advantage. Whatsoever the exchange is from Scotland to London, it will be made up, at least, from London to this, so that our remittance may allwayes come free, money for money. And if the exchange from thence to London be not very high (which I think not), it may come with some advantage. If your Lo[rds]hip choose that way for our provision, I shall send an adresse to a very honest man at London, who furnisheth money after that maner here. My information is from a countrey man of ours, who is governour to some English gentlemen at this place. They have their money from London, always with advantage. Our letter of credit of 1800 livres, and bill of exchange for 600 are accepted by M^r Boullay at Nantes for 1800 livres, only for he writeth that by his letters of advice, the one is comprehended in the summe of the other, which by our letters wee did not know.

Ther being no lodgeing for us at M^r Gray his house (for wee found it taken up) wee settled our selves in pension with Madam Amirault a widow and coussing to Monsieur Amirault the famous Minister here. Ther are in company with us both Frenshes and Dutche. It is a Frensh house. Wee pay a month 12 crounes a piece (for ther is no pension of a lower rate here) and 8 crounes for our boy. To the masters of excercises eleven pistols a month. They are entered to all the excercises wee find here. Our ordinary charges will be neer 250 livres a month. Our journey, being so slow hath been very expensive. Our money will not serve us longer than till June. It is necessair wee be provided again by the end of May.

The gentlemen continue, blessed be God, in very good health. They must be presently provided of clothes, notwithstanding the travelling suits wee made ere wee came from Holland. Your Lordship may write to us either by M^r Kinloch his means, who is now at Edinburgh, or by Craighhall his packet, when he writeth to his sonne who is at this place.

M^r Gray is very kind to us, though wee are not in his house. Wee are now longing to hear from thence. Wee may, I think, after this, write by your Lo[rds]hip's permission, unto my Lady.

I send this to the Lady Elisabeth Kerr at London, to be sent by her means to Scotland, paying port here till Paris. And after the same maner, a letter will come safe hither paying port at London till Paris, without any correspondent at Paris, the postmaster (as I make him doe here), writing upon the back that the port is payed so farre.

I am,

My Lord

Your Lordship most humble servant,

MJ Young

Lettre 3
Saumur, 28 février 1654

Raisons qui expliquent que le budget prévu a été dépassé: à Leyde, il a fallu emprunter, faute d'avoir reçu l'argent à temps.

Détails de l'itinéraire choisi:il était plus sûr de passer par Paris et les jeunes messieurs souhaitaient visiter la ville.

Le voyage a coûté cher; à Dunquerque et à Graveling, les prix étaient extortionnaires. Il a fallu se procurer le nécessaire, notamment linge, chaussures et chapeaux pour les jeunes gens; rien d'extravagant dans ces achats. L'achat d'un fusil était nécessaire, car les voyageurs n'avaient pas d'armes.

À Saumur logement chez Mme Amiraut. Prix de la pension. Lettre de change négociée, mais l'argent sera juste. Sur une feuille séparée insérée dans la lettre, liste et calcul des dépenses prévues.

Programme détaillé de la journée des jeunes gens, études, musique, dance, exercices physiques, promenades.

Retour sur un problème lié à la succession de la Comtesse douairière, Lady Lothian; un certain Mr Browne n'a pas encore remboursé une dette qu'il avait contractée.

My Lord,

I have by this week's post received your letter from Newbattl of January 5, in answer to what I wrote from Dunckerk and from Diep. I hope that is also come safe which I wrote from Midelburgh. Wee are very sorry that our expences have been, beyond expectation, so great, and that (as your Lordship's writteth), thorow ill manageing which hath so highly displeased. I am not to dispute the matter with your Lordship, I only crave liberty to answer your letter, with that respect and submission that becometh. The summes wee have received since our comeing to Holland have been, indeed, very considerable. Yet wee have never exceeded that note of expence of three thousand guilders a year which I sent to Scotland a while after our arriving at Leyden, though our expence was lesse then, being in pension, than when wee came afterwards, the gentlemens' health so requiring to dyet in our chamber.

That note seemed to be acquiesced unto, nothing ever comeing to the contrary (it was draune up upon the best conjecture I could then make). Not withstanding I have allwayes indeavoured, as was my duety, to keep so farre within that summe as was possible. And when your Lordship shall see by the particulars of our accounts the necessity of all our expences, I hope yee will not be so surprised. This I may say that had I been worthy to have layed out such a summe for my self, I could hardly have been more frugal, all our occasions of laying out money being well considered together. As for the last sume wee received, if it be remembred that for 7 months before, wee had had no more and that wee were all together out of clothes and all sort of apparel, it will not appear very strange that, after providing each a suit of clothes and dischargeing our selves at the hands of strangers to whom wee were ingaged, and doeing what was otherwayes necessaire about our removeing, that wee left, with a journey to make, that 650 guilders debt.

Considering with all that wee presented, 290 guilders in plate to Dr Stewart, the drawing of the gentlemen portraits with their frame 70 guilders, my goeing to Antwerp and bringing my Lady Lothians' things from thence, which though it was no great matter for much in itself, yet in that I was by contrare wind and still weather full eight dayes upon the water, it was so much lost tyme. And all that was necessarily spent in that tym was to us unnecessaire expences, I also provided linning both for present use and to cary with us (for shirts, half shirts, stockings, boot tops, handkercheffes, etc) and for each a good hat, it was not strange that our money was much lessened. Linning and hats were the most considerable, with a few books, of any things thing wee were to cary with us and did leave behinde us. Non of which could been had so obtained by farre at that tyme at London, whither wee were then goeing. Clothes, beside what was necessaire for them to cary upon their backs, wee made none to cary with us. I say nothing of above 354 guilders spent in a journey wee made, by your Lordship's permission, unto Brabant, at the tym of my lady their grandmother's death;

nor of about 120 guilders given to Lady Jean since our coming to Holland; nor of 250 guilders taken for my owne privat use; nor many other small things which altogether, are very considerable. All which, though still it is so much coming from your Lordship's, cannot properly be put to the gentlemens' ordinary expence, and being considered a part, the summe of what they have spent in Holland will not be very extraordinary, when takeing in all these things and reckening what wee brought with us, what wee received, and what wee have left to pay, the summe is 8435 guilders, from the 22/12 March 1652 till the 10/20 December 1653 at our coming to Diep. If wee had not been to remove, wee could have payed all, and furnished ourselves till nixt March.

And for not so much money as would have brought us to London, that which brought us to Diep would have done much more, it being easier, I doubt not, for expence, to travel from Dover to London, than from Dunckercke to Calais, in regard of the extream extortion at Dunkerck and Graveling, for lodgeing, passes, wagons or horses, and drummers, which must goe along with those that go that way. Indeed, at London, if wee had not stayed some tyme (as wee expected) it would at least been possible to have furnished us again for our journey home, for what I wrote of not exceeding proportionably our countrey men. Wee have not made, nor shall not make any the rule of our expences, nor an example, further than wee see them frugal and sober. That the gentlemen have been reported to be very fyn in their clothes, hath been upon very good ground, though I am in some sort content that others have thought them so. Their fynnesse was never any other than a decent neatnesse, chieffely in linning, their clothes being allwayes very sober. And wee are so farre from making more suits than one for them at once, that wee think our selves abundantly well provided if wee shall be able to make on as another is ended, which, last summer, wee could very scarcely doe. Of prodigality or gadienesse in this wee are, hithertill, not culpable. And if wee have avoided to be sordid, wee have not transgressed your Lordship's rule.

That wee took money again at Diep from Mr Mel, was most necesair, that wee had been so farre spent when wee came there. And that wee took so much as 500 franks is in some sort excusable in that wee neither knew what wee might have need of by the way, ere wee should come to Saumur, nor how our bill of exchange and letter of credit would be accepted at Nantes, ere wee came from Holland. Wee intended, indeed, to have provided several things at Paris, but except an black baudrier and an hat which were most necessair for my Lord Kerr, wee provided nothing for their persons. Wee bought also a fusee by the way, having no other armes but it and our swords in all our journeys.

Now, in goeing the way of Paris wee did not consult any printed itinerary, but took their advice they live upon the place, and understood what was fittest for us to doe, both in relation to the present condition of the countrey and the season of the year at that tym. It is true your Lordship] had appointed us to goe from Diep thorow Bas Normandy, but the close of the letter leaving all arbitrary, according as wee should find occasion upon the place, wee did not take it for a peremptory command. Otherwayes, wee would have taken that way upon any order. The reasons should have taken us from Paris wee did very well foresee, but being ordered by the way of Bruxelles (if it had been safe) to Paris, wee valued them the lesse, conceiving no greater expence (in that respect) in goeing from Diep to Paris than if wee had gone to it the way of Bruxelles.

But in that wee did not appear at the Palais Royal, it can give no offence there and here (in regard of the gentlemens' youth). It will adde very much to the very strong prajudice was intertained before [plusieurs mots illisibles] and if wee had appeared there, it would neither have diminished it, nor taken it away. Yet wee are very sorry wee went that way, finding it so much against your Lordship's mynd. As for our never seeing of that countrey wee have missed in our coming hither, wee leave it absolutely to your Lordship's pleasure, but being now arrived at Saumur (as I have written January 30/20) and staying in a pension

for 44 crouns a month, with Madam Amiraut (for Mr Graye's house was taken up by others) finding none cheeper, nor so convenient for lodgeing or company for the most are ordinarily
14

Crounes a month, every thing being extraordinary dear since the late warre.

