My Dear Sir Norfolk 23 April 1811

I rec^d with much Pleasure your kind Letter dated 3rd Instant. I perceive you are good enough to believe that in the unfortunate Transaction alluded to, I had no bad Intention; In that you are certainly correct, & if I conceiv'd I had not even a much better Apology than that, I should think myself much more culpable than I do. — You already know that I transacted much Business for Dr Crawford in Belfast. After he purchased C. Greggs half of the Vitriol Works in Lisburn it requir'd more funds than he could well command to carry it on, it therefore became necessary for me to raise Money for him frequently, by getting his Notes discounted, to pay engagements due by him, these Notes I had to issue as well as get discounted for him, & which I had his permission to do, it frequently happened that he was not at Home one Night in 3 Weeks, so that without this, they could not have been had when wanted — When he came to Belfast I had nothing to do but ask him for his Name for any Sum I wanted for my own use & get it — Unfortunately for me having got a Habit of using his Name for his own Benefit, I unthinkingly & imperceptibly began to use it occasionally for my own, when he did not come to Town, this I certainly do say never could have happened only for the manner in which I was led to it. — I never issued a Bill but what I supposed I had Property Plenty to pay — Bad Health which you know I labor'd under for a considerable Time was a most unfortunate Circumstance for me. Wm. Hamilton during that Time lost me a vast deal of Money from want of proper Attention, by selling goods & frequently omitting to enter them, & as I could have no Check on the retail Trade, I found when too late that he had been helping himself profusely, several of my Friends told me that his House Expences were

Mr Edward Thirmie
Fancy Town
Frederick County
Maryland.

Single Sheet

Norfolk 23 April 1811
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unfortunate & difficult to get a share to live. Your extreme Justice & Humanity of which I have a most convincing proof in your Letter, leave me at a loss how sufficiently to express my Thanks for your kind Intention — Allow me to say that I am/ so Sincerely Your most obt. Hble Servt
John Hamilton