1773 FEB. 19 Lamb Thoton to William Lawson

that Confidence is unpardonable, as the most fatal consequences often flow from it. no other cause

What can have induced W S to have acted wt so much Reserve & want of confidence I cannot conceive, On the Contrary, I think naught from Several Reasons, (independant of the Circ of my being a Partner) to have made me acquainted, with such a Scheme as early as it was conceived; For he must be sensible before such a Scheme, could be put in Execution, some Matters of Consequence must be settled, which cannot (haps) be done with my being in England: One of these Matters is my Fathers Estate which still remains unsettled, and indeed no proper Acct. rendered of it which he as Executor to my Mother is obliged to do; Another — The Securing of my Bro= thers Dan's Fortune in such a Manner as he may receive it with. trouble when he comes of age, For altho', Both his & my Sisters were in the Funds when I left England, Yet I have how some Apprehensions, it may not at present be the case with his, & for this Reason — You tell me

"as earlier I have paid W S & Co. pretty large sums "lately; Whether it was to pay off my Sisters fortune "who was lately Married I am a stranger to" — which seems to imply you have some grounds for supposing, W S had my Sisters Fortune in his hands; If he had not & it was in the funds, what necessity could there be for his Drawing Money out of the company to pay it off? All that was necessary, would have been just to make over so much Stock to Mr Bensley or have sold out; On the contrary, if he drew the Money for the purpose of paying off her Fortune, that Fortune must have been drawn out of the Funds before and laying in his hands: If this was the case with the one Sister, I have from that very circumstance, great grounds to suspect it to be the case with the other, which I can not approve of, nor shall be easy till I know whether it is so or not: I can by no means agree, his Fortune shall be put on a Worse Footing than my Father intended, which was that it should stay in the Funds till he came of age, or indeed if this was not the Case