(Sur une feuille à part)

I have written a note of our ordinary expenses for pension and excercises, which are as followeth :

	Livres
Fenceing, being two	16-0-0
Dancing, being two	16-0-0
Master of language	10-0-0
Master for the lute for my Lord Kerr	10-0-0
Master for gytar for Sr William	5-0-0
Master for designing for both	10-0-0
Writing master for both, at several houres	10-0-0
Singing master for Sr William	5-0-0
Master for the great viol for my L[ord]	5-0-0
Master for the pike and musket, for both	10-0-0
Pension	132-0-0
Washing, fyre and candle	6-0-0
Hyre of lute, gytar and viol	6-0-0
Hyre of books	-
Pension and excercises a month	241-0-0
Ordinary expences a year	3000-0-0

Wee payed the first month (for so the order is) aforehand a peece for fenceing, and as much dancing. If they had been allowed to the tinnisse (which is the most ordinary recreation here) it would have been at least one pistolle more. They there who understand these things, by sight of this note will easily comprehend, that our exercises (takeing in the tinnisse which then was not discharged) may amount to eleven pistolles a month, if they consider the accessory expenses of same on thing or another that follow every one of their excercises, which here I have not set down. If they were allowed to ryde the great horses (here wee have the occasion of a good master, but no good horses) they behoved to pay five pistolles a piece for the first month, and 3 pistolles a piece every month.

Wee shall, God willing, follow what orders wee have received or shall yet come from these parts, and doe not purpose to sturre any where (without order) from this. Wee have received 600 franks in answeare to our bill of exchange from Mr Boulay at Nantes. Our letter of credit is accepted by him for 1200 francks which is 1800 in all. But that should put us off one whole year, though that 500 franks wee received from Mr Mel had been yet untouched, your Lordship will finde impossible. If it be considered that our dyet alone (at 12 crounes a piece a month and 8 for our boy) amounteth too 1584 francks a year besides fyre, [un mot raturé], dressing of linning (both which are here very dear), candle, and many other necessities which all take away money, except wee should sit down and look after neither masters nor excercises, nor learning, nor any thing ells. Wee are very farre from the Germane humour, though our provisions could allow us to follow their way : one Baron of them hath spent more in one night (2500 crounes) upon a ballet (as they call it) since our comeing hither, than ever wee did in two years. I have sent with this a note of our ordinary expense, which your Lordship may consider.

The things wee should have brought with us and did leave behinde us in Zealand, being (most considerably) linning, some books, and three hats, would hardly been uselesse to us when wee should have mett them in Scotland. But wee so much need of them here (and indeed wee left them with intention to send for them hither, if ever the passage should be safe, and the occasion of transporting by sea, being likely to prove better now, than it was then). I have written for them by the same post and doe expected them with the first convenient occasion, from Middelburg or from Wlissing⁸ to Nantes.

As for the gentlemen's enjoying no will of their owne, though they are not now children, yet I am most confident, your Lordship will find them in all things most obedient and that from a better principle than from fear to be called home. That your Lordship's orders should come from tyme to tyme, will be most acceptable and is most fitting, but if they should not returne, till they transgresse the orders that come to them from thence, they would stay longer abroad than themselves would desire. For I may say, they understand very well, and are very sensible of what is their duety that way. But if it should fall out so, that in these particulars for which they have no expresse order, any thing should be done not satisfactory to your Lordship, so soon as they are advertised, it should be helped.

I have presumed to write at this length, not for debateing any thing or for justieifying myself, but that I might represent (with that observance and submission that becometh, which I hope, your Lordship will not take in ill part) upon what ground every thing hath been done. For however things may appear there at this distance, yet all circumstances being duely considered, I doubt not but it will be found, wee have have some ground of reason, in any thing hath been done, either in relation to our great expence, or the way of our journey. But I doe very earnestly desire (as I have done often before when wee were in Holland) that your Lordship's orders may come often, and be so particular as may be. Which I hope, yee shall finde shall be observed. I shall indeavour my uttermost in all things, but your Lordship's commands or advice will be most steadable and are very requisite.

Being about to close this letter, I have received another from your Lordship from Edinburg. January 12. Most of the particulars of it are answered either in this, or in that I wrote January 30/20. But that your Lordship may more particularly know what the young men are doing, in the study of history and geography they have made some progresse, and in these they goe on, having had a beginning of logick at Leyden. When their other excercises are in the morning from 7 till 8, besides the Scriptures which they read in Frensh and in English, they read a little for the Frensh language in books proper for that use, either a romance or the grammare. From 8 till 9 they fence. After breakfast they dance till half eleven. And these exercises they doe with a great skill (to say no more) as any that practise with them. At half eleven cometh a master for the Frensh that they may learn the true accent so farre as possible. After eleven cometh the lute master for my Lord (for he desireth to learne a little upon it) till 12. At that tyme Sr William writeth. After dinner Sr Willian learneth upon the gytar till 2 a clock. From 2 till 3, they have a master for designing in which they both profit very well, but Sr William's inclination runneth most that way, as my Lord's doeth to instrumental musick. From 3 till 4 wee had bespeaken a master for singing and the great viol, but he is for present sick. After 4 a clock, they practice in one thing or another prascrived by their masters. And being now forbidden the tinnisse (though they never used it but very soberly), wee walk in the fields. At night they goe on reading in Plutarch or Clouver for geographie and history.

This order they keep all the week but Saturday, and such dayes as are here accounted holy, for then none of their masters doe come. The master of the mathematiques who was here being lately dead, ther is as yet none come in this place. So soon as any cometh they are to

⁸ Voir lettre 1, note 3.

follow that study. Ther is also here an occasion for riding, but the horses are altogether naught. If your Lordship intend they should learn that exercise, it would be resolved in tyme, wither they shall take the occasion (such as it is) here, or if so much tyme may be allowed them els whereas is available for that, and for the mathematiques. Neither of which, I fear, will be well had at this place. If your Lordship would adde or change any thing in their exercises, it may be made knoune unto us with the first.

Your Lordship's writeth that 1200 crounes will be the most can be furnished for them in the year. I am very confident, that, so long as wee are residents, wee shall not much exceed that summe and shall, however, indeavour to be so frugal, avoiding sordidnesse, as is possible. I wrote in my last that the best way of remitting money hither was by the way of London, for so wee might allwayes have money at least for money, if not with some advantage. If your Lordship think fitt to make use of that way, I shall procure a letter to the merchant who furnisheth gentlemen here after that manner, that our money may come the same way. The merchant's name is Mr Blackerby, merchant in Broadstreet overagainst Augustine Frieres London.

A particular information of the persons, strangers and inhabitants who are at this place shall come by the nixt, as also of all our journey to Saumur. I could never write more particularly of my Lady Lothian's papers, finding never no more of her accounts with her merchant than I wrote of at the first tyme. I have met, indeed, with many informations concerning Mr Wishart, his medling with her and speaking most dishonourably of her person, but could never finde certainty. And meeting with him at our passing at Wlissinghe, he disavowed all with great protestations, but averreth still that he hath heard often from her owne mouth that Mr Broun was at least more then 2000 guild[ers] indebted to her. And that he knew that 3 or 4 year before her death, she had not received of Mr Broune above 600 francks. I fund also by him that Mr Broun had not given him that 100 guilders your Lordship had appointed for him of reward. Whether he be now in England or France I doe not know. He was then goeing to the boat at Dunckerk and thoughe had been all the whylle in Holland and at Bergen op Zom after my Ladye's death, yet he never came neer us. But on the contrare, I know not upon what ground, shunned us by all means possible. So soon as he heard of our being at Amsterdam he went from it. I rancontred him very luckily at Wlissing. That which at the first he called 3000 guil[ders], he calleth it now 2000. But for any other thing, either papers or else, I could learne nothing. Only I believe him to be very warry what he spoak concerning her person, otherwayes the prajudice and disgrace would be turned upon himself.

The gentlemen continue, blessed be God, in very good health. It hath allwayes been extream frost, and is so still since our comeing hither. Your Lordship shall from tym to tym hear at large and particularly, from,

My Lord,

Your Lordship most humble servant

MJ Young

Saumur, February 28/ 181654

Lettre 4 **Saumur, 24 mars 1654**

Regrets et excuses pour n'avoir pas pu suivre les recommandations de Lady Kerr; le désir qu'ont eu les deux frères de passer par Paris est le fait de jeunes gens bien nés, mais Young a eu tort d'y avoir consenti.

Programme des jeunes gens. Le mercredi et le dimanche, ils assistent au culte.

L'argent prévu suffira, mais plus tôt il sera perçu mieux cela vaudra, car il ne serait pas bienséant pour des gentilshommes d'avoir à demander qu'on leur fasse crédit au delà d'un mois.

Les achats effectués ne seront pas inutiles même si, éventuellement, les effets qui ont été envoyés à Londres leur parviennent.

Madam,

For your other letter, so much of it as is not answered, either in the forgoing or in them I have formerly written, I crave liberty to adde that I never indeavoured so much, being at home, to be observeing and discreet (as your Ladye is pleased to tearme it) as I have done since our comeing abroad. And yet to be so unhappy, as not to have observed not one circumstance either in our journey or mannageing, nor to have given satisfaction in any thing, it is that I regrate with all my heart, and that [un mot raturé] troubleth me more then I doe expresse. But did I know any order from thence which I have not laboured to observe to my uttermost, I should be trubled much more. Our goeing by the way of Paris, is that which I shall no more excuse. Any ill that may follow upon our being there, I wish with all my heart, if it were possible, that it reach no further than my self. But this I am sure, whatsoever may be the effect of it, wee did take that course (being once there) which in all belief and probability had the least evill effect and consequences to come after it. It repenteth us from our heart, that wee have so soon given so just cause of repenting the sending of us hither. Whatsoever hath been the cause that I understood so to be and did not know what I was doing, I darre say this, that I was so farre from being drunk with the joye of our comoeing hither, that any excesse I would have had, would have been rather on the other hand, if wee had returned home.

The Gentlemen's youth may excuse them, if their desires caryed them this way (their breeding so requiring); but for my self, it is tyme I should leave off to be a childe. It greeveth us much to finde such displeasure. Our after indeavours of punctual observance, can never make amends for the fault wee have committed, all wee shall be able to doe being still our duety. However wee shall labour to observe punctually what orders shall come from thence, not for the hindering of our calling home, whensoever it shall be thought convenient, but because they are your orders and come from thence.

