the further sum of £3.. 15.. 9¼. I dont think you complained of heavy injustice done you by that decree since you ordered Peter Hedgeman to pay the money to Clifton & if you abide by part of the decree you abide by the whole. Moreover Clifton affirms that you insisted upon his accepting the abovementioned bond without any manner of consideration whatsoever but under a Pretence that as he was Brents security he must and should pay you the £216.. 9.. 4 with compound Interest for the same. You can not be ignorant that compound Interest is deemed usury; the Law looks upon it in that light and has endeavoured to restrain that illegal practice by severe & heavy penalties by forfiture; If I am not mistaken, of noble value of the money lent: another observation made I have done. The 13 July 1743 you recovered against Peter Hedgeman by Judgement of the county court of Stafford £35.. 5.. 11. I think you have ~~been mistaken~~ injured by that decree it deprived you of £3.. 15.. 9¼. From the 15 Octo 1741 to 13 July 1743 is one year 9 months: the Interest for that time amounts to £22.. 14.. 6¼ with the Principal is £239.. 1.. 8¼. Nor do in the least understand the method used by the County court in computing that Interest; I refer you to the proceedings and desire an eclaircisement. Clifton pretends that you have no legal demand for any Interest on that sum from the time Mercer filed his bill in order to stop the same in the hands of Peter Hedgeman. Are his pretensions altogether so unjust? tho' not the money from that time it was so attached to be deemed a kind of deposition, a security for Mercer till a final decree could be obtained: and thus as neither Clifton or Mercer could make any use of the money during the attachment and pending the suit it may not seem just to charge either with the Interest. I have tired myself and I fear I have tired you with the length and futility of these objections: I shall drop this subject at present to resume it on some other occasion and proceed to answer your letter of the 8th

April the last I have received. I am pleased to hear Nimble is like to turn out a fine horse. It would be no very difficult task to procure a thorough bred Stallion; the chief difficulty lies in the price and risks of a long Passage: a thorough bred Mare may be come at at a pretty easy rate, tho' I should be glad to know what you think an easy rate: When I was down at Wardour I saw a Stallion belonging to a Farmer in the neighbourhood for whom he gave £300: the owner did not think his purchase dear at that Price. No degree at Law can be obtained without being called to the bar. The being entered of the temple and going to Commons is a necessary, previous & preparatory step to that ceremony wch tho' a ceremony is an opening to all preferments in the Law; its attended with no other advantage but many and great inconveniences, the chief is the frequenting loose and dissolute company: for this reason I have resolved not to enter myself of the temple; to what purpose? why shou I expose myself to danger and be at needless tho' small expence without any view or hopes of profit and advantage.——— I owe you (and with some shame I acknowledge it) all the journalls of my several tours. A Prodigious debt! I shall certainly be a banckrupt: Let us compound matters; better receive a shilling in the pound than nothing. I promise to give you the journal of my last northern expedition on condition of general discharge & release from all other journalls.... I am still going on with my Italian book keeping. I think it a too tedious and prolix a method for a gentleman: the multiplicity and intricacy of a Merchants transactions require greater method and the nicest exactness——— Mr. Lewis the book seller has promised to procure me Gahagan's history of Ireland wch was publishing when I was at Paris. He tells me you bought of him O'Connors translation of Keating: I fancy he must be mistaken or else you would not have

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