1779, 1780 James Cheston incoming letters

SIDE TWO

There has been but one Dividend on his Estate Yet of that only 3/- in the Pound, expect I shall be able to Declare another in a Short time, which I am in hopes will Amount to 7/ or 8/ -. This will Arrise from the N. Proceeds of the Susanna's Account, Which W.R is now in London finally Settling —— I hope it will be in Your Power to frustrate his intentions in the Country, Altho as You Justly Observe he has great Advantages on his Side; Yet I am willing to believe that the Persons never will pay to him any part of the Debts As there is their Bonds lodged in Your hands, I more especially so if they are informed of his Bankruptcy here —— He would have Acted a much better part if he had Staid at home Just left a Wife big With Child & 6 Others to feed & left them little or nothing to Subsist them, but Oblige them to Depend on One, Who he had put it out of his Power to Do any thing for them ——

From the Above You may infer the Manner that I have been Treated by One, Who if he had Done his Duty to me, himself, & family, would Acted Quite Otherwise ——

My share of the first Devidend, or rather the Part of it which I Applied to my Own Use, was Swallowed up before I received it, & if I had not met with better Friends than my own Relation Do not know what Extremity I might have been Drove to ——

I am now thanks God as Comfortably settled as the Present times will admit of, being Blest with one of the best of Wifes, Altho' much blamed for marrying, she brought me no fortune neither Does she aim to spend what little we have got, let it suffice to say that she makes me Compliatly happy & has no wish but mine — We have been Married little better than a Twelvemonth, but have not [illegible] yet gotten a Jour Example in enlargeing our Family —— We have retired to this place with a Principal of frugality, House Keeping being much Cheaper than in large Towns, & as a further Means to make what we have got go farther have Opened a Shop in the Grocery Business in which I have imployed about £300 - in hopes to get something to help out untill something Better offers —— Hitherto it has exceeded my Utmost expectations, having Business enough to imploy my time, & hope it will Answer very Well — This is my situation at Present & untill something better offers shall Continue it

Copy

D. C.

Sundries Pd for WS. Since his Bankruptcy

1777. April 21.	To Cash Pd You	£ 5..5..0	By Cash received of Wm S. Pott of the £50 — 25.0.0
June 17.	To Ditto	2..2..0	
July	To Ditto	1..1..0	Bal — £162.0.11
	To Ditto	0.6.9	
Oct.	To Ditto Jenny Hole Payable 6 Months	50.0.0	
	Pd James Hughes	52.3.2	
	Attorney Bill		
	Pd for his Household Goods	96..5.0	
		£187..0..11	£187..0..11

Bridgewater 20th Jany 1780

Dear James

Above You have a Copy of mine of the 28th Mch last since which Yours of the 21st Sept. last came safe to hand, am happy to find You and Your Family Well — We have had a 2nd Dividend on WS. Estate of no more than 3/9 in the Pound, the Chancery Suit about the Ship Chatham we are still carrying on & am in hopes we shall get it in the End so that if that is the case there will be something more to be Devided amongst us — Mr. Randolph has Promised me to write to You fully, through the same Channel as this comes, hope to God it will get safe to You — Very well as is Mrs. Cheston — She Joins in Sincere Wishes for Your future happyness & accept of Love to Mrs Cheston & Yourself & believe me

Your Affectionate Bro.

Daniel Cheston