Madam, wee are very sensible of our offence, the blame of it lyeth only upon me. Your commands hence forth (if that can be any amends) shall be more narrowly observed, if God will, by

Madam,

Saumur Apr[il] 4/ March 24, 1654

Your most humble servant

MJ Young

(Sur deux autres feuillets)

The Gentlemen continue, blessed be God, in good health. They remember them to all friends. They are glad of their brother his health, this is the first tyme they know they had one⁹.

The way they spend their tyme is thus. In the morning, after reading of the Scriptures, in French and English, they read a little history and geographie from 7 till 8. From 8 till 9 they fence. After breakfast they dance, till half eleven. From that till half twelve, they have a master for the French tongue. From that till dinner, my Lord hath a master for the lute and S^r William for writing. After dinner, S^r William hath a master for the gytar and my Lord for the

⁹*Durant leur absence, Lady Kerr avait accouché d'un garçon.*

lute till a 2 o'clock. From 2 till 3, they both have a master for designing. From 3 till 4, my Lord hath a master for the great viol, and S^r Wiliam for singing. From 4 till 5 they both have a master for excerciseing the pike, musket, ensigne and such like. From 5 till 6, they practise on thing or another as wee finde most fit, of what their masters have taught them that day. From 6 till 7 sometyes wee walk abroad, wee read history till supper. After supper is free for discourse with the company in the house, and practise the French tongue.

This order continueth the week but Saturday and such dayes as here are holy. And if there be but one of these in the week, then the saturday is imployed to make it up. But upon wee have a day free, wee imploy the fornoon in our chambers and the afternoon in returning to civilityes wee receive from our countrey men or any others. On the Sabbath wee hear two sermons, and one in the week so often, as it falleth out that their masters come not upon the waddensday, for that is the sermon day. The rest of the Sabbath wee spend in our chambers, in such exercises as is fitt for the Sabbath, or walk abroad by our selves, and spend the tym in conference. This way what I have written formerly will make so particular an account that very little could be added to it if I were in Newbattell.

Our money (seing that other 600 francks is due to us, which M^r Boullay wrote was included in the 1600) will serve us, wee hope, till neer August. Yet it is fitt to provide us sooner, for having it by us, wee shall never be the more lavishe. And it is no wayes fitt, for many reasons, that either our pension or excercises should goe much beyond their month upon trust. This I assure your Ladyship, no fear of being called home will make us good [un mot raturé] managers. That which is right and fitting for your Ladyship and the Gentlemens' condition, it is that I have ever endeavoured to make the rule of our expenses, how so ever I have failed in that satisfaction. It is true, the Gentlemen being come to this countrey (which both their earnest desires and further breeding did require), it is fitt they should have tyme to doe somewhat worthy of their comeing, and of the great expenses yee are at by them, before they should be called home.

But, setting that consideration aside, calling home is not a thing which I fear. However, whensoever that shall be thought fitting, wee must obey. This I may adde by the way: if they had not come hither at this tyme they would have come, then it may be they should stay at home, if ever they had come to be their owne masters. Yet I hope they shall befound to be both very loveing sonnes and very obedient.

The money wee spent upon these things wee provided at our removeing from Holland was not flung away. For these things (if I durst crave liberty to say so much under favour) could not been had so readily at London, nor any were ells, out of Holland. And wee could have caryed them very readily to London (whither wee wer then goeing) and could not bring them with us hither, whither wee were afterwards commanded. Wee have written for them some weeks agoe (being so commanded but if wee be not so unfortunat as to loose them by sea, they will be very usefull to us where so ever wee finde them.

The other part of the letter I have answered veryfully severall tymes before. I only adde this finding so exceeding great displeasur at what wee have done, I expect not that anything wee can say will give great satisfaction. And yet b your letters which ordered our journey, wee could no wayes apprehend nor foreseen that such discontent would be the consequence of any thing wee wer to doe. Only, as I did sincerely indeavour in every thing which wee judged best and that it would be most satisfactory there, so I desire it may be believed that any thing I have written in answeare to the former letter from thence, is neither to justify our selves, to contradict your orders, or to extenuat our fault, but believ to show, with that respect and submission that becometh, upon what grounds wee have done as wee have done. For so much, I humbly conceive, was my duety, which I hope will be lookt upon with a favourable eye. But our exceeding error (as it is justly termed) is that, for which I shall never pardon my self, so long as wee are abroad. I given to much experience of the indiscretion of

my owne conduct and mannageing, I intreat so I may be left to discretion hence forth, as is possible and that order may come in all things so particular, as is fitting.

I assure you, Madam (though I finde it is scarcely possible), I indeavour my uttermost, and shall still doe so, to give all satisfaction, for that is the duety of,

Madam,

Your most humble servant

MJ Young

Saumur, April 4/ March 24 1654

Lettre 5
Saumur, 8 avril 1654

Nouvelles excuses; espoir que les deux jeunes gentilshommes pourront étudier les mathématiques; Lord Kerr s'essaye au luth.

Le logement prévu chez Mr Gray était occupé; il aurait fallu déplacer Mr Home ce qui n'était pas de bon ton.

Ne pas croire à tout ce qui se raconte.

Comment l'argent leur parvient. Young veille à la dépense, mais nécessité d'avoir des vêtements pour l'hiver et pour l'été.

Bon rapport des divers maîtres; progrès plus lents en français mais cela fait quatre mois seulement que les jeunes gens l'apprennent; Young envoie des exemples de ce qu'ils dessinent. Il n'y a pas de meilleur endroit que Saumur pour un pareil séjour.

Madam,

I wrote March 24/ April 4 in answe're to the letters of the 28 February. I have since received another of the same date, and word by word to the same purpose and yesternight one of the 13 Mart, by which I perceive that myn of the 18/8 Febr[uary] is come safe. Ther are yet, besides this, three others of great length, and very particular by the way. This cometh by Mr Chartresse his letters to his correspondent Mr Crawford, (it was mymistake for at that tyme I knew no better, that I wrote his name Gray) by which I have received the three last from thence.

Wee are very sorry the way of our liveing in Holland hath been so unsatisfactory, and that it is so litle in our power to help it now. Only, I may say, an honest sober frugalitye was that, which wee indeavoured, in all things, to make our rule, and shall still doe so in any thing that our orders from thence leave to the mannageing of our discretion. But in that it is much easier now, to send us particular commands then it could be (for many reasons) in Holland and in that our discretion hath been found so undiscreet, and in all things so farrebeyond rule, wee earnestly desire, and doe expect, most particular orders in every things, so farre as is possible. Wee doubt not but the calamitous condition of these tymes maketh a litle burden very heavye. Only, it trubleth us much, that wee have so farre exceeded bounds in all things, (or are accounted to have done so) that wee have left no room for acharitable beleeffe of our profession to have any sence of the calamities yee lye under.

That ther is so much musicke in the gentlemen's excercices will be quickly helped. For the great viol was undertaken by my Lord Kerr only out of a desyre he had to take a tryal of it for a tyme and not [un mot raturé] from any purpose wee had to make it a constant excercise. It is a great losse to us that ther is no occasion of mathematiques here. So soon as wee shall have that occasion, wee mynd, God willing, to make use of it, for it is a study very convenient for the Gentlemen, and ther is very litle occasion to learne it at home. Wee shall be glad that a competent tyme be allowed us, for that study and for the great horse rydding (if that excercise shall bethough convenient) in some other place where they may be had.

Wee are not purposed to sturre any where from this, without the orders which come from thence. And if the tinnisse be used at all, it shall be seldom and in the manner that is appointed us. Mr Gray haveing lett out the one half, and [un mot raturé] that the best half, of his house to Monsieur Duplexis who dwelleth in it with his family, had only two chambers, in the one of which is Mr Hope, and in the other, two French young men that are at schools. So that without incommodeing both them and our selves, it was not possible for us to be lodged at his house. He offered us, indeed, Mr Hope's chamber, and to have provided him some other way. But wee could not bee so uncivil as to displace Mr Hope, especially seeing he made no such offerre unto us himself till once wee were settled where we are, and that wee could not be lodged (without incommoding our selves) in one chamber, though it had been left unto us. That is the true cause why being recommended to Mr Gray wee did not lodge with him. Yet wee wanted not very good information of these that had experience both of his house, and of his wherein wee are. But trouly, because of our recommendation unto him, it was his wanting convenient lodgeing for us that made us choose what was most fitting.

Wee have left off to excuse any more our leaving the way of Basse Normandy, though wee did it by the best advice wee could meet with. But that other errour, if no other thing can satisfie for it, ther may be yet an occasion found to make it up. But if wee had done otherwayes, and then it had been accounted an errour (as it was much more likely and reasonable that it would), ther had been no remedy at all. I say nothing that ther are some there, who give information of any such thing that passeth, that they may insnare men's persons and estates who live [un mot raturé] at home. That reason alone, migh thave been sufficient to have bypassed any who were in our condition to doe as wee have done. What that particular is which I wrote and scored out again, I doe not remember. But this I know, that I write nothing, but what I either know my self, or have by good information. Yet whatsoever it was being scored out, it may be passed as not being written.

The way of our provision I leave to what is judged most convenient there. But monney from London cometh allwayes hither with advantage. Yet when ther is need to provide us, it will be good to try at all hands, how it may be done [un mot raturé] with the least charge. Our letters come allwayes by Mr Mackmath to Mr Kinloch, or by Mr Chartresse to his correspondent Mr Crawford. Wee shall indeavour to serve our selves with what wee have (being now cleared that wee are to expect 2400 franks in all, by our leter of credit and bill of advyce) till the end of July. Yet it will be fitt to provide us sooner, for wee are loath that either our pension or excercises should runne on upon trust. Our ordinary expenses may be known there to a croune. And for our extraordinary, for clothes and other things, wee shall be as frugal as possible. Our ordinary will want litle of 1000 crouns a year. And if a thousand franks put us off in all other things, it will not be very extraordinary. However, wee shall indeavour to be so [un mot raturé] sober in apparrell and other things as may be. But this would be [un mot raturé] considered, that it is necessaire that each of them to have two suits in the year. For that which is needfull for the cold in winter here, can not be worne in the summer, for heat, and contrary wayes.

The Gentlemen continue, blessed be God, in very good health: wee finde this air, hithertill much more agreable for my Lo[rd] Kerr than the moist air of Holland which wee have left. They profite in all their excercises as well as any that learne with them. I had rather they should be beyond any thing I say of them, than to say any thing of them beyond what they are. But if I should send the testimonye of all their masters concerning them, I would doubt very much that it would be beleevd there.

It is yet too soon to requyre a prooffe of their French, that shall come in due tyme. Wee have not been yet but 4 month in France. Their writing may come by the nixt as I have here inclosed a prooffe of their designing. I have sent their masters' pieces with theirs. And if the one at the first be well knowne by the other, the difference will not be found very great. I

would have sent landskipts but wee have left abundance of these with our books in Holland. Only this it is much more easye to take up a castle or a fortification, than to doe such a face. And they that doe the one, can with great facility doe the other. Yet Sr William shall send the draught of the castle and toune of Saumur by the nixt.

Their company, beside Mr Hope are three Danes who are sonnes to the vice Chancelier, if I take it right, of Denmark. They speak good Dutch, and good French, having been two year in this countrey. They doe most of the same excercises, and being of the same age (very neer) and haveing a very grave man for their governour, they are not permitted to spend their spare tyme but in honest recreations. So that here their is no fitter company for us and they beginne to bevery acceptable each to other.

For my part I doe not knowe where wee can be more profitably at present than where wee are. For wee finde as much excercise (though ther be no mathematique master) as the Gentlemen are able to doe. Wee have as litle distraction here as wee can have any where els, the excercise of religion as free as at home, besides many other good considerations.

I shall indeavour henceforth to write once a week, seeing that is your La[dye's] command, unto

Madam,

Your most humble servant

MJ Young

Saumur April 18/8 1654

Lettre 6 Saumur, 2 mai 1654

Young a confié sa dernière lettre à Mr Macmath, mais il utilise désormais le courrier de Chartresse. Il a envoyé des échantillons des dessins et d'écriture des jeunes gens et il fera bientôt parvenir des exemples de leur français.

Il faut insister pour que l'argent, qui leur parvient, leur soit versé à Saumur. Boullay leur a fait savoir qu'il n'avait pu le faire; trouver le moyen de le faire depuis Nantes ; comme la confection des habits d'été ne pouvait plus attendre, il a fallu lui envoyer la note. Pour les transferts d'argent, mieux vaut passer par Paris.

Le prix de la pension va augmenter. Déjà, les deux nouveaux venus hollandais, qui remplacent les trois jeunes danois précédemment logés à la même adresse, payent un prix plus élevé.

Les jeunes gens sont-ils autorisés à aller à Angers pour y assister à une grande fête qui a lieu chaque année ?

Madam

My last was by Mr Macmath his adresse, April 25/15. This cometh by Mr Chartresse his packett. The last wee have received from thence was Mart 13. Haveing written so often and so fully before, this is only to shoue that the Gentlemen continue, through the Lord's mercye, in good health, followeing their studdyes and excercises [un mot raturé] together. A prooffe of their designing and writting I sent by the two last occasions. So soon as they are able to send a prooffe of their French, it shall come. In all their excercises they profite very well.

Wee have been waiting this month for monney from Nantes, but can have none which maketh the Gentlemen want their summer suits a little longer than is fitting. Mr Boullay doeth refuse not us, but pretendeth he can not find a way to send it unto us. Wee are forced at last to draw a bill upon him, for which wee must pay one of the hundred to have it answered at this place. It is a great deal easier to have monney here, from Paris, than from Nantes. But

whatsoever way our provisions come after this, wee desire it may be provided that the marchant oblige himself to pay it at the place of our residence, as wee shall have occasion to call for it.

Our pension is like to be heightned 4 franks a piece a month, all things growing dearer here and they in the house with us paying already 40 fr[anks] a month. The Danes who were with us, are parted from this and two Hollanders came in their place. Wee will have much a doe to make our monney hold out till the end of July. Wee expect to be provided again before then. Wee finde this place in every respect so agreable that wee doe not desire to change it, till the Gentlemen be considerably advanced in the language and their excercises, for wee know no place where wee can be mor profitably for the tyme.

About a month hence ther is a very solemne show at Angiers. It is annual, they call it the (Sacre)¹⁰. If your permission could come in tyme to us, the gentlemen would desire liberty to goe see it. It is not above a half a dayes journey from this.

Anythings that is wanting or superfluous in their excercises, or that would be amended in the way of spending their tyme, or for our [un mot raturé] expenses, may be helped according to the orders which, upon all occasions, wee exspect and doe still desire, may come frequently from thence, unto

Madam,

Your Ladyship most humble servant

MJ Young

Saumur May 12/2 1654

(En marge) The inclosed are from my Lord Kerr to shew his designing. They should have come with the last if ther had been place. They both remember very kindly their duety to all friends.

Lettre 7 **Saumur, 16 mai 1654**

Les jeunes messieurs se portent bien et leur journée est très occupée; Young souhaite savoir s'il y a quelque chose à changer à leur emploi du temps.

Les fortes chaleurs vont bientôt arriver et l'on interrompra les exercices trop violents.

Les jeunes gens, et notamment Lord Kerr, ont beaucoup grandi; leur maintien et leur comportement sont agréables, leur conversation est honnête, cela dit sans vouloir les flatter.

Toujours les mêmes problèmes pour recevoir de l'argent; depuis Nantes, cela coûte chaque fois un pour cent; le prix des pensions augmente; il sera difficile de tenir après juillet.

Envoi d'un dessin de Sir William : une vue du château.

Madam

The last wee have received from thence, is that of the 13 Mart. Wee write every ten dayes once, at least. My last was by Mr Chartresse his addresse May 12/2. This cometh by Mr Macmath his. The Gentlemen continue, through the Lord's mercye, in good health. I have often written in what manner they imploye their tym, and at what houres they have their severall excercises. So soon as our orders from thence command in any thing, anychange, wee shall not fail to obey. Wee know not what will be satisfactory there, but wee doe not refuse

¹⁰ En dépit du nom, il s'agit très certainement de la Fête-Dieu au début du mois de juin. Les processions et les réjouissances qui avaient lieu à Angers étaient connues pour leur caractère spectaculaire.

that our wayes here be inquired unto, by such as are not most exact and rigorous in their censure.

That which is most amisse is, that they have too many things to doe together. Yet, it is a witnesse that they have not many idle houres. The heat of the weather (though as yet wee find very litle) will shortly necessitat us to intermitt, for a tyme, the excercises that are, in any way, violent. And that will give them more tyme to improve more thorowly the rest.

Their personnes are handsome and comely. My Lo[rd] Kerr of a larger growth than Sr William though I doubt not, he shall be also sufficiently tall, having groun considerably within this twelve month. Their inclinations are, I may say, naturally, honnest and harmelesse. I know not that vice [un mot raturé] that in the least kynd, they are given to. The way of their conversation is civil and obligeing, as, I beleewe, all they will witnesse, with whom wee have had the least corespondence since our comeing abroad. In all their excercises they profit very well and in all things give great hopes that they shall prove compleet Gentlemen, when tyme shall have sharpened and accomplished their parts. It is not my custom to say this much on their behalf, therefore, I hope, your La[dyship] will pardon my freedom at this tyme and beleewe that it is neither out of vanitye, nor for interest that I have said so much. I trust they shall be fund to be beyonde any thing that say at any tyme (whille wee are at this distance) concerning them.

Wee have much difficulty to have our monney answered here from Nantes, and are necessitat to buy it again at one of the hundred. After this wee desire the marchant who shall furnish us, be obliged to deliver our monney at the place of our residence, according as wee shall have need to call for it: it is a great deal easyer to have monney here from Paris than from Nantes. Our pension is like to be heightned (because of the dearth of things) four francks a peece by the month. Before the end of July wee will have nothing remaining. There are two Hollanders in the house with us, in place of the Danes, who are gone from this. They pay 40 francks a month here, ans ther is no pension in toun, at present, better cheap.

I am Madam,

Your Ladyship's most humble servant

MJ Young

Saumur May, 26/16 1654

Sr William sendeth the inclosed designation of the fortifications and Castell of Saumer as they appear from the pré upon that side that regardeth the toune, with the remembrance of his most humble duetye to all friends.

Lettre 8 Saumur, 8 juillet 1654

Doivent-ils se rendre à Montpellier? Si c'est le cas, il vaut mieux ne pas partir trop tard dans l'année; d'autre part le français le plus pur se parle ici dans la région.

Envoi d'un échantillon du français des jeunes gens; ce n'est pas encore parfait, mais cela a été écrit sans autre aide que celle de Young.

Questions d'argent: les taux de change les plus favorables offerts par Charteresse; argent payé par Boullay sur ordre de Browne.

À cause de la chaleur, les jeunes gentilshommes ne s'exercent plus à l'épée ou l'arme d'haste. Pour consacrer plus de temps à l'histoire et à la philosophie, et le cas échéant aux mathématiques, on mettra fin aux leçons de dessin, mais en continuant celles de luth pour l'aîné et de guitare pour le cadet. Mais comme cela a été recommandé, on a attaché une importance spéciale à la religion.

Contact pris en Hollande avec le capitaine Kerr. Il est temps d'organiser l'envoi des caisses contenant leurs affaires; questions relatives à une femme de charge.

À Saumur, ils n'ont pas à se plaindre de l'endroit où ils sont logés, bien que ce ne soit pas chez Gray.

Madam,

My last was July 5/ June 25 in which I show our inclinations for Montpellier if wee should remove, it being the fate of a famous university. And with all the expediency of our staying where wee are, yet for some tyme because of the language, which is not so pure in any other part of France and in which the Gentlemen are not yet so well advanced as it is fitting they were before wee parte from this. But all being with absolut submission, wee only desire that, whatsoever shall be resolved expresse orders may come to us in due tyme, that wee be not to remove too late, in the year, and that the tyme of our staying here may not prejudice of the satisfaction the Gentlemen expecteth, in staying conveniently els-where, where it shall be thought fitting.

I have with this sent a new prooffe of their writeing which, though at first vewe, it hath no great show, yet being narrowly lookt unto, I am persuaded it will be found better than any they have ever sent home before. It is in French not to show what they can doe alone (though that shall come in due tyme), but to show what wee can doe amongst us three (for it is but very inconsiderable) without master or any other help but our owne. Our short tyme and many other exercises may help to excuse any thing that may be found worthy of censure.

I wrot to Mr Charteris to know the lowest price of his money if wee should be necessitat to call for any, before our provisions come from thence. He offerreth the French livre at three and twentie shillings. Scotts, to be payed in Scotland, three month after the advance of his monney here, or at two and twentie if the monney be advanced there before hand or payed at the tyme of advanceing of it here. He writeth that these are the lowest rates at which he giveth his monney. I doubt not but any bargain for monney that is made there, will be at least, with as great advantage as this offerre. However wee will yet expect our bill from thence for some tyme, before wee call for any money from him. Mr Boullay at Nantes being at last cleared by a letter from Mr Broune that he had ordre from him to furnish us, four and twentie hundreth franks upon his account, did send to me for a note of receipt of that summe, which accordingly I sent unto him last week.

The Gentlemen, through the Lord's especial goodnesse, continue in good health fenceing and the exercise of the pike they have left off till these two month be past, because of the heat which yet hithertill hath been very moderat. Their other exercises, as not being violent, they doe continue. At the end of this month they shall leave off to cryon with a master, as also the superfluous part of their musick, and keep only the lute and gytar, that for my Lord Kerr, and this for Sr William, for soe their capacityes in musick and inclinations runne. This will give us more tyme for their more serious and more necessary studyes, I mean philosophy and history, till they shall have occasion to follow the mathematiques. Your Ladyship's letter of the 12 June, I received this last post. That which is chieffely recommended to the Gentlemen, and which is indeed all, the fear of God, wee shall indeavour to make that our principall and constant studye, and shall labour to be wanting in nothing that is recommended unto us from thence.

I sent with my last a note of my Lady Lothian's books and other things at Rotterdam. With the note of what was given to Lady Jean. It is now a convenient tyme to send unto Captain Kerr, to finde some occasion for sending those things home, with the casse of books and trunk which belongeth unto us. Cap[tain] Kerr wrote unto me that that woman would not close that bargain with him, but was parted from him with purpose to come immediatly unto Scotland. If she doe come, I doubt not, when she seeth it will be made sure unto her, but she will accept of it. For that which hindered her to accept of it at our coming from Holland, was

that she would not sufferre her self to be persuaded that those 200 guilders would be certainly yearly payed her.

I have often writen the raisons why wee were not lodged with Mr Gray. I shall only say this now, assuredly if he had had lodgeing for us, wee would not have gone by his house, becausewee were recommended unto it. Yet in any other respect wee have no cause to repent it. The Gentlemen remember their humble duety unto all friends. If the consideration of the language be not [un mot raturé] found a sufficient raison for our staying at Saumur this winter, wee expect that the expresse orders for our removeing for Montpellier shall come, if not sooner, at furthest in answer unto this letter unto

Madam,
Your Ladyship most humble servant
MJ Young
Saumur July 18/ 8 1654

Lettre 9
Saumur, 29 juillet

Comment les deux frères emploient leur temps. Nécessité de tirer 200 couronnes écossaises sur M. Chartresse. Iront-ils passer l'hiver à Montpellier?

Madam

My last was July 18/8 our daily expectation of letters and new provision of monney from thence (as our necessity requyreth, and as the letters from thence gave us ground to looke for) is the cause I have not writen these three weeks. Besides this, there are yet fourof ours which wee hope, by this tyme are come to your hands, since that of the 26/16 May, which is the last [un mot raturé] whereof wee had answer from thence.

The Gentlemen, through the Lord's Mercye, continue in good health. Because of the heat of the weather (which yet hath notbeen so great as wee expected) they have intermitted the excercises that may overheat them, as fenceing and the excercise of the pike. They have also left off to cryon with a master being capable to designe by themselfe in so farre as is necessary for the mathematiques, when they shall have occasion to learne them. And for their music they keep only for the present, the lute for my Lord Kerr and singing for Sr William, haveing intermitted for a tyme the gytar-master to practice by himself. The lute, language writing, and danceing masters are the four which wee keep so long as the heat doeth continue. Their other houres are taken up (for most part) in reading phylosophie and history.

Our necessity doeth now constrain us to send to Mr Chartresse with this, for one hundred crouns which is 300 franks, till our bills, which wee exspect, shall come unto us. I wrote before that I had tried the lowest price of his monney, which is two and twentie scots shillings for the French livre to be presently payed, and 23 to be payed after three months. I wrote also our inclination for Montpellier if wee should remove this winter; and that the consideration of the language is that only which tyeth us to this part.

Wee submitt all the orders wee exspect from thence which wee doubt not will com in due tyme, either for staying the winter where wee are, or for ordering our journey so that wee may be at the place of our residence before it come on. To put your La[dyship] again in mynde of our provisions, is all that at present can be said by

Madam
Your La[dyship] most humble servant
MJ Young
Saumur August 8/ July 29

Lettre 10
Saumur, 9 août 1654

Reprise des principaux points de la lettre précédente, car aucune lettre n'est arrivée de Newbattle depuis les six dernières que Young a envoyées. Le temps est devenu chaud. Il convient d'interdire aux deux jeunes gens de manger des fruits.

Madam

This is the sixth since wee heard from thence. My last was August 8/July 29.

The Gentlemen continue, blessed be God, in good health. Our dissapointment of our provisions in due tyme, hath necessitat us to take one hundred crouns from Mr Charteris at 23 shillings scots the French livre to be payed, there, within three month and have accordingly given ane assurance to him for 345 pund Scots, which I doubt not he will send with the first. If our necessityes had not been urgent wee would have yet waited till our provisions should have come from thence orif wee could have had monney at an easier rate, wee would not have bought this so dear. Wee have taken so litle as was possible and doe therefore intreat by this (which yet wee hope is done before this tyme) that our provisions may with all possible diligence be hastned unto us that wee be not left to an uncertainty in demanding monney here, and that your Ladyship be not put to pay dearerfor the monney wee receive, than otherwayes yee would. Wee haveindeavoured to be so frugal as is possible: our ordinary expence is knoun there to a croune, our extraordinary, hithertill, have beene no wayes excessive, and wee shall still labour that they be within measure. But after all our yearly expence cannot but come to a considerable summe. Wee expect also to be resolved by our first letters of our staying or removeing from this. Montpelier liketh us very well and it is the only consideration of the language that tyeth us to this place which wee believe may be easily supplied anywhere in France, though generally, they speake so well nowhere as upon the Loire. But all our inclinations are with absolute submission to our orders which wee expect from thence.

The heat hath been greater since the beginning of this month than the wholle summer before, yet not very extraordinary. To forbear fruite is an order that should come with all our letters that came from thence.

The Gentlemen remember their humble duety to all friends.

I am Madam

Your Ladyship most humble servant

MJ Young

Lettre 11
Saumur, 16 août 1654

La lettre de crédit est arrivée, mais entre temps M. Charteriesse a insisté pour que le change soit calculé sur le merk scots, ce qui est contraire à l'accord.

Young se propose d'écrire à Captain Kerr pour organiser l'envoi des effets restés en Hollande. Ils se prépareront à quitter Saumur en octobre.

Lord Bavaird (?) et Mr Hope sont de retour d'Italie. Est-il vrai que Lord Kerr a été fait prisonnier?

Madam,

The forgoeing letter was returned us this day from Paris by Mr Charteris, upon the notice he had of an agreement made with his correspondent for our provision. And with it wee have received your Ladyship of the 19 Jully together with a letter of credit for twelve hundred

livres. The hundreth crounes wee had received were agreed for, for 23 shilling scots the French livre to be payed after three month in Scotland. But now Mr Charteris hath returned the two assurances I sent him and demandeth two bonds, carying the receipt of, and obligation to pay the said summe according to the mercks scots for the French livre. But this being more than the half dearer, and haveing his owne letters which clearly wittenesse his agreeing at such a rate, I can give him no other assurance, till further order from thence. For wither this hundreth crounes be to be allowed in the first part of the letter of credit or not, it is fitt that it be at that rate which Mr Charteris hath agreed with me by his letters. And if the rest of our monney be according to that proportion, I could have made the bargain more than the one half cheeper here.

I shall write to Captain Kerr according as the letter ordaineth, to send home these things which are at Rotterdam, which are, for paper and particulars, according to that note September 21/11 excepting these things were given to Lady]Jean. All the sowings and pictures are in the trunks, only some litle heads, done in cryon, and water colours (which are very litle worth) among which my Ladyes owne picture is, being done after that fashion, is in our trunk here, with a toller-cloath, a litle boxe or cave with glasses (which wee used upon the waters in the winterin Holland) and the writtes of her Ladyship's jointure. These wee thought to have brought along with our selves being then intending homewards wee shall send them with our trunk (at our parting from this) to Holland or England as wee can find safest occasione.

The note I wrote last is very general, and was not intended to be a particular inventure. Finding our Ladyship inclinations for our removeing, wee shall make ready against the beginning of October against which tyme wee exspect our last orders.

The Gentlemen continue, blessed be God, in good health.

I am, Madam

Your La[dyship] most humble servant

MJ Young

Saumur August 26/16

My Lord Bavaird and Mr Hope are come for Italy. The newes wee have had several tymes from Paris, that my Lord was made prisoner by Midleton, did truble us very much, though wee were not certaine of the trueth of it.

Lettre 12

Saumur, 21 août 1654

Retour sur les questions relatives au taux de change; il semble être plus favorable à Saumur; avec M. Charteresse, le change est de deux merks scots pour un franc et il exige des garanties que son correspondant à Edimbourg sera payé ponctuellement.

Lettre envoyée à Captain Kerr. Il conviendra de lui rembourser la somme qu'il a prêtée.

Young joint à son courrier, une lettre d'un certain M. Bruce à son oncle à Stirling en priant qu'on fasse suivre. Ce monsieur les a reçus lors d'une visite faite à Thouars, Oiron et Richelieu.

La semaine prochaine, visite de trois jours à La Flèche et Angers. Problèmes de courrier. Ils entretiennent ici d'excellentes fréquentations avec de jeunes aristocrates anglais.

Madam,

I wrote Aug[ust] 19.26/ 9. 16 of thir Gentlemen good health, which, blessed be God, doeth continue. By the last I shew of the receipt of a letter of credit fortwelve hundreth livres upon Mr Charteris in Paris. I have yet no answeere from him of his acceptance of it, but yet I

doe not call it in question. Only I wonder that the exchange is so extraordinary as two merk for every frank seeing I can have it here (if the marckett be not now spilt) for 23 or 24 shillings Scots at the most, to be answered in any part of France and to be payed (proportionably as wee take it) after three months sight in Scotland. Upon these tearmes – 23 shillings Scots for the French livre to be payed after 3 month - I had agreed for an hundreth crounes with Mr Charteris a fourthnight before our letter came and haveing received the monney here did send him an assurance for it according to our bargain. But now since the comeing of our letter of credit, he hath sent back my note with the letter I sent him for Scotland, demanding, I should binde me, my heires, and executers etc. to pay two merk for the frank, if my Lord Lothians should fail to make punctual payment (I use the words of his note he send to coppye me) at the dwelling house of his correspondent in Edinburgh after three month. I did indeed give him my bond (for which I hope my Lord will take no offence), the tearmes of it ar a litle rud, but it was to satisfye a too punctual merchant) upon his owne termes very neer but keeping still the price himself had so clearly made by two several letters (which I have by me) before. If he will allow it in the first part of our letter of credit wee are content, but it must be at that price which he himself did so determinatly make with me. And a note to any other purpose for that summe I can not give, till I have further order from thence.

For his bargain and myn are so clear by his owne letters, that no honest man can goe back of it. I know not how pryces goeth there, but if I had made the condition (and I gave notice in severall former letters to that purpose), it wouldhave been more than one half of the exchange lesse, instead oftwo merks, 23 shillings for the livre, and all the other conditions with as great advantage.

I have written to Captain Kerr to send home these things that belong to my Lady Lothians, with what wee left in Holland. I doubt not but so soon as my letter cometh to his hands, he will seek for a fitt occasion to send them home. And with all, will take course (as I think) either to cause pay these 200 guilders wee owe him in Scotland, or will use means to have it remitted to him in Holland.

Wee desire the inclosed may be sent, as it is directed, with any occasion that may be found at Edinburgh goeing to Stirling. It cometh from Mr Bruce of Terra, a countrey gentlemen here to his uncle. He intertained us civilly in his house in our goeing to Toärx [Thouars], Owaron [Oiron] and Richilieu (which last is one of the finest houses and regular litle townes in France). His father was our countreyman wee could not refuse to [un mot raturé] translate his letters, and to send them with ours.

Though our letters from thence doe keep us still in suspense, yet wee beginne to beleieve that wee will not stay the winter at this place. Nevertheless wee continue doeing every thing as if wee not to remove. Wee mynd to see La Flesh, and Angers the next week which wee may doe in three dayes, and shall doe it so quyetly as may be.

The great heat being now neer past the Gentlemen will fall to their fenceing again, which wee wer necessitat to intermitt these six weeks. Of our letters that wee finde mentioned by your Ladyship's wee misse, that of June 13/3 which wee sent with the measure of the Gentlemens' statures, and, this is againe the fourth that wee have by the way since the last which wee finde delivered of July 5/June 25. After this it will be no losse to try here at what rate wee can have our monney, before any bargain be made there for it, it being made at this tyme at such an extraordinary rate.

Wee intertain a civil correspondence with the Lord Spencer (the Earl of Westmurlands sonne), the Lord Gerard, and Sr John Rayseby of Yorkshire since their comeing hither, which is of late.

If wee are to remove toward the winter, wee knowe our determinat orders will come in due tyme. Wee mynd to discharge ourselves here of our trunk and books and other things that came from Holland, in the best way wee can, either in sendingit back to Holland, or to

London, as the best occasion offerreth. And will cary no thing further south with us, but what is absolutely necessaïre, that wee travail with as litle baggage as is possible.

Madam,
Your Ladyship most humble servant
MJ Young
Saumur August 31/21 1654

Lettre 13
Saumur, 2 septembre 1654

Les jeunes gens sont en excellente santé et sont heureux de savoir que leur mère et leur petite sœur se portent bien.

Young aimerait recevoir des instructions définitives quant à la possibilité de poursuivre le “grand tour” jusqu’à Montpellier et d’y séjourner durant l’hiver; la seule raison qui pousserait à s’attarder à Saumur est l’apprentissage du français.

Young est honoré de la confiance qu’on lui témoigne en ce qui concerne l’utilisation qu’il pourra faire de l’argent reçu.

Charteresse a accepté le taux de change prévu à l’origine, mais insiste sur la ponctualité des remboursements.

Madam,

I have written of the same date by Mr Macmath and since the closeing of my letter have received your Ladyship’s of August 24. It is great satisfaction to the Gentlemen, and to us all to know of your Ladyship’s recovery after the bringing forth of their youngsister. The continuance of yourgood health and hers, with that of all friends there, wee heartiely wish. Wee have written at least twyse every month since our comeing to Saumur and, if it were needful, would write oftner.

The Gentlemen have kept their health, through the Lord’s Mercye, very well since their comeing to this countrey. They are glad their designing and writeing doeth satisfye, which with their frensh they shall labour to improve so much as is possible for them. Sr William shall alsowrite by the nixt in Dutch.

The liberty that is left us to stay here or to goe to Montpeliers this winter doeth not satisfye us so well as an absolut command for the one or for the otherwould have done. Which, it were possible, wee would be glad yet to receive. Neverthelesse, it will certainly be more profitable to make the Towre (as it is called) by periods then all at a tyme. And therefore finding so much inclination in our former letters for our removeing to Montpelier, and haveing no other consideration then that of the language to tye us to this place (which wee hope a good master may supplye), wee are resolved, with submission to what may be judged there more fitting, to goe to Montpelier this winter.

As for our monney, it shall be sufficient that I stryve to make so easie a bargain as may be for it, as wee shall have need and to give notice there of it, that it may be tried, if it may be had better cheap. But for the power that the letter alloweth me, it is so high a favour, so farre above my desert and beyond my desire, that I think my self more obliged by it, then if I had received a rich reward; and doe account my self bound never to make more use of it then if such a trust had not been put upon me at all, that is, no further than necessity shall requyre, and than I shall from tyme to tyme give notice, so that it shall only serve for the bargaining for our monney, that it may be had so good cheap as may be.

I am half resolved (if there be not some obligation thereto the contrary) not to take all that money - four hundreth crounes - from Mr Charteris at so high a rate, if by any means wee can be furnished better cheap. He hath now written unto me that heis content that what wee

have received be at 23/3 to be payed after three month (those 300 livres) according to his bargain and myn. Only he desireth that I would doe my outmost to see it punctually payed, which I earnestly intreat by this may be readily done. For that being very reasonable, I have no doubt of the performing of it.

The present parting of the past permitteth me only to adde, that wee shall writeth our resolutions at more large by the nixt, and that I am

Madam

Your Ladyship's most humble servant

MJ Young

Saumur September 12/2 1654

Mr Charteris writeth that when he seeth his correspondent's letter of credit, he shall give me an answer, whither he will accept it or not. I send it to him by this post.

Lettre 14
Saumur, 8 octobre 1654

Instructions reçues de rester à Saumur et de ne pas se rendre à Montpellier.

Souhais des jeunes gens de se rendre à Angers; ils veulent apprendre à monter cet hiver et durant les quatre ou cinq mois qui viennent.

Il n'y a rien à craindre de la mauvaise réputation attribuée aux étrangers qui fréquentent Angers, car les honnêtes qualités des deux jeunes gens et les compagnons qu'ils se choisissent sont des garanties de bonne conduite.

Young lui-même avait fait part de ses doutes sur la possibilité de séjourner à Montpellier, car c'est dans les pays de Loire que l'on parle le français le plus fidèle.

Madam

Haveing received orders by your last letter of the 6 September to stay at this place, I have written severall tymes to show, that though wee were fully resolved to have gone to Montpelier, wee have changed our purpose, till wee receive further orders from thence. My last two were to show the Gentlemen's inclinations for Angers, and to give information of the conveniencies and inconveniencies that were to be considered in relation to that place.

I write this to show that the Gentlemen are very earnestly desirous to ryde the great horses, and upon that consideration are very instant for our goeing to Angers, this winter, for the occasion there is incomparably better than at this place, though it be as dear here, as there. To learne so much as is needfull for attaining a handsome and firme seat upon horseback, is very necessaire for them and for any Gentlemen. And that is all they doe desire which they may learne in four or fyve month at the most.

What I wrote was no wayes to hinder their goeing thither, but only to give occasion to consider a forehand such things as was fitt to be represented which needeth to be no stoppe unto their goeing, if it be judged expedient that they learne to ryde this winter. As for the dissolut company which is commonly reported to be there, and which is the thing most considerable for hindering our goeing thither, besides that wee conserve with non but whom wee know very well, the Gentlemen's honnest inclinations and good nature would be a sufficient guard against anything of that kynd, for the short tyme wee will have to stay there, though ther were none to wait upon them.

They are very earnest to goe, but yet with submission to what shall be judged convenient there. And desireing nothing so much as a clear and determinat order from thence which wee may follow, wee write this once for all, to show that our owne inclinations tend no wayes so much, as to give obedience in all things to your Ladyship's commands. And

therefore doe earnestly desire, that nothing be left at no tyme, to what wee would rather choise our selves but that a positive command may allwayes come unto us, that wee may have a clear rule before us in all things, for nothing can give us more satisfaction. I shall not fail to give the best information I can learne in every things as our occasions shall requyre. But a command from thence is that wee expect as the rule of our bussienesse.

What I wrote in relation to Montpelier, was not to hinder our goeing thither, as if our inclinations hadbeen rather to stay here. It was only to show that is was expedient in regard of the language, that the Gentlemen should stay some longer here ore somewhere ells upon the Loire, where it is truely spoaken. But otherwayes all our inclinations were much rather to have gone. Only this the Gentlemen doe still desire, that the tyme of their staying here or neer to this, may be so measured, that due tyme may be left unto them, for staying els where in France, where it is convenient that some tyme should be allowed for their stay.

They continue, blessed be God in good health. They certainly expect that they will be allowed to ryde the great horses this winter, and so doubt not but that they are to goe to Angers. For being a little dissappointed of their journey to Montpelier (for wee had resolved that that was certaine), they will be a great deal more satisfiied in going to Angers to make a litle change than in staying any longerat this place. Your La[dyship's] answeare can not come to them too soonfor they wish it were possible to have it in a week. Haveing yet received no further answeare arent our provisions, neither from Mr Macmath nor Mr Charteris I can only adde that I am

Madam

Your La[dyship's] most humble servant

Mr Young

Saumur October 18/8 1654

Lettre 15 **13 octobre 1654**

Lettre de crédit reçue de Crawford correspondant de Charteresse. Le taux est abaissé à 22 shillings scots la livre; en dépit de l'offre de Macgrath, il est préférable d'utiliser les services de Charteresse, en qui on a plus confiance.

Les jeunes gens se tiennent prêts à partir pour Angers dès que sera reçue confirmation ; l'académie d'équitation y est excellente.

Madam

This is to show that finding Mr Macmath's ingling in referring us to a bargain that should be made in Scotland with Mr Kinloch for our provision, after passing his promise to furnish us at twentye three shillings scots the Frensh livre, I wrote to Mr Charteris who is content to furnish us at twentye two shillings Scots the livre, if the monney be payed there aforehand, or at twenty four shilling scots to be payed there within three month. This is the best bargain I am able to make, and it is with these conditions, that wee should first take that monney agreed for with Mr Crawford in Scotland, for which wee received a letter of credit, according to the rate that it was agreed for with him (our necessity doeth now inforce us to make use of it); and then that wee promise to take monney from no other so long as wee are in France; and lastly that wee ingage to have ipunctually repayed in Scotland. If a better bargain can be made there, it is well. If not, wee desire your Ladyship's consent unto and approbation of this. A better I am not able to make. By our information and a litle experience, wee finde Mr Charteris a great deal more real than Mr Macmath, so that if ther be a necessity to make a bargain at that rate, wee had much rather make it with Mr Charteris, than with him, submitting allwayes to what your Ladyship shall think fitting.

The Gentlemen continue, blessed be God, in good health. If it be thought fitt that they ride the great horses, they expect orders to goe to Angers, where the accademye is very good. Let your Ladyship's answer come with the first, unto

Madam

Your Ladyship's most humble servant

MJ Young

Saumur October 23/13

Lettre 16
Saumur, 26 octobre 1654

La décision de ne pas partir à Montpellier attend confirmation, mais à lire la lettre reçue datée du 6 septembre, il semble que les propositions faites précédemment aient reçu l'accord de Lady Kerr.

Les voyageurs sont retardés à cause des biaisements des commerçants avec lesquels il est difficile de traiter.

Pour payer ce qui est dû depuis longtemps, on emploiera l'argent qu'est prêt à fournir Charteresse, aux taux déjà indiqués.

Une lettre datée du 4 octobre est arrivée hier décachetée. Selon Macmath elle faisait partie d'un paquet envoyé par Kinlock et arrivé dans cet état.

Madam

I have written severall tymes, that upon the receipt of your Ladyship's of the 6 September, wee changed our resolution of goeing to Montpelier this winter, in that wee received by it if not absolut orders, yet mor determinat orders to stay, than any wee had received before to remove. And so farre as wee could gather by our letters, our purpose to have removed did comply with your Ladyship's inclinations then, as wee conceive, our resolution to stay doeth now. But the shifting dealings of the merchands, with whom I could settle no bargain for our provision would have hindered our journey how somewerr. The year is now so farre spent that wee can have very litle satisfaction in travelling, till the spring. Wee delayed to call for that monney that was agreed for with Mr Crawfurd, trying to have made a better bargain. But Mr Macmath failing of his promise to us, and Mr Charteris refusing any agreement till that monney should be made use off, wee were necessitat to call for it, and will have made use of it all (our pension and excercises being far a long tyme in arrears) before this can come to your Ladyship's hands.

The best bargain I can make for the tyme to come is with Mr Charteris at 22 shillings the livre, if the monney be advanced aforehand in Scotland (which I think might be easily don, for of necessity it must allwayes be had in three month after) or at 24 shillings the livre to be punctually payed within three month there. This Mr Charteris will agree to, if he have assurance of punctual repayment, and that wee promise to imploy no other during the tyme of our abode in France, as I wrote in my last October 23/13. I have written severall tymes of the Gentlemen's inclinations to goe to Angers, because of the good accademye for riding that is there. But in all other respects Saumur hath the advantage, which needeth not hinder our goeing thither if it be thought fitt that they learne to ryde this winter.

Yesternight I received your Ladyship's of the 4 October. It was opened up (as Mr Macmath writeth to me) with the rest of Mr Kinloch his pakett at London. But all other letters comeing safe by the same post with it from London hither, maketh me suspect that it hath been opened at Paris or at Edinburg. But the mater is not much. Only, I am glad your Ladyship inclineth rather to make a bargain for our furnishing with Mr Charteris than Macmath. For though he be somewhat punctuall and strict, yet he is a great deal more real in

his dealings than the other. Your Ladyship's approbation to the bargain I have made with him (if ther can not be a better made there) will close it.

Wee shall be so frugal as honesty will permitt us, yet it is fitt to limitat our yearly expence, seeing our ordinary charges are sufficiently well known and beside what is necessair for the Gentlemens' personnes in clothes, linnings etc. Our extraordinaryes will not be very extraordinary. They can not have lesse than each of them a suit for the winter, and another for the summer, which though plain, yet must be in the fashion, with rubbans and other things as is fitting. If it be tought fitt wee goe to Angers for rideing, wee can not beginne our journey to the south of France, till April or May. For they can not make much progresse in rideing, in lesse than four or fyve month.

If it be thought fitt, wee continue where wee are, wee may remove in February towards the south, or in March. Wee desire allwayes determinat orders for the leaving of things to our choice, putteth us in doubt for wee would not willingly doe any thing that would give offence there.

Wee can not but be more expensive in travelling than when weereside and it is very fitting to advertise us as occasion offerreth that wee stay no longer at any toun upon our way than is needful for seing of it. For the Gentlemen can hardly be satisfyed in seeing the places wee passe at, though what is worth the seeing at any place may be seen in short tyme. They still expect that they will be permitted to make the Tour by periods (for that is certainly most profitable), though they beginne it not before the spring.

They continue, blesse be God, in good health. Wee have been a week at Burgueil, a village within four leagues of this to see the way of the vintage and are now returned to their excercises and studdyes and send the remembrance of their humble duety to all friends by this.

I am Madam

Your Ladyship's most humble servant

Mr Young

Saumur November 5/ October 26 1654

Lettre 17

Dernière lettre de Saumur, 9 novembre 1654

Permission de se rendre à Angers reçue.

Reprise des principaux points de la lettre précédente en ce qui concerne l'argent; décision prise d'utiliser Charteresse.

Le départ se fera dans environ trois semaines, car les commerçants du lieu traînent toujours à présenter leurs notes.

Les jeunes messieurs se réjouissent d'aller à Angers; Paris excepté, il n'existe pas de meilleure école d'équitation.

Aucune nouvelle reçue de Captain Kerr. Lady Drummond (?) va venir à Saumur depuis Paris.

My last was November 5/October 26 and haveing by this post received your Ladyship's of the 16 Octob[er], I write this to show that according to the liberty that is granted us, wee are to goe to Angiers so soon as wee can be ready to remove. And so soon as monney is remitted to us from Paris and answered at this place, wee will be ready. I write for it by this post, but bills after they come hither are very slowly answered by the merchants here; so that of necessity wee will be at Saumur at least three weeks after this tyme. The monney I have written for is the other half of the value of that letter of credit which was sent from M^r Crawford; for the first part of it (600 livres) wee have received already, as I doubt

not your Ladyship will see by my note, before this can come to your hands. I have frequently written that necessity did enforce us (after trying all other means, and Macmath failing of his promise unto us) to make use of that monney notwithstanding it was at so high a rate. I have dealt with M^r Charteris for our provision for tyme to come, but can have it at no lower rate than 24 shillings the livre to be payed within three month in Scotland, and that with assurance to imploy no other than him so long as wee are in France, as your Ladyship will see by my former, concerning which I attend your answeare. That which makethus call for so much monney so neer about one tyme, is our being farrein arrears for our pensions and excercises, and the providing of the Gentlemen's winter suits, which at this tyme was necessair and all of it will not doe much more than discharge us at this place.

The Gentlemen continue, through the Lord's Mercye, in good health, and are well satisfied of the permission they have now to go to Angiers for ryding the great horses. I have formerly written of the condition of that place in relation to this, according to my best information, but that needeth not hinder our going thither, seeing it is thought expedient they beginne to learne to ryde. For they have nowhere out of Paris, a better occasion for that then at Angiers. I have written several tymes to Captain Kerr to send home those things that are in Holland, but I receive no answeare from him nor doe I hear any further from your Ladyship concerning that purpose, so that I know not, if these things be still in Holland or not. This is now the 5th of ours that is yet by the way, after that of October 6 September 25 which is the last of ours mentioned in your Ladyship's. As for tyme to come, your Ladyship may continue to addresse your letters as formerly, untill wee give notice of our settling at Angiers. For I shall so advyse M^r Charteris at Paris, that they shall come safe unto

Madam

Your Ladyship's most humble servant

MJ Young

I have just now a letter from M^r Macmath at Paris offering us a thousand franks at 23 shillings the livre. I know not if he will keep his word but I shall write to him that wee will call for it, when wee shall have need of it. The Ladyship Drummond (?) is comeing hither from Paris.

November 9 (?) 1654

Les comptes du voyage.

Note: nous ne donnons ici que des extraits des feuillets figurant à la suite des lettres et dans lesquels Young présente ses comptes. Nous transcrivons les feuillets qui contiennent les comptes d'ensemble du voyage ainsi que ceux où Young fournit le détail des dépenses effectuées à Saumur. Nous avons respecté la présentation en colonnes mais modifié légèrement celle des lignes, pour faciliter leur compréhension.

Les pages 47 à 49 donnent le compte global des sommes reçues et déboursées durant durant l'ensemble du voyage, les pages 50 & 51 le détail des dépenses de Saumur.

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Note of monney received in Holland, and caryed with us from Scotland

Taken with us	1585-0-0
From Mr Anderson	1200-0-0

From Richard Weer	800-0-0
From Ensigne Echlin	1000-0-0
From Cap. Kerr	50-0-0
From Elios his wyf	1200-0-0
From Major Murray	200-0-0
From Sr Wm Riddell	250-0-0
From Cap. Kerr	200-0-0
From James Tailfair	2000-0-0
	8485-0-0

Debursed in Holland till our arriving at Dieppe

By the first year accounts	3239-0-0
Second year	2376-0-0
Third year till november 13 1653 at your parting from Leyden	1424-0-0
By the accouts of october 25 till our parting from Dieppe december 23 1653	1279-0-0
	8318-0-0
Resteth at our parting from Dieppe	167-0-0

The which sume of 167 resting is charged upon the accounts of our voyage from Dieppe to Saumur.

Note of money received in France

At Saumur

From Mr Mel at Dieppe	500-0-0
From Mr Boulay at Nantes	2400-0-0
From Mr Charteris aug. 6 1654 at 23 s the livre	300-0-0
By a letter from Mr Crawford	1200-0-0
	4400-0-0

At Angers

Jan. 2 1655 from Mr Charteris at 24 s. the livre	600-0-0
Mar. 6 from Mr Charteris	300-0-0
April 20 from Mr Macmath at 23 s the livre	1000-0-0
Aug 4 from Mr Charteris at 24 s the livre	1200-0-0
May 4 1656 from Mr Brysson	3000-0-0
	6100-0-0

At Paris

Dec. 4 1656 from Mr Macmath at 23 s the livre	400-0-0
Dec. 16 from Mr Mowat at 23 s	300-0-0
Jan. 1652 from Mr Macmath	2000-0-0
Mar. 20 from Mr Mowat	2000-0-0
Mar. 28 from Mr Mowat at 24 s the livre	2000-0-0
Received from him the same day	100-0-0
	5900-0-0

Sume of all the money received in France 16400- 0- 0

Debursed in France from dec. 23 1653

At our parting from Dieppe for Saumur, until mar. 26 1657,
at our parting again from Dieppe for Saumur, until mar. 26 1657,
at our parting again for Dieppe for Rye in England

Voyage from Dieppe to Saumur	429-24-0
Accounts at Saumur from jan. 20 until decemb. 23 1654	4171-28-0
Accounts at Angers from decemb. 23 1654 untill may 1 1655	2362-20-0
At Angers from may 2 1655 untill may 6 1656	4400-0-0
At Paris from may 6 1656 untill march 28 1657	5766-4-0

Sume of all accounts in France - 17130 – 6- 0

The sumes that are superexpended in the severall accounts are to be deduced from the Sume, as being allwayes reckoned in the account following, and so reckoned twyce.

At Saumur	34-0-0
By the first accounts at Angers	462-0-0
By the last accounts at Angers	200-0-0
Resting in my hand at our first remoing to Dieppe of money brought from Holland	167-0-0
To be deduced in all	863-0-0

Sume of all the accounts in France is 17130- 6- 0

Deduceing	863-0-0
Resteth	16267-0-0

Adde unto the sume resting an hundred thirty four pund tournois remitted by a bill to London, it will make **16401-0-0**

The which sume of 16400 is the sume of all the money wee received in France.

Received in Holland	8485 guilders
Received in France	16400-0-0
Received in all	24885-0-0

Note of money in charge at London, sterling

Brought with us from France	10-0-0
From Mr Brand	70-0-0
From Mr Kinloch	15-0-0
	95-0-0
Debursed by the accounts at London	109-0-0
Superexpended	14-0-0

The which sume of 14 pund sterling resteth due to me, as the only surplus of our accounts is the six year and three month, that wee have been abroad.

MJ Young

Received at London from Mr Brand his sister	70-0-0
From Mr Kinloch	15-0-0
	85-0-0

Which being reckoned in Scottish money is	1020-0-0
In Holland	8485-0-0
In France	16400-0-0
	25905-0-0

That is the true sume of all the oney wee caryed with us, or received, from March 8 1652 at our parting from Montrosse, until June 4 1652 at our returning to Newbattle,

MJ Young

Taken for my owne use at several tymes, as is reckoned in the accounts **400-0-0**

Note of monney received and debursed since our arrayving at Saumur jan 20/10 1654

First, at an inne 4 dayes ere wee could be settled in a convenient pension	30-0-0
Pension in eleven month, at 12 crounes a month, a piece, and 8 crounes for the boy	1452-0-0
Fence master 9 month at two pistolls the first month (which was then 22 francs) and 16 ^{sols} every month following	160-0-0
L'exercice de guerre, 7 month, livres 6 a month	112-0-0
Dance master 10 month	160-0-0
Lute master 11 month, a pistol a month	110-0-0
Gytar master 6 month, half a pistoll a month	30-0-0
Master for the great viol 4. month. 8 a month	32-0-0
Designing master 6 month, a pistoll a month	60-0-0
Wryting master 9. month. 6 a month	54-0-0
Language master 6 month, a pistoll a month	60-0-0
Singing master 6 month at 6 a month	36-0-0
Lute hyre 11 month, at half a croune a month	16-10-0
Hyre of the gytar 8 month	08-0-0
To the lute master boy at severall tymes	08-0-0
Strings for th lute, viol, and gytar ^{env. 5 packetts} in 11 month	24-0-0
Material for designing, paper, cryon, colours ets.	12-0-0
Fyre in 4 month and candle in eleven month	70-0-0
Extraordinaryes in the house in 11 month. Haveing the master of the excercises some tyme at supper, or collation, as it was needfull, or expedient	109-0-0
Two pair flurets	08-0-0
A silver handle to S ^r W ^m his sword and for dressing swords	12-0-0
To the shoe maker in 11 month	105-0-0
In monney to my Lord Kerr at several tymes	75-0-0
Monney to S ^r william at several tymes	18-0-0
Tinisse at several tymes	25-0-0
Washing in 11 month at 6 a month	66-0-0

Makeing & mending of linnings of al sorts as ther was need (having served our selves hithertill of the linning wee provided in Holland)	24-0-0
Gloves at several tymes in 11 month	18-0-0
Ribbands at several tymes	27-0-0
Stockings in 11 month	45-0-0
Losse of monney at the falling of the monney	35-0-0
for exchange of 1200 from Nantes	12-0-0
Books, some bought, some hyred	44-0-0
Gazette in 11 month	06-12-0
Band strings	22-0-0
Given to the church of Saumur, M ^r Amiraut demanding it at our chamber himself, according as is the custome	24-0-0
Three pairs silk stockings	42-0-0
Hat and hat band for the boy	06-10-0
Two hat band and dressing of hats at several tymes	09-0-0
To M ^r Eastoun for english gloves & stockings	40-0-0
Barbier in 11 month at a croune a month	33-0-0
To the apothecaryes at several tymes	15-15-0
Port of letters in 11 month, from Paris, Nantes, Holland	12-0-0
Presented to Madame Amiraut, in gloves, ribbands etc	18-0-0
My goeing to Nantes for our trunk and returning, being six dayes, together with the freight to the trunk from Holland to Saumur	27-0-0
Our journey to Richeleu, Towarx, etc in 3 dayes	42-0-0
To La Flesche, Angers etc in 4 dayes	62-0-0
To Burguyl one day in the sumer	15-0-0
At Burguyl 8 dayes the tyme of vintage	44-17-0
To Angers two dayes to provide a lodgeing	08-0-0
In seing comodyes, coarddancers etc at several tymes, and for l'orvietan	18-8-0
An silver etuys for my Lord Kerr	20-0-0
Given at several tymes to my Abercromby	20-0-0
An baudrier for the boy	06-0-0
	3549- 12- 0